

# 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 removed for security reasons.

### BCGS

P.O. Box 1646  
Philomath, OR 97370  
[www.bcgs-oregon.org](http://www.bcgs-oregon.org)

## Program News

**November:** Author and retired journalist, **R. Gregory Nokes**, did an outstanding job of



sharing not only stories and readings from his latest book, *Breaking Chains, Slavery on*

*Trial in the Oregon Territory*, but also details of his writing process as well as how he went about verifying sources.

**UPDATE:** *Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory* has been named one of the Top Ten books in the Pacific Northwest for 2013.

**December:** Remember our December auction. Please bring items for the auction and lots of money to be sure that you take home the articles you want for yourself or to give as gifts. This is an important fund raiser for the society and a tremendous opportunity to pick up some unique gifts.

And don't forget to bring something yummy to share.



## BCGS Holiday Auction Suggestions

- ◆ Food (Homemade items)
  - breads
  - cookies
  - honey, jams, butters
  - mixes in a jar - soups, chili
  - wines
- ◆ Kitchen items
  - pastry brush
  - mugs with or without anything in them
  - salt & pepper shakers
  - hot pot holders, towels, oven mitts
  - package of expensive coffee
- ◆ Christmas/holiday
  - Christmas cookie cutters, stamps (Rycraft)
  - decorations - bells, angels, santas, butter knives
  - wall hangings
  - decorative Christmas storage containers, candy dish
  - Christmas wreaths or swags (real or artificial)
  - Clock
- ◆ Books, maps, CDs, DVDs
  - genealogy
  - Christmas stories
  - children's books
  - photo albums
- ◆ Fabric items - scarves, blankets (fleece, crochet, knitted), bags (handy carry-all), pillows
- ◆ Surprise bag (filled with several wrapped small gift items)
- ◆ Pet items - catnip decorative bags, photos, carvings, toys
- ◆ Personal service such as baby sitting, genealogy research time etc.

-- Linda

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## Still Wanted: Membership Person

Responsibilities:  
(see November 2013 newsletter for details)



## Also Wanted: Society Historian

Responsibilities:

- Inserting newsletter, obits, pictures, special events etc. into notebook
- Time commitment: very little time

Interested? Contact President Faye Abraham.

## And don't forget to VOTE!

### Library News

We have several great new additions to our library. The first book is *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* by George C. Morgan and Drew Smith. It's full of up-to-date information on climbing over those brick walls we all hit in our research. This book also contains an informative chapter on using DNA to find out more about your ancestry, and the authors explain the use of DNA in a fairly easy-to-read manner. You can learn how the science of DNA technology will help you find other members of your extended family and the probable location(s) your ancestors came from.

Another book that the society purchased is *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* by Denise May Levenick, in memory of past member Esther Elaine Allphin Forsyth. This book presents organized ways to inventory and archive not only the paper records we all have but also the photos and artifacts that represent our families. On page 48 you'll find a "Sorting Quick List: To Keep or Not to Keep" that I really liked. The author lists a number of items that can be thrown away after looking through them for pertinent information, such as checks and check registers for heirloom purchases or cost of living expenses. Sometimes we all need permission to discard items that don't really tell something about the family or the times in which they lived!

The third addition is a set of 42 books: *Linn County, Oregon Pioneers Donation Land Claims Through 1855* by John Niles and Richard R. Milligan. These books document over 1,000 families who took land claims in Linn County, a wonderful addition to our research library. They are a gift from the family of Raymond Stone.

Stop in and see the new signage on the book shelves. It's now easier to understand what you'll find on each shelf. The Christmas potluck and auction is coming up on December 14. Come enjoy your library!

--Sue

### Genie Doings

#### Report on the Conference on Family History and Genealogy, Provo, UT; Jul-Aug 2013

I attended this conference for the first time this past Summer and found it very rewarding, informative and a great dollar value, especially if you plan ahead. It is four days long and runs from 8:30 am to 5 pm; I definitely plan to attend next year as well. The class options vary from beginner to advanced and are labeled as such; I found myself wanting to attend several classes at the same time. I consider myself intermediate in skills but found some of the beginner classes held my interest as well because of techniques new to me.

The focus was on skills in research, gathering & writing histories, techniques, storage options, organizational methods, digital archives, on-line resources & tools, all without a commercial bias toward individual products.

A keynote speaker in a large amphitheater opened the conference. Three hour long classes filled the morning and two in the afternoon. Some evening classes were presented by vendors. Eight classes ran concurrently; some were held multiple times, most not.

Additional information for the 2014 Family History and Genealogy Conference (July 29 - August 1) including fees, housing, hotel accommodations, participant meals, and schedule is available at <https://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>

— Ron

### Other Genealogical News and Events

Beginning July 15, 2013, **PAF** will be retired and will no longer be available for download or support. For more information go to <https://familysearch.org/PAF>

— Linda

### Have You Used the FamilySearch Free Lookup Service?

This must be the best-kept secret in genealogy! Well, it isn't really a secret as it is documented on several web pages on [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

However, in my travels, I have never met anyone who has used this valuable service. In fact, most of the genealogists I have talked with have never heard of FamilySearch's free lookup service. This surprises me because (1.) it is a chance to easily obtain valuable genealogy information from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and (2.) because it is available free of charge.

FamilySearch provides a free lookup service for genealogy books and microfilms that are available at the renowned Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The free service does ask you to supply specific information. The folks in Salt Lake City are not prepared to answer questions of, "Please send me all the information you have about my great-grandfather (insert name here)." However, if you can specify a book and page number, or a specific image on a reel of microfilm, the personnel at the Family History Library will gladly look at that page or image and (in most cases) scan the entire page and email it to you for free.

What's not to like about this service?

You do need to do a bit of homework before using this service. At a minimum, you must provide:

1. The name of the individual as it appears in the book.
2. The book title
3. The page number(s)

Next, check the Family History Library Catalog at <https://familysearch.org/catalog-search> to see if that book is available in the Family History Library's collection. If so, make a note of the Call Number.

Once you have the required information, fill out the online **Photoduplication Request form** at [https://lds.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9tdS7lqbTCW30kR](https://lds.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9tdS7lqbTCW30kR).

Assuming you supplied enough information for the Family History Library employee to find the book, you will receive the reply and (usually) a scanned image of the page within a few days.

So how do you find the page number of a book that contains information about your ancestor? I suspect there are several ways but I would always start with Google Books at <http://books.google.com>. You can find tens of thousands of genealogy books there along with a few million other books covering a wide variety of topics. I would search for the name of the person I seek to see if anything about him or her has been published in a book.

**Comment:** As a genealogist, you really should be familiar with Google Books as it is another free and valuable service. If you are not yet familiar with Google Books, this is a good time to learn!

Keep in mind that Google Books scans **ALL** the pages of all the books it digitizes. That includes books both in and out of copyright. For books that are obviously out of copyright (normally anything prior to 1923 for U.S. publications), Google Books will display the entire page to you. For books out of copyright, you won't need to use the FamilySearch Free Lookup Service as the same image is already available to you on Google Books.

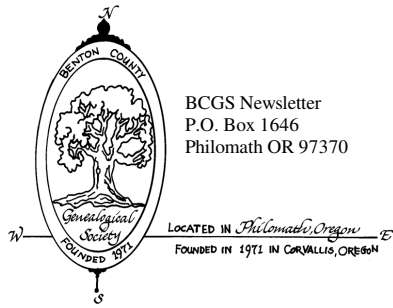
However, for books printed in the past 90 years, Google cannot legally display entire pages to you without the author and/or publisher's permission. Instead, Google displays only a snippet from that page. Typically, you only see a paragraph or two, showing the words immediately before and after the name you specified. If that snippet happens to contain all the information you need, consider yourself lucky. However, my experience has been that the snippet is only a "teaser" and does not display everything I need.

What do you do if you want to see the entire page, or several pages from the book? The answer is to use FamilySearch's free lookup service. Assuming the Family History Library does have the book and the information you supplied does point to the appropriate page, an image of the entire page will be sent to you in email. I am no lawyer but I believe U.S. copyright laws allow libraries to look up information for patrons upon request and send limited photocopies or scanned images whereas Google and other providers of information cannot legally supply similar images in large quantities to everyone.

You may never need to use the FamilySearch free lookup service. However, if you do have the need, this is a valuable service that is free. You don't need to fly to Salt Lake City to obtain what you need.

If you wish to use the FamilySearch free lookup service, I would urge you to first read Nathan W. Murphy's description on the FamilySearch Blog of how it all works at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/google-books-free-copies-pages-family-history-library-books/>. Nathan even supplies screenshots showing the step-by-step process of using Google Books to find snippets of genealogy information.

—Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter; posted by Dick Eastman on November 30, 2013



## Meetings

**Board Meetings** are held on Thursday prior to the General meetings. The December 2013 meeting will be held 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 November 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

# Happy New Year!

