



## Monthly eNews of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society

### QUICK LINKS TO THE MAY ENEWS:

1. [News about Rogue Valley Genealogical Society & Members](#)
2. [News about the Jackson County Genealogy Library](#)

### A message from our Society President

Dear members,

I hope this message finds you and your family all well! I am writing this note to you on April 20, 2020 (our regular eNews deadline) to inform you of Society and Library updates.

Our new roadside electronic sign arrived shortly after we closed the Library for the Coronavirus and has now been installed! Thank you, **Jack and Andrea Patterson**, for all the hard work you have done to find the sign and get it installed! I know this has been a labor of love on their part! They found this sign at a great savings to us!



If you have driven by, one of the messages on the new sign says, "OPEN," and lists our hours. Unfortunately, this message was pre-programmed, and we are working to correct it. Learning the new software is not always easy as most of us know. To clarify and put the rumors to bed, **WE ARE NOT OPEN**. We closed the library March 15, 2020, and have cancelled upcoming classes, meetings, and seminars. We are monitoring the state's Oregon Health Authority and the Governor's guidelines as to when we might be able to open. The board and I consider all of you our most important concern and wish to keep everyone safe! Please keep an eye on your email, our [Facebook page](#), and on our website, [www.RVGSlibrary.org](http://www.RVGSlibrary.org), for updates.

If you had sent in your registration for the seminar that was scheduled in April (last month) please let our treasurer Barbara Shrewsberry know if you would like a refund or would like to donate your registration fee to our annual fund! Please email Barbara with your decision at: [rvgstreas@gmail.com](mailto:rvgstreas@gmail.com) by May 15, 2020, if you have not already.

In the meantime, we have been busy! The RVGS Board and the Education Committee have been exploring new ways to present classes for you! Hopefully, we will have some exciting news soon!

Anne Billeter and Steven Hoolko have been busy moving books to the new shelves and the Book Committee has been meeting virtually to review new books! We have had to suspend our online book sales, but there should be a wonderful new supply when we reopen! Diane, Sharon, and Anne are working hard to add the 900 books we purchased from Douglas County Genealogy Society!

We are still doing research! So if you need some help with your research, check out our [research page](#) in the website Library menu. Also, don't forget to try out our new records search engine on our website. Just go to the [Search](#) menu to look for your Southern Oregon ancestors in our JCGL records.

If you have made any wonderful discoveries, please let us know! Email your story to the eNews editor at [enews@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:enews@rvgslibrary.org) prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to share! I discovered one of my great grandfather's middle name on a post office registration! Samuel F Black (as in the family bible) is Samuel Fulton Black!

On behalf of the Board & myself please stay safe, and we wish you all well. Looking forward to seeing you as soon as we can!

Katie Hauge  
RVGS President



## ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS



### New Members

**Welcome to our newest members:** Dale Peters, Cynda L. Ingrassia, Susan Ball, Michelle E. Shames, and Patricia Harasty!

### Ancestry, Fold3 & MyHeritage Available to RVGS Members

We are excited to announce that for a limited time you can access the Jackson County Genealogy Library's subscriptions for Ancestry, Fold3, and MyHeritage Library Editions from the comfort of your home!

In order to make this happen, all members with valid email addresses have been automatically "subscribed" to our website.



To access Ancestry and MyHeritage from home, follow these steps:

1. Go to our website, [www.rvgslibrary.org](http://www.rvgslibrary.org). Log in by using the **Log in** link in the top right corner of any page. On the **Subscribe to this Website!** page, go to the **Returning Users** box on the left and use your email address for username and your RVGS member number as your password. **If you were emailed a password, use it instead.** You must use the email address that is registered with RVGS. We have encountered **over 20 invalid email addresses** in our system with this implementation, and even more members with no email registered with us.
2. If you do not know your member number or would like to change your password, click the **Log in** link at the top of the screen and click on the orange **Forgot your password?** button, and enter your email address.
3. Once you are logged in, **return to the homepage** by using the little house/home icon on the top left navigation bar. Use the **Ancestry, Fold3, or MyHeritage Library Edition** links on the homepage to access those sites. You will not be able to bookmark these pages as they must be accessed from those links.

If you need assistance, please email [webmaster@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:webmaster@rvgslibrary.org).

You can also use the [Log in](#) screen to change your subscription preferences for news and calendar notifications under the Email Notification tab.

We are excited to be able to bring you three of our subscription sites at home during this time of social distancing and quarantine. We hope you and your family are safe and healthy.

## RVGS Family History Library Research Trip Reschedule



### October 4 to October 11, 2020

Autumn in the Rockies is beautiful! We now have a chance to experience that climate and the ultimate genealogy research trip with fellow RVGS members and friends. Come join us to explore the five floors of research treasures only found in the Family History Library. Researching in the library, with its resources and on-hand experts, has no comparison.

We did not get to Salt Lake City in March as originally planned, but we are starting over again.

Even though we cannot see into the future, we

now have something to look forward to. RVGS has put 15 rooms at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel on hold for the week beginning October 4 until October 11, 2020. Please call the hotel directly at 1-800-366-3684 to reserve your room, [asking for the Rogue Valley Genealogy Society discounted rate](#). Several of the group fly Delta directly to Salt Lake City, but connections are also available through Alaska Air and United. If you are adventurous, driving is another option. All the airlines now allow flexible rescheduling without penalty.

When you make your decision to join our October trip, reserve your room, schedule your flight, and please notify Ann Baracker that you plan to attend. Email her at [abaracker@gmail.com](mailto:abaracker@gmail.com). Your name will be added to the list of attendees. The SLC binder will be back in the library as soon as we are able to reopen.

Here is a link to classes available online from the Family History Library. There is a wealth of information ranging from Beginning Research Techniques to Scandinavian Gothic Handwriting Classes. Check it out: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Classes\\_in\\_the\\_Learning\\_Center](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Classes_in_the_Learning_Center)

## National Genealogical Society Virtual Conference

While the COVID-19 pandemic response has required cancellation of numerous educational opportunities, those of us sheltering at home now have the option of attending this year's National Genealogical Society's annual conference virtually! The NGS will be offering a full day of live programming (May 20th) and on-demand streaming content (starting July 2020) as part of their NGS 2020 Live! Virtual Family History Conference. Registration packages vary in content and price point for both members and non-members; information can be found at <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>. If you have never had the opportunity to travel to a national conference, this is a chance not to be missed!



## eNews Submissions



Members are invited and encouraged to write articles and/or submit photos for the eNews that are relevant to genealogy research, RVGS, and/or JCGL. The eNews is published on the first of each month. The deadline for article submission is the 20th of the preceding month. All submissions should be sent as an attached Word document using 12-point Arial font. Email submissions to: [enews@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:enews@rvgslibrary.org). Photos must be your own or permission obtained from the original photographer.

## High School Scholarship Award

by Marilyn Ayres, Scholarship Chairman

The Scholarship committee of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society is pleased to announce that **Isabella Collmann-Williams** has been selected as this year's awardee for the society's \$1,500 scholarship! Ms. Collmann-Williams is a Senior at South Medford High School. She plans to attend the University of Oregon where she will study Psychology with the goal of obtaining her PhD and either working for the FBI in their Behavioral Analysis Unit or as a Therapist.



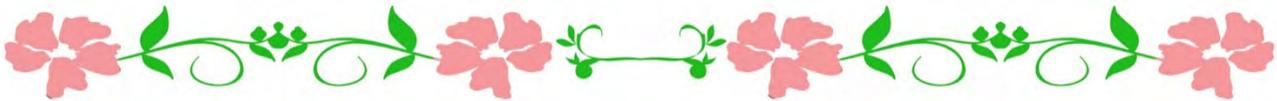
Typically, our awardee would attend a meeting in the spring, but as we are currently closed, it will have to be postponed. We hope that at some future meeting she will be able to attend so members can meet her, congratulate her in person and hear more about her educational goals.

This is the fifth year that the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society has offered a scholarship to a Jackson County graduating high school senior who plans to attend a college or university in the state of Oregon.

## Roberta Lea (McFate) Ortega (1939-2020)

By Anne Billeter

RVGS Life Member Roberta Ortega died 24 Jan 2020 in Fairborn, Greene County, Ohio, close to her son's family. Roberta was born 15 April 1939 in Shasta County, California, daughter of Bernice Evelyn Edwards and Wayne W. McFate. In 1967 she married Eddie Ortega. They later divorced. Roberta was an active member of the Friends of the Phoenix Library, the Phoenix Historical Society, and a librarian at JCGL, until her health declined, and she moved closer to family, first in Georgia, and later in Ohio. She has been missed by her Oregon friends, especially by Sybil Russell, her librarian partner, and especially by me. Roberta and I had the genealogically exciting experience of discovering, after years of friendship, that we are related: our grandparents' siblings married! Specifically, my grandfather's sister, Rosina Billeter, married John Henry Kaufman, Roberta's grandmother's brother, in Nebraska, far from where either of us has ever lived, and certainly far from where we met and she lived, in Phoenix, Oregon.



## Conquering the Blues

By Pat Jenkins

I injured my back in the second week of February and have been homebound since getting out of the hospital. Last week I was starting to get cabin fever and after 7 weeks of reading and binge-watching Netflix and Amazon Prime, things started getting to me. I was feeling a little depressed and feeling sorry for myself. I called one of my granddaughters who essentially told me to suck it up. She said I was stronger than that and to do other things than sit in front of the TV. After hanging up, I sat a little teary eyed and not feeling any better, when I got a text from her. She provided me with a list of things to do other than reading or watching the boob tube.

I am sharing that list with you, along with a few more that I came up with. Have a glass of wine and chill out. Take a nap. Listen to music and just hang out. Write letters to your family that will bring them a smile. Sick of reading books write your own. Go back through old pictures and toss ones you don't remember who's in them or where they're from. Water your plants and pick out the dead leaves. Go out and sit in the sun. Brush your cat (or dog). Make a list of little things you can do without bending or twisting and knock one out each day (if you don't have back problems, go for spring cleaning!). Do video calls with family or friends (we just did FaceTime this morning). Start a jigsaw puzzle. Work on your mending. Crochet or knit. Play games on the computer (AARP website has games to stimulate your mind and it's something different than Solitaire or Hearts). Look into your genealogy (Family Search is a free website that has billions of records. You have to set up an account, but it's free). Write down what you know of your family history and memories of your childhood (your grandchildren will cherish those thoughts). Work on handmade gifts for family and friends. Count the number of different kinds of birds that show up at your feeders. Clean out your closet and dresser drawers and make a box to donate. Prepare to plant your garden. And yes, I am feeling better. I have lots to do!





## JACKSON COUNTY GENEALOGY LIBRARY NEWS

### Volunteer Librarians Needed

Learn more about the Genealogy Library's hidden treasures by volunteering to be a librarian. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. There are three hour (9:45AM–1PM and 1PM-4:15PM) and six hour shifts are available (9:45AM–4:15PM), plus five hour Tuesday evening shifts (4PM-9PM) Contact Library Director Anne Billeter at [annebilleteroregon@gmail.com](mailto:annebilleteroregon@gmail.com) for additional information.



### First Name Meanings

Where did that first name come from, and when? Does it have a special meaning? Go to [behindthename.com](http://behindthename.com) for the etymology and history of first names. Thanks to the April 2020 issue of *Distant Voices*, the newsletter of the Bend Genealogical Society, for this helpful website.

### New Additions to JCGL in April 2020

[Click here for the complete list.](#)

56 items were added to JCGL, including 21 volumes of Lineage Books of the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists (929.3 Nat), a valuable asset since these are not widely available and have not been digitized. Also added: 13 books about Pennsylvania (974.8) and a range of other books on a wide variety of subjects and time periods. For exact titles and call numbers, look at the list, and look at the list for other places and subjects not mentioned here. Don't forget to look at the New Books when the Genealogy Library re-opens. You never know what treasures you will find.



### New Records Added to Genealogy Websites (Partial List\*)

Below are partial lists of new record sets that have been added to Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FamilySearch. Access to Ancestry and MyHeritage is now available for free to RVGS members through our website, [www.rvgslibrary.org](http://www.rvgslibrary.org). FamilySearch is free to all. There is some overlap between sites, but each site has its own unique record sets as well.



## Ancestry

- Alabama, Episcopal Diocese, Church Records, 1837-1970
- Latvia, Birth, Marriage, Death Records, 1854-1909 (In Latvian)
- London, England, Newgate Calendar of Prisoners, 1785-1853
- Ireland, Prison Registers, 1790-1924
- Ireland, Petty Session Court Registers, 1818-1919
- Ireland, Dog License Registrations
- Maine, Tombstone Inscriptions, Surname Index, 1718-2014
- Maine, 4 other Maine Cemetery record sets

\*To see all the “New” record sets, on Ancestry.com click on “New Collections” in the black band near the top of the screen.



## MyHeritage

“We are pleased to announce the publication of a huge collection of historical U.S. city directories that has been 2 years in the making. The collection was produced by MyHeritage from 25,000 public U.S. city directories published between 1860 and 1960 and includes 1.3 billion entries that have been consolidated into 545 million easily searchable records. This addition brings the total number of historical records in MyHeritage SuperSearch™ to 11.9 billion records.”



## FamilySearch

- Oklahoma School Records, 1895-1936
- South Carolina Deaths, 1915-1965
- Mexico, many new records

\*To see the list of updated and new record sets, on FamilySearch go to **Records** in the **Search** menu, click on **Browse all Published Collections** under the world map, click twice on the right-hand column heading **Last Updated** to sort the column, and you will see the list of the most recent updates and additions.

## Magazines Recently Received

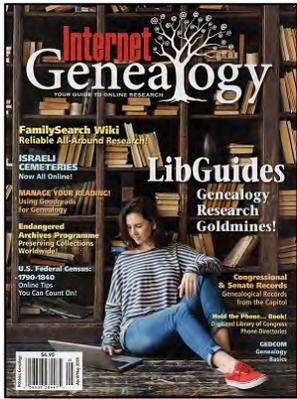
Find these in the magazine rack.



Circ 929.05 NGSM v.46 (1), Jan/March 2020

**NGS Magazine. National Genealogical Society.**

People of the West: Paper sons and picture brides, Researching LDS members, Jewish agricultural colonies west of the Mississippi (including one in Oregon), records of railroad workers.



Circ 929.1 Int v.15 (1), April/May 2020

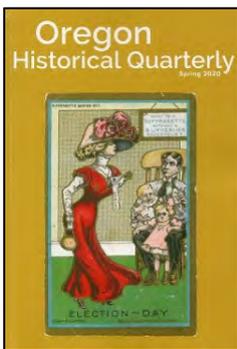
**Internet Genealogy.**

FamilySearch research wikis; tracking (personal collections of) genealogy books with Goodreads; LibGuides; US censuses and sites that will assist your research; American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (Lincoln NE) and their website; the Endangered Archives Programme (organized by the British Library); Chautauqua programs; Genealogical records from the US Congress and Senate; GEDCOM; "Israel's cemeteries are now ALL online"; and the Library of Congress' online collection of phone directories.

974 G242 NEHGS v.174, Winter 2020

**The New England Historical and Genealogical Register**

Origin of *Mayflower* passenger John Carver; Walter Palmer of the Great Migration; John Gedney (Salem, MA); Elizabeth Sturgis of Watertown, MA; Samuel Smith of Hadley, MA; Deacon Edward Collins (MA); "A 1724 Maine case of bastardy"; and Betsey F Blodgett of New Salem, MA.



Circ 979.5 P273 OHQ v.121 (1), Spring 2020

**Oregon Historical Quarterly.**

Clara Bewick Colby and the Oregon Suffrage Campaign of 1905-6; The case of Cheryl D James (institutional racism in Portland); and a photo essay with selections from the Portland General Electric collection at the Oregon Historical Society.



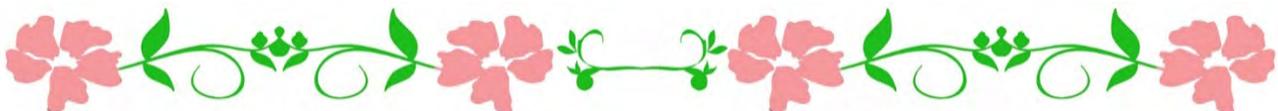
Circ 979.549 P273 Bul v.69 (2), December 2019

**The Bulletin: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon**

Rose Ewing Watts of Scappoose, Oregon; heritage images of the Audry/Ball family; Part 2 of tracing the middle name "Gueriot"; Part 3 continuation of memoirs of Josie Birdsong Darden and her husband John Beaufort Doggett (Oklahoma); Metsker (county) maps of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California, a fascinating look at the man and his maps, including how to find them and what's on-line.

v.69 (3), March 2020

Part 4 of 4 of Josie Birdsong Darden and John Beaufort Doggett, with their move to Hood River, Oregon; Meteorological record and river gauge readings at Cascade Locks - "an unlikely source of genealogical material"; the GFO's library catalog and digitized periodicals as a resource; and a collection of 'orphan photos.'



## Back-issues Added

Circ 976.8 P273 Bull

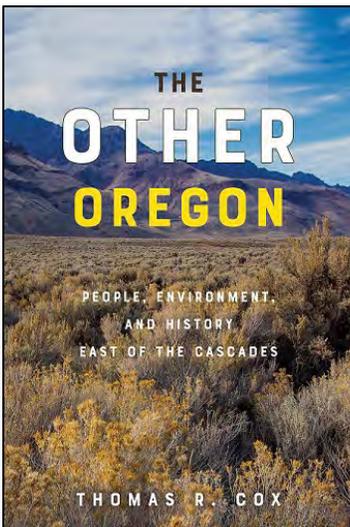
### ***Bulletin, Watauga Association of Genealogists (Upper East Tennessee)***

The Library has added several back issues of the *Bulletin* from the early 1990s. Included are genealogies submitted by members, transcripts of records from various local archives (for example: Washington County marriages, 1874-1891), letters and family bible entries, and juicy bibliographies ("What's new in the Tennessee Room?") You might find something here that's not on-line.



## Useful New Book

**The Other Oregon: People, Environment, and History East of the Cascades** by Thomas R Cox, OSU Press, 2019. 432 pages. \$29.95.



This book “is a multidisciplinary work that ranges widely through a diverse and often under-appreciated land, drawing on the fields of environmental history, cultural and physical geography, and natural resource management to tell a comprehensive and compelling story.”

I found it refreshing to read an entire book about Oregon where Portland and the Willamette Valley are rarely mentioned. Mining, forestry, and ranching define the early settlement of the high desert and the vast basin of Eastern Oregon. This economic history provided insights into the motivation Grandpa might have had to leave lush green Astoria for a dry-land homestead in Baker County. If you have family east of the mountains, you'll find this fascinating. [The book is NOT owned by JCGL; however, the Jackson County Library System owns four copies.](#)





## More Surplus Books for Sale

Each month we will add books to the Surplus Book Sale, offering them locally (for less) before our internet book sale volunteers list them on Amazon. We want our members to have first chance! Books priced @ \$1.00 will not be listed.

While the Genealogy Library is closed for the coronavirus pandemic, you may email [reception@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:reception@rvgslibrary.org) and we will hold the books you specify for you to pick up after the library re-opens. Here are the books added in April:

- *Days with Chief Joseph* by Erskine Wood. **\$6.00**
- *A Brief Historical Sketch of Port Townsend Washington*. **\$4.50**
- *History of the Western Insurrection in western Pennsylvania commonly called the Whiskey Insurrection* by H. M. Brackenridge. **\$10.00**
- *Dating Old Photographs. 1840-1929*. **\$30.00**
- *More Dating Old Photographs. 1840-1929*. **\$45.00**
- *Preserving Your Family Photographs* by Maureen A. Taylor. **\$4.00**
- *Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs* by Karen Frisch-Ripley. **\$3.00**
- *Genealogy of the Page Family in Virginia* by Richard Channing Moore Page. **\$18.00**
- *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* by John Grenham, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. **\$4.50**
- *Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research, vol. 1 and 2* by Margaret Dickson Falley. **\$37.00**
- *Irish Pedigrees* by John O'Hart. **\$30.00**
- *Index to the prerogative wills of Ireland, 1536-1810* by Arthur Vicars. **\$4.00**
- *Scots in New England, 1623-1873* by David Dobson. **\$22.00**
- *Finding Your Irish Ancestors* by David S. Ouimette. **\$3.00**
- *New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* by Brian Mitchell. **\$12.00**
- *American Passenger Arrival Records* by Michael Tepper. **\$4.00**
- *Origins of Some Anglo-Norman Families* by Lewis C. Loyd. **\$4.50**
- *Windmill Memories: A Remembrance of life in a Holland-American community before the turn of the century [Sheboygan County, Wisconsin]* by William C. Walvoord. **\$9.00**

