

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
3205 NE 52nd St.
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 Hwy.
500 exit east to St. Johns
Rd. exit. Turn left onto St.
Johns Rd. and proceed
over the highway.
Continue to NE 52nd St.,
turn left and we will be on
the left, across from Hi-
School Pharmacy.

President's Message

Happy May, everyone!

As this is written we are still in Stay home, Stay Safe mode and will be for the foreseeable future. That doesn't mean that everything is at a standstill. We have had one successful Board meeting via Zoom and are planning another. Marcia Grubb and Steve Young are have been developing more content to be made available online soon. Steve Cornick continues to develop an election slate for a new president and secretary with more info to be released soon. Sharon Thiesmeyer and Barbara Schragg have been working from home cataloging library assets. Eric Jordahl continues to coordinate the finance team to keep us current on our bills. And all of you are showing your continued support through your renewals. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to CCGS as our expenses continue but one major source of income, our classes, are on hold and it is unclear when we may reschedule.

Thanks for all you do!
Brian Runyan, President
Clark County Genealogical Society

May General Meeting Elsie Deatherage, Program Chair

IF we are able to meet, the May meeting will take place at 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 26. Watch for announcements on our website, calendar and in the weekly email.

Photos shared by Marcia Grubb: Spring has arrived at CCGS



CLARK COUNTY CEMETERY PROJECTS

By Richard Engstrom

I wanted to bring you up to date on the status of the Vancouver Old City Cemetery Project. As many of you know, Kathy Geyer and I have been updating the records for the Old City Cemetery. Kathy is now in the final editing of those records. It has been almost 30 years since the last update. Since that time, numerous new records have become available to researchers. We are building on the work of Mildred Porter and Gerry Gilman past members of CCGS. This new database will include the usual information, birth date and place, death date and place, marriages, military service, occupation, funeral home, date of burial, parents, children, cause of death, and other related information. This will be a searchable database by category. We will be working with the CCGS Web Manager in the next few months in order to make this information available to our members and the visitors to our website. We had planned to do a presentation to our membership last month, but it was canceled and is now scheduled tentatively for the October membership meeting.

Since we are wrapping up the Old City Cemetery Project, I decided to tackle the Brush Prairie Cemetery. I updated the records for this cemetery about 15 years ago as well as taking photos of the markers. That update was very basic so I have been using our template for the Old City Cemetery and have been working daily on expanding the information on the burials at Brush Prairie. Assuming I will still be isolated at my home for a few more weeks, I should finish up sometime in May. There are about 1100 burials at Brush Prairie. It is still an active cemetery so I will need to update burials since my last work in 2005.

My final thoughts are related to the preservation of records for many of the smaller Clark County Cemeteries. Some of these cemeteries have been managed by local volunteers and have been keepers of the records. I would like to see an effort by our Society to obtain copies of these records before they get lost or destroyed. Tied to that is the present organization of a local foundation to preserve and support those cemeteries in Clark County that do not have ongoing financial support for their maintenance and upkeep. They have discussed the concerns regarding the preservation of these burial records. We have had representation at the meetings by some of our members.

We presently have a lot of Clark County Cemetery information on our website. This includes burial records, photos, etc. Much of this work was done by our prior webmaster, Pat Bauer. Unfortunately, we are unable to easily update this information as the software is no longer supported. I am hoping that we can move this information to a new or updated website so that the information can be edited, etc.

Hope you all are doing well. I am watching too much TV and eating too much sugar.

Richard Engstrom
rengstro60@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Bea Ritter

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Esther Eldridge
Sue Lenski

Please continue to support our society by renewing your membership on time.

What Did YOU Do During the Covid-19 Virus Quarantine?

Being quarantined since mid-March, most of us have found extra time to do all those things we said we never had time for. Many of us focused on making masks to help our community; others spent more time researching our family history that we don't usually have time for; still others found time to catch up on crafting, quilting, reading, etc. If you'd like to share what you did during this unusual period of our lives, send your write-up to allen.alice@gmail.com, by the next newsletter deadline: May 20th. Our first report is from **Elsie Deatherage**:

So far, I have transcribed four wills written from 1762 to 1816 in Virginia and North Carolina. It has been enjoyable, and I've learned a few new legal words along the way, such as "impremis". I might have figured it out sooner if not for the creative spelling by one of the court clerks.

I recently read a new book about Charlottesville and Albermarle County, Virginia. It was really interesting and it helped me see how my ancestors were impacted by historical events that took place there. We are scheduled to take a Road Scholar trip there this fall, so this was a great help.

The travel restrictions enabled me to participate in a weekend seminar that I wouldn't have attended otherwise. The St. Louis Genealogical Society held their annual seminar virtually this past weekend. Judy Russell gave four lectures over two days via Zoom, and the remaining speakers will be available for viewing for 90 days after their lectures are recorded. The registration fees were the same as for an in-person seminar, and participants were provided a link to all of the handouts.

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STAYING CONNECTED IN A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

Marcia Lawson Grubb

These last few weeks, I have felt like a pampered hamster. The wheel spins around and around, but I'm not going anywhere! Still your Board and Tech Team have been busy seeking ways to share the library with you without you leaving home. Here's what's new along with our favorite media outlets:

*Clark County Genealogy on YouTube - Steve Young has added content including classes or guest speakers that you may have missed. This new initiative is full of possibilities and we hope topics can be posted regularly. Simply search for Clark County Genealogy at YouTube.

*ZOOM – Face to Face online meetings using your cell phone, iPad or computer from home. The Board successfully met in April using Zoom. A Host sets the time and invites you to a Zoom meeting via your email.

*CCGS Newsletter - Alice Allen brilliantly delivers monthly our Society doings, along with new book titles, special events, focus group updates, and member writings. Be sure to check your email to access and read your digital copy or your snail mailbox for a paper copy.

*Clark County Genealogical Society FACEBOOK page - Jodi Siewert's fine shepherding of genealogical bits offers us good information with continual easy access on our Facebook platform.

*Sunday Morning Email Blast - Mary McMonigal faithfully delivers a list format of upcoming events and must-have information directly to your email inbox.

CCGS Meeting Calendar - Ralph Erickson and Marcia Grubb continually update this calendar. You may access this Calendar at www.ccgswa.org on the left side of the page.

Book Report

Contributed by Brian Runyan

Browsing the book store, the average reader might not be drawn to a mystery featuring a forensic genealogist. Fortunately, members of this Society are not average readers. Even more fortunate, Morton Farrier is not an average genealogist.

Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin has created a growing series of books showcasing Morton's sleuthing skills. What I find so delightful is that they are written unapologetically for the genealogist. Terms like centiMorgans and Genealogical Proof Standard pepper the narrative expecting to be understood.

The Sterling Affair is the eighth Morton Farrier genealogical crime mystery. The author slips us between 1956 Egypt, 1974 London, present day Rye, and even a quick visit to the 1944 Blitz. It begins in 2019 when an elderly woman receives a check for £89,692,92 sterling to settle the estate of her recently suicided brother. She wishes to engage Morton to discover the deceased real identity. Not because she can't use the money . . . she can. Not because she didn't identify the body . . . she did. But, because she's relatively certain her brother died in 1944 . . . she saw the body. Morton meets the woman the following day to examine the personal effects of the deceased but discovers there is a dearth of anything personal: a book, denture cream, a woman's picture, and a pair of glasses with no prescription in them. Nothing to proclaim that this man lived. Coupled with the fact that the man lived under a name not his own, Morton is left with little to start with other than the elephantine question, "why?" He convinces himself that he is not being inherently nosey, but professionally curious and agrees to take the case.

And so he begins as all good genealogists do: start with what you know and work backward. Keep track of what you think you know and why you think you know it. Write it down! The first event for the timeline:

On 3 April 2019, a man known as Maurice Duncan was found dead on the pavement beneath the balcony of his fourth-floor apartment.

Morton's investigation progresses from one discovery to the next, assisted by the world-wide-web, librarians, archivists and other keepers of history. Readers are given the benefit of historical fact peering as events that had an effect on the lives of the characters are presented for our perusal. Some paths branch, some converge and still others dead-end. Or do they? Readers might benefit from creating their own flow charts and timelines.

Interspersed with discovery are slices of domestic life. Morton is married to Juliette, a police officer recently consigned to desk duty due to her pregnancy. They are parents to a rambunctious 2-1/2 year old, Grace. Juliette, while showing polite interest in Morton's work, truly does not share his passion for it. Her police training does enable her to provide valuable insight when consulted. Morton is also actively researching his own family tree, communicating with recent DNA matches. A half-brother in town keeps him supplied with lattes and "interesting" scones from his shop. Skeletons lurk.

As the chapters weave deftly between past and present the pattern slowly emerges. And then, just when you think you might have made THE connection, another piece floats into view. In the end, the way all the tendrils resolved was very satisfying. Many knots were teased apart, many bows tied with just enough left unresolved that this reader is anxiously awaiting the next in the series. Was grandfather really a serial killer?

Have you made any interesting discoveries in your family history, read any good books, or worked on any fun craft projects during our quarantine, let us read about them. Submit your story to [allen.alice @ gmail.com](mailto:allen.alice@gmail.com) by May 20th and we'll include it in our next (and last) newsletter for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Colonial Dames 17th Century

Ladies, are you a descendant of an American Colonist?

If your ancestral lineage traces to an American Colonist who was settled before 1701, the National Society of Colonial Dames 17th Century, provides you a means to formally preserve this heritage, and mingle with women of like-interests. We promote American Colonial History, Patriotic values, Service to U.S. Veterans, Education of our nation's Youth, and various fun social events.

Our local chapter is the Hannah Mayhew Daggett Chapter of Vancouver, WA.

Meetings

1st Thursday, of February, May, September, and November

Time: 10:30 a.m. until Noon.

For further information regarding meeting location and membership, please contact our Chapter

Registrar at this email:

wacolonialdames17C@gmail.com

WELCOME TO WEBINARS ON WEDNESDAYS



Come to the Clark County Genealogical Society Library for a free broadcast of the next Legacy Family Tree webinar. Every topic is different and presenters are knowledgeable experts. You'll learn tips for use in your own genealogy work!

3205 NE 52nd Street, Vancouver, Washington 98663 - (360)750-5688

Due to the closure of CCGS from the Corona virus, Legacy Family Tree webinars will not be shown at CCGS until the quarantine is lifted and we can be open again. Register and watch at home for free. Visit <https://familytreewebinars.com/> to see upcoming webinars and to register. Webinar are free to view for about a week following the first showing, and later showings if you have a membership.

Note: CCGS members receive a 50% discount on their first membership subscription. It's been called the "Best deal in Genealogy" as a subscription gets you access to the huge library of over 1100 archived webinars. This includes webinars only available to webinar subscribers. They have NOT been shown before. Contact the CCGS library during open hours to get your discount coupon. You must be a current member to qualify.

Clark County Genealogical Society
3205 NE 52nd St.
Vancouver WA 98663

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>
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CCGS Meetings and Programs

May 2 Beginning Genealogy Class available on our You Tube channel.
May 4 Legacy Users Group cancelled
 Research Book group cancelled
May 7 1st Thursday Unfocused Group, cancelled
May 9 Tech Saturday, cancelled
May 11 Board meeting, 10 a.m., probably via Zoom
May 18 Research Trip group, status to be determined
 Scandinavian group, status to be determined
May 20 Deadline for June newsletter
May 23 CCGS "Craft Clan" Focus group, status to be determined
May 25 Memorial Day
May 26 General Meeting, 7 p.m., status to be determined

Note: Should any of these cancellations become "un-cancelled," check the CCGS Web page and your weekly email for the latest information

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 Meetings are 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 @ gmail.com](mailto:jgmb@gmail.com), or call Jeanine at 360-566-9422.