



## Benton County Genealogical Society

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 9

November 2019

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

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

### Note From the President...

Tentative vote count has favored the Benton County Genealogical Society continuing to meet at the Historical Society Building, 2nd Floor as we have done the last two months.

The vote was 21 to 16 in favor of the Historical Society location. Three voted to go with majority and 2 abstained.

Thank you for your input and votes. I hope to see you on November 9th.

And I hope to see all of the board members at our meeting at 3:00 p.m. on the 4th.

George Davidson



Our new venue

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### The Benton County Genealogical Society

meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, September through June. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Benton County Historical Society, 1101 Main St., Philomath. The program begins at 10:30 or 11:00 a.m., as announced. Refreshments follow at the Museum Annex.

Guests are always welcome!

## Coming Events

November 4—3:00 p.m.

**BCGS Board Meeting**

*Philomath Public Library*

November 9 —10:00 a.m.

**BCGS Meeting**

Benton County Historical Society  
1101 Main St, Philomath

November 19—1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Writers' Group**

Benton County Genealogical Society  
Library in the Museum Annex

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

**Genealogy Library open**

Benton County Museum Annex

December 14—Meeting, Auction, Potluck

## Benton County Genealogical Society Meeting

November 9—10:30 a.m.

**Robert Kentta**

### **Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians**

Robert Kentta, Cultural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, promotes ceremonial and cultural events such as traditional dances including songs, stories and food. He specializes in making traditional regalia and basketry. As a member of the Siletz Indians, he also supports cultural and sacred site protection, archaeological and archival research, historical and cultural education and encourages teaching and learning the Siletz language.

Robert grew up in his Tribal community of Siletz, Oregon, with a close connection to nature, and attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

He will disclose why the date November 9, 1855 is so important. He will bring pamphlets as well as examples of the cultural regalia he makes.

#### **Historical Background Information:**

YouTube presentation by Robert Kentta on cultural traditions including making ceremonial regalia

<https://vimeo.com/113739951>

Oregon Encyclopedia - Coast Indian Reservation

[https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/coast\\_indian\\_reservation/#.XY5NbUd7mpo](https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/coast_indian_reservation/#.XY5NbUd7mpo)

History of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

<http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/chinook-indian-tribe-siletz-heritage/our-history/part-I>

**Benton County Historical Museum      1101 Main St., Philomath**

**(ADA access and parking available at the rear of the building)**

**The 10 a.m. business meeting will be followed by the program at 10:30**

### **Upcoming Programs**

*Programs begin at 10:30 or 11 a.m. as announced, following the 10 a.m. Business Meeting*

**December 14**

**Silent Auction and Potluck**

***LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020***

**January 11—Beth Lambright in costume**

**sharing about the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower  
and her Mayflower ancestry**

**February 8—James Morales**

**Courthouse records**

**March 14—Tom O'Brien**

**Family Search - Finding Digital Records**

**April 11**

**BCGS Genealogy Software Fair**

#### **Refreshment Reminder—November**

Pegge Gee, Maridee Symons, John Crisciliello

Please be in touch with each other if your plans change. Contact Pegge Gee if you need a number.

# Library News



**Thank you** to everyone who stepped forward to get the library inventory finished in record time. You all can be counted on for cheerful hard work! Also, several more people have volunteered to help with putting number and category on each book spine. At next inventory time, we'll be able to beat this year's record because we won't have to pull out individual books for identification!

And, another big thank you to Liza W. who took on the task of cleaning and straightening out our kitchen. Now the crowded cupboards are cleaned, reorganized and labeled. There are some new teas, instant coffee and hot chocolate for meetings and for library staff while you're working. Thanks for taking on this big job, Liza!

## Writers think unconventionally Group



The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19 from 1:00-3:00 in the BCGS library. In our October meeting, we discussed what people are working on right now and their plan for this year. We decided to continue to use the first half hour as a time for helping each other with any problems they've encountered with their project. The next hour and a half will be devoted to hearing our stories or other creative ways to bring our own or ancestors' stories to life.

Everyone is welcome to join at any time of the year!  
Sue Van Laere

### **This Is My Story: Chapters In My Life: Autobiographical Writing Class**

Wednesdays, Nov. 6-Dec. 18 (no class Nov.27), \$8

10 A.M – 11:30 A.M. at Stoneybrook Lodge

Instructor: Jerry Rooney

Learn techniques for writing about the people, place and experiences that have shaped your life through the years. Share your writing in a supportive and welcoming environment with an experienced instructor as your guide. Limited spaces available. *Sign up [online](#) or call 541-766-6959.*

### **ARE YOU RELATED TO ANY OF THESE FOLKS OR KNOW WHO MIGHT BE?**

Mt. Union Cemetery, an historic cemetery located in Philomath, is seeking assistance in locating lot owners with whom there has been no contact in over 75 years. Listed below are the names of original purchasers and their descendents surnames as can be determined. If you have information about how to contact any of the descendents or heirs, please contact Tom Bateman, [tabateman@peak.org](mailto:tabateman@peak.org).

**Mrs. M.L. Castro**—related surnames: Strow, McBee, Coyne, Surak

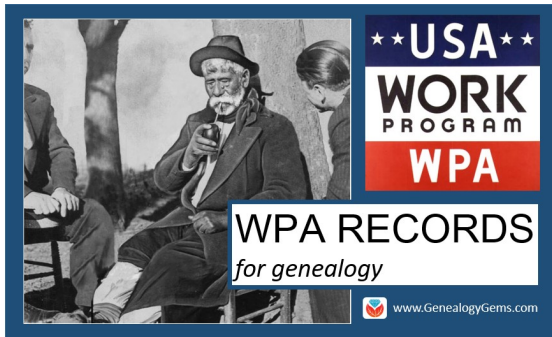
**J.W. Berryman** (1892-1964) – descendent surnames: Brown, Smith, Nourse (or Nousen), Berreman, Adams, Miller, Burright

**Luyena E. Hood** (1860-1932) descendent surnames: Hood, Bailey, Pritchett, Young, Bartz, Sufficool, Wulf, Privatsky, Craft, Haller, Mathany, Hesgard, Brame, Harris, Miller

**R.A. Willoughby** (1893-1965) descendant surname: Trobaugh

**Mary E. Lane** (1869-1942—no known descendants

**Chester Henkle** (1883-1975– spouses: Florence Burton and Hilda O. Carlson



## Have you used WPA records for genealogy?

*Their Historical Record Surveys and local and oral histories may help you in your family history research. Existing records and locations vary widely. Here are tips to help you in your search.*

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, employees of the Works Progress Administration (WPA, also known as the Works Projects Administration) created new resources for U.S.

genealogical research. It's possible you've even consulted some of these without being aware of their WPA origins. After all, the projects and their formats varied. They didn't always prominently credit the WPA and some were printed long afterward. We're going to shine the spotlight on WPA-era local histories, oral histories and statewide Historical Record Surveys.

### WPA Records for Genealogy: Local Histories

In Annie Barrows' novel *The Truth According to Us*, Layla Beck heads to the small fictional town of Macedonia, West Virginia to write a local history as a WPA assignment. Drama ensues, both in Layla's personal life and as she tries to learn local stories, which everyone reports a little differently. (We featured this book in the [Genealogy Gems Book Club](#).)

Actually, local histories *were* written as WPA projects. Their scope, topics, and formats varied, depending on the unique background and resources of each region and how active WPA workers were in each state and county. For example, WPA historical materials in [Morrison County, Minnesota](#) include "histories on townships, cities, churches, schools, businesses, the military, and miscellaneous county history topics," which have since been collected and reprinted by the county historical society. Many historical projects included photographs, such as [this one](#) for the city of New Orleans.

### WPA Records for Genealogy: Oral Histories

WPA workers also captured oral histories of individuals, too. Many were collected in [American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1940](#), now online at the Library of Congress. According to the collection description, "The documents chronicle vivid life stories of Americans who lived at the turn of the century and include tales of meeting Billy the Kid, surviving the 1871 Chicago fire, pioneer journeys out West, factory work, and the immigrant experience. The documents often describe the informant's physical appearance, family, education, income, occupation, political views, religion and mores."

Other important WPA oral histories are narratives of former slaves and their families. You can [browse an enormous collection of these online at the Library of Congress](#). These aren't the ideal eyewitness accounts we wish for, as they were gathered so long after the end of slavery, from many who were young children at the time. Also, many researchers believe interviewees may not have spoken candidly, especially to white interviewers who may have known them personally.

It's a long shot to find an ancestor mentioned by name in WPA oral histories. In some instances, pseudonyms were even used for names and places. But, you can still learn a lot from others' descriptions of daily life and unusual events your ancestors may have experienced

### Historical Record Surveys

The Historical Record Surveys created by the WPA are among the most genealogically-valuable of their projects. "Under the auspices of the WPA, workers went to archives, historical societies, public and university libraries, and compiled inventories of manuscript collections," writes [Bryan Mulcahy in an online report](#). "They went to courthouses, town halls, offices in large cities, and vital statistics offices and inventoried records. Besides compiling indexes, they also transcribed some of the records they found."

(continued on page 5)

(WPA Continued from page 4)

Today, many of their efforts still exist. They include indexes to cemeteries, newspapers, and naturalization records, as well as inventories of courthouse records, church records, and other manuscript collections in various archives or libraries. Of course, some records may have been moved or destroyed since inventories were created, but knowing what records existed around 1940 and what they were called may help you locate surviving collections. Some indexes, such as those of cemetery tombstone inscriptions, may actually be *more* valuable since they captured information from tombstones that may no longer exist or be legible.

One great example is the Historical Records Survey for the state of Oregon, described as “the most comprehensive documentary project of Oregon history and related records of its time.” It includes historical essays, document transcriptions, interviews, research notes, photographs, pamphlets and more. According to its [collection description](#), “The territorial and pioneer periods of the mid-to-late nineteenth century receive the greatest attention, with an emphasis on the growth of state government and infrastructure, business and agriculture, transportation, education, biography, and relations between social groups. Native Americans figure prominently in this collection.”

## Finding WPA Records for Genealogy Online

Some WPA projects were carried out on a federal level and others by state agencies. They were never centrally published or collected. Today, surviving original files and published volumes are scattered across the country. Some can be found in the National Archives, many in [state libraries](#) or societies, and many more available at local repositories.

A Google search such as *historical records surveys* and the name of the state and/or county is a great way to start your search for WPA records for genealogy research. Some results will lead right to the kinds of resources you want, such as [this guide to WPA records in archives in the Pacific Northwest](#). Others, such as [this one](#) for the Iowa Historical Records Survey published in *The American Archivist*, are mostly a history of the effort. However, they do contain several useful bibliographic citations to records that were created. Add the name of the county to your search and you may find more targeted results, such as [this library catalog entry](#) for the inventory of the Jasper County archives. [Click here](#) to learn more about Google searches for genealogy records you want to find.

Remember, though, that many WPA publications and collections aren't identified as such. Don't fixate on needing to find *WPA* listed in the title. Just concentrate your efforts on finding the local and oral histories, photos, historical record indexes and inventories, and other resources that may be out there. When you find one created during the Great Depression, you'll know it may have been done by the WPA.

*By Lisa Cooke*

*“from Lisa Louise Cooke’s Genealogy Gems at [www.GenealogyGems.com](http://www.GenealogyGems.com), home of the free Genealogy Gems Podcast”*

### “Can I Have a Copy of Your Fudge Recipe?”

#### “Over my Dead Body!”

Dr. Wade Andrews felt that his long, rich life could only be summed up by his wife's fudge recipe. In fact, he wanted to make sure the recipe was saved for posterity so he had the recipe engraved on his tombstone in the Logan (Utah) City Cemetery.

From

[Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) 30 Sept. 2019



Enjoy the Benefits of 2020 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Officers 2019:**

**President:** *George Davidson*, 928-205-2121  
[gid1943@gmail.com](mailto:gid1943@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** *Kathryn Moss*  
[mosskathryn@gmail.com](mailto:mosskathryn@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** *Debbi White*  
[genodebbi@gmail.com](mailto:genodebbi@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** *Lois Courtney*  
[loiscourtney@cmug.com](mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com)

**Appointed Positions**

**Membership:** *Connie Patterson*  
[connie.eckart.patterson@gmail.com](mailto:connie.eckart.patterson@gmail.com)

**Librarian:** *Sue VanLaere*  
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**Programs:** *Linda Olsen*  
[thekeeper@ronsarchive.com](mailto:thekeeper@ronsarchive.com)

**Newsletter:** *Ann Bateman*  
[tabateman@peak.org](mailto:tabateman@peak.org)

**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*

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

**Next Newsletter**

**deadline**

**November 30**

**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.

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

**LINKS**

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

<https://legacyfamilytree.com/>