



Benton County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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September 2019

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

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

Note From the President...

I want to welcome you back from a summer break, I hope it has been a safe and fun experience that you may share with us at our next meeting.

The church where we have been meeting for years is now requesting we have liability insurance and while getting quotes for this we will not be meeting there in September. We will be meeting at the Benton County Historical Museum. Use the elevator or the ADA access from the back of the building to access the elevator.

George Davidson

Learn about the building which is the current home of the Benton County Historical Museum

See page 6

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Benton County Historical Museum

The Benton County Genealogical Society

meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, September through June. 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.

Coming Events

September 10—3 p.m.

BCGS Board Meeting

Benton County Museum Annex

September 14 —10:00 a.m.

BCGS Meeting

Benton County Historical Museum

1101 Main St, Philomath

(next door to College United Methodist Church where we have been meeting)

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

Genealogy Library open

Benton County Museum Annex

Oregon State Library Holds

Significant Oregon Genealogical Sources

Oregon Index: 3/4 million cards cover primarily newspapers & periodicals, arranged in a Biography Index (180 drawers), a Subject Index (400 drawers), & a WPA Index (12 drawers). Name & subject entries cover Portland & Salem newspapers held by the library. Most entries for 1900s.

“How I Spent My Summer Vacation”

Benton County Genealogical Society Meeting

Saturday, September 14

Benton County Historical Museum

1101 Main St., Philomath

(ADA access and parking available at the rear of the building)

The 10 a.m. business meeting will be followed by

an opportunity to share with others

(perhaps beginning as early as 10:30)

... the research trips undertaken, family connections made, stories written, old photos uncovered, new websites discovered, family secrets unearthed...

Note the change of venue for this meeting!

Upcoming Programs

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

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—Robert Kentta

Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians

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

March 14—Tom O'Brien

Family Search - Finding Digital Records

April 11

BCGS Genealogy Software Fair

Tips for Finding Your Elusive Ancestors

Maps, atlases, and books from our BCGS Library filled tables for members to peruse. Members brought their personal reference books, lap tops and helpful information to share. Participants had an opportunity to make their own geographical migration map. Sharing with others is always the most satisfying part of coming together. Telling our stories resonates with all of us.



Following the introduction to this program and discussion, members made their own list of places to research. Once they started a list such as church records, probate records, land records, censuses, wills and many more, places and types of records came to mind easily. Main Internet research sites such as Family Search and Ancestry were also discussed.

Helpful Genealogy Research Tips

1. **Have a specific goal in mind before starting your research.** What do you want to know? Stick to your plan. It's far too easy to become distracted by other tempting information you happen upon. Roaming away from your goal wastes time and effort. When you are looking for a census record, don't wander.
2. **Go back a generation to review your records.** Build on solid, well-documented research before moving forward. Did you miss some information or forget something significant? It happens! Maybe the original document had more information than was transcribed on an index. Collect original documents.
3. **Use different spellings of the surname.** Did your immigrant ancestor change his surname and/or given name as he entered the country? Did your ancestor change his/her name on purpose for some unknown reason? Did he or she use a nickname? Census takers were creative spellers sometimes.
4. **Create a timeline for your ancestor using concrete events.** Fill in missing information.
5. **Make a geographical migration map.** Mark locations where your ancestor lived on a blank map and draw lines between them to plot his/her migration pattern across the United States or world. Research the unknown time periods much like a timeline.
6. **Research all the collateral lines.** Siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, known associates and neighbors of the elusive ancestor may have additional information in their records. Many times whole family groups or congregations moved together. Perhaps he/she was living with a family under a different surname.
7. **Locals know more.** Keep research notes to track the information you have found and whether it was helpful or not. Record the date, what was researched and especially note information someone told you. Talk to the local folks especially in small communities. Even the post office clerks can be helpful.



(continued on page 5)

Library News

We will have our inventory of library books and materials on October 4, 2019. A few more helpful hands are needed to get the job done in one day. The schedule is 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., PROVIDED LUNCH, and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Choose morning or afternoon or both!

Inventory is a great time to become acquainted with all the library has to offer and to have fun with like minds! Let me know via email if you can help. Thanks

Sue Van Laere, Librarian

Writers Group.....

Our first meeting of the year is October 15, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the Annex. We had a great session last year, so let's keep up the good progress. Come with your ideas of what you personally want to accomplish this time around and ideas for how you want the meetings to be structured.

If you're interested in getting started with ways to show your ancestors' lives not only through statistics but also as real people, this is the place for you! We have lots of ideas ranging from writing family biographies or your own autobiography to telling stories through photos or using timelines to commemorate individuals **and** much more. We all get help, encouragement and ideas from each other. Hope to see you.

Sue Van Laere



GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON 

FALL SEMINAR 2019

Deutsche & Dutch
Genealogy on the North Sea


with **fritz Juengling**

OCTOBER 5 & 6, 2019

More info at

<https://gfo.org/learn/fall-seminar-2019.html>

Tintenflecken

German translator and German genealogy researcher

I have degrees in German and International Studies as well as a master's degree in education. Our family has lived in the United States and in Germany and speaks German and English at home. We have family ties to Thuringia (Thuringen), Bavaria (Bayern) and Schleswig-Holstein, representing a wide variety of dialects and cultural experiences. I am happy to translate historical and modern documents in type-set or in script and I offer both synopses and word-for-word translations. Beginning in January 2020, after relocating from Ohio to Germany, I will also offer in-country research (see my website for more information).

Amy Koppe

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Finding & Using City Directories in Genealogy

Saturday, September 21

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Oregon Genealogical Society Library
955 Oak Alley, Eugene, OR

City Directories can fill the gaps between census years by identifying when a family arrived and left an area, occupations, and whether they owned or rented. They are not limited to just cities as many covered the county as well.

Instructor: Dawn Carlile

Fee: \$8 for members and \$10 for guests
Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to class.

Please email education@oregongs.org
or call 541-517-0984 to reserve your spot
or for more information

(June Program Review continued from page 3)

8. **Common names may complicate your research.** Individuals with the same name living in the same location need to be researched separately to sort out which one may be the correct ancestor. Read local newspapers from the time period you are researching for clues about your ancestor and his family. Were there any natural disasters or events that may have caused migration to another location?

9. **Are you researching in the correct place?** Check for boundary changes for counties, states, and countries especially in areas where wars clearly changed the landscape.

10. **Think creatively. Broaden your search.** Push beyond the area previously researched and review your notes with a fresh perspective. Maybe everything in your oral history was not completely correct. Ages may have been estimated. Marriages could have been scrambled between deaths and remarriages with wives of the same given name. Research the records that can fill-in for the elusive ancestor's documents that do not appear to exist.



Free Maps

www.freeworldmaps.net

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%20best%20genealogy%20brick%20wall%20solutions%20part1%20page%2001.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%9994Overcoming_Brick_Walls

Books

The Family Tree Problem Solver by Marsha Hoffman Rising

** *500 Brick Wall Solutions to Genealogy Problems* by the publisher of Family Chronicle Magazine

** *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3rd edition published 2006 edited by Szucs and Luebking

** *Red Book American State, County and Town Sources*, 3rd edition edited by Alice Eichholz

YouTube

Google: "Videos on breaking down genealogy brick walls"

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

Old European Maps Online (shared by Sue VanLaere)

<https://mapire.eu>

Maps of Europe (18th and 19th centuries)

City Maps (13 cities throughout Europe, various centuries)

Country maps (44 original hand-drawn historical maps of many countries)

Cadastral Maps (sets of records showing value/ownership of land)

**** available in our BCGS Library**

History of Benton County Museum Building—In January 1852, the United Brethren Church sent Thomas Jefferson Connor on a mission to Oregon. In 1853, he led church members across the plains. They settled in Benton County. The Rev. Connor organized the first United Brethren Church in Benton County at the Union schoolhouse in Plymouth, south of present-day Philomath. In February 1865, members of the Church formed a committee to build a school. The committee collected \$2,510 to purchase a half-section of land from the Henderson donation land claim. The committee reserved 8 acres of land for a campus and divided the remaining property into lots to sell to develop a town around the school. The school was chartered as "Philomath College" in 1865. Philomath comes from the Greek language, meaning "lover of learning."

The students helped to build the college. Workers laid a stone foundation and built a brick kiln on site in the fall of 1865 to begin construction. The building was completed in 1867 with the first classes in October. As the program grew, the college expanded. In 1902 & 1903, students built a gymnasium. In 1904, a wing was added on the west side. Another wing was begun in 1906. Philomath College continued to function until 1929, when lack of enrollment due to economic depression and poor financial management forced the school to close its doors. During its 62 years of operation, the institution enrolled about 6,000 students, 1,200 of whom became teachers.

After the college closed, the building was used as a church. In the 1960s, the building had fallen into disrepair. Local citizens saved the building in the late 1970s, and placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. The Benton County Historical Society acquired the property and Benton County Historical Museum opened in 1980.

Benton County Genealogical Society
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Officers 2019:

President: *George Davidson*, 928-205-2121
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Vice President: *Kathryn Moss*
mosskathryn@gmail.com

Secretary: *Debbi White*
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Treasurer: *Lois Courtney*
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Appointed Positions

Membership: *Connie Patterson*
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Librarian: *Sue VanLaere*
vanlaere@proaxis.com

Programs: *Linda Olsen*
thekeeper@ronsarchive.com

Newsletter: *Ann Bateman*
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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

September 18

(note earlier than usual deadline for Sept. only)

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.

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

LINKS

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

<https://legacyfamilytree.com/>