



# *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 the community, **all in-person classes and programs are canceled and the library is closed.** We thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as the world recovers from the pandemic in the coming months.

## **A New BGS Website is Under Construction – Whoopee!**

**W**e are sure you have noticed that the current BGS website is in need of a total makeover, especially because it lacks the modern features that user-friendly websites have today, such as:

- A calendar feature, so you can see all upcoming BGS meetings, groups and workshops any time you want to.
- Everyone will be able to register for all BGS events on the website and obtain the Zoom meeting links for virtual events from the website.
- BGS will finally be able to take credit card payments for memberships, renewals and special events, etc.
- The website will have an easy to remember domain name.
- There will be a members-only section:
  - Where you will be able to access recorded BGS Zoom programs;
  - View a membership list with fields for surnames and countries/states that you are researching. Find other society members with similar research interests; and
  - Be able to see when your annual membership expires.
- An email system to keep everyone updated easily, and in many circumstances automatically.
- A survey system that we can use to find out quickly what members think about any idea.
- The website will adjust its size for any device from phone to tablet to computer.



Times are A-Changin' in 2021, as they've always done since the beginning of the world. The goal of the changin' times for BGS is to help us rebuild a stronger society that will live on in the future. Watch for more information in the newsletter, as well as email announcements. The Leadership Council is excited to share the news of the coming modern website.

# Do You Know About Property Abstracts?

By Brad Lemmon

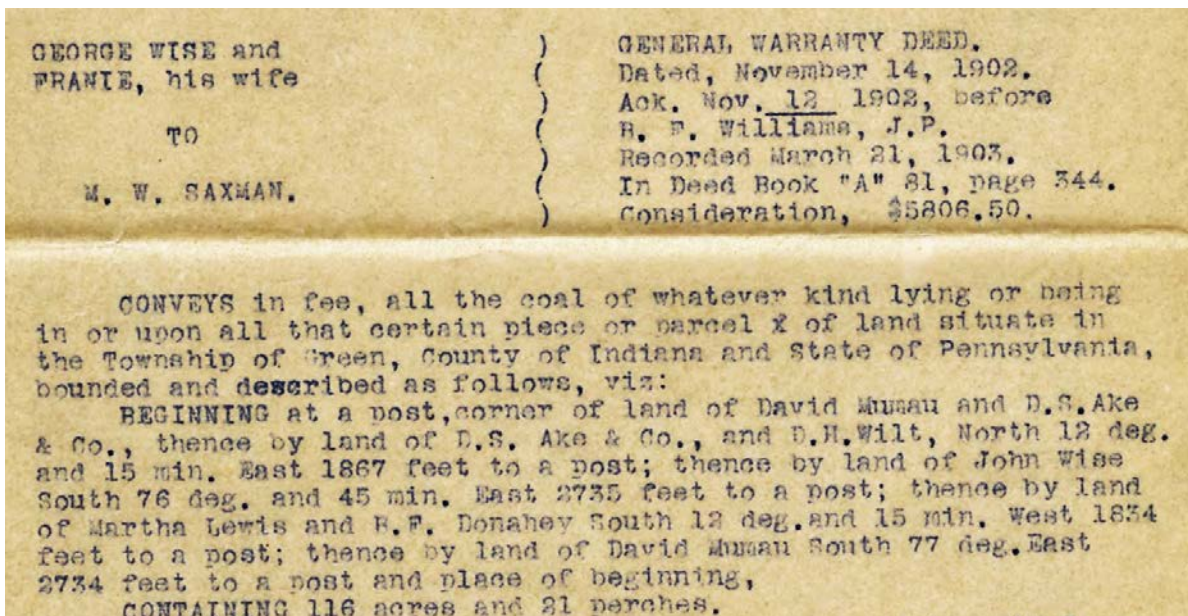
Google searches have unearthed information that helps me make sense of ancestral records, but they have rarely produced primary/secondary genealogy sources. But, one day close to the start of COVID, I Googled: ["George Wise" Indiana County PA]. The result gave me a link to a document that listed the contents of seven boxes of 1784–1885 Indiana County, Pennsylvania property abstracts housed at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). I've tracked down plenty of my ancestors' deeds, but I'd never heard of property abstracts before. They sounded promising, and five of my surnames were listed!



Brad Lemmon

**Property Abstract:** catalogs in chronological fashion, all legal documents pertaining to a parcel of land. Included are references to deeds, mortgages, wills, probate records, court litigation, and tax sales (the essential legal proceedings that affect property ownership). The abstract reveals the names of all people who have owned the property, how long each owner had it, and how much it sold for.

The only IUP contact info I could find was a phone number. I left multiple messages over the summer, but due to COVID, no one returned my calls. Finally, about a month ago, a librarian answered the telephone and we had a great conversation. He said the county had donated the records to the university at least 40 years ago. I purchased scans of three of the abstracts. Here is the final entry in one of them, pertaining to George and Franie Wise, my great-great-great-grandparents, selling coal rights on their property (note the metes and bounds surveying method). It appears they received \$5,806, which is about \$175,000 in today's dollars. Franie had 10 children that lived to adulthood, so I suppose the financial windfall got diluted quickly.



Earlier in the abstract the sale history of the property was shown to be:

1. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Hudson Barr, 1774
2. Hudson Barr to Richard Wells, 1774
3. Richard Wells to Thomas Cadwalader, 1800
4. Thomas Cadwalader to John Young, 1808
5. John Young to Joseph Young, 1840
6. Joseph Young to Solomon Wise, 1855
7. Solomon Wise to George Wise, 1883

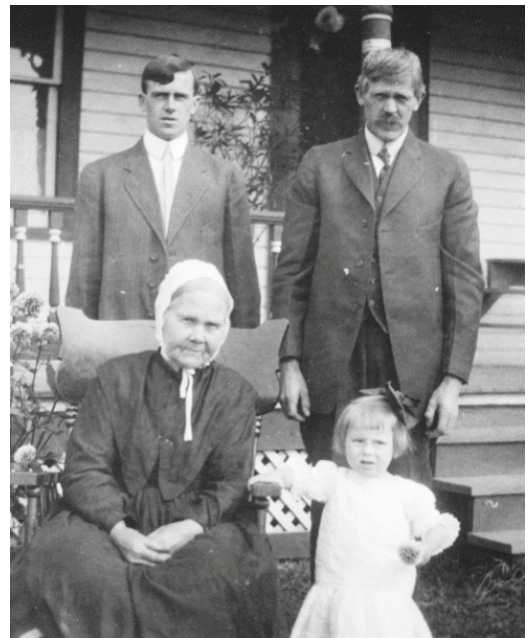
*Continued on page 3*

I already knew where this particular farm was located, but if I hadn't, the abstract could have been an immense help. Let's say I had an 1850 map showing Indiana County land owners (such maps exist). Not only does the abstract contain all previous land owners, but often, due to the metes and bounds surveying method, many of the previous neighbors. That information could help pinpoint the location of a relative's land with a high degree of certainty – even though one's actual relative wasn't on the map.

This land was eventually sold out of my family in 1972 by my grand-uncle, Lyle Wise, because he could no longer make a living farming.

Questions I've Barely Researched:

- Which states or counties maintained property abstracts?
- What years were the abstracts used?
- Are any of the abstracts online?
- If the abstracts are online, are any of them indexed?
- Have you encountered property abstracts in your research?



**Standing back left:** J. Harvey Wise, Brad's great-grandfather

**Standing back right:** John Wise, Brad's great-great-grandfather

**Sitting left:** Franie (Nicewonger) Wise, Brad's great-great-great-grandmother

**Little girl:** Leta (Wise) Lemmon, Brad's grandmother

## 3rd Tuesday Zoom – January Meeting

Tuesday – January 19 – 10:00 am (PST) – BGS Zoom Meeting (free)

### Navigating the Records from the War of 1812 with Brian Rhinehart

**B**rian Rhinehart, of [Rhinehart Roots Genealogy](#), is a professional genealogical researcher and speaker, and specializes in Civil War and War of 1812 research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. On January 19, he will help us learn about War of 1812 records, from bounty land to pensions. Learn how and why these records were created, how to make sense of them, and what they can contain for your ancestors!

Since most of us probably haven't had the opportunity to research at the National Archives, Brian will answer all questions you have about other records in the National Archives, in addition to those from the War of 1812. Start thinking about what you would like to ask about the resources in the National Archives.

**You don't have to register for the 3rd Tuesday Zoom.** BGS will send a message to our email group before Jan. 19 with the **link & password** to join the meeting at the appointed time. **Keep the email message**, so after you log into your Zoom account, you can click the link in the message to join the meeting. If you are NOT located in the Pacific time zone, please convert PST to your time zone.

If you are not in our group, please email [BGS@bendbroadband.com](mailto:BGS@bendbroadband.com) and ask for the Zoom link.



## 3rd Tuesday Zoom – February Preview

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Tuesday – February 16 – 10:00 am (PST) – BGS Zoom Meeting (free)  
**Genealogy Brick Wall Breakthroughs with Thomas MacEntee**



**W**ant to see first-hand how to break through that persistent “brick wall” in genealogy? Using actual research problems submitted by webinar attendees, genealogist Thomas MacEntee will walk participants through a step-by-step research methodology process to find clues and possible solutions. Participants will have access to research logs, digital images and more during and after the webinar. Also included is a “habit recipe” to implement the same techniques used in the live webinar in your own research.



**YOU COULD BE THE LUCKY WINNER** of Thomas’ evaluation of your long-standing brick wall. He will examine it during the presentation on February 16 for possible breakthroughs!

Click [HERE](#) to find Thomas’ Brick Wall Intake Form. Fill it out with information about your Brick Wall. **The DEADLINE for submissions is 10 Feb 2021**, after which Thomas will choose the lucky winner to be featured during his presentation.

**NOTE:** The first BGS Brick Wall Workshop will be on January 28 (see Zoom registration on page 5) and will continue on the 4th Thursday of subsequent months. After this first workshop, Thomas will give us good Brick Wall advice on February 16 that we can use in future BGS Brick Wall workshops.

## NEW BGS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

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**P**at Kliewer had a lively Beginning Genealogy group in Williamson Hall last year until Covid-19 hit in March and all BGS meetings were canceled. She is a fantastic researcher and teacher. She is willing to facilitate a FREE Zoom Beginning Genealogy group in 2021, so if you are just starting your family history journey and want help with genealogy basics, Pat’s group is for you. As before, she starts each meeting with a lesson that includes handouts/links. After going through the day’s lesson, the class is open for questions on any topic. Pat is great at tailoring her teaching to the individuals attending and questions that are asked.

See BGS Zoom instructions for all meetings at the top of page 5.

**Beginning Genealogy: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month—3:00–5:00 pm (PST)**

If you miss the first group, you can always join on the date you are able to start. 2021 will be a great year to learn the basics of genealogy research and start your family tree with Pat’s help.

*Click the green button to register  
for every date you want to attend:*

Beginning Gen  
January 27

Beginning Gen  
February 10

Beginning Gen  
February 24

# MORE BGS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

BGS meetings & workshops are virtual using [zoom](#). All you need to do is install the FREE account on a device connected to the internet. Sign up at: <https://zoom.us/>. Use the “Sign Up It’s Free” button. BGS meetings are **FREE** to members & non-members. Info: [bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto:bgs@bendbroadband.com)

**If the meeting requires Registration**, click the register button below for the meetings you want to attend. After clicking it, fill out the registration form you receive online and click Register at the bottom of the form. Zoom will send you an email with the **LINK** to join the meeting. **Keep the Zoom message**. Before the start time of the meeting, log into your Zoom app and click the **LINK** to join the meeting.

You are encouraged to email questions to BGS for the groups/workshops prior to a meeting date. During the meeting, ask questions and anyone in the group can help answer them.



## German Discussion Group: *First Wednesday of the month—1 pm (PST)*

Get together with others who are researching German ancestors. Share successes and problems.

*Click the green button to register for every date you want to attend:*

GERMAN GROUP  
January 6

GERMAN GROUP  
February 3

GERMAN GROUP  
March 3



## DNA Workshops: *Second Thursday of the month—10 am (PST)*

The big four DNA testing companies seem to continually make changes. Each month we will review the approach of one company, so we better understand what the changes mean to us, when we’re analyzing our matches. Gary Putnam & Sandy Thompson, facilitators. *(23andMe in April)*

*Click the green button to register for every date you want to attend:*

ANCESTRY DNA  
January 14

MyHeritageDNA  
February 11

FamilyTreeDNA  
March 11



## Brick Wall Workshop: *Fourth Thursday of the Month—10 am (PST)*

It is inevitable that you will encounter brick walls as you research your tree. Often it helps to discuss problems with others, which is the purpose of the Brick Wall workshop every month. Outline a Brick Wall and someone may have a great idea about how to overcome it. You are encouraged to email problems ahead of time. Brad Lemmon, Facilitator.

*Click the green button to register for every date you want to attend:*

BRICK WALL  
January 28

BRICK WALL  
\*March 4

BRICK WALL  
March 25

*\*RootsTech starts on Feb. 25, so Brick Wall was moved to Mar. 4.*

## BGS Leadership Council

*Thurs, Jan. 21, 9:30 am (PST)—Thurs, Feb. 18, 9:30 am (PST)—Thurs, Mar. 18, 9:30 am (PST)*

If you are interested in BGS planning discussions, consider attending Leadership Council meetings and help BGS plan BGS’ future. Length: 1-2 hours. To attend a Council meeting, email BGS indicating your desire to join the group and we will email the Zoom link to you.

## NEWS FROM THE WEB

rootstech  
CONNECT 25-27 February 2021  
rootstech.org

February will be here  
before you know it &  
Feb. means RootsTech!

The exciting news is RootsTech 2021 is entirely virtual, including a virtual exhibit hall, and is completely FREE for everyone in the world.

RootsTech 2021 is every genealogist's dream come true. The four keynoters have already been announced. We are awaiting the schedule of presentations and classes by the top genealogists in the world, so we can start planning what to watch. **Even though it is free, you need to register. Do it today at:** <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng> to begin receiving RootsTech information. Everyone who wants to can participate in RootsTech at the end of February.

## Melungeon Genealogy

[Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter – Post on 23 Dec 2020](#)

*I learn something new from Dick Eastman's newsletter every week and right before Christmas was no exception. Those of you who research in central Appalachia may already know about this unique American group.*

Who are the Melungeons? The answer is not simple. In fact, nobody seems to know exactly.

"Wikipedia states, Melungeons is a term for numerous tri-racial isolate group of people of the Southeastern United States. Historically, the Melungeons were associated with settlements in the Cumberland Gap area of central Appalachia, which includes portions of East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and eastern Kentucky. Tri-racial describes populations thought to be of mixed European, African and Native American ancestry. Although there is no consensus on how many such groups exist, estimates range as high as 200."



*A Melungeon family in the early 20th century*

Different claims about Melungeon origins have been made, but none seem to be proven. Whatever the origins, the Melungeons are a rather large group and many people in Appalachia claim to have Melungeon ancestry. Dick and Archives.com offer several more resources for researching Melungeon ancestors.

- Melungeon genealogy article by Elizabeth Caldwell Hirschman at [Archives.com](#).
- Hirschman, Elizabeth C. *Melungeons: The Last Lost Tribe in America*. Mercer University Press, 2005.
- Official Website of the Melungeon Heritage Society: <http://melungeon.org/>
- [Wikipedia summary](#) of the Melungeon DNA project, which refers to two current FamilyTreeDNA projects which are found at: [Melungeon Core DNA, a Y-DNA project](#) and [Melungeon-mtDNA](#).
- [Many YouTube videos](#) about the Melungeon people.



## What are your predictions for the future?

Dial telephones were the norm in 1953, sixty-seven years ago. There were no personal computers or the internet. Genealogists were still writing to archives and libraries to request records, but if they had funds for long distance phone calls, they could call ahead and maybe be able to talk to an archivist or librarian.

This is a 1953 news feed from the Associated Press (AP) in Pasadena. The report about the future of the phone from Mark R. Sullivan ran in several newspapers across the United States.

Sullivan was uncannily accurate in his predictions that we would be carrying around our phones; they probably wouldn't have a dial; and we would be able to see each other as we talked.

## What do you predict for 50 years in the future, especially for future genealogists?

Email your ideas to BGS ([bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto:bgs@bendbroadband.com)) and we'll list them in an upcoming newsletter.

*This clip is from The News Journal (Wilmington, Delaware), Friday, 10 April 1953, p.18, found on Newspapers.com.*



## All Four of the Big DNA Testing Companies Updated Ethnicity Estimates in 2020

If you have not checked your DNA test(s) with AncestryDNA, MyHeritageDNA, 23andMe, or FamilyTree DNA recently, go take a look at your "ethnicity" estimate. All the companies updated the estimates in 2020. All of them claim to have increased the accuracy of their predictions with the update. What do you think about your new ethnicity estimate?

While DNA testing slowed down a bit in 2020, we will probably see many new matches several weeks after Christmas. While recognizing that none of the ethnicity percentages are perfect, they can still provide a broad view about unknown matches, so are usually worth checking out.

**Letters to the Editor of *DISTANT VOICES* are always welcome!** Email comments, additions or corrections for any of the items in the newsletter to: [bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto:bgs@bendbroadband.com). *DISTANT VOICES* is always looking for newsletter articles, as well as all ideas you have about BGS activities you'd like to see. We'd like to publish any of your thoughts in future newsletters!

# BGS FUNDRAISERS

*Help support your Bend Genealogical Society when you shop!*

Last fiscal year, 1 Jun 2019 to 31 May 2020, BGS earned **\$210** from these fundraisers. In the current fiscal year, we have earned **\$85.93 to date**. With your help, maybe we could top last year's amount!



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 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 20-21 FY, as of 16 Dec 2020

Dues Income (74 paid members)	\$ 1,410.00
Other Income	\$ 1,095.39
<hr/> YTD Total Income	<hr/> \$ 2,505.39
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 1,378.75

## BGS Leadership Council

President: Gary Putnam	<u>Members-at-large:</u>
Secretary: Brad Lemmon	Sue Dolezal
Treasurer: Sandy Thompson	Maggy Wilcox
Director: Sherry Hamilton	Sharon Freeman
Director: Linda Beilby	Linda Martin
Past VP: Catherine Dulzo	

**Would you like to help BGS, too?**



**BEND  
GENEALOGICAL  
&  
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.




*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

New Website is Under Construction – Email: [bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto: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.