

BENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Oregon

Purpose

- ❖ To assist each other in genealogical research through association, inspiration, and mutual exchange and interaction.
- ❖ To encourage and provide for genealogical education.
- ❖ To cooperate with the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and the Benton County Historical Society in matters pertaining to genealogical research.
- ❖ To advocate for accurate research and careful documentation.
- ❖ To encourage the study of family history through mutual support and the exchange of information.
- ❖ To accumulate resource materials for the Society library.
- ❖ To assist in the preservation and publication of local history.

Contact Us

Names, email and phone numbers have been removed for security reasons.

BCGS

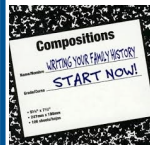
P.O. Box 1646
Philomath, OR 97370
www.bcgs-oregon.org

Program News

April: Wendy McKenna told a very moving story of her experience researching in Ukraine. Not only did she show slides of how she organized herself for the trip, but she also had slides of people and places that provide a context for her own story.



May: Writing Family History



Norma Jean Kearsley has extensive experience in writing family histories, as well as teaching writing classes of histories. Norma Jean will lead us in an interactive workshop to help us plan, compile, and execute our own personal and family history.

From the Desk of the President

As I write this, the rain is intermittently hammering on this good green earth, sending rivulets of water along huge rhubarb leaves, dousing boxwoods and delicate, emerging rose canopies below, all a constant reminder of what a privilege it is to live in emerald-green Oregon; may this gorgeous Spring brighten your hearts as well.



I have often thought that I must take the time to do more than poke about and think about benefitting from all the volumes on our BCGS library shelves; may I share what resulted when I did? While staffing there, I noticed a book that interested me, checked it out last week and thoroughly enjoyed it for a variety of reasons; it is now back on the shelves. The book, *Finding Family, My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA* by Richard Hill, is a quick 248 page read. It is part human interest story that kept me turning pages; a good measure of general, genealogical ferreting techniques which may be applicable to any family search, some that I never would have otherwise considered; and part application of the changing DNA service tools and available in any research. I also came away feeling that if this fellow can do genealogical research, we all can!



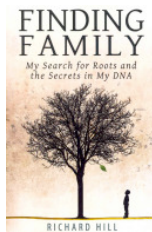
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It is a very accessible story, not a deep or scientific book but a well-written description of an adopted man's search to find his biologic roots using old-school detective work and also the evolving tools offered in DNA analysis when he hit brick walls caused by decades of time passed and unspoken family secrets. The tone of the book is positive, focused on the present day yet peppered with a view as well of the circumstances in a blue-collar family during and following World War Two.

The author came to learn of and use the emerging DNA research services, the science behind it, and the legal landscape that adopted people find in searching their "family"; he has become an advocate for changing laws permitting adopted children and biologic parents access and rights under controlled conditions to learn of their past for personal and medical reasons as well.

Perhaps the greatest single value of this book is that it led me to a great resource to learn about the current status of how DNA analysis can assist us in our own genealogy; listed in the book is the author's website, DNA-Testing-Advisor.com which seems to be quite impartial as he isn't a business involved in testing.



The purpose of this column isn't a book report like those given in middle school at the front of the class, but as a reminder that we have wonderful gems in our library if we take the time to linger there, searching among the shelves with head tilted aside, sliding the volumes out to find one that piques our interest, to enrich our research and prompt us forward. The key we need may well be there to speed our own research, provide clues where we might search next, and record for the future what we alone may feel called to record for those of our family who are not yet born. If we do not, who will?

I wonder how the Society might help you further that work in presentations, workshops, training and such, to advance your own work? Are there techniques, trainings, hands on workshops or areas of interest that you have and might spur you on? Please let me know if there are presentations which we might offer in the coming months. And do reserve time in your day to walk about in the splendor freely on display beyond our kitchens, offices and cars to enjoy the unfolding Spring.....but do keep your rain gear or umbrella handy!

-- Ron

Using DNA to Find Relations

As Ron pointed out the last few years have brought about exciting new ways to look for people who are related to us.

Some of us do so to ground ourselves in history; others do so in the hopes of finding living family. The emerging field of analyzing DNA to do either or both has caused many of us who are not



geneticists to query which test should be used. The well respected CeCe Moore, "an independent professional genetic genealogist", writes for the non-scientist [That's me!] at <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com> .

Companies she uses and recommends include:

["23andMe.com](http://23andMe.com)

<<http://www.jdoqocy.com/95104dlurt8EDEEIA98AA9CB9G9>>

For autosomal DNA testing, I usually recommend starting with 23andMe (\$99). You receive a very good ancestral breakdown and your haplogroups in addition to the cousin matching feature.

[Family Tree DNA](http://FamilyTreeDNA.com)

<http://www.familytreedna.com/cj.aspx?ftdna_ref=497>

Family Tree DNA's autosomal DNA test Family Finder (\$99) is also a good option. For Y-STR and mtDNA testing, FTDNA is the only company that I can currently recommend. I generally recommend testing, at least, 37 markers for Y-DNA and the full sequence for mtDNA*. If finances are an issue, then start with one of the lower resolution tests, like the 12 marker Y-DNA test or HVR1 mtDNA* test, and upgrade at a later time.

*Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) testing is usually not genealogically informative, so I recommend that women, instead, start with autosomal DNA testing and men test either their Y-DNA or autosomal DNA (or both).

[AncestryDNA](http://AncestryDNA.com)

<<http://www.kqzyfj.com/click-5455910-11420147>>

AncestryDNA's strength lies in its vast collection of family trees that are attached to your matches' DNA results. Their excellent system automates searching for common ancestors by comparing



your family tree with your matches' family trees and identifying the ancestors who may be responsible for the DNA match. Although I feel that the fact that they do not provide the underlying matching segment data is a serious drawback to their product, I definitely recommend "fishing in all three ponds" for meaningful matches. AncestryDNA raw data can also be uploaded into the Family Tree DNA's Family Finder (\$69)."

-- Margaret

The Virtual Wall Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Click on the link BELOW and find the city you went to high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the death .



First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam war with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

--emailed to Sandy; 29 Mar 2014

Other Genealogical News and Events The Genealogical Forum of Oregon Spring Seminar

Warren Bittner, CGSM German
Research Expert and National
Speaker



Saturday, May 17, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m./
Milwaukie Elks Lodge
13121 SE McLoughlin, Milwaukie Ore

Do you need to know more about researching German records and ancestors? Here is your chance to ask the expert! Learn about German boundary changes, the basics of Catholic and Protestant records, how to determine which information is important, how to find an impossible immigrant and much more!

Come listen and learn as Bittner, with thirty years' research experience, presents helpful ideas and resources as well as tried and true methodology you might want to re-visit.

What a rare treat to have him here in Oregon! Tell your friends; this is not to be missed! Whether an expert or a novice, you will glean something new and have fun networking with many others researching German ancestry.

Topics

- German Historical Maps and Territories: You Can't Do Research Without Them
- Introduction to German Church Books
- German Marriage Laws and Customs
- Exhausting Research to Find an Impossible Immigrant

F. Warren Bittner, CGSM, is a genealogical researcher and lecturer, with thirty years of research experience. He holds a Master of Science degree in history from Utah State University, and a Bachelors of Science degree in Business from Brigham Young University. He is the owner of Ancestors Lost and Found, a small genealogical research firm. For six years he was the German Collection Manager for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, where he coordinated contracts to microfilm and index records at 102 archives in seven countries and where he planned the German book acquisitions and internet publications.

Flyer and Registration available at <http://www.gfo.org/seminar/index.htm>

Genealogical Society of Washington County, Oregon Monthly Program

"Organizing and Preserving Your Records"
Speaker: Hannah Allan

Saturday, May 10, 10 AM - Noon
At the Hillsboro Main Library
Event Room (upstairs)
2850 NE Brookwood Parkway, Hillsboro
Cost: FREE

→

Without the right tools, genealogy research can quickly get out of hand. Come learn how to not get lost in the piles of pedigrees, censuses, pension files, and probates by learning electronic methods for organizing and preserving your records and data. With a few organizational tips and ticks, you can lay to rest that ancestor without digging through catacombs of records to find them. Do you have binders, boxes, or filing cabinets full of papers and research notes handed down from your great-grandma? Or perhaps you have spent hours looking through microfilm to only realize that you have already looked there before. Organization is the key to productive and successful family history research.

-- Communications @ohs.org; sent 22 April 2014

Darned Family Disagreements

Not long ago names were often spelled phonetically. As spelling solidified, sibilings sometimes adopted different spellings. Clytee Kleager Gold experienced this within her own family. Members of the family, all buried within two rows of each other, spelled their names three different ways. Clytee provided these pictures:



Clytee's favorite is August Kleager's, pictured to the right. Apparently, not all his survivors were willing to help pay for the grave marker. Notice the inscription at the bottom: "Bought by Henry only."



"What a lasting epitaph," wrote Clytee. "Way to go Henry, we are proud that you would pony up for a tombstone!"

"Yup, that's my family!"

Darned family disagreements!

Thank you, Clytee, for sharing.

-- Ancestry Insider; posted 11 April 2014

Notice anything new at the BCHSM Complex?

Before:



After:



-- Photos by Faye

May 2014 Historic Preservation Month

New Age of Preservation: Embark, Inspire, Engage!

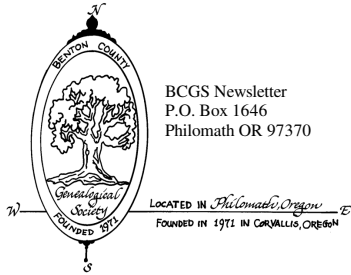
Presented by Benton County & City of Corvallis
Historic Resources Commissions & PreservationWORKS

"Preservation Month was designed to raise awareness about the power historic preservation has to protect and enhance our homes, neighborhoods and communities – the places that really matter to us. It provides an opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and towns, and enables all of us to become involved in the growing preservation movement."

More information on the specific events to be held in May will be available soon at <http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?recordid=774&page=32>.

Posted Date: 4/8/2014

Look for schedule of events in the GT.



Meetings

Board Meetings will be held prior to the general meetings. The 6 May 2014 meeting will be Tuesday, in the Philomath Community Library, 1050 Applegate, Philomath. All members are welcome.

Board: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

General Meetings are held on the second Saturday, September through June. The May meeting will be held in the Social Hall, College United Methodist Church, 1101 Main St., Philomath OR. Everyone is welcome.

Business: 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

Program : 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL