



Volume 10 | Issue 5 | May 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

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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

Monday, May 26, CLOSED
in observance of Memorial Day



The RVGS eNews

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

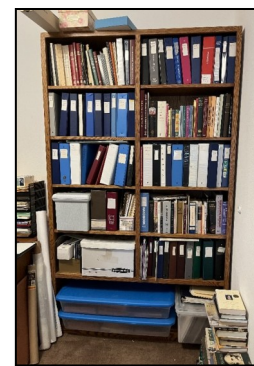


THE COLLEEN PROJECT

Hi! My name is Ros Lyne and I'm the Trustee for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (RVGS). Like all RVGS volunteers I work on other projects. If you come into the library you will see me standing by our scanner/copier machine, along with my scanning buddy, Cheryl Haas, enthusiastically and/or frustratingly scanning. Cheryl and I will tell you there is a battle going on between human and machine when it comes to scanning. We have worked out a compromise with the machine.

So why are we scanning? We're working on the Colleen Project. It's a pilot project for RVGS. Colleen Eccleston was a long-time volunteer and Honorary Life Member of RVGS. She was a thorough and careful investigative researcher who began her research before computers got involved. After Colleen passed away, and at her request, her daughter Karen McCoy contacted RVGS about her research. This is where Anne Billeter, Mary Tsui and Mary Robsman (The Marys) stepped in with their vision. They wanted Colleen's research to be accessible to family researchers like you and me; they also wanted to devise a method that any of us could use to preserve our own research. The overall goal is for researchers to get online and be able enter a name in a search box and find family information. Thus the Colleen Project was developed.

The Marys developed the pilot project to make Colleen's research searchable. They did all the tedious work of





inventorying and organizing. Mary R. compiled an extensive inventory of items to be scanned. Mary T. created the inventory logs, time sheets and progress logs, and developed instructions for scanning and backup. Ann Baracker was the first scanning instructions guinea pig and overall reality checker, then Cheryl and I took over the scanning. Mary R. proofed our work and Mary T. is developing hyperlinks between the inventories and scanned files. We ended up with 68 binders and about 700 folders of research materials to scan. Are you now trying to count your own binders, file boxes, and digital files in your head? We are halfway through the scanning component. We have scanned the 68 binders and now we have the folders in boxes to scan. So how does this vision apply to you? We hope to offer a how-to class in the future; perhaps RVGS will be able to offer a service of making your own family research searchable online! Stay tuned. We will update you on this exciting pilot project.

New and Returning Members

New Members: : Evelyn Henry, Juanita Fagam, Cindy Peer, Heather Carter, Janie M Burcart, and Martha Kelly.

Returning Members: Alex Zaremska, Sheila and Dave McGinnis.



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

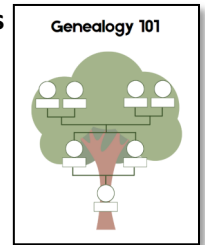
- [Click here to find Zoom help on our website.](#)
- All times listed are Pacific Time Zone.
- Recorded events will be available for 30 days to those who registered for the class.



Registration Now Open!

Thursday, May 8, 10:30 AM – Noon, Class series: Genealogy 101 – USA Land Research Strategies

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, May 8, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Class Series: Genealogy 101 – USA Land Research Strategies

This class is taught by Barbara Northrop.

Zoom only. Cost: \$5 for members; \$10 for non-members. This class will NOT be recorded.

Friday, May 9, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Irish Interest Group

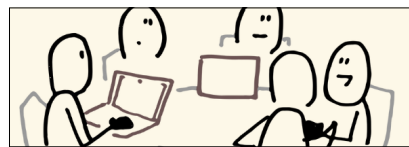
Barbara Halvorsen facilitates this interest group concentrating on Irish history, culture and researching Irish ancestors. The group meets on the second Friday of the month. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



Monday, May 12, 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.



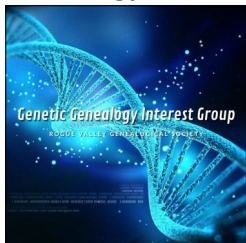
Tuesday, May 13, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Family Tree Maker Interest Group



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

They meet on the second Tuesday of the month.
Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

Wednesday, May 14, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Genetic Genealogy Interest Group



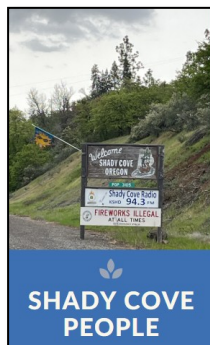
Barbara Halvorsen facilitates this interest group for everyone interested in genetic genealogy. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month. This month the topic will be Jeanne Hoadley's April 17 "Genetic Genealogy Networks" class.

The discussion and zooming will end early at 11:30 AM, followed by an in-person lab session at the library from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

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

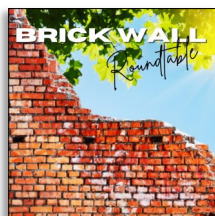
Tuesday, May 20, 1:30 – 3:00 PM Program and Member Meeting: Shady Cove People

Join Kim Thurman as she unravels the stories of six pioneering families who patented land in Shady Cove from the 1870s to the 1920s. These settlers, diverse in race, ethnicity, and origin, shared a common dream; to carve out a life along the Rogue River. Their histories reveal compelling tales of resilience, community, and the pursuit of opportunity in a changing frontier. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all. This program will not be recorded.



Wednesday, May 21, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Brick Wall Roundtable

Bring your stumbling blocks and find answers with others to what is keeping you facing a "brick wall" in your genealogical research. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



Monday, May 26, CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27, 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

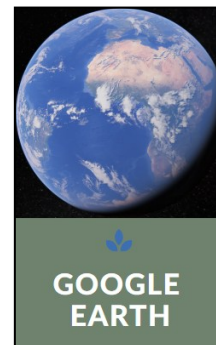
ancestors and also for Germans trying to find relatives who emigrated. In some months, the first part of the meeting may include a speaker. This will be followed with an unstructured time for questions and mutual support. Jon Wolfe, the facilitator for this group, is an American who lives in Germany.

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

Thursday, May 29, 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM, Class: Google Earth Pro by Kim Thurman

Ready to revolutionize your family history research? Google Earth Pro, a free mapping tool, transforms how you document your ancestors' lives by letting you create detailed maps of their homesteads, mark key locations, and trace migration routes through time - plus you'll learn to overlay historical maps and create virtual tours that bring your family's story to life. Note: Google Earth Pro is not compatible with tablets or smartphones. The class is from 10:30 AM – Noon, with a help session in-person only from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

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

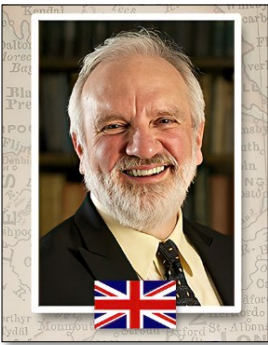


OLLI on May 2, 9 and 16 Fridays, 11:30 - 12:30

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 is being taught this year at RVGS on Friday mornings, from 10 AM - 12:30 PM. This year those Fridays include a one hour lab using the RVGS Library computers from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM on May 2, 9, and 16. The OLLI students are gaining hands-on experience after an hour and a half class in the Meeting Room each Friday. These will be busy mornings...perhaps NOT the best time to do your own research at RVGS!

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: THE TABLE ROCK QUILT

The Table Rocks are one of the dominant geological features in the Rogue Valley of Oregon. They stand tall above the Rogue River and have abundant wildflowers growing on them. One of the wildflowers featured on the quilt, *Fritillaria recurva*, was commonly called "Red Bells." It can be found on the Table Rocks and in the Jacksonville Woodlands. The quilt was completed in April 1994, before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the *Fritillaria gentneri* on the Federal Endangered Species list in December 1999. The Table Rock quilt on display at the RVGS Library during the month of July contains eighteen



different flower blocks all hand embroidered by the Jacksonville Museum Quilters. Stop by the Library to see this beauty. It saves a lot of hiking.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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.

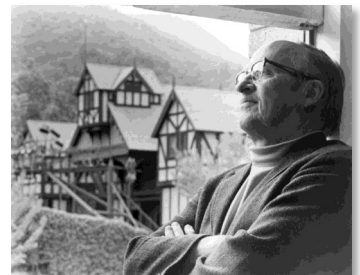


Windows in Time: Shreds and Patches: OSF Uncovered

Wednesday, June 4, Noon - 1:00 PM Medford Library: In Person and Online [Click here to register](#)

Wednesday, June 11, Noon - 1:00 PM Ashland Library: Gresham Room

A few days before his death, Angus Bowmer finally finished a two chapbook series entitled "Shreds and Patches." These books were written primarily for his festival actors as a passing on of his thoughts and knowledge about the Ashland Elizabethan Stage. Long out of print and almost lost to history, these chapbooks have been recently uncovered. For the first time ever, you will hear Angus' personal learnings, teachings and vision for the Ashland Elizabethan Stage through the lens of his actors and company.



Presenter Jonathan Stevens is an Ashland, Oregon based actor and director who has been performing and creating for the theatre in one way or another since the age of 10. His love for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival is immense and he can't wait to share his passion with you.



Jacksonville History Center

The History Center design for our “Museum without Walls” is almost complete and we’ll

soon be starting the conversion of Jacksonville’s 1881 Old City Hall into its home base. Here’s a quick glimpse of what you can expect.

While Jacksonville’s entire National Historic Landmark District is the actual museum, the Old City Hall History Center will provide an overview and introduce you to all the different ways you can explore it!

History Center exhibits are interactive, touchable, and include slide shows, audio, video, and AI! (We anticipate you will even be able to communicate with some of our pioneers!)

We still have a way to go, and you can help us get there! Become an exhibit sponsor or make a donation to our museum fund.



Visit <https://www.historicjacksonville.org/donate/> or contact info@historicjacksonville.org or call 541-326-5554.

Sunday, May 4, 3 PM, “The International Language: Love Songs from around the World”

Many of you know David Gordon from his 4-year series of “Pioneer History in Story and Song.” He is a world-renowned opera singer, a notable acoustic guitarist, and an engaging storyteller.

David will be sharing the “International Language of Love” with songs in English, French, Italian, German,



Spanish, and Old Scots. He will also be singing an amazing love song from around 1160 in the language of Medieval Provençal, written for Eleanor of Aquitaine (Duchess of Aquitaine, Queen of France, and Queen of England) by her troubadour, and one of the first love songs ever to be written down. And as always,

David will be sharing the stories behind the songs.

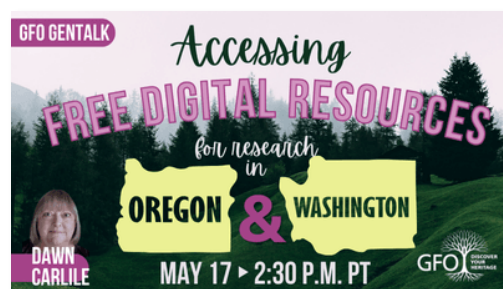
2nd floor, Jacksonville’s New City Hall, 206 North 5th Street. Parking is available on site and in adjacent areas. General admission is \$25.00 and reservations are required. [Click here](#) for tickets and more information.

REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES

Genealogical Forum of Oregon (in Portland) Accessing Free Digital Collections for Oregon and Washington Research

Saturday, May 17, 2:30 PM (online)

[Register for this FREE GenTalk](#)



Presenter: Dawn Carlile

Our genealogy dollars are limited, so save money by using free resources! Luckily, there are many free, online resources for researching Oregon and Washington roots. Digital collections offer access to many records, photographs, and documents unavailable elsewhere. Take a tour through these collections and add to your resources.

Dawn Carlile is a professional genealogist, educator, and lecturer who began teaching classes for the Oregon Genealogical Society in 2008 and then began lecturing at libraries, genealogical societies, and cultural events. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Genealogical Speakers Guild, National Genealogical Society, and several local, state, and regional historical and genealogical societies. She is the current president of the Oregon Genealogical Society and the leader of GFO's Irish SIG.

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: Beware! The Enchanted Forest: Perils and Pitfalls of Online Trees

Sunday, May 18, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Meeting Registration - Zoom

When is it safe to get information from an online tree? We will discuss where these trees can be found, how to assess them for reliability, how to cite them, how to use them for clues to further your research, and more. Not all online trees are created equal, but most can be evaluated with a few simple steps. Don't become victim to the enchantment of an apparent pot of gold.



Speaker Jean Wilcox Hibben has been involved in family research for more than 40 years and has traced her origins to Germany, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Netherlands, England, and France. She was a Board-Certified Genealogist for 10 years (2006–2016) and elected not to renew. She is the 1st vice-president and Webmaster of the Corona (California) Genealogical Society, where she served a number of years as president. She has been on the board of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Association of Professional Genealogists. She belongs to the Aurantia Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution in Riverside County, California; the National Genealogical Society; and the Jefferson County New York Genealogical Society, where she maintains the quarterly column "Ask Aunty Jeff" in their newsletter, *The Informer*.

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

Tuesday, May 6, 7 PM Central Time, Virtual and In Person

"Navigating the Southwest Collection: Accessing Digitized Archives for Genealogy and Research" presented by Austin Allison.



Explore the digitization projects of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library ranging from maps to newspapers and other archival material that may be useful to researchers and genealogists. Austin will give detailed instructions about how researchers can access and use these materials for their topics.

He will also discuss other materials housed at the Southwest Collection that are relevant to the history of the region including local cookbooks and county histories.

Austin Allison is a technical processing assistant librarian at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University. Over the past decade, he has been involved with the digitization of many materials at Texas Tech including regional newspapers and maps that are relevant to historians interested in West Texas history. He earned a B.A. in history from Texas Tech University and a MLIS in Library Science from the University of North Texas.

Click [here](#) to register for virtual access.

SOCIETY NEWS



The Rest of the Story

The Arkansas Mystery Quilt has been reunited with descendants. The quilt was donated to us by a Jackson County resident who purchased a bin of fabrics at an estate sale in White City in 2010. A month after her purchase she finally looked at the fabrics in the bin and discovered a quilt at the bottom! It wasn't just ANY quilt: it was filled with genealogy: each of the 30 quilt blocks had a name, most had dates, and all had place names. The embroidery was cursive and hard to read, so she put it aside, intending to solve the mystery someday soon. Fourteen years later, last October, she saw publicity about one of the RVGS "Quilts and Genealogy" programs, remembered the quilt, and offered it to us. We accepted it with the understanding that we would try to solve the mystery and reunite the quilt with a descendant. On February 27 Anne Billeter's presentation solved the mystery of who made the quilt: Armilda aka Mildred (Fields) Centers Rudolph Centers Hunsley Hollis Coffman. Yes, she married six times, twice to Charles Centers, the

father of her four children. Yes, she changed her name from Armilda to Mildred. One of her daughters also changed HER name, from Lillian Leona Centers to Constance “Connie” Antoinette “Ann” Centers. And HER daughter went from Connie Marlene Monahan to “Marla” Monahan.

Five of Armilda’s grandchildren were named on the quilt and a sixth one was identified. More great-grandchildren’s names were tentatively found, but a successful contact had not been achieved. Meghan Thompson agreed to try social media. That was unsuccessful. A letter was sent by USPS...and great-granddaughter Kenya replied by email and phone, eager to claim the quilt. Her mother, Mary Lou (Centers) is still alive. The quilt was quickly shipped and the result is heartwarming: Kenya reported that her mother cried tears of happiness and stated: “I felt as though my grandmother just walked through the door!”



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS 2025

Lynn Leissler, Scholarship Committee member

\$2,000 scholarship award announced.

This is the tenth year of the RVGS scholarship program benefitting students in our community.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year’s Rogue Valley Genealogical Society scholarship award to Miss Lillian Hills, a senior at South Medford High School.

Lillie has maintained an excellent GPA, with classes that include Economics, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Literature, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble. She will graduate in the top one-percent of her class, and has been a National Honor Society member, grades 10-12. Her goal is to become a wildlife veterinarian so that “my impact can do good for the world of the unheard.” She believes a veterinarian’s role is not just caring for animals, but also having an impact on the community, and helping fund research and rehabilitation. Since the birth of her passion years ago, she has worked as a Vet Tech, done pet sitting, and is a dog walker at SO Humane Society. She has raised and shown rabbits through 4-H

(an eight-year membership), received numerous awards, and been involved in community service, including the Southern Oregon Easter Extravaganza. She will participate in the 2024 Summer Veterinary Experience at OSU.

Music is another of Lillie’s loves. She plays the saxophone, has won competitions, and was accepted to a music program in Australia. Her involvement pushed her to achieve, as she spent thousands of hours practicing for a three-minute performance.

Her family, their home shared with grandparents, is of prime importance. They are part of a program that provides safe haven for local, marginalized children, helping Lillie develop compassion and see people beyond their circumstances. Her father has limited hearing, so Lillie is training to become an American Sign Language interpreter to help him, as well as be a means to help fund her education; final certification, however, will be down the road a while.

The Scholarship Committee feels privileged to award the scholarship and be a small part of this ambitious, focused young woman’s future. We wish Lillie the best in her endeavors.

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.

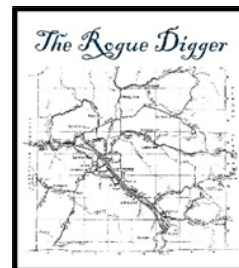
Genealogy is not just about research, but the joy of sharing with others.

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*



MAY BOTTLEDROP BLUE BAG RECYCLE PROGRAM UPDATE

Our Blue Bag bottle donations for the 1st quarter were \$341.33. Thank you!





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.

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 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



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. Contact: volunteer@RVGSlibrary.org for more information.

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 Take a look and contact 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 for details. **Join us! Be a part of your RVGS' success.**



LIBRARIANS NEEDED!

Several RVGS librarian shifts are available:

- 2nd Tuesday afternoons, 1:00 – 4:15 PM
- 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings, 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM
- 1st, and 3rd Thursday afternoons, 1:00 – 4:15 PM
- 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:15 PM
- 1st, and 3rd Thursdays 1:00 – 4:15 PM
- 4th Saturdays, 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM
- 4th Saturday, 1:00 PM – 4:15 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

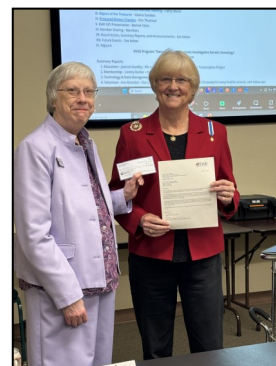
research your own genealogy. Main responsibilities are staffing the reception desk and helping people use the library collection and subscription websites.

Contact: volunteer@RVGSLibrary.org for further information.

RVGS LIBRARY NEWS

Latgwa Chapter DAR gift

For many years two chapters of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have been meeting at RVGS. Now the Latgwa Chapter, which was formed in 1976 in Jacksonville, is merging with the older Crater Lake Chapter, located in Medford. As a thank you to RVGS, the Latgwa Chapter has donated \$500 to RVGS. This gift will be used to defray the cost of one section of the newly installed shelving. We look forward to many more years of DAR meetings at RVGS. Many DAR members are also RVGS members, and both societies share many goals in common.



Join the Transcription Mission!

We're on a mission—a transcription mission! In celebration of the 250th anniversary of American Independence, the National Archives and the National Park Service are partnering on a special project to transcribe **Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service (ca. 1800–ca. 1912).**

These Revolutionary War Pension Files contain incredible details about veterans and their families, including rank, unit, period of service, age, residence, marriage records, military activities, and even personal letters and diaries. By transcribing these records, we help make them searchable and accessible for future generations of historians, genealogists, and researchers.

Why Get Involved?

With over 600 members in our society, imagine the impact we could make if each of us transcribed just one page! Every transcription brings us closer to unlocking untold stories and preserving our history.

Share Your Discoveries!

We want to highlight your contributions! Did you transcribe the record of a veteran with a fascinating story? Perhaps you found a connection to another member's ancestor? Share your experience, and we'll feature it in our eNews. Contact us at transcribe@rvgslibrary.org and we'll show you how to get started.



Member Sharing

Women's Committee of National Defense

by Valerie Sanders

In 1917, during the mobilization for World War I, the Council of National Defense established the Woman's Committee, which registered over 4 million women for wartime contributions, mobilizing 17,000 local committees, and enabling women to contribute beyond traditional roles.

The women's committee's work was best exemplified by the women's registration campaign, which ran from the fall of 1917 to the spring of 1918 in some states.

A form titled "Woman's Committee - Council of National Defense". It has a header with "Agricultural", "General", "Domestic", "Industrial", and "Professional" categories. The form is filled out with handwritten information: "Name in full: Rebecca M. (Mrs.)", "Address: 2100 N. 1st St. St. Louis, Mo.", "Age (in years): 32", "Married or single: Married", "Color or race: White", "Country of birth: U.S.", "Citizen: By birth", "Persons dependent upon you, if any: 1 child", "Service offered (specify whether volunteer, express only, or paid)", "If training is wanted, specify time: Yes", "Tuition paid or free: Yes", and "TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE (ENCLICH NUMBERS TO LEFT OF OCCUPATION IN WHICH)".

Women's Committee-Council of National Defense
<http://miamicountyinworthremembering.org>

The goal was to create a record of skills and willingness to serve of as many women as possible throughout the country. Efforts were made to involve all women, regardless of their class, ethnicity, or age. After attending the class "The Largest Census of American Women You've Never Heard About" presented by Amber Oldenburg, Anne Billeter and I went straight

away to the computers in the RVGS library to see if Oregon had written about this in the newspapers. We went to "[Historical Oregon Newspapers \(https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/\)](https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/)" and found to our amazement that many towns and cities had written an article regarding women's registration and recruitment! Amber let us know that some states did not get involved: Ohio, Georgia, New York and Rhode Island. The link below takes you to Amber Oldenburg's site: <https://onebranchatatime.com/unveiling-the-forgotten-records-the-1917-registration-of-women-and-its-significance-forfamily-historians/> A total of 29 million cards were filled out. These cards carry information about the women of that time and can be another resource about our female relatives. The issue now is finding these cards and maybe you can help. Many of these have been lost or destroyed over time, some have yet to be discovered. Some may be found in museums, government offices, historical societies or a person's home. We don't know till we ask and dig deeper, and this is where we can all help. If you are out and about or doing research online and come across some information, contact us or Amber and we will celebrate that discovery!



34 Books and 4 CD-ROMs Added in April

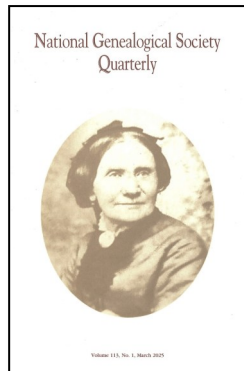
38 items were added to the RVGS Library collection. Three of the CD-ROMs are about Ohio and one about Kentucky. The added books include nine federal census indexes and eight in a special group which might be called "census substitutes." They are indexes of very early items, such as tax lists, registers of births, censuses (non-federal, colonial period). For example, Early Louisiana, 1700-1819 provides researchers with leads to early Louisiana settlers, pulling together a variety of indexes which cover 110 years before the first federal census of Louisiana was taken in 1810. Why add census indexes when the censuses are now indexed online? The human eye can skim alphabetical lists and catch alternate spellings the computers miss! When all else fails online, try a printed census index! In the case of the Early American series, the index compilers searched for lists other than censuses that might identify who was where when, in the early days before we were a country. [Click here \(rvgslibrary.org/Files/NewBooks_Apr2025.pdf\)](http://rvgslibrary.org/Files/NewBooks_Apr2025.pdf) for the complete list.

New Periodicals on the Shelf

National Genealogical Society Quarterly

Circ 929.05 NGSQ v.113(1) March 2025

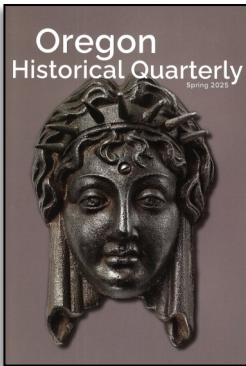
New Jersey Pickels and a North Carolina Bückel (a DNA adventure in ‘walking the cluster back’); Hannah Heathcote of Cheshire, England; James Moore’s servant and more; Ursule, the mixed-race common law wife of Barthelemy LeCourt (LA); Parents for Roxena Lawson (ME, KY).



Oregon Historical Quarterly, Oregon Historical Society

Circ 979.5 P273 OHQ v.126(1) Spring 2025

Portland’s wartime Japanese American detention camp; A conversation about doing history in the Pacific Northwest; New exhibit about Portland – “Rivers, Roses and Rip City”; Utilizing collections for senior enrichment programs.



Southern Oregon Historical Society Quarterly

Circ 979.527 P273 SOHSQ Spring 2025

Ginger Roger’s mom and J Edgar Hoover; Wolf Creek Inn; House of David exhibition baseball team in Southern Oregon; Indigenous place names; and Spotlight on Will Brake, new Executive Director of the Society.



Some exciting additions include 12 million government and church records from Colombia, 8 million social security and death records from France, and 8 million civil registration records from the Philippines. Other countries with significant record additions include the following: Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ireland, Peru and Uruguay.



FamilySearch Catalog Update

The FamilySearch Catalog is a comprehensive resource that lists items in FamilySearch’s physical and digital collections. The items described in the catalog might be searchable online or available for use in person at the FamilySearch Library, at a local FamilySearch center, or at a FamilySearch Affiliate Library (which RVGS is.)

With the catalog, you can:

See if FamilySearch has an item you need and find out how to access it.

Get access to scanned books in the **FamilySearch Digital Library** and microfilms in the online collections of **indexed historical records**.

Create print lists of records you want to print or save for future reference. Tip: Print lists are a great way to **plan your visit** to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, or one of the **many FamilySearch centers** worldwide.

To learn more about the changes visit: **The New FamilySearch Catalog**.

New Items on Websites

Ancestry

Recently Added and Updated Collections on Ancestry

Some of the latest updates and acquisitions include, Rhode Island, Revolutionary War Collection; updated Pennsylvania birth and death records; Wake, North Carolina birth certificate index; Washington, DC Will and Probate Records; and US Presbyterian Church Records.

Family Search

Recently, FamilySearch expanded its free online archives with over 47 million new records from 32 countries.





Surplus Sale Books for May 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

- *Scots Kith and Kin and Illustrated Map: Revised second edition* by Albyn Press, from 1990's. \$4.00
- *The Morning/ Daily Olympian, Thurston County, Washington 1891-1907 Newspaper Genealogical Abstracts* compiled by Esther Raymond Knox, 1988. \$25.00
- *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* Second Edition by Brian Mitchell, 2002. \$3.00
- *History of New Paltz, New York, and Its Old Families (from 1678 to 1820), Including the Huguenot Pioneers and Others Who Settled in New Paltz Previous to the Revolution* by Ralph Le Fevre, original c. 1903, 2005. \$20.00
- *The Book of Scots-Irish Family Names* by Robert Bell, 1988 rep. 1990. \$10.00
- *The Book of Ulster Surnames* by Robert Bell, 1988 rep. 1994, \$4.00
- *Vermont 1800 Census Index A-Z* by edited by Raeone Christensen Steuart, 2000. \$16.00
- *Heads of Families at the First Census Taken in the Year 1790: Vermont by U.S. Bureau of the Census, c. 1907, rep. 1966. \$18.00*
- *A Genealogy of David Schuyler and His Male and Female Descendants* compiled by James O. Schuyler, 2006. \$34.00
- *Kentucky 1830 Census Index Volume I, Adair – Campbell; Volume II, Casey – Gallatin; Volume III, Garrard-Hopkins* compiled by Dora Wilson Smith, 1973. \$10.00
- *Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Fort Sill Apache, Wichita, Caddo and Delaware Indians: Birth and Death Rolls 1924-1932* by Jeff Bowen, maybe c. 1996. \$25.00
- *Maryland Marriages: 1634-1777* compiled by Robert W Barnes, c. 1975, 5th printing, 1995. \$4.00
- *Genealogical Records of Utah* by Lauren R. Jausi and Gloria Chaston, 1974. \$7.00
- *Who's Who in Colorado: 1958 Centennial Edition. A Biographical Record of Colorado's Outstanding Civic, Business, Professional, Religious, Labor, and Government Leaders* by Daniel T. Valdes, 1958. \$10.00
- *Early Settlers of the Bahamas and Colonists of North America* by A Talbot Bethell, c.1937, rep. 1999. \$14.00
- *Oregon, Linn County 1860 Census* by Harley Haskins, 1970. \$4.00
- *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815* by William Dollarhide, 1997. \$13.00
- *In Search of Your British and Irish Roots* by Angus Baxter, 1982. \$4.00
- *DAR Patriot Index: Volume I A-F by Daughters of the American Revolution, 2003. \$17.00*
- *DAR Patriot Index: Volume II G-O by Daughters of the American Revolution, 2003. \$7.00*
- *Index To Microfilm of Marriage Records 1811-1900 by Ashtabula County Ohio Genealogy Society, 1990. \$15.00*

**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 to join today.

The RVGS eNews

Editor: Pamela 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 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