

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter

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From the Desk of the President, Ron DeYoung

RootsTech took place in Salt Lake City in mid February, it is the “Super Bowl” of genealogy fairs, a huge gathering of genealogists, presenters and a wide variety of related vendors on a scale that boggles the imagination. If you are interested in family history related tech, you will find it at this annual conference’s vendor fair. Many of the vendors plan their new or expanded product announcements at this venue. The first pic is taken between classes or the view would be a swirling sea of humanity, clogged with 26,000 attendees headed to the next class! I learned what I could for those current users of Family Tree Maker (FTM) and others as well, see the following articles. For those using other software, I ask your patience as we try to help those

facing a potential switch to other genealogy software; there is much more content herein for the rest of us as well!

Another significant “industry” change is an expanding association between various genealogy subscription databases (Ancestry, Findmypast, AmericanAncestors, MyHeritage) and the free-to-all, FamilySearch. The subscription companies have learned to share and improve their bottom line to the benefit of all of us, in my impression. There is a planned, evolving sharing of “hints” from one vendor into other vendors’ software. Ancestry will synch to RootsMagic, the latter sharing to FamilySearch is already in place and others are planned, announced and in development. As these plans come to fruition, this next year will be both busy, exciting and ever changing.

Hope to see you at the March meetings and remember, ***article submissions are always welcomed!***



By the time of our March meeting, day length will be a full **3 hours longer** than the Winter solstice! Lots of rain, great snowpack in the mountains, it will be a great Summer!!



March Program: RootsMagic, presented by Ann Smart on March 12th

A very timely program will be presented by Ann Smart, the RM user group's host and leader who is very knowledgeable with this genealogical program. Ann will provide our membership with a review of RM's functionality, attributes and ease of use; she has used RM for many years. Although she is able to answer most any question about current RM tools, the recently announced partnership and association between Ancestry and RootsMagic is currently being developed. As the added functionality is not expected until later this year, Ann won't have details about these future tools beyond the announcements that Ancestry and RM have released (see articles enclosed). by Ron D.



Review of the February Program: by Lois Courtney

On Saturday, February 13th, 33 of us were entertained and inspired by Finn J.D. John's presentation about shanghaiing in Oregon, especially in Portland and Astoria. Finn is an instructor in OSU's Media Communications department. He began by educating us about the terms. Shanghaiing or crimping is the practice of kidnapping people to serve as sailors by coercive techniques such as trickery, intimidation, or violence. Those engaged in this form of kidnapping were known as crimps. One form of crimping was practiced by landlords. They created indebtedness by offering free lodging. Eventually he presents them with a bill and a ship's captain who is ready to pay that bill if they just sign on to the ship. If they go willingly, great, but if not they could be drugged.

Shanghaiing was a more aggressive form of crimping. This was good for captains, as the cost was lower. Bartenders and prostitutes were enlisted to drug men for the ships for a fee. In the 1800s most sailors were indentured slaves, crewing the ships to pay off debts. Portland's role as a port with a serious problem with shanghaiing and crimping was even mentioned in Congress.

John then regaled us with tales of specific incidences. An 1890 story of a group of Larry Sullivan's Portland lodgers were invited to a birthday party on a steamboat, drugged, then woke up in Astoria. They are then told they were going on a tour of the ship T.F. Oaks, but in fact the ship keeps them.

A probably bogus story about Bunco Kelly, a crimp who finds dying guys who may have drunk formaldehyde and gets them onto a ship for the money it brings. John was quite skeptical about this story, but loved it for the outrage. George Banks boards a steamer near Cascade Locks to go up river only to find himself heading toward Portland instead. He's transporting a load of dynamite and pulls out some blasting caps and they agree to take him back.

Astoria had an even bigger problem than Portland in some ways. Ships would dock there, lose the sailors they had, but there were so few folks in Astoria the only way to get a crew was to shanghai locals. There is a story about a Methodist minister taken to a ship, but he was a retired prize fighter and fought his way off.

By 1905 Portland had done a lot of clean up and the use of steamships helped as they needed smaller crews and the conditions of serving were less harsh. The last report of an incident in Portland was in 1928.

This talk was lively, fascinating, witty and entertaining. Several members shared family stories and one member had the sudden insight that a relative that went missing in Portland may have been a victim of this practice. John has a website at <http://finnjohn.com>

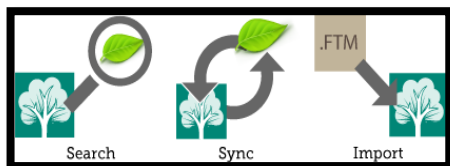


RootsMagic (RM) for Family Tree Maker Users: Special pricing! by Ron DeYoung
For a limited (but unspecified) time, current users of FTM are given special pricing to “upgrade” from FTM to RM, \$20 instead of \$44 for both RM and a digital user guide “e-book”, a significant discount.

A society member asked how one gets their FTM information into RM; here is a link that explains the process to transfer your FTM data into RootsMagic:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6Q69IMthjAeJDM1Z_Ecrnc_BtvAkBSas

It explains how one imports data as a GEDCOM file, the plan is to develop another process that will **not** require an intermediate GEDCOM transfer (item #3 below) but the current, GEDCOM process is what is now offered. Hope that helps!



What will Ancestry's partnership with RM mean?

(All content here is from RM or Ancestry websites, by Ron D)

1. **Search** - RootsMagic will be the only software besides FTM to search Ancestry's extensive collections of historical records from around the world and let you download those records into your own file.
2. **Sync** - RootsMagic will be the only software besides FTM to let you share data between your RootsMagic files on your computer with your personal Ancestry online trees. You'll also be able to download people, events, and even pictures from Ancestry onto your computer through RootsMagic.
3. **Import** - RootsMagic will be able to directly import your Family Tree Maker files, without having to go through an intermediate GEDCOM file, giving you the cleanest, most complete transfer of your data. RootsMagic will also be able to download your online trees from Ancestry.

Yes, this is big news and we're sure you have many questions about it.

More here: <https://www.rootsmagic.com/Ancestry/default.aspx>

(Note, from the RM website, these changes are expected later this year. Ron D.)

Genealogy Classes at the Senior Center in Corvallis, by Danell Aukerman

Beginning Genealogy - for those who are just starting their research

Feb 10 - Mar 16, 1 - 2 PM in the Conference Room. \$25 if you live in the area, \$31.25 otherwise

Intermediate Genealogy - for those who already know the basic research techniques

Mar 30 - May 4, 1 - 2 PM in the Conference Room. \$30 if you live in the area, \$37.50 otherwise
Internet Genealogy Research - prerequisite: research experience and some computer skills
Bring a flash drive! May 19 - June 23, 1 - 2 PM in the Cyber Den. \$25 in area, \$31.25 outside



BCGS 2016 Program Schedule

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



Family Tree Maker/MacKiev at RootsTech by Ron DeYoung

The representatives of MacKiev, the new owners of FTM were very busy at the recent RootsTech conference in SLC. MacKiev had been under contract by Ancestry to develop and make upgrades for FTM’s Mac/Apple users and have done so for 6-8 years. When Ancestry suddenly announced they would no longer sell FTM in 2016 and will stop support at the end of the year, MacKiev bought FTM from Ancestry. The FTM/MacKiev website states that enhancements and upgrades are planned but not in 2016; they plan to continue to synch with Ancestry as they have in the past. I suggested that they contact their current user base ASAP which they planned to do. MacKiev had been responsible for only the Mac/Apple version of FTM, the implications of also supporting the PC version, marketing and a whole

business will doubtless keep them occupied. A wonderful and daunting opportunity for this Kiev, Ukraine-based company that recently opened a corporate office in Boston! For the perspectives on MacKiev/FTM from noted FH blogger, Dick Eastman who also visited with them, see his article here:

<http://blog.eogn.com/2016/02/12/future-plans-for-family-tree-maker/> And remember, those current FTM users have until the end of 2016 to continue to use FTM/MacKiev; they may well provide incentives for their current membership to continue with FTM/MacKiev.



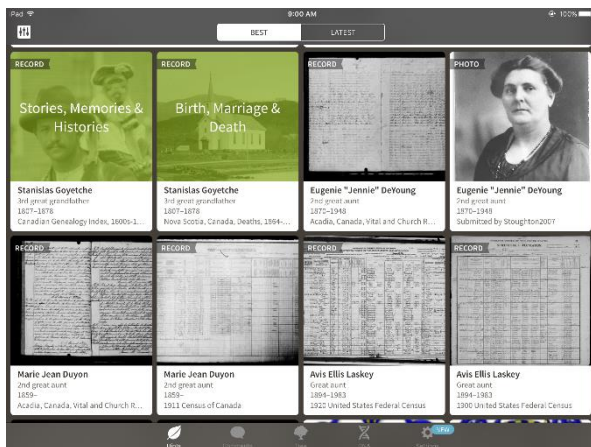
Findmypast Announces Largest Online Collection of U.S. Marriages from 1650-2010 by Dick Eastman, Feb 5th, 2016

“Findmypast (FMP) has always been known primarily as a company that supplies genealogy information from the British Isles, however, the company announced some time ago that would expand into North American records.

In partnership with FamilySearch International, it will launch the single largest online collection of U.S. marriages in history. Covering 360 years of marriages from 1650-2010, when complete this landmark collection will contain at least 100 million records and more than 450 million names from 2,800 counties across America. More than 60 per cent of these marriage records have never before been published online. When complete, this collection will only be found in its entirety exclusively on Findmypast.

To kick start the collection, Findmypast has launched the first 33 million records of this ambitious project today.” Further details here: <http://blog.eogn.com/2016/02/04/findmypast-announces-largest-online-collection-of-u-s-marriages-from-1650-2010/>

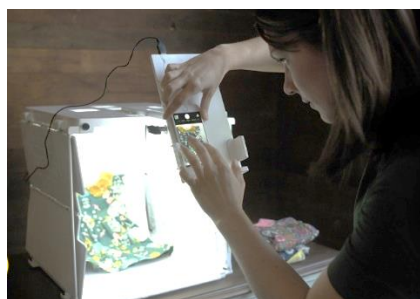
(Ron’s note: many of these records will be shared from FamilySearch, others will come from new FMP data but the new relationship will make many records and “hinting” available across both FS and FMP. Remember, FMP may be used freely at the FHC!)



Tech Corner, by Ron DeYoung

I am not a great advocate of tech for “tech’s sake”, it needs to earn its keep for me to embrace it. Yet when it proves to be worth the expense and time spent learning, it becomes a useful tool. To the left is a screen shot of my iPad which I scarcely know how to use; I recently discovered that the “Ancestry app” for my account has amazing helps, more simplified than with a desktop or laptop computer. Depicted is a list of 8 different Ancestry “hints”,

small pics of the hints are shown instead of the “green leaf”. The upper right is a pic of my 2nd great aunt and just off screen in another page of hints, her husband; I had never seen photos of them previously. In these small images are diaries, Nova Scotia church registers from the 1800s, census records, BMD records and the like. To review and attach to my Ancestry account, I click to review and click to attach to my Ancestry tree.....that simple. If I am in a Wi-Fi environment, I can review and build my Ancestry tree (and soon, synch with RootsMagic) in just a few minutes during my day. The iPad has become a useful tool, previously thought as an overpriced toy. There is a similar “app” for Android (non-Apple) devices as well. Not bad for one with Latter Day Luddite tendencies!



Shotbox ©, Another Tool in My Toolkit by Ron DeYoung

I travel for FH research purposes and often have less than optimal conditions to take pictures of book pages, relatives’ precious pictures, genealogical records and important heirlooms. I have watched a couple struggle to make this dream product a reality, showing mock ups of their idea at FH conferences for the past 3 years; I purchased their just-released product at RootsTech. Shotbox© is a collapsible cube with a soft, well-diffused and variable LED light sources which control illumination of objects, provides motion artifact-free pictures taken by your cell phone or iPad using a Bluetooth remote and comes with a variety of color or patterned backgrounds. Photos of flat objects are taken through the top or, for “3-D” objects, angled from the front. It collapses flat, weighs little and requires only your phone/iPad, a 2 foot

square flat surface on which to set it and an electrical outlet; one could even devise a battery powered source for remote use. This solves myriad challenges I've faced in attempts to return with good images from my travels. Shotbox provides lighting control, removes motion artifact with the remote shutter release, aiding normal conversations about the photos (which I record for details) as I snap a shot. I can recommend it! Website: <http://shotbox.me/>



Did Your Ancestor Own Slaves? by Ron DeYoung

Probably most of us cringe at the possibility but suggested in an Oregonian article, it is something we should perhaps investigate in the process of our family history research.

“Working with [FamilySearch](#), the [Freedmen's Bureau Project](#) and the [Smithsonian](#), volunteers nationwide have

spent months indexing handwritten records on four million newly freed slaves gathered before and after the Civil War, including details about marriage, lineage, slave owners, money transactions and medical history.” “Why should people in Oregon -- where slavery was banned and the population has always been predominantly white -- care about the database? The answer is easy, even if it's uncomfortable, said journalist R. Gregory Nokes**, author of ["Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory."](#) "If slaveholding is in our family's background, we need to come to terms with this," Nokes said. "It doesn't mean we need to feel guilty about it — although some may — but we should know it. We are shaped by our past." The article in greater detail is found here:

http://www.oregonlive.com/history/2016/01/did_your_family_own_slaves_new.html

The article contains links to a searchable database of slaveholders and links by which volunteers can help index the records of the Freedmen's Bureau as: “The project is still looking for volunteers. The hope is to have the entire database completed for the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture this fall.” (**It is noted that R. Gary Nokes addressed our society about 2 years ago at the publication of his book "Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon.") Thanks to Lois C. for this article!



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





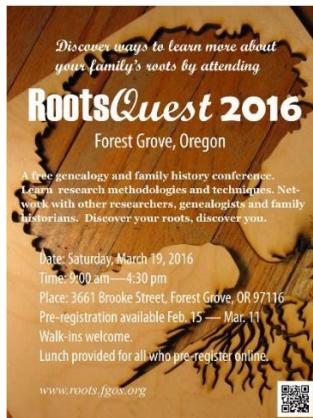
Would you like access to **Ancestry, FindMyPast, MyHeritage, Fold3** (military records) and other subscription services for **free**? These and many others are available for use at the **Family History Center (FHC)** on the northwest corner of the LDS church at **4141 Harrison Blvd, Corvallis**, across from the OSU dairy barns. People are there to assist as well!
Hours: 9a-4p and 7p-9:30p, Tuesday-Thursday.



Ancestry to Launch Irish Catholic Registers Online Dick Eastman, Feb 11, 2016
 More than 10 million Catholic Parish records from Ireland are to be published online by **Ancestry**, the world's largest family history resource. The collection means that Ancestry will have over 44 million Irish records and will provide the largest collection of Irish Catholic parish records available online, including:

- Ireland Catholic Parish Registers to launch in March
- 10 million records will help create the largest collection of Irish registers available online
- Collection covers the period 1740 – 1900
- Baptism, Marriage and Burial records available

For details: <http://blog.eogn.com/2016/02/11/ancestry-to-launch-irish-catholic-registers-online/>
 (Ron's note: *For those with the challenges of researching Irish ancestry, this may be helpful!*)



Roots Quest 2016: Family History Conference
 Forest Grove, Saturday, 19 March, 2016,
 9am - 4:30pm, free, and a *free lunch!*

Pre-registration, handouts and class information will be available beginning February 15th at: www.roots.fgos.org
 The conference will offer many courses in both general and specific areas of research, course handouts may be downloaded even if you do not plan to attend. This was *excellent* last year, well worth the drive. The free lunch is offered to those who pre-register online, this begins February 15th and runs through March 11th. Conference location: 3661 Brook Street, Forest Grove 97116
 by Ron DeYoung



Corvallis Family History Fair: Saturday, April 16, 9am – 1pm. Free!
 Location: 4141 Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, across from the OSU Dairy barns.
 Class content in development.



Bend Genealogical Society 2016 Spring Seminar with Lisa Louise Cooke! April 23, 2016, held at the Bend Golf & Country Club, Bend, Oregon. Details here:

<http://www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs/springseminar.html>



Summer Genealogy Fest Genealogical Council of Oregon -- July 30, 2016, at
Lane Community College, Eugene, Oregon
Details at: <http://www.gcoconference.com/summer-genealogy-fest-flyer.html>

Benton County Genealogical Society Board Contacts

Names, email and phone numbers removed for security reasons.

BCGS General Meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of the month September through June. The **March meeting will be on Saturday, Mar 12th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! The **program at 11 am** will be about **RootsMagic** genealogy software, provided by Ann Smart, see article in this newsletter.

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in March the Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 8th at 10 am-noon** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



We're on Facebook. Stop by and like us!
Our page is Benton County Genealogical Society: Oregon.

