

# 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

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## Program News

**December:** As you can see, our December auction was enjoyed by all. We also made a nice chunk of change. The potluck after was a hit as well.

Thank you to Garvin Crabtree for his donation of multiple boxes of archival sheet protectors that weren't quickly. His generosity is very much appreciated for our major fund raiser of the year.



**January:** "surprise, surprise, surprise"

— Gomer Pyle

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## From the Desk of the President

A grateful "thank you" is extended to those who brought items for our December auction and to those who bid during this fund raiser. Ted made the event a lot of fun, and we had very generous people bidding. The diversity of the donations was amazing. A report of the results of the auction will be given during our January meeting.

And how about that delicious potluck? It was truly exciting that more people attended than we had chairs in which to sit. All of this ... and still food was left! What a great way to record 2013 into the BCGS history book.

Again, I am so appreciative of your support and volunteer hours. You kept the Society active, presented interesting programs, and made books and information available to the public. I hope for you a 2014 filled with joy. You brought me joy throughout 2013!

—Faye

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## Still Wanted: Membership Person



### Also Wanted: Society Historian

**BTW...** a **Treasurer** would be helpful. Not much time involved, but a basic knowledge of spreadsheets definitely a plus. Help is

available.

For more information on any of these positions, contact any board member.

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## Membership News

**REMINDER:** Benefits of Membership include: Library use during open hours, book checkout privileges, newsletter as published and voting rights at business meetings.

Don't let this be your last newsletter or lose your library privileges.

(Membership form included with November newsletter)

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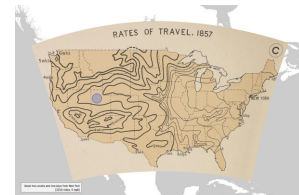
## Genie Doings

### Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter

A great resource for things new in the world of family history or genealogy is the Eastman's On-Line Genealogical Newsletter. There is a free, limited version, e-mailed to subscribers and a

more in depth version which is available for a fee. I have the free version and benefit from the broad survey. (Thanks to Margaret Fox for the heads up.)

A recent newsletter included an article describing the on-line, interactive version of "The Atlas of the Historical Geography of the US in 1932." It provides amazing detail & depth of America from as early as pre-1500 to 1932. The visuals help provide a picture of what life was like for families then. A description of the Atlas and a link to it is in this excerpt from Dick Eastman's newsletter, dated 27 Dec 2013:



Charles O. Paullin published his monumental Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States in 1932. It contains nearly 700 maps covering seemingly every facet of the country's social, economic and political life, including maps, then novel, showing county-by-county results for presidential elections going back to the beginning of the Republic.

Now, modern bells and whistles have also come to Paullin's atlas. A souped-up online version has just been released by the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab, bringing what some historians still consider a work of unsurpassed scope into the age of the iPad.

"Paullin's maps show ordinary people making a living, moving across the landscape, worshipping at churches, voting in elections," said Robert K. Nelson, the director of the Digital Scholarship Lab. "They covered so many topics that there's really something for everyone."

The online, animated version of the Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States is available at <http://dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas>.

Dick Eastman's Newsletter website with the link to sign up for the free version is here: [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/standard-edition.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/standard-edition.html)

Happy New Year to all!

—Ron

## Other Genealogical News and Events

### Genealogical Forum of Oregon presents ... Hot Topics in Genealogy

#### Half-day Seminar with Hannah Allen

February 22, 2014

10 am - 2 pm

GFO Library



#### Facebook for Genealogist

Have you wanted to use Facebook for more than just "likes" and "comments"? Expand your social media use to include sharing and furthering your family history!

#### ***Bury the Dead, Not the Living: Organizing Your Records***

Do you have binders, boxes or filing cabinets full of papers and research notes handed down from great-grandma? Or perhaps you've spent hours looking through microfilm only to realize that you have already looked there before! Organization is the key to productive and successful family history research. Learn how to stay on top of (instead of underneath) those piles of pedigrees, censuses, pension files, and probates by organizing and preserving your records electronically. Lay to rest that ancestor without digging through catacombs of records to find him!

—<http://gfo.org/seminar/index.htm>; accessed 4 Jan 2014

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#### ***Darned Son-in-law***

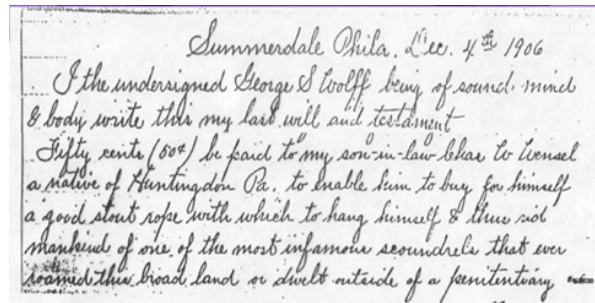
*We depend upon records to reveal the "truth" about our pasts.*

*Yet sometimes records have anomalies. Some are amusing or humorous. Some are interesting or weird. Some are peculiar or suspicious. Some are infuriating, even downright laughable.*

Yes, "Records say the Darnedest Things."

#### **Records Say the Darnedest Things: Darned Son-in-law**

A coworker shared this will with me:



Summerdale Phila. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 1906

I the undersigned George S Wolff being of sound mind & body write this my last will and testament Fifty cents (50¢) be paid to my son-in-law Chas W Wensel a native of Huntingdon Pa. to enable him to buy for himself a good stout rope with which to hang himself & thus rid mankind of one of the most infamous scoundrels that ever roamed this broad land or dwelt outside of a penitentiary

Yes, records say the darnedest things.

#### **Sources**

Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Wills 302:175-6, no. 2249, George S. Wolff will, proved 10 November 1908; Register of Wills, City Hall, Philadelphia; Family History Library microfilm 1,311,083.

The full text of the will can be found in "Sidelight: A Disgruntled Father-in-Law," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 97 (March 2009): 16.

— Ancestry Insider; posted 17 Aug 2012

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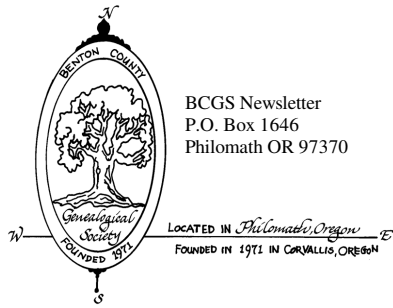
#### **Last Minute News**

##### **Intermediate Genealogy - Beyond the Basics:**

Expand your genealogy research as you learn how to find and best utilize a variety of different genealogy resources available to you. The first four classes will be lecture format, with the final two classes in the computer lab focusing on the good, bad and the ugly of Web research.

Instructor: Danell Aukerman; Location: Chintimini Senior Center, Corvallis; Wednesdays 2:30 - 3:30; 5 February 2014 - 12 March 2014.

—Danell



## Meetings

**Board Meetings** are held on Thursday prior to the General meetings. The January 2014 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 January 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

