

CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

Bea Ritter, Membership
Bearitter at centurylink.net

Brian Runyan, President
President at ccgs-wa.org

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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.



We Are Open!!

Tuesday, December 10th, marked the first day that our Research Library was open for business. We will be open during our regular hours (see column to the left), with the exception of Christmas day and New Years day, as long as the weather cooperates and we have volunteers able to come in when we traditionally have been closed. Check the Library schedule on our web page when in doubt. Remember, if the Vancouver schools are closed due to weather problems, we will also be closed. And we may be closed if our librarians living in outlying areas are unable to get to town due to weather where they live. Be sure to check that librarian schedule before coming to the library.

We look forward to serving you in our new and improved facility!

January's General Meeting

Have you ever wondered if your ancestor was a Mason or an Elk or an Odd Fellow?

Our January program features members Dale and Elsie Deatherage who will discuss techniques for researching the records of Fraternal Organizations. It is an interesting topic that might shed some light on your family's history.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. January 28 at our new location, 3205 NE 52nd St., between St. John's and St. James.



President's Message
Brian Runyan, CCGS President

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Joyous New Year. Your grateful eyes are falling on the combined December/January edition of the CCGS Newsletter.

The biggest news is that every piece of correspondence that goes out representing all of us now carries our new address. Yes! The move is complete! Our new headquarters is located at 3205 NE 52nd Street, Vancouver WA 98663. A gala open house and official ribbon cutting was held on December 7th with Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerney-Ogle in attendance. Members new, old and prospective streamed through the doors for tours and cookies. Tuesday, December 10th was our first officially open day. A new era of providing family history research guidance has begun!

Many, many hours were generously volunteered to transform an empty bank building into a cozy research center. From the very beginning our relationship with building owners, Steve and Jan Oliva has been enthusiastic and cooperative. Their son, Josh was our primary contact. He quickly reviewed, approved and facilitated the transformation. We started by removing almost all traces of bankerly habitation (the vault still remains). All mechanical systems were inspected and brought up to snuff. The landscaping was pruned and spiffed.

After demolition came landscaping and bark dust application. Packing, facilitated by the LDS Stake Mission. Partition building designed by Ken Thiesmeyer and produced by Jim Vargo of All Structures. Flooring repair and carpet by Life Member, Randy Studer. Security installation by Global Security. The three Steves, Aberle, Cornick and Young spent countless hours getting our computer systems and WiFi up and running. A huge shout out to Free Geek for providing three refurbished computers for our new research room work stations along with a laser printer and distribution and monitoring equipment to network everything.

Bea and Lyman Ritter spent many hours with brushes in hand, giving all interior walls fresh coats of paint. They were ably assisted by Lowell Kenedy, Marcia Grubb, and others.

Arnie Merrick brought his locksmithing skills to us, getting our interior door hardware squared away.

It's never a good idea to try to list everyone that helped, as someone will undoubtedly be overlooked. So, with that risk in mind: Karen Frost, Cheryl Brooks, Cathy Bennett, Maria Adler, Tom Farrelly, Julian Butler, Carol Barsotti, Jeff Kessenich, Sandy Thompson, Janine Stewart, Marian Crawford, Ann Rowland, Marian Kenedy, Judy Peterson, Juliana Butler, Chris Maitland, Jodi Siewert, James Siewert, Dolly Merrick, Ralph Ericksen, Barbara Baker, Judy Peterson, Dot Doll, Doug Lasher, Sharon Cleveland, Lois Bosland, Bob Pierson, Bud Egbert, Kenny Fletcher from Paper Tiger Coffee.

All were in attendance numerous and multiple days to accomplish painting, moving, cleaning, cookie baking, wreath making, invitation writing, and just general cheerleading. Thanks to you all.

As wonderful as all this is, it does come with a price tag. Our monthly outlay for rent, utilities, and security have all significantly increased. With that in mind, the Board passed a motion authorizing a change in access to our facility. Members will continue to enjoy access to the library as a benefit of membership but non-members will be required to pay \$5 per visit for the same privilege. The expected date for implementation is February 1st. Stay tuned.



Front row, L-R: Paula Schoenlein, Juliana Butler, Alice Allen, Janine Stewart
Back row, L-R: Lois Bosland, Doug Lasher, Larry Peck, Marcia Grubb

This intrepid group of CCGS members spent a week in Salt Lake City in November, at the Family History Library. The above picture is one of the new features available in the FHL “Discovery Center.”

Following are comments by some of our fellow travelers:

Our trip to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library was beyond my wildest expectations. The weather was perfect, the companionship delightful, the research richly rewarding, and the air travel wonderfully uneventful. I haven't experienced such an all-around energizing week in a long time. A bonus was that we discovered we all had German ancestors. There was serious discussion around starting a German Focus Group. I'm very glad I chose to go on this research adventure.

Janine Stewart

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I had a wonderful time visiting the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Now that the library is open every day of the week, I had many hours to research. I even found some time for fun in the discovery center.

I spent most of my time on the international floor going through many reels of microfilm. These rolls were in German and I had no idea what I was looking at but I received help and encouragement from staff and volunteers in the library. The help that was offered to me to translate from German to English was invaluable. I would not have looked at these documents at home even if they were available to me because I would have felt intimidated by the handwriting, but I am now feeling encouraged to learn more about German handwriting and language.

The stay at the Plaza hotel was enjoyable, despite the fact that I didn't spend a considerable amount of time in my room. The close proximity to the library and food choices made this the best choice for me and I would absolutely stay there again.

I learned a considerable amount from my trip and would love to make a return visit someday.

Paula Schoenlein

(continued on page 4)

More comments from our Salt Lake travel group (continued from page 3)

Today as I write more than 10 days after returning from my first research trip to Salt Lake City, it is clear to me that the ancestors called and they have hot gossip for me! From www.newspapers.com, I discovered my dear grandmother in the Covina (CA) Argus in 1953 “Viola Lawson teacher of Piano. Beginners and adv pupils FO 8-9464. 4933 N. Hallowell. Arden and Lower Azusa.”

Further from her obituary published in 1973 Arcadia Tribune, I learned “she taught piano in her home for 55 years and was a member of the Alhambra Musicians Club.” Wow, locating this document made my heart skip, I lived out of state when my favorite grandmother passed away and never saw the obituary published at the time. After reading it, the numbers didn’t add up. I attended her funeral, knew the attendees, the mortician, and my grandmother personally. So I am well qualified to dispute the printed facts. One example: at age 69, teaching in her California home for 55 years equals 14 years of age when she began teaching (she also lived in Oregon, not California). A “don’t believe every word printed” genealogy lesson here for certain!

My 2019 trip to Salt Lake City was a great adventure, made fabulous with 7 perfect genealogical travelers.

5 December 2019
Marcia Lawson Grubb

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What a great trip! A lot has changed at the Family History Library over the years. Gee, a lot can change overnight, apparently—as some our CCGS researchers commented that a bank of computers (or maybe it was microfilm readers) disappeared overnight, replaced with a sign that indicated changes were coming. We all discovered we had German roots, and most of us spent some time on the International floor working with staff and volunteers. I know I got a lot of help from different workers, and was even able to discover a brother for my grandfather who had never been entered into the Family Search Family Tree.

Alice Allen

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The Research group will continue to meet on the third Monday of each month at 10 a.m., even though we don’t have a specific trip planned in the near future. There are tips presented to help you plan a trip on your own, as well as the group. Hope to see you Monday, December 16th.

Membership Report

Bea Ritter, Membership Chairman

Welcome to the following new members:

Arnie Merrick
Sharon Barnes
Deborah Godfrin Welt
Linda Schrom
Vaughn Roden

Beginning Classes

Our popular series of beginning genealogy classes return in 2020. These are held the first Saturday of each month at the CCGS library beginning on January 4th. They will run from 10 a.m. till 12 noon, and are free to all. While they are mostly designed for those with little or no genealogy experience, others who have done some research often find there’s something new to be learned. We hope to see you at one of these upcoming classes.

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!

717 Grand Boulevard, Vancouver, WA 360-750-5688

**Note: This will be held at our new location;
3205 NE 52nd Street**

Wednesday, December 18th, 11 a.m.

How to Trace Your UK Ancestry, presented by Kirsty Gray

Please note that the 2020 webinar schedule was not available as of December 11th. Updates to the January schedule will be made available as soon as known on our weekly email. If you are not currently receiving these emails, go to the CCGS page, scroll down to the bottom of the page and look for the link to get added to the weekly email list.

Spring Class Schedule

Planning is underway for our Spring classes. We look forward to holding them in our new facility without interrupting patrons in our research library. We will be publishing the schedule and teachers as soon as they are available, and they will also be available in the weekly emails.

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

Colonial Dames 17th Century

So you say, you are hooked on genealogy? You want to progress further into your lineage and have the camaraderie of like-minded women, whom also, promote good works.

The Ft. Vancouver Chapter of the Washington State Society of Colonial Dames 17th Century offers you all of this, with your membership into our society.

A patriotic genealogical organization, we accept women applicants 21 years of age or older, who can prove their ancestry, beyond the year 1701. If you are dedicated to working toward such a goal, we are the organization for you.

Meetings are held every 3 months in Vancouver, and prospective members with pending applications may attend. A capable chapter officer awaits your inquiry.

For more information, explore our website online: *The National Society of Colonial Dames 17th Century, Washington, D.C.* Be sure to include the designation: 17th Century, as there are other organizations with like names, but have different missions.

If you like local contact, drop us a note with your contact information to:

Ft. Vancouver Chapter, Colonial Dames 17th Century,
c/o 1365 South 15th Way
Ridgefield, Washington 98642

**ARE YOU A CLOSET DETECTIVE WITH A PASSION
FOR GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY?**

JOIN OUR FAMILY TREE!

VOLUNTEER TODAY FOR THE CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

▶ *Are you a people person? Library volunteers help newbies get started or work on their research goals in genealogy and family history.*

▶ *Do you love keyboarding and computer work? Opportunities abound for accurate digitizing and indexing of national and local records.*

▶ *Are you a marketing, writing, publications design, or electronics and technology whiz?*



▶ *Do you have presentation or teaching abilities? You could teach a class or lead an interest group.*

▶ *Is event planning your forte? There's a spot for you on our yearly seminar team or membership meetings.*

▶ *Were you a business manager, fund developer or financial expert? We could use your expertise!*

For information call Marcia Grubb, Clark County Genealogical Society, 360-750-5688.

Photo Page



Left: Volunteers from the LDS church. They packed up our books, unloaded at our new facility, then unpacked them.



Some of our books in their new home.



One of the wreaths made by our “wreath team.” Some of them were given away at our raffles, others decorate the library for the holiday season.



Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle and CCGS President Brian Runyan, ribbon-cutting ceremony.

These are only a few of the photos taken during the moving and opening process. You can see all of the photos on the CCGS page on Facebook. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who put in their time to get us where we are today.

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

December 14 Tech Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
December 16 Research Trip group, 10 a.m.
December 25 **Merry Christmas! (CCGS Library closed)**
January 1 **Happy New Year! (CCGS Library closed)**
January 2 1st Thursday Unfocused group, 1-3 p.m., CCGS Library
January 4 Beginning Genealogy class, 10 a.m., CCGS Library
January 6 Legacy Users Group, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., CCGS Library
Research Book Group, 12:00 noon, CCGS Library
January 11 Tech Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
January 13 Board meeting, 10 a.m.
January 20 Research Trip group, 10 a.m.
Librarians Training, 12 noon
Scandinavian group, 2 p.m.
January 22 Deadline for February newsletter
January 28 General Meeting, 10 a.m. 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 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. [jgmb105 @ gmail.com](mailto:jgmb105@gmail.com) or call Jeanine at 360-566-9422.