



Eastside Genealogical Society Newsletter

October, 2023

Calendar of Events: October – early November, 2023

Note: These meetings are via Zoom unless otherwise specified, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday, October 6 at 12:30 PM Pacific time: German Interest Group – “The ABCs of the Old German Script” presented by Charlotte Noelle Champenois, AG® from the Family Search Library. Starting from the beginning – the alphabet – dive into how to decipher individual letters of the old German script. Learn how to use that knowledge to decipher key genealogical terms, based on context and expected record content, to start you on your own road to discovering the hidden treasures in your German-language records. You must register in advance for the meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/39jrffwve>.

Thursday, October 12 at 7:00 PM Pacific time: October General Meeting – “SOLVED! Case Studies in Genetic Genealogy” presented by Leah Larkin. DNA is daunting! We know that it can be used to break through brick walls, but we may not always understand how to put that knowledge into practice. Join us to work through real-life case studies where DNA provided answers that could not be found any other way. In this joint program with South King County Genealogical Society, we’ll address strategies for solving brick walls, whether it’s an unknown parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent. Members will receive the Zoom link via email or obtain it from the website a day or two prior to the meeting at <https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org>. Virtual meeting doors will open at 6:30 PM Pacific time with the program beginning at 7:00 PM.

Friday, October 20 at 10:30 AM Pacific time: Family Tree Maker Interest Group - Individuals using or interested in using the Family Tree Maker software program to record genealogical information are invited to join us to learn about the software. If you would like to attend and are not on the email distribution list, please send an email to ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org no later than Thursday, October 19.

Calendar of Events (cont'd):

Saturday, October 21 at 10:00 AM Pacific time (SPECIAL TIME): Italian Interest Group – “9 Types of Italian Military Records and Where to Find Them” presented by Ann Tatangelo. The history of the military in Italy is complex because Italy wasn’t even a country until 1860 and was dominated by several foreign nations until Garibaldi led his army to victory and the unification of the country (well, most of it) in 1860. Ann plans to cover Italy’s military history, its divisions, the Leva and other lists, the role of the military, service and discharge records, and Military Tribunals. Go to the IIG website at egs-iig.com and click on the October meeting to request the Zoom link.

Friday, November 3 at 12:30 PM Pacific time: German Interest Group – “German Guilds and Their Records: A possibility for filling gaps when church records are missing” presented by Fritz Juengling, Ph.D., AG® from the Family Search Library. In this lecture, we learn about the history, structure, and purpose of guilds. Then, we look at some of the many record types that guilds created and how they can be of use to the researcher, especially when church records are missing and how these records can fill those gaps. Some discussion of occupations will also be given. You must register in advance for the meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/2kzh8yd2>.

Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 PM Pacific time: November General Meeting – “What’s Online at the National Archives” presented by Marisa Louie Lee. The National Archives website and online catalog have great resources for genealogists, but how can you get started? This presentation – appropriate for beginners – will explain the ins and outs of federal government records and walk you through how to navigate the National Archives website. We’ll explore the newly re-designed online catalog and learn how to make connections between the catalog and what’s online on Ancestry, FamilySearch, and elsewhere. Those with questions about specific types of federal records are encouraged to contact the presenter in advance of the program at marisalouielee@gmail.com. Members will receive the Zoom link via email or obtain it from the website a day or two prior to the meeting at <https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org>. Virtual meeting doors will open at 6:30 PM Pacific time with the program beginning at 7:00 PM.

Upcoming Help Desk opportunities:

Wednesday, October 4 at 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Genealogy Help – Genealogy questions? EGS offers one-on-one help with a volunteer. This is a one-hour appointment for an individual. Sign up on the King County Library System website: kcls.org.

Thursday, October 12 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Regional Library: Ancestry Help – An EGS volunteer will show you how to research your family history and genealogy with Ancestry Library Edition in the computer lab on the 2nd floor. Drop-in at your convenience.

Wednesday, October 18 at 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Genealogy Help – Genealogy questions? EGS offers one-on-one help with a volunteer. This is a one-hour appointment for an individual. Sign up on the King County Library System website: kcls.org.

Upcoming Help Desk opportunities (cont'd):

Thursday, October 26 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Regional Library:

Ancestry Help – An EGS volunteer will show you how to research your family history and genealogy with Ancestry Library Edition in the computer lab on the 2nd floor. Drop-in at your convenience.

Wednesday, November 1 at 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Genealogy Help – Genealogy questions? EGS offers one-on-one help with a volunteer. This is a one-hour appointment for an individual. Sign up on the King County Library System website: kcls.org.

Thursday, November 9 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Regional Library:

Ancestry Help – An EGS volunteer will show you how to research your family history and genealogy with Ancestry Library Edition in the computer lab on the 2nd floor. Drop-in at your convenience.

Other Events in the Seattle Area:

Sunday, October 1 at Seattle Center: CroatiaFest.

Friday, October 6 – Sunday, October 8 at Washington State Fair Events Center, Puyallup:

Oktoberfest Northwest, a Munich-inspired Oktoberfest celebration.

Saturday and Sunday, October 14-15 at Seattle Center: TurkFest

Saturday, November 4 at Seattle Center: Seattle Hmong New Year

Special Research Day for the WA Pioneer Pursuit

The last chance for Washington Pioneer submissions before the contest ends is October 31. To help you put your family (or other eligible individuals you identify) into the records, EGS has reserved the use of the FamilySearch Center in Bellevue on Thursday, October 19 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Pacific time. The address for the Center is 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue. EGS volunteers will be available to assist you and answer questions.

For those of you who haven't heard about the Washington Pioneer Pursuit, the Washington State Genealogical Society started a contest that is running from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023 to document the family histories of everyone that lived in the Washington Territory on or before Statehood was declared (November 11, 1889). Genealogists and genealogical societies are challenged to research and document three generations of Pioneer family lineages. You do not need to be related to the people whom you submit. Prizes will be awarded to the individual and society submitting the most entries. Most importantly, this is the opportunity to have your special persons listed with the registry of pioneers that WASGS is compiling. Come join us on October 19, and we will show you how to make this happen!

If you have questions, contact Celia McNay at egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com.

October is Family History Month

Submitted by Kimberly Nichols

Did you know that Family History Month is observed every October? It began in 2001 when Congress passed a resolution, introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, who wrote, “By searching for our roots, we come closer together as a human family.”

You can observe Family History Month by participating in an activity. Here are some suggestions for you:

- **Attend an EGS meeting.** Our society’s monthly meeting will be held Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 PM Pacific time. Our speaker will be Leah Larkin, speaking on “SOLVED! Case Studies in Genetic Genealogy.” See more details in the Calendar of Events section above.
- **Attend a Special Interest Group meeting.** Our society has many and you can find a listing on the website.
- **Dedicate a day or a few hours to in-person research.** Our local area has some wonderful places you can research, including the genealogical collection at the Bellevue Library, the FamilySearch Center in Bellevue, the Fiske Library in Seattle, the Seattle Public Library, and the Seattle Genealogical Society Library. There are other libraries and archives outside the greater Seattle-Bellevue area as well.
- **Interview a relative or have your child or grandchild interview you.** Ask about their life, things they did, things they loved, etc. There are many ideas for questions you can ask (or be asked) online. Make sure to record the interview so it will be something you and your family can keep for generations.
- **Read a genealogy book about a topic you want to explore further.** There are many how-to books as well as books about locations, ethnic groups, time periods, or fictional stories. Make use of the library for ideas.
- **Cook or bake one of your ancestor’s favorite recipes and share it with your family or friends.** Explain to them why what you made is special.
- **Take a walk with a family member and share some family stories.**
- **Organize your family photos.** Label, scan, and file those precious photos.
- **Explore a genealogy-related website that is new to you.** There are thousands of websites relating to genealogy. A good place to find a new one is Cyndi’s List at <https://www.cyndislist.com/> or Linkpendium at <https://linkpendium.com/>.
- **Create a family newsletter or website.** Share what you know about your ancestors with others. You might even find some new ancestors!
- **Take a DNA test, or if you have already done so, check to see if you have new matches or communities.**
- **Transcribe digital records for a project.** Many groups are looking for volunteers to help transcribe records online. One place to check is FamilySearch at <https://www.familysearch.org/getinvolved/>.

Book Review – Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy

Submitted by Bob Barnes – This is the first of two reviews of recent genealogical books in the King County Library System.

Drew Smith's new genealogy text, "Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy" (2023), is both short (170 pages) and very well written with many excellent screen shots and examples. The first half of the book focuses on preparing the reader to do genealogical research starting with names, dates, places, events, and family relationships. This is followed by a discussion of the genealogical research process – research goals; finding sources of online information in Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, findmypast and other online repositories; using Cyndi's list; citing your sources; analyzing what you find; resolving contradictions and reaching conclusions. Next are the tools and methods we use to keep organized. Looking for previous research and identifying and finding books and other printed material about our ancestors brings us to using card catalogs and WorldCat to locate printed material from the right place(s) and times that might reflect ancestors' activities. There is an excellent 14-page summary of why it is now appropriate to take one or more DNA tests to inform your genealogical research with genetic information. A reprise on online information sources follows with an emphasis on effective search techniques.

In the final chapters, the author explains doing genealogical research generation by generation starting with records from the post-1950 generation, then the 1880-1950 generation, the 1850-1880 generation, the 1776-1850 generation, and finally, the pre-1776 colonial generation. Each time period is unique, featuring records of differing quality and completeness. The generation-by-generation structure utilized by the author guides new researchers to focus on the most important records for their target ancestors and not get distracted by other records for possible future research.

While the book's primary focus is on American genealogy, it concludes with chapters on researching records in other English-speaking countries as well as non-English foreign records. This is a must-read book, and the King County Library System has circulating copies at about half a dozen library locations.

Meet Your Board of Directors – President Jane Wickert:

Note: This is the first installment of a regular feature to help you become better acquainted with the volunteers on Eastside Genealogical Society's Board of Directors.

I'm Jane Wickert. I've been a member of Eastside Genealogical Society since 2009. I started out as a quiet member who came to meetings and sat in the front of the room (because I could see the slides better that way!). At those meetings and by listening to others talk about their research, I became a better researcher myself. After a while, I volunteered to go to the library one Tuesday night a month to answer questions from others (something I continue to do because I learn so much). I was then asked to fill the Vice President slot and manage the Help Desk program, and finally became President in 2020. I am currently completing my last year as your President. I hope to continue to serve EGS in some small way in the future.

How did I get started doing genealogy? Growing up, my family spent vacations either visiting relatives or going to museums and historical sites. When I was 9, we drove from Ohio where we lived to Gettysburg,

Meet Your Board of Directors – President Jane Wickert (cont'd):

Philadelphia, and New York City. It was a great vacation, and there wasn't even an amusement park on the agenda! After that trip, my father suggested that I write a letter to my grandfather and ask him about ancestors who fought in the Civil War. I still have Grandpa's reply! In about 2000, I finally made the trip to Petersburg, Virginia to see if I could find out if the story Grandpa told in that letter was true. It was. His grandfather (my 2nd great-grandfather) was indeed a soldier. He lived on a family farm in the area, and he surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse. I wanted to know more! That started a journey to learn more about the people who came before me that is ongoing.

Where am I researching? Most of my family has lived in Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. Most were here prior to the American Revolution, although one grandmother's family came from Germany between 1850-1870. Early ancestors were in New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania as well.

What do I do when I'm not doing genealogy? The obvious answer is as little as possible! But I lead a book club that meets monthly because I love to read. I am also a ham radio operator and provide support for races, rides, and runs in the area; work as a volunteer examiner for FCC licensing exams; and help teach licensing classes.

An Open Invitation

The Eastside Genealogical Society Board would like to invite you to an upcoming Board meeting! The board hopes that your visit will show you what the board does and encourage you to join us. Our meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month, September through June, with a break in December. The meetings are scheduled from 10:00 AM Pacific time until noon and are conducted via Zoom. If you are interested in attending one or more meetings, please contact Jane Wickert, President, at president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org, and she will send you the Zoom link.

EGS Board of Directors:

President	Jane Wickert	president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Janice Leitzke	secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Treasurer	Glen McNay	treasurer@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Trustee	Kimberly Nichols	trustee@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Book Committee	Nancy Whatmore	books@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Education	Bob Barnes	education@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Membership	Celia McNay	egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com
Programs	Beth Snyder	programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Publicity	Janet Stroebl	publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
SIG Coordinator	Open	
Webmaster	Glen McNay	webmaster@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

We are working towards making this a monthly newsletter, but we need your help! If you have ideas for articles or features you would like to see, suggestions for improvement, or would like to write a book review or article for the newsletter, please email us at publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.