

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370
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From the Desk of the President, Ron DeYoung

The article has been rather slow in coming; typically the easiest to construct, this month in contrast is the most challenging. An empty space for nearly a month it remained merely a title for several weeks, not from the scarcity of material but it's very abundance. Since last month's column the richness of life's experiences have been awash in my life, the blessing of the great-grandson in Utah, the death of a brother-in-law and dear friend, the memorial service in Massachusetts,

the marriage of a young Portland couple, their future full of hope and promise, attendance at an excellent, day-long family history conference which abounded with tools to write our stories..... and, oh the stories witnessed this month! Memories, both the high points and comparative lows, bring a depth, texture and wealth of experiences that provide perspective, wisdom and make our lives worth living. Our lives are incredibly diverse, rich in matters that often are not tidy, orderly or convenient but a mix of profound, joyous, sometimes exquisitely painful, hilarious and often messy which arrive, unbidden. There is great truth in the anonymous quote "Life Is What Happens When We Are Busy Making Plans", life does indeed happen! OK, a sufficiently long preamble!

Please note the April 9th program which will be offered by Sharon Waldman (see article below) which will help give us tools and motivation to turn our memories into a form that will outlive us. Each of us walk about with the collection of experiences that would inspire, astonish and enrich those about us if written and shared. Note as well the Writers' Group article and consider, is this the time to join the group and turn your boxes of research and memories into print?



If you happen to be Irish on days in addition to March 17th, (Saint Patrick's Day) there are two articles herein of potential interest referencing a great number of new records available to us. If you do not have your own subscription to these databases, they may be found free of use at the Family History Center on Harrison Boulevard in Corvallis, Tuesday through Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM and 7 PM to 9:30 PM.

We hope to see you at the April 9 general meeting (10 AM) and the program offered by Sharon Waldman, at 11 AM. Hopefully you are enjoying the everyday, magnificent splendor of an Oregon Spring and the extended hours of daylight which are now 4 ½ hours longer than Winter's darkness; we may not be photosynthetic plants but the sun light and warmth have a similar effect on us! See you soon!



April Program: Gathering Our Stories, Sharon Waldman



Our April 9th Program will be provided by Sharon Waldman, a professional personal historian. We welcome her and what she might share with us as we get our research out of boxes and into stories!! She was the subject of at least 2 local newspaper articles, a most moving one in the Democrat Herald of 26 May, 2015; may we be so influenced as a result of her presentation! The following is a bio that she shared with us. (Ron D.)

“Sharon Waldman will speak about gathering family stories to enhance your genealogy research on Saturday, April 9th, at 11:00 a.m.

Subjects include: the value of saving people’s stories; benefits to the interviewer, the storyteller, and future readers; optional ways to gather, organize, edit, and format the stories, and suggestions for blending family stories with genealogical research.

Sharon Waldman is an accomplished writer, editor, teacher, and personal historian. She wrote profiles of celebrities (Shirley MacLaine, Jack Lemmon, Ron Howard, etc.) for Los Angeles magazines, researched and edited scripts for television writer-producers at Universal Television, and co-authored two books. She has created a dozen personal history books for people since 1998, and has taught memoir writing at LBCC since moving to Corvallis in 2007.

An active member of the Association of Personal Historians since 1998, Sharon has led workshops, written for the APH Newsletter and website, and served as a Board Member.

She currently teaches Memoir Writing to seniors. Sharon feels that “Helping people write their personal and family stories is the most satisfying and fulfilling career of all.”



March Program Review: Ann Smart and RootsMagic, by Sandra Potter

Ann Smart presented the March program about “*Roots Magic*,” a computer program that can do many things in managing your family history. Each time you open the program a screen appears with latest news and updates, so you can always be up to date.

Ann began by showing how to start a file – entering information – and pointing out many interesting facets of *Roots Magic*. Beyond the basic information, she mentioned that you could color code individuals and families, to make it easier to keep track of the relationships. While working on a portion of your family all individuals of that group are listed on the left side of the screen so you can easily move to another person when necessary. *Roots Magic* also has many templates, one of particular interest was “Create a Book” that can help you write your family history with sections and chapters. When a source is entered the program automatically creates a footnote and bibliography.



Using the “Reports” tab can generate a pedigree chart, a family group sheet or a narrative report and decide exactly how much information to include in each. The “View” tab allows you to use a family tree, descendants, family or timeline view, with each one bringing interesting things into focus. And the program can calculate relationships . . . is that really a second cousin once removed? Since I ordered *Roots Magic* recently and had only imported two files, I was glad to find out the many things that the program could do!



BCGS Writers Group by Sue Vanlaere

The BCGS Writers Group first met in October 2015, and we’ve been proving to ourselves ever since that we can indeed write something interesting about our own lives or those of our ancestors. So far each meeting has consisted of a short lesson on some writing aspect and then a period to share or talk about what we’ve written for the month. We meet the third Tuesday of every month, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 in the Annex.

We’ve had lessons on several topics already. Sue Van Laere started us off by presenting a variety of ways to keep track of writing ideas that pop into your head at the most inconvenient times. She suggested keeping small inexpensive notebooks in several places: nightstand, car, purse, pocket etc., so when inspiration strikes you’ll be ready. If you have a smart phone, use the microphone to jot down ideas in the Notes section. If you’ve had to resort to writing a note on a napkin or a piece of paper, keep a plastic sandwich bag at home where you can corral them. Every day pick an idea and write even a sentence. Usually, one sentence will lead to another right then or the next day. Don’t let perfection get in your way. There will be time to review your writing later.

Linda Olsen shared how to write a story about yourself, ancestor or family that shows their life in the historical context of the time period. She stressed the importance of engaging the reader and telling a human story about how they lived, such as how they earned a living, what values they considered important, and personality traits implied in the story. An important point, we decided, is the need to focus or limit yourself in each narrative to a main character (yourself, one ancestor or family.) Including a few factual names, dates and locations along the way gives authenticity and structure without listing all the unexciting statistical documentation you have collected. Complete documentation can be placed at the end in, perhaps, an appendix.

Ellen Bartish researched several brands of voice recognition software that can help those of us who don’t type or spell well. None of us knew much about this software so her report was enlightening. Both Microsoft Word and Apple Pages have speech to text applications built in. It takes some research to locate them! You’ll find a number of applications for sale on the internet. One of the best known is Dragon. All of these have a learning curve, as do most new things. If the program has a tutorial, it’s a

good idea to use it first instead of just jumping in. Once learned, these programs can be a great way to get your ancestors' stories on paper.

In the month between meetings, we write about our own memories or about an ancestor's life. Then at the meeting, people tell about what they wrote or read it to the group. We've had some interesting stories so far. It's fun to hear what other people are writing about, and we get ideas on how to approach our own stories. Everybody's welcome to start attending any time.

Paraphrased quote from MaryDean Snelling: 'Don't we wish that our ancestors had written something about their own lives so we could really know them?'

Quote from Linda Olsen: Now is the time to write our stories before they are lost to future generations.



Family Tree Maker Is Updated and Shipping Posted by [Ancestry Team](#) on March 2, 2016 in [Family Tree Maker](#). "Since our [last announcement](#) about Software MacKiev acquiring Family Tree Maker, we're excited to let you know that Software MacKiev has officially begun shipping updated versions of Family Tree Maker Windows 2014 and Mac 3. **This is a free update for current users of the 2014 / Mac 3**

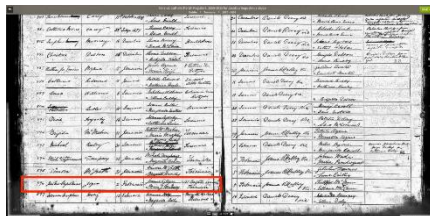
versions. With this, you will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches and are able to continue to save your tree on Ancestry and keep it consistent with your tree in Family Tree Maker. " - See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/03/02/family-tree-maker-is-updated-and-ready-to-ship/#sthash.YNKRSCMZ.dpuf>



Happy 93rd Birthday Ted Gump!!

One unusually large and noted elder leprechaun appeared at the March general meeting and program, festively attired in a sequined Kelly green hat! Ted Gump, long time BCGS member had his 93rd birthday in March, we wish you continued good fortune and God's blessings Ted!

May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live!



Ancestry Adds the Largest Collection of Irish Catholic Parish Records Launched Online

Dick Eastman, 2 Mar 2016

Everyone seems to be adding the Irish Catholic Parish Records to their collections. Findmypast announced

the addition two days ago. <http://goo.gl/MywPnL> Now Ancestry.com has made a similar announcement: “We are pleased to announce 10 million historic Catholic Parish records from Ireland have been indexed and are now available online.

“This is the largest collection of its kind available digitally, and means that Ancestry now offers access to more than 55 million Irish records – making it a significant resource for people around the world tracing their Irish roots.

“Indexed from digital images created by the National Library of Ireland (NLI), the Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers 1655-1915 collection includes baptism, marriage, burial and confirmation records from more than 1,000 parishes, and over 3,500 registers, in Ireland. This is the first time that the collection has been indexed with the original images linked online.”

You can read the full announcement in the Ancestry.com Blog at <http://goo.gl/dwn3ba>.



10 million Irish Catholic Parish Registers Released: Dick Eastman, 29 Feb 2016

Leading family history site, [Findmypast](http://findmypast.com), has announced today the online release of over 10 million Irish Catholic Parish Registers as part of their ongoing commitment to making Irish family history easier and more accessible than ever before. Fully indexed for the first time, the registers form one of the most important record collections for Irish family history and are free to search forever.

Spanning over 200 years of Ireland’s history from 1671-1900, the Irish Catholic Parish Registers contain over 40 million names from over 1,000 parishes and cover 97% of the entire island of Ireland, both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

This is the first time that National Library of Ireland’s collection of Irish Catholic Registers has been fully indexed with images to the original documents linked online. The records can now be searched by name, year and place, allowing relatives and historians the opportunity to make all important links between generations with the baptism records and between families with the marriage registers.

The indexing of these important documents also allows researchers to witness the devastating effects of the Great Famine (1845-1852) first hand. Using the records to examine baptism rates in pre and post Famine Ireland has revealed that the number of children baptised across the whole of Ireland dropped by more 50% in the decade that followed. Across all 32 counties, 2,408,694 baptisms were recorded from 1835-1844, while 1,109,062 baptisms were recorded between 1851 and 1860, a difference of more than 1,299,000 baptisms.

The records also reveal the worst affected regions, with counties Limerick, Wexford, Roscommon and Kilkenny seeing the most dramatic drops in baptism rates. See: <http://blog.eogn.com/2016/02/29/10-million-irish-catholic-parish-records-free-forever-to-search-online/>





**Oregon Genealogical Society Seminar,
April 9, 2016**

Steven Waltz Morrison, a professional researcher will present a seminar in Eugene on topics including: Start Writing, Cracking a Hard Nut, Irish Friends Migration and Irish Research Trip: Belfast, Dublin or SLC? Details and registration may be found here: <http://www.oregongs.org/cpage.php?pt=27>



Note, the April Corvallis Family History Fair planned for April 16 has been postponed.



Looking for a Genealogy Program that Will Be Around for a Long Time? [Dick Eastman](#) · [February 16, 2016](#)

“A newsletter reader wrote to me today expressing dissatisfaction with the recent “retirement” of Family Tree Maker. He wants to switch to a different genealogy program but is concerned that the next program he uses also might be “retired” before long. He asked, “Which genealogy software will stand the test of

endurance?” Family Tree Maker certainly did not “stand the test of endurance.” Since it was supported by the largest commercial company in the genealogy marketplace and reportedly was the most popular genealogy program in the world, many of us assumed it would be a viable product forever. Obviously, support by a multimillion dollar corporation is no guarantee that a program will be available in the future.

This is not a “genealogy problem.” The same is true for non-genealogy software as well. We have lost Lotus 1-2-3, VisiCalc, dBase, WordStar, and a few hundred other excellent programs over the years. There are no guarantees with anything in this world.

My advice: When looking for a new program for any purpose, find one you like and use it. However, never lock yourself in. Always have an exit plan in mind in case your favorite program suddenly becomes non-functioning for any reason and cannot be replaced. This is true for genealogy and non-genealogy programs alike.”



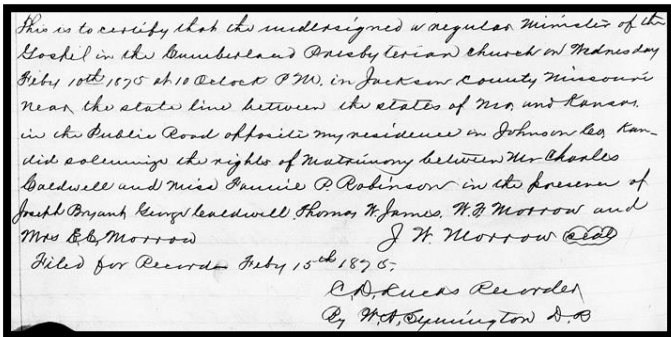
Macavo moved to FindMyPast by Ron D

The only constant is change..... For those who have used Macavo, it was been incorporated in FindMyPast, the latter subscription database is well known for its excellent British Isles resources (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Australia). The following is reported

by Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter, the quotation is from the Macavo news release:

“We’re contacting you to let you know that the Mocavo website will be closing midnight tonight (Wednesday 23rd March) and that your account will be moving over to Findmypast in the next few days. Plus, over the coming weeks, all of Mocavo’s records and much, much more will soon be available on FindMyPast.”

Mocavo customers are also receiving a 30 day trial completely free as a little welcome gift. You’ll receive more information about this in a follow-up email after it’s been applied. If you have an online Mocavo family tree, it will be migrated to FindMyPast and you will receive a link showing where you can access it shortly. If you can’t wait, you can always export your GEDCOM file now.” (Eastman, 23 March, 2016)



And From The Department Of Very Interesting Records

Marriage record, in the middle of the night, middle of winter, middle of the road!!

Ancestry Insider, March 11, 2016; (text as written in image)

“This is to certify that the undersigned a regular minister of the Gospel in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Wednesday Feby

10th 1875 at 10 Oclock P M. in Jackson County Missouri near the state line between the states of Mo. and Kansas in the Public Road opposite my residence in Johnson Co Kan. did solemnize the rights of Matrimony between Mr Charles Caldwell and Miss Fannie P. Robinson in the presense of Jospeh Bryant, George Caldwell, Thomas W. James, W. F. Morrow and Mrs. E.C. Morrow,

J W. Morrow {seal}, Filed for Records Feby 15th 1875. C.D.Lucas Recorder By W.A. Symington D.R



Benton County Genealogical Society Board Contacts

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| Connie Patterson, Membership | | |



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



BCGS General Meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of the month September through June. The **April meeting will be on Saturday, April 9th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! The **program at 11 am** will be a presentation by the Writers Group, see article in this newsletter.

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in April the Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 5th at 10 am-noon** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



BCGS 2016 Program Schedule

April:	Writing Stories , Sharon Waldman	September:	"Show and tell" , all members
May:	DAR , Carla Frances, Jane Buck	October:	TBA
June:	Annual BCGS potluck	November:	Family Research , Mary Gallagher
July & August:	<u>no meetings or programs</u>	December:	Holiday Auction

