

# Benton County Genealogical Society

## NEWSLETTER

Located in Philomath, Oregon  
Founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

Volume 40 No.10: December 2020

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



### HELP NEEDED

#### OPEN POSITIONS FOR ONE YEAR

- Programs
- Library chair
- Membership
- Historian
- Photographer

Any board member would be glad to give you the scoop!

See page 6 for more information

### 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.**

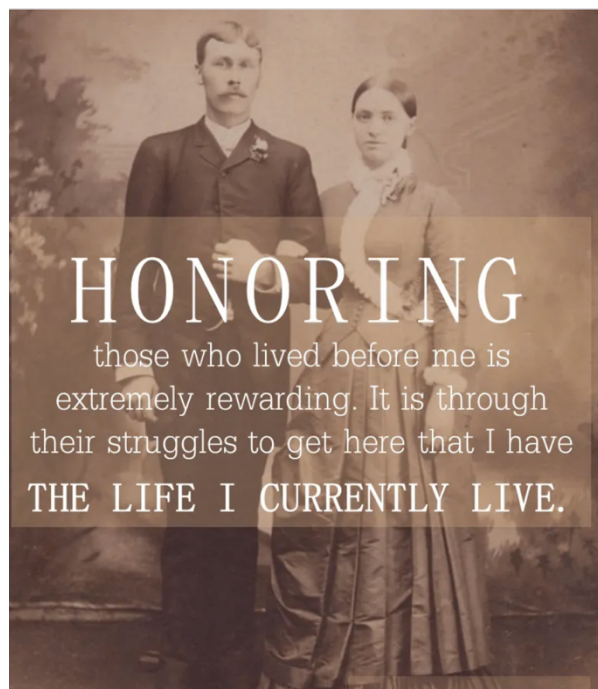
*At this time of year we usually begin collecting membership dues. We won't collect dues until in-person meetings resume sometime in 2021. We have few expenses and a continuing amount of over \$6,000, so we can easily sustain this hopefully brief hiatus.*



**Holiday seasons** bring memories of those who are gone but live on in us in a variety of ways. Here's an idea for anyone who would like to share in the January newsletter:

**Choose an ancestor from any generation who has inspired you with their ability to overcome challenges they have had in their life. Again, it could be several paragraphs or photos with captions or any other creative way to honor their persistence.**

Send your contribution to Sue Van Laere so we can honor them, too!



Source: FamilyLocket.com

## Remembering a Favorite Grandparent in Three Sentences Or Four or More!

A favorite memory of my grandmother is riding with her in her 1936 luxurious black Chrysler named Mildred to visit some of her friends. As the two of us were driving along she explained that if we were chewing gum – and we were - we needed to place it between our upper teeth and the inside upper lip when speaking. Being a prim and proper woman I often smile at her introducing me to gum and her gum instructions.

**Shared by Mary Dean Snelling**



I can see him now. My Grandfather, Charlie Oswald, sitting in his favorite rocking chair right next to the wood burning cook stove. He would say to us grand kids “you are a little Scotch, Irish, and Dutch and ya ain’t worth much.” Then he’d slap his leg and laugh a devilish laugh.

**Shared by Nancy Debois**



### **My Grandma’s Words of Wisdom**

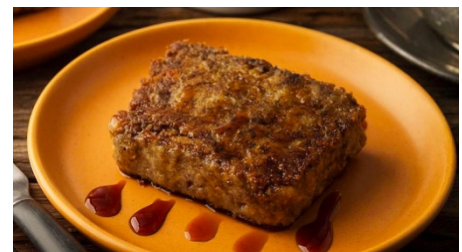
My grandmother had two pet peeves and she had two sayings that she shared with her granddaughters whenever she caught them doing it. The first was: “Whistling girls and crowing hens always come to some bad end.” My favorite, however, is the second: “The gum chewing girl, and the cud chewing cow, alike, yet difference somehow. Oh yes, I see it now, it’s the clear thoughtful look on the face of the cow!”

**Shared by Judy Rycraft Juntunen**



My granddad lived on a farm in Southern Indiana about 1.5 hours from my home. As much of the family as could gathered at the farm for Thanksgiving. The "farm" included 200 acres of woods with a limestone bed creek running through it, horses and dogs. There were lots of places to play. I loved to get up early and have breakfast alone with my granddad. He always had Donald Duck grapefruit juice and something called "scrapple" that he covered with sorghum. I didn't like any of those things, but I liked being with him, so I ate them!

**Shared by Ann Smart**



scrapple



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My grandparents had all died by the time I was 3. I remember when my "step grandmother" came to visit that she was hard of hearing and we would often sleep in the same room. If she snored I would yell at her because she couldn't hear me.

**Shared by Joan Cook**



All 24 of Grandma's grandchildren, her little pumpkins as she called us, loved to see her coming for a visit or attending a family gathering.

Once she sat down, the fighting began as the grandchildren struggled for a position on her ample lap. If one child fell off, there was always another one to fill the available space on her lap. She loved it!



**Shared by Linda Olsen**



My maternal grandparents were known to me as Grandmother and Granddaddy. We lived in California and they in Iowa. My children called my parents Grandmother and Granddaddy as well. When my sons were 4 and 6, my Granddaddy came to visit my parents who lived about half an hour from us. Mark and Dale were introduced to their great grandfather as 'Great-Granddaddy'. After he had returned to Iowa, the boys and I were in the car on the way to visit my parents and the 6-year old asked, "Are we going to visit Good Granddaddy?"

**Shared by Ann Bateman**



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Once or twice a month, we would go over to our Grandma and Grandpa Winkler's house for Sunday dinner. Before we went into the house, our mother would tell us, "Now don't say you're hungry the minute we get here." We would nod, snuggle up on the couch next to Mom and someone would say in a stage whisper, "MOM, I'M HUNGRY." Our wonderful grandma would take us into the kitchen and give us a sandy cookie or half of a Snickers bar to tide us over until dinner.

**Shared by Sue Van Laere**



I can remember visiting my mother's parents, Annie Oakley (Darnall) (Morrison) Hamann and John Fredrich Hamann, at their farm at Chapman, Oregon. I was about 4 years old so the snow was up to my waist in the winter. Gramma cooked on a wood-burning cast iron stove. She kept the baby chicks just behind the stove to keep them warm. One day, I watched her prepare an apple pie and bake it in the oven section of the stove. I don't remember eating that pie but I bet it was good.

**Shared by Ellen Bartish**



## Growing Little Leaves: Family History for Children



Source:clipart-library.com

Emily Kowalski Schroeder, creator of the blog *growinglittleleaves.com*, is a former scientist who decided to suspend her career to stay home with her children while they were growing up. She quickly became an avid genealogical researcher. Since 2014 she has presented at beginner and heritage workshops and has been a presenter at RootsTech. Her aim is to provide ways to connect children to their family history.

I thought this might be a fun way to introduce our great-grandchildren to their grandmas and grandpas because our nearly five-year-old gg-daughter has asked me several times who are my mother and father.

Emily's suggestion is to make the pieces magnetic so the children can play with putting the ancestors in the correct order on a metal tray. It also would make a nice wall hanging. This idea is for a Christmas tree but could be adapted to any way that we celebrate this holiday season. She provides clear directions to make the tree.

[Growinglittleleaves.com/blog/magnetic-family-christmas-tree](http://growinglittleleaves.com/blog/magnetic-family-christmas-tree)

**Shared by Sue Van Laere**

## Holiday Tree Hunting

About 4:30 in the afternoon a couple of days before Christmas, grandkids Bryson and Katie came over to say it was time to go look for a Christmas tree down in the woods. It was a nice day out so I put on my coat and we started down the hill. It took about ten minutes to where we might be able to find a good tree. As we started looking, we realized it was getting dark already.

But it was fairly warm, so we just kept looking. We finally found a tree for their house and Bryson cut it down. Suddenly it was pitch black and big rain droplets started. Without a flashlight, we tried to figure out the easiest way to get the tree back up the hill and finally decided that it would be best to go to Columbine and come up Marys River Estates road to our driveway. I knew there was a deep ditch we'd have to cross to get over to Columbine. I told the kids that I couldn't go that way, but they should, and I'd walk up the hill through the woods.

I took the bow saw and Jake, the black Lab, with me and trudged up the hill, rain coming down steadily in even bigger drops. I was thoroughly soaked, and I could see less and less through my glasses. My protector Jake took off and I was half blinded by rain, but I still had my trusty saw for protection from an invisible foe. I could see a bit of light if I looked straight up, and I was sort of familiar with where the trees were close together. I was trying to avoid that area because I didn't want to plow through blackberries and ferns.

Thinking I was on the right track, I kept plodding along, using the saw as a cane. The woods stretched straight ahead, blacker and blacker, and I knew I was heading through the thickest trees. Telling myself that I just had to keep going uphill and I would run into either our house or our son's, I held down the panic. All of a sudden I heard something come rushing toward me through the brush. I screamed at the cougar, then realized it was Jake. I was so shocked, I think I forgot to swear.

Jake took off again, but by that time I saw a light in the forest, so to speak. It turned out to be our house. I dragged myself up the rest of the hill and went into the house completely soaked.

All this time, I had been worrying about Bryson and Katie, too. I called over to their house and they had just made it home. Katie was in the shower trying to get warm. Later, they told me they had climbed the fence between our property and Wren Hill, went down to Columbine and then climbed the hill up Marys River Estates Road to get home. Every time a car came by, they'd step into the ditch and hide behind the tree to make sure they didn't get run over. I hope they'll always remember this time as one of their more interesting expeditions with Grandma!

**Shared by Sue Van Laere**



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**Here's your chance** to do some of the work that makes us a great genealogical society! We're so grateful for the work that current volunteers are doing. Some of them have been volunteering for years, so now we're asking others to consider how they can help WHEN WE CAN SAY GOODBYE TO COVID 19!

Please take time to read the current duties for several open positions. It's fun, and something to be proud of, to be part of the group that keeps us going. Thanks for considering a role!

## **OPEN POSITIONS**

### **Society Historian**

Responsibilities : Inserting society newsletter, obituaries, photos and special events information into Society notebook

### **Membership**

Responsibilities: Greet visitors and members at meetings, keep the records of Society members up to date, send new members' information to the President, update Society brochures as needed

### **Library Committee Chair**

Responsibilities: Process new materials and de-accession discarded materials, write an article for the newsletter monthly, make library report at Board and General meetings, oversee any ongoing library projects, every two years conduct inventory of library holdings with help from volunteers

### **Society Photographer**

Responsibilities: Take photos at events, especially of swearing-in of officers and guest speakers, send photos to newsletter editor and printed copies to the Society Historian

### **Program Committee**

Responsibilities: Find speakers and handle the arrangements for seven program meetings; plan the June Potluck, September "Show and Tell", and the December Holiday Auction

Any of these positions could be filled by one person or as co-leaders, so be creative. If you're interested, let Sue Van Laere know and she'll put you in touch with the volunteer who is currently in the position.

**"Genealogists: they're just grad students without the Pell Grant funding or a degree waiting for them at the end."**

**BY BUZZY JACKSON, author of *Shaking the Family Tree: Blue Bloods, Black Sheep, and other Obsessions of an Accidental Genealogist***

# Looking Ahead to February 2021 Newsletter

## The Great Depression 1930-1940

Several BCGS members have said they have an interest in the New Deal of the 1930's. The WPA (Work Progress Administration) was part of the New Deal and had a huge and lasting influence on citizens' lives. Our lives too. If not for the New Deal and WPA jobs that were available to my ancestors, my families would probably be quite different.

Since I've been interested in this for a while, I went back through materials I have such as censuses, obituaries, letters and, recently, newspapers. I've found quite a bit about both sides of my family, especially the amount of difficult work they did to get by.

I hope you'll have some stories to tell. We'll print them in the February newsletter to give you time to look through some of your materials. I know every time I go back and look at things again, I find something new that I already had but was ready to see it!

**Some websites that are full of information:**

<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/eras/>

This website is from Virginia Commonwealth University

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works\\_Progress\\_Administration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_Progress_Administration)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Deal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Deal)

# FREE Genealogy Webinars Are a Gold Mine!

**\*Still Relevant from the November Newsletter\***

These sites all have some FREE webinars, seminars, online. Some have handouts you can print. Some post the webinar and you can watch it at a later time. Many offer additional features if you are a paid member. They all require registration so they can send you a date reminder, usually the day before the webinar. This is just a sampling of webinars being offered for FREE, many because of the Corona virus. Some are on Zoom. The quality of presentations varies.

## **Legacy Family Tree Webinars** <https://familytreewebinars.com>

- Select Upcoming Live Webinars Look for ones marked “Free.” Their webinars through December 2020 are listed.
- Select Webinar Library for past webinars. Some are retained for a week.

## **Genealogy Gems** [www.genealogygems.com](http://www.genealogygems.com)

Go to tab at top labelled Videos. Select “elevenes with Lisa” The current live-streamed one will be the episode with the highest number. You might need to search around a little to find it.

Weekly program by Lisa Louise Cooke on Thursday at 9:00 A.M. Pacific Time. Program notes are available in two days. Additional presentations and other materials are available to members.

## **Family History Library Classes and Webinars**

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)

Scroll down to view:

- Class Schedule
- List of online classes in Learning Center
- Upcoming Webinars

## **YouTube**

Online tutorials, courses and quick tips on family history:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=genealogy+how-to](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=genealogy+how-to)

## **State Genealogy Societies**

A few state genealogy societies are offering their monthly programs free of charge on Zoom. We do not have an Oregon Genealogical Society, but perhaps you have another state you are researching. The one I have been following has free monthly programs in addition to free classes. Membership is not required, but I felt so guilty being able to have access to such quality programs that I joined.

To find other free webinars google “Free Genealogy Webinars”

**Shared by Mary Dean Snelling**

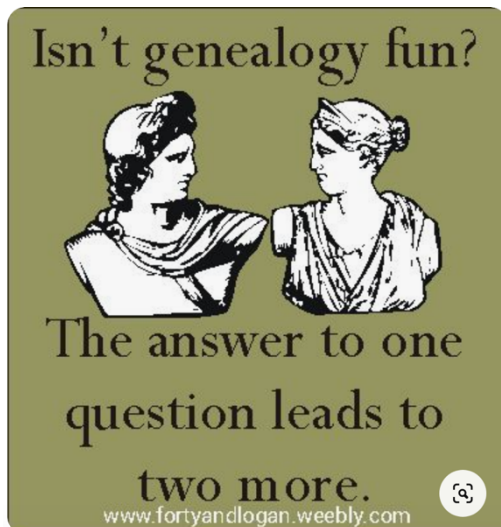
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**\*Good News--Still Relevant! \***

**Roots Tech Connect 2021**, 15-27 February 2021, will be a FREE online Conference experience. You can register now at: [www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org).

The free annual **National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair** is postponed until March 2021. However, you can see the free virtual programs for 2019 through 2013 online at <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair> Many selected topics to choose from.



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Treasurer: Lois Courtney

[loiscourtney@cmug.com](mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com)

**Appointed Positions**

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: OPEN

Programs: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Photographer: 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

Writers Group: Sue Van Laere

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