

Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying spring and all the new flowers and the trees starting their new leaves. Thanks to those who attended our general meeting on March 12th. It was fun and good to see each other.

We will be meeting again April 9th and plan on having a round table visit to share our two year absence experiences.

We are working on rounding up some guest speakers for our programs.

Masks are optional while inside the museum. Hope to see you there.

President George

Benton County Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER



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

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

We stand with the people of Ukraine by flying their flag on our first page

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Anxious to see the 1950 Census?

If you're looking forward to seeing the **1950 Census**, here is a website where you'll find lots of information. You can check out webinars that started March 2nd, and continues through April and May. If you missed any, you still have access.

The National Archives Is well known for the amount of information that is on the website. Just wander through the pages and have fun!

Toward the end of this website, be sure to take a look at **History Hub**. It's the place where you can ask questions and see questions and answers from other researchers.



At our next meeting on April 9 we will discuss if we want to help, as a group, finalize the 1950 Census. Read more here.

Dear George Davidson,

Individuals, societies, and organizations are invited to participate in an effort to review and improve a computer-generated index of the census, to help us get the final index published faster than ever. Would you like to invite your society members to work together on Oregon? Group functionality will be available as the project is launched so that you can see the progress you are making together as a group.

The nice thing about a volunteer effort like this, where your members are working together and with your group, is that it will strengthen their ties to your organization and to each other.

David E Rencher

Director, Family History Library, Chief Genealogical Officer, FamilySearch International

About the 1950 Census Community Project

On April 1, 2022, images of the 1950 US Federal Census will be released for the first time. Unlike previous census years, these records will be available as free digital images.

Upon its release, the 1950 US Census Community Project, a joint initiative between FamilySearch, Ancestry, and other leading genealogy societies and organizations, will coordinate efforts to provide quick access to these digital images and to create a comprehensive index that will be searchable online.

Enthusiasm and interest in the 1950 US census have been building steadily since the release of the 1940 census in 2012. These new records will introduce us to the 40,000,000 people born during this era of baby boomers. But this postwar decade wasn't just prosperous for newborns. It also ushered in the civil rights movement, rock 'n' roll, suburban living, and a wave of colorful innovations. Many of the powerful voices and inspired minds behind the changes will be found in the 1950 census.

Many people alive today will find themselves in the 1950 US census. Others will be able to readily connect with relatives they knew personally or through family stories. Imagine the great resource this will be to current and future researchers and family history enthusiasts!



<https://archives.gov/research/census/1950>

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) has some helpful resources for the 1950 Census, too.

- ◆ A blank 1950 Census form for a Housing Questionnaire and Population Questionnaire. (you can zoom the picture because the contents are pretty small.)
- ◆ A blank 1950 Population census with simulated data.
- ◆ Information for finding your ancestors since the census hasn't been indexed yet.
- ◆ Other helpful sources, too.

<https://gfo.org/learn/1950-us-census.html>

WE still have time to put our two nickels-worth in the **50 Year BCGS Notebook** that Linda Olsen is putting together for us. Even the tiniest memory is important. I'll bet there won't be one that is the same. **So let's help Linda!**

Below is an example. It doesn't have to be this long. The first sentence would have been enough. But then I started thinking of Ted and Katie and I couldn't stop!

One of my good memories was the combination of Ted Gump and Katie Ross when they were the auctioneers for our December money raiser and potluck. Ted had a droll way of talking and a desire to keep the auction moving along. Katie would try to slow Ted down or give a better idea of what he had in his hand. They were just a perfect pair for some laughs. What I remember about Ted was his somewhat gruff way of talking and his heart of gold. And Katie is someone you like instantly before you even talk to her.

Shared by Sue Van Laere

Ideas to Start “Writing” A Family History

WE genealogists know the best way to give our family something they would like to read about us and other relatives. We know it **Isn't** statistics! They want to know **who** we are.

Do we have to write a big book filled with everything we've collected? **No!**

There are lots of ways to “write a book.”

See below.



freepik.com

What is a Family History?

In 2018, our Writers Group brainstormed a list of alternative ways to write.

- Album for kids of one ancestor line: photos, short captions
- Album of family items with descriptions, photos?
- Individuals' document collections
- Family veterans' stories
- Shadow boxes
- Family letters, diaries collections
- Family stories
- Photo albums with descriptions and possibly stories
- Oral history
- Family cookbooks
- Maps of ancestors' movements

Other Ideas

- A collection of family traditions and their origins
- A genetic family history, which identifies specific physical traits (eye color, height, weight, complexion, and so on, causes of death, family illnesses)
- More than a scrapbook: a heritage album is a record of the life of a family and includes photographs, documents, etc.

Remember you are the person you know best.

Make a list of parts of your life that you would like to share with your family. Once you get started, you'll remember more and more! Your life's story can be a mix of photos, other items, documents, etc. and as much writing as you want to do.

Using Timelines as Family History

When I first started making timelines for some of my ancestors, I was surprised with the amount of information I already had. I made a table with three pieces of information; I wanted to know three things: a life event; date of the event and the source. If I didn't have a source or date, I kept searching till I found it.

The timelines help when you want to put together a story of one of your ancestors or yourself. A notebook of timelines can serve as a gift to relatives who want to know about their heritage but don't know how to start. They're also just fun to read.

I've had a good time doing these and I feel like I have one piece of life in control!

Shared by Sue Van Laere

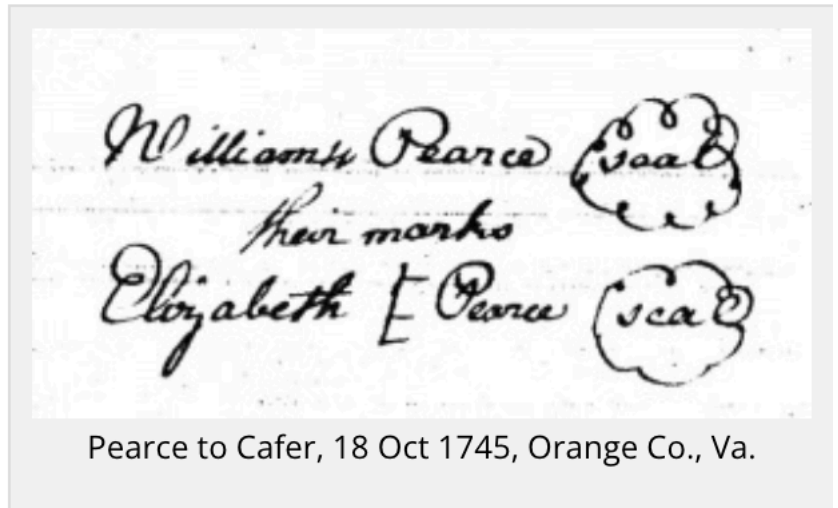
A portion of my grandfather Harlan Winkler 's Timeline

Date	Life event	Source
13 Nov 1879	Born in Estill County, Kentucky obit says 1880, headstone says 1878, death certificate 1878	family history, WW I draft registration card
12 Jun 1880	Living on Crooked Creek near Irvine, Kentucky	1880 Census
1892 ca	Family came to Hamilton County, Nebraska	Deeds to Albert Walton (April), and John T. Adams (June) in Irvine, Kentucky
9 Jun 1900	Baptism at Methodist Episcopal Church, Lexington, Dawson, Nebraska	Nebraska State Genealogical Society Journal: Nebraska Ancestree, Vol. 2, no. 2, Fall 1979. source: Rootsweb
4 Jun 1900	Working as a servant to S. (Stephen) B. Cole and family in Harrison & Robb Precincts, Gosper County, Nebraska. The Rittgarns are listed on the same page of the census.	1900 Census
28 Aug 1900	Marriage to Caroline Christiane Albertine (Lena) Rittgarn in Minden, Kearney, Nebraska. Witnesses were Milton Connor and Laura Newell	Marriage Record and License, Kearney County Courthouse, Minden, Nebraska
1900 ca.	Member of Lexington Hook & Ladder Company 1, Lexington, Dawson, Nebraska	family photo of firefighters in uniform, n.d.
18 Apr 1910	General Laborer. This may have been when he helped lay the street bricks (some of the bricked streets still exist). Lexington, Ward 3, Dawson, Nebraska	1910 Census

How to Recognize if Your Ancestor Couldn't Write

"It's necessary to understand that literacy wasn't an important element even for many of the landowners of the American colonies, particularly in the south.

Although literacy among the wealthy was nearly universal in early Virginia, among the gentry, only about half could sign their names. And literacy rates for women, even just the degree of literacy needed to sign a name, lagged far behind that of men particularly in the south."



Pearce to Cafer, 18 Oct 1745, Orange Co., Va.

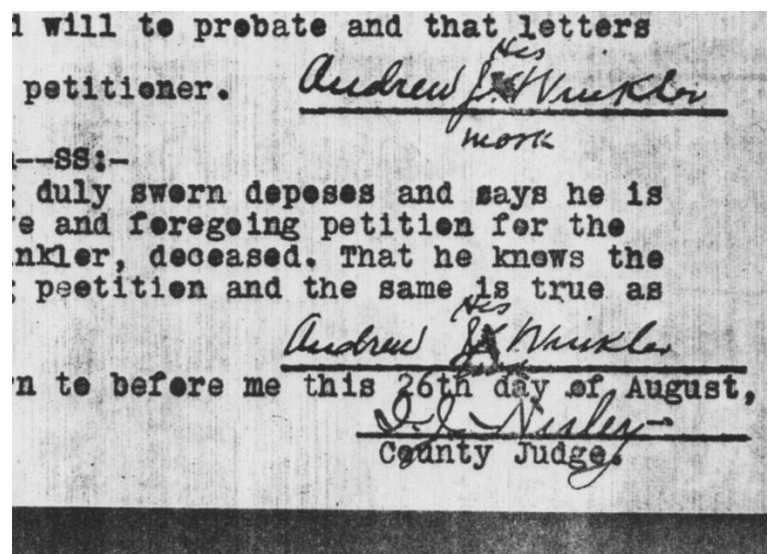
<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2012/04/05/x-or-w-marks-the-spot/#>

The [legalgenealogist.com](https://www.legalgenealogist.com) above has more information on the use of marks from the 1700's to the 2000's.

The signatures to the right are my Great-great grandfather's. He was the executor of his wife Fannie's will. You can see that someone wrote his name and, between Andrew and Winkler, it says "his mark" with what I think is an X.

Some of his signatures on later papers are very wobbly and look different from these signatures.

Shared by Sue Van Laere



List of open positions and major responsibilities

Membership:

Greet people and collect names at the monthly meeting. Keep track of new members.

Historian:

Insert newsletter, obituaries, pictures, special events into the society notebook.

Library Chair:

Accession and de-accession materials, attend board meetings, oversee projects, write a short article each month for the newsletter.

Society Photographer:

Take photos at events, especially of swearing-in of officers and speakers, send photos to newsletter editor and society historian.

Programs Committee (need two to three volunteers):

Select, arrange for, organize, and execute programs for general meetings.

Contact President George at bcgSOR@gmail.com and he will direct you to the right person for information about the position you're interested in. Thanks for doing your part!

Benton County Genealogical Society

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Secretary: Debbi White

genodebbi@gmail.com

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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: OPEN

Publicity: Lois Courtney

Library Volunteers: Lois Courtney

Writers Group: Sue Van Laere

Newsletter Editor: Sue Van Laere

"We're all
stories
in the end.
Just make it
a good one."

-Unknown

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