

Welcome to our meeting!
Thank you for being here.

Eastside Genealogical Society
Bellevue, Washington
eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

<https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org>

About our Next Meeting

April 10, 7:00 PM PT



Topic: There's Gold in Federal Government Reports

Our speaker: Mark White

Check our website for more information:
eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Our speaker: Mark White

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Networking and announcements at 6:30 pm Pacific; program at 7:00 pm

Via Zoom---watch for the link*

About our speaker: In 1991 Mark began researching his grandfather, who was orphaned at a young age, and his great grandmother, finding his roots are mainly in New Jersey then back to Ireland. His wife also has the genealogy bug, and her research has taken them to many areas of the country. He has always had an interest in history, especially the Revolutionary War. Mark has been a member of the Monmouth County Genealogy Society since 1991 and President since 2017.

About our program: This presentation covers obtaining records from 3 different federal agencies: the Railroad Retirement Board for employment records, with some medical records for anyone who worked for a railroad; Social Security to request a SS5 for a snapshot of a person's life at the time of the application; and the National Personnel Records Center (part of the National Archives) for personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States. How to navigate the online process of requesting records, fees and the email process of receiving the records will also be discussed.

Everyone is welcome---we hope you will join us.

For more information about EGS, visit our website at eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Twisted Branches

Request for newsletter articles

April Topic:

- Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord
 - Database for ancestors who answered the call:
friendsofminuteman.org/soldier-search/
 - Share the names, hometown, and relationship
 - **Deadline:** March 19

Send to: newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

April Twisted Branches - Lexington and Concord, April 19, 1775

- In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, please look through this database <https://friendsofminuteman.org/soldier-search/> and share the names of ancestors who fought or answered the call in this battle.
- List their hometown and relationship. Who knows? We might find some common ancestors in our group!
- Deadline March 19

Send to Marcia Williams at newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.com

Looking ahead to future EGS meetings

Check our website for more information:
eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

April 10: There's Gold in Federal Government Records
– Mark White

May 8: Scandinavian Church Records – Jenny Hansen

June 12: How to Write a Family History Book: It's Simpler
than You Think – Rebecca Shamblin

More information about upcoming meetings is at
<https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/meeting-info-and-archives/>

SIG News

Italian Interest Group



Date: Saturday, March 15

Time: 1:30 to 3:30 PM PT via Zoom

Topic: Bridging the Divide: Italian Catholic Parish Records as a Cardinal Resource for Historical Demography and Genealogy

Speaker: Suzanne Greco

Request Meeting Access (for non-active members) at egs-iig.com

The Italian Interest Group meets virtually 1:30-3:30pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month Sept. through June excluding December.

Saturday, March 15, *Bridging the Divide: Italian Catholic Parish Records as a Cardinal Resource for Historical Demography and Genealogy*

Description: Italian Catholic Parish Records serve as foundational archives for historical demographics and genealogy in Italy. In this presentation, the speaker will highlight their significance by outlining the data contained in the records – baptismal, marriage, and burial registers from the 16th to 19th centuries. No other records in Italy contain as much of the day-to-day history of everyday people during that time period. Attendees will learn about parish record collections available to research, efforts to digitize more records, and resources and researchers who can assist. In addition, the speaker will discuss the accessibility of the records and the impact on contemporary research.

Suzanne Greco is the Founder & Director of Italian Parish Records, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and making accessible the Italian Catholic Parish Records. She is a current Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Edinburgh Divinity School in Ethical & Practical Theology, recently having graduated from Harvard Divinity School. Suzanne has researched Italian family lines and indexed civil and parish records for 27 years.

For more information or to request a Zoom link, please visit our website at: <https://egs-iig.com/>

SIG News

German Interest Group

Date: First Friday 12:30 to 2:30 PM PT via Zoom



April 4th: What's in a Name? Deciphering German Given Names and Nicknames

Speaker: Gail Blankenau

Registration required: egsgermangroup.wordpress.com

The next meeting of the German Interest Group of The Eastside Genealogical Society will be virtual and take place on: Friday, April 4, 2025, from 12:30-2:30pm PT

Zoom Registration Required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/l82-Gt0LRkak4mN8fsOMNg#/registration>

Topic: What's in a Name? Deciphering German Given Names and Nicknames

Genealogists often focus on surnames, but what happens when multiple ancestor candidates share the same name? German given names can be tricky—many individuals had multiple names but were known by a “Rufname” (call name). Add in nicknames, name variations, and regional naming traditions, and the puzzle becomes even more complex.

Join expert genealogist Gail Blankenau as she unravels the mysteries of German given names, helping you identify the right ancestors and avoid mistaken identities. Don't let name confusion derail your research—discover the strategies you need to ensure you're barking up the right tree.

Presenter: Gail Blankenau. Gail Shaffer Blankenau is a historian, genealogist, speaker, and award-winning author. Her work has appeared in NEHGR, The Genealogist, NGS Magazine, Family Chronicle, Internet Genealogy, OGS Quarterly, and Nebraska History, where she won the James L. Sellers Award. She serves on the boards of the Germanic Genealogy Society and Nebraska Historic Newspapers. Her history book, *Journey to Freedom: Uncovering the Grayson Sisters' Escape from Nebraska Territory*, was released by the University of Nebraska Press in 2024. Visitors are always welcome.

Our website is <https://egsgermangroup.wordpress.com/>

SIG News

Family Tree Maker SIG

Date: Friday, March 21

Time: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM PT via Zoom

Program: Varies – topics related to using Family Tree Maker software



The Family Tree Maker SIG meets on the 3rd Friday of each month from 10:30AM to 12:30PM Pacific time via Zoom.

If you are not on the distribution list and would like to attend, email ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org to request the Zoom link no later than Thursday, Mach 20.

SIG News

Genealogy Book SIG



Date: Friday, March 28

Time: 10 AM PT via Zoom

March: The Moving Pictures:
An Ella Graepentek Genealogy

To be added to the email list to receive the Zoom link, contact:

vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Los Angeles genealogist Ella Graepentek is used to surprises. Clients lie, and old documents can reveal uncomfortable information. Stumbling across a dead body is a more surprising experience than usual, and it leads Ella into a dangerous web of secrets and suspicions going back many generations. To find her way out, she will need all her professional skills, the help of eccentric relatives, and the trust of a detective.

It starts with a new client's fairly ordinary request. She wants to know who her grandmother's father was. Ella makes a routine appointment to look at some 1920s movie memorabilia and lands in the middle of a murder investigation. It seems like a random piece of bad luck, so she tries to keep her focus on her work, but connections start to appear between the murder and Ella's research.

To be added to the email list to receive the Zoom link, contact:
vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Future books: In the Blood by Steve Robinson, Buried Secrets by Ann Hansen, I know Who You Are by Barbara Rae-Venter

EGS Lunch Bunch and Research



Date: Thursday, March 20

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM (plus research time)

Where: Bellevue FamilySearch Center,
10675 NE 20th St., Bellevue

Topic: Irish Naming Traditions

After lunch, use the FamilySearch Center Library with databases either available with a subscription or unavailable online. Bring your laptop. The library is open until 6:00 pm.

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities

Volunteer assistance with your research



In-Person: Bellevue Library, Computer Room
Second and fourth Thursdays of each month.
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Drop-in.

Via Zoom: Our last Zoom help session will be
March 19 at 1pm or 2 pm PT. Sign up on
KCLS.org.

Volunteers from EGS provide assistance to genealogy researchers in conjunction with the King County Library System.

Our last Zoom help session will be March 19th at 1pm or 2pm PT.

- To access the registration, use the Search function at the top of the website and change the first search box from Catalog to Events. Then type “genealogy” in the second search box to bring up all genealogy events on the library calendar. The above-described sessions are titled, “Genealogy Help with Eastside Genealogical Society.”

Another opportunity to obtain assistance with your research is our in-person Ancestry Help.

EGS volunteers are available in the computer lab on the 2nd floor of the Bellevue Regional Library (1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue) from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. They can show you how to get started with Ancestry Library Edition (available free in the library branches) or provide suggestions about resources to address your genealogy question. No registration required for In-Person help.

Want to help? Email: Jane Wickert at jcwickert@hotmail.com

Stick around for the Post Meeting Discussion



- Tell us about your Scots-Irish ancestors.
- When did they emigrate?
- Where are they from?
- Where did they settle?

BECOME A MEMBER

If you get value out of our meetings and/or Special Interest Groups, please consider joining (\$20 for 12 months) or donating to Eastside Genealogical Society.

eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/membership

eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/membership