



Genealogy Journal

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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 Letter:

I am happy to announce that Louise Ross has volunteered to be the new GPGS Web Master in addition to her other duties as Secretary. Although Louise has no experience as a web master, she is eager to learn the job and I have great faith in her talents and ability to adapt to this new challenge. Thank you, Louise.

About two years ago GPGS minutes and other records going back to June 1968 were returned to Janis Seaton from storage. It took a while to sort and arrange that mountain of paperwork into chronological order for easy access. This process resulted in the creation of seven large binders containing minutes, bylaws, newsletters, and membership lists. It is quite a collection and one that needed to be kept somewhere...but where?

A suggestion was made to offer the entire collection to the Josephine County Historical Society to be added to their research library. To my delight, JCHS accepted the entire collection last week. I can't think of a better place to house the permanent record of our group.

The GPGS Board of Directors has decided to save all our minutes, newsletters, and

membership lists on a CD at the end of each year to keep the collection current. The JCHS has agreed to add the yearly CD offering to the collection to continue the record of our group. Thank you to Rose Scott at JCHS for providing a permanent home for our records going back over 40 years.

Many of our members have submitted their surnames and by doing so are helping to maintain a Surname File as outlined in the Bylaws. After some discussion, it seemed logical for the Secretary to maintain a file with surname submissions from members. Members have the option to have surnames posted on line or to be kept in the reference binder in the event someone inquires about a particular surname or family.

Once the “kinks” get ironed out with this process, members should be able to download the surname form off the web site as a PDF, fill it out and then send the completed form to Louise for further processing.

Grants Pass Genealogical Society, in collaboration with Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, plans co-sponsor a seminar on October 22, 2011 in Medford and we are off to a good start with nine of our members taking positions on various subcommittees. We have good ideas and great resources to help make the seminar a success. Thank you Ruthanne Page, Judy Courier, Debra Stefanick, Janis Seaton, Linda Kent, Barbara Johnson, Jeri Paradise and LaVona Ness for joining me on this project.

Our guest speaker for March 8th is Ken Phillips, a well-known local researcher, who will talk about a number of local resources. I hope you will join us at 1:30 in the Ben Bones Room to hear Ken’s presentation.

Cheers,

Celeste Guillory
GPGS President

Featured March Speaker

Our March speaker is Kendell Phillips of Cave Junction, who is active in the local Grange, the Illinois Valley Historical Society, as well as a member of the Oregon Commission for Historical Cemeteries. Mr. Phillips is very familiar with the history and research resources in our county, and is sure to present an informative talk on these topics.

Ancestry.Com Now at Family History Center

The Ancestry.Com subscription site is again available, free of charge, at the local Family History Center. The FHC also has the following genealogy website subscriptions on their computers: Heritage Quest, Godfrey's Memorial Library, World Vital Records, and Footnote.Com. Here is the address for the FHC, as well as the hours they are open:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Family History Center
1969 Williams Highway (at Harbeck)
Grants Pass, Oregon
541-476-1926

Hours: Tues/Weds/Thurs/Fri from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Also open on Weds/Thurs evenings from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Reminder

It's Spring Cleaning time....and time to clean out the garage and cabinets to make room for new stuff or a new car. Save some of those items for the yard sale being held at the Daily Courier parking lot in August. Please--no clothing--but most everything else is welcome. Last year's booth at the yard sale was very profitable for GPGS – let's do a repeat in 2011.

October Seminar Update

As you may have heard at the last meeting or read in the newsletter, GPGS has joined forces with the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society to present a genealogy seminar on October 22 in Medford. A committee has been formed, tasks assigned and some serious planning undertaken to make this project run smoothly for both our groups.

Thank you to Jeri Paradise, who came through with a sponsor for the syllabus printing. Ads are being sold (\$15 for a business card, \$25 for a quarter page, \$50 for a half page and \$100 for a full page) and it's hoped those of us in Grants Pass can get many ads to help contain the cost of the syllabus, advertising and postage materials. Barbara Johnson is working on door prizes and has obtained some interesting items to be awarded at the seminar. GPGS Treasurer LaVona Ness is working with the RVGS treasurer to handle and account for all expenses and receipts.

The next Seminar Committee meeting will be in Phoenix at the RVGS Library, 95 Houston Road, on Friday, April 8 from 10:30 to Noon. If you would like to attend or need a ride please feel free to call me.

Registration forms and seminar information will be available soon. Plan now to attend the seminar even if you are not able to work on the organizing committee.

This will be a fun project and one that could bring many new members into our group. New members mean new ideas, topics for our meetings and a boost to family history research in this area. *Celeste Guillory*

Financial Report

Our balance on February 1, 2011 was \$1,482.04. In February we received \$30.00 in dues and \$30.00 for sale of a Handybook, bringing our total to \$1,542.04. A check for \$500.00 will be coming out of that total in order to provide our half of the October Seminar seed money. A more complete financial report will appear in the next newsletter.

Irish Web Sites

<http://www.traceyouririshroots.com>

Trace Your **Irish Roots**. This is a nice blog for information, resources and discussion surrounding genealogy research in **Ireland**. Through their website, you will find **Irish** genealogy links with free online access to **Irish** Church Records, **Irish** Civil Records Index, **Irish** Census Returns, **Irish** Surnames and lots more. *Reprinted from the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society Newsletter, February 2011.*

www.proni.gov.uk

Public Record Office of Northern **Ireland**. Contains the Ulster Covenant of 1912, freeholders' records (1662-1839), index to wills (1858-1943) and digitized wills (1858-1900). Free site.

www.rootsireland.ie

Roots **Ireland**. Contains 17 million baptismal, birth, marriage, death, burial and census records, as well as gravestone inscriptions, from most counties of Ireland, plus Griffith's valuation. The search is free, but it costs about \$8 to view a record.

www.ancestryireland.com

Ancestry **Ireland**. Contains more than 2 million records from Ulster, including birth, marriage and death records, gravestone inscriptions, street directories and censuses. Search the Distribution of Surnames in **Ireland** in 1890 file for free. Free search for other items, but \$6 per record to view.

www.irishorigins.com

Irish Origins. Contains Griffith's Valuation, censuses, wills, passenger lists, militia records and more. Costs about \$10 for 72 hours, or about \$15 for a month.

Other Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.history.navy.mil/library>

The Navy Department. Founded in 1800 by direction of President John Adams, the Navy Department Library is one of the oldest Federal government libraries. Its 150,000 volumes are one of the nation's most highly concentrated and accessible collections of literature on the US Navy. One of the major military historical libraries open to the public, the library provides resources vital to an international. This might be a good source of background information regarding kin who served in the US Navy.

<http://freegenealogyresources.blogspot.com/>

Free Genealogy Resources. This is a blog that was created to help learn where much of the information is available for free...IF you know where to look for it. To help other genealogists on a budget, the author decided to share many resources found.

<http://www.dutchblood.com>

Dutch-American Genealogical Research Site

The above three sources originally printed in the March 2011 SCCH&GS Newsletter.

www.familysearch.org

Family Search. Besides the frequently-used Search function, you should try out the free on-line video classes now being offered by Family Search. For example, the following videos about Irish Research are available for viewing on-line: Church Records, Civil Registration, Immigration/Strategies; Immigration/Famine, Post Famine Sources; Immigration/Ulster-Scots Irish Sources. The videos vary from 20 to 40 minutes long.

www.cdc.gov

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. If you click on the A to Z Index, then on "V," then on Vital Records, a list pops up of all the states in the USA. From there you can click on an individual state to see Where to Write for Vital Records.

www.ancestry.com

Ancestry.Com. Ancestry.com does have some free content, which you can find if you poke around a bit on the website. The free content includes “webinars.” These are like attending a seminar, only they are viewed on your computer. These are all free. Just quickly browsing the first page, I noted that there is one coming up on March 16th titled “Finding Your **Irish** Ancestors in America...and Ireland. Many, many more of the webinars have been archived and can be viewed at any time. For instance, there are a couple called “Getting Started at Ancestry.Com.” Check it out.

Upcoming Events:

- Mar 8 General Meeting Grants Pass Genealogical Society, 1:30 PM, Ben Bones Room of Josephine Community Library. Speaker Kendell Phillips.
- Mar 15 From 10 AM to 12 Noon: “DNA, Your Paper Trail,” a genealogy workshop, at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford. The workshop is sponsored by the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. The speaker will be Emily Aulicino, the Regional Coordinator for the International Society of Genetic Genealogists for Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Cost \$10 for RVGS members, \$20 for non-members. Go to www.rgvslibrary.org or call 541-512-2340 to pre-register.
- Mar 15 At 1:30 PM: “Fattening Up Your Skinny Ancestors,” speaker Emily Aulicino, a retired teacher from Portland who has been researching her family’s genealogy for over 40 years. This presentation will also be held at 2495 S. Pacific Highway. No charge for this lecture.
- Mar 20-27 Research trip to Family History Library in Salt Lake City sponsored by Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. Fee of \$800 per person double occupancy includes round trip transportation by bus and six nights’ lodging.
- Apr 2 Spring Seminar, Genealogical Forum of Oregon. Speaker Thomas W. Jones. Topics: Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was, How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet, Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor, Finding “Unfindable” Ancestors. 9AM

to 4PM at the Milwaukie Elks Lodge. More information at www.gfo.org.

- May 14 Spring Seminar, Bend Genealogical Society. Speaker Henry Z. "Hank" Jones. Topics: When Sources are Wrong!, Origins of 18th Century Palatine and Other Immigrants, Family Tradition: Separating Fact from Fiction, How Psychic Roots Became an Unsolved Mystery. 9AM to 4PM More information at www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs.
- Aug 6 Fantastic Flea Market, 11th annual fundraiser for more than 50 local nonprofit organizations, takes place in the Daily Courier parking lot.
- 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.
- Oct 21-22 Joint seminar with Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, featuring Stephen P. Morse of One-Step Web Pages as featured speaker. More details to follow.
- 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.