



Volume 10 | Issue 4 | Apr 2025

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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](http://www.rvgslibrary.org)

### 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



## EDUCATION A CORNERSTONE OF THE RVGS

Education is one of the cornerstones of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. We strive to help our members hone their skills in genealogical research through classes, workshops, seminars, member programs and special interest groups and round table discussion groups.

Each month we try to offer one or two classes taught by our own in-house experts as well as hired speakers from across the country. These classes are still a bargain for members at just \$10.00 per class. Certified Genealogist Barbara Northrop has put together a series we have been

calling Genealogy 101. For just \$5.00 per class for members you can take advantage of Barbara's expertise in researching vital records, land records, probate and more. If you missed any of the first round in this series don't worry, Barbara plans to offer it all again beginning in October.

In September we feature Genealogy Week offering free introductory classes to help jumpstart the research process for those new to genealogy. This year Genealogy week will be from September 22-27. Each morning class will be followed by an afternoon hands-on practice session with one-on-one mentoring from more experienced genealogists.

Each year we bring in an expert from outside to provide a Seminar on a specific theme. Last year we had Diana Elder teach us about Genetic Genealogy. This year we look forward to welcoming world-renowned expert in British Genealogy Paul Milner. Mark your calendars for October 25, you won't want to miss this one.



Our monthly member meetings always include a program of interest to our members. This year we have been working hard to keep these programs focused on genealogy.

We also offer six free special interest groups including, Family Tree Maker, Genetic Genealogy, Irish, German, Colonial America, and Great Lakes. These groups meet monthly or bi-monthly and are open to all. Finally, we have two roundtables, Let's Talk Genealogy, and Brick Wall which gather on zoom every other month.

Since 2020 most of our offerings have been available via Zoom and we continue to offer classes and programs in hybrid mode. This requires a cadre of trained Zoom hosts and co-hosts.

If all of this sounds like a lot of work, it is. But many hands make light work, and if you think you might be able lend a hand organizing classes, zoom hosting, instructing, or just offering suggestions as a member of the Education Committee, please contact Education Director Jeanne Hoadley at [education@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:education@rvgslibrary.org).

Jeanne Hoadley  
Education Director



## New and Returning Members

**New Members:** Isabeau Vollhardt, Shona Harris, Karen Chase, Linda Hendrickson, Catherine Cowell, Dixie Hannon, Brad Irvin, William and Sharon Stacy, June Timberman, and Kim Ingvaldson.

**Returning Members:** R. Lee Fitzsimmons, Beverly Power, Shirley Shelton, and Mike Schilling.

## 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.
- Recorded events will be available for 30 days to those who registered for the class.



## Registration Now Open!

### Tuesday, April 8, 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 9, 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. April topic will include recent updates to the DNA test sites.



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

### Wednesday, April 9, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Great Lakes Interest Group

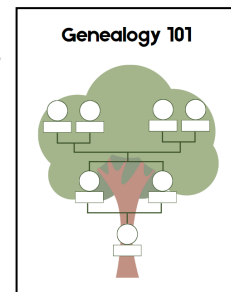


Kim Thruman facilitates this group to discuss genealogy research in the Great Lakes region. Primary focus will be the states of Wisconsin,

Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, but researchers to the north and east along the lakes are welcome as well. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

### Thursday, April 10, 10:30 AM – Noon, Class series: Genealogy 101 – Manuscripts, Genealogies and Periodicals

This class is taught by Barbara Northrop. In-Person at the library only, Cost: \$5

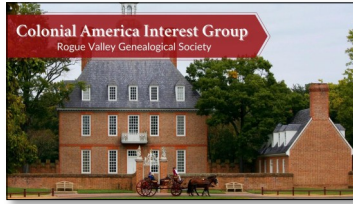




for members; \$10 for non-members. This class will NOT be recorded.

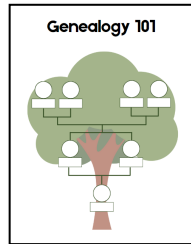
**Thursday, April 10, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Colonial America Interest Group**

Jeanne Hoadley facilitates this interest group to discuss genealogy research in the original 13 colonies. In April Chan Billeter will introduce land records research in colonial New England with a focus on colonial Massachusetts land records. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



**Thursday, April 10, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Class Series: Genealogy 101 – Manuscripts, Genealogies and Periodicals**

This class is taught by Barbara Northrop. Zoom only. Cost: \$5 for members; \$10 for non-members. This class will Not be recorded.



**Friday, April 11, 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 on the second Friday of the month. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

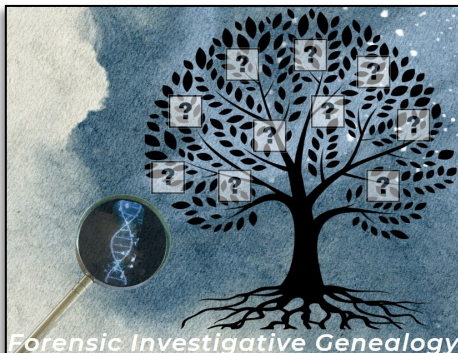


**Monday, April 14, 9:30 AM - Noon, RVGS Board Meeting**

All members are welcome. Come to the library side door and ring the doorbell or join us via zoom. The Zoom link is located on our website: [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) > Membership > Member Resources. Cost: Free to all.



**Tuesday, April 15, 1:30 – 3:00 PM Program and Member Meeting: “Raising the Dead: An Overview of Forensic**



**Investigative Genetic Genealogy”**

Are you interested in how DNA is being used in criminal investigations and what is next? Wendi Babst will give an overview of the process of Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FIGG). She will discuss some examples of where this process has been used to solve long cold cases. She will also cover legal and ethical considerations surrounding the use of FIGG and some of the recent advances in this exciting field.

Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost : Free to all. This program will NOT be recorded.

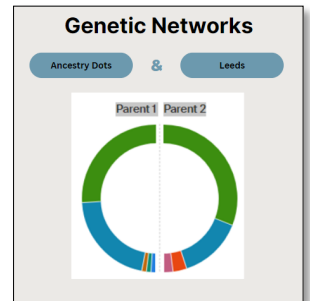
**Wednesday, April 16, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Roundtable: Let’s Talk Genealogy**

This is a chance to get together with others who share the same interests as you. Focus in April will be Roots Tech follow-up: What did we learn and discover? Plus, follow-up to St. Patrick’s Day: Is anyone doing Irish research? Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



**Thursday, April 17, 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM, Class: Creating Genetic Networks from DNA Matches**

You've had your DNA tested and received a list of matches, now what? In order to apply your DNA results to genealogy you must first understand how a match is related to you. The first step in doing this is to organize your matches into genetic networks which will show you which branch of your family tree they belong to. Jeanne Hoadley will demonstrate step by step how to use the Leeds method and the Ancestry.com dot system to group your matches into genetic networks. This is the class that was postponed in February due to snow. If you registered for the February class, you are still registered for this session.



The class is from 10:30 AM – Noon. There will be an in-person practice session from 1:00 – 3:00 following the class.

Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. This class will be recorded.

Cost: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members.

**Tuesday, April 22, 11:00 AM – Noon, German Interest Group**

The German Interest Group meets regularly on the fourth



Tuesday of the month. The emphasis will be on tools and tips for finding and researching German ancestors and also for Germans trying to find relatives who emigrated. In some months, the first part of the meeting may include a speaker. This will be followed with an unstructured time for questions and mutual support. Jon Wolfe, the facilitator for this group, is an American who lives in Germany.

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

#### Thursday, April 24, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Quilts and Genealogy Program: Maryum’s Yellow Rose

Maryum McKee nurtured yellow rose shoots on the long journey from Missouri to the Rogue Valley in 1853. The Jacksonville Museum Quilters handcrafted a quilt in 1984 that tells the tale of the McKee family, their journey west, and their life in Jackson County and the Applegate Valley. The quilt was gifted to the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society in 2015. RVGS President



Anne Billeter will share the quilt and the John and Maryum McKee pioneer family story. The **Lone Star Log Cabin raffle quilt winner** will be drawn at the conclusion of the program.

In person at the library only. Cost: Free to all. This program will be recorded.

#### OLLI on Fridays in April and May

RVGS volunteers have been teaching an OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SOU) course, “Introduction to Genealogy” annually for many years. The 6-week course will be taught this year **at RVGS** on Friday mornings, from 10 AM - 12:30 PM. This year those Fridays will include a one-hour lab using the RVGS Library computers from 11:30 AM - 12:30 on April 4, 11, 25, and May 2, 9, and 16. This will give the OLLI students hands-on experience after an hour and a half class in the



Meeting Room each week. These will be busy mornings... perhaps NOT the best time to do your own research at RVGS!



## 2025 RVGS RESEARCH TRIP

**SALT LAKE CITY’S FAMILYSEARCH LIBRARY  
SUNDAY, APRIL 27 UNTIL SATURDAY MAY 3**

### LAST FEW DAYS TO GET DISCOUNTED HOTEL ROOM

Don’t let this year’s research trip slip through your fingers.

Come with your fellow RVGS researchers to Salt Lake City for 6 nights, starting April 27, 2025.

Find those impossible to locate ancestral records at the Family Search Library.

The library’s professional international staff will help you with all those questions you have. Be sure to take advantage of their research skills and knowledge.

We have 12 discounted rooms set aside for the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society group at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel, located right next to the FamilySearch Library.

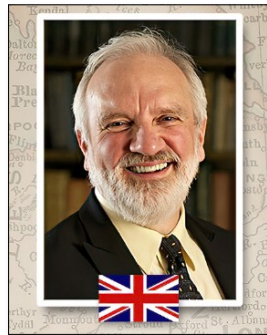
In order to get your discounted rate, you **MUST** call the hotel’s group coordinator, Rich Williams, on his direct line 1-801-606-2410. These rooms are only guaranteed until they are taken or until March 20, whichever comes first. Call Rich as soon as you think you might be coming. Room cancellation is available. Check with Rich for the cancellation cut-off date. Please email Ann Baracker at [annbaracker@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:annbaracker@rvgslibrary.org) with any questions and to get your name and contact information on our group travel roster.

See you in Salt Lake!



## 2025 Fall Seminar – Save the Date!

Plans are underway for this year's fall seminar. Our theme will be British Research, and we have already engaged a speaker for October 25, 2025. Paul Milner, a native of northern England now living in Illinois, is an internationally recognized expert in British genealogy. Paul will offer two lectures, the first will cover the four primary records groups for English research; civil registration, census, church records, and probate. The second lecture will be on effective use of Find My Past. Each lecture will be followed by a 30-minute question and answer period so save up your British research questions and mark that shiny new 2025 calendar so you don't miss out on this exciting seminar.



## QUILT IN THE NICHE: MARYUM'S YELLOW ROSE

Quilts often preserve history by including memories from the family's past. This is the case of Maryum's Yellow Rose. Maryum Bowen had just been proposed to by John McKee. She looked down, saw the yellow rose and



slipped a blossom in her hair. She said to John. "Isn't it pretty, John? I will always remember you asked me to marry you by this 'old rosebush'."

To that loving union in 1849 were born fourteen children represented by the fourteen yellow roses on the quilt. Notice the bud on the middle-left side—that baby died at birth. The log house in the center panel is the dream home of the McKee family at Logtown (near Ruch). Starting in the upper left corner of the quilt, the scenes detail the Wedding of John and Maryum, Leaving Missouri, Wagon Train West, Crossing the Rockies, Arriving at the Rogue Valley in 1853, Maryum plants rose and Roxy Ann Butte\* is named, Blacksmith John rides to Jacksonville to work, Maryum plants rose at Logtown, John teaches school 1854-1855, John is Logtown blacksmith, Quilting Bee, John teaches dancing, Maryum the midwife, and Jake the Chinese servant.

All the way from Missouri to the Rogue and Applegate Valleys of Oregon, the little rosebush traveled on the wagon train as one of Maryum's prized possessions and we are so glad it did!

To fully appreciate the exquisite detail in this quilt, you need to see it in person. The Jacksonville Museum Quilters, under the direction of Dora Scheidecker, made this quilt in 1984. It was in their permanent collection of historical quilts until 2015 when it was gifted to the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society.

The quilt will be on display at the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Library, 3405 S. Pacific Highway, Medford, Oregon, during the month of April 2025. Please stop by and have a look!

The quilt will be the subject of a free Quilts and Genealogy program on Thursday, April 24 at 1:00 PM. RVGS President Anne Billeter will display the quilt and share the John and Maryum McKee pioneer family story.

\*Roxy Ann was the name of Maryum's beloved stepmother.

## Raffle Quilt Winner April 24

The 2024-2025 "Lone Star Log Cabin" raffle quilt **winner** will be drawn April 24 at the end of the "Maryum's Yellow Rose" Quilts



and Genealogy free program. The one-hour program begins at 1 p.m. in the RVGS meeting room and will be in person only. The program will be recorded and will be viewable in the future from the website. The raffle quilt winner need not be present to win.

“Lone Star Log Cabin” is just one of the names the raffle quilt could be called. Norma Mecham embroidered her signature and “1997” discreetly in a corner, white thread on white fabric, but did not share her name for the quilt. Her 2015 obituary tells us “Norma was a gifted seamstress and became well-known for the beautiful pieced and hand-stitched quilts she made for family, friends, and donated to the annual Mecham reunion.” The path from Norma’s home in Montwell, Utah, to a yard sale in Phoenix, Oregon, in July 2023 is unknown, but the result is an exquisite 93” x 110” quilt. Who will win this machine-pieced, hand-quilted raffle quilt? Raffle tickets are \$1.00; 6 for \$5.00; 30 for \$20.00 and are for sale at the library reception desk. Proceeds from the raffle are dedicated to publishing a book about the RVGS quilt collection.

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### Windows in Time: Restoring the Holly Theatre: Who and How, with George Kramer

**Wednesday, April 2, Noon - 1:00 PM Medford Library:** In Person and Online [Click here to register](#)

**Wednesday, April 9, Noon - 1:00 PM Ashland Library:** Gresham Room

The Holly Theatre opened in 1930, screened its last movie in 1986, and was near demolition by 2002. Purchased by JeffersonLive in 2011, its restoration has been a long and fascinating journey, interrupted by COVID and other hurdles.

This spring, the theatre reopened after a multi-million-dollar restoration that has returned and updated its original interior and exterior for live performance use. George Kramer, the project’s restoration specialist, will take you behind the scenes, detailing how local craftspeople recreated missing elements and accommodated code requirements and safety issues, all while maintaining the theatre’s historic character. Profusely illustrated with before, in process, and after images, learn how one of the largest restoration projects in Medford’s history happened and about the talented artists who did the work.

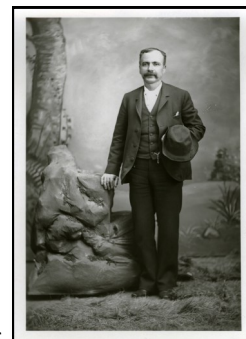


### Windows in Time: Azoreans in the Applegate: The Murder of Antone Joseph

**Wednesday, May 7, Noon - 1:00 PM Medford Library:** In Person and Online [Click here to register](#)

**Wednesday, May 14, Noon - 1:00 PM Ashland Library:** Gresham Room

Heather Paladini will present a tale of the local figures connected to her home in Williams – a farmhouse built in 1900 on one of the original homesteads of the Applegate Valley. Beginning with the discovery of a letter and century-old postcard in the house, Heather will follow the lives of the people who called this land home a hundred years ago. This includes the story of the murder of Antone Joseph, a Portuguese immigrant and gold miner who held the original homestead certificate for the parcel of land on which the house was built.



### Jacksonville: Daily Life Then and Now: 1900 vs. 2025

**Saturday, April 19, 2025,** Tours begin every 20-30 minutes between 12 noon and 3 PM.

**Historic Jacksonville, Inc.** has a new tour “Daily Life Then and Now: 1900 vs. 2025” at Jacksonville’s 1870s C.C. Beekman House Museum. Guided 45-minute tours highlight the difference 125 years can make in our everyday routine. Imagine life without a smart phone— or for that matter any phone at all. What about no computer or internet connection? No TV or radio? Compare the differences in communication, fashion, etiquette, entertainment, chores, household “amenities,” and much more – things we take for granted like electricity, running water, and... bathrooms!



Tours are at The Beekman House, home to Jacksonville’s richest and most prominent pioneer family and still completely furnished with family artifacts, located at 470 E. California Street, Jacksonville. Admission is \$8. Additional information is available at 541-245-3650, [info@historicjacksonville.org](mailto:info@historicjacksonville.org), and <https://historicjacksonville.org/then-and-now/>.



## REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES



### Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 10:00 AM, Finding Your Hidden Female Ancestors

We all have "brick walls" in our family trees. For many of us, it is women. Researching female ancestors can be challenging due to name changes, lack of legal records, and historical biases that often obscured women's identities. We will explore strategies to uncover these "hidden" ancestors in your family tree and bring their stories to light. [Ancestry Virtual Events, Virtual Events & Webinars | Ancestry®](#)

### Genealogical Forum of Oregon (in Portland)

Learn more about your family history at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. With the largest genealogical library in the Pacific

Northwest, we offer access to more than 60,000 holdings with records from around the globe and to many popular subscription genealogy websites.



The [GFO website](#) contains updated information on special interest groups and a calendar of events and classes. All classes are available via Zoom sessions.

### The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon's next program:

**Sunday, Apr 06, 2025, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM PDT**

Zoom Virtual Event

The Jewish calendar is important to genealogists because Jewish vital records use the Jewish dates. This includes not only birth, marriage, and death certificates, but tombstone inscriptions as well. The Jewish calendar is both a solar and lunar calendar, with the months being synchronized to the moon and years to the sun. As such, the rules governing the calendar can be a bit daunting. This talk presents the calendar in an easy-to-understand — and sometimes tongue-in-cheek — fashion. The aim is not to make you an expert in computing Jewish dates (we have programs



to do that) but rather to give you an appreciation for what's involved in such calculations. Topics covered include the 19-year calendar cycle, the origin of time, errors in the Jewish and secular calendars, and the use of Hebrew letters to represent dates on tombstones.

Stephen P. Morse is the creator of the One-Step Website, for which he has received both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award from IAIGS, the Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society, the first ever Excellence Award from the Association of Professional Genealogists, and two awards that he cannot pronounce from Polish genealogical societies. In his other life Morse is a computer professional with a doctorate degree in electrical engineering. He has held various research, development, and teaching positions, authored numerous technical papers, and written four textbooks and holds four patents.

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



### Legacy Family Tree Webinars

#### 24-Hour genealogy webinar marathon

The 6th Annual 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon hosted by FamilyTreeWebinars.com and MyHeritage begins Thursday, April 3 at 5 p.m. eastern U.S. time and ends on Friday, April 4 at 5 p.m. eastern U.S. time.

Webinars cover a wide range of topics. Visit their website for additional information and free registration.

[24-Hour genealogy webinar marathon - Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

### San Angelo Genealogy and Historical Society 2024-2025 Speaker Series,

**Tuesday, April 1, 5 PM – 6 PM, Virtual and In Person**

**"Unraveling Ancestral Mysteries: Identifying some of Mary Ann Rucker's Ancestors Using DNA and Traditional Methods"** presented by Sharlene Miller

This session is a case study which demonstrates how useful DNA testing can be to break down



genealogical brick walls. Sharlene will explain how she used three types of DNA testing to identify the parents of Mary Ann Rucker. The use of these DNA tests pointed me in the right direction to finally find documentation that directly stated who her mother was. Without the DNA testing it would have been much more difficult to identify her ancestors.

### Meeting Registration - Zoom

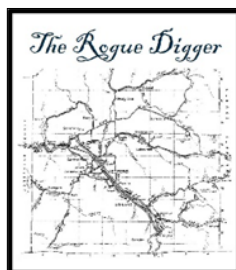
See the [Speaker Series Page \( San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc. - Speaker Series\)](#) for more information about the topic and speaker.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### Rogue Digger

Hello Genealogy Family!

We are excited for you to share your latest genealogy discoveries with us! Your contributions are what make **The Rogue Digger** such a valuable resource for everyone. We truly appreciate your involvement.



Genealogy is not just about research, but the joy of sharing with others. We all learn from each other. What insights or findings have you come across recently that you're excited and eager to share?

So, what are you waiting for?

Share your discoveries with us.

Let's keep the hunt going together... *Cindi*

## APRIL BOTTLEDROP BLUE BAG RECYCLE PROGRAM UPDATE

For the months of January and February, **RVGS BottleDrop** Deposits totaled \$225.16.

**And we have a new opportunity for boosting our BottleDrop fund raising.**

### Earth Week Give 2025

BottleDrop is celebrating Earth Day and Earth Week by hosting the **Earth Week Give Event**, a combination of matching funds with an additional 20% bonus AND a social media contest with prizes!

**Bags dropped and donated between April 15 to April 25** will gain an **additional 20%** on all proceeds!

We encourage all RVGS members to participate in this **very easy** program to donate cans and bottles to the RVGS Library.



**Blue Bags with the RVGS sticker attached** are available on a shelf in the front door entrance. These bags are **exclusively identified** for non-profit programs to be used for donations **and credited to the RVGS Library** account with our sticker attached.

**In addition**, encouraging donations online with **Social Media posts** between **April 15 and April 25 are eligible to win a \$100 prize to participating non-profits. A total of \$5,000.00 in social media prizes will be distributed.**

**And remember**; when you have a bag filled just drop the bag back at the library and we will deliver it to the Redemption Center. You can also leave the **Blue Bags** with the official **RVGS Bag Tag** at a local Bottle Drop location, if it is more convenient.

Either way, when you fill a Blue Bag for the **Oregon BottleDrop** you are giving the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society a little financial boost. Donate those 10¢ recyclable (cans, glass, and plastic) bottles and support your Rogue Valley Genealogical Society.

**It's so Easy!**

**Thank you for supporting RVGS!**



## 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**.





## EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Our RVGS Education Committee wants our members' input. Become part of the group that organizes and supports our genealogy classes, programs, special interest groups, seminars, and activities.

Help us recruit and schedule instructors for classes throughout the year.

The Education Committee members have a say in what the society members learn about. Make your voice heard by being part of our group. Contact

[volunteer@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@rvgslibrary.org) for more details and to join our Education Committee.

## BECOME A GENIE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our new RVGS New Member Genie program is up and running well, but we need more members to help out. As a Genie, you will be assigned a new or rejoining RVGS member about once every month or two.

Your job is to reach out to your member and offer them a one-on-one library tour and orientation.

We want to ensure our new members feel welcomed, familiar, and knowledgeable about our library resources. The tour and orientation will take the Genie approximately one hour of time. The New Member Committee gives Genies training and provides resources to support you in your Genie role. If you want to make a meaningful impact and help the society thrive, please email:

[genie@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:genie@rvgslibrary.org).



## ASHLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GREETERS, RVGS REPRESENTATIVE

This group meets every Friday at a different member business at 8:15 AM (and on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Contact:

[volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org) for more information.

## RVGS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PHOENIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RVGS is now a member of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. Would you be interested in being our Chamber Representative?



The group holds a Business Mixer on the first Tuesday of every other month (only six mixers per year). This is a great way to meet our local business people and to get the word out about our society. Contact: [volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org) for more information.

PHOENIX OREGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## FINANCE DIRECTOR NEEDED



Our Society has been without a Finance Director for the last couple of years, but as we fine tune responsibilities we need one of our members to step up and shepherd our long-term financial growth program.

We need a member who is numbers focused because this role involves budgeting, as part of a committee, advising

our financial review committee, and looking for possible grant opportunities, among other duties. This person should be excited to use their talents to be involved in long-range financial planning and fund raising for RVGS.

Bring your people and organizational skills to the board. Make a difference in our Society's success. The Financial Director Job Description is on our website: [https://RVGSlibrary.org/Files/Position\\_FinanceDirector.pdf](https://RVGSlibrary.org/Files/Position_FinanceDirector.pdf)

Take a look and contact [volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org) for details.



## ZOOM HOSTS & CO-HOSTS NEEDED

Will you step out of your comfort zone, help your fellow society members, and master something new? Learn how to set up the Zoom and Owl equipment, open a Zoom meeting, keep attendance, and sign off at the end of our hybrid meetings. It really is simple once you have done it a couple of times. Our new Zoom hosts will be paired with an experienced host, so you will never be alone. The society usually only has one to three hybrid classes a month. When we have a larger group of Hosts, the time commitment is minimal.



In the next few months, we will be training new Zoom hosts and offering a refresher class for Zoomers who are nervous about being a host or co-host. We want to continue to offer hybrid classes and need a full cohort of Zoom Hosts to make that possible.

Email: [volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org)

for details. **Join us! Be a part of your RVGS' success.**



## LIBRARIANS NEEDED!

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.

Several RVGS librarian shifts are available:

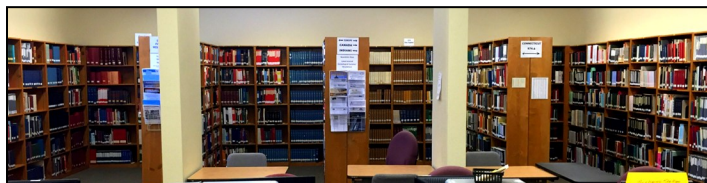
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday afternoons, 1:00 – 4:15 PM**
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:15 PM**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM**
- 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday, 1:00 – 4:15 PM**
- 1<sup>st</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 1:00 – 4:15 PM**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 1:00 PM – 4:15 PM**

Contact: [volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org) for further information.

## RVGS LIBRARY NEWS

### RVGS Library Collection Report

by Anne Billeter



Each year in December library volunteers take inventory of the library collection, counting each item, making sure everything is on the shelf where it belongs. The Report is at [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) > Library > Our Library > [Click here](#) for the most recent library collection report. This year the collection has grown to **27,046** cataloged items, which is **10,270 more** items than were in the collection when we moved in 2012 from the previous building on Houston Road, Phoenix. That explains why we recently added more shelving and why we will still have some books shelved on top of the bookcases. The library collection continues to expand as we add books, maps, magazines, CDs, and even a few thumb drives (aka memory sticks.) Most come from donations of materials, some from a small budget. The impact on our researchers varies: some members never look at the collection. They focus on the subscription websites and other internet sources. Others discover the wealth of information found in the books and magazines and realize everything genealogists want to know is NOT on the internet but might be found in the library collection. Take a look: you may be surprised by what you find. The library catalog is at [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) > [Library > Library Catalog](#). You can search the catalog at home, write down the call numbers of the books you want to look at, then come to the RVGS Library between 10 AM and 4 PM, Monday - Saturday, and make new discoveries. Need help? Ask the librarians!

## Short but Sweet

Fifteen books were added to the RVGS Library in March, four about North Carolina (975.6), and six about South Carolina (975.7). An especially interesting addition to the Atlas collection is the *Combined 1870 and 1912 Atlases of Pike County, Illinois* (977.3453 A841 Com 1870,1912), which is much more than a collection of maps: landowners, histories of townships, names of subscribers to the atlases, all make this a rich resource. RVGS volunteers continue to compile Jackson and Josephine County Oregon obituaries, with many of the obituaries



now coming from local funeral home websites as well as the local newspaper subscriptions. This effort was one of the first projects undertaken by RVGS and continues to provide a rich resource for researchers (and a small source of revenue). Finally, the collection of Jackson County death certificates has gained another year, with the collection now encompassing 1903 through 1969.

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

## Member Sharing

"The Big Three" by Christy Austermann

The March/April 2025 edition of *Family Tree* Magazine has a lengthy article comparing the top three genealogy websites: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage.



It has a comparison of 'Historical Records' which covers the number of searchable names, countries, and their respective geographic strengths. It has a comparison of 'Online Family Trees' which shows that Ancestry.com and MyHeritage allow you to build an individual tree where you control who can view it, whereas in FamilySearch you add onto a collaborative tree.

The article also compares 'DNA Testing' between Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.

There is an informative comparison of subscription costs for the three websites. FamilySearch is the only truly free website.

Come into our library to read, borrow, or copy this informative article.

**There might not be an index...but the record may still be online!**

by Anne Billeter

### Arkansas, Divorce Index, 1923-1939

Index of divorces from the Arkansas Genealogical Society. Index provided by Ancestry.com.

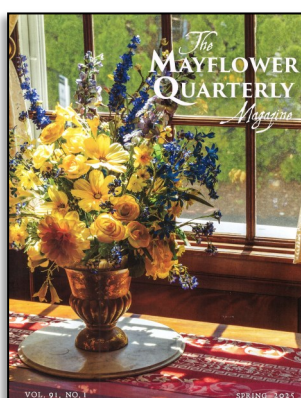
I was looking for a divorce that should have taken place between the April 1940 census and the November 21, 1940 marriage to someone else. Both marriages took place in Arkansas, although she was in South Dakota in the 1940 census. South Dakota divorces were not found online. The Arkansas Divorce Index on both Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org ended in 1939. BUT I found the divorce! The FamilySearch catalog listed the relevant

record set under the subject heading "Court Records" rather than "Divorce Records" (because the record set includes MORE than divorce cases.) The Washington County Arkansas Chancery Records, 1877-1951, were there, and each volume has an index at the front. With a little image navigation, I found the index entry and then the divorce decree. Success! Don't stop looking because there isn't a separate index! (The divorce was final **3 days** before she remarried.)

## New Periodicals on the Shelf

**American Spirit**, Daughters of the American Revolution  
 Circ 929.05 AmS v.159(2)  
 March/April 2025

Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton and the Hamilton duel; The Six Triple Eight (Black women's battalion that delivered mail in WWII Europe); Lafayette's descendants; and Betty Ford. Travel to the Breakers (RI), Oxmoor Farm (KY). Travelogue: Georgia, Arkansas Post, and Minute Man National Park (MA).

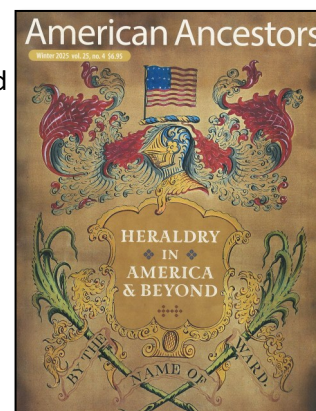


**Mayflower Quarterly**, General Society of Mayflower Descendants  
 Circ 929.3 MayQ v.91(1) Spring 2025

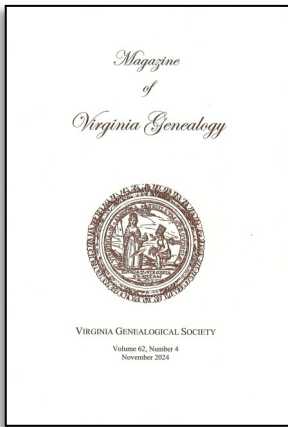
Like the National Archives and FamilySearch, the Mayflower Society is seeking indexers to work from home, indexing applications and other closely held papers. If you are a member and want to help, all

you need to know is here. Society news. Mercy Otis Warren, descendant of Edward Doty; Sanborn Fire Insurance maps; and Winslow loyalists.

**American Ancestors**, New England Historic Genealogical Society  
 Circ 974 P273 AA v.25(4)  
 Winter 2025



Heraldry in America; Early American personal (wax) seals; Scots heraldry; The Valentine family of Rye (NY).



**Magazine of Virginia Genealogy**, Virginia Genealogical Society

Circ 975.5 P273 MVG v.62(4)  
November 2024

This issue is full of transcriptions : Elizabeth City parish vestry book, 1751-1784; Fairfax parish vestry book, 1765-1785; Augusta County born out of wedlock and bound out; Isle of Wight Overseers of the Poor records; Roger Atkinson of

Dinwiddie Co. (will); John Holloway (1769 will and the question of inheritance by a 'half-breed'); Rev. Charles Talley's marriage register, 1822-1839; John Muir of Alexandria account book; and City of Williamsburg legislative petitions, 1776-1840. Index to v. 62.

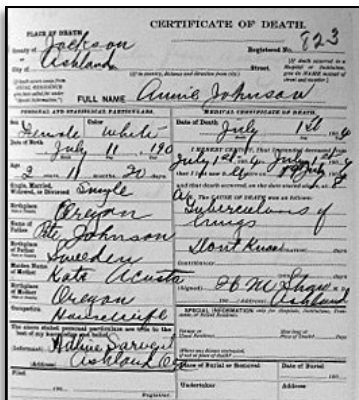
### Heritage titles added

The library has added two scattered runs of journals dealing with Irish immigration.

**IRISH AT HOME AND**

**ABROAD**: journal of Irish genealogy and heritage (Circ 941.5 P273 IAH 1994-1999) is full of hints and interesting information such as "The Irish in Argentina" and "Records of the Irish in South Africa."

**The SEPTS**, published by the Irish Genealogical Society International in St. Paul, MN, (Circ 941.5 P273 SEP 1995-2006) is clearly directed to information and records of Ireland. Shelved together, they can be found in a box in the middle of the Ireland section.



**Jackson County Death Certificates, 1968; Jackson County Obituaries, 2024;**

**and Josephine County Obituaries, 2024** have finally hit the shelves, thanks to the Cobbler's Elves who work in the dark hours behind closed doors (or their computer screens.) Perennial volunteer Terry Fischer

and his group of friends have gathered, indexed, printed and bound these important RVGS resources. The once simple chore of clipping obituaries from local newspapers has shifted to sleuthing websites and online publications. While Josephine County is represented by the *Daily Courier* and three funeral home websites, Jackson County now has thirteen sites to search. A future genealogist seeking obituaries in our county will be fortunate to find these volumes that our crew has gathered for them. Thank you Terry, Pat Brewer, and David Hodson.

### New Items on Websites

#### Family Search

Recently, FamilySearch expanded its free online archives with over 550 million records from 36 different countries. Some exciting additions include 131 million civil registration records from the Philippines, 4 million social security death records from France, and 4 million civil registration records from Sri Lanka.

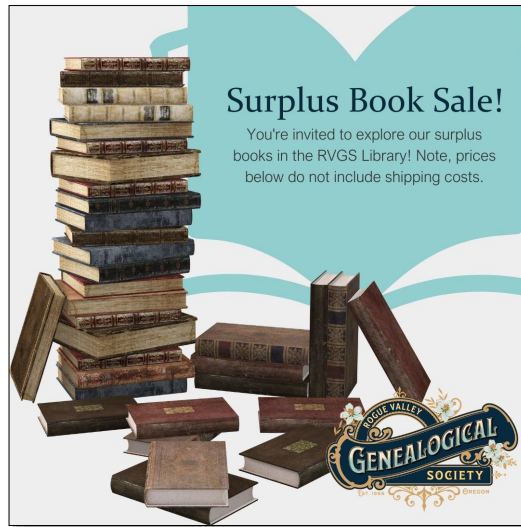


Other countries with significant record additions include the following: Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Peru and Uruguay. [New Historical Records March 2025](#)

If you missed out on Rootstech 2025 you can still watch many of the lectures on line in their library. [Video Library](#)







## Surplus Sale Books for April 2025

Price does not include shipping costs.

Some of these items may have already sold.

Great News! We're bringing back the dollar book section to the surplus books. The dollar books won't be posted here in the eNews. Come to the Genealogy Library and find the new section of dollar books next to the surplus sale books in the foyer. Look for the green stickers and save!

- *The Griers: Pioneers in America and Canada, 1816-1991* by William M Grier, 1991. \$8.00
- *Our Chamberlain Cousins: Includes Descendants of Elijah Chamberlain and Hannah Morrill and Some Other Related Chamberlain Families, Who Lived in Allegany County, New York* by Elene Wagner, 1987. \$78.00
- *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Index of Persons Volumes 1 – 50, A-G* edited by Josephine Elizabeth Rayne & Effie Louise Chapman, A.B. 1972, \$15.00
- *1860 Washington County Oregon Census* by Ruth Stoller, 1972. \$4.00
- *1860 Wasco County Oregon Census* by Harley Haskin, 1973. \$4.00
- *1860 Clatsop County Oregon Census* by Harley Haskin, 1973. \$4.00
- *1860 Columbia County Oregon Census* by Harley Haskin, 1973. \$4.00
- *The Carmack Family Genealogy* by Charles W Peckham, 2013. \$40.00
- *Descendants of Bartholomew Stovall (1665-1722): First Five American Generations* compiled by Donald E. Bishop, 1999. \$150.00
- *Terry Family Historian, June 1988* edited by Robert M. Terry, 1988. \$2.00
- *The Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Campbell County, Virginia [The 1987 Census of Virginia]* by Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Love, 1987. \$2.50
- *Wills and Where to Find Them* by J. S. W. Gibson, 1974. \$8.00
- *A Genealogical Gazetteer of Scotland: An Alphabetical Dictionary of Places* by Frank Smith, 1971. \$8.00
- *The Danish Genealogical Helper, Volume 1, Number 1 July 1968 Poulsen* edited by Elly M Poulsen & Gay P Kowallis, 1968. \$18.00
- *Land Ownership Maps: A Checklist of Nineteenth Century United States County Maps in the Library of Congress* compiled by Richard Stephenson, 1967. \$11.00
- *Irish and Scottish Ancestral Research: A Guide to the Genealogical Records, Methods and Sources in Ireland: Vol II Bibliography & Family Index* by Margaret Dickson Falley, 1961. \$15.00
- *Your Ancient Canadian Family Ties* by Reginald L. Olivier, 1972. \$50.00
- *The Handbook of American Genealogy. Vol. 1* edited by Frederick Adams Virkus, 1932. \$15.00
- *The Handbook of American Genealogy. Vol. 2* edited by Frederick Adams Virkus, 1934. \$8.00

**Rogue Valley  
Genealogical Society  
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**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](http://rvgslibrary.org) to join today.

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**The RVGS eNews**

Editor: Pamela Olsen

Submissions due 20th of Month to

[enews@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:enews@rvgslibrary.org)

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**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 1:30 - 3:00 PM on the second Thursday 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.

**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)**

Led by Jon Wolfe, based in Germany. This group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, 11 :00 AM—Noon. This group is for people interested in Germany history and genealogy.

**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
- Virginia Group
- The Writers' Room