



Education

Preservation

Networking

Getting Started with AI in Family History

Our speaker: Andrew Redfern

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Networking and announcements at 6:30 pm Pacific
Program at 7:00 pm

Via Zoom---[join the meeting](#)

About our program: Whether you're a seasoned genealogist or just getting started, this talk will provide you with valuable insights and strategies for using AI to uncover your family's unique story. Lots of practical demonstrations and uses of various tools currently available will provide a starting point for attendees to use these technologies straight away with their own family tree. For those not sure, there will be plenty of discussion about navigating security, privacy and bias.

About our speaker: Andrew Redfern is a passionate family historian and technology educator. Since his initial interest in researching his family tree in the mid-1980s, Andrew has developed a deep interest in how technology can enhance the way we explore and preserve our family histories. The integration of AI into his genealogical toolkit was a natural progression.



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

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

The meeting Zoom link is also available on the Meetings page of our website.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Have you used AI in your genealogy research?

How? What were the results?

After tonight's presentation, will you use it? How do you think it will help you? What are your concerns?

November 13, 2025 Meeting—Recap

DAR and SAR Explained + Researching your Revolutionary War Ancestors

Kimberly Nichols, DAR

Rob Sexton, SAR

[Daughters of the American Revolution](#)

[National Society Sons of the American Revolution – Since 1889](#)

Both DAR and SAR are non-political, non-profit volunteer organizations. Eligible members prove lineal descent from an ancestor who contributed to the American Revolution. Both organizations promote Patriotism, Historical Preservation, and Education, assisting active duty military and veterans, promoting history and preserving historical sites, and provide scholarships.

Daughters of the American Revolution

Kimberly gave a history of the DAR and explained the application process. Start with completing an application on the DAR website, connect you with a DAR registrar.

If your ancestor served in the Revolutionary War from April 19, 1775, to November 26, 1783, you are eligible to join. There are categories of people other than soldiers who are eligible ancestors. Doctors, nurses, and people who did other civil or patriotic services are eligible.

DAR has databases of known genealogies that you can use to aid your research. You can prove your links to those genealogies to use in your application process. DAR also has a database of all currently qualifying ancestors. If your ancestor isn't there, that does not mean that they didn't serve. If you prove that your ancestor served, they will be added to the database.

Sons of the American Revolution

Rob Sexton gave an overview of SAR. He shared several case studies of tracking down proof used for SAR applications.

Helpful Websites for Proven Patriots:

[DAR Genealogical Research System](#)

[SAR Patriot Research System](#)

These databases are open to all, and include proven Revolutionary War Patriots with descendants who have joined DAR and/or SAR.



Melissa Kacher



President's Message

Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday are behind us, and I hope that if you were looking for genealogy-related items, you found some good deals! I grabbed a one-year, **All Access Ancestry** subscription for half price and bought a widescreen monitor on sale as well. Some deals are ongoing, and others will undoubtedly pop up as December rolls on.

Eastside Genealogical Society's Facebook group (cleverly called "Eastside Genealogical Society" - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/369653606807198>), alerts members to many sales and free offerings. Subscription websites periodically offer free access to specific collections, and we share that information in our Facebook group as well. We'd love to have you join us if you haven't already!

The holiday season can be busy with family, friends, community, performances, decorating, shopping, food, and more. For some, it might mean a pause in your genealogy activities until after the new year while other activities take priority. For others, holiday gatherings are the perfect time to **gather family stories**, **look at old photographs** (and perhaps even attach names to those mysterious people!), and talk about **family holiday traditions**. Have you **interviewed the oldest members** of your family about their lives and their memories of the holidays when they were growing up? Do you have the **recipes for the foods** your family always has on the holiday table? Have you **documented the traditions of your family's holiday celebrations** for future generations? Are there **family heirlooms** that only make an appearance during the

holiday season that should be photographed and documented? All these things go beyond the names and dates of a pedigree chart and add interest and breadth to your family history.

For those of you who are creative, look for the article in this newsletter about our **EGS logo design** contest. The current logo was developed in 1999, and the Board feels that it is time for a refreshed look. We welcome submissions from both members and non-members by **February 26, 2026**. See page 4 for more information. Also, check out our monthly **TWISTED BRANCHES** feature on pages 7 and 8. We invite your submissions at newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org whenever a topic resonates with you.

Thank you for being a member of EGS! As always, if you have suggestions for ways in which we could make your membership more valuable, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.

Whether you are researching or taking a break, travelling or staying home, celebrating or not, on behalf of the EGS Board, I wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season and a **Happy New Year!**



Eastside Genealogical Society



Help us Design a New EGS Logo!

The EGS Board is excited to announce that we're working on **updating our Eastside Genealogical Society logo**—and we want *your* ideas!

Our current logo has served us well, but it's time for a refresh that better reflects who we are today. Whether you're an artist, designer, or just someone with a creative spark, this is your chance to help shape the visual identity of EGS.

What We're Looking For

Your logo design should reflect our mission:

EGS is a welcoming, non-profit organization created to encourage and promote the education and study of genealogy.

Think about imagery that symbolizes **family connections, discovery, learning, and heritage**—such as:

- Family trees and roots
- Books, scrolls, or magnifying glasses (for education and research)
- DNA strands or interlocking circles (for connection and history)

Modern or traditional designs—whatever inspires you!

How to Participate

Get creative! You can:

- Sketch or paint your idea by hand
- Use AI or digital design tools

Combine elements or reimagine the symbols of genealogy in your own style.

Once your design is ready, **send an image (JPG, PNG, or PDF)** to:

President@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org by **Thursday, February 26, 2026**

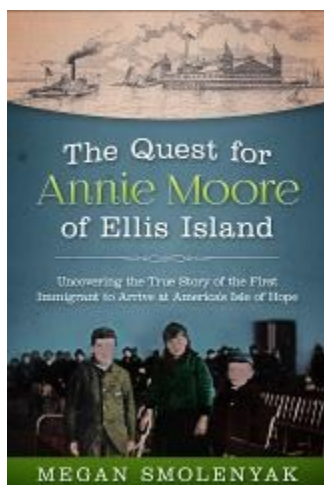
By submitting a design, you grant Eastside Genealogical Society full ownership and permission to use, modify, and reproduce the image as the official EGS logo in all materials produced or published by EGS. You also confirm that your design does not infringe on the rights of others. **The selected logo** will need to include a specification sheet of font names and RGB values for images, text and background.

The EGS Board will review all submissions and will **select the new logo this spring**. The designer of the winning logo will receive a free one-year membership to EGS.

Genealogy Book SIG

Friday, January 9, 2026, 10 AM PT via Zoom

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



The Quest for Annie Moore of Ellis Island: Uncovering the True Story of the First Immigrant to Arrive at America's Isle of Hope

On January 1, 1892, Annie Moore of Ireland tripped into the pages of history and became the poster child of immigration by being the first to arrive at Ellis Island. She's since been immortalized on stage and in music, museums, books, and of course, pub names. Statues of her adorn Ellis Island where she stands as a symbol of the American Dream and at the Cobh Heritage Centre in Cork, Ireland, where she represents millions who have emigrated over the centuries and scattered their gifts around the globe.

And yet, we got her story completely wrong.

Megan Smolenyak is the determined sleuth who discovered this case of historical identity theft and devoted years to figuring out how it happened, finding the true Annie, and unveiling what her life was really like. Follow along as the author parks you on her shoulder and unravels the mystery of Ellis Island's first.

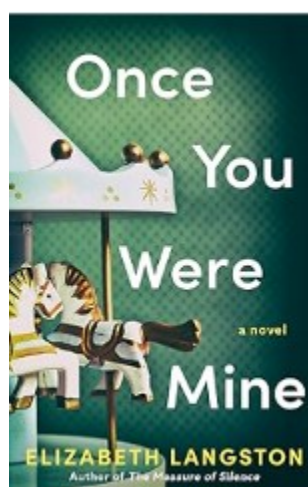
History buffs, genealogists, and mystery enthusiasts will enjoy the ride, as will those interested in immigration and tales of the long overlooked.



Feb 13, 2026



Mar 13, 2026



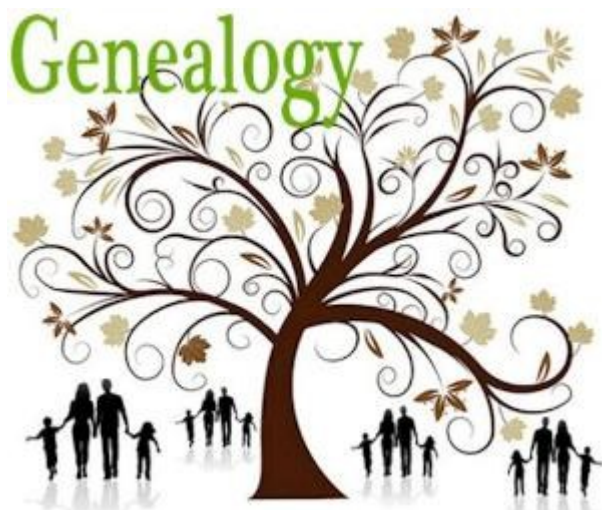
Apr 10, 2026



May 8, 2026



Eastside Genealogical Society



Welcome new Members to EGS

Chris and John Cady

John Schweikert

Carole Mercer

Registration Is Open

Join the world's largest family history conference free online and in person. March 5-7, 2026. Our full learning library is open everyday.



There Is So Much More to Discover

Our library has hundreds of classes to help you learn what you need to discover more about your family story.

[Search the Library](#)

Join other EGS members in Salt Lake City in March!
Attend RootsTech in person (3-day pass, \$99.00) or online **FREE!**
Contact [Kimberly](#) to let us know if you are going *in person*.
For more information, click the link [RootsTech2026](#).

NOTE: Expo Center has many discounts during RootsTech. Must be registered to shop. Includes subscriptions, books, and much more!





Eastside Genealogical Society

DECEMBER/JANUARY TWISTED BRANCHES

Ancestors from Janice Leitzke

Name	Born	Died	Location	Spouse	Span
Johan Georg Bader/Border	1730	1780	Lancaster PA	Salome Balterspergin	1734-1787
Conrad Beaver	1738	1783	Lancaster PA	Maria Kneisley	1738-1792
Thomas Gaunt	1707	1748	Philadelphia PA	Elizabeth Gardiner	1715-1799
John Gardner	1649	1726	Philadelphia PA	Elizabeth Walter	? - 1700
Peter Gardiner	1685	1765		Sarah Garret	1700-1771
Henry Richards	1735	1793	Philadelphia PA	Jane Gaunt	1744-1825
Edmund Wells	1640	1703	Montgomery PA	Mary Gilbert	1645-1712
Henry Wells	1672	1714	Bucks PA	Elizabeth Guest	1668 - 1714
James Wells	1705	1772	Berk PA	Dorothy Sunley	1735-1797
Abraham Wells	1730	1797	Mifflin PA	Elizabeth Strong	1739-1797
James Wells	1762	1816	Whiteley, Greene, PA	Elizabeth Guseman	1782-1833
John Adam Gordon	1739	1816	Greene PA	Mary H. Duke	1743-1789
Christopher Guesman	?	1784	Greene PA	Elizabeth Gordon	1761-1834
Archibald Hamilton	1758	1814	Whiteley, Greene, PA	Mary Richards	1764-1851
John Hamilton	1664	1744	Lancaster PA	Mary Miranda	1700 - ?

Ancestors from Kimberly Nichols

County	Surnames
Indiana County	Coulter, Black, Sutton, Ward, Adams, Rose
Bedford County	Cuppert/Cuppy, Albaugh
Lancaster County	Boltz, Waldschmidt, Bollender/Bolender
Armstrong County	Coulter
Westmoreland County	Coulter
Dauplin County	Boltz
Greene County	Boltz
Lebanon County	Boltz
Montgomery County	Erhard/Earhart
Chester County	Erhard/Earhart
Philadephia County	Erhard/Earhart

FEBRUARY TWISTED BRANCHES - ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRANTS

As many as 2/5 of Americans may be descended from Immigrants who entered through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954. Are your ancestors among the 12 million people processed at this site? Send the names, date of entry, country of origin, and destination in the United States to [Marcia Williams](#), Newsletter editor. Deadline: **Saturday, January 17.**

Italian Interest Group meeting

Saturday, January 17, 2026

1:30—3:30 pm PT via Zoom

If you aren't a registered member,

[Click Here](#)

for meeting registration.

Part 1: Italian POWs in the US during WWII

During World War II there were **1,210 POW camps**,

hospitals and cemeteries for German, Italian and Japanese soldiers in the United States.

Among those POWs were **51,000**

Italian soldiers. The camps not

only gave the Italian prisoners a

glimpse of American life, but en-

abled interaction with Ameri-

cans leading to friendships and

even marriage. *About two-thirds*

of Italian prisoners chose to be-

come Allies and served in Italian

Service Units here and as part of the Allied push to lib-

erate Italy. This presentation discusses camp life and

rules, work by the POWs, and postwar activities. A vari-

ety of records and repositories in the US and Italy are

described in detail with links.



SAYS HE LIKES JOB—Above is a view of an Italian lumber inspector operating a sawing machine in the lumber reclamation department. He says, "Some job. I like it."



Presenter:

Kathy Kirkpatrick earned her B.A.

in History from Humboldt State

University at Arcata, California.

She is currently President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Utah.

Kathy has written family histories, genealogical and Italian research instruction, and eight volumes on American Prisoner of War Camps since 1986. Kathy speaks locally and internationally on a variety of topics, including RootsTech, National Genealogical Society, the Foundation of Eastern European Family History Studies (FEEFHS), and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). Kathy's research takes her on-site to Italy (including the Vatican Secret Archives), Sicily, Greece, the United Kingdom, and France as well as close to home in the *FamilySearch Library* in Salt Lake City. Her extensive websites are at www.gentracer.com for genealogy and www.gentracer.org for military research and cemeteries.

Part 2: Ferramonti Concentration Camp in Italy

This presentation takes us to Italy to learn about the

Ferramonti Camp and the local Italian community. Out

of the **3,823 prisoners**, only fifty died. One hundred forty

-one of these prisoners were Italian, the rest having fled

from Europe before capture in Italy, Bengasi (Libya) and

Rhodes (Greece). Most of the prisoners were Jewish

and were able to observe that reli-

gion in the Camp. There were also

non-Jewish people from China,

France, Greece, and Yugoslavia.

The cooperation between the camp

staff, prisoners, and the communi-

ty enabled this situation in a dark

time. Sources and repositories de-

scribed.





Eastside Genealogical Society



German Interest Group

Website: [EGS-GIG](https://www.egs-gig.org)

Friday, January 9, 2026

12:30—2:30 pm PT via Zoom

Zoom registration required.

[Register](https://www.egs-gig.org)

Topic:

Free Websites for German Genealogy

Take a guided exploration of how to access and use numerous free websites for your German family history research.

More information: Visitors are always welcome. Our website is:
<https://gig.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/>



Presenter:
Josiah Schmidt

Josiah Schmidt is a history and genealogy specialist for the Saint Louis County Library System in Saint Louis, Missouri.

He specializes in German, Jewish and Genetic Genealogy.

Upcoming—Friday, February 6, 2026

12:30—2:30 pm PT via Zoom

Swiss Essentials: Locating Church Records & Understanding the Impact of Citizenship

See website for more information



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 Stroebe	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
Brags and Bricks
Mexican Special Interest Group
Eastern Europe Interest Group
Ancestry Users Interest Group
DNA Interest Group

Publishing Interest Group

AI for Genealogy
Organizing for Genealogy

SKCGS

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

TPCGS

Genealogy Chat
Legacy Family Tree
Writing Family History
DNA Special Interest Group
Mystery Book Club

Upcoming Events and Genealogy Help



Next Lunch Bunch—Thurs Jan 20

11:30—1:00—reserved room in church across from the **FamilySearch Center**, 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue. Bring lunch from home or buy food at a nearby local location.

Topic: To be announced

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

Bellevue Library—Computer Lab

Upcoming Sessions

Thurs Jan 8, 22; Feb 12, 26

10:30—12:30

2nd and 4th Thursdays monthly

No registration required

In-person assistance with ...



Ancestry Library Edition



Search the

Events

Genealogy

Family Tree Maker SIG meeting—3rd Friday of most months

Friday, January 16, 2026

10:30 am PT

Via Zoom

- Send Questions
- Join email list

ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org



Website of the Month

Cyndi's List has a number of AI resources—[Cyndi's List - Artificial Intelligence](#) Here's some of the links:

- [A Week of Genealogy - Artificial Intelligence: Google Bard vs. ChatGPT](#)
- [AI Genealogy Insights](#)
Exploring the Advantages and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence-assisted Genealogy.
Blog posts by Stephen Little.
- [AI Genealogy Insights \(Facebook\)](#)
Exploring the Advantages and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence-assisted Genealogy
- [discourse.genealogy.net - AI discussion forum](#)
This is the AI discussion forum of the German user group "Computergenealogie (CompGen)".
- [Dutch Genealogy - Five good and bad ways to use ChatGPT for genealogy](#)
- [Dutch Genealogy - Using AI for Transcriptions: VerledenTekst](#)
- [Empowering Genealogists with AI: Presentation to National Genealogical Society \(NGS\)](#)
By Steve Little
- [Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) \(Facebook\)](#)
This group is intended to explore the intersection of genealogy and artificial intelligence (AI) in its many difference facets. We want to help genealogists harness the power of AI while understanding both the benefits and limitations of new AI-based technologies.

Book of the Month

Includes chapters on:

- Understanding Core Concepts of AI for Genealogy
- Surveying the Leading AI Platforms
- Summarizing Large Documents
- Transcribing Historical Documents
- Translating Historical Documents
- AI and Source Citations
- Ethical, Privacy and Accuracy Considerations in AI-Assisted Genealogical Research
- Tips and Tricks for Summarizing, Transcribing and Translating Genealogy Documents
- Resources for Genealogy Document Processing
- 8 Appendices with Examples



**AI and Genealogy:
A Practical Guide to Summarizing,
Transcribing, and Translating
Historical Documents**

Thomas MacEntee



Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society

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[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 and interests.

EGS Board of Directors

President	Janet Stroebel	president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Vice President	Kimberly Nichols	vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Secretary	Janice Leitzke	secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Treasurer	Marcella Rush	treasurer@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Trustee	Marcia Williams	newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Book Committee	Jane Wickert	bookcommittee@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
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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

This n That

A list of genealogical items of interest to us this month

Holiday Gift Wish List

Many items have discounts near the holidays. Treat the Genealogist on your list—or yourself!

Also—check back during **RootsTech** (page 5) for discounts. Here are **some ideas**:

DNA Kits

Subscriptions

- Family Tree Webinars
- Newspapers.com
- GenealogyBank.com
- AmericanAncestors.org
- Family Tree Magazine
- My Heritage

Bookstores

- AmericanAncestors.org
- Mayflower Society
- NY Genealogical & Biological Society
- National Genealogical Society
- Amazon—Genealogy Fiction for adults and children
- Genealogical.com

[American Ancestors](#)—

Subscription website with many free seminars for non-members too!



American Ancestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Upcoming Events—Just a few of the many seminars

- **Jan 15, 2026:** The Dos and Don'ts of Online Family Trees (Free)
- **Jan 17, 2026:** Discover Your Revolutionary Roots: Researching Patriot Ancestors (\$)
- **Jan 22, 2026:** Origins and Migrations: Where Did They Come From, Where Did They Go? (\$)
- **Feb 17, 2026:** Imagining Early American Jews (Free)

For Your Calendar

See Newsletter for details

Date	Event	Page
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9-Jan	Genealogy Book SIG — <i>The Quest for Annie Moore of Ellis Island</i>	5
9-Jan	German Interest Group —Free Websites for German Genealogy	10
16-Jan	Family Tree Maker SIG	12
17-Jan	Italian Interest Group —(1) Italian POWs in US during WWII (2) Ferramonti Concentration Camp in Italy	9
17-Jan	Deadline for February Eastside Genie articles Deadline for TWISTED BRANCHES —Ellis Island ancestors	8
20-Jan	Lunch Bunch and Library Research, FamilySearch Center Library	12
22-Jan	Genealogy Help—Bellevue Library—Computer Lab	13
Various	American Ancestors, Free and low-cost webinars	15
26-Feb	New EGS Logo Design deadline	4



Meetings NOT happening later in December

Thursday, December 18

Lunch Bunch at the FamilySearch Center in Bellevue

Friday, December 19

Family Tree Maker SIG

Saturday, December 20

Italian Interest Group

Thursday, December 25

Christmas—no Bellevue Library Help Desk