



Education

Preservation

Networking

Just Because It CAN Be Wrong Doesn't Mean It Is

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Speaker: Paula Williams

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

Via Zoom—[Click here to register](#)



About our speaker: Paula has been researching for more than two decades in primarily southern US states and has been using DNA to solve problems for more than a decade. She's a board member of the Virginia Genealogical Society and of the Genealogical Research Institute of Virginia (GRIVA) and is the facilitator for the latter's DNA Special Interest Group. Paula taught and has lectured widely. She also serves as the Virtual Tech Coordinator for the GRIP Genealogy Institute.

About our program: Online trees, record hints, DNA predictions, and ethnicity estimates are often shunned, but can still provide valuable clues for our research and lead us to newly available record sets. We'll discuss ways to evaluate the hints and determine which to use and which to lose!

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

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



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

What resources have you ignored that you will now reconsider?
What is your confidence level with other online trees?
What new approaches will you try as a result of tonight's presentation?

March 9, 2026—Recap
What Could Have Happened?

Creating and Proving Hypotheses to Solve Tough Problems

[Kory Meyerink](#)

Genealogical research was defined as a *funnel with each piece narrowing the scope of research*—beginning with a quest, an overall reason for doing genealogy such as applying to a lineage society or planning a trip to an ancestor's homeland.

The next layer is a goal, which is usually focusing research on a specific family group.

Next, create a research question to narrow your search down to a specific piece of information such as when and where an ancestor was born or what is the name of your ancestor's parent.

Finally, a hypothesis narrows the research question to a specific possible answer such as "John's father was William Chappell of Petersburg, Virginia." A hypothesis must be believable, provable and consistent with current evidence. The speaker also emphasized that family tradition is not generally a good source for building a hypothesis.

When developing a hypothesis to guide your research you should brainstorm several and then evaluate and prioritize based on how likely you think a hypothesis is to be correct and how provable it is. Don't fall into the trap of pursuing what can't be proved.

Suggestions for proving your hypothesis include:

- Researching descendants to obtain information you don't have, i.e. family Bibles, wills, and letters.
- Looking at sources you already have – what do they tell you and what do they NOT tell you?
- Identifying all possible sources and repositories;

avoid using the same repositories and expecting different results.

- Researching the women – that can be harder to do but may reveal a gold mine of information.
- Verifying facts with documentation.
- Write down your conclusions – this helps you understand the holes in your research.
- Don't stop until you have followed all leads.

During the Q & A period a few books were mentioned.

- Surnames of the white population in 1790 provides a list of places where people resided in 1790. This can help you locate clusters of your ancestors and help to narrow down the locations where you should be searching. You can find this online at [A Century of Population Growth in the United States: From the First Census of the United States to the Twelfth: 1790-1900 — Part 11](#)
- Melissa recommended *Times Atlas of European History* to follow border changes across Europe. This book may be out of print so you may have to search World Cat or used book stores.
- *New York State Archives Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Researchers* was talked about in relation to finding military records in New York but is much broader than that.
- William Dollarhide - *Map Guide to American Migration Routes 1735-1815* which may help determine where your early ancestors may have moved.

Jane Wickert



President's Message

Eastside Genealogical Society's 2025-2026 program year is winding down, and I want to highlight a couple of new things on the calendar. First, we are starting a *new Special Interest Group*—an **AI (Artificial Intelligence) SIG**—for participants to learn together about using AI in genealogy.

Although **Catherine Smith** and **Kimberly Nichols** will be leading the group, the intent is for attendees to share encouragement, resources, tips, and results with one another while exploring ways to use AI effectively. By the time you read this newsletter, the organizational meeting will have taken place, but check the EGS website for information about when virtual monthly meetings are scheduled. You can still email AISIG@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org to let Catherine and Kimberly know you're interested in attending.

Also on the calendar this spring is our field trip to the **Heritage Quest Research Library** (HQRL) in Puyallup on **Thursday, May 21**, in place of the May Lunch Bunch meeting. Those who want to carpool will meet in the parking lot of the FamilySearch Center at 10675 NE 20th Street in Bellevue at 8:45 AM. Alternatively, you can meet the group at HQRL which opens at 10 AM. There is a \$15 day charge for non-members of HQRL, but the first 10 EGS members to sign up will be FREE. Please email [Kimberly](#) if you're interested in going.

Finally, I encourage you to attend our monthly meeting on **Thursday, May 14**, when we will hold our annual board elections. Being an even-numbered year, we are electing our President and Secretary. The Nominating Committee has put forward a slate of me to continue with another term as President and Janice Leitzke to continue as Secretary. Nominations are open for additional candidates for these positions and can be sent to **Celia McNay**, chair of the Nominating Committee, or voiced at the May 14 meeting. Thank you for your participation.



EGS Candidates

- President Janet Stroebel
- Secretary Janice Leitzke

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings.

New Books on the Bellevue Library Genealogy Shelf

German, Irish, Virginia, New York, Migration—Oh MY!

The EGS Book Committee has been busy, purchasing books for the Bellevue Library. Below is a list of the newest acquisitions. Come see *what you can find on the second floor!* Thanks to **Jane Wickert** for chairing this effort.

Trace Your German Roots Online (2nd edition),
James Biedler

American Scots-Irish Research Strategies and Sources in the Quest for Ulster-Scots Origin,
Dwight A. Radford

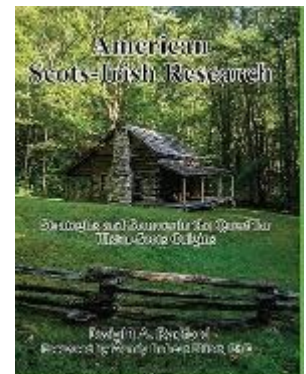
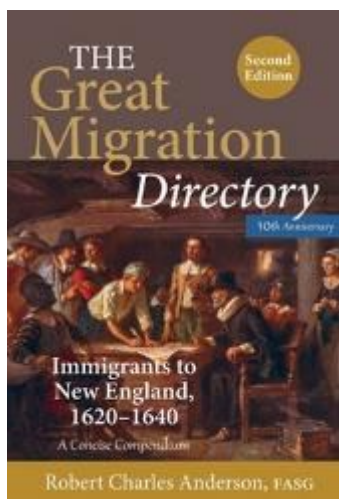
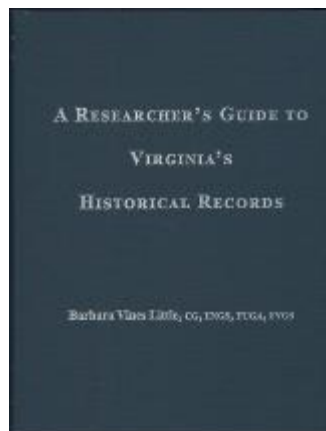
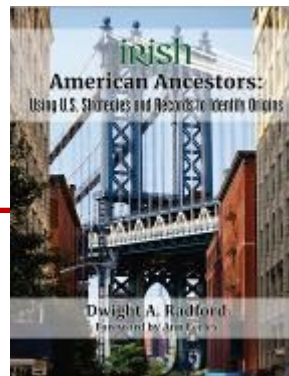
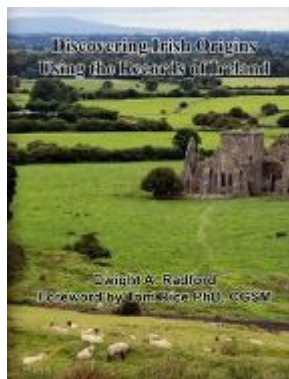
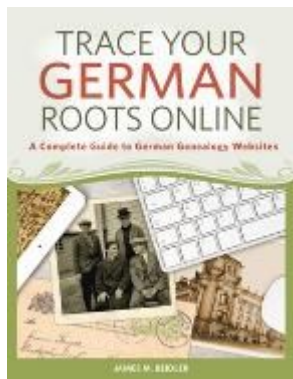
Volume 2. Discovering Irish Origins Using the Records of Ireland, Dwight A. Radford

Volume 3. Irish American Ancestors: Using U.S. Strategies and Records to Identify Origins,
Dwight A. Radford

A Researcher's Guide to Virginia's Historical Records, Barbara Vines Little

The Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1640 -- A Concise Compendium, 2nd Edition, Robert Charles Anderson

New York State Archives Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Researchers, Jane E. Wilcox



New Special Interest Group!

Next Meeting—**Tuesday, May 19, 2:00 PT**

Via Zoom

Topics:

- Creating Effective AI Prompts
- Which AI tools work best for different tasks?
- Email the address to be added to the mailing list.
- Email: Alsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
- **“Regular meeting time” - 3rd Tuesday of most months, 2:00 PT**



EGS Field Trip to [Heritage Quest Research Library](#)

Thursday, May 21

EGS is planning a field trip to **Heritage Quest Research Library (HQRL) in Puyallup, WA**

First 10 EGS members to sign up will be **free** – all others will need to pay the \$15 day-use fee.

Details:

- **Thursday, May 21, 2026**, in place of May EGS Lunch Bunch
- Meet at FamilySearch Center, 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue
- 8:45 AM—Gathering time—for carpooling
- \$15 day charge for library usage for non-members of HQRL
- \$40 to join HQRL (Individual), then day usage fee included for a year
- FamilySearch Affiliate Library
- Extensive library of books and resources; some available for purchase at huge discounts
- Bring a lunch, or buy a lunch nearby (bakery and café in same complex)
- RSVP to [Kimberly Nichols](#)—let her know if you will be meeting us there or carpooling
- Those carpooling will return to Bellevue mid-afternoon
- Thursday, May 21, 11—noon; [Unusual Places to Find Irish Records](#) (Classroom & Zoom) (\$) (Some of us will be attending this class in person; you could also attend via Zoom)

Genealogy Book SIG

Friday, May 8, 2026, 10 AM PT via Zoom

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



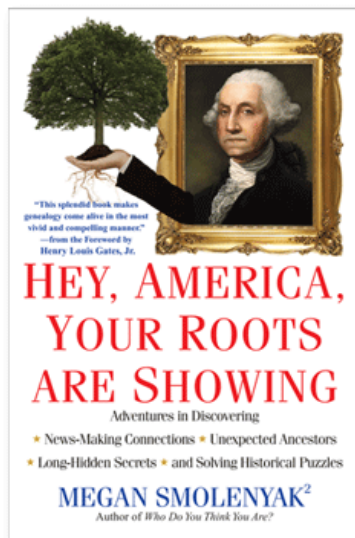
One woman's journey to find the lost love her grandfather left behind when he fled pre-World War II Europe, and an exploration into family identity, myth, and memory.

Years after her grandfather's death, journalist Sarah Wildman stumbled upon a cache of his letters in a file labeled "Correspondence: Patients A-G." What she found inside weren't dry medical histories; instead what was written opened a path into the destroyed world that was her family's prewar Vienna. One woman's letters stood out: those from Valy—Valerie Scheftel—her grandfather's lover, who had remained behind when he fled Europe six months after the Nazis annexed Austria.

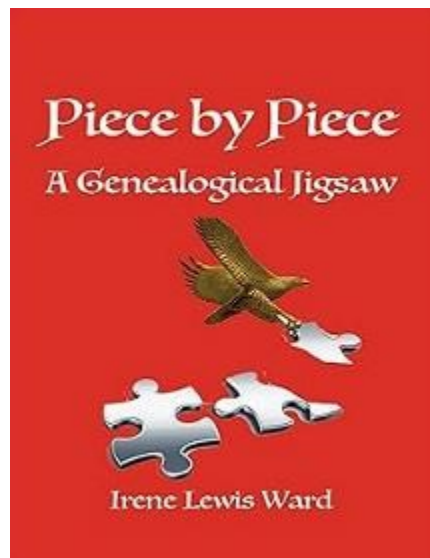
Obsessed with Valy's story, author Wildman began a quest that lasted years and spanned continents. She discovered, to her shock, an entire world of other people searching for the same woman. In the course of discovering Valy's ultimate fate, she was forced to reexamine the story of her grandfather's triumphant escape and how this history fit within her own life and in the process, and she rescues a life seemingly lost to history.

Rating: 4.2 out of 5 stars; Available as an audiobook

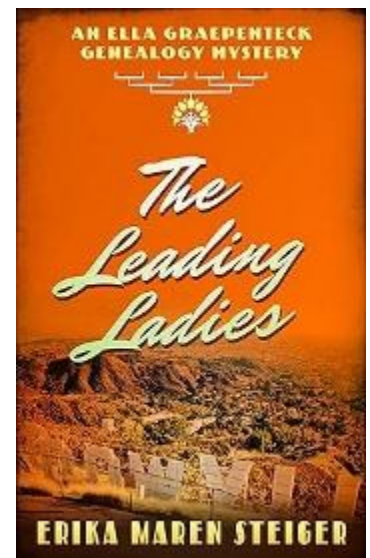
Upcoming Books



Jun 12, 2026



Sep 11, 2026—two books





Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society

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

Friday, May 15, 2026

10:30 am PT

Via Zoom

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

ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org



THE FAMILY CIRCUS[®]

By BILL KEANE



TWISTED BRANCHES

MAYFLOWER CONNECTIONS

EGS members are connected through a shared voyage over 400 years ago. With an estimated 35 million living descendants, of which around 10 million live in the United States, they descend from the 102 passengers and 26 families known to have left descendants.



Mayflower II, restored and arrived in Plymouth in 2020

“My ancestor knew YOUR ancestor!”

EGS Member	Mayflower Passenger	Relationship
Treva Fry	Warren, Richard	11th Great Grandfather
Beth Calkins	Soule, George	10th Great Grandfather
Beth Calkins	Cooke, Francis	10th Great Grandfather
Kay Wilson	Warren, Richard	9th Great Grandfather
Ellen Hoffman	Mullins, William/Alice	10th Great Grandfather/grandmother
	Alden, John/Patricia Mullins	9th Great Grandfather/Grandmother
	Samson, Henry	9th Great Grandfather
	Billington, John/Francis	10th/9th Great Grandfather
	White, William/Susana Jackson	10th Great Grandfather/grandmother
	White, Resolved	9th Great Grandfather
Lenore Defliese	Brewster, William/Mary Wentworth	10th/9th Great grandparents
Marcia Williams	Priest, Degory	10th Great Grandfather

TWISTED BRANCHES

The idea behind this feature is to identify potential ancestors who may be related to other EGS members through a common theme or location.

FOR JUNE– SCOTTISH ANCESTORS!

Email: Your name, earliest Scottish ancestor name, birth, death, location in Scotland (if available). Note: Some may be Scots-Irish as there was considerable travel between close ports.



Send your information to newsletter@eastsidegenealogysociety.org before **May 16**.



Eastside Genealogical Society

Italian Interest Group meeting

Saturday, May 16, 2026

1:30—3:30 pm PT via Zoom

ITALIAN GENEALOGY



*Staying Behind in Italy during the Age of Mass Migration –
Everyday Life for Our Ancestors in Italy*

Victoria Calabrese

If you aren't a registered member,

[Click Here](#)

for meeting registration.



Description

This presentation will discuss daily life in Italy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the period of mass emigration. Included will be: information about home life, economics, society, gender roles, the emigration process, and what life was like for those who remained behind. This presentation gives a fuller perspective of the migration process, including not just those who migrated, but also those who never migrated, showing how their lives were affected just as much as those migrating.

Victoria Calabrese

Victoria Calabrese received her Ph.D. in modern European history from the Graduate Center at the City University of New York. Her research focuses on modern Italian history, gender, migration, and nation building. Her book, *Italian Women in Basilicata: Staying Behind but Moving Forward during the Age of Mass Emigration, 1876–1914*, was published, Lexington Books in 2022. The book examines women in the southern Italian region of Basilicata and the many ways their lives changed when their husbands emigrated. In addition to the women who remained behind, she has written articles on honor and infanticide, and on traveling child musicians. Victoria is an avid genealogist, focusing on southern Italian genealogy research. She is currently an adjunct professor at Lehman College, teaching courses in early modern and modern European history.





Eastside Genealogical Society



German Interest Group

Website: EGS-GIG

[Register](#)

Friday, May 1, 2026

12:30—2:30 pm PT via Zoom

Zoom registration required.

Topic: Locating Records from Poland Online

Finding records from Poland for genealogical research is a critical step in exploring our Polish ancestry but Poland's complex history and the language barrier can be confusing.

After a brief overview of Poland's changing borders and their impact on the languages in which historical records were created, Julie will explain the process of identifying one's ancestral village and illustrate the use of gazetteers to determine the parish and civil registry offices. She will introduce key websites for locating historical records online and offline, with an emphasis on sites that offer indexed records and digital images. Julie will suggest strategies to help you get around the language barrier, and demonstrate how you can trace your Polish ancestry from the comfort of your own home.



Presenter:

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz is a genealogist, writer, and speaker with nearly 30 years of experience in researching her family's origins in Poland, Germany, the U.S., and Canada.

She holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the State University of New York in Buffalo and a master's degree in endocrinology from the University of California, Berkeley. Her passion for genealogical research started when she was a graduate student, after she was given a copy of her great-grandparents' marriage record as a gift. After reading the names of a previously unknown generation of ancestors on that document, she was hooked.

Upcoming—Spring 2026

June 5—Striking Gold: Using Cluster Research to Identify an Unknown Father



Eastside Genealogical Society

Special Interest Groups—Sponsored, 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
Artificial Intelligence	3rd Tuesday of most months; 10 AM—noon	Catherine Smith Kimberly Nichols	Alsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Special Interest Groups

Sponsored, [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
TPCGS
Genealogy Chat
Legacy Family Tree
Writing Family History
DNA Special Interest Group
Mystery Book Club

SKCGS

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

Upcoming Events and Genealogy Help



Next Lunch Bunch— May 21

NOTE: May 21 Lunch Bunch will be a field trip to Heritage Quest Research Library.

Details on Page 5.

Genealogy Help

Bellevue Library—Computer Lab

Upcoming Sessions

May 14 & May 28

10:30—12:30

2nd and 4th Thursdays monthly

No registration required
In-person assistance with



Ancestry Library Edition



Left: EGS Member **Jane Wickert** helping a member of the community research her ancestors from Hawaii.

Recent Genealogy Help Session.

April 23, 2026; Bellevue Library

Upcoming Meetings

Eastside Genealogical Society presents: Following a Civil Case Through Documents Filed in Court

Our speaker: J. Mark Lowe

Thursday, June 11, 2026



About our program: Our ancestors often utilized the judicial systems to resolve conflicts and make estate judgments. Finding court records for your family and neighbors can provide a wealth of information for your research. Understanding the arrangements of court records can help you find the right documents. Learn the basics of the legal system. Understand the process of following a case through court including dockets, orders, depositions, etc. Find the key to solving a problem using these records.

Save the Date! Saturday, September 19, 2026

Field Trip: Lake View Cemetery, Capitol Hill, Seattle



What genealogist doesn't love a good cemetery!?

Lake View was founded in 1872 and is known as Seattle's Pioneer Cemetery. A small selection of the graves include: Carson Boren, Arthur A. Denny, George Frye, Thomas Mercer, David Swinson "Doc" Maynard, (all Denny Party members), Henry Yesler, Princess Angeline (daughter of Chief Seattle), John W. Nordstrom (yes, that Nordstrom), Guy Carleton Phinney (yes, that ridge). Oh, and Bruce Lee.

More Details to follow.

Eastside Genealogical Society and
Bellevue Library present

What's In Your Attic

Is There A Treasure There?



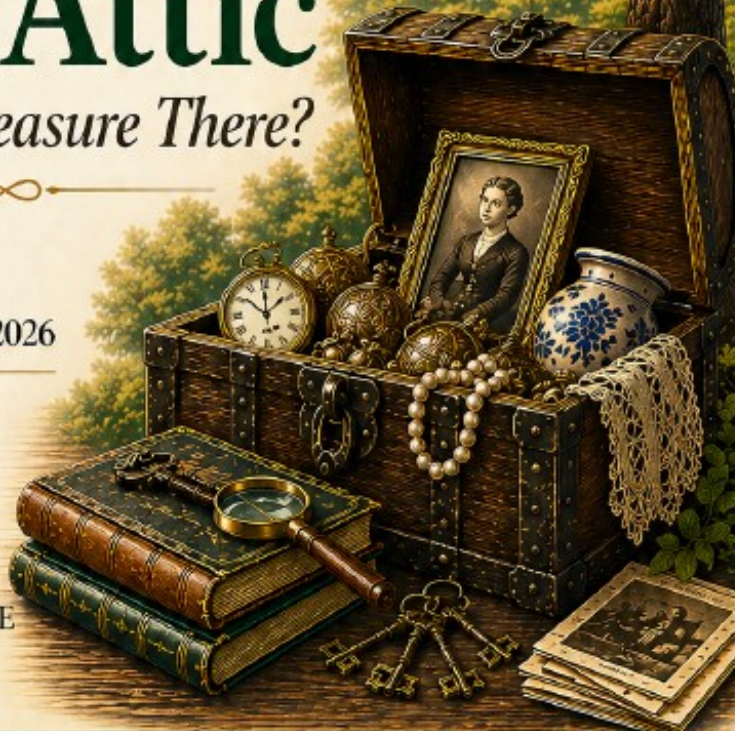
DATE:
Saturday
October 10th, 2026



TIME:
1:30 p.m.



PLACE:
Bellevue Library
1111 110th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA
Room 1



Presentation by Meriann of Ginny's Girls Estate Services
on Collecting and Care of Your Treasures,
followed by participants sharing the items they bring.

Meriann will do a quick appraisal of one item
for each person who brings items.

Participate by bringing a family treasure OR
by coming and listening to the presentation.



Want to share an Item? Questions – contact
vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is available by request.
Email access@kcls.org at least seven days before the event.
Automated closed captioning is always available for online events.

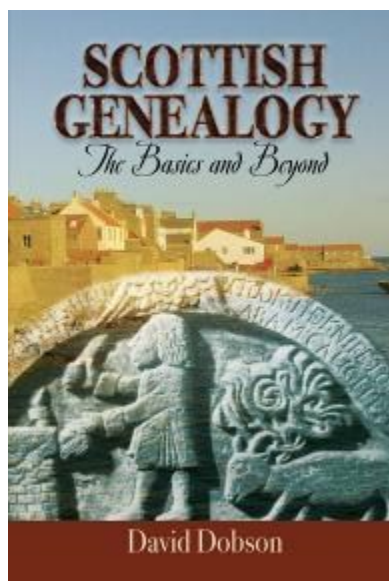
Focus on Scottish Ancestors

Website and Book of the Month

Starting Resource: [Scottish Ancestry](#) | [Scottish Genealogy and Heritage](#) | [Scotland.org](#)



Scottish Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond, David Dobson



Scottish Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond is the culmination of over fifty years of historical and genealogical research by Dr. David Dobson in archives and libraries throughout Scotland. As one would expect in a Scottish genealogy guidebook, this publication identifies the **major sources and repositories** for those just getting started on their research. What makes this book stand out from all the rest is its focus on the other, less commonly used, sources that exist, which will allow more advanced researchers to put the basic facts they have gathered into context.

With an emphasis on publications, manuscript sources, and archival records, Dr. Dobson highlights ways to trace Scottish ancestors using alternative sources, primarily those covering the years between 1550 and 1850. For each research topic—including statutory registers, church records, tax records, sasines and land registers, court records, military and maritime sources, burgh and estate records, emigration records, and much more—Dr. Dobson has compiled an extensive list of the publications and archival records that will enable family historians to advance their research. It would take years for any individual to compile such a far-reaching bibliography and compilation of relevant records in Scottish archives.



Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society

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[RESEARCH ASSISTANCE](#) [RESOURCES](#) [NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

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

Your newsletter editor had a half-page of blank space, so she went into her repository and found some different websites of interest. CAUTION: Jump into these websites only if you don't have anything time-sensitive to complete!

1. [ArchiveGrid](#)

Includes over 7 million records describing archival materials; check this site out before you do any genealogy travel to other locations. Allows you to overlay historic maps on modern maps, useful for viewing an ancestor's neighborhood and how it has changed over time.

2. [Digital Public Library of America](#)

Links to over 53 million images, texts, videos and sounds from across the United States.

EGS Board of Directors

President	Janet Stroebel	president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Vice President	Kimberly Nichols	vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Secretary	Janice Leitzke	secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
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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

Help 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

Free Seminars that caught our attention:

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

May 5—Using NYG&B Guides

May 12—Preserving Your New York Story: Getting Started with English Genealogy

Jun 3—New York State and New York City Birth, Marriage, and Death Records

[Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc](#)—Events

May 9—Mapping Ancestors on the Move

Sep 19—Deciphering Old Handwriting

[Fiske Library \(Seattle\) - Free Wednesday Classes](#)—Click link for classes

May 6—IS IT TRUE? Using Manuscripts and Family Records for Genealogical Proof

May 27—Mapping your Migrating Ancestors

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)—Subscription website, also has free webinars

50% off Membership (expires Sunday, May 3)

[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 free seminars

- **Apr 30:** To Die For: A Cookbook of Gravestone Recipes with Rosie Grant
- **May 7:** Breaking New Ground: How Land Records Can Help in Family History Research
- **May 8:** Forged Revolution: Paul Revere's Sons of Liberty Bowl
- **May 18:** A Fate Worse than Hell: American Prisoners of the Civil War

Also—search FREE databases: Revolutionary Pensioners, Mayflower Ancestors

For Your Calendar

See Newsletter for details

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