



Volume 10 | Issue 6 | June 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

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

GENEALOGY'S STAKE IN FEDERAL FUNDING



The 2026 federal budget proposal released in early May has raised serious concerns in the genealogical community. The proposal targets the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Additionally, cost-cutting measures by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have already reduced staffing and grant funding for the NEH and IMLS. In February, Dr. Colleen Shogan was removed as Archivist of the United States, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio appointed as Acting Archivist of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). As family historians, these changes could significantly impact our research capabilities.

Many of us rely daily on NARA's resources.

This independent agency preserves

documents essential to our family research—census records, military service files, immigration records, and numerous other irreplaceable materials. The ongoing digitization efforts have been transformative, allowing us to access documents from our homes that once required trips to Washington, D.C. NARA also supports the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), which provides critical grant funding to local and state archives nationwide. If you've used a local or state archive for your research, chances are it has benefited from NHPRC assistance. (For a complete list of recipients since 1964, visit the National Historical Publications



NATIONAL ARCHIVES



& Records Commission [grants page](#).) Without experienced archivists directing NARA, the future of open access to our nation's records and continued funding for preservation efforts nationwide remains uncertain.

The NEH and IMLS may be less familiar to some members, but their impact on our research is substantial. Both organizations have directly funded countless preservation and digitization projects through libraries, museums, and historical societies. The IMLS's Grants to States program provides approximately 25% of the State Library of Oregon's annual budget. Losing this funding threatens numerous services to Oregon libraries, including staffing, programs, and digitization initiatives that many of us use regularly. Oregon Humanities, our state affiliate of the NEH, awards numerous public program grants and mini-grants to rural libraries. They have already announced that their Public Program Grants are on hold due to the loss of NEH funding.

Recognizing these concerns, the presidents of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (Portland), and the Oregon Genealogical Society (Eugene) jointly submitted a letter to all eight Oregon congressional representatives in May. The letter expresses our collective support for continued proper



funding and professional management of NARA, NEH, and IMLS. We understand these institutions are fundamental to preserving our ability to research family heritage.

If you share these concerns about maintaining access to the historical records that help us tell our families' stories, we encourage you to contact your congressional representatives with your personal perspective on this issue.

Kim Thurman, Past President
kimthurman@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.
- Recorded events will be available for 30 days to those who registered for the class.



Registration Now Open!

Monday, June 9, 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 >

Membership > Member Resources.

Cost: Free to all.

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

This group is facilitated by Barbara MacMillen. Come with any questions about using "Family Tree Maker" software. They meet the second Tuesday of the month.

Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



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



Barbara Halvorsen facilitates this interest group for everyone interested in genetic genealogy. Each month will have a different topic.

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

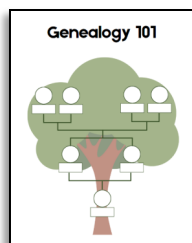
Wednesday, June 11, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Great Lakes Interest Group

This Interest Group, facilitated by Kim Thurman, meets to discuss genealogy research in the Great Lakes region. Primary focus is for the states of Wisconsin, Michigan,



Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, but researchers to the north and east along the lakes are welcome as well. This month, Kim will do a presentation

about the canals used in the Great Lakes region that our ancestors may have used for migration through the area. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



Thursday, June 12, 10:30 AM – Noon, Class series: Genealogy 101 – Using the Bureau of Land Management Website

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, June 12, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Colonial America Interest Group

This Interest group, facilitated by Jeanne Hoadley, meets to discuss genealogy research in the original 13 colonies. The topic for this month will be Researching your Revolutionary War Ancestors. Whether your ancestor was a soldier, a patriot or a loyalist we will explore strategies for finding evidence one way or another. We will also take a look at the citizen transcription project sponsored by NARA and the National Park Service which may provide you with access to documents not yet available online as well as the opportunity to help make these records available by becoming a volunteer transcriber.

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



Thursday, June 12, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Class Series: Genealogy 101 – Using the Bureau of Land Management Website

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

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

Barbara Halvorsen facilitates this interest group concentrating on Irish history,



culture and researching Irish ancestors. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

Tuesday, June 17, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Program and Member Meeting: Who was Jean Maack and What is the Jean Maack Collection at RVGS?

Jean Maack was RVGS President for 3 years (1994-1996), researched and wrote Nicholson, Harvey, and Stapleton family histories, and donated the Jean Maack Collection of her research materials to RVGS. What else should we know about Jean and her collection? Join Anne Billeter to discover this multi-faceted woman who embodied advocacy and activism while raising 4 sons, teaching, and so much more. Jean left a rich legacy when she died in 2017 at the age of 96.

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



Wednesday, June 18, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Roundtable: Let's Talk Genealogy



Let's Talk Genealogy 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.

Tuesday, June 24, 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, June 26, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, Quilts and Genealogy: The Applegate Trail Quilt

The Applegate Trail Quilt was completed in 1987 by the Jacksonville Museum Quilters. Using photographs taken in 1976, Artist Evelyn Williams and Master Quilter Dora Scheidecker created a tribute to the re-enactment of an historic covered wagon train's travels from Keno to Jacksonville in Southern Oregon. Local historian Sue Waldron will share more about this hand quilted wall hanging with detailed applique images and delicate embroidery and about "Wagon Master" George McUne's adventure in this program in the "Quilts and Genealogy" series.

In person at the library only. Cost: Free to all. This program will NOT be recorded.



QUILT IN THE NICHE: APPLGATE WAGON TRAIN

The full name of this quilt *"Bicentennial Applegate Trail – Applegate Wagon Train 1846 – 1976"* is a bit confusing. Bicentennial usually means the two-hundredth anniversary of a significant event, yet if you do the math, 1846 to 1976 is only 130 years? What were the Jacksonville Museum Quilters commemorating when they designed and made this quilt in 1987?

Forty-nine years ago, on June 6, 1976, six horse drawn covered wagons left their campsite outside the small **unincorporated community** of Keno in **Klamath County, Oregon**. Back in 1974 when the Jackson County bicentennial committee started planning the local celebration of the United States signing the Declaration of Independence, they approached George McUne. Would he lead a re-enactment of a covered wagon trip on the Applegate Trail? McUne had participated in several other re-enactments. He also built and ran the Pioneer Village in downtown Jacksonville. McUne began construction of the Village in 1961. When completed in 1964 the Village offered visitors an adventure into Jacksonville's past with authentic buildings from nearby locations that were filled with historic relics. Inside the village stockade, visitors watched western fights and "black snake whip" demonstrations. They took pony rides and boarded a

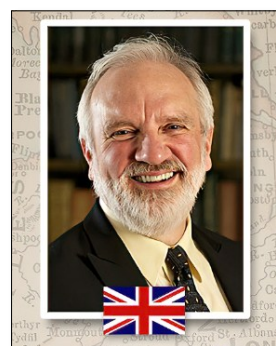
stagecoach. They could also watch a blacksmith making hand rolled wagon tires, enjoy a Victorian melodrama, explore Yreka's Dogtown Saloon, or visit a jail, a moon-shiner's cabin, or a little red schoolhouse.

McUne agreed to lead a re-enactment trip on the Applegate Trail for the Bicentennial celebration. In 1974 McUne started construction of six covered wagons. The party arrived back in Jacksonville on July 4, 1976.

Dora Scheidecker began planning the Jacksonville Museum Quilters' next history related quilt in 1985. Each year the group made a new quilt to feature at their yearly show. Working with artist Evelyn Williams and using albums compiled by Mrs. McUne, this quilt was created. You are invited to the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Library at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 26 to learn more about this hand quilted wall hanging with detailed applique images and delicate embroidery that depicts the story of the 1976 covered wagon trip.

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.



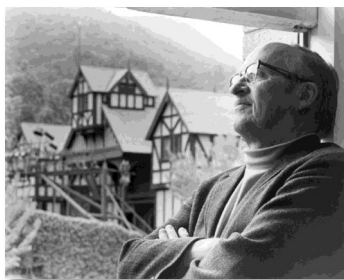
LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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.

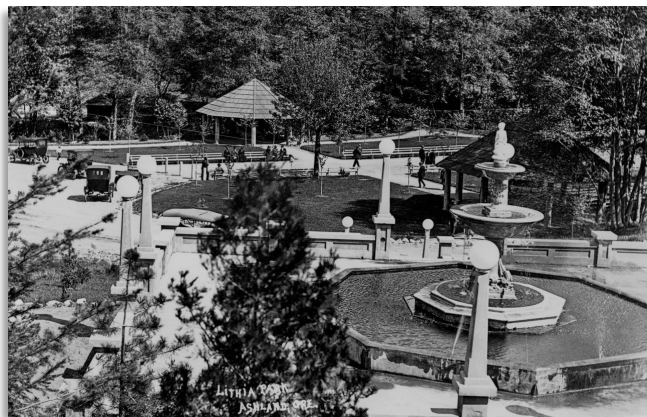
Jacksonville History Center



Windows in Time: Ashland’s Lithia Park Fountain: 500 years of History

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

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



With little-known stories and 40 images, Ashland historian Peter Finkle will share the incredible backstory of Ashland's 1916 Butler-Perozzi Fountain in Lithia Park. Join us to discover how our humble Lithia Park fountain's tale includes European royalty, a 500-year-old Palazzo in Florence, Italy, an early 1900s Ashland creamery and much more.

Peter Finkle shares Ashland secrets even locals don’t know about the city’s history, art, and neighborhoods through walking tours, community talks and the [WalkAshland.com](#) website. An Ashland resident since 1991, Peter writes for [Ashland.news](#) and other publications.

Step Behind the Counter
of the **Oldest Bank**
in the **Pacific Northwest!**
and a museum since 1915!

1863 C.C. Beekman Bank
110 W. California Street, Jacksonville, OR



Saturdays & Sundays
May 24 through August 31
11 am — 3 pm
Over \$40 million in gold crossed its counters in the 1800s (equal to \$1 billion+ today)!

FREE
Donations Welcomed!

STEP BEHIND THE COUNTER OF THE OLDEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST!

You are invited to “Step Behind the Counter” of the oldest financial institution in the Pacific Northwest—Jacksonville’s 1863 Beekman Bank Museum—when Historic Jacksonville, Inc. opens the museum for summer tours. Established as a “gold dust” office in 1856, it was the first “bank” north of San Francisco.

Scheduled 2025 “banking hours” are **11 am to 3 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, from May 24 through August 31**. The Beekman Bank Museum is located at 110 W. California Street (the corner of California and North 3rd streets) in Jacksonville. Guests can interact with costumed docents sharing stories of late 19th Century banking practices, gold shipping, and handshake deals; step behind the counter and peer in drawers containing old checks, stage schedules, and paperwork; and enter the vault that stored millions in gold!

Visitors can spend as much or as little time as they like—although we suggest they allow at least 30 minutes. Tours are **FREE**, but donations are encouraged since all monies go towards the preservation and maintenance of this historic legacy!

The original bank was established in 1856 as a “gold dust” office. (If we’re factual, it was a safe.) Cornelius Beekman had come to Jacksonville in 1854 as an express rider between Yreka and Jacksonville carrying newspaper, mail, parcels, and gold over the Siskiyou.

When his employer's firm failed, he established Jacksonville's Beekman's Express and his gold dust office. In 1863 he became Jacksonville's Wells Fargo agent and constructed the Beekman Bank.

During Jacksonville's heyday as the governmental, commercial, and social hub of Southern Oregon in the late 1800s, the Beekman's Bank saw over \$40 million in gold cross its counters—equivalent to over \$1 billion today! The current 1863 structure is the only commercial wooden building on California Street to survive Jacksonville's many fires. It has been preserved intact as a museum since Cornelius Beekman, the wealthiest and most prominent of Jacksonville's pioneers, locked the doors in 1915.

Additional information is available at 541-245-3650; info@historicjacksonville.org; and www.historicjacksonville.org/behind-the-counter/.

REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES



The **GFO website** contains updated information on special interest groups and a calendar of events and classes. All classes are available via Zoom sessions.

German American Society of Portland & Genealogical Forum of Oregon present

Researching Your German Roots

Seminar August 16, 2025 at 10:30am
with Katherine Schober, founder of Germanology Unlocked

...plus meet Katherine on August 15 during Stammtisch, the monthly Happy Hour for German American Society of Portland

Visit gfo.org/seminar to learn more

Their Fall Seminar is **November 8, 9 AM – 3:15 PM, From Indian Wars to Texas: Military and Other Federal Records**, Michael L Strauss, AG. More information is available at: gfo.org/seminar.

FROM THE INDIAN WARS TO TAXES

MILITARY AND OTHER FEDERAL RECORDS

GFO FALL SEMINAR
Saturday, November 8, 2025

featuring Michael L. Strauss, AG

Membership Bundle Available
More info at gfo.org/seminar

9 - 10:15 AM PT Fighting on the Frontier: Researching the Indian Wars	1 - 2 PM PT Enemy Aliens: Registering Our Immigrant Forebears
10:30 - 11:30 AM PT That Splendid Little War: Researching the Spanish-American War	2 - 3 PM PT Federal Taxes and the Genealogical Records They Created

GFO members - \$40 through October 11 • \$55 thereafter
Nonmembers - \$55 through October 11 • \$70 thereafter

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon's next program: Using Social Media for Genealogical Research



This program will introduce family researchers to many helpful genealogical resources available on social media platforms and how to use these tools safely. The presentation includes examples of best practices for using social media in genealogical records research, how to find long-lost family members, and the benefits of location-focused research groups. Robin will also discuss case studies from two Facebook groups she co-administers: **Tracing the Tribe: Jewish Genealogy on Facebook**, and **Jewish Community of the 15th Ward, Syracuse New York**.



An attorney and genealogist, speaker Robin Meltzer assists families in obtaining legal records, discovering nontraditional information sources, and interpreting documentary evidence. She is an administrator of Tracing the Tribe: Jewish Genealogy on Facebook; cofounder of the Jewish Community of the 15th Ward, Syracuse, New York, Facebook group; associate producer of the documentary films "Stories from the Syracuse Jewish Community" and "People and Places of the Syracuse Jewish Community"; and a former vice president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. She lectures internationally on topics in Jewish genealogy and research methods and has appeared on the cable television program "Tracing Your Family Roots." Robin has written articles on Jewish genealogy and local history for several publications, including *Avotaynu*, *Mishpacha*, *The Galitzianer*, and the *Jewish Observer of Central New York*.

Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/registhttps%20er/tZMLc-6ggz0sEtb02ZzcyAC6nnRu8xFj2qQe>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation message with information about how to join the meeting. All our Zoom presentations feature closed captioning.

Upcoming programs are listed on our Events page: <https://jgsoregon.wixsite.com/home/events>

SOCIETY NEWS

New and Returning Members

New members: Madelon Cahill, Marilyn McGuire, Sheri Lingenfelter, Juanita Fagan, Cindy Peer, Heather Carter, Janie M. Burcart, Martha Kelly, and Vicki Snitzler.

Returning members: Alex Zaremska, Sheila and Dave McGinnis, and Carolyn Standfield.



2025 Salt Lake Research Trip - a Success!

Allene Aubertin from the Southern California Genealogical Society joined RVGS members Ann and Ron Baracker, Cindi Hobson, Janet Read, Loretta Barker, Anne Billeter, and Marilyn and Al Ayres for a focused research week at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. We explored all five floors of the library, locating records only available onsite. The staff's expert guidance and new tools like the AI-driven Full Text Search were especially helpful—Ann used it to untangle her many Mary Luckey's! Ron enjoyed a distraction-free research week, and Anne Billeter traced her ancestors in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley—discovering both a book-sized and full-sized 1885 county map that brought her family's home area to life. Allene reconnected with local research friends, and successfully found information for her fellow society members, even connecting one with a Japanese research specialist.



Evenings were spent doing more research, organizing finds, planning next steps, and enjoying downtown SLC. Highlights included music and dinner at Lake Effects,

small plates and quiet atmosphere at Eva, a Tabernacle Choir rehearsal for Loretta and Cindi, and even a ski day at Solitude for Ron.

Missed it? Join Allene's Southern California Genealogy Society trip, August 24–30, 2025. Contact her at researchingfamilies@earthlink.net for details. She would love to have you join her group for researching. We hope to see you on the 2026 RVGS trip—start planning now!



A Thank You Received

Recently we received a thank you card addressed to "RVGS Library":

"...with sincere appreciation...for Pat's recent assistance in providing information on my grandparents, Henry and Eula Huff (nee Delay). That information will allow our family to move forward with laying Grandma and Grandpa's remaining son Lewane to rest in the family plot. We appreciate not only the information received, but also the very kind and timely manner in which Pat provided it.

With respect and gratitude to all of you at the Library for this most valuable service that you offer...Eula Palmer."

We have three librarians named Pat! A little detective work revealed that it was Pat Pfremmer who fielded the urgent phone call from Eula. The funeral card for Lewane was going to the printer the day Eula called, so she needed the information ASAP. Pat was able to provide the needed information quickly...and Eula sent a donation with her thank you.

This is just one of countless examples of RVGS librarians stepping forward to help! Providing answers and research suggestions, informally teaching about a subscription website or a book in the RVGS library, our librarians are making a difference, one question (well sometimes more than one) at a time!

Thank you to ALL of our librarians and kudos to Pat Pfremmer for finding the needed information so quickly.

JUNE BOTTLEDROP BLUE BAG RECYCLE PROGRAM UPDATE



For the month of April, RVGS BottleDrop Deposits totaled \$207.96 and for the year to date, through April 30, we have collected \$522.82. Thank you to all of you who have participated in collecting recyclable bottles and cans.

Earth Week Give 2025

The Earth Week give program ran from April 15 through April 25; during this 10-day period, we collected \$201.19!! And RVGS will receive an additional 20% bonus of \$42.66 from the Oregon State BottleDrop during this special event.

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.

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** 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.



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
4th Wednesdays, 9:45 AM – 1:00 PM
1st and 3rd 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

Comprehensive Additions to the Library



57 new titles, including 3 sets of microfiche, were added to the RVGS Library collection in May. They range from *Water Rights in Oregon* (979.5 G165 OWR) to *Art of Heraldry: an Encyclopedia of Armory* (Circ 929.6 Fox), and from 13 family histories (929.2

surname) to books about 14 states and 4 foreign countries. Perhaps the most intriguing is the addition of new books about Paleography (also known as Handwriting) to help us as we try to decipher the handwriting in old records (and more recent ones, too). As RVGS launches a transcription project in anticipation of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America in 2026, the Book Committee was delighted to discover two new books to purchase...and the catalogers were pleased to place them in 417 with several books already in our collection. [Click here for the complete list of new titles.](#)

MEMBER SHARING



I Need YOU To Help Tell My Story

For the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America (which occurs next year) RVGS is joining the Citizen Archivist Mission of The National Parks Service and the National Archives to help transcribe Revolutionary war records! And we can do this from Medford. We're calling it the **Transcription Mission** and we're inviting you to join us to help transcribe these records and uncover new stories. Just think, you could be the first person in over 200 years to learn some of these soldiers' stories! It's a solemn honor to participate in helping to get these records digitized. We plan to begin in September, and to meet each month as our Special Interest Groups do. These will be working meetings with workshops to help get you started and to make this collaborative and interesting. You can transcribe as little or as much as you like, and we hope to share stories with each other as they are uncovered.

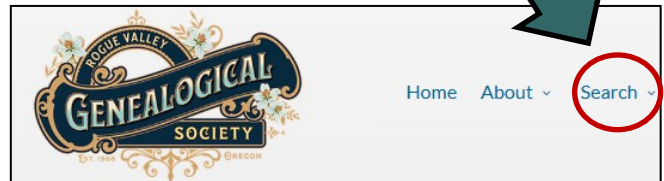
We'll post times and dates in upcoming eNews editions.

Kathie Ordal, RVGS Education Committee

transcribe@rvgslibrary.org

"Search" on the RVGS website

By Anne Billeter



Search? Search what? On the RVGS website one of the major tabs is labeled "Search." WHAT does it search? The MANY indexes of Jackson and some Josephine County sources that have information about people who lived in Jackson and Josephine counties. This includes **indexes** to obituaries, death certificates, marriage records, newspaper and other periodical notices of births, marriages, and deaths, school records, church records, cemetery records, and local history books. Many, but not all, of the index entries lead to actual images, some of transcriptions, some of the originals. Some are in books in the RVGS Library. Some are in digital format, which the librarians can access on their computers. Some lead you to the courthouse. The cemetery entries provide all of the available information, including many (not all) photographs of gravestones in local cemeteries. Many RVGS members do not have ancestors who lived here, but may become interested in the original owner of the land they now live on, or in someone important to local history. Is there an intriguing local road name? Who was Roxy Ann?

"Search" may lead you to answers!

New Periodicals on the Shelf

NGS Magazine, National Genealogical Society

Circ 929.05 NGSM v.51(2) April-June 2025

The American Revolution: Forgotten resources (and where they are); Papers of the Continental Congress as a genealogical resource; Prisoners of war; Oaths of Allegiance; the Sons of the American Revolution research library (Louisville KY), and other repositories for Kentucky roots. Ohio's



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Surplus Sale Books for June 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

- *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, second edition by John Grenham, 2000. \$7.00
- *They Settled in Applegate Country, Frontier Days Along the Lower Applegate River in Southern Oregon* by Olga Weydemeyer Johnson, 1978. \$17.00
- *Masonry Comes to Southern Oregon, From 1855 to 1877, Early History of Warren Lodge No. 10* by Henry Halvorsen, 1978. \$36.00
- *A History of Eagle Point and Surrounding Communities Vol II* by Gaynell Krambeal, 1998. \$19.00
- *Welborn Beeson on the Oregon Trail in 1853* edited by Bert Webber, 1986. \$3.00
- *The Oregon & Overland Trail Diary of Mary Louisa Black* comments by Marguerite Black & Bert Webber, 1989. \$4.00
- *Aviation in Southern Oregon (Images of Aviation)* by Bill Alley, 2011. \$6.00
- *The Mythical State of Jefferson: A Pictorial History of Early Northern California and Southern Oregon* by Jack Sutton, 1965. \$10.00
- *The Oregon & California Trail (Diary of Jane Gould in 1862)* by Jane Gould & Bert Webber, 1987. \$3.00
- *The Oregon Trail: Diary of Rev. Edward Evans Parrish in 1844* by Rev. Edward Evans Parrish & Bert Webber, 1988. \$3.00
- *The Oregon Trail Diary of Twin Sisters Cecilia Adams and Parthenia Blank in 1852: The Unabridged Diary* by Cecilia Adams, Parthenia Blank, & Bert Webber, 1992. \$3.00
- *The Siskiyou Pioneer in Folklore, Fact and Fiction. Volume 4, Number 8, 1975: Hilt Issue* by Siskiyou County Historical Society, 1975. \$22.00
- *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* by A. C. Fox-Davies, 1978. \$15.00
- *Index of Personal Names in J. H. French's Gazetteer of the State of New York (1860)* by Frank Place, 1983. \$7.00
- *A History of the Indiana Historical Society, 1830-1980* by Lana Ruegamer, 1980. \$4.00
- *Minnesota Territorial Census 1850* by Russell W Fridley and June Drenning Holmquist, 1972. \$9.00
- *The Deal Family of Hornbrook, California, Five Generations of Descendants from George Deal and Elizabeth Roxford Since He Came to California in 1851* compiled by Joy Deal Lehmann, 1984. \$5.00
- *Genealogist's Google Toolbox 2nd edition* by Lisa Louise Cooke, 2015. \$4.00
- *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* by U.S. Bureau of the Census, c. 1908, rep. 1966. \$8.00
- *Maine 1850 Census Index* edited by Ronald Vern Jackson and Gary Ronald Teeple, 1978. \$26.00
- *New Hampshire 1850 Index Census* by Ronald Vern Jackson, 1978. \$75.00
- *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: New Hampshire* by U.S. Bureau of the Census, c. 1907, rep. 1966. \$9.00

**Rogue Valley
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Membership is available to all interested persons.

Membership privileges include:

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- Free access to subscription websites
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Visit our website at

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The RVGS eNews

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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
- AI in Genealogy
- British
- DNA Advanced
- 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