

**THE BENTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, April 9, 2011**

Call to Order – Margaret

Margaret called the meeting to order and welcomed members.

Minutes, read, amendments or corrections – Linda Olsen

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Reports of Officers and Committees:

President

1. Margaret highlighted information from the recent Benton County Historical Society newsletter.

**An article featuring Damaris Reynolds honored her years of service and contributions to the Historical Society and Museum. Bill related how instrumental Damaris was in securing the tax levy for the Historical Museum – so important now in these economic times.

** The calendar of events in May presented by Benton County and City of Corvallis Historic Resources Commissions and Preservation WORKS listed many events. Specifically noted:

a. May 21st there will be a ceremony held at St. Annes (Lewisburg Grange) at which time Earle Greig will receive an award for his many years of service and donations to the preservation of the Kings Valley Cemetery, resource person for the King family and other associated surname histories of the area. Earle was acknowledged for this honor at today's meeting.

b. May 22nd will feature a tour at Camp Adair.

** Samplers and a class to learn the art of making samplers were held at the museum.

4. Pat Coolican donated several tickets to the Oregon Scottish Society Heritage Festival being held in Albany today.

3. Margaret mentioned that both Ancestry and Footnote^{com} Internet genealogy sites, have extensive Civil War records available now, but that Footnote had the better collection with actual documents that could be viewed.

Past President

Bill Gleaves will preside over our May meeting in Margaret's absence.

Vice President - Program Committee

Margaret previewed today's program about "Japanese Americans in Oregon" presented by Janet Nishihara. The May program will be presented by Beverly Whitmore on the topic of east to west migration, "How did they get here?" June will be our annual picnic. Other programs are booked through January.

September is sharing your summer genealogical activities and discoveries. Nancy Basque is organizing October's program. In November, Marlene McDonald is presenting a program about her great-grandfather, William Blodgett. December is our annual Holiday Party, and Faye is presenting a program in January 2012.

Treasurer

No report. Margaret noted that \$125 in donations had been received in Mary Yoke's memory.

Membership

Mary Jo reported that we now have 99 members which includes the individual memberships plus the additional family members.

Finance Committee

No report; however, the bills are being paid.

Library Committee

Leila reported that 102 books had been logged in and are being shelved. Old newsletters or quarterlies that have been removed from the shelves were available in the Annex following the meeting for members to purchase for a donation. The Mabelle Martsching donation consisted of approximately 50 surname files which are now organized in our BCGS library file cabinet.

Publication committee

Books for Sale: Earle reported that two marriage books had been sold.

Newsletter: Leila reported that only 12 newsletters are mailed each month by the postal service. All other newsletters are sent electronically which reduces our expenses considerably.

Web pages: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orbentqs/>

Linda reported that the newspaper project will not be updated this year. Currently there is one active newspaper project volunteer and another one is needed to complete this project. CDs are available. There are more updates needed to the web pages.

Unfinished Business

Bill reported that the Audit is basically done.

New Business

Margaret opened a discussion about whether we should have a raffle this year. Items of value are needed for the raffle and none have been donated so far. A raffle could be held during our annual June pot luck or we could use that time for a helpful discussion on "Breaking Down Brick Walls" with member participation encouraged. Members wanting assistance with their "brick walls" could submit their problem in writing, and as many "brick walls" as possible would be selected and discussed. Members chose to spend time at the June meeting on discussing "Breaking Down Brick Walls".

Margaret invited members to attend the next Board Meeting.

Nancy DeBoie and Susan are to bring refreshments next time.

Queries

Gene had received a long query asking for non-specific information on multiple individuals. This was an example of the type of broad query we cannot answer. He replied with helpful resources and an explanation that the query needed to be separated into more precise questions dealing with one individual at a time.

Bill explained why he always leaves a copy of his family information in the family files of whatever research facility he visits. He also advised members to leave their name and contact information with the copy of their family information so that an interested person could get hold of them.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be May 2, 2011

The next General meeting will be May 14, 2011

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Olsen, Secretary

Adjournment to Program