



Volume 11 | Issue 6 | June 2026

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Classes & Events
- Coaching Program
- Join a SIG Today!
- Library News
- Local Opportunities
- Member Sharing
- Photo Contest
- Quilt in the Niche
- Remote Opportunities
- Society News
- Volunteer Opportunities
- AND MORE!

**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**

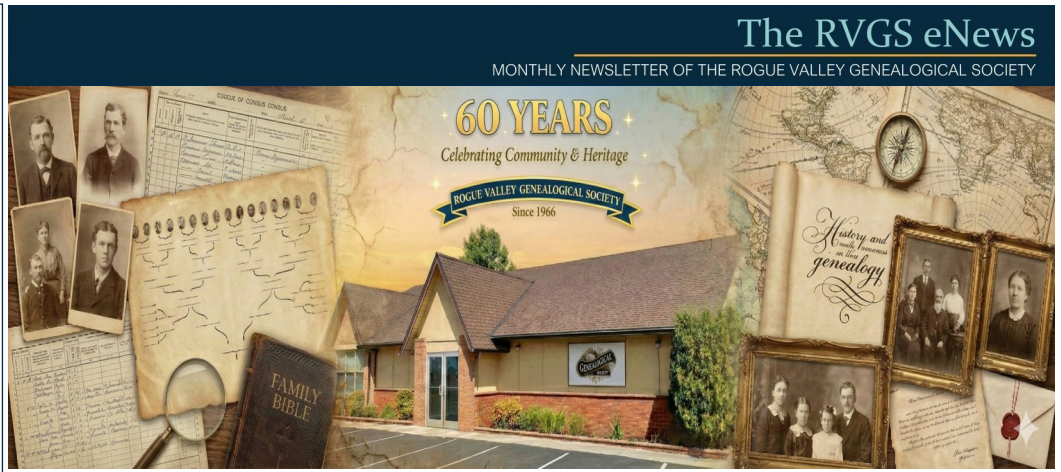
Rogue Valley  
Genealogical Society

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



**I have a story I would like to share with you.**



I grew up without my father. I always told my kids I grew up without knowing a father’s love, which is true, I had never known what it felt like to be wrapped up in a father’s arms and that feeling of protection it came with. I did have a stepfather, he was a good man, but he did not know how to be a father to a little girl of two. But as I grew older, we became closer and words of love were shared between us. I have two half-sisters and one half-brother from my mother’s second marriage. Throughout my childhood and adulthood, I knew my biological father by name only, James Harold White.

Every time I met someone with the last name White, I would ask if they knew a man named James Harold White, sadly the answer was always no. I would constantly ask my mother and my grandmother about my dad, but I would never get an answer, I was always told I had to wait till I got older. Finally, I was twenty-eight, living in LA when my mother came to visit and I asked again about my father. She stated that when I was six months old my father gave her two black eyes and was twisting my right arm when she got to the bedroom. She then called her mother, and we were taken away to Gold Beach, Oregon, to grandma’s sister’s house. But I continued to search for him.

On Christmas day 2024 my daughter and her husband bought me a DNA kit from Ancestry. My daughter and son would ask me if I had taken the test yet. I let them know I was hesitant. What if my dad had passed on? They stated, “what if he is still



alive, you won't know till you take the test." In May 2025 I took the test and sent it in. In August 2025 I was contacted by a cousin. After some back and forth conversation over a couple of months, since she was in school studying to be a nurse and not always available, she determined that she knew who my father was because it was her uncle, her mother's brother. I tentatively asked if he was still on this earth, she stated that he is, but he is in poor health. I asked if he would mind talking to me. We exchanged Facebook information and friended one another on Facebook.

The next day I got a long Facebook message from my dad about how he is the oldest of eleven. He shared his life story with me and told me that he had been looking for me for a long time, as well! I must tell you I was so overcome with emotions, emotions that I have been holding in for years, emotions of relief to know that my father is alive! Yes, many tears were shed on both ends. I asked if I could meet him in person and if so, how long could he stand to have me? His comeback was, how about a month and you are staying with me since I have an extra bedroom with a bathroom. He said he would pick me up at the Tucson airport. I jumped at the chance and let him know I could stay a week since I had to train for the treasurer position at RVGS I was just accepted for. The last week of October 2025 I flew to Tucson to meet my father, what a rollercoaster of emotions I went through before I left. I was so overjoyed and grateful! My father was 88 and I was 65 when we finally met after all those years. He lives in Oracle, which is north of Tucson, a 48-minute drive from the airport. It took us four hours because they were doing road repairs and traffic was backed up as we slowly made our way to Oracle. But this gave my father time to tell me his story, which I have recorded. I learned so much from this quiet, loving man. He reminds me so much of myself-this is who I take after! My mother got pregnant and had me at sixteen. My mother was sixteen and father was twenty-two. They got married before I was born and my grandmother lived with them. My father had a good job, a car, and was in the process of buying a home north of Phoenix, Arizona. My father stated how my mother would sleep with my grandmother and how my grandmother controlled my mom. Once he asked my grandmother to move out when I was three months old. He came home from work and we were all gone, they had packed up the baby stuff and left. He did not know anyone on my mother's side of the family; he had no clue where to start to look for me and my mother. Shortly after, he was drafted into the army and stationed in Germany.

Dad and I finally arrived in Oracle. We were going to his

sister's house for dinner, who lives just down the road from dad. I met my Aunt Dorothy, my Uncle Steve (who is a year older than me), and my cousin Tiffany (who had reached out to me through Ancestry). Talking to these family members, I found out that my father would never lay a finger on anyone in anger, he was not that kind of person. I had a wonderful week with my father. He is a storyteller. He told me stories of his childhood, his parents and family, and how he started a family in Washington (he was always so close yet so far away; I grew up in Medford, Oregon) after the army. I have two half-sisters and two half-brothers, we have all been in contact, all is good. It was an emotional and wonderful week for both of us and one we will never forget.



Without further ado, I would like you to meet my father James Harold White.  
 Valerie Sanders  
 Treasurer  
 Rogue Valley Genealogical Society



## Returning Members

**Returning Members:**  
 Diane Dekany and  
 Sara Weber.

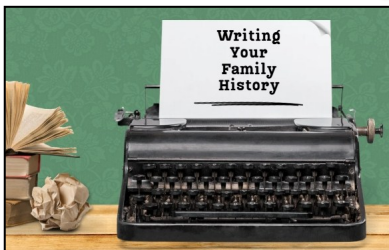
## CLASSES & EVENTS

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!

JOIN US!



### Thursday, June 4, 10:30 AM – Noon, Class: Writing Your Family History: Where to Begin

You've done all this research and collected a lot of information about your family history that you would like to share with others. But where do you begin? Jeanne Hoadley will offer some suggestions based on her experience writing her own family history. This class will be recorded and available for 30 days. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members.

### Monday, June 8, 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, June 9, 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, June 10, 10:30 AM - Noon, Genetic Genealogy Interest Group



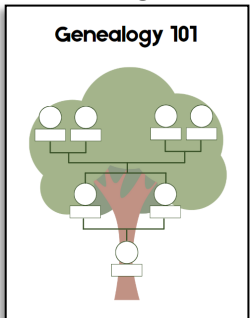
Sue Acuff facilitates this interest group for everyone interested in genetic genealogy. In June we will continue discussing GEDmatch, using it with DNA Painter and Chromosome mapping. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.

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

This Interest group meets to discuss genealogy research in the Great Lakes region. Primary focus will be the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, but researchers to the north and east along the lakes are welcome as well. Join facilitator Kim Thurman and bring your stories and research experiences. Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



### Thursday, June 11, 10:30 AM - Noon, Class: Genealogy 101 – Using the Bureau of Land Management Website



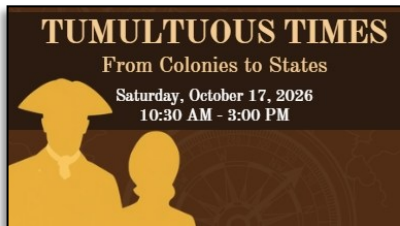
The BLM Website is a resource for locating land records, including patents, military warrants, and homesteads issued by the federal government in federal-land states. This class will be presented by Barbara Northrop. In Person at the library only. Cost: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members.

### Thursday, June 11, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Colonial America Interest Group

The Colonial America Interest Group will meet on June 14 at 1:30 PM. The topic this month will be Connecticut. The group will then go on hiatus for the rest of the year as facilitator Jeanne Hoadley needs to take



a break and is thinking of reworking the material into a class series in 2027. Those interested in Colonial America are invited to look for our fall Seminar celebrating the



250th birthday of our country. "Tumultuous Times: from Colonies to States" will feature three speakers on life in the late 18th century as the American Revolution left many in a quandary about which side to support. The seminar will be held on October 17 from 10:30 AM to 3 PM with a one-hour break for lunch. Cost will be \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members. The June 11 interest group meeting will be Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.



**Thursday, June 11, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Class: Genealogy 101 – Using the Bureau of Land Management Website**

The BLM Website is a resource for locating land records, including patents, military warrants, and homesteads issued by the federal government in federal-land states. This class will be presented by Barbara Northrop. Zoom only. Cost: \$10 for members; \$20 for non-members.



**Monday, June 15, 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, June 16, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Program and Member Meeting: Ancestor Hunting in the Nation's Capital**  
Celebrate America's 250th by exploring



genealogy research in Washington, D.C. Kim Thurman shares insights from her visits to the National Archives, Library of Congress, and DAR Library, highlighting what makes each unique and why in-person research can lead to exciting discoveries. Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: Free to all.

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

Let's Talk Genealogy is a roundtable discussion, a chance to get together with others who share the same interests. We start with a focused topic and see where the conversation goes from there. Bring your successes (and not-so-successes), stumbling blocks, experiences to share with others, where your genealogical research has taken you. Need help with a brick wall? Not sure if you have a brick wall? Join us with a cup of coffee or glass of wine and "Let's Talk Genealogy." Zoom only. Cost: Free to all.



**Monday, June 22, 10:30 AM – Noon, Class: Researching the People of Jackson County Oregon**

The RVGS Library's strength lies in its extensive resources for researching the people of Jackson County, Oregon, built through the efforts of dedicated volunteers since 1966. Early projects focused on obituaries and cemeteries, later expanding to include death certificates, marriage and birth records, and other indexed and sometimes published sources for Jackson and some Josephine County residents. Much of this information is now searchable at [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) under "Search," with additional resources also available.

Anyone with ancestors in Jackson County—or an interest in Rogue Valley history—is invited to attend. Anne Billeter will teach a class from 10:30 AM to noon, followed by a bring-your-own lunch and a practice session from 1:00–3:00 PM. The SOHS Archivist will also offer a tour of the

SOHS Research Library from 11 AM to noon on Thursday, June 25, and Tuesday, June 30.

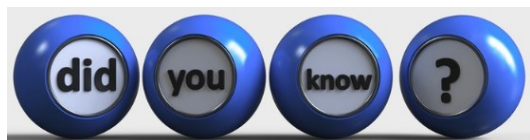
Hybrid – Zoom AND in person at the library. Cost: \$10 members/\$20 non-members/Free for librarians including non-members from libraries in Jackson County. This class will be recorded.

### Tuesday, June 23, 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.



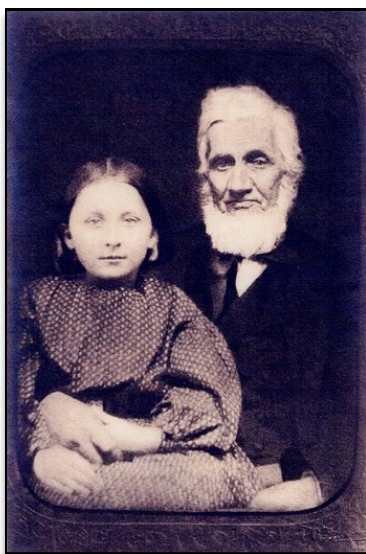
### RVGS 60<sup>th</sup> Celebrated at the Medford Library

To celebrate 60 years as a society, RVGS is using a display case at the Medford Library throughout the month of June to present the panoply of interest groups sponsored by the society. Some meet monthly, some alternate months, some by Zoom only, others hybrid (in-person at RVGS and by Zoom simultaneously). Take a look in June for a visual depiction of the wide variety of interest groups.

### What are they thinking?

By Anne Billeter

What are they thinking, this grandfather and granddaughter? There seems to be such knowledge and peace in his eyes and in his entire demeanor. His arm and hands enfold her, yet there is such distance and thoughtfulness in her eyes. Henry Hilton Chandler (1786-1869) was my great-great-grandfather and Margaret Perritt Whipple (1851-1920) was my great-grandfather's sister. I don't know



what they were thinking...but I can submit their photo to the RVGS Ancestor Photo Contest to share. For more information on the contest visit <https://rvgslibrary.org/News.asp?NewsID=219>

### RVGS Coaching Program is ready to help you!

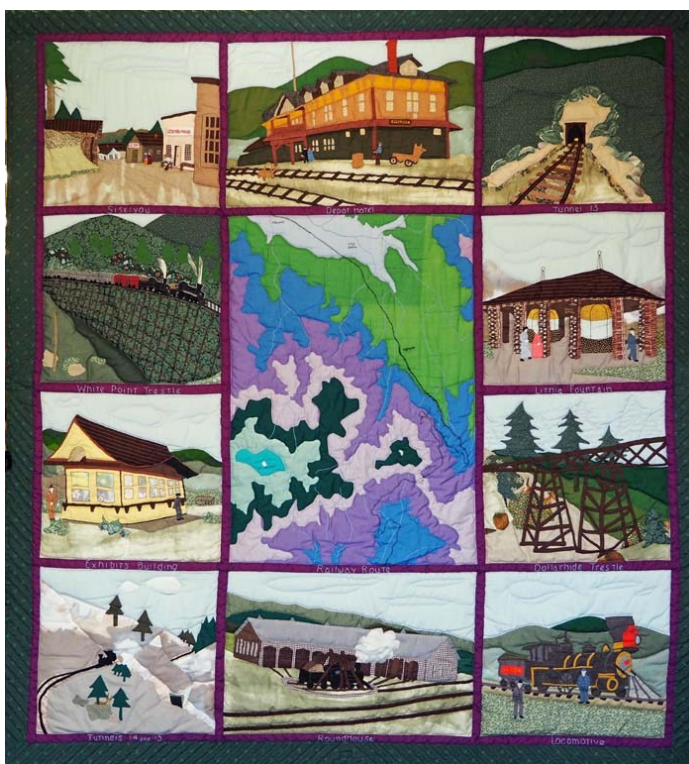


RVGS is excited to offer our **RVGS Coaching Program**, connecting members with experienced **Research Coaches** who can help tackle challenging genealogy questions.

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](https://rvgslibrary.org) > Library. (<https://rvgslibrary.org/Page.asp?NavID=332>) The form is on the members only section. We'll match you with the right coach for your question.

### QUILT IN THE NICHE: ASHLAND RAILROAD CENTENNIAL QUILT 68" x 75" completed in 1986

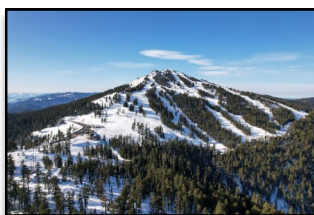


Trains were a major mode of transportation back in the late 1800s. This eleven-block quilt depicts the building and completion of the O & C Railroad which connected Oregon and California to Portland. Those tunnels for the trains going south from Ashland were a monumental undertaking over the Siskiyou mountains, not only in construction, but massive in size. Tunnel 13 is 3100 feet long, and tunnel 14 is 1992 feet long with a 14-degree turn inside it.

You may remember reading about the three D'Autremont brothers and the train robbery committed by them. Hugh, the younger brother was captured 4 ½ years after the robbery and murders. Ray and Roy, the older twins were caught just two months later. All of them were tried in Jacksonville, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment at Salem. Tunnel 13 is the site of that robbery.

The quilt will hang at the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Library, 3405 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford, Oregon through the month of June 2026. Stop in during the month between 10 and 4, Monday to Saturday to see just what a huge job this must have been for the railroad workers.

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS



### Windows in Time: The History and Evolution of the Mt. Ashland Ski Area

Wednesday, June 3, Noon - 1:00 PM [Medford Library](#):  
**In Person Only**

Wednesday, June 10, Noon - 1:00 PM [Ashland Library](#):  
Gresham Room

The Mt. Ashland Ski Area, which encompasses over 240 acres of national forestland, is situated on and near the summit of Oregon's highest peak west of the Cascade Range. Started largely by local ski enthusiasts, the ski area has been an important community and regional asset since the early 1960s. With five lifts, forty-four ski runs, and a ski lodge, the area operates under a U.S. Forest Service special-use permit and draws skiers and boarders primarily from southwestern Oregon and northern California. The area is managed as a non-profit by the all-volunteer Mt. Ashland Association Board of Directors. Mt. Ashland Association recently initiated year-round activities, including weddings, summer day camps for kids, concerts, disc golf, and business meetings. Join

us to learn more about the history of this beloved destination of our region.



### Windows in Time: Past Independence Day Celebrations, From 1976 Back to 1876

Wednesday, July 1, Noon - 1:00 PM [Medford Library](#):  
**In Person Only**

Wednesday, July 8, Noon - 1:00 PM [Ashland Library](#):  
Gresham Room

In honor of our nation's 250th birthday, this talk will review the events, personalities, and context of Jackson County's past American Independence celebrations. Some surprises are in store.

Presenter Jeff LaLande has been a resident of the Rogue Valley since 1969. He graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and later received his M.A. in archaeology from Oregon State University and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Oregon. He had a 30-year career with the U.S. Forest Service as an archaeologist and historian. He has published articles and several books on regional history.



### Jacksonville: "Walk Through History" Saturdays through September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Stretch your legs while learning a little Jacksonville history! Did you know that the cost of fire insurance was the main reason Jacksonville has so many brick buildings in its historic commercial core? Or that a quarter of Jacksonville's early population was German-speaking? Or that the most successful pioneers were the merchants, not the miners or the farmers?

You'll learn all this and more during our **2026 Historic Jacksonville Walk through History** tours! Trace town history through its businesses, fraternal orders, churches, and public buildings from the discovery of gold to the coming of the railroad. View early Jacksonville through

the architecture of its houses and the stories of the pioneers who built and occupied them. Visit government and commercial buildings, fraternal lodges, and homes that capture the stories of Jacksonville's National Historic Landmark District and the people who transformed a gold rush town into Southern Oregon's 19th Century social, governmental, and commercial hub.

These **1-hour tours** will leave from **Courthouse Square** (North 5th between C and D streets) at **10 am every Saturday**. And they are **FREE!** (Although we will certainly welcome your donations since they go to maintain the historic buildings that you experience on the tour!) Reservations are not required. For information, contact [info@historicjacksonville.org](mailto:info@historicjacksonville.org), 541-245-3650 or visit our website at <https://historicjacksonville.org/then-and-now/>.

## REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES

### Genealogical Forum of Oregon (in Portland)



With the largest genealogical library in the Pacific Northwest, we offer access to more than 60,000 holdings with records from around the globe and to many popular subscription

genealogy websites. Our website offers a host of resources including indexes, records, and links, a robust calendar of educational opportunities, our library catalog, and members-only access to even more!

The **GFO website** (<https://gfo.org>) contains updated information on special interest groups and a calendar of events and classes. All classes are available via Zoom sessions.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### Passing of Member

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Sybil J. Russell, one of our longest serving librarians. Sybil served the library for 25 years and was, in 2005, a part time employee as Library Manager. For the past 12-13 years, she and I performed as librarians on the Tuesday shift. She became a Life Member in 2022. She passed on April 29, 2026.

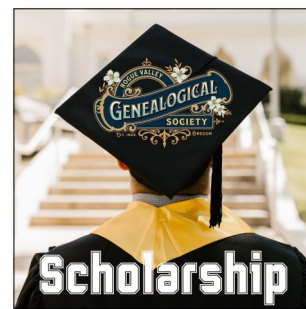
She was born Sybil Jeanette Seldenrust on January 16, 1944, near Hammond, Indiana, a town just a little south



of Chicago. She became a schoolteacher in Chicago and eventually moved to Southern California where she taught high school English near Redondo Beach. After she retired around 2000, she moved to Medford and joined the Genealogy Library in 2001.

It took me a while to get to know Sybil, a quiet and private person, but she opened up to me as time passed and we worked well together. She experienced a number of health problems but seldom complained about them. She had no family to the best of my knowledge. Recently, she won the 2024-2025 Quilt Raffle, a 93" by 110" beauty that she and I jokingly competed for. She had a good sense of humor and I will miss her.

James Williams, Librarian RVGS



## Scholarship News 2026

\$2,000 scholarship award announced. This is the eleventh year of the RVGS scholarship program benefiting students in our community.

The scholarship committee is pleased to announce this year's Rogue Valley Genealogical Society scholarship award to **Miss Claire Davenport**, a senior at Crater High School.

Claire's dedication and commitment to excellence in both her academics and athletics are evident by her remarkable GPA, while taking multiple AP classes and competing at both state and national levels in three different sports. Her goal is to become a psychologist with a minor in criminology. In her own words, "I want to help people in ways that can positively impact their lives long term and allow them to feel understood and valued." From a young age, Claire has been the person her friends turn to when they need someone to talk to, and those experiences have shaped her desire to create a

safe place for people who feel unheard or alone.

Claire will be attending Oregon State University as a Track and Field athlete — an incredible opportunity that reflects both her talent and her discipline. As she put it, “The discipline it takes to train every day, compete, and push through challenges has taught me perseverance and mental toughness.” She has qualified and competed at the state track meet in high jump three years in a row, placing 2nd at state in high jump last year. Her coach of Crater High School, says of her drive: “She is the one that reaches out to me during the offseason to ask if we can get on the track and get workouts in.” Her goals include becoming a state champion in high jump and in the 4x100 relay and continuing to grow as a collegiate athlete.

Claire also runs her own small business, creating balloon arches for graduations, birthdays, school events, memorials, and other celebrations. She learned the craft alongside her mother and now manages everything herself — from client communication to design and set-up. Claire also gives back to her community through church and youth sport volunteer hours. Balancing school, athletics, volunteering, and her business has taught her time management and commitment skills that will continue to serve her well in college and beyond.

What sets Claire apart, however, is her character. Her PE teacher and coach, who has taught for 30 years, calls her one of the most driven, well-rounded, and genuinely impactful students she has encountered, noting that “her character and morals are unmatched.” Another coach adds that Claire’s ability to laugh at herself and bring joy to those around her, while still knowing when to lock in and work hard, is “a tough combination to beat.” She is a positive influence on her teammates and competitors alike, celebrating the success of others with genuine enthusiasm.

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

## June 1, 2026, BottleDrop Blue Bag Recycle Program Update

Thank You to ALL who participated in April Bottle/Can collections; RVGS had a very successful month collecting \$289 for the period. In addition, during the “EarthWeek Give” Program (April 15-26) we collected \$189 which earned RVGS an additional \$37.76 BottleDrop BONUS!! WELL DONE EVERY ONE!!



We are increasing Bottle Drop collections each month, so please continue the **Good Work**. Our collection bags are located inside the front door double doors just to the right of the entryway.

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! Thank you for supporting RVGS!**



## 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 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 be displayed 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 — WE NEED YOU!

This has been a difficult period for our Volunteer Program. We have lost several volunteers due to illness, moving out of the area, and general life getting in the way. We really need some more hands-on deck to keep the Society and library moving forward. Will you help us?

We are looking for librarians to keep our doors open, along with members willing to help with community outreach events.

Whether you only have a few hours every month or two or are available for a regular schedule, there's a role that will fit your interests and talents:

### Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Outreach event volunteers
- Librarians
- Education Committee members
- Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator
- Research Coaches
- Zoom Host Scheduling Coordinator
- Zoom Hosts & Co-Hosts
- Genies
- 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 page [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.



## BECOME AN RVGS GENIE! Help New Members Feel Welcome

Our RVGS Genie Program is one of the most rewarding ways to help fellow genealogy enthusiasts feel connected and confident as they begin their RVGS journey.

We're currently looking for a few friendly volunteers to join our team of "Genies." As a Genie, you'll be paired with a new or returning member and provide a simple one-hour library orientation. You'll help them discover our resources, answer basic questions, and make them feel at home at RVGS.

No special expertise is required — training and support are always provided. Best of all, Genies are typically assigned to a new member only about once every other month, making this a very manageable volunteer opportunity with a lasting impact.

If you enjoy meeting people and sharing your enthusiasm for genealogy, we would love to have you join the program.

Ready to become a Genie? Email

[volunteer@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@rvgslibrary.org) to learn more and get started!



## LIBRARIANS NEEDED — JOIN THE HEART OF RVGS!

### Discover • Help • Connect

Looking for a meaningful and enjoyable way to help the Society? Become an RVGS Librarian and help create the welcoming atmosphere that makes our library so special.

As an RVGS Librarian, you'll greet visitors, assist patrons, and help fellow researchers discover the library's many resources and hidden treasures. Along the way, you'll sharpen your own genealogy and research skills while being part of a friendly, supportive team.

No experience is needed — we provide training and pair new librarians with experienced volunteers, so you'll always have guidance and support.

## Flexible & Manageable Commitment

- Volunteer two or more 3-hour shifts per month
- Choose either 10 AM – 1 PM or 1 – 4 PM shifts
- Prefer one full day instead? You can work a morning and an afternoon shift on the same day with a lunch break in between.

Current Openings:

**2nd Mondays, 9:45 AM–1 PM \***

**2nd & 4th Mondays, 1–4:15 PM \***

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1–4:15 PM**

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1–4:15 PM**

**1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1–4:15 PM**

**4th Saturdays, 9:45 AM–1 PM**

\* Working both shifts on the 2nd Monday can fulfill your entire monthly commitment.

Come join our team and help people connect with their family history. Interested? Contact [volunteer@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@rvgslibrary.org) today!



## Genealogy Research Scanning Project Help is Needed

Are you interested in being a part of genealogy collection preservation?

Our first web-based Family History Collection (The Colleen Project) was a great success and has provided RVGS with a blueprint for preserving the genealogy research collections that have been donated to our society. You can view our first project at <https://rvgslibrary.org> > Library (<https://rvgslibrary.org/Page.asp?NavID=330>). Preservation of our research is a universal concern for genealogists.

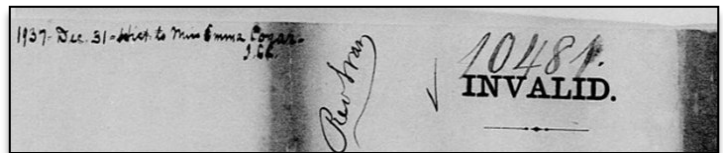
We are ready to tackle a second collection from the boxes sitting in the library meeting room; it is our intent to tackle one small portion at a time. Our goal is to inventory, index, scan, proof, and link the records to our website. Not only will we be providing valuable genealogy records for our members to help in their research, but we will also be reclaiming needed space in our meeting room. This is definitely a win for all!

We need volunteer help to complete these individual projects and to create a team for handling such projects

in the future. Are you willing to be a scanner? Or to inventory some boxes? Learn how to proof? Are you willing to take some training to work on the project? Training and support are always provided. We are in this together.

Ready to help? Email [volunteer@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@rvgslibrary.org) to learn more and get started!

## MEMBER SHARING Transcription Mission



To celebrate the 250th year of our country, our group is transcribing Revolutionary War Pension records. The stories we're uncovering through these veterans' own voices are very enlightening. Taxpayers originally didn't want to give out pensions, and when they finally did, the government fell short on funds because they were unprepared for the demand. Around 80,000 veterans applied for a pension, and they had to prove their military service. About 55,000 received their pension. The system was ripe for fraud from all angles. Come join us on **June 15 at 1:30** in the RVGS classroom or via Zoom and help us discover whether there was fraud and from which party it may have come from in one or more cases that we've got lined up to transcribe.

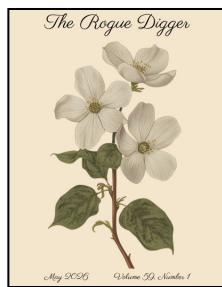


"Gems of the Rogue Valley" was an RVTV series. One of the programs in 2017 was about the Rogue Valley Genealogy Library. Anne Billeter was the interviewee for that program. The link to see the video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT7B6Cwj5E>. It is also available on our website [rvgslibrary.org](https://rvgslibrary.org) > About > RVGS in the Media. Although the host referred to the library as the Rogue Valley Genealogy Library we have always been named the RVGS Library (RVGSL). The website also has links to other articles or video segments featuring the RVGSL in the media.



## Rogue Digger

The latest issue of the *Rogue Digger* is available! Visit our website at [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) > About > Publications. Or click on the link [Rogue Digger - May 2026](#). This issue contains articles submitted by members about their research successes, family histories and in honor America 250, the SAR.



**New!**

## LIBRARY NEWS

### 43 Items Added to RVGS Library

Forty-one books and two periodicals were added to the RVGS Library in May. Additions include: seventeen family histories (too many surnames to list) from Amsbaugh to Kirkpatrick (3) to Wilcox in 929.2 [surname]; A three volume set with the intriguing title, "*He Loves a Good Deal of Rum*" which lists military desertions during the American Revolution (973.33 M343 Boy); the second volume of *New Hampshire Name Changes (1923-1947)*, which joins the first volume already in the RVGS collection (1768-1923) (974.2 N120 Rob); and nine books about Oregon (979.5). For years the RVGS Library has owned the 10 volume set *Maine Families in 1790* (974.1 G242 Mai). This undersung series provides three-generation genealogies of the families of the heads of households in the 1790 census of Maine, the result of invaluable research, since only the name of the head of the household was included in that census. RVGS has now added several other sets based on the same principle: researching and publishing in five volumes the three generation families of *Western Massachusetts Families in 1790* (974.42 G242 Wes), and *Early Vermont Settlers to 1771* in two volumes (so far) for Southern and Northern Windsor County (974.365 G242 Bar). [Click here](#) for the complete list of 43 items added in May 2026.

### New Periodicals on the Shelf

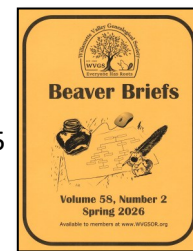
#### Family Tree Magazine

Circ 929.1 Fam v. 27(3) May/June 2026  
Experiences of your ancestors who lived through the American Revolution who did NOT serve in the military; Special [American Revolution] events on the eastern seaboard; How to research Loyalists; Indentured servants; The 75 Best Websites for US genealogy research; Searching newspaper databases at [Elephind](#)



[It's free right now.] Research Guides – Florida and Missouri.

**Beaver Briefs**, Willamette Valley Genealogical Society  
Circ 979.53 P273 Bea v. 58(2) Spring 2025  
Captain William Henry Howard, 1826-1910 (MO); Using AI in genealogy; Some research techniques for those brickwalls; World War II draft registration records [abstracts of the 'A's from Marion County]; Oregon oddities and items of interest; John Beal, 1593-1688 (MA); Heirs of William Tatom, Polk County.



#### Older journals added

**Lawrence County (MO) Historical Society BULLETIN** 1984-2025 (incomplete holdings) is another series donated to the library by Pat Kennedy. Genealogy is clearly on the minds of this society. You will find narratives about early settlers, histories of businesses or communities, and some transcribed records. Happily, an index appears in the 4th issue of most years, but browsing through the issues wouldn't be a burden.

### Website Update



#### FamilySearch

Since **April 30, 2026**, users are required to sign in to access the FamilySearch Catalog. As a reminder a notification banner has been added to the top of the FamilySearch Catalog landing page for guests who are not signed in. This update was implemented as part of ongoing efforts to improve website security and ensure appropriate access to records.

The **New York State Library** and **New York State Archives** are working with global nonprofit genealogy organization **FamilySearch** International in an exciting effort to expand access to some of the state's most important ancestry records and historical collections, the New York State Education Department's **Office of Cultural Education** announced. Through this collaborative effort, thousands of records will be made available online in digital format for the first time, providing researchers with greater access to the documents from anywhere in the world.

Since January 2026, Mark and Lynne Hamp, a retired couple from Utah, have been scanning books from the New York State Library's collection for digital access on FamilySearch. Important collections the Hamps have scanned so far include family histories, with plans to include local histories and genealogy periodicals, such as society and family association journals. As FamilySearch

volunteers, the Hamps will remain in Albany until the end of the year. For the complete article visit:

[FamilySearch Newsroom \(news\)](#)

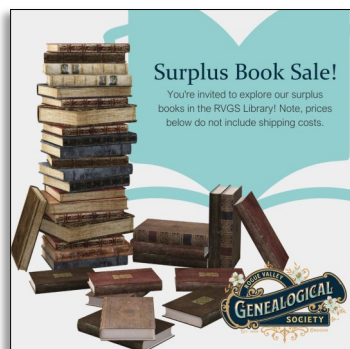


### 10 Million Names. Recover. Restore. Remember.

10 Million Names is a collaborative project dedicated to recovering the names of the estimated 10 million men,

women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America between the 1500s and 1865.

To honor America's 250th anniversary, 10 Million Names has launched a project titled "**Patriots of Color**". The goal of the project is to identify and build family trees for patriots with African ancestry. It is estimated that one in 5 patriots were of African, Native American, Spanish or other non traditional ancestry (See GBH news with **Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**). In collaboration with American Ancestors they have an exhibit at the **Family Heritage Experience** in Boston, Massachusetts titled "Patriots of Color".



## Surplus Sale Books for June 2026

Price does not include shipping costs.

A minimum book order of \$5.00 is required for shipping.

For more inventory, we also sell on **AbeBooks** ([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)

- *German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York, 1855-1862, with Places of Origin* by Gary J. and Marion Wolfert, 1986. \$7.00
- *German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York, 1863-1867* by Gary J. and Marion Wolfert, 1988. \$10.00
- *German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York, 1868-1871, with Places of Origin* by Marion Wolfert, 1993. \$7.00
- *Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1660* by Peter Wilson Coldham, 1987. \$13.00
- *French and French-Canadian Family Research* by J. Konrad, 1993. \$10.00
- *Maps of the Oregon Trail* by Gregory M. Franzwa, 1990. \$7.00
- *Grayson County Texas: Miscellaneous Wills & Probate 1833- 1923* abstracted by Charlotte Holder and Catherine Overturff, 1993. \$7.00
- *The Red River Trails: Oxcart Routes between St. Paul and the Selkirk Settlement, 1820-1870* by Rhoda Gilman, Carolyn Gilman and Deborah M. Stultz, 1979. \$5.00
- *Cemeteries of North Dakota Pembina County Volume 23* compiled and edited by Maxine Workman and Marlyn Christlieb, 1990. \$10.00
- *The Dawes Commission and the Allotment of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1893-1914* by Kent Carter, 1999. \$5.00
- *How to Find Your Family Roots* by Timothy Beard Field and Denise Demong, 1977. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 1 1850-1889* abstracted by Rose Smart, 1993. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 2 1855-1904* abstracted by Rose Smart, 1994. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 3 1858-1899* abstracted by Rose Smart, 1994. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 4 1856-1905* abstracted by Rose Smart, 1994. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 5 1860-1907* abstracted by Rose Smart, 1995. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 6 1876-1912* abstracted by Rose Smart, 1997. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 7 1872-1911* abstracted by Rose Smart, 2001. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 8 1885-1916* abstracted by Rose Smart, 2001. \$4.00
- *Douglas County Oregon Probate Records Volume 9 1895-1916* abstracted by Rose Smart & Julie Lif, 2001 \$4.00
- *Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley: An Oregon Documentary* by John and Marguerite Black, 1990. \$17.00
- *Immigration Rosters of the Elliott Cut-Off: 1853 & 1854 and Immigration Registration at Umatilla Agency, 1853* by Leah Collins Menefee, 1984, \$10.00

**Rogue Valley  
Genealogical Society  
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**RVGS Membership**

Membership is available to all interested persons.  
Membership privileges include:

- Free use of library
- Volunteer opportunities
- Reduced fees for genealogy classes and seminars
- Check out of materials
- Free access to subscription websites
- Society publications
- Interest groups
- Free mentoring
- Access to members-only web content

Visit our website at [rvgslibrary.org](http://rvgslibrary.org) to join today.

**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 Sue Acuff 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