

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

We hope this newsletter finds you well and with sufficient summer memories to keep you warm through the cooler days and longer nights to come but also left with enough tasks to make every morning the beginning of another adventure. Every season brings its various gifts and their variety enrich our lives.

My writing is done in many places, sometimes on a sunny porch, by a fire in winter but seldom at a desk.

This photo was taken on a day when the temperatures

in Corvallis were in triple digits which elicits in me two responses, number one, to never willingly drive into the valley and number two, to escape and find someplace cool, quiet, remote and refreshing. The first imperative causes my larder to become sparse and the second always brings an adventure. While Corvallis baked, this coastal office was in the low 50s with a stiff and gusty wind, the cool moisture-laden air mixed with enough fine sand to require protective glasses and a shower at day’s end to wash the grit and marine flotsam from my hair!

On days of predicted high temperatures, when writing or reading beckons, morning chores are accomplished early to permit an early escape and choose the spot to remain until evening comes and temperatures abate. A fine antique German motorcycle is laden with a collapsible beach chair, a couple liters of water and some fruit and snacks stowed in saddlebags. The tide, weather and heart dictate which spot is chosen for the day; office supplies consist of mechanical pencils, a notebook and a clipboard. Though the plan usually includes a visit to a restaurant, typically I remain spellbound in place, writing or reading interspersed with walks along the beach; it is too peacable to leave. On the day of this photo, coastal temperatures were expect in the upper 70s under full sun, clear skies and no wind; with sufficient light, protective clothing packed against full sun, I wrote instead in full riding gear and had to add a flannel shirt against the incessant chill. Though these are preferred conditions, my hands were stiff and had a bluish hue as time passed until they were quite numb but the story won out over comfort. Despite weather reports, one never knows what the coast will be like until the arrival. Life is good and full of twists and turns!

In the evening the day’s writing is transferred to the computer using voice to text software while walking on a treadmill or elliptical machine. Looking back over the summer’s writing one can easily detect the evidence of how the weather had varied. On those foggy, stormy and quite moist days, the paper had softened as it absorbed water; the environment caused it to change from a dry, flat and firm surface to one more approximating the wood pulp from which it was made. Surprisingly a light touch with soft lead still permitted me to write on soft, damp paper but the surface was transformed in the process. Those stories written on dry days have the usual presentation, cursive swirls of graphite on flat paper. Those stormy days produced a markedly different product. The moist, soft paper changes under the pressure

of the lead, the paper later dried retained the textured condition. Thus the days which were quite foggy or stormy and damp are indicated by pages textured and wrinkled as though recorded on a thin metal foil. When we have the eyes to see, the world is fascinating!

We hope that we will see you at the next general meeting on Saturday, September 10; the general meeting begins at 10 AM and the “program” will be a roundtable to share with one another any new sources found, conferences attended or anything else of the summer’s family history endeavors that might educate, edify or amuse our group! We hope to see you soon!



September Program:

The September program will be our traditional and informal “round table” format. We hope you will share with us your summer family history experiences! Many have found these helpful to learn of other’s successes or family history travels. A thought, it is not too early to plan next Summer’s activities to achieve what you’d like to have accomplished by *next* Fall!



June 2016 Program and Review: Helpful Technological Tools for the Genealogist, by Linda Olsen

Have you heard of **DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING**, **SHOT BOX**, or **FLIP PAL**? Members really received a treat at the June BCGS meeting when the president, Ron DeYoung, delivered a timely demonstration of these technological multipurpose tools helpful to genealogists who want to travel and still have convenient ways to record treasured discoveries. Maybe you plan to explore areas that do not have Internet connections easily available or you want to visit libraries that restrict the use of certain types of equipment to photograph their archival materials, or visit relatives uncomfortable with taking their genealogical materials out of frames or albums just to have them copied. Having your own scanner, a way to convert voice to text and get the best possible photographs under difficult circumstances gives you the freedom to get the job done with rewarding results.



SHOTBOX is simply a large 5-sided white box that folds flat and fits into a canvas carrying case. The lighting built into the box can be adjusted to eliminate shadows and colored back drops are included. Place your digital camera or cell phone on top of the box for a straight down view or take a photograph with a special hanger from the open front of the box. 3D photographs of objects are also possible using this light weight device. It is a great way to share family heirlooms digitally amongst family members living far apart. I can personally relate to taking family photographs of pictures under glass hanging in a dim hallway at a relative’s home. Glare from a window while taking photographs of photo album pages did not yield the best results

and wishing there was another way. See a 2 minute YouTube demonstration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8Lvjiab9Cw>

DRAGON NATURALLY SPEAKING has been around for awhile and new releases are available often. This



voice recognition program uses simple voice commands that tells your lap top computer what you want it to do and the words are then visible on your screen. It takes a little practice for it to recognize your voice but then it is amazingly accurate. Coupled with a high quality digital recorder and a Bluetooth head set, you can be about 30 feet away from your computer and still use the Dragon program to convert your voice to text. See a 2 minute YouTube demonstration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImlKOA1MhII>



FLIP PAL is a small, hand-held mobile scanner. It scans a small photo 4 by 6 inches. Large materials such as a map could be scanned in small sections across the page and then stitched together. Remove the top to scan items hanging on a wall. No electric outlet close by? No problem with this battery operated device. Just remember to take plenty of batteries if you have a large project to complete. See a 3 minute YouTube demonstration.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZWx8fGfadw>

The smaller, more user friendly, and more convenient technology becomes, the more people will take advantage of it for all sorts of reasons. Genealogy research seems quite adaptable to these newer tools.



Newsletter Items Welcomed! By Ron DeYoung

A reminder that we welcome submissions of upcoming conferences schedules, newsworthy matters of genealogical interest and articles written by our membership, a great way to share your expertise and knowledge! If you enjoy others' contributions and have a great story that would enlighten or inspire, please submit it for our newsletter!



DPLA and FamilySearch Partner to Expand Access to Digitized Historic Books Online Dick Eastman · June 22, 2016

FamilySearch has announced a new partnership with the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). They have signed an agreement that will expand access to FamilySearch.org's growing free digital historical book collection to DPLA's broad audience of users including genealogists, researchers, family historians, students, and more. With this new partnership, DPLA will incorporate metadata from FamilySearch.org's online digital book collection that will make more than 200,000 family history books discoverable through DPLA's search portal later this year. The digitized historical book collection at FamilySearch.org includes genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. The collection includes family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines and how-to books, gazetteers, and medieval histories and

pedigrees. Tens of thousands of new publications are added yearly. Within DPLA, FamilySearch's book collection will be discoverable alongside over 13 million cultural heritage materials contributed by DPLA's growing network of over 2,000 libraries, archives, and museums across the country, opening up all new possibilities for discovery for users and researchers worldwide. You can learn more here: <https://blog.eogn.com/2016/06/22/dpla-and-familysearch-partner-to-expand-access-to-digitized-historic-books-online/>

Access DPLA here: <https://dp.la/>

Access FamilySearch.org here: familysearch.org

Watch a youtube video about DPLA here: <https://youtu.be/mOngLBa4ewM>



The 1906 All-Benton School Fair

Mabel Green Cummings of Philomath wrote this recollection in her later years describing the 1906 "All-Benton School Fair" held in Corvallis and the exhibits that she and her siblings entered and the prizes they won.



I remember when the place where the Corvallis Lumber company, Buckstons, Sr., and thereabouts was used for a fair grounds. A long narrow shed with sides and open ends stood there with a piano setting on planks and Mrs. Geneve Baum Gaskins, college professor of music, played a piano for all the fair goers to enjoy. It was called the "All-Benton Fair" then. When my mother got out our white dresses from the closet and washed and starched and ironed them we knew it was about Fair time.

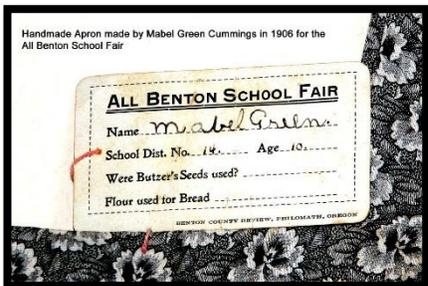
The school clerk, Woods Creek Dist. 14, had presented us with vegetable and flower seeds with which to raise an exhibition for display at the fair and for a chance to win a prize. My older brother, Willard, raised a prize winning rutabaga. His prize was a lady's brown skirt. Of course, I got to wear the skirt. My sister, Viva, made a pound of butter and her prize was a crescent shaped gold breast pin with an opal in the center.

My oldest brother, Ralph, drew two maps. One of Oregon showing all the mountains, railroads and streams. The other Oregon map showed all the counties and roads. His prize was a two foot tall kerosene banquet lamp with yellow California poppies painted on it which I now possess as my brother lost his life in WW I. Not to be outdone, I tried for a prize by making a hand-made apron, which I still keep, with the tag and 1906 date on it.



My mother, Rosetta Green, and the school clerk made a red cloth school banner to carry in the parade. It was "pill box" shaped. The lettering read: All-Benton School Fair. Dist. #14. Fringe decorated the bottom and it hung on a rod with two of the school children carrying it. The remainder of the school children marched behind the banner.

When the fair was over, the trip home was long. It was 14 miles back to our Woods Creek homestead, riding in a wagon pulled by a team of farm horses. After dark we had to use a lantern to see our way, but it had been a gala day.



Written by Mabel Green Cummings of
Philomath, Oregon.
Transcribed and edited by her niece,
Linda Green Olsen, August 6, 2016.



New York Historical Society Offers Free Reference Services

By Mary Dean Snelling

Since many have ancestors who passed through New York City, I wanted to share this resource with you. I was recently pleasantly surprised when I found a form for submitting a research question to the New York Historical Society Library Manuscripts Department. I had the “family story” about the four orphaned children who eventually all ran away from the New York City orphanage, then called the New York Orphans Asylum. The family story said the youngest would not go there unless his older brothers and sisters went with him, but I only had the 1870 census which showed the youngest one living there. I did know that the last parent died in 1865, and names and birthdates of the children. Knowing how family stories go I wanted to check it out and get more information if possible.

I was amazed to receive a timely email reply saying that the orphan books did exist, and yes indeed, all four children are recorded in the orphan books and yes, all four ran away. The books were too fragile to photocopy, but they sent digital copies. The new information was the admission and run away dates and documentation that all four lived there for several years. After “departing” from the orphanage they all found jobs, some in different states (info from U.S. census). In the end they all re-united in a rural area in Missouri as young adults. A nice conclusion to difficult childhoods.

The bulk of the manuscript collections are from the 18th and 19th centuries, but they also have important materials from the 17th century and a growing number of 20th and 21st century collections. They have a library catalog which can be searched.

A link: nyhistory.org

Address for the research question FORM is: <https://www.nyhistory.org/library/reference-assistance>





Financial Report for 2015-2016, Fiscal year ending August 31, 2016.

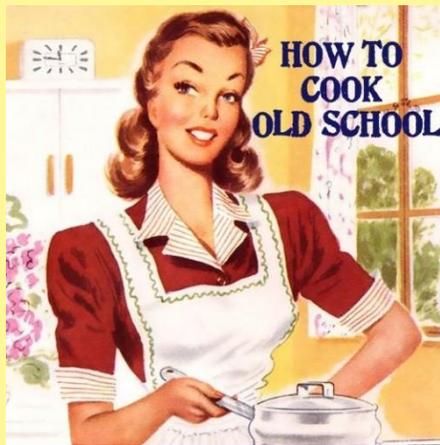
The Benton County Genealogical Society ended the year with \$443 more in income than we spent.

Our main sources of income are dues (\$935) and our always successful December auction (\$351).

Our main sources of expense are our contributions to the Museum (\$600) and the Church (\$200) for use of their facilities. We budgeted \$500 for programs but only spent \$130. We spent almost \$200 on library expenses, but that was short of the \$300 we had budgeted.

At year end, we had a total of \$5,215 in the bank. \$3007 of that is in a savings account.

Financially it was a successful year. Anyone wishing to see the full detail of the reports can request a copy by email (loiscourtney@cmug.com) or phone ([541-752-0889](tel:541-752-0889)). by Lois Courtney, Treasurer



Travel Back in Time With Old Recipes to Discover More About Your Ancestors, by Linda Olsen

What is it about old recipes that stimulates emotions and memories? Is it the mouth-watering anticipation of the luscious flavors that come to mind when you think of a particular food or the aroma of it cooking? Who can resist the smell of fresh baked bread or cookies hot from the oven. Is it the vision of the person you remember making this exceptional recipe that elicits an emotion? Is it the dish that was always served for a holiday gathering which in itself was an exciting time when you could share precious stories with others? Is it memories of helping in the garden as a child, eating the fresh picked fruits, baking delicious fruit pies or making jams and jellies? What

memories do you associate with your most treasured homemade foods?



Recipes might have been kept in neat little tin boxes under file names as salads, casseroles or desserts or hand written on tattered scraps of paper. The best loved recipes showed wear on those cards with food stains and ragged edges from repeated use just as the worn pages of the best loved cookbooks. Historical notes about who passed down this recipe could be written on the card—"from Aunt Millie 1953". The best of the best recipes were handed down to the next generation and shared amongst family and friends.

If fish, deer or bear showed up on the dinner table, then someone in the family must have been a hunter or fisherman. What did your ancestors eat? What country did they come from and how did their culture influence what they ate?



How did they prepare and preserve their food? Did they use any modern conveniences or did they mix and chop everything by hand? Did the cooks measure every cup and teaspoon precisely or measure by the number of handfuls of flour for the biscuits and pancakes like my grandmother and her mother did before her.

My dad liked to tell the story about how the chicken was divided up amongst his siblings at the dinner table. As child number 8, his piece of chicken was the tail and he felt lucky to get that. Of course, garden produce filled the table along with fresh baked bread and fruit pies and always lots of milk from their own cows. When hungry late in the evening, he tore off a hunk of his mother's home baked bread then slipped into the pantry and dipped the bread into a pan of fresh cream. He never said what happened when he got caught dipping into the cream, but in a family of 7 growing boys and 2 girls, his mother probably expected some extra food would disappear.

My mother fondly remembered making ham sandwiches with ingredients stored in her grandmother's pie safe. They piled thick slices of ham and sweet onions on large biscuits cut in half with a smear of cold gravy. These biscuit sandwiches would be their lunch as she and her grandmother rode to town in a small, one-horse buggy. Food was only a small part of the memory of special times with her grandmother. Nonetheless, ham sandwiches brought back rich memories of my mother's childhood.

As you are writing family stories and recording memories, add some recipes to your family histories. When preparing food from an old recipe handed down from a family member, involve children by having them find that ancestor on a family history chart while you impart vivid memories of the people who grew and prepared the foods or tell stories about how Grandpa farmed and hunted to put food on the table or how Grandma kept a large garden and knew 10 different ways to cook potatoes. Recipes and the stories that you can tell about the food your ancestors ate enrich the lives in your family today and add another dimension or insight into your ancestors' every day lives and provide a window into what life was really like for them.

There is still time to contribute old recipes handed down in your families to be posted on the BCGS Recipe web page. It will be a wonderful way to share with other members of our society and members of your own family. Call up that cousin or search through your recipes for those wonderful homemade foods memories are made of.



Send me your recipes:

Linda Olsen thekeeper@ronsarchive.com or give me a copy at the meeting. You may certainly contribute more than one recipe. The more the better. Handwritten or typed or images of the original recipe the way it really looks with torn edges and all is fine. The imperfections on the recipe just add an element of authenticity.



BCGS 2016 Program Schedule

September:	"Show and tell", all members	October:	TBA
November:	Family Research, Mary Gallagher	December:	Holiday Auction



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Connie Patterson, Membership

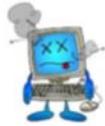


BCGS General Meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of the month September through June. The **September meeting will be on Saturday, September 10th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! The **program at 11 am** will be a round table of our family history related Summer experiences.

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in September the Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 6th at 10 am-noon** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



It is the First of the Month, [Back Up Your Files!!](#)



June's Great Potluck!