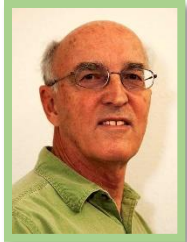


Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

<http://www.bcgs-oregon.org>

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June 2017



From the Desk of the President, by George Davidson

May your summer be a safe and happy time with family and friends as you enjoy the sun after a long wet winter.

We will all be looking forward to your summertime stories and successful family research when you return for our fall General Meeting on September 9th.



June Program: Hands On Dating Photos, Potluck to Follow! Come Enjoy with Us!"

Our June program, Saturday the 10th, will begin at 10 a.m. in the church for our regular business meeting. Following this we will have a special program (see below) then go to the annex for our annual June potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.



June Program: Hands on Dating Old Photographs, by Linda Olsen

Learn multiple ways to narrow down the date your photograph was taken which may, in turn, help identify the person in it.

What to Bring:

1. Magnifying glass
2. Measuring tape
3. Your photos or use photos I will bring
4. Reference materials you may already have

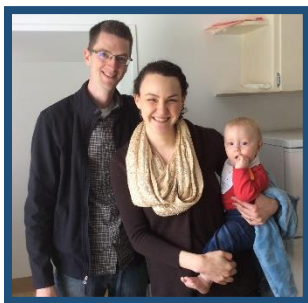




May Program Review: Hannah Z. Allan “History For The Genealogist”: How To Incorporate Historical Events Into Your Ancestor’s History.” Submitted by Linda Olsen

Hannah’s enthusiastic approach to genealogy invited us to try different approaches to break down brick walls and fill in the gaps in an ancestor’s life. Asking lots of questions and using other individuals’ accounts of historical facts are useful techniques. Consider not only when and where an ancestor lived but include appropriate behaviors for gender and age for the specific time period. For instance, if your ancestor was in the Civil War, but you did not know any specifics about his service you could use some general history about the Civil War to add to that ancestor's story. What another soldier experienced in a war setting at the same time and place where your ancestor fought probably would have been similar to your ancestor’s experience. Or if your ancestor traveled by wagon train but his or her diary had not survived, you could use someone else's journal that had traveled in the same wagon train to determine similar events your ancestor may have experienced. When using general history like this, Hannah suggested using words such as "he may have seen or experienced....." or "maybe he felt" or "he possibly saw" to indicate that you don't know exactly what your ancestor saw or experienced. Weaving actual historical events into your ancestor’s history would make a very interesting life story. Immerse your ancestor in the time period in which he lived, find out where he lived and suppose how he felt about where he lived or how he may have reacted when he witnessed an historical event such as the complete destruction of a town near where he lived. Could that have been the reason he moved yet again to a different location?

Newspaper accounts were among the most helpful resources Hannah listed because of the many details written in a newspaper accounts. Examine the individuals listed before and after your ancestor on the census to reveal a more informed picture of his life. Were the other individuals listed in the census all families, single men with the same occupation, farmers or perhaps merchants? Another great resource is topographical maps that may show visual clues about the area where an ancestor lived.



Hannah made the hour presentation go by very quickly, and she engaged us by asking us questions. See her handout on our bcgs-oregon.org website under “Monthly Programs” for a long list of records and resources available at the Oregon Historical Society.

Hannah’s favorite quote:

“Nobody ever lived in the past” by David McCullough

Memorial Day 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸 **May 29, 2017**

To say I am grateful to the men and women who served, some who “gave the last full measure of devotion” as President Lincoln penned in the Getysburg address, does not begin to touch the feeling which we probably all do feel.



Arlington National Cemetery

Our kids can plan their lives, our grandchildren and great grandchildren are blessed beyond their ability to adequately comprehend because of the sacrifice of those who answered , and still do answer the call of country..... and also the sacrifice of their families left behind, some never to see their sons, fathers, husbands, wives and daughters again.



Viet Nam Memorial, Washington, D.C.

The pull we feel at such times, that debt of gratitude to those who have gone before is part of what motivates our family research, the trips, the writing, the hours and expense in which we engage, that those who served in the military and those in the homes in which we or our forebears grew might not be forgotten. Dedication and sacrifice made in battlefields, or within our homes, families and neighborhoods are worth remembering, recording, worth telling to those who follow.

Memorial Day will yet again find me among friends and neighbors at a commemorative program and flag raising, acknowledging the service of those whose efforts have “made and preserved us a nation”. We all are the beneficiaries of the sacrifices of those from whom we sprung, those in uniforms in foreign fields or in aprons in the homes of our youth. May we ever remember them and write their stories for those who follow. Ron D



In Flanders Fields



Around Benton County



Adair Living History's 2nd Annual Founder's Day, Saturday May 13th. By Linda Olsen

Past BCGS President, Faye Abraham, is very much involved in the preparation and participation in the Founders' Day celebration held in Adair Village in May each year. She designed several

display boards. One display depicted William Corcoran and his service in the Navy at Camp Adair 1945--1946 and another display with military related information. WWII reenactors added to the character and atmosphere in one of the authentic Camp Adair east barracks used for the exhibits of period military memorabilia. Many friendly folks were very willing to share information and memories of this historic cantonment. Linda Olsen submitted several photos taken by her husband at this event. He, too, thought the WWII Jeep was well restored, and the reenactor was only too happy to pose for a photo with his Jeep. Also see the photo of Faye's display board.



The Poetry of DNA and the Unscientific Application of Scientific DNA Results, Ron DeYoung

Warning, a science-minded, personal opinion next! The following is an interesting, televised “Inside Edition” show that did a disservice to the science of DNA analysis by setting up a most unscientific “study”; this newsletter is not the forum to explain why. Such televised shows are designed for ratings, not science. What it does do is explain that the “ethnic background” is not a very accurate result in DNA testing. The test results are accurate in providing base pair analysis, sequence results and likelihood of relationships but describing “where we are from” is not accurate, even with identical triplets and quadruplets.

Further, the author of following Ancestry Insider admits that he is not trained to analyze the results, further muddying the water. For what it is worth, here are two articles; the second is more enlightening.



Inside Edition Investigates Reliability of DNA Ethnicity Tests, Ancestry Insider, 27 Feb 2017

awakening. So what gives?

Identical triplets should have identical DNA, right? That is what Dr. David Ku of Universal Genetics told [Inside Edition](#). [Inside Edition](#) used three sets of identical triplets and one rare set of identical quadruplets to test DNA ethnicity reports from 23andMe, Family Tree DNA, and AncestryDNA. The results are a rude

First the idea that identical twins have identical DNA has been called into question in recent years. Last July, a scientist writing for the BBC said that mutations occur in DNA fast enough that “between 10 and 100 new mutations per person...occur early enough in embryonic development to be present in most cells in the body.”

Second, it is possible that fraternal twins can look very similar. Particularly when young, it may require a DNA test to distinguish monozygotic (identical) and dizygotic (fraternal) twins/triplets/quadruplets. One of

a couple of the triplets in the [Inside Edition](#) broadcast look different enough in the broadcast that to me they could conceivably (unintentional pun) be fraternal. [Inside Edition](#) did not disclose the estimated relationships found among them.

Third, the testing companies can't control how carefully test takers follow instructions and avoid contamination. I imagine there are many common substances in our homes, our food, maybe even our water, that have the ability to contaminate a DNA sample. Can such contamination explain the differences found by [Inside Edition](#)?

Fourth, I have to believe there are processing errors at the laboratory. I don't follow the industry, so I don't know what typical error rates are." (end of Ancestry Insider article)

Read the article at: http://www.ancestryinsider.org/2017/02/inside-edition-investigates-reliability.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AncestryInsider+%28The+Ancestry+Insider%29



The Poetry of DNA , taken from a MyHeritage advertisement.

An interesting view of what an archaic, emotionally-loaded and imprecise term the word "race" is. May you enjoy it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPPNcmP-9mQ&app=desktop>



Dad's Afghan, by Barbara Hays

My dad, Paul Roosevelt Hays, moved here to Corvallis from Murdock, Illinois, after WW II. He worked at the lumber mill that used to be where the Marys River meets the Willamette River. He wore wool socks, so when they stopped making them, he taught himself how to crochet his own. I remember when he took our old worn-out clothes and made a quilt for him and mom.

I left home for seven years, and when I came back, I started to crochet an afghan. I told Dad about it. (It's still in a box, unfinished 30 years later.) The next Christmas my sisters and I were surprised by hand-made afghans and matching pillows for the three of us. Mine is multicolored and I still have it.

In 2012, Dad showed me afghans he made for my sisters, two in-laws and my two nephews. One lay unfinished in the corner. Everyone got theirs at Christmas except me. In February Dad showed up with a beautiful lavender afghan with pictures of characters and flowers framed in twenty-five sections. I asked him if he was okay, wondering why he had made all these afghans so quickly. He said he was fine. Six months later he passed away unexpectedly. I have been using the afghan, which has been comforting since. By Barbara Hays, Writing Group Member



Writer's Corner #8, Editing Your Writing, submitted by Mary Dean Snelling

- Study each word to ensure it conveys the precise meaning you intend and that its meaning will be clear to your audience. A finished product will not sound like spoken words, but that is alright when you start.
- Make people the subject of most of your sentences.
- Verbs are the most important parts of speech.
 - Select descriptive verbs.
 - Use action verbs when possible.
- Use active voice almost always. (SEE Writer's Corner #7)
- Avoid complicated verb tenses with more than one "helping" verb
"He had been going to church." Change to: "He went to church."
- Try to reduce the use of: "There was" and "It is"
 - Instead of "There were two women onboard." Write "Two women were onboard."
- Place adverbs near the nouns they modify.
He wanted to buy only forty acres. NOT- He only wanted to buy forty acres.
only is the adverb
forty acres is the noun
- Avoid adjectives that add no meaning. For example- "dry desert" Eliminate "dry"
- Possessives are preferred over prepositional phrases:
"Sarah's father" rather than "the father of Sarah"
- Prepositional phrases need to be clearly linked to the words they modify.
NOT "They carried the coffin of a member who died from old age in a recent funeral."
 - Did the member really die in a recent funeral? ☺ Reword the sentence.
- Eliminate the word "not" when possible:
John was not yet nine when remove "not"
John was almost nine when correct structure

[Jones, Thomas W. *Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians*, Western Institute of Genealogy July 2016, Eugene, Oregon, p.12 -13]



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



Benton County Genealogical Society Board Contacts

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Kathryn Moss, Vice President

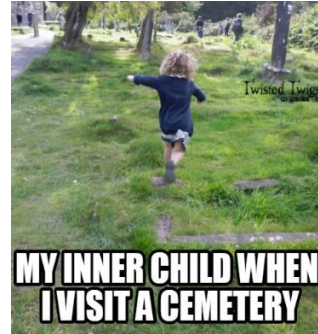
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Susan VanLaere, Librarian vanlaere@proaxis.com

Connie Patterson, Membership



BCGS General Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month, September through June.

The June meeting will be on **Saturday, June 10th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! **At 11 am or earlier** we will have our program, **Dating Photographs followed by the Potluck at the Annex.**

Board Meetings are held the Wednesday before the general meeting; the **June Board meeting** will be on **Wednesday, June 7th at 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.

Note: After our June meetings we will not meet again until September

