



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

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

June 2003

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14 June 2003 Program

Annual Potluck Picnic and Book Sale. Be sure to bring a dish of your choice to share and books or novels to donate for summer reading. Also, College United Methodist Church is having a garage sale from 8 a. m. - 4 p. m., so parking may be limited. In the past, parking has been available on the grass beside the drive behind the Museum.

September Board Meeting Change

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the date for the September BCGS Board meeting has been changed to Thursday, September 4, 2003 from 7-9 p.m. at Damaris Reynolds

You're Invited!

The family of Damaris Peck Reynolds invites you to join us in celebrating her 90th birthday at an Open House, Sunday June 22, 2003 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. It will be held at The Benton County Historical Museum, 1101 Main Street, Philomath, Oregon. No gifts, please, but a card or note is welcome. If you wish to give a gift, a small contribution to the Benton County Historical Museum in honor of the occasion would be very much appreciated.

September Program

Here's your chance to spend all summer having fun doing genealogy research and then share your most recent and most successful genealogical adventures at our annual Show 'N Tell program on September 13, 2003.

QUERIES

Research queries can now be mailed directly to **Mabelle Martsching**. Her basic charge for Obituary searches is \$10 per obituary. Additional research will be charged by arrangement according to the time and effort it requires.

Mabelle Martsching
3000 NW Roosevelt Dr
Corvallis, OR 97330

Kith and Kin By Charlene Talbot

Emergence of a Genealogist: Dean Johnson

We talked to Dean Johnson at the Museum's film reader while he was working on a reel of the Corvallis Gazette, searching for vital statistics for the Society's Benton County Newspapers project. He told us his interest in hunting family roots came through his sister Lorraine, who lives in Salem.

"She collected all the materials she could when our parents died," he said, "from them and from relatives back in North Dakota. She was more involved in talking to relatives and hadn't done any research. But she wouldn't let anybody throw anything out. Luckily. Then when I retired in 1997 I decided one of my hobbies would be genealogy and now we share information. I joined the Benton County Genealogical Society and took a couple of Danell Aukerman's classes at Linn-Benton Community College--one on how to do genealogy in general and one on genealogy on the internet. I started looking at films at the Mormon's Family History Center and using interlibrary loan at the public library."

His direct surnames to search were Johnson, Dietzman, Stewart, Weber, and Galloway. "Not the easiest names for finding the right individuals," he admitted.

"I had one reference on my Johnson line from an 1888 book that placed my Johnson ancestors in Lancaster (later Dauphin) County, Pennsylvania in the mid 1700s and I went on from there. The name was spelled variously Johnson, Johnsen, Johnston, Jonson, and Jonsen. My immigrant ancestor, David, was born in Ireland, but I have a land warrant dated 1739 which places him in Pennsylvania by that time."

Dean told us he has gained information on this line from DAR applications through the help of Jean Grube and from a CD in the Society's library entitled Egle's Notes and Queries.

"My grandfather Carey Johnson married Ida Dietzman," he said. "The Dietzmans came to America in 1852 through New Orleans and up to St. Louis. I've traced them back to Germany with the help of several cousins I met over the internet. One has been particularly helpful. She's in her seventies and was just learning how to use the computer when we first made contact. Now she uses the scanner, too, and we've exchanged pictures, documents and newspaper clippings. She's wheelchair-bound from polio. Our ancestor Gottlieb Dietzman lost his right arm in the Civil War in the Vicksburg campaign. His son enlisted as a drummer boy.

Continued next page

I've shared copies of the pension files with Dietzman cousins and been rewarded in turn. Also there's a lot of information on the Civil War battles available on the internet."

Dean was also lucky enough to make contact over the internet with a man who was hiring a researcher in Scotland and travelling all over the US to do a thorough search on his ancestral lines, which included Dean's Stewarts and Galloways. Dean got a copy of the man's book. He learned his ancestors had worked in coal mines in the old country and were poor. John Drennan Stewart sailed from Liverpool to Philadelphia. The ship's log says his destination was Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. Dean has been unable to find out why he went to that particular place. His wife and children joined him in 1889. One daughter died on the trip and a second child died at Christmas time.

"It had to be a terribly difficult time for them," Dean mused, "--hard to imagine."

Dean said he enjoys finding out more about his ancestors, "especially," he added, "when you've been facing a brick wall and you find a crack. I've been trying to get my sister to write down some of her early childhood experiences, particularly about her childhood in North Dakota and their 1937 trip out to Oregon. Last weekend we met up at Monmouth and went to the university library there. We read newspaper microfilms of the Monmouth Herald. Those early papers related many personal items. We found mention of when the first of our Johnsons came to Suver in 1934, when their house burned down, when my family arrived and lived upstairs of the vacant grocery store, when they moved to a farmhouse over near Helmick Park, my birth announcement, who all attended the Christmas celebration at our house, when the family moved to Monmouth, and when we moved up to Mehama, and a lot more. We were able to pin down exact dates for when things occurred and learned some things that had been forgotten. We had a good time, and got copies for our records."

Dean's tip for other genealogists is to check out the Society's library. "A lot of times I haven't found anything," he said, "and then I'll come across something. I've gotten a lot of help from interlibrary loan, too, information that I wouldn't have been able to get otherwise."

HUMOR

If **ALL OUR LUKEWARM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS** would fire up and **ALL THE SLEEPING MEMBERS** would wake up, **ALL THE DEPRESSED MEMBERS** would cheer up, **ALL THE ESTRANGED MEMBERS** would make up, and **ALL THE AGITATORS** would dry up, what a wonderful organization we would have! **AND**— if every member would **RECRUIT JUST ONE** new member, we'd double in size! — **THINK ABOUT IT.**

*** Adapted from Texas Co., MO Gen. Newsletter by The STALKER Newsletter of Madison County, IL Genealogy Society and reprinted from the Bend Genealogical Society Newsletter, April 2003, with many thanks.

King Family Reunion

The King Folk Reunion (descendents of Nahum & Sarepta Norton King, Benton Co. Pioneers of 1845) is set for June 21, 2003, 9:00-4:00 pm, at the Kings Valley School. The school is located at 39088 Kings Valley Highway, Kings Valley, Oregon. The morning will be spent as a workshop. Bring family information and photos to share. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

Lunch is at noon. Bring a main dish and another item of choice (dessert, salad, or munchies). Also, bring your own utensils. Coffee, iced tea and bottled water will be furnished.

The general meeting and sharing time will begin at 1:30. Agenda items include: Kings Valley Cemetery and possible donation, King Folk Newsletter, website, cash on hand, Chambers Family Bibles, Nahum & Sarepta's burial site, and the Plunkett House.

For more information contact newsletter editor Earle Greig at 541-754-0053 or Egreig@pioneer.net.

BCGS New Members

(since last newsletter)

Sandra, Daniel, Kendra, Aaron & Seth Blakley
336 S. 30th St.
Philomath, OR 97370
blakleys@quik.com

Mary M. Huston
4624 NE Saint James Rd
Vancouver WA 98663-2188
No phone or email provided

Our membership currently stands at 157 members.

OLD MILL FESTIVAL

An OLD MILL FESTIVAL will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2003 from 10 -- 5 at Thompson's Mills, 1 1/2 miles east of Shedd. Food, entertainment, tours of the mill, living history demonstrations, and much more. BCGS member Martin Thompson is president of the Boston Mill Society which is sponsoring the event as a fundraiser. Martin's grandfather purchased the mill in 1891.

For more information, visit the website at:
<http://www.bostonmill.org>

THIS 'N' THAT

The list of the file cabinet contents in the BCGS library is now located on top of the file cabinet.

Discovering Your Civil War Ancestors, Their Battles and Stories

Come learn more about your Civil War Ancestor at this workshop hosted by the Linn Genealogical Society of Albany, OR. Twenty dollars does not go far these days, but you will get your money's worth from the presenter Clay Feeter.

Clay Feeter comes highly recommended as a Civil War researcher and author. He also publishes www.TheHistoryCalendar.com, an all history events web calendar. Clay usually does Civil War Ancestor searches at bookstores across the West Coast but we felt it would be of great benefit to feature him in a workshop. Topics for the workshop will include a step-by-step internet resource research process, using the US Civil War center website resources, National Archives Pension & Military files and MUCH, MUCH more. The workshop will close with a slide presentation by Mr. Feeter, called "Walking in Our Ancestor's Footsteps."

This one-day workshop will held at Linn Benton Community College in Room B-105 (which is equipped with computers) on Saturday, June 21st from 9:00 AM – 4:45 PM. The cost of the workshop is \$20.00, plus \$5.00, if you desire a box lunch.

In order to customize this class to your needs, please bring specific information on two of your Civil War ancestors. If you only know of one Civil War ancestor, bring one. You will need the first, middle and last name, date of birth, where he lived about 1861 (1860 census is a good indicator if you are unsure) and his wife's name.

Class is limited to seating for 50, advance registration is strongly recommended and needs to be received by June 14, 2003. Make checks payable to the Linn Genealogical Society and remit to LGS, P. O. Box 1222, Albany, OR 97321

For questions or further information you can contact Byron Bray (928-2487), Linda Ellsworth (924-9372), Richard Harper (928-2110) or Betty Thorn (926-4353).

*** The Registration form is available to be copied at the BCGS library if you are interested in attending.***

2003 family history fair

When: Sept 20, 2003 (Saturday) 9 pm to 4:30 pm

Where: Parkrose High School, 123003 NE Shaver, Portland, OR

What: The gathering of genealogical/historical societies, exhibitors, and family history researchers seeing a showcase of those who want to make research rewarding.

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) is hosting its primary community outreach educational event, the Family History Fair. It is an opportunity to talk to the experts, and meet others who love finding their roots, ask questions and attend exciting classes (four one hour classes of general interest to both beginners and the experienced).

Summer Happenings

Monteith House Museum in Albany has expanded summer hours, Wednesday.-Sunday, 12-4, from mid-June to mid-September. On **June 14**, from 10-4, is "**Daily Life in 1858**" day, as part of the Pioneer Living History program. A \$1.00 donation is recommended. Call 541-928.0911 for additional information.

August 30, 2003 at **Champoeg State Park** is the **3rd Annual "Pioneer Farmstead Day"** with living history exhibits, food and music. For more information, check the website at: www.oregonstateparks.org/park_113.php Then click on the link for Pioneer Farmstead Day. For those without computer access, call the Friends of Champoeg at (503) 678-1649.

Feichter House at Finley Wildlife Refuge, Corvallis. Summer, Sundays, 10 am-4 pm. For more info. call 541-757-7236 or 541-929-6230.

Brownsville Pioneer Picnic--June 20, 21, 22 in Brownsville. http://www.brownsvilleoregon.org/pioneer_picnic.htm

Oregon Covered Bridge Festival--Sept 20 & 21, 9-6 in Stayton. <http://www.covered-bridges.org/06Events/events.htm>

Judy Juntunen to Retire from Museum in June

After nearly 21 years of service to the Historical Society and the people of Benton County, Judy Juntunen will be retiring as Assistant Director/Librarian on June 30. Over the past two decades, Judy has helped thousands of people learn about and enjoy history, and she has worked hard to ensure that our local history is preserved. And in her own way, she has *made history*.

Many people know Judy from her work at the Benton County Historical Museum, but few may realize that her love of history began at an early age when, in the eighth grade at Corvallis High (then a five-year school), she was a member of the Junior Historical Society. But perhaps her enduring interest in local history stems from her many ancestors who settled in this area in the mid-19th century. Among the early Benton County surnames found on her family tree are Rycraft (her maiden name) Hawley, Belknap, and Vernon.

Judy grew up in Corvallis, graduating from Corvallis High in 1958. She earned both B.S. and M.A. degrees from Oregon State University. Prior to coming to the museum, Judy worked as a teacher and school librarian, and she and her husband Jim raised four lively kids: Troy, Bryn, Kylee, & Trevor.

In September 1981, Judy was hired as "Administrative Assistant/Manuscript Librarian" for the Benton County Historical Museum, working with Daniel Robertson, then the Director. When Robertson left in May, 1983, Judy served briefly as Interim Director then was given the title of Assistant Director/ Librarian. Judy has played a major role in the preservation of local history through her work at the museum and in the community. The impact of her work will be appreciated for many years to come. Most people don't realize the scope of Judy's involvement in the business of history. She has taught history at Linn-Benton Community College; conducted surveys of historic sites and structures; led tours; lectured on a variety of topics; written numerous historical accounts; assisted hundreds of people researching their genealogy or the history of a building or historic event; and helped thousands of students gain an understanding of the history of Benton County.

For a while, Judy was also known as "Dr. History," appearing monthly on KLOO radio to talk about local people and events. Her knowledge and abilities as a story-teller make local history vibrant, intriguing, and personal. Now, Judy is getting ready to retire from her position at the museum (and we know of six grandchildren and any number of quilt-shop owners who will rejoice at the news.) But, in no way does this mean that she will stop doing what she does best – encouraging people of all ages to develop a love of history. Judy will continue her volunteer work with numerous preservation projects and she also intends to volunteer at the museum. She's not ready to become "history" herself.

On Saturday, June 28th, there will be a retirement reception for Judy at the museum from 1 to 4 pm. Please plan to stop by to thank Judy for her work – and wish her well on the next chapter of her life.

Chautauqua Schedule 2003

June 24 — Demystifying Intelligence — Emily Francona. Sponsor: Corvallis Benton County Public Library.

July 1 — The Ku Klux Klan in Oregon: History and Public Memory — Eckard Toy. Sponsor: Benton County Historical Society & Museum.

July 8 — The Ultramodernists: American Avant-Garde Arts in the Early 1900s — Lisa Robertson. Sponsor: Benton Center.

July 15 — Westward I Go Free: Women and Freedom in the Frontier West — Susan G. Buttrille. Sponsor: Benton County Historical Society & Museum.

July 22 — Witch of Kodakery: The Photography of Myra Albert Wiggins (1869-1956) — Carole Glauber. Sponsor: Benton Center.

July 29 — My Grandfather's Emigrant Eyes: Songs and History of the Irish Emigration to America — Jeni K. Foster. Sponsor: Corvallis/Benton County Public Library.

Note: The *Oregon Chautauqua 2002-2003 Catalog* is in the Subject File under "Chautauqua 2003." It has program explanations, as well as the contact name, address, phone number and e-mail for each program. A detailed copy of each program's events will be posted in the BCGS Library.

The First Online International Genealogy Conference

On June 10, Family History Radio, Genealogy Research Associates, Genealogy.com, and the Federation of Genealogical Societies will sponsor an online genealogy conference designed to provide the latest genealogy information, products, services, training and online interaction with other genealogists throughout the world. www.egenconference.com

Now you will have an opportunity to participate in a worldwide conference in the comfort of your own home. The minimum you need is a computer with Windows 98 and above, speakers, Internet Explorer and a 56kbps modem and you are set. Listen to the lectures and presentations at your convenience. In fact, the conference will be online for 30 days after the launch on June 10. This means from June 10 to July 10 2003 you can listen to any of the conference speakers or visit any of the exhibit booths. It's very easy to participate in the conference. All you have to do is register by clicking on the button below. Once registered you will receive a username and password that will give you permission to enter the exhibit booths and listen to all lectures and presentations anytime from June 10 to July 10 2003.

Some of the presentations will also be done in foreign languages so that there is not a language barrier. During the conference you can visit special rooms that specialize in different facets of genealogy. Chat with other visitors, get literature and exchange information. This conference will feature some of the best speakers in the genealogy community. Rather than have to pick and choose conferences because of time conflicts you can listen to all the presentations because you have 30 days to do so. You will also have an opportunity to participate in selected conferences by submitting your questions or comments via email.

GENEALOGY BOOK FAIRE BIG SUCCESS!

The Genealogy Book Faire was held on our regular meeting day in May. The other Genealogical Societies in the state were invited to attend with their collection of books for sale. The Societies from Lincoln and Lane Counties and the Lebanon Society in Linn County had a table of new and used books, besides our own table with Lee Gentemann in charge. Everyone was browsing around and checking to see if they needed certain books for their society library or their own use.

The area's newest genealogy bookstore, *The Village Genealogy Bookshoppe*, was also present with tables of books and CD's.

Everyone seemed pleased with the number of sales and new friends they made. Free refreshments were available.

BCGS made \$398.52 from the sale of excess books from the Harding Collection. It has been suggested that the profits be used to purchase an expensive set of books as a Harding memorial. If you have any book suggestions, please contact Damaris Reynolds. The Society also received \$410 from new book sales.

Plans for next year's Book Faire are in the making for **May 8, 2004**.

Thanks to everyone for making our first Genealogy Book Faire the success that it was.

I'M ALWAYS LATE. MY ANCESTORS ARRIVED ON THE JUNEFLOWER.

Oregon Death Certificates

Reprinted from the Sweet Home Genealogical Society Newsletter, January 2003.

By statute, all Oregon death certificates are closed to the public for 50 years. That means genealogists can do their own research until the records are 50 years old. They can order copies from Oregon Vital Records, PO Box 14050, Portland, OR 97214-0050. The fee is \$15.00 per copy.

Oregon death certificates that are 50 years old are at the Oregon State Archives. Genealogists can go the Archives at **800 Summer St., NE in Salem** and look through the original records. Copies of the certificates are 25 cents.

If you can not go in person, you can request a copy by mail or by e-mail. Their e-mail address is archives@state.or.us. If you make a mail request, it should be for no more than two certificates. For more than two, they must charge an hourly research fee. The staff will bill you for the certificates and postage.

Board Meetings are usually two Mondays before the second Saturday [our regular meeting time]. Dates of the upcoming Board meetings are:
4 September for the **13 September** meeting. Cookies—Danell Aukerman
29 September for the **11 October** meeting. Cookies—Margaret Hays
27 October for the **8 November** meeting. Cookies—Gene Newcomb
1 December for the **13 December** meeting. Cookies—Jim Russell

Membership Information

President	Danell Aukerman danellauk@attbi.com	745-2003
1st Vice Pres	Bill Gleaves gleavew@peak.org	738-8189
2nd Vice Pres	Margaret Hays	757-8633
Secretary	Jim Russell russellmj@proaxis.com	745-6423
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb	929-5715
Librarian	Ken Bielman bielman@pioneer.net	758-3769
Membership	Tonya Rawie Tonyamra@aol.com	812-1602
Newsletter Editor	Teri Greene mmteri@aol.com	929-6347
Publishing	Lee Gentemann rootsfinder@ciosa.net	
Activities	Mary Hardenbrook hardeme@exchangenet.net	

Dues are \$12.00 single and \$15.00 family per calendar year.
 Dues paid after September 1st are credited to next year.
 Web page URL <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbentgs/> board minutes are posted here.

More Member Info.

Our meetings are held on the **second Saturday, September through June**, in the NE Dining Hall of the College United Methodist Church, on the east side of the parking lot, in the 1100 block of Philomath Blvd. Business meeting is at 10:00 AM with the program at 11:00 AM. **Our Library, in the museum annex, will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 PM and after meetings on Saturdays.** Members may check out up to five books and return books any time the library is open.

Canadian Interest Group

The Canadian Interest Group will not meet on a regular basis until further notice. If you have specific questions about research in Canada, or if you would like to look through my resources, please contact me at: 752-2243; e-mail: sprawlinson@proaxis.com. Thank You. **Pat Rawlinson**

Odds and Ends

Our number at the OSU Thrift Shop on Second Street in Corvallis is **492**. Please keep your Santiam and Flav-R-Pak labels coming in to the Library. There is a plastic sack in the library to keep them in. Leila Crawford is in charge of the label program. All you need is the UPC Symbol from the label. Be sure that you leave some area around the label when you tear it off.

THIS IS ALMOST OUR ONLY FUND RAISER!

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