



DISTANT VOICES

From the BEND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
& LIBRARY

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➔ Until Further Notice ➔

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and concern for the health and well-being of our members, volunteers, friends and community, **all in-person classes and programs are canceled and our library is closed.** We apologize for any inconvenience that these decisions create, but feel as though this is the only responsible choice to keep us all safe. We thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as the world recovers from the pandemic in the coming months.

Is Genealogy Alive and Well in Bend?

2020 has certainly been a difficult year. Loved ones have been lost to COVID-19 and to wildfires. Our lives have been turned upside down by months of social distancing and many lost jobs. For the Bend Genealogical Society (BGS), we have been struggling to survive after all of our in-person learning, researching and socializing activities were canceled in mid-March.

Many new virtual opportunities are cropping up to take the place of in-person activities, such as Zoom meetings, email conversations, and old-fashioned phone calls or modern FaceTime calls. It's not quite the same as a hug from a friend, but probably some changes will persist in the way we do things long after the pandemic ends. Here are a few pros & cons of using virtual activities.

- PROS:**
- Attend a virtual meeting from anywhere you are using the internet and your device.
 - Genealogy speakers from all over the world are available to the smallest societies.
 - Recorded presentations are available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, and you can usually view recorded sessions more than once to fully absorb all the content.
 - After watching a program at home, you can immediately follow-up and apply what you've just learned about to your own research.
- CONS:**
- Without in-person attendance, we lose social interaction and the chance to hug our friends and re-connect face-to-face with colleagues.
 - It can be more difficult to maintain focus and attention when sitting in front of a computer screen at home. It's easy to let your mind wander to other tasks at home.
 - It can be hard to carve out dedicated time to participate in virtual meetings without interruptions from the home environment.
 - Some society members or friends do not have internet access or a working laptop.

During the next few months of staying safe, we hope to learn together how to focus on the pros and minimize the cons of virtual BGS activities. Please help BGS keep genealogy alive in Bend with your participation and support. **See what's coming up on the next page!**

BGS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

All programs & workshops are virtual using ZOOM. All you need to do is install the FREE account on your device that has a camera and mic/speakers and is connected to the internet.

Sign up at: <https://zoom.us/>. Use the “Sign Up It’s Free” button.

All BGS meetings are **FREE** to members and non-members. Questions: bgs@bendbroadband.com

More LEARN ZOOM and Some Google Search Tips

Two more LEARN ZOOM meetings are scheduled to help all of us become comfortable using Zoom. In addition to practicing Zoom, you’ll learn a few Google Search Tips (handouts for Zoom Tips and Google Search Tips included). Length: One hour or less.

Wednesday – Oct. 14th – 1:00 pm (PDT)

REGISTER HERE for Oct 14 ▶

Saturday – Oct. 17 – 11:00 am (PDT)

REGISTER HERE for Oct 17 ▶

You must register by clicking one of the buttons above to attend a session. After clicking the button, fill out the registration form you receive online. After clicking the Register button at the bottom of the form, Zoom will send you an email with the **LINK** to join the meeting. **Keep the Zoom message** so you can click on the URL link to join the meeting at the appointed time.

If you have trouble registering or have Zoom questions, email me, Sandy Thompson at: thompss@bendbroadband.com

3rd Tuesday Zoom Membership Meeting – Gary Putnam

Gary’s presentation — **“Paying Attention to the Details: The Key to Genealogical Research Success”** will address many of the overlooked clues that can lead to identification of genealogical relationships. Some of these clues are found in the census, immigrant documents, locations, names and naming patterns, neighbors and occupations. We will be exploring each of these areas for clues, and you’re encouraged to join in and describe the clues that have been important in your research.

Gary’s presentation will begin after short announcements, including the results of the email votes to elect BGS Officers/Directors for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Tuesday – Oct. 20 – 10:00 am (PDT) – Zoom Meeting

You don’t have to register for this meeting (as above). BGS will send a message to our email group on October 13 with the **link & password** to join the meeting at the appointed time. **Keep the email message**, so you can click the link in it to join the meeting. If you are NOT located in the Pacific time zone, please convert PDT to your time zone. If you are not in our group, please email us.

BGS Leadership Council Oct. 22 Zoom Meeting

If you are interested in planning discussions concerning the Bend Genealogical Society or in the topics that are important to the health of the Society, you may want to attend Leadership Council Zoom meetings. The next one is on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 9:30 a.m. Length: 1–2 hrs.

Email BGS (bgs@bendbroadband.com) with your desire to attend the Council meeting on Oct. 22 and BGS will email you a Zoom invitation to the meeting.

NEWS FROM THE WEB



Guess What? RootsTech Connect 2021 will be a completely FREE online conference experience. FamilySearch knows how to organize fantastic worldwide events. You won't want to miss this opportunity.

25-27 Feb. 2021 – You can register now at: www.rootstech.org

Celebrate Family History Month during October by viewing past RootsTech presentations (FREE).

There are 6 years of selected RootsTech sessions to view: [Click here to check out the Video Archive.](#)



The **Virtual Genealogical Association** is a worldwide organization that offers virtual conferences, webinars and meetings. Membership dues are only \$20 per year. There are 3 or 4 new webinars every month by well-known genealogists, and 6 months of past webinars can be viewed for 6 months. Handouts are included. This is a really interesting new inexpensive option. Link to: [Virtual Genealogical Assoc.](#)



Another new way to view recorded genealogy classes without a subscription is Vivid-Pix Education. The cost to rent one video for 30 days is only \$1.99, and you can view it as many times as you like in the 30 days. See available classes at: [Vivid-Pix On Demand Classes](#). You can view upcoming classes for FREE on the day of the live stream. See upcoming live classes at: [Vivid-Pix Live Classes](#). Many of them look very interesting. Blaine Bettinger is scheduled for Oct. 23, speaking on the topic “**Turning 80,000 DNA Matches Into Bite-Sized Pieces.**”

The 2020 Annual National Archives Virtual Genealogical Fair has been postponed to March 2021. Fair sessions are for all skill levels and explain the National Archives family history research tools for Federal records among other topics. The sessions are FREE and very good. There are 7 years of past fair sessions that you can view at: [National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair](#).



The Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) publishes a monthly newsletter titled *The Forum Insider*. It includes news and upcoming events. [Click here to view the October issue of the Insider](#). Take a look page 6, which is a list of special interest groups (SIG). Maybe one will interest you. The SIG meetings on Zoom are FREE for non-members.

The FREE GenTalk on October 17 at 2:00 pm at the GFO looks very interesting. Jay Fonkert, CG, is presenting “**Official, but Wrong: Evaluating the Reliability of Record.**” Don't assume “official” government records are truthful. Learn how to seek corroborating evidence, evaluate conflicting evidence and examine motives of informants – in this case a single woman applying for a passport. Registration is required for this free event on Zoom. Register at: [GFO GenTalk page](#).

When you go to the GenTalk page above, you can register for the GenTalk on November 21 at 2:00 pm. Katherine Willson's topic will be “**Genealogical Timelines & Research Checklists.**” She is an excellent presenter and one of the founders of the Virtual Genealogical Association (above).

At the bottom of the GenTalk page is a link to the handouts from some past GenTalks. Some of the handouts, such as Using Civil War Pension Files and PERSI, have lots of good resource links.



Connecting via Zoom is one thing, but connecting one-on-one with another member using email or phone calls can be more meaningful. To facilitate more connections between BGS members, please let us know a few of the U.S. States, regions, or foreign countries in which you research a lot; and research topics you're interested in, such as DNA or probate records. BGS will compile the interests, and let members know which other members have the same interests, or could help someone new just beginning to search in a particular area.

➔ Please send an email to bgs@bendbroadband.com with your name; the U.S. state(s), region(s), or foreign countries of interest; and any particular topic(s) of interest, too. In your email to BGS, add “willing to help,” if you would like to connect with other members. Example:

Sandy Thompson, willing to help. Research Locations: Minnesota, Oregon, Finland, Sweden.

Topics: DNA, Immigration. If you are a member, we have your email address and phone number. If you are not a member, see page 5 about how to join or renew.

Chester County PA Unveils Interactive Tool to Trace Property

From [Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#)

Posted: [Sept 22, 2020](#)

Just in time for the anniversary of the Battle of the Brandywine, Chester County Archives and Records Services has released a new interactive Property Atlas that helps you discover who lived on property in September 1777. It allows researchers to easily see who owned properties in 1777, and if those owners or occupants reported any losses caused by British troops during the Philadelphia Campaign of the Revolutionary War. [Click here to view the Property Atlas.](#)

Use your mouse wheel to zoom in and out. Click on a property, and a small window opens with ownership information, usually including source. The culmination of years of research by Chester County Archives staff, the project's original intent was to assist with interpretation and preservation of events surrounding the Battle of Brandywine.

There is a [Chester Co. Archives Facebook page](#) where researchers are invited to share their ancestral stories about land in the Atlas. Do you have ancestors that owned land in Chester Co., PA?

Your “Ethnicity Estimate” Doesn’t Mean What You Think It Does

[Click here to read the full article in WIRED](#)

If you've done DNA testing, you've noticed that some testing companies have changed your “ethnicity” estimates again. Connie Brehm found an excellent article in *Wired* about this part of DNA testing. It is a long article, but well worth reading. It clearly explains the misconceptions about the term “ethnicity” and why DNA cannot really pinpoint it. Replacing the word “ethnicity” with geographic origins might be a better descriptor of the estimate, but even that is not perfect due to the nature of reference groups and computer algorithms used to determine it from your DNA. Ethnicity, the cultural identity of a group, is not a genetic trait like eye color.

BGS FUNDRAISERS

Help support your Bend Genealogical Society when you shop!

Last fiscal year, from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020,
BGS earned \$210 from these fundraisers. With your help, we could top that amount this year!



Earn a donation for BGS from **Fred Meyer** every time you shop and they scan your Rewards card. Go online and link your Rewards card to Bend Genealogical Society in your **Fred Meyer Rewards** account. Once linked, you should see BGS at the bottom of your receipts. The donation does not affect the rewards that you earn. Link your card to BGS at: [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#)



Shopping through **AmazonSmile** is exactly the same as shopping on the Amazon site. The added bonus is that Amazon donates 0.5% of qualified purchases to a charity of your choice. Please choose Bend Genealogical Society. Use your Amazon login and password at [AmazonSmile](#). You can change your charity of choice any time in Your AmazonSmile in the Your Account drop-down menu once logged in.



GoodShop offers online shopping coupons and special discounts for 1,000s of retailers on the web. Your favorite store is likely apart of **GoodShop**. Every time you shop at a store of your choice using **GoodShop**, you get a special deal and BGS receives a donation. **GoodSearch** makes a donation for every internet search (Yahoo). Register at: [GoodShop](#) & adopt Bend Genealogical Society as your cause.

Bend Genealogical Society Financial Status Year-to-date for 19-20 FY (12 months)

Dues Income (121 paid members)	\$ 2,189.00
Other Income	\$ 2,755.03
YTD Total Income	\$ 4,944.03
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 4,561.89

Bend Genealogical Society Financial Status Year-to-date for 20-21 FY (4 months)

Dues Income (54 paid members)	\$ 1,030.00
Other Income	\$ 873.81
YTD Total Income	\$ 1,903.81
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 610.96

BGS is off to a slow start this fiscal year, but that's okay. 2020 is a difficult time.

Take care of yourselves, be healthy, and RESEARCH ON!!!



**BEND
GENEALOGICAL
& SOCIETY
RESEARCH
LIBRARY**

We want to help you

JOIN THE FUN TODAY!

Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. Please Renew or become a New Member for the 2020–2021 program year now. [Click here to open the membership application.](#)

Mail to BGS with your payment. Thank you so much for supporting genealogy in Bend.

Renew Today

Join Today!

DISTANT VOICES is the official newsletter of the Bend Genealogical Society (BGS).

Mailing Address: PO Box 8254; Bend, OR 97708-8254. Phone Number: (541) 317-9553

Web Page link: [Bend Genealogical Society](#) – Email: bgs@bendbroadband.com

BGS is incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of Oregon and is an approved charitable and tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.