



## Benton County Genealogical Society

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 6

June 2019

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

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

### Note From the President...

Here we are, summer is approaching and time for family and friends to enjoy.

I am traveling to Idaho June 2 to see and hold my first GREAT-grandchild. Another statistic for the old family tree file.

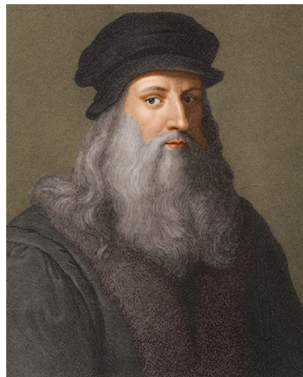
Hope to see you all for our June 8th meeting.

George Davidson

Posted by Dick Eastman

Italian experts have found what they say is hair from Leonardo da Vinci and are set to do a DNA test on the Renaissance genius's locks. You can read more in an article in the ANSA.it at

<http://bit.ly/2DI2P3t>.



### In this Issue...

- Page 2 Upcoming programs
- Page 3 May Program Review
- Page 4 Library, Events
- Page 5 Eastman Article, Class
- Page 6 Brick Wall Resources
- How to be in touch

### The Benton County Genealogical Society

meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

June 3—3 p.m.

### Board Meeting

Philomath Public Library

June 8 —10:00 a.m.

### BCGS Meeting

College United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall, 1123 Main St., Philomath

(Note—Program at 10:30 this month  
with potluck following at noon)

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

### Genealogy Library open

Benton County Museum Annex

**JULY and AUGUST**  
**Great time to explore**  
**our library's resources**

## June 8— BCGS Program

10:30 a.m.

### Tips for Finding those Elusive Ancestors

**This is the day to discover ways to solve your genealogy brick walls or dead ends.**

Our BCGS program time, 10:30 a.m. to noon, will be devoted to tips and how-to ideas for advancing your genealogy research. Bring your brick wall problems and questions. After a short introduction, we will come together to share our stories about difficult to locate ancestors. We will gather together in groups according to state, country or surname being reserched.

#### Handouts:

Handouts on breaking down brick walls will be available. Resources from our BCGS Library and personal resources you wish to bring such as atlases or books on specific locations or problem solving techniques are welcome. Bring a magnifying glass, your laptop, or other research materials.

**We will begin our program at 10:30a.m. on Saturday June 8th with a potluck to follow at noon.**

Linda Olsen, BCGS Program Coordinator

*(See page 6 for resources to assist in breaking down brick walls.)*

## Upcoming Programs

*Programs begin at 11 a.m. (unless otherwise announced) following the 10 a.m. Business Meeting*

**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**

Is there topic you would like to have included as a program?

Is there a person you know who could provide interesting insights into genealogical research?

Contact Linda Olsen with your ideas.

## May Program Review

# Understanding the Pitfalls of German Research

A very interesting and informative program was given May 11 by LeAnne Trask. LeAnne is not a professional genealogist but has spent many years researching the Trask (her husband's) line from Germany. Since there had been absolutely nothing done on that line, she had to start from scratch and learn all she could about the family. She started by visiting relatives and collecting family photos and stories. She then started learning in depth with German research.

She explained what she saw as the three biggest problem areas in German research. She had previously sent what she called her 'Cheat Sheet'. It was 4 pages long and a copy was sent to the society members prior to the meeting.

The three biggest problems in LeAnne's estimation are

### **First: Location**

At earlier times, Prussia took over many of the countries around and including Germany. This meant that their boundaries were constantly changing. The boundaries also changed because of many wars, name changes, revolutions, sovereign changes and others. You may find an ancestor on a US census who gave Prussia as the birthplace; the next census may say Germany or Poland or other. Knowing the actual place your ancestor lived is critical because early vital records are kept locally in the church or town records. LeAnne gave a website ([www.datesandevents.org](http://www.datesandevents.org)) that gives events of different places at different dates. The cheat sheet that was sent is also very helpful in finding the location.

### **Second: Records**

Since early vital records were kept in the churches, it is helpful to know your ancestor's religious affiliation. However, many records were destroyed when churches were burned or bombed during the many wars. When persecution of Lutherans began, many of them left Germany and emigrated to other countries. Between 1850 and 1897 4.1 million Germans came to the United States. Many of their records are lost. Census records, passenger lists and military records are good sources to help find birth information. A website that is helpful for this is [www.genealogy.about.com](http://www.genealogy.about.com)

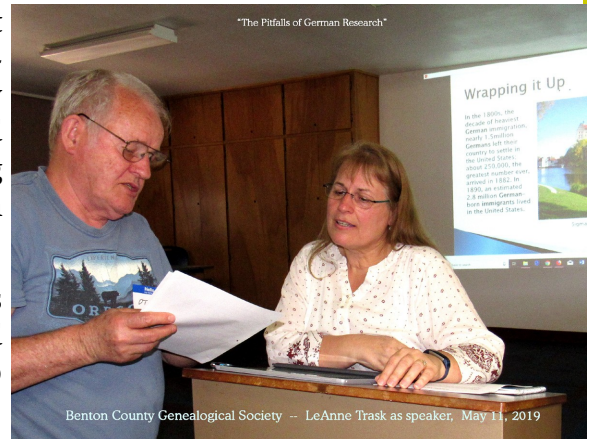
### **Third: Language**

Handwriting and spelling make old German documents especially difficult to read. LeAnne showed an example of three different fonts that were used in writing and how important vital records would look in each. There was no standard way of spelling until the Reform Act of 1996 when Germany, Austria, and Switzerland standardized spelling. Sometimes you have to be very creative to decipher the words. Her cheat sheet is very helpful with language.

A number of helpful websites are listed at the end of her cheat sheet. [A few are listed below]

Not only was her presentation informative but her enthusiasm was fun and inspiring.

Submitted by Kathryn Moss



Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies [www.feefhs.org](http://www.feefhs.org)

Palatines to America [palam.org](http://palam.org)

German Historical Place Names [german.about.com/library/bigazeter\\_hist.htm](http://german.about.com/library/bigazeter_hist.htm)

Germanic Genealogy Society [www.ggsnmn.org](http://www.ggsnmn.org)

## Library News

A huge THANK YOU has to go out to all the volunteers who help keep our library going. All year long we have faithful volunteers who staff the library. They stand at the ready to help anyone who comes to the library on Tuesdays and Saturdays; they work on projects to make the library more user friendly; they keep the library looking spiffy and welcoming.

Besides these volunteers are those who helped move HEAVY books around, moved the vertical file and contents upstairs, gave of their time to survey several hundred pounds of materials that were out-of-date, and helped with a book sale. We're probably leaving out a hundred small things that make a difference. All of this is done with good will and a smile.

We also want to thank our president, George Davidson, for all the work he puts in each month to make sure that the computers and wi-fi are running well. To our delight, he also brought the copier and desk downstairs so it can be accessible to everyone. On top of all this, the board had been considering purchasing a small table to put upstairs so people could sit down to look at materials without one of the legs on the card table giving in! Debbi and Monte White generously donated the perfect table, small but with two leaves that lift up from the side. It is exactly right for the small space!

We're gearing up to do an inventory of the library holdings in the fall. Already, we have volunteers to help. It's such a relief knowing people are willing to help. Lots of times, it's the same people who are also doing other volunteering.

We would like to encourage everyone to consider being a volunteer. There are many things that need to be done, from a one-time commitment to a longer project. It's fun and you will be giving your time to a good cause!

Sue Van Laere, Librarian  
Lois Courtney, Volunteer Coordinator

## NW Genealogy conference

August 14-17 in Arlington, Washington

Information & registration: [www.NwGC.org](http://www.NwGC.org)

### Family History/Genealogy Day

Saturday, June 1

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
4141 NW Harrison Blvd., **Corvallis**

Open to the public

**no fee or charge involved**

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Opening remarks are at 8:30.

Classes held on the hour at 9, 10, 11, and noon.

Among the 15 different classes will be

Family History Research 201

DNA Story

Obituaries: Where to find them?

Discovering Their Stories Through Records

Newspapers Research—Read all about it!

FamilySearch Wiki

More info available at:

<http://www.familyrootsadventure.org/classes.html>



541-224-1409

10:17 am August 21, 2017 - Corvallis

*Photo Restoration  
&  
Custom Printing*

Don Ferguson  
418 Penn Street  
Edgefield, S.C. 29824

If you don't mind mailing your photos, professional restorations & copying are available from **Don Ferguson** formerly of Shadowsmith Photographics in Covallis.

Shared by  
Nancy DeBoie

## New DNA Algorithm Drastically Changes the Ethnicity of Some Users

April 30, 2019 from a posted musing by [Dick Eastman](#)

It may be time to trade in your German lederhosen for a Scottish kilt!

Ancestry.com is updating its databases and altering the results for some users. The new findings of ethnic origins has sent some users into a full-blown identity crisis. If you previously had your DNA tested by Ancestry and have already found your family's ethnic origins, you might want to go back to the AncestryDNA web site and check again. The results may have changed.

Some patrons are seeing their prior genetic and ethnic histories undergo an entire transformation, leading users to somewhat jarring realizations.

You can read more in an article by Liam Mannix and Alexandra Gauci in the *Sydney (Australia) Morning Herald* at: <http://bit.ly/2vvGdig>.

Comment by Dick Eastman: This change in reports shouldn't surprise anyone. In fact, similar changes have happened before at other companies and I suspect we will see more in the future. As the various DNA testing companies keep adding more and more DNA information, both from their own customers as well as from other, public, DNA studies, the historic DNA information in their databases becomes more and more refined. That's another way of saying that the DNA information becomes more and more accurate over time.

Which results do you wish to believe? The results you obtained a year or two ago that was based on less historic information or the new results available today that are based upon a lot more historic information? Then again, how about the results you might obtain a year or two in the future that are based on still more historic information?

No reputable DNA testing company ever creates a database of historic DNA information and then "seals it" forever and ever. All the DNA testing companies are constantly adding more and more data and are refining their algorithms that compare your DNA results to all the millions of previously-identified historic records. You certainly can expect your test result to be tested again and again as more data becomes available. I encountered something similar a couple of years ago with a different DNA testing company. The initial test results identified 50% of my ancestors as coming from two adjacent European countries. Those results contradicted my 35 years of manually chasing my family's history without the benefit of DNA. I was convinced those first DNA test results were inaccurate.

About six months later, I went back and checked the DNA testing company's web site once again. Lo and behold! Those 50% of my ancestors had now packed up and moved to a different, but nearby, country. In fact, their "new country" agreed with all the manual research I had found in the past 35 years of poring over written records.

Similar or same test results will probably happen to millions of other genealogists. Please don't be surprised if it happens to you.

Now, how do I cancel my order for a custom-made kilt?

### Works Projects Administration (WPA) Records Class

Saturday, July 20 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Oregon Genealogical Society Library, 955 Oak Alley, Eugene, OR

President Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented the federal Works Progress Administration in 1935 to provide work for the unemployed. WPA workers created records and record inventories and we have access to the WPA employment records. Learn where to find these records, their genealogical value, and how to discover if your ancestor was a WPA worker.

Instructor: Dawn Carlile    Fee: \$8 for OGS members & \$10 for guests    Plan to arrive 15 min. early

## Resources on breaking down brick walls

**Genealogy in Time** [http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/50\\_best\\_genealogy\\_brick\\_wall\\_solutions\\_part1\\_page\\_01.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/50_best_genealogy_brick_wall_solutions_part1_page_01.html)

### Familysearch Wiki

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/stories-inspire-dead-ends-brick-wallssome-tips-tricks/>  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Solving\\_Tough\\_Research\\_Problems%E2%80%9494Overcoming\\_Brick\\_Walls](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Solving_Tough_Research_Problems%E2%80%9494Overcoming_Brick_Walls)

**Book**—*The Family Tree Problem Solver* by Marsha Hoffman Rising

**YouTube**—Google: “Videos on breaking down genealogy brick walls”

Numerous presentations. Amy Johnson Crow, Crista Cowan and many others all talking about ways to help break down your brick walls.

**Benton County Genealogical Society**  
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

### Officers 2019:

**President:** *George Davidson*, 928-205-2121  
[gid1943@gmail.com](mailto:gid1943@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** *Kathryn Moss*  
[mosskathryn@gmail.com](mailto:mosskathryn@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** *Debbi White*  
[genodebbi@gmail.com](mailto:genodebbi@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** *Lois Courtney*  
[loiscourtney@cmug.com](mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com)

### Appointed Positions

**Membership:** *Connie Patterson*  
[connie.eckart.patterson@gmail.com](mailto:connie.eckart.patterson@gmail.com)

**Librarian:** *Sue VanLaere*  
[vanlaere@proaxis.com](mailto:vanlaere@proaxis.com)

**Programs:** *Linda Olsen*  
[thekeeper@ronsarchive.com](mailto:thekeeper@ronsarchive.com)

**Newsletter:** *Ann Bateman*  
[tabateman@peak.org](mailto:tabateman@peak.org)

**Audit:** *Connie Patterson*

**Refreshments:** *Peggy Gee*

**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**

**August 28**

**(if you're going to be traveling then, send it early)**

**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](mailto:tabateman@peak.org).

### LINKS

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

<https://legacyfamilytree.com/>

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