

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

Volume 29 Issue 7

From the Desk of the (harried) President

September 2014

Last time we met we shared in one another's potluck offerings and conversation about what our Summer plans included, good food, good friends and good plans ahead! Those plans involved, perhaps, some yard work, some



had travel ahead and now, almost Fall with the days shortening, perhaps we accomplished a small portion of them! My Summer went at warp speed, included a great, 4 day family history conference in Provo; I hope yours went well too! The "harried president" comment is explained below!



From the (vacated) desk of Margaret Fox!

As you may have noticed, I did not compose or edit this newsletter. You may also have noticed my name is not listed as newsletter editor or treasurer. Ron, your president, said if I did not write something he would, and "it might vaguely resemble the truth....occasionally!" Therefore, I am writing. As many of you already know, I was blessed with two beautiful grandbabies this past year. I am moving to be closer to them, their parents and their auntie. No surprise there.

I just wanted to say it's been great seeing many of you most every 2nd Saturday (except in the summer) for the last 10 years, give or take a few. Being a part of the BCGS community has been rewarding. I have learned a lot, made a few very good friends, heard lots of good genie stories and eaten some very yummy foods. I will miss you all. Thank you for letting me be a part of your group. Hopefully, I will see some of you at a conference or two.

Happy ancestor hunting! *Margaret Fox*

We wish you well, Margaret, you will be greatly missed! *Ron D.*

And.....another departure.....



Marlene Ann McDonald, 22 Nov 1934 – 25 Aug 2014

A lady well-known to many BCGS and BCHS members recently and suddenly passed away at her home; many who knew her attended the service in at the Blodgett Cemetery on August 30. Somehow, the mist and light rain falling on these ancient Coast Range firs that shadow this tiny, pioneer cemetery was fitting, watering and nurturing the land and those who gathered to pay tribute to her life, the water enriching as she did with her life's work in the printed page or in lives of others. An author of local history, teacher, and community volunteer, she leaves a legacy in the family, friends and volunteers who were blessed by knowing her; we extend condolences to her family, friends and community. The seat at the desk to my right on "our" Tuesday historical society shifts will long seem terribly vacant and ever, ever so quiet. Rest in Peace, Marlene, you are missed.

(Marlene's obituary is on-line at McHenry's Funeral Home and the Corvallis GT, 28 August, 2014 *Ron D.*)

One Member's Summer Travels

Finding and Photographing Cemetery Headstones: Lessons Learned, by Sue VanLaere

"This summer my husband and I took off on a grand drive-about from Oregon to Georgia. One of our goals, besides visiting relatives and driving off the beaten path to see new vistas, was to photograph relatives' cemetery headstones. Visiting the cemeteries where our ancestors were buried seemed simple enough for two novices.

We quickly learned that all cemeteries are not created equal. Our experiences ran the gamut from a cemetery with an information kiosk directly inside the gate to a huge cemetery with no visible information for visitors at all. However, in each cemetery we always found someone to ask for information. Usually, there was a cemetery or groundskeeper's office onsite, and once even a helpful local visitor who took us to the former cemetery superintendent.

Our most interesting experience was in St. Joseph's Polish Cemetery in South Bend, Indiana, where many of my husband's relatives are buried. Don't try to find a headstone in 90 acres without help! We thought we knew where his parents were buried since we had been there several times. It took us more than a half hour to locate them. We finally found a groundskeeper who told us to call a local funeral home for the section locations of other graves. Because the sections aren't named or numbered on the grounds themselves and there wasn't a map to consult, we went back to the groundskeeper. Using a flashlight, he consulted a HUGE map on the wall with tiny boxes and numbers. He kindly took the time to guide us around to individual graves.

Lessons learned:

Know that you will need the section information before you go to a cemetery. It helps to know the names of others buried in the same section. When you find one of the names, you know you're close. Research what entity is in charge of a cemetery and make the necessary phone calls before you go. Ask about the availability of maps, and organize as much information ahead of time as possible.

Consult relatives who might have the information you need. In South Bend, we should have taken someone with us who was more familiar with the locations. Also, be familiar with other family surnames. We found several extra relatives by knowing married names.

For quality photographs, be aware of the sun's direction to avoid shadows. It might be worth your time to go back for some photos at the right time of day. If you remove flowers, etc. to get a better photo, don't forget to put them back in place. Shears or clippers to trim back grass or weeds and a brush to clean off stones come in handy. Take photos of stones with some background as a visual aid for finding them again. You can find lots of information online for taking good headstone photographs.

Finally, it's amazing how many people are willing to help you: groundskeepers, other cemetery visitors, relatives, cemetery office staff. Don't be afraid to ask." *Sue V.*

Some points of interest in the Family History & Genealogy World

Who Do You Think You Are, update, BCGS cited in the credits!

Many of you know that we were contacted by the media company that gathers material for the production of this program; we learned, only the day before, that it would be broadcast on August 20. The members who watched the broadcast noted that our organization was listed in the credits; the ancestors of the subject had family who came across the plains in wagons, among them, The Dimmick family, was buried in the Alpine cemetery, the information for which came from our publication. The media company donated \$200 as a "gift" for the use of the publication; this amount was matched by a grant and donated to the Benton County Historical Society that offers us the space for our library and office. Pretty neat!

What Was Uncle Jock's Job? Was your ancestor a Carter? A Legger? A Teamster? Old occupations can be a

great source of information about your ancestors and how they lived. But cracking the definitions of the trades or occupations can sometimes be a challenge. Here's a link to a website with an alphabetical listing of old occupations. Have a look and see if you can figure out what your ancestor did for a living:
<http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html> By Christine Woodcock, Internet Genealogy author (subm. by Susan Hayes)

Three best practices for family interviews

- A. **Approach your interview as a conversation.** Relatives may relax with a conversational tone, thus will be more willing to share personal details.
- B. **Start with an icebreaker question to get the ball rolling.** This question should be more informal to help ease your relative into the conversation and make them feel more comfortable for the duration.
- C. **Bring sentimental family heirlooms or mementos (such as photographs, documents, old trinkets, etc.) that relate to family members or occasions you will be discussing.** These items will help to jog your relative's memory and will help create a richer conversation.

By Chief Genealogist Michael J. Leclerc, *Mocavo* (submitted by Susan Hayes)

Orphan Trains, a social experiment from 1854-1929

It never hurts to know about migration patterns in the attempt to understand the times when our ancestors lived, this tugs at my heart! The following is from the *Ancestry Insider*, Anthony Sider's abstract from a presentation at the Federation of Genealogical Society Conference in San Antonio, TX, August 2014

"Over a quarter million the streets of New York all over the country to be what I said. Stop after their teeth and squeezed work the fields. This untold and largely Anthony Sider". The Museum in Concordia, and books on this long running, experimental social program.



orphans and unwanted children from were loaded up on trains and sent out given away. That's right; you heard stop, perspective adopters inspected their muscles to see how well they could chapter in American history is largely unknown." Ancestry Insider, blogger National Orphan Train Complex and Kansas has a website with information

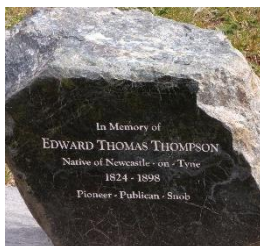
<http://orphantraindepot.org/> by Ron D.

Benton County Genealogical Board Contacts

Names, email and phone numbers have been removed for security reasons.

Hmmm.....

I suspect the will of Newcastle-on-Tyne's former resident, Edward Thomas Thompson had already been processed and the recipients secure in their inheritance before this stone was placed with the remarkable inscription at the bottom reading: **Pioneer – Publican - Snob**
Another incentive for us to make our "final arrangements" while we have the ability to do so?! Ron D



From Eastman's online genealogical newsletter, August 13, 2014

Remember: "Genealogy without proof is Mythology", so, document sources! (unknown)



Your Genealogical Society's Swimsuit Edition!

1906. Bathing at City Point, South Boston, Mass.

Original from an 8x10 glass plate image

I found this photo interesting in many ways; I was born two blocks from this spot and remember Summers on this very beach and am so amazed at the great detail in the photos of the era. I think of how aghast these people, dressed fully while bathing, would be if they were in our times! Ron D

Use Crowd Sourcing to identify people in your photographs: A recent article in Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter dated August 13, 2014 caused me to rethink some of my own "unknowns" in family pictures. This article describes the method a fellow used to identify the people and places in thousands of pictures he found and purchased in a second hand store. Great story, great methods that we could use as well. Well worth the time! See the article at: <http://blog.eogn.com/page/4/> (and scroll down to the article) or at the picture sleuth and author's website: <http://harryandedna.com/>

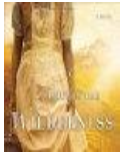
Upcoming Conferences:

GFO (Gen Forum Oregon) Oct 25 & 26, Milwaukie Elks Lodge, Judy Russell, details at:

<http://www.gfo.org/seminar/judy-russell.pdf>

Milwaukie Family History Center, Gladstone Oregon, Nov 1st, 2014, 9a-4:45p, Hannah Allan, keynote speaker, (yay!). Free, even a free lunch! <http://milwaukiefamilyhistoryconference.blogspot.com>

General Meetings held on the 2nd Saturday in the month September through June. The Sept 13 meeting will be at 10am in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome!



The program at 11 am will be in the museum. **Jane Kirkpatrick, author** will present the history of the first black woman known to cross the plains and settle a claim just north of Corvallis in Oregon Territory; she will launch her book "**A Light in the Wilderness**" also for sale at our meeting.

Board Meetings are held the Tuesday before the general meeting; in September it will be on Sep 9th in the Philomath Community Library, meeting room from 10am to noon. All members are invited.

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