



# Genealogy Journal

Official Publication Of  
The Grants Pass Genealogical Society  
MAY 2012 VOL 10 ISSUE 5

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

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## Letter from the President

By the time you read this message, the 1940 Federal Census will have been available for a little over a month. In the short time since April 2, 2012 when it was released, hundreds of volunteers have been indexing this census to make it easier to navigate. This is probably one of the best-organized projects since the WPA indexed records during the Great Depression.

The 1940 Federal Census has been posted at [www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov) free of charge to anyone interested in accessing this amazing database. I always say the National Archives deserves every taxpayer's dollar they receive and I think having free access to the census proves my point.



## **LaVona Ness Discovered Herself in the 1940 Census!**

Our meeting scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> is titled **“Did You Find It in The 1940 Census”?** and I encourage all who attend to share their successes and disappointments regarding the 1940 Census at the meeting. We will discuss the census and update you on various tools you can use to make researching it a bit easier.

Other upcoming events to mark on your calendar are the “Young At Heart Fair” being held at the Josephine County Fairgrounds on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Janis Seaton, Linda Kent, LaVona and Don Ness and other GPGS members will be there to provide free ancestry.com lookups and publicize our Society to people interested in Genealogy. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year GPGS has participated in this event, which is open to the public and a really fun event to attend.

The Family History Center is planning the annual free family history seminar on Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>. FHC Directors Jerry & Beverly Wellington look forward to a great seminar this year and invite GPGS members to teach a class. If you can't teach a class, be sure to attend and learn some really helpful and interesting information.

The annual Daily Courier Parking Lot Sale is scheduled for Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> and anyone interested in helping that day should contact me. You need not work the entire time from 6:30 AM - 2:00 PM and if you can't work at the sale please save nice things for the sale.... no clothing or books, please.

One more date to circle on the calendar is the annual GPGS Picnic being hosted again at the Ness home on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Members are invited to bring a potluck dish to share and could win a prize ribbon for their entry. There was excellent attendance last year and some really good food on the buffet table to enjoy.

Last but not least, I hope everyone enjoys meeting at our new location at the LDS Church 1969 Williams Hwy in Grants Pass. The meeting starts at 1:30 - the Board of Directors meeting starts at 12:30 and is open to all. Come early and check out the Family History Center before or after the meeting. You'll be pleasantly surprised at all the new equipment available there including wireless Internet for those who have laptop computers. Volunteers are willing and able to assist and look forward to your visit.

Happy Researching,  
Celeste Guillory

### **New Meeting Site**

Don't forget—we are now meeting at the LDS Church, at the corner of Williams Highway and Harbeck Road in Grants Pass. Please park in the large parking lot reached via Williams Highway and use the main entrance, not the Family History Center entrance on the other side of the building.

### **My Roots Are Here T Shirt**

An order form for the “My Roots Are Here” T Shirt is attached at the back of this issue. We apologize for the poor quality of the color chart on the form, but please ask to see the original at our next meeting. Once we have collected a minimum order of ten shirts, we will place another group order.

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

We have been invited to participate in the Retirement Expo to be sponsored by the Young At Heart (retirement magazine) folks at the Josephine County Fairgrounds this month. There will be various vendors and organizations staffing information booths. Our society will set up a couple of tables and do genealogy lookups for visitors, as we did last year. It is a good opportunity to meet and greet members of the community and is a whole lot of fun, besides. The event runs from 10 AM to 4 PM.

### **New Frame for Our Grants Pass Genealogical Society Banner**

Thank you, Don Fairchild, for donating your time and talents to create a frame that will hold our club's banner. This will really dress up our public appearances. Don fashioned it so that it would clip onto a six foot banquet table, such as those used at events like the annual flea market and retirement expo. Celeste is making a leatherette case to carry it in.

### **How to Access the 1940 Census**

I've found it confusing to know just where to go on the internet to view the 1940 Census images, so I thought I'd share what I have learned with our readers.--  
*Editor*

First and foremost, is the official NARA website, [www.1940census.archives.gov](http://www.1940census.archives.gov).

Bear in mind that the closest you can zero in on your family will be their enumeration district (ED). Once you have done that, you will have to search each page of the ED to locate them. Hopefully, you will have a small ED to search through.

If you are able to locate the family in the 1930 Census, copy down the 1930 ED and the street address if noted. Luckily, Steve Morse and Joel Weintraub have devised an ED conversion tool which is posted on the NARA website.

Once you arrive at the NARA home page listed above, click on Census Search. This will take you to a search page where you choose Search by Enumeration Districts and click on 1930 ED. There you fill in the name of the state and the 1930 ED, then click on "View It." The results may include only one possibility, or there may be several. If there is more than one possibility, you will be given a list of possible cross streets to nail down the correct one. You can click on "Map" to view the streets. Once you determine which 1940 ED to search, click on the "View ED #" to begin viewing the pages.

My ancestors mostly lived in large cities, so I found it helpful to locate their address on current city maps. (I used AAA to get the maps.) This is where I got the cross streets in most cases. If your ancestors lived in a rural setting or in a small town, there might not be a street address, but on the other hand, you won't have as many ED's to sort through.

You may find, as I did, that your ancestors' street was not enumerated in the ED that supposedly includes that street, even though it clearly fell within the boundaries shown on the ED map. If so, you are out of luck, unless you want to search all the ED's for that city, which in my case was somewhat large. I will need to wait for the Ohio index to be complete to find that one.

Where can you find out where your family lived in 1940? Here are a few suggestions:

City directories, birth/death/marriage certificates, 1930 census (if they hadn't moved), WW II draft records, letters, just anything that gives an address close in time to 1940.

### **Three Census Indexing Projects**

There are three locations where the census is being indexed. Having three separate indexes prepared will greatly increase the chances of locating those elusive ancestors. (If you can't find them in one of the indexes, you probably can find them in one of the two others.)

#### FamilySearch

One organization is FamilySearch working in conjunction with brightsolid (a British genealogy company which is the owner of findmypast.co.uk). Their website is [www.the1940census.com](http://www.the1940census.com).

You can go to the [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) website and search for individuals by name and date (1940) if their home states (Delaware, District of Columbia or

Nevada) have already been indexed. I found it interesting to note that there are several states that have been completely indexed by familysearch.org indexers but are not available yet to researchers. This probably has to do with some behind-the-scenes steps needed to format the search query process.

### Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is operating its own indexing project. This project will be completed in two steps—the first step will provide a basic name index, and the second step will generate an advanced search option. Ancestry.com anticipates the basic name index will be available in early fall 2012, and that the advance search index will be completed in 2013. The home for Ancestry.com's census project is [www.ancestry.com/1940-census](http://www.ancestry.com/1940-census). You can currently search for ancestors in the 1940 census if they happened to live in one of the states that is already indexed.

### MyHeritage.com

A third company, MyHeritage.com is offering the 1940 census at the following sites:

[www.myheritage.com/1940census](http://www.myheritage.com/1940census)  
[www.worldvitalrecords.com/1940census](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/1940census)  
[www.familylink.com/1940census](http://www.familylink.com/1940census)

MyHeritage.com is a social network and genealogy website based in Israel.



### **Upcoming Events**

- May 5      “The Do’s and Don’ts of Genealogy.” 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Rd., Phoenix, OR. (\$10 for RVGS members, \$20 for non-members.)
  
- May 8      GPGS monthly meeting. “Did You Find It In The 1940 Census?” Meeting held at 1:30 PM at the LDS Church, 1969 Williams Highway, Grants Pass.

- May 15 Two classes offered prior to the RVGS General Meeting. "Understanding Emigration & Immigration" from 9:30-10:30 AM and "German Ancestry Explained" from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Price \$20 per class, guest lecturer is Susan LeBlanc.
- May 15 RVGS General Meeting at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM. "The Best Kept Secret: World Vital Records on the Internet." Guest lecturer Susan LeBlanc. Free.
- May 19 Retirement Expo hosted by Young At Heart magazine, 10 AM to 4 PM at Josephine County Fairgrounds, Floral Building, Grants Pass. Our group will have a booth there, where we will do genealogy lookups for visitors.
- June 8 GPGS meeting at 1:30 PM at the LDS Church, 1969 Williams Highway, Grants Pass. Topic to be announced.
- Jun 8-10 Southern California Genealogy Jamboree, scheduled by Southern California Genealogical Society, to be held at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, Burbank, California. Ancestry.com will contribute by teaching several classes and will also scan family photos and documents for attendees (for free, using professional equipment). Conference will run on Friday from Noon to 6 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 6 PM, and Sunday 8 AM to 3 PM. More info available at [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com). Click on the topic 2012 Jamboree on the left side of the club's home page.
- Jun 9 Hugo History Day, Hugo Ladies Club, 9 AM – 3:30 PM.
- Jun 12 GPGS monthly meeting. Speaker Bob James, "Import/Export of Data."
- July (No meeting scheduled.) We may schedule an informal workshop.
- Aug 14 GPGS Annual Club Picnic (potluck style) at the home of Don and LaVona Ness.
- Sep 11 GPGS monthly meeting. Speaker to be announced.
- Oct 9 GPGS monthly meeting. Speaker to be announced.
- Oct 13 Save this date for the annual family history seminar hosted by 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. Speaker to be announced. 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.

### MY ROOTS ARE HERE TEE SHIRT ORDER FORM



Name	Address	Phone #	E-Mail	Qty.	Color	Size	Price Ea	Total
							\$16.00	

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Request to see color chart at next meeting. (Color chart above is hard to read.) T  
Shirt orders must be mailed in with a check payable to GPGS address: Grants  
Pass Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 214, Grants Pass, OR 97528. For more  
information, call 541-471-1944. A group order will be placed once minimum of  
ten tee-shirts is reached.