

BEND  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY

# DISTANT VOICES DISTANT VOICES

*For Family Historians in Central Oregon since 1993*

Home of the BGS Library | Find us at [bendgenealogy.org](http://bendgenealogy.org)  
PO Box 8254, Bend, Oregon 97708 | (541) 317-9553 | Email: [info@bendgenealogy.org](mailto:info@bendgenealogy.org)

## BGS' Annual Meeting & Election will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

Please join us for our Annual Meeting. This is an in-person only event. We will include a report to the membership on the Society's progress, general condition, and financial status. Following the report will be our election of officers and a presentation by our President, Clark Pedersen. *Registration open on [events](#) page soon!*

A special thanks to the Nominating Committee; Dana Regan, Jim Kleinschmidt, and Sue Dolezal and to the members who have agreed to serve our society!

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor that day, however you must have the approval of the person you are nominating. The term of office is June 1 - May 31.

We are still looking for a few members who would like to get involved in helping run the society by joining the Leadership Council. These individuals are not elected but are appointed by the President to serve alongside the Board.

If you have a desire to help and a love of genealogy, we would enjoy getting you involved! Call Clark Pederson, 541-891-8975 or email the society at [info@bendgenealogy.org](mailto:info@bendgenealogy.org) to find out more.

Look for more information and details in the May edition of the newsletter and on the website.



*The following names have been submitted by the nominating committee.*

<b>President</b>	<b>Clark Pederson</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Dana Regan</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Julie Story</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Sandy Thompson</b>
<b>Director-At-Large 2024 - 2026</b>	<b>Kim Vanderford</b>

## BGS CALENDAR

### COMING UP!

APR 20 - MAY 18

- Coffee & Cousins
- Keep Researching!

APR 22

Family Tree Maker - Now and the Road Ahead

MAY 4 - JUN 1

Open Lab - Research time!

MAY 14

BGS Annual Meeting & Election

MAY 21

Charting Companion - Charts & DNA

*More information is available on our website [Events](#) page!*

# Family Tree Maker: Now and the Road Ahead!

with Mark Olsen and Duff Wilson

Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 10am (PT)

- ✓ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- ✓ EVERYONE IS WELCOME
- ✓ LIMITED SEATING
- ✓ REGISTRATION REQUIRED
- ✓ FREE TO ALL!

Local participants will need to come  
In-Person to [Williamson Hall](#)  
Only out of area/out of state participants  
will be able to join Zoom.



**DOOR PRIZE!**  
**A FREE COPY OF  
FAMILY TREE  
MAKER 2019.  
MUST BE  
PRESENT TO WIN!**

**Family Tree Maker®  
Northwest Tour 2024**

**Tour Map Instructions**

- Roll over a red pin to see details of the event.
- Clicking on the pin in most cases will go to the organization's web page for the Family Tree Maker event.

**22 April** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM PDT  
**Bend Area - Bend Genealogical Society**  
2200 Northeast Highway 20, Bend, OR 97701

- ? Do you use Family Tree Maker (FTM) software?
- ? or have you thought of using FTM?
- ? or are you looking for a software program for your family tree?

**Then this presentation is for you!**

Family Tree Maker's Ambassador Mark Olsen & the Executive Director of Family Tree Maker Duff Wilson will be in Bend, **in person**, to discuss the upcoming version 2024 as well as the current version & often overlooked features.

*THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET  
THE TOP PEOPLE AT FAMILY TREE MAKER!  
YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!*

## ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS



### Duff Wilson

*Duff has worked with Family Tree Maker since 2004 & serves as Executive Director. He has twenty years of software design & development experience & has earned national awards for his work. He holds a master's degree from Utah State University in instructional technology with an emphasis in computer-based instruction. Duff is an avid genealogist works closely with countless genealogists, ranging from novice to expert.*

### Mark Olsen

*Mark is Family Tree Maker's Ambassador to historical & genealogical societies around the world. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and holds a bachelor's degree in Family History with a Spanish records emphasis. He has been working in the genealogy industry since 2007 and has been the FTM Ambassador since 2016.*



**Out-of-area Zoom participants will receive a Link in email!**

**[Click here for more information and to Register Now!](#)**

or for more information, call 541-317-9553 or email [Info@bendgenealogy.org](mailto:Info@bendgenealogy.org)



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello fellow BGS members:

Thank you to all of you who participated in our 2024 Membership Survey!

Sixty-seven of our members opened the survey. Fifty-seven completed it. That is about half of BGS' membership. One of the important parts of the survey was finding out what you wanted for programs for the coming year.

Here are your top 10 ranked by total responses of Very Interested or Interested:

1. Most any Program BGS presents 90%	6. Immigration and Naturalization 70%
2. Using Genealogy Software Programs 77%	7. Using Newspapers 69%
3. Researching Church Records 76%	8. Using Technology 67%
4. Best/Favorite Genealogy Websites 73%	9. Using FamilySearch.org website 66%
5. Using Ancestry.com website 71%	10. Programs on DNA 66%

It was surprising and humbling that you selected "Most Any Program" that BGS presents as number one. We appreciate that you trust us to find interesting programs and speakers to advance your genealogy research and help in finding your family and their stories.

For your second request, we have speakers from Family Tree Maker genealogy software coming Monday April 22 to discuss FTM software and their upcoming release for 2024. As one of the top genealogy programs available and the largest used program by BGS members you don't want to miss it.

Even if you use another program, you may find it helpful listening to the features to see if they are available in your program.

For the rest of the topics your program committee has been busy locating interesting speakers to cover your top requests. They will soon be announcing the program lineup for the coming year. Watch for more information in our next newsletter.

If you are interested in what topics scored lowest, they were Legal Issues (copyrights and privacy), 29%, and Transcribing Foreign Records/Handwriting, 33%. While ranking low, they too are probably important topics for us to study. However, you won't be seeing them in our upcoming program lineup.

Clark Pederson  
BGS President





## BGS BOOK CORNER

*A review by Linda Martin*

*materials reviewed here are available for viewing and check out in our library*

### *500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems*

*from The Publishers of Family Chronicle Magazine*

My apologies for not reviewing *500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems* before the September 2023 meeting where Rita discovered where her great grandfather was born through the birth certificates of a sister's children, where Brad was able to make valid assumptions concerning how the Civil War affected three of his veteran ancestors by searching through records at the National Archives and Kelly used what she had, such as family stories, pictures, etc, to answer her specific questions about her 2X great grandmother.

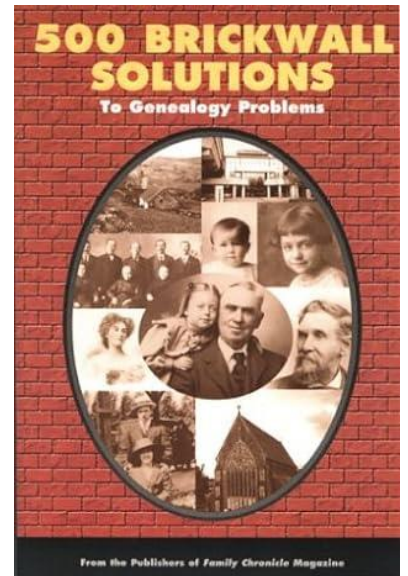
Published by Moorshead Magazine Ltd, which also publishes the Family Chronicle Magazine, this book has no author as it is a compilation of 500 articles from people who have solved their brick walls by various means. Although anecdotal in the telling of individual brick walls, with such titles as *Pizza With Aunt Alice*, *Wagons Don't Always Go West* and *The Birthday Surprise*, each has a solution which is useful to others in their research.

A glossary of terms provides information about

the abbreviations used in the book while the index contains topics found in the book but no names are listed. Interestingly, there are nine blank pages at the end that are simply titled *Notes for the reader to make notes for their own use*.

However, since this is a book from the BGS Library, we

prefer that one uses their own paper for notes. *500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems*, call number HT 14, is found in the How To section of the library. This is a fun and easy read which contains a great deal of information to solve brick walls.



## BGS LIBRARY OPEN HOURS

1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 12 Noon - 2 pm & each Thursday 11 am to 4 pm

You may also Request an Appointment! [Click here for a request form](#)

OR email your request to [Info@bendgenealogy.org](mailto:Info@bendgenealogy.org)

*"We welcome everyone to come in and look around the BGS Library & use the resources for research. Members can check out books."*

# How German Are You?

The Bend Genealogical Society's German Interest Group restarted this year in February for Spring 2024. The focus of this group is research into German ancestors both in Europe as well as the United States (and beyond). Check the [website](#) event page to RSVP. Our last meeting for this year is:

**April 17, 2024 at 10am - Hybrid Meeting**  
**Group Selected Topic Meeting**  
*(topic picked at the Feb 21 meeting)*



Jim Kleinschmidt  
Interest Group Lead

*Jim has been doing research on his German ancestors since the early 1990s following in his father's footsteps. His ancestral roots include Bohemia, Bavaria and the Upper Palatinate and the Neumark of Brandenburg (now in Poland). He has visited ancestral villages in both Bohemia and Bavaria and met some of his European cousins during these visits.*

*If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Jim Kleinschmidt at: [jjmed9483@gmail.com](mailto:jjmed9483@gmail.com)*



## DID YOU MISS A BGS PROGRAM?

Log into the [BGS website!](#) Paid members can find links to our recordings in the 'Members Only' section, on the Videos page. Recordings still playing!

*Brick Walls We Have Overcome and How We Did It!*  
with Rita Pederson, Brad Lemmon & Kelly McCray  
Ends Nov 2024

*Cousin Baiting & Cousin Stalking*  
With Christine Cohen  
Ends Jun 12 2024

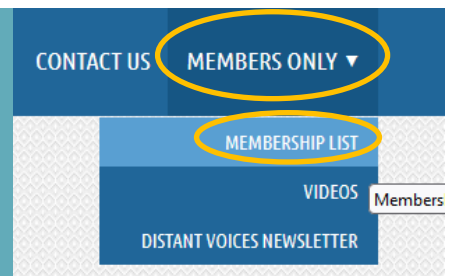
*Exploring Genealogical Research - National Archives.org*  
with Marissa Louie  
Ends July 9 2024

*Do Genealogy - Step by Step*  
Christa Cowan, Janet Hororka & Diahn Southard  
Available Indefinitely at RootsTech



To connect with other members:

- Go to our [website and LOG IN](#)
- Next, click on **Members Only** then select **Membership List** in the dropdown.
- Here you can see each member's profile and even send a message to them! If you need help or have questions, please let us know!





Discover-Explore-Learn

Every First Saturday  
10 am to Noon



What is your story?

Every Third Saturday  
10 am to Noon



EXPERIENCED & INDEPENDENT  
RESEARCHERS WELCOME

Every Third Saturday  
12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

**THE BGS LIBRARY IS OPEN DURING THESE PROGRAMS**  
PROGRAM LOCATION: Williamson Hall, 2200 NE Hwy 20, Bend, 97701 [MAP](#)

- NEXT LAB MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> -

This in-person program is NOT a class. It is dedicated, uninterrupted research time just for you in the Williamson Hall Rec Room. We will be nearby to offer advice and guidance.

Non-members are welcome too. If you have a friend who is interested in starting their family tree, invite them to the Lab. Volunteers are available to help them start their family history journey and find their first ancestor.

Bring your laptop or another device and work on your tree. We can also help those who are doing paper documentation!

[RSVP here for May 4th!](#)

May 4 • Jun 1

- NEXT C&C APR 20<sup>TH</sup> -

Meet with fellow genealogists! Get to know other BGS members and hear what's going on with each other's research. Share your discoveries, finds, and brickwalls! Bring yourself and bring your story. Everyone has a different genealogical experience.

- *Famous or infamous ancestors?*
- *Family stories or mysteries?*
- *DNA surprises or discoveries?*

Sharing your family history experience with others is part of the journey. We want to hear about yours!

Bring your own or pour a cup of coffee when you come in and join in the conversation!

**\*\*WE WILL BREAK FOR SUMMER\*\***

[RSVP here for Apr 20th!](#)

Apr 20 • Sep 21

- NEXT PROGRAM APR 20<sup>TH</sup> -

Independent researchers are invited to a new event where you will work on your family history in a quiet, focused environment.

We often put off researching due to the hecticness of life. How about dedicating 2 hours a month to join other genealogists and do research. If you have a specific problem area where you have a question you can ask the group, but this is not a help session.

Bring your laptop or another device and work on your tree, build on your research plan, or develop one!

[RSVP here for Apr 20th!](#)

Apr 20 • Jun 15

# Opportunities to build your knowledge & skills!

FREE Events & Programs worth checking out!



**Genealogical Forum of Oregon GenTalk**  
**HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY**  
April 20, 2024 ◆ 2:30 pm PT  
WITH  
Dr. Michelle Roberts

**DOCUMENTING**  
the Historic Columbian  
Cemetery  
MAY 18 • 2:30 PM PT  
with GFO Library Chair Laurel Smith

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER FOR EACH PROGRAM, CLICK ON EACH PICTURE ABOVE



## [CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS & TO REGISTER](#)

You will need to register separately for each class you would like to attend

- ◆ **Historical Records Comparing Plats of Land with Deeds and Grants** J. Mark Lowe, FUGA, Wed, Apr 17, 2024: 11:00 am PDT
- ◆ **Tools to Research Your French-Canadian Ancestors** Johanne Gervais, Fri, Tue, Apr 23, 2024: 11:00 am PDT
- ◆ **Using Artificial Intelligence Tools to Expand Your Genealogical Research Universe** James Tanner, Wed, Nov 15, - 11:00 AM
- ◆ **Where Fact meets Fiction: behind the scenes of a genealogical crime mystery** Nathan Dylan Goodwin, MLIS Fri, Nov 17-11:00 AM
- ◆ **Tax Rolls: Getting Our Money's Worth from the Taxes Our Ancestors Paid** Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, Fri, Apr 26, 2024: 11:00 am PDT
- ◆ **Getting Out of the Archives and Into the Pubs to Trace Your Irish Ancestry** Eliza Watson, Tue, Apr 30, 2024: 7:00 pm PDT

## Coming May 21st!

### Charting Companion – Telling the Story of Your Family with Charts and DNA

with Pierre Clothier

Learn about how to create amazing charts! Charting Companion works with FTM, RootsMagic, Legacy and most other databases that generate a GEDCOM file. Use it to create advanced family charts. Color coded charts, sibling Charts, Cousin Charts, all kinds of customizations.

It also offers an easy way to combine and display your DNA test results with your family tree database and possibly discover some surprises.

There is a Door Prize--A Free Copy of Charting Companion! Must be present to win.

[Click here for more details & to Register!](#)



# Lessons Learned!

by Kim Anderson-Mitchell

*"I've been doing genealogy for about 50 years now. I'm mainly self-taught and have made many mistakes and discoveries over the years. Some of them multiple times! Here are examples of some of the tips, tricks, cautions and hard-won knowledge I have accumulated."*

## PEOPLE LIE: CONTEXT MATTERS

It is easy to just accept a record as it is presented without considering the regulations, law and social context that went into determining why a particular record was created. But sometimes that knowledge is useful in evaluating the truthfulness of the information in that record.

I was researching John Brakefield of Minnesota from 1861 to 1882 and trying to determine if he was "my" John Brakefield for whom I had a confirmed birth year. The birth year for the Minnesota John was off by 6 to 15 years. There were obvious issues with the ages I had for him in Minnesota, (note the wide span of years) but the most damning discrepancy was in his civil war enlistment in 1861.

Presumably he personally had given that age and it was off by 6 years from the age in the 1860 census (which was the age I wanted him to be). But if he knew his correct age in 1860 (in another state), why hadn't he the next year when he enlisted? Was it a completely different person? I puzzled over that until I decided to do some research on Civil War enlistment. The maximum age for volunteers in 1861 was 35 years. If John had been truthful about his real age of 42 years, he would have been rejected for service!

Apparently once he had lied about his age (and later married a woman much, much younger than even his revised downward age) and lived where no one knew his correct age, he found it easy to maintain his "new" age.

*Lesson learned: The social context of a record matters!*

## Support BGS - Volunteer or Donate!

Would you like to get more involved with BGS? Do you have a few hours a week or a month you could give to supporting some of the BGS Programs and Projects? A willingness to help and an enthusiasm for BGS is all you need! Find a volunteer position that fits you!

### Can you help or know someone who can?

- **Technical set up and support** - for our programs and presentations.
- **Librarians** - check out books and assist visitors that come to the library.
- **Workgroup members** - help develop education, membership, and so much more!

- **Writers** - to submit feature genealogical stories for the "Distant Voice"
- **Newsletter Support** - Gathering articles and proofreading

CHECK HERE EACH MONTH FOR A LIST OF SUPPLIES OR WAYS TO DONATE TOWARDS ITEMS WE WISH TO FUND!



# RootsTech 2024 a review by Kim Vanderford



**Every year** I am anxious to be an observer of the RootsTech series. I go away overwhelmed by the new information I received. There always seems to be one or two presentations that stand out by surprising me with the information I learned.

One presentation was *“Stock Marks aren’t just Brands: Use them to identify people also!”* by Diane L. Richard. Brands or marks are records kept since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They can identify people, places, and time by linking family members through transferred or sold ownerships. They can even suggest a death date through the act of bequeathing or inheritance. These are especially helpful when researching colonial times and can be used as a record source. In Family Search’s Catalog search the Title Section for brands, stock marks, or ear marks. You’ll find many options. The syllabus for this RootsTech video gives several resources. Just for fun, Google “Hog Reeve”, interesting!

Don’t know where to start searching in your European country? Check out the RootsTech presentation, *“Finding your ancestors in every country large or small.”* by Richard Lynn Walker. These slides list 44 European countries, each with a section for,

1. Records: Church records, civil registrations, and census records
2. Helpful Tools: Family Search Wiki articles, gazetteers, forums. Word lists, etc.
3. Genealogical Societies

Websites are often included and translation to English is available, if needed.

This is a great way to get started.



**BottleDrop**<sup>®</sup>  
Oregon Redemption Center

## BGS’ Oregon Bottle Drop Fundraiser

**It’s a Win, Win!**

**Get rid of your refundable beverage containers  
and raise money for BGS!**

**Bonus Time:**  
Bags deposited  
**4/22 – 5/4**  
Receive a **20%**  
extra refund

### **3 Easy Steps:**

1. Take a Blue Bag and Fill it with empty Oregon beverage containers Soda/Beer/water/juice bottles or cans. Anything with a 10-cent deposit!
2. Drop off at Bend or Redmond Bottle Drop Redemption Centers Use the QE code on the bag to open the fast drop off door! No hand handling of cans/bottles. *OR bring to a BGS Meeting!*
3. Can’t fill a bag?  
Bring your own bag to the next BGS Meeting and add it to a blue bag!

2023 ~ 2024  
BGS

**Leadership  
Council (LC)**

*All members of the  
LC are volunteers*

**Elected Officers:**

**President:**  
Clark Pederson

**Treasurer & Website:**  
Sandy Thompson

**Vice President:**  
Kim Vanderford

**Secretary & Publicity:**  
Dana Regan

**Director At-Large:**  
Jim Kleinschmidt

**Director At-Large:**  
Alex Smith

**Appointed LC  
Members:**

**Library &  
Membership:**  
Linda Martin

Sue Dolezal

**Newsletter:**  
Kelly McCray

Rita Pederson

Julie Story

Kim Anderson-  
Mitchell

Wendi Babst

# BGS FUNDRAISERS

## HELP SUPPORT BEND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WHEN YOU SHOP!

Every little bit helps! Please enroll in one or all of the following programs to benefit BGS. Go to our website for more information about these fundraisers or to make a donation online.



Link your Rewards card to Bend Genealogical Society in your **Fred Meyer Rewards** account.

The donation does not affect the rewards you earn. Link your card to BGS at: [Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#)



Make a donation to an approved nonprofit (BGS is on the list).

Then make a matching gift to the **Cultural Trust**.

[Info about the Cultural Trust tax credit.](#)



1. Pick up a Blue Bag with a BGS tag at one of our programs.
2. Fill it with empty beverage containers that have a 10 cent Oregon deposit; Soda, beer, water, or juice bottles and cans. Anything with a 10 cent Oregon deposit.
3. Drop off at Bend or Redmond **Oregon Bottle Drop Redemption Centers**



Every time you shop at a website using **GoodShop**, you get a special deal and BGS receives a donation. **GoodSearch** donates one cent for every internet search (Yahoo). Register at: [GoodShop](#) & adopt Bend Genealogical Society as your cause.

## Bend Genealogical Society Financial Status

Year to Date 23-24 FY, as of Mar 31 2024

Total Cash Assets:	\$ 24,317.29
Dues Income:	\$2,940.00
YTD Other Income:	\$2,271.43
YTD Total Income:	\$ 5,211.43
YTD Expenses:	\$5,003.16

## BEND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY & RESEARCH LIBRARY

WANTS TO HELP  
YOU ON YOUR  
FAMILY HISTORY  
JOURNEY!



Your membership year runs for one year from the time you join.

[PAPER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION](#)

or

Go to our secure BGS website and join online: [bendgenealogy.org](http://bendgenealogy.org)

## DISTANT VOICES 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

**Website:**

[bendgenealogy.org](http://bendgenealogy.org)

**Email:**

[info@bendgenealogy.org](mailto:info@bendgenealogy.org)

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