

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370
<http://www.bcgs-oregon.org>
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From the Desk of the President, by George Davidson



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“Honoring Our Veterans”

November 11th program

Our November program will honor our veterans.

Members are all invited to bring memorabilia about their service or family members' or ancestors' military service.

Anyone who would like to is invited to tell about the items they brought. Keepsakes and remembrances may include clothing, photographs, written stories or stories to tell, service records, registration cards, pension records, medals and ribbons. Your items may be displayed on tables around the social hall meeting room if you wish.

Several members have offered to speak for a few minutes each and then the program will be open to anyone who wishes to tell about the items they brought for display or tell a short story about their veteran. Telling where you found military records about your ancestors' will be helpful to researchers.

To Commemorate the WWI Centennial 1917 - 2017 see the many WWI web sites online

WWI Genealogical

Resources: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/commemorate/family-ties/genealogical-resources.html>

WWI Home page for centennial <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/>

WWI short video, scroll down to see slide show www.ww1America.org



“Don Anderson, Finding my Birth Father through DNA testing.
”October Program Review, by Lois Courtney



BCGS October Program, Don Anderson from Portland

Over 40 of us were entertained and educated by Don Anderson at our October program. Don was born in 1951, adopted by an upper-middle class family and raised in Portland. In 1995 he became interested in locating his birth parents, and thus began a search that lasted for the next 20 years. He was helped in 1998 when an Oregon ballot measure made it possible for adoptees over 21 to get information about their birth parents.

Finding his mother. Although he had her name, Nancy Blackstone, he couldn't find her. Then, through an organization in Portland, he found her parents' names and that they had lived in Corvallis, and owned land and businesses and her father, Percy Blackstone, was affiliated with the Corvallis Baptist Church. This information led him to Nancy's sister, Margaret, who lived near him in Portland. When they met she was delighted and through her he had a warm reunion with his birth mother in California and his half brother Malcolm. He had not expected their instant eagerness to claim him as their own. Nancy died in 2007.

Finding his father. Unfortunately, Nancy did not remember who the father was. First, Don was excited by rumors that he might be Native American. Following that information he started visiting Warm Springs Reservation and learning about these possible cultural roots. Finally, several DNA tests later, he reluctantly gave up that dream when he found indications that instead he was Irish. He enthusiastically adopted that cultural identity for a while, "making soda bread every week." Finally, using triangulation testing and help from DNA experts, he found the link to the Macintoshes, Scottish! With the help of Mary at the Benton County Historical Museum, he found further evidence of this family in Corvallis, and pictures in yearbooks that showed Stuart Macintosh (his father) and Nancy in the same years. He was eventually able to verify this connection with a 1st cousin in Canada, a book about the Macintoshes in America, and 40 DNA family tree relations. Sadly, Stuart died without biological children. He lived most of his life in Cottage Grove.

Summary. Now proudly wearing a Scottish kilt, Don says that it's different for an adopted person; you need to find the proof and the missing stories. The family background that most of us grow up with has to be recreated. It is hard to convey in this report how absolutely entertaining and lively Don's presentation was, and how touching and amusing his search for his ethnic and biological identity.

Find-A-Grave Will Change

by **Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.**

Findagrave.com has announced that the web site soon will change. Some changes are cosmetic, while others are functional. A map feature has been added.

The home page, formerly just a list of over thirty choices, will become a photograph with a few menu selections across the top. That page will be dominated by the search panel, which will function largely as it has in the past and with the same options for every search box except those related to location.

The current search panel specifies location via pull-down lists for country, state, and county. The new search panel offers a single box for location, in which you are supposed to type the name of a place. As you begin to type a city, county, state, or country that box auto-fills with suggested place names which you can select with a mouse click. Use the American English equivalent of a country name; *Germany* works but *Deutschland* doesn't.

The new home page's menu bar goes across the top of the screen. Clicking *CEMETERIES* takes you to a page that lets you hunt cemeteries in either of two ways. Near the top left of the page is a search box where you can type a cemetery name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. Each entry on the hit list displays some facts about that cemetery, and a link to its information page. That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person's name.

Instead of using that cemetery-name search box, you can use the cemetery-place search box to its right. Clicking a place name produces a map of cemeteries near that place. You can zoom the map in or out, and can pan it in any direction. (If the map doesn't display any marker pins, zoom in.) After a name is in that search box, clicking *Search* leads to a hit list of cemeteries near that place. Use this hit list the same way you use the other cemetery search box.

To see and experiment with all the planned changes, go to <https://findagrave.com/> and then click *preview now* near the top center of the screen.



Librarian's Corner, Sue Van Laere, BCGS Librarian

The WPA and My Grandfather

For a long time now, I've been fascinated with the WPA, the Works Progress Administration, later named the Works Projects Administration. My first brush with the WPA was during a trip to Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood. Timberline's exterior is majestic with its stonework and wrought iron. The interior is just as wonderful: enormous stone fireplaces and massive timbers, hand wrought metal work, handwoven curtains-I could go on and on. When I found out that the lodge was built during Roosevelt's New Deal by unemployed stone masons, iron workers, seamstresses, and artists, among a host of other skilled workers, I was hooked. Timberline Lodge is just one of many WPA projects that created jobs for unemployed men and women across the country during the Great Depression.

I recently discovered that my grandfather, Harlan Winkler, had been employed by the WPA. This is why, every once in a while, you should look at your sources once again! On the 1940 census, Harlan's employment was listed as "WPA construction cement." I had always heard that he helped lay the brick streets in my home town of Lexington, Dawson County, Nebraska. This might possibly be true, but now I want to find out what he

was doing with the WPA that involved cement. Was it street work again or construction? I think my next step will be to contact the Nebraska State Library to see if the records for Dawson County are there or where to find them. Wish me luck.

Harlan was 62 years old in 1940, fairly old for hard labor. I know he had stopped farming and that 1940 was the first year that anyone received regular monthly Social Security payments. I plan to send for his Social Security application for benefits to see when he applied. I'm curious about how he and my grandmother survived during hard times associated with the Depression.

If you're unfamiliar with all the jobs created by the WPA, I'm including some of the resources below. People did all kinds of research projects such as inventorying cemeteries, church records and county records. They interviewed pioneers and wrote local histories. The Benton County Genealogical Society has published the Benton County works of WPA employee Mark Phinney: Interviews, Commissioners' Journals A & B, 1850-1855, Churches, Bible Records, and Cemetery Records. They're all in our library if you want to see examples of records.

To learn more about WPA records, check out the following (all accessed 27 Sep 2017):

<https://lisalouisecooke.com/2017/04/wpa-records-for-genealogy>

<https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/069.html>

<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/tools/online-public-access-catalog.html>



Writer's Corner #11, Constructing Paragraphs , submitted by Mary Dean Snelling

A paragraph is a group of sentences focused on a topic or theme. Writers discuss one topic or a group of related topics in a paragraph.

- Paragraphs should not be too short – most should contain at least three sentences. Too-short paragraphs are “undeveloped.” As you revise a paper, broaden the focus of the too-short paragraph to perhaps be combined with another short paragraph.
- Paragraphs should not be too long. Too-long paragraphs can be convoluted and hard to follow. Identify more than one focus in a long paragraph, and discuss each focus in its own paragraph.
- Aesthetically, readers should see at least one paragraph break on every page.
- Organize paragraphs with a topic sentence—usually, but not always—the paragraph’s first sentence. Topic sentences pull a group of sentences together to make the paragraph a meaningful unit. Topic sentences tell readers the significance of the paragraph’s other sentences. They make them want to read the paragraph.
- Rarely, if ever, make a paragraph’s last sentence its topic sentence. Readers won’t know why they’re reading what they’re reading until they get there.
- Begin each paragraph with a thought that ties it to the preceding paragraph, close each paragraph with a thought that foreshadow the next paragraph, or do both. These ties help your narrative flow from one paragraph to the next, making your essay hang together and flow from beginning to end. This technique also motivates readers to follow your essay, paragraph by paragraph, from its beginning to its end.

- Write all or most of a paragraph's sentences in the same tense (In genealogical writing, this usually is the past tense.) Shifts in verb tense should be intentional, and the number of those shifts within a paragraph should be few or none.
- Reword to minimize repetition of words and concepts with in a paragraph or adjacent paragraphs. Repeat just enough for sentence linkages and paragraph flow.
- Where possible remove information about sources from a paragraph and put it in the endnotes.

[Jones, Thomas W. Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians, Western Institute of Genealogy July 2016, Eugene, Oregon,p.18]



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

The November meeting will be on **Saturday, November 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; the **Board meeting** will be on **Wednesday, November 8th at 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.

December 9th Holiday Auction and Potluck

Auction Suggested Items:

Food (Homemade Items

bread, cookies, stollen breads

honey, jams, apple butter

Mixes in a jar - soups, chili, cookies

wines

Kitchen items

salt & pepper shakers

bowls, mugs filled or not w/ festive items

hot pot holders, towels, pastry brush

package of expensive coffee

Christmas cookie cutters, stamps (Rycraft)

Christmas/holiday

decorations, wall hangings

decorative storage containers, candy dish

decorative small bell

angel - small decorations

Christmas wreaths or swags (real or artificial)

Clock

basket of festive items

Books, maps, CDs, DVDs

genealogy

Christmas stories

decorative

children's books

photo albums

Fabric items - scarves, blankets (fleece, crochet, knitted), bags (handy carry-all), pillows Surprise bag (filled with several wrapped small gift items)

Pet items - catnip decorative bags, photos, carvings, toys

Personal service such as baby sitting, genealogy research time etc.

It's that time again when we need to elect BCGS officers for the coming year. Please write in your choice for the positions listed and return it to the December general meeting!

Ballot

President:	
(write in)	

Vice Pres.	
(write in)	

Secretary	
(write in)	

Treasurer	
(write in)	

Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen

Who were the L. L. L. L. and how did this organization help the WWI war effort? What was the purpose of the 4Ls? Further research in a booklet from our BCGS Library titled History of the Blodgett Tract answered some of my questions.

Situated on the central Oregon coast bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west and located between the Alsea and Yachats Rivers is the Blodgett Tract which was owned by John W. Blodgett, a lumberman from Michigan, not to be confused with William Blodgett a Benton County pioneer of the early 1850s. This particular 10,000 acre parcel of timberland thickly populated with spruce trees became intensely important to the war effort during World War I.

Here's how it started: Before the United States declared war on Germany, the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) a labor union, called a strike. Poor working conditions resulted in high turn over of saw mill workers and loggers. Living in make shift logging camps and working 10 hour days was quite rugged. The time was right for a strike. Their demands were 8 hour days and better working and living conditions.

When the United States declared war on Germany, April 6, 1917, the spruce trees on the Blodgett Tract all of a sudden attracted attention. The Sitka spruce lumber was tough, flexible and lightweight making it ideal for manufacturing airplanes. The government stepped in and organized an Airplane Production Board to oversee the production, and a subcommittee was

formed to organize logging, saw mills, railroads and durable roads for logging trucks. The infrastructure needed to be built as soon as possible to accommodate selectively cutting the spruce trees, milling the lumber specific to the requirements for manufacturing airplanes, hauling the lumber by truck or railroad to an airplane manufacturing plant. Success was measured in board feet with an emphasis on increasing the number to 10 million board feet per month. Speed was of the utmost importance to help the war effort.

Soldiers helped fill the void of loggers and lumbermen left by the I.W.W. strike. Assigning soldiers to do civilian work had never been done before; however, the officials in charge of this huge project persevered and nothing could stand in their way. They had to have the man power to supply the spruce lumber. Loggers and lumbermen on strike were unhappy and caused damage and possibly even sabotaged work in the logging camps slowing down the logging process.

“A patriotic organization known as the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen was prescribed as the antidote to sedition.”

From: History of the Blodgett Tract 1890-1946 by Stephanie Finucane, dated March 28, 1980, Waldport Ranger District Siuslaw National Forest, pg 8

And it worked. Members of this new organization organized in 1917 were expected to take a loyalty pledge promising to contribute to the war effort by putting forth their best efforts to support the United States toward winning WWI. Members of the L. L. L. L. were given better working conditions and soon the loggers and lumbermen realized they were better off staying with the 4Ls and the strikes mostly stopped. The men felt they were also part of the war effort and worked even harder for a common purpose. The great demand on physical strength of many men working together under harsh weather conditions and nearly inaccessible terrain of the Oregon coast forest slowed the building of railroads and numerous logging roads. World War I was nearly over by the time any airplanes were built from the spruce trees growing on the Blodgett Tract.

Curiosity about the 4Ls written on my uncle’s service record motivated me to research the Loyal Legions of Loggers and Lumbermen. My uncle, Ralph Green, born and raised on a farm near Woods Creek served in World War I as a member of the 133rd Spruce Squadron stationed at Fort Stevens near Astoria, Oregon. He was fatally injured in a logging accident on November 11, 1918.

by Linda Olsen

Resources:

1. History of the Blodgett Tract 1890-1946 by Stephanie Finucane, dated March 28, 1980, Waldport Ranger District Siuslaw National Forest
2. <http://loyallegionpdx.com/about/where-did-the-name-loyal-legion-come-from/> by Norm Diamond, Ph.D, Where did the name “Loyal Legion” come from?
3. <https://depts.washington.edu/labhist/strike/mickelson.shtml> By Erik Michelson The Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen

