

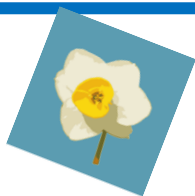
## From President George

Hello fellow members and friends.

I hope you are well as we

look forward to Spring.

We had a wonderful turnout at our last meeting. I hope you're able to attend the Feb. meeting and our guest speaker.



# Benton County

## Genealogical Society

# NEWSLETTER

Located in Philomath, Oregon

Founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

## Volume 41 No.6: February 2023

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

### Getting Started and Making a Plan

Thanks to Danell Aukerman we will be adding many books to our BCGS Library that she has donated to our society. On Wednesday, January 18, 2023, a BCGS group met in the Annex to discuss how to proceed.

Our first meeting was very productive. David Devon, President of the Linn County Genealogical Society attended as a guest speaker and shared his expertise for sorting and organizing large book donations. BCGS members attending were Liza Wilson, Librarian guiding the book project, Nancy DeBoie, Librarian, and her husband, and Linda Olsen, secretary and photographer.

#### Helpful suggestions discussed:

1. Make a priority list of which type of books to keep.
2. David suggested keeping only published books with vital information.
3. Sort out the first priority books and store them separately in the BCGS Library until ready to shelve.
4. Those books with information easily accessible on the Internet such as censuses would not be kept. (Keep State censuses)
5. Set up a work group, set up empty boxes.

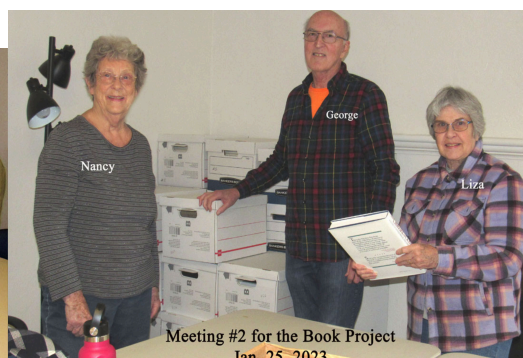
**More helpers are needed to make this book project go faster.**

Meetings will be Wednesdays at 1:00pm at the Annex. Come and help if you can.

Notes by Linda Olsen



Getting Together and Making a Plan to Sort  
Danell's Donated Genealogy Books  
January 18, 2023



Meeting #2 for the Book Project  
Jan. 25, 2023

Left to right: Liza, Nancy, and David Devon

Left to right: Nancy, President George, Liza

## Too many ancestors to look for—not enough time

Maybe you have worked on one ancestor diligently, but “boing” a new interesting person comes in view. You jump onto that ancestor, and pretty soon you’re all tangled up in more information and nothing that tells who the ancestors really were.

How do I know this? That’s me! A while back I actually joined a free newsletter from Amy Johnson Crow, a genealogy speaker and writer. This month she wrote the following and it really caught my attention. Here’s what she had to say. **Sue Van Laere**

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### From Amy

“I’m putting out a call to action this week that may seem controversial: give up your genealogy goals.

Now, before you scroll away - or question my sanity - I want to tell you one of the biggest things I’ve learned going into the New Year: giving up your goals can lead to more discoveries.

When we start the New Year we often think we’re going to do more, find ALL the ancestors, break down all of those brick walls! But, that also causes stress, and because we get so focused on what we think needs to happen - we’ve decided that’s the only thing that CAN happen. But that’s not why we do our family history - we do it to meet the people from our past, our families, and to learn who they were and share their stories.

So, what do you do if you don’t have goals? It’s pretty simple: be curious. Find a new link in your tree that had been missing? Great! That’s no longer “another thing to do” - it’s another story to explore! What about those brick walls? Taking a step away from them will allow you to see them later in a new light, which often helps us make more discoveries.

I hope you’ll join me with this new (see, I almost said goal!) idea. I’m going to call it “ungoaling.” What it simply means is taking the time and pressure off of myself in order to find those stories and threads that I know are there, and to remember to sit back and enjoy the ride.”

**Written by:**

Amy Johnson Crow—[amy@amyjohnsoncrow.com](mailto:amy@amyjohnsoncrow.com)

## And Now—More About Al's News Agency

Thank you Lyle and your uncle, for giving us such a vivid look at what it was like to run a “lunch counter” and sell other items from the 1930's until 1971.

### Lyle's Uncle

“When my dad bought the business, it was in his words a “lunch counter.” They sold sandwiches and drinks. The place made a lot of money on gambling devices called punchboards. Those were illegal already, but law enforcement cracked down on them shortly after he bought the business and there went a good share of the profits.”



In the late 1800s, a new type of punchboard was introduced. This one involved putting paper in both the front and back of the hole (to help prevent operators from [cheating](#)). These new punchboards became popular purchases at [drugstores](#), and they were sold with a metal [stylus](#). The punchboard soon became increasingly similar to today's [lottery tickets](#).

Soon, the punchboard became cheap and easy to assemble, and the industry flourished. Noted gambling author [John Scarne](#) estimates that 30 million punchboards were sold in the years between 1910 and 1915. He also estimates that 50 million punchboards were sold in 1939 alone, during the peak of their popularity.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punchboard>

“ When Prohibition ended in 1933, they got a tavern license, and tapped beer kegs. They put in a large popcorn popper in the front near the sidewalk, and the aroma was their advertisement. During World War II, with the large Army base at Camp Adair, they made a lot of money selling hamburgers and beer. By 1947 they were relatively prosperous.”

Continues on page 4

“After they built the new building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, they did not get a tavern license because they were unwilling to pay the bribe to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission which would have been required. It was \$500, a lot of money in 1947. Instead they got a package license, and became the last place to get a six-pack of beer on the way to Albany. When the store was profitable, much of the profit was from beer and cigarettes.”



Note the cigarettes on the shelf and maybe the beer in the fridge below.

Just a guess!

“The new store, as you may remember, had a counter with four stools, 2 booths by the windows overlooking the river, and 3 islands of groceries. There was a large magazine rack by the front door. It was the neighborhood convenience store and again it was a small “lunch counter.”

### Lyle’s Memories

“It is my understanding that when my grandfather closed the store he had only 1 of 6 unblemished liquor licenses at that time.

My grandfather once told me a story of a cigarette shipment he got. It was a whole case of cigarettes. Each individual cigarette was 50 inches long and came with a cutter.

He knew that he would not get another one and put a guy out front of the store downtown with one cigarette on a 2 foot holder. He said the guy could not even light his own cigarette. Sold the whole case that day.

This was before cigarettes were taxed on length and he was right. They changed the tax code to include length before he got another shipment.”

**Thanks to both of you for sharing how your family was an asset to Corvallis for so many years. It’s been so much fun to put the story together in the newsletter so members can read your story.**



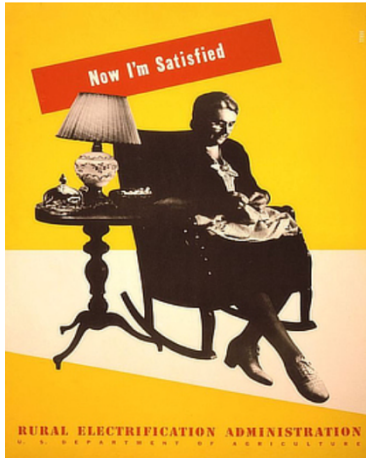
# LIBRARY

LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS

Library of Congress » Digital Collections

<https://www.loc.gov/free/to/use>

The Library of Congress has digital collections of just about everything that are free to use and reuse! I just happened to take a look and was surprised. Here are just a few of the offerings.



Now I'm satisfied. Rural Electrification Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Poster by Lester Beall, 1930s

Farm Life Collection



Grand Grocery Co., Lincoln, Nebraska.  
Photo by John Vachon, 1942. Farm Security Administration Collection.  
Prints & Photographs Division

Advertising Food Collection



Nyssa, Oregon. Japanese-American farm workers have an ice cream soda on weekly trip to town

Ice Cream Collection (1942) with undertone of removing U.S. Japanese citizens from their homes



Dust storm. Buried farm machinery. Cimarron County, Oklahoma. Photo by Arthur Rothstein, 1936.

Natural Disasters Collection

**SEE YOU AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING AT 10:30---WITH THE PROGRAM AT 11:00**



## **Intro to Genetic Genealogy: The Why and How of DNA Testing**

**A FREE program presented by: Payton L. James-Amberg, Ph.D.**  
<https://paytonroots.com>

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 11:AM-to Noon**

Benton County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

**President:** George Davidson, 928-205-2121

[bcgsor@gmail.com](mailto:bcgsor@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Kathryn Moss

[mosskathryn@gmail.com](mailto:mosskathryn@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Linda Olsen

**Treasurer:** Lois ourtney

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

Appointed Positions

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: Liza Wilson

Programs: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Photographer: OPEN

Audit: Connie Patterson

Refreshments: Pegge Gee

Host: Kathryn Moss

Research: Lois Courtney

Book Sales: OPEN

Website: George Davidson

Facebook: OPEN

Publicity OPEN

### **Open Library Changes**

**Our Library will be open to members and the public after our monthly meetings. (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month)**

**If you would like to use the Library during the month, contact Lois**

**([loiscourtney@cmug.com](mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com) or cell 541-760-0405.**

**Reminder: our website has the complete inventory of our wonderful Library.**

**(<http://www.bcgs-oregon.org/library/library-shelf-list> )**