

Volume 8 | Issue 3 | Mar 2023

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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

Rogue Valley
Genealogical Society

3405 S Pacific Hwy
Medford, Oregon 97501

541-512-2340
reception@rvgslibrary.org
www.rvgslibrary.org

LIBRARY HOURS

RVGS Library is open
Monday - Saturday
10:00 AM — 4:00 PM



CLASSES & EVENTS

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

Register
NOW!

Registration Now Open!

**Friday, March 3, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Meeting (in person at RVGS Library):
Crater Lake Chapter DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution)**

Daughters of the American Revolution promotes education, historical preservation, and patriotism. DAR meetings and programs are non-political. March's program is about Vietnam Veterans. Interested members of the public are welcome to attend. Visit the DAR website at <http://www.craterlakedar.org>.

Cost: Free to all.

Wednesday, March 8, 10:30 AM - Noon, 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.

Cost: Free to all.

Thursday, March 9, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Genealogy Newbies Interest Group

This group meets the second Thursday of the month and is 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.

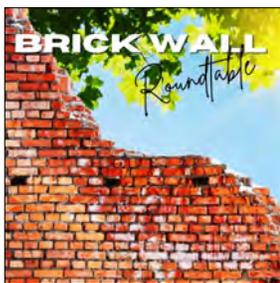
Cost: Free to all.

Friday, March 10, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Irish Interest Group

Barbara Halvorsen facilitates this interest group concentrating on Irish history, culture and researching Irish ancestors. The group meets the second Friday of the month.

Cost: Free to all.

Saturday, March 11, 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 and who knows? You may have a nugget that would help someone else. Meetings are held the second Saturday of the odd numbered months and hosted by Dave Horton.

Cost: Free to all



Monday, March 13, 9:30 AM - Noon, RVGS Board meeting (in person at library)

All members are welcome. Come to the library side door and ring the doorbell. Cost: Free to all.

Monday, March 13, 2:00 - 3:30 PM, Colonial America Interest Group

Jeanne Hoadley will be focusing on the original 13 colonies in this interest group. Join her and bring your stories and research experiences. The group meets the second Monday of the month.

Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday, March 14, 11:00 - Noon, German Interest Group

This interest group concentrates on German history and research. They meet the Second Tuesday of the month.

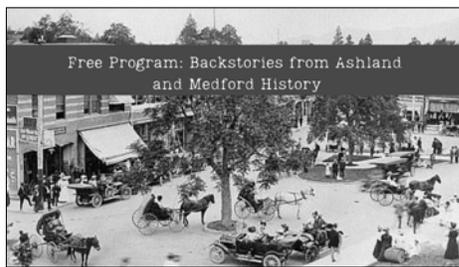
Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday, March 14, 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. They meet the second Tuesday of the month.

Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday, March 21, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Program and Member Meeting: "Backstories from Ashland and Medford"



What could Lolita, Raggedy Ann, Tobacco Road, Lithia Auto Group, Camelot, mouse traps, a stolen election,

a faith healer, a headless Lincoln, a 160-year-old-cold case, and a "robber-Barron," possibly have in common? They all have southern Oregon backstories which may surprise you. Educator and writer Joe Peterson will share them with us.

Cost: Free to all.

Thursday, March 23, 10:30 AM – Noon, Class: Weaving History into Family Narratives

In this class, Claire Gebben will offer resources for uncovering historical details specific to the time and place of our ancestors, as well as writing tips for



including relevant history into family narratives. Cost: Members \$10, Non-Members \$20.

Tuesday, March 28, 10:30 AM – Noon, Class: Navigating the Illinois State Archives System

Tina Beard will describe how the Illinois State Archives is structured, what records are available online-versus-in-person, plus how the regional archives system works, including the types of records housed at IRAD facilities; and how to obtain

copies for next to nothing.
Cost: Members \$10; Non-Members \$20.

Coming Soon!

- Saturday, April 1, Class: Lakes, Lumber, & Lighthouses: A Genealogical Exploration of Michigan
- Monday, April 6, Class: Mayflower Society
- Tuesday, April 18, Program: Hidden in Haarlem

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Have NO Fear! – Genetic Genealogy Special Interest Group



Now that you have taken a DNA test and researched your family history, combine the two to make breakthroughs on branches of your family tree. This is Genetic Genealogy, the focus of our group.

Have you thought about joining our meetings but . . .

1. The vocabulary is unfamiliar, it's confusing and difficult to understand. Y-DNA, mtDNA, atDNA, cMs, mitowhat? We take the time to explain the basics.
2. DNA testing questions: which company to choose and their individual strengths, testing at multiple places or transferring DNA results, which family members should I ask to test and why. We are happy to review your options.
3. Your DNA ethnicity results do not seem right. If you don't agree with your results, we can discuss why they may be right as well as all the variables that go into ethnicity.

We are a casual group. We sometimes have a set topic to discuss but if discussion takes us in a different direction, we're flexible. Our group takes the time to walk you through the basics or the advanced. It all depends on the knowledge and needs of those attending that day. Have no fear, we

are here to help you! **Come join us by clicking here to register.** You will receive the Zoom link before each meeting.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



Windows in Time: Chance and Choice: Significant Moments in Oregon Shakespeare Festival History

- Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Noon – 1:00 PM

Medford Library: Online or limited in-person.

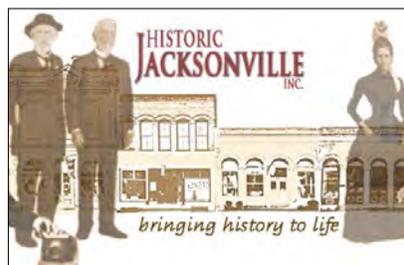
[Click here to register](#)

- Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Noon – 1:00 PM
Ashland Library

Through the years, a perennial question from journalists, researchers and chambers of commerce has been how OSF became one of the largest professional repertory theaters in the country. This talk will highlight some of the significant moments that advanced its growth and shifted its policies and practices, making it what it is today.

Amy Richard was the Media & Communications Manager at OSF for 20 years. She was responsible for the development, integration, and implementation of a broad-based multimedia, social media, and communication plan that publicized and promoted OSF's performances, events, and initiatives. She worked on a variety of special projects, including co-writing a history of OSF with then-archivist Kit Leary for OSF's 75th anniversary season. The book was part of Arcadia Publishing's Images in America series.

Saturday, March 11, 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:00 PM, OR 2:00 PM, Time Travel to 1932 – Living History Play



Become part of a 1-hour "living history play!" Depression Era miners are digging up Jacksonville's streets. Hobos are

hoping for handouts. And Ben and Carrie Beekman are closing up their 1870s Jacksonville home. Join the adult children of the town's most prominent pioneer family as they go through family belongings, comment on current affairs, and share memories of 19th Century life. Experience 1932 Jacksonville as you meet and interact with the Beekmans, family members, and friends! They will be welcoming visitors at 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm, or 2:00 pm on March 11, April 8, and May 13. [Click here](#) to plan your visit!

Virtual Opportunities



March 2-4, RootsTech Conference

What Is RootsTech? RootsTech is the world's largest genealogy conference that brings learning and innovation to all people. Hundreds of classes (both online and in

person) offer something for all family history enthusiasts, from beginners dipping their toes in the water to experienced genealogists going for a deep dive.

If that weren't enough, RootsTech also offers opportunities to learn about innovations in the genealogy community, connect with other enthusiasts, and find living relatives. As a whole, you can expect 3 days dedicated to learning and connecting during the conference. Plus, you will still have access to all the learning opportunities anytime you want on our year-long learning platform at [rootstech.org](https://www.rootstech.org).

[Click here to register.](#)

Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library 2023 Webinar Series

Webinars offer Jamboree-style seminars for up to 500 attendees per session, at no charge.

These original webcasts are available to all genealogists for free. Archive sessions are available to SCGS members in the SCGS members-only section of this website approximately three days following

the webinar. These one-hour webinar presentations are given each month and are conducted by professional genealogical speakers and expert lecturers. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



March 11 – 19, GFO 2023 Open House (Genealogical Forum of Oregon, located in Portland)

Registration is now open for [GFO's 2023 Open House](#)! Join them from March 11-19, as they offer a total of 29 free classes all online! Download their [Open House Flyer](#) and share it with your friends. RVGS Great Lakes Special Interest Group facilitator Kim Thurman will be presenting Tuesday, March 14, 9:30 – 11:00 AM. All are welcome. [Click here for more information and to register for classes.](#)

SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome New Members!



Welcome to the newest members of RVGS: Shirley Roberts, Daniel Jensen, Dyette Tereau, Sarah Mix, and Carolyn Royce! Welcome back to Nancy Vaughn, Janice Dawn, Carol Samuelson, Peggy Whipple, Janet Patterson, Janet Curry, and Kate Culbertson!

The Many Volunteers of RVGS

By Leslie Compton

Each month I will highlight one of our volunteers. Many you will already know, but a few you have yet to meet.

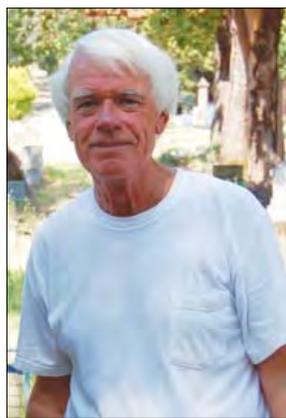


Let me begin by introducing Librarian Loretta Barker whom most of you know by her radiant smile and upbeat, warm personality.

Loretta and her husband spent many a vacation at Howard Prairie Lake

Resort in their RV. After her husband passed away, Loretta felt their large property in Chino, California, was just too much to handle by herself. A daughter had already moved to Medford for a high school teaching job, so why not retire from her teaching of business subjects at the local high school, sell their property, move to a beautiful area with which she was acquainted, and be closer to her daughter. And that's exactly what she did.

In Chino, Loretta enjoyed the genealogy library, all five shelves housed in the main branch. But she had to obtain special permission to venture to the basement when she wished to do more research. Shortly after her move to Southern Oregon in 2017, Loretta attended a presentation of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. Thoroughly impressed with the immensity of their collection she signed up as a member and shortly thereafter became a volunteer, a librarian, and even served on the RVGS Board of Directors. So glad you are with us, Loretta!



In Memoriam

By Katie Haugse

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Dirk Siedlecki. Dirk has been inspirational for many years on the preservation and care of our historic cemeteries here in the valley and statewide.

I would like to thank his friend Bill Miller for the lovely article he wrote that was published in the *Rogue Valley Tribune*, Feb. 22, 2023. ([Click here to read.](#))

Please visit the Jacksonville Historic Cemetery or any of our wonderful historic cemeteries to appreciate the wonderful commitment Dirk has given to our state. We will miss him and send our condolences to his family.

My Mother Called Them “Instant Relatives” - I Call Them an Opportunity

By Misty Orlando

My parents' occupation introduced me to the world of discarded family pictures. Others and I have seen how they are sold in antique stores by the thousands. Few are found with any names printed on them, while some have names written in unreadable cursive. With each discovery, I would carefully lift them into view and ask, “Who were they?” or “How did they die?” I often wondered if they had happy lives. I could never get over being sad and astonished with each discovery. “Why weren't they gifted to a living descendant or passed down for another generation to cherish?” Furthermore, crying out: “Why are they sold in antique stores?”

It would be many years later that the idea of returning discarded pictures to any living descendants would occur to me. I remember, vividly, the exact picture I would want to return first, knowing that I had to reunite these long-lost family pictures with their families.

But first, we must travel back to the beginning when these pictures found me, and I found them. I was a little girl once, with pigtails draped over my shoulders, who wandered aimlessly through a forest of discarded family pictures. My mother and father were *chair caners*, having spent over 35 years of their lives perfecting the now lost art of caning, the weave on antique chairs. My father also did antique furniture restoration. This included re-gluing, staining, stripping, and refinishing old chairs and furniture. My father could carve, from wood, any missing old furniture piece with his gifted hands, with the skills of a woodworker, and with results the likes as I have never seen elsewhere, or since. My parents were paid for caning chairs for many people

who owned large, and small, antique furniture stores. I was literally raised in and around antique stores. When not caning chairs, they were moonlighting selling antiques. I must have seen the inside of hundreds of antique stores before adulthood.

It was as I strolled through these antique stores, passing the time as my parents conducted their business, that I started to notice old photographs for sale. I would see tintypes, daguerreotypes, dusty cabinet cards with faded photos of people, families, and even their beloved pets. I saw war heroes staring back at me with their uniforms decorated in service metals, honorable men of duty and worth, whose prematurely aged faces reflected the horrors of war and left me with haunting impressions.

I noticed so many people who weren't smiling, as they must have been, waiting for those ancient folding cameras, and their 19th century technology to finally take their picture. I clearly remember seeing photographs of young children on brittle photo paper, forever preserved against time's passing cruelty. "Were they loved?" I would ask myself. Many pictures of mothers and fathers on their farms showed them tired from the day's labor, and many are pictures of some unknown faraway places. Other images of happy vacations, joyous baptisms, busy holidays, mournful funerals, and wedding pictures of gleaming, hope-filled faces. There would be dozens of pictures piled up on top of old, veneered Victorian vanities, or inside steamer trunks. Ambrotype photographs placed behind glass cases were priced to sell. Cabinet cards once carefully placed inside velvet albums by a long-gone family member, now for sale. Other pictures would be tucked inside old German family bibles, all for sale alongside other antiques.



I found the Whitey Family photo in a variety store in Medford, Oregon. The family picture was taken in or around 1928. I

found it haphazardly placed, as it was partially covered up on an Eastlake fainting couch, by an old Amish quilt. Unlike the ones I saw as a child, the names of each family member were clearly printed in pencil on the back. Did the thought of how to return this photo to any living descendant occur to me in those moments before I bought the picture, for a mere five dollars? Or did a plan come into view when I drove to the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Library? I can't say for sure.

Researching has always been my superpower, and the love for genealogy was inherited from my mother. This is what I would rely on in my research. Upon entering the RVGS Library, the ladies at the desk were immediately helpful, knowledgeable, and clearly shared a love for "everything genealogy." I was in the right place! This won't be easy, I remember thinking. After paying for my new membership, the "Sherlock Holmes" in me came alive. I started researching their names on the available computers. Just about all the genealogy sites were available, and before long, I quickly found their family tree. A short time later, I would be reading several family obituaries. Eureka! I knew the names of a next of kin! Before long, the Internet's white pages unveiled a living relative, a phone number, and grandson living in Washington. It wouldn't always be this easy. *I would find this out a dozen returned pictures later.*

When I called Mr. Whitely, I excitedly explained the story of how this came to be before he could get a word in edgewise. I remember his surprise and gratitude. Before long we were talking about days now long gone by and bits of memories he held dear. He gave me his home address with no request from me to pay postage, and no payment needed for the cost of the picture. Never! This would be nothing less than *a random act of kindness*. One waiting in the wings since that little girl in pigtails who first gleamed at an old cabinet card in an antique store. It is fair to say, I tend to get attached to these people. I find myself learning about their lives before I wish them farewell. They were "instant relatives," as my mother would call them, though temporarily.

Each photograph I return is wrapped in soft colored tissue paper, tied with a ribbon, and enclosed with a letter that begins: "This family picture has found its way home..." The letters always end with the following excerpt from my favorite poem, *The Faerie Queen*, by Edmund Spenser.

*"For whatsoever from one place doth fall,
Is with the tide unto another brought:
For there is nothing lost, that may be found, if
sought."*

Become an RVGS Volunteer in 2023!



RVGS is 100% volunteer run. 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 looking for

volunteers for the following positions:

- *Rogue Digger* Editor
- Librarians
- Technology Coordinator
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Building Maintenance Coordinator
- Education Committee
- Quilt Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Zoom Hosts

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

LIBRARY NEWS

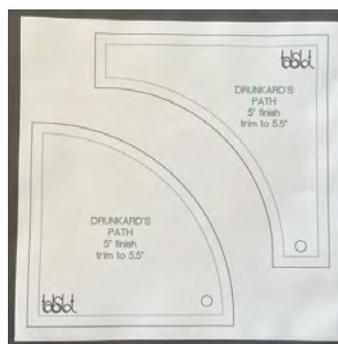
March Quilt in the Library Niche - Robbing Peter to Pay Paul

The quilt hanging in the niche for March is a stunning variation of a quilter's template named Drunkard's Path. It is hand pieced and hand quilted. This particular variation is called King Tut's Crown. Sybil Russell donated this quilt to RVGS in October 2019 and it has been documented by the quilt committee. Sybil also gave an ancestor chart that



she had prepared of the quilt maker, Margaret (Simonton) Rains (1866-1930) who lived her entire life in Blackford County, Indiana. Sybil was gifted the quilt by Margaret's granddaughter, Helen (Rains) Reavis.

The two-piece template, known in America as The Drunkard's Path, is an ancient motif used by the Egyptians and Romans for their mosaic-tile patterns. The design was very popular among quilters in England and in America. Variations of the design in England are named "Mill Wheel," "Wander in the Wilderness," and "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul," which has roots in the financial practices of two London churches known as St. Peter and St. Paul. In America, the name Robbing Peter to Pay Paul is given to a completely different template. American names used are "Drunkard's Path," "Road to Kansas," "Solomon's Puzzle," "Old Maid's Puzzle," and "The Oregon Trail."



During the Temperance movement in America the name Drunkard's Path was given to this two-piece template which was widely used by quilters. Many variations of Drunkard's Path were used for quilt

designs and names were given to each design. American quilt historian Barbara Brackman, author of *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*, (1979), identifies this variation as "King Tut's Crown".

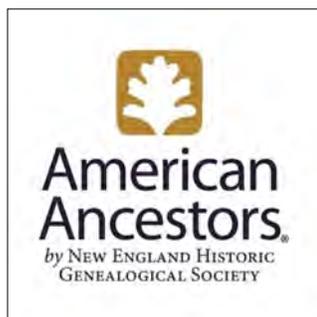
Almost all the Drunkard's Path quilts made during the temperance era were blue and white. The white represented purity and the blue represented water, the purest drink known to mankind. Many quilters often chose red and white for the colors used in Drunkard's Path quilts. The dye used for red was

very stable and would not fade or migrate to nearby fabrics, so red and white color choices for two-color quilts were preferred.

New Records Added to Our Subscription Websites (partial list)

AmericanAncestors.org

- Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 - 24 new sketches of families of heads of households who lived within the present-day borders of Vermont by 1784. A list of children, children's spouses, and known vital records accompanies each sketch.
- Early New England Families, 1641-1700 - added Isaac Jones, who settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts



Ancestry.com

- Maine, U.S., Records of the Togus National Home for Disabled Veterans, 1874-1938. Digital images of detailed Death Records and Burial Records. This record set supplements the "U.S., National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1838" which provides digital images of the "Register of Members," with one large ledger page per soldier providing Military History, Domestic History (birth and death information, P.O. address of nearest relative), and Home History (dates of admission and readmission, including where transferred to, burial information)
- New Jersey U.S., Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1711-1878



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

- England, Military Pension and Service Records,



1702-1933

- Florida, Funeral Home Records, 1887-1971
- Ohio, Stillbirths, 1918-1953
- United Kingdom, British India Office, Births and Baptisms, 1712-1965

MyHeritage.com

- United States: Index of records of voter registrations from Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Washington, D.C. (each record set has a very different starting year)
- Australia, South Australia, Adelaide, Gaol Prisoner Registers, 1848-1912
- Finland, Karelia (a region currently divided between Finland and Russia)
 - Emigrants from and immigrants to, 1836-1921
 - Pre-Confirmation Rolls (Lutheran Church), 1859-1921



13 Books and 5 Maps Added to the RVGS Library

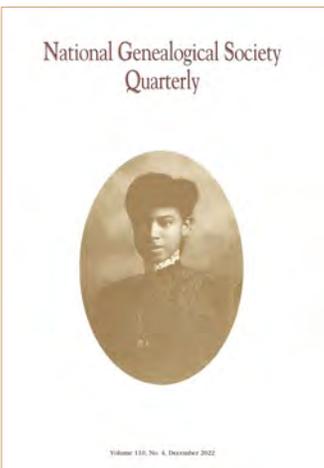
13 books, including the 4-volume set of *Jacobi Papers: Genealogical Studies of Leading Ashkenazi Families* (296 Jac) reviewed in the February eNews, plus 5 books about Washington state (979.7) and a 5-map set detailing Randolph County, West Virginia (MAP 975.485 Gen) were added during the past month. [Click here for the complete list.](#)

New Periodicals on the Shelf



NGS Magazine, National Genealogical Society
Circ 929.05 NGSM Jan-March 2023
Concentrating on the Mid-Atlantic Region: The NGS 2023 Family History Conference in Richmond, VA, from 31 May – 3 June, including planning for a research trip to the area;

Metes and bounds land plats; Resources at the Library of Congress; Virginia’s early court records (and the mystery of Independent Cities); Unusual federal census records such as an index of insane in Illinois, 1870, and different tobacco schedules; the NGS website; and DNA shared matches.



National Genealogical Society Quarterly, National Genealogical Society
 Circ 929.05 NGSQ
 December 2022
 Parents of Robert Bradford Murray (MO); Separating identities of two Hattie Campbells (MO); and Archelaus (aka Archibald) M. White of

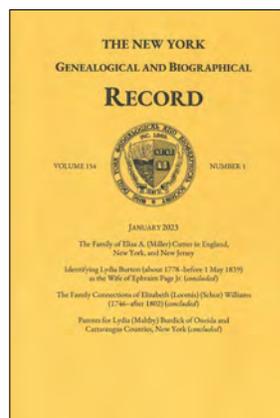
Maury and Madison counties, Tennessee, plus the annual index of volume 110.

Family Tree Magazine

Circ 929.1 FTM March/April 2023
 Historical newspapers – websites, how to locate



local papers, how to cite articles in your tree. Of special interest, a comparison of websites that includes their geographic emphasis. Finding maiden names; the UK’s National Archives website; Preserving coins and paper money. Cheat sheet: Historical Newspapers. Research Guides: Utah and West Virginia.



New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, NYG&B Society

Circ 974.7 P273 NYR January 2023

The family of Eliza A Miller Cutter (England, NY, NJ); Lydia Burton as wife of Ephraim Page; Family connections of Elizabeth Loomis Schut Williams; and Parents for Lydia Maltby Burdick.

Fred Meyer Community Rewards Supports RVGS



Do you use a Fred Meyer Rewards Card? Did you know you can “donate” to RVGS without it costing you a dime? Just follow these simple steps:

- Go to fredmeyer.com.
- In the top right corner, click the **Sign In** button. If you have not previously created an account, you can do it here.
- After signing in, click in the same place, only now it displays your name, and choose **My Account**.
- Under **My Account**, on the left side of the screen, click on **Community Rewards**.
- Here you can search for and choose your charity. We are listed as **Rogue Valley Genealogical Society**, organization number **PC623**. Click **Enroll**.

For more information about Fred Meyer Rewards, [click here](#). **Note**, previous enrollees may need to re-enroll in Community Rewards. Follow the steps above to verify.

**Rogue Valley
Genealogical Society
Board of Directors**

President: Katie Hauge
Vice President: Chris Mason
Secretary: Cathy Ullrich
Treasurer: Kim Thurman
Trustee: Chris Galligan
Past President: Anne Billeter
Library Director: Anne Billeter
Membership Director:
Margaret Clark-Mayfield
Education Co-Directors:
Barbara Halvorsen, Pat Jenkins
Volunteer Director:
Lynne Hunter
**Technology and Data
Management Director:**
Rich Miles
Finance Director: Jim
Seagraves

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 a 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 and strategies, and to 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

Led by Jeanne Hoadley, it meets 2:00 - 3:30 PM on the second Monday of every month to discuss genealogy research in the original 13 colonies.

Family Tree Maker User Group

Led by Barbara MacMillen, it meets from 1:30 - 3:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every month to discuss the Family Tree Maker software program.

Genealogy Newbies Interest Group

Led by Barbara Northrop, it meets from 6:00—7:30 PM on the second Thursday of every month. This group is for new genealogists who want a small group setting to ask questions.

Genetic Genealogy Interest Group

Led by Barbara Halvorsen, it meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 AM - Noon. This group is for everyone interested in genetic genealogy.

German Interest Group (GIG)

This group meets the second Tuesday of the month from 11:00 AM - Noon. The group focuses on German history and research.

Great Lakes Interest Group—Joint RVGS & GFO Group

Led by Kim Thurman, it meets from 1:30 - 3:00 PM **every even numbered month** on the second Wednesday. The group meets to share, discuss, and learn about the Great Lakes states.

Irish Interest Group

Led by Barbara Halvorsen, it meets on the second Friday of the month from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. The group focuses on Irish history, culture and researching Irish ancestors.

Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) Special Interest Groups

Are we missing a Special Interest Group that you'd love to join? You may wish to [check the available FREE offerings from GFO here](#), or contact the group facilitator by clicking on the group name below.

- African American Group
- British Group
- DNA-Advanced
- DNA Q&A—The Basics
- Family Tree Maker
- French Canada Group
- Genealogy Problem Solvers
- German Group
- Irish Group
- Italian Group
- Learn & Chat
- The Q Review
- RootsMagic
- Virginia Group
- The Writers' Room

