

Benton County Genealogical Society Newsletter

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/>

P. O. Box 1646, Philomath, Oregon, 97370

March 2011

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From the Desk of the President

I don't know about you, but I am seeing a bit of color everywhere. Perhaps spring really is on the way. With the renewal is a renewal of commitment to the Benton County Genealogical Society. I'd like to tell you about it.

We have twenty members actively participating in the Society as officers and/or members of committees. Some are members of two or more. I would like to thank each and every one for stepping up to make our Society a viable organization. We even have someone to pay the bills and several someones to take up the slack in our programs. Yep ... we'll have programs at least through the end of the year. Of course, we'll need others to pick a month beginning in January and be responsible for selecting, arranging, organizing, etc. future programs. If you can committee to being responsible for just one month, let me know. Susan is putting together everything a person would need to get the job done and has agreed to be the consultant, and we all know what a great job she has done.

I would also like to acknowledge the extensive work Gene Newcomb has done for the Society. Gene will continue on the Finance Committee; however, he has passed the checkbook, literally. He will continue answering queries for us and hopefully keeping us on track in general and at the board meetings. Thank you, Gene, for all you do.

As always you all are invited to the next board meeting. We will meet 28 February 2011 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Philomath Community Library, 1050 Applegate St., Philomath.

Hope to see you there.

Margaret Fox

Membership

Benefits of being a member of BCGS include: Library use during open hours, book checkout privileges, newsletter as published and voting rights at business meeting. Membership dues will be \$15 if you receive your newsletter by e-mail. If you receive your newsletter by the US Post Office, dues will be \$20. New member packets are available at the BCGS library or they will be available at our next general meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Miner at 541-753-4828.

Recent renewals and new members

Henry Dunn Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen
Denny & Peggy Haney Darla Wolfe
Patricia Lacy

A Special Thank You and Congratulations

Linda Olson, our webmaster, applied to the *Honoring Our Ancestors* grant program. Linda's application was selected for a grant in the amount of \$200. On behalf our society and as the leader for the newspaper project, Linda received this grant to digitize two old newspaper microfilms which would complete our Surname index to Benton County newspaper. What the BCGS volunteers have completed so far can be viewed at our website.



Program News

12 March Program

DVD Presentation: **“Coming of Age”** – 2010 National Genealogical Society
Keynote Address by Jay Verkler, President & CEO of FamilySearch

Whether you are a veteran user of FamilySearch or aren't quite sure what it is or how it can help your genealogy research, this program will surely catch your interest. This is not a “how to” presentation, but a view of what the LDS Church is doing to make many of those 2.5 million rolls of microfilm in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City available to you right from your own computer. And, indexed to boot!!

Jay Verkler, a veteran of the tech world, leads the effort. He describes the technological challenges, the efforts of dedicated volunteers worldwide to index the records, and the vision of what researching in the digital age can (and will) be. There's still much to do, but the site has millions of searchable records already.

A real treat is a virtual tour of the famous Granite Mountain Records Vault just outside Salt Lake City that was created in 1963 to safely and securely store the microfilm master rolls and other church records.

February Program Review

Terrific! Fun! Short of time! Let's do it again! These are some of the reactions to our Roundtable Discussion Group program. Members and visitors gathered in the church Social Hall to exchange information and tips on nine different genealogy topics. Each participant had the opportunity to attend two tables. Rather than the normal quiet room when listening to a lecture, the room was a dim roar as participants at each table asked questions, shared tips, and described research roadblocks. And, they got acquainted with other members researching in the same area. Everyone was engaged and participating.

Many thanks to the table leaders whose enthusiasm and knowledge made the day so successful. Hats off to Danell Aukerman (Using Google for Genealogy Research), Pat Coolican (Irish Research), Mary Dean Snelling and Leila Crawford (Computer Software Programs), Bill Gleaves (Breaking Through Brick Walls), Gene Newcomb (What Can I Learn from DNA Testing?), Margaret Fox (Beginning Genealogy Research and Visiting the Corvallis Family History Center) and Susan Hayes (English Research and Locating Living Relatives).

Margaret Fox's colorful flyer distributed by members at various locations in Philomath and Corvallis was a success and responsible for attracting the visitors to the meeting. Thanks for getting this new publicity idea started, Margaret.

Genealogy News & Events

Civil War Photographs

For a history buff these are amazing photos considering they were taken up to 150 years ago: A compendium of photos from era of the War Between the States. It is fortunate that these photos have survived. Most probably a million wet plate photos were made during the civil war on glass plate. Popular during the war, they lost their appeal afterwards and so many were sold for the glass. Many used in green houses. Over the years the sun caused the images to disappear.

<http://www.mikelynaugh.com/VirtualCivilWar/New/Originals2/index.html>

Holocaust Historical Data Goes Digital

The Associated Press wrote “Israel's Yad Vashem memorial, the world's largest collection of Holocaust documents, is teaming up with Google to make its photographs and documents interactive and searchable on the Internet.” See the complete article at

<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/26/133242172/holocaust-historical-data-goes-digital>. Next, go to <http://www.yadvashem.org> to begin viewing the photographs and documents.

Spring Seminar

Presented by Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.

Saturday, 2 April 2011

9 AM – 4 PM

Site of Seminar is the Milwaukie Elks Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Milwaukie, Oregon

Speaker, Thomas W. Jones, will cover the following topics: Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was, How to Avoid Being Duped by the internet, Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor and Finding “unfindable” Ancestors

For more information go to <http://www.gfo.org/seminar/thomas-w-jones.pdf>

The Sweet Home Genealogical Society

31th Annual Genealogical Workshop - March 18 & 19, 2011

For more information call 541-367-5034 or email shgs@centurytel.net

Friday's speaker is Leslie Lawson whose topics are Newspaper Research and Doing Onsite Research, and Ardys Vaughn who will be demonstrating case studies in Scandinavian Research. The speaker on Saturday is Susan LeBlanc and her topics are: Immigration and Naturalization, Military Records, 10 Steps to Cemetery Research and Researching in FamilySearch

Copies of the registration form are available in the BCGS library.

Researching in Benton County

By Linda Olson

This article may be printed in the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Bulletin

Exploring genealogy records in the place where my ancestors lived in Benton County is a grand experience. Luckily, I live in the same area where several generations of my relatives were born and raised. Collecting bits and pieces of family history became a hobby that grew into a more serious genealogy inquiry. Deciding to trace back more generations required purposeful documentation of what I already knew. The oral family history and a few written accounts just needed more thorough research. I made plans to visit several historical facilities and contacted the clerks and volunteers there who could help me locate information in their records. I joined the Benton County Genealogical Society. As a member, I had access to invaluable records, their extensive library, reference books, cemetery volumes, marriage records and family history files. Were any of my ancestors mentioned in the WPA interviews? To my delight there were two relatives who were interviewed. I could hug them for the historical treasure they left. These women had stories to tell of their families who traveled across the plains in covered wagons, which just made me want to search for more information. A cousin had posted a journal online, which was written by our 2nd Great Grand Uncle, James Madison Coon. (I had to look that up.) Another cousin wrote an article for our Corvallis newspaper and asked, "Who put the new tombstone on John Lewis's grave?" When I read that article, I couldn't wait to make a phone call. Making connections with someone living in the same town with the same genealogical interests who just happen to be a distant relative is so very rewarding. Another "small-world" moment was the realization that I am related to another member of the genealogical society, and a whole long story of discovery later; we still haven't completely resolved our Allen connection. But that's all part of the challenge of unraveling the mystery. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/> A close relative to the Benton County Genealogical Society is the Benton County Historical Society and Museum in Philomath. These two historical sites are conveniently located next door to each other. The largest collection of information for Benton County resides with the Benton County Historical Society and Museum. <http://www.bentoncountymuseum.org/> I could have spent days lost in the records in these two buildings. Telephone directories, business directories, newspapers, obituaries, family files, photographs, maps and much more are easily found at the Benton County Historical Society and Museum. With their extensive Past Perfect database and helpful staff, the museum can easily locate information and photos they may have on individuals who lived in Benton County. In their library, I found two ancestors mentioned in Fagan's History of Benton County published in 1885. They had fought in the Rogue River Indian Wars of 1855-1856. That prompted me to send for their military records. One Great Grandfather, William F. Allen, was born in New York, raised in Ohio, and ended up in Oregon just prior to 1855. The other military record was for my Great Great Grandfather, Winfield Scott Gibbs, who was born in Ohio and made his way to Oregon in time to participate in the Indian Wars in Southern Oregon, and settle in Benton County. Living in the same county, it's possible these two men and their families knew each other. Generations later, my father who was descended from the Allen line and my mother who was descended from the Gibbs line were married in Benton County. Documenting the oral stories from my family has added substance and meaning to my genealogical study.

The Government Land Office, (GLO) records are a rich source of information. If you suspect your ancestor came early enough, 1850 to 1855, to have a Donation Land Claim, (DLC), you are indeed in luck. These DLC records contain a wealth of information and can be found on line as well as in printed volumes in several locations afore mentioned in Benton County. <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/Default.asp?> DLC records give the name of the spouse plus the marriage date if the applicant is already married and wants additional land for his spouse. My William F. Allen's wife is listed on his DLC record, adding one more piece of evidence that this was truly the correct Allen document. Two other Allens who were both married before Benton County started keeping marriage records were also listed. The DLC records showed a middle initial for another Allen. The applicant had to have witnesses who vouched for the marriage as well as other personal information he may have known. The witness was often a neighbor or a relative. Using the DLC information, I found a number of my ancestors on maps of the area, including the old Metzger maps. Armed with maps and cameras, visiting the actual home sites is still a great summertime excursion. Taking time to look through the various rooms in the historic museum that was once a school and a church, I walked where my ancestors walked and climbed the same stairs and looked through the same windows at the town below. One of my cousins was married in the museum when it was a church in the 1950s. Several other relatives attended school there when it was a college. My aunt, who was a clerk, then postmaster in Philomath in the 1920s to 1940s, kept many of our Green family records. Some of these I had copied long ago and some I discovered in the museum files. Verifying what I already knew about my ancestors and discovering new gems along the way helped validate my history.

Check the times of the week the historical resources are open and what fees may be required. Letting the contact people know when I planned to arrive, helped them plan ahead too, and in some cases, they had gathered together some items for me to peruse. Volunteers may be available to assist with research also.

The Benton County Genealogical Society Newspaper Project is a great place to look for an obituary, marriage, or birth announcement and other articles of interest such as legal notices and pioneer reunions and celebrations. These all-important old newspaper microfilms are available at the Benton County Historical Society and Museum, and also at the Corvallis-Benton County Library and the Oregon State University Library which have many other genealogical resources. Checking the index of surnames listed in Corvallis newspapers between 1865 to 1925 saved me some time and even added some surprises. The index lists the surname, given name and which newspaper it came from. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentgs/newsproj.html>

~To be continued in the April newsletter

Membership Information

Names, email and phone numbers removed for security reasons.

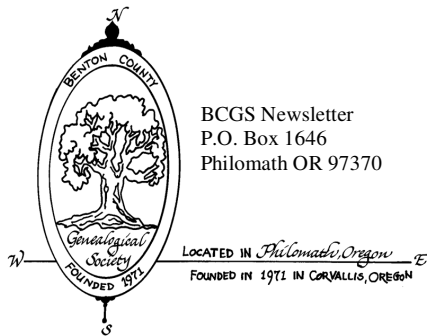
Board meetings are held in the Philomath Public Library conference room at 1050 Applegate, Philomath, Oregon. Our next board meetings date is Monday, 28 March 2011 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

General meetings are held on the second Saturday, September through June, in the social hall of the College United Methodist Church, to the east of the Benton County Historical Museum, in the 1100 block of Main Street, Philomath, Oregon. Our business meeting is at 10:00 a.m. with the program starting at 11:00 a.m. Our next meeting will be Saturday, 12 March 2011.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

GT Newspaper Project

The last two newspaper microfilm reels to finish up the Newspaper Project have been digitized. A volunteer is needed to finish up the last newspaper microfilm reel now on CD for the BCGS Newspaper Project. This is a project you can do at home using your computer. See what has already been done by viewing this index at the Benton County Oregon Gen Web page at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbenton/> and clicking on the "Surname References to Benton County Newspapers". There are now 12 newspapers available on CDs. **Contact Linda Olsen at 541-929-3843 if you are interested.**



BCGS Newsletter
P.O. Box 1646
Philomath OR 97370

LOCATED IN Philomath, Oregon
FOUNDED IN 1971 IN CORVALLIS, OREGON