



Volume 9 | Issue 4 | Apr 2024

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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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LIBRARY HOURS

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



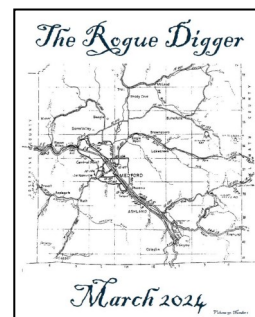
The RVGS eNews

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



RVGS Strong in 2024 and Beyond

Did you read the *Rogue Digger*? Thirty-eight pages brimming with stories of genealogical adventures, discoveries, cemeteries, and wait...what is this about "Double Dating?" If you missed the emailed link on March 15, you can find it on our website: ***The Rogue Digger***. Kudos to Cindi Hobson, our new *Rogue Digger* editor, for producing our first issue since September 2019.



RVGS will be at the Access Senior Fair at the Medford Armory on Tuesday, April 2, from 9 AM - 4 PM. Stop by our booth and thank our volunteers, especially Midge Dailey, who made all the arrangements.

RVGS volunteers have been teaching an OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) course, "Introduction to Genealogy" annually for many years. The five-week course will be taught this year at RVGS on five consecutive Friday mornings, from 10 AM - noon. This year three of those Fridays will include a one-hour lab using the RVGS Library's computers from 11 AM - noon on April 19, 26, and May 3. This will give the 25 OLLI students hands-on experience after an hour in the Meeting Room learning about using Ancestry, FamilySearch, and the U.S. Census for genealogy research. Those will be busy mornings...perhaps NOT the best time to do your own research at RVGS!

The RVGS Board decided NOT to hold a 2024 December event. For many years we have

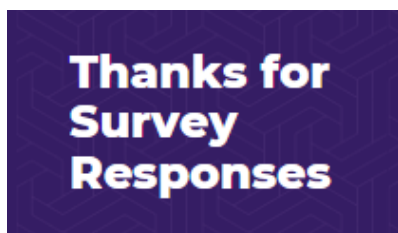
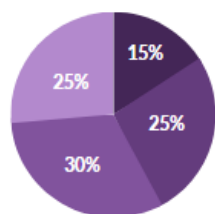


enjoyed a combined event which included a Member Meeting at which the newly elected officers were installed, and we simultaneously thanked our volunteers with a holiday lunch. Many volunteers and other members had conflicts due to the busy holiday season, including the volunteers who organized the event. Instead, we are going to install the officers immediately after they are elected at the November Member Meeting. This will provide the outgoing and incoming officers more time to transition responsibilities, so the new officers will be better prepared on January 1.

Mark your calendars now, the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch will be on Saturday, January 11, 2025.

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS: A huge thank you to all who took time to complete the 2024 member survey. The Board appreciates your time and your input. We had 234 responses to the survey which represents 41% of our membership. The average return rate for “customer service” type surveys is 10 – 30%! Thank you RVGS, we know you care about the future of our society. The Board will be analyzing the survey results at a special Board retreat in May which will include society members at large as well. Survey results will also be presented to the membership at our June 18 Member Meeting, don’t miss it!

Anne Billeter, President
president@rvgslibrary.org



CLASSES & EVENTS

The following RVGS classes and events are offered in a variety of ways. We are increasing the number of hybrid (in person and via Zoom) events. Please note in the event description the ways you can attend.

- Event details are subject to change. Check our website for the latest information. If registration is not available on the website, please check back.
- Unless noted otherwise, most classes and events require online advanced registration, see the **Classes & Events** menu on our **website**. **Registration closes at noon 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.
- **Click here to find Zoom help on our website.**
- All times listed are Pacific Time Zone.

Registration Now Open!



Wednesday, April 3, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM, File Organization Drop-In Help Session

Do you need help with your genealogy paper file organization? Perhaps you have a box of inherited family ephemera you need help organizing. Barbara Northrop will be on hand to share her organizational tips. Bring your files/boxes with you. You may attend for a short time or stay the entire session. Contact **Barbara Northrop** if you have questions. Cost: Free to all.

Thursday, April 4, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, FREE Class: MyHeritage Library Edition & Practice Session

“Researching Family History at Your Library with MyHeritage Library Edition,” featuring MyHeritage Genealogy Expert Daniel Horowitz. This class is being offered by Legacy Family Tree Webinars. RVGS will host a watch party at the RVGS

Library for those interested in attending. **No pre-registration on our website is necessary.** If you prefer to watch from home, you may register directly through the Legacy Family Tree Webinars website **HERE**. You do not need to be a subscriber to Legacy Family Tree Webinars to register for this free session. Hybrid - Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



Thursday, April 4, 1:00 - 3:00 PM MyHeritage Practice Session. Watch, Eat & Explore. Take the FREE MyHeritage class in the morning, bring your lunch, and stay to practice what you learned!



Friday, April 5, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, German Research Help Session

The German Interest Group is providing hands on help for all our society members who want to research their German families, both in the Old Country and the Americas.



We only have three more First Friday Help Sessions - April 5, May 3, and June 7 from 1 PM – 3 PM in the RVGS library.

Come once or come on all three Fridays. The German Interest Group is here to help you figure out your tricky Germans.

In person at the RVGS library. Cost: Free to all. No registration is necessary.

Homesteading

Saturday, April 6, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Class, Homesteading: Land for All

Homestead application papers are good sources of genealogical information. Application papers often mention family members or neighbors, and previous residence as shown in dozens of papers which may include land application forms, citizenship applications, family Bible pages, marriage, or death certificates. Christine Cohen will talk about how to use these valuable papers.

Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members.

Monday, April 8, 9:30 AM - Noon, RVGS Board meeting

All members are welcome. Come to the library side door and ring the doorbell.

In person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



Monday, April 8, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, Colonial America Interest Group

The Colonial America Interest Group meets the 2nd

Monday of the even numbered months. Beginning in April we will revert to a zoom only format as group members have shown no interest in attending in person at the library.

Our topic for April will be a deep dive into the Great Migration and the Great Migration Study Project. The Great Migration refers to the period between 1620 and 1640 when thousands of people left England to seek religious freedom in New England. In 1989 Robert Charles Anderson initiated a project to write biographical sketches on each head of household who made the trip. Though Anderson has now retired the project continues and the first volume in the latest series, covering 1636-1638, has just been published. Over the years there have been numerous spinoff books and articles in addition to the sketches covering 1620 through 1635, all of which have been published by the New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

In the April session we will take a close look at these materials and how they can shed light on our early New England Ancestors.

Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday, April 9, 11:00 AM - Noon, German Interest Group

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

Hybrid - Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



Tuesday, April 9, 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.

Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

Wednesday, April 10, 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. Hybrid - Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Great Lakes Interest Group

Kim Thurman facilitates this group to discuss genealogy research in the Great Lakes region. Primary focus will be the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, but researchers to the north and east along the great lakes are welcome as well. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



Thursday, April 11, 10:30 AM - Noon, Genealogy Newbies Interest Group IN PERSON

Barbara Northrop facilitates this group that 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. In person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



Thursday, April 11, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Genealogy Newbies Interest Group VIA ZOOM

Barbara Northrop facilitates this group that 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. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

Friday, April 12, 10:00 AM – Noon, OLLI Class & Lab: Ancestry

This class is only available to those who have registered through the SOU OLLI program. The class will be from 10:00 – 11:00 AM with a help session following 11:00 - Noon, using the library computers.

Friday, April 12, 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. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday, April 16, 1:30-3:00 PM, Program and Member Meeting, Transcontinental Railroad

In this talk on the history of the Transcontinental Railroad construction, Robert Hirning will highlight how post-Civil War was important for opening up the American West. He will also show the later progression from railroad to automobiles and then to aviation. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



Wednesday, April 17, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Roundtable: Let's Talk Genealogy

This meeting is a chance to get together with others who share your same interest. We will start with a focus and see where it goes from there. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

Friday, April 19, 10:00 AM – Noon, OLLI Class & Lab: FamilySearch

This class is only available to those who have registered through the SOU OLLI program. The class will be from 10:00 – 11:00 AM with a help session following 11:00 - Noon, using the library computers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THESE EARLY MAY OPPORTUNITIES

Friday, May 3, 10:00 AM – Noon, OLLI Class & Lab: U.S. Census

This class is only available to those who have registered through the SOU OLLI program. The class will be from 10:00 – 11:00 AM with a help session following 11:00 - Noon, using the library computers.

Friday, May 3, 1:00-3:00 PM, German Research Help Session

Need assistance with your German research? Join Ann Baracker and volunteers from the German Interest Group to help answer questions you might have. In person at the library. Cost: Free to all.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Windows in Time: Railroading in Southern Oregon



Wednesday, April 3, noon - 1:00 PM Medford

Library: In Person and Online

[Click here to register](#)

Wednesday, April 10, noon - 1:00 PM Ashland Library:

Gresham Room

Railroads have played a pivotal role in the history and development of Southern Oregon. Robert Hirning will examine how the construction of our own Siskiyou Line influenced the present-day economies of Jackson and Josephine Counties. Join us for a discussion on the rise of "Robber Barons," inept train robbers, and the failed attempts to reach the California Coast that kept our region uniquely isolated.

Robert Hirning has been a lifelong "railfan" and has chased his passion for trains since childhood. Robert has traveled widely by train over most of North America, from the Arctic to the Tropics, and across Asia from the Sea of Japan to the Baltic.

Windows in Time: A Century in Big Applegate

Wednesday, May 1, noon - 1:00 PM Medford Library: In Person and Online [Click here to register](#)

Wednesday, May 8, noon - 1:00 PM Ashland Library: Gresham Room

In the second half of the 19th century, a group of Indigenous women survived the 1868-69 smallpox epidemic and avoided removal to reservations more than once. These women and their white husbands eventually left the mining camps on Kanaka Gulch and Forest Creek for the lush valley of Big Applegate, as interracial couples were often not accepted in Jacksonville. Presenter Laura Ahearn will share the surprising stories of these women, their descendants, and others who joined the vibrant community that became known as Watkins before it was destroyed in the 1970s to build the Applegate Dam. These stories are based on the photo albums and family lore of descendants who still live in Jackson and Shasta Counties, corroborated and sometimes corrected by intensive research into governmental records and newspaper archives.

Presenter Laura B. Ahearn moved to the Applegate Valley in 2017 after a career in environmental law and seventeen years traveling the world on a sailboat. She is President of McKee Bridge Historical Society, researcher/writer for the Society's Facebook page, curator of the Virtual Museum at www.mckeebridge.org, and a frequent author for local newsmagazines.

David Gordon Returns!
Popular Northwest Troubadour, David Gordon, returns after a 4-year absence for 2 special concerts at Jacksonville's City Hall benefitting our new museum!
Sunday, 4/14, 3pm
"Greatest Hits" from "Pioneer History in Story and Song."
Sunday, 4/21, 3pm
"Singing My Heart Out," David's favorite uplifting songs.
Tickets, \$25.
Seating limited!
historicjacksonville.org/david-gordon/

April 14 and April 21, 3 PM, What for the Wagon! and Singing My Heart Out, David Gordon

David Gordon is back after a 4-year absence with 2 special concerts that are benefits for Jacksonville's new "Citywide Museum"! On Sunday, April 14, David will be reprising the "Greatest Hits" from his 36 sold out "Pioneer History in Story and Song" concerts featuring songs popular between 1840 and 1880—the era of the Oregon Trail, the Gold Rush, and the Civil War. Then on Sunday, April 21, guests will enjoy "Singing My Heart Out," a personal retrospective of David's favorite most comforting and uplifting songs about "Love, Compassion, and Hope."

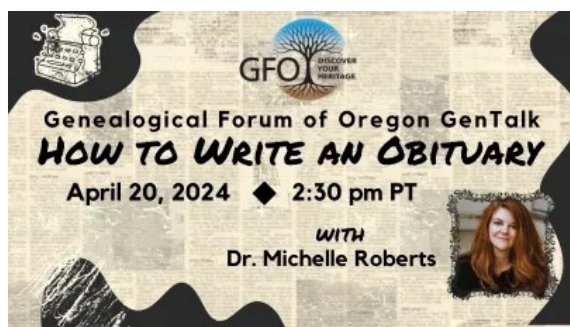
Both concerts begin at 3 PM on the 2nd floor of Jacksonville's New City Hall at 206 North 5th Street. General admission tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <https://historicjacksonville.org/david-gordon/>.

David Gordon is a renowned acoustic guitarist and storyteller. The Washington Post called him "an irresistible performer." He's a life-long troubadour whose compelling voice, keen sense of drama, and wacky humor have charmed audiences worldwide for more than 40 years. David has performed in every major concert venue in the U.S. and Europe. His international performing and recording career in classical and acoustic music ranges from Bach to bluegrass, from grand opera to jazz, from Mozart to songs of the Oregon Trail.

Remote Opportunities

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

GFO website and [events](#) can be found by clicking the links provided. They have a range of special interest groups and programs.



Presenter: Dr. Michelle Roberts

A lively and enlightening lecture on the art of writing obituaries! Whether you're an experienced family historian or just starting, this session will surely spark your creativity and sense of humor. Journalist and psychotherapist Michelle Roberts, who started her writing career writing and compiling the Arizona Republic's obituary pages, explores the do's and don'ts of crafting memorable obituaries and delves into the intriguing world of writing your own for future generations to discover. Get ready for an entertaining and informative journey through the fascinating world of genealogical storytelling!

Dr. Michelle Roberts is a journalist, psychotherapist, and professor who helps women discover how intergenerational trauma influences their current lives. She has studied trauma for the past 25 years, first as an award-winning journalist and now as one of the nation's leading researchers and clinicians focused on the modern epidemic of narcissistic abuse. She is also an avid genealogist who traced her ancestry back through the American frontier to the European Middle Ages.

[Click here to register and obtain a Zoom link to this live presentation.](#)

Local Organizations with RVGS sponsorship

May 4 and May 5, Siskiyou Singers: Spring Concert, The Definition of Beauty. <https://siskiyousingers.org/>

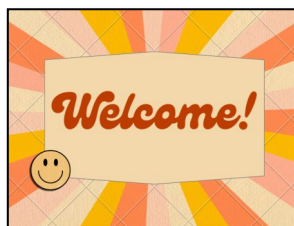
May 18, Sorooptimist 21st Annual Garden Tour. <https://www.si-medford.org/>

SOCIETY NEWS

New and Returning Members

New members: Janelle Davidson, Paulette Hendrickson, Gary and Lori Reed, Lorraine Blanton, Marcy Dandurand, Judith Baalman, Patricia Zelecki, Jeffery Jones and Debbie Tollefson.

Returning members: Denis Apenes, Deborah Wallace, Lynn Lucas, Mardell Lau, and Robert and Kim Vacca.



New life member David Horton:

When I was young, I remember asking my paternal grandmother about "where we came from," to use a common phrase of the time. She told me we had English and German ancestors, and that we were distantly related to Winston Churchill. As a member of the DAR, she probably had a good sense of some of her family history, but in her brief response to me, she had more wrong than right.

I was in my teens when my maternal grandfather showed me a family tree diagram that he had drawn on a brown paper bag, which he had cut and opened flat to provide enough space for the drawing. I wish I had that diagram, of which I remembered very little, but he did not save it. What I recalled from that glimpse was that his father had Scottish parents and he had changed his surname. My impression was that one of my ancestors was a rogue and had something to hide.

In 2007, in the weeks after my wife's father passed away, we frequently talked about him and recalled family stories. He was proud of his own Scottish ancestry, and we had some vague ideas of occupations and family relationships, but none of it had been written. Carol's mother was the one most interested in her ancestors, and had closely followed early New England history, visited historical locations, and had tried without success to find a Mayflower ancestor.

I was still working, and my 40-year career was developing computer software. I used computers constantly. So, to find out about my wife's parents' families, I located some genealogy websites. I found the

true facts behind some of the family myths. I also went to a town hall in Massachusetts to look at an original death record. Having had some success with Carol's family, I decided to investigate my own family lines. When my aunt found out that I was researching my family genealogy, she passed along my grandfather's research. This was more than the family tree sketched on a paper bag. My grandfather had spent over 40 years interviewing relatives, reading in libraries, and finding municipal records. I loved the investigation, working out the details, solving puzzling relationships, and discovering what was true and what was empty family lore.

My family roots and those of my wife are deep in New England. Her ancestors were among the founders of many western Massachusetts settlements, but also of coastal towns such as Salem and Plymouth. As it turned out, Carol's father had Mayflower ancestors even though her mother did not.

I grew up in southeastern Massachusetts, in an area settled by the Plymouth pioneers, their children and grandchildren. Near my home was a local spot called "Cobbler's Corner," which was the apex of some land purchased from the Wampanoag and surveyed by Myles Standish in June 1640. My ancestors were nearly all from this same area, so it did not come as a surprise when a few years into my genealogy research I stumbled across Mayflower ancestors. I discovered that my paternal grandmother did descend from soldiers of the Revolution, hence her DAR membership, and there was plenty of English ancestry from 17th century immigrants, but neither she nor my grandfather had any German roots. Those, as I discovered, belonged to my grandmother's sister-in-law.

One of my grandmother's ancestral families had the surname Churchill, which accounts for her assertion of her relation to Sir Winston Churchill, but the link is tenuous to a possible common ancestor with a different surname in the 11th century. At what point do we budding genealogists learn that the same name does not mean there is kinship? My grandmother should have told me, however, that she was a direct descendant of one of the founders of Providence, Rhode Island.

Early in my genealogy research, I was stung several times by anecdotal evidence, bad records, and misinformation. I think this is a hard lesson that we all learn. It got me to focus more on the details, question assertions, and keep better records. I reviewed my maternal grandfather's research and located vital records to confirm his information. It is still a mystery why my great grandfather changed his surname, but he was clearly not the shady

character I once thought, instead he was a businessman and building contractor in the town where he settled. One day I reread a letter my grandfather had received from a distant cousin, who wrote that his grandfather used to say to his wife, "Ellie, when I first met you, you were the belle of the beach of Bay Chaleur." With this hint, I found the marriage of my great, great grandparents in New Brunswick and not at Prince Edward Island as the family had long believed.

My genealogy research began when Carol and I were living in rural Montana. We moved there from Connecticut in 1996. Although we loved the Big Sky, we wanted to retire and be closer to goods and services, so we moved to Ashland in 2017. I became a member of RVGS soon after we arrived. About a year later, when I retired, I volunteered as a librarian. Not one of my ancestors ever lived outside of the northeastern states, but many RVGS members have ancestors in New England, which meant that with new friends and fellow researchers, there was information to share and there were opportunities to learn. Many in the Rogue Valley are familiar with the Horton family of Medford, and it turns out we have the same immigrant ancestor, but our lines descend from different sons.

Our intent was to stay in Oregon. We loved living there and made some wonderful friends. But things do not



Dave and Carol Horton

always work the way you plan. In 2021, we moved east and now live in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

No one in my family gets the same thrill that I do when digging into family history and finding these revelations. Explaining the interest is difficult, especially when seeing blank looks on faces. When on vacation, I visit libraries and cemeteries. It reminds me of the boy in *The Sixth Sense* who says, "I see dead people."

Recently, I received two diaries written between 1912 and 1920 by a woman in my extended family tree. After reading and transcribing the diaries, I have been using the nuggets of information in my research of her maternal and paternal lines, wanting to identify all the family members that she mentions. While this is not the research that I thought I would be doing this year, it is some of the most fun I have had.

When I first started on the genealogies of my wife's family and mine, she asked, "When do you think you'll be done with this?" When indeed?

Member Sharing

Did you find a record set that helped you with your research? Send a brief description to

enews@rvgslibrary.org

with the subject "Member Sharing".

Member Sharing (Submitted by Anne Billeter)

Newspapers

Recent issues of newspapers aren't quite as easy to find digitally as issues published before 1923...but here are a number of places to look with some examples of what you will find. The examples do NOT mean the end date is the latest date available on that website, just the last date available for the specific newspaper:

Free Sites

- *Chronicling America*, *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, California, 1907 - 1945
- *Historic Oregon Newspapers*, *Gate City Journal*, 1910 - 1937, and *Nyssa Gate City Journal*, Nyssa, Oregon, 1937 - 1977
- *Old Fulton NY Post Cards*, *Ellicottville Post*, Ellicottville, New York, 1884-1969
- *NYS Historic Newspapers*, *Fort Covington Sun*, Fort Covington, New York, 1934-1987
- *Neligh Public Library*, Neligh, Nebraska, has digital archives of local newspapers from 1879-2013

(found through <https://theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html>)

Websites subscribed to by RVGS

- MyHeritage Library Edition, *Eugene Register-Guard*, Eugene, Oregon, 1870-2008
- FindMyPast, English and Irish newspapers, some as late as 2009
- Ancestry, citations for newspapers on Newspapers.com (requires a separate subscription to view actual article): *Casper Star-Tribune*, Casper, Wyoming, as late as 2022
- NewspaperArchive, *Medicine Hat News*, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, 1894-2024 (selected years) and *Terre Haute Tribune Star*, Terre Haute, Indiana, 1948-2024 (selected years)
- Newspapers.com Oregon Collection, *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, Corvallis, Oregon, 1865-1963



Transcription Challenge

from AmericanAncestors.org

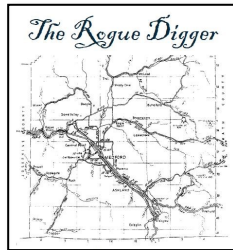
Occasionally we encounter handwriting that leaves us stumped, so we post new transcription challenges regularly! If you'd like to help us decipher some of this curlicue cursive and scratchy scrawl, please visit dbnews.AmericanAncestors.org/transcription-challenge. We appreciate all the suggestions we receive.

-published in *American Ancestors Magazine*, v. 24, no. 4, p. 14, Winter 2024 (Circ 973 P273 AA)

Rogue Digger

Hi RVGS Friends!

THANK YOU to members who have already written an article or story for the *Rogue Digger*. Watch for the second issue coming out **June 15th**.



If you wish to submit an article to *The Rogue Digger*, please read and carefully adhere to the following guidelines:

Submit your article electronically to

roguedigger@rvgslibrary.org

(Paper submissions will not be considered.)

- Submit articles as a text document in Word or a similar program. Additionally, each image submitted should be submitted as a separate file in either JPG or TIFF format. Don't forget to include proposed captions for images at the end of your article, or as a separate document, being sure to note which caption goes with which image and where in the article the image should be placed.
- Include citations for **all** sources used. They should be listed as footnotes and will help make your article more credible and informative.
- When collecting data, consider your sources. Are you referencing a book, census, chapter, certificate, database, document, journal, microfilm, newspaper, register, or website? Such sources will help you provide accurate and helpful citations.
- To make citing sources easier, we recommend using Word's References feature, FamilySearch, or *Evidence Explained* by Elizabeth Shown Mills. Additionally, cite sources as you go to save time and effort later on.
- Please note: copyrighted material cannot be used without permission from the copyright holder. To avoid legal issues, request written permission from the owner. Be ready to produce such permission should we have any questions.
- If these guidelines are not followed, the editorial staff is not in a position to make major adjustments to your submission.

By following these guidelines, you can help ensure your article is informative, engaging, and well-cited. We look forward to receiving your submission and thank you for your contributions to *The Rogue Digger*.

Deadline for submissions to be included in the June publication is May 1, 2024.

And the hunt goes on... *Cindi*

Rogue Digger Reader Comment:

Thank you so much for *The Rogue Digger*. I very much enjoyed the stories. I especially loved Marian Towne as I am also a Phoenix graduate (1992). Anyone who ignores the limitations set on them by society are great champions. "*The Eyes have it*" shows how we get attached following a trail for others and their trees become "ours". I once had a gentleman overhear me talking about my research who said he had no cousins. I proved him wrong and actually found he was related to Benedict Arnold. "*In Honor of Albert Paull*" for sure shows the nature of genealogy addiction. One little "I wonder ..." turns into an expansive amount of information and a wonderful adventure. Only fellow 3 AM random rabbit hole chasers understand.

Good Day Friends

Lizabeth Conner



Quilt in the Niche

Yellow Rose still has roots In the Applegate Valley

Quilt size: 70 ½" x 84 ½"

Starting from Missouri in 1852, the yellow rose travelled on the Oregon Trail and was lovingly cared for by Maryum McKee. Made by the Jacksonville Museum Quilters in 1984, the quilt shows highlights of the McKee family's life and each of their children, honoring the pioneer Maryum McKee. The quilt was designed by Jacksonville artist, Evelyn Williams, great granddaughter of Maryum. Come view this beautiful quilt which will be on display for the month of April at the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Library, 3405 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford. You won't want to miss this one!

VOLUNTEER TODAY



ZOOM HOST SCHEDULER NEEDED

We desperately need someone to schedule our OWL & Zoom hosts.



Become an RVGS Volunteer!

RVGS is currently 85 volunteers STRONG, but we could use a few more. If you are interested in any of these positions, please fill out the [volunteer application](#).

Ashland Chamber of Commerce Greeters, RVGS Representative. This group meets every Friday at a different member business at 8:15 AM (and on the 4th Thursday of the month they meet at 5:15 PM.) RVGS would love to have someone attend at least one Greeters meeting each month, to share what's upcoming at RVGS, make our rack cards available, and answer any questions. It is a great opportunity to learn about Ashland (and other nearby) businesses, including other nonprofits. It is fun to showcase our upcoming classes, seminars, interest groups, and free programs.

Annual Fund Drive Coordinator. The Annual Fund Drive's procedures are already in place...they just need someone to implement them. The major tasks are launching the fund drive by updating the fund drive letter (with help from others), arranging for it to be printed and mailed, and periodically submitting a brief article for the monthly *RVGS eNews*.

Maintenance Coordinator. Help the RVGS Library building look good and operate well! Identify needed maintenance tasks and arrange for them to be taken care of (or do it yourself!) Oversee the contracted landscape maintenance and the cleaning service. Communicate with various utilities when needed.

Book Seller. Become an RVGS Online Book Seller. This is an easy way to help RVGS sell our surplus donated books and raise money for the Society, at the same time. We need a volunteer or two to post books for sale on used book internet sites, monitor the accounts regularly, and ship out the books to purchasers. Being comfortable with online sales is helpful, but not a requirement. Being willing to learn is most important. Training will be provided.

Contact: volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org.

Since 2020 we have been offering our classes through Zoom. In 2023 we were able to add OWLS to expand your viewing. Without this technology our members and friends would only be able to attend in person at the library. This would be impossible for our members who do not live within driving distance and would cut a portion of our income. This is why we Need You!

The Zoom scheduler volunteer would be responsible for making sure each of our classes has a Zoom / OWL host (s) assigned to it and let the facilitator know who their host(s) will be. We usually have only two classes a month, so there is not much time involved. Just connect with the Zoom hosts on our list and assign one or two for each class.

Training is available to those who would like to assist with this position and to be a Zoom/OWL host. In addition, the board has waived the class fee for those who volunteer to zoom host a class.

We really want to continue offering Hybrid Classes. We just need someone to keep us organized. Will you help?
CONTACT: VOLUNTEER@RVGSLIBRARY.ORG

THANK YOU!



Librarians Needed!

Several RVGS librarian shifts are available:

1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons, 1:00 – 4:15 PM

1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons, 1:00 - 4:15 PM

2nd Saturday morning, 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM

No experience necessary. Training is provided. There are always two librarians on duty together. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the hidden treasures at the RVGS Library and to have a regularly scheduled time to research your own genealogy. Main responsibilities are staffing the reception desk and helping people use the library collection and subscription websites. Email President Anne Billeter for more information and to volunteer: annebilleteroregon@gmail.com.

RVGS LIBRARY NEWS

9 Books and 7 Maps Added to RVGS Library

16 items were added to the RVGS Library in March. The maps expand our holdings to include *Africa* (MAP 960 Afr), *Japan and Korea* (MAP 952 Jap), and *Southeast Asia* (MAP 959 Sou), as well as a depiction of *Europe Waterways on 2 maps* (MAP 940 Eur), which provides insight into why rivers, lakes, and canals are such an important element in understanding European history, transportation, and borders. The books include 3 family histories in 929.2, for the surnames Brisbin, Cornutt, and Groves. *Companion Guide to Family Tree Maker: Mac edition* (929.1 Ped) is new (2023) and a fine addition for RVGS Mac users with Family Tree Maker software! [Click here for the complete list.](#)



iMac Available for Patron Use

Thanks to a donation from Ros Lyne, we now have a Mac computer for patron use at the library. It is located on the left side of the room with the

computers on the backside of the bookshelves. Mac users, take advantage now!

FREE Videos Available for Viewing on Website



The Member Resources page of our website has a new update. We have posted links to multiple RVGS videos for your viewing pleasure. Videos range from instructional videos like NewspaperArchive to RVGS events like Preparing for the Coronation. Check them out by [clicking here](#) or go to www.rvgslibrary.org > Membership menu > Member Resources. You must be logged into the website to access the page.

New Periodicals on the Shelf

American Spirit, Daughters of the American Revolution
Circ 929.05 AmS March/April 2024

The Eisenhower Interstate System; George Gershwin; Art of the New Deal (WPA); the 250th Anniversary quilt (and other quilt stories); Travel to – Grand Teton National Park, Abigail Adams' birthplace, and Alabama; and the 6th (DAR) President General Cornelia Cole Fairbanks.



Family Tree Magazine

Circ 929.1 FTM March/April 2024

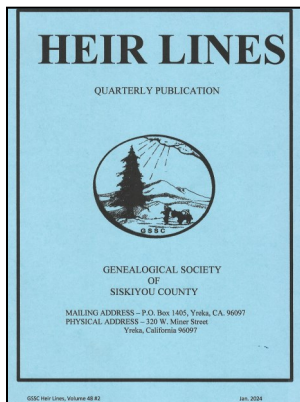
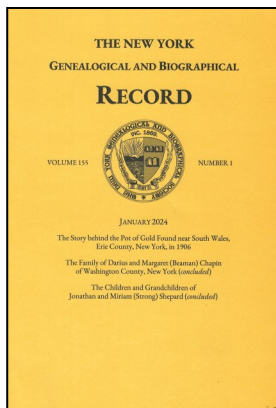
New AI features at MyHeritage; Online family trees including ethnic and regional groups (costs, access, size limitations); Handling surprises in DNA reports (building trees around adoption and sperm donation); Cousin marriage; Brick walls in Irish research; Searching for information from foreign homelands; Estate records; Building a family tree at Geni; and What to do with hair keepsakes. Research guide to New York and Wyoming. Cheat Sheet – AncestryDNA.



New York Genealogical and Biographical Record

Circ 974.7 G242 New v.155(1),
January 2024

The story about the pot of gold found in Erie County, NY in 1906; Family of Darius and Margaret Beaman Chapin (Washington County NY); Descendants of Jonathan and Miriam Strong Shepard.



Heir Lines, Genealogical Society of Siskiyou County
Circ 979.421 P273 Hei January 2024

Continuation of the Rosborough letters; Teachers in Siskiyou County schools, 1907-1916; and Biography of Harriet Fairclo Bigelow Watson.

The Bulletin of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland (2 issues)

Circ 979.549 P273 Bul December 2023

The lost uncle: Yitschak Meir Diokhter, aka Max Ducker; Parents of Alvin Garner Smith of IL, KS, and OR?; "Why I write bulletin articles about people who are not in my family;" James Downs (Yorkshire, England and Lane County, OR); Transcription of Bible records, Hooten family and Probate papers for Brawand and Eigerman.

Circ 979.549 P273 Bul
March 2024

German churches for the ancestors of Minnie Elizabeth Facks Grafe; A process of discovery essay, seeking parents of Rachel Webb (MO); The importance of reading the records, particularly if they disagree; Benjamin, Joseph and John Hudson and the distemper epidemic of 1740 (MA); Excerpts from the memoir of Evelyne Lenette Boals Boehlke of Portland; the World War I diary of Capt. Hugh Spaulding Willson; World War II military aircraft accidents in Oregon (that resulted in deaths).



Surplus Sale Books

Surplus Sale Books for April 2024
Price does not include shipping costs.

- *Jesse Applegate: A Dialog with Destiny* by Leta Lovelace Neiderheiser, 2010. \$5.00
- *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* by Elizabeth Shown Mills, 2007. \$15.00
- *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants: A History of Frederick County, Virginia from Its Formation in 1738 to 1908* by T K Cartmell, 1989. \$16.00
- *Treasures in the Trunk: Quilts of the Oregon Trail* by Mary Bywater Cross, 1993. \$3.00
- *Magna Charta Part III* by John S. Wurts, 1944. \$16.00
- *The Official Records of The Oregon Volunteers in the Spanish War and Philippine Insurrection* by C. U. Gantenbein, 1902. \$60.00
- *Marriages of Some Virginia Residents, 1607-1800* by Dorothy Ford Wulfeck, 1986. \$45.00
- *The Handy Book for Genealogists, 7th Edition* Edited by George B. Everton, Sr., 1981. \$11.00
- *Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs* by Karen Frisch-Ripley, 1991. \$3.00
- *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor* by Bertram Hawthorne Groene, 1973. \$3.00
- *A Life Eleanor of Aquitaine* by Alison Weir, 1999. \$4.50
- *Henry VIII: The King and His Court* by Alison Weir, 2002. \$3.00
- *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* by Alison Weir, 1991. \$4.00
- *The Children of Henry VIII* by Alison Weir, 1997. \$3.00
- *The Life of Elizabeth I* by Alison Weir, 1999. \$10.00
- *The War of the Roses* by Alison Weir, 1996. \$3.00
- *Lines of Succession: Heraldry of the Royal Families of Europe* by Michael Maclagan, 1999. rep 2002. \$5.00
- *Alexander the Great: The Conqueror* by Giampaolo Casati, 2004. \$5.50



**Rogue Valley
Genealogical Society
Board of Directors**

President: Anne Billeter
Vice Pres.: Frank Marksman
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Management Director:

Rich Miles

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Pam Olsen

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: Pam Olsen

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 and hybrid 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 even numbered 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 Groups (One meets via zoom , the other in person)

Led by Barbara Northrop, first group meets from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of every month via zoom. The second group meets in person from 10:30 to noon on the second Thursday of every month. These groups are 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](#).

- African American
- British
- DNA Q & A
- French Canada
- Genealogical Problem Solvers



- German Group
- Irish Group
- Italian Group
- Learn & Chat
- The Q Review
- RootsMagic