



BETWEEN US DIGGERS

ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



SINCE 1966

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 2010

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Plans are underway for the annual RVGS Christmas Luncheon. It will be held December 18, 2010 at 12:00 Noon in the Southern Oregon Uniserv Building at 2495 South Pacific Hwy. in Medford. This luncheon is given in honor of our volunteers and **ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND FREE!** This is our way of saying "thank you" for your many hours of volunteer service to our Society. Other RVGS members and guests are invited to join us at a cost of \$5.00 per person. This year, instead of a gift exchange, we will have a "Money Tree" which will benefit the Endowment Fund.



Please return the RSVP below or call the Library at 541-512-2340 if you plan to attend so we can have an accurate meal count.

We hope you will join us for this very special occasion!

RSVP BY DECEMBER 13, 2010

____ Yes, I will be attending. I will be bringing ____ guest(s).

Name(s) of guest(s) for name tags _____

____ No, I'm sorry, I will not be able to attend.

Name _____ Phone _____

RAFFLE BASKETS ARE READY AND ON DISPLAY AT THE LIBRARY!



The Annual Genealogy Gift Basket Raffle is the fundraiser that covers the expenses for the Christmas Luncheon. If you would like to help honor our volunteers, you can purchase the raffle tickets that are included in this edition of *Between Us Diggers*. Again this year, we have two beautiful baskets that will be given away and each is valued at approximately \$125. Read about the items on Page 3. **You need not be present to win, but we hope you will be there!**

Note: Due to a lack of submissions, there will be no *Rogue Digger* issue this quarter.

Between Us Diggers is the Membership Newsletter of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.

95 Houston Rd, P.O. Box 1468, Phoenix, OR 97535-1468 ~ Phone: 541-512-2340 <http://www.rvgsociety.org> and <http://www.rvgslibrary.org>

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

Jeannie Matthews
Lois Buck (rejoining)
Lorita J. Melson
Beverly Tessmer
Barbara Shrewsberry
Linda Hildreth (rejoining)
Bonnie Greenwell (rejoining)
Neal Smith
Carol & John Hazeltine
Gene R. Austin (rejoining)
Jim & Carla White (rejoining)
Marie Fulton
Doris Chamberlin (rejoining)
Kenneth Jones
Jacqueline Riggs
Jean Fisher
Mary Badley
Rod & Kathy Schaer
Patricia Berglund
Margaret A. Lewis
Kerry L. Hofsess
Paul Smith
Harlow Z. Head (rejoining)
Marilyn Rountree
Eve Fleming
Jan Wright (rejoining)
Jennifer Bryan
Suzanne LaChat
Frances Hazle

~~ REMEMBERING ~~

Janet McMullin

b. 1936 d. 10-4-2010

~~ REMEMBERING ~~

Mary Jo Mueggler

b. ca. 1922 d. 10-7-2010



CLASSES & EVENTS

Tuesday, 18 January 2011—1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., General Meeting Program, OEA/Uniserv Building located at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

Event: *Googling Your Genealogy Plus, Part 1* by Melinda Henningfield.

Cost: Free and open to the public! Call your friends to join you for this informative event! Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, 15 February 2011—1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., General Meeting Program, OEA/Uniserv Building located at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

Event: *Googling Your Genealogy Plus, Part 2* by Barbara Basden.

Cost: Free and open to the public! Call your friends to join you for this informative event! Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, 15 March 2011—10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., OEA/Uniserv Building, 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

Class: *DNA*

Instructor: Emily Aulicino

Cost: \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members

Tuesday, 15 March 2011—1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., General Meeting Program, OEA/Uniserv Building located at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

Event: *Fattening Your Skinny Ancestors* by Emily Aulicino.

Cost: Free and open to the public! Call your friends to join you for this informative and entertaining event! Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, 19 April 2011—10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., OEA/Uniserv Building, 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

Class: *Using Timelines in Your Genealogical Research*

Instructor: Beverly Rice, CG

Cost: \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members

Tuesday, 19 April 2011—1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., General Meeting Program, OEA/Uniserv Building located at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

Event: *Probate Research* by Beverly Rice, CG.

Cost: Free and open to the public! Call your friends to join you for this informative event! Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, 17 May 2011—1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., General Meeting Program, OEA/Uniserv Building located at 2495 S. Pacific Hwy., Medford, OR

Event: We will feature the winners of the Photo Contest.

Cost: Free and open to the public! Refreshments will be served.



FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR

Seventy-three of our members have donated a total of **\$6,923** to the **Annual Fund Drive**. We have added Robert Hawk to the Golden Club and Sarah Forbes to the Century Club.

Last fall the Board of Directors announced its five-year ***Pledge for the Future Building Fund*** campaign so that we can begin to address the **challenges** of our current facility:

- Dwindling space for our growing collection
- Increasing demand for research computers
- Lack of quiet areas for reading, studying, researching
- Very limited parking
- Limited room for programs, classes and meetings
- Crowded work spaces for members and volunteers
- No sprinkler system in event of fire

We can proudly report that we reached 61% of our goal in the first year of this campaign with the help of only 65 of our members!

We thank each and every one of you for your generous support.

The financial support of **all members** is needed to reach the **\$100,000 goal** for the Building Fund. This is the seed money necessary for RVGS to purchase or remodel a facility that will enable us to continue providing you with more and better access to genealogical records and to meet the Society's goals as

stated in our Mission Statement.

If you haven't done so already, please pledge or donate what you can. We have more than 500 members—think what we can achieve if everyone donates!

We still need donations of \$1,600 to reach our goal for the Annual Fund Drive and at least \$40,000 for the Building Fund. It's not too late to send us a check or visit our website to donate through PayPal. With four years remaining for the Building Fund campaign, please consider making an annual pledge that is comfortable for you. If you use PayPal, please remember to tell us how you would like us to use your gift—for the Building Fund, for current operating expenses, or for the Endowment Fund.

*Thanks to each and every one of you
for your generous support!*

RVGS ENDOWMENT

Our Endowment Fund is invested with The Oregon Community Foundation and continues to grow. The Endowment is a permanent fund and gifts to it will be held in perpetuity for the sole benefit of RVGS. Endowment support guarantees the future of RVGS and the Jackson County Genealogy Library for generations to come. **One of the easiest ways for you to help build this fund is to let your family and friends know that gifts and memorials can be made in your honor to the RVGS Endowment Fund at any time.** We will mention other forms of gifts for your consideration in future issues.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE BASKETS

The holidays are rapidly approaching and the RVGS Party to honor volunteers on Dec. 18th will soon be here! Holiday Raffle Baskets will be on display in the library starting the first of November.

Here are some items that will be in the Holiday Raffle Baskets:

- 2 GB USB Flash Drives
- Office supplies
- Family Charts
- Ancestry World, 1 year Subscription
- Ancestry US Collection, 1 year Subscription
- RootsMagic Travel Bag
- Decorative Files
- Gift Certificates to the Sizzler, Home Depot and Best Buy.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE, PRINT, CUT OUT, FILL OUT AND SEND OR TAKE TO THE LIBRARY WITH PAYMENT.





Back Issues of *Between Us Diggers*
(not *The Rogue Digger*)

We are planning to bind the *Between Us Diggers* but have found we are missing the following issues. Please help if you can.

- Jan/Feb 2001, Aug/Sept 2001, Nov/Dec 2001
- All issues of 2002

If you have any of these issues, please let me know or place them in my mailbox at the RVGS Library. Thanks!

OFFICERS FOR 2011



The election of officers for 2011 was held at the General Membership Meeting, November 16, 2010. The following slate of officers was presented by the Nominating Committee (Colleen Eccleston and Janie Stewart) and was unanimously elected:

President	Charleen Brown
Vice President	Connie Miller
Secretary	Andrea Patterson
Treasurer	Colista Bailey

NEW ONLINE BUD

Have you heard? We are publishing an online issue of the *Between Us Diggers* which will be posted between the quarterly issues of the combined *The Rogue Digger/Between Us Diggers*. We hope you have had a chance to read the November issue online. Due to increasing expense of printing and mailing we hope to move toward online publication for the future. Therefore,

hard copies of the online edition will not be mailed but will be printed in house so that members can pick up a copy when visiting the Library if they can't access it online.

Currently, many members have opted to receive our publications online. This procedure will continue. Those who receive the BUD or BUD/Rogue digger online will be notified when new issues are released. We encourage all members to opt for receiving our publications online as this not only saves RVGS money but gets you the information much sooner. *The Rogue Digger/Between Us Diggers* com-

bined issue is available online two weeks before it is received by mail. This is because of the turn around time involved in printing and mailing. If you take the publications online, you can read them online or print all or any part as you wish.

We hope you will consider this and let us know if you would like to receive them online. All we need is your email address to notify you when the publication is available to you. Tell us by sending your request with your email address to info@rvgslibrary.org.

TWO VALUABLE RESOURCES BECOME MORE AVAILABLE!

Two books that contain much useful information are the *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* (yes, it's red) and *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. Copies of each are on the reference book shelves at JCGL. Copies of older editions are available for checkout to RVGS members. These two books are now online on Ancestry.com's Family History Wiki found at <http://wiki.ancestry.com/wiki>. The online editions have been updated so that there are weblinks! Remember, you can use Ancestry for free on the JCGL computers.

If you have an article or helpful information for *Between Us Diggers*, submit material as a Word file or email to newsletter editor Cara Davis-Jacobson at caradavisjacobson@gmail.com. Reprinted items must be given credit and may be subject to copyright, so please include your name and where you found the information.



OCTOBER SEMINAR AND LAND RECORDS CLASS

RVGS's first genealogy seminar in over ten years was a success. Approximately 35 people registered for the land records class and approximately 60 people registered for the seminar itself, comfortably filling the large meeting room at the library. Comments about the seminar content and organization have all been positive. Karen Clifford, AG and FUGA, arrived in Medford on October 15th to present a two-hour class on land records at the Medford Branch of the Jackson County Library System that evening. She stayed on overnight to present a day-

long seminar in the same location on October 16th. People arrived for both classes in plenty of time for each to receive a name tags and syllabus (plus lunch ticket and raffle ticket for the seminar) and to find a seat at a conveniently placed table. Door prizes (books from SOHS and Genealogical Publishing Company, a gift certificate for an oral history from Family Ties, a picture frame, etc.) were given out during breaks between seminar topics. Handouts from major family history companies such as Roots Magic, Legacy, and Ancestry were available for all to pick up. A hearty and tasty lunch was provided by Deli Down for most seminar-goers and was supplemented with soft drinks purchased by RVGS. Many helped carry out event organization and planning. The organizing committee included: Barbara Basden, Carolyn Beron, Vicki Bryden, Melinda Henningfield, and Andrea Patterson. Chuck and Colleen Eccleston helped with registration and setup and with orientation of visitors. Roger Roberts, Wayne Henningfield, Al Beron, and others helped keep the library doors open. Thanks to all of you who attended. We hope you all learned something and that you will attend the genealogy workshops scheduled for March and April 2011.

The picture above shows Andrea Patterson and Colleen Eccleston hard at work at the registration table.

PIONEER & EARLY SETTLER CERTIFICATES

A recent review of the popular and growing Pioneer File Collection by Program Manager Janie Stewart disclosed some interesting statistics. To date 58 Jackson County pioneers or early settlers have been honored by 107 individual descendants through the issuance of signed and sealed certificates. Of the 107 certificates 67 were issued in the name of wagon train pioneers arriving in Jackson County prior to 1865. The remaining 40 were early settlers who had populated Jackson County prior to 1900. These certificates are suitable for framing and/or inclusion in family genealogy records and may be obtained for \$10.00 each. Records documenting a direct relationship between a member or patron and a pioneer or early settler establish eligibility to acquire a certificate. Additional information as well as application instructions are available at the library or on line at our website:

<http://www.rvgsociety.org/CertificateInfo.pdf>

QUARTERLY SEEKS MANUSCRIPTS

The Oregon Historical Quarterly plans to publish "Local History Spotlights" that describe programs, events, and projects taking place around the state. The journal recognizes that local historical societies, libraries, and other groups are doing good work in investigating the past and educating the public about our history, and wants to document that work and make more people aware of it. Editor Eliza Canty-Jones expects Spotlights to be from 750 to 1500 words and to include one or two images. If you have a project, event, or program coming up in 2011, contact Canty-Jones, at [503.306.5236](tel:503.306.5236) or eliza.canty-jones@ohs.org to discuss spotlighting it in the Oregon Historical Quarterly.

Kuri Gill
 Historic Cemeteries Program & CLG Coordinator
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[\(503\) 986-0685](tel:503.986.0685)
[\(503\) 986-0793](tel:503.986.0793) (fax)
kuri.gill@state.or.us
 Visit our website...www.oregonheritage.org



**WRITE YOUR FAMILY
STORY ...
PERSON, PLACE OR
THING!
2011
WRITING CONTEST**

Write your family story around a certain family member, a place significant to your family, or an heirloom owned by your family.

This year we have a special category of a children's story, based on fact...

Winners will be announced at the General Meeting in February 2011.

Rules and additional information on RVGS

website: rvgsociety.org/news

DEADLINE FEB 1, 2011

Sponsored by Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Inc.
95 Houston Road P. O. Box 1468, Phoenix, Oregon 97335
website: rvgsociety.org/news Telephone 542-512-2340



ANOTHER LIFE MEMBERSHIP!

Our latest life member is Scharri Brennan, who has been a RVGS member since 2001. We thank her for her confidence and appreciation in our ever growing society, library and genealogical services.

What interested Scharri in genealogy? She had always heard that she was related to Abraham Lincoln and had to "prove" that to her husband. Her research and "proof" paid off. She is related to him through his mother on the Hanks line. So with her claim to fame, the family now wanted her to do the Brennan line. This, says Scharri, has been more difficult. She does have a marriage record from Dubuque, IA in 1860 and the knowledge that they came from Ireland, but when is unknown and how they ended up in Dubuque remains a mystery.

She has been working on other families in many areas, but for the last 3-4 years she has been helping other people prove their lineage for DAR. She said she is energized and satisfied helping others.

Why support RVGS in such a big way? "Because they are doing a great job of building a wonderful library and teaching others about this 'addiction.'" She regrets not living closer to the library. RVGS regrets she doesn't live next door to the library! Chuck E. would have her recruited in a nanosecond!

MEMBER SUCCESS STORY: HITTING THE MOTHER LODE IN GENEALOGY

by Steve Kious

I would like to share with my fellow RVGS members a remarkable experience that happened to me. I have been doing genealogical research for over 30 years and recently acquired a copy of a letter that proved to be the most significant document I have ever seen regarding my Kious line. What follows is an illustration of how one single event can trigger a chain reaction that leads to major discoveries.

In August 2010, a friend of mine in California emailed an article to me regarding Juanita Kious Waugh. My friend asked me if Juanita was a relative of mine. The article stated that Juanita, who died on February 6, 2010 at the age of 87, had bequeathed \$43 million to the Mayo Clinic. She also bequeathed 7,500 acres of land to St. Joseph's College in Indiana. Juanita was a resident of the small rural town of Brookston (White County), Indiana, where she had lived her entire life. She never had any children.

Juanita was a distant cousin of mine; specifically, a third cousin once removed. Our common ancestor, John Kious (1804-1873), had moved to White County in the 1840's from Madison County, Ohio. Juanita's grandfather, Joseph Kious (1846-1918), a son of John's, was a wealthy banker. He built a house in 1888 in Brookston. This home had been occupied by Kious descendants continuously since that time.

I always figured that Juanita must have possession of photos, letters, and documents that had been handed down to her. In 1977, another distant cousin of mine visited Juanita's home. She had been forewarned that Juanita and her mother, who was still living at that time, were eccentric and would probably not talk to her. Unfortunately, that proved to be the case.

In 1989 I made a research trip to Brookston. I located Juanita's house and found her standing in the front yard. I introduced myself but she refused to talk to me. I never attempted to contact her again.

When I learned of Juanita's death, I contacted the Brookston Public Library, surmising that small town librari-

ans know everything. I wondered what had happened to Juanita's personal effects. I was told that after she died, someone had dropped off a box of items belonging to her. The librarian arranged to have scans of the items emailed to me. The items included photos, letters, and newspaper articles.

This is where I hit the mother lode. One of the letters was written in 1887 by Solomon Kious to his nephew, Joseph Kious. The letter detailed the Kious family history going back to the Revolutionary War era. Among the new discoveries were the original spelling of our name—Koues—and the location of where our ancestor died—Hagerstown, Maryland. No other Kious researchers had ever seen this letter or knew of these details. I speculate that this letter had been kept in the Brookston house since it was built in 1888—unshared by the reclusive Kious relatives who lived there for well over 100 years.

I also contacted representatives of the Mayo Clinic and St. Joseph's College, who were very helpful. Photos and other documents had also been sent to them. Both institutions sent me discs containing these items.

Subsequently, I learned the names of the trustee of the estate and also the man who had been her caretaker for several years. I called both of these men and had long conversations with them. Juanita had instructed them to destroy the photos and letters after her death. Fortunately, they didn't do this and instead salvaged them and donated them to the various institutions. Otherwise, these valuable items would have been lost forever.

As part of Juanita's will, she directed that her beautiful historic home be destroyed, and it was. I asked the caretaker why she did this, and he replied that she didn't want anyone else to live in it.

In conclusion, I would encourage researchers to never to give up. You never know when you might unearth some unexpected gem. It took me over 30 years of digging to hit the mother lode.

\$1 \$1
 ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
 Drawing Dec. 18, 2010
 PRIZES
 2 GENEALOGY BASKETS

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Need not be present to win!

\$1 \$1
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 Need not be present to win!

Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. is a non-profit corporation organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

OFFICERS

President
Charleen Brown

Vice President
Connie Miller

Treasurer
Colista Bailey

Secretary
Andrea Patterson

Trustee
Marie Fulbright

Past President
Chuck Eccleston

DIRECTORS

Library
Anne Billeter

Education
Melinda Henningfield

Membership
Charlotte Henry

Finance
Karen Asche

Public Relations
Carolyn Beron

Maintenance
Al Beron

Electronic Publications
Barbara Basden

GENERAL MEETING

The third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.
(Except July, Aug., and Dec.)

Usual location:
OEA Uniserv Building
2495 S. Pacific Highway
Medford

MEMBERSHIP

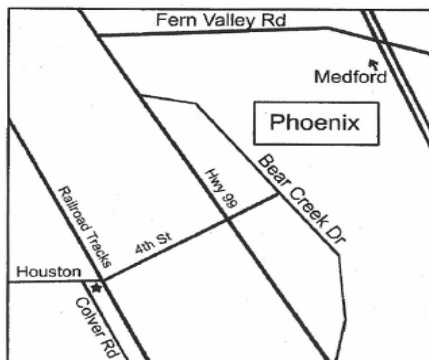
Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$15 for each additional member of the same household. This includes library checkout privileges.

LIBRARY HOURS

**Monday - Saturday
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

Directions to the Library

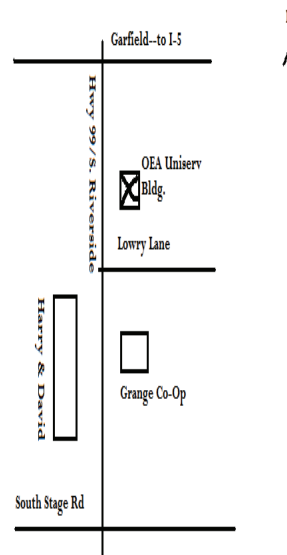
Enter Phoenix from I-5 or Hwy 99 and drive South on Hwy 99; Turn right on 4th, and continue until crossing the railroad tracks. Jackson County Genealogy Library is on the left.



**Directions to the OEA Uniserv Building
2495 South Pacific Hwy**

From Medford (north): drive south on Hwy 99. Turn left at the light on Lowry Lane. The building is on your left.

From Ashland (south): drive north on Hwy 99. Turn right at the light on Lowry Lane. The building is on your left.



ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- _____ Annual Membership: \$30 for an individual and \$15 for each additional household member
- _____ Life Membership: \$500 for an individual (\$200 is tax deductible)
- _____ Life Benefactor Membership: \$5,000 for an individual (\$4,700 is tax deductible)

Name(s) _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Where did you learn about the Society & Library? _____

Please make your check payable to RVGS, (95 Houston Rd.), Mail to: P.O. Box 1468, Phoenix, OR 97535.

Please call 541-512-2340 if you must receive our newsletter by postal mail.

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95 Houston Road
P. O. Box 1468
Phoenix, OR 97535-1468
www.rvgsociety.org and www.rvgslibrary.org
Return Service Requested

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 8 | Monday | Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library |
| 16 | Tuesday | General Membership Meeting, 1:30 p.m. OEA Uniserv Bldg. |
| 25 | Thursday | CLOSED November 25-28; Happy Thanksgiving! |

December

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 13 | Monday | Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library |
| 17 | Friday | Last Day Open in 2010; we will reopen January 3, 2011 |
| 18 | Saturday | Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Christmas Party & Installation |

January

- | | | |
|----|---------|---|
| 3 | Monday | First day open after Christmas Vacation |
| 10 | Monday | Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library |
| 18 | Tuesday | General Membership Meeting, 1:30 p.m. OEA Uniserv Bldg.
<i>Googling Your Genealogy, Part 1</i> |

February

- | | | |
|----|---------|---|
| 14 | Monday | Regular Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., RVGS Library |
| 15 | Tuesday | General Membership Meeting, 1:30 p.m. OEA Uniserv Bldg.
<i>Googling Your Genealogy, Part 2</i> |

Current and recent back issues of *The Rogue Digger* and *Between Us Diggers* are available at our society webpage: www.rvgsociety.org. You can access information about our library at www.rvgslibrary.org.