



Genealogy Journal

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The Grants Pass Genealogical Society
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Grants Pass Genealogical
Society
P.O. Box 214
Grants Pass, OR 97528
www.gpgenealogy.org

Meetings held on the 2nd
Tuesday
of each month (except July,
Aug, Dec) at 1:30 PM at the
Josephine Community Library
200 NW "C" Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

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President's Message

A Little of This and That

Our membership has increased considerably since the start of 2011. I attribute this to a fine meeting location, interesting programs and use of the Internet to display new tools and ways to discover our family history.

In keeping with Oregon statute, the Josephine Community Library does not charge patrons to use their services. I strongly suggest all of our members join the Josephine Community Library and support their efforts to continue to provide a quality service to the community. Please show your support of this fine community service.

Our last meeting before the summer is *June 14th*. Please plan to show your support by becoming a Community Library member or make a donation to help the library to stay open.

Speaking of membership, ours has grown considerably since the start of the year. Many of our new members are also new to genealogy and may need some mentoring. I would like to see a mentoring program set up to help new members who may need some guidance navigating the many tools available in this area. Please join the Board of Directors at 12:30 (one hour prior to the

General Meeting) to discuss setting up a mentoring committee and other GPGS business.

There will be no meeting in July, but we will hold our annual picnic at the home of Don and LaVona Ness on

August 9th. at 12:00 Noon. The picnic has a theme this year: “*Sharing Family Recipes.*”

Because this is a potluck picnic, please bring a dish that has been passed down in your family and send the recipe as an e-mail to either Janis Seaton or me. The recipes will be part of the newsletter in September. The recipe voted the “best” at the picnic will receive a prize and be featured in the newsletter, also.

Also in August, GPGS will have an information booth at the Daily Courier Yard Sale being held on *August 6th from 8AM until 2PM.* Small items can be brought to the sale to help raise funds for GPGS. Please suggest a price and mark the item for sale so it can be displayed and sold quickly. No books or clothes please!

*Last but certainly not least.....*retain a copy of the seminar ad form included with this newsletter. Members are requested to sell an ad to help defray the cost of the seminar syllabus. The seminar dates are *October 21 & 22 at the Medford Library* and the guest speaker Dr. Stephen P. Morse will discuss his “One-Step Method,” DNA and other genealogy-related topics.

Enjoy your summer and I hope to see many of you at the picnic on August 9th.

Celeste Guillory

Welcome New Members

We want to welcome new members Laurie Neff and Velma Gustafson who joined us last month, and wish them much success in their family history research.

We have a new member named Cynthia Fuerst who lives in Yakima, Washington. She tells us her mother’s family was in Oregon as early as 1850, and that many of her McCallister, Young and Montgomery family members are buried in and around Grants Pass, Bonanza and Brownsville in Linn County.

Speaking of new members, we are going to start publishing articles about them and include a photo so everybody will know who they are. We have grown so much lately that I’m still trying to put the names with the faces. (*Editor*)

June Presentation

We are fortunate to have LaVona Ness scheduled to speak at our June 14th meeting on “Making Sense of the Census.” LaVona says that there is probably no other single source of records in existence with more information about persons who lived in the 1800’s and early 1900’s than the U.S. Federal Census Schedules. Come and find out what you have been missing and what you can actually learn from using the U.S. Censuses.

Daily Courier Article About Grants Pass Family History Center

The Grants Pass Daily Courier ran a feature article about the Grants Pass Family History Center in the May 14th edition. Our member Don Fairchild, who is the FHC Director, was interviewed about a new program - New Family Search - which will be available soon.

Don and Shar Fairchild, GPGS members, along with LaVona Ness encourage all of us to register for New Family Search by going to www.familysearch.org to fill out the registration application. Creating a user name and password will mean patrons will have immediate access when the new system switches to Family Trees - the new version of familysearch.org.

Once New Family Search is open to non-Mormon patrons, research will be much easier for all genealogists. For those of you who remember when familysearch.org went on line about 10 years ago, it would be wise to register before the rush to access this site.

If you missed the article in the Courier, ask to see a laminated copy at the June GPGS meeting.

Congratulations to Don Fairchild for providing such an informative interview to the Courier.--*Celeste Guillory*

Retirement Lifestyle Expo at Fairgrounds



Don Ness doing Ancestry lookups.

On Saturday June 4th, several GPGS members staffed a table at the Senior Fair sponsored by Young At Heart, a local magazine for senior citizens. This was an opportunity to publicize our genealogical society and meet and greet many local folks who have an

interest in genealogy. As part of the “show,” we did lookups on Ancestry.com and printed out census information for quite a few visitors to our table. Hopefully we will see many of these folks at our upcoming meetings. Thank you to Jeri Paradise, Don Ness and LaVona Ness for assisting at the table. We definitely couldn’t have done it without Don, who set up all the equipment including the computer projector so that everyone could see the images on the computer screen.

Invitation for Newsletter Submissions

We are always looking for newsletter submissions from our members, especially those with ties to Oregon or the Grants Pass area. How about a little story about a favorite ancestor or family or a brick wall you have overcome? Maybe you would like to describe your brick wall and ask our members for suggestions on how to break it down. We like receiving suggestions on recommended websites, too.

How to Figure a Birthdate

Remember this number: 8870. It is the number to remember when you want to find the birth date of someone when you only have the date of death and age. How do you figure the birth date?

Suppose the person died May 6, 1889 at the age of 71 years, 7 months, 9 days.

1. Write the year, month, date as: 18890506
2. Subtract the age at death: -710709
3. This gives the figure: 18179797
4. Now subtract 8870: -8870
5. The result is: 18170927

Year 1817, 9th month (Sept), 27th day or 27 Sept 1817.

Source Platte Co, MO Historical/Genealogical Society

Helpful Hints

This will be a new feature in the newsletter, appearing from time to time when we receive a Helpful Hint. This one is from Jeri Paradise. She uses a couple of door stops (the kind shaped like wedges) to raise the back of her laptop computer for easier typing. This is also good for the computer because it keeps it from overheating.

If you have a helpful hint relating to computer use or genealogy, please send it in!

Interlibrary Loans with Multnomah County

Although the Josephine Community Libraries do not generally participate in interlibrary loans (ILL), there is one exception. The Multnomah County Library has generously offered to provide this service to patrons of Josephine Community Libraries. Items in their collection may be requested by JCLI patrons for a cost of \$5.00 to cover the mailing charges. Go to the information desk at any of our local (Josephine County) library branches to obtain the forms. Most ILL items may be checked out for three weeks and can often be renewed beyond that time. To review Multnomah County Library's card catalog, go to the following website: www.multcolib.org. If you want to peruse just the genealogy-related items, click on Services, then Genealogy, then Your Family History in the upper right hand corner. If you are researching Oregon ancestors, you may find the "State Records" subcategory to be of interest.

Recommended Web Sites

(The following web sites were all submitted by Celeste Guillory.)

<http://www.eogn.com>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. A premier website with so much information it will keep you occupied for a whole day. You can log on to the free site or subscribe to the paid site for a small amount. An article that Celeste found particularly useful was on the topic of converting your documents and eBooks for use on the iPad, Nook, Kindle and other eBook readers.

<http://familytech.familysearch.org/>

This site covers "apps" (for both Mac and PC), tools and tips for using technology and useful articles. This site will change its address soon to: www.familysearch.org/techtips

<http://www.ireland-genealogy.com>

Irish Pension Records. Index of records available from the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (Belfast) and the National Archives (Dublin). The site provides a database of these pension applications that allows you to search the records easily and save both time and money.

<http://www.preserveandhonor.com>

A reverent catalog of at least 211 graves at Arlington National cemetery that were either mislabeled or unmarked. This is the brainchild of 17-year-old Ricky Gilleland. Read the full story by Faye Fiore in the Los Angeles Times at <http://www.goo.gl/daCSW>.

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil>

The official website of Arlington National Cemetery, with history, hours of operation, contact information and a photo gallery. When in Washington D.C., the Arlington National Cemetery should be on your “to see list.”

www.ancestry.com

Have you checked Ancestry.com lately? Be sure to check out the recently added items and databases. There is a lot of new information posted there all the time. If you don't have a subscription to Ancestry.com, go the Josephine Community Library, Rogue River Public Library or the Family History Center in Grants Pass.

<http://www.genealogy-research-tools.com/>

An interesting “How To” site which gives the foundation you need in order to do your own research. I do not think this site is a place for a beginner to start unless someone can explain some items mentioned at the site or mentor the beginning researcher. Lots of areas to browse and even a blog.

<http://www.mocavo.com>

The world's largest free genealogy search engine which provides access to the best free genealogy content on the web. Mocavo seeks to index and make searchable all the world's free genealogy information. While Mocavo.com discovers new sites each day, some of the existing sites searchable on Mocavo.com include message boards, family trees, state & local historical societies, the Library of Congress, National Archives, various U.S. state archives, and many tens of thousands of genealogy sites built by individuals. Similar to other search engines, Mocavo.com honors site owners by linking directly to their content.

Great Search Engine - Bookmark This Site!

Upcoming Events

June 14 Monthly GPGS Meeting, 1:30 PM, Ben Bones Room, Josephine Community Library, 200 NW "C" Street, Grants Pass. Speaker LaVona Ness on Making Sense of the Census.



June 14th is Flag Day!

Jun 15 Land Records, instructor Chuck Eccleston, Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. 10:30 AM at Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix, Oregon. \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Jul 29 Pie Contest and Ice Cream Social, 5-8 PM, Josephine County Historical Society, 512 SW 5th Street, Grants Pass.

Aug 6 Fantastic Flea Market, 11th annual fundraiser for more than 50 local nonprofit organizations, takes place in the Daily Courier parking lot in Grants Pass.

Aug 9 Annual Picnic Potluck at the home of Don and LaVona Ness. You are invited to prepare an old family recipe and bring along the instructions to share with fellow members.

Sep 13 Grants Pass Genealogical Society Meeting, 1:30 PM, Ben Bones Room, Josephine Community Library, 200 NW "C" Street, Grants Pass.

Sep 14 Genealogy Week in Klamath Basin, Sept. 14 through Sept. 17. Free evening workshops during the week include Dating Old Photographs, Using Land Records and Finding Land Records Online. Saturday full-day seminar by Certified Genealogist Connie Lenzen (\$25.00) covers the following topics: Maternal Lines, Twentieth Century Research, Oregon Resources, Research Plans. Go to the Klamath Basin Genealogical Society website for details: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orkbgs/>.

Sep 26 Beginning Genealogy, instructor Charleen Brown, President, Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. 10:30 AM at Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix, Oregon. \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Oct 11 Grants Pass Genealogical Society Meeting, 1:30 PM, Ben Bones Room, Josephine Community Library, 200 NW "C" Street, Grants Pass.

- Oct 15 Annual Family History Seminar presented by the Family History Center, 1969 Williams Highway, Grants Pass. An all-day, FREE event. Stay tuned for further details.
- Oct 22 Graveyard Tour, by Josephine County Historical Society. More details as they become available.
- Oct 21-22 Joint seminar with Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, featuring Stephen P. Morse of One-Step Web Pages as featured speaker. See attached flyer.
- Nov 8 Grants Pass Genealogical Society Meeting, 1:30 PM, Ben Bones Room, Josephine Community Library, 200 NW "C" Street, Grants Pass.
- Dec 7 Christmas Holiday Luncheon Buffet at 12:00 Noon at the Taprock Restaurant. Note that this will be on a Wednesday this year instead of on Tuesday.