



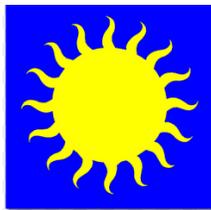
Hi , Everyone ,  
I hope your summer has been a memorable one as we move forward to Fall (my favorite season.)  
May we start our group out with good times and good health.  
See you on our next meeting,  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 A.M. upstairs  
in the Moreland Gallery

**Benton County**  
**Genealogical Society**  
**NEWSLETTER**

Located in Philomath, Oregon  
**Volume 43 No.1: September**  
**And October 2023**  
founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

**On the last page of the June newsletter, we suggested:**

Have a wonderful summer, not too hot, not too cold-  
Find a genealogical something you've tried to find for so many  
years-  
And have just the right amount of work to keep from being  
bored."



**Perhaps a little too much of the above!**

**This year is the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of our newsletter!** Go to [www.bcgs-oregon.org](http://www.bcgs-oregon.org) to read some of the newsletters starting in March, 1986 to now.

Please let me know what you want to read in our newsletter. I have a few ideas for this year but I know you have ideas and stories of your own to share too. When we get together on September 9<sup>th</sup> I'll send around a questionnaire for you to share your ideas. **Thanks!**

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK!

## Andrew Jackson Winkler, My First Great-Grandfather

For years, I've been curious about a name in our Winkler family. My second great-grandfather was born in Kentucky in 1829 and named Andrew Jackson Winkler. He named one of his sons Andrew Jackson, too, my dad's grandfather. In this large Kentucky Winkler family, several extended relatives also were given that name. So, I finally decided to do some ancestor sleuthing.

I knew that Andrew Jackson, who was from Tennessee, had been elected President in 1828. And I also knew that he was a politician who appealed to the common people. Think of the famous story of his Inaugural Ball where crowds of people off the streets were invited (and invited themselves) into the White House to celebrate. My Kentucky relatives were, for the most part, farmers living up the "hollers" of Crooked Creek in Estill County, the very people who would approve of someone like Jackson.

In researching why Kentuckians might have been interested in Jackson enough to name their children after him. I found another connection in the War of 1812. Jackson was the heralded hero of the Battle of New Orleans against the British, and, accompanying him were hundreds of Kentucky volunteers. In fact, 25% of those who fought in the war were from Kentucky. Many of these soldiers were self-sufficient backwoodsmen and farmers, not formally educated. Jackson himself was the same kind of self-made man, tough and confident.

Focus forward to 1828: Jackson is running for the Presidency. He chose to use a song for his campaign titled "Hunters of Kentucky", which happened to be about the Battle of New Orleans. Several stanzas refer to the prowess of Kentucky riflemen and their role in overcoming the British in New Orleans.

But Jackson he was wide awake,  
And was not scared of trifles,  
For well he knew what aim we take,  
With our Kentucky\* rifles:  
So, he led us down by Cypress swamp,  
The ground was low and mucky,  
There stood John Bull\*\* in martial pomp,  
And here was old Kentucky.

They did not let our patience tire,  
Before they show'd their faces;  
We did not choose to waste our fire,  
So, snugly kept our places.

But when so near we saw them wink,  
We thought it time to stop 'em,  
And 'twould have done you good, I think,  
To see Kentuckians drop 'em.

\* *the Kentucky rifles were actually Pennsylvania rifles*  
\* \* *John Bull was a symbol for Great Britain*

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The last quoted stanza might be somewhat familiar, even though this song was written 200 years ago. In 1959 Johnny Horton sang a song titled "Battle of New Orleans." One stanza goes like this:

Old Hickory said we could take 'em by surprise  
If we didn't fire our muskets till we looked 'em in the eyes  
We held our fire till we seed their faces well  
Then we opened up our squirrel guns and really gave them  
Well we...  
"Refrain"

This particular song was written in 1945 by Jimmy Driftwood, an Arkansas school principal, who wanted to find a way to interest students in history. I knew when I read the stanza from the old song that I had heard something like it before as the Johnny Horton song. I was surprised when I did further research, and I was right. I knew it would come in handy to know the words to that song sometime!

Although I'll never know for certain that these are the reasons for naming my ancestors Andrew Jackson, it seems plausible to me. I haven't found this name in my family history before 1829. My ancestors clearly liked what they saw in Jackson and identified with him. Even though we think of farmers at that time as living isolated lives, I don't believe that's true. They might not have been reading newspapers much, but the spoken word grapevine was loud and clear. They knew their neighbors well because they depended on each other. And those who could read surely shared ideas they read. If anything, I think people paid more attention politically than we do today.

Of course, President Andrew Jackson has a different reputation now than he had at that time. But I remember that I can't judge my ancestors from that era completely by my own experience; rather it's important to understand the context in which they lived their lives. If their ancestors had been in the United States for a generation or two, they had many experiences that we can only contemplate. They had to decide if they were going to continue under British rule or fight against it. Also, even though it was wrong, most of them had purchased land taken from the Indians by the Colonial government and then had to fight the Indians for it. Their lives were hard, they were financially poor and they obviously believed that Andrew Jackson was on their side.

References:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The-Hunters-of-Kentucky>

[www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/jacksoninauguration.htm](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/jacksoninauguration.htm)

SUE VAN LAERE

## WHAT IS A FAMILY HISTORY?

- A record of your family with you as a child, containing recollections of your parents and other living ancestors.
- A record of your family with you as a parent, containing recollections of your children and your other descendants.
- A written history of an ancestor containing several generations of family history going back in time.
- An ancestral family history with a chapter for the couple you start with and additional chapters for each descendant family.
- A collection of family traditions and their origins.
- Newsletters.
- Time capsules.
- Family organization books.
- Posters.
- A genetic family history, which identifies specific physical traits (eye color, height, weight, complexion, and so on, causes of death, family illnesses).
- Family recipe collections.
- Heritage albums. More than a scrapbook; a heritage album is a record of the life of a family and includes photographs, document and so on.
- A record of your findings and experiences as you begin with one ancestor and work backwards, a story of research and discoveries.

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Create\\_a\\_Family\\_History](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Create_a_Family_History)



On page 5 see what you can do with a photo like this one to get started to work on a family history.

This photo is from left: my father Bill, Grandma Lena, Uncle Claude and Grandpa Harlin in Lexington, Nebraska, in February 1944. When I first saw the photo, all I knew was that Grandma was laughing because my mom had told me that Grandma's two boys always made her laugh. I thought it was just a nice family picture when dad and Uncle Claude had some leave time.

A few years went by and I decided to find out more about my uncle. I was able to get his military records, and with his Discharge paper, I found out that he was in the 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and had been at Camp Adair. I had gone past the Historical Markers many times on the highway.

I was lucky to have my uncle's photo in his dress uniform with his uniform patch of the Green Fir Tree: the 91<sup>st</sup> Division's symbol.

This Division was sent to Africa in April, 1944, and then on to Italy. He was with thousands of soldiers who fought for more than a year through rivers, mountains and every terrible thing that goes with war.

Having Uncle Claude's Discharge Paper and the photo with his uniform, plus other photos helped me find a part of his life that was missing.



**So, if you want to find out more about an ancestor, pull out your old photos and see if they have a surprise for you!**

**By Sue Van Laere**

**Our library is open after our regular meetings on Saturday of the month! If you want help finding a book, there are people to help.**

**You also can call Lois Courtney at 541-760-0405 to access the library in other times in the month. Thanks to Lois for volunteering!**

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Please feel free to let me know what you would like to see in our Newsletter.

I put in the newsletter what I think is interesting and helpful, but each of us have interests that I know would be interesting or helpful to all of us.

Let me know what you're thinking! It's also a great way to help others.

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