

CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Membership
Volunteer Needed

Brian Runyan, President
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CCGS Library
717 Grand Blvd
Vancouver, WA
360-750-5688
gensoc at ccgs-wa.org

Hours of operation
Closed Sunday & Monday

*Check the on-line
library calendar for
unexpected closures.*

<http://www.ccgs-wa.org>

Tues, - Fri
10 am to 3:00 pm
Thursday
6-9 pm

Saturday
2nd Saturday only
10 am to 3 pm

How to get here:
From I-5, take the Mill
Plain exit, go east about 1
½ miles to Grand Blvd and
turn right. We are in the
strip mall on the left side,
north of Evergreen.

Next General Meeting is
Tuesday, March 29.
Program details to follow
at a later date.

President's Message

Well, well. Here it is March 2016 already. This President's message will be necessarily short and sweet, with the emphasis on the sweet. These past few weeks have been a whirlwind for yours truly. The Reader's Digest version: In November 2015, my beautiful bride and I decided it was time to downsize. The perfect opportunity presented itself and we committed to buying a yet-to-be-constructed townhouse in Ridgefield and set about creating a timeline wherein we would put our house on the market at the first of the year, take 45-60 days to sell, 45 days to close and seamlessly vacate our house and move in to the new one mid-April. The adventure began when I put up the For Sale sign only to receive a cash offer in about four hours. AND the buyer needed to move in February 1st. ALARM BELLS!!! Pack! Find a temporary place to move.

Enter the power of CCGS networking: Kara Lynn Rankin (one of our intrepid library schedulers), had a neighbor that had moved out of their home, expecting to put it up for sale in the summer, and were looking for someone to rent for a few months. . . So, here I am composing this, looking out the window, watching the antics of the Pileated Woodpecker, in a place that is big enough that we don't have to rent additional storage for all those file cabinets of genealogy research (OK, there's just a little bit of other stuff, too).

So what does all this have to do with the health and welfare of CCGS? It points up the truth of a 2014 study that showed the number one reason for folks to renew their Society membership is to keep the social connections they have with other Society members. We are a great group of people, drawn to each other to share our family histories. There are wonderful examples of this sharing in this newsletter. Your fellow members have submitted their family memories of "who was your most interesting or colorful ancestor?" We're all in this together.

Brian Runyan

We Love Our Volunteers!

We are pleased to announce that CCGS has a new Program Chairman! Elsie Deatherage has volunteered to take over this important position at CCGS. Elsie has volunteered in several capacities over the past several years, including being a member of the Education committee and teaching many informative genealogy classes for CCGS. Thank you, Elsie, for your willingness to serve CCGS!

SCANDINAVIAN CORNER



STEAMSHIP KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
STEERAGE PASSENGERS
(Courtesy of Norway Heritages Across the Sea)

Welcome to this edition of the Scandinavian Corner. The above photo shows steerage passengers on deck, some probably suffering from sea sickness. For more photos and records on Norwegian emigration, take a look at the following site: <http://www.norwayheritage.com> This site is free and is full of interesting information.

Another interesting site is <http://www.Norwayparishes.com>. This site provides maps for the provinces, parishes, villages and farms in Norway. Again, this is a free site and worth a visit. A portion of the site is in English making it easy to search for that elusive farm, etc.

Dis-Norge is the Genealogy Society of Norway, with over 10,000 members. It appears to require registration, but is a great place to connect with other persons researching their Norwegian roots. Some of the site is in English. <http://www.disnorge.no>

The next meeting of the Scandinavian Focus Group will be on Thursday, March 10th, 10am to 11:30am in the CCGS meeting room. Our tentative topic will be on Emigration of our Scandinavian Ancestors.

The annual field trip of the Scandinavian Focus Group will be on Thursday, May 12th. We will be visiting the Nordic Center in Portland and then going to lunch at, hopefully, a Nordic themed restaurant. More information will follow in the next month or so.

Richard Engstrom
Rengstro60@yahoo.com

From the Tri City Genealogy Society Bulletin (shared by Marian Kenedy)

William Dollarhide Genealogy Rule #7:

If you call Social Security and ask where to write for a birth certificate tell them it is for yourself. They won't help you if you say you want one for your great-great-great-great-great grandfather who died in 1642.

More "Colorful" and Interesting Ancestors of CCGS Members

Contributed by Brian Runyan

Oh, there are so many to choose from: There is the Chatelain/Gerber side; good Mennonite stock that were probably pretty interesting, but didn't talk about it much. Then there is the Runyan side; good, stalwart, mid-western wheat farmers. Biggest thing there was when Chester made the local newspaper when he got a BIG sliver in his toe. Or the Powell side; serial philandering (but that's a story for another day). But the Washam branch; "Sunday evening George Washam, living near Mound City, shot and severely wounded Ed Harrison on the Hobitzell farm, about two miles southeast of that city. It appears Mr. Hobitzell had put up notices forbidding hunting on that farm. Mr. Harrison was living on the farm and hearing someone shooting on it Sunday went out to warn him to keep off. He found the hunter to be Mr. Washam and told him that Mr. Hobitzell permitted no hunting on the farm. Washam replied that he would give Harrison a load and raised his gun – a double barreled shotgun – and fired both barrels at Harrison, shooting him in the chin and throat. The gun was loaded with squirrel shot, and the wound, though severe, is not deemed serious. A number of stories have been told of the shooting, and it is impossible to say under just what circumstances it did occur. The parties had been on bad terms for a good while. Mr. Washam came to Mound City and gave himself up, and entered into bond for his appearance for examination before Justice Hart and the 29th." (1)

Interesting story, but it gets even juicier when a search of probate records reveals that Ed Harrison was married to George Washam's sister, Pernesia Washam. Their father, David Washam, evidently favored George over Pernesia as David's will gave George \$500 while Pernesia received \$25. David had four other daughters, all of whom received a portion of land. Alas, Pernesia got none. The fact that Pernesia and Ed were allowed to live on the property abutting that owned by George seems like a recipe for disaster.

(1) Holt County Sentinel, Oregon County, Missouri, 25 July 1884

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It was he, my great great grandfather that to this date, is one the most colorfully interesting ancestor in my family tree. This man immigrated to America from Russia during the 1890's with his young bride and their two small children eventually residing in Vancouver Washington where he had owned and developed an entire city block just off of Main Street.

The family grew in numbers to a total of six chairs around their supper table. By 1906 he had become a wealthy businessman of Vancouver.

Things changed however for him and his family and their holdings. In 1905 this town saw an army lieutenant who took it upon himself in an attempt to influence a woman that he loved after falling for her beautiful singing voice heard by him as he neared the new Hager Theatre during one of his strolls through town. This young woman had then met the lieutenant from his request that very day after her performance ended. Time past and she married another man from her home town near San Francisco.

During the great earth quake of 1906, the lieutenant reacquainted himself with his love interest that he had not forgotten about since first falling for her siren songs. It was here in San Francisco where this army lieutenant and the soldiers of the Vancouver Barracks were deployed to help with the looting and fires that he began romancing his lovely singing idol.

Though she just recently married only one month prior to the devastation of the earthquake, she was captivated by his charming demeanor and his lure of a better lifestyle for her if he only could have her for himself. Upon returning back to Vancouver from exercises at the American Lake in November of 1906, this lieutenant began a secret service sting operation within his own compound as well as outside the military gates of the Vancouver Army Post. It was a federal crime back then to be in possession of anything owned by the US Government.

Soldiers were known to trade and sell and even wear on their own bodies military clothing during their enlistment as deserters in need of money or perhaps a beer or whiskey.

Some Vancouver town's people got caught up in this lieutenant's sting operation which was to catch anyone in possession of anything owned by the United States Government. A few town's people were in possession of articles of clothing while others had a army blanket or two. In total, four civilians and three shipmates from a steamer ship were arrested by the local authorities. The lieutenant was very much a part of this campaign of his example setting propaganda. No one, no one at all is allowed to sell, trade, or own government items.

There were nine army soldiers arrested for being involved with these dealings. No soldiers ever saw a court martial. Non were discharged. None saw Alcatraz.

The civilians were either fined or reprimanded in court. One case got dismissed entirely. My great great grandfather died over this insignificant flare up for a romance of the lieutenant's.

In hopes of swooning away a married woman that this West Point Army Academy graduate had so desired for, he had faked an injury to be released of his duties so to play a Secret Service Agent during his conjured up mating dance. Well, it worked. The young woman left her husband and though never divorced him, she did play the role of an officer's wife during the lieutenant's duration at these Vancouver Barracks.

So who's the most colorful and charismatic relative in my family tree?

It's he, my great great grandfather who died in this town of Vancouver by the hands of a feign that went unnoticed back then when things were happening by the design of a man in uniform with a distorted view of his place and purpose in the world.

My family lost everything because of this lieutenant's actions. He, my great great grandfather loved his family and was an honest man. He was a prominent citizen of his Vancouver.

He never saw his court appearance. It was reported that he had died of a self inflicted gunshot wound to the back of his head. His wife survived the attempt on her own life but never officially spoke of that night to anyone. Then the town stole away their properties and took all she had that he himself had earned. These are the most colorful realities I have in my family tree. They will remain nameless because of how they were eventually disposed of.

Jeffrey Bergstrand -- Renton, Washington

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

We continue to set up the screen and projector to show most every scheduled Legacy Family Tree webinar. Most are on Wednesdays, but there are occasional webinars on Fridays, too. The day webinars are usually at 11 a.m., but occasionally there may be a time change. We'll note the dates and times below in the schedule. Be sure to check the CCGS web page for any last minute changes to this schedule.

For a description of each webinar, go to
<http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

Webinars begin at 11 a.m. PST, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, March 2nd

The War of 1812 Records – Preserving the Pensions
Presented by Rebecca Koford

Friday, March 4th

Making YDNA and mtDNA Part of your Family History
Presented by Diahna Southard

Wednesday, March 9th, 5 p.m. (Note new time—evening webinars are now at 5 p.m. Pacific time)

How Do I Know That's My Ancestor?
Presented by Amy Johnson Crow

Wednesday, March 16th

The Private Laws of the Federal and State Governments
Presented by Judy G. Russell

Wednesday, March 23rd

Introduction to German Parish Records
Presented by Gail Blankenau

Wednesday, March 30th

Proof Arguments—How to Write Them and Why They Matter
Presented by Warren Bittner

Presentations are subject to change, including the addition of new webinars that had not been announced at the time this newsletter was being prepared. We'll try to catch any changes in time for the weekly CCGS e-letter, and you can check for yourself at the link listed above.

If you are unable to come to the library to watch these, they are available to you in your own home if you pre-register. They are also available for free for about a week following the original showing. And for Legacy Family Tree members, the webinars are available at any time with your paid subscription. Also for Legacy Family Tree members, there are bonus webinars added frequently, which are only available to members. Recently added bonus webinars include a 10 part series by Thomas MacEntee on Microsoft Word—following up his recent presentation on getting started with Microsoft Word which we saw at CCGS. I learned so much just by watching the introductory webinar. Being a webinar subscriber in this case can save you money! People taking this course by Microsoft can spend \$300 to get the same information Thomas presents here. Another follow-up bonus webinar by Beth Foulk is “Solving Genealogy Problems by Creating a Timeline.” Goes hand in hand with her recent FANS webinar.

CCGS MEMBERS CAN SUBSCRIBE TO LEGACY WEBINARS FOR HALF-PRICE!!

The introductory price is normally \$49.95 for a year subscription. Geoff Rasmussen has provided CCGS with our own discount code that allows a CCGS member to purchase a yearly subscription for ½ price. If this is of interest to you, you may call the CCGS library and a librarian, after verifying you are a current member, will give you the code.

New to Our Library
Compiled by Alice Allen & Lonna Parker

The following books were recently added to our collection, and will be found on the New Shelf at the CCGS Library during the month of March.

Donated by Glen Jones

Title: History of Oregon, volume 19
Author: Hubert Howe Bancroft

Title: Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West, volume 2
Author: Leroy Haffen

Title: Bylaws Workbook, a Handbook for New & Established Societies
Author: Marcia S. Lindley

Title: The Intermediary, William Craig among the Nez Percés
Author: Lin Tull Cannell

Title: Fremont's Greatest Western Exploration, volume 1
Author: John L. Stewart

Title: History of the Kings and Queens of England
Author: David Williamson

Title: Lewis County Legacy
Author: Lewis County Centennial Committee

Title: Oregon, a Bicentennial History
Author: Gordon B. Dodds

Title: Winning the Wild West
Author: Page Stegner

Title: The Bonanza Trail
Author: Muriel Sibell Wolle

Title: Oregon 1859
Author: Janice Marschner

Title: Westering Man: the Life of Joseph Walker
Author: Bil Gilbert

Title: Oregon Historical Quarterly Index, vol. 41-61
Author: Josephine Gamugartner

Title: Prospector, Cowhand, and Sodbuster
Author: US Dept. of Interior

Title: Pioneer Days in Malheur County
Author: Jacob Ray Gregg

Donated by Linda Dawson

Title: A Rebel War Clerk's Diary vol. 1
Author: John B. Jones

Title: A Rebel War Clerk's Diary, vol. 2
Author: John B. Jones

Title: Reminiscences of the Civil War
Author: John B. Gordon

Title: Campaigning with Grant
Author: Horace Porter

Title: The Story of a Cannoneer Under Stonewall Jackson
Author: Edward Moore

Donated by Lethene Parks

Title: Bylaws Workbook, a Handbook for New & Established Societies

Author: Marcia S. Lindley
(Note: This book is for the use of CCGS officers and will not be found on the new shelf)

Unknown Donor

Title: Historical Atlas of the Pacific Northwest
Author: Derek Hayes

The following books are duplicate copies of what we already own, and will not be on the New Shelf. They will be available for checkout by current CCGS Members for a period of two weeks.

Donated by Glen Jones

Title: Conversations with Pioneer Men
Author: Fred Lockley

Title: Lest We Forget: Clark County Washington War Casualties

Title: Sandy Pioneers, Early Settlers and Barlow Road Days
Author: Elizabeth Hartman and Marie Schwartz

Title: Bullwackers and Muleskinners
Author: Fred Lockley

Title: Children of the Fur Trade
Author: John C. Jackson

Membership Report
Bea Ritter

We'd like to welcome three new members to CCGS this past month: Jennifer Ayling and Donald and Sue Cannard. Thanks for joining us! Jennifer is already volunteering as a CCGS Librarian. Thank you!

CCGS Volunteers

As I'm sure you all know, CCGS is a 100% volunteer-operated organization. We are tremendously grateful for all of our many volunteers and the dedication they bring to the success of our Society. Our volunteers have the opportunity to serve a few hours a month to more hours than they can count and everything in between. Many volunteers speak of how enjoyable their time is rubbing shoulders and sharing enthusiasm with other like-minded researchers. If you're not currently volunteering you're missing out on some really good times. There are currently several opportunities for volunteering that will enhance your connection with your Society. To find out how you can join in the fun, contact our President, Brian Runyan president@ccgs-wa.org or Vice-President, Bea Ritter gensoc@ccgs-wa.org.

CCGS Focus Groups

CCGS is home to several Focus groups which meet monthly at the Library annex (aka Education Center). If one of these is of interest to you, come join us!

- Legacy Users Group: Meets the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. Group members can bring questions and problems to the group for answers, and there is usually a feature of the Legacy genealogy program highlighted.
- First Thursday Unfocused Group: Meets the first Thursday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. No special focus (hence the name "Unfocused") for this group—we meet and discuss most anything of a genealogical interest. And we often have cookies, too!
- Scandinavian Group: Meets the second Thursday of each month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The focus? Scandinavian genealogy, of course. If you have ancestors from one of the Scandinavian countries, come join the group for extra help, and to share your experiences.
- The Native American Group is back. This group has resumed its previous schedule of meeting at the CCGS Library on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Madeline Mesplay is the group's moderator. If you have Native American ancestry, this is the place to be.

REPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS!

CALLING ALL REPORTERS of volunteer hours worked for CCGS. PLEASE remember to include travel time when you sign the volunteer sheet in the library. And, if you work at home, or on a special project, you may submit a note on the total hours (without listing each day's time). Send a note to gensoc@ccgs-wa.org (or to my email) with Volunteer Hours in the heading. Let's be sure to report all hours worked in this new year. Thanks, from Dolly Merrick

CCGS AND FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Clark County Genealogical Society has been successfully enrolled in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. If you have a Fred Meyer Rewards Card you may designate CCGS to receive a quarterly check based on our purchases at Fred Meyer. You can get more information by visiting

www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-frequently-asked-questions-for-non-profits

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that the Clark County Genealogical Society has a Facebook page? Ours is one among 4,500 across the nation! People in genealogy are communicating in all sorts of ways and the CCGS Facebook page is another way to notify you about upcoming workshops and seminars, plus other valuable research tips. We hope you will "like" (become a friend and/or join) the CCGS Facebook page. To "like" our page, you must have a personal profile of your own. Even if you aren't very active with your own Facebook profile, we encourage you to "like" the CCGS page – and invite your genealogist friends to do so as well! Plus, you might consider joining the Clark County Genealogical Society Facebook Group Page where you can ask questions, get answers and start conversations. If you don't have a Facebook profile and would like to get started, go to www.Facebook.com and follow the steps to sign up. It's easy! Or, stop by the CCGS library and one of the librarians might be able to help you get started (call first to see if there is a Facebook expert on hand).

Periodicals News

Lillian Fullerton, Periodicals Chairman

CCGS subscribes to several Genealogical periodicals (magazines), here are some articles from recent editions which may be of interest to you. These are currently located on the shelf behind the Librarian's desk at the Library.

American Ancestors Fall 2015

"The Letter That Led to a Lost Swedish Family History"

Internet Genealogy Dec/Jan 2016

1. "Beware of Online Family Trees"
2. "Finding Revolutionary War Newspapers"

Family Tree Magazine Jan/Feb 2016

"Mistaken Identities" Tips to Avoid Ancestor Mix-ups

Your Genealogy Today Jan/Feb 2016

1. "What Do You Do With a Shoebox Full of Letters?"
2. "Irish Land Records"

CCGS Focus Group: Native American Group Testimonial by Lonna Parker

I have been going to the Native American Focus group since it has started up again. With the guidance from Madelyn Mesplay (moderator), I have been able to track the Cherokee heritage back to a Cherokee Indian chief. I am now researching the Dawes Packets. There is so much information in those. Our library addition of Ancestry will give you access to these. I have also had good luck finding information from using the books in our library. If you have any Native American research to do, you should really take advantage of this great opportunity. We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10:30 to noon at the CCGS Library.

"Hello" From Arizona!

Long time CCGS Librarian and Education Committee member Glen Jones writes from Arizona, where he and his wife have become "snowbirds." They are enjoying new adventures in a new location, including visits to historical sites in the Casa Grande area, and visits to the Casa Grande Historical Society. Glen hopes to be able to teach genealogy classes to his RV park residents in the near future. They'll be back in our area later this spring with some new information on Arizona Native American history. Good to hear from you, Glen!

Condolences

Our condolences have been sent to the family of Mary Ann Best on the passing of her husband Barrie, on February 9th, in Longview, Washington. Mary Ann will be remembered by many as our former Library Director in the early 2000's before she and Barrie moved from the area. A sympathy card has been sent by our "Sunshine Lady," Jeanine Bailiff to Mary Ann and her family. Barrie was 87 years old. An obituary appeared in the Longview newspaper on February 11th.

Question of the Month: What are your favorite online genealogy websites?

Name a few of your "go-to" web sites that you use in your family history research? Send them to the editor at allen.alice @ gmail.com by newsletter deadline (March 23rd) and we'll include them in April's newsletter. Maybe you have one that most people don't know about. We'd love to hear from you!

Clark County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5249
Vancouver WA 98668-5249

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

President: Brian Runyan
Vice President: Bea Ritter
Secretary: Marian Kenedy

Treasurer: Larry Germann
Asst. Sec-Treas: Eric Jordahl
Past President: Lethene Parks

<http://www.ccg-s-wa.org>
Library: 717 Grand Blvd
360-750-5688

CCGS Meetings and Programs

March 3 First Thursday Unfocused Genealogy Group – 1-3 p.m. CCGS Education Center
March 7 Legacy Users Group, 10 a.m. a.m. – 12 noon CCGS Education Center
March 10 Scandinavian Focus Group, 10-11:30 a.m. CCGS Education Center
March 12 Native American Focus Group, 10:30 a.m. – noon, CCGS Library
March 14 Board Meeting, 10 a.m.-12 noon, CCGS Education Center
March 23 Deadline for April newsletter
March 28 Library Committee meeting, 10 a.m. – noon CCGS Library
March 29 General Meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 noon CCGS Education Center

To save space, the Legacy Webinar schedule is posted in a separate article in this newsletter.

General Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month at CCGS Library Annex.
Morning meetings: Oct - Mar, 10 am - noon. Evening meetings: Apr - Sept, 7 - 9 pm.
No General Meeting is held July, August, or December.

Notify Jeanine Bailiff, our Sunshine Lady, of anyone needing a card from CCGS such as get well, thinking of you, sympathy, etc. [jgmb at pacifier.com](mailto:jgmb@pacifier.com) or call Jeanine at 360-566-9422.