



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 Message:

Happy November to you all

Many of us taught or attended the seminar at the Family History Center and because of this GPGS had excellent representation that day. The October Seminar in Medford was a success, was well attended and opened many doors with the Rogue Valley

registration table, and Barbara Johnson solicited many door prizes which were well received on seminar day. Thank you all for your help and good ideas. You made my job so much easier and I appreciate all that you did very much.

A reporter from the Grants Pass Daily Courier interviewed Barbara Johnson, Don Thomas and me recently. Look for the article in the House and Garden Supplement being published soon.

The annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Wednesday December 7th at the TapRock Restaurant in Grants Pass. Expect some surprises at the Christmas luncheon, too! This will also be installation day for new officers. Plan to attend the luncheon – there will be choices of entrees published and it is requested that those attending make a reservation for this event. More on this later.

See you on Tuesday November 8th at 12:30 for the Board of Directors Meeting & 1:30 for the general meeting and program featuring Jeanette Dickson who will speak on Grants Pass history. We all enjoyed Jeanette's presentation last November, and this year will be no exception.

Cheers,
Celeste Guillory

Genealogical Society. I look forward to more joint events with RVGS in the future.

GPGS will hold its annual election for officers at the regular meeting on Tuesday Nov. 8th when we meet at the Josephine Community Library. The door is still open for any member wishing to run for an elected position for the 2012 calendar year. Our bylaws provide for one or more members-at-large (no specific duties assigned) to sit on the board, in case anyone would like to participate in that way. Our club is getting larger and I hope we can draw from all this new talent in the months ahead.

I want to thank all of the members of the October Seminar Committee who trekked down to Phoenix starting in January to help plan the seminar. Janis Seaton took excellent notes, LaVona Ness was co-treasurer keeping the books, Linda Kent worked on food and beverages, Jeri Paradise filled in at the

November Presentation

At our November 8th meeting, Jeanette Dickson will regale us with tales of Grants Pass resident Bob Byrd and the Byrd’s Market. We hope you will join us for this informative class.

Election Slate of Officers

This is the slate of nominees proposed by our Nominating Committee for the November 8th election:

President	Celeste Guillory
Vice President	Linda Kent
Secretary	Barbara Johnson
Treasurer	LaVona Ness

Please be sure to attend the November meeting and support the election process by voting. It is not too late to put your name in for one of the above positions or as a member-at-large.

Death of Former Member Ruth Kilbourn

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Ruth Kilbourn, who had been an active member in the Grants Pass Genealogical Society in past years. Ruth was born in Yakima, Washington in 1917. After serving in the Women’s Army Corps during World War II, she moved to Grants Pass. Ruth led a very active and interesting life. After earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Oregon, she worked in social services, the Red Cross, the Girl Scout Council, the Peace Corps, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. She had many hobbies and interests besides genealogy, including community theater, photography and traveling. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

October Genealogy Seminar, Stephen Morse



Celeste Guillory chatting with Dr. Morse during a break.

Evergreen Bank Window Display



Display includes the wedding dress of Shirley Rhodes' great-grandmother.

Webmaster Needed

We are still looking for a webmaster to replace Louise Ross who plans to move on to other activities next year. It's not that hard, and we can show you how to do it. Please volunteer!

Speakers for 2012

Do you have any speaker topic suggestions? Let Linda Kent know so she will have enough time to arrange for a presentation. She can be contacted at: 541-761-5418.

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.

News About FamilySearch.com

We hear that new.familysearch.org is currently being released to the public in various zip codes across the USA. They are undoubtedly trying to iron out any unforeseen wrinkles before a full release...coming soon.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, comes the sad news that the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness website will be offline for some time due to computer problems as well as the illness of its administrator, Bridgett Schneider. The website has been in existence for 11 years.

"Gretna Green"

Some of you may not have encountered the term "Gretna Green" yet in the course of your research. The name comes from Gretna Green, Scotland. After the Hardwicke Act (clamping down on "irregular" marriages) passed in England in 1754, the town of Gretna Green beckoned to prospective young lovers because it had fewer restrictions on age and other requirements. There have been similar places in our own country at various times and places due to differences in marriage (or divorce) requirements between the different states. One way to find these places is to Google the state name and the words "Gretna Green." Sometimes this can be helpful to find out where your ancestors married if they cannot be found where you expect them.

Tips for Scanning Old Photos

These photo scanning tips are from the Family Tree University course [Organize Your Photos: Preserve Your Family's Pictorial Legacy](#) with Nancy Hendrickson.

When you scan a photo to archive for future generations, scan it at a high resolution. Resolution determines image quality, and is measured in dpi (dots per inch). The more dots, the more storage space the image takes but the better its quality.

- Most scanners let you choose resolution settings. For archival purposes, scan photos at 300 dpi or higher. This results in a high-resolution master file, plus you'll have the flexibility of resizing a copy of the image at a later time to send via email. If you want scans only for web or email, 72 dpi is fine.

- Save your image in a TIF format rather than JPG. TIF files are larger than JPG files because they preserve more details. In addition, each time a JPG file is opened, edited and saved, it loses quality.
- If your scanning software lets you specify a target directory (the folder where you're saving the images), scan all the photos you want to go into that directory at once. This will save you having to select a target directory every time you do a scan.
- If your scanning software automatically saves to a default folder, such as Documents, group your scans by ultimate destination. Scan all of the files that will eventually go into the same folder, then move all those files together to that folder.

(From Family Tree Magazine Genealogy Insider Sept. 29, 2011)

New York City Tax Photos

From the Editor of the NEHGS Newsletter (The Weekly Genealogist) dated 10/5/2011, Vol. 14, No. 40

Last week, when I was fact-checking an *American Ancestors* column, I visited the website of the [New York City Department of Records and Information Services](#) to learn about ordering New York City vital records. My attention wandered to a subject heading toward the bottom of the left-hand navigation column: tax photos. Wondering what a tax photo was, I clicked on the [link](#) and discovered an amazing collection.

In the 1930s, New York City began to use photography as a tool for appraising real property for taxation purposes. Between 1939 and 1941, the city photographed every house and building in the five boroughs. The result was 720,000 35mm black-and-white pictures. From 1983 to 1988, after the city decided the earlier photos needed to be updated, every property in the city, including vacant lots and tax-exempt buildings, was photographed in color. Over 800,000 additional photographs were taken.

The Municipal Archives received grant funding to duplicate and microfilm the 1940s negatives. Researchers can view photographs from the 1940s collection on microfilm in the Municipal Archives reference room. And low-resolution copies of the 1980s tax photographs have been digitized for viewing on computer monitors at the Archives. However, it is not necessary to visit the Municipal Archives to order a copy of the tax photographs of a house or building. You can [order a copy online](#) or by mail using the forms provided on the website.

Other local governments used photography for tax purposes during this time frame. If anyone is aware of another collection like this one that has been made available to the public, please let us know.

Another photo collection available through [NYC.gov/records](http://nyc.gov/records) is the [Municipal Archives Photo Gallery](#), which includes sixteen thematic groupings, including celebrities, crime and criminals, parades, street scenes, and WPA. These images can be purchased online. Text on the website notes that plans are underway to move tens of thousands of digital images currently available only at the Municipal Archives online in the near future.

New Guests Announced for NBC's "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Marisa Tomei, Martin Sheen and Blair Underwood will be featured in the third season of the NBC reality show, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, premiering in early 2012.

Recommended Web Sites

http://publicrecords.onlinesearches.com/OR_Josephine.htm

This site contains links to public records for Josephine County, Oregon. Besides court and land records, you can also view summarized census information or county commission meeting minutes, or search county jail inmate records or the county sex offender database,. The site can be used in a similar manner for any state or county in the USA. *(Thank you, Tony Guillory, for suggesting this web site.)*

www.areyouinmyphoto.com

Post and search for ancestor photos in the Genealogy section. Browse through thousands of pictures in other categories such as Life in the 20s, 30s, 40s, etc.; School Days, World War II, Military Life. Free site.

www.germangenealogygroup.com

If you are tracking down a German family line, you may want to consider joining the German Genealogy Group. Go to the website to view a most interesting sample newsletter. They currently have over 900 members, and offer translation service and surname matching in addition to the informative newsletter.

www.backupmytree.com

If you are worried about losing your important genealogy files if (when) your computer crashes, there is a FREE, safe, simple service to save them. Created by

two experienced genealogy technologists, *BackUpMyTree* provides a piece of software (which works on either Windows or Mac computers) that you download, and then follow instructions to send a copy of your file to the website. The material is stored in an encrypted file until you need it. Once you have uploaded your files to the website, they are automatically backed up whenever you make changes to them. Many popular genealogical software programs are supported: Family Tree Maker, Legacy, Reunion and RootsMagic are a few examples.



Upcoming Events

- Nov 5 Class: *Beginning U.S. Internet Navigation*, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix. Cost \$20 for non-members of RVGS, more info at 541-512-2340.
- Nov 8 Monthly meeting of Grants Pass Genealogical Society at 1:30 PM in the Ben Bones Room, Josephine Community Library, 200 NW "C" Street, Grants Pass. Local historian and Grants Pass native, Jeanette Dickson, will speak about Bob Byrd and Byrd's Market.
- Nov 12 Class: *Accessing Genealogy Internet Sites at JCGL*, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix. Cost \$20 for non-members of RVGS, more info at 541-512-2340.
- Nov 15 General Meeting of Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, 1:30 PM, OEA Uniserv Building, 2495 South Pacific Highway. *Forgotten Cemeteries* from the *Windows in Time* series on KDRV TV, speaker Ron Brown.
- Nov 17 Class: *Paper and Computer Organization*, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix. Cost \$20 for non-members of RVGS, more info at 541-512-2340.
- Dec 1 Deadline for submission of photos for the 2011 RVGS Ancestor Photo Contest. Winners will be announced at the January 17th General Meeting of RVGS. More info at www.rvgsociety.org under the Calendar tab.
- 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.
- Dec 4-10 27th Annual Salt Lake Christmas Tour. Leland Meitzler and entourage. One-on-one assisted research and numerous classes during the week. Details at www.saltlakechristmastour.com.
- Dec 17 Christmas at the Schmidt House (Josephine County Historical Society).

2012

Apr 9-16 Research trip to Salt Lake City (Family History Library), sponsored by Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. Cost: \$759 per person double occupancy if 20 or more participate. Travel is by bus arranged through Raindance Tours. Call Rhonda at Raindance, 541-479-8217 to reserve your spot.



**THE ART AND MYSTERY
OF
BUILDING A FAMILY HISTORY**

Sound research is the foundation

Of a good family history.

Names, dates and places form

The bricks with which it's built.

A literate narrative provides

Mortar to hold it together.

Photographs, maps and other

Illustrations form the trim.

An index and footnotes turn

A shack into a mansion.

Found on the back cover of

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Submitted by Laura Dunwald