

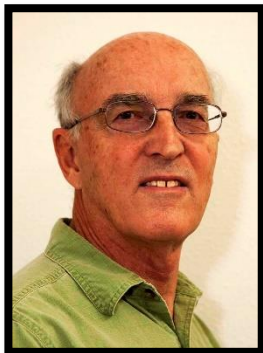
**Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter**  
**P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370**  
**Volume 34 Issue 10**  
**December 2016**



**From the Desk of the Thankful President! Ron DeYoung**

Thanksgiving Day has passed; hopefully some time was spent pondering your reasons for gratitude and perhaps soon our waistlines will return to normal! I hope you will be in attendance at our next general meeting on December 10 at 10 AM. We will have election for 2017 officers (**see ballot**), installation occurs in January. Our **annual potluck and auction** are not to be missed as you well know if you have attended in past years; please come prepared to enjoy good company, a lot of laughs and good food. Do bring your checkbook or cash for some fun, tasty and/or useful items to be purchased at the auction. Plan ahead, we do hope that you will attend for we *can* promise that you will enjoy yourself! Note the **membership renewal form, the officer ballot** and auction details in the enclosed articles.

We'd appreciate your suggestions for program speakers and topics as well for the months ahead.



**Getting to know George, President-Nominee, in his own words!**

I am a natural born Oregonian returning after my occupation kept me out of state for over 40 years. I retired from Northwest Airlines in 1999 after 34 years in the customer service field. I actually started my airline life at the Corvallis airport with West Coast Airlines, went through five mergers/buyouts with only a name change on the old paycheck. I am enjoying being back home and don't mind the rain after living in the Arizona desert for the last 20 years. I was born in Corvallis and raised in Philomath. Attended the Philomath School System from elementary through high school and graduated from PHS

in 1962. I served in the US Army, 1962-1965, carried a typewriter in one hand and M-14 in the other as a SP-5 Payroll specialist.

My wife of 40 years passed away last January so I am adjusting to a new difficult chapter in my life. I have a sister Pat living in Corvallis, Vicki living in Tangent and a brother living in Virginia. Two daughters living in Idaho are a day's drive to visit and spoil the grandkids.

I worked as a volunteer with the West Valley Genealogical Society ( <http://www.azwvgs.org/> ) in Youngtown, AZ with about 700 members.

My desire is to work with the BCGS with the goal to assist in any way I can to get the word out to the community that we are here to assist with the family genealogy goals. I welcome suggestions to promote and encourage new members.

I understand that the technology of today can be a challenge to use and understand, however, it is a wonderful tool to access and find new information.

I am not an expert, however, I am willing to assist anyone in the use of your computers.

Our new website is under construction and I have agreed to be your webmaster to assist in the construction/update to make it easy to navigate and promote our organization.

We have a wonderful group of members that I would really like to see grow in numbers.

I encourage you to contact me with your suggestions or concerns.



BCGS Holiday Auction Suggested Items	
<b>Christmas/holiday</b> decorations, wall hangings decorative storage containers candy dish decorative small bell angel - small decorations Christmas wreaths or swags Clock basket of festive items  Books, maps, CDs, DVDs genealogy Christmas stories decorative children's books photo albums	<b>Food (Homemade items)</b> breads, cookies, <u>stollen</u> breads honey, jams, apple butter Mixes in a jar - soups, chili, cookies wines  <b>Kitchen items</b> salt & pepper shakers bowls, mugs filled or <u>not, festive</u> items hot pot holders, towels, pastry brush package of expensive coffee Christmas cookie cutters, stamps
<b>Also</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fabric items - scarves, blankets (fleece, crochet, knitted), bags (handy carry-all), pillows</li><li>• Surprise bag (filled with several wrapped small gift items)</li><li>• Pet items - catnip decorative bags, photos, carvings, toys</li></ul>	

### December Auction Program:

The December Auction will be held on Saturday, December 10 at 11am; it is both a significant fundraiser for our society and also a lot of fun!

Do you have knickknacks, items in good order that don't fit your life anymore or, talents to share for the good of the society?

Food items seem to go quite quickly as well; I often spend the year trying to figure out who made a wonderful and delicious offering!

What is surplus in your life right now that could be brought to the auction? You can find "stocking stuffers" there as well.



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### **November Program Review: Mary Gallagher, A life Story** by Lois Courtney

At our November meeting, about 30 of us heard Mary Gallagher's story about her discovery of her biological family and her connections to Oregon. Mary was placed in the Guardian Angel Orphanage in Illinois, then adopted by a family living in the area. Her first awareness of Oregon was when her grandmother moved to Canby, Oregon and sent photos. Mary found them beautiful and became fascinated by Oregon.

After graduation from college with a degree in anthropology, Mary moved to Oregon, and began working at the French Glen Hotel in Eastern Oregon. She eventually moved to Corvallis, working at Hewlett-Packard. But this job wasn't a good fit, and she longed to return to her interest in the past. She applied to OSU for a graduate degree combining archeology, architecture and history. She was able to finance this by working in the field for the department.

Then, in 1979, Mary was contacted by the Guardian Angel Orphanage. The letter was the result of a quest by two of her biological sisters to find her. The Orphanage provided Mary with information about her family of origin and also about the difficult family situation that led to all 6 of the children being taken. Three of the kids grew up in foster care, and were never split up; two girls were adopted together, and then Mary, the youngest, was adopted singly.

Since that time Mary has met them all. Carol, the oldest, and Donna, were the ones initiating the search and put all six of them in touch again. Mary was able to discover lots of generations of family history, partly complicated by the fact that a grandfather had also been adopted. DNA tests revealed more links.

Eventually, Mary found a family member who lived in Philomath, Ella Kirkman McElroy, and another relative that had moved to King's Valley. The connections to Oregon continued to solidify and were motivations for pursuing her interest in the history of this area. The talk was a moving reflection on the unexpected links between our family history, and the course our life takes.

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### **How I Became a Genealogist, Patti (Ransom) Waitman-Ingebretsen**

My great Aunt Lee (Leora McBee Musgrave) wanted me to be Miss Pioneer Oregon in the worst way. She talked and talked about it and although I had the form, my parents did not show interest and therefore, nothing happened except to make Aunt Lee disappointed.

Leora Mc Bee was the second daughter of Joseph McBee who walked the Oregon Trail as young boy. Leora's older sister, Leela McBee LILLY was the grandmother I never knew for she died as a young woman. Leela and Leora's grandparents were William McBee and Elizabeth Milligan. They crossed the plains in 1852 and are buried at the top of Wagner's Butte, south of Corvallis. Great Aunt Leora loved to talk about her pioneer heritage. She had no children of her own but saved family heirlooms and treasures. She especially loved going through her photo albums and telling the stories for each picture. Leora's mother was Frances Irwin, daughter of Richard Irwin and Louisa Kompp who were also pioneers.

So you see, virtually all of my mother's families were Oregon pioneers. Her father was **Arthur "Spud" LILLY**, son of **Silas Norman LILLY and Lucinda HARDIE**.

Therefore, I am the 4<sup>th</sup> generation woman in my family to be born in the same town in Oregon (Corvallis) and yes our family does bleed orange.

### OREGON PIONEERS

**HARDIE**- Hiram & wife Elizabeth Miller

**IRWIN**- Richard & siblings-(Ireland)

**KOMPP**- Louisa, daughter of Casper & Margaret Kompp

**LILLY**- Silas "Norman" & Lucinda Hardie

**McBEE**- William & other McBee siblings

**MILLER**- Isaac & wife Martha BEARD

**MILLIGAN**- Elizabeth & sister Susannah (also married McBee)

So, you see, in my great Aunt's eyes I certainly would meet the requirement of ancestor before 1859 to become a member of Sons and Daughters of Oregon pioneers.

Some years later the Miss Pioneer Oregon application was discovered in the back of a desk drawer. After pondering the dreams of great Aunt Leora and recalling all the stories she told, I decided better late than never. Although I had missed the age cut for the Miss Pioneer Oregon title, I did feel compelled to fill out the application for membership. So, there I was about 22 years old and with zero genealogy skills. I set off on what turned out to be my first genealogy research project

There I was, young, inexperienced and without direction. The biggest mistake I made was not documenting sources. I wrote lots and lots of letters and sent lots and lots of SASE. Fast forward to today, I am still doing genealogy some 50 years later and I am a life member Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers (but never Miss Pioneer Oregon). I can claim 14 DAR patriot ancestors, and have documented an 1812 ancestor and I am now a Colonial Dame of XVII.

Great Aunt Leora, thank you for getting me started and I am sorry that I didn't help to fulfill your Miss Pioneer Oregon dream.

There is a sad note. My great aunt Leora passed away and without anyone's knowledge, her husband sold or burned all the stuff that Aunt Leora had treasured. It is especially sad that our family photos have been destroyed or may now be found in some antique store. Her mother's wedding dress disappeared along with other family treasures. Fortunately, some things were dispensed while she was still living. My brother has the oxen yoke that supposedly crossed the plains. I have a butter mold and potato masher and some tin type pictures. Our cousin has lovely scarf/shawl that graces the top of the piano. The moral to the story is make sure there is a workable plan for your treasures.

Thanks to Great Aunt Leora, I have been hooked on genealogy and have enjoyed every single minute, well maybe not the microfilm readers.

"I only do genealogy on days with a Y"

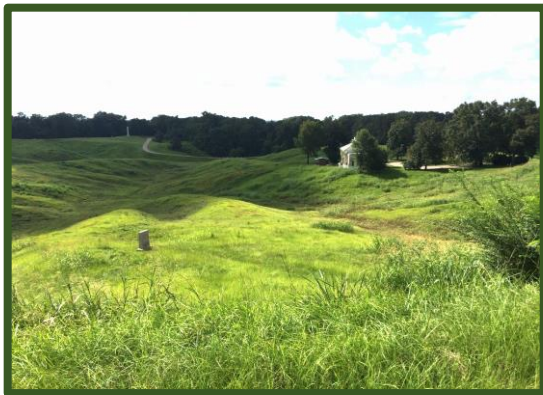


## Vicksburg, Mississippi-The Cost of War, by Sue Vanlaere

On a hot, humid day in September, 2016, my husband and I visited the Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg, Mississippi. This battle was a critical turning point in the Civil War. The city itself, built on high hills above the Mississippi River, was one of the last two ports that were preventing the Union Army from cutting off Confederate access to states farther south. Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana were key to obtaining supplies and recruits for the cause.

Looking up from the river toward the city, we could understand Vicksburg's advantage. Batteries on the cliffs above the water lay in wait for the Union army under General Ulysses S. Grant. From October 1862 to May 1863, Grant worked his way toward Vicksburg, with several major defeats along the way. Finally, on May 17 he and his army succeeded in pushing the Confederates under Lt. General John C. Pemberton up against the Vicksburg fortifications. This was the beginning of hell for both sides and the city from May 18-July 4.

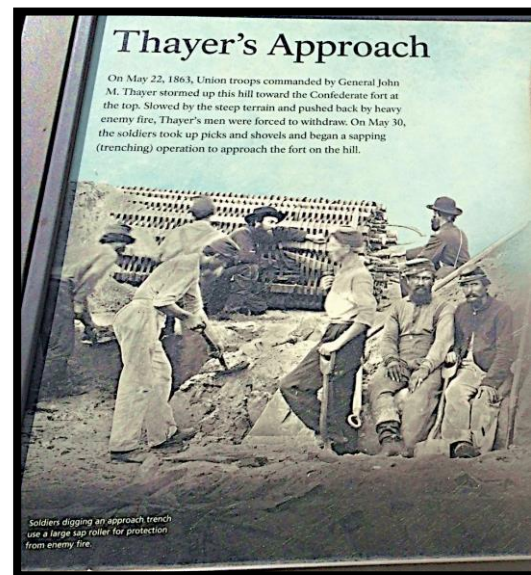
Today a paved road winds its way throughout the 16 miles of battlefield. As we followed first the Union line and then the Confederate line, we realized that the small rolling hills were

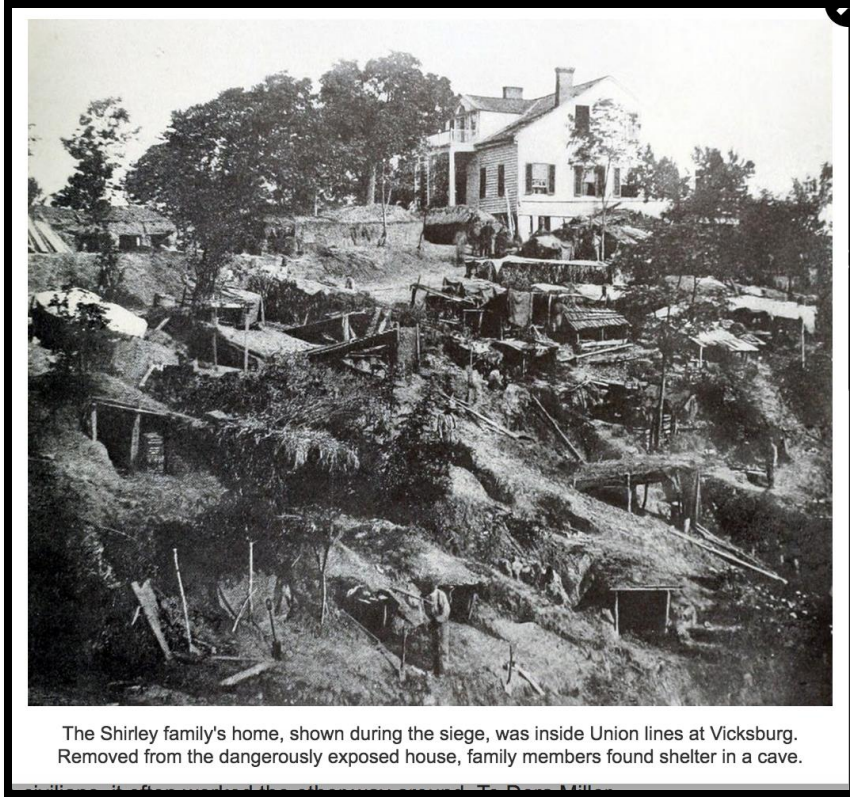


actually dirt fortifications. One particularly poignant section of the park is an open area where we could look down from the road and imagine how difficult it would have been to move about without being seen. During the 47-day siege, all of the trees and brush were cut down to build fortifications and trenches. The present landscape misleads because of the trees and grasses that have grown since 1863.

Our visit to an area named Thayer's Approach made us aware of the hard labor involved in war. On May 22, Union soldiers tried to take a Confederate fort on a ridge near the Union line. They were rebuffed. Brig. General John M. Thayer came up with a plan to dig a six-foot deep trench up the hill where they could tunnel under the fort and lay a mine. It was hard work, dirty and dangerous. Before the plan was completed, the siege came to an end with the surrender of the Confederates.

Throughout the siege, pits from cannon fire, mines and mortars, bodies of the slain, and wounded soldiers littered the battlefield. The roar of cannons, musket fire and the cries of the wounded





The Shirley family's home, shown during the siege, was inside Union lines at Vicksburg. Removed from the dangerously exposed house, family members found shelter in a cave.

must have been intolerable. We thought of the soldiers who went home scarred for life from what they saw and endured, on both sides of the conflict.

As we drove throughout the park, we realized how close the battlefield was to the city. The Confederate lines surrounded the city to the north and east and Grant set up his lines in the same configuration. The city was vulnerable from all directions-the Union line above and the gunboats below in the river.

To the right is a photo of the Shirley house, the only dwelling on the battlefield left standing. It's a good example of what life must have been like in the city. As the siege wore on, more and more people were forced into hand-dug caves to survive. Food and other supplies became scarce, and toward the end, people ate mules, even rats.

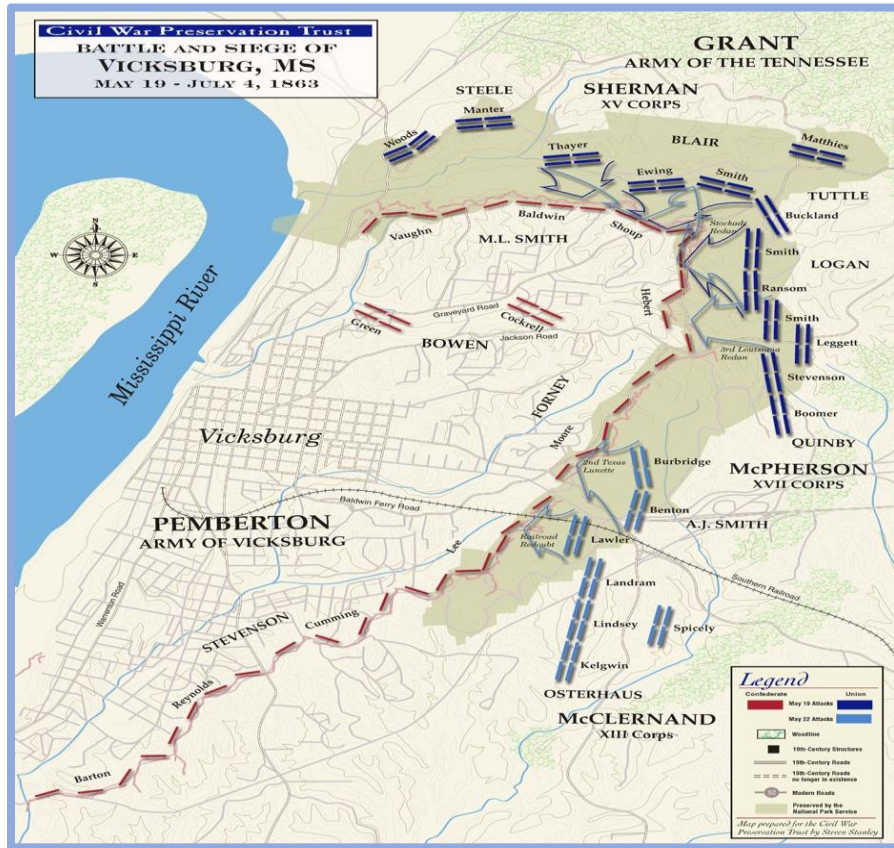
Dora Miller, a pro-Union woman living in Vicksburg wrote in her diary, "I send five dollars to market each morning, and it buys a small piece of mule meat. Rice and milk is my main food-I can't eat the mule meat. We boil the rice and eat it with milk for supper." She was one of the luckier ones. By the siege's end, she wrote that her servant told her that rats were hanging for sale in the market. Soldiers on the battlefield were no better off. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> the Confederates gave up the city of Vicksburg, and the next day Pemberton surrendered his troops.

Union soldiers immediately occupied the city, and it remained occupied through Reconstruction, even until 1877. The trauma that civilians suffered during the siege wasn't easily forgotten or forgiven.

Nearly 3,000 Confederate and 5,000 Union soldiers were killed or wounded during the siege. Most of the soldiers were hastily buried where they fell. In 1866 a plot of land on a steep hill was chosen to be a cemetery for the federal war dead (Union.) Reburial didn't begin until 1868 because the cemetery had to be leveled out. During this time, many of the remains were

scattered or forgotten because people used any headboards for fire wood. The battlefield was a huge area of 1,800 acres, so many were probably never found.

More than 17,000 Union soldiers from area engagements are interred in the National Cemetery; 13,000 of those are unknown. Five thousand Confederate soldiers are buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Vicksburg because they weren't eligible at the time to be buried in a federal cemetery.



Red lines-Confederate; Blue lines-Union. Source: 2bp.blogspot.com

One of the thoughts I've had after walking in the space where so many fought and died is the importance of saving places such as this. I was spurred on to educate myself more fully on the real cost of war. A book I found at the Park bookstore is *The Aftermath of Battle: The Burial of the Civil War Dead* by Meg Grocling. She covers a number of battles and the reality of the days that followed the end of fighting. It's not a pleasant book but an important one.

#### Information Sources

The Aftermath of Battle: *The Burial of the Civil War Dead* by Meg Grocling

Vicksburg National Military Park brochure by National Park Service

2bp.blogspot.com (Vicksburg Battlefield map)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/siege\\_of\\_Vicksburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/siege_of_Vicksburg)

[www.historynet.com/battle-of-Vicksburg](http://www.historynet.com/battle-of-Vicksburg)



## Writer's Corner #2 by Mary Dean Snelling

Have you selected who or what you will write about? Have you jotted some notes in your little notebook about the ancestor(s) you selected for your narrative?

- Do not be concerned about making an outline for your family history narrative. Jones says that "Most writing can be outlined after it is written, rarely before."
- You will soon find that research and writing go hand in hand. Research helps you know what to write and writing helps you know what you need to research. The earlier in your research you start writing, the more efficient and effective both writing and research will be.
- If sentences come hard at first, jot down just words and phrases, perhaps in random order.
- Think about, or write down, why you are writing what you are writing and who will read it. This may help start words flowing.
- At some point sentences will start to flow, but that doesn't mean you stop jotting down words and phrases for other parts of the paper.
- Where within a paper you start does not matter. Early in the process, just starting matters most.
- As you work on a chunk of the paper, you need not worry about grammar, organization, structure, documentation, or the finished product. When ideas tumble out, get the gist of them. Focus on the story. Format, document and polish at a later stage.

[Thomas W. Jones. Syllabus, Western Institute of Genealogy, July 2016, page 8.]



It is the First of the Month, *Back Up Your Files!!*



## Benton County Genealogical Society Board Contacts

Ron DeYoung, Pres.	541-487-5691 <a href="mailto:ron.deyoung@gmail.com">ron.deyoung@gmail.com</a>
Katie Ross, Vice President	541-929-2884
Linda Olsen, Secretary	<a href="mailto:thekeeper@ronsarchive.com">thekeeper@ronsarchive.com</a>
Lois Courtney, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com">loiscourtney@cmug.com</a>
Susan VanLaere, Librarian	<a href="mailto:vanlaere@proaxis.com">vanlaere@proaxis.com</a>
Connie Patterson, Membership	





**BCGS General Meetings** held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, September through June.

The **December meeting will be on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! At **11 am** we will have our traditional December Holiday Auction followed by a great potluck at the Annex.

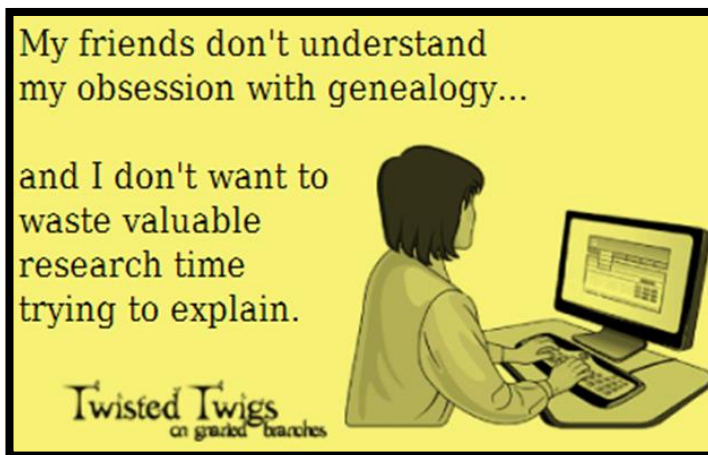
**Board Meetings** are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in December the Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am-noon** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



**BCGS 2016 -2017 Program Schedule:**

December: Holiday Auction

January: Judy Juntunen: Camp Polk Cemetery



**2017 Elections for society officers**

**BCGS Officer Ballot 2017**

**BCGS Ballot**

<b>President:</b>	George Davidson	<input type="radio"/>
<b>(write in)</b>		<input type="radio"/>

<b>Secretary</b>	Linda Olsen	<input type="radio"/>
<b>(write in)</b>		<input type="radio"/>

<b>Vice Pres.</b>	Kathryn Moss	<input type="radio"/>
<b>(write in)</b>		<input type="radio"/>

<b>Treasurer</b>	Lois Courtney	<input type="radio"/>
<b>(write in)</b>		<input type="radio"/>



**BENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Benefits of Membership include: Monthly programs, Newsletters, Library privileges during open hours, and 10% discount on books published by our society.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
First name Last name

Please list Names of other family members below if "family membership" is desired.

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Single or family membership dues are \$20 per year \_\_\_\_\_ with Newsletter E-mailed  
\$25 per year \_\_\_\_\_ with Newsletter Mailed

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ or New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to BCGS Library \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Benton County Genealogical Society. Dues are due by January 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

Mail Membership Form with your dues to:  
or bring it to our next General Meeting.

Benton County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1646  
Philomath, OR 97370

