



Benton County Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER

Located in Philomath, Oregon
Volume 43 No.3 January
And February 2024
Founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

Beginnings of BCGS

In January, we're taking some time to tell the beginning of Benton County Genealogical Society in 1971.

The first meetings were held in people's homes with about 12 women. Very soon the meetings were held in the Corvallis Library. Charter membership closed on December 31, 1971, and now we are part of those who worked so hard to make it what BCGS is today. Every member is important.

To read more of the early days:

Go to BCGS , bcgs-oregon-arg
and then **History of BCGS** s



DEMARIS REYNOLDS & JEAN GRUBE
CRYSTAL LAKE CEMETERY 1987

BENTON COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY BY-LAWS

SOCIETY BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 The name of this organization shall be the Benton County Society.

ARTICLE 11 The Society is non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-political.

- ARTICLE 111**
1. To assist each other in genealogical research through association, Inspiration, and mutual exchange and interaction.
 2. To encourage and provide for genealogical research.
 3. To cooperate with the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and the Benton County Historical Society in matters pertaining to genealogical research.
 4. Country Historical Society in matters pertaining to genealogical research.
 5. To advocate for accurate research and careful documentation.
 6. To encourage the study of family history through mutual support and the exchange of information.
 7. To accumulate resource materials for the Society library.
 8. To assist in the preservation and publication of local history.

Please think about what you could do to keep our Society the wonderful society it is. On page 5 is a list of Voted Positions and Appointed Positions that you can look over. Most of them take very little time and can be done at home. Two members can work together or take turns. It's fun and doing good all at once! Thank you.

Meetings

Society meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, Sept. through June, from 10:00 a. m. to about 3:00 p. m.

10:00 a. m. :

Library materials available for the morning research session. Assistance for Beginners. Members and visitors are encouraged to share material from their personal libraries.

11:30 a. m. :

Books may be checked out by members in good standing. Light refreshments are available during the day.

1:00 p. m. :

A short business meeting, to be followed by a program on some pertinent topic.

Summer Hours:

To be determined at the June meeting. Library will be available. Books may be returned and/or checked-out. Members only.

Meeting Location

First Christian Church
McLean Hall (6th St. entrance)
602 S. W. Madison Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333

Nearby:

Corvallis Public Library
Oregon Census Records
Photo Copier
Film Reader with copier
Quick-Print Copy Shops
Kerr Library, OSU Campus
LDS Branch Library
Benton Co. Historical Museum,
Philomath, OR

Society Library

Over 200 volumes --- and growing!

Booklets
Catalogues
Society Quarterlies
Family Histories
Surname File
Pedigree Chart File
Query Answering Service
Book-List/Members Personal Libraries
Book-List/Society Library
Assistance for Beginners
Beginner-Kits available for purchase.

Members may check out a maximum of five volumes for a period of one month, at no charge.

First time visitors may have FREE use of the Library, additional visits are only \$1.00 per day. No material checked-out.

Society Events

Christmas Tasting-Tea and Crafts
Auction
Used Books and Periodicals Auctions
(Contributions are appreciated)

Community Service

Indexing of early Gazette-Times (Corvallis)
Preserving and Indexing of "Past Times"
articles from the Brownsville (OR) Times

Membership

We extend an invitation to join us if you are interested in genealogy and history.

Dues are payable Jan. 1st of each year:
\$4.00 -- individual membership
\$6.00 -- family membership

Information

752-5898 -- Mabelle Martsching
752-2765 -- Peggy Mason
753-8556 -- Velma K. [unclear] sons

This is a booklet from 1984 explaining what the Society was about. At this time the Society's name was **Mid-Valley Genealogical Society**. We still use a booklet very much like 1984 for new members.

CORVALLIS NEWSPAPERS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

The Occidental Messenger was started in June, 1857, at Corvallis. It was financed by J.C. Avery, the founder of Corvallis. T. B. Odeneal was the editor for a while. The Messenger was the avowed advocate of slavery in the West as in the South.

Another pro-slavery publication in Corvallis was the **Frontier Sentinel**, whose editor declared that it was published "to give an ardent and unwavering support to the introduction of slavery in Oregon." L.P. Hall was its publisher.

The Democratic Crisis issued its first number on February 2, 1859. T.B. Odeneal was the editor. Before long he found a crisis in his own financial affairs and traded the paper to J.H. Slater for to J.H. Slater for his store-----

whereupon Mr. Slater changed the name of the paper to the **Oregon Weekly Union** and came out as a strong advocate of Breckenridge and Lane for president and vice-president. After Fort Sumter had been fired upon, the union upheld the side of the south. It was suppressed by the government in 1863.

Lockley -Oregon Yesterdays, Chap. XV/ Harriet Moore's papers.

Benton County Museum

In the late 1850's in Benton County, some people began to see each other as Northerners and Southerners instead of friends. When it looked like Abraham Lincoln was going to win the election, both sides went to "war."

The Historical Records Survey for Benton County by Mark Phinney interviewed in 1938 Mrs. Josephine Wells:

"There was another family of Williams in Polk County who were Democrats."

On one occasion the two sons drove a team through Corvallis, shouting "Hurrah for Jeff Davis" while the mother sat on the rear seat with a loaded revolver in each hand covering both sides of the street. The woman was reputed to be a good marksman and no one interfered."

There will be more of this in the March/April Newsletter!

PO Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370

Voted Positions

President: George Davidson, 928-205-2121

bcgsor@gmail.com

Vice President: Kathryn Moss

mosskathryn@gmail.com

Secretary: Linda Olsen

Treasurer: Lois Courtney

loiscourtney@cmug.com

Appointed Positions

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: Liza Wilson

Programs: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Photographer: OPEN

Audit: Connie Patterson

Refreshments: Pegge Gee

Host: Kathryn Moss

Research: Lois Courtney

Website: George Davidson

Facebook: Payton James-Amberg

Newsletter: Sue Van Laere

President George is asking for all members to consider being an officer for the new year.

Election of new officers will be in the January 13th meeting.

After the election, David Devon from the Linn County Genealogical Society will be our speaker from 11:00 to 12:00 noon.

David is part of a team that is digitizing the thousands of documents stored in binders and filing cabinets at the Linn Genealogical Society. He will tell us how to keep our documents safe.

Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches Genealogy

By Paula Tillman

