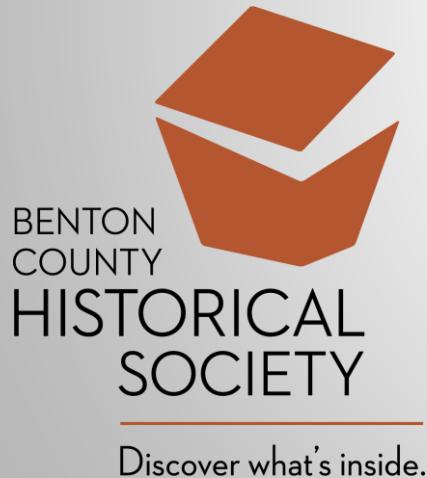


The BCCHS-BCGS Collaboration: Sources in the BCCHS Research Library for Local Genealogy Research



Larry Landis
9 May 2026
Philomath Museum



This morning's discussion

- Sources in the BCHS Research Library
- BCHS online catalog
- Other online resources
 - Oregon Digital
 - Northwest Digital Heritage
 - Historic Oregon Newspapers
- Using the BCHS Research Library

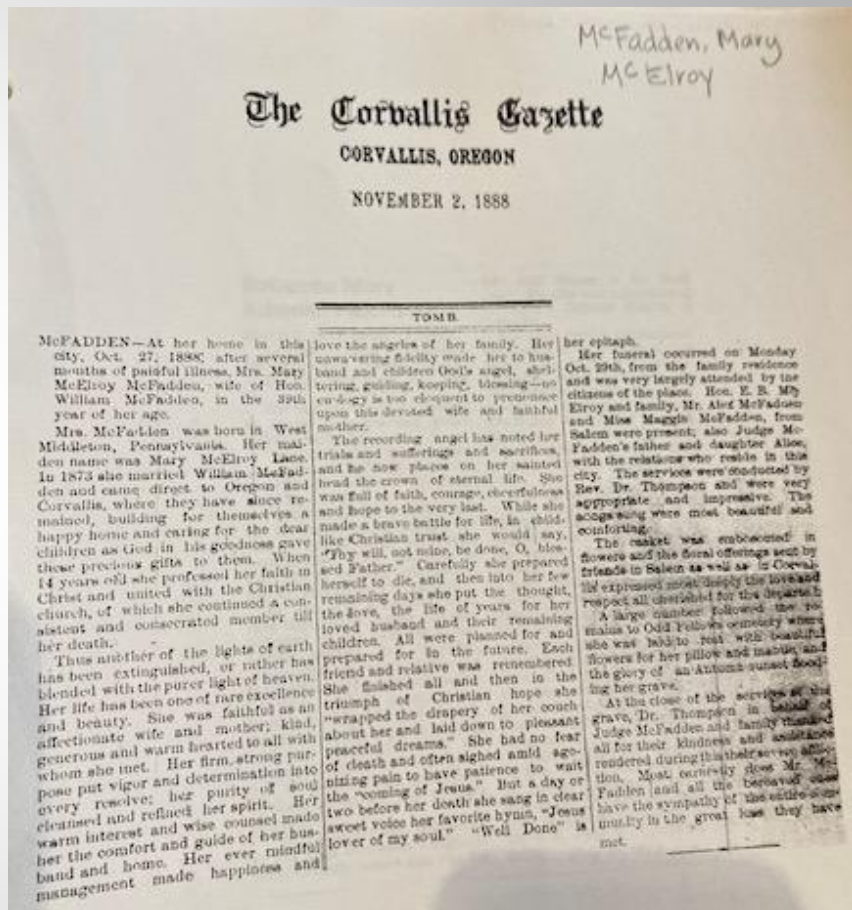
Obituary File

- Estimated 18,000-20,000 obituaries in binders
- Date from the 1870s to the 2000s; arranged alphabetically
- Most are from the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* and its predecessor papers



Obituary File (continued)

- Typically includes date of publication and name of the paper
- Knowing the married surname of women is often necessary
- Benefits – browsability and adjacency to other family obituaries



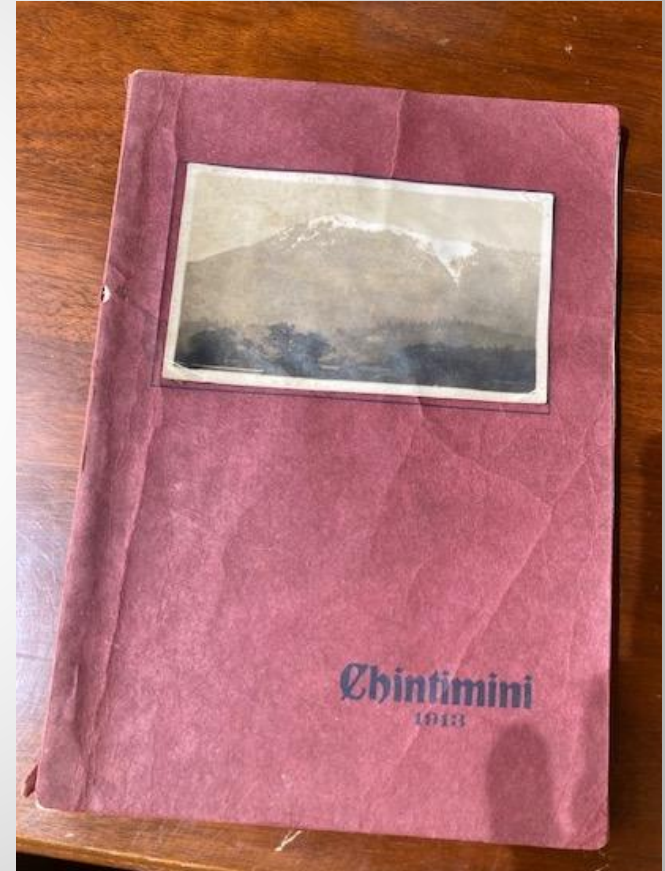
Family Files

- Compilations of stories, newspaper clippings, reminiscences, copies of photos, etc. of prominent and not so prominent families and individuals in Benton County
- Approximately 1,100 files in 8 filing cabinet drawers



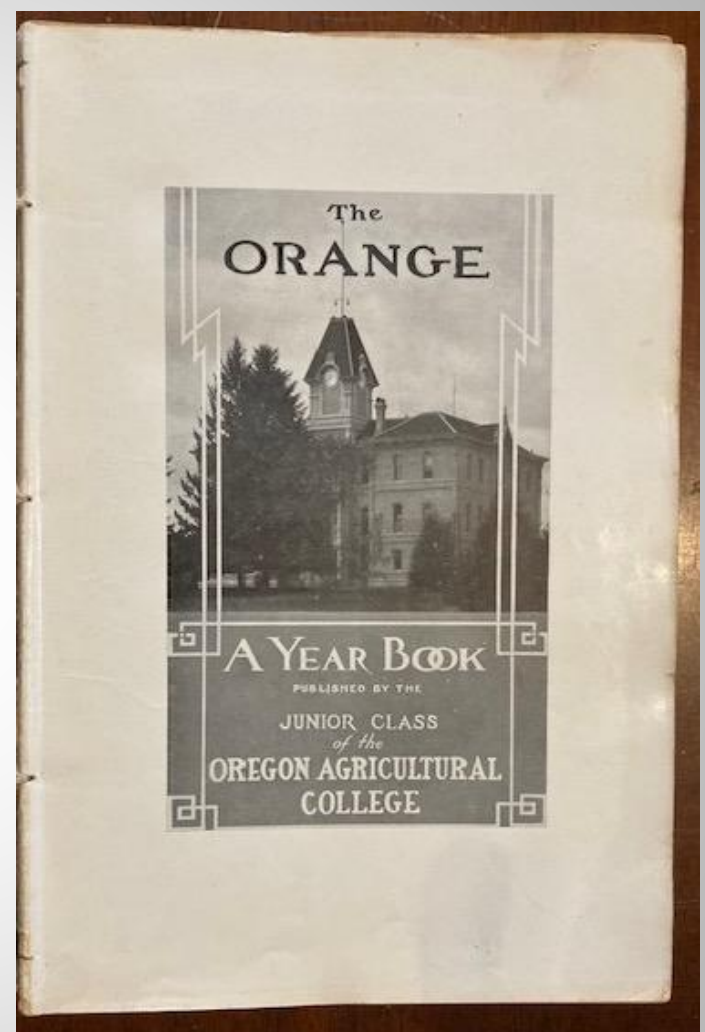
Yearbooks – OSU, local high & middle schools

- CHS 1911-2020, CVHS 1975-2009, PHS 1937-2009; smaller runs for Monroe, Alsea and Santiam Christian high schools
- Cheldelin, Western View, Linus Pauling middle/junior high schools
- Many runs are not complete
- Need to know the approximate dates someone attended a particular school .



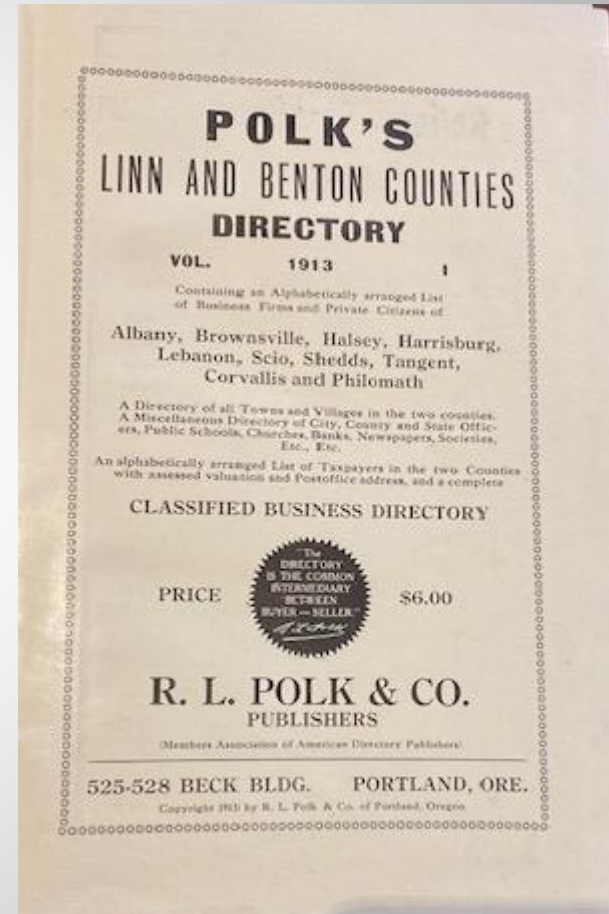
Yearbooks (continued)

- OSU yearbooks, 1894, 1908-2008
- Also available online in Oregon Digital
 - Easier to browse originals
 - They're fun to look through!
- Early yearbooks published by the junior class – 1908 yearbook published by the junior class and covers the 1906-07 school year



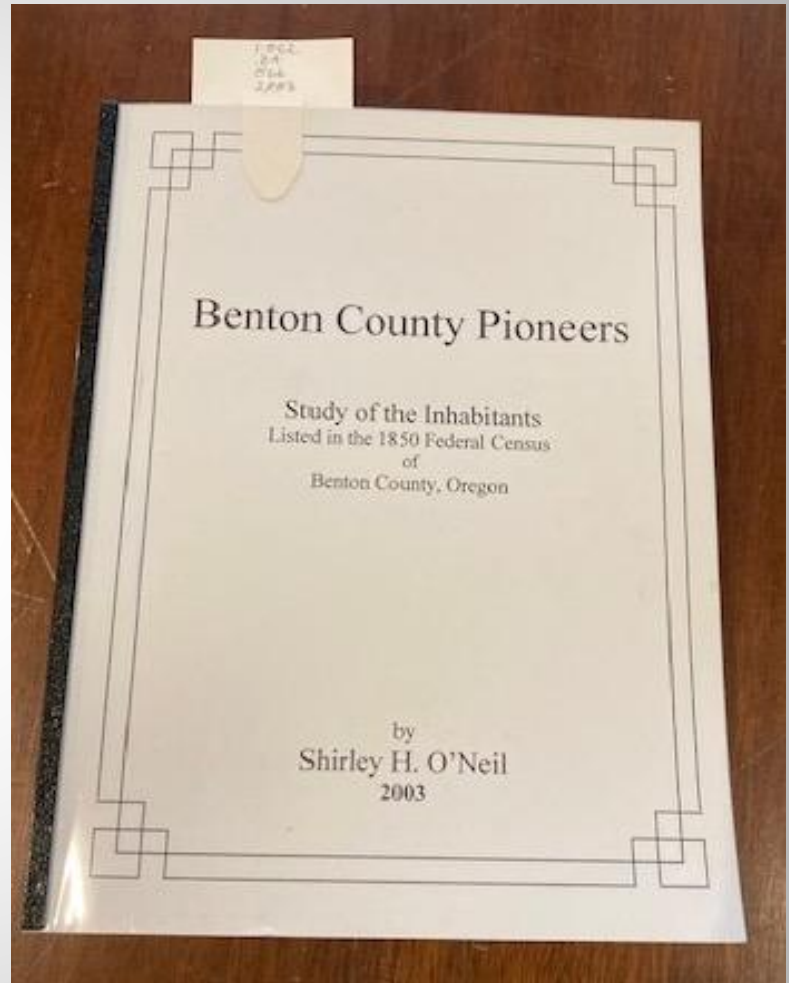
City directories and telephone books

- Directories cover 1913, 1951--2005, both Benton and Linn counties
- Information presented in multiple ways
 - 1913 includes taxpayers and amount paid
- Early directories have great ads!
- Telephone books cover 1907-2020 (not complete)
 - Each book often covers multiple communities
 - Includes Corvallis, Albany, Philomath, Monroe and rural parts of Benton and Linn counties



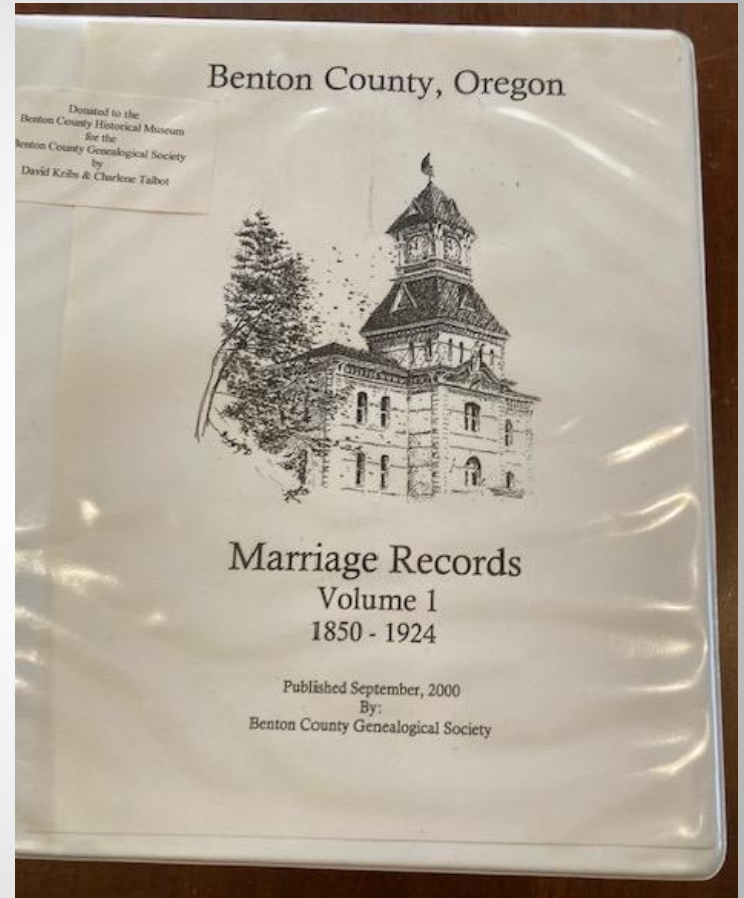
Census information

- Several indexes
 - 1860 and 1870 statewide
 - 1880 Benton County
 - 1910 Benton County
- Published study (right) of 1850 federal census for Benton County
 - Information compiled from multiple sources
- Browsing hard copy indexes may reveal other family members living nearby (not necessarily the case with [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) searches)



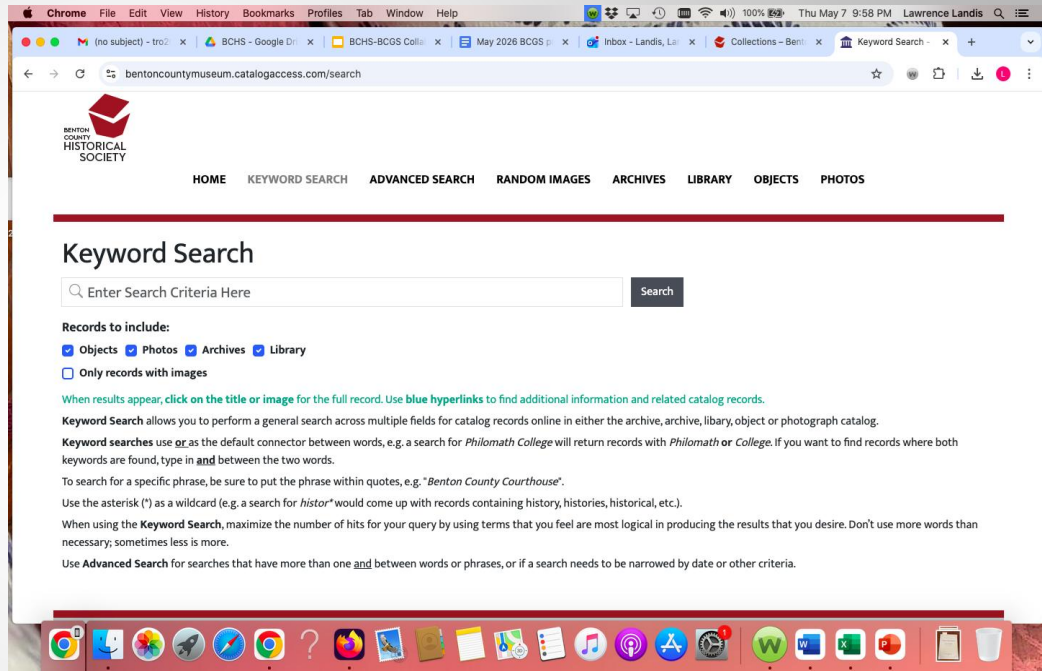
Other sources of interest

- Cemetery records for Benton, Polk and Lincoln counties
- Marriage records index for Benton County (1850-1945), 2 vols., compiled by BCGS
- Indexes to church records (late 19th and early 20th centuries)
- Cultural Resource surveys, 1970s and 1980s
 - Often include biographical information on people associated with the house or building



BCHS online catalog

- 14,000 public records for collection items
 - 4,400 photographs
 - More than 150 titles pertaining to genealogy – general works, indexes, published family histories
- 39,000 records for people, many publicly accessible
 - Some have extensive biographical information
 - Compiled by staff and cataloging volunteers
- <https://bentoncountymuseum.catalogaccess.com/>



Other online resources

- Oregon Digital
- <https://oregondigital.org/>
- Collaboration between OSU and UO Libraries
- Northwest Digital Heritage
 - <https://www.northwestdigitalheritage.org/s/nwdh/page/home>
- Historic Oregon Newspapers
 - <https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>
- All are free of charge – no subscription fees



The screenshot shows the website for Historic Oregon Newspapers. The header features the title "Historic Oregon Newspapers" in green. Below it is a navigation menu with links for Home, Titles, Map, Locations, Calendar, About, and Contact. A search bar is present with the text "Search Newspaper Pages" and a "Go" button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Welcome" and contains a paragraph of introductory text followed by a bulleted list of instructions for using the site. The right column is titled "This day in history" and features a thumbnail image of a newspaper page from May 7, 1944, with the caption "The Oregon statesman, May 7, 1944".

Historic Oregon Newspapers

Home Titles Map Locations Calendar About - Contact

Search Newspaper Pages Go Advanced Search

Welcome

Welcome to Historic Oregon Newspapers. On this site you can search and access complete content for historic Oregon newspapers that have been digitized as part of the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP). This full-text searchable database contains almost 3,000,000 pages from Oregon newspapers dated 1846 - 2025, and we are continually adding new titles.

- To see all titles on this site, check out the **Titles** page.
- You can also browse titles by city in the **Map** and **Locations** sections.
- To search the text of the newspapers, use the search box or **Advanced Search** option.
- For more help on using the site, visit our **Help** section.

ODNP is committed to providing free online access to historic Oregon newspapers. This is made possible with the support of federal and state grants, the UO Libraries, and through private donations. **Become a partner or contribute.**

This day in history



The Oregon statesman,
May 7, 1944

Using the BCHS Research Library

- Make an appointment – don't just show up
 - Contact collections curator
Patti Larkin
- Small group sessions facilitated by me
- Sample materials on the table at the back of the auditorium



Questions and Comments?

Thank you!

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