

# NewsLetter

Benton County Genealogical Society

May, 2001

Volume Sixteen  
Number Five

## THE PROGRAM FOR MAY

Will be will be a slide presentation "Balloons to Blue Angels," an aviation history of Benton County from 1903 to 1985. There are many pictures of early airports and air shows. It is based on an unpublished manuscript in the Benton County Museum written by Jerry Davis. Bill Gleaves is in the process of updating and publishing the manuscript. He will be giving the slide presentation.

June will be our potluck and book sale and there will be no program. The next board meeting will be May 30 since the regular board date is Memorial Day.

## IT'S ALIVE!

We have a room for the class, and you can sign up for it anytime now. Be aware that the gal at the desk won't be able to find the class in the catalog, so have this information ready:

- >CRN: 42902
- >Course #: 0.619
- >Section: 1? A? - I don't know!
- >Title - Genealogy
- >Credits - 0
- >Starts: 5/15
- >Ends: 5/22
- >Time: 0600p 3 hours
- >Room: B-201
- >Tuition: \$12.80 (half price for seniors)

I'm not sure, but I think you can register by phone too, with a credit card. 917-4991

The class actually goes for two weeks, so you can attend either time, or both. I will have Family Tree Maker installed on the computers in the room, so BRING A DISK WITH YOUR DATABASE. To do that, you can copy your file (it ends with \*.ftw) to the disk, or make a backup to the disk and bring that. If you don't know how to do either, call me at work or at home before the class and I will walk you through it.

44I will bring ALL of my data disks to demonstrate how to use them with the software. Please bring your data disks so that I can show you how to copy from the data disk to your database. Your data disks are any that came with the software when you purchased it, or any that you have purchased >separately since then.

Danell: 541 - 2003 home, 917 - 4352 work

## KITH AND KIN

BY CHARLENE TALBOT

### Ed Stratton, Evolution of a Genealogist

Ed Stratton became interested in genealogy when his military career sent him to technical school in Mississippi. "Two things Mississippi is full of," Ed says, "fleas and book salesmen. He and his wife, Nellie, bought a set of Encyclopedias and a family Bible. In the center pages was a place for wife's lineage and husband's lineage. We tried to fill them out and found that we didn't know enough.

Ed developed his own forms and sent them to family members. "I didn't bother with sources," he admits. "I thought I was the only one in the world who would be interested. Later one of the bosses in the Air Force was a Mormon and he explained a few things."

After Ed retired from the Air Force, he got several diplomas from Linn-Benton Community College. "The wife of one of my teachers was Joan Hansen. She taught me what I was doing wrong in genealogy and what I had to do and I started doing it right. I also got some relatives turned into genealogists."

Nellie's mother's maiden name was also Stratton but he and Nellie have not been able to trace any relationship. In early England, the name Stratton meant "street town"—a little fort along the highway. Everyone who owned such a place became Stratton. Nellie's ancestors came through Virginia. Ed believes his came from New York. "I've been lucky and fallen into  
cont'd page 2





### *Kith and Kin continued*

things," he admits, "but my most exciting find was when I got a letter from the Children's Aid Society saying that John Stratton – my grandfather – came to the m from an unknown orphanage, and was placed in Indiana. That filled in all but 11 years of his life for me." Ed thinks that John's father may have been William Stratton. He was a ship's captain in the Inland Passage and he and his wife may have died in a shipwreck.

Asked about his most difficult success, it didn't take much thought for Ed to say, "Getting information out of Nellie's mother! If I asked her directly, she would say, 'I don't remember,' or 'You don't need to know that!' I developed devious ways. I would suggest an out-and-out lie and she'd say 'that's not true!' and tell me what I needed to know."

For some years, until he became involved in other projects, he did a lot of work with Judy Juntunen at the Benton County Historical Museum. When she got queries, he helped research the answers.

As president of the Society in 1991, he was instrumental in moving the Society's genealogical library from the basement of the First Christian Church in Corvallis to the Museum Annex in Philomath. He designed the bookshelves that line the room from a plan in *Sunset Magazine* and, with help from other Society members, the shelves were assembled that summer. "They'd be a lot more expensive to build today," he adds.

Ed's advice to beginners: Cite your sources! Also, never throw anything away.

### MILITARY RECORDS

The Veteran's Administration has discovered some 10 million duplicates of 20th century military records thought to have been destroyed in their 1973 fire. If you have been told that the records you need were burned in that fire, you may want to write again:

National Personnel Records  
GSA, 9700 Page Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63132

Advise them – Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines – and they will send you the forms to obtain all copies of your active duty records. *From Roots-L*



### NEW BOOKS

by Ken Bielman

\* The following are books, etc added to the library since the April newsletter.

- \*1929 MO Directory of Genealogical Society & Historical Agencies, 2000-2001 by Wallace and Button. Gift of Damaris Reynolds
- \*1930 OR Lake County, Fort Rock Valley Homestead Years, FRV Historical Society. Paperback. Gift of Benton County Historical Museum.
- \*1931 HT Catholic Sources. US. A diocesan Research Guide. Virginia Humling. Paperback.
- \*1932 CD Family Tree Maker, Version 5.0. Broderbund. CD + Manual..
- \*1933 HT/VF Merchant Vessel Logbooks, US. A Manual for Obtaining Copies. National Archives. Dark Blue Report Folder.
- \*1934 CD New Orleans Passenger Lists, 1820-1850. Family Tree Maker CD Number 358.
- \*1935 OR Lake County, OR 1880 Federal Census. Harley Haskin. Tan Paperback. Gift of Benton County Historical Museum.

### RESEARCHING WOMEN

When researching women, keep in mind that some countries will use a woman's maiden name on all official documents, even after she is married. This was illustrated to me while searching for an ancestor in the Danish Emigration records. She had been married twice and after the death of her second husband went by her first husband's name. To make searching for her more complicated, some records gave her name as Anne Marie and others as Mary. After trying to find her, using every conceivable combination of her names, I finally left the name off entirely and entered only where she had emigrated from, where she had gone to, and the year. And there she was, listed as Ane Marie under her maiden name, with her children listed with he, also under her maiden name. Which brings to another tip—sometimes less information given in a search will yield better results.

*DeLoris Jensby, in Ancestry Weekly*





### Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

**Description of Data:** The Death Master File (DMF) from the Social Security Administration (SSA) contains over 59.7 million records created from SSA payment records. The current update reflects data up through the end of June 1998. It contains the records of those for whom the lump sum death benefit was paid. That lump sum benefit could have been requested by a family member, an attorney, a mortuary, etc. {Note:} If someone is missing from the list, it may be that the benefit was never requested, an error was made on the form requesting the benefit, or an error was made when entering the information into the SSDI.

(This answered my question as to why my mother's name is not in the SSDI though she worked for many years. I now think that my father never requested the benefit. ED.)

*from Gayle E. Kennedy, Roots-L*



### CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR THE LIBRARY BOOK FUND

**No more garage sales!** Damaris Reynolds and Jean Grube have retired from managing this event and no volunteers have come forward to take over this job. So this means that we will have five to six hundred fewer dollars to purchase library books.

At our April meeting, we decided to solicit member contributions for the book fund. We hope you can help. Contributions are tax deductible and the Society treasurer will send you a receipt.

The National Genealogy Conference scheduled for mid-May in Portland will include a large book fair. They have the latest books and CDs, often as special offers at good prices. We plan to check this out and it would be nice to be able to make some purchases.

**(This plan does not mean that volunteers who would be willing to take charge of an annual garage sale are not still most welcome.)**

If you can help, please send contributions using the form below.

---

### BENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BOOK FUND CONTRIBUTION

Mail to: Treasurer, Benton County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1646  
Philomath, OR 97370

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I'm enclosing a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ for the Society Book Fund

### FOR RESEARCHERS—OPPORTUNITIES

#### URL's to Remember:

- Benton County Genealogical Society  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbentgs/>
- Benton County Publications for Sale  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbenton/Books.html>
- Benton County USGenWeb  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbenton/>
- \*\*Gene Newcomb's choice—a good search engine  
<http://www.bos2.alltheweb.com/>

Click to change the choice to "Exact Phrase"

#### A New Opportunity For Missouri Research

-Gateway Family Historian, a publication of the St. Louis, MO Public Library, published by the History & Genealogy and Special Collections Departments. This first issue states that they will do limited research for you in Missouri and surrounding area if you can give names, where they lived, and time period of the person. They also have a query section. The address: St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive St. St. Louis, MO 63103 e-mail: [webref@slpl.lib.mo.us](mailto:webref@slpl.lib.mo.us) If you check with them, you may be able to request a sample copy of this interesting looking publication.





## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our membership now stands at  
136 members.

### Membership Information

President	Danell Aukerman aukerman@peak.org	752-6425
1st Vice Pres	Bill Gleaves gleavew@peak.org	929-4087
2nd Vice Pres	Margaret Hays	757-8633
Secretary	Teri Greene mmteri@proaxis.com	929-6347
Treasurer	Gene Newcomb newcombg@bcc.orst.edu	929-5715
Librarian	Ken Bielman bielman@pioneer.net	758-3769
Membership	Leila Crawford leila@peak.org	753-4153
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Burt dgburt@pioneer.net Janice Barclay jbarc@pioneer.net	424-3021 847-5610

Dues are \$10.00 single and \$13.00 family per calendar year.  
Web page URL <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orbentgs/>

## Canadian Interest Group

The Canadian Interest Group is for those searching for their roots in Canada. The May meeting will be May 16 at the Albany Public Library Meeting Room. This will be our last meeting until September. We have the new Genealogical Research Index available, plus many magazines and newsletters, as well as books to look through. We have resources available for Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and some Quebec plus Canada in General. Let us know what your interests are and we'll bring them. Car pooling can be arranged.

Call Pat Rawlinson, 752-2243, for further info.

E-mail: [sprawlinson@proaxis.com](mailto:sprawlinson@proaxis.com)

## Odds And Ends

Our number at the OSU Thriftshop 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.

## More Member Info

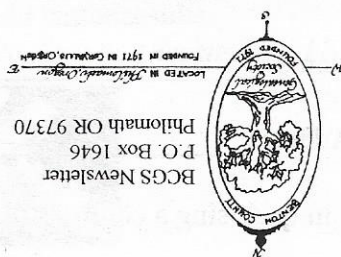
Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of September through June, in the NE Dining Hall of the College United Methodist Church, on the east side of the parking lot, in the 1100 block of Philomath. Business meeting is at 10:00 a.m. with the program at 11:00 a.m.

**Please Note:** When we rent the dining hall from the U.M. Church, this does not entitle us to use of the kitchen attached. It is off limits to us.

Our Library, in the museum annex, is open to members and visitors on meeting days from 12:00 noon, or when the program is over until 3:00 p.m. IF we can keep enough volunteer librarians, it will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 until 3:00 p.m. Members in good standing may check out and return books any time the library is open.

## Mailing Label Coding

The two digits behind your name on the mailing label are:  
S=Single; F=Family; E=Exchange.  
Number is last of year, 8=1998  
L0 is Charter Honorary Life Member



Stamp