



## Benton County Genealogical Society

# NEWSLETTER

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

LOCATED IN *Philomath, Oregon*

### *From the President's Desk...*

Hello everyone,  
I hope you had a wonderful, safe and happy summer break. Yes, summer is not quite over yet with our very warm smoky days. I had a very busy traveling break that I will share with you and hope you, too, will share your experiences at our next meeting.

Please feel free to bring any show and tell items. Plus we would love to hear about your new genealogy finds and/or your vacation travels

Come on Fall - as it is my favorite season!

Sincerely,

George Davidson

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### **The Benton County Genealogical Society**

meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, September through June, in the Fellowship Hall of College United Methodist Church, 1123 Main St., Philomath, OR. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. and the program at 11 a.m., unless otherwise announced. Refreshments follow at the Benton County Museum Annex.

## **Coming Events**

**September 5**—12:30 p.m.

BCGS Board Meeting—Philomath Library

**September 8**— 10:00 a.m.

BCGS Meeting—College United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1123 Main St., Philomath

**September 18**—1:00 p.m.

BCGS Writing Group—Benton County Museum Annex, 1101 Main St., Philomath

**Tuesdays & Saturdays**—1:00 p.m. - 3:30p.m.

Genealogy Library open—Benton County Museum Annex

# **“How I Spent My Summer Vacation”**

**Saturday, September 8**

**Fellowship Hall at College United Methodist Church**

1123 Main St., Philomath

**Benton County Genealogical Society Meeting**

**The 10 a.m. business meeting will be followed by  
an opportunity to share with others**

**(perhaps beginning as early as 10:30)**

... the research trips undertaken, family connections made, stories written,  
old photos uncovered, new websites discovered, family secrets unearthed ...

## **Genealogy Library Used Book Sale**

Our used book sale will take place after the general meeting on Saturday, September 8 . in the Museum Annex building. Because the books will be laid out on the tables in the Annex, refreshments will be during the meeting as we explore with each other what we discovered over the summer.

### **For Sale**

**A variety of genealogy and history books**

**Maps**

**Large used binders**

**Other donated items**

**Three of OSU's *The Orange* yearbooks —1914, 1915 and 1921**

**P.S. It's not too late to clean out books in your own library to make room for new ones. You can still bring them to the library on September 1 or 4 for sale on Sept. 8. Your member friends thank you!**

Sue Van Laere, Librarian

### **Upcoming Fall 2018 BCGS Programs**

- October 13: Sandra Potter - **Women in World War II**
- November 10: Douglas Sackinger - **How to Read Maps**
- December 8: **Annual Holiday Auction and Potluck**

### **Looking forward to 2019**

- Ted Cox will speak about his book Murray Loop and writing techniques
- Ann Smart will demonstrate basic functions of RootsMagic and talk about the recent research updates.
- Pam Vestal will talk about Voting Records: Genealogy's Best Kept Secret

## *What we learned:*

### **Immigration and Naturalization Records Are A Treasure Trove**

At the May 12 BCGS meeting, we had the rich opportunity to learn from Keith and Darlene Pyeatt ([k\\_pyeatt@yahoo.com](mailto:k_pyeatt@yahoo.com)) on the subject of Immigration, Naturalization, and the records associated with those processes. Now residents of Forest Grove, Keith is proud to be a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Oregonian while Darlene hails from Indiana. In addition to doing extensive research and educational talks, the Pyeatts also teach prison inmates how to conduct their genealogical searches and to build pride in their heritage, even without the benefits of internet.

The Pyeatts provided a very helpful handout that introduced naturalization, detailed the steps in the process, and listed recommended sources for finding clues and records of our immigrant's steps through the process. The handout also summarizes a few wise search tips to ensure that we can "catch" our immigrant in the process across time and space, provides abbreviations pertinent to Census indications of naturalizations, and provides a list of both print and online sources that promise to be very helpful.

We learned that the genealogical values of doing immigration and naturalization research include tracing our ancestors to their places of origin, discovering their native or original name(s), and discovering the fullness of each person's story of arrival – why they left, what and who they left, and what they did while establishing our families in the U.S.

In starting out, it is important to realize that knowing the country of origin can take us only so far with our research. Census records vary in which clues we can glean, and it is good to keep our minds open to possibilities with what we do find. For example, imagine being an immigrant, possibly having limited understanding of English, and being briskly asked "Where did you last live?" Depending on their paths to emigration and then their immigration journeys, some folks needed to move in successive steps – They might have left their ancestral town and then lived months or years in another place whilst gathering family and resources to board the ship, for example. If the question was asked as above, your ancestor's reply might yield more information about the port city's region from which they departed than it can actually reveal about their place of origin. Alternatively, they might have been asked, "Where are you from or where were you born?" Again, depending on what the census worker asked, stages of journey, changes in town names or national borders, and abilities to communicate, answering these questions was open to a lot of interpretation. Therefore, the information we find can be very useful, but it needs to be interpreted carefully.

In general, naturalization was a two-step process. After residing here for two years, the immigrant filed "first papers," or the Declaration of Intention in the county where they were living at the time. Three years further on, they could file their Petition for Naturalization, but because they might have moved in the intervening years, it is not unusual for that filing to occur in a different county or even several states away. Finally, after a Petition was granted, your ancestor needed to appear in court to receive his/her certificate of citizenship. In general, the Pyeatts shared, the Declarations of Intention provide more information of genealogical value than documents generated in the prior step. We were reminded that the names appearing on these naturalization records could easily represent "Americanized" versions of the first and family names of our relatives. Thus, the names we find on a ship's passenger list may differ from what we find on the naturalization records.

Courthouses can be the best places to find records, although **where** in the courthouse (which division or office) can vary. An advance call to the County to ask where their records reside (as well as what years they

**(Continued on page 4)**

## Writing Group

If you want to get started on writing your own story or family stories, join us from 1-3 p.m. on September 18 in the Museum Annex. This will be the first meeting of the year. We'll talk about what we personally want to accomplish. Whether it's written stories, family information such as health histories, family photos with short explanations, timelines with sources, family history through cookbooks or family recipes or a way not yet conceived, our goal is to encourage each other in finding a unique, personal way to tell the tales. We're an easy-going, helpful group of people! We meet the third Tuesday of every month, so we hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup> or at other meetings.

Sue Van Laere

## ROOTSMAGIC

There is a local Roots Magic Genealogy Software User Group that meets about 6 times each year on a Saturday from 1-3 pm at Ann and Bill Smart's home. Members of the group select the topics they want covered related to the software. Users at all levels are welcome. The fall dates are Oct. 27 and Dec. 1 with the topics not yet selected. Roots Magic is a powerful software that can be used at a simple level to track your family or at an advanced level to keep track of your research and report it. If you are interested in joining the group, email Ann Smart, [annsmart1@comcast.net](mailto:annsmart1@comcast.net)

### (‘Immigration and Naturalization’ continued from page 3)

hold) can be a valuable investment of time and effort. *The Source* has a good section of contact information. The website of the National Archives can be another good place to start. Other good starting points can be the Family Search Wiki (example, “Ohio naturalization records”) or the Ancestry.com Card catalog search for Immigration records. The <https://stevemorse.org/> website has some very valuable “one-step” search tools to drill through immigration and other vital records.

Beyond those sources, the Pyeatts have had success in some rich but less common places, such as State and Federal land records, letters, church, poorhouse, or military records, probate documents of ancestors’ relatives, funeral and cemetery logs, county histories, and passport applications, among others.

A challenge lies in the fact that significantly more information is available for immigrations and naturalizations that occurred during or after 1906, because there were no solid or consistent rules or laws governing what data had to be collected and preserved prior to that year. Women and children also can be challenging to trace from departure through naturalization. For example, after September 1922, an incoming woman would have had to file her own Declaration of Intent rather than being included on that of her husband, as would previously been the case. Additionally, the Pyeatts said that there were more than 101 historical ports of entry, but that about 50% came through 3 main ports: New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. That means that the other 50% came through one of those other 100+ entry points in the U.S., and that other immigrants arrived in Canadian or Mexican ports.

Capturing the emigration that started the journey holds its own opportunities and challenges. There were several major ports (Liverpool, Bremen, Hamburg), but many others as well. Ancestry.com’s card catalog provides access to emigration records, too. Finally, some of our ancestors made repeated trips to and from their home country, so the Pyeatts urged us to follow the trails rather than giving up or throwing out data based on assuming that each immigrant only made one one-way movement.

Dana Sanchez, BCGS member

## Wishful Linking...

### Library and Archives Canada

#### Updates & Expands its Researching Early Census Records Guide

The following announcement was written by Library and Archives Canada:

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is pleased to announce the launch of an expanded version of one of our most popular research guides: *Finding Aid 300: Other census and related documents (1640 to 1945)*. Finding Aid 300 is a comprehensive guide to early census and related records found at Library and Archives Canada, which date from 1640 to the 1800s. There are also some records from the 1900s, including Newfoundland and Labrador, 1921 to 1945. <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/Finding-Aid-300.aspx>

## Regional Event

**Saturday, Septeptember. 15 @ 2 p.m. - Portland, OR**

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon presents:

### *Analyze Your Ancestor's Handwriting*

**Presenter: Joyce Brizendine**

What personality traits may your ancestor's handwriting reveal? Do two signature samples belong to the same person? This presentation will use the handwriting of famous people to illustrate principles of handwriting analysis. Attendees are encouraged to bring samples of their own ancestors' handwriting for an expert opinion.

Joyce Brizendine is a professional handwriting analyst, certified by the International Graphoanalysis Society and by the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation. She has taught and lectured about handwriting analysis, and appears periodically on AM Northwest.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

2505 SE 11th Ave., Portland, Oregon — [www.GFO.org](http://www.GFO.org)

## Research Requests:

Because I get the mail, I am the first in line when we get a research request. Because I've recently started volunteering at the Museum, I'm getting a bit better at this. We have had two research requests in the last 4 months. One was from a woman in California who wanted a current photo of a house she lived in when she was young. I was able to provide that, and also found much information on line and in the Benton County Historical Museum database about the Helm-Hout house which was built in 1895 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. She then wrote an article for their Santa Barbara newsletter about the house and her reflections of living there in 1938. With her permission, the article has been submitted to the BC Historical Museum archives. And to add to the interest, Mary Gallagher, Museum Collections Manager, rented a room in the house when she was a student.

The second request was from an inmate in a California prison who has gotten interested in his Benton County family origins. He is a descendant of the Humphreys, a pioneer family that lived in Bellfountain. I found some genealogical info on [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), then supplemented with some photos of the old homestead that Mary found on the BC Museum database. I received a second request from him for additional information, and I also suggested he check with the local LDS Church in case they had someone who could help him. Our May speaker, Keith Pyeatt, works with prisoners in Oregon and had suggested that option to me.

Submitted by Lois Courtney

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**Treasurer's Report:** Our Society is very solvent with \$6,140 in the bank. We took in about \$100 more this year than we spent, partly due to increased membership. We also had unusual copying expenses, trying to get current copies of the publications we sell, but also sold about \$400 worth, which offset much of that expense.

**Notice:** Benton County Genealogical Society provides links to websites as a service to subscribers. Linked web sites are not controlled by Benton County Genealogical Society and the Society is not responsible for the information, advertising, products, resources or other material of any linked site. The inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement by Benton County Genealogical Society. In addition, please be aware that your use of any linked site is subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that site. Direct any questions regarding linked sites to the webmaster of that site.

The Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter is published monthly September through June. The Newsletter Editor is Ann Bateman. Send comments and information to her at [tabateman@peak.org](mailto:tabateman@peak.org).