



Volume 11 | Issue 3 | Mar 2026

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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

## A YEAR OF CONNECTION, DISCOVERY AND GROWTH



As we move into the third month of the new year, I hope your genealogical resolutions are still going strong! This year, one of my biggest goals is to connect with younger individuals who are curious about their family history and ready to discover where they come from.

This month, RVGS is partnering with the Medford Library to host our **Genealogical Roadshow**. This exciting event offers community members brief but meaningful glimpses into their family history, while giving our volunteers the opportunity to showcase their research skills and passion for genealogy. Whether it's uncovering a military record, locating an immigration document, or identifying a long-forgotten ancestor in a census, these small discoveries can spark lifelong interest.

This is more than just an event — it's an opportunity to grow our membership, mentor the next generation of researchers, and share the joy that keeps us all digging deeper.

My second goal this year is to continue expanding our **Pioneer Files collection**. The committee has worked diligently to develop clear procedures to ensure consistency and quality across the files — and now we're ready to build! Even if you don't have a pioneer ancestor of your own, you can still make a lasting contribution by helping research and develop files for others who helped shape the Rogue Valley.

Personally, I am currently researching pioneer Hugo Von der Hellen, who arrived in the Rogue Valley in the late 1880s and quickly made his mark on the region. He opened a post office in Wellen and went on to serve in both the Oregon State House



of Representatives and the State Senate — all after an extensive career in Germany and India. His story is just one example of the remarkable individuals waiting to be rediscovered in our Pioneer Files.

These files are filled with compelling, sometimes surprising, stories that deserve to be preserved and shared. If you're looking for a meaningful way to contribute this year, I encourage you to join us — attend the Roadshow, volunteer, research a pioneer, and help us continue building a collection that honors our own history and that of our community.

Let's make this a year of connection, discovery, and growth for RVGS!

Meghan Thompson  
Vice President Rogue Valley Genealogical Society

## New and Returning Members

**New Members:** Cecilia Leno, Victoria Peterson and John Lovegrove, Karen Green, Jan Quisenberry, Glen Wingate, Doreen Goslin-Walton, Kristin Clemens, Bonnie White, Danielle Fournier, Laura Gould, and Eileen McLellan.



**Returning Members:** Renee Health, Sharon Hamby, Susan Moulder, and Carol Rugg.

## 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.

JOIN US!

## Registration Now Open!

**Monday, March 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](http://rvgslibrary.org) > [Membership](#) > [Member Resources](#). Cost: Free to all.

**Tuesday, March 10, 2:30 - 4:00 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, March 11, 10:30 AM - Noon, Genetic Genealogy Interest Group**

Sue Acuff facilitates this interest group for everyone interested in genetic genealogy. Each month will focus on a different topic. This month the topic will be "Investigating Ancestry DNA's standard and custom clusters." Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



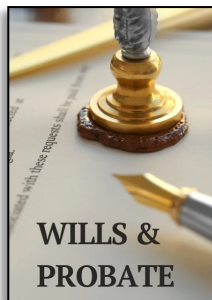
**Thursday, March 12, 10:30 AM-Noon, Class: Genealogy 101 – Anatomy of a Death Certificate and Probate Records**

Death Certificates and Probate Records can be valuable research documents; however, the evidence they provide is not always accurate. Also, a continuation of probate record research. Whether you are new to research or looking for a fresh start, in this class Barbara Northrop will assist you in getting off on the right foot.



In Person at the library only. Cost: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members.

**Thursday, March 12, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Class: Genealogy 101 – Anatomy of a Death Certificate and Probate Records**



Death Certificates and Probate Records can be valuable research documents; however, the evidence they provide is not always accurate. Also, a continuation of probate record research. Whether you are new to research or looking for a fresh start, in this class Barbara Northrop will assist you in getting off on the right foot.

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

**Monday, March 16, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Transcription Mission Work Group Interest Group**

Help celebrate America's 250th anniversary of Independence in 2026 by joining the citizen archivist mission. We are transcribing Revolutionary War pension files for the NARA/NPS citizen archivist mission. Learn how to join this effort. Tell us who you're transcribing. Let us know your transcription problems and solutions. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



**Tuesday, March 17, 1:30-3:00 PM, Program and Member Meeting, "Never Give Up"**



Pat Pfremmer, a former law librarian, now a private investigator and Genealogy Library volunteer, will share stories of seemingly impossible research tasks that were solved with patience, creative thinking, and dogged determination.

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

**Wednesday, March 18, 10:30 AM-Noon, Class: Writing Research Reports for Yourself**

In the first of a two-part series, Genealogist Barbara Northrop will share why writing a research report for yourself will help you analyze and organize your research, while writing short vignettes to identify small details that may prove valuable. Using a



report template each time ensures consistency and helps prompt further research. This class includes a discussion of how AI technology benefits/hinders the research process. This class will be recorded and the video will be available for 30 days to all who registered for the class by noon March 17.

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

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



This is a chance to get together with others who share your same common interest. We will start with a focus and see where it goes from there. Have a brick wall? Share it so we can brainstorm.

Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.

**Thursday, March 19, 10:30 AM-Noon, Class: Research Logs: The Key to Organizing Your Family History**

This is the second in a two-part series. Research logs are key in tracking negative and positive searches so you can make

Research log		FamilyTree		
Ancestor to be researched: _____				
Research goal: _____				
Research date:	Name of archive or website:	Details of records searched: (eg collection name, book title etc)	Search details: (Remember to include search terms and details of negative results as well as your successful searches)	Source citations: (eg archive reference numbers, book page numbers etc)

progress in your research. Learn from professional genealogist Diana Elder about various types of logs, then follow a case study showing how the research log was key in solving the problem. (This class is part of our intermediate level Genealogy 201 series). This will be recorded and the video will be available for viewing for 30 days to all who registered for the class by noon March 18. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members.

**Tuesday, March 24, 11:00 AM – Noon, German Interest Group**

The emphasis on this group 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.

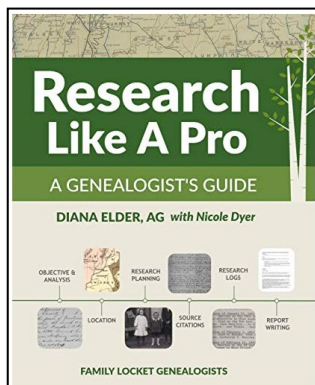
## Research Skills learning series

Coming up in March, we have a special two-day Research Skills learning series. Whether or not you plan to join the Salt Lake City Research trip, you won't want to miss this opportunity to sharpen your research skills.

On March 18 our own Barbara Northrop, Certified Genealogist, will offer a class on "Using Research Reports in your own Genealogical Research. Writing Research Reports for Yourself" The following day, March 19, Professional Genealogist Diana Elder will be coming to us via zoom to teach "Research Logs: The Key to Organizing Your Family History."

In a nutshell, Research Logs help you keep track of where you have looked while Research Reports help you remember what you have learned. For further information you may want to check out Diana Elder's book, *Research Like a Pro*. The RVGS Genealogy Library has two circulating copies available. (Circ 929.1 Eld)

Each class will be from 10:30 to 12:00 and will be available on zoom or in the library. The classes will be recorded if you cannot be there at the specified time. You will need to register for each class individually. Cost for each is \$10.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members.



## RVGS Coaching Program is ready to help you!



RVGS is excited to offer our RVGS **Coaching Program**, connecting members with experienced **Research Coaches** who can help tackle challenging genealogy questions.

During a one-hour session at the library, you and your coach will review your research problem, discuss what you've tried, and plan effective next steps using proven research

methods.

To request help, complete a **Research Coach Request Form** on our website under [RVGSlibrary.org](http://RVGSlibrary.org) > Library>RVGS Coaching Program. The form is on the members only section, so you will need to log in first. We'll match you with the right coach for your question.



## Help Wanted: One Fun Project. Big Anniversary Impact!

RVGS is celebrating **60 years**—and the **250th Anniversary of American Independence**—with a special **photo contest**, and we're looking for a few volunteers to help make it happen!

This is a **short-term, creative project**, perfect if you enjoy collaboration, photos, and being part of a milestone celebration. The small Photo Contest Committee will:

- Coordinate contest details and deadlines
- Help publicize the contest
- Judge entries

Wrap things up with a library display and e-News winner spotlight

That's it—**one project, start to finish**, with a fun result everyone gets to enjoy.

Interested? Email [volunteer@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@rvgslibrary.org) and help us get this celebration rolling!

## QUILT IN THE NICHE: OREGON TRAIL 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY QUILT

Dimensions 43 inches X 51 inches  
Pattern Drawings by Evelyn Byrne Williams  
Appliqued and Quilted by Dora Scheidecker  
Completed 1992

This quilt was designed and made to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in Oregon of the wagons and people in the Great Migration of 1843. It was the idea of quilt maker Dora Scheidecker with the talent of artist Evelyn Bryne Williams that takes us back to view our ancestor's travels to seek a new life. The quilt exhibits the detailed appliqué work and the expert use of embroidery thread.



The center medallion shows us the trail of over 2000 miles they traveled with their families and few possessions from Independence, Missouri, west through plains, mountains, and rivers to the unknowns of Oregon.

On display at Rogue Valley Genealogical Library, 3405 South Pacific Hwy, Medford, Oregon 97501 during the month of March 2026.

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### Windows in Time: Siskiyou County's Stone Carving Russell Family

Wednesday, March 4, Noon - 1:00 PM **Medford Library:**  
**In Person Only**

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



Oregon's Russell family is well-known for their headstone monument carving business. Less well-known is the side of their family that lived in Siskiyou County, who were also locally prominent stone carvers. This presentation will delve into the Russell family connections and stories, early days in Siskiyou County, the stone carving business, and the stone arch created for San Francisco's 1915 Panama-Pacific International Expedition, a celebration of the completion of the Panama Canal and San Francisco's recovery from the 1906 earthquake and fires. The 110-year-old arch was recently restored in downtown Yreka.

Mike Grifantini is a retired wildlife biologist who worked with many rare and endangered species during his career. His ancestors include Germans who participated in the Gold Rush and Italians who departed their land during the leadup to the First World War. He enjoys history, especially local history, and that interest turned into a hobby. For the past 20 years he has given tours of the greater Redding and Siskiyou County areas. He enjoys dressing up in his 1880s costumes to get tour-goers into an historical mood!

**Windows in Time: Jacksonville Artist Regina Dorland**  
Wednesday, April 1, Noon - 1:00 PM **Medford Library:** **In Person Only**

Wednesday, April 8, Noon - 1:00 PM **Ashland Library:**  
Gresham Room



Local historian Sue Waldron was introduced to Jacksonville artist Regina Dorland Robinson in 1986 when she began working in the Exhibits Department of the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS). In 2009, SOHS decided to produce the book "*Lasting Impression*" that featured many Dorland paintings. Sue spent several years collecting

more details about the tragic young artist's life. Join us to learn new information Sue Waldron found about Dorland, images of formerly unknown paintings and some information about Dorland's friend and mentor Stella Johnson and Dorland's husband, Charles Pearson.

## Historic Jacksonville



An old song notes “What a difference a day makes!” Well, think about what a difference 126 years can make! We would appreciate your inviting your guests to step back in time with Historic Jacksonville, Inc. for a “retro” tour of life in 1900 Jacksonville when we open the historic Beekman House Museum for “Daily Life Then and Now: 1900 vs. 2026” tours.

Tour guests will be asked to compare their lives today to how their grandparents or great grandparents lived, imagining life without telephones, computers, TV, radio, automobiles, and much more – things we take for granted like HVAC, running water, and...bathrooms! Forty-five-minute guided tours will begin every 20 minutes between 12 noon and 3 PM on Saturdays March 21, April 18, and May 16 at the 1870s C.C. Beekman House, located at 470 E. California Street in Jacksonville, Oregon. Tour admission is \$8 (cash or check at the door). For more information either email: [info@historicjacksonville.org](mailto:info@historicjacksonville.org) or visit our website at: <https://www.historicjacksonville.org>.

## REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES



### Genealogical Forum of Oregon March 15-21, GFO Open House 2025

- Join us for 20 free classes!
- The research room will be open every day.
- Library tours are on Sunday, Monday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons.

Beginning research help -- five sessions available every day (with no fee) for individual help from our research assistants in the library. Sign up at the reception desk or request a session at [info@gfo.org](mailto:info@gfo.org). Most presentations are online via Zoom. All are free

during Open House. Pre-registration is required -- follow the "register now" link.

All Open House events are free - a great chance to see what GFO is all about! <https://gfo.org/learn/open-house-2026-pre.html>

The **GFO website** (<https://gfo.org>) contains updated information on Special Interest Groups and a calendar of events and classes. Most classes are available via Zoom sessions.

## San Angelo Genealogy and Historical Society 2025-2026 Speaker Series



### Tuesday, March 3, 5:00 PM, Topic: Researching at the West Texas Collection

This program will introduce you to what is available to researchers at the West Texas Collection (WTC) both physically and virtually. Articles held by the WTC include personal, business, and political correspondence, journals, diaries, photos, maps,

and legal documents pertaining to West Texas history and culture. To register visit: **Meeting Registration - Zoom** (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81221222222>)

## March 5-7, Rootstech 2026

The RootsTech team is growing in excitement as we count down to FamilySearch's pinnacle family discovery event—RootsTech 2026. Every year, RootsTech has new and improved content and experiences for its attendees, and this year is no different.



RootsTech attendees will be buzzing as the much-anticipated session schedule has been released, which will allow attendees to customize their RootsTech experience with a schedule perfectly suited for their needs. With attendees having the choice of joining in person in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, or joining online from

wherever they are, there's something for everyone to discover and enjoy!

**Schedule link: [RootsTech](https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/schedule?day=2026-03-04)** (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/schedule?day=2026-03-04>)

## SOCIETY NEWS



### 2026 RVGS RESEARCH TRIP TO THE SALT LAKE CITY FAMILYSEARCH LIBRARY SUNDAY, APRIL 12 TO SUNDAY APRIL 19

#### HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATION?

Your 2026 FamilySearch Library Research Trip is just around the corner. It all starts April 12. It's time to get that reservation set!

Are you going to join the RVGS group and finally be able to see documents you didn't even know existed? I am going to be able to view my great uncle's death certificate. It is only available on site in the Salt Lake City FamilySearch Library. I'll finally know if the family lore matches the coroner's report. I also will be viewing their collection of "German Immigrants in American Church Records". Even though RVGS has 6 of Roger Minert's volumes, the FamilySearch Library has the entire 46-volume set.

Take Advantage of the Family Search Library's Professional Staff.

- The expert staff will show you how to get the most out of your research time.
- They will guide you while using the library's



revolutionary AI research tool—a breakthrough that helps locate hard-to-find ancestral records faster and more extensively than ever.

- They will show you books and documents that might solve your most perplexing brick walls.

They can even help you translate that Old World handwriting.

New Comfortable & Convenient Hotel: The Crystal Inn. RVGS still has a few discounted rooms at the Crystal Inn, a comfortable, full-service hotel, only a mile from the FamilySearch Library.

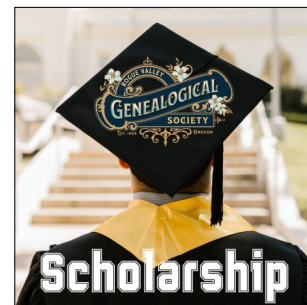
While there you should make use of their exceptional amenities:

- Free 24-hour shuttle to the library, restaurants, shops, and even the airport
- Complimentary complete hot breakfast buffet
- Pool and hot tub for relaxing after research

Rooms are just \$129 per night when you call 801-328-4466 and mention RVGS, or contact the RVGS group coordinator Jessy Balladares directly at 801-533-6221. Rooms are limited and guaranteed only until March 12, 2026, or until filled. Free cancellation is available.

Questions or Interested in Joining our Trip?

Email Ann Baracker at [annbaracker@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:annbaracker@rvgslibrary.org) to be added to the RVGS group roster or to learn more.



## Scholarship News

The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society is again offering a \$2,000 scholarship to a high school graduating senior who lives in and attends a high school in Jackson County, Oregon. Homeschooled students may also apply. The award is for a student who will attend an accredited college or university within the state of Oregon.

This is the eleventh year of our scholarship program. Past awards have gone to students who attended Rogue Community College, the University of Oregon, Southern Oregon University, Oregon State University, Pacific University, and Oregon Institute of Technology.

The scholarship application and guidelines for students were posted on our RVGS website beginning in early

November. We also sent copies of the application and guidelines to the counselors' offices at the local public and private high schools. The deadline for students to return their applications, together with all the required supporting documentation, is Saturday, **March 7, 2026, before 4:00 PM**, to the society's Rogue Valley Genealogical Library, 3405 S. Pacific Highway, Medford, OR 97504. The selected awardee will then be notified in writing by April 18, 2026. That student will be invited to a future membership meeting so that our members will have a chance to meet and congratulate them.

Please help us get the word out. If you have a student, or know a friend, relative, or neighbor who has a senior this year, make sure to let them know that this scholarship is available. No major field of study is required. Past applicants and awardees were interested in such diverse fields as optometry, nursing, social science, education, history, languages, medicine, computer science, business, counseling, physical therapy, biology, chemistry, and engineering. Our scholarship committee thanks you for your interest and your support in this scholarship which was started to celebrate the 50th year anniversary of our society. If you have any questions, contact Valerie Sanders, committee chairman, by calling the library. Phone: 541- 512-2340.



## March 1 BottleDrop Blue Bag Recycle Program Update

We're starting a new year for Bottle Drop collections after a very successful 2025 collection year. We're very hopeful that for the coming year, we can look forward to additional members of RVGS saving recycling bottles and cans and depositing collections with our recycle bags (blue bags with RVGS stickers attached) available in the foyer of the library at the front entrance. For the month of January, 2026, RVGS BottleDrop Collections totaled **\$122.50**.

Thank You to all who participated and continued to donate bags for RVGS during the past year. Our collection bags are located inside the front door double doors just to the right of the entry way.

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 cent recyclable (cans, glass, and plastic) bottles and support your Rogue Valley Genealogical Society.

**It's so Easy! And Thank you for supporting RVGS!**



Where Shopping & Giving Unite

## Fred Meyer Community Rewards

RVGS is a member of the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. If you are a Fred Meyer shopper and have an Account with them, you can **EASILY link your Account** (your Fred Meyer Shoppers Card) to RVGS so that all purchase transactions apply toward a donation to RVGS.

First, make sure you have an Account created with Fred Meyer. If you don't, visit [www.fredmeyer.com](http://www.fredmeyer.com) and sign up in "My Account".

Second, once you have a Digital Account, you can link your Shoppers Card to our Community Rewards account so that all transactions apply toward RVGS, Organization Number PC623. Select the appropriate number from the list and SAVE! RVGS will then display in the Community Rewards section of your account.

RVGS will then benefit from your spending at Fred Meyer, and any transactions with your account will be applied to the program, **at no additional cost to you**. Fred Meyer donates annually to participating organizations in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program.

If you're a Fred Meyer customer, get started today and help RVGS receive donations at no additional cost to you!



## BECOME AN RVGS VOLUNTEER — YOUR SKILLS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

RVGS is proud to be **68 volunteers strong**, but our growing programs and member needs mean we're ready to welcome **new volunteers** who want to make a meaningful impact on the genealogy community. Whether you only have a few hours a month or are available for a regular schedule, there's a role that fits your interests and talents:

### Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Librarians
- Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator
- Research Coaches
- Zoom Host Scheduling Coordinator
- Zoom Hosts & Co-Hosts
- Genies
- Education Committee Members
- Ashland Chamber of Commerce Greeters / RVGS Representative
- Finance Director
- *Rogue Digger* article writers
- *e-News* article writers
- Quilt Committee members
- Scholarship Committee members
- Transcription Mission Members

If one of these roles sparks your interest—or you'd simply like to learn more—Read more details on our website

**Volunteers Needed** [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) > **Support Us** >

**Volunteers Needed**. If you are ready to jump right in, complete our volunteer application: **Volunteer**

**Application** [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) > **Support Us** > **Volunteer**

**Application**. We want to match your skills, curiosity, and passion with opportunities that help RVGS thrive.



## RESEARCH COACHES NEEDED!



RVGS is all about helping our members become better family historians. Our Research Coaching Program is up and getting lots of

coaching requests. We need more coaches though!

Right now, we have limited assistance available because of our small Coaching volunteer numbers. I have heard members say they don't have the expertise to help. That isn't true. Your skills are valuable—and our members would love your help! Each of our members brings unique talents and approaches to genealogy research. We also have many resources, if you can't answer a specific question. There is always another member who can help you develop a research plan for your person requesting help.

Please join our Research Coaching Program. You will be supporting fellow member-researchers and might even gain fresh ideas for your own family tree. It's a win-win! To participate, just email [volunteer@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@rvgslibrary.org) with the areas you're comfortable helping with.

Members submit their research coach help request form online and are matched with an appropriate coach who agrees to spend up to one hour with that member. If you have a regular library schedule, feel free to use that time to meet in the library.

We need you and hope you'll join us in building this great resource!



## ZOOM HOSTS & CO-HOSTS WANTED

RVGS needs volunteers to help run our hybrid classes by hosting or co-hosting Zoom meetings. You'll learn how to set up the Zoom and Owl equipment, start the meeting, take attendance, and close things out. It's easy once you've done it a time or two!

You won't be on your own—new hosts are paired with experienced ones. With only 1–3 hybrid meetings a month, the time commitment is small. Class fee is waived for zoom hosts.

We provide training for new hosts and a refresher for anyone who wants a confidence boost.

### Interested?

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

Help us keep hybrid classes going and be part of RVGS's success!



## BECOME A GENIE - MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our RVGS Genie Program is going strong and helping our new members learn how useful their membership is. As some Genies have had to step back for a while, we need volunteers to help keep this vital program successful.

As a Genie, you'll be paired with a new or returning member. Your role? Offer a one-hour, one-on-one library orientation to help them feel welcomed and confident using our resources.

Training and support are always provided. Our Genies are assigned a new member about once every other month. It's a small-time commitment with a big impact.

Ready to help new members feel at home? Email [volunteer@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@rvgslibrary.org) to get started.

## RVGS LIBRARY NEWS

### MEMBER SHARING

Rootstech has an on-demand video library. This library has over 1500 videos covering 185 topics. If you missed some of the sessions from previous years or if you would like to brush up before the start this year, visit: [Search](#)

[the On-Demand Library.](#)



Rootstech also has several focus events throughout the year. If you are interested in DNA, April 25th they will celebrate "DNA Day" with several zoom lectures.

To see past webinars visit: [DNA Day.](#)

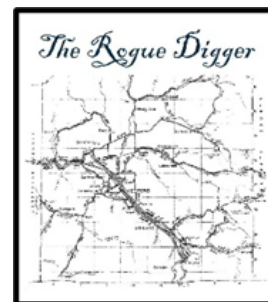
## Rogue Digger

Do you have a great family genealogy story to share?

Did your research lead you down a fascinating rabbit hole?

The *Rogue Digger* is seeking fresh, engaging articles for our next issue.

Email your article ideas or submissions to Meghan Thompson at [roguedigger@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:roguedigger@rvgslibrary.org).



Thanks, Meghan

## 61 Books and 2 Maps Added

From post offices to censuses, from passenger lists to handwriting, plus 7 family histories (Cuthbertson, Locke, Palmer, Prewitt, Stafford, Wood, and Wright) and books about 15 states and 4 countries, the books added to the library collection include something for every researcher. The maps are reprints: *Mittel-Ostliches Deutschland* [German East Central Provinces][1844] (Map Drawer #8 943.71 M168 Mit) and *South-West Russia showing the extent of the Kingdom of Poland* [1860] (Map Drawer #8 943.8 M168 Joh). [Click here for the complete list!](#)



## New Periodicals on the Shelf

### NGS Magazine, National Genealogical Society



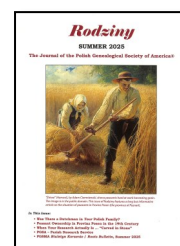
Circ 929.05 NGSM v.52(1) Jan-March 2026

Family history for everyone; Using the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) [including a way to limit by date]; Hoosier history at the Indiana Historical Society; Research resources for the Northwest Territory [you know, Ohio and Indiana, not the *Pacific Northwest*]; Whose lad was John Ladd? (using veterans' bounty land warrant application files); Tribal archives and other repositories for Native American research; Precision v. Recall (what will "Exact search" bring you?); Overview of genetic genealogy testing companies.

### Rodziny, Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America

Circ 943.8 P273 Rod v. 48(2 and 3), Spring and Summer 2025

SPRING – Feudal Kozuchów 1820 (with roster of house inhabitants); Celebrities with Polish roots; Sample German-partition land records; and Pogódki



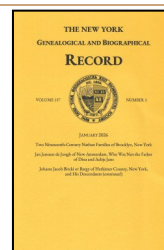
(village) from the Słownik Geograficzny.  
 SUMMER – Was there a Dutchman in your Polish family?;  
 Peasant ownership in Provinz Posen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; When  
 your research actually is “carved in stone!”; and  
 Gościejewo, Jakubowo and Ninino in Oborniki county  
 from the Słownik Geograficzny.

### American Ancestors

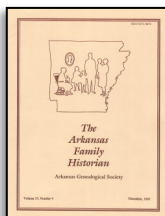


Circ 974 P273 AA v. 26(4) Winter 2026  
 New databases on AA (look especially at  
*R Stanton Avery Special Collections* :  
*Family registers and Bible records* – from  
 685 volumes, 63,000+ names); Mining  
 the treasures in newspapers; Using  
 newspapers to search for what slavery  
 had stolen; “Researching Mortimer” – how newspapers  
 brought a Vermont family scandal to light; The National  
 Desertion Bureau Card Catalog. 1911-1935 (records of  
 Jewish husbands who abandoned their families, database  
 of nearly 20,000 names online at [150yearsofcare.org/ndb-database](http://150yearsofcare.org/ndb-database));  
 Chronicling vital records in early America;  
 Digitally accessing newspapers state by state (if you ever  
 wanted the lay of the land about newspapers, here’s the  
 article for you.)

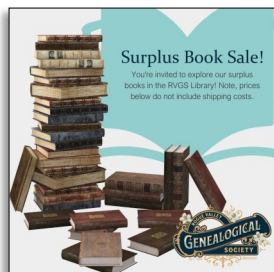
**New York Genealogical and Biographical Record**, NYG&B Society  
 Circ 974.7 G242 New v.157(1) January 2026  
 Two 19<sup>th</sup>-century Nathan families of  
 Brooklyn; Jan Janszen de Jongh of New  
 Amsterdam, who was not the father of Dina  
 and Aeltje Jans; Johann Jacob Bircki or  
 Bargy of Herkimer County, New York and his  
 descendants (cont.)



### Older journals added



Thanks to our friends at the Yakima Valley  
 Genealogical Society, we have added four  
 years (1994-1997) of **ARKANSAS FAMILY  
 HISTORIAN** published by the Arkansas  
 Genealogical Society. This quarterly  
 publication includes interesting articles  
 about individual families and towns, and  
 useful lists such as sheriffs, soldiers, and small cemeteries.  
 Best news of all is that each issue includes an exhaustive  
 index so you can quickly see if your ancestor is included.  
 This is a ‘pull up a chair and browse’ since the library holds  
 many issues from the 1970s on. (Circ 976.7 P273 AHF)



## Surplus Sale Books for March 2026

Price does not include shipping costs.

For more inventory, we also sell on [AbeBooks](http://www.abebooks.com) ([www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)).

Prices are based on 50% of the lowest price found online. If you find a lower price and  
 would like to make an offer, send a request to [booksales@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:booksales@rvgslibrary.org)

- *Early Pennsylvania Births, 1675-1875* by Charles A. Fisher, 1979. \$5.00
- *Early Pennsylvania Births, 1675-1875* by Charles A. Fisher, 1986. \$5.00
- *Venango County Records Volume I* compiled from the Quarterly Newsletters 1975-1984 by Venango County Genealogical Club (Pennsylvania), c.? \$5.00
- *Guide to County Records and Genealogical Resources in Tennessee* compiled by Richard Carlton Fulcher, 1987. \$6.00
- *Lineage Book National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists Volume 1* compiled by Ida Powell Jenkins and Ruby Haskins Ellis, 1929. \$10.00
- *Immigrants to America Appearing in English Records* by Frank Smith, 1976. \$4.00
- *The History of Ancient Windsor. Volume II: Genealogy and Biography; A facsimile of the 1892 edition* by Henry R. Stiles, 1976. \$75.00
- *Families of Early Milford, Connecticut* by Susan Woodruff Abbott, 1979. \$40.00
- *Ancestral Lines Revised: 190 families in England, Wales, Germany, New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania* by Carl Boyer, 1981. \$17.00
- *New England Historical Register, Index of Persons A-O, Volumes 1-50* by Josephine Elizabeth Rayne, Effie Louise Chapman and Theodora Kimball, 1989. \$30.00
- *The Cemetery Record Compendium* by John D and E. Diane Stemmons, 1979. \$4.00

**Rogue Valley  
Genealogical Society  
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**Vice Pres.:** Meghan Thompson  
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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.

**The RVGS eNews**

Editor: Pamela Olsen  
Submissions due 20th of Month to [enews@rvgslibrary.org](mailto: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 2:30 - 4:00 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.

**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.

**Let's Talk Genealogy**

Led by Rich Cunningham on the third Wednesday of every month, from 1:30 - 3:00 PM via zoom, this is a roundtable discussion. Each month starts with a focus topic and sees where the conversation goes from there. This is a place to share successes (and not-so-successes), stumbling blocks, brick walls, and genealogical experiences.

**Transcription Mission Work Group**

This group meets the third Monday of the month, 1:30 - 3 PM at the RVGS Library and by Zoom. We are transcribing Revolutionary War pension records for the NARA/NPS citizen archivist mission.

**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
- Pacific Northwest
- The Q Review
- RootsMagic
- Virginia Group
- The Writers' Room