

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 are removed for security reasons.

BCGS

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

Program News

March: Jerry and Sue Bowman told the story of the **Thomas Read House**. Everyone enjoyed hearing the stories about this great old house and its interesting inhabitants over the years.



April: Wendy McKenna will be giving a power point presentation on a family journey to Ukraine and her successes there.

From the Desk of the President



Hello All,
I hope that this newsletter finds you well and enjoying another beautiful Oregon spring; I spent the last two days pruning fruit trees, roses and other perennials, tending flowerbeds and making repairs to recover from the annual effects of winter. After a long dark winter, the beauty of an Oregon spring is really extraordinary.

Those of us who research our family history and genealogy are blessed in a number of ways: we know who we are, where we came from, what we are made of and by inference, what we are capable of. We also don't have to wait until Christmas or a birthday to receive treasured "presents"; we seek them out and receive them from books, letters from distant relatives, emails and such in the form of photographs, vital records and wonderful stories! In the past two days I've received a number of photographs from a cousin, accompanied by stories of a branch of the family for whom I had little information and almost no pictures; what an incredible gift!

Another form of gift that we may receive is a perspective gained from talking with others or benefiting from the wisdom and knowledge of sources such as Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter; if you haven't used this resource, you may well find it an incredible gift in the work that you do. The following perspective and practice comes from one of the Eastman Newsletters.

Great, great grandma's house is a highway overpass.....



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I suspect that we all have had challenges finding residences, cemeteries, headstones and other places of interest that figured in our family histories which were difficult if not near impossible to find. Street names change, farms become housing developments, family homes and neighborhoods are eliminated for highways or airport runways; these and other changes will continue. Some of us have hunted diligently in order to find these remnants of our family story; if we record the GPS coordinates of these hard-won locations, it will make finding these locations again much simpler years later as development and road names will make current landmarks unrecognizable.

But I don't own a GPS device.....maybe you already do, and you don't need one!

There are so many devices that provide GPS coordinates today that make this rather simple, most smart phones have these built into them or "apps" can be downloaded to provide GPS coordinates. If you don't own this kind of technology you don't need to purchase it; detailed maps exist that show GPS coordinates, and if you have a computer connected to the internet, Google maps will provide this for free as well. In Google maps, find the location you seek, click on "satellite view", move the cursor to the location (house, geographic point of interest, etc.), right-click with the mouse (or click "What's this?") and the GPS coordinates appear; I just did this for a specific gravestone at a very rural cemetery! I received the insight for this practice from one of these newsletters received last month, the article may be found here: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2014/02/recording-longitudes-and-latitudes.html

We seek out our family stories and have been thrilled to walk where our forebears walked, sometimes to knock on the weathered door and walk about their former homes or have found an ancient headstone in an almost abandoned, rural pioneer cemetery; you remember the feeling, as though these people were close by you when you stood silent in these places, drinking it in. Your fifth great grandchildren will be blessed to have that ability to do the same when the names of the towns, streets and the course of rivers have changed as well; they will also feel close to you, who cared enough to have recorded their story which may have lain unnoticed for generations before passing into their grateful hands.

Numerous genealogy software programs already have a specific tab or location to record GPS coordinates; these also can be placed in notes if your software program does not contain the GPS recording feature. We work so hard to find our

past and our families' stories, recording GPS coordinates will make possible or simplify finding these places in the generations to come. Even if the GPS system changes or is eliminated, there will be the ability to "translate" GPS into whatever system might replace it.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail, phone or at meetings if you have questions!

Hope to see you soon!

—Ron DeYoung

Library News

Some of us are in the process of going through the newsletters that we have in the library. We're beginning to index the ones that we're going to keep so they will be more useful to you. We're also searching online to see if any have been scanned for online reading or if there is an index that would be helpful. For the most part, I've had to do the indexing myself, but, in doing so, I've seen that there's lots of information that can be used as a starting point for research. I've also been surprised, at least for the ones I've been working on, that we have nearly complete copies of some societies' newsletters.



When we're finished with this project, we'll have an addition to our inventory that you can use to quickly see what the contents are for each set of newsletters and journals. You'll still have to do your own research within the sets, but at least you'll know which issues might be helpful.

By the way, if you could help with this project, let me know. It's something you can do at home if you have a computer. May 2 will be our inventory day for this year. I'll have a sign-up sheet available at the April 12 meeting.

— Sue

Sometimes You Live Right

In November we received an unsolicited email announcing a genealogy event, Ancestry Seekers, in Salt Lake City the second week of February. We had not heard of this group and were not sure about signing up. We also recognized that we would be driving through SLC the previous Saturday returning from a ski week in Colorado. To make a long story short, we signed up with some concern. Registration included six nights at the Plaza Hotel, which is very close to the Family History Library. Monday evening we checked in with the group and were provided an outline for the week's activities and met the experts that would be

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assisting us during the week. There were no classes to attend, just individual consultation with the experts. We were directed ahead of time to come with a specific list of research goals for the week. My list included two items that were US based and the remaining items were Germany based. On Tuesday my wife and I (newcomers to the group) were assigned to work in the US area on second floor, and we were told we could switch to Germany on Wednesday if we wanted. Tuesday did not produce great results, and I decided to spend time working on the International floor on my German goals. The German expert was fantastic. Providing her with a community name and my best guess as to my ancestor's religion she suggested a microfilm to review. I spent a couple of hours looking at the film resulting with a "maybe". I took the film to her desk and in no time she assured me I had found my great grandfather. She quickly interpreted the document for me. The birth date was consistent with information I had from family documents. In addition, it included his father's name, mother's name and witness's name. This was the first time I or anyone else in the family had a first and family name for his mother. Using the interpretation from the expert I again went back through the microfilm and found four siblings of my great grandfather. One of the siblings died at the age of three and in keeping with a common practice the next girl was given same name. All of this was new information.

And now for the good news.

I had some sketchy information about my great grandmother (another line) and where she came from in Germany. Showing that to the expert, she jumped up from her chair and at break neck speed headed to the stacks to get a book. Those marvelous Germans had gone through all the church records for my great grandmother's community and prepared a book with all the families providing marriage dates, death dates, spouse's name, spouse's parent, and children plus additional information. I spent a full day copying pertinent pages and preparing an ancestor chart that goes back eight generations from my great grandmother. Based upon previously located information and details in the German book, which correlated exactly, there is no question that I had the correct information about my great grandmother's ancestors.

Without the help of the group's experts, I don't know if or when I would have found all the information I obtained in just a week.

--Ed Goering

[Information on Ancestry Seekers is available at <http://www.ancestorseekers.com>]

Other Genealogical News and Events Low-Cost Ways to Preserve Family Archives

Most of us are creators and collectors of something we value or enjoy, such as family papers, photographs, cookbooks or postcards. They are a big part of who we are and what we do. We think about passing these collections on to our families, even our communities.

What can we do to protect our collectables from damage even if we don't think we have a perfect place to keep them? Learn about possible risks from handling and the environment, and practical, inexpensive ideas to keep collections safe to help ensure what you have can be shared for many years to come.

Details are:

- April 29 @ 11:00 - 1200 @ Philomath Library meeting room
- May be viewed at home if the PC/Mac has the right specs.
- No need to register unless yo want to watch from home
- capacity of the room is 50, chairs for about 40-ish
- is Free
- a poster will be put up @ the library for others, too
- just need to show up, early in the event as it is popular & you like to sit!

#NGS2014GEN National Genealogical Society Streaming Conference

Interest in this year's National Genealogical Society (NGS) conference has been high. Hotel after hotel has sold out. The conference will be held 7-10 May 2014 in Richmond, Virginia.

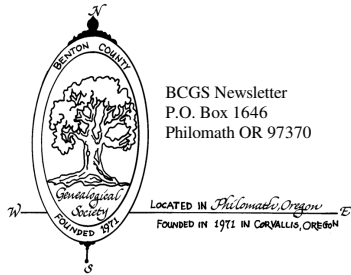


Now, those who can't attend in person can have access to five or ten of the 175 sessions.

This is the first time that NGS has offered some sessions remotely. Sessions can be viewed live and for three months thereafter. NGS has selected some of the most popular topics and nationally known speakers. Sessions have been organized into two tracks. Registrants for live streaming can select one or both tracks. A single track of five sessions is \$65 for society members and \$80 for non-members. Both tracks, all ten classes, are available for \$115 for members and \$145 for others.

For more information about watching sessions remotely, and to register, visit <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/attend/live-streaming-at-ngs2014gen/>

--Ancestry Insider; posted 19 March 2014



BCGS Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646
Philomath OR 97370

Meetings

Board Meetings will be held prior to the general meetings. The April 2014 meeting will be Tuesday, 8 April 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 April 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

