

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

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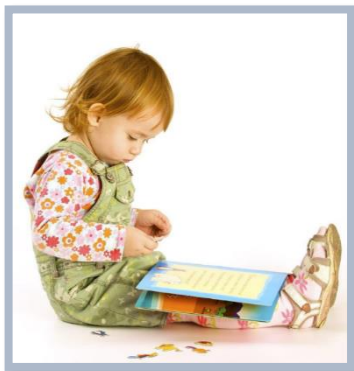
From the Desk of the President, Ron DeYoung

Once brilliant green, the towering big leaf maple's crown is thinning, its leaves more yellow-tan than yellow-green, many already shed upon the ground below. The oaks are further along, the premature drab browning and loss of their leaves brought on somewhat earlier by the dry conditions for most of the summer. The brilliantly green gum tree keeps its color far longer than the other deciduous trees, something loved all the more during the Fall. Its uppermost leaves will soon turn first magenta, then crimson, then brownish-red before falling, adding color to the greening grass below. The gum's changes begin at the crown and progressing towards the ground in a fashion that paints the tree awash in its varied hues.

Fall marks a return to more consistent family history research, writing of stories, digging in deeper, a time of hearty soups, warm cocoa and the radiant heat of wood fires against the chill and damp. Ah, Fall, how splendid a season!

Fall marks as well the season of conferences; note those upcoming both in Oregon and nationally. Our thanks to those in our group who make us aware of these opportunities. Our group is enriched by these contributions indeed, it is that sharing that is the society's very life's blood.

Also included is an article as timely as when it was written 19 years ago, "The white Mormon and the black Muslim"; its thesis, that we are all related, is something we should internalize. Note as well the article of DNA analysis done for a large group of ethnically diverse people and follow the link to a series of online videos; it may well change your world's view. Finally, note that our meeting comes quite early this month, Saturday, October 8 which is just around the corner. We hope to see soon!



October Program: Sharing family history with our children and grandchildren

OSU professor Bobette Bushnell, PhD, will address how we may share family history with our children and grandchildren. An extremely effective and engaging speaker, she will also present its effect upon children who grow up knowing their family's history. The program will begin at 11:00 am in the Methodist Church conference room where we typically meet.





September Program: “Show and Tell” and Getting Reacquainted, by Lois Courtney

On a beautiful, balmy fall morning, 23 of us sat around the large tables in the social hall to share stories of our genealogical summer quests—successes and frustrations.

Linda O. started us off by sharing some treasured items, a beautiful apron her aunt made when she was 10 years old for the 1906 “All-Benton School Fair”, the recipe notebook she is compiling using submissions from all of us will be posted on our BCGS web site, a 1929 baking cookbook, a book about Iowa farm life, and an old recipe box and well-used wooden bowl.

Lee has been trying to find the birth record for her mother. She believes she was born in Oklahoma, perhaps while her own mother was living with relatives. It’s only recently that she has learned that her mother was raised by her grandmother, as one of her own daughters, but her grandmother was actually one of the other 10 kids.

Dave mentioned recently finding an old shoe anvil in his garage, which reminded him that Kribs name dates back to the Patron Saint of Shoemakers. The anvil has been passed from father to son for generations.

Earle had a rich and productive summer starting with the King Family Reunion. Part of their focus was cleaning out their old pioneer cemetery, and placing several missing stones there. They got permission from the current owner, who also asked them about the origin of the barn on the property. Earle said it was known in the family as “Jack’s Barn” because their stallion named Jack lived there.

Connie alerted us to the rich resource to be found in genealogy podcasts. She will include links to some of them in the next BCGS Newsletter.

George, like Earle, was able to do some work on a long-time family cemetery near a previous town called Peak, on Mary’s Peak. He and other family members fixed the fence, replaced old wooden markers and tended to the 13 burials there. He had 30 family members helping with this project.

Jane shared her genealogical finds.

Peggy found an interesting anomaly, a discrepancy of 8 years between a Virginia death certificate date of 1877 and the headstone date of 1869. Other dates for Pinkey’s husband and her birth date agreed so she didn’t think it was a different person, especially with such a distinctive name. She also showed a now-framed photo of an heirloom dress her mother made (1940s) with photos.

Margaret and Barbara talked a bit about the recent results from a DNA test. Margaret is more Irish than her daughter, and they both have traces of African heritage.

Linda West has recently traced back some family on her husband’s side to Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia. She was sorry she missed Ron’s talk on his origins and travels to that area.

Meridee's birth mother passed recently. She's been asked by adopted family members to try to identify old family photos, reminding us all of the importance of labeling photos as we take them.

Bill presented a huge book, The Descendants of Mathew Gleaves. This includes all the Gleaves in North America, including him. A huge resource for his research.

Ted talked again about his project of making sure all his family have stones on their burial sites. He's now doing some research to determine dates for some that need stones.

Lois and Ed headed to a family reunion driving across the country. Unfortunately, three days into their trip they had an accident that ended their trip. They were not hurt but Lois's box of family photos and genealogy papers went flying across the highway. People passing by helped her and Ed pick up most of the photos and papers. Some papers had been run over and some were stained with oil. Lois spent most of the rest of the summer sorting out the ruin. She took an airplane to her reunion.

David and Lyle spoke about their rich family heritage in the Corvallis area and living near Avery Park for several generations.

Denny also told about their many travels across the country to attend family reunions and getting to know extended family members.

We actually ran out of time, which again points out that we are often our own best resources for genealogical information, and we heard some wonderful stories.



Irish Birth, Marriage, and Death Records are now Online

Dick Eastman, 7 Sep 2016

“The historic records of Births over 100 years ago, Marriages over 75 years ago and Deaths over 50 years ago of the General Register Office (GRO), are now available to view on

www.irishgenealogy.ie, following their launch 8 Sep. 2016.”

Useful Links
Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Holidays in Ireland
Certificate of Irish Heritage
National Archives of Ireland
National Library of Ireland
Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
General Register Office (Civil Registration Office)
General Register Office Northern Ireland
Church of Ireland
Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland
Land Registry
Registry of Deeds
Valuation Office
Ireland Family History on Facebook
Bureau of Military History Records
National Army Census 1922
National Inventory Of Architectural Heritage

(The following content is from their website www.irishgenealogy.ie Ron D)

[What Indexes to the Civil Records are on-line?](#)

The Indexes to the Civil Records of Irish Births, Deaths and Marriages date from 1864 with non-Roman Catholic Marriages recorded from 1845.

The indexes to Births over 100 years old, the indexes to Marriages over 75 years old and the indexes to Deaths over 50 years old.

[What church records are available online?](#)

Under the first phase of the project, church records for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kerry were made available as were a

subset of the Church of Ireland parishes in Kerry. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Kerry includes parishes in western and north-western areas of County Cork. The church records for a subset of the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland parishes in Dublin City were also available as were a small number of Presbyterian records relating to a congregation in Lucan.

Under the second phase, the remaining Church of Ireland records of Dublin City, County Kerry and County Carlow have been added. Also a subset of the Roman Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Cork & Ross were also added. In addition to these records, digital images of the originals of these church records are also available to view on this website.

Under the third phase, the remaining Roman Catholic records of Dublin City and County Cork (Cork and Ross except most of Cork City) have been added. In addition to these records, digital images of the originals of these church records are also available to view on this website. “

I found a family member’s record there in preparation for this article! It is great to have these free, online Irish records in addition to those on FamilySearch. Ron D.



MyHeritage Releases Most Significant Collection of Finnish Historical Records Ever Published Online Dick Eastman, September 12, 2016

“If you have Finnish ancestors, you will want to know about this new addition! The following announcement was written by the folks at MyHeritage:

Extensive collection of 33 million Church records digitized by MyHeritage covers the population of Finland during 300 years, providing a treasure trove of information for anyone with Finnish ancestors”

As a Finnish friend said, this is *huge*! And from the MyHeritage website:

“The collection, indexed and searchable in its entirety, is currently available only on MyHeritage, along with millions of scanned original documents. It was created with the cooperation of the National Archives Service of Finland.”

Note: MyHeritage is one of the subscriptions that are free for public use at the Family History Center at the LDS Church in Corvallis.



Milwaukie Stake Family History Conference, 22 Oct 2016

This annual family history conference is put on by the Milwaukie Stake and is routinely one of the best conferences of its type in Oregon. As always, it’s free, there are 20 or more classes and though registration is preferred for them to better schedule refreshments; walk-ins are accepted as well.

Even if you choose not to go, their website is well organized and contains links to the presenters’ materials, available for online review or download. The address is 8331 Cason Rd, Gladstone, OR 97027,

Milwaukie Stake Family History Center (LDS Church) The website registration and materials are here:
<http://milwaukiefamilyhistoryconference.blogspot.com/>



Oregon State Archives Open House Oct 15, 2016

Submitted by Mary Dean Snelling

“I thought this might be of interest to some who have Oregon roots, an announcement about an Oregon Archives open house on October 15th” (see the web address below for an upcoming exhibit and details)

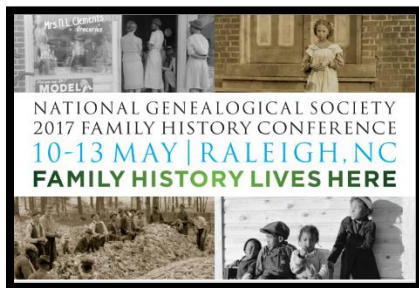
“**Saturday, Oct. 15**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. visit Oregon State Archives during the open house (800 Summer St. NE, Salem).

Explore Oregon’s brewing history at the State Archives annual Open House Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. As part of a national month long recognition of archival programs, the State Archives will feature records from our holdings that showcase Oregon’s rich brewing heritage.

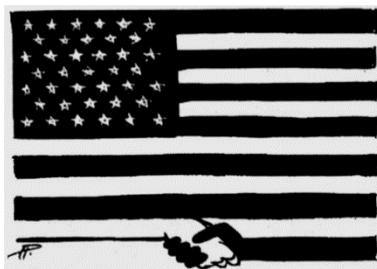
Participate in activities featuring colorful trademarks of early Oregon breweries, hops production, the prohibition era, “Beer Wars” and laws that helped usher in Oregon’s booming brew pub industry.

Archives staff will be available for tours of our updated, climate-controlled records storage area. For more information contact us at [503-373-0701](tel:503-373-0701) or reference.archives@state.or.us.”

The web address: <http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/archives-month.aspx>



The 2017 conference of the [Federation of Genealogical Societies](#) will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 30 August 2017 to 2 September. The conference will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The Westin Convention Center and the Omni William Penn Hotel are offering reduced rates from Wednesday, 23 August to Friday, 8 September (subject to availability). Both hotels are conveniently located near the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Full details and links for FGS discounted reservations can be found on the [FGS website](#).



The White Mormon and the Black Muslim – A Tale of Serendipity

From Ancestry Insider, 16 Sep 2016

This story, written by Lee Davidson, originally appeared in the Deseret News in Salt Lake City on 18 June 1997.



The woman seemed as different from me as possible when she entered the branch LDS Church Family History Center where I volunteer in suburban Maryland.

I am a white, male Mormon who was wearing a business suit. She is black American and wore Kente cloth (in colorful African tribal designs) with a veil that showed she is Muslim.

But we would soon find that we have everything important in common. And maybe, just maybe, we even tripped into an overlooked key on how America can better overcome racial tension.

She is an experienced genealogist, so I might. She quickly settled onto a computer to check family histories that people worldwide have sent to The Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints. It compiles them on compact discs for quick and easy searches and distributes them globally to branch libraries.

After helping other visitors, I sat at a computer next to hers and started some searches of my own.

An hour later as I reached over four disc, I glanced at her computer screen. Highlighted was information about Maria Becx, born about 1598 in the Netherlands.

That took my breath away. I had the exact same screen of information on my computer, and Becx is my 10th great-grandmother. So I asked an obvious but dumb question, “Are you looking for Becxs in the Netherlands?”

She looked up and said, “Yes, I have some Becxs ancestors.”

I then turned my computer monitor toward her so she could see we were looking at exactly the same data. “So do I,” I said.

Our expressions betrayed that we were both thinking, “I’m related to *you*?” But the Black Muslim woman and the white Mormon man were indeed both 10th great-grandchildren of Maria Becx, born 399 years ago, and her husband to Johannes Nevius.

Some of the progeny of Johannes and Maria immigrated to New Amsterdam, later to become New York, later to become part of the United States. Some had slaves. Some were slaves. Some died fighting to end slavery (such as David C Rynearson, killed with Union troops fighting to capture Atlanta in the Civil War).

Some (such as Andrew Jackson Rynearson, David’s brother) became Mormons driven out of Ohio, Missouri and Illinois. But judging by where many of the Nevius/Becx progeny settled, some could have been among mob members helping to drive out the Mormons.

As in this instance, I’ve come to find that when I talk to other genealogists who have gone far back on their family lines, even if they appear to be of other ethnic backgrounds, we can often find some connection. It’s helped me to realize something, which sounds like a Pointer Sisters song: “We are Family”. Knowing that, or truly realizing it deep down, could make a big difference in how we approach racial and other tensions.

For example, President Clinton and some in Congress are talking about whether to issue an apology now to black Americans for slavery. Besides the obvious question of whether they will apologize to every other group that has suffered wrongs in the past 150 years, it tends to divide America into white and black, into us and them, into division and not union. It looks far backward, not forward. It places blame, and doesn't provide solutions to problems now, only very old excuses.

And at a time so far removed from slavery that no one living today fostered it (or personally suffered it), that leads to the silly situation where those apologized to (as well as those doing the apologizing) likely had some relatives who were slaveholders as well as others who were slaves.

We are not responsible for those people's sins, only our own. Like it or not, we are related to both the good guys and the bad guys. We can't control what they did. We can control how we act, and how we treat others.

In short, do we want to treat others as different, or strange, or simply not as good as "us"? Or do we want to treat them like family? Believe me, we are family. We would do well to act like it.

Desert News Washington correspondent, Lee Davidson.



Of Miracles: by Ron DeYoung

The following article reminded me of an adage concerning miracles, that this topic often divides people among certain camps. The first see miracles as part of a bygone era, or extremely rare or, that they are otherwise explained or never actually happen. The second group sees miracles in every day; I am firmly, permanently, irrevocably of the latter group. So often people are amazed at the uncanny

"coincidence" in the course of their research, stating in variations 'It's almost as if these deceased ancestors want to be found'. My answer is, of course, that they **do**! Many in our group have had such situations, I have had many, most too sacred to share. The following is a remarkable story from Ancestry Insider, relating the experience of a FamilySearch employee.



The Ancestry Insider

Basketball versus Serendipity, 10 Jun 2016

"Several years ago David Rencher was on business in Atlanta, Georgia and took the opportunity to drive to Montgomery, Alabama where he hoped to visit some cemeteries the following day. The Utah Jazz were doing exceptionally well in the play-offs that year. When he checked into the hotel he checked that they had the right television station to watch the game. He turned on the TV and, lo and behold, the game had already started. He stood there with the remote in his hand when the feeling came: "Go to the cemeteries now."

"I was impressed and had the TV turned off before, I think, I consciously had finished the thought," David says. "I put the remote down, left the hotel and headed for the cemetery."

At the cemetery and “just getting back to his car, David suddenly heard a pickup truck flying past the cemetery, the driver looked up, saw David, and came to a screeching halt.

“Hi. What family are you looking for?” David told him and he said, “Oh, they’re not buried here. They’re buried over in Bethel. Why don’t you follow me over there. It’s kind of hard to find.” David gratefully accepted his invitation, not realizing just how fast he would need to drive to keep up.



At the cemetery, his guide knew right where the graves were, so we strode off in that direction.

“I’m just trying to keep up,” David says. “But I stopped dead in my tracks on the way through the gate.” There, in a huge family plot, was a family he had sought for some time. “I had completely lost them,” David says. “I couldn’t find where they had gone. I couldn’t find them in the census. I couldn’t find what happened to them. Nothing was working. And here they were!”

Meanwhile, his guide was marching through the cemetery,he came back and David told him this was a family he was looking for. He said, “Oh, are you related to the Bates? Well, then you’ll need to call Bill Bates.”

.....”David captured photos and transcriptions at the cemetery and then took him over to his home. He had a complete transcription of the cemetery that he found David in, which he graciously provided. And then he called Bill Bates.

David visited Bill Bates the next morning and, of course, he knew all about the family. David was taking notes as madly as he possibly could. Bill stood up and said, “You know, the old homestead is here?” His sister had made a painting of it. Bill pulled a print of the painting off the shelf and gave it to him. Then Bill loaded me up in the truck and took me down to the old homestead.



They walked in and there on the wall were the pictures of Emily Bates, Emily Rencher Bates, and her husband. Bill said, “Well you know, the Renchers married into the Harrises. You really ought to contact Martha Ray Harris.” They called Martha Ray who happened to be attending a genealogical society meeting in Greenville that afternoon at 2:00.

David met her at the meeting and she, of course, had with her enormous amounts of information about the Renchers and the Harrises. While they visited the society president walked over and introduced herself.

“This is our president, Mrs. Raybon,” said Martha Ray. “And this is David Rencher.”

“Rencher? Well, you know, the Raybons married into the Renchers,” Mrs. Raybon said. She had all the information and was willing to share it.

In just a couple of days, the wealth of material that came to David was overwhelming.

"I think many times how I stood there with that remote in my hand," David says. "Had I not gone at that very moment, I wouldn't have been in the cemetery when the truck drove by. I would have been sitting in Montgomery watching the Jazz lose a game."

We call that *Serendipity in Genealogy*.



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



Benton County Genealogical Society Board Contacts

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Connie Patterson, Membership

BCGS General Meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, September through June.

The **October meeting will be on Saturday, October 8th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! The **program at 11 am** will be presented by OSU professor, Bobette Bushnell, the topic, sharing family History with children.

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in October the Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 4th at 10 am-noon** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.

BCGS 2016 Program Schedule: October: Family History for Children, Bobette Bushnell

November: Family Research, Mary Gallagher December: Holiday Auction



DNA Analysis, We're All Related Ron D.

Momondo is a travel company whose marketing group produced an extremely interesting ad to intrigue. It is included here not as an advertisement but to see how having one's DNA results changed the world view of an ethnically distinct group who came to see that we are brothers and sisters, cousins all. It is worth your time to watch this overview and the other short videos there as well. https://youtu.be/Fw7FhU-G1_Q