**From the Desk of the President**  by George Davidson

I just want to thank everyone for the warm welcome for myself and the newly elected officers at the January 14th BCGS meeting.

With the support of the past Prez, Ron DeYoung, new board members and the great dedicated volunteers we will have a wonderful new year ahead.

I encourage all for any suggestions on how we may improve our organization and promote our Library to the community.   One of my goals is to increase our membership.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Sincerely,  George Davidson, Pres. BCGS



**Installation of Officers for 2017**  At the January Meeting, the officers for 2017 were installed, George Davidson as president, Kathryn Moss  as VP (in absentia), Lois Courtney as Treasurer and Linda Olsen and Secretary.  We collectively thank them for their past and future service to the society and pledge our support to them in their roles!



**February Program:  BCGS's Wi-Fi and Computers, Legacy Family Tree Software**  by Ron DeYoung

George Davidson has moved our society forward in significant ways in the past year by donating and installing two computers to the society, connecting them to the internet and making Wi-Fi available to those at the Annex through a much less expensive, personal internet account.  These are not only incredibly generous, they position us to provide research capabilities while in the Annex.

 During the February program, George will demonstrate how to find our new BCGS-OR website (under ongoing construction), its highlights and how to navigate to and within the site.

During the second part of the program he will demonstrate the use and value of genealogical software which he uses, "Legacy Family Tree":  http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/   As George said, "People should be able to have their own database for various reasons including privacy."

We look forward to his informative presentation!

**January Program Review: "The Most Exuberant and Fun Cemetery in the State!"** by Lois Courtney

Nearly thirty of us enjoyed this lively presentation. Judy Juntunen, a native of Corvallis, grew up with family history stories. She worked as librarian at the Benton County Historical Society and Museum, and developed a passionate interest in cemeteries. Her explorations recently took her to Sisters, Oregon and, with the help of a local, explored the Camp Polk Cemetery. She'd read about this cemetery in a book about Oregon cemeteries and was eager to visit.

Camp Polk was established in 1865 but abandoned in 1866. Eventually, the area near it became the town of Sisters. The cemetery, which retained this older name, is 3 miles northeast of Sisters. It hasn't been registered as a cemetery, but graves continue to be added. Its unofficial nature has allowed it to become the "exuberant" place described in the title.

Near some of the burials, there are fire pits and benches. Fences of all kinds can be found, wire, picket, wrought iron. The oldest grave Judy discovered was from the 1880s. Because there are no standards for burials, the sites are both conventional and unconventional. It almost seemed like families might come here for a picnic. Many of the graves continue to be tended, but the layout is chaotic.

Some of her observations:

- A script that read "Cowboy Preacher who rode into glory with his boots on"
- Lots of "grave goods," mementos left at the grave sites including wood carvings, statues and metal sculptures.
- A family grave site is marked by large stone cairns with markers on top
- Homemade grave markers made from concrete, wood and metal
- "Reserved" signs marking some one's desired resting place
- The grave of a young man killed in a motorcycle accident includes a bench, and a toolbox with a notebook inside for messages.

She illustrated the talk with photos she'd taken. She concludes that the plan of an organized cemetery went awry really early. Certainly a location to be added to any future visits to the Sisters area.

Learn more about the Camp Polk Cemetery:

Learn more about Camp Polk Cemetery:

http://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/3159862-151/a-trip-back-in-time-to-camp-polk

https://www.flickr.com/photos/deadmantalking/sets/72157600339160836/

[As an aside, Judy mentioned that as a result of work on Crystal Lake Cemetery, 100 unmarked graves have been identified and marked.]

**Why Use A Personal Genealogical Database and an Online Tree?**  By Ron DeYoung

George will not have the time to go over all the reasons to have a personal genealogical database in his Legacy presentation in February.   I found an outline that lists the benefits of having one's tree in Family Search **and** a personal, genealogical database is found at FamilySearch.

Though their article mentions FamilySearch, having one's tree in Ancestry and a personal database also has its benefits, just substitute "Ancestry" where it states "Family Tree" in the article that follows or, at the link above.  Note, when you die or stop paying for Ancestry, your access to the information is lost until you pay again; if you die, you family will have to join.  Or, visit any Family History center for free Ancestry access!

I maintain my tree in my own genealogical software (RootMagic) **and** FamilySearch **and** Ancestry!

Article follows:

**Benefits of using Family Tree and personal genealogy software**  (from FamilySearch)

**Questions addressed:**

- What are the benefits of using Family Tree?
- What are the benefits of using personal genealogical software to store my information?


**Benefits of Family Tree**

- Family Tree does not store information on your computer, so you cannot lose information due to a hard disk failure or other local disaster.
- You can access Family Tree information any place with internet access.
- You can collaborate with others as you research family lines and update information. Everyone can see the same information about deceased people.
- When you die, your research is not lost.
- If you attach documentation and sources to a deceased individual, everyone can review to confirm or disprove information.
- Sourcing features and the ability to upload memory items allow you to have all family information in one place.
- Records of living people are visible only to the contributor of the information. Family Tree protects the privacy of the living.
- Other collaborators can change information on Family Tree and include source information and a reason statement in support of said changes.
- Family Tree provides a messaging system to contact other contributors to share additional information, to ask about changes and collaborate on research, or to challenge a change made without supporting information.

**Benefits of personal software**

- You can organize your data in a manner of your choosing and decide what, how, and when to share information with others on Family Tree.
- You can enter information you still need to verify. Effectively, you avoid adding undocumented information to Family Tree.
- 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.
- You can synchronize your data with that shown in Family Tree, if the software is certified to interface with Family Tree.
- 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.

The link to this article is here

https://familysearch.org/ask/productSupport#/Using-Family-Tree-instead-of-personal-genealogy-software-on-your-own-computer-1381815041009



**Having Confidence Our Research Is Accurate**, by Sue VanLaere

How do we as genealogists know when our facts are accurate?

According to Christine Rose, a board-certified genealogist, author and lecturer, there are five steps to take for credible work.

**The Five Steps of the Genealogical Proof Standard:**

1. Reasonably exhaustive research has been completed.

2. Each statement of fact has a complete and accurate source citation.

3. The evidence is reliable and has been skillfully correlated and interpreted.

4. Any contradictory evidence has been resolved.

5. The conclusion has been soundly reasoned and coherently written.

These five steps are called the Genealogical Proof Standard. By using these steps, we have confidence that what we know is accurate.

Source: https://familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogicalproofstandardpart1/   Accessed 16 Jan 2017

**Finding Birth, Marriage, Divorce, And Death Records Online And Elsewhere**, by Ron DeYoung, suggested by Linda Olsen, in response to a member's question!

This chart links to vital records instructions for each state:

**This link leads to vital records you can view online: U.S. Online Records by State:** then scroll down!

Select the state of interest. The first topic listed will be "Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths.

The link to this and *much more content* is found here:
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/U.S._Vital_Records_Class_Handout

Note:  Many of the listed online resources are free through FamilySearch; others link to subscription databases.  A reminder that Ancestry.com, FindMyPast (British records) and MyHeritage may be used freely at the local Family History Center, 4141 Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, OR.  Hours T-, Wed & Th, 9a-4p, 7p-9:30pm.

---



**Early Canadiana Online: History and Genealogy Treasures** from Dick Eastman, 3 Jan 2017

The Ottawa Public Library has an excellent online collection, called Early Canadiana Online. Quoting from the Library's web site:

Start Canada's 150th anniversary year off by exploring our past with the latest addition to OPL's online resources, Early Canadiana Online. Early Canadiana Online is a multilingual virtual library of digitized historical publications about Canada, including books, magazines, and government documents, from the 16th to the early 20th century.

Early Canadiana Online provides an extensive repository of primary-source documents for history buffs and genealogists alike. Its collections cover aboriginal studies, official publications, literature, genealogy, health and medicine, women's history, and more.

The ssite is found here:  https://biblioottawalibrary.ca/en/blogs/early-canadiana-online-history-and-genealogy-treasures

---



**Librarian's Corner**, by Sue Van Leare

Question:        How Did the BCGS Library Get Started?

Answer:        See Below!

This past year I found a history of the Benton County Genealogical Society, written by member Historian Virginia Hoeye in 1996. I had been curious for a while so I was delighted to find this. Our materials (mainly books) are numbered beginning with those first acquired. Currently, the numbers run the gamut from number 7 to nearly 5000. Over the years materials have been lost, considered unusable or duplicates so those numbers are

retired. We have nearly 3,000 books, maps, and other items in our collection. Most of them aren't found on the internet. By the way, number 7 is an 1830 census index for Missouri!

Thanks to the interest and effort of a number of women who put together a plan for a genealogy society, the first meeting open to the public was held on September 11, 1971. Officers were elected in October and plans were made to cooperate with the Benton County Historical Society and the Benton County Library. The members met in the basement of the library and used the few books available in the library. Because this group was the only Society between Salem and Eugene, members chose the name Mid-Valley Genealogical Society. Members were from Albany, Alsea, Corvallis, Creswell, Eugene, Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Pullman, WA.

The following piece from the history tells how we started to acquire our books:

The Mid-Valley Genealogical Society bought books. They owned none when they organized. By December 1972, the group purchased and donated four books, while the Library acquired an additional eight. A dozen more publi-cations were donated to the collection that year. Acquisition of books increased so that in 1974 Susan Taylor's report showed 209 genealogical books on the shelves and 13 periodicals in the Library. In May 1986, 297 genealogical books and periodicals were listed in the Society's Library Catalog Card List. The 1990 book list numbered 411, and the September 1995 shelf list tallied 1322.

We have a great collection of materials thanks to early members and to those who donate.  Next month, I'll share more from the history of our Society.

---



**Writer's Corner #4  Bring Your Ancestors to Life** by Mary Dean Snelling

A plot portrays conflicts and resolutions for the ancestors in your family history.   Readers will want to keep reading to find out how a conflict was resolved.    Think about the challenges and problems your ancestors had and what action they took.   What goals and desires motivated them to overcome obstacles?   What would happen if they did not reach their goal? Common plots are:  rags to riches, pioneer story, war survival, move from city to frontier, and immigration.  Don't worry about whether your plot is original.  The important thing is to make sure you have one.  What makes your family history different from another with the same plot are the characters, events, and how you isolate and develop themes.

The basic conflicts are:

- Man vs man
- Man vs nature
- Man vs society
- Man vs himself

Carmack says,

"*I can guarantee that your fourth great grandfather from Ireland didn't wake up one morning and say to his wife, 'Bridget, pack your bags.  We're going to America this afternoon.'*

The decision to leave the homeland and relatives may have been an agonizing one.  If your own family lore doesn't reveal the problems encountered or the solutions devised by your immigrant ancestors, then consider the experiences of other immigrants, who came from the same country or area around the same time period.  You can describe what might have occurred.  Your job is to make your readers forget that they are reading and to give them the illusion of being in the story with your ancestors, seeing,  hearing, smelling and feeling what is happening to them.

[ Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo, *You Can Write Your Family History,* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2008) p. 29 – 33, 124]

Re-examine the records you have – census records, immigration, etc. – for all the details.  How many people traveled on the ship to America with your ancestors?   What were their ages?  How many family groups and singles?  What countries were they from?  Do you recognize some of the people as coming from the same town and village of your ancestor?  How would these facts affect the experience of your ancestor's voyage?

Once you have specific information about the ancestor incorporate social history of the time and place to fill in gaps and enhance your story.

> *"The power of the written word is to make you hear, to make you feel, to make you see."* Sivers, Derek, https://sivers.org/book/WritingTools, accessed 1 Dec. 2016

**Next month** -  How to weave in your ancestor's facts with social history.



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

**Benton County Genealogical Society Board Contacts**

George Davidson, President     928-205-2121 gid1943@gmail.com
Kathryn Moss, Vice President
Ron DeYoung, Past Pres, newsletter   ron.deyoung@gmail.com
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 **February meeting will be on Saturday, February 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 February the Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 8ᵗʰ at 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.
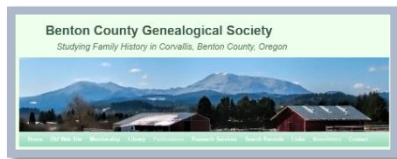
---

**BCGS 2017 Program Schedule:**

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

Summer Break

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

---

**BCGS Website News**: work by George Davidson, webmaster; note by Ron DeYoung, newsletter editor

Our new website, http://www.bcgs-oregon.org/main-site/,

has this wonderful photo of Mary's Peak and ever-evolving content there.  Newly added is an excerpt from the society's by-laws: **The Purposes of the Society.**

Recently added at the site is information, some not previously available online:

- Old web page (formally rootsweb.com site).
- Visit us on Facebook
- The BCGS Office computers have internet access.
- The BCGS Office now has WIFI-check with librarian for the password.
- The Library is open to the public 1-3:30pm, Tue and Sat."

Plus, the meetings location, address for contacting the society by mail and the numerous links to other societies and resources!

These ongoing additions have brought the society forward and enable growth, interconnectedness and strategically position us for the future.  In a very short time, George has blessed our society *enormously!*

---