



eNEWS MAY 2017

The monthly eNewsletter (eNews) for the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (RVGS) and Jackson County Genealogy Library (JCGL) has three sections:

- (1) [Classes and Events both at the library and elsewhere](#)
- (2) [RVGS News of member and society activities](#)
- (3) [JCGL News about our book collection and internet resources](#)

Jackson County Genealogy Library Classes and Events



TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE:

By email: reception.JCGL@gmail.com. By telephone: 541-512-2340. In person at the library:
LIBRARY HOURS Monday thru Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM, open until 9 PM Tuesday.

Tuesday May 2, 1:30-3:00 PM, Family Tree Maker User Group for PC

This group meets to discuss the FTM program and share ideas with each other. Free to members and \$5 for non-members. Register in advance.

May 7-May 14, RVGS Research Trip to Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City

Be there to research your own family history at FHL. Contact Betty Miller at RVGS for details.

Monday May 8, 1:00-3:00 PM, DNA Interest group (already tested)

Lorita Cushman will facilitate an advanced DNA Interest Group for those who have had their DNA tested and are interested in sharing information about DNA and related topics. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Register in advance.

Tuesday May 9, 1:30-3:00 PM, Family Tree Maker User Group for MAC.

This group meets to discuss the FTM program and share ideas with each other. Free to members, \$5 for non-members. Register in advance.

Tuesday May 9, 3:30-5:00 PM, German Interest Group

This month Pat Jenkins facilitates the interest group concentrating on German history and research. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Register in advance.

Thursday May 11, 1:30-3:00 PM, Irish Interest Group

Bruce McGarvey moderates this interest group concentrating on Irish history, culture and researching Irish ancestors. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Register in advance.

A SERIES OF THREE CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS WILL BE OFFERED IN MAY

An Introduction to Genealogy, our popular three-class series, is back again to help one and all spring into family research. These three classes are a great way to get started - or to refresh your memory about the wonders hidden in our library - or getting some clues on how to organize your research.

Saturday May 13, 10:30-12:30 PM, Introduction to Genealogy (First in the Series)

Denise Saltmarsh will present the first class in the series, which will give you the basics of ancestor charts, family group sheets, building trees, logging research and where to look for records. Free to all. Register in advance.

Tuesday May 16, 1:30-3:00 PM, Program for the Public and General Membership Meeting, "Collars, Coiffures and Corsets."

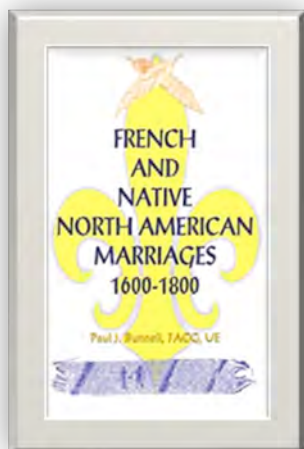


Is a picture worth a thousand words? Our May program "Collars, Coiffures and Corsets" is a delightful journey into the secrets of fashion and hairstyles to help date old photographs. Speaker Kate Eakman, Senior Researcher for Legacy Tree Genealogists, is visiting us from Portland to offer tips and information on the styles of the past. She kindly invites one and all to bring in any mystery photos to look over at the end of the program. A fun afternoon for a May day! Free to everyone.

← photo from Kate Eakman's blog

Wednesday May 17, 10:30-12:30 PM, "Finding Your Native American Ancestry."

Kate Eakman, Senior Researcher for Legacy Tree Genealogists, has an M.A. in History from the University of North Carolina. She specializes in Native American research and in this informative class will discuss the key first steps of Native American research: examining your family stories; tracing your lineage to that specific person, noting race/color in birth, marriage, death, and census records; the geography of a particular tribe; the history of a particular tribe; and comparing the facts to the story. This class is an excellent starting point for researching Native Americans. Kate Eakman is an interesting and entertaining speaker. Cost is: \$20 for non-members and \$10 for members. Register in advance.



← Native American reference books such as this are available at our library.

Thursday May 18, 10:30-12:30 PM, Introduction to the Library (Second in the Series)

Anne Billeter, RVGS president, instructor. This class for beginners will give you Tips and Tricks for how the library is organized and reveal research treasures you can use. Free to all. Register in advance.

Saturday May 20, 10:30-12:30 PM, Organizing your Genealogy (Third in the Series)

Barbara Northrup, instructor. Useful, practical strategies to organize your records, documents, and materials offline, using paper folders, notebooks and other tips for successful retention of your research. Free to all. Register in advance.

Monday May 22, 1:00-3:00 PM, DNA Interest Group (new to subject)

Lorita Cushman facilitates this group who have not yet had their DNA tested or who are beginners. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Register in advance.

Tuesday May 23, 1:30-2:30 PM, Quilt and Genealogy program, "Grandma Homer's Quilts"

by Melinda Fuhrer. Proud descendent of Pocahontas, Martha Mariah Homer's interesting history includes 12 children and creativity through quilting.

MONDAY May 29, MEMORIAL DAY. THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED.



A Peek into June

Wednesday June 14, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, Rescheduled class.

Donna Rae Hayes teaches the Genetic Genealogy class: Understanding GedMatch.com.

Tuesday June 20, 1:30-3:00 PM, As It Was.



Kernan Turner, Shirley Patton, Alice Mullaly and Raymond Scully will present our June Program.

LOCAL EVENTS

History Hunt



May 1-June 30. The Jackson County Heritage Association's 2nd Annual History Hunt begins May 1st and runs through June 30th. Take the family on a fact-finding journey to visit participating museums and societies in Jackson County. It's a great way to learn about our rich Jackson County history. At each location you visit you will get facts and free tickets for chances to win a valuable raffle basket. Need not be present to win. On Monday May 1st visit the society or museum near you to pick up your entry form and map. Then you will be off on your exciting trip back in time.

Windows in Time:

Historian George Kramer

"The Show Started at the Sidewalk: The History of the Holly and Other Theaters"

Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM, Medford Library.

Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM, Ashland Library.

Grants Pass Genealogy Society (GPGS)

Tuesday May 9, 1:30 PM, at the GPGS meeting at the LDS Church in Grants Pass, take a tour of "The Portal" - a collection of 14 fee-based research programs available for free use at all Family History Centers. Family History Consultants will show the audience software programs such as *Ancestry.com*, *Fold3*, *MyHeritage*, *Newspaper Archive*, *Geneanet*, *19th Century British Newspaper Digital Archive* and more. These online resources could help get you over that brick wall. For more information contact cacese36@gmail.com

Jacksonville Historic Cemetery Talks and Tours

Dirk Siedlecki, speaker at RVGS April meeting, reminded us that evening talks and walking tours through the cemetery begin **Tuesday May 9, 6:30 PM** and continue on the 2nd Tuesday of the month through August. Daytime talks and walking tours begin **May 13, 10 AM** and continue on the 2nd Saturday of the month through September. Program topics are listed at www.friendsjvillecemetery.org

RVGS News

BOARD REPORT by Anne Billeter, President

1. Approved videorecording of public programs (programs on 3rd Tuesdays as part of general memberships meetings and "Quilts and Genealogy" programs on 4th Tuesdays), as part of "Stories of Southern Oregon," which will be made available on the Internet.
2. Adopted a "Nondiscrimination and Safety Policy," which is posted in the Lunch Room.
3. 53 attended the very well received German Seminar and 34 attending the challenging but useful German Gothic Handwriting Workshop.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Annual Fund Drive Launched

Last month RVGS launched the Annual Fund Drive. In place of a variety of rummage and bake sales, RVGS holds one main fund raiser each year, our Annual Fund Drive. This year, our budgeted goal is \$15,000. Your generous contribution to the Annual Fund will allow RVGS to keep our membership dues low and assist in covering operating expenses. Membership dues only cover about one-third of our operating expenses. The remaining expenses are covered by monies raised through our Annual Fund Drive. Any amount you give will help to provide support to RVGS to continue the current level of

programming. As an all-volunteer organization, all donations are put into the operation and improvement of the library. No funds are received from any government sources. It is because of YOU that the library has grown to be the largest privately-owned genealogical library between Portland and Sacramento. We hope you will consider making a generous donation to the RVGS Annual Fund campaign this year.

Contributions can be made in two ways, 1) go to www.rvgsociety.org/Donate.html to make a donation online or click on the **Donate Now** link on our Facebook page, or 2) you can drop off a donation or mail a donation to the library at 3405 S. Pacific Hwy, Medford, OR 97501.

All donations are tax deductible as RVGS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, #93-0684590. If you take Required Minimum Distributions, you can donate all or any part of the distribution directly; send your request to the administrator of your fund. In addition, if you donate a matching amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust, you can receive a tax credit for the ENTIRE amount of your donation (maximum \$1,000 for couple; \$500 single). Just go to www.culturaltrust.org/donate for more details.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR EARLY CONTRIBUTORS!

Anne Billeter, Larry & Linda Blower, Melissa Clark, Carolyn Craig, Carita Culmer, Alice Herzberg, Horton Family Foundation, Patricia Jenkins, Michelle Johnson, Elizabeth Kelly, Sheila Kimball, Mary Kwart, Judith Meuser, Barbara Middaugh, Helaine Noble, Susan Perham, Wendy & Harry Purslow, Barbara Shrewsberry, Doris Sjolund, Vanya Sloan, Janie Stewart, Carol Wolf

RVGS'S TWO-DAY EVENT

In April Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Medford, Oregon, sponsored **GATEWAY TO GERMANY** with guest speaker, F. Warren Bittner, CG, a lecturer and genealogist from Salt Lake City. The first day he guaranteed that by the end of his three-hour workshop attendees could read the German Gothic Handwriting. He was an excellent teacher and attendees were able to decipher words and recognize family names.



The second day, a daylong seminar, his four classes provided background for understanding how to research German-speaking ancestors. This country's complex history, laws and boundary changes present researchers with many challenges. In a one-hour class attendees were made aware of the wealth of information in *Meyer's Gazetteer* and how the book is organized. Good to know!



The event was deemed a success by all.



Geranium for a door prize winner



Lederhosen for a raffle winner

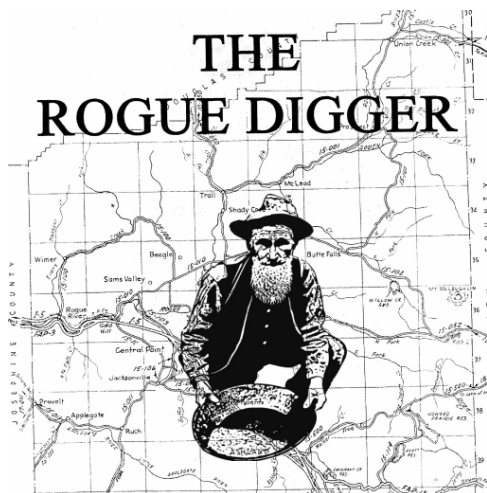
Both the workshop and seminar were held at the Jackson County Genealogy Library. A future seminar is scheduled for April 2018. So, watch for announcements in your eNews.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society has selected Ms. Audrey Sliger, a Senior at North Medford High School, as the recipient of this year's Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Scholarship. Ms. Sliger, number one of 377 in her class, plans to attend Southern Oregon University and major in communications and film studies.

During her high school years she maintained a 4.0 grade point average, is currently President of the North Medford High School Sparrow Club, has volunteered with the AIFF (Ashland Independent Film Festival) and has been a mentor at the Buddy Program through Medford elementary schools. She also has work experience as a sales associate at an apparel shop and as a sterilization technician at a dental office. According to her mentor at the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, for her senior capstone project she developed a well-researched, creative blog to encourage her peers to get outside, enjoy and gain respect for our forests. Marilyn Ayres of the Scholarship Committee reported, "We look forward to Audrey Sliger's visit to our Library at one of our future monthly general membership meetings where she will share more about her future plans."

SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR RVGS's *The Rogue Digger*



Do you have an interesting story to tell about your genealogical research? Have you discovered something--a research technique, new source, or other tool, perhaps--that has helped you in your research and that might help others? *The Rogue Digger*, our RVGS quarterly publication, specializes in capturing this kind of information so that it can be shared with the membership. We want and need your submissions! If you have something you'd like us to consider for publication, please contact Cara Davis-Jacobson, editor, at caradavisjacobson@gmail.com

JCGL News

SPOTLIGHT ON ROGUE VALLEY PIONEERS

Volunteer Terrie McCoy researched and wrote about ISAAC GOODWIN SKEETERS, a man who has deep roots throughout Jackson County and Josephine County.



According to his headstone, Isaac Skeeters was born in Nelson County, Kentucky 19 December 1823. His time in Kentucky is foggy but he headed out with a team and wagon on the Oregon Trail, joining other pioneers streaming west. In 1852 he arrived in Jacksonville to look for gold. At the local tavern he overheard a conversation about a missing gold mine. This is a place where truth, legend, lies and leg pulling all merge.

At the Jacksonville bar some men from California were in the corner furtively whispering about the LOST CABIN MINE. A miner called "Set 'em Up" had come into Yreka with enough gold to buy the whole saloon a round. The old miner mysteriously disappeared, presumed dead. Set on finding that gold mine, the saloon rabble headed for Klamath but arrived at Jacksonville by mistake...though they boasted they had the miner's map. They started a ruckus, had to be escorted out, and then hit the trail to find the gold.

In the meantime, Isaac informed other miners what he overheard about the lost gold mine. The tale was a well-known story thereabouts. However, hearing about the map, a group from Jacksonville followed the men from California. In an effort to lose the locals, the leading group zigged and zagged, covering their tracks. These tactics wore out the men and animals. When hungry members with no food and no water came across the others cutting up a deer for dinner, they decided to join forces. Of the 11 men from Jacksonville, John Hillman and Isaac Skeeters were main characters in this adventure.

The group split up to cover more area, then met at dark at a designated place. Isaac Skeeters took a right fork and came to a point where his mule refused to move. Later he reported, "I was drowsy in the heat and if my mule hadn't been so smart, I would have went over the edge, down into the water,

never to be heard of again." He had come upon the sheer rim of the caldera of a lake. Isaac was disappointed in taking the wrong trail but told the men of the lake he saw and took them to view it. All were amazed at the sight. They named the discovery Deep Blue Lake.

This is where the controversy begins. Except for mention in stories buried deep in historic articles, Isaac Skeeters has been completely left out of the discovery of Crater Lake, Oregon's only National Park. When the searchers returned without gold to Jacksonville with their story about the heavenly, blue waters of the lake they had seen, the news was almost totally ignored. No newspapers to broadcast the discovery. Plus, the exhausted men could not remember the exact location of their find. On 12 June 1853 John Hillman took a party to the rim to get accurate bearings. He is the person of record credited with being the first white man to gaze on the lake.

Isaac Skeeters, all but lost to history, went back to placer mining, moved to Josephine County for 10 years, and married Gracie Jane Simpson from Kentucky. They moved back to Jackson County, and had 11 children. He cut timber, milled and hauled the wood, ranched and farmed. Isaac and Gracie were married for 40 years. On 14 Aug 1908 after 44 years in Jackson County, at the age of 84, Isaac passed away in his home on Jackson Street in Medford with his wife and children at his side. He was interred at Laurel Cemetery in Cave Junction, Josephine County, Oregon. The land that Skeeters ranched above Butte Falls was named after the family: Skeeter Flats, Skeeter Creek, Skeeter Hill. The U.S. Forest Service erected a fire lookout near there, surveyed and renamed every thing. More information about Isaac Skeeters is available in our Pioneer File.

NEW ADDITIONS TO JCGL

ATLAS

912 Fam

Family Tree Historical Maps Book: a state-by-state atlas of U. S. History, 1790-1900

FAMILY HISTORY

929.2 Wehrmann

Wehrmann, Dennis

Wehrmanns of Malmershaupt

GERMANY

Circ 943 A101 Hal v. 3

Hall, Charles M.

The Atlantic Bridge to Germany, vol. 3: Bavaria (Bayern)

Circ 943 A101 Hal v. 6

Hall, Charles M.

The Atlantic Bridge to Germany, vol. 6: Mecklenburg

Circ 943 A101 Hal v. 7

Hall, Charles M.

The Atlantic Bridge to Germany, vol. 7: Nordrhein-Westfalen (Northrhine-Westphalia)

943.17 G192 Min

Minert, Roger P.

Mecklenburg Place Names Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.3 G192 Min

Minert, Roger P.

Palatinate Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.41 G192 Min

Minert, Roger P.

Hesse-Nassau Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.41 G192 Min

Minert, Roger P.

Hesse Place Name Indexes: Identifying place names using alphabetical and reverse alphabetical indexes

943.41 H388 Hei

Heinemeier, Dan C.

Social history of Hesse: Roman times to 1900

943.42 G192 Min
Minert, Roger P.
Rhineland Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.46 G192 Min
Minert, Roger P.
Baden Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.47 G192 Min
Minert, Roger P.
Wurttemberg Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.512 G192 Min
Minert, Roger P.
Schleswig-Holstein Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.56 G192 Min
Minert, Roger P.
Westphalia Place Name Indexes (With Hohenzollern, Lippe, Schaumburg-Lippe, and Waldeck) Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.59 G192 Min
Minert, Roger P.
Braunschweig, Oldenburg, and Thuringia Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

943.59 G192 Min
Minert, Roger P.
Hanover Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes

NEW JERSEY

974.9 G242 Cha
Chambers, Theodore Frelinghuysen
Early Germans of New Jersey: Their History, Churches and Genealogies

THE SOUTH

975 H388 Ber
Bernheim, G. D.
History of the German Settlements and of the Lutheran Church in North and South Carolina, from the earliest period of the colonization of the Dutch, German and Swiss Settlers to the close of the first half of the present century [originally published 1872]

CALIFORNIA

979.427 H388 Cho
Chodak, Elizabeth A. editor
Tehama Treasures: A Pictorial History of Tehama County [California]

979.427 H388 Zel
Zelinsky, Edward Galland
Upriver Boats-When Red Bluff was the Head of Navigation [California]

OREGON

979.5 H388 Kra
Kramer, Ronald
Pioneer Mikes: A History of Radio and Television in Oregon

979.523 S227 Hes
Hesperia 1926 [North Bend High School, Oregon]

979.527 H388 Rog
Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, 1966-2016: Bits and Pieces of Our History

979.541 S227 Hes
Hesperian 1924 [Oregon City High School]
Hesperian 1927
Hesperian 1929

979.595 H388 Luc
Luckey, Eugene E.
*Burns, Oregon, 1891-1991: A pictorial
celebration of Burns' centennial*

MAGAZINES RECENTLY RECEIVED

The most recent issue is shelved in the wire rack at the end of the 929.2 book stack.
Newsletters recently received are shelved in the neighboring wire rack.

Circ 929.05 GEN
The Genealogist, v 31, #1, Spring 2017.

Circ 929.05 NGSM
NGS Magazine, v 43 #1, January-March 2017.

* On the cover is Flora Mac Donald. (1722-1790.) Her story lives on in North Carolina through folklore and song for her role in helping Prince Charles Edward Stuart escape from Scotland after the defeat of the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. Flora and her husband Allan MacDonald immigrated to Cheek's Creek in present-day Montgomery County, North Carolina. Learn more about Scots-Irish migration to the colonial Carolinas in this issue.

Oregon Humanities. Spring 2017.



“MISSING PARENTS” PRESS RELEASE received at JGCL

Early American Immigrant Looking for Parents

Saratoga Springs, UT – March 31, 2017: My name is Joseph Vick and over 350 years have passed since I last knew where my parents lived in Europe. I was born around 1640 and immigrated to America in the mid-to-late 1660s. On 20 December 1673, I was deeded 50 acres by Hodges Council where I cultivated the rich soil at the Beaver Dam Swamp and grew my small parcel of land to build a plantation in Virginia. I died in Isle of Wight County, Virginia around 1700.

Over the years my descendants have organized to find my roots:

- 1972 Sam Vick of Mississippi hosted a family gathering of 170 of my descendants.
- 1984 Mary Jo McCrary and James M. Perrin (descendants of Reverend Newit Vick, founder of Vicksburg, Mississippi) organized the Joseph Vick Family of America (JVFOA.)
- 1990 Gailen Vick and O. Richard Wright formally incorporated JVFOA.
- 2004 published first 5 generations *Joseph Vick of Lower Parish*, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, co-authored by John Beatty, Di Ann Vick & published by James Davis.

Today my progeny includes the governor of Alabama, a past president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, ministers of most religious faiths and men & women that served in the armed forces in every war since I came to America. In fact I have over 20,000 descendants in America today.

In 2006 JVFOA started a DNA project: so far they have tested 50 of my posterity. They helped find adoptees' parents and corrected errors that had been previously published. They reached out and tested other Vicks around the world. Recently, my descendants found a "new" cousin through their Vick DNA project. While this new cousin does not have the Vick surname, his ancestor was born in Gloucestershire, England, and he shares my father's paternal line. This important new finding will be highlighted at the JVFOA annual meeting in Suffolk, Virginia this coming June on 23-25th. The community and my descendants will be educated on family genealogy, and DNA test results at the 2017 Annual Meeting & Reunion.

If you have located the missing parents of Joseph Vick, visit www.jvfoa.com or call Gailen Vick at 510-364-7631 to notify the family.