



Eastside Genealogical Society Newsletter

March, 2024

Calendar of Events: March – early April, 2024

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

Friday, March 1 at 10:30 AM Pacific time (SPECIAL TIME): German Interest Group co-hosting with Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna in Germany – “Working with Marginal Notes on German Civil Records” presented by Ursula C Krause. Marriage, death, and birth records often contain marginal notes that provide additional information you would not find otherwise. These notes can provide additional clues about the person and even family members. They are definitely a shortcut in your research that you should not do without! In this presentation, you will learn how to use these marginal notes in your research to gain deeper insights into your ancestor’s life story. Login information is available on their website at: <https://egsgermangroup.wordpress.com/>. Advance registration is not required.

Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 PM Pacific time: March General Meeting – “Descendancy Research: Gathering Your Family Forwards and Backwards” presented by Celia McNay. Descendancy research involves moving forward in time on your family tree instead of further back in the generations. Why would you do this? To assemble a more complete picture of your ancestors, their immediate relatives, and their impact today. As you move forward in time, you will be researching in the ‘paper’ era of records, thus opening more records to your searches. It will also allow you to find collateral lines to use in the push back in time. Members will receive the Zoom link via email, or anyone can 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.

Calendar of Events: March – early April, 2024 (cont'd)

Friday, March 15 at 10:30 AM Pacific time: Family Tree Maker Interest Group – Special program this month with Mark Olsen, Family Tree Maker Ambassador to societies from MacKiev – “Creating a Book with Family Tree Maker and Family Book Creator.” 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, March 14.

Saturday, March 16 at 1:30 PM Pacific time: Italian Interest Group – “Italian Dual Citizenship by Descendancy” presented by Mike Mechum. Most people may not realize it, but they could actually be citizens of Italy from birth. Italy requires you to prove your Italian ancestry with proper documentation to apply for and obtain Italian citizenship and does not require you to renounce your current citizenship(s), which allows you to hold two or more passports and be a dual-citizen or “multi”-citizen. If you aren’t an active member of the Italian Interest Group, you can request a Zoom meeting invitation by going to <https://egs-iig.com/> and clicking on the meeting you wish to attend.

Thursday, March 21 at 11:30 AM Pacific time: Lunch Bunch and Research – enjoy lunch and conversation with fellow genealogists followed by research time at the FamilySearch Center (previously known as the Family History Center) at 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue. We have reserved a room at the church building across the parking lot (where food is allowed) from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Bring lunch from home or stop in one of the many area options to buy food. Water and restrooms are available on-site. When we are done visiting and sharing brick walls, new finds, and search tips with each other, we will move over to the FamilySearch Center for some research time. The Center is open until 6:00 PM. No reservation required. **NOTE:** The FS Center follows the Bellevue schools for winter weather closures.

Friday, April 5 at 12:30 PM Pacific time: German Interest Group – “Germanic Genealogy on Facebook: Prussia, Austro-Hungary, Russia, Denmark, Swiss & more!” presented by Laura Kaatz. This Facebook group was established to provide a forum for those that had ancestors for ANY region where German was, or is, spoken to include Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, etc...and all the areas where those Germanic people emigrated to around the world. The group is entirely a volunteer-based group, although we have many professional genealogists that are members and donate their time as they are able. You must register in advance for the meeting at: <http://tinyurl.com/mrz2hzw3>.

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities

If you’d like to be a volunteer for either an online or in-person Help Desk session, please contact President@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.

Wednesday, March 6 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, March 14 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue 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, March 20 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, March 28 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue 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, April 3 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.

Other Genealogy Events in the Area and Beyond

Thursday, February 29 through Saturday, March 2 virtually or in-person: RootsTech 2024 by FamilySearch will be held both in-person in Salt Lake City and virtually. RootsTech is the premier event to celebrate your heritage and other meaningful connections through a deeper understanding of family history and genealogy. In addition to nationally known keynote speakers, there will be sessions for all levels of genealogists from beginner to advanced. Global genealogy experts will cover topics ranging from research techniques to DNA to records from around the world. There's something for everyone at RootsTech 2024! For more information, go to: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>.

Wednesday, March 6 from 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Pacific time virtually: Fiske Genealogical Library class – Janice C. Lovelace presents, “19th Century Women Settlers Confront the Far West.” Women settled the Far West along with their male family members although we don't learn about them as much. This session will help you learn more and delve deeper into the lives of White, Asian, and Black women ancestors who settled in the Far West pre-1900. We will look at women's lives through their own lenses in letters, diaries, and photos as well as what records were generated during their lifetimes. For links to join the meeting and get class notes, go to: <https://fiskelibrary.org>.

Saturday, March 9 from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Pacific time via Zoom or in-person: Seattle Genealogical Society Second Saturday meeting – Janice C. Lovelace presents, “Special Collection Repositories: Finding Women's Stories and Voices.” What can you find in special collections at libraries and archives? Learn more about the lives of your women ancestors by digging into special collections of diaries, letters, manuscripts, and photographic material generated by women. Look beyond your ancestral locality – papers may end up anywhere! This presentation will explore the wide range of records to be found. For more information and to register for this meeting, go to: <https://seagensoc.org/eventListings.php?nm=67> and scroll down to the meeting date.

Other Genealogy Events in the Area and Beyond (cont'd)

Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State meeting – Susan Weinberg presents, “The Fluidity of Names.” For more information and to register for this meeting, go to: <https://www.jgsws.org/meetings.php>.

Tuesday, March 12 at 6:15 PM Pacific time via Zoom or in-person: Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society Educational meeting – Annette Burke Lyttle presents, “Border – What Border? Our Ancestors Who Called Both Canada and the USA Home.” Movement from the United States to Canada was unrestricted and unrecorded until April 1908. The U.S. began recording the entry of Canadians along its northern border in 1894. Before that, many thousands of people lived cross-border lives, without visas, work permits, passports, or immigration records. Learn how to find these elusive ancestors. For more information and the Zoom link for this meeting, go to: <https://tpcgs.org/eventListings.php?nm=43> and scroll down to the meeting date.

Wednesday, March 13 from 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Pacific time virtually: Fiske Genealogical Library class – Judy Nimer Muhn presents, “French-Canadian Records: Beyond Initial Resources.” This class will follow on from her class on January 31, including advanced topics such as notarial records and the eastern townships of Quebec. A real opportunity to bring your own specific questions and problems with French-Canadian and Acadian genealogy! For links to join the meeting and get class notes, go to: <https://fiskelibrary.org>.

Saturday, March 16 at 10:00 AM Pacific time via Zoom: South King County Genealogical Society General Meeting – MaryLynn Strickland presents, “Women’s History Month – Honoring Disobedient Women.” History is made by people who dare to defy authority and follow their hearts for the better of their families, friends, and communities. Anne Marbury Hutchinson and Mary Barrett Dyer acted on their personal convictions rather than obey the demands of their Puritan governors. Ultimately their legacies became the foundation for colonial charters and, over a century later, our U.S. Constitution. Social time begins at 9:30 AM with the program beginning at 10:00 AM via Zoom. For more information and to register for the Zoom link, go to: <https://www.skcgcs.org/>.

Saturday, March 16 – Sunday, March 24 online and in-person: Genealogical Forum of Oregon Open House. All Open House events are free, including 20 online classes on a variety of topics. Advance registration is required for each online class you wish to attend at: <https://gfo.org/learn/open-house-2024.html>.

Tuesday, March 19 at noon Pacific time via Zoom: New England Historic Genealogical Society/American Ancestors – Rhonda R. McClure presents, “The Scots-Irish in America: Origins and Migrations.” The Scots-Irish have been immigrating to America since the early 18th century. Today, there are more than 5.4 million Americans who have Scots-Irish ancestry. But who are the Scots-Irish? Where did they emigrate from? Where did they settle? From their origins in Scotland and Northern Ireland to their migration to the American colonies, Senior Genealogist Rhonda R. McClure will discuss the rich history and enduring legacy of the Scots-Irish in America, providing research tips and resources along the way in this free program. For more information and to register, go to: <https://www.americanancestors.org/events/scots-irish-america-origins-and-migrations>.

EGS Field Trip to the Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives

EGS Trustee, Kimberly Nichols, provided the following information about this upcoming event.

Are you interested in seeing what the Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives has? EGS will be taking a field trip to this archive, located on the campus of Bellevue College at 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue. The date is Thursday, April 18th at 10:00 AM. The field trip is limited to 20 people so if you are interest in going, please RSVP to Kimberly Nichols at kimberly7nichols@gmail.com as soon as possible. She will send those who sign up more information as we get closer to the event date.

Genealogy Rabbit Hole Story

Thanks to Janice Leitzke, EGS member and Secretary, for sharing her story.

I have been participating in a historical fiction book club, and this month we read, "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post." In that book, Bob Birdseye, the founder of the frozen food company Birds Eye Frozen Foods, is mentioned.

Today I was researching an early American branch of my family which included the surname, Gordon. I found Donald Gordon (1877-1923) married to Louise R Ayer (1876-1955). They were interesting because they owned Gordon Hall and Drumlin Farm in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and Louise's estate gifted the properties to the Massachusetts Audubon Society and created Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary.

As I am reading about that on Wikipedia, I see that Louise's grandmother is Ellen Douglas Birdseye Wheaton (1816-1858). Ellen wrote a Diary, "The Diary of Ellen Birdseye Wheaton." That diary caught my attention and with a little research, I discovered that Ellen is the great aunt of Clarence Frank "Bob" Birdseye that founded Birds Eye Frozen foods.

So Bob Birdseye, mentioned in a historical fiction from a book club, just got added to my family tree. Another reason I like genealogy.

P.S. This was right after I discovered that General George S Patton was also distantly related to Louise R Ayer Gordon.

Washington State Genealogical Society Pioneer Pursuit Results

Participants from Eastside Genealogical Society contributed a total of 123 pioneers to the Washington State Genealogical Society's Pioneer Pursuit program during the contest period. Thank you to the following EGS members who entered submissions: Judith Lyle, Ruth Maloney, Celia McNay, Kimberly Nichols, Peggy Pomeroy, Marcella Rush, and Kay Wilson. WSGS is still accepting submissions as they attempt to document the family histories of every man, woman and child that lived in Washington Territory on or before Statehood was declared. Your submissions do not need to be related to you. For more information, go to their website at: <https://wasgs.org/cpage.php?pt=96>.

Getting to Know the Genealogy Trails Website

Thanks to Celia McNay for sharing this article from the 1/28/2024 Family History Guide Blog by Bob Taylor.

[GenealogyTrails.com](https://www.genealogytrails.com) is a handy website that focuses on United States research, particularly for U.S. states and counties. It's a collaborative effort run by a series of expert volunteers, with lots of great resources that are hard to find on other sites. Their forte is transcribing many thousands of records, such as military, obituary, biographies, voter registrations, and more.

In The Family History Guide, each U.S. state page concludes with a Counties section that has several links to county resources from FamilySearch, Ancestry, Linkpendium, GenealogyInc, and USGenWeb. We recently added Genealogy Trails links to each county for each state in the U.S. so now there are six separate resources for finding county information. We've also linked to a number of resources from Genealogy Trails in some of our new Class Outlines.

Meet Your Board of Directors: Program Chair Beth Snyder

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

I would describe myself as a fair-weather gardener, liking the idea more than the reality. Same with genealogy. I got a jump start from research my mom had done—thank you, Mom! I've done some genealogical research but lack the discipline and focus to stay with a narrow research question for long. Still, I was happy to discover the Eastside Genealogical Society after taking a genealogy class from Bob Barnes.

How I ended up as program chair is still a question, but I really enjoy it. It gives me a reason to follow various genealogy speakers and interact with them. It may be unusual, but doing this job has helped me with my organizational skills (not a strength). Between records stored on my computer and in notebooks, program planning is probably the most organized part of my life! It is helpful that, outside of board meetings and general meetings, any work can be done on my schedule. Once I caught on to how to keep track of information, it doesn't take a lot of time. A bonus has been getting to know EGS members and board members better. A nice group of people!

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	Open	books@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Education	Bob Barnes	education@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Membership	Celia McNay	egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com
Programs	Beth Snyder	programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Publicity	Janet Stroebel	publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
SIG Coordinator	Open	
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