



Benton County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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April 2019

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

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

Note From the President...

Seems spring has finally arrived. Time for spring cleaning inside and out. Enjoy it with family and friends as flowers come to life and show their beauty.

Reminder, your family tree data needs to be sourced or it will be just 'fiction'. Try to get in the habit of sourcing as years down the road, you may not remember when or where your data came from.

Hope you are able to attend our general meeting and program on Saturday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m.

George Davidson

You know you're a genealogist when you watch a movie that has a scene in a graveyard, and you're distracted from the plot by trying to transcribe the tombstones.

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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. Guests are always welcome!

Coming Events

April 8 — 3 p.m.

Board Meeting

Philomath Public Library

April 13 — 10:00 a.m.

BCGS Meeting

College United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall, 1123 Main St., Philomath

April 16 — 1:00 p.m.

BCGS Writers' Group

Benton County Museum Annex,

1101 Main St., Philomath

May 4 — 1:00 p.m.

RootsMagic Users' Group

At the home of Bill and Ann Smart

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

Genealogy Library open

Benton County Museum Annex

April 13 BCGS Program

Pam Vestal presents
Voting Records: Genealogy's Best Kept Secret
Voting records may reveal:
dates of birth or death
where ancestors lived and where they came from
the date and court of naturalization

Learn how to find valuable genealogical information in this often-overlooked resource.

Pam Vestal is a full-time genealogist and lecturer in Oregon.
Her research extends far beyond the Pacific Northwest, with clients all over the U.S.
and research that reaches beyond our borders.

Upcoming Programs

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

May 11—Leanne Trask

Pitfalls of German Genealogy

June 8

Program and End of Year Potluck

July and August

Summer Break

September 14

Gathering Back Together and sharing your new discoveries

October 12—Lisa McCullough

DNA Autosomal testing and what to do after receiving the results

November 9—Tom O'Brien

Family Search - Finding Digital Records

Writers' Group

We spent part of the March meeting discussing a technique for writing about someone you know. It's a simple idea of making a list of words that describe that person. If you have a hard time coming up with the exact word that fits your person, use just an OK word to get started. Sue had to almost immediately turn to the Thesaurus on her computer to have a better word for "determined." She found "strong-minded", which described her sister better. Mary Dean used Google to find a list of "characteristics" that helped her get started. Several people told one character story about their person and that story led to other memories.

When you've made a list of five or six words, you have a great start for your writing. **How?** There was a reason you chose each word. You had a picture or incident in your mind that made you choose that word. All you have to do is tell the tale of that particular memory. Once you've written about one characteristic, the others will work out, too.

One piece of advice: Don't critique yourself as you're writing. Put your tale on paper or computer and don't change a thing for at least two days! Then read your writing out loud to yourself or someone. You'll note areas that need a little work or, maybe, you'll like your story Mr. Rogers' Way, *just the way it is*. Either way, pat yourself on the back for a job well done. (And write some more!)

March 9, 2019 Program Review **RootsMagic**

Ann Smart, our local educator on RootsMagic 7, gave an overview on how to get started using this powerful genealogy software program. RootsMagic is user friendly and can be tried out using an online download trial version. If you decide to purchase RootsMagic, it can easily be ordered online and an update is offered about every two years and is also available for Mac computers. It can now also be synced with Ancestry and Family Search. Icons pop up next to the names which have more information available.

RootsMagic has many useful features that simplify the data entry process. There are helpful prompts for adding both people and facts. One of these is sourcing information in the correct format. Siting sources is essential to good genealogy. Another favorite feature is color coding different family lines. "To do" lists are so easy to make and are ready to go when you have the time for more research.

Ann went through many of the screens on the Main Menu page. The Side Bar (left Column) shows the alphabetical index of all names and how to navigate that field. Ann demonstrated the Main Menu and Tool Bar features where the commands are located. In the View Screen, the program formats information in both pedigree and family groups for the researcher's personal working style. The Timeline feature, most helpful for biographical information, is in a spreadsheet format. (A must in most genealogical research) The Web search allows you to add search engine URL's for quick access. In using the Sources feature, she advised that you need to be consistent in naming them, starting with the type such as Web, Book, Periodical. Many more features were demonstrated. Like all new programs, she encouraged us to become familiar with the content of each feature.

RootsMagic also has a library of tutorials videos and Youtube videos which can be accessed on line. Ann and her husband graciously host a RootsMagic users group at their home in Corvallis to share information, answer questions, and educate users of this genealogical program. All levels of experience are welcome.



Submitted by Liza Wilson

To explore more about RootsMagic

Go To: www.rootsmagic.com

Trial Version:

In the menus at the top of the RootsMagic page, select Downloads, click on Trial version .

Webinars:

In the menus at the top of the RootsMagic page, select Learn, then click on Webinars.

Can't get enough genealogy?

The Wicked Trade, The Suffragette's Secret, and The Asylum are 'Genealogical Crime Mysteries'. These self-published novels by Nathan Dylan Goodwin are available at <https://www.nathandylangoodwin.com/>.

Library News

The **“Who Are You Looking For”** survey has been typed and is now in the library. It's posted on yellow paper on the side of the Family History bookshelf. Take a look and see who might be working on the same name, country, or state as you.



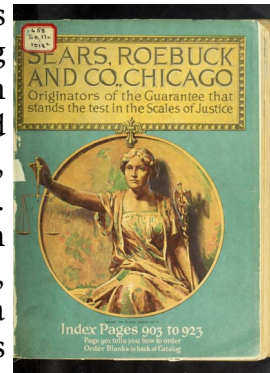
By getting better acquainted with each other, we might be able to create small groups that could meet during the open library time. Each of us has a body of knowledge that might be just the help someone needs to get over that brick wall. **At our April meeting, let's spend some of the time between the business meeting and the program talking with each other to see what we have in common.**

I'll bring some extra survey sheets for those who want to fill one out and join the crowd.

Sue Van Laere, Librarian

Still Trying to Date Those Old Photographs?

Sears, Roebuck and Co., Chicago, 1918 catalogue, 1638 pages (some pgs in color) filled with clothing for men, women, children and infants, household items, tools, toys, cameras, groceries and much more. Large pages turn easily with the forward or back arrow, zoom in or out or select a page from the Index, pages 903-923. Great resource for dating old photographs or dating antiques.



<https://archive.org/stream/catalog1918sear#page/n3/mode/2up>

For a Chronology of the Sears Catalogue 1893-1993 go to <http://www.searsarchives.com/catalogs/chronology.htm>

National Genealogical Society

New York Times journalist Jaya Saxena recently wrote in the Smarter Living Section about why you should “dig up your family’s history” and how to do it. Where did she go for advice? To the National Genealogical Society.

Saxena suggests the NGS and its website as a top choice to learn how to begin to build a personal family history. The article includes links to [NGS's new website homepage](#) and to its “How to Build a Family Tree” [tutorial](#) in the Free Genealogy Resources section of the website.

NGS website also features pathways to learn how to research family history, at all levels of expertise: [Getting Started](#), [Going to the Next Level](#), or [Building Advanced Skills](#).

New Free Historical Records on FamilySearch

FamilySearch added millions of **new, free, indexed historical records** in early March from **England, France, Iceland, Peru, South Africa, and United States: Georgia, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Utah.**

Search these new records and images by clicking on the collection links

<https://media.familysearch.org/new-free-historical-records-on-familysearch-week-of-march-11-2019/>

OR go to [FamilySearch](#) to search over 8 billion free names and record images.

How to Find Some of the More Obscure Collections of Genealogy Records

March 22, 2019

Posted by [Dick Eastman](#)

Google, DuckDuckGo, Bing, and other search engines are great for finding online databases that are useful to genealogists. However, smaller collections and even obscure ones are not prominently listed in the big search engines. Yet there are a few online listings that can point the way to finding what you seek.

The **Genealogy Roots Blog** at <https://genrootsblog.blogspot.com> contains pointers to many online genealogy databases, records and resources. The focus is on vital records (birth, marriage and death records), obituaries, census records, naturalization records, military records and ship passenger lists. Although the blog is based in the USA, online European, Canadian, and other records sources are sometimes included. You may also occasionally see a fun post or genealogy news. Joe Beine does a great job of adding more and more links as time goes by.

Another huge resource is **Cyndi's List**, available at: <https://www.cyndislist.com>. The site contains roughly 336,000 links to genealogy-related web pages in more than 200 categories. The various categories include many sources online records as well as pointers to newsletters, religious groups, historical information, geography, and much, much more.

Cyndi's List is free for everyone to use and is meant to be your starting point when researching online for information in the United States and also in many other countries. Indeed, Cyndi Ingle has labored many thousands of hours since 1996 to produce this huge online resource at <https://www.cyndislist.com>.

I would suggest you check out both the **Genealogy Roots Blog** and **Cyndi's List** to see if they contain information that may help you in your family history searches.

Oregon Genealogical Society Classes

Works Projects Administration Records

Saturday, April 20
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

President Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented the federal Works Progress Administration in 1935 to provide work for the unemployed. WPA workers created records and record inventories and we have access to the WPA employment records. Learn where to find these records, their genealogical value, and how to discover if your ancestor was a WPA worker.

Instructor: Dawn Carlile

Clustering Your DNA Matches

Saturday, May 18
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Nowadays your DNA test results provide you with hundreds (or thousands) of matches. Organizing them into family groupings or clusters is essential to solving your brick wall problems. There are now multiple methods to create clusters, some easy, some difficult. Join us as we take a look at the various techniques.

Instructor: Linda Forrest

Classes held at OGS Library - 955 Oak Alley, Eugene, OR

Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to class

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

Please email education@oregongs.org or call 541-517-0984 to register

After 30 days,

unclaimed ancestors will be discarded or claimed by another family.

Olive Tree Genealogy

Since 1996, Canadian, Lorine McGinnis Schulze has been online on the Olive Tree Genealogy web-site publishing a huge portal to free Ships' Passenger lists, Naturalization Records, Palatine Genealogy, Canadian Genealogy, American Genealogy, Native American Genealogy, Huguenots, Mennonites, Alms-house Records, Orphan Records, church records, military muster rolls, census records, land records and more. The Olive Tree Genealogy has a 3-step Genealogy Finder. Quoting from Lorine's website: **First** : the free transcribed genealogy records - there are over 1,900 now. Look for your family ancestors in free genealogy records marked with the Olive Tree. **Second**: the Genealogy tutorials and help files finding your ancestors in census records, land records, ships passenger lists, birth, marriage and death records and more. **Third**: the Genealogy Resource Guides. Genealogy How-to-Guides help you easily find your ancestors as you search ships passenger list, Huguenots, lists, Native Americans, Canadian Immigration, Palatines and more.

-Borrowed from the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter

Benton County Genealogical Society
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Book Sales: *Maridee Symons*

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Photographer: *Linda Olsen*

Writing Group: *Sue Van Laere*

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

Next Newsletter

deadline

April 24

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.

LINKS

<https://www.rootsmagic.com/>

<https://legacyfamilytree.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BentonCountyGenealogicalSociety/>