

THE HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

LINN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Albany, Linn County, Oregon
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Society's Home Page <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orlinngs/>

Society's Phone Number: 541-791-1618



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 06

JUNE 2004

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Century-old autograph book returns to Albany

By Cathy Ingalls
staff writer, Albany Democrat Herald, March 21, 2004
Provided by LGS member Linda Ellsworth

ALBANY - Leslie Pike traveled from California to Albany on Saturday to meet the descendants of Jennie Thompson, a woman Pike knew only from a century-old autograph book she bought at a thrift store 20 years ago.

The "beautiful penmanship and the touching notes inside" drew Pike to buy the book - for one dollar.

Riffling through the pages at home, she reasoned that the book had belonged to a young woman from Albany.

Inside were autographs and verses mostly in black ink on cream-colored paper and written from 1881 to '88 by Jennie's relatives and friends.

Pike, who lives in Laguna Niguel, contacted the Democrat-Herald in January asking for help in locating Thompson's relatives. She had had the book long enough and wanted to find family members who might enjoy it.



Andy Cripe/Staff Photographer
Elizabeth Lundberg, left, gives Leslie Pike her first look at a photograph of Jennie Thompson, whose century-old autograph book Pike found at a thrift store 20 years ago in California.

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MEETING: 1 P.M.
JUNE 5, 2004.

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY.
WAVERLY BRANCH

PROGRAM: **"Identifying & Dating Your
Family Photographs"**

HOST: **Eleanor Jurash**

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A story about Pike's quest ran Feb. 3. Another story Feb. 17 included historical information about Jennie Thompson and her family.

After the second story appeared, Jennifer Rouse, a reporter with the Democrat-Herald, realized she knew the family that Pike was trying to locate.

Once connections were made and relatives found, Pike arranged to fly to Oregon with her husband, Don, to find out more about Jennie and meet her family.

Jennie had no children, but four of her nieces gathered at the Albany Regional Museum Saturday afternoon to greet the woman who cared enough to return the book to the family and who was willing to fly hundreds of miles to do so.

"I couldn't believe Leslie would go to that great a length to run something down," said Nancy Johnson, 78, of Florence, while awaiting Pike's arrival. "I'm surprised the book even existed."

"This is just the most amazing thing," said another niece, Alaire Fagerstrom, 82, of Sisters.

Johnson and Fagerstrom joined their sisters, Elizabeth Lundberg, 75, of Albany, and Sallie Peterson, 73, of Florence, around a museum table. They pored over family photographs and newspaper accounts of the Thompson family.

Of special interest were photographs of a three-story octagonal house that Jennie lived in as a child. The house is no longer standing. It burned down on a Fourth of July.

Also at the table were genealogical researchers Linda Ellsworth and Sharon Leader, who traced Jennie Thompson's life for the Democrat-Herald.

Albany city councilor Doug Killin also was on hand. He had tried to help find Thompson's descendants.

Leader said of her upcoming meeting with Pike, "I'm so excited about this. I left a workshop to come over here. I was drawn to find out about Jennie, and I was so looking forward to meeting Leslie and these ladies (nieces)."

Shortly after 2 p.m., Pike and her husband arrived at the museum.

"Hi everybody," Pike said, entering the research room where everyone was waiting.

"This book sat on my shelf for 20 years," she announced, "and I've just been waiting to return it to its home."

Right off, Pike was shown a newspaper photograph of Jennie. It was her first look at the woman who led her to Albany.

"I almost feel like I know her. I pictured her a thousand different ways - as a child, a young woman and a woman. She's so lovely," Pike said.

Then the autograph book made its way around the table.

"This is just incredible," Fagerstrom said. "It's in unbelievably good shape. It's a treasure."

Of all the signatures in the book, however, the nieces recognized only that of Jennie's sister, Meda.

Before Saturday's meeting, the nieces all had agreed to donate the autograph book to the Albany Regional Museum.

"We were very touched that Leslie would go to this much trouble to get the book back to us," Peterson said. "Then we wondered who should have the book. We decided to give it to the museum so many other people could enjoy it."

The nieces will still have something of Jennie after they relinquish the book, Ellsworth said. Each niece would get Xerox copies of all of the pages in the book.

Pike and her husband spent the rest of Saturday in Albany, visiting with Jennie's nieces and touring the city looking at places that would have been familiar to Jennie.

Jennie's story

Jennie Thompson was born in Tennessee. The 1889 Census had her, at age 14, living in her grandparents' house in Albany and going to school. Her father, Rufus, was a carpenter and farmer who had fought in the Civil War. He, his wife, Nancy, and their family came to Oregon by covered wagon in the spring of 1867. In Albany he became postmaster.

Jennie was an artist. In 1910, when she was 44, she married Robert Flint. She had no children and died in San Diego on Feb. 6, 1942.

After Jennie's mother died in 1875 - she is buried in Lebanon's Masonic Cemetery - Rufus remarried and had several more sons and daughters.

The following are a few transcripts from Jennie's autograph book written in 1881-88

[This autograph book transcribed by Linda A. Ellsworth, Albany, Oregon on March 15, 2004.]

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Jennie,
"The threads our hands in blindness spin
No self determined plan weaves in;
The shuttle of the unseen powers
Works out a pattern not as our."
Your Friend
Weltha M. Sox
Albany, Mar 10, 1881

To Jennie
When this you see, please
Remember one who always
Will remember thee.
Albany Your friend
Clarrie E. Roberts
June 24, 1881

Why locks so fair and eyes so bright,
unless to fill some home with light,
Sure windows set in heaven's own blue
Were meant to let some glory through.
E. C. Anderson
Oct. 24, 1883

Jennie
Accept my best wishes for your success.
Your friend
Frank Stanard
Brownsville
Aug. 16th '85

To Jennie,
Ever Remember me as
Your sincere Friend
Nellie Carter
Wells Station
Mar. 10, 1884

To Jennie,
If a good face is a letter of recommendation,
a good heart is a letter of credit.
Very Respectfully Your Friend, H. E. Carter
Wells Station, Mar. 10, 1884

Compliments of A. J. Hodges
Wells April 8, 1884

From **Art's This & That Files**

LGS Member & Heritage Publisher Art Langley

Scanning Slides and Negatives, Part 2

– Beau Sharbrough

After our last article on scanning slides and negatives, some readers had questions. It's a fascinating topic, and of great potential value to the genealogist, so let's look at some of those questions and try to answer them.

Glass Covered Slides Question: I have several family photo color slides that were taken in the early 1950s. Each slide is covered with a piece of glass on both sides. The slide is sandwiched between the pieces of glass, and the glass is encased in a holder made of a dull finished metal. I use a good quality flatbed scanner and an attachment for scanning slides. However, the glass prevents the image from scanning on these slides. I was able to scan one slide by placing the metal-encased slide in a towel and tapping the glass with a hammer. The glass split into tiny fragments; I removed the slivers from the slide and pulled the slide through the metal frame. The slide scanned well, showing only a tiny scratch from the glass. I used Photoshop to remove the scratch. There must be a better way! Any advice? Thanks

Answer: It sounds to me like you have a glass

slide, sandwiched with another piece of glass in a metal case. I would be surprised if the metal case couldn't be disassembled, and the glass carefully separated. The slide will have two sides—a glass side and an "emulsion" side. Then you could scan the slides using your attachment for scanning slides. Scan them with the emulsion side down, so the glass won't reflect the light. Please don't break any more glass!

Glass Negatives Question: I have over fifty glass negatives, sized 5x7 to 8x10, from circa 1850-1900. I would like to successfully scan them on my HP psc750 (printer-scanner-copier). Is this possible?

Answer: I would be surprised if you can scan a negative that big with a multifunction printer/scanner. For one thing, you will want to have a film-scanning adapter so that you can shine light through the work, instead of reflecting it. For another, most film scanners top out at 4x5 inches. There is hope. Look for a scanner that comes with an optional "transparency adapter." This gizmo has a light and magnets in it and will slide

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above the negative so that the light shines into the moving scanner.

Oversized Negatives Question: I have a whole box of large negatives that I would like to scan. Any recommendations on a scanner I can purchase to do this? I have not been able to find a lot of information on scanners that can do this. It would make a good article. (Hint, hint.)

Answer: I'm still really impressed with the Microtek I300, recommended by a reader. It's capable of handling negatives up to 4x5 inches, has Digital ICE, and can be found on Amazon.com for about \$150 plus shipping. It also comes with an optional transparency adapter for another \$75, but that's harder to find.

Enlarging Negatives Question: Could you possibly advise as to how you can enlarge negatives that you have scanned to your computer, as the scanned image is the same size as the actual negative—very small. Your article of today was great and most helpful to those of us on a small budget, so your reply to my query would be most welcome.

Answer: I scan them at high resolution. This is purely a numbers game. My scanner, an Epson 1660, can scan an image at up to 1600 pixels per inch. First I scan a slide or negative at 300 pixels per inch. Then I scan it at 1600 pixels per inch. When I compare the two images, one is 5 times as big as the other. I put some examples on the RootsWorks site to show how much larger the image can be, and how sharp the pictures are even at that size.

DPI for Grandfathers Question: Thanks for your articles on the subject. The information is not so intense as to discourage grandfathers who are compiling their family histories, nor are they millions of pages long. Just enough to digest, get back to doing a family history and trying your hints as we go along. However, I do have a question concerning dpi, pixels, and something that turns out like a monster picture.

Is there a simple, graphic-like example that can be shown—described to a grandfather so he can use it as a guide when selecting the correct pixel setting in his scanner's software? I send this question as a person who

continues to grapple with the "bigger is better" rules that have been driven home throughout his life.

I love using those high numbers and being able to really climb into the photos, but my server times out trying to send the "monsters." Is there a guide for perhaps the size print or negative that one starts with, and the size that we'd like to print and display?

Answer: Well, let's think about this. The general formula is to take [the printed size] times [the printed resolution], and divide that by [the original object's size]. Keep everything in inches.

Let's assume that you are going to print the pictures at 300 dots per inch. That means that if you want to print something the size of a 4x6 photo, you would need to have 4 * 300, or 1200 dots high and 6 * 300, or 1800 dots wide.

If you're scanning a slide that is 0.9 x 1.3 inches to start with, your pixel setting would have to be 1200/0.8 or 1333 pixels per inch. Since most scanners don't have that exact pixel setting, you would probably have to go to 1600.

More Information For links and more information about scanning, please see www.rootsworks.com/scanning. If you want to discuss your scanning challenges, please drop by www.rootsworks.com/forums. Registration is free, and I'd be interested to know what kinds of issues you are facing.

Beau Sharbrough is a product manager at Ancestry.com. His articles contain his own views and opinions and do not reflect any corporate policy or statement by the company. The RootsWorks series of articles focuses on genealogical applications for generic technologies. Beau would like to hear from you. Whether you have something to add or something to ask, go to www.rootsworks.com/forums to discuss this or any topic related to the use of technology in family history. Tell us about your experiences. Please note that he cannot assist you with your individual computer problems. Visit www.rootsworks.com for links to previous articles and Beau's lecture schedule.

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Laptop Travel for the Road Warrior

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS

I've owned a laptop for about three years now. As soon as I purchased it, I began taking it with me on the road because it's designed to be used that way. In fact, much of Clooz was programmed on my laptop during my commute to the Pentagon and back (when I

was still on active duty). Now when I travel, my laptop is never far from my side, and I use it routinely for research at libraries and archives both near and far.

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At nearly every repository I visit, people approach me to comment on my use of the laptop. Most of the time, they say they have either never thought of bringing their laptops with them to research or they are afraid to bring them for fear that they'll lose their research. (I've even been asked what program I use to keep track of my census records! Naturally, I replied that Clooz was a great program for documenting censuses and other research finds). But I always encourage people to bring their laptops when researching for a number of reasons:

You can have instant access to your ancestors in your genealogy database.

You can have instant access to your research calendar (if you keep one electronically).

With Clooz, you can have instant access to the information in all of the documents you've collected on your ancestors (if you've entered the data).

You can take notes electronically instead of by hand, avoiding writer's cramp and the problem of reading your handwriting later.

If you use an electronic calendar, you can keep your schedule on your laptop.

After a trip to Salt Lake City earlier this year, I asked several friends and professional genealogists for tips on using a laptop in the Family History Library. Those of you who are going to the FGS Conference (details at the FGS Web site) next month might want to take note of some of these suggestions in preparation for your trip.

In SLC, I noticed that a number of people did not realize that most laptops come with a place to attach a lock (they had rigged their own attachments). The FHL booklet advising researchers on how to prepare for a research trip at the Family History Library advises researchers to lock up laptops (that's why I bought a lock.) I lock my computer and leave it for hours at a time when I'm at lunch, dinner, or working on a different floor. I was told, though, that in the past, someone had come through the library with a large wire cutter, snipped the wire locks, and stole laptops. In the future, I'll put the machine in a locker when I'm away for a time. And I won't work in a "remote" corner where it would be easy to take a computer. (Submitted by Claire Bettag, CGRS)

Before leaving for SLC, I make to-do lists on my laptop. I categorize and prioritize these so that I have the more difficult problems to work on in the morning, when I am alert; I have alternate, easier problems or index checking for later in the day or evening, when I am tired. I print these lists so that I have a copy with me at times when I am not near my computer. These lists include the items I have located in the FHL Catalog on www.familysearch.com. I also use FamilySearch online

when I am working at night in my hotel room in SLC and as I update the to-do list for the next day. (Submitted by Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS)

I use a table in my laptop's word processor to list entries in the indexes [from FamilySearch] to the records. Then, as I view the actual records, I add the results from that record next to the appropriate index entry. It's easy to document both the negative and positive research results. I also note which index or record pages I have photocopied. (Submitted by James W. Warren)

The FHL is wonderful, as it is set up for the use of a laptop. It has enough electrical outlets to accommodate plugging in a laptop. There are enough microfilm readers to allow researchers to leave laptops connected as long as they wish to research. I do mostly client work on my yearly trip to SLC. I keep a file for each client on my laptop with time spent researching for that client, a research log, and notes as to what I found. The notes consist of indexes. I also keep abstracts of records that I don't feel are necessary to photocopy. I try to keep the citation to the records in the file with a notation that I photocopied the record. A note about the condition of the record (e.g., dim, hard to read, missing pages) would go in this file also. (Submitted by Darlene L. Hunter, CGRS)

One item that has been very helpful on the last few trips is a laptop printer. We leave it in the room and can produce new or updated lists to assist us while in the library. (Anonymous submission)

As you can tell by the ideas presented here, laptops are useful at whatever facility you go to. So in conclusion, here are a few more bits of advice: Some facilities are more equipped for laptops than others, so look for outlets first when you arrive at a new repository. There's no sense in getting comfortable only to discover that no outlet is available! Also, carry a short, grounded extension cord with several outlets so you can use an outlet that's already full. This will help ensure that you'll be able to use your laptop once you've brought it to the library.

Next week, I'll explore some of the accessories that can help laptop users maximize their equipment's functions.

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS, is the managing editor of Genealogical Computing, editor of the Board for Certification of Genealogists' newsletter OnBoard, the creator of Clooz—the electronic filing cabinet for genealogical records, and a frequent contributor to Ancestry Magazine. She can be reached via e-mail at liz@ancestordetective.com or at gceditor@ancestry.com.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH

by LGS member Evedene Bennett

Like the Scotch-Irish, the term Pennsylvania Dutch is a misnomer. Although they settled in Pennsylvania there were few actual Dutch among them. (The Dutch settled Manhattan Island somewhat earlier, as you know.) They were actually mostly Swiss & German - from those areas we now think of as Germany and the German speaking part of Switzerland. But their language sounded "Dutchy" - is rather closely related, the word for Germany is Deutschland, they took ship at Rotterdam - & thus the label - Penn Dutch.

In 1681 William Penn received his grant of land which he named Pennsylvania, from King Charles II of England for debts owed his father Admiral Sir William Penn. He promptly came to view it & besides settling his own English Quakers, he sent emissaries to Germany for settlers to make this a refuge for those persecuted for their religious beliefs. His mother was Dutch & the first ship of Germans arriving in Philadelphia in 1684 had the German Francis Daniel Pastorius as leader of a flock of Mennonites (Wayland F. Dunaway says they were Dutch Quakers who had migrated to Krafeld & Krisheim in Germany). Thus began Germantown on the edge of Philadelphia - soon to be inundated with actual Germans- (Penn-Dutch..)

Penn's salesmen seem to have mostly worked the Rhine area, and soon ships came from along the Rhine laden with Germans in search of religious liberty for their own, & varying, interpretation of the Bible; - Mennonites, Amish, Moravians, Pietists, German Baptist Brethren (Dunkers), & Schwenkfelders. Writing home how great also were Penn's terms for buying land & such good land - & many of these letters being printed & widely seen, brought thousands more immigrants. Tired of a century of war, homes & lands in ruins, it was a mecca for them. By 1727 the German Lutherans began a big stream - from the Palatinate, Wurttemberg & German Switzerland to add to the Penn Dutch.

The trip down the Rhine which should have been only a few days, took four to six weeks because 26 custom houses along the river each stopped the boat & required several days stay so that the passengers had to spend money there for survival. Again at the port in Holland - usually Rotterdam - another five or six weeks, so that even *if* the passengers left home with adequate funds, they were sometimes forced to start life in their new Eden as indentured servants.

Religious welfare societies sprung up to meet the new immigrants & help alleviate their distresses. Then moving beyond the English Quaker settled counties, they went on to Berks, Northampton, Lehigh, Lebanon, Lancaster & York Counties. Those who came without their minister would go great lengths to hear a preaching,

even if not their specific faith. But without a minister, marriages & baptisms were difficult, so they rapidly pursued acquiring their own ministers.

THEN - if you have 1700s arriving ancestors with German names --YOU ARE LUCKY. The Philadelphia port records of ship passengers & their oaths of allegiance seem to be pretty complete, their church records are fairly consistent, are still in existence - and are accessible. My complaint is that the Lutheran marriage records that I have consulted in Pennsylvania don't give the parents' names -as my German ones did.. But the baptism records do. So the hard part is finding out WHICH Peter or Jacob is the one who married Christina! (Most all the children named a child for their own father and mother. So from five progenitive sons there will now be five William Ehrhart grandsons of around the same age!)

We need also to remember that all the sons may have Johan (or Hans) for a first name, whereas in later documents only the middle name may be used with the family name. My Johan Wilhelm Ehrhart becomes William Ehrhart. (He had a brother Johan Heinrich, & another named Johannes - who was the John.) Often it was the same with the girls. names. Christened Anna Barbara, in later records it will be just Barbara & her family name. All her sisters may also be christened with the first name Anna. These are usually for a grandparent, and the sponsors will usually have that name, & likely be a close relative - aunt or uncle, often, if not the actual grandparent, according to my German pfarrer. So much repetition of same names of course has its own difficulties!

This article is abstracted from:

The Pennsylvania Dutch by Fredric Klees
History of Pennsylvania by Wayland F. Dunaway
Early 18th Century Palatine Emigration by W.A. Knittle
Lutheranism in America by Abdel Wentz
Pennsylvania German Pioneers by Strassburger & Hinke

I have a bibliography of over a hundred books about them, of which we have several good ones in our own LGS Library.. Also we have some discs on the P A Dutch.

Most of the denominations have their own historical societies, there is a Pennsylvania-German Society, as well as the county historical societies where these records can be accessed. Their addresses should be in our big Genealogists Address Book in our LGS Library, as well as on the web.

A LITTLE HUMOR

Did I send this to you already?

NEW VIRUS

Just got this in from a reliable source. It seems there is a virus called the "Senile Virus" (SV) that even the most advanced programs of Norton and McAfee cannot take care of it . so be warned. The virus appears to affect those of us who were born before 1950!

Symptoms of the Senile Virus:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send e-mail back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach attachments.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished the e-mail.

Remember???????????

I don't remember if I sent this one out.....
I don't think I did...or did you send it to me??

Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm 'older' (but refuse to grow up), here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
3. I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
5. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
6. All reports are in; life is now officially unfair.
7. If all is not lost, where is it?
8. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
9. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
10. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few...
- 11 Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...

12. It's hard to make a come back when you haven't been anywhere.

13. The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.

14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.

15. When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone decide to play chess?

16. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...

17. It's not hard to meet expenses... they're everywhere.

18. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

19. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter... I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.

20. I AM UNABLE TO REMEMBER IF I HAVE MAILED THIS TO YOU OR NOT!

21 Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...

Now, I think you're supposed to send this to 5 or 6, maybe 8, maybe 10, oh, heck, just send it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are. Then something is supposed to happen... I think. Maybe you get your memory back or something! I think...

Garage Sale Results

The LGS garage sale on May 7, 8, 9 was a success netting \$500.00 including \$3.00 in raffle tickets. The proceeds will be used to purchase materials, both print and non-print, for the Society's library at the Linn Co. Courthouse.

Many people helped by donating items for sale, setting up and taking down, arranging items, helping customers and taking money.

They included Betty Thorn, Susan Messersmith, Beth Sayles, Alphadine Freitag, Eleanor Jurash, Gina Darby, Byron Bray, Egil Johnson, Jim Blum, Jeannine Cook, Maurice and Colleen Cook, Art Langley and Carol Langley.

Thanks, Linda"

Our Next Garage Sale

Will be at Byron's house, June 11, 12, &13.

We need volunteers to help set up, sell and take down.

Contact Linda or Betty Thorn.

THE HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Linn Genealogical Society
P O Box 1222
Albany, OR 97321-0537

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ISSN 0809-4824



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The Heritage Newsletter,
ISSN #0809-4824
is published monthly by:

Linn Genealogical Society
P O Box 1222
Albany, OR 97321-0537

Membership runs for one year from date of application. Membership includes a one year subscription to *The Heritage Newsletter* [12 issues]. Membership fee is \$15.00 per year [each additional family member, at the same address, is charged \$5.00 for membership].

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