



# BETWEEN US DIGGERS



## ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SINCE 1966

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

MARCH, 2010



### 2009 LUNCHEON HONORS RVGS VOLUNTEERS

A large gathering of RVGS members and guests met at the Knights of Columbus Hall for an excellent luncheon held Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> to honor the volunteers of our society and library. Vern Arnold installed the elected Board Officers for the 2010 year and pictured left to right they are: Connie Miller, Vice President; Andrea Patterson, Secretary; Charleen Brown, President; Colista Bailey, Treasurer; and Marie Fulbright, Trustee.



Chuck Eccleston, Volunteer Coordinator, provided the yearly statistics. 82 volunteers were recognized for contributing 13,100 hours in 2009. This is an average of over 1,000 per month and an equivalent of one hour for each 13,000 bound volumes in the collection. 48 volunteers contributed up to 100 hours per month, 10 up to 200, 5 up to 300, 7 up to 400, 4 up to 500, 2 up to 600, 4 up to 700, and 2 over 700 hours (Barbara Basden & Gene Henry). Of the total 13,100 hours, 40% (5,175) were contributed by Board members.

#### Special Achievements:

- ◆ Library Improvements: Painting of building (Wayne Cabler & Al Beron); Installation of bookcases (Charlotte & Gene Henry, Warren & Charleen Brown); New librarian computer station (Andrea Patterson & Barbara Basden)



If you have an article or helpful information for *Between Us Diggers*, submit material as a Word file or email to newsletter editor Cara Davis-Jacobson at [renais-sancewmn@hotmail.com](mailto:renais-sancewmn@hotmail.com). Reprinted items must be given credit and may be subject to copyright, so please include your name and where you found the information.

## Volunteer Luncheon (Continued)

Special Achievements: (continued)

- ◆ Capital Fund Drive: (Karen Asche & Colista Bailey)
- ◆ New membership grades: (Karen Asche & Colista Bailey)
- ◆ Member support: *Between Us Diggers* (Cara Davis-Jacobson); Hat Box & Suitcase series (Anne Billeter)
- ◆ Collection Improvements: Marriage/probate (Cheryl Haas & Linda Kestner); Death certificates (Bob Pocan & Carroll Summers); Cemetery Records (Melinda Henningfield & Betty Miller)
- ◆ Volunteer of Year Award: Cara Davis-Jacobson

This organization operates with an all volunteer staff and has a total of 462 individual members. The Board of Directors is made up of the officers listed above and the positions of Finance: Karen Asche; Membership: Charlotte Henry; Public Relations: Carolyn Beron; Electronic Publications: Barbara Basden; Volunteer Coordinator/Past President: Chuck Eccleston; Maintenance: Wayne Cabler; Office Manager: Janie Stewart; and Library Director: Anne Billeter.

Technology at the library has greatly enhanced the talented volunteer base. Our webmaster, Dave Basden, maintains two websites, one for the society and one for the library allowing us to share our collection worldwide.

**We have great plans for 2010!**

### RVGS Volunteer of the Year Award by Andrea Patterson

Responding to a newspaper notice seeking a volunteer for data entry at the Jackson County Genealogy Library, Cara Davis-Jacobson found herself recruited by Karen Asche as our Newspaper Editor and she says she is loving every minute of her “job” reading and laying out all the materials that volunteers and members send to her for publication. Her grandfather and grandmother Davis were newspaper owners and her father a printer and typesetter. We think she is in the right place.

Cara tells us that she has only recently begun her genealogy research; however, she says she was the one who asked about the family history and was mesmerized by their stories. She asked questions until they told her “Enough”! So while she claims she is “new” to genealogy, she really started where she should have those many years ago.

She is enjoying doing research and has discovered an ancestor, Pardon Tillinghast, who sailed in the 1600s from England to America with Roger Williams to found Providence, Rhode Island! The family tree so far includes the English, Irish, Welsh and Dutch. (And on her husband’s side, German and Danish.) In addition to research, she has a full time job and loves to read, write, and make jewelry. She is a former teacher and “archaeology nut.” Aren’t we fortunate she stopped by the library? Thank you, Cara, for a publication well done! You are deserving of this annual Volunteer of the Year Award for 2009.





## Two Important Members Acknowledged

In 2009, RVGS added two additional membership options: Life Member and Life Benefactor Member.

### The 1<sup>st</sup> LIFE MEMBER for our society is Chuck Eccleston.

Chuck was elected VP in 1996 and President in 1997. He has also served as Past President on the Board of Directors on two occasions. He currently wears the all important “hat” of Volunteer Coordinator involving scheduling of our all volunteer staff. Besides helping patrons and volunteers in many areas every week, he has been involved with most committees including Education, Facilities Search, and Pioneer Files to name a few. He is the primary reference person and teacher for land research.

Chuck credits his low membership number of 43 to that of his wife, Colleen. In order to pretend to be a *founding member* he said he had to pick out the prettiest member with the lowest number and marry her!

Congratulations, Chuck, and thanks. A great honor for a great guy!



### The 1<sup>st</sup> LIFE BENEFACTOR MEMBER honor goes to Betty Miller.

Betty is an active volunteer for the society as a librarian and serves on many committees including library book selections and inventory committees. She manages the microfilm/microfiche orders and has set up Jackson County cemetery information files and compiled a reference book of all these cemeteries with the assistance of Chuck Eccleston. She is a member of Friends of the Jacksonville Historic Cemetery and places flags for each military veteran in the cemetery. Betty has also done research on these veterans (over 340) from the War of 1812 to the Vietnam War.

She began doing research in 1961 when she saw a friend’s pedigree charts with a queen! She now has her *own queen* and a lot of “common people” with amazing and amusing histories. Researching her “Smith line” may take her to the Salt Lake Library four times a year rather than her usual three trips!

She is also a Life Member of the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society of Thousand Oaks, California.

Thank you Betty for your commitment and support to RVGS and our library here in southern Oregon!

## First Annual Writing Contest Winners Announced

The first annual Writing Contest was a great success! RVGS received some wonderful family stories. Here are the winners:

**Honorable Mention:** "Titanic" by Janice Nicholls Schultz

**Third Place:** "Old Fremont Finally Found" by Brice C. Martin

**Second Place:** "The Old Bridle" by Colista Bailey

**Grand Prize:** "A Small Iron Kettle" by Sue Waldron



We hope you enjoy these stories. They will be shared at our March 16th general meeting. You can read the Grand Prize and Second Prize winners in this month's issue of *The Rogue Digger*. Other winners will be published in upcoming issues.

## RVGS Gets Help from Many Locations



The December 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was all about honoring our local RVGS volunteers, but in addition to those from Southern Oregon, we are also honoring our out-of-town members. Salem resident **Carroll Summers** has been copying Jackson County death certificates at the Salem Oregon State Archives, and Hawaii resident **Judy Mallchok** proofs vital records for our collection and the JCGL website. THANK YOU, DEDICATED MEMBERS!

## Internet & TV News

The look of the *Footnote* website has recently changed. (*Footnote* is the portal for digitized images from NARA, such as Civil War pension application files, military service records for all wars, census records, immigration and naturalization records, etc. You can access it from the Website Menu at RVGS computers). *Footnote* has changed to allow you to interact with other users, even when you are at the RVGS library. Just follow the *Sign In* link at the top right corner of the screen to provide your own email address and username to post info on *Footnote* and to get feedback from others who use *Footnote*. You cannot post messages or receive replies to queries on other websites available at the library.



**Don't miss NBC's genealogy series "Who Do You Think You Are?" Fridays at 8 p.m., beginning on March 5th. Also, don't miss PBS's TV genealogy series, "Faces of America." Follow this [link](#) to see the first episode of "Faces of America" on your computer. "Faces" airs on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. For a more humorous twist, follow this link to watch a Simpson's genealogy episode on your computer: [Simpsons on Hulu](#).**

## Employer Matching Really Works



Pictured are Nathan and Laurie McCoy, whose generous donation enabled the purchase of the custom built computer console for the librarian station area at JCGL. Nathan's employer, Microsoft, fully matched their donation in cash and much needed computer software for our library. RVGS members, relatives and friends employed by firms with Employer/Employee Matching Funds Programs are encouraged to follow their exciting example. (Note: The McCoy's are the son and daughter-in-law of member Colleen Eccleston.)

## Annual Report

In January 2009, the RVGS Board conducted its annual evaluation of the 5-year Goals established in 2004. It was determined that due to the changing needs of our Library and Society, a new 5-year strategic plan was needed. New goals were established as follows:

**Goal # 1 Develop and implement a marketing plan to improve the professional image of RVGS in Jackson County.**

To meet goal # 1, a calendar of events and activities to promote RVGS was created, a budget for advertizing was established, brochures and stationery were redesigned, a successful Genealogy Week was conducted with a variety of well attended mini-classes and a new "Writing Contest" was implemented to encourage community participation. The *Between Us Diggers* and the *Rogue Digger* publications were updated and published on the Society website. We joined Ashland, Phoenix and Medford Chambers of Commerce and participated in Community Outreach through the Antique Show, a reception at the Red Lion, and presentations for DAR, Lake Creek Historical Society, Rogue Valley Manor, Rotary, Senior Aces, and SOHS.

**Goal #2 Expand Library services for volunteer staff and patrons.**

To expand Library services, we have implemented new classes, mentoring, "helping hands" for one-on-one research help and training on how to use technology in researching. Librarians have received training in sending research material via email, Board members and volunteers have received training in the use of new technology and communication continues to improve through the utilization of the website and email.

**Goal # 3 Develop an annual and long-range financial plan sufficient to achieve future financial stability.**

To meet Goal # 3, the Board determined that since it is estimated that our current building capacity will be reached by 2015, a Capital Campaign was established to meet the probable need for expansion or relocation. A Facility Planning Committee has been established to study opportunities for expansion, relocation and/or a shared facility. Life and Life Benefactor memberships were established to increase the Endowment Fund which will provide future financial stability.

**Goal # 4 Expand membership through recruitment and retention.**

To continue to expand membership as outlined in Goal #4, it was determined that the dues reminder process has been successful and should be continued. Membership as of January 2010 was 463 individuals, an increase of 47 since January 2009.

**Goal # 5 Develop a plan to enhance the collection through technology to add value to our services, increase efficiency and effectiveness and provide compatible technology services that support our mission, are cost-justified, and are easy to use and support.**

To meet Goal #5, Resource Mate software was purchased to computerize the library catalog. Volunteers have input nearly all of the books in the collection into this database for eventual publication online. Two websites have been established to better serve members and patrons: Jackson County Genealogy Library, [www.rvgslibrary.org](http://www.rvgslibrary.org), receives an average of 3,250 hits per day. It provides local records through indexes and databases which are now available electronically. A Jackson County Historic Cemetery Directory has been developed and all past volumes of *The Rogue Digger* have been scanned and indexes are being made available online. The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society site, [www.rvgsociety.org](http://www.rvgsociety.org), receives an average of 400 hits per day and provides information and news about the Society.

**Goal # 6 Provide professional and functional facilities that support our goals for volunteer staff and patrons.**

To provide a professional & functional facility, remodeling upstairs provided additional workstations and the completion of the bookcase project provided needed space for the collection. The outside of the building was repainted for improved curb appeal.

**Goal # 7 Annually evaluate circumstances and capabilities and adjust management and operations to assure ability to meet established strategic goals.**

***Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.***  
**Announces the first annual**  
***Ancestor Photo Contest***

**The competition is open to both members and non-members of the Society**

***Deadline May 1, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.***

**Mail or bring your photographs with your entry fee to Jackson County Genealogy Library.**

**Winners will be announced  
at the General Meeting**

**on**

**June 15, 2010**

**1:30 p.m to 2:30 p.m.**

**OEA/Uniserv Building**

**2495 S. Pacific Hwy. Medford, Oregon**

**Show off your favorite family photos!**

**Win a prize!**

**Winners will be published in *The Rogue Digger*.**

**No electronic submissions.**

**No originals, please.**

**Photos will not be returned.**

**Categories:**

**Most Handsome Relative**

**Most Beautiful Relative**

**Cutest**

**Oldest Photo**

**Funniest**

**Hats**

**Hair**

**Babies**

**Soldiers**

**Children**

**Group (more than one person)**

**Costumes**

**Wedding**

**Scariest Ancestor**

**Open Class**

**Submit photos with fee (members \$5.00 per photo, non members \$7.50 per photo)**

**Mail to: RVGS Photo Contest, P. O. Box 1468, Phoenix, Oregon, 97535**

**Or bring to: Jackson County Genealogy Library, 95 Houston Road, Phoenix, Oregon**



# Our Pledge for the Future Building Fund

RVGS is planning ahead to meet **your needs**. The Library needs to expand so that our growing collection of books and genealogical materials will remain available to you. We need more classroom space and computer stations **for you**. We need space for quiet areas **for you** to read, study, and research. And we need more and better parking spaces **for you**.

A Facility Planning committee has begun the process of investigating expansion of our current building versus purchase of another larger building.

To pay for a larger building, we launched the 5-year building campaign lat September with a goal of raising \$100,000 by June 30, 2014. the good news is that we have received pledges and donations totaling over **\$53,000** in the first 5 months! However, only **42 members** have donated or pledged funds for a larger Library—that is less than 10% of our membership! We need financial support from **all members**.

You, our members, are the people who will benefit, and we need your donation or pledge.

Please contribute what you can.

## Pledge for the Future Building Fund

Donate Today: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or

Pledge: 2010 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2011 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2012 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2013 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to “RVGS Building Fund” and either mail it and this form to the library at P. O. Box 1468, Phoenix, OR 97535; drop it off at the Library (95 Houston Road in Phoenix); or log on to [www.rvgsociety.org](http://www.rvgsociety.org) and click on “Donate” at the bottom of the first page to use your credit card.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

We will send you a receipt for your donation or an acknowledgment of your pledge.

*RVGS is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.*

### New Members

Joanne Angel

Gloria Bartlett (rejoining)

Steve Acree

Judith Everett (rejoining)

Patricia Moore (rejoining)

Arnold & Dixie Plata

Juanita P. Mayfield

Kathleen Almeida

Vicki Rosette

Margaret Chapman

Pat Tracy

Lloyd C. Sloggett

Celeste Guillory (rejoining)

Katy Dalke

Deb Bales

Cordelia Fisk

Yvonne Turpin

Kit & Kathy Barlow (rejoining)

### Classes & Events



Saturday, March 13—10:30 a.m.

RVGS Library

Class: "Vital Records"

Instructor: Colleen Eccleston

Cost: \$10.00 members, \$20.00 non members

Tuesday, March 16—1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., General Meeting, OEA/Uniserv Building located at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, Oregon.

Event: We will feature the winners of the Writing Contest with their stories. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: Free and open to the public!

Saturday, March 27—10:30 a.m., RVGS Library

Class: "How to Start Your Genealogy Project"

Instructor: Charleen Brown

Cost: Free



Sunday, April 11 to April 19th—Salt Lake City Tour.

Price includes bus trip; overnight stops in Winnamucca, Nevada; hotel near LDS Research Library, the largest genealogical research library in the world. Come join other researchers to research your family history. Call 541-512-2340 for additional details and reservations.

~~ REMEMBERING ~~  
 Mary Jane Thompson Jones  
 b. 7-19-1923 d. 12-13-2009

~~ REMEMBERING ~~  
 Edward "Ed" George O'Connor  
 b. 1935 d. 9-3-2009



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

8 Monday Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library  
16 Tuesday General Membership Meeting, 1:30 p.m. OEA Uniserv Bldg.

### April

5 Monday Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library  
20 Tuesday General Membership Meeting, 1:30 p.m. OEA Uniserv Bldg.

### May

10 Monday Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library  
18 Tuesday General Membership Meeting, 1:30 p.m. OEA Uniserv Bldg.

### June

14 Monday Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library  
15 Tuesday General Membership Meeting, 1:30 p.m. OEA Uniserv Bldg.

Current and recent back issues of *The Rogue Digger* and *Between Us Diggers* are available at our society webpage: [www.rvgsociety.org](http://www.rvgsociety.org). You can access information about our library at [www.rvgslibrary.org](http://www.rvgslibrary.org).