

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

January 2010

Volume Twenty-Five
Number One

9 January Program

What's Up on NARA Online?

Presented by our own Margaret Fox.

National Archives and Records Administration is "the nation's record keeper." Find out exactly what records they keep, which research topics are most commonly used by genealogists, and how to access those records.

Venue Change -- Please note that we will be meeting in the Meeting Room of the Philomath Public Library, 1050 Applegate St., Philomath, for both the business meeting and the program meeting. Margaret needs an Internet connection to demonstrate the NARA website and the library has wireless Internet access. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. to be followed by the program meeting at 11 a.m. Coffee and cookies will be available in the annex after the meeting as usual and the BCGS library will be open.

What is Your Favorite Genealogy Tech Gadget?

Do you have favorite technology gadget that is indispensable for doing your genealogy research? What tech tools do you pack for a genealogy research trip? Is there software that you use on a day-to-day basis that you have adapted to keep track of your genealogy research and records? For one of our Spring programs, I would like feature these kinds of tools and gadgets and ask members to step forward to share what they use and how they are invaluable to their genealogy research.

Hopefully, four or five members will volunteer to do a "show-and-tell" for ten minutes each on their favorite gadget or tool. My idea is that you share what tool you use, how you decided on a particular version to purchase, how much it cost, where you got it, how has it helped you in your genealogy research and any other important tips to using it.

The latest issue (March 2010) of *Family Tree Magazine* has an article "7 Tech Tools to Speed Your Search" that may give you some ideas. Examples are e-book readers, GPS, scanners (desktop or hand-held), digital cameras, MP3 players, digital voice recorders, backing up your data. On the software side, OCR (optical character recognition), speech recognition software, translation software or common software such as Word or Excel.

So, if you would like to brag about your favorite gadget, let me know and we can begin coordinating this program. Contact me Susan Hayes, Program Chair, at s.c.hayes@att.net or 541-752-0498

Cemetery Restoration Program

Boston has the largest cemetery restoration program for any municipality in the nation. Three decades ago they began this program which includes sixteen historic burying grounds and three cemeteries dating from 1630 to 1898. The 1980's staff and volunteers surveyed them and recorded all legible grave markers. For a database of their results which may be searched by name or cemetery: www.cityofboston.gov/parks/hbgi/default.asp
Click on search historic headstones.

The earliest gravestones in Boston's burying grounds were simple, roughly hewn "greenstone" markers. Generally, these stones had little or no decorative carving and often had brief inscriptions, which usually gave the name of the person interred and his/her death date. Inscriptions on these stones have "interruptive punctuation," a carving style characterized by a raised period between each word. *Reprinted from The Bend Genealogical Society, Inc. Distant Voices Newsletter, Volume 16, Number 9, December 2009.*

Some Unusual Death Inventory Items Explained

- Caps and pins - May refer to the caps that women wore and the pins that held them to their hair.
- Slice and tongs - The slice is what today would be considered a spatula - it was used to turn foods in the frying pan and the tongs to pick it up.
- Knot dish - A dish to hold fancy ribbons, called knots.
- Milk trays - Used to put milk in and the cream would rise to the top to be separated - also called set pans.
- Bed rope - Preceded the bed slats we know today and was used to support the mattress. The rope was strung across the bed frame and the mattress laid on top. The expression "sleep tight" came about because the bed ropes had to be tightened occasionally and it was considered a better night's sleep with the ropes taut.
- Fletchets or hetchels - A hetchel, or hackle (bed of nails) was a tool used to comb flax to break off the rough straw parts and to separate the fibers in order to spin it and make linen thread.
- Dutch wheel - A type of spinning wheel to make yarn or thread.
- Stilhards or stilhands - A stilyard or steelyard is a portable scale for weighing things.
- Pillowbeers - Pillow case.
- Trammel - A shackle for a horse or a device with links or openings at different heights for hanging a pothook in a fireplace.
- Porringer - A small shallow bowl, probably of pewter.
- Doulas - A coarse linen cloth made in France.

(The above information found via usgenweb.org/research/misc)

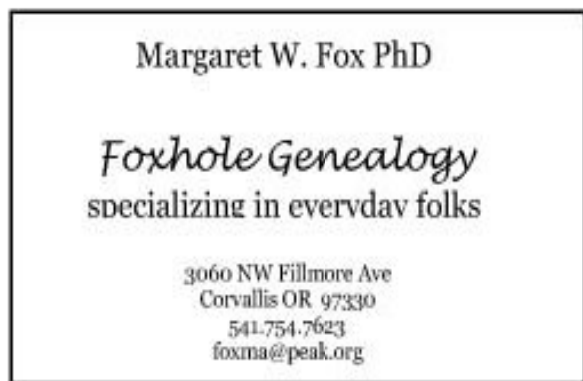
Reprinted from the Grant County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 15 Issue 3, September 2009

High School Art Competition Show Goes National

For several years the Benton County Historical Museum staff and Philomath High School art instructor, Rachel Kirby, have collaborated on a regional art competition for high school students in Oregon, formerly known as the Willamette Valley Scholastic Art Competition. The work that receives a gold key at the local level will be forwarded on to the Nationals. The National Scholastic Art Awards is a well known and established art competition, offering students college scholarships as well as an impressive achievement to note on their resumes for college. You can get more information at www.artandwriting.org.

A local winners' work will be on display in the Moreland Gallery from January 15 –February 27, 2010. The awards ceremony for local winners will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010.

Reprinted from The Society Record, January—March, 2010, Volume 33, Issue 1.



The Village Genealogy Bookshoppe



Danell Aukerman

228 NE Azalea Dr

Adair Village, OR 97330

danell@genealogybookshoppe.com

Books published by Benton County Genealogical Society are always available for purchase at the society library after each meeting, and every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 PM. They are also available at the Benton County Historical Museum, during their normal hours.

News From the Library

Sandra Potter, Librarian

Summary of 2009:

During this year there were 46 books added to the library collection. Inventory was carried out in June; continued searching has reduced the number of "lost" books to **seven**. Books that have been missing for three years or more have been removed from the shelf list. Gifts of books that duplicated ones in the collection or that did not fit well into the collection were presented to the membership for sale. Unsold books were sold to Browser's Bookstore.

2010 Family History Conference, April 28-May 1 in Salt Lake City: Information is posted about schedule, accommodations, and Registration (early bird registration deadline is March 8).

Heritage Books Catalog: Many family histories are listed on pages 125-142 -- perhaps one of your ancestors is on the list. The catalog will be in the library.

December was to be my last Library News, but the ice canceled the December meeting and Grace Maddux has not been sworn in as the new Librarian. Welcome, Grace!

New shelf lists (as of January 1, 2010) on CDs will be available at the meeting.

Membership

Renewals

Jan Barton
Nancy Basque
Gary & Joan Beck
Julie & Ken Bielman
Ray & Bobbie Glass
Janice Handsaker
Mary Hardenbrook
Susan Hayes
Tonya Rawie
Grace Maddux
May Dasch

Linn County Historical Museum Trust, Inc.

The Linn County Historical Museum Trust in Brownsville, OR will be selling engraved bricks for \$100 each, etched with the names of families who came to the Willamette Valley by 1950. The Museum will be creating a "Heritage Courtyard". Contact the Linn County Historical Museum Trust, P.O. Box 563, Brownsville, OR 97327. Brochures are available at the Oregon State Library Reference Desk in Salem.

Program Review

By Susan Hayes, Program Chairman &

By David Kribs, Program co-Chairman.

12 December 2009 - - Auction, Christmas Party. This event was canceled due to the severely slick roads from the ice storm. We'll try an abbreviated version as an addition to the 10 April 2010 Raffle

Upcoming Programs

13 February 2010 - Re-enactment—Historical interpretation

13 March 2010 - Military in Oregon during the Civil War—TBA

10 April 2010 - Raffle, Auction and Spring party.

Raffle Items: 1. 1 hour plane ride with and donated by Bill Gleaves

2. 1 hour of Computer or camera help with Margaret Fox donated by Teri Greene.

3. A wooden vase built by John Martsching donated by Damaris.

Tickets: \$1 each or 6 for \$5—first draw first choice etc., anyone drawn not present is entitled to remaining picks.

8 May 2010 -TBA

12 June 2010 -Genealogy Methods 2010—Potluck Picnic (Maybe update the societies *Genealogy Methods 2010*) -

Summer Break - Margaret reported she believes The Family History Center has started planning another program. We should offer help and plan to attend. Their past summer sessions have proven extensive and outstanding.

11 September 2010 - Show 'N' Tell

SURNAME SEARCH

Below are additional surname searches submitted by BCGS members. These will be printed as space permits. Members are urged to submit their surnames to leila@peak.org.

SURNAME	LOCATION	CONTACT SOURCE
Woodcock, Simpson	Benton County, England, Germany	Susan Hayes s.c.hayes@att.net
Handsaker, Cannon, Claw, Engel		Janice Handsaker jahandsaker@yahoo.com
Ivers, Engel, Eddy, Rife	Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Nebraska	Mary Hardenbrook hardeme@exchangenet.net

OLD MEDICAL TERMS

Have you run across a medical term in an old document which you don't understand? A good place to find the definition is "The Eclectic Practice of Medicine," by Rolla L. Thomas, M.S., M.D., 1907. It can be found at:

www.henriettesherbal.com/eclectic/thomas/index.html

Reprinted from the Oregon Genealogical Society Newsletter, Issue 169, November/December 2009

THE AVERAGE MAN WILL BRISTLE IF YOU SAY HIS FATHER WAS DISHONEST, BUT HE WILL BRAG A LITTLE IF HE DISCOVERS THAT HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS A PIRATE.

Ben Williams, National Inquirer

**WPA HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
BENTON COUNTY, OREGON
BY MARK PHINNEY**

Armstrong, Henry

Mr. ARMSTRONG was interviewed at the home of William CLARK, whose home he was stopping at present. Mr. ARMSTRONG is a man of limited education, but he speaks intelligently of the early days in Central Oregon. He said:

“My father was Sylvester ARMSTRONG and my mother was Narcissa EDELMAN. They were married in Arkansas and came to Oregon sometime before 1860. They settled on a little farm on a creek near Burns in Harney County. I was born in 1863. Besides myself the children were Johan, Lansing, Anderson, Samuel, Arthur and Nannie. Anderson and Samuel are still living in Eastern Oregon. Arthur lives in Linn County and Lansing lives near Alpine in this county. Nannie is married to a man named CROSSLEY and lives in California.

“Harney County was a grazing country in the early days. Cattle were raised there at first and sheep came later and more or less crowded the cattle back. There was trouble between the cattle and sheep men and much fighting and shooting on general principles. On one occasion I knew about two men who went back into the hills, and while one kept the sheep herder covered the other proceeded to shoot sheep until he was tired of the sport. When they left the herder let his sheep wander and trailed the two killers to their cabin. He watched all night and killed the men as they came out, one at a time, in the morning.

“There was much drinking and gambling, and of course there were “bad men”. On one occasion when I was a boy two gamblers especially posed as bad men. They were Til GLAZE and Bud HOWARD. GLAZE was a musician. There was enmity between them and one day they agreed to shoot it out. They allowed their left shoes to be tacked to the floor, toe to toe. They then clasped left hands, drew their six shooters and proceeded to kill each other.

“We lived about six miles from Burns and I had to go about a mile to school. We had both men and women teachers but I cannot recall any of their names. The school was small as settlers were scattered. There was only five or six months of school in a year.

“There were no religious services in the community. There were great gatherings and shooting matches on the holidays, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. There was always a good deal of drinking. There was little organized cattle rustling for the markets were too far away. Anybody who needed beef for food felt free to kill one on the range.

“When I was old enough I rode the range for six years, and believe me, that is hard work. Then I worked on the ranches, herded sheep, or helped with the shearing. At first all the sheep were sheared by hand power. Some man would collect a gang of shearers and go from ranch to ranch and from district to district, from early spring until well into summer. Some of the men became so expert that they could shear 150 or more sheep in one day. In later years gasoline engines were used for power and many sets of clippers were geared to one drive shaft. In this way a man could shear many more sheep, and do it better and with less exertion.

“For a time I carried the mail from Diamond Post Office to Anderson and Smith Post Offices. In 1924 I came to the Willamette and have worked about in town and country since. I was never married.”

**30th Annual Genealogy Workshop
March 19 and 20, 2010**

The Sweet Home Genealogy Society is planning our 30th Annual Workshop. On Friday we will have Joanna Haugen. On Saturday we will have Gerald and Connie Lenzen. More information will be coming in the near future about the times and topics.

Pre-registration before March 1, 2010

Both Days:	\$25.00	Current members of Sweet Home Genealogical Society
	\$30.00	Non-members+
One Day:	\$12.50	Current members of Sweet Home Genealogical Society
	\$15.00	Non-member

Make checks payable to Sweet Home Genealogical Society and mail to SHGS, P.O. Box 279, Sweet Home, OR 97388.

Who Put The Fish In Crater Lake?

By Finn John

Historic Oregon

In Oregon, there's one place where you're allowed to fish for free - and you've got a former Albany newspaper owner to thank for that.

It's in Oregon's famous Crater Lake where you can wet a line without paying the Man. Yet very few people do, because the lake is one of the largest bodies of water in the state - not in terms of surface area, of course, but it's so deep it holds an enormous amount of water - and the fish colony isn't big.

It's free because the fish aren't supposed to be there. Crater Lake never had fish in it before, and that's part of why its water is so clear and brilliantly blue.

So how did the fish get there? Well, that gets back to the newspaper man. His friends called him Will Steel, but when he founded the Albany Herald in 1879, his name was listed as William Gladstone Steel, (Albany's other paper was the Democrat, which at the time was more than just a name. Steel was firmly Republican.) Steel was one of the most important figures in Oregon history. After being fired from his Post Office job in Portland for being a Republican (Americans had just elected Grover Cleveland, and the Dems were cleaning house), he went out to explore the state. One of his first priorities was to find the jewel-like lake he's heard about as a boy, which none of the locals seemed to know existed.

When he did, he raced to Washington, D.C., and somehow convinced the president who'd canned him shortly before to block settlement in the area until he could survey it. Then he returned to Portland, hired a survey crew and had three boats built and hauled to the lake, where he floated out on the water to take soundings. This was in 1886.

Steel found he hadn't brought enough rope. He suggested that the lake might be, in fact, bottomless. Finally, with more line, the crew found the deepest part - just shy of 2000 feet.

After getting Steel's report Congress introduced a bill to preserve the lake and 36 square miles of the surrounding terrain as a national park - and the fight was on. There were a lot of trees in those 36 square miles and several companies wanted to turn those trees into money.

Steel fought tirelessly for his park. Realizing that outdoorsmen (yes, men - remember, this was the late 1880's) could help his cause, Steel decided to stock the lake with trout. So he offered some kids in Rogue River a dime for each minnow they caught. They brought him 600. A very worried (and out of pocket) Steel asked them what they wanted for the lot, and they requested four bits. Relieved, Steel gave them each a buck and took the minnows 45 miles to the lake. At each stream, he stopped to freshen the water, but most of them were dead by the time he got to the lake. Still, 37 of the original 600 survived to cause the present-day problem there.

Steel also, during that time, founded the Oregon Alpine Club - a diverse outfit composed of campers and outdoors people of all sorts - possibly with the same idea in mind: More appreciators of nature meant more support for his lake. A few years later, he organized the state's famous Mazama Club, open only to people who'd climbed Mount Hood.

Finally, after a 17 year fight with the timber and grazing interests in Congress, Steel saw his dream realized. In 1902, Congress officially made Crater Lake the nation's fifth national park.

(Sources: Rick Harmon. Crater Lake National Park: A History. Corvallis: OSU Press, 2002; Bill Gulick. A Roadside History of Oregon. Missoula: Mountain Press, 1991; William Sullivan. Hiking Oregon's History. Eugene: Navillus, 2006.)

Reprinted from The Heritage Newsletter, Linn Genealogical Society, Vol 23, Issue 7, July 2009.

Historical Currency Conversion by Michael J. Leclerc.

When researchers are dealing with old land and estate records, I am often asked "How much would that be worth today?" While Yahoo and other currency calculators are great at modern money, they often do not include the ability to convert values through time.

One great website is called "Historical Currency Conversions." This website, available at <http://futureboy.homeip.net/fsp/dollar.fsp>, is capable of converting many different kinds of currency to today's dollars. Here you can convert dollars, cents, pounds, guineas, sovereigns, merk, mark, crowns, florins, shillings, groats, pence, and farthings into today's money. \$8000 dollars in 1860 had the same buying power as \$202,759.96 current dollars. \$11,200 dollars in 1860 had the same buying power as \$283,863.95 current dollars.

<http://futureboy.omeip.net/fsp/dollar.fsp>

Reprinted from the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol XXXI, Num 8, August 2009.

JACKSON COUNTY GENEALOGY LIBRARY, OREGON
WWW.RVGSLLIBRARY.ORG

The Jackson County Genealogy Library (JCGL) is operated by the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, an all-volunteer organization located in the Rogue River Valley in Southern Oregon. The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society has made a number of indexes available on the Jackson County Genealogy Library website. Copies of the records contained in many of the databases described below may be ordered from the library for a fee.

Vital Records: The Vital Records databases include birth for the period from 1863-2007+. The Marriage Database indexes Marriage records for the years 1853-1946 and wedding announcements gathered from the Jackson County newspapers are for the years 1942-2006. The Divorce Database indexes three volumes of records that cover the period 1856-1949. An index to a published volume of records for the Conger Morris Mortuary in Medford, OR for the years 1904-1922 can also be found here. The Death Index contains records of Jackson County deaths for the period from 1906-1926. Death Certificates from local Jackson County records for the years 1904-1943 have also been indexed.

Family Records: A list containing the surnames of pioneers and early Settlers of the Rogue Valley and five-generation family history charts submitted to the Rogue Valley Genealogy Society by its members.

Early Records: From the mid-nineteenth century include juror lists (1854-1899), attendance records for the Roosevelt Elementary School (1889-1891 and 1895-1897), and the diary of William Hoffman that records the family's trip from Indiana to Oregon and his life in Jacksonville, Oregon

Cemetery Records: Database currently includes more than 3,000 linked headstone photographs.

Land Records: The deed index is the only JCGL resource available online.

Obituaries: You will find four obituary indexes for the following newspapers. Ashland Daily Tidings, Medford Mail Tribune, Upper Rogue Independent (1953-2006); Medford Sun (1910-1925); Gold Hill News (1910-1927); and Central Point Herald (1 of 5 volumes).

The library also has a **Naturalizations** database, **Court Records** and abstracts of court records from the Oregon State Archives containing will, probate and estate files.

Reprinted from the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter Volume xxx1 Number5 May 2009

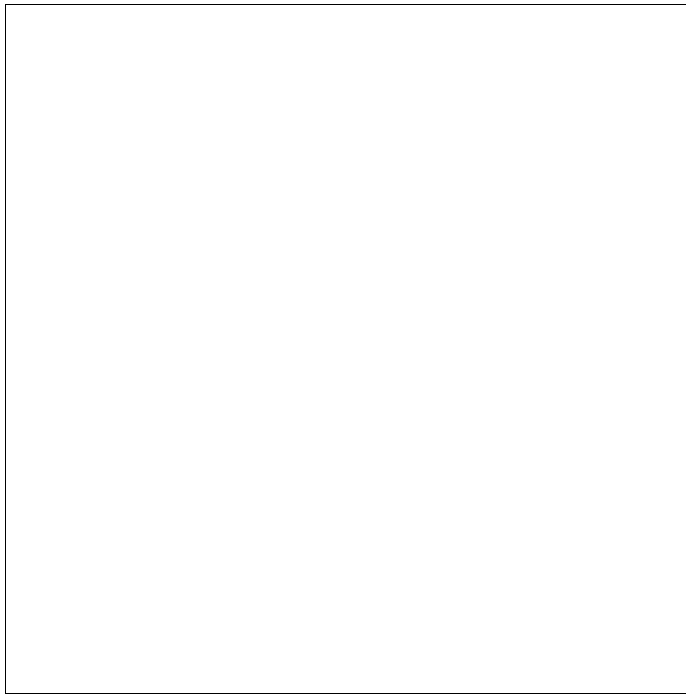
How Do I Preserve My Family Papers?

Paper preservation requires proper storage and safe handling practices. Your family documents will last longer if they are stored in a stable environment, similar to that which we find comfortable for ourselves: 60-70 degrees; 40-50 % relative humidity (RH); with clean air and good circulation. High heat and moisture accelerate the chemical processes that result in embrittlement and discoloration to the paper. Damp environments may also result in mold growth and/or be conducive to pests that might use the documents for food or nesting material. Therefore, the central part of your home provides a safer storage environment than a hot attic or damp basement.

Light is also damaging to paper, especially that which contains high proportions of ultraviolet, i.e., fluorescent and natural daylight. The effects of light exposure are cumulative and irreversible; they promote chemical degradation in the paper and fade inks. It is not recommended to permanently display valuable documents for this reason. Solar photocopies or photographs work well as surrogates.

Family papers should be stored in appropriate sized enclosures, such as a folder, box, portfolio, etc., that will provide physical as well as protection from light and dust. The enclosure itself should be made of stable permanent quality materials that will not contribute to the document's deterioration. See Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler's Preservation of Archival Records: Holdings Maintenance at the National Archives for details regarding enclosure specifications, and for easy-to-follow directions on preservation handling procedures for long term storage.

Grant County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 15 Issue 3, September 2009



More Member Info.

Our meetings are held on the **second Saturday, September through June**, in the Fireside Room of the College United Methodist Church, on the east side of the parking lot, in the 1100 block of Philomath Blvd. Business meeting is at 10:00 AM with the program at 11:00 AM. **Our Library, in the museum annex, will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 until 3:30 PM and after meetings on Saturdays.** Members may check out up to five books and return books any time the library is open.

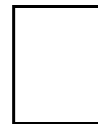
Canadian Interest Group

The Canadian Interest Group will not meet on a regular basis until further notice. If you have specific questions about research in Canada, or if you would like to look through my resources, please contact me at: 752-2243; e-mail: sprawlinson@proaxis.com. Thank You. **Pat Rawlinson**

Odds and Ends

Our number at the OSU Thrift Shop on Second Street in Corvallis is **492**. Please keep your Santiam and Flav-R-Pak labels coming in to the Library. There is a plastic sack in the library to keep them in. Leila Crawford is in charge of the label program. All you need is the UPC Symbol from the label. Be sure that you leave some area around the label when you tear it off.

THIS IS ALMOST OUR ONLY FUND RAISER!



The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
S=Single; F=Family; E=Exchange.
Number is last of year 9=2009
L9 is Charter Honorary Life Member

Mailing Label Coding



Stamp