

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 Country 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

May: Writing Family History Changed to Compiling and Organizing Records

Unfortunately, Norma Jean Kearsley was unable to lead us in an interactive workshop to help us plan, compile, and execute our own personal and family history. Fortunately, our President Ron DeYoung stepped up at the last minute and, according to Linda, gave "a great presentation ... telling about [his] family and how [he is] compiling and organizing [his] genealogy records and how important the pictures and stories are to genealogy."

June: Our annual **Potluck** will be held at the annex after the business meeting. Bring a dish of your choice. Coffee, tea, punch, paper plates, plastic spoons, etc. will be available. YUM!



From the Desk of the President



It is a beautiful day today, periods of sun, towering clouds in cotton-white, light blues and some dark and pregnant with the promise of life-giving showers. On the Memorial Day weekend, our little town cemetery was full of American flags and flowers upon the graves of veterans, some who died in conflicts that date to the Civil War and of the wars and conflicts that have followed since; many more decorate the piece of ground denoting veterans who returned home, some with visible or non-visible wounds, then picked up their lives and continued to make a difference to their families, communities and country.

We all stand on the shoulders of giants: those who fought; those who lived and some who died for their fellow-in-conflict, their families at home and their nation; and those who carried on without the lost lives of family and friends; those whose service was selfless, dedicatory, consecrated and sometimes, forgotten or

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unappreciated. We have the opportunity to record the events and stories of these people who fought such wars and those who dealt with the results of continuing to raise families in the adversity of the absence of their family members; we are the ones to write and preserve those stories of the incredible, remarkable and yet ordinary family members which we all have.



The Summer is almost upon us. Some have and others will attend conferences and hopefully may share some of what they have learned at Summer's end. After our June meeting on the 14th, we will have no meetings or further

newsletters until September! As is our custom, there will be a potluck following the general meeting. Don't forget to bring something to share and an appetite as well! I have it on good authority that food shared with others has no calories.....(OK, that may not be true!)

At the May general meeting, Katie Ross spoke of and shared a survey, originally developed by Susan Hayes, to learn what members would like in our upcoming programs. We invite those who have additional comments or suggestions to bring them with you to the June 14 general meeting. The survey asks what program content, subject matter, specific speakers we may know that members would like to have present and if a member has an area of expertise that they might like to share. Let's share our thoughts to help guide presentations that enrich!



On an interesting note, the society was contacted by a representative of the company which produces "Who Do You Think You Are?" to seek permission to use one of the society's publications of cemetery records. The subject is not disclosed and broadcast isn't assured, but

we will be notified before a program is aired. More on this at the meeting! We certainly never know what our own collective or individual work will produce, do we?

I hope the newsletter finds you well, anticipating a great Summer which may provide time to travel for gatherings, family research and time with family and friends. In the faces and lives of those with whom we are related and interact are remarkable stories of perseverance, talents and achievement, often overlooked and under-appreciated. May we all find time to record them for those who follow us!

See you soon!

-- Ron

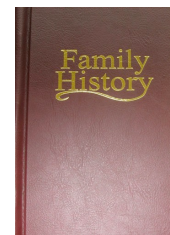
Genie Doings

I will be teaching a **beginning genealogy class** at the Senior Center that starts on the 18th of June and runs for 6 weeks. It will go from 2:30 to 3:30. Call the Senior Center to register.

-- Danell

A Possible Solution to Unsourced Family History Books

Do you have a published family history book which was authored by a relative without any documentation? If so, have you questioned the accuracy of the information and where it came from? Are there inconsistencies in the book? Is the book an excellent source of family history or is it just a good guide to start your research? Our family has such a Book published in the early 1990s. (There is no published date in the Book, however, no dates after 1992 appear in the Book.) The author is of my generation, although 32 years my senior. Given the era the information was gathered for the Book, available tools for research were much more limited than today. Much of the information in the Book for more recent generations has been corroborated by other records, but several items of the earlier period are inaccurate.



1. The Book states that Fred Illian, my great-great grandfather, was born in 1780's in Alsace Lorraine. Was Fred born in the 1780's or in 1793 as would be indicated by the age listed in the

1856 Iowa State Census? The location of his birth is suspect as all his children were born in the Principality of Waldeck, (Germany) as corroborated by numerous US Census reports where the children list their birth location. Waldeck is over 200 miles from Alsace.

2. The Book states that "The first Deed recorded of a farm transaction: Jan 2, 1836. JOHN J. HOERSCH - Deed to Friederich Illian." The General Index of Land Records for Scott County, Iowa (FHL Film 1003795) shows Grantor, Illian, Frederick and Grantee John J Hoersch; Date of instrument 2 Jan 1856 and date of filing 31 Jan 1856. A closer examination of the actual document reveals the date as 1856, although it is easy to understand why the Book's author interpreted the date as 1836 due to the hand writing.

3. Fred does not appear in the 1840 US Federal Census for Scott County, Iowa or the 1847, 1849, 1851, or 1852 State Census for Scott County, Iowa. The first state census Fred appears in is 1854 and then 1856. This adds support to him not being in the state buying land in 1836.

Additional evidence to support that Fred was not in the US prior to 1853 is from the book (In German) by THOMAS, KARL, *Die waldeckische Auswanderung zwischen 1829 and 1872*. On page 60 of the book was the listings: "07.03.53 (7 March 1853) Illian: Friedrich, aus Neudorf mit familie." Translators said this was the date Fred was "allowed" to leave Germany. Volume 5 of the book's "Germans to America" lists the family arriving from Bremen and landing in New York 1 June 1853. It also lists his wife and children by name.

4. The Book states that Fred died 31 May 1856. Probate records clearly state Fred died 31 May 1858.

5. The Book states that Fred's second son was married in Feb 1860. Official records show the wedding date as 21 Mar 1861. A Sep 1860 land purchase record lists the son as "a single man." Also, the 1860 census shows the bride living in a different county than her husband. These also supports the latter date as the actual wedding date.

6. The Book indicates that Fred and his wife Louise were married in 1830. However, it also list two daughters without giving birth dates. Other information in the Book indicates the daughters were born before 1830. The Book also indicates

the author did not know if and when Louise died or if she and Fred divorced.

After much time trying to clarify these items I hired a consulting firm that had strong German research credentials. The report from the consultant shows that Fred was born 7 May 1794 in Waldeck and his wife Louise was born 9 Nov 1804 in Waldeck. They were married 11 Feb 1821 in Neudorf (Waldeck). Along with other children born to the couple were the daughters Christiane born 7 May 1825 and Wilhelmine born 11 Oct 1828. Sadly the report notes that two children were stillborn and two died before reaching the age of three. Louise died 17 Jul 1847. All of the information was obtained by the consultant from the Kassel Lutheran Church Archive of Neudorf, Hesse Germany.

Was hiring a consultant worth the money? Considering the cost of getting to and staying in Germany and finding the correct repository and then trying to read the old German script, my answer is yes, it was worth the cost.

Published family trees are a good starting point to begin your research, but must be looked at carefully.

As a side note, searching for submitted family trees of Fred on the web shows the Book had wide spread distribution as all the above discrepancies are repeated- albeit with no references.

-- Ed Goering

Other Genealogical News and Events

Genealogy Conference to be held Aug 2, 2014

The Genealogical Council of Oregon (GCO) and Oregon Association of Professional Genealogists (OR APG) will be cohosting a Summer Genealogy Fest August 2, 2014 at Lane Community College in Eugene. More details can be found here: [Genealogy Fest Flyer](#).

-- [Willamette Valley Heritage Highlights](#), posted on January 13, 2014 by whclarc



New DNA Workshops:

Laurel Smith, GFO President
and Lisa McCullough, DNA
SIG to Lead a Series of
DNA Workshops on
Sunday's, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00
p.m. and Wednesday's,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Our membership and extended community has a keen interest in genealogical DNA! So, the GFO and the DNA Special Interest Group have joined forces to bring you even more workshops on the various topics related to finding ancestors using DNA testing.

Last week you heard about the new DNA classes to be offered by Lisa McCullough on Wednesday's from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. In addition we will also have sessions on Sunday's 1:00-4:00 p.m. lead by our President, Laurel Smith, beginning Sun., May 25.

The DNA workshops are just that -- hands-on opportunities! So, bring your laptop. If you do not have a laptop and you are one of the first two people to sign up for a session, you will be assigned one of the GFO laptops to use for the session. Also, if you do not have a computer, you are welcome to attend and look over someone's shoulder. Class size will be limited if there is a large response, so please sign up early for this session by e-mailing DNA@gfo.org and indicate whether you wish to be assigned one of the laptops.

Come learn how to download your data from the various websites, and manipulate your data within a spreadsheet in preparation for analysis. (The workshops are not intended to help you with the actual analysis of your data.) Questions to DNA@gfo.org

[Click here for a complete GFO CALENDAR of Events, Classes, Meetings, Special Interest Groups, Work Sessions and more.](#)

-- GFO email; sent 14 May 2014

Salem East Family History Center

"Genealogy Gems": Tips from Fritz Juengling, Ph.D., A.G.

Supervisor, International Floor of the Salt Lake City Family History Library
Dr. Juengling specializes in German research

LDS church building
862 45th Ave NE, Salem
Tuesday June 17th, 2014
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Relief Society room

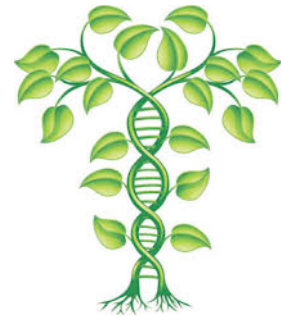
-- WVGS Newsletter; June 2014

A Conversation about Genetic Genealogy

Earlier this week, I [the Genetic Genealogist] had the opportunity to speak with Michael Leclerc at [Mocavo](#) about DNA, our genealogical beginnings, and so much more. Michael recorded our conversation, and it's now available as this week's [Mocavo Fireside Chat!](#)

If you're curious about Y-DNA, mtDNA, or autosomal DNA, or have questions about DNA in general, I think you'll enjoy this Fireside Chat. And be sure to check out the previous chats, it's a lineup full of great guests!

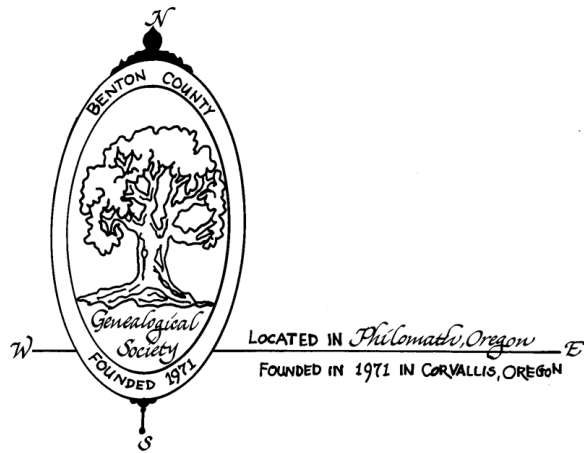
The Genetic Genealogist; posted 21 May 2014

**Ancestry.com Officially Retires Y-DNA and mtDNA Testing**

[Ancestry.com](#) announced today that they are officially retiring five of their sites and/or products as of September 5, 2014. These include [Mundia](#), [Genealogy.com](#), [MyCanvas](#), [MyFamily](#) and, of special interest to my readers, the Y-DNA and mtDNA tests (now being called [LegacyDNA](#)). The sales of these tests have been halted, effective immediately.

Go to <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/2014/06/ancestrycom-officially-retires-y-dna.html> for additional information.

The Genetic Genealogist; posted 5 Jun 2014

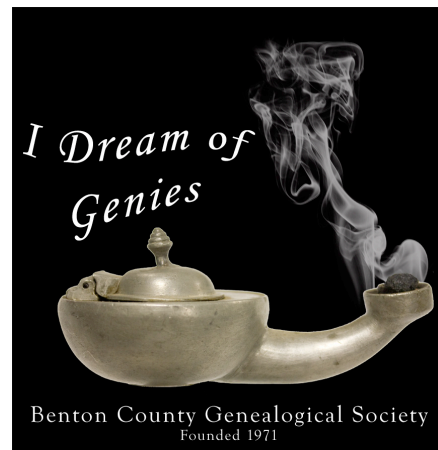


Meetings

Board Meetings will be held prior to the general meetings. The 10 June 2014 meeting will be Tuesday, in the Annex, BCHSM Campus, 1101 Main Street, 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



design by Mark