



**Editor's Note:**

*In this issue we have a fascinating follow-up to an article first published in The Rogue Digger over 20 years ago—a fine example of how greater availability of resources and careful discernment can affect research and confirm or change outcomes. In addition, we have an inspirational story of the discovery of a family history binder at a thrift shop and its ultimate return to the family of origin—proving that sometimes it “takes a village” and that personalizing your research for those who come after is well worth the time. And finally, we have a summary of issues discussed at a recent summit on the future of genealogy held by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and a number of respected leaders in the field—what lies ahead in research, DNA, and for brick-and-mortar libraries like ours!*

## NOTES ON FREDERICK KEITH'S GENEALOGY OF THE PARENTS AND SIBLINGS OF WILLIAM HOFFMAN, OREGON TRAIL PIONEER

By John W. McGlothlin

In 1997, Frederick Keith published in *The Rogue Digger*, V32, Issue 1, p11, the following descendant chart delineating the parents and siblings of William Hoffman, Oregon pioneer, buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery.

### HOFFMAN FAMILY

- I. John Nicholas **HOFFMAN** married 2 Aug 1749 Maria Elizabeth **BURCH** who lived in Pennsylvania. They had at least 1 child **JACOB**.
- II. Jacob **HOFFMAN**, b 3 Jul 1760 in Lancaster PA d 26 Mar 1832 in Baltimore MD. He married<sup>v</sup> Barbara **IRVING**. Their children were all born in Baltimore, MD:
- i. Michael b 12 Dec 1784 d 7 Aug 1871; m Mary **REYNOLDS**, b 6 Apr 1823, d 9 May 1887.
  - ii. Elizabeth b 21 Nov 1788, d 18 Jun 1868, Portland, OR
  - iii. Jacob II b 20 Dec. 1790 d 14 Aug 1867.
  - iv. George b 18 Dec 1792 d 1 Oct 1821
  - v. John b 13 Mar 1795 d 24 Nov 1815
  - vi. Catherine b 18 Dec 1796, d 2 Oct 1856 Portland, OR
  - vii. Susan b 28 Jan 1799 d 1 May 1802 Baltimore
  - \*\*viii. William b 7 Sept 1801 d 14 Nov 1885 Jacksonville, Jackson Co. OR, m 22 Sep 1836 in Boonesborough MD Barbara **SHAFER**.
  - ix. Susan b 15 Apr 1804 d 29 Sep 1821 Baltimore
  - x. Julia Ann b 29 Aug 1807, d 8 May 1883 Portland m. Henry **McKINNEL**.
  - xi. Henrietta b 1 Feb 1810 d 6 Nov 1850

Unfortunately, he did not provide any documentation, and none exists in the Hoffman files at the Jackson County Genealogy Library or at the Southern Oregon Historical Society. In 1997 there was no internet as we know it now and Ancestry.com was only a year old and did not yet have a web presence. So, searching for records—certainly very old records—generally required actually going to a brick and mortar building or hiring someone who could search various repositories. Perhaps Frederick visited Baltimore or Salt Lake City and did some research; we'll never know, but if he did, he did not share that information. Frederick died in 2002, so we can't ask him.

Today, though, with a robust internet and sites like Ancestry.com, finding records and old publications is considerably easier, although there are certainly many records and publications still only available in local repositories of one kind or another. While Frederick's work was good for its time, there are errors in it, and some useful information is not included, such as the names of spouses and burial places. I have researched the parents and children of Jacob Hoffman Sr. using researchers in Maryland and Indiana and using online resources, and I am recording here what could be found for clarification.

**I.** It appears that the family patriarch may actually have been a Michael Hoffman, and not John Nicholas Hoffman, as that is what is stated in an 1897 biographical sketch of Michael Hoffman Jr.—son of William Hoffman's brother Michael—who likely provided the information.\* In the sketch, birth and death dates for the patriarch are provided (26 May 1718 - August 1798) and it is stated that he had lived in Pennsylvania. An immigration record was found for a Michael Hoffman, native of Germany, born in 1718, arriving in Philadelphia in 1754; no other records could be located for this Michael. There is, however, a stone (certainly a cenotaph) for a Dorothea and a Michael Hoffmann (with two n's) back to back with Michael Sr.'s stone in Mount Olivet cemetery in Baltimore. It is of the exact shape as Michael's. The stone is badly weathered and the text mostly illegible, but the names can be read using photo editing software, as can the German word *jahr* on the same line at the bottom of the stone with the text "August 1798." So, while we don't have proof that these were the parents of Michael Sr. it certainly seems he thought they were and I rather think it's what he heard when he was a child.

Records were found in Pennsylvania for a John Nicholas Hoffman who married Maria Elizabeth on 2 August 1749, but her surname was Burkhardt, not Burch. Their children have been identified by other researchers, and the list does not include a Jacob (or any who lived in Maryland). I don't know how Frederick surmised that Nicholas was the father of Jacob.

**II.** Jacob married Barbara Schwingel on 27 February 1784 in Baltimore (First Reformed Church). Frederick's referral to a Barbara Irving cannot be explained. William, in an autobiographical sketch, noted that his parents died in Boonsboro, Maryland—his father in 1832 and his mother two years later. There are stones in the Old Salem Church cemetery in Boonsboro for a Jacob and a Mary Barbara Hoffman whose death dates match William's years and I think it more than likely that they are William's parents. Since Frederick's dates match those on the stones, it's obvious Frederick came to the same conclusion. However, he said that Jacob died in Baltimore, which isn't correct. There is, though, a shared stone for Jacob and Mary in Mount Olivet cemetery in Baltimore, and that might be why he said Baltimore (see note below in Supporting Evidence regarding this stone).

Baltimore city directories from 1796 to 1827 list Jacob as being in the leather business at several addresses around Hanover and Lombard streets. In 1827, he secured a \$1,500 debt (\$39,000 in 2018 dollars) to his son Jacob of Frederick County with a property on the northeast corner of Howard and Pratt Streets and a \$600 debt (\$15,600 in 2018 dollars) to son William of Washington County with a property at the southeast corner of Howard and Camden streets. Being in the leather business at Howard and Pratt was noted in his grandson Michael Hoffman Jr's 1897 biographical sketch.

**i.** There is a baptismal record for Michael Hoffman born 12 December 1784, son of Jacob and Barbara, sponsor John Schwingel. Michael's son, Michael Jr., stated in an 1897 biographical sketch that his grandfather was Jacob, and there is good corroborative evidence to support the relationship (noted below). The dates presented by Frederick are the same as on Michael's stone, so Frederick obviously made the connection. See the note below in Supporting Evidence regarding cenotaphs for Michael's parents.

Frederick said Michael married a Mary Reynolds born in 1823, but no record could be found for any marriage for Michael or for a Mary Reynolds with the birth date or death date Frederick noted. Further, the Mary Frederick noted could not have been the mother of any of Michael's children. Michael's sister though, Mary Hoffman (see below),

married an Isaac Reynolds, so maybe Frederick somehow got her confused with her mother, although the birth year obviously still doesn't match.

In the 1897 sketch, it was said that Michael's wife's first name was Mary and her surname was also Hoffman, although she was not related. We know Michael's wife was named Mary because of her obituary and because that's what is on her stone, which is next to Michael's. However, she was born in 1789 and died 25 June 1871, which makes it obvious that Michael didn't have a second wife, and Frederick's reference can't be correct. In the 1850 census, Michael's wife is noted as Susan, but his wife is noted as Mary on the 1860 and 1870 censuses.

**ii.** No birth record could be located for Elizabeth, but she is documented as the sister of William and is, in fact, buried in Portland's River View cemetery near her sister Julia and Julia's husband Henry McKinnel. Frederick's dates match those on her stone. They all came out to Oregon with William in 1853.

**iii.** No birth or death records for Jacob could be found, although his birth year can be estimated from census records and it does seem that he did die between 1860 and 1870 in Fountain County, Indiana. How Frederick obtained his birth and death dates for Jacob couldn't be determined. However, that Jacob was the brother of William Hoffman is confirmed in a number of ways, not the least of which is William's auto-biographical sketch. Jacob married Mary Margaret Stembel in 1816 in Frederick County, Maryland. Mary died in Fountain County in the summer of 1856 (as per her probate record), but no death or burial record could be found by the Fountain County Genealogy Society. I think it likely that she and Jacob are buried on the family property because Mary retained 1/4 acre in her will for a family cemetery. The property has been located but no cemetery can now be found.

**iv.** A baptismal record was found for George, son of Jacob, born 18 December 1792, and he is buried in the Old St. Paul's Cemetery in Baltimore.

**v.** A christening record for a Johannes, son of Jacob, was found and the birth date matches Frederick's. However, no death record or place could be found, so I don't know where Frederick got his death date.

**vi.** No birth record could be found for Catherine, but she did marry Erasmus Uhler on 11 September 1816 in Baltimore, and they are mentioned in William Hoffman's biographical sketch as having accompanied him to Attica, Indiana, in 1836. From the 1850 census, we can place her birth at circa 1797. Erasmus died in 1852 and is buried in the Rainsville Cemetery in Rainsville, Warren County, Indiana. No death or burial record for Catherine could be found, but she definitely didn't die in Portland, Oregon, as Frederick claimed. Incidentally, Catherine's daughter, also Catherine, married William Frederick Hoffman, Jacob and Mary Stembel's first son.

**vii.** A christening record for a Susannah, daughter of Jacob, was found and the date of birth matches Frederick's. She is buried in Old St. Paul's cemetery in Baltimore and her death date also matches what Frederick noted.

**viii.** The birth of Wilhelm, son of Jacob, is recorded as 7 September 1801 in the register of Zion Lutheran Church, Baltimore, and that is the date that William gave for his birth. It is interesting that his birth was recorded in the Zion Lutheran church, as all the other children of Jacob Hoffman were recorded at the First Reformed Church. William's marriage license to Caroline Barbara Shafer is dated 20 September 1836.

ix. A christening record was found for a Susan, daughter of Jacob, and the birth date matches Frederick's. She is buried in Old St. Paul's Cemetery in Baltimore, and her death date matches Frederick's information.

x. A christening record was found for a Juliana Hoffman, daughter of Jacob, dated 16 April 1804. Julia is also well-documented and she and husband Henry McKinnell are buried in River View cemetery in Portland, Oregon. Frederick's dates match Julia's stone.

xi. A christening record was found for a Henrietta, daughter of Jacob, and the birth date matches Frederick's. However, no death or burial record could be found, so it's not known how Frederick determined that she died in 1850.

#### **Not included in Frederick's chart:**

Mary M. Hoffman, born circa 1787 and died 7 April 1823. She married Isaac Reynolds on 28 November 1807. No burial information could be found for Mary or Isaac.

#### **Supporting Evidence for Michael as the Brother of William**

William said they had a brother who was in the War of 1812 who defended the city of Baltimore at the battle of North Point. In a 1910 publication, T.C. Williams noted a Michael Hoffman as a member of Capt. George W. Ent's company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Maryland Militia, in that battle. He was also reported to have been alive in 1854. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was under the command of Lt. Col. Henry Stembel whose sister, Mary, married Michael's brother Jacob.

—Williams, T.C. (1910) *History of Frederick County Maryland Vol I: From The Earliest Settlements To The Beginning Of The War Between The States* (L.R. Titsworth, Publishers) p. 169)

In the 1897 biographical sketch of Michael Hoffman Jr. it says his grandfather served in the War of 1812 and defended Baltimore. It also says that in 1840 Michael Jr. moved to Indiana but returned to Baltimore a year later.

Michael Jr. noted that his sister Susannah had married a Dr. George Powell. A christening record for Susannah was found for a daughter of Michael, and she married George Powell on 4 January 1832. She and her two children were living with Michael Sr. and wife Mary at the time of the 1850 census in Baltimore. On the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses, Susan and children were living in Attica, Fountain County, Indiana, which is where William Hoffman lived before moving to Oregon and where Michael Jr.'s brother, Jacob V. Hoffman, lived. Jacob V. Hoffman's son, John Horace Hoffman, married Kate Hoffman, daughter of William Hoffman.

—*Genealogy And Biography of Leading Families of the City Of Baltimore and Baltimore County Maryland Containing Portraits of Many Well Known Citizens of the Past and Present* (1897, Chapman Publishing Co., New York and Chicago), pp 1029, 1030

The 1898 history of the fire department of Baltimore by Clarence Forrest notes Michael Hoffman and Erasmus Uhler as officers of the United Hose and Suction Company in 1812. Jacob V. Hoffman—son of Michael—is noted as a member of the same company in 1834. Erasmus Uhler married William Hoffman's sister and moved to Indiana with the Hoffmans (noted in William's auto-biographical sketch).

—Forrest, Clarence H. (1898) *Official History of the Fire Department of the City Of Baltimore together with Biographies and Portraits of Eminent Citizens of Baltimore* (Baltimore)

Michael Hoffman, who died in 1871, is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Baltimore. There is a single shared stone for Jacob and Barbara Hoffman—which says “In Memory Of”—directly in front of Michael’s stone, which I am sure was erected by Michael. I believe the stone to be a cenotaph because Mount Olivet didn’t open until 1845. Jacob and Barbara died in Boonsboro and still have stones there; it seems unlikely that Michael would have had his parents moved to Baltimore over ten years after their deaths.

Michael Hoffman Jr. (1820 - 1898) is also buried in Mount Olivet, very close to Michael Sr. and Mary, and a christening record was found for him as being the son of Michael Hoffman.

William noted in his autobiographical sketch that in 1830 he was employed as a clerk in a grocery business in Baltimore. The 1831 Baltimore City Directory lists a William Hoffman, grocer, at the southeast corner of Hanover and Lee Streets. In the 1833 directory, Michael Hoffman, grocer, is listed at the same address.

Thus, I think it beyond doubt that 1) the Michael who died in 1871 was the brother of William, 2) that Michael and William’s parents were the Jacob and Mary buried in the Old Salem Church Cemetery in Boonsboro, Maryland, 3) that Jacob V. was the son of Michael who died in 1871, and 4) that the Michael Jr. born in 1820 was the brother of Jacob V.

#### Sources:

\* *Genealogy And Biography of Leading Families of the City Of Baltimore and Baltimore County Maryland Containing Portraits of Many Well Known Citizens of the Past and Present* (1897, Chapman Publishing Co., New York and Chicago), pp 1029, 1030

Christening, birth, marriage, business, and death records were located by Allender Sybert of the Maryland Genealogical Society. Marriage and birth records were largely found in the register of the First Reformed Church of Baltimore. Some can also be found on Ancestry.com. Burial records can be found at Findagrave.com

Several searches were conducted by the Fountain County Genealogy Society, Veedersburg, Indiana

William Hoffman’s auto-biographical sketch—*A Life Sketch*—can be found in William’s pioneer family file at the Jackson County Genealogy Library, Medford, Oregon



## A SUCCESS STORY: A FAMILY TREASURE

by Mary Robsman

On a quiet Monday at Jackson County Genealogy Library (JCGL), a volunteer from St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store brought in a family history binder. She had saved it from being tossed out. The binder contained a family's history, including one set of 9x great-grandparents, original documents, and generations of family photos, all identified. The genealogist-researcher who assembled the binder, known only as Mom, wrote eloquently. The volunteer thought that this binder was a treasure that should be returned to the family.

The JCGL librarians read through the contents of the binder and identified "Mom" on the family group page with her parents and siblings. They did not find her obituary online or her name in the telephone book. The next day others attempted to locate her or identify a direct descendant to contact. On Wednesday the breakthrough happened. Based on a newspaper clipping in the binder about the grandparents' wedding anniversary celebration, a librarian googled the event. Up came a photo that led to their family tree in Ancestry.com. The librarian emailed the relative who managed the family tree. He was Mom's son. Within 48 hours, the binder was returned to the family.

Epilogue: Mom, now in her 80s, did not know the binder was missing. It must have been mistakenly put in a box with other items being donated. The family treasure was returned to where it belonged. One of the librarians called the St. Vincent's volunteer to tell her about the success story. Kudos to the volunteer and the team of librarians with their combined research skills and determination that made this possible!

The librarians, who also were genealogists, were impressed with Mom's diligent research. The data was clearly organized by family groups for each generation on both maternal and paternal sides of the family. However, it was her stories that made the facts memorable. The first page in the family binder was Mom's message to her children, a sample of her engaging writing style. Here is that first page (with surnames removed) for you to read and enjoy:



### *Your Family Background from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

*My interest in this information goes back to when Ed and I were in Missouri. Believe it or not, we were always interested in history. While we were there, we visited cemeteries and talked about the things these people had done, their families, and their lives. These were not just tombstones but legacies of lives lived. (See story *Rough Road Ahead*.) Your father also loved the history of the Civil War and when I met him, he had already spent hours looking at old documents in the Pasadena City Library. (See story *Dating a Stranger*.) When we went back to Missouri, there were wonderful resources of this material from the Truman Library to old homes toured. It was here we heard about the lives of people from the past.*

*When we visited Germany, we found ourselves surrounded by the history of these people. We toured one castle after another, discussed the people and what happened to them. These long talks were a great part of the joy of being with your father.*

*So when I decided to go back to Salt Lake City, it was the next step - finding out more*

about "our" family and how we all become who we are today. I think it is important to remember life is a process of learning. Many of the things we know, believe, and are today go back generations. Our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. influence us.

As you read, I hope you find yourself interested in these people. Remember they are a part of "you" today including not only the physical but the mental, spiritual, and emotional part of you, too. When I wrote the story *Man with the Steel Gray Eyes*, much of this material came from your grandfather DN. The thing I found fascinating was the way he raised me was not like his father at all. But when I recall my grandmother JD, my uncles and even my aunt, I now understand why they acted like they did. Fortunately my father made a decision not to be like his father and changed.

Whenever I could, I jotted down notes about a history of a name, a locale, or about the individual. Five hundred years is not a long time when you think of the whole history of mankind but for me it has helped me understand more fully about my family and your father's background.

When I located these people on census records, or other documents, it felt like winning a jackpot in Las Vegas. I remember finding my grandmother and grandfather DA by accident on the census of 1900. I visualized my grandmother at 23 answering questions to the census taker. Young, pretty, golden curly-blond hair with two baby girls at her feet, she was busy with family and making a home for my grandfather. His sister was living with them at the time. (Your grandmother wasn't born for another 11 years.) Believe it or not, this image was so clear, I cried, for it was like looking at them in their prime.

Whenever I can, I will include pictures of these people. I want you to remember each generation of people and not just names. Imagine what it was like living when and where they did. Having families living in small communities.

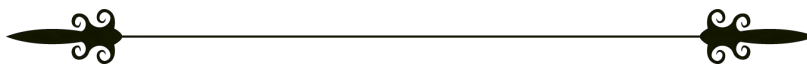
I traced not only the family line of the men but of their wives too. The information I had before dealt only with the Ds but I have included their wives and children. I also traced back the M side of the family, as well as, their wives.

I want you to know that you had ancestors who came over from England at the age of 14 on a clipper ship; who were entrepreneurs in the shipbuilding business; who came from Scotland to work in the mines during the gold rush days; and who left Germany due to the political and military upheaval during the 1870s; who traveled to the West in covered wagon; who were cowboys; who signed the Declaration of Independence; and who fought at Bunker Hill. Not too shabby a group of men and women would be just as proud of you today as your father and I am. Yes, it is all history of the Ms and the Ds. Enjoy!

Please note that as you travel through the past, the names of the siblings that are italicized are your blood relations and are a direct part of your lineage.

I love you,

Mom



The JCGL genealogists who read this were touched by her words. A personal touch transforms research results and facts not included on charts into a meaningful family treasure worth saving for generations.



# A SUMMARY OF A RECAP OF NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY'S SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF GENEALOGY (11/16/2019)

Compiled by Cara Davis-Jacobson

On November 16, 2019, the NYG&B Society held an in-depth conversation with leading industry experts exploring the future of genealogy at the NY Institute of Technology, 1871 Broadway, New York, NY. A webinar recap of this seminar was held on January 6, 2020. The following notes were taken during the recap in order to make an informative summary of the discussion.

## Participants:

Michelle Caruso-Cabrera (MC), CNBC contributor

Blaine T. Bettinger (BB), Genetic Genealogist

D. Joshua Taylor (JT), President of NYG&B Society

Steve Rockwood (SR), CEO/President of FamilySearch.org

## Topics Covered:

**The Future of Genealogy:** They spoke of the huge volume of records now available and how we need tools that will help us collect stories, not just names and dates. MC added that there will soon be a number of 5G apps that will make this more readily possible. SR also mentioned that tech will be a major driver of these efforts to move from genealogy to family histories—deeper and more meaningful connections, more in-depth. He also noted that the science of genealogy will become an academic discipline.

**The Future of Genealogists:** All mentioned aspects of the field of genealogical professionals growing and becoming younger and more diverse; they expressed a need to look at how to make more records accessible to all. Paul Woodbury's study on how post-immigration surges lead to increased interest in genealogy and the importance of understanding genetic genealogy. <https://www.legacytree.com/blog/pursuing-career-genetic-genealogy>

**Scholarship and Peer Reviewed Materials:** A tsunami of demand is coming. Not unlike engineers making tap water available to all when water systems were devised as towns grew, we need to devise how to make materials and access to high-quality journalism (not just ancestor methodology) available to everyone.

**Libraries/Archives/Brick and Mortar Places:** The diseases of “my tree-itis” and “my record-itis” need to fade away into online availability. Newly created records will be online, BUT, physical material matters! Talking and gathering is more natural and responsive than just surfing. Different modalities of access are needed for different types of people and we need multiple points of access to materials. Brick and mortar places give unique experiences, hold unique records. Expert + library = a unique research experience.

**Economics of Family History:** Living on donations can be precarious; we need to determine the worth of services we provide. “Never non-profits” and “non-profits” can find success in value-added services. Investment in education programs regarding DNA and genetic genealogy is needed.

**DNA and Privacy:** Important to both individuals and law enforcement; use of DNA databases for non-genealogical purposes continues to be debated, but what's important is consent and informed decision making by individuals. The number of DNA tests being ordered is falling; this may be due to saturation of the market or privacy/security issues or both. We will need appropriate "governors" of the data collected.

**DNA and Lineage Societies:** Right now most lineage societies prefer paper records, and yet DNA does not lie. The panelists agreed that resistance to using DNA as lineage documentation for applications to societies will fade as groups change and as DNA research becomes more mainstream. DNA will become an important part of genealogical proofs.

#### Other issues:

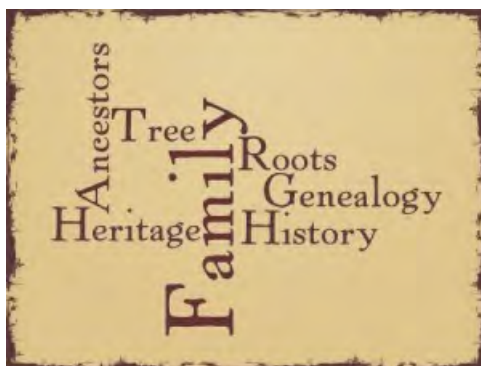
SR expressed a concern about destruction of records and a need to find ways to preserve them. He also expressed concern that we are destroying our own privacy through use of social media.

BB spoke about DNA test refusals and how a lost-record DNA Archive was needed. As a copyright lawyer, he also sees a copyright law tsunami coming: should copyright law be weaponized rather than used as a shield for creativity? Should copyright be released at death and not passed on to family or others? Is there a right to be forgotten?

MC discussed how do we leave a digital legacy? She referred to the data overload we would need to capture (e.g., we have immigrant industrial savings bank records that go back to 1850).

SR discussed who owns a family archive and who keeps it up to date. How do we migrate digital data. NY state law adoptee access now has an 18-22 month delay in responding to the backlog of requests. All expressed concern regarding non-US and non-European places where records are being destroyed and no archives exist (Cuba, war zones, etc.) Partnerships are needed, headed by a person most knowledgeable about the records, neighborhoods, history, etc.

SR and BB mentioned the importance of the community of genealogists working to preserve these records and stories and make them available to the masses.



## WHO WE ARE

The mission of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. is to inspire interest in genealogy, inform and educate the public, and maintain a growing sustainable library with a strong online presence.

The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (RVGS) is located in Medford, Oregon, in the Rogue River Valley of Southern Oregon. RVGS was founded in 1966 and now owns and operates the Jackson County Genealogy Library (JCGL), which houses the largest collection of genealogical materials in Southern Oregon. Initial settlement in the valley was spurred by a gold strike in Jacksonville, thus accounting for our logo, the happy miner, who represents the activity of digging for gold in genealogy records.

The objectives of the society are as follows:

- to secure information of a genealogical nature from public and private records by way of historical research as well as indexing and abstracting
- to provide for the preservation and publication of results
- to preserve and protect the collection for future generations
- to acquire by gift, purchase or other means, genealogical materials including books, maps, films, fiche, electronic media, documents, records and artifacts of genealogical and historical interest, and to preserve and protect these for future use
- to acquire funds from membership dues, donations, and fees, and to acquire by gift, purchase or other means, personal and real property in order to support the Society's purposes
- to cooperate and/or affiliate with other nonprofit entities/organizations with like purposes

To accomplish these objectives, RVGS promotes the following activities:

- presentation of programs containing historical and/or genealogical information at general meetings and seminars
- provision of genealogy classes at the library on a range of topics designed for beginners to experts
- publication of an electronic newsletter, the eNews, that outlines society activities and contains genealogical information
- expansion of the JCGL collection through volunteer activities such as the Jackson County Cemetery project
- maintenance of the Pioneer and Early Settler Certificate program for descendants of Jackson County Oregon pioneers

## CONTACT US

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Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 10AM to 4PM

Tuesday: 10AM - 9PM

**Please note: At the time of this issue's publication, the library is CLOSED due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. As a result, you will not be able to use our library subscription websites. Please use the following link on our website to explore a robust set of alternative web resources for the information you seek. We look forward to opening our doors again in the near future.**

<https://rvgslibrary.org/links.asp>

## *Help Keep The Rogue Digger Publishing!*



Do you have an interesting story about researching your ancestors? Unexpected DNA results that changed your research goals? The story of an object (e.g., a quilt, a ring, a photo) that led you on a search or shed light on your family or local history? Have you found a technique or resource that has helped you in your research or that might help others? Have you discovered something interesting in local history or genealogy that you would be willing to write about and share with our membership?

If so, our publication, *The Rogue Digger*, needs you! *The Rogue Digger* is a genealogical periodical that reports information helpful to members and researchers by sharing the results of genealogical investigations, especially those related to the Rogue Valley or to our membership. Submissions can be a mere page long or up to 10 pages long, with or without photos or illustrations. If you have an idea but don't quite know how to pull it together, our editor can advise and help; contact her at [caradavisjacobson@gmail.com](mailto:caradavisjacobson@gmail.com).

### **RVGS Board**

#### **Elected Officers**

Katie Haugse, President  
 Kim Thurman, Vice President  
 Loretta Barker, Secretary  
 Barbara Shrewsberry, Treasurer  
 Charlotte Wirfs, Trustee  
 Karen Asche, Past President

#### **Appointed Directors**

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 Julie Goodwine, Education Director  
 [vacant], Finance Director  
 Margaret Clark-Mayfield, Membership Director  
 [vacant], Public Relations Director  
 Rich Miles, Technology & Data Management Director  
 Terrie McCoy, Volunteer Director