

June 2020 eNews



Monthly eNews of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society

QUICK LINKS TO THE JUNE ENEWS

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



A Message from Our Society President



Dear RVGS members,

Greetings! I can't believe we are starting our 12th week of being closed due to the Coronavirus. I sure miss seeing everyone and hope you are all staying well!

We are still unsure of when we will be able to reopen. Your safety is our most important concern! We have lots of ideas on how to follow safety guidelines but what those guidelines are is still a mystery. Some of the new guidelines may include restructuring areas of the library to maintain social distancing and limiting the number of members in the library at one time. The Board and I would like to know your thoughts regarding reopening.

Are you comfortable wearing a mask at the library?

Would you be more comfortable with classes at the library or on-line? OR both?

Would plexiglass dividers between computers help you feel more comfortable?

These are some of the options we may need to put into place before we can reopen. We would like your input! Please email me at president@rvgslibrary.org with your suggestions **by June 6th**. We should hear by June 5th if Phase 2 of the reopening will occur, and if it includes libraries and vulnerable age groups.

Unfortunately, some of these options will add to our expenses. We will also be starting our Annual Fund Drive in June to assist with these and other expenses.

I would also like to thank Signs Now, Skeeter Ramirez, Rich Miles, the painters, and Jack and Andrea Patterson for all the hard work on the new LED sign! I sure like the "Who am I?" post-it!

Wishing you and your families good health!

Katie Haugse

President, Rogue Valley Genealogical Society



ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

American Ancestors NOW Available to Members, HistoryGeo to Follow



American Ancestors has now been added to the list of subscription websites that RVGS members have a limited-time access to from home through our website, and HistoryGeo will be available soon. They have been

added to the list that already includes Ancestry, Fold3, and MyHeritage Library Editions.

In order to make this happen, all members with valid email addresses have been automatically "subscribed" to our website. This means that members will receive a nightly email about changes to the website. You can change your subscription preferences at rvgslibrary.org/Subscriptions.asp once you are logged in.

To access the subscription websites from home, follow these steps:

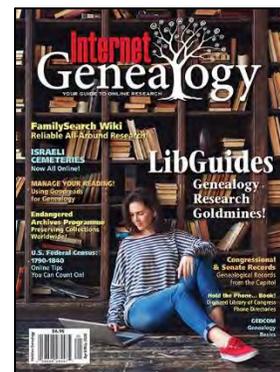
1. Go to our website, www.rvgslibrary.org. Log in by using the **Log in** link in the top right corner of any page. On the **Subscribe to this Website!** page, go to the **Returning Users** box on the left and use your email address for username and your RVGS member number as your password. **If you 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, American Ancestors, HistoryGeo or MyHeritage** 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.

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

Internet Genealogy Magazine Available Online to Members

In addition to our subscription websites, RVGS members are now able to access issues of *Internet Genealogy* magazine from our website. Be sure you are logged in, then just follow the link from the homepage. The pdf files are large, so give them time to download.



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. Please use the 12-point Arial font. Submissions should be sent as a Word document attached and sent in an email to: enews@rvgslibrary.org. Photos must be your own or permission obtained from the original photographer.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members: Stephen Kazar and Sally Houston!



RVGS Member Receives National Recognition

by Kim Thurman

During the NGS 2020 Live! Conference on May 20th, the National Genealogical Society announced their annual award recipients. We're excited to pass the word that one of our own members, Melinda Daffin Henningfield, CG, received the Award for Excellence for her article, "A Family for Mary (Jones) Hobbs Clark of Carroll County, Arkansas," published in the March 2019 issue of the *NGSQ*. In this piece, Melinda details utilizing both documentary and DNA evidence to overcoming missing records from a burned county, connecting Mary (Jones) Hobbs to her parents and siblings. **Congratulations, Melinda!**

RVGS Family History Library Trip

The RVGS Family History Library research trip has been rescheduled for October 4 to October 11, 2020. Come join us to explore five floors of research treasures found only in the Family History Library. Researching in the library, with its resources and on-hand experts, has no comparison.

RVGS has put 15 rooms on hold at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel for the week beginning October 4. Please call the hotel directly at 1-800-366-3684 to reserve your room and ask for the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society discounted rate. Several of the group fly Delta directly to Salt Lake City, but connections are also available through Alaska Air and United.



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. 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.



JACKSON COUNTY GENEALOGY LIBRARY

A Message from Our Volunteer Director



Hello Everyone! Members as well as our loyal volunteers.

It seems that we are moving slowly toward a return to a more normal rhythm. Volunteers have been taking care of library business to make reopening a safe, smooth process. I have stories about quarantine. I imagine each of us have tales to tell and share.

If you have driven by RVGS lately, there is a new digital sign out front. This is an exciting development, put together by some hardworking individuals.

There will still be a need for volunteers when we do get up and running. Please consider becoming a volunteer. Work with wonderful people and only as many hours as you like, at the library or at home. No experience needed. When we reopen, come in and visit with other volunteers if you have questions.

Our new Website is worth checking out, well thought out, well-constructed and easy to use. Spend a little time checking out the features if you have not already. Hopefully, everyone has been able to use the website for access to online research. The web address is: rvgslibrary.org. There is a drop-down menu called SUPPORT US. On that menu is Volunteers Needed, the librarian calendar, and a new librarian resources page. Contact me at my email address below to let us know of your interest or if I can answer any questions.

Thank you everyone for your loyally giving spirits. I have missed you all.

Terrie McCoy, Volunteer Director
tmccoy42231@gmail.com



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. When we reopen, there will be three-hour (9:45 AM–1 PM and 1 PM–4:15 PM) and six-hour shifts available (9:45 AM–4:15 PM), plus five-hour Tuesday evening shifts (4 PM–9 PM). Contact Library Director Anne Billeter at annebilleteroregon@gmail.com for additional information.



Land Records: Tedious but Valuable

by Anne Billeter

There is no question that Land Records can be tedious to research, but the results can be quite surprising, and [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) has LOTS of land records. In the United States land records are usually county records. Here are some of the “finds” I have made over years of doing genealogy research:

- The maiden name of a wife.
- Approximately when someone died, where he died, the names of his heirs, (often including married daughters’ husbands’ names), AND where the heirs are living. Shouldn’t this all be easier to find in probate records? Yes, maybe, but sometimes (who knows why), a probate record cannot be located.
- Approximately when someone arrived at a specific location, and where he came from.
- A father’s name. This is one of my favorite breakthroughs. My brother had narrowed Luther Curtis’ father to one of three: David, Ebenezer, or Aaron. Aaron has been identified as Luther’s father in many genealogies, but with no sources given. Luther’s baptism, 29 Nov 1781, was recorded in the Granville, Hampshire, MA, records (Granville is now in Hampden County), along with several other Curtis children around the same time period, but no parents for these children were named. After doing a lot of reading about Granville history and Granville’s churches’ history, I learned that the church where the baptism likely took place was without a pastor for quite a stretch of years. I finally realized this was during the American Revolutionary War and all the able-bodied men, even pastors, were away at war. We are lucky the baptisms were even recorded! After researching probate records in Hampshire/Hampden County without finding an answer, and reviewing research notes once again, I realized Luther was in Ontario County, New York, in the 1800 census. I read histories of Ontario County, learned that Ebenezer Curtis was one of the earliest to purchase land from the proprietor. I searched the Ontario County land records index and found Ebenezer’s original purchase AND a record, dated in the index as 1805, of a transfer of land from Ebenezer to Luther. 1805 turned out to refer to the date the deed was recorded. It was actually dated 28 December 1799.

To all people to whom these presents shall come gathering: Know ye, that I Ebenezer Curtis, of the town of Bloomfield, county of Ontario, state of New York, for and in consideration of the love, good-will and natural affection, I do freely give, grant, convey, and confirm unto him the said Luther Curtis his heirs and assigns forever, the following described piece or parcel of land lying and being in the county and state aforesaid, to begin at the south-

assigns, against all lawful claims or demands whatsoever. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of { Ebenezer Curtis (seal)
Julius Curtis - Sacey Parker

Source: New York, Ontario County, Deed Records, v.10, p. 343-344, FHL film 494,828, images 192-193; originally accessed April 2018 at the Family History Center on microfilm; accessed digitally 19 May 2020.



TechTips: Searching RVGSLibrary.org Records

by Rich Miles, RVGS Webmaster

The conversion of our website to a true searchable database has made searching the JGL records much easier. But just like any website search engine, it helps to know the tips and tricks. Here are some user tips to make your searching on our website a little easier.

- To access the search screen, use the **Search** menu tab at the top of any page.
- From the **Search** menu, you can immediately narrow your search by selecting a record collection type.
- Once you are on the **Search** screen, you will see circled question marks next to many of the titles. Just click a question mark for more information.
- At the top of the Search screen are three boxes, **Search Our Records**, **Category**, and **Source**.
 - You can leave all three boxes blank and just search ALL the records.
 - Select the dropdown box under **Search Our Records** to narrow your search by collection type. This is the same list as in the dropdown menu.
 - Once **Search Our Records** is filled in, you can narrow your search further by selecting the category, for example vital records categories include birth, death, marriage and divorce records.
 - Once a **Category** has been selected, you can select a source. The **Source** box is a great place to look to view all of the library indexes for that category.
- Many historical records are kept using a last name with only a first or middle initial, so try a search using the full last name and the full first and/or middle name, then do a new search using the full last name and just the first and/or middle initial. **Do not use any punctuation after initials.**
- Looking for a female ancestor? Try searching for the husband. Many women were recorded as "Mrs. Husband's Name."
- Search by name will automatically return records containing common nick names and alternative spellings. For example, a search using a first name of "John" will return results for not only "John", but also for "Johnathan", "Jon", "Johnny" and "Jack".
- Searches do not currently support the use of wildcard characters or partial names.
- Click the blue **Search** button to execute your search. The Enter key on your computer will not work.
- To start a new search, select the blue **Reset** button at the bottom of the screen. This will clear all fields. Otherwise, search criteria stay in the fields even when you go to other pages of the website.

If you find errors in our records, please email webmaster@rvgslibrary.org with the correct information.



New Records Added to Our Accessible Subscription Websites (Partial List*)

Ancestry.com

- Austria, Catholic Church Records (in German):
 - St. Polten, 1628-1955
 - Voralberg, 1611-1938
 - Vienna, 1600-1960
 - Upper Austria, 1614-1960
- Oregon State Births, 1842-1917



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

My Heritage

May be either New or Updated record sets

- U.S. Index of Court Cases, 1833-2018
- Canada Newspapers, 1752-2007



FamilySearch.org

NOT a subscription, just open a FREE account

- Austria, Vienna, Jewish Registers of Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1784-1911
- Arizona Deaths, 1870-1951
- Michigan, Detroit Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of Detroit, 1906-1954
- Puerto Rico, Civil Registration, 1805-2001



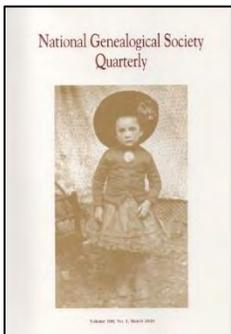
*To see the list of updated and new record sets, on FamilySearch go to “Records,” click on “Browse all Published Collections,” click twice on the right-hand column heading “Last Updated” and you will see the list of the most recent updates and additions.

Periodicals Recently Received

Find these in the magazine rack

929.05 Gen v.34 (1) ***The Genealogist. American Society of Genealogists.***

Peregrin Phillips, vinegar maker from England to Kentucky; George and Mary Stevenson Brown (MD); Crowninshield of New England; Sicilian ancestry (continued); a Kiser-Howard marriage in Wisconsin about 1850; Ancestry of William Colwill (WI)



Circ 929.05 NGSQ v.108 (1), March 2020 ***National Genealogical Society Quarterly.***

Nancy Young in Lowndes County, Georgia; Tracing seventeen enslaved African Americans of the “Second Middle Passage”; Marriages and divorces of Mordecai Pillow, Polly Pillow and Elizabeth White (1803-1874, TN & KY), Identity of three-time convict Henry F. Neher, and Fifteen spellings and variations of Schnible/Snively of Holmes county, Ohio. (And you thought YOU had trouble!)

Circ 979.421 P273 Hei v.44(3), April 2020 **Heir Lines. Genealogical Society of Siskiyou County (CA)**

Story of Emily Teressa Hodgetts, Resources at the Genealogical Society (and websites for Siskiyou genealogy), transcripts of newspaper clippings of local interest, and the Yreka City Cemetery.



Added from the Backlog

Circ 929.3 Mayflower Descendants v. [35-48 \(1985-98\)](#), (incomplete)

Mayflower Descendants.

Published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. 2/year, a continuation of *Mayflower Descendants Quarterly* which stopped 1937. Includes documentation files; transcripts of town records where descendants settled. Detailed index in each issue. Free downloads of indexes are available from the Society's website (choose: "Store").

Circ 929.3 MayQ, v.33-67, (incomplete) **Mayflower Quarterly.**

1970s and 1980s of a series already on the shelf. News of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and genealogy and history of interest to Mayflower descendants. An undated web announcement from New England Historic Genealogical Society says that this title will be (or is) indexed on the American Ancestors database subscription website.

New to the Surplus Book 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 and we will hold the books you specify, for you to pick up after the library re-opens. Here are the books added in May:

- *Pennsylvania Births, Montgomery County, 1682-1900* by John T. Humphrey. **\$72.00**
- *Genealogical Research for Czech and Slovak Americans* by Olga K. Miller. **\$25.00**
- *Guide to Quebec Catholic Parishes and Published Parish Marriage Records* by Jeanne Sauve White. **\$15.00**
- *Old United Empire Loyalists List* (originally published as *The Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists, 1784-1884.*) **\$18.00**
- *State Census of North Carolina, 1784-1787, 2nd ed, rev.,* by Mrs. Alvaretta Kenan Register. **\$6.00**
- *Magna Charta Sureties, 1215, 4th ed.,* by Frederick Lewis Weis. **\$6.00**
- *Bruton Parish Churchyard: A Guide with map* [Williamsburg, VA.] **\$9.00**
- *Virginians & West Virginians, 1607-1870, volume 1.* Compiled by Patrick G. Wardell. **\$7.50**
- *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800.* Compiled by Clayton Torrence. **\$13.00**
- *Virginia Tax Records.* From the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, the William and Mary College Quarterly, and Tyler's Quarterly. **\$13.00**