

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

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Margaret Down DeYoung

From the Desk of the President

by Ron DeYoung

Family history is the most remarkable pastime for many of us, the intensity of my passion for this research is made plain when I periodically realize that my old BMW motorcycles rest unused with batteries charged, gasoline refreshed, insured and registered, gathering dust. The stories just broaden and deepen as we investigate, finding patterns within families, migrations of siblings and the interconnected webs of their lives, previously unknown.

This photograph is of a great aunt, who was courted by my great uncle Alfred (“Fred”) who would ride this motorcycle from his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts to visit his “gal” in Walpole, no short distance in the 1920s. Stumbling upon this fellow was quite a surprise and, as with all of our investigations, raises more questions and avenues of research. I come to realize that the economic forces, depletion of the Georges Bank cod fisheries, changes in US – Canadian tariffs and the construction of a canal in Cape Breton all motivated a number of Acadian people to migrate from economically challenged Nova Scotia to Massachusetts and Maine in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The route Fred took to court his lady friend and future wife was right through the town where my paternal grandmother was born who later married Fred’s cousin; there’s a story there yet to be discovered! Fascinating still is the fact that in my youth I rode my motorcycles through the same towns where “cousins” still lived, completely unbeknownst to me. And I *do* wonder where that 1927 Henderson Excelsior is today?! Probably melted down and part of the 1950s Ford station wagons my Dad drove!

I hope this newsletter finds you well, looking forward to renewed and productive research, conditions fostered by the “helpful” weather and season that encourages us to be indoors and undistracted by gardening and summertime pursuits. Who knows what you will find in the weeks and months ahead?



BCGS October Program, Don Anderson from Portland

by Lois Courtney



Over 30 of us were entertained and educated by Don Anderson at our October program. Don was born in 1951, adopted by an upper-middle class family and raised in Portland. In 1995 he became interested in locating his birth parents, and thus began a search that lasted for the next 20 years. He was helped in 1998 when an Oregon ballot measure made it possible for adoptees over 21 to get information about their birth parents.

Finding his mother. Although he had her name, Nancy Blackstone, he couldn’t find her. Then, through an organization in Portland, he found her parents’ names and that they had lived in

Corvallis, and owned land and businesses and her father, Percy Blackstone, was affiliated with the Corvallis Baptist Church. This information led him to Nancy's sister, Margaret, who lived near him in Portland. When they met she was delighted and through her he had a warm reunion with his birth mother in California and his half-brother Malcolm. He had not expected their instant eagerness to claim him as their own. Nancy died in 2007.

Finding his father. Unfortunately, Nancy did not remember who the father was. First, Don was excited by rumors that he might be Native American. Following that information he started visiting Warm Springs Reservation and learning about these possible cultural roots. Finally, several DNA tests later, he reluctantly gave up that dream when he found indications that instead he was Irish. He enthusiastically adopted that cultural identity for a while, "making soda bread every week." Finally, using triangulation testing and help from DNA experts, he found the link to the Macintoshes, Scottish! With the help of Mary at the Benton County Historical Museum, he found further evidence of this family in Corvallis, and pictures in yearbooks that showed Stuart Macintosh (his father) and Nancy in the same years. He was eventually able to verify this connection with a 1st cousin in Canada, a book about the Macintoshes in America, and 40 DNA family tree relations. Sadly, Stuart died without biological children. He lived most of his life in Cottage Grove.

Summary. Now proudly wearing a Scottish kilt, Don says that it's different for an adopted person; you need to find the proof and the missing stories. The family background that most of us grow up with has to be recreated. It is hard to convey in this report how absolutely entertaining and lively Don's presentation was, and how touching and amusing his search for his ethnic and biological identity.



You Can't Know Where You're Going If You Don't Know Where You've Been by Sue Vanlaere



Our first writing group meeting was a great success. Thirteen intrepid members worked out meeting format and planned three of the next sessions. Our goal is to encourage each other to begin to use all the good research we've done over the years to produce our family histories, not only for ourselves but for generations to come. The plan is to have fun learning how to create histories that our relatives and others want to read. Each meeting will consist of a lesson in family history writing and time to share what we've written.

Anybody who is interested is welcome! Our next meeting is November 17 from 1-3 in the Annex. Sue Van Laere will share ways to keep track of ideas you want to write about that pop into your head out of the blue. The writing assignment is to find a photo that invokes memories and write one page about it. Stop in and see what you think.



It's the first of the month,



back up your files!!

Out of the Box, Writing Our Stories by Ron DeYoung

I came across this poem, author unknown, which encapsulates my desire to get my boxes emptied, digitalized, printed, distributed and shared so my face and those I have known and loved and the others, my forebears that I have diligently researched, chronicled and carefully saved will not, when the lid of that box is closed, turned to the photos of me and say ***“Really?! You gathered all that information together and left it, moldering in this box, for that fellow to just throw us, just “old junk” in the dumpster?!***

Yep, I don't want to be there.....I so don't want to be that guy!

I think many of us are too modest, perhaps concerned about our writing ability or, that although we may be good researchers, we don't have what it takes to be an author. So, what is an author? According to the Webster dictionary, an author is *“a person who has written something, especially a person who was written a book”*. So, we all have written our names, gone to school, written required papers, our notes about a jillion ancestors and snippets of their stories; we have all written throughout our life. So what does that make us? **Authors!** If you don't believe me, look it up in Webster's!

In our research, we are so thankful to find bits and pieces of information, some of it written very well and some of it would not win awards but is absolutely cherished, so valuable and even made more interesting because of the nuances of how the individual writes, their spelling, handwriting and how they put thoughts together. Perhaps, we expect too much of ourselves? Shakespeare probably didn't do his best work the first time he sat down to write and neither will we. What is important, is that we do empty out those boxes, that we compile the contents, organize the stories, add the photos and “publish” it.

'Don't worry dear, I'm sure they will find us soon'

Your Ancestors are waiting. Find them today.

And write their stories!



The ways that we can do so are varied, so inexpensive and comparatively easy that all we need do is to believe that we can do it, reserve the time, shut off the television or whatever else we do with our time and actually ***just do it***. The most modest of our efforts will be so incredibly valuable that it would be a travesty to not do so.

If you are not sure how to go about it, talk to Sue Vanlere and join the writing group. Sometimes it just takes being among others to realize that if they can do it, so can I! Is this the year, is this the winter, is this the season when we will actually write our stories? Let's not leave our families in those dusty boxes!

STRANGERS IN THE BOX

Come look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen
At the pictures black and white,
Faces proud, still, serene,
I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among my socks

I wonder what their lives were like,
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
All never know their ways.

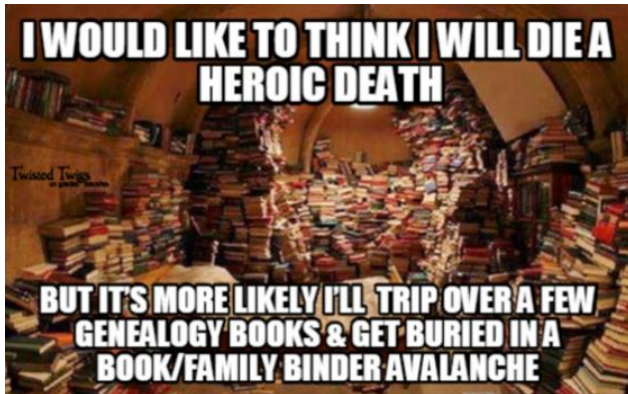
If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where, or when,
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again

Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be passed away?

Make time to save your stories,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours could be
The strangers in the box.
Anonymous



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!



Family History Fairs: These are free half or full day conferences on a variety of topics which are available to the public. Full day conferences often come with a free lunch to those who register online, there is even one in Spanish this fall. For a list of where these are located and to register online, go to: <https://www.lds.org/topics/family-history/host-a-family-history-fair/search?lang=eng> and enter your zip code to find those close to you. Ron D

Family Tree Problem Solver by Marsha Hoffman Rising, published 2005 sent by Linda Olsen

Best Reliable Sources to Break through those Brick Walls, Ordered from best to least helpful

1. Personal knowledge or eye witness accounts (excellent resources)
2. Official records: vital statistics, land, probate. (Primary documents are best)
3. Testimony of evidence (usually excellent resource)
4. Private records: church, business (most are usually good sources)
5. Beneficiary records: pension, bounty land, insurance (usually good sources)
6. Personal diaries, journals, family bibles (varies in reliability)
7. Newspapers: contemporary events, past or feature articles
8. Compiled family genealogies (ranges from excellent to poor for accuracy)
9. General printed local history (ranges from good to fair for accuracy)
10. Oral family traditions, folklore, legend, stories (usually not very accurate)

Major Genealogical Sources NOT Located in Court Houses. (Marsha Hoffman Rising, continued)

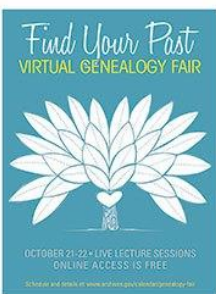
1. Home and family sources
2. Town and state vital records
3. Census records
4. Bounty land records
5. Military records
6. Pension records (state and federal)
7. Church records
8. Newspapers
9. Manuscripts and diaries
10. Cemetery Records
11. Business and employment records
12. Federal land Records
13. Compiled biographies
14. School and college records
15. Court of Appeals records
16. Records of lodges, fraternal orders and other societies



Would you like access to Ancestry, Fold3 (military records) and other subscription services for **free**? These and many others are available for use at the Family History Center, 4400 Harrison Blvd, Corvallis. Hours: 9a-4p and 7p-9:30p, Tuesday-Thursday. Consultants are there to help!



U.S. National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair Materials are now Available [Dick Eastman](#) · [Oct 26, 2015](#)



The U.S. National Archives held a Virtual Genealogy Fair on October 21 & 22. Presenters included Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero, Executive for Research Services William A. Mayer, and a number of other genealogy experts from National Archives locations across the nation. The presentations focused on tips and techniques for using Federal records at the National Archives for genealogy research.

The lectures are now available on YouTube. The first day's presentations are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-rDaFVYJhU> while Day 2 may be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4o3_Ox_cUY.

You can also download copies of the slides and the presentation handouts at <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/2015/schedule-handouts.html>.



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 November 14th 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 a presentation by knowledgeable family history consultants who will explain the resources available at the Corvallis Family History Center.

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in November it will be on Tuesday the 10th in the BCGS Annex meeting room from 10am to noon. All members are invited.



BCGS Membership Renewal Form Enjoy the Benefits of Membership!

NAME: _____ (please print)
 First name Last name

List names of other family members if "family membership" is desired:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Dues enclosed: single / family \$20 _____ email newsletter

\$25 _____ regular mail newsletter

Dues due before January 1st each year - make checks payable to Benton County Genealogical Society

Donation to BCGS _____

Mail application with your dues to:

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



Christmas Auction! Yup, this really is just around the corner as our December program is close! 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>Christmas/holiday</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>Food (Homemade items)</p> <p>bread, cookies, stollen breads</p> <p>honey, jams, apple butter</p> <p>Mixes in a jar - soups, chili, cookies</p> <p>wines</p> <p>Kitchen items</p> <p>salt & 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.

And an acknowledgement of our new Library volunteers! from Lois Courtney

Thank you, Thank you! My heartfelt plea for more help staffing the library during the Tuesday and Saturday afternoon hours led to 7 folks (!) willing to fill in. This makes a huge difference! Deborah White will be filling in on a Saturday, Kathryn Moss, Jeri Kimmel and Frances Pinney will be new on 2 Tuesdays, and Sandy Potter, Grace Maddux, and Tom Bateman are our new alternates! This is really amazing and gives some of our long time staffers a chance to take a break. Thanks to them all.



Plugging England and Wales' 30-year Gap in Census Records with the 1939 National Register

[Dick Eastman](#) · [October 22, 2015](#)

A new set of records will soon be released that will help fill in the 30-year gap in England and Wales' census records. On 29 September 1939, just 26

days after hostilities had been declared, a survey nicknamed the UK's only "instant census" took place. The findings enabled the issuing of identity cards and ration cards. The register applied to all civilians. Now individual returns in England and Wales from the register are being digitised and are expected to be released next month. [FindMyPast](#), in association with the National Archives, is digitizing the information, consisting of 40 million entries across 7,000 volumes.

Censuses have been carried out since 1801 and have recorded the names of all people in households since 1841. However, the 1931 census relating to England and Wales was destroyed by a fire at an Office of Works store at Hayes, Middlesex, in 1942. Investigators suspected that a dropped cigarette was the cause, but this was never proved. In 1941, the government did not carry out a census because it was too impractical and labour-intensive with the war much intensified by then. This means genealogists in England and Wales face an information gap of 30 years from 1921 to 1951. The 1939 National Register will help fill in those missing years.

The UK's only "instant census" was taken on 29 September 1939. It later enabled the issuing of identity cards and ration cards. The register applied to all civilians.

The information recorded included:

Name	Sex
Age	Occupation
Address	Marital status
Membership of naval, military or air force reserves, auxiliary forces	

The 1939 National Register records to be released will include almost all records but not all of them. Details may be found in an article by Justin Parkinson in the BBC News Magazine at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34570120> as well as in an earlier announcement on the FindMyPast.com web site at: <http://goo.gl/5pNzwN>.

