

NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

October 2005

Volume Twenty
Number Eight

October Program

Genealogy of DNA

What DNA is, how it works for genealogy, the different programs underway, reports from our members on their DNA projects, sites and costs of getting your own DNA tested.

Books recommended: *The Seven Daughters of Eve*
Trace Your Roots with DNA
The Journey of Man

Program Review

By David Krebs, Program Chairman

10 September 2005 Show 'N Tell

What Genealogical Experiences I Had This Summer. Impromptu reports by individuals at our annual Show 'N Tell program. We wish to thank Martin Thompson, Lee Rudisill, Mary Dean Snelling and Bill Gleaves who all presented their very interesting summer experiences researching family trees.

A GENEALOGIST IS... ..

*A genealogist must have the patience of Job.
The curiosity of a cat
The stubbornness of a mule
The eyesight of an eagle
Be blessed with the luck of the Irish and the ability and
Stamina of a camel to go long hours without food or
drink.*

Reprinted from the Heritage Newsletter, Volume 18, Issue 10, October 2004.

BCGS Board Meeting Date Changed

Due to Halloween falling on our regularly scheduled Board meeting date, the board will meet on Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at Damaris Reynolds.

Book Looks

By Charlene Talbot

Trace Your Roots with DNA, by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak and Ann Turner, subtitled, *Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*.

This book is in our library, marked "Reference." It was published in 2004. One of the authors, Megan Smolenyak, is the person who so kindly gave us our small grant to get two of the *Gazette-Times* films digitized (and which are currently being worked on). However, we have to say about this book that the first thing the reader needs to do is be prepared to learn a lot of new words, words relating to DNA, like "alleles" and "haplogroups." The authors do provide a glossary. One supposes that these are words of the future and our descendants will use them nonchalantly!

The testing options are explained in several chapters, followed by a series of chapters on joining or running a project, finding prospects, contacting and courting participants, and interpreting and sharing results.

The last chapter is entitled, "What's Next?" What, indeed?

An appendix gives a list of DNA testing companies.

In a separate magazine article, Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak says that she became a believer in DNA testing despite the shock of the cost -- \$100 to \$300 -- when she found that DNA testing revealed that none of the four families of Smolenyaks shared a common ancestor, even though they could all trace their roots to a town in present-day Slovakia.

Not everyone will find DNA testing useful, but it can certainly be used to unravel some intriguing historical mysteries. For instance, the stories of Thomas Jefferson and his slave Sally Hemings, who worked in his home and traveled and lived with him in Europe during diplomatic visits. Stories from her descendants stated that Thomas Jefferson was their ancestor. Now DNA tests confirm the family's oral history.

Following the authors' suggestions for finding living cousins who would be suitable for DNA testing sounds as complicated as researching genealogy. However, if you think this route might fit your situation, do read this book

Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!

BCGS 2006 Membership Renewals (since last newsletter)

Richard Cobb	rcobb@peak.org
Georgia Prichard	prichard@proaxis.com
Leila Crawford	leila@peak.org
Ed Stratton	stratte@casco.nt
Priscilla & Garvin Crabtree	pandgcrabree@peak.org
Lee Rudisill	rudy@proaxis.com
Betty Brummett	No e-mail
Gary P. Beck	zebidiah@comcast.net
Gene Newcomb	newcombg@cmug.com
Kathleen Coan	paseeker2@aol.com
Joan Shaw	jofrshaw@proaxis.com
Joan Mueller	JDempeMueller@aol.com
Adele Middleton	jackandadele@aol.com

* Note: There have been several renewals since this list was sent to the newsletter and they will appear in next months newsletter.

Christmas Raffle Items Sought

We are still seeking raffle items for our Christmas program. In order to sell tickets, it is necessary that we receive a donation this month.

If you have an item of more than a nominal value please consider a donation right away as a possible raffle item for December (donations do qualify as charitable tax deductions). We ended up without any suitable raffle item last year and need to get the raffle ticket sales going as soon as possible.

There is some talk that maybe we should cancel this event due to a lack of interest.

New Historian

Lee Rudisill has graciously agreed to be our new Society Historian and we welcome her to her new position.

- To subscribe to *Ancestry Daily News*, go to the
- following website for various subscription packages:
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/signup.htm>

Mark Your Calendars

- **November 5, 2005** - The Seattle Genealogical Society Seminar, P.O. Box 15329, Seattle, WA 98115-0329 or log onto their web site at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~waseags/>. The seminar will focus mainly on English, Scottish, and Scotch-Irish ancestry and will be held from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.
- **November 11, 2005-March 11, 2006** - Oregon Historical Society hosts the largest event in history: **Lewis & Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition.**
- **January 9—13, 2006** - Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy will feature five days of classes. This event is sponsored by the Utah Genealogical Society. For information, call 1-888-INFO-UGA, e-mail them at institute@infouga.org or visit their website at: <http://www.wwww.infouga.org>.

Upcoming Programs

November 12, 2005 - ? Update on the Family History Library or possibly Researching British Genealogy.

December 10, 2005 - Raffle, Auction, Christmas Party. This event has proven fun for many of us as the way we make our annual contribution to the Society Book Fund as well as picking up some Christmas presents for the grandkids.

Genealogical books featuring archival storage material and genealogical research will be available for purchase from *The Village Genealogy Bookshoppe* by logging onto the web site at www.thevillagegenealogybookshoppe.com

The Benton County Genealogical Society's selection of new and used books, will be available for purchase at every meeting during 2005.

Get Well Wishes

The Society extends belated Get Well Wishes to Danell Aukerman. We hope you are feeling better soon.

BOOK COMMITTEE

The Book Committee met during September and found several books that the Society does not have and has ordered them. Watch the library acquisitions list in the future for their arrival in our library.

WEBSITES

- To subscribe to *Ancestry Daily News*, go to the
- following website for various subscription packages:
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/signup.htm>

LDS To Put Microfilm In Vaults On Internet Huge Effort Planned To Index Family History Data

By Carrie A. Moore

E-mail: carrie@desnews.com

Deseret Morning News

Ever wonder what's inside those secured vaults, owned by the LDS Church, positioned high inside the granite walls of Little Cottonwood Canyon?

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is working toward allowing anyone with Internet access to learn more than they've ever known before about the information contained on 2 million-plus rolls of microfilm housed there. Currently, the church is compiling searchable indexes to that information and will eventually make it available for free through an automated database on the Internet.

The church excavated the vaults containing those records on property it purchased in the 1960s, providing a safe repository during the height of the Cold War for birth, marriage, death and census information it considers essential for the salvation of mankind after death. Now church leaders seek to make the information more readily available to the world.

"The goal is to create (Internet-accessible) indexes to all the films we have in the vault. That's a long-term process and that's a lot of films," according to Paul Nauta, manager of public affairs for church's FamilySearch.org Web site. "We've not announced when people will begin to start seeing" the indexes.

Those attending the annual Federation of Genealogical Societies' conference last month at the Salt Palace got a "sneak preview" of the church's plans. As the project progresses over time, indexes to records from 110 nations previously stored on microfilm will become accessible to virtually anyone, anywhere, through the Internet via the touch of a few key-strokes.

"We're showing people how we'll be creating indexes from those films. Sometime in the future we'll ask people to help us create the indexes and make them publicly available, and little by little we'll start to index the films from the vault like we did with the 1880 (U.S.) Census.

"The challenge now is it takes a lot of people and a lot of time" to create such an index. "Currently, you have to look at images on paper or burn them on a CD and distribute those to index the data. We're moving the whole process to the Internet and this is a prototype of what that might look like. . . . That's what the biggest buzz is at the conference."

Conference attendees are using a lab at the Salt Palace equipped with a number of computers to demonstrate the new automated database. The microfilm information includes birth, marriage, death and census records.

New advances in indexing software utilities and applications mean the LDS Church "now has the ability to produce lots of indexes faster," than it did with previous databases it has digitized, including the 1880 U.S. Census. Making that database available online was a 12-year project, using tens of thousands of volunteers.

In the future, the new technology "will provide automated indexing" for an ever-increasing number of microfilms "so people can readily search it from their homes."

As the number of family history researchers continues to grow — one study showed 40 percent of Americans have done research on their family history and another said 90 percent have expressed interest — demand for online indexes that simplify searching for ancestors has soared, he said.

How much time will it take to digitize all the films in the vault?

"Let's put it this way, it will depend on how much volunteer help we get," Nauta said. "I think we can digitize the films to be indexed to stay up with demand, but much will depend on how many volunteers we can generate worldwide to index their records of interest. If, in a couple of years, we could get a million indexers worldwide, we could put a big dent" in the massive undertaking.

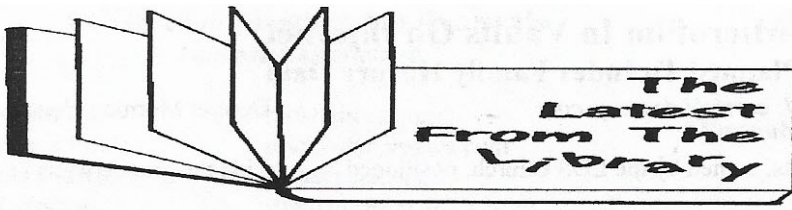
The indexing demonstration and other planned improvements to the popular FamilySearch.org Web site are drawing standing-room-only crowds at the convention. The changes "will make great strides to simplify and increase the success of the family history experience," he said.

Just when the first indexed information from the microfilms will become available online has not yet been announced. "We don't want to be swamped with people before we're ready to handle it," Nauta said.

The new developments won't make more than 5,000 small family history centers housed in LDS chapels worldwide obsolete. Previously, those looking for information contained on the microfilms stored in the church's Granite Mountain Records Vault had to request that copies of information on the films be sent to their local center. At some point in the future, that likely won't be necessary any longer, he said, but "that will continue to be a role for a long time.

"Family history centers will continue to be a mainstay" for accessing information on the microfilms for some time to come. As more of those records become digitized and indexes become available, the role of the local centers, he said, "will probably change. Some people have no Internet access, and they'll use them for that. The role of the family history centers will evolve over time to help people get started" with their research because "many people don't know how to do that. They will become more fundamental to help people get and stay organized, and to answer questions they have doing their research."

"It's an exciting time for family history," Nauta said. "Those just developing this kind of research as a hobby will never have any appreciation for how far this industry has evolved, even in the past 10 years."



Ken Bielman, Librarian

Additions To Periodical Library

Deborah Williams of Philomath has recently donated 2003 and 2004 issues of the Seattle Genealogical Society Bulletin, and the Journal of the American-Canadian Genealogist. The library doesn't list bulletins and newsletters from other genealogical societies in our published shelf list, but we do want to bring to your attention that these reference volumes are now on our shelves for your use. They are located in the dining room section of the library. We thank Deborah for her contribution.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

It's time again to nominate new BCGS officers. We are currently seeking someone for the positions of **President, Second Vice-President/Hostess, and Secretary**. We are also looking for a **Library Staffing/Assistant***.

As outlined in the Benton County Genealogical Society By-laws—Duties of Officers, the duties of the positions up for election are as follows:

President is to preside at all regular and special meetings of the society and to perform such other duties as necessary.

Second Vice-President shall preside at the meeting in the absence of the President and the First Vice-President; to act as Hospitality Chairperson and be responsible for the refreshments at each meeting.

Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Society and of Board meetings; to make a report of the Society minutes at each meeting; and to handle all communications deemed necessary.

Library Assistant/Staffing will make sure there is someone to man the library every Tuesday and to assist the Librarian as needed. *Note: This position is appointed by the President and is not one of the Officer positions.

If you are interested in any of these positions or know of someone who would be, please contact Bill Gleaves at 738-8189 or e-mail him at gleavew@peak.org. All other officers are up for re-election.

According to the **BCGS By-Laws**, a nominating committee of three is appointed by the President at the **September** meeting. Nominees shall be presented and nominations opened from the floor at the **October** meeting.

Election of officers shall be held at the **November** meeting.

Installation of officers shall take place at the **December** meeting of the same year.....

State Capitol Mall Closure



The Willamette Valley Genealogical Society received notification from Robert Hulshof-Schmidt, Program Manager, Gov. Research and Electronic Svcs. (GRES), Oregon State Library:

“On Saturday, October 8, 2005, a full-scale disaster exercise drill, Operation Cooperation, will take place on the State Capitol Mall in Salem. The State Capitol Mall streets will be closed for the full-scale disaster drill. Marion County, City, State and local emergency response personnel will participate. The streets surrounding the State Capitol Mall will be closed to traffic and the public will be excluded from the site of Operation Cooperation between the hours of 6 a.m.”to 2 p.m.”

The WVGS meeting scheduled for that day has been cancelled.

Reprinted in part from the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume XXVII, Number 10, October 2005!

GFO FALL SEMINAR

Registration 8:00 to 9:00 am

Saturday, October 22, 2005 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

GFO Headquarters, 1505 SE Gideon, Portland, Oregon



Cyndi Howells of Cyndi's List will present:

Organizing PC Files

Googling for Grandma

The World Wide Web—Quit surfing and Start Researching (2 hours)

This is a program not to be missed - a full day of "Cyber Genealogy" of the best quality.

Seminar cost is \$25.00 if mailed by 17 October 2005. Lunch: \$5.00.

Questions? Call the Forum Library - 503-963-1932.

Mailing address: Fall Seminar, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, PO Box 42567, Portland, OR 97242-0567.

Make checks payable to "Genealogical Forum of Oregon."

Registration forms will be in the BCGS Library.

**Your vision will become clear
only when you look into your
head. Who looks outside,
dreams. Who looks inside
awakens.**

Carl Jung

Genealogical Nicknames (Male). These could unknowingly be your BRICKWALL.

http://communities.prodigy.net/genealogy/sub_pages/Tools/nicknames_male.html

Genealogical Nicknames (Female).

http://communities.prodigy.net/genealogy/sub_pages/Tools/nicknames_female.html

Reprinted from Tri-City Genealogical Society Bulletin, Volume 45, Number 1, March 2005.

2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewing your membership allows continuation to participate in Society activities, which includes the use of the Genealogy Library which has over 2200 volumes of various books, periodicals and CD's; sharing in the Society's activities - potlucks, Christmas buffet and craft auction, used book and periodicals sale); receiving the monthly newsletter; field trips, and the research assistance and sharing of information of other members. **To continue receiving your membership benefits, dues must be paid by January 31, 2006.**

Benton County Genealogical Society Membership Renewal Form

Mail to: BCGS P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Membership by the calendar year.
Dues paid after September 1st are
credited to the next year.

Please enroll me in the Benton County Genealogical Society for the Year 2006 with full voting rights, use of the genealogical library at the Benton County Museum Annex, and 10 newsletters per year.

Individual Membership \$ 12 _____

Family Membership \$ 15 _____

Book Fund \$ _____ Contributions to the Book Fund are tax deductible and a receipt for that purpose will be mailed to you.

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Board Meetings are usually two Mondays before the second Saturday [our regular meeting time]. Dates of the upcoming Board meetings are:

- 1 November for the 12 November meeting. Cookies—Gene Newcomb
- 28 November for the 10 December meeting. Cookies—Teri Greene
- 2 January for the 14 January meeting. Cookies—Leila Crawford

Membership Information

President	Bill Gleaves gleavew@peak.org	738-8189
1st Vice Pres	Dave Kribs cdkribs@pioneer.net	929-6079
2nd Vice Pres	Margaret Hays	757-8633
Secretary	Leila Crawford leila@peak.org	929-5935
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb newcombg@cmug.com	929-5715
Librarian	Ken Bietman bietman@pioneer.net	758-3769
Membership	Leila Crawford leila@peak.org	929-5935
Newsletter Editor	Teri Greene mmteri@aol.com	929-6347
Publishing	Lee Gentemann rootsfinder@pioneer.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

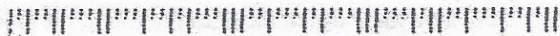
The Canadian Interest Group will not meet on a regular basis until further notice. If you have specific questions about research in Canada, or if you would like to look through my resources, please contact me at: 752-2243; e-mail: spawlinson@proaxis.com. Thank You. **Pat Rawlinson**

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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The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:
 S=Single; F=Family; E=Exchange.
 Number is last of year; 5=2005
 L5 is Charter Honorary Life Member

Mailing Label Coding

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