

## RVGS-JCGL eNews – October 2019



## QUICK LINKS TO THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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- 2) [Local History Happenings](#)
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- 5) [2019 Membership Survey Results](#)



## CLASSES & EVENTS

Registering in advance is requested for all events except public programs and Board meetings. To register in advance for classes and events:

- Email: [reception.JCGL@gmail.com](mailto:reception.JCGL@gmail.com)
- Telephone: 541-512-2340;
- Stop by the library: Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, and Tuesdays until 9pm.

### Event prices:

- Public Programs are FREE to all.
- Interest Groups, FREE to members; \$5-day use fee for non-members.
- Classes and seminars are priced as listed with the description.

## JCGL Classes and Events

**Tuesday, October 8, 1:30-3:00 PM, Family Tree Maker Interest Group; facilitator: Dave Hodson** - The Family Tree Maker Interest Group meets to discuss, share, and answer questions about the FTM program. Sometimes we watch a short video about FTM and discuss Ancestry for those who sync with FTM. We discuss news about upcoming versions of FTM and try to answer all questions from beginners to advanced users. A laptop is not required but is helpful, as we use the screen so everyone learns the process and can follow along.



**Tuesday, October 8, 3:15-4:45 PM, German Interest Group; facilitator: Mary Robsman** - Our German Interest Group (GIG) is an informal group with regular meetings. Members have an opportunity to share problems and successes with others doing specifically German research. Short presentations focus on topics of interest generated by the group and what's new in the field. Our GIG is a member of the International German Genealogy Partnership.

**Thursday, October 10, 1:30-3:00 PM, Irish Interest Group; facilitator: Bruce McGarvey** - Cead Mile Failtel (Or One Hundred Thousand Welcomes!) The Emerald Isle has a rich and storied history that has intrigued and stumped many researchers. Our group meets to discuss these strategies, sorrows, and success stories and how we can better bring these stories to life. Join us as we pull back the mist of time to uncover Irish Genealogy.

**Saturday, October 12, 10:30-12:30 “Brick Wall;” facilitators: Ruth Wade and Sherri Zucker** - Are you stuck? You've looked **everywhere** and can't push that ancestor back to the previous generation? **Bring your information:** who, when, and where your ancestor was, and what research resources you've searched. Join us as we brainstorm your and others' genealogy brick walls.

**Monday, October 14, 9:30-12 Noon, Board Meeting** - Members are welcome.



**Monday, October 14, 1:00-3:00 PM, Advanced DNA Interest Group; facilitator: Lorita Cushman** - This is a work group for those who are advanced in working with DNA genealogy. Members in this group know DNA terminology, have uploaded to GEDmatch and other sites, have done an X-DNA inheritance chart, a color clustering chart, and a match chart. While the Beginning DNA class

series is not a prerequisite, the class series provides the knowledge required to participate meaningfully in this interest group.

**Tuesday, October 15, 1:30-3:00 PM, General Membership Meeting: “Brainstorming Our Future”** Topics of discussion are Membership, Services, Communication, and Facilities.

**Wednesday, October 16, 10:30-12:00 Noon, Genetic Genealogy Interest Group; facilitators: Donna Rae Hays, Sherri Zucker, and Wendy Purslow** - Whether you have taken a DNA test or are thinking about it, this group discusses integrating your DNA test results into your genealogy research. We explore tools used to analyze DNA results, look at member brick walls and how DNA can help answer questions, and talk about news in the Genetic Genealogy community. A laptop or tablet is not required but is helpful as we frequently do short presentations on topics of interest from the group members.

**Thursday, October 17, 10:30-12:00 Noon, Getting Started: Questions and Answers About Your Genealogy and How RVGS Can Help You;” facilitators: Andrea Patterson and Barbara Northrop** - May morph into a monthly Interest Group

**Friday, October 18, 1:00-3:00 PM, “Writing and Publishing Memoirs” by Catherine Greenspan.** This class will demonstrate how to write and publish your memoirs

**Wednesday, October 23, 10:30-12:30 PM, “Using American Ancestors.org (Part I)” by Dave Horton.** Part 1 of this two-part class on searching the digital collections of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) for New England roots, focuses on search methods for the databases offered online by AmericanAncestors.org, a subscription website available free at JCGL. It takes a close look at the vital records and some of the genealogical journal databases offered. Some short case studies illustrate the material covered.

**Monday, October 28, 1:00-3:00 PM, Beginning DNA Class Series “Sneak Peak: 23 and Me, Ancestry, Family Tree DNA, My Heritage” by Lorita Cushman.**  
Learn a little bit about the four major DNA testing sites: the tools available, where to find shared matches and what you can expect from each site

**Wednesday, October 30, 10:30-12:30 PM, Using American Ancestors.org (Part II)”** by Dave Horton - Part 2 of this two-part presentation on searching the digitized collection of NEHGS for New England roots, continues with a look at other AmericanAncestors.org databases, particularly those for genealogical journals, the Great Migration book series, and family genealogies and histories. Short case studies are used to illustrate the material covered on this subscription website available at JCGL.



## **Tutorial Tuesdays, 5-6 PM for October 2019**

Tutorial Tuesdays are free for members and \$5 (day use fee) for non-members unless otherwise noted. Please register in advance.

**What are Tutorial Tuesdays?** Videos are shown from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays on our Smart TV, which has a big screen. This offers the opportunity to view and discuss the videos with others (and for some, the self-discipline required to actually VIEW the videos!) These videos are available over the Internet. The web address is provided for those who wish to view the videos at another time and place. Tutorial Tuesdays will be shown through October and then will resume in the Spring, 2020 (date to be determined.)

**Tuesday, October 1, “How to Research Your Polish Ancestors” 47.14 Min.**  
GenealogyTV <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4FsVQFulw0>

**Tuesday, October 8, “Genealogical Research Stories”** 1 hr. 2.31 min. New Jersey State Library <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFp7ePGheNk>

**Tuesday, October 15, “Genealogy - Is There a Friend in Your Tree? Early Quaker Research”** 1 hr 20.53 min. Sacramento Public Library  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_4w7kchCcM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_4w7kchCcM)

**Tuesday, October 22, “Coming to America: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors”** 57.43 Min. Video by Ancestry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E8bjriHyIY>

**Tuesday, October 29, “Your Civil War Ancestors: Beginning Your Research – A Preview”** 15 min. This presentation uses Legacy Family Tree Software  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwIKqJE0ZHo>

**“Researching Your Civil War Relatives - Military and Pension Records on Fold 3”** 25.42 Min. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nup2gpILFxE>



### Local History Happenings

Is something missing from this section? If so, please let Dorothy Cotton know! You can email her directly at [dorothy@mind.net](mailto:dorothy@mind.net)

**October 2, Wednesday: 5:30 PM and Friday, October 4, 10:00 AM at SOHS library.** SOHS will present **“SOHS Archival Resources”** by Kira Lesley - This talk will cover online sources plus collections at the SOHS Library. Register online: [Sohs.org/diy-list](http://Sohs.org/diy-list) or call 541-773-6536 ext. 200.

**October 5-6, Saturday and Sunday: “Wood House Event”** on Hwy 62 in Eagle Point. The house was built by Marvin S Wood circa 1870! Hours for this event: 9-5 on Saturday, 9-4 on Sunday. There will be booths with food and items to sell. Entertainment from “Old Time Fiddlers” and others. Admission is \$2 for ages 13 and over. 12 and under are free.

**October 9, Wednesday: 5:30 PM and Wednesday, October 11, 10:00 AM, at SOHS Library.** SOHS will present **“Online Resources for Local History”** by Ben Truwe. Register online: [Sohs.org/diy-list](http://Sohs.org/diy-list) or call 541-773-6536 ext.220.

**October 11 & 12, Friday and Saturday:** Enjoy two very “spirited” evenings in Jacksonville on October 11 and 12 when Historic Jacksonville, Inc. offers its final **Haunted History Walking Tour** of the year. Two different 1-hour tour routes are offered each night at 6p, 6:15p, 6:30p, 6:45p, and 7pm with alternating start times. **The Courthouse route** tours feature brothels, epidemics, and hangings. **The Britt Hill**



**route** tours highlight arson, saloons, and Chinatown. Both tours include haunted houses. Tours leave from the Jacksonville Visitors Center at the corner of N. Oregon and C streets. The cost is \$5 per person with all proceeds benefiting historic preservation. Reservations are strongly suggested. Visit their website at [www.historicjacksonville.org](http://www.historicjacksonville.org) for the times when each tour is offered and to purchase your tickets online. For additional information, contact 541-245-3650 or [info@historicjacksonville.org](mailto:info@historicjacksonville.org).

**October 18-19, 25-26, and 31: "Gold Hill Museum Haunted House"** at the Museum. Hours are 6:30-9:30 PM. A family event, nothing gory, just scary. Prices are: Adults \$5, ages 12-18 \$3, 6-12 \$2, 3-5 \$1.

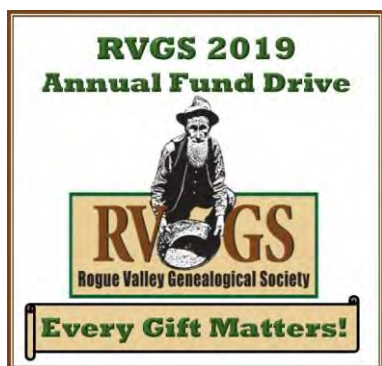
**October 22, Tuesday: 6:30-8:00 PM, "Presentation on the Wood House"** by Willow McCloud at the Talent Historical Society Museum.

**October 26, Saturday: 5pm – 9pm "Wood House Event"** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Open House on Hwy 62 in Eagle Point. This event is FREE.

## ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

### New Members

**Welcome** to our newest members: Georgia Emslie, Bill Warner, Marlene "Marnie" J. Hulsey, Jamie Howington, Andrea Venable, Bill Dodge, Norma Castelan, Ken & Sharon (Chris) Palmer, Valerie A. Vitale, and Al Densmore!



### Annual Fund Drive

It's not too late! Your generous donation to our 2019 Annual Fund Drive will still make a difference. Go to our website and click the donate button on the homepage or send a check to the library. Your donations keep our Jackson County Genealogy Library operational.

Thank you to all the 2019 Annual Fund Drive donors thus far! YOU make a difference!

Apple, Kathleen  
Arnold, Vern & Marti  
Asche, Karen  
Austermann, Christy  
Ayres, Marilyn & Albert  
Baker, Sheila  
Barker, Loretta  
Beckett, Kathleen

Billeter, Anne  
Brenner, Diane  
Brewer, Patricia  
Briggs, Glen  
Brobst, Phillip  
Brown, Charleen & Warren  
Brown, Darlene  
Buchta, Alan

Cabler, Wayne  
Carlson, Edith & Charles  
Casteel, A.W. & Darlene  
Christman, Murray  
Couey, Sheila  
Craig, Carolyn  
Culmer, Carita  
D'Allura, Pam

Davidson, Barbara  
 Davis, Sandra  
 Davis-Jacobson, Cara  
 Dunham, Kathy  
 Eccleston, Chuck & Colleen  
 Everett, Judith  
 Ferrara, Kaye  
 Ferrell, John & Lorraine  
 Fischer, Terry  
 Freeburne, Sharon  
 Fulbright, Marie & Bryan  
 George-Strader, Donna  
 Goodnough, Thelma & Richard  
 Haas, Cheryl  
 Hamby, Sharon  
 Haugse, Katie  
 Hawk, Robert  
 Hawley-Crum, Sharon  
 Henry, Char  
 Herzberg, Alice  
 Hildreth, Linda  
 Holst, Monty & Carol  
 Horton Family Foundation  
 Hunter, Judy & Phil  
 Jenkins, Patricia  
 Kelly, Elizabeth

Kelly, Patricia  
 Kemp, Florence  
 Kimball, Sheila  
 Kious, Steve  
 Leissler, Lynn  
 Leppek, Katherine  
 Mallchok, Judith  
 Marcy, Patsy  
 Marion, Alan  
 Markham, Marsha  
 McCoy, Nathan  
 McGee, Vicky & John  
 Merz, Gayle  
 Middaugh, Barbara  
 Miles, Richard  
 Miller, Betty  
 Milsom, Alan  
 Mullaly, Alice & Larry  
 Noble, Helaine  
 Ordal, Kathie  
 Patterson, Andrea & Jack  
 Patterson, Betty  
 Perdue, Wanda  
 Peterson, Cynthia  
 Phelan, Dorcas  
 Riehl, Sallie

Roberts, Jeff  
 Ross, Barbara & Stephen  
 Russell, Sybil  
 Salthouse, Denise  
 Schulman, Nancy  
 Scott, Karen  
 Shrewsberry, Barbara  
 Sloan, Katherine  
 Stafford, Darrell  
 Sternola, Chloe  
 Stewart, Janie  
 Stuelpnagel, Shirley  
 Thurman, Kimberly  
 Turcke, Elaine  
 Turner, Linda & Robert  
 Ulrich, Cathy  
 Ulrich, Marita  
 Vega, Maureen  
 Walker, Bill  
 Ward, Sharon  
 Weaver, Vernon & Evelyn  
 Wobbe, Leona  
 Woodburn, Serita Sue  
 Zerr, Phillis

***ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
 THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS***



## **1939 British Register**

by Betty Patterson

On September 10, 2019 the video "1939 Register British Family History" by Find My Past was shown as part of the Tutorial Tuesday video series. This is a brief review. England was already under attack and needed accurate information to deal with every aspect of the war effort, from drafting for the military to preparing for food and other rationing, to knowing how many were trained in each occupation. The 1939 Register included about 41 million names of people living in England and Wales. It did not include those already serving in the military as they were already on their own records. The "Register" included full names and dates of birth, occupations, marital status, previous armed service, and complete address of each person in the household. There were over 9 million different occupations, as they needed to know how many coal

miners, ship builders, etc. This was needed to keep the war effort on track. Some households had many children of different names because the children were sent to safer areas away from the large cities, which were being bombed. Sometimes it was hard to have all the correct information on the younger children. The 1939 Register was found to be so complete, that even after the war ended, it was used and updated until 1990 because it was so valuable. (For the National Health Service, among other things.) This is an excellent source for research in this time period.

At this same time there were also "Foreign Office Books" that covered workers in the embassies and other government jobs who were guest workers. Britain did a great job of trying to account for everyone who was in England and Wales in 1939.



## 2020 Census: Did You Know?

Between March 12 and 20, 2020, most households in the United States will receive a postcard invitation to respond ONLINE to the 2020 census. Those who don't answer will then receive the traditional paper form in the mail. Still no response? A census taker will knock on that door to collect that household's information.



People who live in areas the Census Bureau has determined are most likely to lack broadband internet service will receive a traditional paper form in the first mailing. Why the change from paper? To save money. The 2010 census cost \$10.2 billion. Taking the census online (at least partially) is projected to save an estimated \$5.2 billion.

*Source: AARP Bulletin, September 2019, p.6-7*

## RVGS Scholarship Program for High School Students

by Marilyn Ayres, scholarship chairman.

We are happy to share with all our members a letter from Emily Riehlman, our first scholarship awardee (see next page). She wanted us to all know how appreciative she is of our scholarship and her path over the past few years at college.

Additionally, we are continuing with the scholarship program this year. The information will go out to the Jackson County high schools and be posted on our website in November. If you know any high school senior this year who would like to apply for this \$1500 award, please let them know. This will be the fifth year of the RVGS scholarship program in our community.



August 26, 2019

Dear Marilyn Ayers and all of the amazing people who are part of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society,

At the time I received the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Scholarship, I was a senior in high school who could not wait to go to college. I was excited to see what my future held at Pacific University and to find out what opportunities awaited me there. In high school, I was an athlete, a mock trial participant, a science enthusiast, and the student council president, but I could not help but think, "who am I going to be in college?"

Well, since coming to Pacific University, I have been a tour guide, a student worker for the Admissions Department, a Colleges of Arts, Science, Business, and Education (CASBE) representative, a chemistry major delegate, a grader for organic chemistry, an orientation ambassador, a resident assistant, and a senior resident assistant. I have also participated in clubs ranging from American Sign Language Club to Ultimate Frisbee Club all while keeping my spot on the Dean's List every semester.

Prior to college, I remember believing that life was a straight path. That as long as I made a plan and stayed organized everything would be set for me. Well, I can say that this is something I no longer believe. Life is not a straight path, but rather a path that curves and sometimes has some unexpected turns. I was so sure I was going to be an optometrist when I graduated high school, but through various classes, my eyes were opened to the world of possibilities that is healthcare. I changed my mind and decided I was going to be a pharmacist, and then I was going to be a doctor, and then even an audiologist at one point. I am pretty sure I drove the career development advisor crazy with how many times I changed my mind!

I thought I had officially decided I wanted to be a physician assistant (PA) and I became a certified nursing assistant (CNA) to get clinical hours for PA school. Working as a CNA taught me many things like patience, time management, and compassion. It also opened my eyes to how disease affects not only patients, but also their families. This is what got me thinking and surprise, surprise, I once again changed my mind. I now want to go into medical research and will be applying for biochemistry and molecular biology PhD programs this fall. I had never given the possibility of going to graduate school for chemistry a thought, but with my love of chemistry and the support from my amazing chemistry professors, I truly believe I have finally found what I am meant to do, and I could not be more excited.

Now (I cannot believe it), I am writing this letter as a senior in college and it is amazing to see how far I have come since my senior year of high school, not only as a student, but as a person too! I feel like with every school year I discover more and more about myself. I am a learner, someone who loves a good challenge, a person who wants to be involved, and most importantly one who wants to make a difference in the world. My time at Pacific University has allowed this to happen, but coming to Pacific University would not have been a possibility if it were not for scholarships like the one I received from the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society. Thank you so much.

Best wishes,

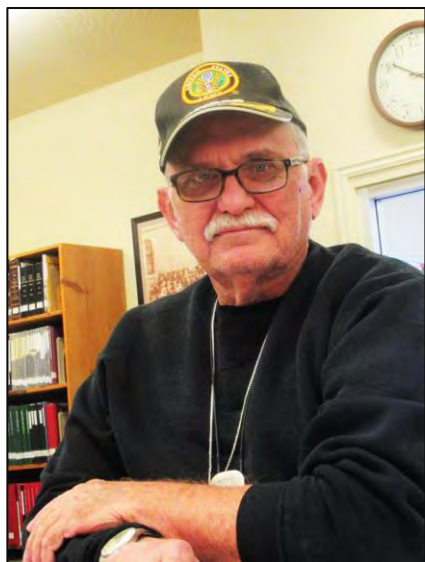




## JACKSON COUNTY GENEALOGY LIBRARY NEWS

### Volunteer Librarians Needed

Learn more about the Genealogy Library's hidden treasures by volunteering to be a librarian. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided. Three hour (9:45 am – 1pm and 1-4:15pm) and six hour shifts are available (9:45 am – 4:15pm), plus five hour Tuesday evening shifts (4-9 pm.) Contact Library Director Anne Billeter at [annebilleteroregon@gmail.com](mailto:annebilleteroregon@gmail.com) for additional information.



### Volunteer Profile

by Terrie McCoy

As Volunteer Director, I want to acknowledge the people and the work they do. Each monthly eNews will feature a person you may know and introduce those behind the scenes who help keep our library going. The first hard-working volunteer comes in almost every day of the week, arriving about 4:00 a.m. and leaving around 10:00 a.m. **His name is Terry Fischer**

Sergeant First Class Fischer served in the Army from 1972 until 1992. He worked as a Financial Officer, in charge of MILLIONS OF DOLLARS: in cash, in bags, and involving a sidearm.

After retiring in 1992, he lived and worked in Portland. In 1998 he headed south on vacation and drove through Medford where he stopped and saw a billboard at Harry & David that said they were hiring. When he checked into it, they said, "You Are Hired!!!" He turned around, went back to Portland, gave two weeks' notice, moved to Medford, and went to work for Harry & David as a Truffles Formulator until he retired in 2010.

In 2012, Terry went for a drive and saw the sign for the RVGS Genealogy Library when it was located on Houston Road in Phoenix. He went in, joined, and met Chuck

Eccelston and the rest is history. Chuck has retired now, but he was a charming whirlwind who was able to talk almost everyone he spoke to into volunteering.

Terry started out indexing books. Later he was directing 4 to 6 other volunteers who worked at home doing proof reading, which used to mean picking up reams of printed material. Now, all that gets picked up is a very small flash drive.

Terry has been responsible for helping our library into the digital age. He records births, weddings, anniversaries and birthdays from Ashland, Grants Pass, and Medford newspapers. He also lists new books for the eNews, makes changes, corrections, and additions to our monthly member roster, prints brochures, keeps our volunteer in-house mailbox list up to date, and keeps our business cards current. At the same time, he is working on current obituaries from local newspaper and mortuary websites.

An RVGS volunteer in Salem sends him images of Jackson County Death Certificates on a flash drive which he indexes for the JCGL website, which are then printed and bound for the library collection. He is also revising older obituary indexes to separate death notices from obituaries, so we can charge less for copies of death indexes than we do for obituaries.

This year he also took on the job of HISTORIAN, gathering information that has anything to do with our library. Box to binder, oldest to newest, when he has extra time. This seems a good time to encourage each person who is reading about this amazing man to consider becoming a volunteer. Our library is moving into the future with a need for people who can help keep us moving forward; although, NOT necessarily as much time as Terry!



## News from our Subscription Websites

**MyHeritage** has added

- **Nord Civil Marriage Records, 1792-1937**, containing 5.4 million civil records of marriages of the French department of Nord. The collection contains a searchable index that isn't available on other websites, in high resolution documents, offering a wealth of information for anyone researching their ancestors from the most populous region in France. [Nord is a department in the far north of France, bordered in part by the North Sea and by Belgium. The capital is Lille.]
- **Pennsylvania Death Index, 1906-1964**, containing 6,562,484 records.
- **Netherlands Newspaper collections, 1659–1899**, containing 1,730,885 pages from 194 newspaper titles.

**FindMyPast** has added:

- **Scotland, Newspaper Notices:** Births, Death Reports, Obituaries, Marriage and Anniversary Notices.
- **Scotland Roman Catholic Parish Records:** Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, and other parish records.
- **Lancashire Wills and Probate, 1457-1858:** more than 26,000 new records.
- **Netherlands, 1564-1945:** Three indexes to more than three million births and baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials.
- **Yorkshire School Logs, 1862-1959:** students and teachers in 137,000 transcripts.

**Ancestry** has added:

- **Bristol, England,** Church of England Records
- **New York,** State Employment Cards and Peddlers' Licenses, 1840-1966
- **Massachusetts, Boston,** Crew Lists, 1811-1921
- **North Lanarkshire, Scotland,** Poor Law Applications and Registers, 1849-1917
- **Europe,** Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees, 1939-1947 (in German)



### New Additions to JCGL for OCTOBER 2019

Forty-five books were added to the JCGL collection, including 8 books about quilts (746.46), 6 Illinois (977.311), and 11 Missouri (977.8). The quilt books include biographical and genealogical information about quilt makers, primarily from specific states, and are all available to RVGS members for checkout as circulating books.

Also, of special note is the culmination of the research of John W. McGlothlin to document the *Civil War Veterans buried in the historic Jacksonville Cemetery, Jacksonville, Oregon* (979.527 C242 McG). We all hope someone like John is documenting our own Civil War ancestors, wherever they may be buried. [Click here](#) for the full list of new library additions.

### Flag Needed

The library is in need of a U.S. Flag to fly by our front door in good weather. We are looking for one that is about 2' X 3' with grommets. Please contact the library if you have one you would like to donate.



### Got Quilts?

**Quilt Documentation Day is Tuesday, October 22**, but space is limited, so schedule your appointment NOW! Learn your quilt's story. Our team of volunteers will examine quilts and provide information about patterns, fabrics, styles and estimated age. We will create a quilt history form and



documentation label for each quilt, ensuring your quilt's story is preserved for future generations. Limit two quilts per person. Please sign-up for back-to-back spots if bringing two quilts. Cost is \$10 per quilt. Contact Karen Asche at [kfasche@gmail.com](mailto:kfasche@gmail.com) to schedule your appointment(s).

## Magazines Recently Received

The most recent issue is shelved at the end of the 929.2 stacks.



Circ 929.05 Ams v.153 (5), Sept-Oct 2019

***American Spirit***, Daughters of the American Revolution  
Early childrens' readers, Stephen Hopkins House (Providence RI), first balloon flight in Philadelphia (1793), hurricanes during the Revolutionary War, early sports and booksellers.

Circ 929.05 NGSM v.44(4), Oct-Dec 2018

***NGS Magazine***, National Genealogical Society  
Emphasis on Urban Research : Strategies, African Americans in the urban landscape, using Sanborn maps (including how to find them), records of ethnic benevolent societies, federal records, and organizing genealogy files.



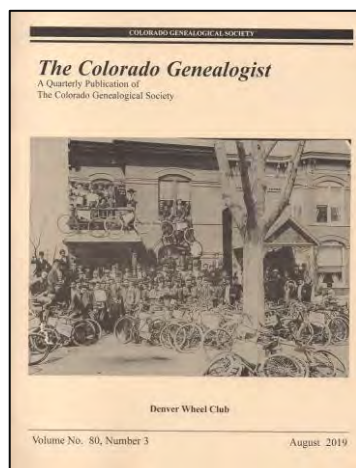
Circ 929.05 NGSM v.45(1), Jan-March 2019

***NGS Magazine***, National Genealogical Society  
Emphasis on the Missouri Region: early French citizens in the upper Mississippi valley, using homestead files, National Archives records of those who died in military service, orphan train research, German settlement in Louisiana Purchase lands, and the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri.

Circ 974 P273 AA v.20(2), Summer 2019

***American Ancestors***, New England Historic Genealogical Society

Preserving your family history in the digital age, Jewish research, Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Harwich MA, and Prince Walker of Barre, MA.



Circ 978.8 P273 Col v.80(3), August 2019

***The Colorado Genealogist***, Colorado Genealogical Society  
The Troxel Brothers, bike enthusiasts in Denver, and the continued list of Bible records in the Denver Public Library Manuscript Collection [Shoots-Hort, John and Frances (Petty) Lawrey, Church, Thomas and Sarah Barnes Finch, George McDuffie Calhoun, George and Mary Ellen (Biddlecome) Taylor, and Crout family bibles.]

## From the President: 2019 Member Survey Results

The results of our member survey are in and we are proud to know that our efforts are well received by those of you who responded. The Board's goal was to involve our members in the decision-making process for strategic planning. We want to have a good understanding of your wants and needs as we go forward.

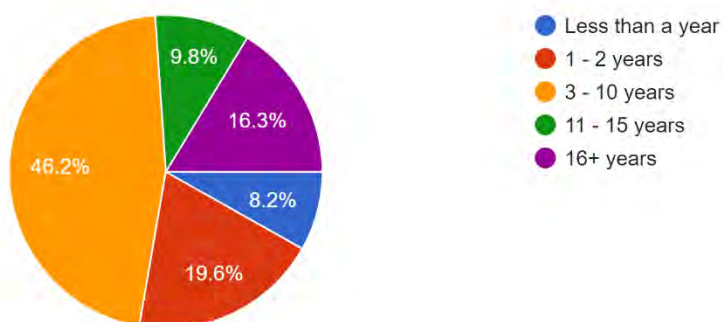
**We need input from all of you! Please attend our general membership meeting on Tuesday, October 15 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm at JCGL to brainstorm our future with other RVGS members. Topics of discussion include Membership, Services, Communication and Facilities. Join us for Brainstorming, Refreshments, and Door Prizes!!!**

The survey was sent to 622 people. Of those, 186 (29.9%) completed the survey. Most of the comments on the survey were on the positive side, "keep doing what you are doing," and are not reflected in this summary. The focus of the summary is to list the additional ideas and suggestions from the comments, some of which may have come from only one respondent.

### MEMBERSHIP

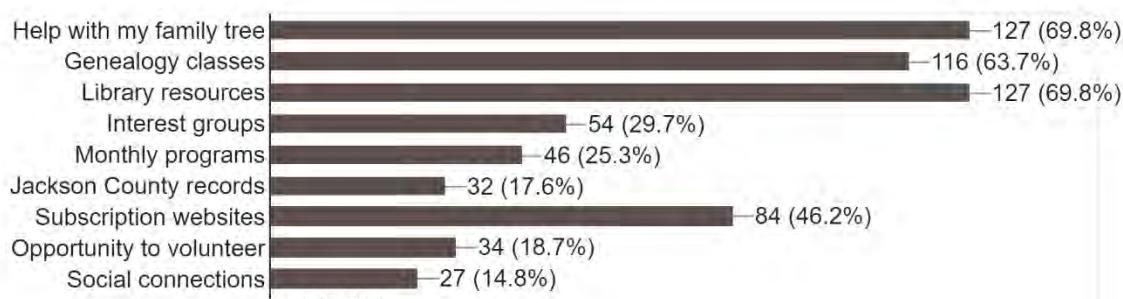
How long have you been a member?

184 responses



Why did you join RVGS? Check all that apply.

182 responses

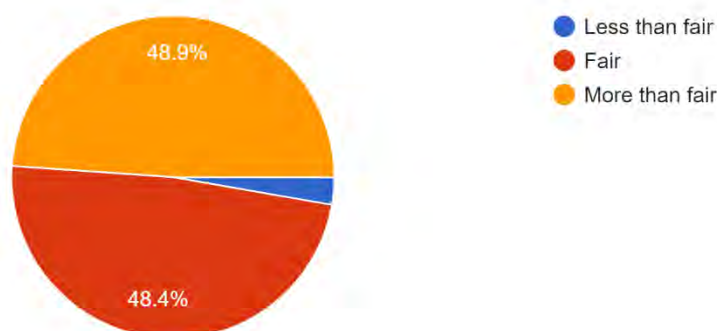


The main reason for joining is access to JCGL resources that help you with your family tree. Your expectations as a member are met through genealogical resources, help from friendly and knowledgeable librarians and classes. Requests included more classes, orientation of new members and one-on-one coaching.

Most responded that our membership fee (\$2.50/month!) is more than fair and that we could probably raise the annual fee by \$5 to \$10 and remain affordable. Affordability for those on a fixed income is a concern. Suggestions included reduced fee for those who volunteer or sliding scale for seniors and disabled.

### Do you feel your \$30 annual membership fee is:

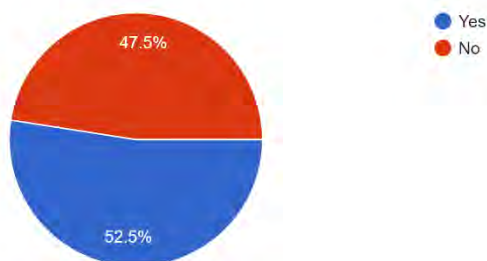
182 responses



Most of the responses from members of less than three years indicate they do not volunteer or donate. Those who do welcomed being asked and recognized volunteering as a means to increase their knowledge base. Reasons for not volunteering include time restrictions due to family, health, job, distance or responsibilities elsewhere.

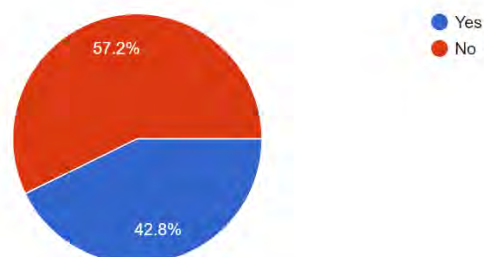
### Did you donate money or items to the Library in the last year?

183 responses



### Have you ever volunteered with us?

180 responses



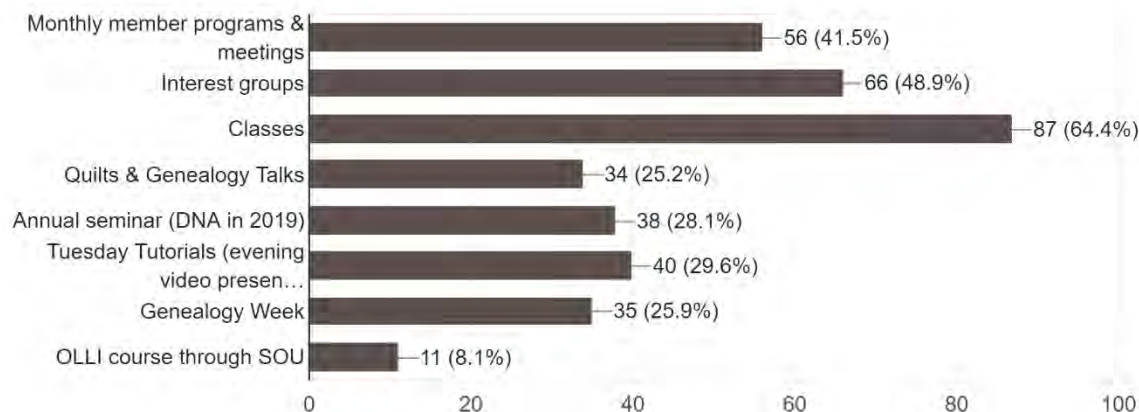


## SERVICES

Clearly, education/learning is the main focus of members responding. Block-building skills and genealogical topics were mentioned the most.

What events have you attended in the past year? Check all that apply.

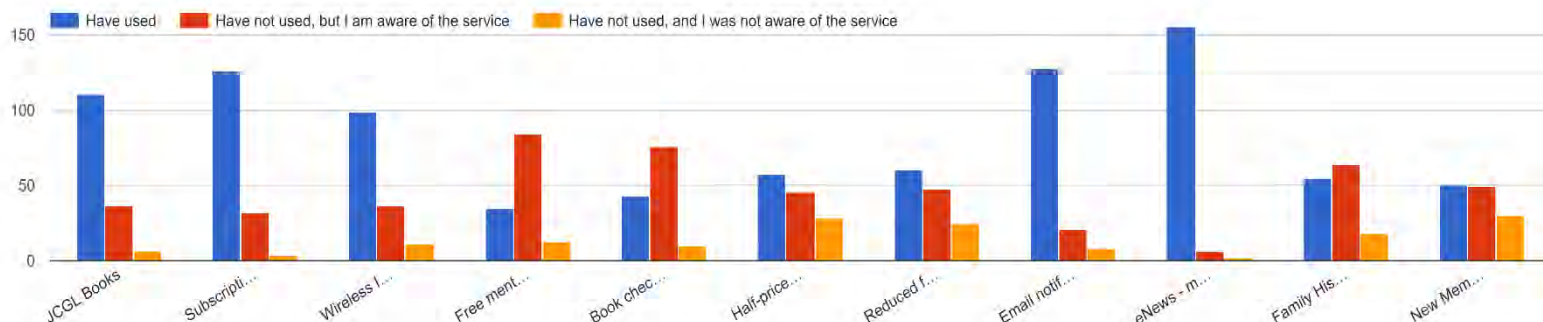
135 responses



**Types of events of interest**—group trips to other genealogical repositories, more variety and intermediate/advanced classes, member sharing of successes and difficulties, more volunteer training on equipment, orientation on how to use the library to maximum extent and online resources, thematic approach to classes, and interest groups for other U.S. states and countries.

**Most used member benefits**—subscription websites, books, wireless Internet

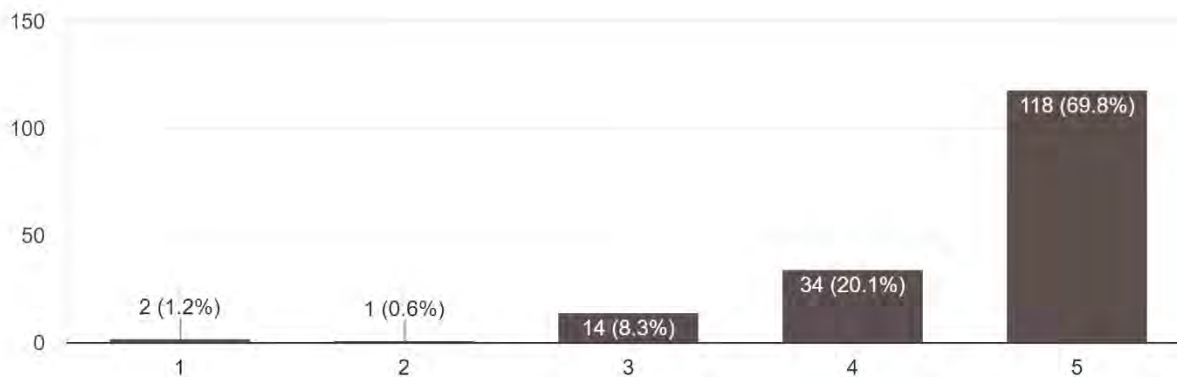
Which of these member benefits have you used? Check all that apply.



## Services of greatest importance—subscription websites, classes, new member orientation

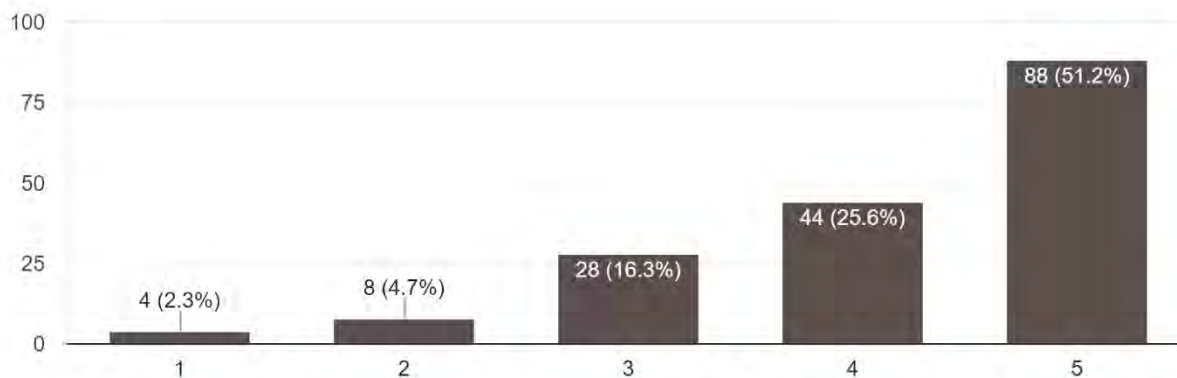
### Subscription websites

169 responses



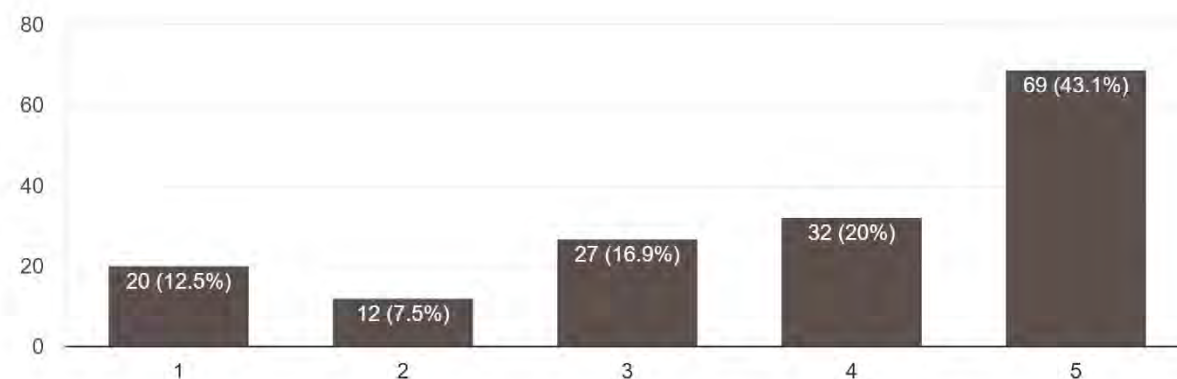
### Classes

172 responses



### New member orientation

160 responses



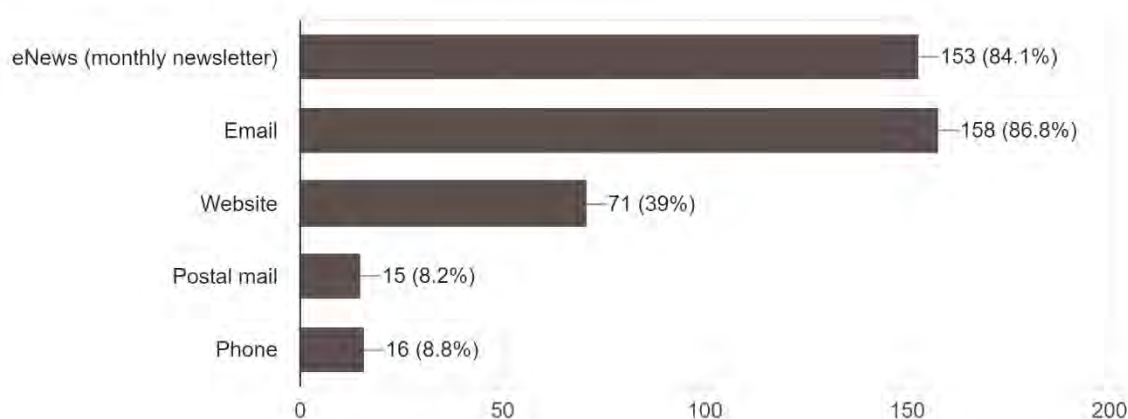
**Ideas for members-only section of website**—chat room, JCGL digitized records, list of members' areas of interest/expertise, links to tutorials, access to subscription websites (if possible considering cost), success stories, guide to JCGL resources, memorial dedication column, list of RVGS committees and officers/directors (including minutes), themed blogs on key topics

**Topics of most interest right now**—DNA, immigration/emigration/migration, writing/citation/research strategies, newspapers.com, history and resources beyond Jackson County (US states and other countries), new resources, data organization suggestions, how-to lessons.

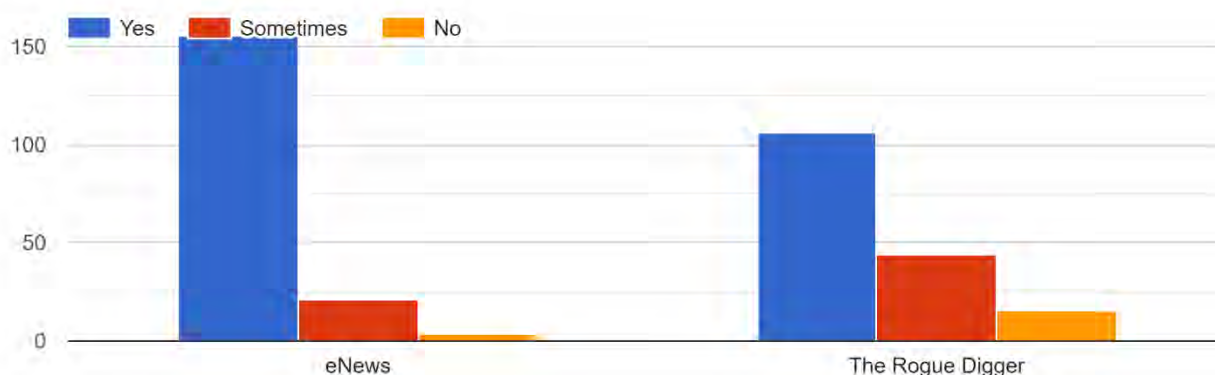
## COMMUNICATION

How do you prefer to hear from us? Check all that apply.

182 responses



Do you read our publications?



**Publication content most useful/enjoyable** — calendar of events here and elsewhere, upcoming classes, new books/magazines, personal research/solution articles, case studies, local



history and quilt stories, genealogical and how-to articles, local pioneer histories, RVGS/JCGL insider news

**What type of content would you like to see published**—permission to print articles from other places about our region and research in general, answer to question of the month, more well-documented research articles, success stories (tracking down difficult records), specific topics, research tools, new member page re: mentoring and orientation, more how-to articles, new resources available here and elsewhere, brick wall breakthroughs, comments and suggestions from Interest Groups

**Other comments**—Other than to keep doing what we are doing so well: larger break room away from patron areas, more volunteers to even out workload, additional perks for volunteers, more programs/classes that are genealogy based rather than local history, consolidation of eNews and The Rogue Digger, transition from books to digital world (Note: survey revealed almost equal use of subscription websites and books which are largely donated), expand on historical photos, a quieter library (less talking), open hours that accommodate working members, work together with other historical societies, help for those who are not tech savvy.

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**Again, thanks to all who responded to the survey. We encourage all of you to voice your opinions and brainstorm our future by attending the Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 1:30 to 3 pm at JCGL. There will be refreshments and door prizes as the Board's thank you.**