



Education

Preservation

Networking

How to Reopen and Work a Genealogical Cold Case

Speaker: Lisa Louise Cooke

About our speaker:

Lisa Louise Cooke found her passion for family history at her grandmother's knee at the age of 8. She is the author of several books including *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox, 3rd edition*. Lisa produces and hosts the popular *Genealogy Gems Podcast* (founded in 2007) and publishes weekly videos at the Genealogy Gems YouTube channel. The author of a regular column for Family Tree Magazine, she produces the *Family Tree Magazine Podcast*. Her podcast brings genealogy news, research strategies, expert interviews and inspiration to genealogists in 75 countries around the world, and has been downloaded nearly 4 million times. She also offers on-demand genealogy education.

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Networking/Announcements at 6:30 pm PT

Program at 7:00 pm

Via Zoom---watch for the link*



About our program:

Become a genealogical detective in this vital session. You'll learn to track ancestors like a criminal cold case detective, sniffing out holes in your research and getting missing information on the record with cutting edge technology.

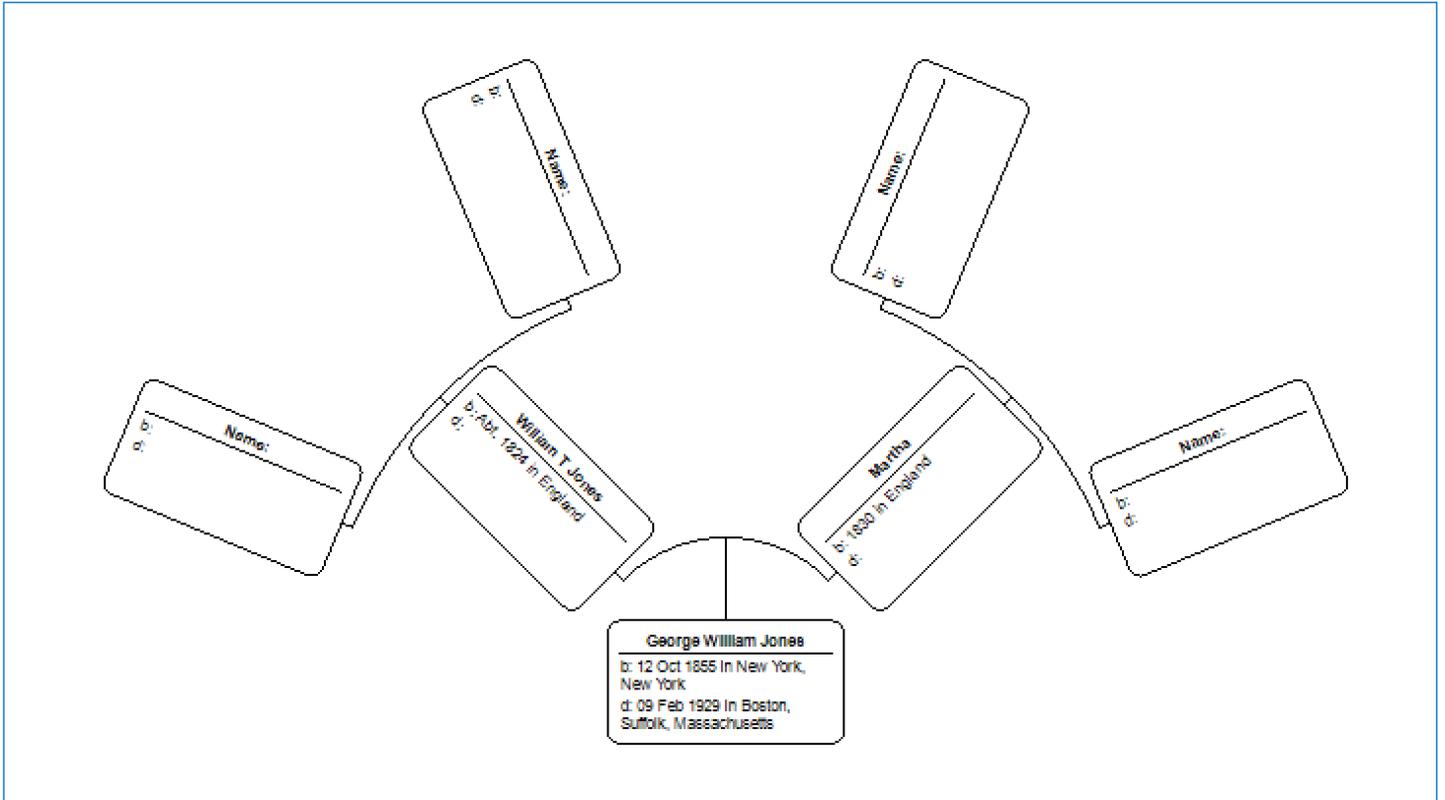
Everyone welcome—we hope you will join us.

**The Zoom link will be sent to members, otherwise check the website close to the program date.*

For more information about [EGS](#), visit our website by clicking on the link.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

After the June 12 meeting, share your experiences with renewing research for “cold case” branches of your tree. What are your missing pieces? What haven’t you tried? What new strategies will you try as a result of the June program?



Using a fan chart can help identify missing facts. Common names, such as Jones, can be especially challenging.

Questions to get the conversation started:

- What different approaches have you taken during renewed attempts at finding missing people, information, or relationships?
- Describe the successes you have had that could help others.
- What led to the success you had breaking a brick wall; what caused your breakthrough? What led you to try that strategy?
- As a result of this presentation and conversation, what will you try next?



President's Message

In the past few months, Eastside Genealogical Society has lost two former board members. On March 8, **Janice Clydene (Weaver) Pankratz** died at the age of 87. Janice was born in Iowa, grew up in Oregon, and moved to Seattle after marrying Dick Pankratz, her husband of 64 years, in Oregon City. She taught Home Economics in Seattle, Issaquah, and Anchorage, Alaska before becoming a dedicated homemaker. According to her obituary, she “made a deep dive into genealogy” in the mid-1970s, and it remained a lifelong passion. Janice joined Eastside Genealogical Society in May of 1981, was a Lifetime member, and served as President from 1986 to 1988. She was also an active member in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Daughters of the Colonists, and Daughters of the Confederacy.

Glen Allison McNay, 72, died on May 2 after a valiant battle with cancer. Glen was born and grew up in California where he met his then classmate and future wife, **Celia**, in the 6th grade. They married in Los Angeles when they were 18 years old and remained married for 53 years until his passing. Glen’s career in technology working for Hewlett Packard took them to Virginia for 21 years followed by a transfer to the Bellevue, Washington office for another 21 years before retiring. He had a lifelong love of music, playing both the guitar and, more recently, the ukelele. He enjoyed photography and combined it with his love of the outdoors and family, resulting in a wealth of photographs of landscapes, animals, flowers, and children. Genealogy was a passion that he and Celia worked on together, and they joined Eastside Genealogical Society in May of 2013. Glen served on the Board as Webmaster and, most recently, Treasurer and was selected by EGS to receive the **Washington State Genealogical Society’s Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2023**.

On behalf of the Board of EGS, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones.

Continued on next page

Next *Eastside Genie Newsletter*—September 2025

For updates on Summer Special Interest Groups,

refer to the [EGS Website](#)



As you may have noticed, we have changed our speaker for the June meeting and are excited to welcome **Lisa Louise Cooke** on **Thursday, June 12**. Lisa's topic will be, "*How to Reopen and Work a Genealogical Cold Case*." She will show us how to track down ancestors like a criminal cold case detective, following their distinctive process. We'll learn how to sniff out holes in our research and get missing information on the record using a variety of methods including cutting edge technology. I know many of you are familiar with Lisa and the quality of her presentations, and I hope you will join us on June 12. Feel free to invite anyone you know who might be interested. Our meetings are open to everyone.

As our program year comes to a close, I hope you feel that your membership in Eastside Genealogical Society has been beneficial. Thank you for joining, renewing your membership, and/or donating to EGS! By offering Special Interest Group meetings, monthly general meetings, in-person events, and a Help Desk, our goal is to provide members a forum for learning and the exchange of information related to genealogy. I welcome any suggestions about how to make your membership more valuable as we prepare to plan for the 2025-2026 program year. You can contact me at president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.



Janice Clydene Weaver Pankratz
1937—2025



Glen Allison McNay
1952—2025



Eastside Genealogical Society

Eastside Genealogical Society
and
The Bellevue Library

What's in Your Attic—Is There a Story There?



Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025

Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: Room 1 in the Bellevue Library,
1111 - 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Presentation by [Jill Morelli](#)

Beyond the Binder: My Self-Publishing Journey

Followed by

Heirloom Show & Tell

Speaker Jill Morelli will give us a presentation, followed by several EGS members sharing their publishing experience, and then an Heirloom Show & Tell.

Participate by listening to the presentation, hear others talk about heirloom treasures, and/or bring an heirloom to share!

Jill Morelli is a certified genealogist, a writer, lecturer and co-founder of the online Applied Genealogy Institute. She has lectured nationally as well as written articles for major genealogical publications. She is the author of *Journeys of the Forgotten: The Orphans of Hamilton County, Iowa*. Jill is the past president of the Seattle Genealogical Society, program director for the Puget Sound-APG chapter, and a member of many local and national genealogical societies. You can also find her on [Family Tree Webinars](#).

Want to share an item? Questions?

Email Kimberly at vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is available by request. Email access@kcls.org at least seven days before the event.



Eastside Genealogical Society

May 8, 2025—Summary

Scandinavian Church Records—Jenny Hansen

Business Meeting:

The following officers were elected:

Vice President: Kimberly Nichols

Treasurer: Marcella Rush

Trustee: Marcia Williams

Celia McNay made the sad announcement that her husband Glen, Treasurer, webmaster, and overall EGS supporter, had died this past week.

The business part of the meeting adjourned.

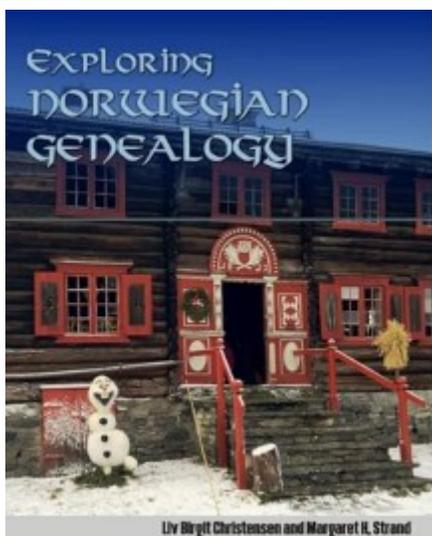
Speaker—Jenny Hansen

Jenny started with history regarding when, how and in what format church records were kept. Hand-writing found in Scandinavian records: Jenny showed us where to find tutorials on the scripts that are used in church records. Gothic script is common.

Using Family Search Wiki

Sometimes dates were recorded as church feast days. Jenny showed us tools to convert [feast days to calendar dates](#)—and search on “feast day calendar.”

- Genealogy Word lists—start with the country
 - Church Records
 - Christenings—recorded within a few weeks of birth
 - Confirmations—teens about 14—16 years of age
 - Marriage records—Engagement and marriage records
 - Burial—Name, age, burial dates; occasionally death date
 - Household indexes—Sweden only; similar to a census
- Melissa Kacher*



New in the Bellevue Library

Exploring Norwegian Genealogy

Christensen & Strand

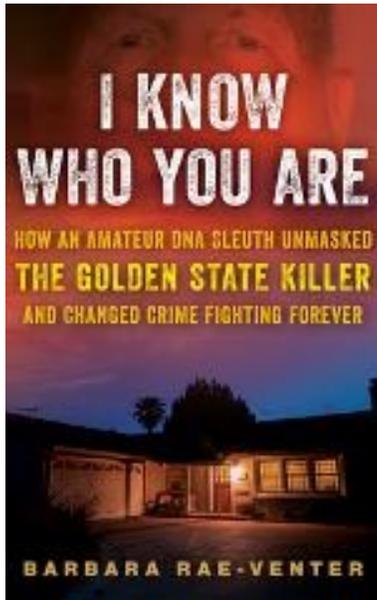
Donation from

Eastside Genealogical Society

Genealogy Book SIG News

Next Meeting: Friday, June 13, 10 AM PT via Zoom

***I Know Who You Are*, Barbara Rae-Venter**



EDGAR AWARD FINALIST • “A true-crime masterpiece written by a cold-case-cracking master.”—John Douglas, *New York Times* bestselling co-author of *Mindhunter*

“Barbara Rae-Venter isn’t just the genealogy expert who helped capture the Golden State Killer—she’s an unsung hero who has given murdered women and children their faces and names back.”—Maureen Callahan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *American Predator*

“Echoes the dedication displayed by such fictional police detectives as California novelist Michael Connelly’s Harry Bosch.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

For twelve years the Golden State Killer terrorized California, stalking victims and killing without remorse. Then he simply disappeared, for the next forty-four years, until an amateur DNA sleuth opened her laptop. In *I Know Who You Are*, Barbara Rae-Venter reveals how she went from researching her family history as a retiree to hunting for a notorious serial killer—and how she became the nation’s leading authority on investigative genetic genealogy, the most dazzling new crime-fighting weapon to appear in decades.

The **Genealogy Book SIG** reads fiction where genealogical mysteries and research are a focus of the story. **Upcoming books on page 8.**

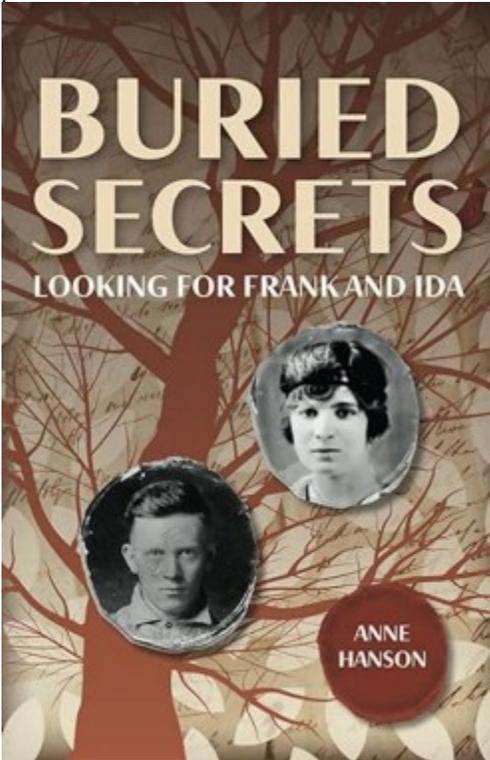
Contact [Kimberly Nichols](#) to be added to the email list to receive the Zoom link.

Meetings: 2nd Friday of most months via Zoom. We welcome participants who have read (or not) the book. Our discussion includes genealogy strategies used by the characters to solve the mystery.

No August 2025 meeting.

Genealogy Book SIG

July 11, 2025, 10 AM PT via Zoom



Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida

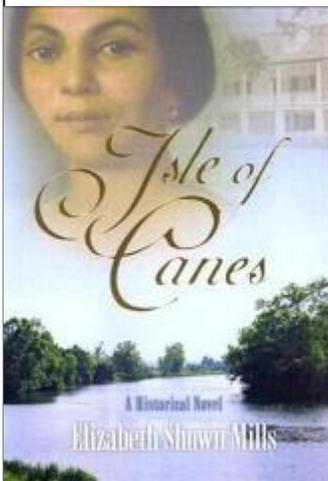
Anne Hanson

Rating: 4.4 stars, 781 ratings

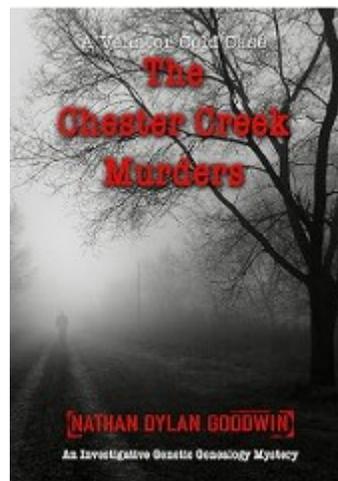
When Anne Hanson's Dad first asked her to investigate the secret past of his parents, little did she know what she was getting into. For two decades, despite all her digging, she failed to unearth even the tiniest speck of evidence that the families of her grandparents, Frank and Ida Hanson, had ever existed. If her quest were a detective novel, its title would have been, "The Case of the Missing Ancestors."

Finally, Anne unearthed her grandparents' true identities and the secrets they took their graves. Journeying into an early twentieth century drama of pain and heartache, she solved a mystery from an era when a young couple, thwarted by social conventions, could simply vanish and create new lives. They radically altered their family destiny, with aftereffects that reverberated for generations.

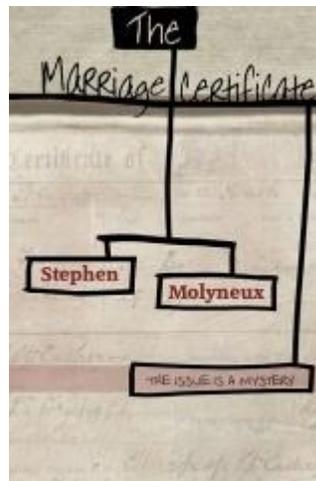
Available as Audio, Kindle, and Paperback



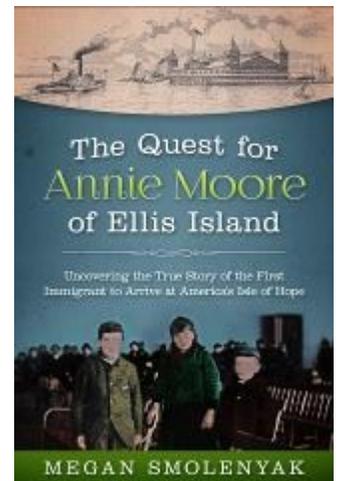
Sept 12, 2025



Oct 10, 2025



Nov 14, 2025



Jan 9, 2026



Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society



TWISTED BRANCHES

Monthly feature where we share unusual twigs on our family trees. One objective is to share interesting stories and/or find common ancestors within our group.

The Twisted Branches topic for June, [Ancestors who lived in Washington state prior to 1900](#), resulted in no emails. Again, the idea is that by sharing around a topic, we may find EGS members with common ancestors.

September Topic:

Mayflower Ancestors

What about [Mayflower Passengers?](#) With an estimated 35 million descendants of Mayflower passengers, it is likely we will discover EGS members with one or more common ancestors who travelled together on the Mayflower.

Send an email with your [Passenger ancestor and the child](#) that are your direct ancestors.



Ann Ronan Pictures/Print Collector/Getty Images)

Let's discover: Did my ancestors know your ancestors?

Deadline: August 13, 2025

Email to newsletter@eastsidegeologicalsociety.org.



Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society



German Interest Group

Website:

<https://egsgermangroup.wordpress.com/meetings/>

Friday, June 6, 2025
12:30 pm PT

[Register](#)

Topic: **Using Ortsfamilienbücher to Research German Ancestors**

Ortsfamilienbücher contain genealogical information about families within a specific town, village, or parish, sometimes going back to the beginning of written records. Learn about the Emerson History & Genealogy Center's large collection of these books and how to use them.

Presenter: Robin McDonough. Robin is the Outreach and Programming Coordinator for the Emerson History & Genealogy Center at the St. Louis County Library. She is a former high school history teacher and has been researching genealogy for 25 years. She enjoys teaching others how to discover their family history.



Visitors are always welcome at our meetings but **attendees must register** for each meeting. Registrants should **save the Zoom registration email** containing the meeting link. **PLEASE NOTE:** There is a 100 attendee limit and registration does not guarantee a spot at the meeting if we happen to exceed that number. Attendees can join the **Pre-meeting chat at 12:15pm Pacific Time.**

P.S. We have no dues but if you wish to make a small tax-deductible donation toward securing professional speakers, please see our [Donate](#) page. Thank You for your support.



Eastside Genealogical Society

Italian Interest Group meeting

Saturday, 21 June, 2025

1:30 – 3:30 pm PT

[IIG June Zoom Meeting Invitation Request](#)

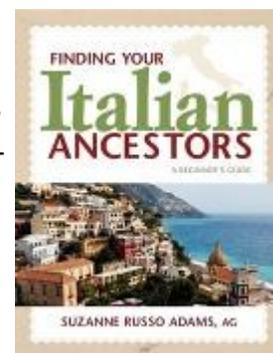
Topic: Italian Municipal and Tax Censuses

Presenter: Suzanne Russo Adams

Suzanne Russo Adams, MA, AG[®], is an Associate Professor of family history and the Director of the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University. An Accredited Genealogist[®] specializing in Italian research, she holds degrees in Family History/Genealogy and Sociology, as well as a master's degree in History. With over 25 years of



experience in the genealogy field, Suzanne has worked extensively in record acquisition, strategy, and content digitization for Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. She is the author of *Finding Your Italian Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*.



Presentation: This lecture examines Italian municipal and tax censuses as valuable genealogical resources. It provides an overview of censuses over time, including the *riveli* and *catasti*, highlighting their insights into family structures, property ownership, and community history. Participants will learn how to locate and analyze these records to enhance their family research.



ITALIAN GENEALOGY



**Italian Interest
Group**

EGS-IIG.COM



Eastside Genealogical Society

Special Interest Groups—Sponsored by EGS

SIG	Meetings	Coordinator	Email/Website
Genealogy Book SIG	2nd Friday of most months at 10 AM	Kimberly Nichols	vicepresident@eastsidegenealogysociety.org
Family Tree Maker SIG	3rd Friday of most months at 10:30 AM	Janet Stroebel	ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
German Interest Group Doesn't meet in July and August	1st Friday of the month from 12:30-2:30 PM with times adjusted for international speakers	Dorothy Pretare	GIG_Leader@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Italian Interest Group Doesn't meet in December	Meets virtually 1:30-3:30 PM on the 3rd Saturday of the month Sept thru June	Mary Sangalang	egs-iig.com
Lunch Bunch	3rd Thursday of the month, 11:30 AM—1:00 PM	Celia McNay	egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com

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
FamilySearch Users Group
MAC Computer Interest Group
Irish Interest Group
Scandinavian Interest Group
Braggs and Bricks
Mexican Special Interest Group
Eastern Europe Interest Group
Ancestry Users Interest Group
DNA Interest Group

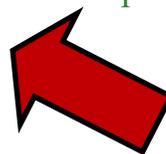
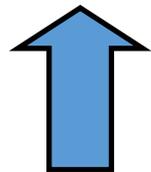
SKCGS

Tech Users Group
Genealogy Chat
Family History Writing
Family Tree Maker Users Group
Genetic Genealogy/DNA Group
WikiTree Interest Group

TPCGS

Genealogy Chat
Legacy Family Tree
Writing Family History
DNA Special Interest Group

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



Review the expanded list of SIGS under each Society—new ones recently added!

Upcoming Events and Genealogy Help



Next Lunch Bunch—Thurs, June 19

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

Topic: *To be determined*

Use the **FamilySearch Center Library** with databases either available with a subscription or unavailable online—bring your laptop; library open until 6:00 PM. No reservation required.

Contact: [Catherine Smith](#) with questions

Genealogy Help

Bellevue Library—Room 4

Thur Jun 12, Jun 26; 10:30—12:30

No registration required

In-person assistance with ...

Ancestry Library Edition



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



Search the

Events ▾

Genealogy

Family Tree Maker SIG meeting

Friday, June 20

10:30 am PT

Via Zoom

- **Send Questions**
- **Join email list**

ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org



Website of the Month

National Genealogical Society

Top 18 Free Websites



NATIONAL
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY*

Login Donate Contact Search...

Home | About NGS | Member Benefits | Learning Center | Societies & Organizations | Conferences & Events | Other NGS Sites | Store



NGS Learning Center

Genealogy Coates

NGS Books

NGS Recommends...

Eighteen Important Free Websites for Genealogy Research

Links to many websites—including, but not limited to, the list at right—>

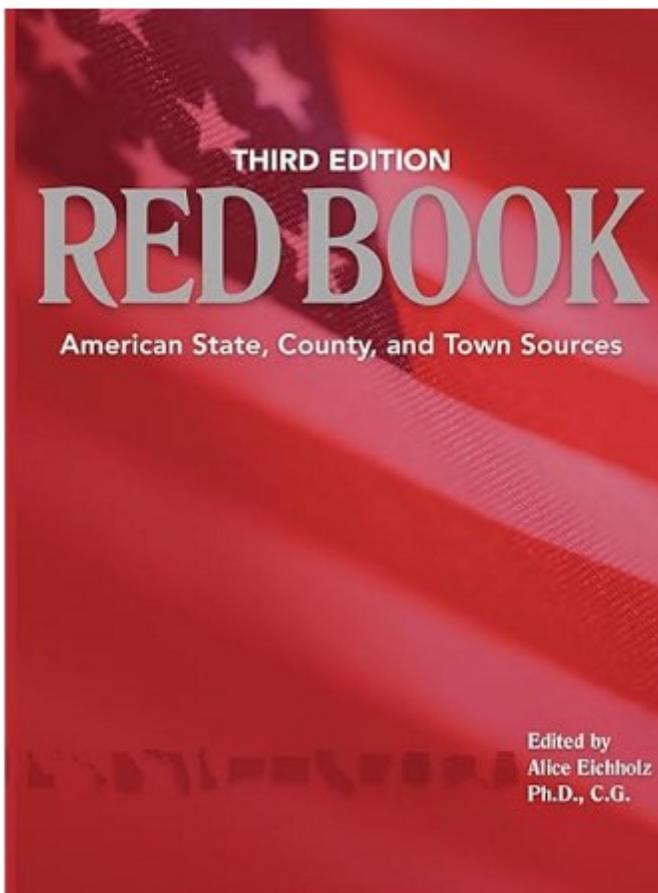
The Usual Suspects:

- FamilySearch
- US Census Bureau
- National Archives

Have you considered?

- Library of Congress
- New York Public Library
- Ship Passenger Lists
- Access Genealogy

Book of the Month



With a section for each state, this reference is a “must have” for every serious genealogist.

3rd edition published in 2004 and available from multiple sites.

Vital Records	Probate Records
Census Records	Court Records
Internet Resources	Tax Records
County Resources	Cemetery Records
Background Sources	Church Records
Maps	Military Records
Land Records	Periodicals, Newspapers, and Manuscript Collections



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

President	Janet Stroebel	president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Vice President	Kimberly Nichols	vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
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SIG Coordinator	Jane Wickert	SIG-coordinator@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Webmaster	Melissa Kacher	webmaster@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

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



Eastside Genealogical Society

This n That

A list of genealogical items of interest to us this month

Irish resources—from EGS member Lois Diemert



[Irish Genealogical Research Society](#)

Darren Maher, a 19-year-old student from Carlow and first-year SETU, is making waves with his new Irish language app, Píosa Beag (a small piece). Designed to make learning Irish simple and approachable, the app offers daily words, short phrases, and a gentle streak-based system to keep users motivated.

Since launching a social media preview campaign, Píosa Beag has already attracted over 3,500 early sign-ups. Darren is passionate about reconnecting people with Gaeilge and hopes the app will inspire a renewed love for the language especially among younger generations. 🍀

📍 @piosa_beag—Note: site not “live” as of this printing

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

Subscription but also several free and live webinars available.



NYG&B

NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL
AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY

[New York Genealogical and Biographical Society](#)—Subscription

Free Resources, Articles and Guides, Including

- Immigration and Naturalization (4 Guides)
- Newspapers (4 guides)
- Birth, Marriage, and Death Records (5 guides)

[American Ancestors](#)—

Subscription

Some Free Events

Getting Started Research Guides—numerous topics



American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

For Your Calendar

See Newsletter for details

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"Oh, yeah? Well *my* great-great-grandmother would have had it up to *here* with *your* great-great-grandfather!"

