

# Benton County Genealogical Society

## NEWSLETTER

Located in Philomath, Oregon

Founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

Volume 39 No.8: October 2020

<https://www.bcfgs-oregon.org>



### HELP NEEDED

#### OPEN POSITIONS FOR ONE YEAR

- Programs
- Library chair
- Membership
- Historian
- Photographer

### The Benton County Genealogical Society

**TYPICALLY** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 welcome! **Because of Covid 19 we're closed until January 1, 2021.**

## October is Family History Month

Throughout the newsletter, you'll find ideas to celebrate this month's Family History theme.

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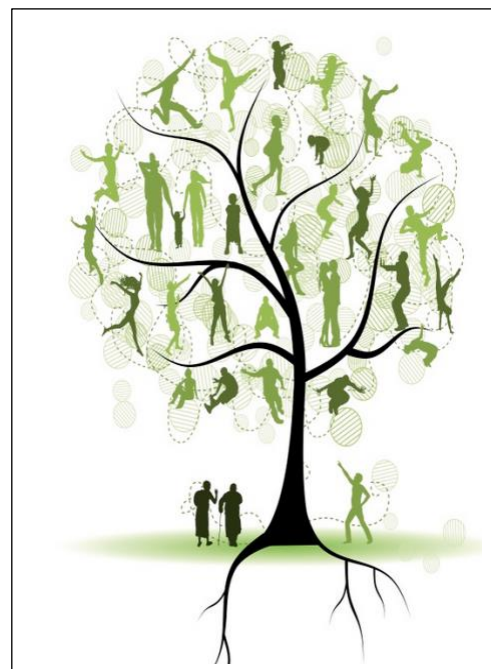
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### *Ideas for a Family History Gallery Wall*

The website [10 Ideas for a Gallery Wall with History](https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/10/27/10-ideas-for-a-gallery-wall-with-history/), has some interesting suggestions for trying some new ways to bring ancestors to life. One of the items is to make a list of something that was special about a certain person and frame it along with a photo of the person. I chose to gather together some of my mother's colloquialisms, of which she had many. It was fun going through some of her writings and realizing she had several ways to describe rain!

I pulled together some of my mother's colorful sayings to be framed for my family wall. See page 2.

<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/10/27/10-ideas-for-a-gallery-wall-with-history/>

(continues on next page)

*Marge Simmons Winkler's  
Famous expressions*

*Hotter than 700 dollars  
Raining cats and dogs and hammer heads  
Raining cats and dogs and hammer handles  
Raining cats and dogs and pitchforks  
Looked like the wrath of God  
Tougher than wang leather  
Hotter than the hubs of hell  
If wishes were horses, all beggars would ride  
Wait broke the bridge  
Hold her, Newt, she's headin' for the barn  
Slumgullion (a mishmash of foods)*



*Marge Simmons 16 years old*

Shared by Sue Van Laere

## BCGS Library's Family History Collection

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

As soon as we can open our library, you'll have access once again to a huge collection of family histories. That will be a happy day! In the meantime, check out the names in the Family Histories section of the library inventory on our website. The section is in alphabetical order according to surname to make it easy to find a name.

I was surprised to find a family history of the Rickard family who were Benton County pioneers. While I was working on my Winkler family in North Carolina in the 1700's, I discovered a Rickard female who had married into the family. When I looked through the Rickard book, there was my ancestor. SO, don't discount the possibility that this might be your luck, too.

Sue Van Laere, Librarian

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### Ties that Bind: Story Books for Children About Ancestors

*Because we're celebrating Family History Month, we're repeating a portion of a review by Linda Olsen of a program we had in October 2016. The program was focused on helping children know their ancestors' stories.*

Communications Professor, **Bobette Bushnell, PhD**, presented an intriguing program on ways to share family history with your children, grandchildren and generations to come. She has always thought of herself as a story teller and her children begged her to tell them real bedtime stories. As her story unfolded she gave us ideas to develop a strong family narrative and told us why it is important for children to know their family history.

Bobette offered "Do you know" questions to focus our knowledge about specific ancestors.

#### Do You Know?

1. How your parents met?
2. Where your mother and father grew up?
3. Where some of your grandparents grew up?
4. Where some of your grandparents met?
5. Where your parents were married?
6. What went on when you were being born?
7. The source of your name?
8. Some things about what happened when your brothers or sisters were born?
9. Which person in your family you look most alike?
10. Which person in your family you act most like?
11. Some of the illnesses and injuries your parents experienced when they were younger? (continues on next page)

12. Some of the lessons that your parents learned from good or bad experiences?
13. Some things that happened to your parents when they were in school?
14. The ethnicity of your family?
15. Some of the jobs your parents had when they were young?
16. Some awards that your parents received when they were young?
17. The names of the schools that your parents went to?

Questions like these, if repeated enough, help even the youngest children learn to identify their individual ancestors and absorb their family history. Through research Bobette found information to support how knowing family history strengthens children's self-esteem. They can withstand hardships better when they know about someone else in their family who survived unpleasant events. Knowing the good events as well as the painful events in their ancestors' lives gives children resilience.

Bobette shared a book made by her daughter, "Real Bedtime Stories", consisting of ancestors' pictures and family history stories written for each selected ancestor, one person or one married couple to a single large page. The book was arranged with her father's family first followed by her mother's family in the same book. The ancestor's surname was written at the top of the page in large letters. This hardbound book was published by Shutterfly with good quality paper and oversized pages similar to a large story book. It was a natural project for Bobette's daughter. She grew up hearing these stories over and over again and wanted the same experience for her children.

Shared by Linda Olsen

**What We Did This Year**  
**September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020**  
**Benton County Genealogical Society**

**Net Gain:**     \$250

- Our member dues were solid again this year; and we had a surprising \$230 in Donations.

**Bank Balance at August 31, 2020**                     **\$6,063**

**Number of new members this year: 5**

**Number of total members as of August 31<sup>st</sup>: 53**

**Library Usage:**

- 15 non-BCGS folks used our library this year.
- Between September 2019 and when we closed March 2020 we had visitors from Newport, Beaverton, Longview, and locals. (continues on next page)

**Officer Changes:** Ann Bateman retired from the newsletter at the end of June. She did a wonderful job, and really saved us when she stepped up. As of August, **Sue Van Laere** is filling in with the newsletter: Sadly, Linda Olsen, who has been our amazing program coordinator had to step away from that position this year: Connie Patterson is sharing her meeting responsibilities with other staff: Sue Van Laere is retiring as Library chair. Some of these folks have been serving for years and we are incredibly grateful for the time they have given us.

### Programs

- We had 5 programs before we ended meetings in March, including the December silent auction, which raised \$300:
- DNA Testing, Siletz Tribe history, Mayflower Landing, Courthouse Records
- We averaged about 35 people at the programs

### Library Volunteers

- 10 volunteers and 2 alternates provided 92 hours for Tuesday and Saturday staffing.
- We ended staffing on March 14 due to the COVID 19 virus.
- We decided to end the expense of the wi-fi connection after a poll determined it wasn't getting much use.
- We reduced the library hours to 1:00 to 3:00.
- We conducted an inventory of the library holdings in October.
- We continued the project of labels on spines.
- Leila updated and labeled the family information in the vertical file.

### Writers Group

- Our writers met from October to March. We look forward to even more family stories when we return in 2021.

Shared by Lois Courtney, Treasurer

RECIPE

STORIES,

GOOD

AND

BAD!

## My Mother, a Chicken and Baked Bread

When my mother was first married and living with my father and his parents, she decided to make a loaf of bread. Not realizing that six cups of flour is just a suggestion for the amount you MIGHT need, she made sure she incorporated it all. Mom kneaded the dough and put it aside to rise. It probably did to a certain extent, so she baked it. It came out looking ok, so letting it cool a bit, she started to carve out a slice.

The loaf was so hard she could barely get her knife through it. Deciding that the loaf was inedible (one of her favorite words), she threw it out to the chickens. Her aim was slightly off and she hit a chicken square in the back with the loaf. The next sound was a squaaaak out of the chicken, feet and wings splayed out on the ground. After recovering from the shock, the chicken temporarily took off for parts unknown.



Through trial and error, Mom became a great cook—AND bread baker. But she still loved to tell this story on herself and we loved to hear it.

Shared by Sue Van Laere (clipart source:FAVING.com)

## The Auto Park Story Continued . . . . .



“The Story of the Cabins at Corvallis’s Auto Park” article in the September 2020 BCGS Newsletter by Sue Van Laere really caught my attention. It was always my assumption that the Auto Park Grocery was built just prior to the cabins, but there’s more to this story. The Auto Park Grocery was part of the Auto Park tourist and stop-over camping place for travelers and part of my mother’s early history. My mother worked at the lunch counter in the Auto Park Grocery at 15 years of age in the summer of 1924. Bill Coon, age 20 and the owner, was her uncle although she thought of him more like a big brother. Bill taught her how to make change and wait on customers. Working with the public came naturally to my mother’s outgoing nature. She loved talking with people and wasn’t shy, just inexperienced. One day a customer came in and asked for a “pie a la mode.” Surprised, my mother replied, “A pile of what?” She had never heard of a “pie a la mode.” The young man was good natured and explained what he wanted. My mother told that story over and over and it always got a good laugh. The experience she had working for her uncle in the Auto Park Grocery and subsequently the Hamburger Inn at 12<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Street in Corvallis that Bill also owned, helped her develop self-confidence and self-reliance and prepared her for other jobs she had in the Corvallis area.

Meeting my father for the first time was the other unique part of my mother’s early history with the Auto Park Grocery. Mom’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher happened to be my Dad’s sister. When my Dad’s sister happened to stop by the Auto Park Grocery with my future father, they all got acquainted. I’ll never know if Dad’s sister stopped by the Auto Park Grocery on purpose with her brother or whether it was just destiny that they met. Dad remembered he was smitten from that time on but painfully shy at 17 years. I can guess that good-looking fellow made other trips to the Auto Park Grocery that summer to meet that cute girl behind the lunch counter.

**Shared by Linda Olsen**



(clipart source: pixabay.com)

## November Theme: World War II Stories

Since 2020 is the 75<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the end of World War II, let's put together some stories of our ancestors who participated in the war. The stories can be of those who served in the military or civilians who helped on the home front in any way. "Stories" can be a photo with a few sentences to a story of several paragraphs and a photo if you have one. Whatever you choose to do will be a wonderful addition to understanding this time in history.

Several years ago at our monthly meeting in November, members brought memorabilia, stories and photo collections to celebrate those who served. Several members brought items of their own service to the country. It was very moving to talk with them.

Even though we won't be meeting in person, we can honor those who gave so much. If you have any questions, send me an email. The deadline for the newsletter is October 29. Shared by Sue Van Laere—editor (in training!)



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

Links

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

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**Treasurer:** Lois Courtney

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**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

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