

CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Bea Ritter, Membership
Bearitter at centurylink.net

Brian Runyan, President
President at ccgs-wa.org

Alice Aultman Allen, Editor
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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
3rd Thursday only
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
Will be held on
January 22th at
10 a.m.

General Meeting
January 22, 2019
10 a.m. – 12 noon

Clark Co. Historical Museum
1511 Main Street, Vancouver WA

<http://www.cchmuseum.org/visit/hours-and-directions/>

Cemetery Research

Cemeteries can be a rich source of information for genealogists--but how do you identify the right cemetery? And once the cemetery name is identified, can you find it? Some resources to help you answer these questions will be shared by Laurel Smith during her presentation, Cemetery Research. Attendees will also receive tips about preparing for a cemetery visit.

Laurel Smith is the past president of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, and is the instructor for the all day Genealogy Boot Camp that is offered quarterly.

Winter Closure Reminder

CCGS follows Vancouver Public Schools inclement weather schedule. If the Vancouver schools are closed due to bad weather, CCGS will also be closed. You can also check the CCGS page to see if we are open. Some of our librarians live outside of Vancouver and may have weather issues that will affect their drive in to the Library. We will post these closures on our web page. If in doubt, give us a call.

February Newsletter Information

Deadline for the February newsletter is Wednesday, January 23rd. Question of the month is:

“What changes have you noticed in genealogy research since you began researching?” Even if you’ve only been researching a few years, there have been changes. Tell us what you have noticed. Submit to the editor by Jan. 23.

President's Message
Brian Runyan, CCGS President

Hello fellow CCGS members. As you may or may not know our Society is experiencing a shift in how we will interact with each other and the public. On November 1, 2018 we received notice that our lease on the Annex portion of the building would not be renewed and that we had to vacate that space by November 30th. On November 27th we held the last General Membership meeting and spent the rest of the day moving all the tables, chairs and other items into a commercial storage facility. We had enjoyed the use of that space for thirteen years. Unfortunately for us, this is the reality of a booming real estate market and increased costs. We have been well taken care of by the building owner, Bill Hidden. He is a life member of our society, supports our mission and has given us a tremendous break on our rent over the years. Mr. Hidden is desirous to continue to support what we do. The rent we will be paying for the library is still below market value.

The loss of the Annex space means that we will need to find another place to hold classes, seminars, webinars, interest/focus groups, and the General Membership meetings. The Clark County Historical Museum has generously offered us the use of their meeting room for any of these functions. There have been other venues suggested as possibilities, but at this point no decision has been made.

As for the longer term we generally have four options:

1. Remain in the Library and curtail all the activities that will not fit in our current Library space; either temporarily or permanently.
2. Remain in the Library and find other space to rent for other activities.
3. Find a new space to rent that will allow us to continue all the activities we currently offer.
4. Begin the process of buying our own building.

So there you have it. I know this seems like a real thunderstorm but I know we will weather it and come out stronger on the other side.

Stay tuned for further developments



Welcome to this edition of the Scandinavian Corner. This edition will be fairly brief. The Scandinavian Focus Group will not be meeting in December. In addition, the January meeting is tentative due to the fact that we are no longer able to use the CCGS meeting room (Annex). CCGS has lost the lease for the meeting room effective December 1, 2018. I will be working with members of the Focus Group to find an alternative meeting space. It may mean changing the time and date for our meetings.

Wishing you the best for the holidays.

Richard Engstrom
rengstro60@yahoo.com

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Due to the loss of the Annex, we are no longer able to show the Wednesday Legacy Webinars. As our space issues are resolved, we hope to offer these again. In the meantime, you can register for free and watch them at home; watch at your convenience for free for about a week following original broadcast; or subscribe to the Legacy webinars and watch any time. Go here <https://familytreewebinars.com/> to see what's coming up and to register.

Focus Group: Resource Book Club Paula Schoenlein

Come join the Resource Book Club Focus Group in the New Year. We are starting a new book: "Mastering Genealogical Documentation" written by, Thomas W Jones. Our group continues to meet on the first Monday of each month, following the Legacy Users Focus Group at noon. This group meets in the Library.

All are welcome, see you January 7th 2019.

Membership Report

Bea Ritter

Welcome to our new members

Jane Edelstein

Eddie Dawson

Welcome back to Reinstated members

Pepper Toelle Kim

Beverly Erven

Steve Shelton

Christmas Memories

Elsie Deatherage writes:

My mother and grandmother used to make a filled cookie that was a family favorite. The cookies had to be rolled and cut out, and the raisin/date/nut filling had to be chopped and cooked until thick. It sounds so simple, but it was an all afternoon project.

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From Alice Allen:

My most memorable Christmas was when I was 7 years old. My mother, brother & I were living in a basement apartment in Gresham. On Christmas Eve in the middle of the night, I heard a booming man's voice coming from the living room, asking "What are you doing here?" I was sure this was Santa, and that my brother had slipped in to the livingroom. Looking back, it was probably one of my uncles, but this contributed to my belief in Santa for many years.

Don Allen's favorite Christmas tradition was the hot German Potato Salad his mother always made for their family Christmas Eve dinner. She never shared the recipe with anyone, but promised to release the secret before she died. Unfortunately, she died in 1987 without telling anyone how she made it. Due to failing health in her later years, she asked Don and his sister to assist her in making this dish. Between the two of them, they remembered the ingredients and steps, and we continue this traditional dish to this day.

New Books **Barbara Schrag**

We've added 24 new Aquila yearbooks from Hudson's Bay High School, 1964 - 1987. Because of the size of this collection, rather than on the New Books shelf, these can be found shelved with other Clark County school yearbooks. These yearbooks were the personal copies of the late Thomas J. Donovan, HBHS Latin teacher for many years.

There are three more new yearbooks on the shelf, but like the Hudson's Bay HS ones, there was no room for them on the New Shelf. They are the WSU Chinook yearbooks for 1975, 1976, 1977. Not only wasn't there space for them on the New Books shelves, but they were too tall for those shelves as well! So they're on their regular shelf, Dewey 979.739 School.

Donations from Dorothy Wear

- Ancestral Roots of Sixty Colonists who Came to New England Between 1623& 1650.
- Cite Your Sources: a Manual for Documenting Family Histories & Genealogical Records
- Pioneers of the Old South: A Chronical of English Colonial Beginnings
- Kentucky in Retrospect: 17929-1967
- Personal Remembrances of Ina Wear Robertsw
- It Happened in Post Oak (or thereabouts), a Slice of Lamar & Red River County History
- The Overmountain Men
- A Book of Scotland

The following books became separated from their donor slips, so we do not know who donated them to us:

- Descendants of Jacob Young of Shelby Co., Kentucky
- Genealogical Records: Allen, Isham; Allen Richardson, Allen Washington
- Ellis County Texas Marriage Records, 1878-1886, vol. 2
- Early Church History and Historical Directory of Benton & Franklin Counties (WA)

Dorothy also donated "Scotch Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America." Since we already have a copy, this will not be found on the new shelf, but will be available for checkout to current CCGS members.

These books will remain on the new shelf through the month of January, 2019

The Christmas Tree Hike

By Lethene Dennis Parks

During the 1930s, when I was growing up, the United States was in the throes of the Great Depression. No one had much money, so people made their own entertainment. The main social circle for my parents was the Spokane Mountaineers. My father was a newspaper reporter and had a job, which put my family in a better position than many. Many people did not own automobiles. Hikes were often arranged in the local Spokane area. People would take a city bus to the end of a city bus line and hike from there to the event's destination, then hike back to take the bus home at the end of the day.

A favorite hike was the annual Christmas Tree Hike, held in a wooded spot in the Hangman Creek Valley in the southwest edge of Spokane. From the end of the nearest bus line it was about a two-mile hike to the picnic destination. A few weeks before the event, a committee was appointed to check out the picnic spot and ready it for the group. Committee members picked out a suitable fir tree in the woods at the site and decorated it with popcorn chains, chained of uncooked cranberries, and homemade ornaments. A nearby open spot was prepared for the group by clearing away any debris or tree limbs and placing logs to sit on in a circle around a shallow fire pit. Each person or family brought their own lunch, but the Mountaineers club provided coffee (cocoa for the children).

Each person who attended the event purchased and wrapped a small gift items, such as a scarf or a pretty handkerchief or perhaps a pair of warm socks or gloves. For children there might be a small toy. The cost of gifts was limited to 25 cents for children's gifts and 50 cents for adult gifts. The wrapped gifts were placed on and around the decorated tree as people arrived at the site on a Sunday a week or two before Christmas. Each gift was numbered by the committee as it was placed on the tree.

When everyone had arrived at the picnic site, the entire group started out on a short walk down a nearby dirt road to meet Santa Claus (in reality, a stoutly built member of the Mountaineer group, dressed in a Santa suit and sporting an appropriate white beard). As we all trooped down the road we sang Christmas carols (My mother was in charge of this part of the event and handed out sheets with the words to the Christmas songs). After walking down the road for perhaps half a mile, we could hear jingling and, as Santa came into sight, his robust "Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas to all!" was answered by greeting for Santa, and many squeals of excitement from the children present. We all turned around and, with Santa in the middle of the group, returned to our camp fire and ate our lunch. After lunch each person drew a number from a basket passed around by one of the hike committee members and Santa then proceeded to pluck the wrapped gifts from the tree and hand them to the person whose number matched the number on the gift.

After lunch and gifts, everyone sat around the fire chatting for a short time, then put the fire out and cleaned up the site. The committee stayed a bit longer to undress the Christmas tree and be sure the fire was out and the circle of logs in place and ready for next year's event. The Mountaineer folks hiked back up to the end of the bus line (or to their cars if they had one and used it to get to the event location) and headed home. Though we knew that Santa was really the father of two other Mountaineer children (who were our very good friends and playmates) we never tired of attending this event annually all through the 1930s.



Dennis Children & others with
Santa

“The Move!”

Immediately following the November General Meeting on November 27th, many people stayed around and helped pack up and load up the truck with our belongings from the Annex. As is usually case, “stuff” multiplies from when you bring it in, till it’s time to take it out.

Thanks to the following people who donated their time, talents, and in some cases muscle, to accomplish this daunting task:

- Steve Aberle, for securing the use of his son Ray’s truck, and for his moving skills
- Oregon Trail Movers for moving our inventory
- Barbara Baker, Sharon Cleveland, Steve Cornick, Ralph Ericson, Marcia Grubb, Eric Jordahl, Dolly Merrick, Barbara Schrag, and Sharon Thiesmeyer for the many hours spent sorting, boxing and labeling eighteen years worth of accumulated materials.
- Lowell Kenedy, for coordinating the placement of our “goods” in the storage unit.

Here are a few pictures of “the Move,” courtesy of Lowell Kenedy:

**CCGS Pres. Brian Runyan
“pushing the button”**



Watching the first load finish



First load into the storage unit



Our condolences to the family of CCGS member Barry Peterson. Barry passed away on November 18th. His obituary appears here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/columbian/obituary.aspx?pid=190948061>

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, 1 p.m. at St. Andrews church in Vancouver.

CCGS Volunteers

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. 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.
- Research Book Club Focus Group: Meets the first Monday of each month at 12 noon, following the Legacy Users Group. Bring a sack lunch and share your thoughts about this month's chapter.
- 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 sometimes have cookies, too!

The above listed groups will meet in the Library

- 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 Scandinavian group has not determined where they will meet in the new year. Be sure to check the weekly email or the web page to see their location, or you can email the moderator for more information. His email address appears on page 3, in the Scandinavian Corner.

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).

Don't forget to report your volunteer hours to Dolly Merrick, or write them on the volunteer log at CCGS!

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: Eric Jordahl
Asst. Treasurer: Lowell Kenedy
Past President: Lethene Parks

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

CCGS Meetings and Programs

Dec. 10 Board Meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, CCGS Library
Dec. 13 **No Scandinavian Interest Group in December**
Dec. 22-Jan. 7 CCGS Library closed for Christmas/New Years Break (reopens Tuesday, January 8 at 10 a.m.)
Dec. 25 **Merry Christmas!**
Jan. 1, 2019 **Happy New Year!**
Jan. 3 **No First Thursday Unfocused Group** (Library closed)
Jan. 7 Legacy Users Group, 10 a.m. CCGS Library
Resource Book Club Focus Group, 12 noon at the CCGS Library (following Legacy Users Group)
Jan. 14 CCGS Board meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 noon CCGS Library
Jan. 22 General Meeting, 10 a.m. Information on page 1
Jan. 28 Library Committee meeting, 10 a.m. – 12 noon CCGS Library

General Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month.
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. [jgmb105 @ gmail.com](mailto:jgmb105@gmail.com) or call Jeanine at 360-566-9422.