



Education

Preservation

Networking

Following a Civil Case Through Documents Filed in Court

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Speaker: [J. Mark Lowe](#)

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

Via Zoom—[Register Here!](#)

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, and depositions. Find the key to solving a problem using these records.



About our speaker:

J. Mark Lowe describes himself as “born to be curious.” He is a professional genealogist and educator who specializes in original records and manuscripts throughout the South.

He coordinates “Research in the South” courses at IGHR, SLIG and TIGR, worked on several TV series, a YouTube channel and does webinars.

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

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

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



What legal proceedings have you used in your genealogy research?
How did they inform your understanding?
What new approaches will you try as a result of
tonight's presentation?

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

May 14, 2026—Recap

[Paula Williams](#)

Annual Meeting—Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of candidates for two-year terms ending May 31, 2028:

Janet Stroebel – President

Janice Leitzke – Secretary

There were no nominations from the floor, and the vote was taken. Both candidates were elected unanimously.

Annual Meeting closed.

- With respect to Ancestry DNA tool **ThruLines** – If your DNA is linked to your tree, then you will find DNA matches' trees and get suggested names to fill in blanks in your tree.
- Determine which “matches” to add, and find other documents, if possible.
- DNA doesn't lie.
- FamilySearch is good for hints, but since rigorous documentation is not used to edit a tree, follow up with corroborating evidence.

Marcella Rush

Monthly Meeting

Highlights:

- Tree hints – can be turned off but do not ignore them all
- Ask yourself: Does it make sense?
- Look at the record
- If not sure, take note of hint and continue research
- Source Snobbery – No type of source is ERROR-FREE or WORTHLESS; don't blindly accept all of a type of clue or ignore them either.

Celia McNay led the after meeting discussion, and we were joined by Paula Williams.



President's Message



This is our last newsletter before we take a break for the summer. The next newsletter will arrive in your email box in *late August* with news of our fall activities. In the meantime, we still have our monthly meeting and SIG meetings in June along with some SIGs who meet during July and/or August. Be sure to check [our website](#) for the most current information.

Summer Celebration!

Mercer Island Summer Celebration, July 11

See [page 11](#)

EGS will have a booth again this year. There will be several lineage and historical organizations (EGS, Mayflower, VFW, DAR, SAR, Mercer Island Historical Society) and many food trucks. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth—can you spare an hour or two? Time: 10—3, Mercerdale Park, near the MI CVS. If you can help, contact [Celia McNay](#).

German Interest Group 40 years!

**Dorothy Pretare stepping down;
Celebration July 16—See [page 8](#)**

I want to express my sincere appreciation to **Dorothy Pretare** who is stepping back in June after leading our German Interest Group for 10 years. She has built the group, commonly referred to as GIG, to include participants from across the United States and around the world. Prior to her time as GIG Leader, she served on the EGS Board for many years. Dorothy has been an outstanding volunteer for EGS, and we will miss her day-to-day involvement. GIG will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary on July 16 with an in-person gathering at their old meeting room in Bellevue. Please consider joining this celebration and [click here](#) for more details.

September Speaker—[Blaine T. Bettinger](#)

Thursday, Sept 10, 7PM

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D, J.D., is an intellectual property attorney by day and a DNA specialist by night. Known as “The Genetic Genealogist,” he is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence and the use of artificial intelligence for genealogical research. He is an author, teacher, and researcher responsible for the [Shared cM Project](#), a tool that uses cM to predict likely relationships. What a way to start our programs in September!

Fall Events—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, Sept 19—Details [page 12](#)

Field Trip—Lake View Cemetery,
Capitol Hill, Seattle.

Lake View was founded in 1872 and is known as *Seattle's Pioneer Cemetery*.

Saturday, Oct 10—Details [page 13](#)

Third Annual “What’s in Your Attic”
Bellevue Library

I hope you all have a wonderful summer full of great adventures, sunshine, relaxation, and genealogical discoveries! Thanks for being a member of Eastside Genealogical Society.



Eastside Genealogical Society

Italian Interest Group meeting

Saturday, Jun 20, 2026

1:30—3:30 pm PT via Zoom

ITALIAN GENEALOGY



Uncovering the Stories of the Italian Women of the Resistance

If you aren't a registered member,

[Click Here](#)

for meeting registration.

Description

In her talk, Suzanne will discuss the genesis and research journey of her narrative nonfiction book ***WOMEN OF WAR: The Assassins, Couriers, and Spies Who Fought the Nazis***. She'll tell how she first uncovered the stories of these intrepid women through what they left behind and give insight into her archival and on-the-ground research that led her to tracing the footsteps of these *partigiane*. Suzanne will also speak how her own Italian American heritage connected with these stories - particularly as this research intersected with her own pursuit of dual citizenship, shedding light on personal genealogical research.



Suzanne Cope

Suzanne Cope is a scholar and narrative journalist, and is the author of *Women of War: The Italian Assassins, Spies, and Couriers Who Fought the Nazis* and *Power Hungry: Women of the Black Panther Party and Freedom Summer and Their Fight to Feed a Movement*. Her work on themes of political and social change, feminism, food, and culture has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Food & Wine*, *BBC*, *Washington Post*, *Aeon*, and others. She is a professor at New York University.

To order *Women of War* see Amazon: [Order link](#) & Elliott Bay Book Company [Order Link](#)



Eastside Genealogical Society



German Interest Group

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

[Register](#)

Friday, Jun 5, 2026

12:30—2:30 pm PT via Zoom
Zoom registration required.

Striking Gold: Using Cluster Research to Identify an Unknown Father

Blended ethnic families can be tough to trace. Be successful finding your German ancestor's parents by using cluster research techniques and free online tools. This case study presentation will show how an unknown father of a German Catholic family who lived in Cincinnati was found by searching for others with the same name who were living in the same location and belonged to the same church.

Discussion will show how analyzing church records, obituaries, cemetery and other records led to the discovery of the unknown father and his origins in Germany. This is a great example of using cluster research to find elusive ancestors.



Presenter:
Dana Palmer, CG®, CGL®

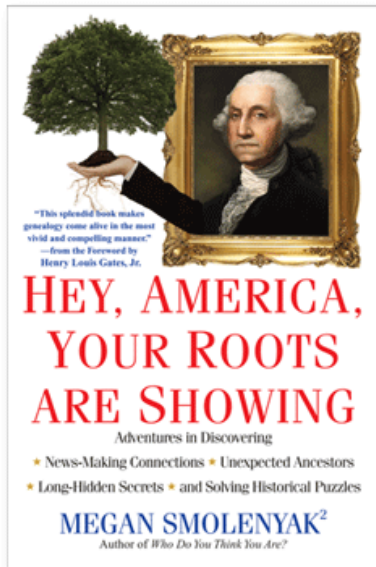
Dana specializes in Midwestern research, lineage society applications, and publishing family books. In addition to her client work, she is part of the Mayflower Silver Books team, and lectures at RootsTech and the National Genealogical Society (NGS) conferences. Her book *Ultimate Guide to Mastering Family Search* was released in print and digitally in November 2025.

Genealogy Book SIG

Friday, Jun 12, 2026, 10 AM PT via Zoom

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

Part forensic scientist, part master sleuth, Megan Smolenyak has solved some of America's oldest and most fascinating genealogical mysteries. You've read the headlines; now get the inside story as the

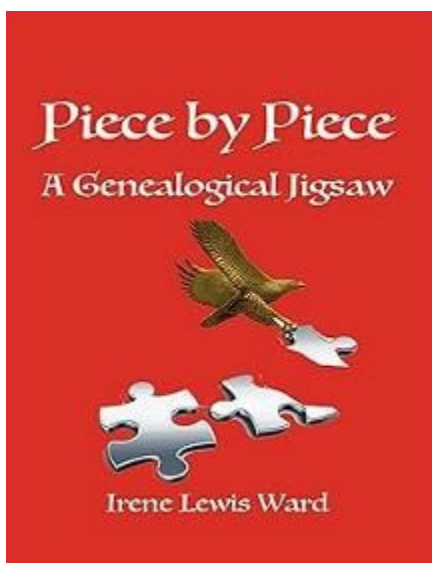


"Indiana Jones of genealogy" reveals how she cracked her news-making cases, became the face of this increasingly popular field--and redefined history along the way.

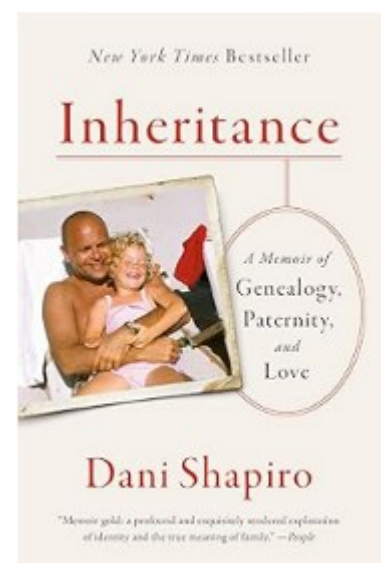
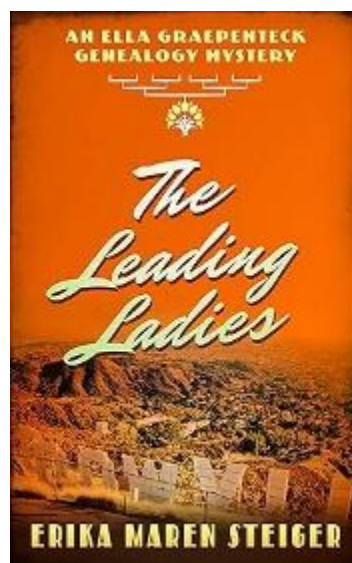
"In this breezy narrative, Smolenyak allows us to look over the shoulder of a relentless genealogist as she works the puzzle pieces of her craft. Whether unearthing evidence from Internet databases, newspaper offices, court houses, libraries and cemeteries, consulting translators, historians or her vast network of fellow genealogists, pioneering the use of genealogical DNA testing, solving the mystery or occasionally hitting a brick wall, Smolenyak remains wholly committed, curious and cheery, eager to share her methods and excitement. Bottom-up history from a top-shelf researcher."-Kirkus Review

*Available in Kindle, Audiobook, and Paperback
4.4 stars out of 5, 182 reviews*

Upcoming Books



September—two books: Sep 11, 2026



Oct 9, 2026

AI Special Interest Group!

Meetings: **Third Tuesday at 2:00 PM via Zoom**

Next Meeting: Jun 16

Purpose:

- Use AI to help with genealogy, learning together
- Encourage members in the use of AI
- Share resources, tips, information, results
- Email: AIsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org



What I've Learned from the AI SIG Group—so far!

I've had a healthy skepticism of AI and resisted it for a while. However, the last RootsTech was full of AI presentations and all were fully attended. Time to jump in! See some of my results, after only three forays into this tool. All results are from the free version of ChatGPT.

By the way, there are some things I will still not do with AI. Yet. Or maybe never.

Marcia Williams

Updating Photos

My sister sent a scan of a photo from 1953. See what ChatGPT did in the Before and After.

So photos are a great use of AI!

Next on my list: photos of gravestones.



Original photo



After applying Chat GPT

Planning a Genealogy Trip

My query:

*We have one day in Leiden, Netherlands, in September.
What should we see related to the Mayflower?*

Response: too long for a screen shot; here are highlights:

Map of Leiden, with destinations highlighted

1. Start at the Pilgrim Museum

Description, location, hours of operation, photos

2. Walk the Pilgrim Quarter

Photos, description, key spots

3. Do the Pilgrims Walking Route

Time needed (2 hours), 40 related sites, how to shorten it

What locations in Leiden are must-see for Rembrandt?

The response was comprehensive and would likely require an extra full day. Then the summary:

If you only have time for three things, I'd prioritize:

1. Young Rembrandt Studio

2. Museum De Lakenhal

3. Walking the old center between the birthplace and Rapenburg



Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society

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

Friday, Jun 19, 2026

July—no meeting

Friday, Aug 21, 2026

10:30 am PT Via Zoom

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

ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org



German Interest Group

Celebration

40th Anniversary

When: Thursday, July 16

Where: LDS Room, Bellevue

Details: GIG [website](#)





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	Third Tuesday at 2:00 PM	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

TWISTED BRANCHES—SCOTTISH CONNECTIONS



For the longest time I was stuck, not knowing my 3x great grandmother, Jane Pauley's, parents. I knew she was from the south (North Carolina) and after some research discovered her family name was probably **Deveney** (many variations of spelling). Things pretty much stopped there until I got a hint that the family was from Ireland. Not a typical Irish name.

This week another hint took me back to Glasgow. A Deveney descendent had been busy posting information on FamilySearch, such as a will, deeds, **Captain Aaron's** military experience, road records (!) and more. The first **Deveney we know about, Aaron, was born about 1580 in Glasgow**. His son **Manus** (this is iffy) moved to Dungannon, Tyrone, Ireland. From there family members went to New Jersey, British Colonial American, then Pennsylvania and finally to North Carolina where I picked up the story years ago.

Thank you, hints!

Beth Snyder

Some of the Scots in my database; many require more in-depth research for verification.

Agnes **Crawford** (1750 – 1844), Ayr, Ayrshire

John **Munro** (1801-1890), Iverness

Wright - Daniel, Elizabeth, Liliias, Thomas, William – starting about 1814, Paisley, Renfrew

Emily **MacDonald Stewart** (1872 – 1947), Ayr, Ayrshire

Robert (?) **Loudon**, (- 1796), Ayrshire

Donald **MacKillop** (1790 – 1853) and Mary MacLeod (1790 – 1816), Berneray, Harris, Inverness Shire

James **Stewart** (1800-1871), Perthshire

John **Ross** (1602-1643) and Anna Makgill (1602-1635), Stranraer, Wigtownshire

Gilbert **Ross** (1575 – 1637), Maybole, South Ayrshire

Marcia Williams

TWISTED BRANCHES FOR SEPTEMBER

Unexpected discoveries using DNA

In preparation for our September meeting, share an unexpected DNA discovery. What new connections did you make? Concise stories welcome; may be edited for length.

Email: Your name and short narrative. Subject line: *Twisted Branches*

Send your information to newsletter@eastsidegenealogysociety.org before **Aug 15**.

Upcoming Events and Genealogy Help



Lunch Bunch— Third Thursday of most months

Meeting in June, July, September.
Will NOT meet in August.
Next Meeting: Jun 18

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.

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.

See [page 15](#) for a list of available websites.

Contact: [Celia McNay](#) with questions.

Genealogy Help

Bellevue Library—Computer Lab

Upcoming Sessions

Jun 11 & Jun 25

Jul 9 & Jul 16

Aug 13 & Aug 27

10:30—12:30

2nd and 4th Thursdays monthly

No break during summer months

No registration required

In-person assistance with

Ancestry Library Edition



Help Wanted!

Help with the EGS booth—setup, staffing, and take-down options. The event runs from 10—3, with set up starting at 8:30 AM. You can volunteer for all or a portion of the event.

Contact [Celia McNay](#)



Upcoming Meetings

September EGS Monthly Meeting—

Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries

More details in September Eastside Genie Newsletter

Our speaker: Blaine Bettinger

Thursday, September 10, 2026

*What a GREAT way to start
the new program year!*



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?



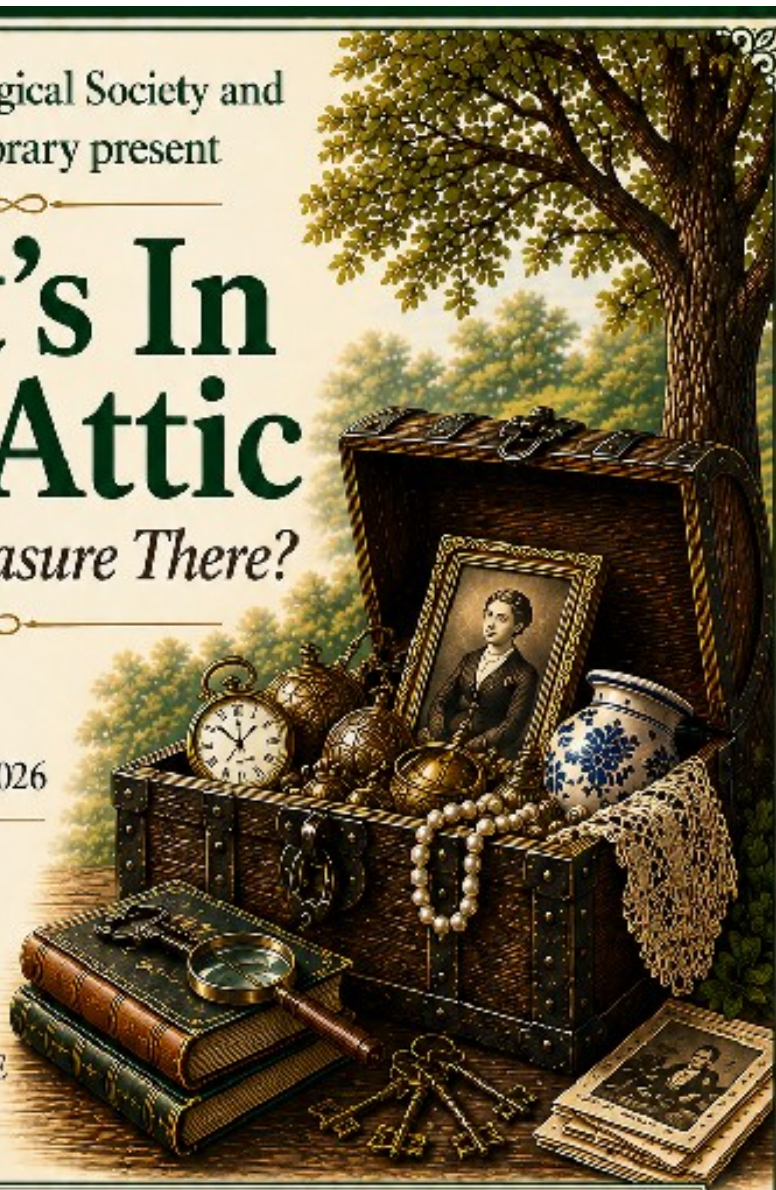
DATE:
Saturday
October 10th, 2026



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.

Door Prizes!!!



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.



Eastside Genealogical Society

This n That

A list of genealogical items of interest to us this month

Free and low-cost Seminars that caught our attention:

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

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

Jul 20—Searching New York Records on Ancestry

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

Sep 19—Deciphering Old Handwriting

Oct 17—Workshop on Deciphering Old Handwriting

[Heritage Quest Research Library](#)—Puyallup

Many in-person and Zoom classes: under \$30

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

*Suggestions for **Seminar Sources**? Looking for web links with (typically) free seminars to share with members. Options should not require membership in order to register.*

Send your suggestions to: [Marcia Williams](#), newsletter editor

[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

- **Jun 9:** COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War, with author Edda L. Fields-Black
- **Jul 14:** Top Resources for Atlantic Canadian Research
- **Jul 25:** Creating a Family History Slideshow

Also—search FREE databases: Revolutionary Pensioners, Mayflower Ancestors

Websites available from **FamilySearch Center, Bellevue** (and other locations)

Join us for Lunch Bunch (3rd Thursday of most months)

Get access to Premium Websites without buying a personal subscription

- **19th Century British Library Newspapers**
- **Alexander Street Press**—America Civil War
- **American Ancestors**
- **Ancestry** – Institution Version
- **FindMyPast**
- **Fold3**—military records
- **Genealogy Bank**—obituaries and historic newspapers
- **Geneanet**—collaborative website
- **Irish Ancestors**—johngrenham.com
- **Paper Trail**—westward American migration documents

Looking for Genealogy Books?

Browse [this website](#) and tell me you couldn't find something you don't have already! For starters, here's a screen shot of Best Sellers.

Best Sellers [View All](#)

Book Title	Author	Price
How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records A GENEALOGIST'S GUIDE	Morton, Sunny Jane	from \$22.50
Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, 5th Edition in Hardcover	Grenham, John	from \$27.50
My GPC Library	Genealogical Publishing Company & Clearfield Company	from \$45.00
Evidence Explained, 4th Edition	Mills, Elizabeth Shown	from \$47.50
Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards	Mills, Elizabeth Shown	from \$47.50

Scroll down the linked page for more categories

Featured sales during the year

Happy browsing!



Bellevue, Washington

Eastside Genealogical Society

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

EGS Board of Directors

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Vice President	Kimberly Nichols	vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
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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



EGS Members at Heritage Quest Research Library, May 21, 2026

For Your Calendar

See Newsletter for details

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12 Jun	Genealogy Book SIG — <i>Hey, America, Your Roots are Showing</i>	6
16 Jun	AI SIG – Maps and AI	7
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	Looking ahead!	
16 Jul	German Interest Group – 40 th Anniversary Celebration	8
15 Aug	Deadline for next Eastside Genie Articles and Twisted Branches: Email to: Marcia Williams	

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Cemetery of the unknown ancestor.

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Genealogists on the road.