



# Genealogy Journal

Official Publication Of  
The Grants Pass Genealogical Society  
JUNE 2012 VOL 10 ISSUE 6

Grants Pass Genealogical  
Society  
P.O. Box 214  
Grants Pass, OR 97528  
[www.gpgenealogy.org](http://www.gpgenealogy.org)

Meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of  
each month (except July, Aug,  
Dec) at 1:30 PM at the LDS  
Church, Relief Society Room,  
1969 Williams Hwy, (corner of  
Harbeck)  
Grants Pass, OR 97526

President  
Celeste Guillory  
541-471-1944  
[cacese36@gmail.com](mailto:cacese36@gmail.com)

Vice-President  
Linda Kent  
541-592-3736  
[lindak@cavenet.com](mailto:lindak@cavenet.com)

Secretary  
Barbara Johnson  
541-226-6064  
[bjohn2@clearwire.net](mailto:bjohn2@clearwire.net)

Treasurer  
LaVona Ness  
541-479-2027  
[dolaness@clearwire.net](mailto:dolaness@clearwire.net)

Newsletter  
Janis Seaton  
541-474-4686  
[janisseaton@earthlink.net](mailto:janisseaton@earthlink.net)

Telephone Committee  
Nada Dusslier  
541-479-0141  
Esther Snyder  
541-476-6161

Marianne Gordon  
541-471-2251



## Letter from the President

Each month when I write my message to you I have many subjects I want to cover. This month is no exception. This is also our last newsletter until September. Thank you, Janis Seaton, for making this newsletter so user-friendly and informative.

We are growing as an organization and I hope our new members will take an active part in what we do as an organization. To help with this task, a committee has been appointed to look at our bylaws to bring them up to date. This is a difficult and time-consuming task but one that is vital to the smooth operation of GPGS. The bylaws committee will present their suggestions to the Board of Directors next week and then to the membership for a vote at the September meeting.

As a way to help new members begin their family history research, Vice President Linda Kent will conduct the first of two workshops for beginners on **Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30** at the

LDS Church on Williams Highway. The workshop, which includes a tour of

the Family History Center, is free to GPGS members and the public as well. Another

workshop will be held on **Tuesday August 7<sup>th</sup>** at the same time and location. I suggest that those wishing to attend sign up in advance.

Jeri Paradise, Le raish and Janis Seaton recently updated the GPGS information brochure we place in a number of locations in Grants Pass. Jeri, Le and Janis did a fantastic job because now our information brochure answers most questions anyone might ask about our organization. The brochure was unveiled at the *Young At Heart* event held recently at the Fairgrounds.

Thanks to all who worked at the *Young At Heart* event. This event was a good opportunity to promote our organization and answer questions about family history research. Thank you to Don & LaVona Ness, Janis Seaton, Jeri Paradise, Pat Heumann and Linda Kent for staffing the table and assisting with ancestry.com lookups.

I understand this is the last season for **Who Do You Think You Are** on television. This is one TV program I waited anxiously to see and I will miss it next year. But don't despair; there are many genealogy presentations available if you know where to find them. This will be an upcoming meeting topic in the near future.

All members are invited to attend the annual GPGS Picnic being held on Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Ness House in Grants Pass. This is a potluck picnic with prizes awarded in each category for superb – tasty – food. Don't miss out on an enjoyable social event on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Information goes out soon, so mark your calendar for the picnic and be sure to RSVP.

Please also mark your calendar for the annual Family History Seminar being held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be some surprises that day, and lots of new information will be provided to help with family history research. GPGS members who would like to be a presenter that day for a 55 minute class are encouraged to contact FHC Directors Jerry and Bev Wellington at 541-680-0685.

Congratulations to the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society on their recent purchase of a new building to call "Home". RVGS is a valuable resource and provides an outstanding collection of research materials, books, and access to the Internet, speakers and seminars. I am a member and encourage you to attend their meetings and also join as a member yourself.

I look forward to our meeting at 1:30 on Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> and the presentation being made by a representative from Hull & Hull Funeral Directors. The topic is about funeral home records and how those records can help with family history research. Plan also to attend the Board of Directors meeting commencing at 12:30.

### **Celeste Guillory, President**



***Historic Granite Hill Cemetery***

### **This Month's Presentation**

Our speaker at the June meeting will be a representative from Hull and Hull Funeral Home, who will enlighten us on the subject of funeral homes, cemeteries and death records.

Here is a little background about death records.

In general, states in the USA did not start to create death certificates until the early 1900s. In the earliest days, there would only have been a log book listing all the deaths chronologically without a lot of detail. Death certificates were submitted to the State, with the County maintaining a copy (hand-copied) at the local level. Often the local copy would be curtailed or abbreviated, and the State copy would contain more information.

Besides death certificates, there are burial permits, coroner's records, as well as cemetery and funeral home records. Any of these documents may contain useful information for the genealogist. Many genealogical societies and historical societies have walked their local cemeteries, indexing burials and photographing many of the gravestones. Newspaper obituaries are another rich source of information concerning the death of an ancestor.

See the Recommended Websites for specific sites to search on the internet for death records.

*(Another fact I was not aware of until recently is that monument companies often clipped newspaper obituaries and maintained them in a ledger book in chronological order. I also received a copy of my great-aunt's advanced instructions for her own funeral service in response to a letter I wrote to the retired pastor of her church.—Editor)*

### **Recommended Websites**

*In case you have had a problem in the past going to websites listed in our newsletter, I have discovered that if I do a "Control/Click" with the mouse, it will take me directly to the website. This is a function of the Microsoft Word program, so if you are reading this newsletter through Microsoft Word, this should work for you as well. -- Editor*

The following two websites contain listings of burials across the country. Keep checking back, as volunteers continually add new information to the site. You may be lucky and find a photo of the headstone and/or an obituary posted for the person. You can also request a photo of the headstone if one is not already posted.

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) and [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net)

[www.deathindexes.com/oregon/index.html](http://www.deathindexes.com/oregon/index.html)

This is a list of sources for online Oregon Death Records and Indexes. It contains links to both free and by-subscription databases. (Jackson County Genealogy Library is included as a link.)

[www.1940census.archives.gov](http://www.1940census.archives.gov)

If you still haven't visited the 1940 census, this is the site to go to, where you can view the unindexed census pages. Follow the directions to zero in on the correct enumeration district for your ancestors (or yourself).

### **May 19<sup>th</sup> Retirement Expo**



### ***Discovering Ancestors in the Census Visitor***

***Pat Heumann Assists***

The Grants Pass Genealogical Society participated in the Retirement Expo sponsored by Young At Heart (a magazine for seniors) at the Josephine County Fairgrounds last month. There were various vendors and organizations staffing information booths. Our society set up a couple of tables and did genealogy lookups for visitors. The holder for our GPGS banner that was manufactured by Don Fairchild made a good addition to the display. We passed out our new society brochures to quite a few people and probably got a few people interested in coming to a meeting. Society members who participated were: Don and LaVona Ness, Linda Kent, Jeri Paradise, Pat Heumann and Janis Seaton. It was a good opportunity to meet and greet members of the community, and we also saw a few of our members attending the event.

### **The 1940 Census**

President Celeste Guillory challenged every member of the society to find at least one family member/ancestor in the unindexed 1940 census and offered to

assist anyone who needs help. A couple of the members wrote her to share their successes:

Don Koch found his grandmother in Newman, California and an uncle/aunt/cousins in Laton (Fresno County), California.

Lois Bohannon wrote to say that she found her husband Jack here in Grants Pass. Fortunately, Jack remembered the exact street address, so even though she had to do a little hunting, she was able to find him on the seventh page. An unexpected surprise was to find the husband of a friend of hers at the top of the same page.

### **Census Indexing Projects**

The three indexing projects are progressing along nicely.

FamilySearch seems to be leading the pack, and as of May 30<sup>th</sup> has 14 states where you can search by your ancestor's name. Those states are: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Kansas, Utah and Wyoming. You should go to their website to perform the search (<http://familysearch.org>).

At Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com/1940-census](http://www.ancestry.com/1940-census)) you can search by name for Delaware, Maine, Nevada and Washington, D.C.

At the MyHeritage site ([www.myheritage.com/1940census](http://www.myheritage.com/1940census)), you can search a name index for Rhode Island, and a partial name index for New York.

### **Taking the Census in the Applegate Valley of Oregon**

The article summarized below appeared in the Genealogy Newsline Volume 1, #27, Monday, September 26, 2011, a publication of Family Roots Publishing Co. LLC and Area-Info.net.

The article describes the difficulties encountered by a census taker working on the 1950 Federal Census in the Applegate Valley of Oregon. Apparently the number of non-responsive households was quite high, and the census bureau required the census taker to make several in-person attempts to interview the household members before resorting to questioning the neighbors. Mr. Dollarhide also discusses the character and history of the Applegate Valley which I found interesting since it is in our own backyard.

I encourage you to go to the following website to read the full article written by William Dollarhide:

<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=19385>



### **What Is Your Role in the Grants Pass Genealogical Society?**

In the past year to year-and-a-half, our membership has doubled. We have just about as many “new” members as “old” members at this point. We welcome our new members and their knowledge, skills and personal strengths. We hope that you feel comfortable and included in our group. The best way to get to know other members is to volunteer to work on some project or committee with them. When I first moved here in 2005, I didn’t know a soul in Grants Pass. Through joining the GPGS and participating on the Board, I have made all kinds of wonderful new friends.

I strongly encourage everybody to find one activity he or she is willing to help with. We “oldsters” can’t do it all, and besides, with more members and activities there is a lot more to do than before. Even if you don’t want to sign on for a recurring duty, we have plenty of one-time projects to work on. There are projects we would like to begin, but to do that, we need more participation. I’ll just list a few of these projects (and I know I’m only scratching the surface): outreach to schools, presenting a genealogy class to the public and/or our members, indexing local records, answering research requests that we receive in the mail or over the internet, writing an article for the newsletter, taking photographs for the newsletter or website, helping on the “telephone tree” to remind members about club events or preparing a display to highlight our society’s activities.

Speaking of volunteering, our President, Vice-President, and Treasurer will reach their two-year term limits at the end of the year. A nominating committee will be appointed soon to canvas for candidates in preparation for our elections in November. Hopefully some of you will step up to the plate and volunteer to carry on their great work. There will probably be some opportunities to serve in appointed positions, as well.

*Janis Seaton, Editor*



### **Free Access to Premium Subscription Sites**

Did you know that the following \$\$\$\$ subscription sites are free to use at the local Family History Center?

**19<sup>th</sup> Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive**

**Access Newspaper Archive**

**Alexander Street Press – The American Civil War** (research database, letters and diaries, images, photographs, posters and ephemera)

**Find My Past**

**Fold3.com** (previously named Footnote.com)

**Godfrey Memorial Library**

**Heritage Quest Online**

**Historical Map Works Library Edition**

**Paper Trail**

**World Vital Records**

All you need to do is go to your friendly neighborhood Family History Center (corner of Williams Highway & Harbeck Road). Their hours are: Tuesday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, additionally from 6:30 to 9:00 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Their phone number is 541-476-1926.

### **Summer Newsletter**

Great news! Jeri Paradise has agreed to edit a summer newsletter so you can continue to be informed about our wonderful society and upcoming summer events. I will be taking a break before resuming in September. Thanks, Jeri!  
(*Janis Seaton, Editor*)

### **Upcoming Events – Look At All the Interesting Things to Do This Summer!**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Jun 9  | Hugo History Day, Hugo Ladies Club, 9 AM – 3:30 PM.   |
| Jun 12 | GPGS monthly meeting, 1:30 PM at LDS Church, Williams Hwy and Harbeck Road, Grants Pass. Speaker Bob James, “Import/Export of Data.”  |
| Jun 12 | Diggin’ in the Dark/Genealogy After Hours, 3:00 to 9:00 PM, at Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix, Oregon. Free research with assistance by volunteers. Bring a flash drive, and your supper. |

- Jun 19 Class, "Colonial Wars." OEA Uniserv Bldg, 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, 10:00 AM. Price \$10.00 for RVGS members, \$20.00 for non-members. Call 541-512-2340 to register.
- Jun 19 "What's New On the Internet." Class at 1:30 PM, 2495 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford. Offered by RVGS. Free.
- Jun 23 Class, "Starting Your Genealogy Project from Scratch." 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix, OR. Free.
- Jun 23 Dedication ceremony to commemorate Siskiyou Smokejumper Base, Smokejumper Way at Illinois Valley Airport, four and a half miles south of Cave Junction. Tours, demonstrations and displays. Event runs from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. More info at [www.highway199.org](http://www.highway199.org) under Events link.
- Jun 26 Fund Raiser for Josephine County Historical Society at Yogurt Hut, 162 NE Beacon Drive, Grants Pass. Open 11:30 AM to 9:00 PM.
- Jun 29 Class, "Finding the Treasures in the Genealogy Library." 9:30 to 11:30 AM at Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix, OR. Price \$10.00 for RVGS members, \$20.00 for non-members. Call 541-512-2340 to register.
- Jul 10 Genealogy Workshop for Beginners. 12:30 to 2:30 PM at LDS Church, Williams Highway and Harbeck Road. Includes orientation tour of the Family History Center/Library.
- Jul 21 Brick Wall Roundtable, 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix, OR. Free.
- Jul 27 Pie Baking Contest & Ice Cream Social, Schmidt Barn & Garden (Josephine County Historical Society), 512 SW Fifth Street, Grants Pass, 4:00 to 7:00 PM.
- Jul 28 Summer Genealogy Fest, Lane Community College, Eugene, Oregon. Featuring John Philip Colletta, Thomas MacEntee and a host of others. For details and registration form, go to the website of the Genealogical Council of Oregon, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ogco2/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ogco2/).

- Aug 7      Genealogy Workshop for Beginners, 12:30 to 2:30 PM at LDS Church, Williams Highway and Harbeck Road. Includes orientation tour of the Family History Center/Library.
- Aug 14     GPGS Annual Club Picnic (potluck style), 12:00 Noon at the home of Don and LaVona Ness.
- Sep 11     GPGS monthly meeting, 1:30 PM, LDS Church, Williams Hwy and Harbeck Road. Bob James, Import/Export of Data.
- Sep 21     Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of the new Jackson County Genealogy Library at 3405 South Pacific Highway, Medford, Oregon.
- Sep 22     Open House all day with tours being given of the new Jackson County Genealogy Library.
- Oct 9      GPGS monthly meeting. Speaker to be announced.
- Oct 13     Save this date for the annual Family History Seminar hosted by the Family History Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1969 Williams Highway, Grants Pass. This is a free all-day educational seminar covering a multitude of genealogical topics. More details will be shared as they become available.
- Oct 20     Graveyard Tour, IOOF Cemetery, 4 PM and 6 PM shows. Presented by Living History Players of Josephine County Historical Society.
- Nov 13     GPGS monthly meeting. Janis Seaton, Irish Research. Annual election of officers.
- Dec 5      Annual GPGS Christmas Luncheon, TapRock Northwest Grill, 12:00 Noon. Installation of Board of Directors. Note: This event is on a Wednesday.
- Dec 15     Celebrate Christmas Past at Josephine County Historical Society, Schmidt House and Barn from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.



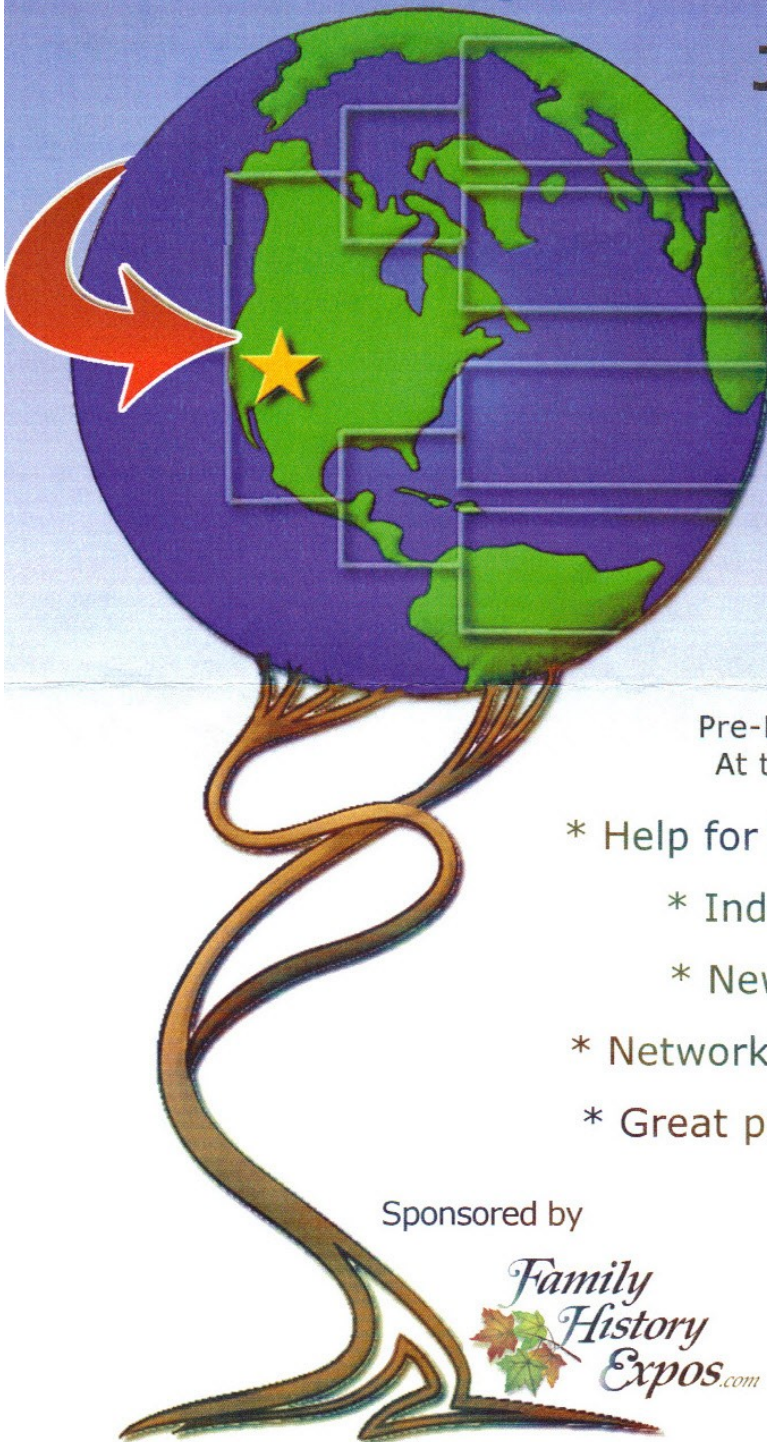
# 2012 Northern California Family History Expo **Your Family History Starts Here!**

## July 6 & 7, 2012

Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast

**Friday, 1-9 p.m.**

**Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**



**Featuring  
Keynote Speaker,  
Dean L. McLeod,  
historian,  
researcher  
and  
revolutionary  
engineer**

Classes and Workshops

Pre-Registration: \$69, One Day: \$59

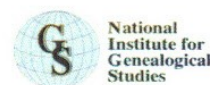
At the Door: \$99, Single Class: \$20

- \* Help for beginners to professionals
- \* Industry experts to guide you
- \* New techniques & technology
- \* Networking with other researchers
- \* Great prizes \* Ask-A-Pro anything

Sponsored by



Supported by



**Visit [www.fhexpos.com](http://www.fhexpos.com) or call 801-829-3295  
Reserve your spot today!**



**Wanted .....Artists, Scrap Book Crafters, arts & crafts and other talented members** are invited to help design a bulletin board to be on display for the entire month of October at the Josephine Community Library.

Stir those creative juices and dazzle everyone who views the Grants Pass Genealogical Society display at the Library this Fall.

**Also** needed are heirloom items, photos and other genealogy related items for display at **Evergreen Federal Bank** in their display case in October. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year Grants Pass Genealogical Society will celebrate Family History Month via a display at the Bank.

Items loaned for the display will be arranged by the Bank's display staff in a tasteful manner to reflect well on our organization.

Please contact me regarding both of these publicity opportunities for our organization.

Celeste Guillory  
Cacese36@gmail.com