



Benton County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 38 No. 4
April 2020

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

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

Note from the President...

I hope everyone is being safe and healthy with the current pandemic. I am being optimistic that the world will recover sooner rather than later for all of us to enjoy the upcoming summer. Please be safe and observe social distancing as we all adjust to the new lifestyle being imposed on us.

On a positive note, more family time and a good opportunity to work on your family tree research.

George Davidson

"Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you." — Mark Twain

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The Benton County Genealogical Society

TYPICALLY meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, September—June. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Benton County Historical Society, 1101 Main St., Philomath. ADA parking and access are available at the rear of the building. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. Refreshments follow at the Museum Annex. Guests are always welcome!

Coming Events

APRIL 7—BOARD MEETING **CANCELLED**

APRIL 11—BCGS MEETING **CANCELLED**

APRIL 14 WRITERS GROUP **CANCELLED**

TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS

LIBRARY CLOSED through APRIL

Stayed tuned for May

Have you completed your census yet? Your great-great grandchildren will be glad you did when they have access to it in **2090**.

**STAY TUNED
for future scheduling of BCGS programs we've had to miss**

Tim O'Brien: Family Search—Finding Digital Records
Chris Meinicke: Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers

Upcoming 2020 BCGS Programs

10:30 am to noon

Benton County Historical Society Moreland Auditorium

May 9	Captain Mark Stevens - “Civil War - Life of a Soldier and more”
June 13	TBA and Potluck
July and August is Summer Break Our BCGS Library is open as usual on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 3:00pm	
September 12	Gathering Back Together & Sharing
October 10	Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen Stories of her great grandfather, Silas Norman Lilly, and local Benton County history
November 14	Pam Vestal “How to Write Ancestral Stories Your Relatives Will Want to Read”
December 12	Silent Auction and Potluck

A resource shared by Betty Elliott

I belong to NEHGS, a New England group, and it was posted that information on 285,000 Civil War soldiers from Illinois was available. I went to Office of the Illinois Secretary of State and then to Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls. The information was very good.

<https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/datcivil.html>

**ALL FAMILIES ARE OLD . . .
SOME JUST KEEP BETTER RECORDS**

RESOURCES...from Ancestry Academy™, a free program offering online courses to help families get started on their family tree building. A library of educational videos can be found at: www.ancestry.com/academy.

A sampling of the courses includes:

[Your Family History Online: Laying the Foundation](#)

[Beginning Your Search for Irish Ancestors](#)

[What Is a Census Record?](#)

[Whiskey, Farming and the Choices to Move: Understanding Family Migration](#)

Genealogical Forum of Oregon offers these research suggestions while you are staying at home:

The [Occasional Genealogist](#) has lots of ideas for your family research.

Check out: [5 Genealogy Tasks When You're Stuck at Home](#)

For tips on where to find Digital Historical Books online, see the latest entry at

Empty Branches on the Family Tree: [5 Resources for Finding Digitized Historical Books Online](#)

FOR FUN WHEN YOU HAVE TIME (THAT MIGHT BE NOW!)

A SUGGETION FROM LINDA OLSEN

View six 20 minute videos from sessions at RootsTech 2020: https://www.ancestry.com/cs/rootstech2020?o_xid=107465&o_lid=107465&o_sch>Email+Programs

Or you can view the same 20 minute videos on You Tube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=RDCMUCsc0AQkAh_2cQmxqwD6VWRw&v=5olmhW9pVM0&feature=emb_rel_end

The six videos are:

What's New at Ancestry

Finding John Lee: From Slavery to Freedom

Finding Women's Maiden Names

Hidden Treasures on Ancestry

Civil War: It's Personal -

See an Ancestry Genealogist work with Thrulines.

The 20 minute video I enjoyed the most was finding the personal stories of your Civil War ancestor and about Ancestry, Fold3 and American Battlefield Trust working together to eventually combine their records and information

“The Civil War: It’s Personal” Learn tips to find your ancestors’ experiences in the Civil War whether it’s on the battlefield or the family left at home to wait and wonder about their loved one and how a death changed a family forever. Learn about a new project as described by Anne Gillespie Mitchel. Find out what’s coming and what to expect from Project Regiment at <http://www.fold3/projectregiment>

Project Regiment The Civil War was not just one story. At least 3 million stories mingled together are waiting to be told. Everyone who fought or was involved in the Civil War has a story that impacted families, communities and future generations.

Ancestry and Fold3 have been helping people understand their ancestors and the soldiers who fought for many causes for decades. Now, Ancestry, Fold3 and American Battlefield Trust are joining forces to help find the veterans in your family’s past and understand their stories and their influence on the generations that followed. Now that Ancestry, Fold3 and the Trust are working together to help discover their stories, a wealth of information will be available on individual soldiers and others the Civil War touched. Eventually, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans and their stories will be added too.

More RootsTech sessions available at <https://www.rootstech.org/category/2020-rootstech-sessions>

Oregon Census Records with links to other information about censuses at the national level, contact info, etc. State Archives Census Records <https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records/aids-census.osa.aspx>

Reflections on what the census does not tell us...

In keeping with a “Sharing Family Stories in a Census Year” theme, I have been contemplating not only the facts given on the form, but the questions that are raised when one tries to tell a story from them.

I shared with my grandchildren recently some facts about my parents. My dad was born in 1913, but first showed up in a U.S. in 1930. Not arriving in California until July 1921, he appears in the early 1921 Canadian census. In 1940 he was in Mesa, Arizona with a wife! She was born in Iowa in 1914. Both the 1920 and 1930 U.S. censuses show her still in Iowa as does the 1935 Iowa state census. So the questions to answer are “where did they meet” and “how did they end up in Arizona?” I know that my sons have the answers and encouraged the grandkids to ask their fathers to tell them the story.

Ann Bateman

The Coronavirus and Genealogy

Because we're all concerned about the virus, I found myself wondering about my grandparents and great-grandparents during the Influenza Pandemic of 1918/19. So I did a little genealogy digging. My father's grandparents lived in Dawson County, Nebraska during the pandemic. His grandmother Fannie Winkler died in July, 1918, of Bright's Disease (kidney disease) and asthma. The flu, however, didn't arrive in Nebraska until October. His grandfather Andrew Jackson Winkler was spared by the flu, and his parents Harlan and Lena Winkler also survived. Harlan and Lena already had five children by this time. One of the five, three-year-old Gracy Edith had died in 1904, possibly from Rheumatic Fever.

Lena's parents Christianne and Fred Rittgarn also lived in Dawson County. Christianne died in January, 1917, and Fred lived until 1933. So, as far as I know, none of my Nebraskan close relatives died from the 1918/19 flu.

Christmas in Nebraska in 1918 was barely celebrated. In the town of Gering, a department store Santa was promptly arrested, along with the store owner, for not following a local ban on large crowds. Hundreds of children watched Santa being led off to the local jail. Across the nation, children morbidly jumped rope to a song:

There was a little bird
Its name was Enza
I opened the window
and in-flu-enza

By mid-January, the worst was over for Nebraska. The number of people who died from the flu in the state varied from 2,800 to 7,500. Many medical workers said that the inaccurate numbers came from workers who were so swamped with patients that they didn't have time to keep good notes. Nebraska's numbers were left off the total worldwide deaths for that reason. Worldwide death numbers range from 20 million to 50 million or more.

Much of what we're experiencing, our ancestors experienced, too: being quarantined, wearing masks, controlling public gatherings, closing schools and churches, and scammers preying on people's fears. Even though most of us probably have a certain amount of anxiety, we're lucky that we have communication at our fingertips instead of having to rely only on newspapers as the main source of information.

We have a bit better understanding of what we're up against and ways to stay healthy through being connected instantly. However, instant communication has its drawbacks. We have to be smart about who we trust for information. I'm sure our ancestors had the same problem but weren't bombarded with information as we are.

I'm taking time to slow down, grow a large garden, go to the grocery store when I need to, enjoy my family, do some genealogy, and be aware of good hand hygiene! The only thing I'm missing is getting together with local relatives and having coffee with friends. That will happen again. Let's all take care of ourselves and others.

Sue Van Laere, Librarian

Websites for reference:

<http://history.nebraska.gov/blog/1918-flu-pandemic-nebraska>

www.omaha.com Editorial: Looking back at Nebraska's 1918 influenza epidemic

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/world-war-i-and-the-flu-pandemic>

FREE RESOURCES

A March 24 Blog on Ancestry announced the following:

"For nearly a decade, Ancestry® has been offering its AncestryK12® services, a no-cost program for K-12 schools and teachers in classrooms nationwide that includes access to content from the U.S. collection of Ancestry, Fold3.com and Newspapers.com. With school closures in effect across the U.S., Ancestry is offering support to parents by making its AncestryK12 lesson plans available for free for anyone to download while they are educating children at home.

Also, starting today, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration and its long-term digitization partner Ancestry will make it even easier for people to explore their own family history stories from home by providing FREE access to search nearly 500 million records and images on Ancestry."

To read the entire blog go to <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2020/03/24/free-at-home-education-resources-from-ancestry-and-access-to-nearly-500m-national-archives-records/>

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Library Volunteers: Lois & Sue

Photographer: Linda Olsen

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

Next Newsletter Deadline
April 27

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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.

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LINKS

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