

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter
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Off Our Rocker, from The Desk of the President, by Ron DeYoung

A family heirloom of rich, dark mahogany and burgundy leather presides silently and inviting in the den, as loved and admired as it is unused. Its open arms, sculpted soft leather seat and back and satin finish were smoothed from generations of the women who had rocked their children asleep and gave its dense wood a polish and patina burnished by dresses and robes, blankets and afghans, tired hands and human oils, baby spit up, time and so very much sacrifice and love. Originally a pair, family tradition holds that this rocker's sister followed another family branch whose household sprung from its arms and later carried it away. The two fine chairs and the progeny rocked and nourished therein have drifted across both the map and time, the generations of their descendants are now unknown to one another since their divergence six decades ago. At least six generations have come from this sturdy and sound rocker to date; loved and venerated for four decades in our home, I've sat in it only when its seat was reupholstered and then to assure a job properly done. Generations have come from the association of this rocker and the women and children that were comforted within its embrace; for now it has a season of rest before it again resumes its role of welcoming those who follow. It is a fine, comfortable, honorable and, for me, even a sacred chair, one not to be diminished by the heft and rougher comfort of men. It is also the most comfortable seat in our home though I cannot use it.

Firmly entrenched in spring, isn't too early to contemplate what we may do with our time this Summer, might it include a conference, family reunion, family history research trip or, gathering the stories in our head, from folders and pictures and creating a book that will survive to comfort and inform those who follow us? Is there training you might take, a course to benefit you in your quest?

An essay I read a few years ago, called "Good, Better, Best" by Dallin H. Oaks changed how I approach the use of the time allotted me. Making an analogy to the Sears catalogs produced since 1888, the company often presented its products as "good", serviceable and least expensive, "better" quality and higher price and "best", most expensive, more finely made and probably, a greater value in its endurance and longevity. His thesis goes on to say that in our own life, how we spend our time, attention and resources should be used in such a fashion, that 'just because something is good is no reason to do it if there is something better or best to be done'. It is noteworthy that my motorcycles sit idle, batteries charged, registered, insured and, while great fun, unused. Daily my activities are influenced by that short narrative as I work on family history, research, writing and related activities. For the past six weeks, 50-60 hours a week have been involved in training to serve as a volunteer for familysearch.org preparing to help those who call, email and "chat" in for help with the free database. Rivalling Ancestry but, **totally free** to all, it contains billions of records available for anyone to use it to search its records of document indexes and images, public family trees and, if you choose, add your own

family's stories, photos, audio files and even, video. These are backed up, will be there for those who follow you, accessible to them at no cost. Free is good! You will hear more of what I find that may be useful to you in the months ahead. No time for that rocker, even if I didn't feel that it is unapproachable, upon holy ground!

Hope you enjoy the newsletter, it is improved by those who point me at articles, conferences and other pertinent resources, thus it is as good or as limited as the submissions. We invite all to submit items to share with our membership!! Don't miss our May speaker, a presentation on the Daughters of the American Republic; I look forward to learning what it offers us!



May Program: Daughters of the American Revolution

In preparing this small article, I learned far more about this organization. Did you know that their online archives are free to the non-member public and can be accessed here? <http://www.dar.org/> There have been over 930,000 members since it began 125 years ago by 4 founding women? I will be all ears when we learn what the DAR is and, how its resources can help us. Website for the local chapter is found here: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orwcdar2/index.html> Don't miss our May program on **Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 11:00am**; presented by Carla Frances and Jane Buck. This follows the general meeting at 10am in the Methodist church meeting room, just east of the museum. Hope to see you there!



April Program Review: Sharon Waldman, Personal Historian, by Lois Courtney

Sharon Waldman, credentialed as a Personal Historian, inspired 28 of us at our Saturday meeting with the books she's created for her own family, and with her suggestions on how to get inspired to do the same. She shared several of her books with us, describing the process she used, learning as she went.

Her first book was based on oral histories of her mother's family; a second was at her stepfather's request and included his life in Burma, and a third, her father's story, which included information about his 80 flying missions in WWII.



Skill Sets

- Curiosity
- A passion for research
- An open mind

Benefits of gathering stories

- Connections with family
- Information about common history

- Information about genetic histories

Ways to organize the material

- Find a pivotal point, then move back to its origins
- Include different versions for contrast
- Make it visually interesting, boxes, photos, indents, italics

Challenges of this kind of work

- Interviews can be emotional for both parties
- Be careful about copyrights, especially with maps
- You may trigger questions that can't be answered
- You may get information you don't want to hear
- Don't over-edit; let the person's personality come through
- Let the subject have the final say about what you publish

Now all we need to do is get started on our own histories and our own family stories.



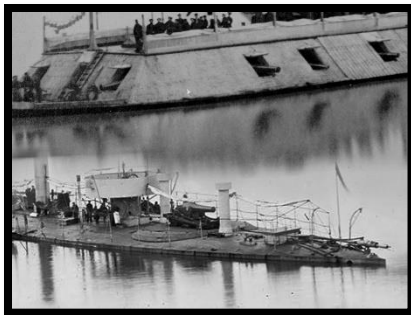
Oregon Historic Newspapers, submitted by Linda Olsen

Though this references Monmouth and Independence, it is an addition to the state-wide, historic newspaper resource. Click on the link to see the map! Thanks to Margaret Fox and Linda Olsen who submitted this to us!

INDEPENDENCE, MONMOUTH NEWSPAPERS ADDED TO DIGITAL REPOSITORY

Several runs of historic newspapers in Independence and Monmouth have been added to the online Historic Oregon Newspapers digital collection. The Independence newspapers include the West Side, the West Side Enterprise and the Independence Enterprise. The Monmouth Herald also was added. The additions were the result of cooperative efforts by the Monmouth and Independence libraries, their friends groups, the Polk County Cultural Coalition and the University of Oregon Libraries.

<http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>



Some Primary Sources Add Interest to Your Ancestors' Stories, by Sue Vanlaere

Lately, the BCGS writers' group has been working on connecting our ancestors' stories with what was happening both in the world and locally at the time in which they lived. Adding some of these events and how they influenced your ancestors helps to bring life to their stories.

One huge set of databases is called Making of America. A collaborative effort between Cornell University and the University of Michigan, the goal is to preserve and make accessible primary sources for American social history. Currently, there are almost a million

pages of journals, short books, and serials, mostly from before the Civil War through Reconstruction. Cornell University's website is the easiest to use: <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/>



One of my absolute favorite serial sets is *The war of the rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. When I first became familiar with this set, I was doing research at Oregon State University. At that time (not too far in the distant past), accessing these books meant tracking down a librarian who could move the rolling stacks. Most of the volumes are huge, and, on top of that, we weren't supposed to copy them because they're antiques. That meant many hours of taking notes by hand.

But, today, we have access online to this wonderful resource, and it's searchable. I'm researching Civil War skirmishes near where my ancestors lived in Kentucky. First I browsed the volume contents to see which one I wanted. I chose Volume 7 in Series 1 and clicked on it. Earlier, I had found the date of one skirmish in Irvine, Estill County, so I entered the date of July, 30, 1863. None of the words I searched for had worked but the date did. I found a list of skirmishes in the area, and one of them was Irvine. Eureka!

When you find information you want, you are able to print out the pages. I haven't found a way to just put the page in a file on my computer, but I'm not done trying yet. If you're interested in these resources and want some help, let me know. I'm still a novice, but we'll figure it out together.



Over 911,000 records of British Royal Navy pensions have been published online for the first time at Findmypast. The publication, released in association with [The National Archives](#), consists of an assortment of documents kept by the Greenwich Hospital and the Royal

Hospital Chelsea to record the details of Greenwich Pensioners.

[The British Royal Navy & Royal Marines service and pension records](#) span...

[Read the rest of the story](#) »

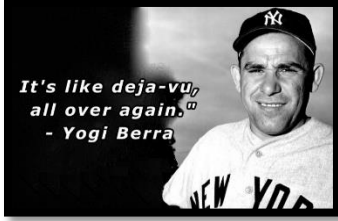


FindMyPast is a subscription database but is freely available to the public at the **Family History Center (FHC)** at 4141 Harrison Blvd, Corvallis. The free resources available there include:

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>





Déjà vu All Over Again, a *personal* opinion. by Ron DeYoung.

This quote borrowed by baseball great, Yogi Berra. For those of you who either have followed or were affected by Ancestry.com's plan to first stop selling and close, then sell FamilyTreeMaker (FTM) , this is worth noting. Many of us use Ancestry and somehow have come to depend on it; it has great resources for a not-small annual cost. Stop paying the subscription and you, and your family have no access to it. Some use Ancestry as their sole, data repository, where they keep their family trees and such, a perilous decision. I have a subscription and appreciate it but, do not depend on it; my data lives in RootsMagic *and* in FamilySearch. I put my tree in Ancestry as well to network among others and benefit from the hinting "leaves" that my tree then receives but always with a plan that someday my access and that of my family will be gone and my contributions will enrich its value to other paying customers. It is a pretty good marketing plan for them when you think about it, paying customers who, over time, make your product more valuable!

My computers, all photos, data and RootsMagic files could all disappear though it is highly unlikely as they are on 2 computers, 2 external hard drives, at home, in a safety deposit box and flash drives that live in different places and different states. If they all disappear, it is on FamilySearch & its sister, Family Tree all backed up on servers and available to my kids & grandkids, free. Ancestry's decisions have been disquieting to say the least. It is owned by a holding company or, association of holding companies and their objectives, pure and simple, profit for themselves and their shareholders. There is an adage, "Keep your friends close and your enemies, closer". I like its resources but don't like what I see in Ancestry's behavior; I use it but don't trust it. In the last few years it has changed hands more than once, before this most recent change. Note the following article about the latest parent company's recent actions.



Permira Triples Its Money on Ancestry.com Sale [Dick Eastman](#) · **April 4, 2016**

The news about Ancestry.com's new investors is becoming public bit-by-bit. This is an update to the articles I published Friday at <http://goo.gl/FnXqzB> and earlier today at <http://goo.gl/Od8ZJ0>.

London-based Permira purchased Ancestry in 2012 and recently has offered the company for sale to the highest bidder. (See my earlier article at <http://goo.gl/ndw6lf>.) Apparently, Permira was successful. Even though the original announcement in *Fortune* stated, "Private equity firm Silver Lake and Singaporean sovereign wealth fund GIC have agreed to acquire equal minority stakes in Ancestry.com...", today's article in the *Wall Street Journal* states that Permira "has sold most of its stake in online genealogy company Ancestry.com LLC to Silver Lake and Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC Private Ltd."

The interesting item in the *Wall Street Journal* report is that Permira tripled its investment in Ancestry.com in four years. Not a bad rate of return!

The story by Laura Kreutzer may be found in the *Wall Street Journal* at <http://goo.gl/Ewlboc>.





Half of Western European Men are Descended from one Bronze Age Person: Dick Eastman, 26 Apr 2016, submitted by Mary Dean

“The ‘king’ sired a dynasty of elite nobles which spread throughout Europe, a new study has shown, according to an article in The Telegraph. The ‘king,’ who lived around 4,000 years ago, is likely to have been one of the earliest chieftains to take power in the continent. Although it is not known who he was, or where he lived, scientists say he must have existed because of genetic variation in today’s European populations.”

Ron D’s comments follow: Eastman’s article references a review by a science editor found here: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/04/25/half-of-british-men-descended-from-one-bronze-age-king/> which references research published in Nature Genetics. Though unsuccessful finding the original article online (typical for recently published professional articles), a fascinating couple of hours was spent by googling “Nature Genetics Bronze Age”, transfixed by articles. A mass burial of hundreds of men who died in war about 1250 BC in the Tollund River valley of Germany, the forensic studies indicate their weapons of war, manner of dress, distant origins and cultural patterns. Genetic evidence of our ability to digest lactose, hence, use dairy products came from a population that swept into Europe from the steppes of the Caucasus about 5-6000 years ago. So much interesting information out there and we have to sleep sometime, darn!



COBBLER Shoemaker
COBLEMAN A fisherman who used a flat bottomed boat
COD PLACER Put fire proof containers, which held the pottery for firing, into the kiln
CODDER A gatherer of cods or pease
COINER Worked at the mint stamping out coins
COLLAR MAKER Made either horse collars or male shirt collars
COLLIER Coal miner, a coal merchant or one who worked on the coal barges

What is a “Billiard Marker?” Dick Eastman, 12 April 2016

A quick look at the *Ranks, Professions, Occupations and Trades* page at

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/hitch/gendocs/trades.html> tells you that it is “A person who attends on players at billiards and records the progress of the game.” The same page has hundreds of obsolete job titles that may be found in old documents and even census records. If you have an occupation for an ancestor that you cannot understand, take a look here!”

The descriptions of these mostly obsolete jobs number in the many hundreds and help us to know what our ancestors did to support themselves and families; without such resources we’d probably guess wrong. The lists are fascinating but far too long for inclusion in the newsletter. Another site for old job titles is found here: <http://www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php> Ron D.



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- Susan VanLaere, Librarian vanlaere@proaxis.com
- Connie Patterson, Membership





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



Librarian's Corner: by Sue Vanlaere

It is time for the **Annual Library Inventory**, scheduled on **Friday, June 3, 10am-3:30pm**. People can choose to work morning or afternoon or both. Free lunch! It's a good way to get to know the library. We only need a few more people!



Free Lunch, Anyone?



Maps: Finding your way, by Sue Vanlaere

If you haven't perused the map section in the library since we reorganized, it might be a surprise to see the number of excellent sources we have. You'll find the map section upstairs in its own separate area instead of mixed in with different categories. There are quite a few early state atlases, such as

Oregon, California, Idaho, Iowa, New York and Illinois among others. We also have several country atlases: Ireland, Germany, East Central Europe, England and Wales and other interesting country maps.

You'll also find such diverse titles as *Civil War at a Glance; Sketch of the Willamette Valley, 1851; New Map of Texas, Oregon and California, 1846; Pioneer Trails of the Oregon Coast, Map Guide: U.s. Federal Census Boundaries* and many others. We even have a book titled *Maps, Maps, Maps and More Maps*, a selection of early U.S. state maps. Now that's a map source! So...stop by and take a look. Most of the maps can be checked out.



Five Keys to Leaving a Visual Legacy for Future Generations, April 28, 2016, Andrew & Rachel Niesen, FamilySearch blog.

"Everyone wants one. But it's something money can't buy. It's something you leave behind—a legacy.In addition to the "assets" your financial planner may list on your balance sheet, there's another asset that deserves protecting: visual assets. That's why you need to know the five keys to leaving a visual legacy for future generations."

1. "Make multiple backups: 3 copy rule; digital, printed, hard drives, deposit box, in the "cloud".

2. Share images with family—now! Makes it easier to recover files if your copy is destroyed.
3. Be disciplined and systematic: Use one system, stick to it, delete bad photos and purge!
4. Organize, organize, organize! Group images by occasion or event in logical groupings
5. Add metadata: The context future generations will need to understand your life story.”

If you are interested in how to organize and preserve your photos and the stories they tell, check out the full article and the numerous active links there! This outline does not do it justice! Link to article here: <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/keys-leaving-visual-legacy-future-generations/>



The Benton County Historical Society is 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 **April meeting will be on Saturday, May 14th 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 on the DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, not to be missed!

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



BCGS 2016 Program Schedule

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

