



## Education

## Preservation

## Networking

### Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:00 PM Pacific

Speaker: Debbie Gurtler

### Finding the Origins of an Immigrant Ancestor

Via Zoom---watch for the link

6:30 Announcements and Sharing

7:00 Program

Almost every genealogist, beginner and advanced, stumbles on where some ancestor lived before coming to the United States.

Debbie Gurtler is the Assistant Director of the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. She manages the day-to-day operations of the library, overseeing research specialists, teams responsible for guest services, webinars, and online consultations, among other responsibilities.

Gurtler is an Accredited Genealogist (AG®) with five credentials and has been with FamilySearch for 12 years. She is fluent in Spanish and has expertise in Latin American research.



Debbie Gurtler



# Eastside Genealogical Society

## November 14 Presentation Summary—from two participants

Melissa Barker, a certified archivist, gave a talk entitled “It's Not All Online! Researching in Archives.” This is a very important topic in the 21st century when we are used to finding so much genealogical information online.

Melissa stressed the importance of finding out where your ancestors lived, and then finding the archives for that location, in order to get to records that are not online. This is crucial for breaking down brick walls. For the US, <https://usgenweb.org/> is a great place to look up the locations where your ancestors lived and find out where known archived materials are located. Another place to look up archives locations is <https://www.cyndislist.com/>. I looked up a county where my ancestors lived on Cyndi's List by drilling down through Cyndi's categories: United States; then Ohio; then Mahoning County; then Libraries, Archives, and Museums. That took me here <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/oh/counties/mahoning/libraries/>. I have visited the library listed by Cyndi several times with great results. I accessed information that is on microfilm only, and found a lot of information on ancestors who lived in that area.

Melissa also stressed the importance of having a plan in order to research in an archive. Make a to-do list. Decide what documents you want to look for, which ancestors who you would like information on, where they lived, and when. If you want to visit an archive in person, you should contact the archive in advance to verify they have the documents you want and to arrange a time to visit. If you cannot visit in person, you can also try to write to the archives to request help. Check the archive's web site to see if they have a specific process for contacting them. The more detailed you are in your request, the better your response will be.

Since I'm now familiar with the library's microfilm collection, I contact the genealogy librarian regularly when I get new information in my research which poses new questions. Whenever I have asked for something specific like “an obituary for Joe Smith who lived in Mahoning County on this street and died in 1888,” I always get a quick answer from the library. They scan the microfilm obituary that they find and send it to me via e-mail.

*Melissa Kacher*

### A few suggestions from the Archive Lady:

- As many archives are staffed by volunteers, it is especially smart to be courteous and patient, as well as saying thank you in some way.
- School Records and Ledger Books are resources to research.

*Beth Snyder*



# President's Message

As I sit down to write this on Thanksgiving weekend, I want to express my deep gratitude for all the volunteers that work with me and give their time generously to make Eastside Genealogical Society run smoothly and offer a variety of opportunities for our members and guests. The members of your Board of Directors, many of whom have held multiple positions over a period of years, work diligently to provide educational and networking opportunities for our members

as well as sharing information through our website and Facebook group. My appreciation goes to all of them: *Kimberly Nichols, Janice Leitzke, Glen McNay, Marcia Williams, Jane Wickert, Bob Barnes, Celia McNay, Beth Snyder, Catherine Smith, and Melissa Kacher.*

## Special Interest Groups

Our special interest groups are an important component of EGS's offerings. Special interest group leaders and their teams devote a lot of time to planning, communicating, and executing programs each month. I want to thank *Dorothy Pretare* (German Interest Group) and *Mary Sangalang* (Italian Interest Group) and ask that they pass along my gratitude to their teams. In addition, *Celia McNay* is the catalyst for our Lunch Bunch and Research group, and *Kimberly Nichols* has offered to start a Genealogical Fiction Book Club in 2025. As you know, both also serve on our Board and are extending themselves to offer additional opportunities for our genealogical community. My thanks to you both.

## Help Desk Volunteers and Book Committee

Two other important groups of volunteers support our Help Desk activities and serve on our Book Committee. During the pandemic, *Jane Wickert*, then EGS President, took the plunge to convert our in-person Help Desk in the Bellevue Library to a Zoom offering with the assistance of the library staff. We have since added in-person sessions to assist with Ancestry Library Edition in the library's Computer Lab, alternating weeks with the Zoom sessions. I want to thank *Helen Carlson* for taking over the leadership of the Help Desk team and *Bob Barnes* and *Jane* for volunteering consistently. (Bob and Jane also serve on our Board.) As Jane stepped down from the presidency, she offered to fill the opening as chair of the Book Committee in addition to her Board position as SIG Representative. I am grateful to her for leading this important effort and building a committee of volunteers to recommend and select books for EGS to donate to the library. I know that she will share my appreciation with her committee.

*Continued on next page*

And of course, I am grateful to all our members who join us for general meetings, SIG meetings, Help Desk sessions, and/or special events. We're glad to have you with us and welcome your support, suggestions, and feedback. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please let us know.

**PLEASE HELP!** We have a number of volunteers, but we have an opportunity for someone else to step up and contribute in a critical position on our Board. It is with sadness that I announced at the November general meeting that *Glen McNay* needs to step down from being our Treasurer due to his ongoing battle with cancer. Glen has been Treasurer for several years and served on the EGS Board for more than 8 years, and I greatly appreciate all he has done for us. This role is vital to the continuation of the society.

You do not have to have a Finance degree or be an accountant to handle these responsibilities. A working familiarity with Excel is needed, and there are written procedures for the role. We are hoping to have a transition to a new Treasurer early in 2025. If you think you might be interested and/or have questions about the role of Treasurer, please contact me at [president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org](mailto:president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org).

Finally, I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season! We'll see you again in 2025.

*Janet Stroebel*



**Joe Flint**, former EGS Board member and leader of our Computer SIG for many years, passed away Thanksgiving weekend after a long illness.

**Judy Meredith** was EGS President from 2010-2012, served on the Board in other capacities, and volunteered pre-pandemic for the in-person library Help Desk. She died suddenly in her sleep last July.



Bellevue, Washington

# Eastside Genealogical Society



## German Interest Group

**Presenter: Claire Gebben**



Claire Gebben is the author of the award-winning memoir *How We Survive Here: Families*

*Across Time* (2018) about the discovery of old letters in an attic in Germany written by her ancestors that propels her on a transatlantic quest to learn the truth about their lives. Her novel *The Last of the Blacksmiths* (2014) is based on the true story of a 19th-century German immigrant blacksmith Michael Harm who pursues the American dream.

**When: Friday, 3 January 2025**

**12:30 to 2:30 pm Pacific**

**Topic: German Migration Patterns**

Since the 17th century, millions of German-speaking emigrants were leaving Europe for places far and wide, especially North America.

- Who were they?
- Why did they leave?

The answer? It's complicated. This talk explores waves of emigration in historical context, including wars, religious oppression, human and civil rights, weather, economics and other factors. Presentation also includes a look at patterns of settlement of German migrants on arrival in North America.

**[Register](#)**

Claire's articles about family history appear in *German Life* magazine, *Your Genealogy Today*, and other publications. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing, and speaks and blogs about German genealogy and migration, 19th century history, and genealogy research and writing family history. More at <http://clairegebben.com>



# Eastside Genealogical Society



## German Interest Group

**Presenter: Bernard N. Meisner**



Bernard began researching his family over 30 years ago and enjoys sharing lessons learned from that experience.

He is a past president of the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society and a co-leader of the Dallas Genealogical Society's German SIG.

He earned a B.S. in Physics/German from Carnegie Mellon University, and an M.S. and PhD. in meteorology from the University of Hawaii.

**When: Friday, 7 February 2025**

**12:30 to 2:30 pm Pacific**

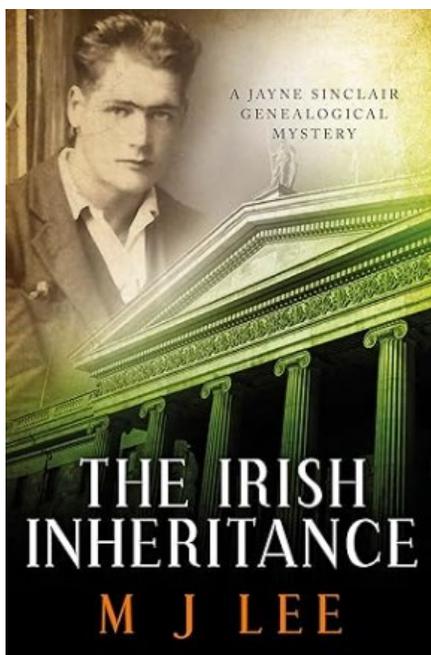
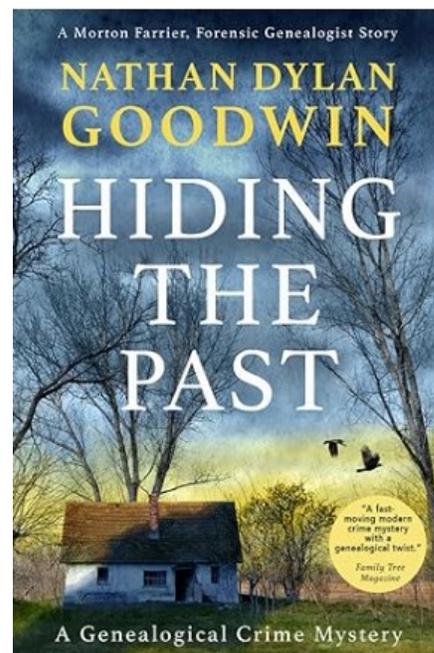
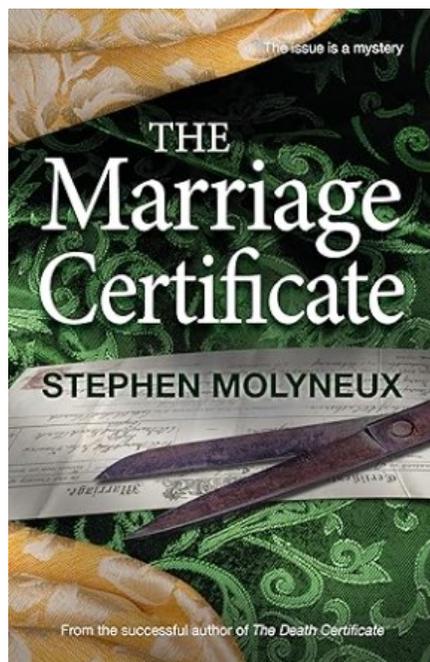
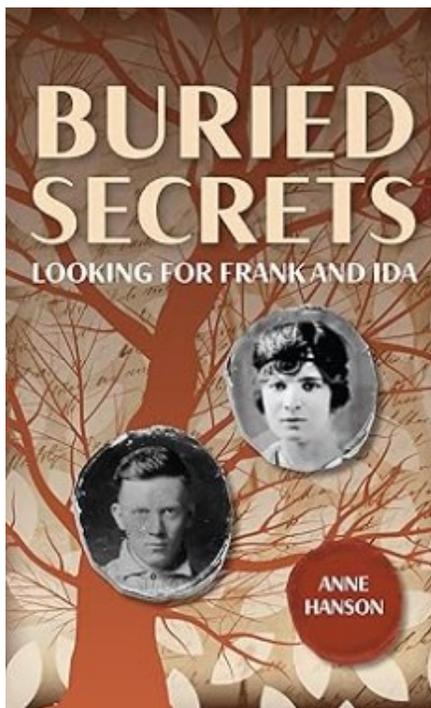
**Topic: How a Non-German Speaking Person Can Trace Their German Ancestors**

Learn how to conduct an exhaustive search of U.S. records to identify your ancestor's home town and religion. Recognize some obstacles you may have to overcome to ensure you are re-researching the correct person in the correct place -- name changes, replacement children, spelling variants, multiple towns with the same name. Learn how to use finding aids to identify where civil and church records might be located. Discover examples of online resources for correspondence and reading/interpreting German printing and handwriting.

[Register](#)



DALLAS  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY



## Genealogical Fiction Book Club Forming!

A new special interest group is now forming, and you can be a part of the fun. This book club will be reading and discussing fictional books with a genealogical bent. We will be meeting for the first time by Zoom on **Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** This will be an organizational meeting to decide what books we will read, when we will meet, how often we will meet and the structure of our book club. Please come and participate! If you would like to come or would like more information, please email Kimberly at

[vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org](mailto:vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org)

so I can send you the Zoom link. If you are interested and can't make the meeting, please let me know.



# Eastside Genealogical Society

## Special Interest Groups—Sponsored by EGS

SIG	Meetings	Coordinator	Email/Website
<b>DNA</b>	Contact Bruce for meeting schedule	Bruce Lee	<a href="mailto:bruceearllee.egs@gmail.com">bruceearllee.egs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Family Tree Maker SIG</b>	3rd Friday of most months at 10:30 AM	Janet Stroebel	<a href="mailto:ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>German Interest Group</b>	1st Friday of the month from 12:30-2:30 with times adjusted for international speakers. Don't meet in July and August.	Dorothy Pretare	<a href="mailto:GIG_Leader@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">GIG_Leader@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Italian Interest Group</b>	meets virtually 1:30-3:30 pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month Sept. through June excluding December	Mary Sangalang	<a href="http://egs-iig.com">egs-iig.com</a>

## Special Interest Groups

Sponsored by [Seattle Genealogical Society](#) (SGS) - Click on [Calendar of Events](#)

[South King County Genealogical Society](#) (SKCGS) - Click on [Meetings and Events](#) —> [Monthly Schedule](#)

[Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society](#) (TPCGS) - Click on [Events](#)

### SGS

Pacific Northwest Interest Group  
 Write It Up! Writers' Group  
 Family Search Users Group  
 MAC Computer Interest Group  
 Irish Interest Group  
 Scandinavian Interest Group  
 Brags and Bricks  
 Tech Tuesdays

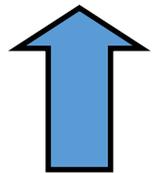
### SKCGS

Technology User Group  
 Genealogy Chat  
 Family History Writing  
 Family Tree Maker Users Group  
 WikiTree User

### TPCGS

Genealogy Chat  
 Legacy Family Tree  
 Writing Family History

Click on the link of the individual Genealogical Society listed above for dates and times of specific SIGs



## How old is Santa Claus?: Santa's family tree goes back further than you might think

5-6 minute read

By Daisy Goddard | December 7, 2023



**From Saint Nicholas to Mrs Clause, we've delved into the origins of everyone's favourite festive figure. Discover Christmas joy through the decades, with Santa Claus' family story.**

No matter where you are each year during December, you'll see countless images of Santa Claus as we usher in another Christmas season. Also known as Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas and more, the white-bearded man in a red suit is a Christmas mainstay. But did you ever stop to think about where Santa actually came from?

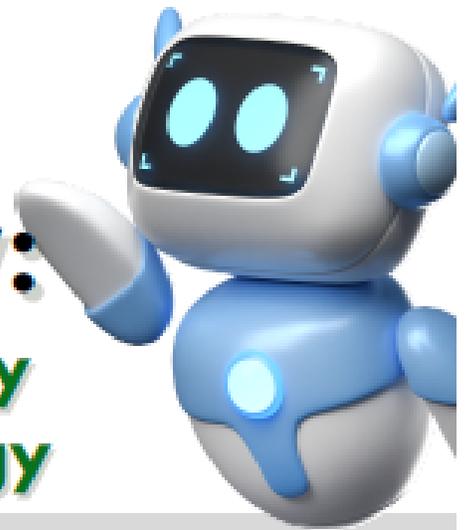
We decided to do a little festive digging into the origins of Santa Claus and the folklore family members that contributed to how we imagine Father Christmas today. Read on to check out who we rounded up and put into Santa's family tree...

Although families typically come together each Christmas, family history is an exciting journey that can be embarked on all year round. Simply start with the key details that you know about your ancestors, and build out your research from there. Why not download our festive free family tree template today?

Click to find the full article on [Genealogy of Santa Claus](#)



OLYMPIA  
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# AI Made Easy:

## Boosting Your Genealogy Research with Technology

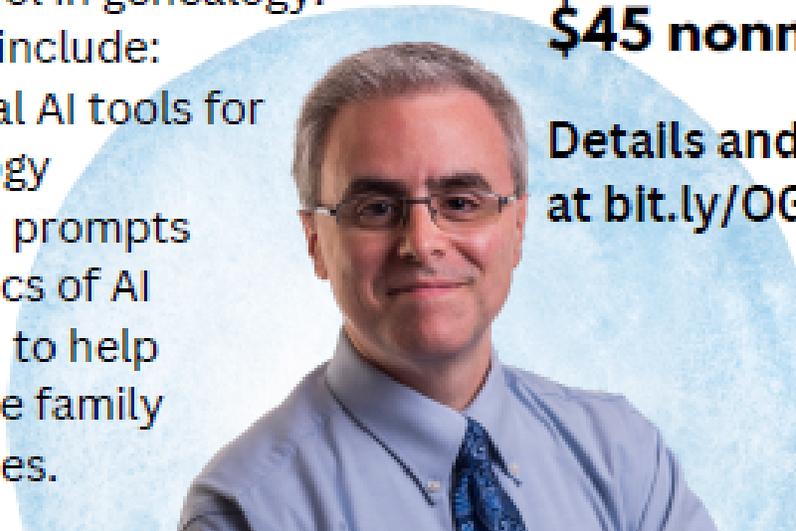
### OGS Virtual Seminar 2025

Generative AI tools are being used more and more, in genealogy. Renowned genealogy expert (and familiar face)

**Blaine Bettinger**, PhD, JD, will spend the day helping us learn how to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool in genealogy.

Topics will include:

- essential AI tools for genealogy
- basic AI prompts
- the ethics of AI
- using AI to help preserve family memories.



**Saturday  
Feb. 1, 2025  
9 am to 3 pm**

**Live online**

**\$35 OGS members  
\$45 nonmembers**

**Details and registration  
at [bit.ly/OGS2025](https://bit.ly/OGS2025)**





## TWISTED BRANCHES

Monthly feature where we share unusual twigs on our family trees.

January 2025

### Related to a President!

Jane Wickert wins the prize. Here is her spreadsheet! Additional members are listed in the last column. It is hoped we might find that EGS members are related through a common ancestor.

President	Relationship	Paternal/ Maternal	Common Ancestor	Location	Other EGS member
George Washington	4C7R	Maternal	John Blake Pope and Bridget Marcy Halsnoth	Massachusetts	
Thomas Jefferson	2C7R		Major Peter Field/Judith Sloane		Glen McNay
Thomas Jefferson	8C5R	Maternal	John Nicholson and Anne Fairbanks Barber	England	
James Madison	3C8R	Maternal	Elizabeth Underwood	Virginia	
James Monroe	3C7R	Paternal	James Jones and Rebecca Lewis	Virginia	
John Quincy Adams	5C5R	Maternal	Peter Tufts and Frances Vinevard	England	
Andrew Jackson	4C6R	Paternal	Sir Anthony Jackson	England	
William Henry Harrison	6C8R	Paternal	Isota Josea Ashe	England	
John Tyler	5C6R	Paternal	Robert Booth and Frances Burgess	Virginia	
James Knox Polk	9C5R	Paternal	Anne Davies Fisher	England	
Zachary Taylor	7C4R	Maternal	William Eyre and Elizabeth Jackman	England	
Millard Fillmore	6C6R	Maternal	Dolor Davis and Margaret Willard	Massachusetts	
Franklin Pierce	8C6R	Maternal	Sir John Richard Clarke I	England	
Andrew Johnson	11C2R	Paternal	Thomas Moyle and Katherine Jordeyne	England	
Rutherford B. Hayes	10C2R	Paternal	Thomas Glover II	England	
James Garfield	6C5R		Edward Garfield/Rebecca Johnson		Marcia Williams
James Garfield	8C3R	Paternal	Capt. Richard Jackson and Ursula Hildyard	England	
William Howard Taft	8C3R	Paternal	James Waters and unknown spouse	England	

## Related to a president—continued

President	Relationship	Paternal/ Maternal	Common Ancestor	Location	Other EGS
Benjamin Harrison	8C5R	Paternal	Sir Knight William Booth, Sheriff of Chesire and Lady Elizabeth Ann "Betsey" Warburton	England	
Benjamin Harrison	8C3R	Maternal	Thomas Button and Joan Manning	England	
Theodore Roosevelt	8C4R	Maternal	William Underwood and Margaret	England / Virginia	
Warren G. Harding	8C1R	Paternal	Richard Lewis and Frances Miles	Virginia	
Calvin Coolidge	7C2R	Maternal	Simon Coolidge/Hannah Barron		Marcia Williams
Calvin Coolidge	5C5R	Maternal	William Davis	Massachusetts	
Herbert Hoover	9C2R	Paternal	William Dandridge and Agnes Wilder	England	
Franklin D. Roosevelt	7C3R	Paternal	William Lewis	Connecticut	
	8C2R	Paternal	Robert Edward Coleman and Elizabeth Grizzell	Virginia	
Lyndon B. Johnson	9C1R	Paternal	John Butler	Virginia	
Richard Nixon	8C3R	Maternal	Reverend Joseph Clarke and Margaret Turner	Rhode Island	
Gerald R. Ford	5C3R	Maternal	Johann George Sommer and Maria Margretha Pfauens	Virginia	
James Earl Carter	8C	Paternal	Richmond Terrell and Elizabeth Waters	Virginia	
George H. W. Bush	11C2R	Maternal	John Dryden/Elizabeth Cope		Marcia Williams
George H. W. Bush	10C	Maternal	Isabelle (spouse of John Rigby, Edward Breck and Anthony Fisher)	Massachusetts	
George W. Bush	11C3R	Maternal	John Dryden/Elizabeth Cope		Marcia Williams
George W. Bush	9C1R	Maternal	Isabelle (spouse of John Rigby, Edward Breck and Anthony Fisher)	Massachusetts	
Barak Obama	9C2R	Paternal	Richmond Terrell and Elizabeth Waters	Virginia	
Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.	8C2R	Maternal	Allen M Robinette and Margaret L. Symm	Pennsylvania	

February **TWISTED BRANCHES - DNA Discoveries!** In your Genealogical Research using DNA, have you located some unexpected results? Is your biological grandfather different from the one you knew as a child? Have you discovered unknown "cousins" through DNA matches that aren't in your paper trail? Send a *short summary* to **Marcia Williams** before **Jan 22** for our February newsletter.

# Upcoming Events and Genealogy Help



## Next Lunch Bunch—Thurs, Jan 16

11:30—1:00—reserved room in church across from the **FamilySearch Center**, 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue.

Use the **FamilySearch Center Library** with databases either available with a subscription or unavailable online—bring your laptop; library open until 6:00 PM.

## Genealogy Help—Two options

### 1. Bellevue Library Computer Lab

*Thur Jan 9, Jan 23; 10:30—12:30*

No registration required

In-person assistance with ...



Ancestry Library  
Edition

### 2. Zoom 1-on-1 appts available

*Wed Dec 18, Jan 15; 1:00 or 2:00*

[kcls.org](http://kcls.org), then Select **Events** and type **Genealogy**

See below

Want to help? email: [Jane Wickert](mailto:Jane.Wickert)



Search the

Events ▾

Genealogy

## Family Tree Maker SIG meeting

**Friday, January 17**

**10:30 AM Pacific**

**Questions or to join email list**

[ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org](mailto:ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org)

No December Meeting



# Website of the Month—Cyndi’s List Naturalization & Citizenship Resources

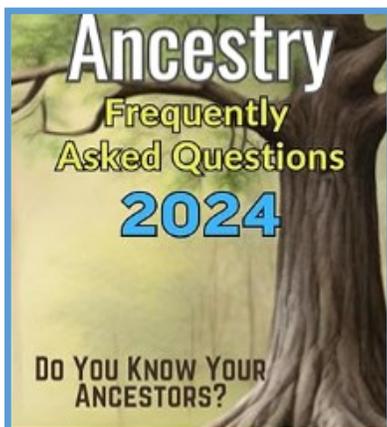
[Cyndi's List - Naturalization & Citizenship](#)

## *Naturalization & Citizenship*

### Category Index

- [General Resources](#)
- [Locality Specific: United Kingdom](#)
- [Locality Specific: United States](#)

## Book of the Month



### What's Inside:

#### 📖 **Uncover Secrets and Preserve Your Legacy:**

Uncover untold stories, ensuring your family's legacy stands the test of time.

#### 📖 **Explore Genealogical Wealth with QR Code Integration:**

Use QR codes to access additional information, records, and treasures as you explore the depths of your family's roots.

#### 📖 **Master Step-by-Step Strategies for Precision:**

Navigate Ancestry.com with confidence, unveiling details about your ancestors that might have eluded you.

#### 📖 **Discover the Secrets of Genetic Genealogy:**

Unearth the scientific nuances that contribute to your unique genetic makeup, adding a new dimension to your understanding of family history.

#### 📖 **Ensure Data Security Practices:**

Learn best practices for data security, ensuring that your research remains confidential and protected.



Bellevue, Washington

# Eastside Genealogical Society

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Website: [Eastside Genealogical Society – Home](#)

## VOLUNTEER

**Become involved in Eastside Genealogical Society.**

Expand your knowledge and share with other genealogy geeks. Contact **Janet Stroebel** to explore opportunities that match your skills.



### EGS Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Janet Stroebel	<a href="mailto:president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Kimberly Nichols	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Janice Leitzke	<a href="mailto:secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glen McNay	<a href="mailto:treasurer@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">treasurer@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	Marcia Williams	<a href="mailto:newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Book Committee</b>	Open	<a href="mailto:bookcommittee@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">bookcommittee@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Education</b>	Bob Barnes	<a href="mailto:education@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">education@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Celia McNay	<a href="mailto:egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com">egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Programs</b>	Beth Snyder	<a href="mailto:programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Publicity</b>	Catherine Smith	<a href="mailto:publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>SIG Coordinator</b>	Jane Wickert	<a href="mailto:SIG-coordinator@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">SIG-coordinator@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Melissa Kacher	<a href="mailto:webmaster@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">webmaster@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a>

We need your help to make this newsletter meaningful to our members! 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 [newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org)

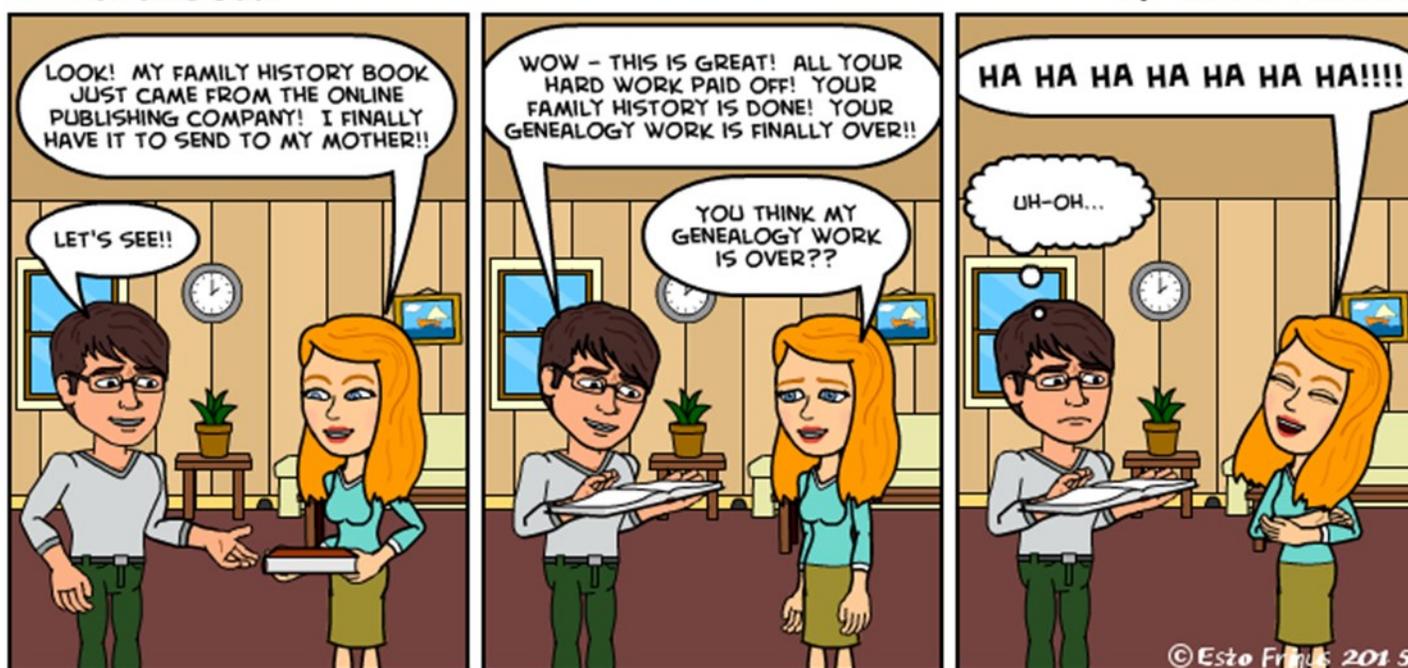
# For Your Calendar

## See Newsletter for details

Date	Event	Page
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9-Jan	Eastside Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting	1
9-Jan	Genealogy Help - Bellevue Library	13
15-Jan	1-on-1 appointments - Genealogy Help	13
16-Jan	Lunch Bunch and Library Research	13
17 Jan	Family Tree Maker SIG	13
23-Jan	Genealogy Help - Bellevue Library	13
<b>22-Jan</b>	<b>Deadline for February Newsletter articles</b>	<b>12</b>
23-Jan	Genealogical Book Club - Organizational Meeting	7
1-Feb	AI Made Easy - Virtual Seminar \$\$	10
7-Feb	German Interest Group	6

### GENEAPALOOZA

BY ESTO FRIGUS



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