

# Benton County Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER



Located in Philomath, Oregon  
Founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon  
Volume 39 No.9: November 2021  
<https://www.bcgs-oregon.org>

## News From President George

**Hello Members**, here we go into the holiday season. May you all have a wonderful, safe and healthy time. For those who have gotten their Covid vaccine, I hope you consider a booster. I am hopeful our children 5-11 are able to be protected with a vaccine as well.

Keep watch for information on resuming our meetings, maybe in January 2022.

## What's Inside?

**Page 1:** News from President George; November observances; New Happenings for Genealogists;

**Page 2:** Continuation of "Happenings"; List of Occupations

**Page 3:** Call for BCGS members to share your personal memories of our Society through the years

**Page 4:** Origins of Dia de Los Muertos

**Page 5:** Answers to List of Occupations; List of Society OPEN positions



November is full of observances from ***Dia de Los Muertos*** to ***U.S. Marine Corp Birthday*** to ***Use Less Stuff Day*** to ***Thanksgiving***. If you would like to check out some interesting things to do, go to:

<https://www.thespruce.com/special-days-and-observances-in-november-1448892>

## New Happenings for Genealogists!

*Oregon Historical Society's Research Library has reopened after two years of renovation!*

To learn more go to :

<https://www.ohs.org/research-and-library/visit-the-library/research-library-renovation.cfm>



AND (next page)

## Help Index Oregon Marriage Records

You are cordially invited to an online “wedding” reception – and indexing party! On Tuesday, Nov. 30, the **Genealogical Forum of Oregon** is sponsoring an online event to index Multnomah County marriage records from 1917-1924.

Way back in 1981, the GFO acquired the county’s original marriage register books for 1885-1924. Over four decades, dedicated volunteers have indexed the registers to 1916. But we get many requests in the “missing” years, so it’s time to finish the job! These records have proven to be an invaluable source for Oregon and Southern Washington researchers.

For the first time, GFO is trying out our annual volunteer work party as a one-day, interactive event entirely online. You can join the fun for the whole day or even just an hour. You do not need to be a member, just willing to dedicate a little time to support genealogy. For more information and to RSVP, please visit <http://gfo.org/givingtuesday>.



## LIST OF OCCUPATIONS

Have you ever been merrily going about your business of collecting ancestors and been handed an occupation that you have never seen before?

In the October 1998 BCGS Newsletter, member Dan Burrows presented a chart of 130 items that he had gathered.

Every month we’ll supply you with the strangest occupations. You can give it some thought and then go to the last page to see if you were right. Hope you have fun!

Amenuensis

Docker

Bexter

Gaoler

Bluestocking

Husbandman

Chaisemaker

Kempster

Colporteur

Mintmaster

To All Benton County Genealogical Society Members,



Can you believe that 2021 marks the 50th year since our society began?

Most of you have been members of BCGS for a while, or sometime in the past, and I am hoping that you will write a paragraph or two about your memories of BCGS for our 50th celebration. It does not have to be elaborate, just a few sentences about something you remember about BCGS. It can be something helpful, humorous or serious. What inspired you to join BCGS?

An early member wrote a history of the society's first 25 years and it seemed like a good idea to continue the tradition and write a history to celebrate our society's first 50 years. The 50th Celebration Notebook will include some photos, events and highlights of our society from 1971 to 2021 and a special section for "Memories".

I'm extending this request to all BCGS members, past and present, and asking each of you to write a paragraph or two about your memories of BCGS for the 50th Notebook. I've already received a few "BCGS Memories" and they are completely different and absolutely wonderful. At this time there is no specific deadline, but I'm hoping by the first of January 2022 the notebook will be mostly complete.

Please take this opportunity to participate in the 50th celebration by writing something to be included in the "Memories" section. What do you think the BCGS members 25 years from now will want to know about our society?

I hope you will enjoy writing a little something about the past for the future.

Thank you,

Linda Olsen

Past BCGS Secretary, Program Coordinator, Photographer



Send your memories to me at [thekeeper@ronsarchive.com](mailto:thekeeper@ronsarchive.com)

## Origins of Dia de Los Muertos

Many cultures all over the world have ways to remember and honor their loved ones who have died. Dia de Los Muertos is celebrated November 1 and 2 throughout Latin America and especially Mexico where it was part of the Aztec culture. In most places throughout North America, those who have Latino ties celebrate, too.

Long before Spain took control of Mexico, the Aztecs lived in *Tenochtitlan* where Mexico City stands now (after *Tenochtitlan* was turned to rubble by the Spaniards.) By 1521 the Conquistadors had killed the Aztec emperor and taken control of his empire.

Aztec culture used colorful festivals to celebrate the deaths of their ancestors.

The festivals had four themes to welcome back the spirits to this world: **water** to fill the spirits' thirst from their long journey; **fire** offered with candles; **wind** offered with colorful tissue paper cut-outs; and **earth** offered with food.

After the conquest of Mexico, Spain began to force the Aztecs and other indigenous people to forgo their culture and use European religious worldviews. Slowly the festivals became entwined with the Aztecs' religious universe and Spanish All Saints and All Souls Day. Many of the Aztec symbols of Dia de Los Muertos still survive today.

Dia de Los Muertos is a time for friends and relatives to joyfully remember those who have died by gathering together and bringing gifts and favorite foods to the deceased. A special way to honor a loved one is to make an *ofrenda* in the home. This is an offering to a loved one to show special items that were important in his or her life.

My sister has made an ofrenda every year for her husband. She has allowed me to share her ofrenda for this year to all of us. It's beautiful and colorful and full of love. I hope you enjoy seeing her offering to her beloved Johnny.

Sources: [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Day-of-the-dead](http://Wikipedia.org/wiki/Day-of-the-dead); [unesco.org/en/RL/indigenous-festivity-dedicated-to-the-dead-00054](http://unesco.org/en/RL/indigenous-festivity-dedicated-to-the-dead-00054)

Shared by Sue Van Laere

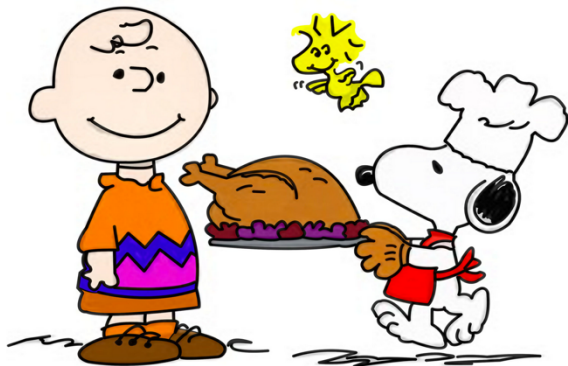


### Answers to Page 2

Amanuensis=**Secretary/Stenographer**  
Baxter=**Baker**  
Bluestocking=**Female writer**  
Chaisemaker=**Carriage maker**  
Colporteur=**Peddler of books**  
Docker=**Stevedore, worker who loads cargo**  
Gaoler=**Keeper of the gaol, a jailer**  
Husbandman=**A farmer who cultivated the land**  
Kempster=**Wool Comber**  
Mintmaster=**One who issued local currency**

**Did you find any of your ancestors' occupations?**

**Thanks to Linda Olsen for finding the list!**



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Appointed Positions

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: OPEN

Programs: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Photographer: OPEN

Audit: Connie Patterson

Refreshments: Pegge Gee

Host: Kathryn Moss

Research: Lois Courtney

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