

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370
<http://www.bcgs-oregon.org>
Volume 35 Issue 3
March 2017



From the Desk of the President by George Davidson

Thanks to all who attended our 11 Feb General Meeting and my presentation on our website plus a review of Legacy Family Tree Software. For those already working on your family tree and those who are thinking about getting started, just a friendly hint, please source your information as much as possible. A wise genealogist once told me **"Data without a source is just fiction."**

Please feel free to contact me for any suggestions or comments. I am willing to assist anyone using Legacy Family Tree software. Thanks!



March Program: Newspapers Tell Tales

Dawn Carlisle will be the speaker for March 11th, addressing the importance of historical newspapers in our family history. She describes the program objective here: "Newspapers contain a wealth of information beyond obituaries and marriage announcements. Learn what else you will find in newspapers that will provide information on your ancestors and

where to find newspapers including online free and subscription websites."



February Program Review: Legacy Family Tree Software, a Presentation by George Davidson by Lois Courtney

On Saturday, February 11th, over 30 of us, including some visitors and new members, learned about the software George Davidson has used for some years. It is PC-based, but can be integrated with Macs, and a Mac version is a possibility in the future.

George demonstrated the most recent version, 8.0. You can import data from Family Tree Maker if you currently use that on your computer, or since it is affiliated with Family Search, you can synchronize with that website.

George illustrated the remarkable flexibility of the program, which includes some of the following features:

- There are lots of training options
- You can search the internet from the software residing on your computer

- You can color code for different family lines
- There is a “Notes” option for every data section
- There are multiple options for charting your family tree
- The tool bar can be changed and customized to suit your own uses
- There are numerous report options, with the ability to adjust data and format
- George passed around a “Family History” which he published using the Legacy software
- Legacy doesn’t import photos. Instead it saves your computer’s capacity by linking to the photos you have in your photo database.

There is a free standard version of Legacy, and the deluxe version costs \$29.95. This is a one-time cost, and unlike web-based systems, there is no annual fee. One of the most impressive things he illustrated is the web site comparison to other genealogy software products like Family Tree Maker and Roots Magic: <http://legacyfamilytree.com/Compare.asp>

George also talked some about his personal quest to find his biological father. He succeeded and now has found half-siblings he is in touch with. He’s been able to trace back those family trees as well.

BCGS Website. George, building on all the work by Danelle, then Linda and Ron Olsen, has now gotten newsletters on line back to 2010. The membership form is there, and the record search feature has been enhanced. He recently added several blank forms that people can use to help them record family history data. If you haven’t checked it out, please take the time to do so:

<http://www.bcg-oregon.org/main-site/> *Go to the last page of this newsletter for George’s handout!*



Helga Estby (1860-1942)
Courtesy [Portch](#)/Bahr family

An (Almost?) Lost Legacy of Family Stories by Ron DeYoung

When Thelma’s father died at age 39, she and her siblings went to live in Grandmother Helga Estby’s Spokane, WA, home among other grown family members. Thelma loved her grandmother, a bright, well-read, bilingual Norwegian American woman who made a refuge upstairs in her bedroom; there she wrote, painted, sewed and entertained Thelma. Thelma often noted that Grandmother Estby was told by her adult children to “be quiet” about her political and suffragette views; upstairs in her room’s refuge she told Thelma to “protect this story” but never said what the story was.



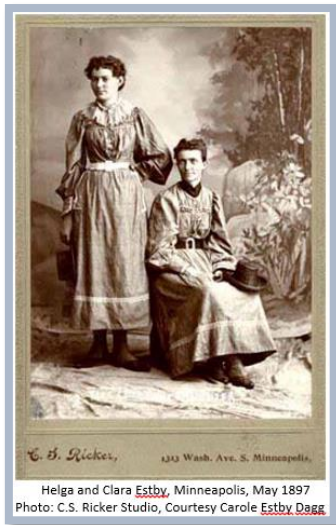
Helga and Clara Estby, Spokane 1896
Courtesy [Estby](#)/[Portch](#)/Bahr families

Unbeknown to Thelma, when her beloved grandmother died in 1942, two of Helga Estby’s daughters burned hundreds of pages of their mother’s handwritten manuscript in a barrel in the backyard of the Spokane home. The family’s uniformly well-buttressed wall of silence was finally sealed.....**almost**. Margaret, a daughter-in-law who was helping to clean out the house that day found two old newspaper clippings and, sensing the grown Estby children’s unspoken secret about some aspect of their family, instinctively hid

the old articles. Hidden they remained, even from her Estby husband until years later when her husband died.

The clippings were then given to granddaughter Thelma, now a grandmother herself; only then emerged the extraordinary story that Grandmother Helga Estby had asked her to protect so many years before.

This is *not* a book review but, it would be a far more interesting article for the telling. Suffice it so say, in 1897, Helga Estby, the mother of 9 children and her 17 year old, eldest daughter Clara accepted a wager in an attempt to save the family's Mica Creek, Washington, farm by walking the entire way from Spokane, Washington, to New York City in 7 months. They crossed the



often roadless distances, meeting specific requirements enroute with the purpose of collecting the \$10,000 purse for doing so. This was in Elizabethan-era women's clothing (second picture), in 1896! One stipulation was, from Utah eastward, to wear the much shorter and scandalous, "new women" bicycle dress (third picture). Their trek was recorded in a journal but was lost when a satchel was stolen in New York; thankfully it was chronicled in newspapers along the way. Initially they were met with disbelief, then, as the story preceded them, championed in newspapers small and large. The fact that they were shunned at home for this attempt at saving the family farm speaks volumes. I highly recommend you read the book, "Bold Spirit" by Linda Lawrence Hunt or at least, read the articles here: <http://www.historylink.org/File/9926> or a more comprehensive link here: <http://www.historylink.org/File/9926>

This following reflection is inspired by the book "**Bold Spirit**" by Linda Lawrence Hunt.

Our own family can be participants in silencing a family member's legacy and accomplishments, preventing descendants from knowing profound family stories. Families do this, we keep secrets to protect another, to save embarrassment, a family name or one's reputation. There often is value even in a "bad example" or "black sheep" when, with the passage of time, later generations would benefit from the telling. Strong pressures may converge to silence a family experience, including the origins of one's birth, births out of wedlock, alcoholism, an adoption, a crime. Often a story is neglected when a family or culture devalues an experience. These often are unintentional, "when we fail to notice that we failed to notice".

***How family stories may become lost.**

1. **Breaking a code.** 'It wasn't right to do'. "A mother's place was in the home." Eldest daughter Clara was the child of another man. Helga married not the father but a good man who accepted her when already 8 months pregnant. Clara later chose to become estranged from family, perhaps from societal shunning and conflict following their trip.

2. **Underestimate the value of a person's experience.** "Negation by neglect". Historians didn't value the experiences of women at the time. Women's literature was confined to a few women's magazines. Family members might just not understand or be able to relate to what another did.
3. **Believing one's story is incomprehensible to others.** None of Helga's neighbors in their close, rural, Norwegian American community could understand her choices. She was an adventurous woman who became a politically-oriented suffragette. Examples today: Sexual identity, the first family members to be educated and successful or, a family with a strong professional identity has a member who chooses a completely different direction, an over or under-achiever. "Experiential separation" creates a distancing and inability to understand or value one another's life experience and is not recorded.
4. **Sealing the shame.** The specter of shame may come from fearing the loss of respect by an action perceived as regrettable, outrageous or beyond culturally acceptable bounds. Alcoholism, incest, violence in wartime or against women, mental illness and more recently, AIDS or drug addiction. Helga's family thought that to leave them in the care of their father who was unable to work, in order to collect a promised \$10,000 reward and save the farm was simply inexcusable. The family and community felt this brought shame and dishonor upon the family. They practiced silence, pressured her not to write or talk about the book that was planned.
5. **Keeping the peace.** A family story that threatens family peace is not spoken of in order to keep intact the family relationships. Unwilling to "rock the boat", the choice is made to keep a family secret private. Some are wise, to protect the innocent, others are toxic and may perpetuate abuse. "If we don't talk about it, it will go away". Sometimes it is as simple and common as not speaking of those who died or the cause of death.
6. **Avoid the anger.** By staying silent, family anger may be avoided. The family may be characterized by fragility and the status quo needs to be preserved.

For 'internal and external reasons', Helga's first person narrative was lost. A woman's view of the experiences in a 4000 mile, 7 month walk across the United States in 1896 went unrecorded except for what remained in the newspaper interviews published at the time and only among those which still remain. Helga and her daughter met with the governors, the president and other officials in the states through which they walked; these first person narratives are lost to us as a nation and, to her descendants who would have benefited from them. "Children need both roots and wings".

Food for thought

Remembering the past by learning the generations-long experiences of our ancestors can be a resource to the family but only when they are recorded and shared. ***What have we failed to record*** that might be a cherished legacy to those now living or not yet born? What, with the

passage of time, may not be hurtful or sensitive, giving validity to another's life that we might not personally value *now*? Can we encapsulate and protect "secrets", later to be found and enrich and give perspective? Are we judging another thus walling them off from our family narrative, considering their lives shameful, not worth the telling or our family somehow better for the omission? ***What will we do that these stories will outlive us?***

* These 6 elements are paraphrased content from the book, "Bold Spirit" by Linda Lawrence Hunt. This is available as an audiobook in the Benton County Public Library.



Librarian's Corner: New Library Books by Sue Van Leare

Thanks to Gene Newcomb, we have two interesting books in the England-Wales section. They are ***Genealogical Research in England and Wales, Volumes 1 and 3***. Thank you, Gene!

Volume 1 is full of information about different sources for locating your ancestors in England and Wales. Some of the topics covered are civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths; parish registers; cemeteries; marriage licenses; surnames; dialects; and censuses. The monograph is also available at <https://archive.org>.

After I finished looking at this book, I found the National Archives of England's website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/. This site has 32 million descriptions of records held by the National Archives and over 9 million records to download. I think you could use Volume 1 to understand what kinds of records are available and then use the website to get specific.

Volume 3 is devoted to becoming familiar with old English handwriting as well as other types of handwriting, spellings and abbreviations, alphabets, and Latin records. I'm always fascinated with anything to do with language, and I'll bet some of you are, too. If you find yourself having to decipher an old record with atrocious, faded writing, this book might be your saving grace!



In addition to Gene's contribution, Danell Aukerman donated three monographs from the Horner Museum's Oral History Program. These monographs are from taped interviews for the museum's oral history program: "Oregon State University and Its Effects on the Larger Community." These monographs are fun to read because they reveal these people through their own words. The real-life questions and answers bring life to what was happening here in Oregon, Benton County and, especially, Oregon State University. Thank you, Danell, for the donation. These monographs are in the Family History (FH) section.

Monograph No. 1 reflects on the life of Alan B. Berg. Both sets of his grandparents came to this country as immigrants, his father's parents from Norway and his mother's from Prussia. Influenced by the outdoors when he was young, Berg became interested in forestry at Oregon State College. Soon after graduation he joined the army and spent two years at Camp Adair before he was sent to the Pacific Theater. After the war, he returned to Oregon and worked in forestry in several capacities, including many years in the Oregon Forest Research Center in Corvallis. It eventually became part of Oregon State

University. After he left this career, he was involved in city affairs, first on the city council and later as mayor.

Monograph No. 2 features the life of Erwin B. Lemon who had a distinguished career at Oregon Agricultural College. Both his mother and father's families came across the plains and settled in Benton County. His mother's family, the Hawleys, settled in Alpine and his father's family, the Lemons, moved to Monroe. His father and mother moved to Grass Valley, Oregon, near The Dalles where he was born in 1889. He came to OAC in 1907 to study business, became involved in student affairs and earned the attention of the faculty. He was offered a job teaching accounting after graduation and worked his way up to the first Dean of Administration. He worked with many of the notable individuals who were influential in building the Oregon State University we know today. Later in life, he contributed to the community through the Corvallis School Board, Chamber of Commerce and other endeavors.

Monograph No. 3 narrates the life of T. J. Starker, the founder of Starker Forests, Inc., a well-known name in Benton County. Early in life, Starker was drawn to forestry, and his life followed that path. In 1908, he came to OAC as a student in the first class. After receiving an M.S. degree in Forestry from the University of Michigan, he returned to OAC in 1922 to teach. In his career, he was instrumental in establishing Peavy Arboretum, Avery Park, and of course his own Starker Forests business. Starker served the public on the Corvallis School Board, Benton County Park Board, and the State Board of Forestry. In 1981, two years before his death, he received the E.B. Lemon award by the OSU Alumni Association.



Writer's Corner #5 Weaving Your Facts into Social History,

by Mary Dean Snelling

In order to identify and understand the habits and activities of your ancestor, you must also define the world in which they lived. Read about the social history of the place and time your ancestor lived in a specific location.

Places to find social history:

Books - New and used bookstores, public and university libraries. Check sections for history, local and regional history, women's studies, fashion, cook books and food history. Historical fiction has dramatic narrative within historical events. See how others have written.

Newspapers - newspapers.com [\$], NewspaperArchives.com (available at Corvallis Family History Center), *Cyndi's List* for free newspapers <http://www.cyndislist.com>

Also archives, libraries, historical societies in the town or region where your ancestor lived.

Look at articles to see what was going on during the time your ancestor lived there - store advertisements with prices, clothing shop ads showing fashions, local cultural and social events, articles about local politics and economics.

Google - use terms such as *German farmer social history customs*

Diaries, memoirs, letters - If you do not have any of these look for other people who might have published a work during the time period and place of your ancestor.

Visit local historical and genealogical societies, libraries, archives and museums in your ancestor's village or town. Search for old timers and the local historian(s) who can tell you about life there in the past.

Weave your factual information into the historical time and place.

Bold print = your ancestor information

Italics = social history

Underlined words connect your facts with social history

Examples:

1. **Although there are no surviving records that tell what James ate, his diet was probably similar to that of other Virginia elite...**

1st part is your ancestor information - **in bold print**

2nd part is the connecting phrase - underlined

3rd part is the general social history – *in italics*

2. *In colonial Virginia, many children lost at least one parent to death before reaching their eighteenth birthday, and this was the case with Henry whose father, William, died when Henry was fifteen.*

1st *general social history*

2nd connecting phrase

3rd your **ancestor history**

3. *Most of the newcomers to the Chesapeake colonies were young men who, like Richard arrived as indentured servants*

1st *general social history.*

2nd connecting words

3rd your ancestor history in **bold print**

Remain focused on your story. Don't go off on tangents. Too much social history might distract the reader. [Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo, *You Can Write Your Family History*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2008) p. 29 – 33, 124]



So-Called Family Tree Website Reveals Your Personal Address and Family Information, Dick Eastman, 23 Jan 2017

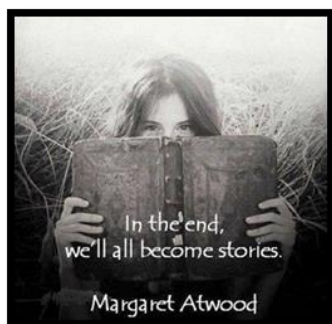
"I recently wrote at <https://goo.gl/C6p932> about a new web site that claims to be a family history and genealogy service but seems to primarily a site that publishes personal information about individuals. That web site is not alone. Still another web site has now appeared with a very similar offering. In fact, there are dozens of such web sites on the Internet that make money by selling

your personal information... Radaris listed my name, former address, and several of my relatives. It also claimed I was related to several people who are unknown to me. I then searched for information about several of my friends and relatives. Radaris found every one of them...." Read the rest of the story here: <https://blog.eogn.com/2017/01/23/still-another-so-called-family-tree-website-reveals-your-personal-address-and-family-information/>

A word to the wise!!



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



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 Susan VanLaere, Librarian vanlaere@proaxis.com
 Connie Patterson, Membership

BCGS General Meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, September through June.
 The **March meeting will be on Saturday, March 11th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! At **11 am** we will have our program, followed by refreshments at the Annex.
Board Meetings are held the Wednesday before the general meeting; in March the Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 8th at 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.

BCGS 2017 Program Schedule:

March: Dawn Carlisle, Oregon Gen. Soc., Using Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research
 April: FamilySearch Wiki and it powerful research capability, Ron DeYoung
 May: Hannah Allan: History for the Genealogist & Putting history in your Family History.
 June: Annual potluck picnic then **Summer Break until September**
 September: Sharing, Show & Tell, Coming together again
 October: Don Anderson: "Native American to Scottish. DNA, Family History, started in Corvallis!"
 November: TBA
 December: Holiday Auction & Potluck



British Isles Research Seminar March 13th-17th, 2017

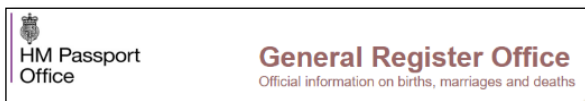
The Family History Library's Research Specialists (Salt Lake City) invite you to their free week-long British Isles Research Seminar. The seminars, which will be held March 13th-17th, 2017, are perfect for beginning and intermediate genealogists interested in learning about British Isles and records. These may be attended *in person* or as *online webinars* but do register beforehand, they fill up!

British Isles Research Seminar					
In order to attend these classes you must register. To attend in person click here . If you are going to attend online click here . When registering please check ALL of the days that you wish to attend. We will use Eventbrite to process your registration. Your information will be processed in accordance with their privacy policy located at Eventbrite's Privacy Policy . IN PERSON CLASSES ARE GOING TO BE HELD IN MAIN FLOOR CLASSROOMS B & C.					
TIME	Monday, 13 March	Tuesday, 14 March	Wednesday, 15 March	Thursday, 16 March	Friday, 17 March
9:00-9:50 AM MDT	NO CLASSES THIS HOUR				Tracing Irish Roman Catholic Ancestry
10:00-10:50 AM MDT	NO CLASSES THIS HOUR				Finding Ancestry in Ireland Civil Registration Records
11:00 - 11:50 AM MDT	NO CLASSES THIS HOUR				Ireland Census & Census Substitutes
1:00-1:50 PM MDT	Blessings and Curses of Tracing Welsh Ancestry	How to Trace England Ancestry Online	Scotland's "Lost" Other Half: Tracing Difficult Ancestral Lines in Scotland's Non-Parochial (Church) Registers	Turning the Tables on Tracing Elusive Ancestry in England/Wales Civil Registration Records: How to Trace Ancestry Using Online BMD Indexes	The Scots-Irish: Plantation and Settlement of Ulster in the 17th Century
2:00-2:50 PM MDT	Welsh Naming Patterns and Customs	Tracing Non-Church of England Ancestry	Using Church of Scotland Parochial Registers to Trace Scots Ancestry	England Resources for Family History at findmypast	Key Websites for Tracing Ancestry in Ireland

To register to attend *in person*, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/british-isles-family-history-conference-2017-in-person-attendee-registration-30541799344>

To register to attend *on line*, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/british-isles-family-history-conference-2017-webinar-guests-registration-30541765242>

(Our thanks to Mary Dean for the heads up!)



Online Access to England and Wales Records, GRO by Ron DeYoung

A recent change has put certain vital records of England and Wales online with greater details than is currently available in Ancestry, FindMyPast or FamilySearch; those databases' records are from GRO's old index pages. The new records are found here: www.gro.gov.uk



One may search the website and order records (£ 9.25) if desired or just search their indexes for free. This new online index was created from the original digitized certificates. Birth records for years 1837-1916 now include the mother's maiden name. Death records for years 1837-1957 now list the age at death.

To search records, **click on "Order Certificates Online"**, a bit confusing! You will have the option to search and record information and then purchase an emailed pdf file of the record if you like.

Note: the index reflects district where the birth occurred and the **quarter** when the birth was **recorded**, and not the birth date. The quarters are listed as: M = March, J = June, S = September, D = December.

Benton County Genealogical Society-Sat. 11 Feb 2017
Program: BCGS Website and Legacy Family Tree Software

1. Visit our website: <http://www.bcgs-oregon.org>
2. Visit Legacy Family Tree: <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>
3. Visit Family Search: <https://familysearch.org/>
4. Visit Roots Magic: <http://www.rootsmagic.com/>
5. The Master Genealogist (high end software) (Support ended 2014) Can still be purchased online.
6. PAF5 (Personal Ancestral file): <https://familysearch.org/paf>
7. Visit for over 40 FREE Legacy Family Tree Videos:
http://familytreewebinars.com/legacy_videos.php
8. Visit Legacy on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LegacyUserGroup/>

Legacy Family Tree has a free version but can be upgraded to a full version anytime without loss of data. \$29.95 by download or just enter your Customer Number that is issued to you upon payment.

Benefits of using personal genealogy software:

- You can organize your data in a manner of your choosing and decide what, how, and when to share information with others.
- You can enter information you still need to verify.
- You can enter personal notes and confidential information.
- You can create and print reports, including research questions.
- You can do advanced searches in your database. For example, you can select names to research in a specific place or find all people in your database buried in a certain cemetery.
- If you want to share information with living relatives, you can do so with personal software.
- You can add sources to living people, which cannot be added on Family Tree at present.
- You avoid paying annual fees to a website and your data is secure with you.

Have questions? Contact me: George Davidson, gjd1943@gmail.com
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