

Benton County Genealogical Society



Located in Philomath, Oregon
founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION: Summer 2020

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

Note from the President...

I hope everyone is safe and healthy during this crazy uncertain time in our lives. May you all have a happy and fun summer, probably close to home.

We are still up in the air on our September meeting, all depending on the virus restrictions. Watch for an email update and on our website.

George

A home with everything in its place, and a place for everything, means you're not well suited for Genealogy!!



Caption: <https://www.pinterest.com/genealogybank/genealogy-family-quotes>

Photo: Sue Van Laere's desk mess

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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 10:00 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!

Because of Covid-19, our library is closed for the summer.

Stay tuned for announcements about our fall meetings and programs!!

HELP NEEDED

OPEN POSITIONS FOR ONE YEAR

- Programs
- Library chair
- Membership
- Historian
- Photographer

Contact President George for more information. Thanks

What Some of Your Genealogy Friends Have Been Up To!

Betty Elliott:

When visiting with the nephew of one of my friends who passed away I volunteered to research a tree of his family. I enjoyed learning how ancestors from Norway & Sweden were named using the first name of the parent and adding either son or dtr to it to make a new last name.

Then I researched my grandson's wife's family who had German ancestry.

Lois Courtney:

Mysterious Family Histories

During this long siege at home, I spent a lot of time digitizing and organizing about 200 photos from my ex-husband's family. I began by using Ancestry to figure out who some of the folks in the older photos were. And suddenly there was an odd mystery! Frank's (my ex) grandfather had nieces and nephews sending him photo post cards addressed to a C.A. Wood. That was not his name as I knew it. When I asked Frank's sisters about it, they said the family story (lore) was that he had killed a man in Texas and had to flee and then took this other name.

I have a subscription to newspapers.com and looked through Texas digitized records to see if I could find something about an M. Bennett who killed someone. It would have been quite thrilling to find such an item but I never did. This would have been in the early 1900s. It may be that it never happened, was never recorded or has never been digitized. The next step was census records, and to my considerable surprise, I found him on the 1910 census record (he would have been 27) at the North Texas Hospital for the Insane in Terrell, Texas:

"The Terrell State Hospital, first known as the "North Texas Lunatic Asylum" opened on July 14, 1885. In 1888 the hospital was renamed "North Texas Hospital for the Insane". In 1925 the facility was renamed "Terrell State Hospital." The hospital was established for the treatment and care of the "chronic incurable insane" whose care had previously been supplied by county jails or poor houses. It has undergone an almost continuous program of building and enlargement during the Twentieth Century."

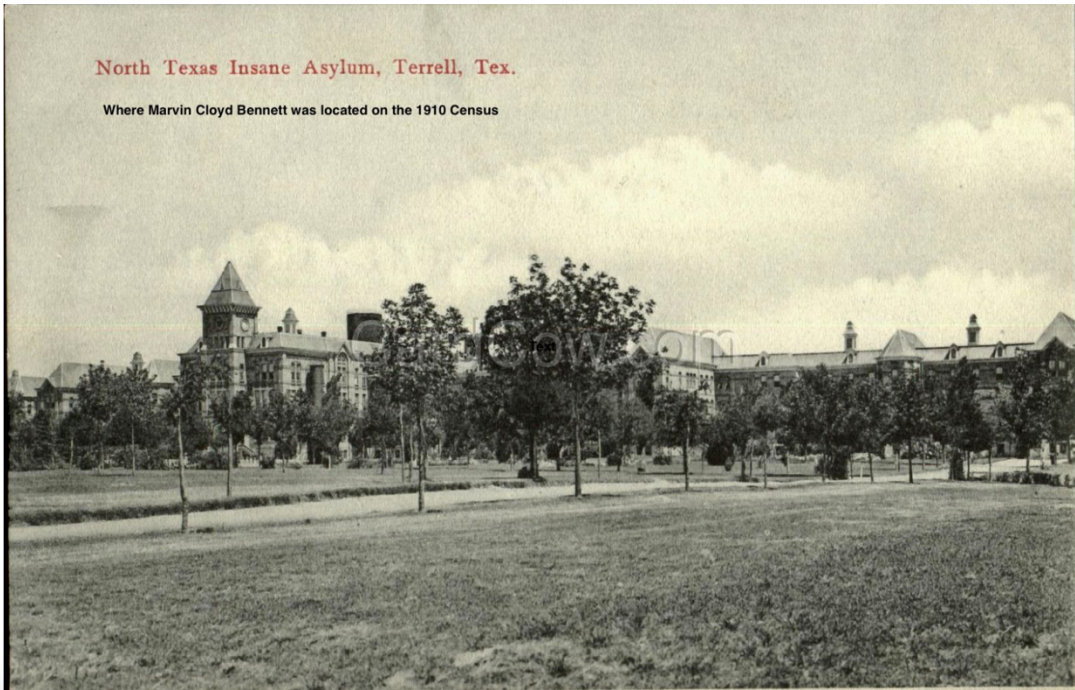
Sadly it turns out that obtaining records from past "asylum" facilities is very difficult. For the Terrell Hospital:

"There are privacy laws, etc., which forbid the institution from releasing information on the people who were institutionalized in the hospital. Therefore, the institution will not release hardly any info on these people, even though some of them have been dead 100 years!"

If we send a letter requesting information about his incarceration our letter will be forwarded to the Texas Attorney General. *"Typically information is not released by the AG's office due to HIPAA limitations. They will NOT reply to inquiries about: 1. Why the person was institutionalized. 2. Who sought to have the person institutionalized* Seems a bit of a dead end. I have a son who lives in Texas, but he seemed reluctant to attempt a break in to get at the records. (Continued next page)

North Texas Insane Asylum, Terrell, Tex.

Where Marvin Cloyd Bennett was located on the 1910 Census



If any of our more sophisticated researchers know about this kind of a “brick wall” I’d be delighted to hear. Otherwise this whole story will just be another mystery. So did he escape from the hospital and flee Texas, changing his name to C.A. Wood, or did he indeed kill someone and end up in the hospital because of that and then was released or escaped? So family stories do seem to have some aspect of truth, but it’s not always clear how much.

Liza Tharp-Wilson:

I decided to use this shutdown for some cleaning out of family trunks. In one that was my mother’s, I found the diary of her trip to England and Europe in the summer of 1938. She graduated with top honors from Oregon State College that June and was given this trip by her step-father as a graduation gift. That was the last summer of relative peace in Europe prior to the Second World War. She kept a very small book and recorded her thoughts in short sentences or two-word reminders. For example, she would record the name of the museum and the name of the art work or artists. It was in a day and date format. I read through it several times and decided to transcribe it.

I kept her notation as accurately as possible and noted my editing along the way. I included a map of her travel schedule, a timeline of world events from 1925-1938 as they were influential in what was happening in Europe, and a photo of her returning ship and passenger list. I found this little book tucked in among the pages of the photo album she kept of the trip. I never knew it was there and she never said anything.

This is still a work in progress. I am going to try to add some post cards from each country she visited. I would also like to add photos from her album and have it put into a book for her great grandchildren.

Ann Smart:

Technology Tips-What I Learned During the Quarantine

During the shutdown, I took advantage of some of the free Legacy Webinars-they offered a different one from their collection every day for two months. I picked ones that sounded interesting and learned some useful tips that are worth sharing:

From Cyndi Howells, I learned that in File Explorer on your PC that you can have it open twice. Open File Explorer, then under File (top left) you can click open a new window. It makes it much easier to have two windows open side by side when you want to move photos from one file to another, name people in a photo, or reorganize your documents.

From Lisa Louise Cooke, I learned how to organize my tool bar on my web browser. You can shorten names of your tabs. Right click on a link you have on your tool bar. Then go to properties. Under Name, you can name the website whatever you want. For example, I shortened Facebook to FB and that saves a lot of space on the tool bar. Renaming especially helps when you have a special area of a website you want to get to from your tool bar and it has one of those long obscure names. You can name it something meaningful to you!

Another web browser tool bar tip: You can right click on the tool bar and create a new folder. I now have a folder for "Genealogy" and within that folder in alphabetical order I have my Links for Allen County Library, Ancestry, Anderson Public Library, Family Search, Find a Grave, Google Books, etc. I have created a folder for Businesses that I use online and another one for Funeral Homes in an area of Indiana that I research a lot. I am a very visual person and this helps me to have what I need at my fingertips.

Several webinars talked about **adding metadata to your photos**. I have been busy adding names to photos and tags. Right Click on a Photo. Go to the bottom and click on properties. Then at the top there are several tabs. Click Details. Under comments when it is a group of people I do the right to left or seated and standing and name people so that in the future I know who each person is. Then under tags, list each person individually separated by semicolons. After the first time you list a person or place for a tag, it will come up quickly. Say you have a person named Jane Doe Smith Jones (I list all of her last names in order and use the tag whether she is married or not, but the photo is named by her at the time of the photo. You can type Doe if you have a photo you are working on with all of her siblings and all the tags that have the name Doe in them will come up. Then you just click on the Doe siblings that are in the photo. Tags can also be used for locations, like Granddad's farm or Anderson, Indiana. This allows you to search for all the photos you have that were taken at that place. The wonderful thing is that if you share the photo with others digitally they can see all the data, too!

Sue Van Laere:

Gardens

This summer, I've been working on a good-sized garden with my husband's help. We decided a garden would be a way to **believe** we have control over something-our food! It's working out wonderfully except for a few aphids and the usual slugs. While in the garden, I can't help thinking about how gardens have been important to many of my ancestors. Here are a few memories.

Mom and Dad's garden

My precise-carpenter dad making the rows laser straight
Dad always having flowers along with the vegetables
Sliced onions straight from the garden for hamburgers
Mom's stories of both of them getting home from work, picking green beans, cutting them up and
canning them that night! (Continued next page)

Grandma and Grandpa Winkler's garden

The main memory of their garden was the wilted lettuce salad.

Lettuce and green onions

Warm bacon drippings with some sugar and apple cider vinegar

Eat at once

I don't know why I remember this so much. I was the world champion picky eater. There was no way I ate the salad! I also remember the beautiful tomatoes that I didn't eat either. Now I love to eat both.

Grandma and Grandpa Simmons's garden

Mom's story of, during the Great Depression, burning the garden debris and roasting potatoes on the edge of the fire. She said they were like candy to her. I always think of this as a simple reminder to be grateful.



2020 Census



Have you filled out your census information yet? If not, here is the website:

<https://www.usa.gov/statistics#item-214651>

You'll also find lots of interesting information about the census.

P.S. If you haven't filled out the census information by the end of July 2020, census takers will be visiting your home!



<https://www.clipart/us-census-2020-529636.html>

101 BEST GENEALOGY WEBSITES 2020 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

Explore the 15 categories of genealogy websites in the directory at the top of the page. Some are free, others require payment.

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites>

Shared by Danell Aukerman

RootsTech Speakers—Free Online

*Speakers from the February 2020 RootsTech sessions are available to view for free.

*Choose from multiple speakers presenting a wide variety of genealogy programs. Click on the speaker's picture to start a 55 minute video. Select a different speaker at any time. Perfect entertainment for rainy days or the long summer ahead.

<https://www.rootstech.org/category/2020-rootstech-sessions>

To view past speakers from RootsTech 2020 to 2015 for free, click here. Each year has multiple speakers all on different genealogy topics.

<https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>

Shared by Linda Olsen

FINDING SICK OR WOUNDED ANCESTORS IN WAR TIME

U.S. WWII Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942-1954

Original source: NARA Records of the Surgeon General (Army), 1775-1994; Record Group Title: 112

Other source: Ancestry.com

This group of files contains, among other information for individuals: admission and discharge dates; military branch; diagnosis; whether if injured in line of duty; type of discharge.

U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938

Original source: NARA M1749, 282 rolls: Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938

Other source: Ancestry .com

This group of files contains records for 12 homes from throughout the U.S. Information for individuals include, among other information: admission and discharge dates; rank; company and regiment, date and place of enlistment.

Two good sites concerning the federal government's role in providing help for veterans:

<https://blogs.loc.gov/lov/2017/12/world-war-i-injured-veterans-and-the-disability-rights-movement>

<https://scholars.org/contribution/evolution-us-department-veterans-affairs>

Shared by Sue Van Laere

Writers Group

Since it's been many a month since we've gathered together, I thought it might be time to figure out how we want to move forward. I've written a little bit this summer, but it's not quite the same when I can't share it with you. I'd like to hear your thoughts. Let's all do some brainstorming. If you send me your ideas or something you've discovered online, I can pass them on to the whole group while we figure out how to keep in touch as a group.

Have fun with this and whatever else you're doing-writing, sorting photos, making timelines, or maybe even relaxing!

Sue Van Laere

What is genealogy to us?

It is the bouncing of ideas back and forth of theories of what might be and commiserating with another when that theory falls through, which it often does. It is being able to say "Look? Look what I found!" and knowing that your excitement will be shared and understood.

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~mostfran/miscellaneous/quips_etc.htm

"ANTICIPATED:" FALL 2020 BCGS PROGRAMS

10:30 AM-NOON

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: MORELAND AUDITOREUM

- Sept 12 TBD
- Oct 10 Patti Waitman-Ingebreten
 - Stories of her great, grandfather, Silas Norman Lilly, and local Benton County History
- Nov 14 Pam Vestal
 - How to write ancestral stories your relatives will want to read
- Dec 14 Silent Auction and Potluck

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

President: George Davidson, 928-205-2121
Gid1943@gmail.com

Vice President: Kathryn Moss
mosskathryn@gmail.com

Secretary: Debbi White
genodebbi@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lois Courtney
loiscourtney@cmug.com

Appointed Positions

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: OPEN

Programs: OPEN

Audit: Connie Patterson

Refreshments: Pegge Gee

Host: Kathryn Moss

Research: Lois Courtney

Book Sales: Maridee Symons

Website: George Davidson

Facebook: Sue Van Laere

Publicity: Lois Courtney

Library Volunteers: Lois Courtney

Photographer: Linda Olsen

Writers Group: Sue Van Laere

Newsletter Editor: Sue Van Laere
vanlaere@proaxis.com

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

Links

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

*We all owe Ann Bateman a genealogy hoorah for the wonderful newsletter she produced for two years! As you can tell, I'm using about the same format because I love it. I'll need everybody's help by sending ideas, stories, information, how-to items, etc. so we can continue having a great newsletter.
The deadline for the September newsletter: Aug 22
Sue Van Laere*