

## Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

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### From the Desk of the *Thankful* President!

This photograph taken at the November general meeting impressed me in that we have the privilege of associating with one another in our collective goal of researching our past, learning our families stories and helping one another and new members in that effort. Many of you in this photograph and many others as well have supported this organization for a great deal of time by sharing your expertise, enthusiasm, organizational skills and knowledge; a sincere thank you to each of you in this season of Thanksgiving.

I'm grateful as well for the extra effort put forth by our board that serve tirelessly (okay, that isn't quite true, they serve even when they're tired!) in furthering the needs of the society. Our last general meeting in November found me attending a family history conference in Milwaukee in order to make contacts for one to be held locally in the spring; as a result, the board shouldered other responsibilities in my absence for which I am truly grateful. I'm thankful as well for technology (okay, in truth it's more a love-hate relationship!) which permitted me to "attend" the November board meeting while being out of the state and also to produce the November newsletter which probably was the most well-traveled newsletter that I will ever package! It took form in Oregon, work continued in Seattle, Nova Scotia and Massachusetts from whence it was distributed to the members, hopefully no worse for its long distance travel!

In October and November I spent three weeks on a well-planned family history research trip to Nova Scotia and also Massachusetts. The results of my time in Nova Scotia are truly remarkable and furthered much of my Acadian research; I met several distant cousins with whom I compared family trees and now correspond, visited archives and took priceless photographs and have more than enough to keep me very busy for the next year!

I hope you will be in attendance at our next general meeting on December 12 at 10 AM. We will have election for 2016 officers (**see ballot**), installation occurs in January. Our **annual potluck and auction** are not to be missed as you well know if you have attended in past years; please come prepared to enjoy good company, a lot of laughs and good food. Do bring your checkbook and or cash for some fun, tasty and/or useful items to be purchased at the auction; these range from trinkets, knickknacks, desserts and other items including an unused Lexmark printer. Plan ahead, we do hope that you will attend for I can promise that you will enjoy yourself! Note the **membership renewal form** and auction details in the enclosed articles. Ron DeYoung



### **BCGS November Program Premium Websites Available in the Family History Center Services Portal**

Kathryn Moss described the resources that are available at the Family History Center in Corvallis. She lives in Philomath and has volunteered at the Family History Center in Corvallis for many years. A two-year mission at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City has given her additional expertise in genealogical research. Her specialty is British genealogy. She was a member of the BCGS years ago and is not only re-joining, but volunteering in the BCGS library. THANK YOU, KATHRYN.

She emphasized that the Family History Center is open to the public and that ALL are welcome. The Family History Center is located at 4141 NW Harrison at the back of the LDS church building, northwest corner. Telephone is 542 758-1156, extension 8. The center is open: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M. Kathryn volunteers on Tuesday morning. There is always someone to help you with your research; knowledge and specialties vary among the volunteers.

Online research has become most popular and the microfiche and microfilm are not used as much as in the past although they may contain valuable information not available online. Printing from the microfilm is offered. There are eight computers and most researchers use **ancestry.com**. However there are other paid websites provided for free at the center.

Major Websites Available and All are FREE:

- 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Library Newspapers digital archive - Covers mainly famous people.
- Newspaper Archives – This is the world’s largest online newspaper archive.
- Alexander Street Press, American Civil War - Has historical information, not specific people.
- Ancestry.com Has thousands of collections of records from around the world.
- ArkivDigital – Has Swedish church records and other historical records, and photos of original documents.
- FindMyPast – this is Kathryn’s favorite British website, somewhat comparable to ancestry for U.S. records. Some records are not available anywhere else. They now have some U.S. records as well.
- Fold3 – This is an excellent source for military records and stories.

- The Genealogist – English parish records, directories, census, civil registration, surname mapping. This site is now only available in the UK or Kathryn will help you with it until her subscription runs out.
- Historic Map Works Library Edition – Great for maps, however there are many other map sources.
- Legacy Stories – You may record oral photo narrative directly from your computer microphone, multi-media story publisher, and more. Kathryn said she had not used this.
- MyHeritage – Library Edition – can build a family tree, add photos, and more.
- Paper Trail - Provides access to 19<sup>th</sup> century westward American migration documents, Oregon and California Trail Association.
- ProQuest Obituary - Obituaries and death notices back to 1851. This database is constantly improving

For further details about these websites and others, please refer to the handout which can be found with the monthly presentation handouts in the BCGS library.

**familysearch.org** is free and available from home. This is a huge database full of many resources and documents.

Family Tree is a link within familysearch.org. Registration is required to place your family tree on the site, but there is no charge. The problem is that many entries are not backed up with sources and others can go into your tree and change the information you entered. You might want to check the trees for helpful clues for your ancestors. I think we all found some new websites to try.

Reporter: MaryDean Snelling



**An Interview with BCGS Member Ellen Bartish, by Lois Courtney**

The BCGS Board recently suggested we help the newsletter by providing interviews with some of our members. I volunteered to talk to Ellen, and it was an enjoyable conversation.

Ellen’s genealogical research spans time and geography. She was first inspired when she located a book in the Oregon State Library about her mother’s maternal ancestors, the Darnalls, Browns and Crowleys. The book was titled The Trail Blazers by Alice (Turnidge) Hamot. But much of her research was the result of her own travels. After serving three years in the U. S. Army, she was discharged and moved to Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska where she began work for the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office. She discovered that she was living not far from her ancestral homes. Her great-great grandparent’s graves (Darnall, Myers, Brown and Crowley) and the old Brown family homestead are still located in Butler County, Nebraska.

Her husband’s employment search took them to Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. At the age of three years, Ellen had lived in Millington (now a suburb of Memphis) when her father was a U. S. Marine, teaching at the training facility there. Further changes in jobs and venues led them to Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oregon and more family research opportunities. Her Crowley ancestors had migrated to or through these same localities.

Ellen worked briefly for the National Park Service in Crater Lake. Her husband enlisted in the U. S. Army and was transferred to Louisiana and then to Georgia. Later, she and her husband spent about 6 years in

Weisbaden, Germany and 3 years in Japan. Eventually, they retired in Arizona, Ellen taking advantage of an early out after 28 years when there was some downsizing.

Following a divorce, Ellen returned to Oregon where her mother is now living in Albany. This is when she began serious on-line family research. She located another book, an obscure volume that she finally found in England, Men of Iron, The Crowleys In The Early Iron Industry, by M. W. Flinn. This gave her more insight into her Mother's family history and the Crowley family.

During her lifetime, she had been told her father's mother, Ellen (Helton) Engle, had died from appendicitis when her father was a teenager. While visiting with her father's relatives in Kentucky, her aunt told her the full story, and cautioned her not to tell her father. After her father's death, Ellen confirmed the family story about his mother: the "delayed" death certificate lists Coronary Thrombosis as the cause of death with no mention of appendicitis as a contributing factor. Her death was actually the result of untreated appendicitis, due to a drunken and incompetent doctor. This was confirmed by Ellen's mother who was shocked to find out Ellen knew the truth.

Although she lives in Albany, her interest in some Benton County relatives, brought her our way. Her Grandparents were migrant workers, during the great depression, at Nashville and Kings Valley for a few years before moving on to California during WW II, and they eventually moved back to Oregon. Her Aunt Fern E. (Darnall) (Robare) Vinton lived many years in Summit, Philomath, and Corvallis. Her older brother lived in Philomath for a time before his death in 2004.

She has been with BCGS about 5 years, and found the perfect volunteer niche maintaining our library inventory. The result of all the research and travels, means that she is finally able to go through boxes of information her mother has and to put names to the photos and stories.



*It's the first of the month,*

*back up your files!!*



Our society is now on Facebook. We will do our best to post the dates of our meetings and other happenings that you might find interesting. Our page is Benton County Genealogical Society: Oregon. Stop by and like us!



### **Milwaukie Family History Conference Report** by Ron DeYoung

This free conference held annually in Milwaukie lived up to its well-deserved reputation on November 14 and presented a number of excellent, 75 minute classes, those for beginners (research organization,



sources, use of Family Search, Ancestry, etc.) and many on niche topics for the intermediate researcher, tax and land records, voting records, deciphering cursive writing, dating photographs by attire worn, German and New England research. The conference is well-organized, all materials are available online both before and a short period following the conference; registration is simple, performed online and qualifies attendees for a very nice midday meal as well. The snacks available between classes are almost enough to warrant the trip! The material and quality are too involved to do justice here, watch for it next year, typically scheduled in October or November.

Watch as well for a newsletter announcement for the excellent Family History Conference in Forest Grove early in 2016!



### **Calling Old Family Recipes Handed Down Through the Generations, by Linda Olsen**

**Cherished old family recipes lend a charming and informative look into our ancestors' history. Even old cook books can tell us about what our ancestors ate, methods used to prepare a meal and what foods were generally available. Old photographs of your ancestors with food on the table or hunters displaying their catch can give you clues to what they ate. My great grandmother put baked foods such as biscuits and bread in the pie safe along with anything else she didn't want insects to spoil. Dairy foods such as milk and cheese were saved in large milk cans placed in a stream or in a small shed built over the stream to keep them cool. Foods that were dried, pickled, smoked, or home canned were essential to our ancestors' diet and to have food that would carry them through the winter months.**

**However you imagine the way your ancestors ate and prepared their food, it is certainly different than the way we eat today. When you gather for family reunions, celebrations and especially during the holiday season, make old recipes a topic of conversation. Gather some old family recipes together and send them to me, Linda Olsen, and I will add them to our BCGS web page, making them easy to share.**

**Contact information: send recipes, typed or handwritten.**

**E-mail to Linda Olsen - see e-mail address in the newsletter**

**Mail box: BCGS, Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370**

**or give me a copy at our next meeting**

**If you have a story to go with the recipe, send that along too. The recipe for sour dough biscuits and the genealogical history in this article is such a treasure. My grandmother never talked much about her family history but some is revealed in this 1959 newspaper article with the sour dough recipe.**

# Here Is Pioneer's Recipe for Sour Dough Biscuits

By Mary Cullen  
Journal Food Editor

"Just like Mother used to make" was said of much of the cooking in pioneer times. Of course there were no mixes, except what mother made for herself. Many women made pie crust mix, biscuit mix and even a type of cake mix to be used when time was pertinent.

There were the yeast starters also that were carefully kept. Many of these turned sour—and that was the way they wanted them. From this was made sour dough bread, biscuits, hot cakes and dumplings.

**MRS. MAY THAYER** of Corvallis sent us her grandmother's way of making sour dough bread. This was without a starter as such. She just made her own. Mrs. Thayer writes:

"Here is the recipe of Grandma's sour dough biscuits that was cooked over the campfire in the year of '62 when crossing the plains from Missouri to Oregon. The fire was made with buffalo chips. When camped at night, everyone went out on the plains with sacks and gathered these buffalo chips, as there was no wood. Being afraid of Indians, they didn't dare go too far from camp."

"The 62 wagons of the train were set together to make a corral. A fire was made inside, and the men watched all night.

"THOSE in the train just before them were all killed

and clothing was strewn all over everywhere.

"My aunt, just a small child, died of the cholera and was buried in the road. Wagons drove over her grave to keep Indians from digging her up to get her clothes. Her name was Julia Ann Coon.

"My father was 13 and made friends with the Indians. They were six months coming over the Old Oregon trail with Capt. Richie as captain of the train.

"I will be 74 in July and have been making these sour dough biscuits a long time. Just this morning had hot cakes made of it."

**WE GIVE** here Mrs. Thayer's recipe, changing the wording a bit. We found that just barely heating that milk will make a difference whether it forms its own yeast readily. We also found that the mixture must be kept in a warm place until very bubbly, before using it as a starter.

## MRS. THAYER'S SOUR DOUGH BISCUITS—

3 cups slightly warmed milk (do not scald)

1 teaspoon salt

3 cups all-purpose flour

¾ teaspoon baking soda

1 tablespoon warm water

3 to 6 tablespoons melted butter

Flour

Warm milk until it feels comfortable when a drop is put on the wrist. Put it in a stone crock or mixing bowl.



HOMEMADE UTENSILS

Add salt and stir in about 3 cups flour to make a batter. Cover lightly with cloth and let stand for 24 hours in a warm place. The first batter we made in Mary Cullen's kitchen needed to be put in lukewarm water to make it grow faster. When very bubbly, use this. Or you can take out a cup of the mixture and keep in the crock or in a fruit jar, lightly covered, if you wish another starter.

**FOR BISCUITS,** mix soda with warm water and stir. Then stir in melted butter or

margarine. Do not over stir at any time or you will break down the gluten of the flour. Now stir in enough flour to make a stiff biscuit mixture. This will be almost 3 more cups of sifted flour. Pat the dough out on floured board and cut with floured cutter. Place on greased baking sheet and let rise in warm place for about an hour.

For hot cakes add only about one more cup of flour and the soda and butter. Fry on a greased griddle.

A friend of the Mary Cullen staff tells us that noodles were her great-grandmother's specialty when she first came to Oregon. The rolling pin that her grandmother used was homemade of maple.

**GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S NOODLE DOUGH—** Use as many eggs as you wish. For average size eggs, use about ¾ cup of sifted, all-purpose flour per egg. Grandmother usually made up a dozen eggs at a time. She didn't measure the ingredients. She just stirred flour into the whole egg until it made a stiff dough. If the hens weren't laying very well, she used a half shell of milk or water to each egg used. The eggs and liquid were mixed

before the flour was added. After the stiff dough had been stirred—usually with a fork—she turned it out onto a lightly floured board and kneaded the dough lightly until smooth.

Roll very thin on a lightly floured board into pieces nearly square and less than the size of the breadboard you are rolling the dough on. Lay the square of noodle dough on a table—great-grandmother put these on a cloth. Turn the dough about every half hour until slightly dried. Dust lightly with flour on both sides and roll or fold up while still pliable. Cut in very thin strips with a sharp knife. Lay out in single layer to dry thoroughly. Store in a covered tin, if not used right away.

It was customary in this family to use the backs and necks of the several chickens that it took to make chicken fricassee for the family as a base for chicken and noodles. If a few pieces of chicken were left from the fricassee, they also were dropped in. The meat was taken from the bones, when tender, and the noodles cooked in the broth. Just a slight dusting of herbs such as thyme and parsley also were used.

## Benton County Genealogical Board Contacts

Names, email and phone numbers removed for security reasons.

**BCGS General Meetings** held on the 2nd Saturday in the month September through June. The December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at 10am in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! The program will follow at 11 am. The program is our annual auction followed by a potluck, neither of which are to be missed! **Board Meetings** are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in December it will be on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> in the Philomath Public library meeting room from 10am to noon. All members are invited.



### Some interesting things in the genealogy world:

**The Genealogist adds Passenger Lists** from Britain to New South Wales, 1828-96 Dick Eastman 30 Nov 2015,

<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/11/30/thegenealogist-adds-passenger-lists-from-britain-to-new-south-wales-1828-1896/>

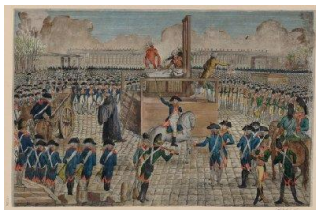
**National Genealogical Society** Announces Program for the 2016 Family History Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 4-7 May, 2016

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/register/>

**Harvard's Digital Portrait of Colonial Life**, [Dick Eastman](#) 16 Nov

2015. Harvard University has launched a new website called the Colonial North American Project. It includes 150,000 images of diaries, journals, notebooks, and other rare documents from the 17th and 18th centuries. Many more documents are planned to be added in the coming months.

<http://colonialnorthamerican.library.harvard.edu/>



**The French Revolution Digital Archive**, a partnership between Stanford University and the *Bibliothèque nationale de France*, was announced last week with some 14,000 high-resolution images. The site contains both resources for the dedicated scholar and fascinating material for the everyday history buff, from prints depicting the events of 1789 to records of parliamentary deliberations and private letters. FRDA is the result of a multi-

year collaboration of the Stanford University Libraries and the... <http://frda.stanford.edu/>



**170,000 Great Depression Images Online** Dick Eastman 2 Nov 2015

In the 1930s, the U.S. government sent photographers to all the states to capture America "at her most vulnerable." President Franklin D. Roosevelt's team wanted a record of what was going on — and images of real lives and struggles to help rally support for his New Deal policies. Over 170,000 images were taken. Yale University and the Library of Congress have just made the entire collection available on a site called [Photogrammar](http://photogrammar.yale.edu) at <http://photogrammar.yale.edu>.



**The Europeana Newspapers Project Now Has 20+ Million Newspaper Pages Available Online** Dick Eastman 23 Oct

The *Europeana Newspapers Project* is a consortium of 18 partners, coordinated by the Berlin State. The 18 partners share

the goal of making Europe's digital historical newspapers more accessible. The consortium recently announced that 20+ million pages are available online today with 12 million of them being fully searchable by using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. Eventually, all the online newspapers will be searchable. All of the content is available online free of charge.



**Christmas Auction!** This is the traditional auction of items that you donate, others of which we hope you will purchase! These are a lot of fun; last year was hilarious with Ted as auctioneer and Katie as the Lovely Assistant. This serves as a society fund raiser, an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts and trinkets or to declutter and always, to enjoy the day. The list of items below may help give an idea of what we sometimes see.

**BCGS Holiday Auction Suggested Items**

<p><b>Christmas/holiday</b></p> <p>decorations, wall hangings</p> <p>decorative storage containers</p> <p>candy dish</p> <p>decorative small bell</p> <p>angel - small decorations</p> <p>Christmas wreaths or swags</p> <p>Clock</p> <p>basket of festive items</p> <p>Books, maps, CDs, DVDs</p> <p>genealogy</p> <p>Christmas stories</p> <p>decorative</p> <p>children's books</p> <p>photo albums</p>	<p><b>Food (Homemade items)</b></p> <p>breads, cookies, stollen breads</p> <p>honey, jams, apple butter</p> <p>Mixes in a jar - soups, chili, cookies</p> <p>wines</p> <p><b>Kitchen items</b></p> <p>salt &amp; pepper shakers</p> <p>bowls, mugs filled or not, festive items</p> <p>hot pot holders, towels, pastry brush</p> <p>package of expensive coffee</p> <p>Christmas cookie cutters, stamps</p>
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**Also**

- Fabric items - scarves, blankets (fleece, crochet, knitted), bags (handy carry-all), pillows
- Surprise bag (filled with several wrapped small gift items)
- Pet items - catnip decorative bags, photos, carvings, toys
- Personal service such as baby sitting, genealogy research time etc.





