



Volume 7 | Issue 5 | May 2022

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OUR MISSION

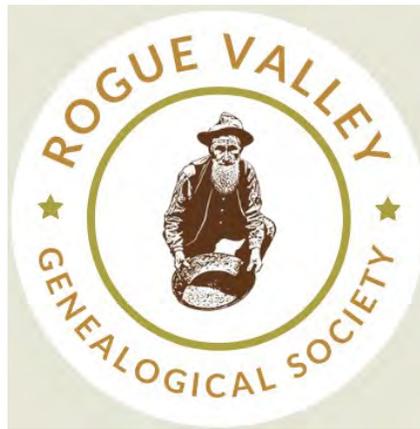
The mission of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society is to inspire interest in genealogy, inform and educate the public, and maintain a growing sustainable library with a strong online presence.

CONTACT US

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Genealogical Society
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Medford, Oregon 97501
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LIBRARY HOURS

RVGS Library is open with temporary hours, Monday - Saturday, 1:00—4:00 PM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Members,

April weather has brought much needed rain to our area, but it hasn't dampened our excitement at the possibility of returning to something of a normal life this year. Two years of facing the impact of COVID-19 on our families and community have taken a toll on all of us, both physically and spiritually. While our

beloved library was closed for nineteen months, the business of managing and ensuring the financial viability of RVGS did not cease. Due to the loss of a number of volunteers during this time, many of us on the Board have been serving on multiple committees and wearing more than one hat to ensure our members continued to receive the best educational programming and research support possible. In spite of challenges, 80% of the Board chose to serve consecutive terms in their roles in order to provide leadership stability during this unprecedented time.

As you begin to initiate in-person activity again, please consider volunteering with RVGS. We have a number of opportunities available; you will find a list of current openings on page 5 in this issue of the *eNews* and posted on our website under Support Us > **Volunteers Needed**. Applying is as easy as completing our volunteer **application online** (also found under Support Us) or requesting to complete an application when you visit the library. Volunteering not only allows you to give back to the Society, but it is a fantastic way to make new friends who share your interest in genealogy!

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank our members who continued to volunteer during this time. Your service is deeply appreciated—thank you!

Kim Thurman
RVGS President

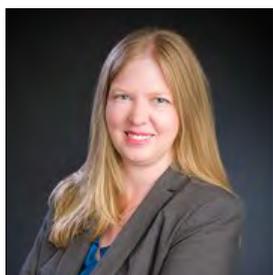
CLASSES & EVENTS

The following RVGS classes and events are all offered via Zoom.

Most classes and events require online advanced registration, see the **Programs & Classes** menu on our [website](#). **Registration closes for most events the day before the event** unless capacity is reached before then.

- New members to Interest Groups will need to register by [clicking here](#) to find the interest group of your choice.
- For more details, [click here](#) to view our website calendar.
- [Click here to find Zoom help on our website](#).
- All times listed are Pacific Time Zone.

Registration Now Open!



Thursday, May 5, 1:30-3:00 PM, CLASS: “Missing! Reward! Locating Widows, Spinsters and Bachelors”

In this class, guest speaker Sara Cochran will give new ideas on how to find widows and unmarried children.

Watch these techniques in action in three short case studies.

Cost: Members -\$10, Non-Members-\$20.

Monday, May 9, 9:30- Noon, RVGS Board Meeting

All members are welcome. Email webmaster@rvgslibrary.org at least 24 hours in advance if you would like to attend.

Cost: Free to all.

Monday, May 9, 2:00-3:30 PM, Colonial America Interest Group (NEW Interest Group)

Jeanne Hoadley will be focusing on the original 13 colonies in this new interest group. Join her and bring your stories and research experiences.

Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday May 10, 11:00-12:30 PM, German Interest Group

This group is facilitated by Mary Robsman, concentrating on German history, culture, and

researching German ancestors.

Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday, May 10, 1:30-3:00 PM, Family Tree Maker Interest Group

This group is facilitated by Barbara MacMillen. Come with any questions about using “Family Tree Maker” software.

Cost: Free to all.

Wednesday, May 11, 10:30-Noon, Genetic Genealogy Interest Group

Starting this month this group will be facilitated by Barbara Halvorsen.

Cost: Free to all.

Thursday, May 12, 6:00-7:30 PM, Genealogy Newbies Interest Group

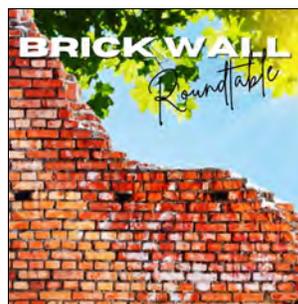
Barbara Northrop facilitates Genealogy Newbies for new genealogists who want a small group setting to ask questions. The interest group will start with the first 45 minutes for topical structured content and the last half of the session will be open for general questions.

Cost: Free to all.

Friday, May 13, 1:30-3:00 PM, Irish Interest Group

Barbara Halvorsen facilitates this interest group concentrating on Irish history, culture and researching Irish ancestors.

Cost: Free to all.



Saturday, May 14, 10:30 AM – Noon, “Brick Wall Roundtable”

This discussion is open to all. Bring your questions, your puzzles, your brick walls and we will put our heads together to see if we can find a way to get you

closer to your goal. You don't even have to have a "wall" to join us, we welcome you anyway. Who knows, you may have a nugget that will help someone else.

Cost: Free to all.

Monday, May 16, 10:30 AM-Noon, CLASS: "World War II Records"



In this class, Barbara Northrop will present where information may be found about your relatives' World War II military service and what records are available. Cost: Members \$10, Non-Members: \$20.

Tuesday, May 17, 1:30-3:00 PM, Program and Member Meeting: "What's in a Military Dog Tag: Clues Found in World War II Identification Tags"

Barbara Northrop will present clues found in World War II Identification Tags. Cost: Free to all.

Wednesday, May 25, 1:30-3:00 PM, CLASS: "German Genealogy in Poland"



In this class, guest speaker Paul Work will show how understanding the historical background of German settlements in Poland

and by using that knowledge, you can research your roots. He will present this with three case studies. Cost: Members \$10, Non-Members \$20.

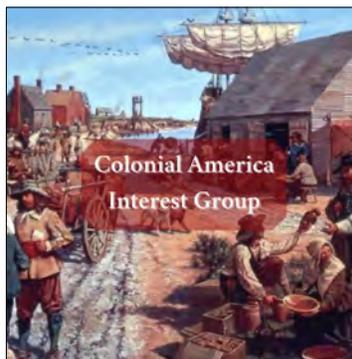
Coming Soon!

- **June 4 - Workshop: "Researching in Great Britain" with Kate Eakman**
- **June 7 - Class: "The Orphan Train," with Andrea Patterson**
- **June 21 - FREE Program: "Mysterious Case of First Female City Recorder in Phoenix & Historic Genealogist" with Maureen Battistella**
- **June 24 - Class: "You've Taken a DNA Test, Now What?" with Kate Eakman**



Special Interest Group News

Colonial America Interest Group began in April



The Colonial America Interest Group met for the first time on Monday, April 11 at 2:00 via Zoom. We had a great turnout with 23 attendees. For our first meeting everyone shared their interest in

Colonial American ancestors including dates and places where they are researching. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, May 9 at 2:00. We will be putting the spotlight on Virginia, the first American colony. Be sure to register on the RVGS website to be added to the mailing list. The Colonial America Interest Group, led by Jeanne Hoadley, meets on the second Monday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 PM via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)

Great Lakes Special Interest Group to launch in June 2022



If you find yourself researching around the Great Lakes area of the Midwestern U.S., please join facilitator Kim Thurman to share, discuss, and learn about this important location for those migrating west. Our primary focus

will be the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, but researchers to the north and east along the lakes are welcome as well. The Great Lakes Interest Group will begin meeting June 8th from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. via Zoom, with subsequent meetings held every other month on the second Wednesday. [To join the group, register here.](#) If you are interested in sharing your Great Lakes research with the group as a presenter, please contact Kim directly at thurmankim541@gmail.com.

Genetic Genealogy Interest Group



Wednesday, May 11, 10:30-Noon, Wendy Purslow and Sue Acuff will be showing us how to interpret the results from a DNA test. If you have taken a DNA test, please have your test results available so you can follow

along. If you want to join the group for the first time, be sure to [register here](#). If you have questions about the group, email Barbara Halvorsen at bjahh97504@gmail.com.

German Interest Group



The May 10 GIG meeting, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, will be on Zoom only and will be facilitated by Ann Baracker. Those wanting to join the group for the first time should [register here](#).

Local Happenings

Wednesday, May 4, Noon – 1:00 PM Windows in Time (Online or limited in-person): “Connections Across Landscapes: Building Stories out of Bones”



Archaeologist Katie Johnson will examine excavations at the Jacksonville Chinese Quarter Site. They resulted in the recovery of over 50 pounds of animal bones. These

bones represent mealtimes, home cooking, adaptation and innovation of Oregon Chinese Americans in late nineteenth century.

Katie Johnson is a staff archaeologist at the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology, where she has been working in the Rogue Valley for more than a decade. Katie is currently pursuing her Masters in anthropology with a focus in

zoarchaeology. She specializes in GIS (Geographic Information Systems), cartography, zooarchaeology, and cultural resource management. [Click here](#) to register.

Wednesday, June 1, Noon – 1:00 PM, Windows in Time (Online or limited in-person): “The Seamy Side of Medford: 1884 – 1935”

Medford resident Ben Truwe will provide stories from the poorly documented underworld of Medford and readings from Medford's vice surveys of the 1950s.

Ben Truwe is a recovering printer and a former trustee of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. He is the author of the "Looking Back" Jackson County history books and creator of the [Southern Oregon History, Revised](#) website. [Click here](#) to register.

Virtual Opportunities



May 24 - 28, National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, “Our American Mosaic”

There are three conference options, in-person in Sacramento, online at home, or on-demand! Online registration extended to May 13. [Click here for the conference brochure](#).

August 19 – 27, Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree

Registration opened March 7 at GenealogyJamboree.com. Over 60 speakers in three events over nine days! The three virtual conferences include Solving Your DNA Puzzles, JamboFREE, and Preserving Your Family Tales. For 51 years the Southern California Genealogical Society has held a Genealogy Jamboree, and for the last 9 years a Genetic Genealogy Conference, with nationally known speakers covering the latest developments in genealogy. From across our nation, from neighbors Canada and Mexico and from the Old World,

Jamboree speakers helped us discover our ancestors' lives and stories.

SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome New Members!



Welcome to the newest members of RVGS: Jeff Van Ausdall, Claudia Steinbroner, Jean Swick, Ronald & Dianne Ellis, Valerie Sanders, and Roxanne Basey! Welcome back to Frances Ryan, Gloria Lewis, Sharon Dalton, and Debra Smith!

Change to RVGS Bylaws

The member vote in March to change the name of our library requires us to update our Society's Bylaws. Per Article XVI, the proposed changes approved by the Board of Directors were presented to the members during the membership meeting on April 19. Both a redlined copy of the Bylaws and a summary of the changes are currently posted for review on the library bulletin board and on our website at www.rvgslibrary.org > Membership > Member Resources. Member input on the proposed changes will be accepted through May 16; written comments may be sent to Kim Thurman at president@rvgslibrary.org. If no objections are received, the Board will request an approval vote during the May 17 member meeting. Please take a moment to review the proposed updates prior to the meeting.

Volunteers Needed



RVGS is run completely by volunteers. We have no paid employees. Without volunteers there would be no society or library. Over the last two years, we have lost volunteers in key Society positions. RVGS is currently looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- Finance Director

- Volunteer Director
- *Rogue Digger* Editor
- Maintenance Coordinator
- Education Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Quilt Committee
- Zoom Hosts

For more information on these vital positions, see the **Support Us** menu > Volunteers Needed on our [website](#).

RVGS High School Scholarship Winner Announced



By Marilyn Ayres, Scholarship Chairman
The RVGS Scholarship Committee would like to present our scholarship winner for this year, Marianne Hatley, a senior at North Medford High School where she has been taking both honors and advanced placement classes.

Marianne is planning to attend the University of Oregon for Foreign Languages study. She is fluent in French and has been a teacher's assistant for French 1 at school. She has traveled to Senegal where the official language is French. Her mother speaks several languages. That early exposure inspired her to study languages.

Interested also in science and art, Marianne collaborated with others to create a scientific poster of the James Webb Space Telescope at ScienceWorks. She also plays violin and cello and has played in the North Medford Chamber orchestra.

Marianne and a friend petitioned to form a Black Student Union at North High which provides support and a forum for discussion of issues affecting Black students. She has also taken part in Southern Oregon University's Black Youth Leadership Summits in 2019 and 2020 and has also participated in the Oregon Black Youth Leadership Summer Institute.

This is the seventh year that the Rogue Valley

Genealogical Society has awarded a scholarship to a local high school student. This year the award is \$1,500. The scholarship program began to help celebrate the 50th year of RVGS. For the third year, we have been unable to meet our winners in person at a general membership meeting due to COVID, but we hope that face-to-face meetings can resume soon so our members can meet and hear directly from our scholarship winners.

“Finding Your Native American Ancestors” Video Available



Now available to RVGS MEMBERS ONLY - the workshop video "Finding Your Native American Ancestors" with Kate Eakman,

Legacy Tree Genealogists. This video captures the Jun 12, 2021, workshop. There are two sessions totaling 3 hours. This video will be available on the Member Resources page until July 4, 2022. Go to the **Membership** menu on our [website](#) then choose **Member Resources**. You must be logged into the website for access.

One of the most cherished beliefs in US Genealogical research is the presence of a Native American in our past. In this class we will walk through the key first steps used to determine if there is a Native American in your ancestry. These steps include examining your family stories, tracing your lineage to that specific person; noting race/color in birth, marriage, death, and census records; the geography of a particular tribe; the history of that tribe; and comparing the facts of your family's story.

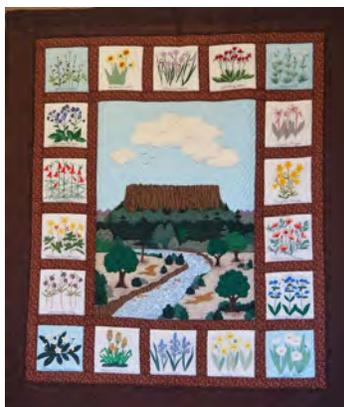
LIBRARY NEWS

No Additional Library Hours at This Time

The RVGS Library will continue to be open from 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Monday – Saturday. No new volunteers have stepped forward to become librarians, which

would have allowed the Library to be open additional hours. We regret this very much, as it prevents our more distant researchers and our serious researchers from coming to the library. RVGS is so fortunate to have a library with the square footage that allows researchers to socially distance while accessing the library's collection of information that is NOT on the Internet, as well as computers with access to seven subscription websites. In order to expand library hours, we need several volunteers willing to work at least six hours a month: two shifts of three hours each, from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. No experience is necessary, training is provided, and there are always two librarians working together. To volunteer, go to rvgslibrary.org > Support Us > **Volunteer Application**. Questions? Email annebilleteroregon@gmail.com

Table Rock Quilt on Display



Made: Spring of 1994
Size: 74 inches x 85 inches
Quilt Design: Evelyn Williams
Quilt Construction: center by Joetta Orthner, wildflowers by Jacksonville Museum Quilters

For thousands of years the rushing waters of the river known as “the Rogue” have carved the volcanic soils of Southern Oregon to form the 800 foot tall mesas named the “Table Rocks.” These weathered intricately shaped mesas have become home to over 340 plants, including approximately 200 species of wildflowers. Eighteen of those wildflowers were recreated in stitchery for this quilt. Some, like the California poppy, shooting star, and Indian paintbrush are well-known and seen frequently throughout Jackson County. The very small sandwort, fuzzy cat's ears, and striking blue-eyed Marys are not seen as often along roadsides and in fields. Native Americans and some early homesteaders found uses for common camas (eating), hound's tongue (emits a fragrance and has

been planted around houses to keep rats and mice at bay) and balsamroot (ate the sweet-tasting roots either raw or cooked; ground the seeds to bake into bread).

The Table Rock Quilt can be viewed in the library reading room during open hours, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.

Facebook Focus



Facebook is a wonderful resource for genealogists. There are a wealth of groups and pages that provide resources for everything from organizing, photos, and graveyards, to groups and pages focused on research in specific counties, states, countries, and even specific surnames. There is something for everyone.

This month our focus is on the Facebook group [1950 US Census - Community Project](#) which is a “private” group. This means only members of the group can see who is in the group and what they have posted. The 1950 U.S. Federal Census was released to public access on April 1, 2022. You can now begin exploring the unique details captured in this mid-century modern record collection. On April 1st a massive volunteer project to make those images searchable for free on FamilySearch began. Let’s get the 1950 US Census Community Project off to a roaring start— join us! The group has over 1,300 members and is the perfect place to get answers to questions regarding helping with the 1950 Census project. If you’re on Facebook, check it out!

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

Ancestry

- Virginia, U.S., Death Registers, 1853-1911
- Washington, U.S., County Naturalizations, 1878-1974
- Somme, France, Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1793-1912 (in French)



FamilySearch.org (not a subscription; free, just open an account)

- Chile, Cemetery Records, 1821-2015
- France, Saone-et-Loire, Parish and Civil Registration, 1530-1892
- Norway, Probate Index Cards, 1640-1903
- Philippines Deaths and Burials, 1726-1957
- United States, Virginia, Library of Virginia State Archive, Births, Marriages, and Deaths 1853-1900

*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.



MyHeritage

- Australia, Queensland Funeral Home and Burial Records
- France, Births and Baptisms, 1546-1896 (includes several departments; dates vary by locality)
- Ukraine, Odessa Birth Records, 1878-1900



2 New Books Featuring Obituaries Added in April to the RVGS Library

Only 2 books were added to the RVGS Library in April, but they reflect the ongoing efforts of RVGS volunteers which began MANY years ago! Obituaries are a major information source for genealogists, so RVGS volunteers have collected and indexed Jackson County obituaries, first from newspapers, and more recently also from online funeral home websites. Each year’s collection is then printed, bound, and added to the library collection. The continuous run of years is now up to volume 55 for the 2021 obituaries. Over the years other sources have been mined for older obituaries, some of which have been digitized from microfilm of Jackson County newspapers and are available in digitized form at the reception desk; others are in bound books in the

library collection. Although coverage isn't continuous, obituaries go back as far as 1876. To find an obituary, go to rvgslibrary.org and use the Search tab. Be sure to click on the hyperlink when you find a result you might be interested in. You will find additional information, including the call number if the obituary is in a book, and the scan number if the obituary has been digitized. (You will need the year of the obituary as well as the scan #, to give to a librarian to locate the digitized image on a reception desk computer.)

979.527 V381 Obi v.55
Obituaries from newspapers and mortuaries, vol. 55, 2021, Jackson County, Oregon, as published in the Mail Tribune (Medford). Ashland Daily Tidings (Ashland)...

While the RVGS volunteers focus primarily on collecting and indexing Jackson County resources, efforts have expanded to include our neighboring Josephine County. Some obituaries go back to 1850, although the systematic collection of obituaries began in 1989.

Josephine County indexes have not yet been added to the Search function on the new website. Those indexes can be accessed on the archived website at <http://archive.rvgslibrary.org/Josephine.html>

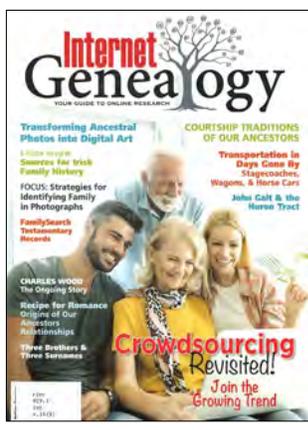
979.525 0138 Obi 2021
Obituaries from newspapers & mortuaries, 2021, Josephine County, Oregon, as published in the Grants Pass Daily Courier and as published on the websites of L.B. Hall Funeral Home, Hull & Hull Funeral, Stephens Family Chapel

New Periodicals on the Shelf

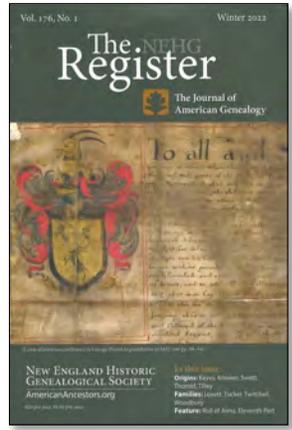


The Genealogist, American Society of Genealogists
 Circ 929.05 Gen v.36(1), Spring 2022
 Robert and Susanna Lockwood (MA, CT); Ivey (addendum from previous issue); Smallpox, 1773 in Marblehead; Joynt family

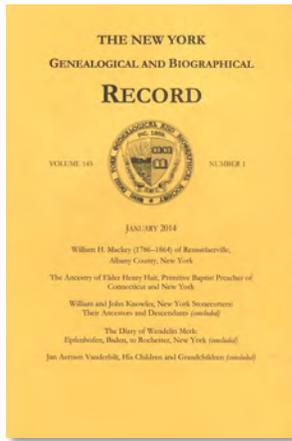
(Cornwall); Alice Luckin Page; Joao de Sousa (MA); Joshua Putney (NY).



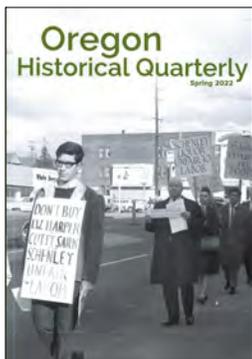
Internet Genealogy
 Circ 929.1 Int v.16(6), Feb/ Mar 2022 [and on our website on homepage] Courtship traditions; Crowdsourcing of genealogical resources (who's doing what and how you can help); Stagecoaches and freighters; Wedding cakes; Strategies for identifying relatives in family photos; The Huron Tract (Canada); Colorizing family photos; Immigrant name changes; Charles Wood (Australian lawn bowling champ); and Unusual record sets at FamilySearch.



The NEHG Register, New England Historic Genealogical Society
 Circ 974 G242 NEHGS v.176 (1), Winter 2022
 Robert Keyes and John Swett (MA); George Thorold of Boston and his daughters (RI); Parents of Cynthia Lovett (RI, NY); Rev. William Tilley and sons; Patience Tucker (RI), first wife of Benjamin Twitchell; Thomas and George Knower (MA); William Woodbury (MA), and the continuation of a Roll of Arms registered by the Committee on Heraldry.



New York Genealogical and Biographical Record
 Circ 974.7 G242 New v.153 (1), January 2022
 Rufus D Stephens of NY, Canada, MI and IL -- 'manslaughter and bigamy'; Mary Underhill Naylor Sittes; William and Thomas Becraft; Conklin Osborn, and Abigail C Dart.



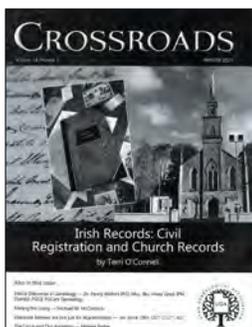
Oregon Historical Quarterly, Oregon Historical Society
 Circ 979.5 P273 OHQ v.123(1), Spring 2022
 “The Coming of the White Man” – white supremacy in Oregon; Portland Jobs with Justice, an exhibition essay; and oral history with Margaret Butler.



Southern Oregon Historical Society Quarterly
 Circ 979.527 P273 SOHSQ Spring 2022
 History of music (songs, concerts, bands) in Southern Oregon, and a spotlight on Doris and Lynn Sjolund.

Thanks to a donation from Melinda Henningfield, the library has added recent issues of several important journals already in the collection:

American Genealogist
 Circ 929.05 Ame 2010-2021
 Scholarly genealogy journal. The library holdings begin in 1964.



Crossroads, Utah Genealogical Association
 Circ 929.05 Cro 2010-2022
 While there are some “How I found Mother” articles, chief emphasis is on how to DO genealogy – strategies, finding and using uncommon records, and country resources.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record
 Circ 974.7 G242 New 2010-2019
 The NYGBR Journal includes an index in #4 of each volume.

New York Researcher (same publisher)
 Circ 974.7 P273 NYR 2014-current
 The newsletter with less scholarly articles than the

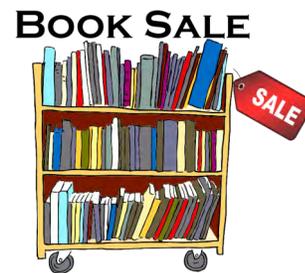
NYGBR Journal, often of NY resources, maps, on-line collections, and the like.



Kentucky Ancestors, Kentucky Historical Society
 Circ 976.9 P273 KA 2006-2013
 If you have searched this title, there are new issues to peruse.

Surplus Sale Books

- *Early Kentucky Landholders, 1787-1811* by James F. Sutherland, 1986. \$18.00
- *Pioneers of Davidson County, Tennessee* by Edythe Ricker Whitley, orig. 1965, reprint 1979, some damage to spine, \$6.00
- *Twelve Virginia Counties, Where the Western Migration Began* by John H. Gwathmey, orig. 1937, reprint 2006. \$24.00
- *Courthouse Research for Family Historians* by Christine Rose, 2004. \$3.00
- *New Madrid: A Mississippi River Town in History and Legend* by Mary Sue Anton, 2009. \$4.50
- *The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are* by Libby Copeland, 2020. \$4.00 [2 copies]
- *Images of America: Talent* by Jan Wright, 2009. \$6.50
- *Rich Gulch: A Mining History of Jacksonville, Oregon* by Larry B. Smith, 2004. \$3.50
- *Bibliography of American County Histories* compiled by P. William Filby, 1985. \$5.00
- *Evidence Explained* by Elizabeth Shown Mills, 3rd ed, 2015. \$24.00
- *Evidence Explained* by Elizabeth Shown Mills, 2nd ed, 2009, \$11.50
- *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, edited by Arlene Eakle & John Cerny, 1st ed, 1984. \$4.50 [2 copies]
- *Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1640, a Concise Compendium*, by Robert Charles Anderson, 2015. \$60.00



**Rogue Valley
Genealogical Society
Board of Directors**

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Trustee: Lynne Hunter
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Education Co-Directors:
Barbara Halvorsen, Pat Jenkins
Volunteer Director:
Vacant
**Technology and Data
Management Director:**
Rich Miles
Finance Director: Vacant

RVGS Membership

Membership is available to all interested persons.
Membership privileges include:

- Free use of library
- Volunteer opportunities
- Reduced fees for genealogy classes and seminars
- Check out of materials
- Free access to subscription websites
- Society publications
- Interest groups
- Free mentoring
- Access to members-only web content

Visit our website at rvgslibrary.org to join today.

The RVGS eNews

Editor: Rich Miles
Submissions due 20th of Month to enews@rvgslibrary.org

The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, tax identification number: 93-0684590.

Join an RVGS Special Interest Group Today



The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society sponsors a variety of virtual interest groups each month. Members and patrons with a common interest gather to share information, strategies, and help each other with troubleshooting. Interest groups are free to attend. For more information and to register for any of the following groups and receive the meeting Zoom link, [click here](#).

Colonial America Interest Group

The Colonial America Interest Group meets 2:00 - 3:30 PM on the second Monday of every month to discuss genealogy research in the original 13 colonies. Join facilitator Jeanne Hoadley and bring your stories and research experiences.

Family Tree Maker User Group

Barbara MacMillen facilitates this group. It meets from 1:30 - 3:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every month to discuss the Family Tree Maker software program and share ideas with each other.

Genealogy Newbies Interest Group

Barbara Northrop moderates this interest group for new genealogists who want a small group setting to ask questions. The group meets from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of every month. The meetings start with the first 45 minutes of topical structured content and the last half of the session is open for general questions.

Genetic Genealogy Interest Group

Barbara Halvorsen facilitates this interest group for everyone interested in genetic genealogy. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

German Interest Group (GIG)

Mary Robsman facilitates this interest group concentrating on German history and research. They meet the second Tuesday of the month from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. [Click here](#) to visit the GIG resources page. Contact the group at GermanInterestGroup@rvgslibrary.org.

Great Lakes Interest Group

Join facilitator Kim Thurman to share, discuss, and learn about the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Researchers to the north and east along the lakes are welcome as well. The Great Lakes Interest Group will begin meeting June 8th from 1:30 - 3:00 PM, with subsequent meetings held **every other** month on the second Wednesday.

Irish Interest Group

Barbara Halvorsen moderates this interest group concentrating on Irish history, culture and researching Irish ancestors. The group meets on the second Friday of the month from 1:30 - 3:00 PM via Zoom.

Are we missing a Special Interest Group that you'd love to join? You may wish to check the available FREE offerings from the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) here: <https://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/>. If you have an idea for an Interest Group that you'd like to facilitate, please complete our Volunteer Application on our website under Support Us > [Volunteer Application](#).