



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

[www.pusogensoc.org](http://www.pusogensoc.org)

April thru June 2015



## KITSAP ANTIQUE SHOW History & Heritage 2015

by Fran Moyer

We had another very successful Antique Show this year, full of new vendors and more appraisals than ever before. Nearly two thousand people entered the President's Hall. Ernie Lopez wrote about a few items he appraised: "Some of the high value highlights from this year's show included a rare 18th century hand painted miniature chest that made its way to this country from the Telemark region of Norway. There was an exceptional signed French bronze. In terms of precious metals there was an immense and incredibly highly sculpted and engraved solid silver palace tray that weighed several pounds. It came from Persia and depicted minutely detailed (cont'd on page 4)

### Vendors



### Appraisals



Victorian couch with original velvet covering



1635 Italian Violin

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# Presidential Ponderings

by Ann Northcutt



Now that our Antique Show is wrapped up for 2015, I want to take this time to thank everyone who participated in this fun event. Whether you worked on the committee, volunteered at the event or attended the show, a huge thank you for making it a great success! The dates for the 2016 show are February 27 & 28. If you are interested in working on the 2016 Antique Show committee, please e-mail [president@pusogensoc.org](mailto:president@pusogensoc.org) and I will add you to my list.

At the last General Meeting I spoke to you about a new program that we are establishing called "Society Gems." This program will take the place of the Member of the Year award. Do you know of someone who has done something special for our Society? Perhaps a member completed a project or volunteered for an event?

What about the member who is "always there" working in the background donating their time and energy for your society! Such a person is truly a Society Gem! Nomination forms and instructions are available on our Members page of the PSGS website. Nominations may be made at any time.

I am happy to announce that we have just filled the position of Publicity Chair for PSGS. Sharon Houser, who was very active on our Antique Show committee this year, has stepped up and I am very excited to now welcome her as a member of our Executive Board. Thank you, Sharon!

And last but absolutely not least – consider becoming a PSGS Volunteer at our Genealogy Center. As well as helping others, it is a great time to do your own research.



## Genealogy Center Report

by Mary Ann Wright

As new arrivals make their way through the system and onto our shelves, it is now finally necessary to start weeding out some lesser used periodicals. Some space does remain and I'm in the process of determining how to best utilize it while still keeping a logical organization system. If you have any suggestions on what can be done to improve our space, or suggestions on which items should be weeded, please drop me a note at [gc\\_coordinator@pusogensoc.org](mailto:gc_coordinator@pusogensoc.org).

Our Genealogy Center is stuffed! Many thanks to all of you who have chosen to share your genealogy books with us. I promise to take good care of them!



## Milestones

by Julia Joaquin

We have had various and sundry happenings with our PSGS family.

Congratulations to Jean Yager and her husband who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary recently. We were sorry to hear that Dorothy Lindquist broke her arm but she was at our last meeting with her arm in a sling and looked great.

Ken Burdyslaw and Rick Schulze both have had hip replacement surgeries and we wish them well.

On a personal note I received a call while in Salt Lake City that my brother, Edward Wright, passed away. I

have appreciated the words of comfort and support from my friends at PSGS. Thank you.

Now I want to relate a most fantastic event that happened to our member, Linda Sloan. From this episode we can again be thankful for each day. I will let Linda tell it in her own words of January 28, 2015:

"While Jim and I were vacationing on the Big Island of Hawaii, I had a terrible accident. I fell off a cliff, falling about 8 feet to the rocks below. I sustained a head injury laceration to my forehead and abrasions to the top of my head and also broke my neck, fracturing the C-1.

THANK GOD I am alive and not paralyzed. Prayer is the only thing that has saved me. Even the doctors said

*(cont'd on page 16)*

## A Memory Realized

by Judy Houle

I was raised in a loving, modest family in Atlanta, Georgia, and as a child would hear stories about the family or stories of other current events while sitting at the dining room table or curled up in my grandfather's lap in the library.

It wasn't until later years that I started to make notes of some things I had heard. These particular items had no meaning to me except that they seemed to be important as a discussion for the family. At this point my family members were deceased but I still had those notes rolling around in my head.

A particular note of interest was in regard to the Venable family's relationship with a school in Virginia. This is the point when I began searching by establishing the heritage of my grandfather Oscar Venable, an Atlanta businessman, back to Abraham Venable.

In my research I found Nathaniel Venable was a member of the House of Burgesses from 1766-1768. His home

was mentioned as "Slate Hill" a 400-acre tobacco plantation located in Worsham, Prince Edward County, Virginia. This information seemed worthy enough for me to re-search.

It seems the original land grant was to Joseph Morton in 1739 and then Nathaniel Venable built the main house in 1756. In February 1775 a group of men, Nathaniel Venable, John Morton and Fred Johnston, members of the Hanover Presbytery, met and decided to establish a college named Prince Edward Academy which in 1776 became Hampden-Sydney College. Nathaniel Venable became one of the charter Trustees. This college is a private men's liberal arts college. President William Henry Harrison, 9th United States President, graduated from this school.

The plantation is now part of the College and the homestead is marked with a State of Virginia historical marker, F66 Slate Hill Plantation.



## Soldier or "Bushwhacker?"

by Madge Norton

For at least fifteen years I thought my great great grandfather Samuel Trolinger/Trollinger was in the Confederate Army's 5th Missouri Infantry, Co. H.

There are several sheets of records in the Archives and a Muster roll shows he was paid thru February 1863. He was captured at Vicksburg July 4, 1863 and paroled July 8, 1863 after which, "he went across the river and never came back." I researched every Samuel Trollinger in Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri and couldn't find anyone else who "fit."

Then I found records for "Samuel the Bushwhacker" on Fold3 and other sites. He was arrested at his home in Reynolds County, Missouri in late November 1862. He was first taken to Ironton and then Potosi where he was charged with violating the oath that forbade him having any guns in his possession or acting against the Union. Then he was taken to the Myrtle State Prison in St. Louis.

In February 1863 he made a statement that he was 43 years old next March, lives in Reynolds County, born in

Bedford County, Tennessee, captured on or about the 22nd day of November 1862. Signed with his mark. Then he denied that he ever took up arms or was a Southern sympathizer. He denies ever stealing horses or other property. He has no slaves. He has a wife and 8 children. His occupation is a farmer. Relatives in rebellion? None known but had 2 nephews killed in the Rebel army. There was a notation at this time that he would be sent to the "old capital prison" in Washington DC, but it is not known if he actually was.

Family tradition has said that he and a friend, James Barton, "were killed by the Adams gang (known Northern sympathizers) while getting a drink from a spring."

Official Union records dated January 5, 1865, by 1st Lt. Wm. Moran of Co E 50th Missouri Volunteers, in a letter states that a scout under Lt. Weddle to Black River came upon a party of Bushwhackers and killed 2 of them, capturing 1 horse. The names of the men killed were the notorious Samuel Torringer (Trollinger) and James Barton.

I was no longer in doubt about Grandpa Samuel.

# Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference 2015

by Elisabeth Demmon

I attended this conference as your delegate to the FGS. It was held at the Salt Lake City Convention Center for 4 days from February 10-14<sup>th</sup>. Before I attended the FGS conference, I met with Ann Northcutt, President of PSGS, to choose the lectures that would most benefit the society and the partnership with Kitsap Regional Library (KRL).

This was the first year that FGS combined their conference with RootsTech. Fortunately, the FGS lectures were held in one area of the convention center so I did not have to deal with the enormous crowds (over 21,000 people!) attending RootsTech too often.

The FGS Conference had top lecturers in the field of genealogy including Thomas MacEntee, Curt Witcher, Tom Jones, and Judy Russell. The first day was “Societies Day” so all events/lectures were centered on how to improve a Society’s membership, increase volunteerism, and the use of social media to name a few of the 7 lectures I attended that day. Most of the speakers were from the FGS leadership. If you watch “Who Do You Think You Are” you may be familiar with the FGS President, Josh Taylor, who gave several lectures during the day.

The other days were lectures on diverse topics ranging from The War of 1812 Records to Future Proofing your

Genealogical Research for your descendants. DNA and Genetic Genealogy were definitely the “hot” topics of the FGS conference, especially the one on how to start a DNA Interest Group. CeCe Moore (Your Genetic Genealogist blog) gave this lecture and said it was one of the ways to attract younger members as well as increase membership for a Genealogical Society.

I took copious notes during each lecture because the handouts could not be shared or photocopied due to very strong copyright restrictions. Copyright of handouts and slides during a lecture is misunderstood by a lot of people and this issue came up more than once during the conference. Since my return, I have met with the PSGS Education Committee to tell them about the lectures I attended and, as a result, I will be giving a PSGS program and teaching a class later this year.

I am very grateful for the experience of attending this important conference as your delegate and hope that all of you get a chance to attend an FGS Conference and take advantage of the learning opportunity, either as a delegate or not!

## “Antique Show” (cont’d from front page)

18th century Persian hunting scenes. This one example took a single workman nearly 30 years to create. There was a small and exceptionally rare Swedish sterling silver desk set with its implements fashioned in fanciful 10th century neo-Nordic style twisted dragon designs. The earliest piece I looked at was an extremely rare late Ming Dynasty Chinese seal made from richly carved mutton fat jade. But the show stopper for this year was an unique solid bronze and art glass 6 light hanging lamp incorporating turtles, frogs, and lily pads made by the Tiffany Studios in New York. According to the provenance this piece was a custom designed creation given to the family by Louis Comfort Tiffany. It was appraised at between \$175,000—\$200,000.”



This is a Mary Gregory bridesmaid basket from the 1880s. It was given to Vicki Bushnell’s mother in the late ‘60s as a thank you from one of her customers at the dime store where she worked. It was appraised at \$800.

## 2 more vendors’ pictures



## New digital publication from the National Genealogical Society launched by Jackie Horton

In February, Jordon Jones, President of the National Genealogical Society, sent an email to members announcing a new digital publication, *NGS Monthly*. His announcement is below:

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) today launched *NGS Monthly*, a new digital publication that, each month, will feature a selection of original articles on genealogical methodology, research techniques, sources, and the latest news from NGS. Published mid-month starting after the February launch, *NGS Monthly* was created to replace the Society's older newsletter, *What's Happening*, with a new content and design strategy.

*NGS Monthly* has a cool, clean look with predominantly green and white graphics and a lean design strategy to avoid distractions. "What's Happening was using an older delivery system that limited the Society in terms of layout, graphics, readability and enjoyment. We wanted to provide our members with a more pleasant experience that will include visuals and varying lengths of articles, plus social media access," said Jordan Jones, President of the National Genealogical Society.

The new content strategy has at its core the decision to give readers two thoughtful, longer-length original articles each month. One article in *NGS Monthly* will be devoted to genealogical methods and tie back to a past article in the digital archive of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly (NGSQ)* to give the reader examples from case studies. The concept is to "deconstruct" scholarly work so that genealogists of all levels can benefit from analysis of the fine work in this premier journal.

"There are many media options on the genealogical landscape today. NGS wanted to provide something special, something that could bring new understanding to the components of really excellent work that many of us aspire to and look at how expert writers handle sources, information and evidence to build proof of relationships," explained Terry Koch-Bostic, Chair of the NGS Communications and Marketing Committee.

*NGS Monthly* editor, Melissa Johnson, added, "The inaugural articles will set the stage for future content. The lead article in the launch issue, 'What Is an NGSQ Case Study?' will help NGS members understand the purpose, significance, and structure of the case studies that appear in *NGSQ*, and the second article, 'Eight Tips For Deconstructing an NGSQ Case Study,' provides a look at some individual elements of a case study."

Articles that are reflective about methodology and others providing readers with new insights, combined with NGS updates and news stories, form the core content strategy for *NGS Monthly*. The new format also encourages members to share news items through social media and gives them easy access to the NGS homepage, Twitter feed and Facebook page. There are also useful links to the digital archives for *NGS Magazine*, *NGSQ* and *Upfront with NGS*.

A subscription to the digital publication, *NGS Monthly*, is provided as part of a paid membership in the National Genealogical Society along with subscriptions to the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *NGS Magazine* and *Upfront with NGS* blog. *Upfront* is also available free to subscribers. For more information on *NGS Monthly* and these other publications, visit [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org).

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### Did You Know

by Carol Caldwell

The Boston Public Library continues to digitize old and rare manuscripts and post them to the BPL's Flickr page and the free, non-profit digital library known as *The Internet Archive*. Included in the collection are volumes of the abolitionist newspaper [The Liberator](#), court transcripts of the Salem witch trials, and maps owned by Benjamin Franklin.

Original article is from the Boston Globe.

## A Look Back...

### at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



**January 28**

**“New Year Resolutions for Genealogy”**

**presenter: Ann Northcutt**

Ann presented several easy-to-do tasks designed to help us take our research to the next level. Some of her suggestions included backing up your data, finding and using a simple organization system, and creating a genealogy will and digital estate plan. Some of the websites she highlighted for backups were [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com), [www.onedrive.live.com](http://www.onedrive.live.com), and [www.google.com/drive](http://www.google.com/drive). The Family Search Wiki has several articles on organization, [www.familysearch.org/wiki](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki). A web article on managing your digital estate can be found at <http://thetrustadvisor.com/tag/digital-estate-planning>.

**February 25**

**“Evernote for Genealogy”**

**presenter: Jean Yager**

Jean described what Evernote can do to help you manage all your notes, photos, audio/video, web clippings . . . anything you might find that you want to keep handy. Evernote can be used for organization, planning, a storehouse for digital files, collaboration with others, and much more. It is a FREE application downloaded to your computer that helps you keep track of everything—shopping lists, recipes, and of course genealogy information. Go to [www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com) to download the application, watch videos available on Youtube, and find free Kindle e-books to learn more about this popular program

**March 25**

**“Hidden Keys Using Library Cards”**

**presenter: Jim Johnson**

Jim showed us how easy it is to access subscription databases for our genealogy research by just using our library card! Some of the databases available include Genealogy Bank, Newspaper Archive, and World Vital Records. With our Kitsap Regional Library card, we can obtain cards from several participating libraries and then use their cards to access the databases they offer their patrons. Go to the KRL website, [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org), and under the Using the Library tab, click on Get a Card to see which libraries are available.

### Education Report by Jean Yager

The Education committee meets the first Monday of every month to determine what classes would be of interest to the PSGS members. The year started out with a Flip-Pal class given by Jim Johnson, the Executive Director of Heritage Quest Research Library. This class was the result of many Flip-Pals purchased at the PSGS seminar in September 2014.

The Genealogy series will be held twice this year (instead of three times). The first set (Feb, Mar, Apr) is presently being held at the Poulsbo library. The second set (101: Beginning Genealogy, 102: Census Records and 103: Finding Vital Records) will be May, Jun, Jul at the Sylvan Way library.

We are adding a new set of classes this year regarding States. From the survey given at a fall general meeting we are developing an outline that will be used for the following states: New York (Apr 25th), Georgia and Illinois (Aug 22nd) Virginia and North Carolina (Sep 26th) and Pennsylvania and New Jersey (October 24th). We are in need of instructors for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. If you are interested, please contact Education Chair Jean Yager at [education.chairperson@pusogensoc.org](mailto:education.chairperson@pusogensoc.org)

For updates, dates and times of the classes, go to the PSGS website [www.pusogensoc.org / Events / Classes](http://www.pusogensoc.org/Events/Classes)



## Looking Forward...

### at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

**Apr 22 “Sharing Family Lore and Heirlooms in Genealogy”** presenters: **PSGS members**

Do you have a funny story that has been passed down through family lore, or maybe something serendipitous you found during your research, or maybe even that “family legend” that you’ve proven to be true, or more likely, highly creative? Bring your tales and a family heirloom to share.

**May 27 “Discovering County Histories Online”** presenter: **Janet Camarata**

Join Janet as she shows us how to find town, county and regional histories written in the 18th and 19th centuries and how to assess their value for genealogical research.

**Jun 24 “Spring Cleaning Your Genealogy”** presenter: **Claire Smith**

Claire, vice-president of the Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society, will share some strategies about organizing your genealogy in both your physical space and on your computer.

#### Schedule of Classes — April through June

<b>Apr 7</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10AM-Noon</b>	Timelines and Chronologies Presenter: Janet Camarata
<b>Apr 25</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10AM-Noon</b>	New York State Genealogy Resources Presenter: Ann Northcutt
<b>Apr 28</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2PM-5PM</b>	Gen 103: Finding Vital Records @ <b>Poulsbo Library</b> Presenter: Ann Northcutt
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10AM-Noon</b>	Asylum Records Presenter: Karen Sipe
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Gen 101: Beginning Genealogy Presenter: Jean Yager
<b>Jun 2</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10AM-Noon</b>	Genealogy In Time Presenter: Gary Zimmerman
<b>Jun 27</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Gen 102: Using Census Records Presenter: Mary Ann Wright

Unless noted, all classes are held in the Heninger Room at the Kitsap Regional Library,  
1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

Contact: [education.chairperson@pusogensoc.org](mailto:education.chairperson@pusogensoc.org)

# Putting Down Roots

## A Wagon Train from Kansas to Washington Territory by Janell Crumpacker



Sarah Hopkins Goble,  
great grandmother of  
Alice

While researching my family history, I visited the Washington State Library in Olympia, Washington. I began by looking in the genealogy section and found in the D.A.R Series 3, vol. II, my great grandmother, Alice Leona Goble Dodson's interview printed in the February 1939 edition of the Walla Walla Union Bulletin. The article recalls events of the

party were slain or taken away captives the day before except one man. He had been overlooked by the Indians, scalped and left for dead. The Gobles provided him help and took him to the nearest fort where he was treated and recovered. The Indians had dumped flour and sugar on the ground and sagebrush. She recalled it creating a weird picture.

It was late fall when they reached Meacham and found an acquaintance who was running the Summit house. Alice, her mother, and sisters stayed in Meacham for about a month while her father went on to the Walla

long trek across the plains by wagon train from Kansas to the Oregon/Washington Territory.

Alice was under five years old when she and her family left Marshall County, Kansas in the spring of 1864. The members of her family making the trip included her father, mother, three sisters, her mother's parents, and her mother's 80 year old grandmother who refused to be left behind.

Alice's grandparents rode in a covered buggy drawn by a mare the entire distance. Alice's great grandmother died on the trip near Burnt River in Baker County, Oregon and was buried where she died.

Unlike most immigrants, the Gobles used milk cows instead of oxen to pull their wagon. At the end of each day the cows would be milked providing all-important food. The milk remaining after breakfast was placed in the wagon to be churned by the rough going by the time the next camp was made.

There was one event that she clearly remembered. One evening in the badlands the wagon train came across the remnants of a massacred immigrant camp. All in the



Alice with her siblings circa 1934  
at family reunion

Walla area to find a house for them.

The family moved back and forth from Walla Walla to the Umpqua Valley over the next several years, finally settling in the Asotin Creek area before there were any towns or roads in the area.

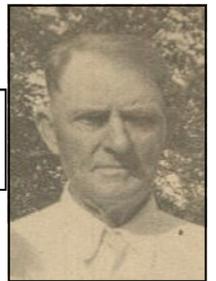
In January 1881, Alice married John W. Dodson and set up house in Asotin. Four of Alice and John's children were born in the same house but all in different counties.

When they first lived there the area was part of Columbia County then it was changed to Garfield County, then to Asotin County. Sometime around 1912 Alice and John moved to Touchet, Washington.

John was well known for his occupation and trade of shearing sheep and was in demand from Oregon through Washington and into Montana. John passed away in 1936 after 56 years of married life.



Alice Leona Goble Dodson and  
John W. Dodson, circa 1934



# Putting Down Roots

## Of Plagues and Migrations

by Mary Ann Wright



Edward & Johanna  
Corbett

During the summer of 1878, 47,000 people called Memphis, TN home, but as the summer heated up more than 25,000 left for safer areas away from the river and the city. Of those who remained, 17,000 caught yellow fever and 5,150 of those died in a 2 month period, half of whom were Irish.

The plague returned in July 1879, when five cases of yellow fever were reported; two of those infected were living in the same house at 55 Bradford Street. My great grand aunt, Johanna Brennan, and her sister, Bridget Fitzgibbons, and their families were living at 36 Bradford Street. Alarmed, they enlisted the help of their brother, Edward Corbett, my great grandfather, and the three families decided they would leave for their Irish homeland.

The travelers consisted of Johanna Brennan, Michael and Bridget Fitzgibbons with 3 girls aged 21, 16 and 13 who were their foster children after their parents had previously died of the yellow fever, and Edward and Johanna Corbett with their 3 young children whose ages ranged from one to four years old. Johanna's husband, Thomas Brennan would join the group before the sailing.

The party left Memphis by railroad on July 18, arriving in Jersey City on Monday evening, July 21. They had paid for passage on a steamer to Queenstown, County Cork, Ireland, and were scheduled to leave on Friday, July 25.

On Tuesday, Johanna Brennan complained of being ill and by 6am on Friday morning, she had died of yellow fever. Her brother Edward was the only one allowed to accompany her body to Calvary Cemetery.

Meanwhile, their sister Bridget and her husband Michael Fitzgibbons were also feeling ill. The doctor determined that Michael also had yellow fever but that his

wife was just showing signs of exhaustion after caring for her sister. They all were moved by tugboat to a quarantine hospital on Swinburne Island, one of two islands created east of South Beach, Staten Island.

Unfortunately, Michael Fitzgibbons was unable to recover and died of yellow fever four days later. With two of their party now deceased and their belongings either burned or held in possession by the Sanitation Department for fumigation, the weary and distraught travelers remained in quarantine until given permission to leave by the Health Department. But to where? Their homeland beckoned, but the ship had sailed, and the plague would still be a menace in Memphis until the first frost sometime in October.

The records show that all returned to their former homes in Memphis. Thomas Brennan died 2 years later in 1881. Bridget Fitzgibbons died in 1891, but left a will that provided for the 3 girls. My great grandparents, Edward and Johanna Corbett, had two more children, the last of whom was my grandfather born just 2 months after his father died in 1881 of congestive fever, now known as malaria. My great grandmother Johanna supported her children as the proprietress of a boarding house until her death in 1914.

After the 1878 epidemic, Memphis leaders began a sanitation reform that would separate the sanitary sewer system from the storm sewers. That project and the discovery of an artesian aquifer under Memphis that supplied an abundance of clean water transformed the city.

In 1901, Major Walter Reed would lead the experiments that proved yellow fever is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Swinburne  
Island  
Hospital





# Memories Are Made of This

*From the  
Lewiston  
Journal*

## Through a Looking Glass **by Mary Ann Wright**

My grandmother Emma lived with my family off and on during my youth. I have photos of myself sitting in her lap as a toddler and again when I was older. There are many memories, but one in particular was of a hand mirror that resided on her dresser. On the back was a silver medallion with the letter "C" – her initial, Compton. To my eyes, the handle looked like mother-of-pearl with silver bands at the top and bottom. While I can't be sure, I believe the mirror was a wedding gift, which dates it back

to 1907. The mirror was eventually handed down to me and I carefully stored it away to protect the loose handle. When I examined the mirror recently, I was dismayed to see that it was showing its age. But, it had been my grandmother's, one of the few things of hers I own, so despite its current condition it remains a cherished heirloom.

And, evidently, I had found the mirror fascinating . . .



## Great Grandmother's Smoking Pipe

**by Lynda Peel**



The pipe was my Great grandmother Breeding's pipe. She smoked it to help with her asthma.

The purse, glasses and lock of hair in her hankie also belonged to her.

## Not exactly an Heirloom, but...

**by Jackie Horton**

The Celtic spoon is a wooden spoon decoratively carved that was traditionally presented as a gift of romantic intent. The earliest known dated Celtic spoon from Wales, displayed in the St. Fagan's National History Museum near Cardiff, is from 1667, although the tradition is believed to date back long before that. Today Celtic spoons are given as wedding and anniversary gifts, as well as birthday, baby gifts, Christmas or Valentine's Day gifts.

Certain symbols came to have specific meanings: a horseshoe for luck, a cross for faith, bells for marriage, hearts for love, a wheel supporting a loved one and a lock for security, among others.

In the spoon I received, the three symbols each represent something about my life, as well as the type of wood chosen for the spoon; the tree represents my passion for genealogy, the four flowers represent my four children,

the anchor represents my husband Jerry who served 20 years in the Navy and the type of wood, maple, represents our home here in Silverdale.

My son Mark Horton made this for me without the tools most people have. I am not sure how long it took but, of course, I consider it a work of the love we have for each other.

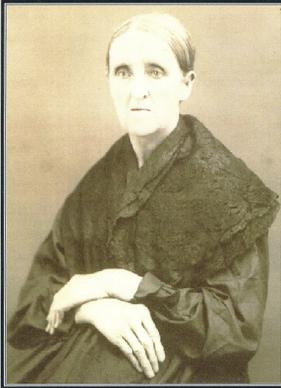




## Traveling from Missouri to California by Stagecoach...with 4 Children! by Betty

The Year was 1860

Burdyshaw



Eleanor Steele  
Johnston

The web is a wonderful way to find historical information and occasionally help one find tidbits about their own family members. One such treasure came to me while browsing the Rootsweb.com message board function. I was looking to see if there were any postings regarding a couple of my great, great, great grandparents Thomas McConnell Johnston and his wife

Eleanor Steele Johnston when I spotted a message stating that Eleanor was the first woman to cross the United States with her children on the Butterfield Stage Coach in 1860.

I already knew that Eleanor Steele was born in Williamson County, TN in 1815, had married Thomas Johnston in 1837 in Springfield, MO and died in 1899 in Napa, CA, and that she had a daughter Mary Elizabeth Johnston, who would become my great, great grandmother. I really didn't know anything about her life. The little clue about the Butterfield Stage Coach led me to search the web where I found a couple of interesting articles. (The main article about the trip refers to Eleanor and Thomas as Johnson rather than Johnston but all of the children and in-laws names fit.)

Thomas McConnell Johnston was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and his ministry took him to California to publish a newspaper in 1859. Eleanor and their 4 younger children, ages 18, 16, 4, and 3 began their journey to join him. I found an article (1) that states that "The Rev. Johnson left his family in Missouri and traveled to California with a wagon train. At the time there was little hope that his wife and four children would be joining him in a couple of years. But Preachers then, as now, were led by the spirit, and that's how come him to go." The article goes on to state, "It's easy to imagine Nellie Steele Johnson's excitement at the prospect of going by stagecoach all the way to California, and in about twenty-five

days! But it is doubtful if she realized the importance of her place in the history of the great venture, for she was the first white woman to make the trip from Missouri to California via the Butterfield Stage."

I suspect that any excitement soon turned to weariness. A web article about the Butterfield's Stagecoach states:

"The passengers rode three abreast, squeezed into back and middle rows, both facing forward, and into a forward row, facing rearward. The facing passengers in the forward and middle rows had to ride with their knees dovetailed. All the passengers rode with baggage on their laps and mail pouches beneath their feet. They travelled relentlessly, day and night, with no more than brief moments at way stations for often poor food and no rest. They suffered, not from brief dust and snow storms, but from continual heat and choking dust in the summer and intense cold and occasional snow in the winter."

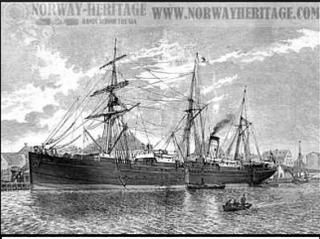
The Butterfield Stage Coach operated for only two and one half years(1857-1861) to deliver mail and transported passengers to increase their profits. It was much faster than travel by wagon train on the California/Oregon Trail which typically took months. The Butterfield Overland Mail Route began at Tipton, MO and traveled a southerly route to Fort Smith, AR across Indian Country (now Oklahoma), Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and up the California Coast to San Francisco, all in 25 days of bone wearying, cramped conditions.

"William Tallack, an English cleric who traveled from San Francisco to St Louis on the Butterfield line in the summer of 1860, said that a passenger awaiting departure worried about how far he might be able to endure a continuous ride... with no other intermission than a stoppage of about forty minutes twice a day, and a walk, from time to time, over the more difficult ground... with only such repose at night as could be obtained whilst in a sitting posture and closely wedged in by fellow travelers and tightly-filled mail bags."

(cont'd on page 15)



# Meanderings: A Short Drive from Home by Dorothy Lindquist



SS Geiser

A short time ago our family decided to visit the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard and much to our surprise we discovered a whole room in the museum depicting the immigrants arriving from Sweden, which

featured the *SS Geiser*. It was in 1880 that my husband's grandmother and parents stepped off that ship to their new country. The long trip across the ocean took 25 days and ended in New York at Castle Garden.

Hulda Landin was 11 years old when she and her parents arrived in New York on the *Geiser*, heading to Chicago to meet up with her three brothers.

Hulda did not know how to speak any English so she started in the first grade in school and quickly advanced through the lower grades until she was with children her own age.

Hulda had a strong Swedish Lutheran faith. She loved music and played both the piano and the organ. She became the organist for the Saron Lutheran Church at the age of 18 where she met and married the minister, Rev. Eric Rosenquist, who was fourteen years older. They had four children, Esther, Ruth, Viola and Eunice; Viola Christine was Don's mother.

Eric's theological views and liberal thinking were not well accepted so he left the ministry and the family moved to Corning, CA in 1905.

Another daughter, Muriel, was born in Corning. Later they moved to Petaluma where they started raising chickens. Here a sixth daughter, Ruby, was born. They could see the glow of the flames when San Francisco was burning following the 1906 earthquake.

Eric became more and more depressed and less interested in providing for his family so Hulda tried to find ways to help support the family.

They moved again in 1907 to Santa Cruz where the seventh daughter, Sylvia, was born. The oldest daughter, Esther, had graduated from high school and finished two years at San Jose Normal School with credentials to become a teacher. She needed more students to qualify to start a school near Santa Cruz so three of her younger sisters went to live with her and attend the school. Hulda would borrow a friend's horse and buggy to transport the girls to school each weekend and bring them home at the end of the week. (She did not ever learn to drive a car.)

The relationship between Hulda and her husband had already become very strained and when Hulda's brother, Robert, came for a visit he could see that the situation was perilous. He offered to let Hulda have a house he owned in Berkeley and helped her both financially and

emotionally. This would allow the girls to attend the University of California. Eric did not go to Berkeley. He took his own life in June 1920.

Ruth and Ruby attended Nursing School and became nurses and the rest of the family graduated from college and became teachers. Hulda's dream of an education for her daughters came true.

When Don's mother and father were married they lived in the same house with Hulda, and Don has fond memories of her taking him to movies and to San Francisco when he was young.

When I think of the 97 years of Hulda's life I am grateful for what she accomplished in a century when women had not yet been allowed the freedom to find fulfillment in a vocation of their choice. Hulda lived a full and difficult life, but she was meant to be a survivor.

Unfortunately, the *SS Geiser* collided with the *SS Thingvalia* the year after the family arrived (1881) in a tragic sea disaster with 105 lives lost.



The Rosenquist sisters: L-R: Muriel, Ruth, Viola, Eunice  
Front: Ruby, Esther and Sylvia

Hulda & Robert



## Side By Side



**Ann Northcutt**

**Member since 2007**



**Bob Howard**

**Member since 2011**

I was born in Southworth, Washington and graduated from South Kitsap High School and later from ITT Technical College in Seattle. In 1971 I married and moved to Berlin, Germany with my husband where my son & daughter were born. We moved from Berlin to Brand bei Marktredwitz where we resided until departure from the Military. Returning to Kitsap County I worked at the Naval Shipyard in Computer Technology and retired in 2002.

**Q: How and when did you get started in genealogy?**

I grew up on the same land in Southworth that my Great Grandparents settled onto in 1885. I remember hearing my Grandmother tell stories of the area and how my Great Grandparents started the first school.

**Q: How and when did you come to join PSGS?**

I have always been fascinated with Cemeteries and in fact have been the Trustee of the Sedgwick Cemetery in Port Orchard for over 30 years. I saw a notice in the paper about PSGS and the cemetery committee. I came to a meeting in 2007 and have been coming ever since.

**Q: What are your research goals?**

I want to find my Great Great Grandparent, James Grants' mother and father. James Grant was born in Monmouth, New Jersey in about 1793. Ancestry.com users have added parents for him but there are no sources!

**Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?**

My maternal surnames are: Kenney, Grant, Bailey, Taber and Wing, paternal side is Levenseller, O'Donnell, Wentworth and Heald. I know that my grandfather came from Maine and my Grandmother's maiden name was O'Donnell and was from New Brunswick, Canada.

**Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?**

I have chaired the Cemetery & School Records committees. I have chaired the Antique Show committee for 3 years and am currently President of PSGS.

My wife and I moved to Kitsap County from Hawaii forty-one years ago. She was originally from Washington. I met her while I was in the Army at Fort Lewis. When I got out of the service we moved to Hawaii. That was my home. She kept coming back to Washington to visit her family every summer so I decided to transfer from Pearl Harbor Shipyard to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard after about ten years of this. I retired from the shipyard about 10 years ago.

**Q: How and when did you get started in genealogy?**

My wife encouraged me and I found how much I enjoyed it.

**Q: How and when did you come to join PSGS?**

I joined PSGS in 2011. My wife had joined a year earlier and since we do most things together and I had already dabbled in genealogy, I joined as well.

**Q: What are your research goals?**

My goals are much the same as other PSGS members, to find who my ancestors were and what they did.

**Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?**

The surnames I am researching are Lopes, Thomas, Howard and Neilson. Making my research difficult are the many name changes and spellings through the years.

**Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?**

My wife and I both volunteer on the Antique Show Committee.

Gail Reynolds'

# Belfair Bulletin

Our February meeting featured Linda Lind. She and her colleagues tackled and accomplished a daunting task. Through their diligence and research, they uncovered the War of 1812 veterans who died in Washington State. Not only did they do the research but they also erected a monument to these sixteen veterans at the Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery in Seattle. If you want to learn more about this memorial and the members of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, please visit their website at [usdaughters1812.org](http://usdaughters1812.org).

Steve Morrison was the delight of the March meeting. He is so knowledgeable and shared information about the Quakers with us. Besides describing the Quakers' religious traits, he asked that we check for information about "our" Quakers in their Meeting records.

Winona Laird was the speaker at our April meeting. She shared some technical and not so technical information concerning "Scanning Secrets". There are different types of scanners, photographs, file types and uses to be considered when scanning information for genealogy records.

Unfortunately, I have no information about our May, June or July meeting so will just direct you to the PSGS website and you can check our Belfair Chapter list for the topics when they become available. As always our meetings from February through November are held at the Timberland Library in Belfair on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm. Hope to see you there!



Left to right:

Linda Lind

Steve Morrison

Winona Laird



## Salt Lake City Family History Library Research Trip 2015

Those who traveled to Salt Lake City in March are shown standing outside the Family History Library. In order, L-R: Pat Eder, Linnie Griffin, Jackie Horton, Madi Cataldo, Terry Mettling, Barbara Chesley, Judy Joaquin, Marlys Marrs, Gail Reynolds, Larry Harden, Mary Ann Wright, Jeanie Schulze.

**Stagecoach, (cont'd from page 11)**



**Thomas, Eleanor & James Johnston**

Anyone traveling any distance in a car with a toddler in modern times can imagine what it must have been like to take on a trip with young children under such conditions. It doesn't sound like a pleasant undertaking by any means.

Back to the article about Eleanor, it states: "Mrs. Nellie Steele

Johnson started the trip from the home of her brother William Steele, whose home was just off the Butterfield Trail in Stone County, MO." The article says that, "The women folks in the family cooked and fixed up a great basket of food, "grub" is what it was called then, to take along on the trip." It goes on to say that in the excitement of catching the stagecoach, the basket was left behind.

"At one point on the way the stagecoach was stopped by a band of Indians. They wanted to see the white children riding on the coach and when their wish was granted, the coach was allowed to continue on its way. Margaret remembered that incident and told of it numbers of times. It was a rugged trip." (1) Margaret was the oldest of the children (16 at the time).

What a treasure it was to find such an interesting story about a grandparent I knew next to nothing about. One must admire the courage and determination our ancestors endured. (Now I need to find out how Nellie's older daughter, my great, great grandmother Mary Elizabeth Johnston McGinnis made it to California. She and her new husband were in Missouri when her mother and younger siblings made the stage coach trip out but they followed not too long after.)



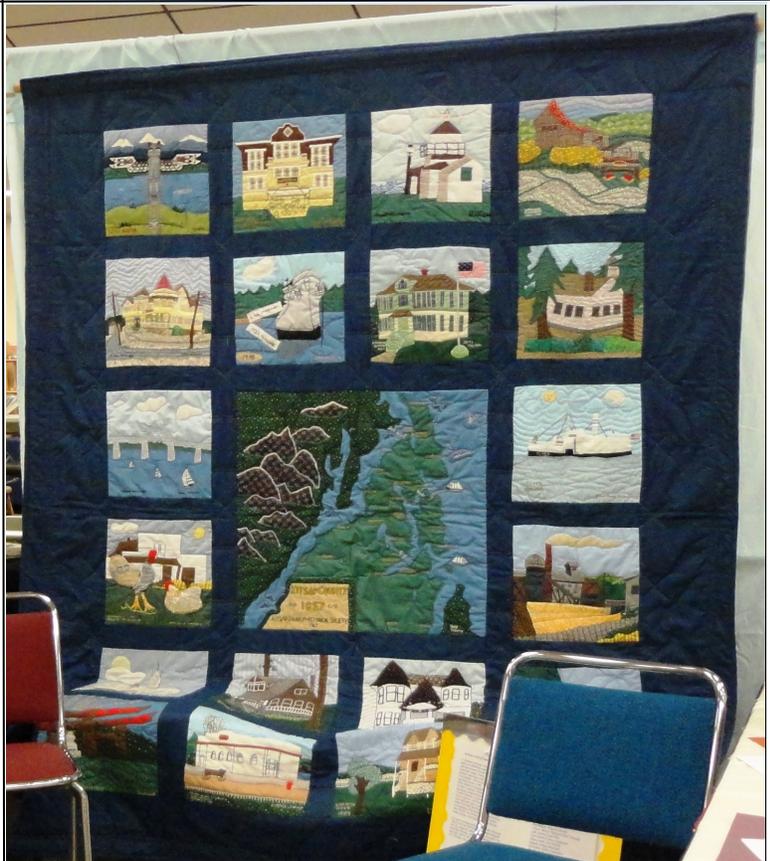
**Thomas Johnston**

**The stagecoach route**



**The Kitsap County Quilt**

**by Phyllis Wahlquist**



Twenty-five members of the Kitsap County Historical Society spent over 2000 hours making this all hand-stitched quilt. It pictures 20 scenes and activities that shaped the county's history. The centerpiece is a pictorial map of the county and shows the Hood Canal Bridge with a gap in the middle.

This was the result of a historically significant storm in 1962. The quilt was displayed and raffle tickets were sold around the county before and at the 1982 Kitsap County Fair. The drawing was held at the Log Cabin Museum August 29, 1982 and I won the drawing.

Helen Osborne of Kingston was the chairman and the other committee members/quilters were: Kay Brann, Marjorie McKenzie, Leona Tennison, Cynthia Lehmaan, Lynn Knutzen, Cassie Brookban, Grace Anderson, Ann Mossman, Kathy Holodnak, Carol McComb, Mary Louise Crocker, Helen Norris, Frieda Walworth, Irene Cunningham, Lois Kahn, Lynn Baldwin, Cheri Streimikes, Kathy Saunders, Jetty Morton, Lisa Treiberg, Moonyean Marks, Helen Lawson, Ann Campbell, and Frances Stewart.

Milestones (cont'd from page 2)



Linda with her Christmas wine

they never saw so much trauma and still have the person walk out of the hospital. I did not need surgery but am in a C-collar brace for 2 months.” Hopefully, we will soon be given an update on this marvelous story—thank you, Linda, for sharing.

Editor’s note: I spoke to Linda on 4/1 and she is healing well. Being a nurse and a type

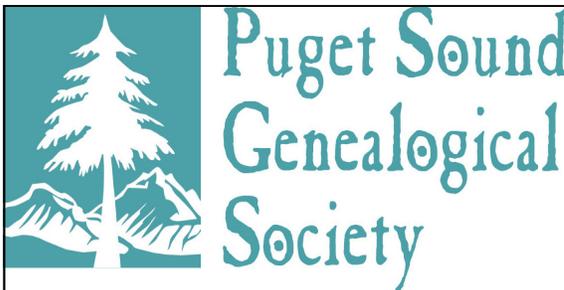
-A personality she says she is an impatient patient! The C-1 fracture has not fused as yet, but she is having physical therapy and can drive for short distances. She must wear a cervical collar otherwise. She will return from AZ to her home here in May, probably. She says she will pay her late dues, but between falling in love and falling off a cliff, she has missed out on quite a bit lately! We can’t wait to see this fun & wonderful lady!

...and not to be left out of this Milestones...

Our GC volunteer coordinator/trainer, Charlotte Long-Thornton, fell at our last membership meeting and sustained several huge bruises that have been rather spectacular looking, but fortunately, she is only stiff and sore without having sustained any serious injuries.

We are sad to relate that two of our long time members, Lester Schmuck and Akiko Morrison, passed away recently.

Last, but certainly not least, our ubiquitous President, Ann Northcutt, has had rather extensive oral surgery, but I am confident she will back to be teaching classes, leading our e-board and Board of Director’s meetings, and anything else that pops up in the very near future.



1301 Sylvan Way  
Bremerton, WA 98310  
(360) 475-9172 • www.pusogensoc.org

**The Backtracker Staff**

- Editor ..... Fran Moyer
- Associate Editor ..... Mary Ann Wright
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