

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370
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“State of the Society” from the Desk of the Lame Duck President! Ron DeYoung

This month brings the end of a 3 year role as the society president, a time that I have learned much, have associated with many fine board and society members, for this I have been truly grateful to have served among such good people.



Miss Mackey was my beautiful, warm and friendly kindergarten teacher who wore red dresses and lipstick; she was the one I truly planned to marry but, that's another saga. Among the stories she read was "Stone Soup"; I was amazed, people could make soup out of stones? Three war-weary soldiers entered a village on the way home, hungry and found the local people without food to share. The soldiers added water to a large iron pot, built a fire under it and placed in it a stone. The villagers, curious, were told they were making stone soup but it needed some garnishing and in turn, the townspeople added carrots, spices, onions and other ingredients. This impressed my young mind that the hungry soldiers, with industry, wisdom and patience made a large pot of soup which fed all much better than their single contributions would have fed them individually; all enjoyed warmth, fellowship and a nourishing meal.

In hindsight I have felt that what we do in the society is much like those tired and wanting soldiers and villagers; we gather together, each adding our individual offering, none able to provide all and yet we collectively benefit from what is formed by our individual contributions. This newsletter is certainly such a "soup" formed of various offerings; it simmers, seethes and is better for each ingredient. I thank you all for your individual participation that forms the whole.

Our society is well positioned to move forward; with the skills, legwork and generous donations of George Davidson, President-elect. We now have Wi-Fi in the Annex, 2 computers online, a modern and growing website that will permit much greater functionality and communication that also will be simpler to support going forward. Many today use smart phones, tablets and laptops, all of which will benefit from the Wi-Fi now available. We are all blessed by George returning to the society.

We have been blessed as well by all of the current officers and volunteers for their long service to the society. We add some carrots, onion, potatoes, celery, spices, a chicken..... warmed by our collective activity and all are fed.

During the next meeting on January 14th at 10 am we will have the installation of the officers for 2017. Come join with us for the beginning of another great year!





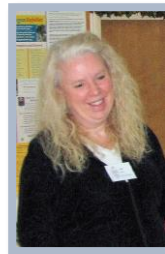
January Program Preview: Camp Polk Cemetery by Judy Juntunen

Camp Polk Cemetery has been described as the most exuberant cemetery in the state. The descriptions of the cemetery are not ones most of us associate with a cemetery—fun, free-for-all, colorful and entertaining. Come hear about Oregon's most unique cemetery that even comes with fire pits and homemade benches.

Judy Rycraft Juntunen grew up in Corvallis. She attended Corvallis schools and got both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Oregon State University, in 1962 and 1966 respectively.

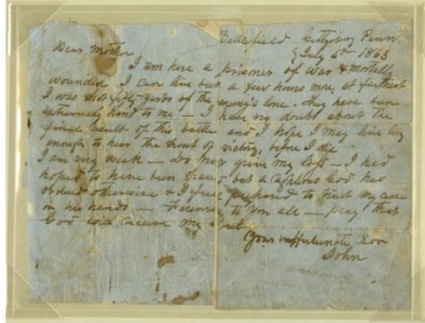


She attributes her love of history to growing up in a family full of stories. Her father's families were pioneers in south Benton County and the Alsea Valley arriving in the late 1840s and the early 1850s. Her mother's family arrived in Corvallis in the mid-1920s from Montana. She was hired as the librarian at the Benton County Historical Society & Museum in 1982. Since her background was in teaching, Judy set about establishing an active education program. Although Judy retired from her job at the museum in 2003, she continues to work on local history projects which include helping Benton County's Natural Areas and Parks Department with the county's Crystal Lake Cemetery. She is a docent at the museum and serves on the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board.



December Potluck, Auction: Our annual Auction and potluck once again was a lot of fun and, great success. Ted the Auctioneer was in command, the process facilitated by Katie, the Lovely Assistant! In addition to providing a lot of laughs and good humor, the auction reportedly raised \$440 which serves to support the organization financially. As "discretion is the better part of valor", (Shakespeare, Henry IV) we declined to ask how much our collective **weight** increased after the wonderful potluck! Ron





Civil War documents Tucked Away in Shoeboxes Across Virginia have been Digitized and Placed Online Dick Eastman 7 Nov 2016

[The Virginia] “State Library sent two archivists around the state with digital scanners, making high-resolution copies of documents brought by residents. They roamed Virginia between 2010 and 2015. The archivists traveled the state in an “Antiques Roadshow” style campaign to unearth the past. Organizers had thought the effort might produce a few hundred new items. They were a little

off. It flushed out more than 33,000 pages of letters, diaries, documents and photographs that the library scanned and has made available for study online. Best of all, the documents are available online and can be searched at <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/cw150> “



52 Questions in 52 Weeks: Writing about Your Life Has Never Been Easier

FamilySearch Blog, September 28, 2015 By Steve Anderson

“Many people believe that it takes a huge amount of time to write their history and feel that the task is just too big. Because of that, they never start. But sharing memories of your life does not have to be a big, involved effort. Imagine for a moment, how much easier the task of writing about your life might be if you were to focus on writing about just one topic each week. It doesn’t matter if you write a few paragraphs, a single page, or several pages.

The important thing is that you write something. Anything is better than nothing at all.

Now imagine if someone provided you with one question to write about each week for 52 weeks. At the end of just one year you will have created your own life story to share with your children and your future posterity.

[At the link below] are 52 questions. Each week for one year, take one question and write as much or as little as you want. Don’t worry about how much you write for each question, but do write something. Questions do not need to be answered in any special order. At the end of the list are a few extra questions in case there are some that don’t apply to your life.

1. What is your full name? Why did your parents give you that name?
2. When and where were you born? Describe your home, your neighborhood, and the town you grew up in.
3. Tell me about your father (his name, birth date, birthplace, parents, and so on). Share some memories you have of your father.
4. Tell me about your mother (her name, birth date, birthplace, parents, and so on). Share some memories you have of your mother.
5. What kind of work did your parents do (farmer, salesman, manager, seamstress, nurse, stay-at-home mom, professional, laborer, and so on)?” (the rest at the link below)

[Ron here] You will find the article from which this was taken including a list of 52 weekly questions to use in writing your or, another's life story, one a week plus 9 "extras". Right here:

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/52-questions-52-weeks-writing-life-easier/>

Here is a list of 12 different "themes" (Love, Goals, Home, etc) each with 12 questions:

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/52stories-printables/>

This Blog article at FamilySearch is a well thought out solution to "Where do I begin"!

Answer one a week, your life's story will be done by this time next year!

So.....***On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!***

And thanks to Mary Dean who suggested this article!



Why Your Family Name Was Not Changed at Ellis Island, Dick Eastman 13 Oct 2016

The New York Public Library is the latest organization to publish an article about the myth of "the family name was changed at Ellis Island"..... Almost every genealogy writer in the US, including myself, has written about the myth before. It is nice to see someone with the authority and credentials of the New York Public Library write about it. Perhaps this fairy tale will now be put

to rest. The article by Philip Sutton says many things, including:

"There is a myth that persists in the field of genealogy, or more accurately, in family lore, that family names were changed there. They were not. Numerous blogs, essays, and books have proven this. Yet the myth persists; a story in a recent issue of The New Yorker suggests that it happened. This post will explore how and why names were not changed."

You can find the article, *Why Your Family Name Was Not Changed at Ellis Island*, at <https://goo.gl/DxpnMy>.



Librarian's Corner, by Sue Vanleare

THANK YOU, BCGS LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS!

Lois and I would like to thank you wonderful volunteers who keep the BCGS library open for members and the public. You not only ensure the library is open twice a week but you also do the necessary work to maintain it. You dust, you sweep the floor, you repair books, you help with the annual inventory, you make decisions about making materials more accessible, you work on projects and most of all, you introduce visitors to the library and answer their questions. And you do it all with goodwill and a smile! We have an important collection of genealogical material and it would go unused without your faithful service to our Benton County Genealogical Society.

A special thank you goes to George Davidson this year. He made it possible for us to have wi-fi AND new computers in our library!

THANK YOU, Ellen, Tom, Lois, Leila, George, Nancy, Susan, Jeri, Dave, Grace, Deloras, Kathryn, Linda O., Connie, Frances, Sandy, MaryDean, Maridee, Linda W., Debbie.

Lois Courtney, Library Volunteers Coordinator

Sue Van Laere, Librarian



Writer's Corner #3 by Mary Dean Snelling

How to begin your narrative

Start your narrative with a grabbing sentence or paragraph. This point will probably not be the chronological beginning of your narrative.

Beginning with names, birthdates, marriage dates and other facts may lose readers. Select something exciting, interesting, unusual, dramatic, or controversial to hook them. Then go back to the beginning of the story and write chronologically from beginning to end. Chronological order from the past to the present is the most common and easiest format, especially for beginning writers.

The narrative could begin with conflicts and problems to overcome, such as a move westward to a new lifestyle. Try to understand the choices and challenges that your ancestor faced. If you do not know much about your ancestor's life, you will need some general historical information from the place and time period. Include the bad times as well as the good. If you are writing a book with chapters leave something hanging at the end of each chapter to give the reader a reason to keep reading.

[Thomas W. Jones. Western Institute of Genealogy, Eugene, Oregon, July 2006.]

Writing about "dull" families.

Carmack elaborates-

We all have them: dull ancestors or families, people who apparently didn't do anything particularly noteworthy in their lifetimes. They were born, married, and died –and it would seem from your research that this is literally all they did. They didn't go to court. They didn't participate in any wars. They didn't die of unusual causes. They worked from sunup to sundown on the family farm.

Ah-ha! There's the theme: the work they did on the farm. What kind of farming did they do? If agricultural schedules don't exist to tell you, research what other farmers in the area were growing. Remember, your readers don't know what daily life was like on a farm in Nebraska in the 1800s. . . . Every family has something you can research and write about, even if it appears to be mundane. You make it come alive with your description of how people lived, worked, dressed, ate, traveled, and so forth.

[Sharon Carmack. *You Can Write Your Family History*, Genealogical Publishing Company, 2003, p.49-50.]

10 Years Making Historical Records Searchable Online	
Total Number of Volunteers	1,225,588
Historical Records Made Searchable by Name	1,475,826,829
Number of Countries with Volunteers	200
Number of Languages Represented in Searchable Records	48

FamilySearch Indexing 10 Year Achievements
FamilySearch Indexing volunteers have made billions of historical records searchable online by name for free.

Celebrating 10 Years of Indexing, by FamilySearch, November 22, 2016 B

Families all over the world are thankful to indexers who have worked over the last 10 years to connect families through indexing. We couldn't do it without you!

In 2006, the call went out for volunteers to help in this unprecedented, global cause. And the online community responded. In fact, in just 10 years, over 1.2 million volunteers worldwide have joined the cause and continue to donate much needed time and talent to help index the world's historic

genealogical records.

In the past 10 years, online volunteers have personally pored over 1.5 billion images of historic records from all over the world and made over a billion ancestral names conveniently searchable to me and you from any web enabled device.

As we celebrate 10 years of indexing, we hope you will find an ancestor's record from among the Billion+ records that have been published thanks to your efforts and find new family members to add to your family tree.



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



Benton County Genealogical Society Board Contacts

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

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

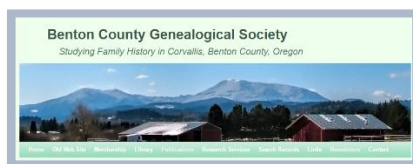
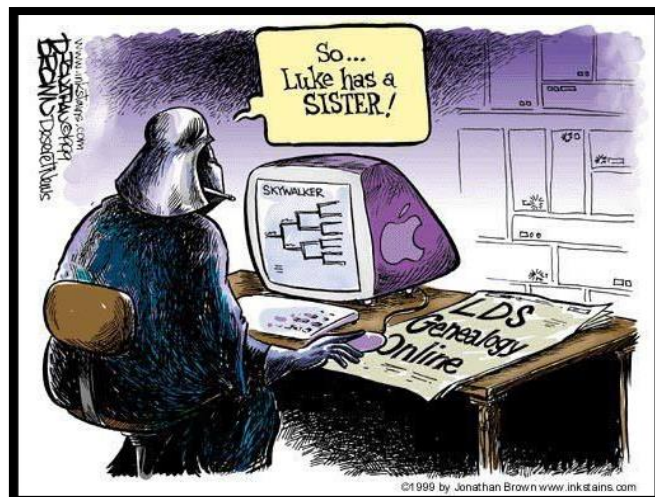
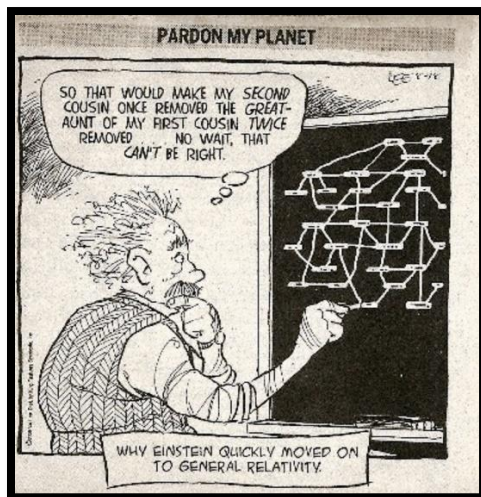
The **January meeting will be on Saturday, January 14th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! At **11 am** we will have our program, followed by refreshments at the Annex.

Board Meetings are held the Wednesday before the general meeting; in January the Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 11th at 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



BCGS 2017 Program Schedule:

January:	Judy Juntunen: Camp Polk Cemetery
February:	George Davidson, Legacy genealogy software, BCGS web site.
March:	Dawn Carlile, Oregon Gen. Soc., Using Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research
April:	TBA
May:	Hannah Allan: History for the Genealogist & Putting history in your Family History.
June:	Annual potluck picnic



BCGS Website News: from George Davidson

"With the help of Linda, there are 63 newsletters now posted. A nice view of the past and present for the society."

<http://www.bcg-oregon.org/main-site/newsletters>

Check it out! And, thank you, George for leading us forward! Ron D.

