



# NewsLetter

## Benton County Genealogical Society

November 2006

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### 11 NOVEMBER PROGRAM

11 November 2006 - **Land Records** - Video Research Guide - Surveys and descriptions - Use and availability of County Land records - Government Land sales and grants - Use of National Archives. Before 1850, America was the land of land opportunity. Nearly everyone owned land. David Kribs will add in some of his surveying experience in Benton and surrounding counties on how to find and use land records.

## Book Looks

By Charlene Talbot

Here's another heavy book, *The Settlement of Upper Canada*, by Wm. Canniff. It's well worth the trouble of holding and reading by anyone who likes history. First published in 1869, the author was able to interview people who were children and living there shortly after the opening of Ontario, Canada, after the American Revolution and from people whose parents had told them about what living was like in 1783. The result is a write-up of the American Revolution from a Tory point of view, which is not something we learned in school, to say the least. The author has a slightly different version, for instance, about General Burgoyne's attempt to cut through from Canada to the Hudson River. However, little is said about the people who didn't want to have anything to do with the war, one way or another.

Interspersed throughout the book are summaries of various individuals.

The reader is given an excellent idea of what frontier life was like in Ontario, and what it must have been like several generations before that in the rest of North America. One begins to understand why people didn't just pick up and move west to new land. There were few roads, and those that existed were almost impossible, having to be cut through the woods. They were muddy and full of stumps. The best way of transportation was by canoe.

Clothes were another problem. After the clothes a person was wearing when he arrived, how were they to be replaced? The women learned from the Indians to use buckskin. Among other articles, they made buckskin petticoats! Flax had to be raised before it could be turned into linen. For wool they had to have sheep, and the sheep had to have feed. Leather for shoes was another need. The grain, corn in the beginning, had to be ground. Until there were mills, this was done with wooden tools as the stone apparently wasn't suitable.

The government in Montreal supplied tents and food for the first three years but certain tools the government supplied weren't always suitable. After three years the settlers were on their own. A few didn't survive. Some of the soldiers who were allotted land barely knew how to chop down a tree.

This book comes from the Irene Harding Collection and is an excellent addition to the Society's library.

### *December Program*

**Christmas Party and Auction.** This event has proven fun for many of us as a way of making our annual contribution to the Society Book Fund as well as picking up some Christmas presents.

Bring items of nominal value for the auction to be conducted by our own master of fun and games Ted Gump, assisted by Pat Coolican, has agreed to be our auctioneer again this year, with Danell Aukerman as a backup. Also bring a plate of goodies, maybe something other than cookies, to be consumed and what's left sold at the end. Focus on edible things this year; other nominal items are still welcome.

# Program Review

By David Kribs, Program Chairman

The October 14, 2006, *Creative Memories*, program was cancelled. We again didn't get to the backup VCR program. We had a report on the DNA Meeting at Toledo from Bill Gleaves and Gene Newton. A report on the Benton County Museum Program preserving; storing; and archiving historical materials from Fay Abraham. Four members discovered they had Davidson ancestor ties to Benton County. Damaris Reynolds reported a recent visit by several people to interview her concerning her early years in China and found she was cousin with some of the interviewing party. Damaris grew up in China while her father was a diplomat there.. Charles Lindburg, on one of his flights around the world, stayed with them in China where their families became friends.

## Upcoming Genealogical Events

**November 11, 2006** - Genealogical Forum of Oregon Fall Seminar. The seminar will be held at the Sunset Presbyterian Church, 14986 NW Cornell Rd., Portland, OR 97229. 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The featured speakers is Christine Rose, a nationally known speaker. Classes on "*Successful Courthouse Research*", "*Solving the Problem Onsite in 25 Hours or Less*", "*Military Records Between the Wars*", and "*The Evidence Conflicts*". Cost is \$35 if received by October 28th and \$40 if received after that date. Lunch is an additional \$7. For more information, contact GFO at 503-963-1932 or go to their website at [www.gfo.org](http://www.gfo.org)

**November 18, 2006** - LDS Church - Kennewick Stake Center, 895 Gage Blvd., Richland, WA. (across from LDS Temple), 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tri-Cities Genealogical Society and the LDS Church are co-sponsoring a **Family History Fair and Conference. Families, Trees, and Pedigrees: "Capturing Your Past with the Tools of Today."** This is an all-day genealogy conference with numerous subjects being taught in a multi-track format and is open to the public. The Keynote Speaker is Tim Cross and the Featured Speaker will be Donna Potter Phillips. Other Speakers include Dale Denham and Duane Holsten. Topics will range from beginning genealogy to computers, the internet, and other research technology. **Ancestor Roadshow** (one-on-one time with experienced genealogists); **Research Assistance** in Family History Center; **Family History Oriented Displays and Booths.** Registration form can be found at: <http://www.tricitygenealogicalsociety.org/>

**January 8 - 12, 2007** - Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, Radison Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT. Courses include "*American Records and Research: Focusing on Localities*", "*Mid-westerns U.S. Research*", "*Irish Research—Sources and Strategies*", "*Germanic Family History Research*", "*U.S. Migration*", "*Embracing Computers to Enhance Your Genealogy*", "*Advanced New England Research*", "*Producing a Quality Family Narrative*", "*Research Methodology: Genealogical Problem Solving*". For more information, e-mail: [institute@infouga.org](mailto:institute@infouga.org) or visit their website at: [www.infouga.org](http://www.infouga.org)

## Writing Contest

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon is sponsoring a **Writing Contest 2007** to encourage genealogists to write down what they know about their ancestors for future generations; to write engaging stories that others will want to read; and base what they write on good, sound, and well documented research.

The Theme is ***IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.***

### Requirements

- Piece must be written to the theme.
- Length of 750 to 5000 words.
- Documentation in the form of a bibliography, endnotes, or footnotes is required.
- Submitted between January 1, 2007 to April 1, 2007. Please do not submit before January 1, 2007.

### Judging Criteria

A story built around the theme. A story that engages the reader. Good use of language, including smoothness of the writing. Convincing research—Genealogical and background. Well documented (all facts are supported by evidence).

### To Enter

Entry forms/brochure are in the BCGS Library. Cost is \$10 for non-GFO members. Send checks to: Genealogical Forum of Oregon, PO Box 42567, 1505 SE Gideon, Portland, OR 97242. Questions? E-mail [peggy.baldwin@comcast.net](mailto:peggy.baldwin@comcast.net) or visit the GFO website at: [www.gfo.org/writing\\_contest.htm](http://www.gfo.org/writing_contest.htm) Phone: 503-963-1932.

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