



Education

Preservation

Networking

There's Gold in Federal Government Reports

Our speaker: Mark White

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Networking/Announcements at 6:30 pm PT
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 three 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 welcome—we hope you will join us.

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

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

Next Newsletter—June

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



After the April 10 meeting, share your experiences with these records

- What experience have you had with the records discussed tonight?
- Any records you've found that surprised you with information you didn't expect?



U.S. Railroad Retirement Board



Social Security

Benefits ▾

Medicare ▾

Card & record ▾



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RESEARCH OUR RECORDS



VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS



Resources for Genealogists

Home > Research Our Records > Resources for Genealogists > National Archives Catalog Guide for Genealogists and Family Historians



President's Message

As spring is starting to appear, we have a lot to offer you from Eastside Genealogical Society. There are three more General meetings before we break for the summer. On **April 10**, we will welcome **Mark White, President of Monmouth County (NJ) Genealogy Society**. He will be sharing information about how to obtain records from 3 different federal agencies: the Railroad Retirement Board, the Social Security Administration, and the Railroad National Personnel Records Center.

Jenny Hansen, a free-lance researcher and instructor specializing in Scandinavia, will share her expertise with us on **May 8**. Her topic is **"Scandinavian Church Records."** She will discuss the information found in church records, the layout of the records, record accessibility, and the importance of these records for family research.

To finish the 2024-2025 program year, **Rebecca Shamblin** will join us on **June 12** to present **"How to Write a Family History Book: It's Simpler Than You Think."** She wrote her first book, about her great-grandfather's ancestors, in 2021 and will help us break down the process of creating a book out of our family history research into simple, manageable steps. Rebecca will talk about the research process, what to include, how to turn facts into stories, and how to organize, print, and share your book.

April 10: Mark White Obtaining Federal Records
May 8: Jenny Hansen Scandinavian Church Records
June 12 Rebecca Shamblin Writing a Family History Book

We're excited to welcome all these speakers and hope you enjoy hearing from them. Our Program Chair, **Beth Snyder**, is starting to plan our fall speakers now. As always, if you have suggestions for speakers and/or topics, she would like to hear from you at programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.

At the **May General meeting**, we will elect the following officers: Vice President, Treasurer, and Trustee. If you have an interest in any of these positions, please contact **Celia McNay**, chair of our Nominating Committee, at egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com.

Our five Special Interest Groups continue to meet monthly, and some of them meet in the summer months. Members and guests are always welcome to attend EGS meetings. We appreciate your support of EGS and our SIGs and look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting.



Eastside Genealogical Society

March 13, 2025—Summary

Peggy Lauritzen

The Scots-Irish in America

Peggy Lauritzen explained that the correct name for the group of people who we are speaking about tonight is **Scots-Irish**. Scotch is a whiskey!

The history of the Scots-Irish is intertwined with religion. When King Henry VIII left Catholicism and declared himself the head of the Church in 1534, he caused religious turmoil, causing Catholic marriages to be invalidated and children to be illegitimate. Many converted just to avoid these problems and enable their children to be legitimate and to inherit.

King James VI (of Scotland)/I (of England) (also of the King James Bible) created the Plantation of Ulster starting in 1606 and sent protestant Scots from the borderlands into Catholic Ulster, Ireland, creating the Scots-Irish people.

In the 1700s, groups of Scots-Irish immigrated to America for several reasons, but there were many famines in Ulster in the 1700s. They mostly went to the areas

around the Appalachian mountains, from New York down to South Carolina.

For in depth historical information, you can read <https://www.libraryireland.com/ScotchIrishAmerica/Contents.php>

Peggy presented resources where she was able to find her Scots-Irish people in various records from places around the Appalachians, concentrating on records most likely to contain the Scots-Irish people.

Although I am not Scots-Irish (I'm just Irish, and possibly Scottish, but being both Scottish and Irish doesn't make you Scots-Irish). I come from an area where the Scots-Irish settled, and people from my area have an accent handed down by the Scots-Irish people.

Note that Peggy will speak further on the topic of the Scots-Irish in America at South King County Genealogical Society on June 21st at 10AM PT. <https://www.skcgcs.org/>

Melissa Kacher

Two Websites of note

Celia McNay shared a video of the Discovery Center at the Bellevue Temple of the church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints. <https://seattlefsc.org>

Peggy Lauritzen has webinars available on [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#). The site has over 2,300 webinars from 454 speakers. Some free; most of site requires a subscription.

Save the Date!

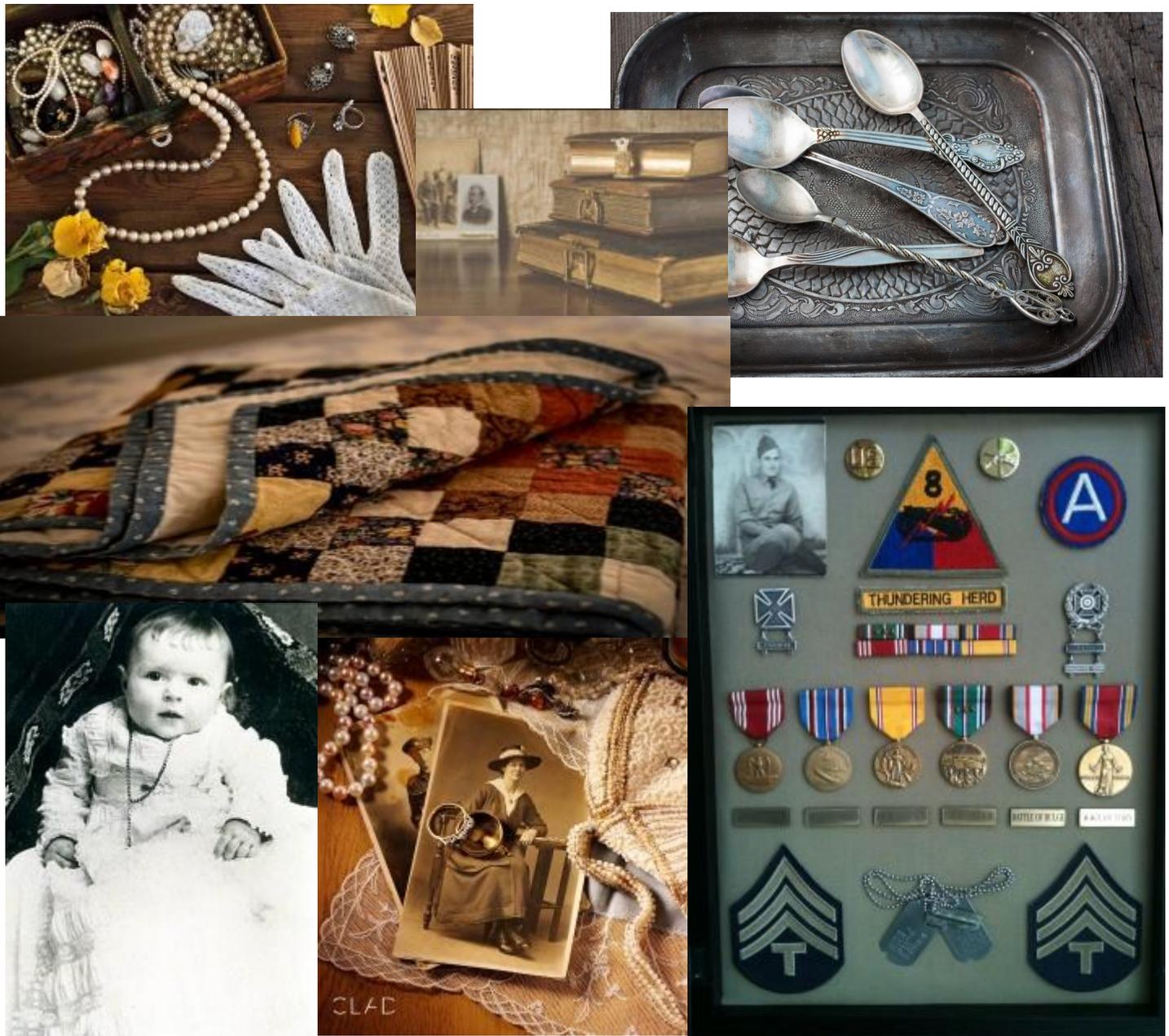
What's in Your Attic—Is There a Story There?

Saturday, October 11, 1:30 PM

Bellevue Library Room One

Speaker: Jill Morelli will speak about writing and publishing

More Information to come: [Kimberly Nichols](#)

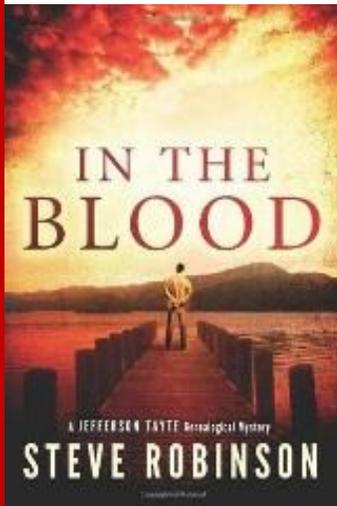


Genealogy Book SIG News

No Meeting in April

Next Meeting: **Friday, May 9th, 10 AM via Zoom**

Future meetings: 2nd Friday of most months



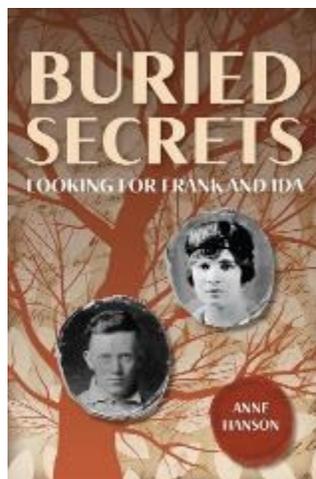
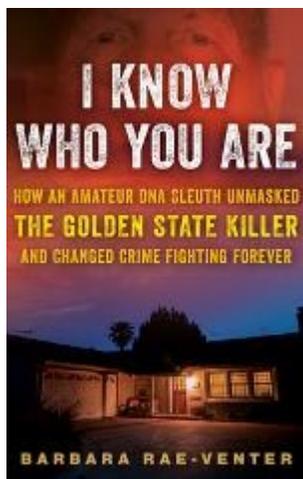
In the Blood (Jefferson Tayte Genealogical Mystery, 1)

4.2 out of 5 rating, based on 17,460 ratings

Two hundred years ago a loyalist family fled to England to escape the American War of Independence and seemingly vanished into thin air. American genealogist Jefferson Tayte is hired to find out what happened, but it soon becomes apparent that a calculated killer is out to stop him.

In the Blood combines a centuries-old mystery with a present-day thriller that brings two people from opposite sides of the Atlantic together to uncover a series of carefully hidden crimes. Tayte's research centres around the tragic life of a young Cornish girl, a writing box, and the discovery of a dark secret that he believes will lead him to the family he is looking for. Trouble is, someone else is looking for the same answers and will stop at nothing to find them.

In the Blood is the first book in the Jefferson Tayte mystery series.

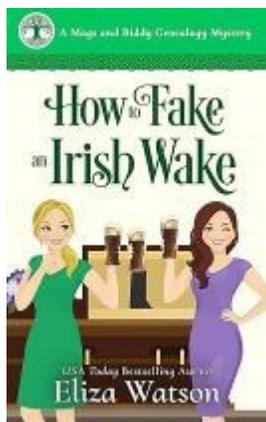


The **Genealogy Book SIG** reads fiction where genealogical mysteries and research are a focus of the story. Future books on our list are shown to the left.

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

Genealogy Book SIG—Reviews

February 28 Book



How to Fake An Irish Wake was the first book chosen by the EGS Book SIG to read and discuss. The book is about Mags Murray, who has just inherited a much-loved historic cottage from her beloved Grandmother. Soon after the funeral, a young man, Finn, arrives at the cottage. He has an old photo that he believes is a clue to his Father's identity. Mags loves to do genealogical research, and soon she is on the case, trying to help Finn find his father. There are many twists and troubles along the way.

This book was a light-hearted fast read. It is the first in a series of six books. It was fun to learn about life in a small Irish town where everyone pretty much knew each other. SIG members seemed to enjoy the book, although we all wished there had been a family tree or something to help keep all the characters in the book straight. We liked the historical aspects of the book, and how Mags wanted to keep the cottage the same as it was when her grandmother was there. If you like to read a mystery set in a small Irish town, then this book might be for you!

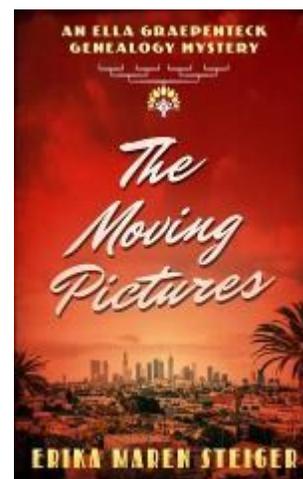
March 28 Book

The Moving Pictures: An Ella Graepentack Genealogy Mystery
(Ella Graepentack Genealogy Mysteries Book 1)

Author: Erica Maren Steiger

Synopsis

Los Angeles genealogist Ella Graepentack is used to surprises. Clients lie, and old documents can reveal uncomfortable information. Stumbling across a dead body, however, is a more surprising experience than usual. It starts with a client's ordinary request. She wants information about her grandmother's father, as a birthday gift. The search leads Ella to participate in a murder investigation with twists and turns at every discovery.



Continued on next page

Genealogy Book SIG—Reviews

Continued—The Moving Pictures

Themes

- Suspicion of client, client's boyfriend, being followed
- Curiosity
- Problem solving
- Interconnection of relationships
- Impact of things that happened long ago on today's relationships
- Family secrets

Best quote from the book: *“Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.”*

Discussion

- Importance of suspending judgement, not making incorrect conclusions
- Consider name changes, alternate spellings, and pseudonyms
- Police approach and genealogical research complemented the problem solving
- Easy, fun, fast read; not “high literature”
- Several members have purchased the next books in her series
- Recommend to both novice and more experienced genealogists

Genealogy Resources and Strategies Ella used

- Movie gossip magazines and other magazines; Newspapers
- Vital Records: Birth, marriage and death
- Social Security Records
- Online searching
- Business documents - California Pictures
- Employment records
- Interviews with living relatives; on-site visits
- Ancestry.com and other genealogy websites
- Family trees on a genealogy website
- DNA testing suggested to her client
- Census records from multiple years and locations; looking beyond local resources
- City Directories
- Ella made a chart showing all the people and how they were connected, including non-relatives



Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society



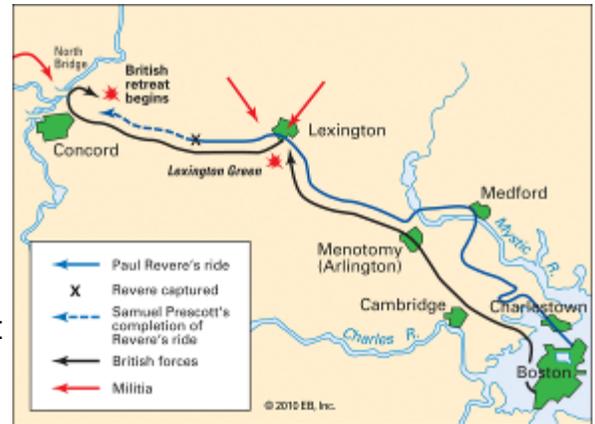
TWISTED BRANCHES

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

To connect with a person listed here, send an email to:

communications@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, I thought we might have EGS members whose ancestors participated and maybe discover “cousin connections.” Unfortunately, there were no submissions. Perhaps it is too restrictive a topic, or perhaps members either aren’t aware of their ancestors or didn’t have time to research them.



My roots in Massachusetts are long and deep. I can document over five direct ancestors who actually marched in answer to the alarm of [April 19, 1775](#). I used multiple approaches, first scouring my database for names. [Minute Man Soldier Search - Friends of Minute Man National Park](#) was of no help to me, as the towns captured are not mine (Lancaster, Bolton, Harvard.) Then I looked into the details in my database and searched on the *names of the Company Commanders* for lists of company members. That produced lots of results. Below are a few. Any connections in your databases? Contact me using the link above.

Marcia Williams

Josiah Bennett Jr.	1730-1783	5th ggf
Abraham Holman	1729-1782	5th ggf
Richard Townsend	1735-1814	4th ggf
Silas Proctor	1750-1845	4th ggf
James Proctor	1720-1790	5th ggf
Jacob Robbins	1729-1778	5th ggf

Next Twisted Branches Topic

Who are your ancestors who lived in Washington State (or Territory) prior to 1900? Include the name of the city/town.

We hope to receive more input to this one!

June Deadline: May 15, 2025.



Eastside Genealogical Society

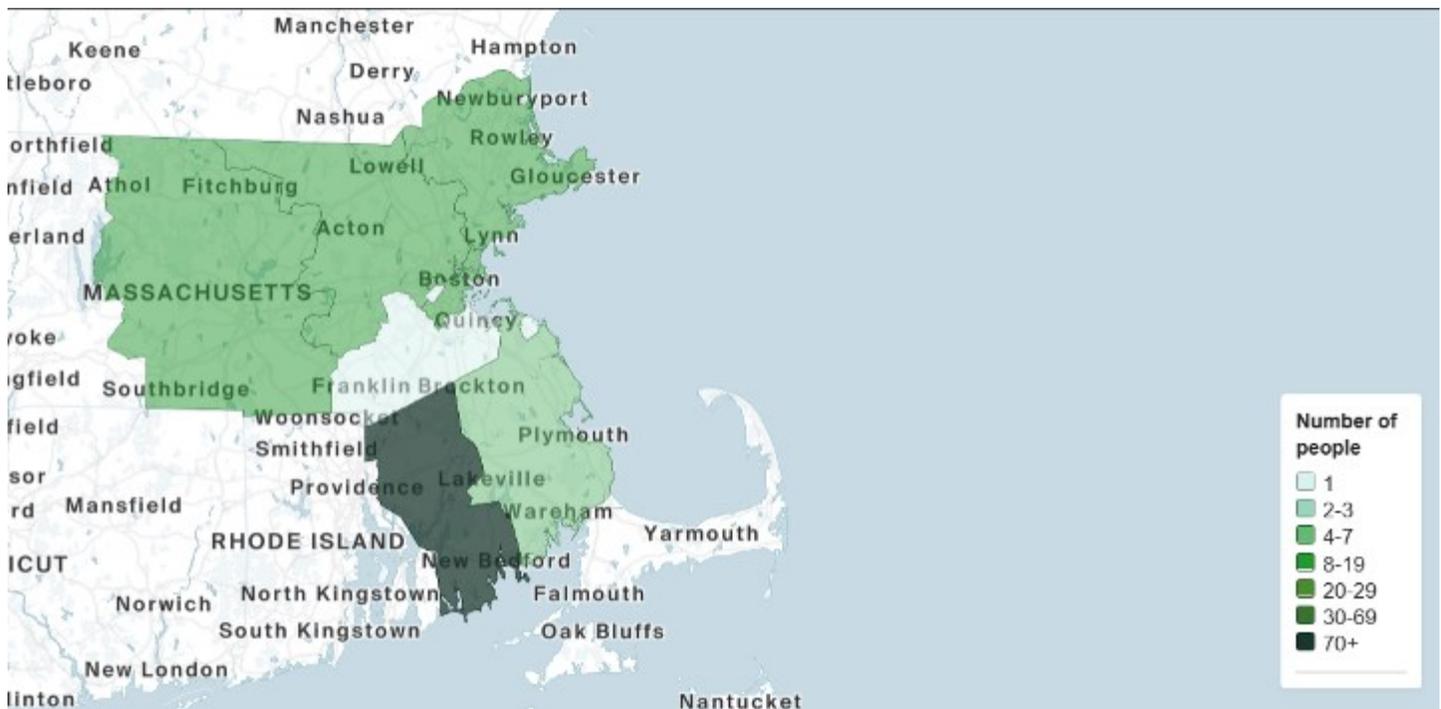
Ancestry® ProTools—An Overview

When Marcia asked about which of our ancestors had participated in the Battle of Lexington and Concord, I knew that I had ancestors in Massachusetts in my ancestry, but I hadn't done much in-depth research on most of these lines. I had only done enough to get my Mayflower Society membership and to verify my great-grandmother's research, done from the late 1800s up until 1948.

I knew I didn't have enough time to research all these ancestors. But I do have Ancestry's ProTools. I have found it essential for researching my DNA matches! ProTools requires an active Ancestry® membership and costs an additional \$10/month.

https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Ancestry-Pro-Tools-Membership?language=en_US

I knew ProTools has a Tree Mapper feature so I looked to see if it would be useful. I filtered on people in my tree, location Massachusetts, and events from 1700 to 1775. (Did I think a 75 year old ancestor would have fought?) Ancestry gave me the following:



In that range I had 18 people from Worcester, 8 from Middlesex (where Lexington and Concord are located), 13 from Essex, 7 from Plymouth, and 78 from Bristol! Most of these are not researched and a few are not well sourced.



Eastside Genealogical Society

Investigating quickly, okay more hours than I should have spent on it, I believe that relations of my 7th great-grandfather Nathaniel Oaks had relatives or in-laws who fought in Lexington/Concord including grandsons and relatives of his Maynard son-in-law. In addition, I believe there were 2 Uphams from Malden, Massachusetts who were closely related to my 7th great-grandmother Mary Upham. **Catherine Smith**

I was intrigued by her account, which has more detail. I googled Nathaniel Oaks Revolutionary War, and found this information.

His first wife Susanna Hastings, daughter of Capt. Benjamin and Abigail (Sawtell), was born at Bolton MA, 11 Feb 1748. At his marriage in Bolton, 1773, he was recorded as Nathaniel Jr., which led to error of his identity. At the Lexington alarm of 1775 he served 12 days in the company of his father-in-law, Capt. Benjamin Hastings.

Later, in this article:

Nathaniel was in the Revolutionary War, Lexington Alarm of 1775.

Further research at FindAGrave:

LEXINGTON ALARM;

Captain Hastings serving under Col. John Whitcomb's Regiment led his company along with 2 other companies from Bolton (including Berlin district) on the march to Cambridge at the Lexington Alarm. [Recall that Nathaniel Oaks served in the company of his father-in-law.]

Catherine complained about being down a rabbit hole, and I can empathize. Benjamin Hastings, father of Susanna Hastings, is a name I have in my database—eight times! Bolton MA is also one of the more frequent entries. Although I do not have any record of Nathaniel Oak, I'm thinking that her Susanna Hastings is somehow related to my dozens of Hastings. **Marcia Williams**

Summary

Genealogical Problem Solving is most successful when multiple tools are used and family relationships are explored. Looking at Catherine's map on the previous page, I'm led to believe we have some common ancestors, or at least some links.

At this time, the newsletter deadline is limiting both of our time to research the options.



Eastside Genealogical Society



German Interest Group

Website:

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

Presenter: Gail Blankenau



Gail Shaffer Blankenau is a historian, genealogist, speaker, and award-winning author. 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.

Registration Required.

When: Friday, 4 April 2025

12:30 to 2:30 pm Pacific

Topic: What's in a Name?

Deciphering German Given Names & 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).

Don't let name confusion derail your research—discover strategies you need to ensure you're barking up the right tree.

Visitors are always welcome.

More information—Our website is:

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

[Register](#)



Eastside Genealogical Society

Italian Interest Group meeting

Saturday, 19 April, 2025

1:30 – 3:30 PM Pacific

[IIG April Zoom Meeting Invitation Request](#)

Topic: Italian Civil Registration—Other Documents:
Diversi, Parte Due/Seconda & Cittadinana



Presenter: Ruth Lapioli Merriman

Ruth Lapioli Merriman retired seven years ago after 35 years of working for FamilySearch. Her responsibilities included cataloging Italian records and managing the International floor of the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. She has lectured at national and international venues, at RootsTech and at various genealogical societies. She loves genealogy and all things Italian. Ruth is a wife, a mother of four sons, and a grandmother of 6 of the best grandchildren ever.

Presentation: Italian civil records provide great information - names, dates, parents, grandparents, and sometimes even addresses. But - have you ever ventured into those hand-written scary looking records at the end of the book? Parte 2, Diversi, and the Cittadinanza records offer up additional information - and sometimes quite colorful information. They are a window into the past. We will delve into each of these record types and discover some amazing stories and see the potential for help these records can provide when you find your ancestors within the pages.

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

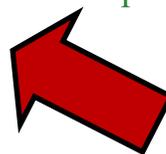
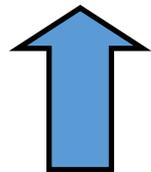
SKCGS

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, April 17

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

Topic: Military Records on FamilySearch.org

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 [Celia McNay](#) with questions

Genealogy Help

1. Bellevue Library - Room 4

Thur Apr 10, Apr 24; 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, Apr 18

10:30 AM Pacific

No meeting May 16

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

ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org



Website of the Month

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, [see how an old book with Washington's locks was passed down.](#)

[History.com](#) has several articles of interest. Get caught up on the history around our independence!

AND—Check this one out: [Minute Man Soldier Search - Friends of Minute Man National Park](#)

George Washington's Hair Found in 18th-Century Almanac

The first president's tresses were a keepsake for the family of Alexander Hamilton.



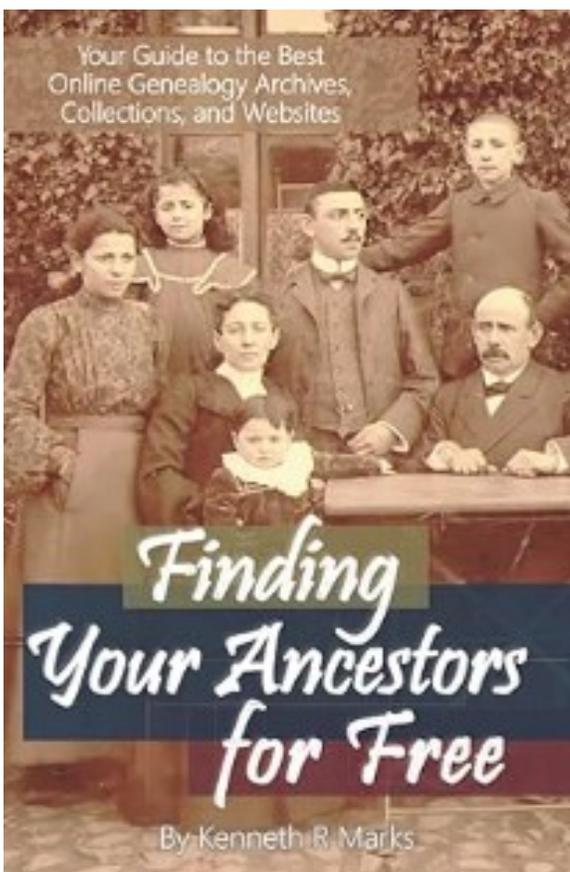
Becky Little



Book of the Month

Finding Your Ancestors for Free: Your Guide to the Best Online Genealogy Archives, Collections, and Websites

The goal of this book is to provide you with the major online databases, libraries, archives, and websites that are free for you to use. This book includes over 2,500 links to free online genealogy websites.





Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society

[HOME](#) [ABOUT EASTSIDE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY](#) [MEETING INFO AND ARCHIVES](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS](#)
[RESEARCH ASSISTANCE](#) [RESOURCES](#) [NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

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
Secretary	Janice Leitzke	secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Treasurer	Glen McNay	treasurer@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Trustee	Marcia Williams	newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Book Committee	Open	bookcommittee@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Education	Bob Barnes	education@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Membership	Celia McNay	egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com
Programs	Beth Snyder	programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Publicity	Catherine Smith	publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
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

Preview of Coming Meetings

May 8 **Scandinavian Church Records**

Jenny Hansen

Church records are the backbone of Scandinavian research. After a parish of origin has been determined, these records provide the majority of the information needed to extend the pedigree of one's family. This class will discuss the information found in church records and explain why these records are so important for family research.



June 12 **How to Write a Family History Book: It's Simpler Than You Think**

Rebecca Shamblin

Genealogist, author, teacher,
speaker

[https://
www.rebeccashamblin.com/](https://www.rebeccashamblin.com/)



More details to come—see [EGS](https://www.eastsidenealogicalsociety.com) website closer to the date

For Your Calendar

See Newsletter for details

Date	Event	Page
4-Apr	German Interest Group - What's in a Name?	12
10-Apr	Genealogy Help - Bellevue Library - Room 4	15
10-Apr	Eastside Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting: <i>There's Gold in Federal Government Reports</i>	1
17-Apr	Lunch Bunch and Library Research - Military Records on FamilySearch.org	15
18-Apr	Family Tree Maker SIG	15
19-Apr	Italian Interest Group: Bridging the Divide: Italian Civil Registration	13
24-Apr	Genealogy Help - Bellevue Library - Room 4	15
8-May	Eastside Genealogical Meeting - <i>Scandinavian Church Records</i>	3, 18
9-May	Genealogy Book SIG— <i>In the Blood</i>	6
15-May	June Newsletter Deadline	9
12-Jun	Eastside Genealogical Meeting - <i>How to Write a Family History Book</i>	3, 18
11-Oct	What's In Your Attic?	5

