

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

Thanks for all who could attend our September Group meeting and share their summer activity. Fall is approaching after a long very warm summer, enjoy the cooler weather and fall season. Also, a welcome back to school for our children and grandchildren.



October 2017 Program, by Linda Olsen

The Don Anderson Story

How genetic genealogy helped Don Anderson find his birth parents and ethnic roots

October 14, 2017 --11:00am -12noon

College United Methodist Church social hall, next to the

Benton County Historical Museum, 1123 Main St., Philomath, Oregon

Don Anderson was adopted at 6 months, received a copy of his pre-adoption birth certificate in 2000, and reunited with his birth mother in 2001. After DNA testing in 2006, Don was finally able to confirm the identity and ethnicity of his birth father in June 2015.

Don is a native Oregonian. He and his wife Diana are the parents of four children and 15 grandchildren. With a degree in Music Education and Performance, Don has been the director and participant in numerous chorale groups beginning with the US Army choir in Europe, Portland Chorale, Conchords Chorale, Cloud 9, Vocal Effect, Tenor soloist with the Portland Opera and Oregon Symphony, and New York City Opera ensemble, and currently operates a voice studio in Portland. All of this music background ties into his genetic genealogy.

He became an administrator for two DNA projects on Family Tree DNA in 2014 and has written a book based on his journey to find his first parents. Don's goal is to assist other adoptees with their search, and anyone interested in breaking down those brick walls that may exist in their genealogy.



Along with Don's intriguing story, you will be given numerous how-to's to supercharge your own genealogy. Come prepared to learn how to make genealogy a more personal and meaningful part of your life.

His book, **It's All About Paper and Spit**, will be available for sale and a book signing will follow his program.

Sponsored by the Benton County Genealogical Society www.bcgs-oregon.org/



September 2017 Program Review, by Sandra Potter

“What I Did On My Summer Vacation.”

We did not have to write a theme but at the September meeting we did have an opportunity to share some things that happened during the summer.

George D. was able to use ancestry DNA to find some connection to his biological father.

Marj E. made some discoveries about her mother's family in Vermont and plans another trip. She praised the on-line access to records and the helpful county clerks. Is anyone here working on Vermont in the 1700's? She also wanted to know how to represent, in a family tree, first cousins that married one another.

Linda O. shared Mary's Peak Trek memorabilia and a scrapbook she has made of her parents' letters to one another. She wondered the best way to share the scrapbook. Several members suggested a digital photobook using Shutterfly, Power Point or Portfolio database.

Earle G. commented that he “almost” won a car at a Mary's Peak Trek!

Bill G. went to a family reunion and said he didn't know anyone there! He also remarked that he was “one person away” from a colonial ancestor.

Sherry F. asked how to handle a family tree when a brother died and another brother married the widow.

Susan H. wanted to learn more about her grandmother's roots in Asheville, NC and stayed in her great grand aunt's bedroom at the Reynolds House B&B. The house is well preserved and has lots of family history.

Les F. found out that in England the family name had been hyphenated: Anton-Fish. This made research much easier and he has now traced the family back to the 1500's.

Tom B. said that through ancestry DNA he has made contact with a relative in Ireland and his mother's third cousin in Oakland. His wife, Ann, has been doing a project with her father's sermons.

Mary-Dean S. had a productive trip to Montrose, Colorado, where her mother lived from 1912-1922. She found the family house and her grandfather's saddle and leather shop, which still had the original ceiling and floor.

Susan H. told of her train trip through the Panama Canal, following the route her great-great-grandparents took in 1854. They had left from New York, were shipwrecked on a reef, rescued and finally reached Panama. They took the train across Panama and then got on a ship that took them to Oregon!

It is always interesting and fun to hear the various tales of summer genealogy findings!

---Sandra Potter

Some photos of our September group



What We Did this Year

September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017

Benton County Genealogical Society

Net Income: \$829

This is partly due to the sale of \$430 worth of our books

And more income from both dues and the December Auction

Less expense than anticipated for programs

Bank Balance at August 31, 2017: \$6,044

Number of new members this year: 9!

Number of total members as of August 31st: 60

Library usage: 29 Non-BCGS folks used our library this year

Library Volunteers

- 10 volunteers and 3 alternates provided 260 hours for Tuesday and Saturday staffing
- We now have wifi in the library and two new computers!
- 8 volunteers are working to evaluate upstairs materials for retention, approximately 100 hours of work so far
- The annual inventory was accomplished in a single day with few missing books

Programs

- 10, including the December auction and the June Potluck
- We averaged about 31 people at the programs
- AND our programs and meetings have been enhanced by George's hand-held mike system

Writing Group

- An average of 10 writers met 8 times this last year, and will continue into this new year. All are welcome to join them. Tuesday September 19th at 1:00.

Developed by Lois Courtney



“Around Benton County” by Linda Olsen

The Herbert Grist Mill in Benton County

Book Review by Linda Olsen

Driving 10 miles south of Corvallis to find the historical Joshua Herbert grist mill site confirms once again why pioneers traveled west to Oregon. The area is prime farm land as far as the eye can see. Time has erased any real evidence of the Herbert Grist Mill. All that marks the place where this grist mill and the Herbert family lived is a granite marker resting near the intersection of Greeberry Road and Bellfountain Road south of Corvallis. The marker is dedicated to the site of the Herbert Grist Mill and George and Elizabeth Herbert dated 1850 and also the nearby site of the Inavale Post Office dedicated to John and Mary Mitchell dated 1893.

If you missed the marker like we did the first time, stop at Tye Wine Cellars and ask for directions. The Herbert marker is on the south side of Greenberry Road about 1/4 mile farther



west of the Tye Wine Cellars . It's very close to the edge of the road on the corner of private property.

Note the names on the marker: “Gorge and Elisabeth Herbert” should have been “Joshua and Elizabeth Herbert” as Joshua was the husband and George was their oldest son. The book written by a descendant, **A Herbert Family Journeys to Oregon in 1845** which can be checked out of our BCGS Library, documents the

Herbert family. Joshua with his oldest son, George, built a log cabin first then built the grist mill. Photographs, family genealogies, and plans drawn to represent the structures built for the grist mill on their Donation Land Claim, No. 2911, near Beaver Creek, fill the book with carefully researched details. If you enjoy reading about how a grist mill is constructed and built by hand then pages 41 and 42 are a must read section of this book. Hand drawn designs are on page 39. Apparently the two huge grinding stones came from France around the horn then to Oregon City by boat. To move the stones to the Herbert grist mill site, they were hauled by wagon pulled by oxen and installed using only the rough tools and knowledge available in 1846. The Herbert Grist Mill operated for about 20 years.

The scenic farmland probably fulfilled the dream and expectations of these early settlers in 1845. What a beautiful place to live in the middle of the Willamette Valley with water from Beaver Creek to provide their personal needs and enough water to provide the power for the grist mill. The grist mill served not only the local folks but also ground seed into flour for the miners on their way to the California gold fields in 1849 using the pack trail nearby. Local Indians also liked their corn ground into flour. Unfortunately, Joshua died in 1851 a few years after completing the grist mill leaving a widow and seven children to carry on. With the oldest son, George, 21 years old, and four more younger sons, Elizabeth Herbert with George's help continued the grist mill and lived on the site until her death. Joshua and Elizabeth Herbert and at least two of their sons are buried on the site of their DLC; however, their graves sites have been lost and only the family story records their resting place.

RESOURCES: 1850 and 1860 Censuses, Donation Land Claim records, **[A Herbert Family Journeys to Oregon in 1845](#)** , **[The Brazen Overlanders of 1845](#)**, and family files found at the Benton County Historical Society and Museum.



Librarian's Corner, Sue Van Laere, BCGS Librarian



Programs Scheduled

2017

October: Don Anderson's program about "From Native American to Scottish: The journey to find my first parents. It all started in Corvallis!" His book: **Paper and Spit: Family Found: How DNA ;and Genealogy Revealed my First Parent' Identity** is now available.

November: Honoring Our Veterans

December: Annual Holiday Auction and potluck.

2018

January: TBA

February: tentative program scheduled is the "**Black Suitcase Mystery**" by Gail Downs

March: program presenter is the "**Letita Carson Story**" presented by Jan Meranda



Writer's Corner #10, Writing Sentences, submitted by Mary Dean Snelling

- Vary sentence length between two and about thirty words. If your sentences seem to all be of similar length, break some apart and join others together. Too many short sentences make writing choppy. Too many long sentences make it boring.

- Sentences should express one thought at a time.
- Sentences should advance your story from one point to the next.
- In genealogical writing most sentences' subjects will be your research subjects.

Write in third-person point of view. When writing life stories (biography) and narratives use he, she and they.

- Write an enticing opening sentence. Sometimes it will be the last sentence.
- Separate run-on sentences and make sentence fragments into complete sentences.
- Avoid dangling construction like "It's been used by farmers and soldiers to help them recover from injuries, as well as dancers."
- Write sentences in positive form. Rather than "He was not yet sixteen" write "He would soon turn sixteen" or "He was under sixteen." Use "not" only to signify intentional denial or negation.

- Quotation marks follow commas and periods at the end of a sentence.
- Consider breaking apart sentences when words like and, but, when, where, which, while and who connect the parts.
- Avoid any word or phrasing that refers to you, the writer, or that even hints about your presence. The focus should be on your ancestor's life and relationships, and - to a lesser extent – the evidence and sources that support your conclusion.
- Phrases in a series within a sentence should have the same structure and syntax. The lead into a list should be a complete sentence. Example: The first son was a blacksmith, second a farmer and third a cooper. Do not repeat the word "was"
- Sparingly use words like also, despite, however, and regardless to help sentence flow from one to the next.

[Jones, Thomas W. Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians, Western Institute of Genealogy July 2016, Eugene, Oregon, p.14 - 15]



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Send articles of genealogical interest to George Davidson. Until a new newsletter person emerges, George will collect the articles for our BCGS newsletter. Let's help him out!



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

The October meeting will be on **Saturday, October 14th 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, October 11th at 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



See **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter** <https://blog.eogn.com/> for information on the next series of "Finding Your Roots" with Henry Louis Gates Jr. beginning Oct 3. The Oregon Genealogical Society facebook page also included the short video of the "Finding Your Roots" series.

<https://www.facebook.com/BentonCountyGenealogicalSociety/>

