



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

www.pusogensoc.org

January thru March 2012

Preparing for the Grand Opening of the Genealogy Center



KRL Executive Director, Jill Jean, standing, Susan Whitford, Technology & Facilities Director, and Ruth Bond, Branch Manager, welcome PSGS Volunteers

At 9am on December 12, 45 Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) members attended an orientation and training session in anticipation of the opening of the new Genealogy Center (GC) at the Sylvan Way branch of the Kitsap Regional Library (KRL).

Jill Jean, KRL Director, welcomed the group and expressed her enthusiasm for the new partnership that brings the two organizations together. Next to

speak on the agenda were Susan Whitford, Ruth Bond, Elisabeth Demmon, and Kara Russell. They explained their responsibilities with KRL and how they can help with any questions that may arise.



Elisabeth Demmon, KRL liaison and library associate, and Kara Russell, volunteer coordinator, join the KRL orientation team

After the introductions, Jean Yager and Mary Ann Wright reviewed the Genealogy Center volunteer job description and duties of the volunteers, which are similar to those at the former location in Port Orchard. The big learning curve will be to understand the cataloging of the books.

The states are no longer in alphabetical order, as they were at the Port Orchard library, but are cataloged by geographical regions using the Dewey Decimal System. What hasn't changed, however, is the goal that the PSGS volunteers always strived for and

that was to provide good customer service. As Jill Jean pointed out in her welcoming remarks, "we don't want anyone to leave with a 'no' response."

Once the training was complete, Jean and Mary Ann led groups on a tour of the Genealogy Center and the administrative office where PSGS will maintain the Society's files. Once all the materials have been catalogued, sorted, and shelved, signs directing patrons to the various sections will be posted throughout the room. A handy layout of the room and location of research materials will also be available for researchers.

The new volunteers showed true eagerness for the opening of the Genealogy Center and felt confident they would be able to assist visitors and fellow researchers.



PSGS President Jean Yager and Mary Ann Wright conduct the orientation



Jean Yager exiting the Genealogy Center

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PSGS's Own "Antiques Roadshow" Coming April 21 and 22 by Fran Moyer

This event, co-hosted by PSGS and the Kitsap Historical Society, is shaping up to break the records we enjoyed last year. We expect over 2000 people will come to browse the vendor aisles, participate in the lectures, and bring their own objects to be appraised by professional appraisers.

We will have five lecturers, one of whom is Amy Burnett, Bremerton's internationally acclaimed artist. She will lecture on her collection of Pyrex, which has been featured on KOMO's *Northwest Afternoon*. She will be accompanied by a friend who will show tips on how to date your collection. He will also bring some of his unique pieces.

Also scheduled is Nicolette Bromberg, Visual Materials curator at the University of Washington Libraries, who will speak on how to care for and date your photos. Her colleague, who does the same for videos, will speak on preservation techniques for your video collections.

Last year, 49 vendors came to showcase their wares. This year, Sandie Morrison and Ann Northcutt have found space to accommodate 60. This is our major fundraiser of the year so bring your "maybe" antiques, have them valued by professional appraisers, and enjoy the two days of fun and interesting lectures and vendors.



Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager, President

Happy New Year! This is starting to be an exciting and challenging year for me as your new President! I am working with a great team of officers and committee chairpersons and together we plan to make this year better than ever! To start, after many months of preparations, our plan to move our genealogy collection to the Kitsap Regional Library (KRL) was set in motion and the Genealogy Center (GC) opened its doors to the public on January 2nd. Our goal is to have the Genealogy Center open the same hours as the library. Charlotte Long-Thornton, our GC Volunteer Coordinator, is doing a fine job filling the time slots. **She has approximately 46 four-hour shifts to schedule each month!** We are always in need of more volunteers. If you want to be part of this great team, email Charlotte at gc_volunteer_coordinator@pusogensoc.org. She will personally educate you on how to be a GC Volunteer.

One of the benefits of being at the KRL is that we have access to their graphic designer, David Frazier. He was responsible for creating our new PSGS logo, sprucing up some of our forms, producing new flyers for our

classes, and designing a new brochure. We are very fortunate to have him as part of our team!

Another person who has been a big part of this new adventure is Elisabeth Demmon. She is the liaison for KRL and any questions or concerns we have had (and still have!), she immediately finds the answer and gets back to us in a timely manner! Elisabeth is also a member of PSGS so she is part of both teams (PSGS and KRL). We are currently working together in organizing the Grand Opening on January 25th, following the PSGS general meeting.

The Education Committee is now chaired by our previous fearless leader, Linda Webb. Some wonderful classes are forming and becoming a reality. Read her Education Committee Report on page 4 as she shares this year's exciting theme! I have mentioned a few of the key players who are making this society a success. We have several Special Interest Groups, Committees, and Events being offered this year. So, if you need a New Year's Resolution, might I suggest getting involved with PSGS! It's going to be a GREAT year!



Mary Ann Wright and Paulette Waggoner

OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2011

by Paulette Waggoner

Our newest “Outstanding Member of the Year” is none other than Mary Ann Wright. She joins a list of other Puget Sound Genealogical Society members who have received this award annually since 2002. Mary Ann is the woman with the beautiful smile who attends nearly every class, is on almost every committee, and attends most monthly meetings. Mary Ann also received an award from the Washington State Genealogical Society earlier this year for her outstanding work for PSGS.

Mary Ann is highly deserving of this prestigious award for her diligent work and dedication establishing a new partnership between PSGS and Kitsap Regional Library (KRL). The agreement involved countless hours of meetings between Mary Ann and KRL thus ensuring a smooth transition. Mary Ann’s conscientious organization of our collection of genealogical reference books, and preparation for transportation of that collection, files, and assorted other materials to our new room at the Sylvan Way Branch of Kitsap Regional Library seems to have been successfully accomplished. She is presently supervising the placement and shelving of our books and materials in our new room at the Sylvan Way Branch, *The Genealogy Center*. Mary Ann is also Associate Editor of *The Backtracker*. Mary Ann became involved with our Cindy Spore Library soon after joining PSGS. Marjorie Menees, her predecessor as PSGS Librarian, soon trusted her work and assistance enough that Marjorie was able to retire with confidence.

Outgoing Executive Board Members of 2011

L-R: Secretary, Ann Northcutt; Treasurer, Larry Harden; 2nd Vice-President, Terry Mettling; 1st Vice-President, Sandie Morrison, President, Linda Webb, and Member-at-large, Fran Moyer.



Incoming Officers for 2012



Dorothy Lindquist welcomes 2012 officers

L-R: Secretary, Ann Northcutt; Treasurer, Larry Harden; 2nd Vice-President, Terry Mettling; 1st Vice-President, Sandie Morrison; President, Jean Yager; and Past-President Dorothy Lindquist.

Missing: Karin Burke, Member-at-large.



Jean Yager receives the gavel from Linda Webb



Where in the World Did You Come From?

A Report from the Education Committee by Linda Webb

This year promises to be an exciting year for learning about “Where in the World Did You Come From,” the theme for Puget Sound Genealogical Society’s 2012 classes. Along with the new date (the first Tuesday of each month), the new location in the Heninger Room at the Sylvan Way Library will allow for a larger class size and improved computer access. A wide range of class topics is planned for the coming months including how to prepare for and conduct research in different countries; delving into how, where, and why immigration and migration occurred in America; learning how the events and environment of the 1800s and 1900s shaped our ancestors’ lives; and how Native Americans were impacted with all the changes throughout the centuries.

Based on the informal survey conducted during the November 2011 general meeting, four European countries will be explored, starting with Scandinavia in February, followed by Germany in May, England in September, and Ireland in November. In addition to learning how to research each country, attendees will learn how to do arm chair research from home and how to prepare for a successful trip for those fortunate enough to travel to their ancestors’ homeland.

A common problem encountered by many researchers is “the family address changed, but they never moved” situation. In March, to better understand how geography and family research are linked, Jim Johnson from Heritage Quest will demonstrate how to use

Google Tools and the Animap software to locate records, determine land holdings, track migrations and other useful applications. With that idea, an in-depth look at the gateway states that were launching points for migration across the country will be the subject of two summer classes—Gateway East in June and followed by Gateway West in July.

The August class will examine the impact of immigration on Native Americans and how it changed their lives and culture. Family stories abound about the interactions between the tribes and the ever advancing settlers, and whether fact or fantasy, they live on in family lore. Hopefully, this session will open the door to further Native American research strategies as more records become available. Insight into the events of a particular time can provide valuable clues for solving family mysteries or may even uncover new ones. To round out “the where in the world did you come from” theme, two classes will be devoted to learning about the social, political, religious, and cultural environment of the 19th and 20th centuries. The May class will be dedicated to investigating the 1800s and how family life evolved over the decades, with a similar class for the 1900s scheduled for October. The Education committee is looking forward to this exciting year of classes in the new location, continuing the PSGS mission of furthering genealogical education and research. Join us the first Tuesday of each month to find out where you came from.



The British Special Interest Group (SIG)

by Dorothy Lindquist

The British SIG, which includes research in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, meets on the third Thursday of alternating months beginning in February. Each session will open with an information segment followed by individual research in church records, civic records and the census. There will be handouts for each session including links to websites such as: www.genuki.org.uk, www.nas.gov.uk and www.groireland.ie.

Library Report

by Mary Ann Wright



This quarter's library report signals the end of one chapter and the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our society. We have relocated our treasured and extensive collection of research materials from our Port Orchard location on Mile Hill Drive, where we have operated for nearly 8 years, to a new location inside the Sylvan Way Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library.

The Genealogy Center houses our collection in a room with a wall of windows and easily accessible shelving. But we didn't get there without the efforts of several of our members, who initially packed and inventoried our collection for shipment to the Sylvan Way branch, and who then unpacked, piled, sorted, and stacked the newly catalogued and labeled books and periodicals over the course of three days. Special thanks go to Anne Ross, KRL Technical Services Manager, and her staff who carefully processed our books. While our collection had been in an easy-to-find alphabetical arrangement by state or topic at our former location, many of our volunteers were faced with the unfamiliarity of the Dewey Decimal System as they puzzled over the coding that put Massachusetts before Arkansas. But after some investigation, and the realization that Dewey assigned numbers to states based on geographical regions, everyone got to work sorting by number and then regional number and finally by author.

These unique call numbers for our books and periodicals are arranged according to their genealogical content. With the majority of our books assigned the number 929, which means they are in the Dewey classification of genealogy, we have shelved them along the outer walls of the Genealogy Center. Down the center aisle are guides and instructional resources plus books focused on Canadian, European, and US regional histories and include materials related to topics such as the colonial period, revolution and confederation periods, civil war and other military-related works, and the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

To help our visitors, and our volunteers, search efficiently we have signs posted throughout the Genealogy Center and a handy layout of the room with the locations of various research materials color-coded. Chairs and tables provide a relaxing space to spread out and peruse the materials.

In addition to our physical research materials, we have set up two computers for internet genealogy research. These computers have access to the library edition of Ancestry.com as well as links to a variety of genealogy-specific websites and specialized forms that can be printed or saved on portable flash drives.

A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



October 26, 2011

“It’s Not a Family Tree, it’s A Bramble Bush!”

presented by Terry Mettling

Terry found a large family tree chart hanging on a wall at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City this last February. He found Orville and Wilbur Wright, Emily Dickinson, and Ulysses S Grant on this tree.

It is the family tree of Robert White and Bridget Allgar, parents of eight children in the late 1500s in England. Four of the children and their descendants are depicted on the chart. As time passed, the descendants of these four people tended to stay in the same region in Connecticut and through marriage wound up being related to each other.

Through research on ancestry.com, familysearch.org and google.com, Terry discovered that his wife Stella is related to all four of the lines that settled in Connecticut. Even more intriguing, Terry's half-brother Randall Mettling also makes connections with two of our fellow PSGS members, Larry Harden and Judy Joaquin. Hello, cousins!

November 16, 2011

“Using Find A Grave Website”

presented by Shanda Hoover

Shanda’s tour of this website, www.findagrave.com, included searches by birth and/or death date, a surname or a location. She demonstrated how to conduct a cemetery search and a surname search, leaving most search fields blank in order to get the most results. If more information was required, then a first name and death date could also be entered.

Shanda demonstrated how to request the management of a grave by using her personal photos and information as examples. She reminded us to always give credit if using someone else’s photo. In addition, Shanda suggested researching a cemetery’s web page for an ancestor if no information was available on the findagrave.com site. In closing, Shanda suggested the Mocavo search engine for additional genealogy research (<http://mocavo.com>). Only genealogy-related results are displayed at mocavo.com.



December 7, 2011

PSGS Christmas Party



Approximately 50 PSGS members gathered for our annual Christmas Party and joined in the fun for the Yankee Gift Exchange. We all laughed hard watching two of our members going back and forth over gifts of bottles wine. Thank you, Linda and Gail, for adding to the merriment of the day.

The buffet was beautiful and the food wonderful. A big thank you to our members who donated a total of 121 pounds of food for the South Kitsap Helpline Food Bank.





Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS



Jackie Horton, PSGS volunteer in background and guest at the computer

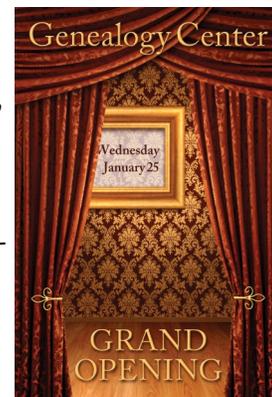
January 25, 2012

Genealogy Center Grand Opening

Although the Genealogy Center opened to the public on January 2nd, the Genealogy Center Grand Opening is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, beginning at 2:30 pm.

Welcoming remarks and Introductions will be followed by the ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by Jill Jean, Kitsap Regional Library Director, and Marlys Marrs, charter member of Puget Sound Genealogical Society.

An Open House in the Heninger Room, complete with light refreshments, will showcase the many activities and classes sponsored by PSGS volunteers.



February 22, 2012

“Are your Ancestors In the Library?”

presented by Mary Ann Wright

Having trouble locating information about your family? Mary Ann will show you how to find printed information on your ancestors by searching Google Books (books.google.com) and the Family History Library catalog (familysearch.org).

Once you have found promising books or periodicals, she will explain how to use library websites, such as the Fiske Genealogical Library (fiskelibrary.org) and the Kitsap Regional Library (krl.org) to obtain copies of them by using the Interlibrary loan system, making this a great resource in your genealogy research for your ancestors.

March 28, 2012

Program #1:

“The Long Awaited 1940 United States Census” presented by Larry Harden

Larry will tell us what questions the 1940 census asked on April 1, 1940. Did you know there were a number of new questions asked including where people were 5 years before and information about wages? One in 20 people were asked additional questions on the census form such as age at first marriage, number of children and other topics. Learn how this latest census can assist you in your research regarding your genealogy.

Program #2:

“An Update on the Kitsap County History Book” presented by Nina Hallett

Nina, a member of the Kitsap County Historical Society, will bring us up to date on the status of the remaking of the county history book. This project has proven to be more involved than the historical society first thought. Some of the old photos were found to be missing and replacement photos were difficult to find. This book, when completed, will be a great asset to Kitsap County and its residents.

Putting Down Roots

A Tale of Two Wives — Part 2

by Linda Webb



Martha Ainsworth

My research reveals details about my nephew's (by marriage) family. He is a direct descendant of Arlo Ainsworth, a Confederate casualty of the Civil War.

The Ainsworths immigrated from England where the family owned and operated mills. Several brothers located in Virginia, then moved on to South Carolina.

Here, in 1795, Thomas Ainsworth, destined to be Sampson's father (and nine other children), met and married Sarah Finch, a blue-blooded English aristocrat. The partnership between brawling Thomas, an Indian trader by profession, and refined Sarah produced ten children, survived a move to the Mississippi territory in 1840, and established a dynasty that was a major force in settling the frontier from South Carolina to Texas. Along the way, they mixed their lines with the Choctaw Indians and the multiracial slaves of Indian, African, and European ancestry. This may be the clue to Martha and how she came to be the second "wife" of Sampson Ainsworth, Thomas' son.

A surviving portrait suggests that Martha probably was not mulatto. More likely, she was of a mixture of Native American (Choctaw or Cherokee tribes) with Caucasian or African. How she became a slave and property of Sampson Ainsworth at the age of 14 or 15 is unclear, but what it meant to her life is very clear. There were two families on the Ainsworth property; one white and privileged and one that lived in a cabin and were known as the "plantation children." As long as Sampson lived, Martha's children were protected from the worst of the slave culture. Sampson's white wife, Anna, and their ten children were left to deal with the situation as gracefully, or forcefully, as they could.

The Big House Family

Sampson and Anna's seven sons and three daughters all married and settled in and around Smith County where they continued to acquire property, including slaves, and raise large families. Four of the sons, James, Arlo, Emanuel, and Asburg served in the Confederate Army. Wife Anna died in 1878 and was buried in the Mount Nebo Cemetery. Sampson continued to live in the home where his niece kept house for him. He died in 1896 at the age of 89. He was buried close to Anna with a head stone that reads, "Earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal."

The Cabin Family

After becoming Sampson's slave about 1840, Martha had five daughters, Charity, Pernescia "Annie", Susan, Lucy Jane, Josephine, and one son, Louis, over the next twenty years. All save one survived into adulthood, married and raised families, often intermarrying with other mulatto families. Daughter Lucy Jane's second husband, with whom she had two sons, was white and the family lived in the white community, including her two mulatto sons from the first husband who had deserted her and the children. In 1895, oldest daughter Charity, though illiterate, was able to purchase 160 acres near her brother in Jasper County. Here she made a home for her aging mother and others in her family as the need arose. Martha died in 1900 and was buried in Jasper County. Charity continued to reside in Jasper for the rest of her life, her grandson caring for her in the last years. She died in her mid-80s, sometime between 1930 and 1940.

Today, both sides of the Sampson Ainsworth family are in contact and researching their history. Thanks to the internet and the long memories of the older generations, many stories and pictures are emerging that shed light on the lives of multiracial families after the civil war.

Putting Down Roots

A Surprise in the Attic
by Carol Caldwell



Gustav's sons, L to R: Oscar, Gus (Carol's grandfather) and Max

Growing up with the name Hargesheimer is difficult. Roll call in school was embarrassing because I had to correct my teachers while all the other students stared at the girl with the horrible last name.

It was my assumption that anyone with such a long and difficult last name was related to me, but when I made my first research attempts into my father's family, I found I was wrong. There were clumps of Hargesheimers in Kansas, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Ohio besides my dad's home state of Minnesota. They could not all be relatives.

I found the Minnesota state website with pages of information for each county. Under Olmsted County, I discovered a digitized history written in 1910. Since my dad's family lived in Rochester, Olmsted County, I typed in a search for *Hargesheimer* and was delighted to find a short biography on my g-grandfather, Gustav Hargesheimer and his sons. All I knew before was that he came from Germany and was a pharmacist. Now I had his date and place of birth, when he immigrated to the U.S. and where he first settled. I learned also that he served in the Civil War, or as the book called it, The War of the Rebellion, and in what unit he served. I had his wife's maiden name, the year they married, and a list of organizations to which he belonged.

Incredibly, this would be any researcher's dream except for one thing. The biography did not contain much more information and became a dead end. To add to the confusion, his Civil War record listed him as Gus, Gustav, George, and Gustavus.

My research stopped for 10 years and then I learned one of my aunts had died when her son contacted me about some pictures. He mentioned another cousin who had more information. That cousin sent me two documents written in German. The first document appeared to be a birth certificate. I could read names and dates, but that was all. The second document was my g-grandfather's discharge from the Army in 1865.

I gave the first document to a friend who speaks and reads German for translation. When she finished, she presented me with *An Extraction of Birth and Christening* that Germans obtained from their church before they were allowed to emigrate. Now I had the exact date and place for my ancestor's birth, plus his full name--Gustav Gerhard Lorenz Hargesheimer. The Olmsted County History biography was off one year on his birth date and not quite accurate on the place. However, I discovered that he was born in Dedesdorf, Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, not Bremen. I learned his parents' names and possibly his grandparents' names. My friend went beyond what I asked her and looked up the family on some German websites. She found the listing, so now I know that Gustav had four brothers, and I had everyone's birth date and place of birth.

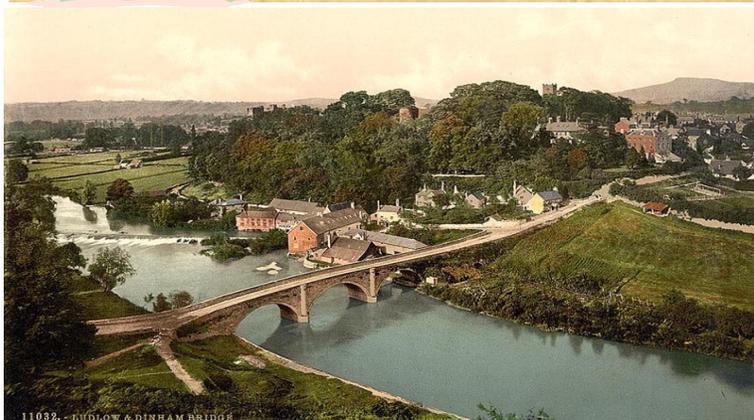
I am glad to know that my g-grandfather did not just appear out of thin air! However, I still have the problem of how he got to Chicago and if he travelled alone at 12 years of age. I wonder if my cousin has more papers cluttering up her attic.



A Cautionary Tale...

by Sandi Morrison

Incorrect data, brick walls and a call to a friend



Ludlow & Denham Bridge, Shropshire, England, ancestral home of the Grosvenor family

About five years ago I was sitting in front of my computer staring at the monitor—boredom was the key word that evening. So, I opened Ancestry.com to the search page. What to look for? I asked myself. My boys... .hmm... Grosvenor. I had not done any research on my two sons' father's line.

I found that I did have my sons' grandparents' names, Eugene Russell Grosvenor and Dorothy Strugar. I entered Eugene's name and his place of residence as Minnesota.

I found Eugene listed in the Minnesota Death Index for 1980 in Hennepin County. The census listed his birth at about 1919 in Missouri. The Death Index listed his birth as 29 June 1918. The 1920 census listed Eugene's father as Francis, born in Massachusetts about 1887, and his wife, Lucy E, born in Missouri.

My next search was for Francis in the 1910 census in Missouri. I found him listed as age 22 and single. He was living with his mother, Mary A Langton, and his step-father James D Langton. His mother was listed as born in Massachusetts. Now the plot thickens. Francis has a step-father and his mother has a new last name. What happened to Francis' birth father? It shows Francis' father as being born in Massachusetts, but where in Massachusetts?

Next, I did a search for Francis Grosvenor in Massachusetts born 1887. I came up with only two hits but

neither one was the correct one! *Here is my cautionary tale... when names match, but nothing else does, beware!* Where in Massachusetts was Francis born, and how do I find more information on him and his birth father?

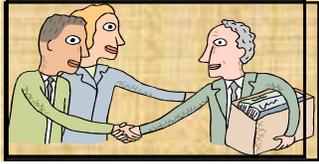
I recalled that Barbara Chesley, a fellow PSGS member, had a membership to the New England Historic Genealogical Society website. It did not take long for Barbara to come back with the information I needed. Thank you, Barbara! The Massachusetts Births, 1841-1915, shows Francis Jowett Grosvenor born on 17 Nov 1887 in Andover, Essex, Massachusetts to James Grosvenor and Mary A Jowett.

Francis' father was James Grosvenor, born in 1851 in Massachusetts. He married Mary Jowett, born in 1864. Francis' middle name was Jowett. He had been given his mother's maiden name as his middle name.

This opened the brick wall and took me back to Adam De Gravenor (Grosvenor) in 1273. Adam Gravenor lived in Claverley, Salop, England during the reign of Edward I. The "De" in Adam's name means "of". Translation meaning: Adam of Gravenor. Gravenor was the village of the estate name in which Adam lived. The estate was known as High Gravenor.

The Gravenor surname held until 1670 when John Gravenor left Bridgnorth, Shropshire, England to come to Suffolk, Massachusetts and changed the spelling to Grosvenor. The following year John married Esther Clarke, in 1671, in Roxbury, Suffolk, Massachusetts. When her husband John died, Esther inherited his estate and was allotted his share of the tract of land that today is known as Pomfret, Windham County, Connecticut.

So, with the brick wall reduced to rubble, I was excited to learn that the history of the Grosvenor family is rich and deep with a strength that has endured through the centuries and carries on today.



Welcome to Our New Members

by Carol Caldwell

Carol Baker – Carol lives in Poulsbo, but her family is from Brownsville. Her mother began researching their family and they worked together discovering her grandmother was part Chippewa and her grandfather was Shawnee. Carol's part in local history is that her father, grandfather and brother dammed up a creek on their property 35 years ago, creating Glud's pond. Her surname search is for Glud, Sidam, McKean, and Christensen.

Collette Boucher – Collette was born and raised in Bremerton, but her Navy husband took her to New York, California and back. As long as she can remember, she has been interested in genealogy. She shares the passion with her daughter who is a history major and a disciplined researcher. Recently she attended an English SIG at the Family History Center and found new information. Her surnames are Taylor, Chase, Forcier, and DeBriges.

Ken Christopherson – Ken came to Bremerton from Seattle. His cousin interested him in genealogy five years ago when the cousin shared his research. Now Ken is encouraging his wife to write her family story of living through the last battle of World War II on the Dutch island of Texel between Germans and Russian POWs. He is researching surnames of Boe, Christopherson, Soper, and Einmoe.

Kristina Paylor – Kristina, a resident of Port Orchard for ten years, came here from Seattle. She took a class at the U.W. Extension with Jean Yager about family history. Her desire is to know her ancestors as people and what kind of lives they lived. She learned through the class that there was material available about a German synagogue. Her father was born and raised in Germany, so she sent away for the information. She received documents in Hebrew and learned her g-g-grandmother's maiden name. Her family names are Schindler, Reich, Bachmann, and Bourhill.

Linda Sloan – Linda was born in Oroville, CA, and settled in Bremerton when her Navy husband retired. Her interest in genealogy sparked in childhood as her mother shared life stories of Italy with her. She worked to find the ship her mother came to the US on, about which she heard so many stories, the Amalita. However, when Linda finally located the ship, the name turned out to be Melita, misunderstood because of her mother's Italian accent. Names Linda is researching are Zaccanti, Bartolini, Tanari, Carello, Masinelli, Poggioli, and Balducelli.

Janet Stegemeyer – Janet is originally from Yuba City, CA, but has lived in Port Orchard for twenty-four years. When she retired, she tried Ancestry.com and her interest was peaked. She traveled east to Plymouth Colony and was surprised to find a branch of her family at Jamestown. Her research has shown that her ancestors have been at key places in the history of our country. Family names are Benson, Andersen, Rohrback (Rohrbach- farmers at Antietam), and Graham.

Sherill Baur – Sherill was born in Bremerton and now lives in Port Orchard. Her first foray into genealogy was a research paper in grade school on her grandfather Adams' family. She found papers that went back to England. Her grandmother's maiden name was Adams also, but information on that side proved more elusive. She set research aside until about eight years ago when she began taking some classes at the PSGS library and found data on the other Adams family. She hopes to continue research soon, looking into surnames of Heitzman, Adams, Carter, Baur, Peterson, Clark, and Larson.

Lila Williamson – Lila was born on a farm in Montana, and moved to Everett, WA in 1944. She worked at Boeing, starting as a buckler, then advanced to riveter. Lila later worked at Sears and a logging camp in Forks. She married and settled on Bainbridge Island. She is searching for names of Rife and McNeil who settled in Montana, Oklahoma and Kansas.



L-R: Steve Strain, Terry Mettling, Randall Mettling

Terry and his wife Stella started their family research trip this summer with few genealogy goals in mind – locating the marriage record for Stella’s GGG grandparents in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, and then looking for a burial record for her 3rd Great Grandfather in Hillsdale County, MI. He also hoped to get some tombstone photos of ancestors on both sides of the family in southeastern Ohio. His explorations led him to new discoveries of people and places he had not even imagined when he began his trip.

Unable to find anything relevant in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, he turned to Hillsdale, Michigan, to look for information about Thomas McKnight. One of the county history books told about a block house Thomas had built 2 miles south of Camden. Local individuals said that was near the crossroads, about two miles from Indiana and Ohio. Had he been living there at the time of his death, then he could have been buried in Indiana, Ohio, or Michigan. Terry is very happy that they know exactly where Thomas McKnight lived when he was in Hillsdale County.

During the next two weeks, the Mettlings spent days looking through cemetery books, local maps, and tromping through local cemeteries in Highland, Athens, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum and Belmont counties trying to get pictures of some ancestors' tombstones. They located some gravestones but they know that others are there somewhere.

The greatest surprise of the trip was still ahead – seeing a half brother Terry had never met. When Terry’s little brother and his family decided to relocate to Spearville, Kansas, his father-in-law pointed out an individual he thought was Terry's half-brother. Terry called his little brother and asked if he could get everyone together while they were there. The resulting BBQ was moved indoors because of this summer's heat wave (110 degrees). Terry said that they spent hours talking about their pasts and how everyone got to where they are now. Terry said he wouldn't trade that evening for the world.

Terry had grown up with the rumor that his dad had married a second time maybe around Ellsworth, Kansas and that it was annulled. Since they were traveling through Ellsworth, Terry made a stop at the courthouse. Nothing. Possibly in one of the seven surrounding counties? At that point, Terry was going to drop it for this trip. Stella thought that since they were stopping in Great Bend, one of the seven county seats, why not check there and eliminate at least one of those. Therefore, they went to the courthouse and the Barton County Archives. Again, no marriage record. However, the curious archivist ran his dad's name through the database and told Terry that there was a civil record for a Forrest Mettling. She opened the file and it turned out to be the entire divorce proceedings from that "phantom annulled" second marriage with the place and date of the marriage, the bride's maiden name and a wealth of additional information. Finding that information and meeting a brother for the first time were high points on this summer's trip.



Madge Norton

Member since 1977

Madge grew up on a farm in northwestern Illinois. After nurse's training she worked in Alton, Illinois and Whittier, California, where she met her husband, Jack, and they married. In 1962 they moved to Kitsap County and raised their four children here.

Q. How did you get started doing genealogy?

My mother-in-law was a Lee and always said she was related to Robert E Lee. A teacher laughed at our youngest son when he told her the story in 1975. He came home and said, "Prove it."

Q. How did you come to join PSGS?

I worked on my own for a year or so then read an article about PSGS and joined in 1977. I dropped out in the early 1980s and rejoined in 1998.

Q. What are your research goals?

I am still working on that Lee line! My Great-grandfather, James Brashaw, was listed in the 1860 census but I can't find anything beyond 1855 to 1860. I really want to get into England.

Q. Do you have any surnames or locales of special interest?

The surnames are Norton, Turner, Trollinger, Schutt, Brashaw, Wright and Plummer. Areas of interest are New York, New England, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, England, Wales, Germany, Czech Republic.

Q. How have you contributed to PSGS?

I've been corresponding secretary, volunteer duty librarian twice a month and helped with various fund raising events.

Side By Side



Margot Filley

Member since 2010

Margot was born in Baldwin, Michigan and lived there for 34 years before moving west to Washington State with her husband Dan when he got an engineering position at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 1975. They lived in Port Orchard for a year and a half before moving to Belfair.

Q. How did you get started doing genealogy?

The study of genealogy tied in with history has always interested me. I was always curious about my grandmother's stories of life on a farm in western Michigan and hardships that the women in their family endured.

Q. How did you come to join PSGS?

My friend and fellow Toastmaster, Sandy Watson, suggested that I join PSGS. She thought that I would like the members, personally mentioning that everyone she met was very friendly and kind.

Q. What are your research goals?

I would like to do further research on my dad's side of the family. I was told years ago by him that one of our ancestors was the chieftain of a Scottish clan, Gordon by name.

Q. Do you have any surnames or locales of special interest?

The surnames of special interest are Gordon, Barney, Lareva, Anderson and Fudge.

Q. How have you contributed to PSGS?

I have been Publicity Chairman for the past year, also serving now with the Backtracker staff for the past five months as copy editor.

Gail Reynolds'

Belfair Bulletin

As you remember, in the last Belfair Bulletin I mentioned that in October there was to be a seminar held in Shelton in conjunction with the Mason County Genealogical Society. One of the featured speakers was Jim Johnson who talked about the Animap program and its uses. After a delicious lunch, we heard Steven Morrison talk about Irish History for Genealogists.

Our November "Christmas" meeting included a potluck lunch. We also reelected Linnie Griffin as our Chapter Chairperson. Our representative to the board is Jackie Horton and I will continue to keep you up to date with the Belfair Bulletin.

Since we are not having a meeting in January, please remember that our meeting dates have changed to the first Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is at the Timberland Library in Belfair on February 1 at 12:30 p.m.

See ya there!



l-r: Gail Reynolds, Linnie Griffin, Madi Cataldo and Rosemarie Welch

Milestones

by Karin Burke

As the new reporter for this column, I come to you on the road home to Port Orchard from San Antonio, Texas. I hope your holiday was as full of love and happiness as was ours.

Pat and Ken Eder celebrated their 59 years of wedded happiness. They were married on 15 November 1952 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. They are both members and I just know that genealogical research must have added to their fun in life together.

Amanda Yager, daughter of Jean and Richard Yager, will be married to Jimmy Picard on 18 March 2012 in Carlsbad, California. Jean, her hubby, aunt and uncle will then RV tour through Arizona, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. More good news—Ann and Doug Northcutt celebrated the birth of a new grandson.

Mike Zeitner had both knees replaced! He told me that all went well and he is recovering quickly.

Unfortunately, some lives end too soon. Jackie Horton's daughter Lori Jo Horton-Hannawacker passed away unexpectedly in California on the 14th of September at the age of 52 years. Lori Jo was a Kitsap Sheriff's Posse Queen her junior year at Central Kitsap High School. Besides her husband, daughter and step-son, she had interests in horses, the arts and poetry. She was loved and appreciated by many and will certainly be missed.

June Fuller Smith passed away in October at 86 years old. June was a charter member of PSGS who enjoyed a very full life. June was very active in DAR, Kitsap Historical Society, Sons of Norway and many other organizations.

Roger Nelson, 83 years old, resident of Port Orchard and married for 59 years to member Beverly Nelson, passed away on December 26th. He was a Navy veteran who worked at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard until his retirement in 1983.

PSGS member Marie Spearman lost her "soul mate" when husband Judge Theodore Spearman, 64 years of age, passed away on January 3, of this year. They both attended Stanford University and married shortly after he graduated in 1969.

We extend our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to their families, all of whom can be comforted by lives very well lived.

Schedule of Classes

Tuesday, February 7, 10am – 2pm	Exploring Your Scandinavian Roots <i>Kristine Leander & Barbara Chesley, Instructors</i>
Saturday, February 25, 10am – 2pm	Genealogy 101: Beginning Genealogy <i>Jean Yager, Instructor</i>
Saturday, March 3, 10am – 2pm	Genealogy 102: Tracking Your Family Through the U.S. Census <i>Linda Webb, Instructor</i>
Tuesday, March 6, 10am – 2pm	Google Tools for Genealogists and Animap <i>Jim Johnson, HQRL Instructor</i>
Tuesday, April 3, 10am – 2pm	What Were the 1800s Doing to Your Ancestors? <i>Linda Webb, Instructor</i>
Saturday, April 28, 10am – 2pm	Genealogy 103: Vital Records - Filling in the Blanks <i>Dorothy Lindquist, Instructor</i>

All classes are held in the Heninger Room at the Kitsap Regional Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton.

Contact: education.chairperson@pusogensoc.org

Schedule of SIGs (Special Interest Groups)

British Isles Research SIG	10am – 2pm on the third Thursday of even month (starting in February) <i>Genealogy Center, Sylvan Way Library</i> Contact: british.sig@pusogensoc.org
Military Records Research SIG	10am – 2pm on the second Thursday of even month (starting in February) <i>Genealogy Center, Sylvan Way Library</i> Contact: militaryrecords.sig@pusogensoc.org
Native American SIG	10am – 2pm on the second Thursday of even month (starting in February) <i>Genealogy Center, Sylvan Way Library</i> Contact: native_american.sig@pusogensoc.org
Swedish Ancestry SIG	10am – 2pm on the third Thursday of odd month (starting in January) <i>Genealogy Center, Sylvan Way Library</i> Contact: swedish.sig@pusogensoc.org
VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, KY, TN SIG	10am – 2pm on the second Thursday of odd month (starting in January) <i>Genealogy Center, Sylvan Way Library</i> Contact: va_wva_nc_sc_ga.sig@pusogensoc.org
Ancestry.com SIG	10am – noon on the second Friday of each month PSGS Center, 2501 SE Mile Hill Drive, 102A, PO Contact: ancestry.sig@pusogensoc.org
Family Tree Maker SIG	12:30pm – 2pm on the second Friday of each month PSGS Center, 2501 SE Mile Hill Drive, 102A, PO Contact: ftm.sig@pusogensoc.org
Legacy Family Tree SIG	1pm – 3pm on the fourth Monday of each month PSGS Center, 2501 SE Mile Hill Drive, 102A, PO Contact: legacy.sig@pusogensoc.org
Photo Editing SIG	10am – 2pm on the fourth Friday of each month PSGS Center, 2501 SE Mile Hill Drive, 102A, PO Contact: photo.sig@pusogensoc.org

Letter from the Editor

The Backtracker Editorial Board

This is the first issue in which our editorial board has been fully in place. We have two associate editors who have the expertise and experience using Publisher so they could step in, if necessary, and the Backtracker will be published as usual. Please send Letters to the Editor to www.pusogensoc.org or backtracker_editor@pusogensoc.org.

Thank you, Fran Moyer, Editor



Terry Mettling-Circulation Director, Fran Moyer-Editor and layout design, Margot Filley-Copy Editor, Mary Ann Wright-Associate Editor, Elisabeth Demmon-Associate Editor, and Linda Wilson-Distribution

Classified Ads

Interested in sharing your love of genealogy and helping others find their ancestors? Join the Genealogy Center Volunteer team!

Our volunteers keep the Genealogy Center, located at the Sylvan Way Branch, open for visitors to browse our book and periodical collection or to do internet research using the library edition of Ancestry.com or other genealogy websites.

Our goal is to have the Genealogy Center open and available to the public six days a week during regular library hours. If you are interested in sharing four hours of your time, please contact Charlotte, the PSGS Volunteer Coordinator, at gc_volunteer_coordinator@pusogensoc.org



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The Backtracker Editorial Board

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