



Benton County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.begs-oregon.org>

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

Note From the President...

Welcome spring and warmer weather! Enjoy it with family and friends.

I hope you will be able to attend our May 11th General Meeting at 10 a.m. and Program from 11 a.m. - Noon—"Pitfalls of German Research" presented by LeAnne Trask.

I will not be able to attend as I'll be on a 10-day vacation cruise.

See you all in June.

George Davidson



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The Benton County Genealogical Society

meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, September through June, in the Fellowship Hall of College United Methodist Church, 1123 Main St., Philomath, OR. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. and the program at 11 a.m., unless otherwise announced. Refreshments follow at the Benton County Museum Annex. Guests are always welcome!

Coming Events

May 4—1:00 p.m.

RootsMagic Users' Group

At the home of Bill and Ann Smart

May 6—3 p.m.

Board Meeting

Philomath Public Library

May 11—10:00 a.m.

BCGS Meeting

College United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall, 1123 Main St., Philomath

May 21—1:00 p.m.

BCGS Writing Group

Benton County Museum Annex,
1101 Main St., Philomath

Tuesdays & Saturdays—1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Genealogy Library open

Benton County Museum Annex

May 11 BCGS Program

'Pitfalls of German Research'

Presented by
LeAnne Trask

LeAnne will share ways to make German research easier and avoid the pitfalls.
Learn about the main research problems and how to achieve success.

LeAnne was inspired in her genealogical endeavors by her grandparents who left her a wealth of information about her origins. As many of her biological ancestors had already been well-researched, she chose to focus on her husband's family, the Trasks, and was thus led into German research.

Upcoming Programs

Programs begin at 11 a.m. following the 10 a.m. Business Meeting

June 8

Brick Walls: Members group together by the state they are researching
Potluck to follow

July and August
Summer Break

September 14

Gathering Back Together and sharing our new discoveries

October 12—Lisa McCullough

DNA Autosomal testing and what to do after receiving the results

November 9—Tom O'Brien

Family Search - Finding Digital Records

December 14

Silent Auction and Potluck

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

January 11—Beth Lambright in costume

sharing about the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower
and her Mayflower ancestry

February 8—James Morales

Courthouse records

Was Thomas Edison speaking to genealogists?

**"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up...
...The most certain way to succeed is to try just one more time."**

What can be found in American voting records?

According to Pam Vestal, “a lot!”



Voter registration information has changed over U.S history, in answering the question: **“Who will be allowed to vote?”**

Early on, **age and property ownership** were the prime requirements, but this may be variable as voting regulations were left to the states to decide.

Race, ethnicity and sex have been used to allow or restrict voting rights. African Americans were allowed to vote after the Civil war (15th amendment) but many states enacted laws that restricted their voting access through poll taxes and literacy requirements.

In 1848 annexation of territory previously a part of Mexico allowed Mexicans to become citizens and they were then allowed to vote.

Native Americans were ruled to be subject to tribal law, thus not covered by the 14th Amendment. Some had gained citizenship through treaties, but those living on tribal lands were not allowed to vote until the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Some local laws continued to interfere with their voting rights until 1957.

Having Chinese heritage prevented people from voting from 1882 until 1942 due to the Chinese Exclusion Act. Persons of Japanese descent were added to this exclusion in 1927, but were finally granted citizenship in 1952. People from India were barred from 1923 to 1946.

Allowing women to vote became of interest to the suffragettes after 1848. Some localities allowed women to vote in 1868 and Wyoming Territory gave women the right to vote in 1869. The 19th amendment gave women the right to vote in 1920. However, some women were not allowed to vote because they had married aliens. This is an area where you may find some unusual records.

What might you find in the records? If your ancestor was involved in some kind of **conflict** (e.g., religious, political, ethnic, racial, economic) there may be record of **court cases, petitions or newspaper articles**. Researching laws of a particular time may reveal who was or was not allowed to vote, as well as what **proof of citizenship** was required. These additional details might be found in the voting records. If your ancestor is not on a voter list he may have belonged to a **prohibited religion, been too young, not owned property or owed back taxes** (check delinquent tax lists). The 1870 census may indicate your ancestor felt his right to vote had been restricted illegally. Voting records can be good census substitutes!

How do you find these records? You may search using such phrases as ‘poll lists,’ ‘historical election records’ or ‘historical voting registers’. You can also use Cyndi’s List (<https://www.cyndislist.com/us/>), Family Search (www.familysearch.org) or Ancestry (www.ancestry.org), plus other genealogical websites.

In each state the Secretary of State may have voting records or may be able to help you locate them. A county Clerk or Board of elections may also be helpful. Older records may have been moved to libraries, archives, historical societies or universities.

Newspapers may hold information about controversial issues, political candidates (supporters and opponents) and may even publish the names of registered voters. The Library of Congress has a newspaper collection and websites specializing in newspapers may have good information (newspapers.com, newspaperarchive.com and GenealogyBank).

Manuscript collections sometimes have information about organizations your ancestor might have belonged to: Archivegrid (<http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>), or National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc).

There are voter lists all over the world so you may be able to gather information about ancestors before they emigrated to the U.S.

This was a great presentation that opened my eyes to some other places one can search to help track down some of those elusive ancestors!

Sandra Potter

More Voting Record Hints

The free online *GenealogyInTime* magazine includes many hints for breaking through 'brickwalls'. The article 'Searching Electoral Rolls for Ancestors' notes that in some places, such as the UK, electoral rolls pre-date census records. Electoral rolls can serve as an estimate of birth year for ancestors, assuming they voted as soon as they were eligible. Distinctions between poll books, polling books, electoral rolls and burgess rolls are made. Included in the article are links to sites for more research on electoral rolls in Ireland, England and Wales, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

[http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/50 best genealogy brick wall solutions part1 page 01.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/50%20best%20genealogy%20brick%20wall%20solutions%20part1%20page%2001.html)

Electoral registers were introduced in 1832 and, with a few exceptions, have been produced annually ever since. If you know what area a person lives or lived in you may be able to find their address in an electoral register – though the property through which they qualified to vote is not always the same as their home address.

Below are some of the archives and organizations that hold historical electoral registers for the UK. They may offer advice as well as records.

An increasing number of electoral registers and poll books are available on commercial websites such as Ancestry.co.uk (£) and Findmypast.co.uk (£).

The electoral registers from 2002 onward are available online at 192.com (£).

Go to the British Library to consult the national collection of printed electoral registers. They hold a complete set of electoral registers from 1947 onward.

Go to local reference libraries and archives for electoral registers covering the respective local area. Find contact details for local archives using 'Find an archive'.

For electoral registers in Wales and Scotland go to the National Library of Wales and National Library of Scotland.

Download and read *Parliamentary Constituencies and their Registers since 1832* by Richard H. A. Cheffins, available from the British Library website.

REMINDER: The U.S. National Archives does **not** hold any complete collections of electoral registers.

Future LinnGS Programs

Albany Public Library Meeting Room
2450 14th Ave. SE, Albany

May 4—1:00 p.m. Megan Wright:

'Cyndi's List'

June 1—1:00 p.m. Paul Work:

'German Research Through New Eyes'

NW Genealogy conference

August 14-17 in Arlington, Washington

Keynote Speakers:

Angie Bush, Michael Strauss, Thomas MacEntee
34 workshop sessions

[Register at www.NwGC.org](http://www.NwGC.org)

RootsTech

Watch past sessions of RootsTech
from 2015-2019 free of charge

<https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>

Choose

'RootsTech Sessions'

for a list of videos such as

'Uncovering Family Stories
with British and Irish Historic Newspapers'

'Census Sense:

Clues & Conundrums
for Intermediate Researchers'

'Essential Considerations for DNA Evidence'

Writers Group

Last month we had fourteen enthusiastic attendees at the meeting! It's great to see so many interested in turning statistics into stories. When we came back together last fall, we made a list of ways that we could bring our ancestors lives and our own lives into technicolor without writing a book. I thought you might be interested in seeing if one of these ideas could be just right to get you started on your own path.



Capture their story ideas

- *Album of family items with descriptions
- *Individuals document collections
- *Family veterans' stories
- *Shadow boxes
- *Family letters, diaries collections
- *Remembered family stories
- *Photo albums with descriptions and possibly stories
- *Oral history

- *Family cookbooks
- *Maps of ancestors' movements
- *Your own personal story
- *Kids' album of main-line ancestors (photos and short descriptions of parents, grandparents, etc.)

Remember, you're always welcome to come to the meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. May's meeting is May 21 at 1 p.m. in the Library

Sue Van Laere

Library News

We've put together quite a collection of members' personal search topics: family names, states, and countries. It's named **"Who Are You Looking For?"** and you can find the list posted in the library on

Germany	11
England	10
Ireland	5
Canada	2
Sweden	2
Scotland	1
Mexico	1
Wales	1
France	1
Denmark	1
Liechtenstein	1
Russia	1
Turkey	1
Belgium	1

the side of the Family History bookshelf. I'll also bring my poster board to the meetings so you can peruse the information and connect with other members. It's not too late to fill out a form at the meetings to join the group.

This is a list of the countries members are concentrating on right now.

Sue VanLaere,
Librarian

RootsMagic Users' Group

The final RootsMagic User Group for the school year will be on Saturday, May 4 at 1 p.m. at Ann and Bill Smart's home. Ann will cover TreeShare for Ancestry. Please view the U-tubes on the Roots Magic website prior to the meeting. You can view a video and print out a guide at:..

<https://www.rootsmagic.com/Ancestry/default.aspx> or the video only at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDOlq7EFIWA>.

Let Ann know if you plan to attend at AnnSmart1 at Comcast.net.

Turn Your Family into Playing Cards

From Dick Eastman's Newsletter—April 8, 2019

Make a game from your family tree! Create custom made playing cards, similar to any other deck of 52 playing cards, only with images and brief biographies of family members. When you order these cards, you also get to choose whose picture appears on which card. For instance, your grandmother could be the Queen of Hearts. My question: "Who is assigned as the Joker?"

<https://OurCards.com>

Treasurer's Report:

BCGS continues to do well. We have a total of \$6,450 in the bank, \$3,010 of that in savings. For this current year (which runs from September through August) we have taken in \$310 more than we have spent. We don't anticipate any other expenses.

The Board discussed allocating more for program fees. We do have access to some excellent presenters (Pam Vestal talking about voting records for example) and good speakers bring in more visitors. For some years now we have "lived within our means" and haven't needed to draw down our bank balances, which is good. But we do have the resources to do more if we choose, especially to attract great program presenters. The Board welcomes input about this discussion.

Lois Courtney, Treasurer

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Appointed Positions

Membership: *Connie Patterson*

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Audit: *Connie Patterson*

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Host: *Kathryn Moss*

Research: *Lois Courtney*

Book Sales: *Maridee Symons*

Website: *George Davidson*

Facebook: *Sue Van Laere*

Publicity: *Lois Courtney*

Library Volunteers: *Lois & Sue*

Photographer: *Linda Olsen*

Writing Group: *Sue Van Laere*

Do you have something you would like to see included in the newsletter?

Next Newsletter

deadline

May 24

Notice: Benton County Genealogical Society provides links to websites as a service to subscribers. Linked web sites are not controlled by Benton County Genealogical Society and the Society is not responsible for the information, advertising, products, resources or other material of any linked site. The inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement by Benton County Genealogical Society. In addition, please be aware that your use of any linked site is subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that site. Direct any questions regarding linked sites to the webmaster of that site.

The Benton County Genealogical Society **Newsletter** is published monthly September through June. The *Newsletter* editor is Ann Bateman. Send comments and information to her at tabateman@peak.org.

LINKS

<https://www.rootsmagic.com/>

<https://legacyfamilytree.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BentonCountyGenealogicalSociety/>

