

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

Hopefully this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the longer, warmer days of a late Spring and the pleasant showers which bring spectacular, multi-hued rainbows. It seems that our last, killing frost which frizzled the early grape leaves was just yesterday and now the temperatures are heading northward. Gardens, beach walking, vacations, research trips, visits with siblings, cousins, kids, grands and greats and perhaps conferences will pull us in many directions at once! How to decide?!

There are projects, repairs, long-postponed and poorly planned thoughts to connect with old, dear friends that nudge us to not wait too long. Mending physical fences might be better paused to mend rifts among old acquaintances or family as well.....so, how will we spend these long days of golden light and short, warm nights? Summer always brings the potential to plan for the opportunities on either the road well-traveled or the one less worn.

We meet on June 11 for the general meeting, an opportunity for sharing insights, food and fellowship; please see the following article. After the June meeting we will not meet again until September although our library will still be staffed as usual. Just thinking of this initiates a familiar echo of playing hookey, schools out, the last, raucous bus trip home and, no homework..... even as I am well-entrenched into my 7th decade! Summer is still magical.

We hope to see you soon with smiles, stories and a dish to share with a Summer so rich with possibilities ahead!



June “Program”, Potluck and a Chance to Share!

On June 11 we gather for the society’s traditional potluck, a celebratory Summer send-off before we break for the longer, warmer and busy months ahead. Please remember to bring an item to share with the group but if you don’t get around to it, please come anyway! I’m pretty sure that I read research stating that food shared in such settings has no calories!

Following the 10am general meeting and before we retire for the potluck at the Annex we have an opportunity to share ideas with one another; this is not expected but all are invited! There are great ideas in the group, items that might inspire another in this setting. Not a class, just a low-pressure way to show what you are up to in research, writing, organization, etc. without the need to prepare or talk before the group. We can mill about and see what others display for the group and get some helpful ideas, perhaps. I will bring some tools that help me work, some “useable tech” that makes work simpler. A demo of Dragon Naturally Speaking (voice to text), an integrating digital recorder, Flip Pal (portable, battery powered scanner) and Shotbox, a handy way to take well-lighted digital pictures of photos and 3D objects. What do you have to share? It might be just what someone needs to help them! Join in the low-key fun!



May Program Review: Daughters of the American Revolution by Maridee Symons & Linda Olsen



Our May program featured Carla Spencer Francis, Winema Chapter Regent of the local Daughters of the American Revolution. Her presentation covered the founding of the DAR in 1890 to the wide variety of service activities the organization provides today.

From the DAR brochure: “What is the DAR?”
 “The Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women’s volunteer service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism.”

Through millions of service hours annually the DAR activities and service projects include preserving genealogical records, artifacts and historical documents and making them available to researchers. They provide plaques and markers to preserve cultural heritage and to honor and commemorate patriots’ grave sites and historical restoration projects such as the Ft. Hoskins Commander’s house just west of Philomath.

The DAR supports education and conservation of natural resources. One of the several schools they support is the Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon. They sponsor summer camps and other educational opportunities, scholarships and essay contests for students nationally. Many of the flags we see at Memorial Day Veterans parades and celebrations are provided by the DAR.

Their Genealogical Research System, GRS, is available to help locate the documentation needed to prove lineage. Any woman 18 years of age or older who can prove lineage to a Revolutionary patriot is eligible to join the DAR. This includes ancestors who helped support the Revolutionary War effort not just military service. For men, the Sons of the American Revolution is a similar organization.



For more information about the DAR, go to www.dar.org/membership or see the local chapter web site at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orwcdar2/> See the Genealogical Research System at http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?tab_id=0

And http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search/?Tab_ID=6



Two Computers in The Annex Library! A generous gift of George Davidson

George, who *re*joined BCGS in January 2016, has made a generous donation of two computers and associated software. One is upstairs and the other in the office, the latter for Library Staff use. Please note their up-to-date specs and the software on them as

well. George is working on the wi-fi issues (to connect to the internet) and is quoted here:

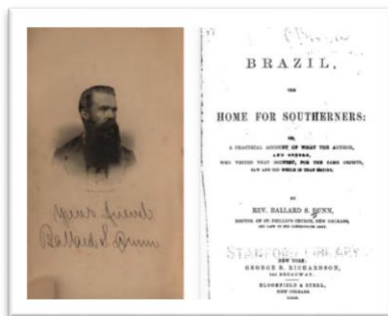
They are: “....both Lenovo Desktop Computers, flat screen monitors, windows 10 operating system and a full version of Microsoft Office installed are up and running. One upstairs and the other in the Librarian's Office for her business and use. Still a WIFI problem, not yet able to get that going. Still checking to see what we might find for our two day a week non-profit organization.

The upstairs computer also has Legacy Family Tree (full version) installed should anyone already have the program and just wants to use it.

For more info anyone can go to the website: <http://legacyfamilytree.com/> A trial version for free is there plus the full version is not really all that expensive.

Thanks, George Davidson”

To say this is a generous gift is a huge understatement, I am equally stunned and grateful on behalf of the society! Thank you, George! By Ron DeYoung



Did you have Southern ancestors who “disappeared” after the Civil War? By Ron DeYoung

You may find a free, downloadable, digital copy of “**Brazil, Home for Southerners**” published in 1866 by Rev. Ballard S. Dunn, of interest. About 2 years ago I included an article in the newsletter about a little-known trend among some southern farmers, having lost the war and sometimes, their property, who accepted an offer for free land and support to resume plantations for cotton production in Brazil. To this day, their descendants speak English with a distinctly Southern accent. Though my ancestors were Northerners, I find this

fascinating. Be careful before you hit “print”, it is 303 pages long! The following is from Dick Eastman, May 26, 2016:

“Published in 1866, this book details the author’s trip to Brazil and somewhat of a report to the people of the Southern states after the War Between the States to show that there is another place that they could start a new life and not live in the current conditions of reconstruction or the United States’ despotic style of government.

Many southerners went to Brazil after reading books similar to this one. A few remained in Brazil while others eventually returned to the United States. See my earlier article at <https://goo.gl/XNXUXf> for details.

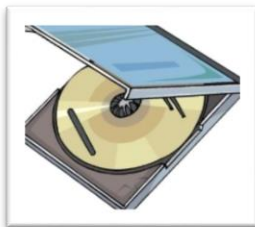
Best of all, this 303-page book published in 1866 is available **free of charge** as an e-book in Archive.org at <https://archive.org/details/brazilhomeforso00dunngoog>. You can read it on your computer’s screen or your tablet’s screen.”



Family History Center (FHC) at 4141 Harrison Blvd, Corvallis. The free resources include:

Ancestry.com, FindMyPast, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Archivedigital (Swedish ancestry), Fold3 (military records), Access Newspaper Archive, and more. Hours: Tu- Thurs: 9:00am-4:00pm and 7:00pm-9:30pm
The FHC’s resources are described here:

<https://familysearch.org/ask/salesforce/viewArticle?id=kA230000000ZK8XCAW&lang=en>



Your CD Collection is Dying, Dick Eastman, May 24, 2016

“If you’ve tried listening to any of your old music CDs lately—if you even own them anymore—you may have noticed they often won’t play. The same is probably true of data stored on CD-ROM disks; the older ones are deteriorating and are becoming more and more difficult to use. The data CD-ROM disks are producing more read errors than they used to. Luckily, there are easy solutions available if you take steps **NOW**.

For example, JPG is very popular today for saving digital images, but will that be true ten or twenty years from now? How about PDF files or music MP3 files? Will there be hardware devices twenty years from now that will read those formats?

The problem is easily solved by copying the older formats every few years to whatever format is popular at that time. For instance, if a new “XYZ format” eventually becomes more popular than PDF, software and hardware will always be available for a few years to copy from PDF to XYZ. The secret is to not miss that “window” of a few years when conversion is easily accomplished.

If you (or your surviving heirs) take the time to copy CDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs, flash drives, and more digital media to modern media and file formats every few years, your valuable information can last and be useable for centuries.”

The full article is found here: <https://blog.eogn.com/2016/05/24/your-cd-collection-is-dying/>



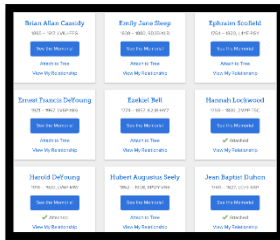
Why Build Family Trees in Family Search/Family Tree and Ancestry? by Ron DeYoung

Building one tree is a meticulous labor of love, building three is a lot of work, some would say madness! This is what I do, I leave it to others to assess my mental fitness but this article is provided as self-defense and/or education. My portable gold standard is RootsMagic, in which I record all of the information about my family in the database and in a well-sourced and convenient tree. I also build a tree in Ancestry using the hints from rich records and the public trees, well worth that effort.



Two graphics here describe why I also build a tree in Family Search/Family Tree. The first list are obituaries, 95% of which are my family, a list which greeted me about 2 weeks ago when I dropped in online. These were not directly the result of my research, digging or any effort beyond signing into the website. By building my tree there, indexed obituaries were assembled for review. By clicking on links to see the individuals listed, one can review the relationship, the obituary itself and to either reject it or attach it to the person in my tree. The obituaries may be a transcribed original, an extract, or an index with only a name, newspaper, print date and page. In the

process of uploading obituaries to FamilySearch, these records are compared to trees already built in Family Search/Family Tree. This represents the work of many volunteers and is all assembled conveniently for review. This feature was provided for an unspecified period until another special feature was launched and highlighted.



Two days ago when I signed in, this list of “memorials” was presented, photos, documents, Find A Grave or Billion Graves links and other indexed results already assembled in a list for review. Without my searching this new list was assembled, a portion of which is listed here. These represent links to headstones, photos or other memorials. After reviewing, these may be attached to the tree or rejected as well. Though these two new features were probably timed for a Memorial Day roll out, they represent what may

be found in the records section by independent searching.

Additionally, FamilySearch/Family Tree has other, convenient trees in a variety of additional formats such as a fan chart or descendency views, the latter helpful to work “down” one’s tree from an ancestor to more recent generations.



Ague, Chilblains, Marasmus, Milk Fever: Old Medical Terminology: by Ron D
Have you found wonderful old documents and puzzled about what exactly was wrong with your third great grandfather who had “bladder in throat” (diphtheria) on his death certificate?

The medical terms used in the 18th through the early 20th century have predominantly been replaced with more accurate if equally puzzling terms. Many helpful lists abound on the internet to assist us in “translation”, one appears here, posted on RootsWeb:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgwkidz/oldmedterm.htm>



Librarian’s Corner: by Sue Vanlaere

Since this is the beginning of our summer break and, hopefully, we’ll all be spending more time tracking down ancestors, I want to give a huge thank you to all the library volunteers. Without your work, our library would be only open a few times a month. I appreciate so much your dedication to making the library available for research twice a week. More than once, people who are familiar with other libraries have told me what a precious resource we have. Thank you from the entire Society. Volunteers for this year have been:

Kathryn Moss
Nancy DeBoie
Jerri Kimmel

Connie Patterson
Ron DeYoung
Sandy Potter
Dave Kribs

Lois Courtney
Ellen Bartish
Frances Pinney
Tom Bateman

Deborah White
Susan Hayes
Grace Maddux

We all owe Ellen Bartish a big thank you for taking care of the inventory database for the last few years. It is, by no means, a simple task. I know because I’m taking over for her, and I realize those carefully crafted lists for the inventory of our materials don’t appear by magic. The inventory person is responsible for maintaining materials that we’ve had from the beginning, accessioning new items, keeping track of those materials that have been lost or deaccessioned for a variety of reasons. Ellen has done all this with patience, willingness to help and a smile! I have a lot to live up to, and we’ll see how I do with the inventory on June 3. Thank you to the inventory volunteers, too!!

I want to thank Lois Courtney who volunteered to be the coordinator for the library volunteers as well as our elected Treasurer. She has done a fantastic job of helping to find substitutes when people need them, and keeping us all informed of who is working which days. Thank you, Lois!

For the last two years, we have had an ongoing project of inventorying all of the journals, newsletters, and magazines that have accumulated over the years. When this is finished, we’ll decide which ones to keep and index to make them more useable. Three people have headed this up: Nancy DeBoie, Ellen Bartish, and Connie Patterson. You three deserve a big hurrah, that’s certain. It has been a major project and a lot of work. We’ll be looking for volunteers to help index them next season!

When you see all these wonderful members at the potluck on June 11, give them a big thanks for their service to the Society.

FYI: THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN ALL THROUGH THE SUMMER - TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 1:00-3:30. SEE YOU THERE!





The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is Still Available!

Dick Eastman, May 12, 2016

The Social Security Death Index (often called the SSDI) is a valuable tool for genealogists. It lists deceased people within the United States. When first created, the SSDI only listed those people who were receiving Social Security benefit payments at the time of death. However, as the years went by, the database was expanded to include **ALMOST ALL DEATHS**, whether receiving benefits or not.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) Death Master File (DMF) contains more than 80 million records of deaths that have been reported to SSA. This file includes the following information on each deceased person, as applicable: name, date of birth, date of death, state or country of residence (prior to Mar 1988), and ZIP code of last residence.

Due to false concerns over identity theft, the Social Security Administration stopped releasing updates to the SSDI a few years ago. A few web sites that previously had made the SSDI available online have since deleted the records from their web sites.

In fact, the Social Security Administration has stopped issuing **UPDATES** to the Death Master File. However, the original database, current through January 2011, remains in the public domain and is still available online from a number of web sites. Some web sites have updated their records from 2011 through 2012. Death records for the past three years are not available.

Full article here: <https://blog.eogn.com/2016/05/12/the-social-security-death-index-ssdi-is-still-available/>

Sites where the SSDI is available: Ancestry, GenealogyBank, FindMyPast and American Ancestors, all of which are subscription sites. Two where the SSDI is **free** is Steve Morse's One Step Genealogy at <http://www.stevemorse.org/ssdi/ssdi.html> and FamilySearch, at familysearch.org Or, you can download the whole index (80 million names!) at <http://ssdmf.info/download.html>



The Benton County Historical Society is *still* looking for someone to help on a project!

It is for a limited time, the objective to scan a collection of precious photos dating from the Civil War era forward, family albums whose roots spread from 1600s England to New England, across the US to Monroe, Oregon. Well documented and annotated photos that follow a web of family; once scanned, can be made available online for descendants. In the

absence of a volunteer, these will be lost to many thousands of the descendants, one of whom might be member of the society! Surnames include: Hubbard, White, Wolcott, Barde, Meek, Stimple, many others. I am unable to do this but will donate a scanner for the effort. For questions, speak to Ron DeYoung or call Mary Gallagher, Collections Director of BCHS at: 541 929-6230. I wish I had the time, I can tell you that you will **love** it!!
By Ron DeYoung





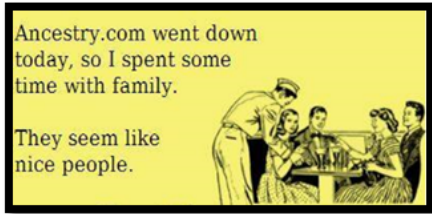
BCGS General Meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of the month September through June. The **June meeting will be on Saturday, June 11th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! The **program at 11 am** will be a sharing of ideas followed by the potluck at the Annex.

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in June the Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 7th at 10 am-noon** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



BCGS 2016 Program Schedule

June: Annual BCGS potluck	July & August: <u>no meetings or programs</u>
Sept: "Show and tell", all members	October: TBA
Nov: Family Research, Mary Gallagher	December: Holiday Auction



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



Serendipity and Susan, Ancestry Insider, 13 May 2016

"Margaret McCleskey shared with me a simple story of serendipity." by Ancestry Insider. "There is a small cemetery in the Hill County of Texas where I had been told that a great, great grandmother was buried. I had walked that cemetery several times without finding the grave. Then one day my daughter was with me looking. She asked what name we were looking for and I told her. She literally took two steps, turned around and said, "Here it is." The irony is that gggrandmother's name was Susan...so is my daughter's. I will always believe that gggrandmother was calling out to my daughter, "Here I am."



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

