

CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Bea Ritter, Membership
Bearitter at centurylink.net

Eric Jordahl, President
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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

Saturday
2nd Saturday only
10 am to 3 pm

How to get here:

From I-5, take the Hwy. t 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.



Presidents Message

Eric Jordahl

President@ccgswa.org

I thought it would be fun to see what ChatGPT (openai.com) the artificial intelligence software, would do with a “Genealogical President’s Message” The following is the result with my additions in brackets []. The style is different and yet I found no fault with its content.

Dear Members of the [Clark County] Genealogical Society,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we continue our journey into the intricate tapestry of our family histories, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to both our longstanding members and those who have recently joined our community.

Our society stands as a testament to the curiosity and passion we share for uncovering the stories of our ancestors. With each piece of information we gather, we enrich not only our own lives but also the legacy we leave for future generations.

In the coming months, we have an array of exciting events and activities planned. Our expert-led workshops [classes] will equip us with new tools and insights to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of genealogical research. Whether you’re a seasoned researcher or just beginning to explore your roots, there will be something valuable for everyone. [We are planning to have 6 classes in October and November including a free beginner’s class.]

I encourage you all to actively participate in our discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions. [Focus groups] Our society is a vibrant community of individuals with diverse experiences and backgrounds. By engaging with one another, we have the opportunity to expand our horizons and make breakthroughs that might have eluded us otherwise.

As we delve into the past, let’s also remember the importance of preserving the present for future generations. Our efforts in documenting and cataloging our findings will serve as a bridge connecting the past, present, and future.

I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated volunteers and committee members who work tirelessly to organize our events and maintain the vitality of our society. **Your contributions are invaluable and deeply appreciated.** [My bolding] [The September General Meeting will also be Volunteer Appreciation time.]

In closing, I look forward to another fruitful and enriching year of exploration and discovery. Let us continue to support one another in our genealogical endeavors and celebrate the remarkable stories that make up our collective heritage.

Wishing you all success in your research and a rewarding journey ahead.

[The pandemic is over. Stay safe. Use your Library often.]



**September General Meeting
September 26, 7 p.m.**

Was My William Smith in the Civil War?

By Brian Rhinehart

7 p.m. Sept. 26

May be viewed virtually at home or with others at the CCGS Library

Over ten percent of the US population fought in the Civil War in the 1860s. Using (mostly) free resources, learn some tips on how to determine if your ancestor was in the war, and how to differentiate among those common named soldiers.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AT GENERAL MEETING Tuesday September 26th at 7:00.

Real cake tastes better than virtual cake. Join us at CCGS on the last Tuesday of September at 7:00 for cake and coffee as we honor those named to the Quilt/Banners for their hard work this year. Jewels will be added to others who have worked over 100 hours for the society. We are also grateful for our donors and anyone giving at least \$100 will be honored. Speaker for the evening will be a virtual presentation from Brian Rhinehart, "Was My William Smith in the Civil War?"

If you worked over 100 hours doing CCGS Stuff, you are entitled to your name on the quilt and our spies missed you. Let us know, so we may include you for your hard work.

**Education- Fall Classes Announced
Marcia Grubb**

Mark your calendar as our Fall Class Series will begin on the first Tuesday in October. The Education Committee is creating a great class series including topics with broad appeal to both novice and experienced family story researchers. **Class schedule and details will be posted on the Events Calendar, on Sunday Email, and in the Library.** Reserve your seat; you may pre-register in the library or via email at gensoc@ccgs-wa.org

**2023 Fall Seminar - A Day of Tools & Tech
November 11, 2023**

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon is pleased to open registration for the Fall Seminar. This event offers a full day of techniques and tips to get the most out researching on the computer. From using common apps in creative ways to squeezing the most out of Google, you are sure to learn something new! The main speaker is the charismatic and always entertaining Thomas MacEntee.

For more information and registration, visit us at <http://gfo.org/seminar>



SCANDINAVIAN CORNER

Greetings.

The next meeting of the Scandinavian Focus Group will be Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1pm-2:30 pm in the CCGS meeting room. This meeting will be an opportunity to share your Scandinavian research. If any of you had the opportunity to travel to Scandinavia this summer, we would love to hear about your journey. Do you have plans to visit in the near future?

If time permits, we will look at some research sites on Facebook and You Tube.

Richard Engstrom – rengstro60@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER, 2023

Bea Ritter

So excited to share the names of our new and restated members. Welcome to all of them. We have a new slate of classes for this fall and our September program. Please come and join us.

NEW... WELCOME

Gayle Klein
David Barber
Geoff Smith
Shirley Mickel
Laurene Eldred
John "Jack" Holland

REINSTATED...WELCOME BACK

Cynthia Swanson
Glenna and Rory Bowman

CCGS Membership Dues

Individual Membership	\$40 per year
Joint Membership	\$50 per year
Individual Lifetime	\$750
Joint Lifetime Membership	\$900

TRIBUTE—CCGS Member Nina Williams
By Bea Ritter

I would like to give a tribute to long time member Nina Lois Williams. She joined in 1992, over 30 years ago. She was a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at SW WA Medical Center. She actively pursued genealogy research, along with traveling, handicrafts, basketball games, and reading. She had been a resident of Vancouver since 1970, and died at her home on June 15, 2023. She was born in Kentucky where her ashes were interred. (*Columbian, June 28, 2023*)

Webtember
Legacy Family Tree Webinars.

Take your genealogy skills to the next level with this online genealogy conference, held each Friday in September: 25 live webinars in all. Join live for all five Fridays or just one, and if you can't, we've got you covered! Go to the link below for webinar titles, descriptions and registration.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/?category=webtember>

Become a Legacy Family Tree Member

CCGS has entered into an agreement with Legacy Family Tree to get a 50% discount for a Legacy membership for CCGS Members. This allows you to watch ALL Legacy and My Heritage webinars, including the Elizabeth Shown Mills webinars as well as older webinars for free.

Call CCGS during open hours and after verifying your current membership, the librarian will give you the special code to use get your 50% discount. Or you can request by email and the code will be sent to you.

GALLERY OF GRANDMAS

My Grandmother: Karolina Hickie Duczek, by Grandson William Duchie

Karolina Hickie was born, in Chernovitz, Bukovina, in 1868. She married Florian Duczek in 1880 in Chernovitz. She bore a total of twelve children, eight which grew to maturity and four died shortly after birth. Fearing their male children would be conscripted to serve in the many conflicts which characterized the time and a desire to become land owners, they chose to immigrate to Canada in 1904. Florian immigrated one year earlier with two older children, Henry and Theresa, and other extended family members. Karolina followed approximately one year later, with the eldest daughter, Anna and three younger children: Frank, John and Joseph, ranging in age from 11 to 2 years.

She traveled by train into Germany, then by ship ultimately to England. There was prearranged travel to Winnipeg, Canada, for herself, and the children, where they were to be met by Florian. Because there was great incentive for the shipping companies to have as many people on their ships as possible, unknown to Karolina, she was put on a ship, the Graf Waldersee, to America as opposed to Canada. It was not until they were at sea for several days that she discovered the error. She spent a great deal of the passage below deck in her bed as she was extremely seasick. Anna, with the assistance of a sailor crew member, took the children on deck daily for fresh air and about the ship to satisfy youthful curiosity. Although a deeply religious woman, Karolina stole the table flatware after each meal, in response to being put on the wrong ship.

One day, while on deck, an immigrant physician noted that my father, Joseph, was tongue-tied and unable to speak. He told the older sister, that if he were to arrive in the US in that condition, he would be denied entry and returned to Europe. He said with a small knife he could free his tongue and there would not be a problem at entry. The situation was explained to Karolina and permission given. The incision bled profusely initially and slowed over several days. Within a few days he began using his new voice.

Karolina did not speak English and was unable to read and write in her native German. At some point during the trip, a Russian woman became aware of her situation. Upon arrival in the US, she assisted in helping the family through the immigration process. Because there was no money to continue the trip to Canada it was necessary to request money from Florian. The Russian woman drafted a telegram and paid for sending it. It was necessary for Florian to borrow \$25 from a local shop keeper, so the trip could proceed. The fact that members of the extended family would not help with the raising of funds, created animosities that lasted for generations.

During the confusing time while the situation was being sorted out. Karolina was quite distraught and spent considerable time wondering what was to become of them. Exiting the grand hall, there was a large stairway that delivered the immigrants to their next step in the Ellis Island process. The stairway was/is divided by railing into three distinct sections. The right section directed the people who were to return to Europe, the left section allowed those being admitted to the US to continue the process and the center section was for individuals awaiting final decisions by immigration. Family lore has Karoline and children sitting in the center section during the considerable time taken to get the money for further transportation.

There were sleeping quarters and a dining area available for sustenance. When the money arrived, they were put on a train bound for Canada.

The family was reunited in Winnipeg. Florian was employed as a carpenter to support the family. On two different occasions, he prevailed in discussions to make an effort at gaining land, Bird's Hill near Winnipeg and later in Gimili near Lake Winnipeg and becoming a farming family. It was a very difficult period in their lives, because he had little experience as a farmer and was not able to purchase land that was suitable for successful farming. In each situation, Karolina ultimately prevailed in getting Florian to give up the farm and move back to the city of Winnipeg, where she would be able to ensure the children were given proper education and they could attend church regularly. It was in Winnipeg that Karolina had the remaining two children, Eva and Katie.

In 1918, they moved the family to join the oldest son, Henry, in Saskatchewan to try farming one more time. This was also a significant failure, as there was a glut of wheat on the market. They and the four youngest children, followed the second oldest son, Frank, to Vancouver, Washington, in 1922. Upon arrival in the US, the family built a three-bedroom home. The other children all remained in Canada and raised their families. The clash of cultures created a significant problem between parents and the youngest daughter Katie. One day she left home and was lost to the family in spite of all efforts to find her.

Karolina spoke very little English. However, after her children had married, she was able to continue to communicate with smiles, broken German/English. All the family remained extremely close and as children, I remember, visiting and having coffee with the adults, which was predominantly sugar and cream and playing in her feather comforter. On another occasion she was caring for my siblings and myself to allow our parents to go out for the evening. Prior to leaving, my mother went to the bedroom to see what all the noise was about. When she opened the door, grandma and we three children were engaged in a pillow fight. One or more pillows had broken open and there were feathers fluttering about the room.

Florian died in April 1941 and Karolina passed in September 1946. Both are interred at St. James Catholic Cemetery in Vancouver, WA. *(Bukovina is currently in Ukraine)*



GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

September 15-17, 2023

The St. Helens Public Library is pleased to announce registration has opened for the Columbia County Genealogy Conference, Rivers of Wonder, and would be pleased to see your members at our conference.

General information and registration: <https://www.sthelensoregon.gov/library/webform/columbia-county-genealogy-conference-rivers-wonder-welcome-and-registration>

Schedule: <https://www.sthelensoregon.gov/library/page/rivers-wonder-daily-schedules>

Session descriptions: <https://www.sthelensoregon.gov/library/page/rivers-wonder-session-descriptions>

Speaker information: <https://www.sthelensoregon.gov/library/page/rivers-wonder-speakers>

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

President: Eric Jordahl
Vice President: Paula Schoenlein
Secretary: Richard Engstrom

Treasurer: Lowell Kenedy
Asst. Treasurer: Maria Adler
Past President: Brian Runyan

<http://www.ccg-wa.org>
Library: 3052 NE 52nd St.
360-750-5688

CCGS Meetings and Programs

September 4 Legacy Users group 10 a.m. (meeting virtually)
Book Club Group, 12 noon (meeting virtually)
September 7 First Thursday Unfocused group, meeting virtually, 1 p.m.
September 9 Family Foto Stories Interest Group, 11 a.m. in person
September 11 Board Meeting, meeting virtually 10 a.m.
September 12 Scandinavian Group, in person meeting at CCGS, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
September 18 Preparing for a Research Trip Focus Group, 10 a.m.
Family Tree Makers' Focus Group, 12 noon at the CCGS Library
September 23 Craft Clan focus group, 11 a.m. in person at CCGS
September 26 General Meeting, and Volunteer Appreciation, 7 p.m. (in person and virtual Meeting)

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.