



Benton County Genealogical Society

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APRIL 2026



Hunting season is here!

Wildflower hunting, that is.

Late March/early April is the season for Calypso Orchids. They are most commonly found in mature to old-growth Douglas fir forests with lots of moss and duff. They are only about 4-8 inches tall and have a delicate sweet scent that some describe as vanilla-like.

Elusive but worth the effort if you can find them. Kind of like some of our ancestors.

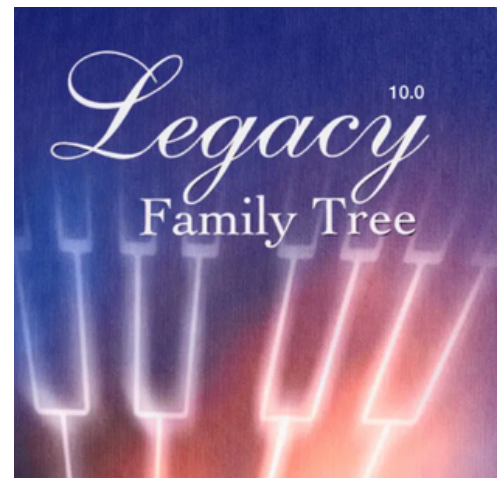


Legacy Family Tree Software

Legacy Family Tree is a feature-packed program that resides on your own Windows-based computer rather than on the web.

Best of all, it is completely FREE.

After installing, Legacy Family tree does not require internet access unless you want to use the built-in FamilySearch to look up source material, identify locations on Google maps, or other web-based features.



Legacy Family Tree includes many of the same reports that you would find on Ancestry, MyHeritage, etc. It also allows for a lot of personal customization.

If you want to check it out, it is installed on our library computers. George has been using it for more than 20 years.

<https://legacyfamilytree.com/>

March Program Recap



Walter Frankel, a volunteer for 25 years at the Philomath Museum, presented a wonderfully detailed program on the Victor & Vina Moses family. Forty-two people attended, including several visitors associated with the Vina Moses Center.

In 2000, the museum inherited from the estate of Harriet Moore a collection of 850 photos and an additional 38 boxes of various family papers and letters. This largely unorganized collection was supplemented by another trove from the Horner Museum: 250 more items, mostly letters, related to the Moses family.

Through detailed research, Walter was able to sort piles of family information and eventually put names to most of the photographs by reading the many family letters dating from the 1800s. His program included a display of genealogy charts for multiple ancestors of the Moses family, as well as family memorabilia. The family made their way from Europe to Pennsylvania and Virginia. Some eventually came to Oregon, first settling in Brownsville and Tangent, and eventually moving to Corvallis and Philomath. Victor became a prominent county judge, at times served as postmaster, and was actively involved in state politics. Both Victor and Vina had an early concern for the welfare of local citizens, which led to the eventual establishment of a welfare center located in the basement of their home. It was eventually made permanent in the Vina Moses Center on NW Garfield Ave in Corvallis.

This excellent program was a wonderful example of how to find your ancestors through letters and what ever paper trail your ancestors may have left. It also highlighted the work that goes into preserving these vital documents for us all.

~ Lois Courtney & Linda Olsen

Be sure to join us for our next free program on April 11th. See attached flyer.

BENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



Sharpen Your Skills with The Family History Guide

Bob Taylor will share how the Family History Guide uses learning pathways that include Projects, Goals, Choices, and Steps. Their mission is to "greatly increase the number of people actively involved in family history worldwide, and to make everyone's family history journey easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable."

The Family History Guide works with:

FamilySearch

Ancestry

MyHeritage

FindMyPast

Saturday April 11th 11:00 am – Noon FREE

On the second floor at the Philomath Museum, 1101 Main St.

A wheelchair ramp is located at the northeast corner of the building.
Please do not bring food or drinks into the museum.

Call for Family Memorabilia

At our March general meeting, I asked members to send me a picture and story behind a piece of memorabilia that is special to you. Here is an **example** from my own collection of family history:

This is a **chittum knife**. My father crafted several of these for us to peel chittum (cascara) bark. During the summer, peeling, drying, crushing, and then selling chittum bark was one of the many ways my siblings and I earned money for school clothes. It was hard, sweaty work and we usually came away with more than one mosquito bite, but it was an activity we did together as a family.

In reviewing old family letters, I learned that my maternal grandfathers had also peeled chittum back in the early 1900's when other work was scarce.

Laurie Jo (Wilson) Corliss



You don't have to write a book about the object. Just enough to tell us what it is and why it is important to you. And if you prefer some anonymity, we can use your initials, or no name at all.

You can send your items to my email at

CORLISL@COMCAST.NET

<p>BCGSOR@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>May Sneak Peek</p> <p>Our May 9th program presenter will be Larry Landis, Benton County Historical Society board president and OSU Archivist Emeritus</p>
<p>BCGS-OREGON.ORG</p>	
<p>Benton County Genealogical Society PO Box 35 Philomath, OR 97370</p>	