

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

<http://www.bcg-s-oregon.org>

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From the desk of the President:

Spring has arrived, now is time for your inside and outside projects. Make it a fun time, enjoy and don't overwork yourselves.

From the Corvallis Gazette Times:

March 19, 1923 – March 18, 2018

Ted passed on March 18, 2018, one day prior to his 95th birthday.

Theodore Earl (Ted) Gump was born on March 19, 1923. He was the second son and the third child of Franklin Thomas Gump and Myrtle Belle (Carns). He was born in Portland, Oregon, where his father was serving as a patrolman for the Portland Police Department. Ted grew up in the Portland area, graduating from Lincoln High School in Lake Oswego. Ted was a Boy Scout and became an Eagle Scout.

Ted was drafted in the Army in 1943 and served in World War II. After his service in World War II, he was called up again and served in the Korean War.

In 1952, First Lieutenant Gump was awarded a Bronze Star with a Valor device for heroism in ground combat.

Ted graduated from Oregon State College – now Oregon State University – in 1950 with a degree in logging engineering. He attended college on the GI Bill. During his college summer breaks, Ted worked as a fire lookout for the US Forest Service.

After graduating from college, Ted took a job with the US Forest Services, working in various locations throughout the state of Oregon, ending his career in 1981 at the Siuslaw National Forest in Corvallis as an Engineering Economist. While working at the Forest Service in Corvallis, Ted attended classes at Oregon State University where he received a second degree in Economics in 1980.

Meanwhile, Ted continued serving in the Army Reserves, where he ultimately attained the rank of colonel.

In the early 1950s while working at the Forest Service, Ted met LaRea McMannis. After a five-year courtship, she agreed to marry him on October 6, 1956. Ten years later, Ted and LaRea's only child, a daughter LeAnn, joined the family.

Ted had a wide variety of hobbies. He restored from piles of rust, a 1923 Willys Knight and a 1923 Harley Davidson motorcycle with a 1925 side car. Ted loved cars and motorcycles.

He also worked for many years – alongside LaRea – on his genealogy.

He and LaRea purchased a motor home after Ted retired from the Forest Service and the Army Reserves, and spent about 25 years traveling the world.

Ted also had interests in US history and had a pilot's license.

Ted was predeceased by his mother; father; siblings; Irene, Guy, and Verl; and in 2007, by his wife of over 50 years, LaRea.

Ted is survived by his daughter, LeAnn and her family, including his five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his nephew, Ron Gump of Gresham, the eldest son of Ted's elder brother, Guy, as well as three nieces, Cathie Doyle, Leslie Baron, and Angie Thomas, daughters of Ted's younger brother Verl.

Ted was buried with full military honors on March 27, 2018. He was interred next to his beloved wife, LeRea at Oak Lawn Memorial Park in Corvallis.



Choosing Details: Secrets to Compelling Stories

by Laura Hedgewood

RootsTech Conference Writing Session, March 2018
A Summary of Mary Dean's notes and edited by Linda Olsen

"It's about the people who read what we write." Quote from Margaret Crymes

Add Details to make a compelling story using the senses. Our words are like optics. Use words that provide visual stimulation for the reader. Add context and texture such as describing items that can be touched while depicting the time period of the setting. Engage the senses of smell and hearing. Increase emotional connections between the characters and understand their decisions and what influenced them.

Tell about the family dynamics, what was happening in the community and the world within the time period of the story. Add details of the family interactions between characters. What influence did wealth or not having wealth have on the family? What was the impact of social, historical, and educational opportunities? Use a time-line of events that you know about your ancestor then add in historical events.

Engage curiosity and emotion. For example, describe the experiences your ancestor had playing in the snow by adding the sensory pleasures of snow. Brain research shows sensory information fires up the brain. Readers will remember more of the story if the story is filled with sensory words and images. Emotional details make writing more memorable and provide emotional connections to the characters. Were there family traditions carried through the generations? How did your ancestors dress in the time period in which they lived? What was their community life like, religion, and occupation? If not many details are known about your ancestor, write about the time period they lived in and describe historical events happening then.

Find details that support the facts in your story. Choose the details that will bring their stories to life. Review the census pages before and after your ancestors to see details of their lives. Who received items passed down in the family named in wills. Scan historical newspapers for historic events. Military records hold many clues to physical descriptions and marital status. Plat and survey maps show land ownership and who lived close by. Passenger lists may list ages, country of origin and more. Family Search Wiki and genealogy societies provide support in your research. City directories, almanacs, school yearbooks, museums and church minutes or newsletters all have useful details to fill out the details. And don't forget to explore the modern social media sites.

Perfection is boring. Note both strengths and weaknesses to make the person seem human. Ethical concerns should be considered even after death. Some living people may be negatively affected. If the information would be harmful to a living descendant, omit that part of your story.

Summary: Include curiosity and humor, leaving room for the reader's imagination. Use visual appeal by leaving plenty of white space on the page and use clear easy-to-read fonts. Add illustrations and images. Perhaps you could put notes or specific facts in a sidebar for clarification. Be clear about what you know. Distinguish between known facts and what you believe happened or wondered about. Cite sources, do not plagiarize, ask permission. It's easier to connect with readers if the story is informal and not an academic endeavor.

The Sacramento German Genealogical Society (title)

Even though the conference will already have happened, this site would be quite interesting to anyone researching German ancestry.

<https://sggs.us/>





Librarian's Corner, Sue Van Laere, BCGS Librarian

The library will hold a book sale at our meeting on September 8 when we return from summer break. We have a number of books and maps and possibly other items to sell. If you have any books about genealogy or history that you would like to donate, they would be gladly accepted!

I'll put a labeled box upstairs where you can put your donations on any Tuesday or Saturday this summer. The sale we had last year was successful. So, if you're like me and keep promising yourself to make a clean sweep of your bookshelves, this is the time to put them in a box or sack and bring them to the library!

Thanks. Sue Van Laere, Librarian

The Blue Box Mystery

In February, 2018, Gail Elliott Downs presented a program to the Society titled "The Black Suitcase Mystery: A World War II Remembrance." The suitcase had belonged to one of Downs's relatives. She and a group of elementary school children, through dogged determination, chased down the story of the suitcase's contents.

I recently realized that we had successfully resolved a mystery of our own, only it was in the contents of a large Blue Box. In November of 2017, a woman, who had purchased the contents of a storage locker, brought the box to the BCGS library to ask for help in finding the owner. A little group consisting of Leila, Grace, Ellen, Nancy and yours truly met together to see what was in this mysterious box. Among many other items, we found scrap books, a diary, photos, a many-generational family tree and an intriguing collection of WW II letters from a man who was a conscientious objector on religious grounds. He belonged to the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

Eventually we learned the family's last name, but still didn't know if the family was local. Other items found in the box were pamphlets and even a family history in which we determined that the family had deep roots with the Society of Friends. Toward the bottom of the box, we found a newsletter from the local Friends organization that verified the first and last name of the woman who was probably the owner of most of the materials.

We called the Friends office and reached someone who had known the woman personally. She gave us some old email addresses of several of her children. I sent out messages and one of the addresses was current! Within a short time, I heard back from one of the sons and proposed a day to transfer the box. After a mix up on my part and Lois's help (she knew the family), the Blue Box made its way to the rightful owner.

Recently, we found out that the material in the box had belonged to the son's adopted mother's family. At Christmas time, he and a cousin enjoyed going through the box and were excited to find so much information. They were especially happy to have the history from the family tree.

All of us are thrilled to have had a part in reuniting the family with the Blue Box. We're all ready for another such mystery, and, this time we're all hoping that it will be a magical box that shows up in our own family!

Susan Van Laere, BCGS Librarian



Meeting Times and Locations

BCGS General Meetings are held on the 2nd **Saturday** of the month, September through June. The **March** meeting will be on **Saturday, May 12th at 10 am** in the Social Hall of the College United Methodist Church, Philomath, everyone is welcome! At **11 am** we will have our program, followed by refreshments at the Annex.

Board Meetings are held the **Wednesday** before the general meeting; the Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 9th, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm** in the Philomath Public Library meeting room, all members are invited.



2018 Monthly Programs

March 10: Jan Meranda will present a program about the "Letitia Carson Story" with Jane Kirkpatrick also speaking.

April: 14 Ron D., past president, talk about his 10,000 mile journey to Maine and his discoveries and travel tips.

May 12: Keith & Darlene Pyeatt, GFO members, will speak on Immigration and Naturalization

June 9: Potluck and members bring collections

Summer Break for July and August

Our BCGS Library will remain open during the summer at the regular hours

Tuesdays and Saturdays 1:00 to 3:30pm.

September 8: Gathering Back together and Book Sale

October 13: Sandra Potter will present a program about Women in World War II

November 10: Lois will present a program on Ancestry and DNA

December 8: Annual Holiday Auction and Potluck



March 10, 2018 BCGS Program Review

by Mary Dean Snelling

Historical fiction authors Janet Meranda and Jane Kirkpatrick presented a program for our March meeting about Letitia Carson, an incredible African American woman who traveled the Oregon Trail . Jane, a prolific author, wrote *A Light in the Wilderness*, the story of Letitia Carson on the Oregon Trail and her challenging life in Oregon. Janet wanted Jane to write another book to continue Letitia's story. While she was asking Jane to write a sequel, Jane encouraged Janet to write a prequel.

Janet proceeded to write a prequel, *Freedom's Light, The Letitia Carson Story Begins*, which describes slavery in the 1800s. It begins with Letitia's mother being captured in Africa and continues through the birth of her daughter, Letitia, and Letitia's decision to leave Kentucky for Missouri. The prequel covers Letitia's life up to where Jane Kirkpatrick's book, *A Light in the Wilderness*, begins.

Departing from Missouri Letitia joins Irish immigrant David Carson, her common law husband, on a 5- month journey on the Oregon Trail. It is not known why they decided to migrate to the West. They departed with a wagon train in 1845 with 2500 lbs. of household goods and tools. Their wagon was filled with what they would need for their new home. They also took cattle. Upon departure Letitia was 8 months pregnant. She delivered the baby on the trail. Mother and child survived. Letitia carried her daughter, Margaret, for the remainder of the journey. Near the end of the journey David and Letitia took different routes. David took the wagon and cattle around the outskirts of Mt. Hood, a treacherous route and Letitia traveled by boat, too risky for wagons. They probably met in Oregon City and then proceeded on to Soap Creek Valley where they built a cabin and their son, Andrew, was born. When David, Letitia's husband, died with no will there were big problems for Letitia and the children.

In Oregon territory no black person was permitted to own property. African Americans were considered property and therefore could not be heirs to the estate. An unscrupulous wealthy white neighbor became executor of the estate. He sold Letitia's house and cattle, and auctioned off all the contents in the house - dishes, clothing, the family Bible . . . everything. Letitia took him to court, despite her lack of legal standing under Oregon territorial laws.

She won two suits. This was quite an amazing feat since the 1857 Oregon constitution banned blacks from migrating to Oregon, banned property ownership, voting rights, and the right to sue in court. Letitia later moved to Douglas County and became a midwife and part of the community. In 1863 with the Homestead Act she eventually was able to own her own land.

The story of this remarkable woman demonstrates courage and commitment. Jane compared Letitia to a coping saw which she held up for us to see: flexibility, strength, can change directions quickly without a lot of friction. Letitia knew what she needed to do and had the courage to do it.

Author, Jane Kirkpatrick, stated that finding information about women is more difficult. She made- up things reflective of facts. Her research included visiting Missouri.

She commented on writing: Make a commitment.

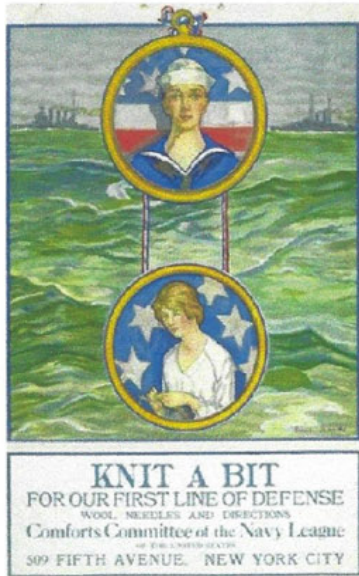
Take a risk. We all at some point have moments of uncertainty.

When thinking of family stories get engaged and involved.

Some of Letitia's descendants attended the meeting. Autographed books were available for sale.



CHAPTER CHATTER



World War I Rally Cry to “KNIT-YOUR-BIT” Continues Today

In 1917, soon after America entered World War I, the slogan Knit-Your-Bit was adopted by “Wool Brigades” across the country. Home-front citizens knew that troops desperately needed clothing, so they picked up their needles and got busy. Knitting was more than a hobby in wartime; it was an act of patriotism! (View a photo essay at <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/when-knitting-was-a-patriotic-duty-wwi-homefront-wool-brigades>).

During World War II, the program was revived by the American Red Cross with leaflets, propaganda, and campaigns to get people to knit for soldiers. Then in 2006, the National World War II Museum in New Orleans renewed a Knit-Your-Bit campaign. Through the efforts of more than 10,000 knitters and crocheters, the Museum has distributed 50,000 scarves to veterans’ organizations. Information on how to participate and patterns for both knitted and crocheted scarves can be found at: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/programs/knit-your-bit>.

Yaquina Daughters have picked up their knitting needles and crochet hooks in support of the Knit-Your-Bit campaign. Their handcrafted

scarves will be donated to next December’s Lincoln County Stand Down. An article in the May issue of *American Spirit* magazine will urge Daughters across the county to Knit-Your-Bit. Please join us! For more information, contact Yaquina Honorary Past Regent Gail Elliott Downs at depoebaygail@gmail.com. [submitted by Gail Downs]

Scarves donated by Christine Lurk.



On March 21, 2017, more than 70 years after the end of World War II, the war effort’s working women finally had a national day of recognition. March was chosen in honor of Women’s History Month and on March 21, 2018, an official Rosie the Riveter Rose will debut in locations across our nation. Several Oregon communities located in our five Congressional Districts will dedicate Rosie the Riveter Living Memorial Gardens on March 21st.

The Oregon Spirit of ‘45 is searching for Rosie the Riveters, especially in the Salem and McMinnville area. If you know of someone, please contact Gail Elliott Downs, Yaquina Chapter, at depoebaygail@gmail.com or 314-401-5417.

Save the date for one of these dedication ceremonies:

- District 1: Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum
- District 2: Erickson Aircraft Collection, WWII Bend Heroes Memorial, Old District Mill, Aspen Ridge, Whispering Winds, and Touchmark at Mt. Bachelor
- District 3: Portland ‘City of Roses’, Peninsula Park, and Pittock Mansion
- District 4: Eugene Springfield Park Districts [TBA]
- District 5: State of Oregon WWII Memorial-Oregon State Capital Grounds, and Oregon Garden



Genealogy Videos to View Online

RootsTech, the largest genealogy conference in the world, is held February-March each year in Salt Lake City. A few RootsTech 2018 presentation videos are now available to view for FREE. Not all are information sessions. Some are opening and motivational presentations. There are at least two FamilySearch presentations. Please be aware that you can use the FamilySearch site for research only. You do NOT have to put your family tree on this site. (At least one of the presentations spends a lot of time explaining how to add your tree to its site if you wish to do so). It is uncertain how long these videos will be available.

RootsTech 2018 Videos You can even watch RootsTech 2017 Videos

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Family History Daily Sites

Which Genealogy DNA Test is the Best? A Detailed Comparison Guide to Help You Decide.

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/ancestry-dna-tests-comparison-guide/>

Family History Daily

50 Free Genealogy Sites to Search Today

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/50-free-genealogy-sites/>

King Family Group

<http://kingfolk.co/>



Did you missed Ron DeYoung's 10,000 mile Journey(14 Apr 2018) Presentation?

10,000 mile Family History Road Trip

BCGS April 2018

Travel Tips

1. Preparation: Read! Getting There Is Half The Fun
2. Travel: printed pages with
 - a. Lists of Needed Contacts:
 - b. Travel Stops, Addresses
 - c. Phone #s/texts/Email
 - d. Names
 - e. Audiobooks!!!
3. Travel Food:
 - a. Small cooler
 - b. Healthy items, water, healthy food, fruit
 - c. McDonalds may be your friend: Wi-Fi, bathrooms (not food!)
 - d. Saves time, better nutrition, better health than "road food"
4. Technology vs Paper? Both!
 - a. Cell phone (out of country coverage?)
 - b. Laptop, iPad/tablet, Photos vs portable scanner
 - c. Screen shots of needed internet info
 - d. Paper printouts of essential contact info
5. Long Road Distances, Saving Time and Taking Breaks
 - a. Audiobooks From Library: Overdrive (mp3), CDs, books on mp3
 - b. Burn through long distances, alternate with stop, explore, walk!
 - i. Visit old friends, family
 - ii. Historical sites
 - iii. National parks
 - iv. Areas of personal interest
6. Compile List of Archive, Historic Sites locations, hours, seasons, cost, etc
 - a. Ask about other sources, people, places, more exist!
 - b. Bookstores for resources
 - c. Ask questions, listen! Note surnames or personnel (cousins?)
 - d. Contact local genealogical/historical societies, ask questions!!
 - e. Ask about restaurants, local places to see
7. Schedule free time in each location
 - a. For R&R, walk where your ancestors walked.
 - b. Visit the new resources found from word of mouth: archives, museums, people, etc
8. Housing, stay flexible: keep and update list of resources
 - a. Use the day, schedule next place in the evenings (consider AirBnB, less \$\$, more info)
 - b. Organize and annotate notes, maps, contacts, etc.
 - c. Select places with wi-fi for evening research, planning.
9. Lessons learned, what & where next trip?

