



Benton County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36 No. 7

December 2018

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

LOCATED IN *Philomath, Oregon*

Note From the President...

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving as we have so much to be thankful for — Family and Friends!

May your Christmas and New Years also be safe and happy.

George Davidson

Reflection ...

ROOTS OF YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

As you gather with family and friends in the coming weeks, ponder the origins of some of the traditions without which a particular holiday observance would not be satisfying. The friends with whom we shared Thanksgiving dinner did not serve cranberry sauce. The one item that is **TRADITIONAL** was missing! Cranberries were likely one fruit eaten by the native peoples with whom the pilgrims shared a feast. There is **ALWAYS** (continued on page 3)

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Small groups, Workshops
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The Benton County Genealogical Society

meets on the 2nd 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

December 5 — 12:30 p.m.

BCGS Board Meeting—Philomath Library

December 8 — 10:00 a.m.

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

December 8—1:30 p.m.

RootsMagic Users' Group—Home of Bill
and Ann Smart

December 11—1:00 p.m.

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

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

Genealogy Library open—Benton County
Museum Annex

December 8—Something New!

For every holiday auction for the last 1,000 years, Ted Gump has been our animated and amusing auctioneer. So we have decided to try something different this year, as his death means we'll miss some of what made the auction fun. So this year we will try a **SILENT AUCTION**.

Every item will have a bid sheet next to it. People will circulate and write their names on the bid sheets for any items they want. Each bid sheet will indicate a minimum amount, as well as an incremental amount. A home-baked pie might have a minimum \$5 bid. You would write your name at the top of the sheet with the \$5 amount. If the increment is \$1, the next person would write at least \$6. You may want to go back to an item you really want several times. When time is called, the person with the last and highest bid will get the item.



Due to the change in style of auction, it will be helpful to have larger items. If you have a number of small items to bring, you might put them in a basket or box to sell as a single item. Some ideas:

- Tickets: theater, sports, museums, concerts
- Gift certificates: restaurants, local merchants, cleaning services
- Baked goods: pies, cakes, cookies, jams, honey, jelly, syrup
- Baskets/boxes of: books, assorted treats, wines & cheeses, linens, hand made craft items
- Lessons: genealogy research, music, hiking, golf, bridge
- OR** anything else creative you can imagine



Our schedule for Saturday December 8th will be:

10-10:30—displaying auction items, setting up the bid sheets

10:30 to 10:45—a short business meeting

10:45-11:30—bidding, socializingand we may have someone showing photos

11:30—collect any bid sheets you 'won'

and take them to the cashier to pay, and collect your items

Then—head to the potluck at the Annex. Yum!!!

You know you're a genealogist if the top item on
your Christmas list is a genealogy subscription!

(Roots of Your Holiday Traditions continued from page 1)

cranberry sauce on Thanksgiving. However, our friends did offer a tasty raisin turkey stuffing reflecting their German heritage and roots. It almost made up for the missing cranberries.

As you give thought to the traditions in your family celebrations in November/December, invite other members of the family to share what **MUST** be included for the holiday to feel right. Invite the youngest members of the family to be a part of the conversation. Reflect on the origins of your family which brought about a particular tradition. Then make notes for future generations!



candles signify the principles.

Are there Afro-American roots? Perhaps you remember the first Kwanzaa as it was celebrated in your family. Kwanzaa is an African-Americans celebration of life from December 26 to January 1. Dr. Maulana Karenga introduced the festival in 1966 to the United States as a ritual to welcome the first harvests to the home. The word "kwanza" is a KiSwahili (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) word meaning "first." The seven principles (nguzo saba) of Kwanzaa utilize Kiswahili words: unity (umoja), self-determination (kujichagulia), collective work and responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani). The seven



Are there Jewish roots? Do you have the Menorah that was your grandmother's?

Candles are also an important part in the Chanukah observance in the lighting of the nine candles of the Menorah. This commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple after it was reclaimed from the Greeks by Judah the Macabee and his clan who led a siege against the Seleucids at the Acra in the second century BCE. Miraculously oil which should have lasted only for one day was sufficient for eight. Dates for Hanukkah in 2018 are December 2-10.



Are there European Christian roots? Is the **crèche** purchased by your parents for their first Christmas one of your treasures? The crèche has its roots centuries ago. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account of this event comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death. According to this biography, St. Francis received permission from Pope Honourius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come to gaze upon the scene. Christmas is celebrated on December 25 throughout Christendom.

Are there Muslim roots? Mawlid recitations are increasingly common in the Western part of the globe in the annual Muslim celebration of the birthday of Muhammad ibn Abdullah Al-Arabia. The history of this celebration goes back to the early days of Islam when some of the Tabi`in (the successors of the Companions of the Prophet) began to hold sessions in which **poetry and songs** composed to honor the dignity and the righteous example of the Messenger of Allah were recited and sung. Perhaps have have poems that were written by previous generations in your family. Mawlid was November 21 this year.

Your tradition may include decorated trees, meditation, feasting, fasting, gift giving, singing, gathering with a religious community or...??? What is the family story that goes with your holiday traditions?

by Ann Bateman

Upcoming Programs in 2019

January 12:

Ted Cox will talk about his book *Murray Loop* and writing techniques

February 9:

Danell Aukerman will demonstrate “How to Research Genealogy on the Internet”

March 9

Ann Smart will demonstrate the basics of RootsMagic and share about recent updates

April 13

Pam Vestal will cover “Voting Records: Genealogy’s Best Kept Secret”

May 11

Leanne Trask will present “Pitfalls of German Genealogy”

Writers Group

The next meeting will be December 11, 1:00-3:00 in the Annex. Note the change of date. Have you thought about the ubiquitous Christmas letter as a source for the beginnings of your family story? Hope to see you.

Linn Benton Community College

Write Your Own Life Story will be offered at the Benton Center. “Your own life stories and those of your family members are treasures that need to be preserved as carefully as photos. Recall and Recount family history in your narrative style with enhancement of detail, description and dialogue”. It begins January 11 from 1-2:50 p.m. and continues for eight weeks. The cost is \$69. Register by calling 541.917.4840 or online at webrunner.linnbenton.edu.

ROOTSMAGIC

The local RootsMagic Genealogy Software User Group will meet on Saturday, December 8 (yes, this is the same day as the regular BCGS meeting) from 1:30—3:30 pm at Ann and Bill Smart's home. The focus will be ‘Media’ and will include how to deal with photos and exhibits.

If you would like to join the group, email Ann Smart, annsmart1@comcast.net.

Users at all levels are welcome.

WORKSHOP

Works Project Administration (WPA) Records

Saturday, February 16, 2019

10 am. ’til Noon

Oregon Genealogical Society Library

955 Oak Alley, Eugene, OR

Instructor—Dawn Carlile

Fee: \$8 for members, \$10 for guests

Finding and Using Old Maps

Summary of November 10th Program

Douglas Sackinger, Benton County Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator, presented the program, "Finding and Using Old Maps." He works at the Avery building where 100-year-old records are stored on microfiche. Sackinger said there are maps available with hundreds of years of information.

When the public survey system was established it required that the filing office be no further away than one day from a person's residence by horse. People in Benton County did not like making the trip to Dallas to file deeds. In 1847 Benton County established a land records office.

Land deeds are documents used when selling or purchasing property. [Note: Deeds give the name of the purchaser and the seller, the price paid for the property, and often the name of the wife as well as the husband. A specific land description is given so the property can be identified.]

An old map showing natural features may be compared with a new map showing the path of a river. The river's new location may redefine county boundaries. Aerial photography might identify land use changes such as crop farming to timber. Sackinger's handout lists many websites for maps including several specific to Benton County and Oregon. Here are two important sites he lists:

- **BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and the GLO (Government Land Office)** - The Government Land Office was a forerunner to the Bureau of Land Management. Online images include township plats, donation land claims. <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/default.aspx>.
- **The Library of Congress** has townships maps and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.
<https://www.loc.gov/maps>

Other sources:

Telephone books in Benton County have name, address, phone number and children's ages.

U.S. Census records identify location of families in addition to other information.

Survey records, he said, would be Greek to us, but records do contain clients name and some features.

For Sackinger's handout with more sources for maps [Click Here for Handout Info](#)

Or go to the BCGS website

select Monthly Programs <http://www.bcgs-oregon.org/main-site/monthly-programs>

Under the Nov. 2018 program Click the link "Click here for handout info"

Contact county offices before visiting to determine their holdings, year of coverage, their policies, [and availability of the person(s) with the most knowledge to help when you arrive.]

By Mary Dean Snelling

Writers Corner #12

Helping the Narrative Flow

Follow a beginning-middle-end structure.

- The beginning of an essay summarizes what the essay will disclose. It also may give background information.
- The middle of a genealogical essay will tell the story of a family
- The end will summarize the middle.
- Make your essay's opening sentence a "grabber" and provide a satisfying end.
- Pick a focus for your essay. Identify it in your opening, describe it in the essay's middle section, and summarize it in your essay's conclusion. Maintain that focus throughout your essay.
- Avoid speculations that do not advance your essay and are unlikely to interest readers.

(continued on page 7)

WEBINARS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 at 4 pm PST

FROM RUBBLE and RUIN: Locating Famine Immigrant Families in Land & Tax Records

Donna Moughty will show how to find famine immigrant families in the Land and Tax records.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7947826792946753026>

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 at 8 am PST

ENGLISH GENEALOGY RESEARCH OVERVIEW

English course instructor Paul Blake will provide an overview of the week long course he will be teaching along with Maggie Loughran at this year's British Institute

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3989624514702630402>

Civil War Facial Recognition

Photography was a new technology at the time of the U.S. Civil War. An estimated 40 million photos were taken during the Civil war – although only four million are believed to remain today. Many have been treated as heirloom photos by families ever since. Still others are valuable for their historical value. One problem is that many of the people shown in the old photographs have never been identified, until now.



In a marriage of the latest technology and 150-year-old technology, computerized facial recognition techniques are now identifying many of the people in the old photographs.

Computer scientist and history buff Kurt Luther created a free-to-use website, called [Civil War Photo Sleuth](#), that uses facial recognition technology to cross-reference vintage photographs with a database and hopefully assign a name to unknown subjects.

Anyone may upload their own photographs or select from the many photographs that are already available online, such as photos from the [U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's web site](#). The software in the Civil War Photo Sleuth web site then maps as many as 27 "facial landmarks" on each photograph. Once it finishes cross-referencing, the site will serve up a slate of closely similar photographs that already have names attached.

For any one photo, the web site often identifies a number of potential candidates, rather than just one. In that case, humans have to compare the photographs of potential candidates to identify the correct person, if possible.

A lot more information about the [Civil War Photo Sleuth](#) may be found in an article by Annie Palmer in the *Daily Mail* web site at <https://dailym.ai/2S6gUwy> while the Civil War Photo Sleuth web site may be found at: <https://www.civilwarphotosleuth.com>.

From newsletter by [Dick Eastman](#) · [November 20, 2018](#)

WRITER'S CORNER - continued from page 5

- Delete digressions. Plan to address interesting digressions in another essay.
- Sequence the narrative to avoid repeating information.
- Discuss related information together in one section.
- Ensure transitions and breaks that make paragraphs and sections flow from one to the next.

[Jones, Thomas W. *Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians*,
Western Institute of Genealogy July 2016, Eugene, Oregon,p.18 - 21]

Creating Sections

- Focus on paragraph linkages, enabling paragraphs to flow from one to the next within each section of your essay.
- Divide most narratives into sections. Short essays require no divisions.
- To avoid choppiness, each division should contain at least two paragraphs. Divisions usually contain three or more paragraphs.

If the paper's length and complexity justify further division, divide the essay into subsections: Most completed genealogical narratives have one level of division (chapters or sections) or two levels (chapters and subsections.) Compose descriptive titles for the chapters and subsections to maintain reader interest. Subheadings help the writer transition from one topic to another.

[Jones, Thomas W. *Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians*,
Western Institute of Genealogy July 2016, Eugene, Oregon,p.19]

Lists—Use lists to provide relief from a long series of paragraphs.

- Use bullets and numbers to list related points. This provides relief from a long series of paragraphs.
- Number the list when your essay will refer back to a specific item. Otherwise use bullets.
- Each list needs a lead in sentence-- a complete sentence when possible.
- Each item in the list needs to be parallel in structure and syntax. Do not mix sentences, phrases, tenses or other verb forms.

[Jones, Thomas W. *Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians*,
Western Institute of Genealogy July 2016, Eugene, Oregon,p.20]

ELECTION OF OFFICERS for 2019

Persons have been nominated for president, vice-president and treasurer.
Nominations are open for the position of secretary (self nominations/volunteers are invited).

Please select or write in your choice for the positions listed

& return this BALLOT to the December 8 General Meeting!

BCGS BALLOT

President: (write in)	George Davidson	
Vice Pres. (write in)	Kathryn Moss	
Secretary (write in)		
Treasurer (write in)	Lois Courtney	

Enjoy the Benefits of 2019 Membership

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

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year (individual or family)

_____ New _____ Renewal

The newsletter can be sent by E-mail or US mail (for an additional fee). Please indicate your preference.

_____ E-mail _____ US mail* * Add \$10.00 to cover printing and mailing costs

Enclosed is: \$_____ for membership dues \$_____ donation to the Society

For family memberships please list all names: _____

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Next Newsletter

deadline

December 28

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