



# *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.

## **Understanding Our Ancestors**

*By Catherine Dulzo*

If you're like me, you've spent countless hours/months/years researching, compiling, logging and charting names, dates and places for our ancestors. If you're like me, from time to time you've also wondered about them. Who were they really? What were their lives like? Why did they move from one place to another? How come one document says they were born in Kentucky, and another says Missouri? What happened that so many of them died within days or weeks of each other? If you're like me, you might also think you should probably write about them *someday*. Here's my story.

My father sparked my fascination with my ancestors when he gave me a family genealogy written by his great-grandfather. Though it was just dates and relationships, I knew it was something special. When I told my mother about it, she mentioned that her aunt was a member of the D.A.R. That was it. Down I went into the rabbit hole of genealogical research, going one way as far as I could, then backing up and going another direction.



*Catherine and her Dad*

Thirty years on, I find myself wondering more and more about the people behind the data. Once again, my father played a role in my curiosity. I remember showing him a descendant chart for one of his lines, complete with vintage photos passed down from his grandmother. As he scanned the chart, he recognized names and enjoyed learning how all these people were related. Then he paused for a moment. "But *who* were they?" He said that now that he understood their relationships, he wanted to know more than just the when and where. He also said he was certain I was going to write a book about them *someday*. Oh?

The years have flown by since that conversation and last year it hit me that he was about to turn 92 and, although I wasn't ready to write a book, I wanted to find a way to share what I could about his ancestors' lives. Ultimately, I decided to use a binder, organize it by generation, and let photos, facts, and other people's writings, some published, some not (but always cited!), do the heavy lifting.

*Continued on page 2*

## 3rd Tuesday Zoom – February

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. He also includes a “habit recipe,” so you can implement the same techniques used in the live webinar in your own research.



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED.** [Click here to register for Genealogy Brick Wall Breakthroughs.](#)

**YOU COULD BE THE LUCKY WINNER** of Thomas’ personal evaluation of your brick wall during the presentation on February 16. Maybe you’ll get a new clue for a possible breakthrough!

[To tell him about your Brick Wall, click HERE for Thomas’ Brick Wall Intake Form.](#)

**The DEADLINE for submissions is 10 Feb 2021.**

## Understanding Our Ancestors

*Continued from page 1*

I began by choosing a line to follow and then set about finding everything I could about each person. I programmed my way-back machine for warp speed and pored over all kinds of records for clues, searched catalogs and books on FamilySearch and Ancestry, and scoured Newspapers.com. At first, I lucked out in that some of the men in my father’s lineage were well-known “captains of industry,” in Detroit during the nineteenth century. Because they and their families were members of “high society,” I was able to find several items about them. But as I went on, the fountain of information slowed to an occasional burble, then went dry. Consequently, I determined that there are three tiers of biographical information out there: (1) in-depth articles and biographies, (2) obits, wedding announcements, gazetteers and such, and (3) absolutely nothing. Women and regular Joes proved especially difficult. I was stuck.

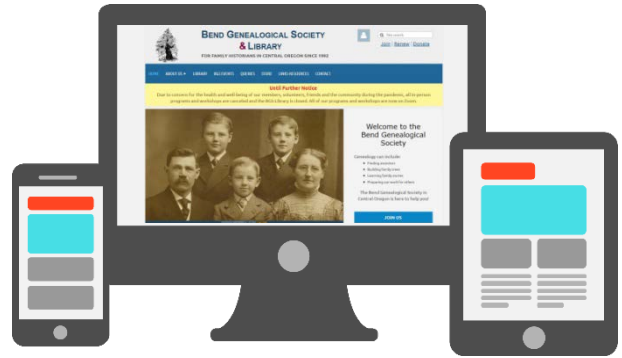
History turned out to be the solution. Here’s why: History provides context, and context provides insights into what life was like during the era in which a person lived. Even when my searches landed me in the third informational tier (see above), I could pull headlines and advertisements from local newspapers of the time. Headlines connected my people to the events of their times and revealed how those events impacted the community. Advertisements for the latest fashions, household items and transportation provided visual references, and medicinal ads often revealed the attitudes of the times. Articles and advertisements related to a person’s occupation helped to personalize the context.

I printed out items as I found them and placed them the binder according to their generations, which were separated by tabs. I also included photos when I could, and placed a family sheet at the beginning of each generation. In the end, I had produced a binder full of information that brought my father’s ancestors to life. He was so pleased. And frankly, so am I, for that binder will serve as the foundation for the book I’m going to write, *someday*. — *Catherine*

# Progress is Being Made on the New Website

We're working on building the various pages in the new BGS website and we're making progress. As soon as it's ready, you'll be the first to know.

- We're looking forward to taking credit card payments, so it is quicker and easier for members to join or renew, and for anyone to make a donation to support genealogy in Bend.
- You'll be able to see the entire BGS event calendar to plan what you want to attend and you can register for the event on the website.
- BGS was meeting in Bend before Ancestry.com officially went online in 1996. We have all seen tremendous change in the genealogy world since then. For BGS, a new website is long overdue.



## zoom 🔒 🔒 🔒 SECURITY

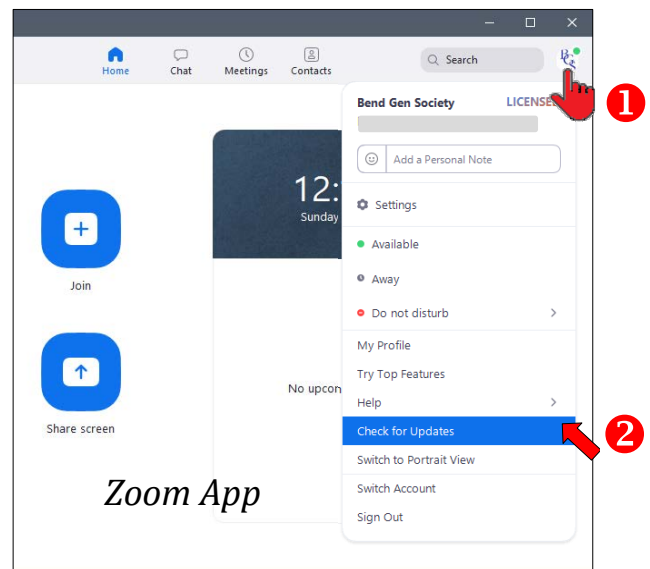
**BGS** is serious about Zoom security. Zoom bombing (porn images, etc., placed by hackers in Zoom meetings) still happens today, though not as frequently as a year ago. Zoom strengthened the security in its software last year, as well as requiring ALL meetings to use particular security functions.

**BGS is going to add two more security features** to our meetings. **1) the Waiting Room** (we have not used this yet). This means that as a participant, you will not immediately join the meeting. You will be in a virtual Waiting Room first. The meeting Host or Cohost will admit you to the meeting itself. This goes very fast, so you shouldn't see much difference. If you click the link to join the meeting 15 minutes ahead of time, you will be admitted early and can still say "Hi" to other participants, who are early.

**2) Registration will be required for all meetings**, not just for groups and workshops. We will use it for the 3rd Tuesday meetings, too. This is supposed to be one of the most effective tools to prevent hacking, **so please, click the link on p. 2 to register for the Feb. 16 meeting with Thomas MacEntee**. Zoom will email you a message with the link to join the meeting on the 16th.

If you use the Zoom App to join meetings, you can improve security by making sure you are always using the most recent version of the App. Every update includes security enhancements. Zoom usually prompts you to update, but you can check for updates yourself.

- ➊ After you log into the Zoom App with your email address and password, click on the icon in the upper-right hand corner. A drop-down menu opens.
- ➋ Select & Click "Check for Updates." Install update, if needed.



# 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 ZOOM MEETINGS REQUIRE REGISTRATION:** Click on registration link listed for the meeting you want to attend. Fill out the 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. Before the start time of the meeting, log into your Zoom account and click the **LINK** you received after registering to join the meeting.

BGS meetings are **FREE** to members & non-members. Info: [bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto:bgs@bendbroadband.com)

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.

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

Pat Kliewer facilitates the Beginning Genealogy group. She is a fantastic researcher and teacher. She starts each meeting with a lesson, after which the class is open for questions on any topic. Pat is great at tailoring her teaching to questions that are asked. Join any time.

[Click this link to register for Beginning Genealogy on Wed, Feb 10, from 3:00–5:00 pm](#)

[Click this link to register for Beginning Genealogy on Wed, Feb 24, from 3:00–5:00 pm](#)

[Click this link to register for Beginning Genealogy on Wed, Mar 3, from 3:00–5:00 pm](#)



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

Get together for an hour with others who are researching German ancestors. Share your successes and get help with your problems. Sandy Thompson, facilitator.

[Click this link to register for the German Group on Wed, Feb 3, at 1 pm](#)

[Click this link to register for the German Group on Wed, Mar 3, at 1 pm](#)

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



Each month we discuss the features of one DNA company, so we better understand how to use its tools as we’re analyzing our matches. Gary Putnam & Sandy Thompson, facilitators.  
*(23andMe in April)*

[Click this link to register for MyHeritageDNA on Thurs, Feb 11, at 1 pm](#)

[Click this link to register for the FamilyTreeDNA on Thurs, Mar 11, at 1 pm](#)



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

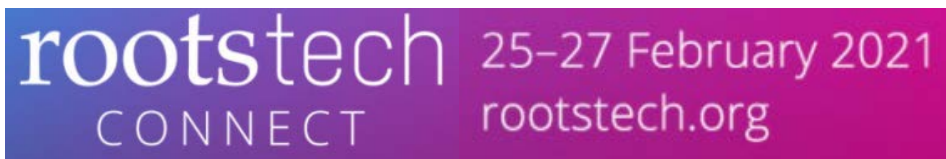
It is inevitable that you will encounter brick walls as you research your family. Often it helps to discuss problems with others, which is the purpose of the Brick Wall workshop. Outline a Brick Wall and the group may have great ideas about how to overcome it. You are encouraged to email problems ahead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

*\*RootsTech starts on Feb. 25, so Brick Wall is on Mar. 4.*

[Click this link to register for Brick Wall Workshop on \\*Thurs, Mar 4, at 1 pm](#)

[Click this link to register Brick Wall Workshop on Thurs, Mar 25, at 1 pm](#)





The end of February will be here before you know it!

RootsTech 2021 is entirely virtual exhibit hall and is **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> and begin receiving RootsTech information. This is your opportunity to experience RootsTech for FREE.

## Social Security SS-5 Application

By Sandy Thompson

We all know about the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), but do you know about the Social Security SS-5 Application? It was the application individuals used to obtain a Social Security card after the legislation establishing the program was passed in 1935. Some key pieces of data that may be on the form were:

- full names, including the maiden name for women;
- current address and place of employment;
- age at last birthday;
- date and place of birth;
- parents' names, including mother's maiden name.

Form SS-5  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT  
APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER 470-02-8984

1. PRINT NAME: HELEN CARLSON RUTH SODERSTROM  
2. 201 EAST 2 ST DULUTH MINN  
3. ALBERT STOCKMAN 203 BRADLEY BLDG  
4. 40 14 Jan 1896 8. IRONWOOD MICH.  
5. VICTOR CARLSON 10. LENA STROMGREN  
6. SEX: MALE FEMALE X 12. COLOR: WHITE X NEGRO OTHER  
7. IF REGISTERED WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD  
8. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS, ST: Dec 2 16. Helen Ruth Soderstrom

SS-5 Application for Helen Ruth Carlson, married name Soderstrom

This application broke through a brick wall for me. In Oct 1904, my grandfather's younger sister, Carolina died in Ironwood, MI. In Mar 1904, her husband Victor Carlson died. Both died from tuberculosis. They had 5 children, but in 1904 only 3 were living, two boys and girl. Three orphans. How could I prove what happened to them? A girl, Ellen Carlson, lived in my grandfather's household in Duluth for a while. Could she be Carolina's daughter? From a variety of records, I developed a theory that Ellen became Helen and married Arthur Soderstrom, but there was nothing that proved Helen Soderstrom's parents were Victor Carlson and Carolina Stromgren.

I hadn't ordered an SS-5 before and it was \$30+ several years ago, but I took a chance. Months later a copy of the SS-5 arrived. Helen lists her parents as Victor Carlson and Lena (nickname for Carolina) Stromgren!

[Click here for Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist's post on ordering the SS-5.](#) It's only \$21 now and Judy describes the online ordering method. [Click here for the paper form to request a copy of the SS-5 by mail.](#)

**Send your Brick Wall to Thomas MacEntee** for a chance to win his personal evaluation on Feb. 16 of how you might breakthrough it. Details on p. 2. [Click here for Form to submit your Brick Wall to Thomas.](#) Only five have been submitted, so you have a good chance to win!



The International Association of Germans from Lithuania (IAGL) has released a FREE, searchable online name database that provides researchers access to original church and civil record pertaining to ethnic Germans living in the Suwałki Gubernia in the former Russian Empire (today in southwestern Lithuania). Find the database at: <https://index.germansfromlithuania.org/>. This website is full of information about Germans from Lithuania, including articles, a blog, and research aids. Check out the home page at: <https://www.germansfromlithuania.org/>.

There are many websites similar to this one for specific ethnic groups of people from various regions in the world. An internet search can usually find them and one may help you breakthrough a brick wall about your immigrant ancestor.

## MORE TIDBITS FROM THE WEB



**An Interesting DNA Article.** “On Its 20th Anniversary, DNA Testing Reaches a Tipping Point” was posted on 6 May 2020 by Psychology Today. The article discusses the impact DNA testing has had on lives, even the lives of those who never test, e.g., a birth parent can be found through the tests of close relatives, even though he/she never tested. What has DNA testing meant to you? [Click here to go to the article.](#)

**What To Do When You Suspect Your Ancestor Changed His Name.** Lisa Lisson has an article on her website “Are You My Cousin?” that addresses this very problem. There are 68 comments at the end of the article, so it certainly sparked the interest of many readers. [Click here to go to the article.](#) Lisa has posts on all sorts of issues genealogists face when researching. Home page: <https://lialisson.com/>

**FREE Virtual Genealogy Classes.** Jeanie Bean, a fabulous BGS member years ago, who moved to Utah, emailed this tip. The Layton Utah FamilySearch Center offers several FREE Zoom classes every week on all sorts of subjects. [Click here for Center’s web page.](#) Also, [Click here for a long list of Center Class Handouts you can download.](#) The handouts illustrate how thorough the classes are.

➔ **A tip from you can appear in Distant Voices, too!** We’re sure you have found great websites during the months of pandemic lockdown. Just send an email describing your tip to: [bgs@bendbroadband.com](mailto:bgs@bendbroadband.com).

**Not Using the FREE Internet Archive, Give It a Try.** Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter blog post for 20 Jan 2021 begins: “Would you like to electronically search through 164,634 genealogy books? You can do that at the Internet Archive.” [Click here to find the genealogy collection.](#) Read the article about the Internet Archive at: <https://eogn.com/page-18080/9885946>. Hints: County and family histories are in the genealogy collection, and the Archive has way more than just genealogy items. I can spend hours exploring the Internet Archive!



**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 **\$94.01 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 20 Jan 2021

Dues Income (74 paid members)	\$ 1,410.00
Other Income	\$ 1,095.75
YTD Total Income	\$ 2,505.75
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 1,995.45

## BGS Leadership Council

President: Gary Putnam	Members-at-large:
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  
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.




*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.