



## Benton County Genealogical Society

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 3

March 2019

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

LOCATED IN *Philomath, Oregon*  
FOUNDED IN 1971 IN CORVALLIS, OREGON

### Note From the President...

Spring is around the corner. Are you ready? I sure am.

We are sorry our last meeting was cancelled. Due to forecasted snow and ice we wanted to error on the side of safety.

I hope you are able to attend our next meeting (March 9) as our Program speaker, Ann Smart, will present RootsMagic, a genealogy software for the beginner or experienced researcher.

George Davidson

P.S. I have RootsMagic on our library computer (upstairs).

**Conversation starters**— maybe for the break between business & program on March 9.

- What sparked your interest in genealogy?
- How many years have you been engaged in genealogy?
- When did you begin using RootsMagic? (or other method of collecting/organizing your information)

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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. Guests are always welcome!

## Coming Events

**March 2** — 1 p.m.

**RootsMagic Users' Group**

Home of Bill and Ann Smart

**March 4** — 3 p.m.

**Board Meeting**

Philomath Public Library

**March 9** — 10:00 a.m.

**BCGS Meeting**

College United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall, 1123 Main St., Philomath

**March 19** — 1:00 p.m.

**BCGS Writers Group**

Benton County Museum Annex,

1101 Main St., Philomath

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

**Genealogy Library open**

Benton County Museum Annex

**March 9**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Ann Smart**

**‘Digging into RootsMagic’**

Ann will acquaint us with this user friendly yet powerful tool to collect and organize genealogical information and will share about the newest updates. RootsMagic is appropriate for both beginning and experienced researchers.

**Upcoming Programs**

*Programs begin at 11 a.m. following the 10 a.m. Business Meeting*

**April 13—Pam Vestal**

**Voting Records:**

**Genealogy’s Best Kept Secret**

**May 11—Pam Trask**

**Pitfalls of German Genealogy**

**June 8—Program and End of Year Potluck**

**Writers’ Group**

The next writers’ meeting will be Tuesday, March 19, from 1-3. If you haven’t convinced yourself that you really do want to start writing your own or your ancestors’ story, come check us out! We’re always full of simple ideas for how to get started. On top of that, we have fun and, usually, refreshments. Simple ideas, fun, and refreshments: can’t ask for more!

*“The first step to understand why humans are such effective storytelling and story-readiness animals is to realize that we ourselves are ‘stories’ - your unbroken stream of consciousness is the ‘story’ of your life, told in the language of emotion about your memories and experiences.”*

**Drew Turney**

From “Wired for Stories”  
in *Best of Brain World*, January 2019

**ROOTSMAGIC**

The local RootsMagic Genealogy Software User Group will meet on Saturday, March 2, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Bill and Ann Smart.

Susan Hayes will lead an exploration of TreeShare for Ancestry. Please view the U-tubes on the RootsMagic website prior to the meeting.

You can view a video and print out a guide at: <https://www.rootsmagic.com/Ancestry/default.aspx>

or the video only at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDOlq7EFIWA>

There is a second video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECNDEI2rcgY>

Please let Ann know if you plan to attend at Annsmart1 at comcast.net.

Users of all levels are welcome.

## Library Corner

### Big changes

happening in the library! You'll be surprised to see how much larger the library downstairs feels with the vertical file moved upstairs. In addition, we're moving the copier/printer downstairs. You'll actually have a good machine to use when you find some treasure online or in a book.

Thanks to Leila, Nancy, and Grace, we lightened the vertical file load by moving the contents into smaller boxes to take upstairs. Then John Patterson, Connie's husband, moved the file cabinet upstairs to its new resting place. Last year David and Lyle Utt donated another file cabinet, so now that we have two, the drawers' contents can be spread out. Thank you all.

Upstairs is beginning to take shape also. We're in the process of moving the foreign countries' section into its new spot. The journals you chose to keep are being moved, too. When we're finished, you'll have a nice table to sit at while researching, and the upstairs computer has a better spot, too.

Thanks again to the village of people who have stepped up to help. If you have even two hours once a month to help out, you would be doing a good thing! I can fill you in on what we have left to do.

Sue Van Laere

### New Hours

In February, the BCGS Board discussed and approved a small change to the hours of staffing for the library. For many years, we have been open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 3:30. We've now reduced that to **1:00 to 3:00**. I suggested the change partly because I've personally found that last half hour hard to do. Also, statistically, we are open 5 hours a week for 52 weeks, except for an occasional holiday. That's a total of about 250 hours a year. Last year we had 15 non-members visit the library. Of course other BCGS folks use it too and that's important, but now they will know to show up earlier!

Which also reminds me this is a good time to thank our staffers. Some of these folks have been consistently providing this service for years: Leila Crawford, Kathryn Moss, Debbi White, Nancy DeBoie, Dave Kribs, Frances Pinney, Connie Patterson, Sandy Potter and Susan Hayes. We also have our alternates, Tom Bateman and Grace Maddux. So if you see them at a meeting or at the library, thank them. And congratulate them on the 1/2 hour they've now gained back for their personal lives.

Lois Courtney



## Tips for Organizing your Research Materials

### Piles of paper copies!???

Can't find what you want?      Running out of room to stack them?

### Getting started is the hardest part: Transition from paper files to digital files

For inspiration and great ideas read or listen to Amy Johnson Crow's Generations Cafe Podcast: Episode 15. <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/organizing-genealogy-files/>

AND

See Janine Adam's blog <https://organizeyourfamilyhistory.com/>

### A summary of the podcast and blog with extra notes.

#### 1. Pick a framework to sort your paper piles to get them ready to scan.

There is no right or wrong way. The best way is whatever works the best for you and what you will continue to do. Contain your piles of paper records in folders or notebooks sorted by surname or type of document. Make labels. Break the sorting process into small steps and work in short time periods --10 to 15 minutes. Don't worry about doing everything perfectly!

2. Work on the framework. Set up file folders or notebooks and file your stacks a little bit at a time. Scan and save new discoveries--do not add paper to a pile! Work on the backlog of papers a little bit at a time. New discoveries go into digital files, old paper piles can be digitized as you need to use them or use the 10 - 15 minute time limit method to reduce the paper piles.

3. Transition from paper to digital. Use the USB port on a library scanner to copy materials you want to keep. Scan all paper files as you are using them. If it's special, keep it. Original birth certificates, marriage certificates, honorary certificates, ribbons and medals are items I want to keep even though they have been scanned into digital files.

4. An organized labeling system is essential for your digital folders. Keep it simple. Use whatever system fits your style. Change the name of materials you download from the Internet or USB port to fit your file labeling system.

Different ways to label your digital folders:

1. By surname, then given name--not relationships such as grandma or grandpa or cousins
2. By type of document such as vital records
3. By the year the document was made
4. By location
5. Use multiple copies of a will and save with each person named in the will
6. Use chronological order where appropriate

Example: Smith, John

Will

1884

Ashtabula Co., Ohio

5. Organize your backups, make regular back up tests to make sure you copied everything. Use the Cloud as a backup system. Lots of copies keep things safe.

6. No Organizational system is perfect! Use what works for you!

By Linda Olsen

## Your DNA Ethnicity Report Probably Will Change Over Time

In other words, you might not be who you think you are!

This is something that genealogy DNA experts all know but DNA newcomers usually do not. You can have your DNA sample taken one time and submit it to one testing service. A few weeks later, you will receive a report that shows the percentage of ancestry you have different parts of the world.



Simple, isn't it? Well, not really...

For many people, perhaps most people, if they go back to that testing service's web site some time later and look at their own DNA report again, they may find that the report has changed! The reason is simple: since the first report was completed, the DNA testing company has improved their database(s) with new and more extensive data. In fact, the DNA testing companies are often updating their ethnic origins databases in order to provide even more precise reports.

While your DNA obviously hasn't changed, the information the testing company uses to interpret that DNA often changes when more information becomes available. As the Ancestry DNA web site says: "Your ethnicity estimate is based on the data we have and the methods we use to compare your results to that data. Because we're always collecting more data and our methods are constantly improving, your estimate may change over time."

That happened to me as about 50% of my ancient ancestors "moved" about 1,000 miles between two reports of a single DNA sample. The first report said a high percentage of my ancestors came from the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) which I thought was strange. When I went back some months later to read the same online report again, I found all those Iberian ancestors had since "moved" to France, which seems more likely as the country of origin for all the French-Canadians in my family tree.

Lydia Ramsey had a similar experience and she wrote about it in an article in *Business Insider* at <https://read.bi/2SHvjDk>. You might want to read Lydia Ramsey's article, then go back to the web site of the DNA testing company you used and see if anything has changed in your report.

By Dick Eastman, February 12, 2019

### Ways to Help Date Old Photographs:

#### Women's Vintage Hats from the Minnesota Historical Society

A new online vintage hat archive can help date old family photos. The excerpts below are from the article posted on January 23, 2019, by Gail Dever

The style of clothing people wore in a photo often helps determine approximately when an old photo was taken. If your ancestors wore hats when they had their photos taken, this new online resource may be a perfect addition to your genealogy resources.

The Minnesota Historical Society has digitized 717 women's hats from their extensive collection. The hats range from straw hats worn in the 1860s to pink pussy hats women wore during women's marches in 2017. Before the 1860s, women in the United States wore bonnets. Hats were constructed out of straw, so "most wouldn't have survived."

If a photo appears to have been taken in the 1930s, the selection of hats can be limited to a time span that covers several decades, such as 1920 to 1940, or to just the 1930s. This is a great resource to explore. <http://search.mnhs.org/index.php?brand=cms&displaymode=grid&imagesonly=yes&subject%5b%5d=Women%27s%20hats%20%26%20headgear&count=100>



Shared by Margaret Fox, submitted by Linda Olsen

## Book Review/Summary

### **Photo Organizing Made Easy by Cathi Nelson**

#### **Tips for Organizing your Photos**

Find a place in your home where you can work and spread out your photos to sort them into three piles: which ones you will keep and which ones you might want to save and those to throw away. Remember the time when film was developed at the store and photos could be printed in duplicates or triplicates? How many scenic pictures did you take on your trips over the years? Save the photos with people in them and throw away or give away most of the photos that have no real value. Scenic pictures of familiar vacation places are easily found elsewhere.

Finding all of your photos may sound easy; however, you may find you have more photos than you thought you had. Make a list of all the different types of photos you have and where they are stored unless you have a very large surface on which to work. Old, precious, fading photos of a bygone era, photos taken with a variety of cameras over the years, home movies, and modern digital videos and digital photos are examples of the variety of photos you may have collected.

Date the oldest photos using clothing styles and type of photo or Kodak paper brands for more modern photographs. Date photos by creating a timeline of chronological events in your family and match up photos around the time periods and events they fit into. Another way to organize your photos is to create themes. Put all the wedding photos together, reunion, vacation, and school photos together. Dating isn't quite as important when photos are grouped together in themes.

Scanning your photos is discussed in Chapter 3 and storing your scanned photos in an organized system of folders is discussed in "Create a Folder Structure" in Chapter 4, Organizing Your Digital Photos. Using at least three different ways to backup your photos is advised. If you need to hire a professional organizer like the author, there is an Association of Personal Photo Organizers to help.

The book ends with essays about how photographs touch the lives of people in different ways. Photos need a story to tell about them. Sharing photos in albums made for a special purpose or wall mounted photos of ancestors are examples of how to use multiple photos.

This is a helpful book to start your journey organizing multiple types of photos into digital storage folders easily retrieved for whatever story you want to tell. Many sources for checklists and where to find helpful information such as equipment used for scanning and many other references are listed throughout the book.

This book is available to check out in our Benton County Genealogical Society Library.

Note: p. 30 addendum--Remember to use high quality/low compression options when saving scanned .jpg images.

by Linda Olsen



## Oregon Genealogical Society CLASS

### Using Land Records to Fill in the Blanks

Presented by Dawn Carlile

Saturday, March 16 10 a.m.—12 noon

Learn how researching land records can provide valuable information on your ancestors from where the land was located, how wealthy they might have been, confirm familial relationships, and identify neighbors. Covers Federal land states vs State land states, township and range systems, and metes and bounds.

Non-members \$10 Please email [education@oregongs.org](mailto:education@oregongs.org) or call 541-517-0984 to reserve your spot. Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to class. Class held at the OGS Library, 955 Oak Alley, Eugene, OR

## American Ancestors WEBINAR

by New England Historic Genealogical Society

### Using and Evaluating Published Genealogies

Presented by Alicia Crane Williams, FASG

Thursday, March 21 12:00–1:00 PDT

Following the advent of American genealogy in the early to mid-19th century, thousands of genealogies were published featuring families across the country. While largely uncited—and arguably biased—these early works continue to be an important resource for modern day family historians. Join Lead Genealogist of the Early New England Families Study Project and frequent contributor to the *Vita Brevis* blog, Alicia Crane Williams, to learn how you can access, evaluate, and utilize early published family histories in your research.

**Free and Open to the Public**

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5887070425402563075?source=website>

Upcoming *Linn Genealogical Society Programs* at Albany Public Library — 1:15 p.m.

**March 9th**—Judy Scott on the “American Orphan Train Children”

**April 6th**—Paul Anderson on “The Quaker Family Tree”

**May 4th**—Megan Wright on “Cyndi’s List”

## Sweet Home Genealogical Society Presentations

**March 16**—11 a.m.—Lebanon/Albany Canals

by Chet Houser, president of the Montieth Historical Society.

**May 18**—11 a.m.—DNA - TRUTHS AND MYTHS

by Josephine Ingraham from Grande Ronde

Presentations are held at 1223 Kalmia St., Sweet Home.

No sign-up is necessary for these free programs. Donations are gladly accepted.

## RESEARCH TOOL

### Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley

<https://archive.org/details/portraitbiographwvor00chap/page/n3>

This resource is also available for a variety of other areas. Search for:

**Portrait and Biographical Record of..** and fill in the county and/or state you are researching.

You might be able to find information on an ancestor in a book like this online, too.

Here are some more Portrait and Biographical Record books also found online in a quick search:

Portrait and Biographical Record of ...Western Oregon

- “ ...Denver & Vicinity, Colorado
- “ ...Waukesha & Sheboygan Co., Wisconsin
- “ ...Kankakee Co., Illinois
- “ ...Tuscarawas & Guernsey Co., Ohio
- “ ...Arizona

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#### **Officers 2019:**

**President:** *George Davidson*, 928-205-2121  
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**Vice President:** *Kathryn Moss*  
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#### **Appointed Positions**

**Membership:** *Connie Patterson*  
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**Audit:** *Connie Patterson*

**Refreshments:** *Peggy Gee*

**Host:** *Kathryn Moss*

**Research:** *Lois Courtney*

**Book Sales:** *Maridee Symons*

**Website:** *George Davidson*

**Facebook:** *Sue Van Laere*

**Publicity:** *Lois Courtney*

**Library Volunteers:** *Lois & Sue*

**Photographer:** *Linda Olsen*

**Writing Group:** *Sue Van Laere*

**Do you have something you would like to see included in the newsletter?**

**Next Newsletter**

**deadline**

**March 20**

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