



# THE Backtracker

A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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## Can't Miss Social Event of the Year

By Shanda Hoover

The biggest social event of the year is nearly here! On December 8, 2010, the Program Committee will host Puget Sound Genealogical Society's (PSGS) Annual Christmas Party from noon to 4pm at the Gateway Center in Bremerton.

Every December the PSGS general meeting is expanded to allow for a spectacular afternoon of fun featuring a planned potluck, silent auction, and gift exchange. Also included in the festivities will be the presentation of PSGS's Outstanding Member of the Year Award, recognition of outgoing officers, and the installation of officers for 2011.

The festivities begin at noon with a wonderful buffet lunch provided by

members who have volunteered to bring selected items from a preplanned menu. Dorothy Lindquist is this year's potluck organizer. If you would like to bring a food item to share at the Christmas party, please sign-up at the monthly meeting, the PSGS Library, or by contacting Dorothy at (360) 876-4320 or email [dorothy\\_lindquist@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothy_lindquist@yahoo.com).

Throughout the afternoon there will be an ongoing "Silent Auction" that will conclude with "Santa" presenting the winners with their treasures. While a silent auction represents a departure

from the "live" auction of past years, this is still a great opportunity to pick up some wonderful items to keep for yourself or for gift-giving. The silent auction is made possible by member donations, so please be generous. If you have a quality new or "as-new" item you would like to donate, whether store-bought, hand-crafted or homemade, contact silent auction organizer Shanda Hoover at [niledesign@totacc.com](mailto:niledesign@totacc.com). Auction purchases are payable by cash or check.

The grand finale of the Christmas party is the Yankee Swap gift exchange.

Those who wish to participate in the gift exchange game need to bring an unmarked, wrapped gift to put under the Christmas tree. The price limit for gifts is just \$10 again this

year; however, participants are encouraged to be creative and resourceful in their gift selection. Remember, the real fun of the Yankee Swap is not getting a cool gift, but stealing someone else's!

In the spirit of the season, PSGS will once again collect food donations for the South Kitsap Helpline at this event, so please bring a non-perishable food item(s) to donate.

Program chair Sandie Morrison hopes everyone will mark their calendars and plan on joining their fellow members on December 8 for an afternoon of fun.



Sandie Morrison at the 2009 Christmas Party.



Auctioneer Ed Evans as "Santa" at 2009 Christmas party.

If you have any questions contact Sandie at [Morrison\\_61@msn.com](mailto:Morrison_61@msn.com). ■

**Annual PSGS  
Christmas Party  
Dec 8 at Noon**

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### Meeting of July 19, 2010

The Board voted in favor of renewing the PSGS Library's lease for a two-year period. Larry Harden will communicate with our Attorney Lillian Schauer and set a date for discussion.

Since the Board has asked Lillian to act as PSGS's attorney in regards to the Library's lease renewal it was felt that the Board should authorize a stipend or payment of some kind to Lillian to pay her for her services should she choose to bill us. **The Motion was carried.**

Due to a scheduling conflict the Gateway Center is not available to rent on PSGS's scheduled meeting day this November. A motion was made to move the November meeting date from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of November in order that the general meeting can be held at our regular location. Discussion: As the library is scheduled to be open on that day it would be up to the discretion of the library volunteer to close the library in order to attend the meeting or keep the library open.

**Motion passed.**

### Meeting of August 16, 2010

There was discussion regarding whether to offer incentives on dues to new members when they sign up at the 2010 Kitsap County Fair and at the 2010 PSGS Seminar.

Membership incentive for the Kitsap County Fair: A motion was made to offer a membership dues incentive for new members only at this year's fair—a reduced rate of \$15 for individual and \$25 for family. Motion was seconded. Discussion: Color code the membership forms that we give out at the fair so we know that these registrations came from the fair. **Motion Carried.**

Membership incentive for the PSGS Seminar: A motion was made to offer a membership incentive at the PSGS Seminar for new members only—purchase a 2011 membership and receive membership for the remainder of 2010 for free. Motion was seconded. Discussion: Does this allow them to vote? YES. **Motion Carried.**

### Meeting of September 20, 2010

Certificate of Deposit: Motion was made to allow PSGS's Certificate of Deposit to expire and have the bank deposit the money from the CD into the PSGS checking account. **Motion Carried.**

Dues Structure: Motion was made to prorate New Member Dues on a quarterly basis, rounding them up to the next dollar amount to be effective the 4th quarter of 2010. **Motion Carried. ■**

## Cyril's Parting Words

As most of us already know, long-term member Cyril Taylor passed on last August. He was a dedicated genealogist and a generous volunteer for our society, serving in several key positions including treasurer and, later, as editor of *The Backtracker*. When he decided to step down as editor this past spring the society presented him with a plaque that honored his many years of service. Always the gentleman from the old school of impeccable manners, he acknowledged the plaque with a short, heartfelt note to me that I want to share with the entire membership.

On June 26, 2010, Cyril wrote the following:

*Dear Linda: I want to express my appreciation to you and Larry Harden and all my friends at PSGS for the plaque presented to me yesterday afternoon for my services over the years. Thank you for this impressive honor. I have been interested in dedicating my time and effort to our society for many years.*

*Sincerely,  
Cyril T. Taylor*

Cyril will be missed and our condolences go to his family.

Linda Webb  
PSGS President

## Another Dream Has Come True

Just when I thought the *The Backtracker* couldn't get any better, it did. I received my first email version of *The Backtracker* in color. I was thrilled to see how the color really enhances the appearance of the newsletter. Again, you have outdone yourself to add a whole new dimension to the newsletter. I am looking forward to receiving it by email. It is like TWO dreams coming true!!

Dorothy Lindquist  
Education Committee Chair

*The Letters to the Editor column is a forum that is open to everyone. Please feel free to share your thoughts and opinions about the Puget Sound Genealogical Society and/or this publication. If you have comments, kudos, or criticisms send them to the Editor at [niledesign@totacc.com](mailto:niledesign@totacc.com).*

## Letters to the Editor



# New 2010 Revised Obituary Index

By Shanda Hoover

This October, the Puget Sound Genealogical Society's (PSGS) Obituary Project Committee (OPC) realized their yearlong goal to publish a new revised edition of the Obituary Index, the first in six years! The latest edition of the Index catalogs the names of 28,424 individuals who have an obituary in the PSGS Obituary Collection. The volunteers who spearheaded the latest endeavor are project chairperson Jeanne Menchenton, database manager Shanda Hoover, Bev Nelson, and Nancy Landenberger.

The OPC has been meeting twice a month since January 2010 to complete a comprehensive update of the obituary database and obituary collection, culminating in the production of the 2010 Obituary Index.

The first step in the process was to create a new master obituary database. After the publication of the 2004 Index, a series of separate databases had been created to login incoming obituaries,

so Shanda was responsible for merging the various individual databases into a single combined database. Then, in order to improve the functionality of the database, she created two new information fields and added new data for each record. In addition, the entire database was rigorously examined for errors and inconsistencies, and more than 2000 redundant entries were removed. The new unified database is twice the size of the 2004 version and can be sorted by year of death and death location.

Jeanne, Bev, and Nancy conducted the second part of the process, updating the Obituary Collection. The process included integrating the pre-2004 obituary cards with the post-2004 obituary cards and then meticulously reconciling the new index against the card catalog's reorganized records. During the overhaul the card catalog was also refreshed with new drawer labels. The Obituary Collection and the new, three-volume alphabetical Obituary Index are located in the Northwest Room at the PSGS

Library. The latest version of the obituary index is also available on the PSGS website. In addition, a brand new index listing individuals alphabetically by year of death is also available.

The Obituary Project started in March 2000 and was originally initiated by the PSGS Executive Board and chaired by Larry Harden. The primary objective was to create a cataloged file of obituaries from copies of obituaries in the possession of the Kitsap County Historical Society combined with obituaries clipped from donated newspapers at the PSGS Library. Approximately 11,500 obituaries were in the collection when the initial project was completed in the fall of 2002. The project has been ongoing since. ■

## Dues Increase Is Approved By All

By Shanda Hoover & Ann Northcutt

In a tremendous display of support for the continued financial well-being of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS), members voted unanimously in favor of the proposed \$5 increase in membership dues in the closing minutes of the September general meeting.

On September 22, 2010, 1st Vice President Sandie Morrison, acting as President *pro tempore*, brought the Executive Board's proposal to increase the society's annual dues by \$5 for both single and family memberships, effective January 2011, before the general assembly. There was a brief discussion, during which an inquiry was made regarding how long it had been since the last increase in the dues. Treasurer Larry Harden responded that it had been seven years, which concluded the discussion. A quorum was in attendance, so Sandie called for a vote and those present voted unanimously in favor.

The approved dues increase raises PSGS's single membership rate from \$25 to \$30, and the family rate from \$40 to \$45. ■

## New Meeting Site in 2011

By Mary Ann Wright & Shanda Hoover

Beginning January 2011, the Sylvan Way Branch of Kitsap Regional Library (KRL) will become the new site for the Puget Sound Genealogical Society's (PSGS) monthly general meetings. The change in venue was precipitated by the recent loss of Wi-Fi connectivity at the current Gateway Center meeting site. Since Internet access is an essential tool for the presentations at the monthly meetings, the Executive Board agreed it was imperative to seek a remedy to the situation. Several options were researched and in the end it was decided that moving the meeting location to the Sylvan Way Library at 1301 Sylvan Way in Bremerton was the best alternative.

In addition to providing the sought after Wi-Fi connectivity, a generous 70-person meeting room capacity, and ample parking there are several other benefits to the relocation. While PSGS currently pays the Gateway Center \$45/month rent for the use of their meeting room, thanks to our future partnership plans with KRL, KRL Director Jill Jean and Sylvan Way Branch Manager Ruth Bond have agreed that PSGS may use the meeting room at Sylvan Way free of charge—saving PSGS \$540 over the course of the coming year. Other advantages of meeting at the Sylvan Way Library are the opportunity to increase our public presence and the prospect of enticing library visitors to drop-in at meetings, potentially boosting PSGS membership.

Directions to the Sylvan Way branch library are posted on the KRL website ([www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org)) and will also be posted on the PSGS website. Printed copies of directions will be available at upcoming general meetings. ■

## Open House Draws New Faces to PSGS

By Mary Ann Wright

The Library Open House held in celebration of Family History Month on Saturday, October 2, drew five new visitors to the library. These special guests were provided with a "Getting Started" packet and a personal tour of the library's extensive holdings. All five visitors, who were from the Port Orchard area, stated they were either ready to start researching their family history or eager to get back to actively searching for their elusive ancestors. Although no new membership applications were received the day of the open house, based on their comments, the new visitors seemed favorably impressed and inspired and librarian Mary Ann Wright predicts that several will become members after the first of the year.

In addition to the new faces in the crowd, 14 PSGS members came out on October 2 to research, visit, or help with the event. All of those attending were treated to punch and homemade cookies and a chance to peruse the library's holdings.

In preparation for the event, Ann Northcutt, Karin Burke, and Johnny and Linda Wilson along with librarian Mary Ann Wright spent Friday, October 1, at the library dusting and straightening the shelves, vacuuming the carpet, and scrubbing the kitchen area. On Saturday, October 2, Karin Burke, Dorothy Lindquist, Sandie Morrison, Linda Webb, and Jean Yager joined librarian Mary Ann Wright in putting the final touches on the library and serving as hostesses. John Smith ably manned the librarian's desk and answered questions. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their help! ■

L to R: Leroy and Sherry Gilbert, and Sandie Morrison



## Workers Pack & Play

By Linda Webb

On one of the hottest days of this year's short summer, about 20 willing workers, potluck dish in hand, gathered at Linda Webb's house to pack "goodie bags" destined for September's Seminar. Despite careful planning, the event was met with a couple of unanticipated challenges. With temperatures soaring into the 90s, the original plan to have workstations outside on the deck had to be scrapped. Instead, tables were set up inside where the air conditioner provided blissful relief from the heat. After a swift reorganization eager volunteer workers squeezed in elbow-to-elbow ready to commence packing goodie bags, only to discover that there were "goodies" but no "bags" to put them in! After a couple of anxious phone calls the bags were located and arrangements were made to have them delivered.



Party-goers packing "goodie bags" at Linda Webb's home.

While waiting for delivery of the bags the volunteers went to work on another project—putting labels, promoting the Seminar, on coffee sleeves to be delivered to local coffee stands. By the time the workers had assembled nearly 1000 coffee sleeves the bags had arrived. Working in an assembly-line fashion, the workers made short work of the packing task. In less than an hour the whole job was done.

With their "work" completed the volunteers quickly transformed the worktables into dining tables with pink and green tablecloths and matching tableware and enthusiastically turned their attention to the much-anticipated potluck buffet. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in pleasant occupation—eating and enjoying each others' company while sharing stories and laughter.

Everyone was very appreciative of Linda's hospitality in sharing her beautiful home, and the seminar committee was thankful for all the extra help. The event was an overall success; not only did a big job get done quickly, but what would have been a tedious chore for a few became a fun event for everyone who participated. ■

## SLC Research Prep Class on Nov 10

By Shanda Hoover & Dorothy Lindquist

In an earnest effort to provide assistance to members who are either already planning on going to Salt Lake City (SLC), Utah to the Family History Library (FHL) or trying to decide if they should make the trip, the Education Committee has arranged a special presentation by Kari Trogdon, Director of the Bremerton Family History Center. On Wednesday, November 10 at 1:00pm at the Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) Library, Kari will share information on how individuals planning to visit the FHL can maximize their time in SLC by preparing in advance. Kari will discuss what resources and records are avail-

able at the FHL, how to utilize the online Library Catalog at FamilySearch.org, and what researchers should plan to bring with them.

In order to get this valuable information to members who have already committed to the 2011 PSGS Research Trip to SLC in a timely fashion, this special educational program is being offered in addition to November's already scheduled genealogy classes. Anyone who is interested in learning about how to get ready for researching at the FHL is welcome to attend, but advance registration is required. To register visit the PSGS Library or call 360-874-8813. ■

# Seminar to Remember

By Shanda Hoover & Sandie Morrison

The 2010 Genealogy Seminar, put on by the Puget Sound Genealogical Society September 25, had a winning combination—an superb keynote speaker, an awesome venue, and a great selection of classes—generating net proceeds of \$2775, a record-breaking result for this bi-annual event. Attendance totaled 87 participants and included 28 non-members from destinations as far away as Arlington, Elma, Olympia, Port Townsend, and Black Diamond.

After an anxious hour in the morning over Wi-Fi issues, the rest of the day proceeded flawlessly. Check-in and registration were effortless. After receiving a registration packet and “goodie bag,” early arrivals were directed to the Fellowship Hall where there was coffee and muffins and tables adorned with dahlia arrangements. At 9am, enthusiastic attendees gathered for the opening lecture from Mary Kozy and from there the fun just didn’t stop. In addition to three lectures from Mary Kozy, attendees were able to attend two of 14 different classes and explore the offerings of 12 vendors, including the always-popular Heritage Quest. The day concluded with a drawing for the 500GB portable harddrive raffle prize and the Ancestry.com World

Deluxe subscription and Family Tree Maker 2010 software door prizes.

Feedback forms collected from attendees indicate that the seminar was a hit among attendees, whose favorable comments complimented the seminar’s organization and indicated the desire for another PSGS seminar in the future.

The success of this year’s seminar is the result of the excellent leadership of Sandie Morrison and Linda Webb, the dedication of the seminar committee, and an amazing volunteer effort. In addition to the instructors, a special heartfelt thanks goes to Mary Kozy, to Pastor Kevin Hestead and Associate Pastor Joel Morris of the First Christian Church, and all those individuals and businesses who helped support the PSGS seminar with donations of flowers, raffle/door prizes, food, projectors, and “goodie bag” items.



Seminar attendees gather to listen to speaker Mary Kozy.

# Twin Firs Tour “Surprise” Story

By Gail Reynolds

There was a surprise speaker at the Twin Firs Cemetery Walk in Belfair on Saturday, August 6. Inspired by his daughter Paulette Cody’s presentation on the Demiro family, “Cap” Demiro spontaneously went on to regale the audience with stories about his youth. Cap’s contribution was a wonderful addition to the scheduled program of speakers there to present information on some of the notable “residents” of the cemetery.

Over the course of the event, which was sponsored by the Belfair Chapter of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society, visitors were conducted on a walking tour of the Twin Firs Cemetery to where various presenters waited to share their stories. Presenters included Belfair Chapter members Judy Joaquin, who shared highlights of Mae Henningson’s life, and Estelle Foster, who talked about Oscar Foster. Other participants were Pat Anderson who represented Ted and Alma Blair, formerly of Dewatto, and Mary Snow who told about the Cokelett family.

Organizers and attendees alike agreed that it was an enjoyable and informative afternoon. “It was an interesting adventure,” said Belfair Chapter President Linnie Griffin, “we all learned at least one new tidbit of local history.” ■

L to R: Bob Edwards and Madi Cataldo

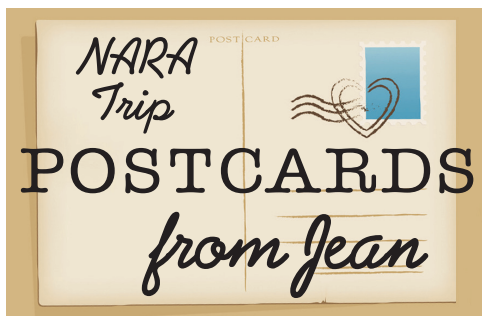


# Cast Your Ballot for Outstanding Member

It is time once again to choose the Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) Outstanding Member of the Year. This annual award is presented to the individual who has made the most significant contribution by volunteer service and/or innovation to the society in the past year, as determined by popular vote. The recipient is honored at the December general meeting and his/her name is engraved on a plaque displayed at the PSGS Library.

When considering who to vote for, members are encouraged to look beyond the familiar faces and think about those individuals who often work behind-the-scenes. Please remember that past recipients, including Sandie Morrison, Dorothy Lindquist, Larry Harden, Marjorie Menees, and Jean Yager, are ineligible to receive this award.

Voting began at the September general meeting and will continue until the November meeting to be held on November 18, 2010. Write-in ballots are available at the monthly meeting or alternatively you may cast your vote by emailing Paulette Waggoner at [prwaggoner@gmail.com](mailto:prwaggoner@gmail.com). Be sure to include “outstanding member” in the subject line and the name of your candidate plus a brief explanation for your choice in the body of the email. Although there are multiple voting opportunities, please be sure to vote only once. ■



I guess the saying, “third time’s a charm,” is true. After scheduling a field trip to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Seattle three different times we finally made it! The first two times the trip had to be postponed at the last minute. What a relief it was when Dorothy Lindquist, Chuck and Rosalie Palmer, and I finally met on the ferry on August 20, 2010 and made our way to NARA. Upon our arrival we were greeted by Educational Specialist Carol Buswell, who gave us a very informative behind-the-scenes tour. Chuck commented on how impressed he was with the intricacies of the NARA’s cataloging and storage systems and the access the public has to so many historical documents. After the tour, Carol had made arrangements for volunteers to be on hand to help us with our research. They were very friendly and helpful.

Even though Dorothy wasn’t able to find the answers to her questions, she did say that each time she goes to NARA she learns more about how to navigate the archives. We all agreed the trip was well worth it and that we’d like to go again. If Rosalie had her way, we would be going once a week; in fact, she said she would like to camp there for several days! I plan to take another field trip to NARA in 2011, so if you’re interested in going, start preparing your research by visiting the NARA website. ■



L to R: Jean Yager, Dorothy Lindquist, Chuck and Rosalie Palmer, and Carol Buswell

# Presidential Ponderings Reflections On A Busy Year

By Linda Webb

As the fall days get shorter, I find myself reflecting back on this past year. So much has happened locally, nationally, and personally for all of us. As my first term as President of PSGS comes to an end I am amazed by all that has been accomplished by this society’s dedicated members. Some-



PSGS President Linda Webb

times I have felt as though I had a tiger by the tail as we charged from one major project to another. As a group we have shared some humorous moments as we priced “mystery” items for our annual garage sales, challenging moments as we deliberated tough decisions regarding raising membership dues and renewing our lease, and sad moments as we mourned the passing of two of our long-time members, Cyril Taylor and Frank Hazard. Through it all, we have stayed focused on our stated mission of preserving family history through education and research.

This has been a year of milestones for our society. Over the course of the year our membership grew from 71 in January to an all time high of 177 at the end of September. There were also some key personnel changes this year. Among them, a changing of the guard for our library as long-term librarian Marjorie Menees retired and Mary Ann Wright stepped in. As part of that transition, Marge and Mary Ann oversaw the development of a new library catalog listing the more than 8000 books and research materials in our collection. Another major change occurred when Shanda Hoover took on the job of editor of *The Backtracker* after Cyril Taylor resigned due to his poor health. In the first two issues under her leadership, Shanda has redesigned *The Backtracker* to reflect her background in graphic design, and with

the help of her dedicated team she has expanded the newsletter’s content while reducing the production costs.

This year the Website Committee spearheaded an innovative alternative to the PSGS website as a means for providing up-to-date information on all the various committee meet-

ings, classes, field trips, SIGs, and special events by creating “The Bulletin,” an electronic communiqué sent via email to the entire membership each month. In July, the innovation continued when *The Backtracker* made its debut in electronic format also distributed via email. Other noteworthy accomplishments include: the Obituary Committee’s completion of a much-anticipated update of the Obituary Index containing nearly 29,000 obituary listings, and the Education Committee’s expansion of the number and scope of their educational offerings to a total of 20 genealogy classes, by my count.

Of course, the foundation for all of our endeavors is the ability to pay our way, which wouldn’t be possible without the success of this year’s four fundraising events. With Sandie Morrison as project leader for both the Antique Faire and the PSGS Seminar, along with a host of hardworking volunteers, we exceeded our financial expectations and, thanks to the Harden and Lindquist families, both garage sales were equally profitable.

As the year winds to a close, planning has already begun for next year’s programs, classes, and special events. So don’t delay, renew your membership for 2011 now and join me for another year of genealogy and fun. Meanwhile, my heartfelt thanks goes to everyone who has contributed so much to make this past year successful. ■

# Introductions...

The Introductions column introduces new members who have joined Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) in the quarter prior to the publication of the newsletter. On behalf of PSGS, *The Backtracer* welcomes the individuals featured below, as well as the 15 other new members who have joined since July 19, 2010, including: Tim & Barbara Bailey, Sandra Arps, Diane Bertram, Kim Churchill, Michael Fisher, Leroy & Sherry Gilbert, Audrey Harris, Trish Harrison, Tina Hart, Midge Loser, Anthony Otto, Roxanne Payne, and Karen Watson. Due to time constraints not all individuals could be interviewed. If you are a new member and would like to appear in the Introductions column, email [niledesign@totacc.com](mailto:niledesign@totacc.com).

**Georgianna Akers** – Georgianna was born in Bremerton, Washington, and has lived in Kitsap County most of her life. Her maternal grandparents homesteaded in Manchester in 1908. She has been interested in genealogy since she was a teenager. She is researching numerous lines including Bowman, Bradley, Chesser, Davis, Endsley, Drummond, Fitz, Hatfield, Hays, Jennings, Kelsey, Lathrop, Marsh, Maxon, Sepaugh, Ruckel, Shahan, Thorp, Whitley, Worth, Day, and Zimmerman.

**Alta Drane** – Alta was born in Rochester, Minnesota, but her family moved to Eatonville, Washington, when she was five years old. Alta became involved in genealogy last January, after joining daughter Jean Yager on the PSGS research trip to Salt Lake City. Some of the surnames Alta is researching are Applebe, Stackhouse, and Jones in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky and New York.

**Margot Filley** – Margot, a New York Times crossword puzzle enthusiast, began her family research just this past July and says, “researching my kin is like solving a big puzzle to me!” Margot was born in Reed City, Michigan. Her mother’s roots are in Canada beginning in the early 1800s. Most of Margot’s ancestors emigrated from the British Isles to Canada, and then to Michigan. At present the surnames Margot is researching are Anderson, Barney, Gordon, and Lareva.

**Arlene Lind** – Arlene was born in Pomeroy, Washington, but grew up in Clarkston, Washington. Since high school Arlene has lived in Virginia and B.C., Canada, and Washington cities including Spokane, Mercer Island, and Bremerton. As a “scrapbooker” she has collected articles and pictures of her family most of her life and this led to her interest in genealogy. The surnames Arlene is researching are Evans, McEachen, Jeffreys, Foster, and Kidwell from Scotland, Germany, and Illinois.

**Bob McGinnis** – Bob was born on the prairie northeast of Rapid City, South Dakota. He was 15 years old when he began writing down the stories his grandmother told about the family, and they inspired his interest in genealogy. Some of the names he is researching are McGinnis, Maas, Harriman, Callendar, and Fink in Mississippi, New Hampshire, Illinois, Maine, California, South Dakota, Colorado, and Texas.

**Doug Nelson** – Doug was born in Seattle, Washington, and has lived in Kingston for 37 years. He began researching his family in 2000. Doug is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and is involved in organizing a new chapter in the Silverdale area. The surnames he is researching are Deaver, Wilcoxon, Dent, Churchill, Rathbone, and Cubberly found in West Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, England, and Ireland.

**Diane Robinson** – Originally a native of Pensacola, Florida, Diane has been a resident of Kitsap County for the past 30 years. She loves researching people who have made a difference in Kitsap County such as Lillian Walker, a local civil rights leader. She has traced her own family back to the Spanish regime in Florida. The names she is researching are Palmas (or Palmer), Humphrey, Elliott, and Antione (or Antone).

**Kim Richter** – Kim was born in Palo Alto, California. She loves a good mystery as well as history and says she is “hooked” on genealogy. She began her researching



**H**itting a brick wall can discourage even the most devoted researcher, but sometimes getting a new perspective on the same information can lead to success. This was the idea behind Linda Webb’s interactive class last August. Solving a brick wall takes persistence and patience. There is no magic answer, but luckily, there are several strategies that can help scale the wall a brick at a time.

Start by reviewing the records you have to determine what you know and what you don’t. Where possible, look at the record itself along with any notes you have written, then create a “discrepancy chart,” which shows the gaps or omissions in the ancestor’s information. Write down the items that you want to follow up on, ideas about where you can look, and any other actions that may help fill in the blanks.

Create a timeline for the person or line you are researching. Often vital clues are found when you understand what was happening historically or politically in your ancestor’s life. Track down any land records that may be available and pay special attention to boundaries that may have changed over time.

Expand your search to include surrounding families or relatives. Be sure to try name variants and combinations of initials, nicknames or other ideas that pop up. Remember to look for death records or related documents such as wills or probate since death information often contains vital statistics, such as mothers’ maiden names or other clues.

When you hit a dry spell, ask for help. Have others look at your data and brainstorm new ideas. Connect with others who are researching the same family lines through queries. The Internet makes this both exciting and rewarding.

Remember, successfully scaling brick walls is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration, but the hard work pays off. ■

(continued on page 15)

# Putting Down Roots

## Family Ties & Tall Tales

By Carol Caldwell



**M**y maternal grandfather was Ira Leslie Lewis, one of 11 children from Oklahoma and Texas. He had a lot of nieces and nephews. I never really knew which brother or sister they belonged to and didn't care until I began to sort through names for my family tree. Of course, the name you grow up calling a relative is not always their given name—sometimes it isn't even close. On the advice of a friend I visited the surname message boards on the Internet, looking for familiar information and leaving my own messages. Those kinds of sites do not have a lot of traffic, so you need to let them be for awhile and visit them every couple of months (if you can remember). I don't visit them often because I forget they are there.

Last spring my husband and I returned from a long trip overseas. It took me awhile to get to my email messages, but when I did, I found one from a woman who had seen one of my messages on the Lewis surname board, and she asked if my Ira Lewis was the same one that was a brother of her grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Lewis. Eureka! I didn't know who Mary Elizabeth Lewis was, but the other info she gave assured me that I had found a real cousin, the granddaughter of my Great-Aunt Lizzy. Her name was Nancy and she thought she remembered playing with me at my grandparents' house once. She also remembered my mother. She had many interesting stories to share about my grandfather who was prone to tell tall tales and exaggerate. Finding Nancy was almost like finding home. She is someone I can share memories with.

After sharing family stories, we have

embarked on a search to see if some of the stories are true. We have good information for two generations back from our grandparents, but then it gets "iffy." The one tale that seems to have been passed around is that there is Native American blood in the family, but no one knows whom the Native was.

During our search we discovered that our great-grandfather, John Calvin Lewis, applied for reparations in Oklahoma for people who had family members on the "Trail of Tears" when the Cherokee and Seminole tribes were moved from the southern states to Oklahoma. Nancy sent away for copies of the application, and also received copies of the rejection letter and an affidavit by John's wife, our great-grandmother Callie (Ard) Lewis. John died shortly after he applied and Callie pursued it. It seems John's application was rejected because he said his family stayed in Florida and didn't go to Oklahoma. My mind boggles at the idea that he applied for money that was not due him. He had even moved his family

from Texas to Oklahoma to apply. I guess my grandfather was not the only one in the family that told tall tales.

My grandfather died in 1985 and the last story he told of his parents was that his father (who was a farmer) was a doctor who went to Panama to treat the workers on the Canal for malaria. Then he said his grandmother's name was Gray, a Seminole Indian related to Osceola in Florida. I knew right away that he made up the story about his father being a doctor in Panama. However, I didn't know what to think about the Indian part of the story. Nancy and I are still trying to find out where that came from, and we are almost ready to give up on it as another tall tale except for the fact that John Calvin Lewis' mother, Elizabeth "Bettie" (Hurst) Lewis was from Georgia/Florida.

Then recently, Nancy received an email from another cousin from a generation younger than we are. Tammy is a great-granddaughter of one of our grandparents' twin brothers Archie Blue Lewis. Her side of the Indian story is that the relative was a son or nephew of Sitting Bull! Now that is really stretching the imagination more than the Seminole theory. Tammy also told Nancy that her mother visited my grandfather, the movie producer! No, he wasn't a "movie producer," he was a salesman, and he was always trying to sell somebody something. ■



My grandfather Ira Lewis in 1940s





# John D Hawk

## BIOGRAPHY

By Marilyn Roberts

The dictionary defines “hero” as a man of valor, fortitude, or bold enterprise. In mythology and legend a hero is one who is endowed with great strength and courage, celebrated for his bold exploits and favored by the gods. Another entry states a hero is “a person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life.”

I asked my brother-in-law and personal hero, Sgt. John D “Bud” Hawk, holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Bronze Star, four Purple Hearts, and the French Legion of Honor what his thoughts were on the subject. He replied with a smile saying, “probably someone unlucky enough to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, but still doing what was necessary at the time to survive.”

Bud was born May 30, 1924 in San Francisco, California to Margaret and Louis Hawk. As a young boy he moved to Bainbridge Island with his parents and two sisters. There he grew up learning how to take care of himself in the outdoors and becoming an excellent shot with a rifle—much to the dismay of the local rabbit and squirrel population. He attended Bainbridge High School where he earned a position on the football team, not based on his size but on his ability to outrun almost everyone. Upon graduation in June 1943, he was promptly drafted into the US Army. After boot camp and further training he was sent to France, becoming part of Company E, 359<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army under Gen. George S Patton.

PFC Hawk did indeed land at Normandy, but it was ten days after D-Day and on a C-47 aircraft flown from England as a replacement. As he and his fellow infantrymen exited the aircraft on one side, the injured were being placed on the other side of the plane to be flown to hospitals. The Americans and French



Sgt. John “Bud” Hawk (Age 86)

had fought their way to the hedgerows of Chambois, France, where they encountered fierce fighting from massive German Army and artillery. It is there that Bud received what is called a “bang promotion” when he was chosen to replace his wounded sergeant.

At dawn on August 20, 1944, the machine-gun squad that Bud commanded was in the way of German tanks and infantry trying to escape back to defend their homeland. His gunners were badly outnumbered but were holding off the German soldiers while German tanks were advancing. The tanks took out one of his squad’s machine guns and ran over another. Bud soon found out that apple trees don’t make good cover when a shell came through the tree, hitting him in the right thigh. Despite his injury, Bud reorganized his squad and had them quickly assemble one working machine gun out of the remains of the others. As the German tanks were trying to escape, Bud was in contact with American tank destroyers that were ready to fire but unable to see the enemy. So Bud positioned himself as a target for the American guns and ran back and forth numerous times to correct their position until the tanks were either destroyed or driven off. His actions resulted in the

surrender of over 500 German soldiers. After the battle Bud’s leg wound was treated but, unwilling to be separated from his unit, he refused hospitalization and continued on into Germany just before the Battle of the Bulge where he was wounded again.

In December 1944 he was put on limited duty for recuperation and sent to Paris, France, where he worked in the base post office. Still in need of further recuperation Bud was allowed to return to Washington State for 45 days of R&R. It was while he was here that he learned he was to receive the Medal of Honor. When he asked why, his superior’s response was, “damned if I know.”

Bud had been injured numerous times and, in his own words, “was a mess.” Due to his health, the five-day train ride to Washington D.C. would have been an arduous trip. Luckily a friend of his from Bainbridge Island, Senator Warren G Magnuson, intervened on his behalf and President Truman consented to travel to Olympia to present him the medal. So in the summer of 1945, at the age of 21, accompanied by a very proud mother and father, Bud was presented this nation’s highest honor for bravery above and beyond the call of duty—the Congressional Medal of Honor.

After his discharge Bud took classes at Olympic College in Bremerton, and eventually transferred to the University of Washington where he earned a degree in biology. In June 1947 Bud married Natalene Crandall (my sister) and they had three children together, one of whom died as a child. After obtaining his teaching certificate, Bud worked for more than 30 years for the Central Kitsap School District, first as a teacher and then as a principal. Together, Bud and Natalene often traveled to military functions and attended several presidential inaugurations.

Bud still does not think of his actions during the war as bravery; he simply feels that there was something that needed to be done and he did it. He will tell you that he is only the caretaker of the medal for his comrades who were left behind on the battlefield. He is very proud to have served his country when he was called, and my family and I are very proud to call him our hero. ■

Mary Ann Wright's

# Library Report



This quarter our library received a generous donation of books in memory of Muriel Lee Hagmann. These reference materials include *Annals of Buffalo Valley, Pennsylvania, 1755-1855* (PA82), collated by John Blair Linn, and *Revolutionary Soldiers Resident or Dying in Onondaga County, New York* (NY 09) written by Rev W M Beauchamp. A two-volume *History of Western Massachusetts* (MA47A & B), by Josiah Gilbert Holland, includes separate histories of the one hundred towns in the counties of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire. Of particular interest to those with ancestors from the Pennsylvania area is *Genealogical Abstracts of The Laws of Pennsylvania and The Statutes at Large* (PA 83), compiled by Candy Crocker Livengood. This book contains an abstraction of every name from every book of laws and statutes beginning in 1683. Some of the topics covered in these early laws include name changes, divorces, debtors in prison, and Revolutionary War pensions, among others.

Two new family history books chronicle the lives of families in Pennsylvania and Virginia. The first, *Jacob Woodward Colladay and His Descendants* (FAM 16), compiled by Wayne Jones, follows Jacob and his wife Julia Ann Stull (married 1832) and their nine children.

The second, *House By the Water Twelve Generations in Virginia; the Story of Stephen and Agnes Hamlyn* (FAM 189 SPC) by Griffith A Hamlin, is an account of the author's ancestors who have resided continuously in Virginia since 1634. This book is kept at the Librarian's desk because of its fragile binding, but is available for review.

Those of you who have taken our "Solving Brick Walls" class may be interested in delving deeper into the mysteries of how to break down those inevitable challenges. *The Family Tree Problem Solver* (INS 03), by Marsha Hoffman Rising, explores

how to research prior to 1850, find those collateral relatives, and effectively search court and land records by helping you plan your strategies for success.

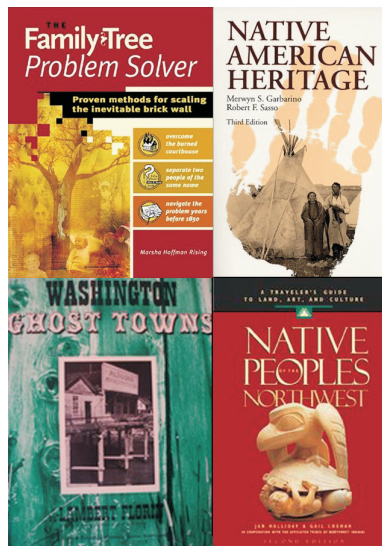
Did your ancestors live or work in a small town in Washington no one ever heard of? *Washington Ghost Towns* (WA262), by Lambert Florin, explores the history of several towns from Altoona to Vader that may qualify as "ghost" towns. The book is full of photos and stories of the former residents.

We are in the process of expanding our Native American research section, and two new books are great additions to our collection.

*Native American Heritage* (IND 36), by Merwyn S Carbarino, provides insights into the daily life of individual tribes and is divided into four parts—prehistory, culture areas, general aspects of Indian cultures, and contemporary issues. The book also includes charts, maps, and recommendations for additional reading.

The second book, *Native Peoples of the Northwest* (IND 37), by Jan Halliday & Gail Chehak, was written in cooperation with the Affiliated Tribes of the Pacific Northwest and is a traveler's guide to their land, art, and culture. With more than sixty Native tribes in the Northwest, this book is an invitation to visit their museum collections and cultural heritage centers; learn about their lives, history, art and culture; and see the Northwest through their perspective.

One final exciting addition is the *SAR Patriot Index*, Edition III (MIL 14). This CD, published in collaboration with the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, contains 732,000 records of Patriots and their descendants. The records are lineage-linked to help you trace your family history to Patriots who served in the American Revolution. ■



## Did U Know



Are you familiar with the Familysearch.org website, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? **Did you know** that FamilySearch recently launched a new BETA site? In addition to providing access to over 700 million records via the searchable online databases, the new BETA site provides several new features, such as a Learning Resources section, a guide to FamilySearch Centers, and a Blog. The Learning Resources tab includes a Getting Started section, online research courses, and a Research "Wiki" (a searchable collection of family history articles). This site is still in development; check regularly for new additions.

## Native American Roundtable

Nov 10 • PSGS Library • 10am

*Do you have or think you have Native American ancestors?*

Have you hit a brick wall trying to find resources to help establish your Native American heritage as fact? Brainstorm with fellow researchers at this Native American roots discussion group.

## RESOURCES TO GET YOU ORGANIZED

If you are looking for inspiration or some helpful tips to help you with any kind of organizational need, whether managing your paper files, setting up folders on your computer for your genealogy files and media, or making sense of your sources, the PSGS library has resources to meet your needs.

In Emily Croom's book, *Unpuzzling Your Past* (GUI 60), the author provides a variety of tools and information to help you begin your family history adventure and interesting examples each step along the way. The first chapter will get you started with suggestions on various filing systems, taking notes efficiently, and using the computer to organize notes, photos, and documents. The second chapter emphasizes the importance of adding sources to family group sheets and includes examples of how to complete the family group sheet, the five-generation chart, and a chronological profile. In addition, strategies for success, such as being systematic, resourceful, thorough, considerate, cautious, and passionate about accuracy are covered in the third chapter.

In another resource, *A Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy* (GUI 40), by Val D Greenwood, there is an informative discussion on evaluating evidence. In the fourth chapter the author defines the types of evidence, compares sources versus evidence, and suggests ways to handle conflicting records and apply the standard of proof. In chapter seven, Ms Greenwood stresses the importance of taking quality research notes, including making a note of the purpose of your search and documenting your sources. Finally, in chapter nine, using computers to create charts and tables as well as organizing and storing genealogical information are covered.

For assistance with citing sources, *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (INS 17), by Elizabeth Shown Mills, is the go-to resource. This book explains genealogical standards for citation and analysis and provides over 300 models for citing conventional and online materials common to family history. She notes that the purpose of source citations is not to create anxiety but to eliminate it by preventing mistakes and misunderstandings.

And, finally, *The Family Tree Problem Solver* (INS 03), by Marsha Hoffman Rising, offers creative ideas for finding the records and information you lack through step-by-step directions and case studies. The author devotes the book's final chapter to showing you how to assess and analyze the records you find.

These resources are just a few of the genealogical titles in print that highlight organizational techniques to help you manage your data. Check with the Kitsap Regional Library or local bookstore for more suggestions. ■

## Take a Class or Join a SIG

By Shanda Hoover

One of the greatest things about being a member of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) is the opportunity to learn and improve research skills by attending classes and to get insights and support from fellow members by participating in SIGs (aka Special Interest Groups). This is more than an occasional perk; this opportunity is available to members several times a month, every month of the year, absolutely free.

The Education Committee is responsible for offering two structured four-hour classes every month of the year (except December). The Education Committee invests a great deal of time and energy into planning and organizing a schedule of classes each year designed to meet the needs and interests of the membership. The result is a diverse offering of genealogical topics taught by volunteer instructors who generously share their experience and expertise. There are basic courses appropriate for beginners, as well as more specialized classes for intermediate and advanced genealogists. While these classes are provided at no cost to members (\$10 for non-members), **advance registration is required** and class size is limited.

As the name implies, SIGs are groups of individuals who band together based on a shared area of specific or "special" interest. PSGS hosts several such "support" groups, most of which meet for about two hours on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. SIGs are open to any interested member and attendance is on a drop-in basis—**no pre-registration** required and no charge ever! It's important to note that SIGs are self-regulated and autonomous groups within PSGS. The group participants, in conjunction with the group's facilitator, determine when the SIG meets, how often it meets, and what happens at those meetings. Depending on the needs of the group the SIG meeting format might include a

(continued on page 16)

### Did U Know

**Did you know** that the Kitsap Regional Library (KRL) recently announced that KRL cardholders now qualify to receive a Seattle Public Library (SPL) card free of charge? Thanks to a cooperative agreement between KRL and SPL, Kitsap County residents are no longer required to purchase a non-resident card for \$85/year to utilize the SPL's services. To receive a free SPL card, KRL cardholders simply have to show their KRL card, proof of address, and valid identification at any branch of the SPL. Kitsap SPL cardholders will be able to access every SPL service except inter-library loan. Like KRL, Seattle's library system offers downloadable materials, online magazine and periodical archives, databases, research materials, foreign language programs, genealogy tools and more. For the genealogist, SPL's online resources include: America's Genealogy Bank, Biography and Genealogy Master Bank, Canadian Genealogy Centre, Digital Sanborn Maps (1867-1970), and GENUKI (Genealogy of the United Kingdom and Ireland).



Lots of hard rain and gusty winds challenged me as I drove to Chehalis to attend the Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) Conference on Friday and Saturday, September 17–18, 2010. I met up with Madi Cataldo, Gail Reynolds, Linnie Griffin, and Rosemarie Welch (all Belfair Chapter members) on Friday evening for the bonus lecture, *Finding the Outlaw in Your Family*, presented by Steven Morrison. After the lecture, we went our separate ways and returned the next morning to listen to the keynote speaker, Diane Van Skiver Gagel. Diane shared four interesting topics I can use to help further my own research. During lunch, WSGS held their Annual Meeting, which included their presentation of the 2010 WSGS Outstanding Volunteers Awards. Fifty-six volunteers received award certificates including two members from our own society—Marlys Marris and Marjorie Menees. Since they weren't present, Madi accepted the certificates on their behalf. It was a great event, but I'm sure the highlight of the conference for the Belfair gals was the door prize drawings! Linnie walked away with two prizes, and Madi, Gail, and Rosemarie each got one. I, however, walked away with none! Next year's conference will be in Richland, Washington on September 16–17, 2011. So mark your calendars because I plan on taking another "field trip." ■



L to R: Jean Yager, Rosemarie Welch, Madi Cataldo, Gail Reynolds & Linnie Griffin. In Front: Diane Van Skiver Gagel

# Marlys Marris BIOGRAPHY

By Madi Cataldo & Shanda Hoover

Marlys Marris was born in Otter Tail County, Minnesota, near the end of the 1920s, the first of three daughters of Wilbur and Dolly Bice Shipley. She spent her first 21 years growing up on her parent's farm, where she learned to deal with Minnesota's harsh, snowy winters. In fact, the winters were so snowy that Marlys remembers skiing to and from school. In the 1940s, there was a terrible outbreak of Bang's Disease in the family's cattle and Marlys' parents were forced to sell the family farm. It was then that the Shipley family moved to Washington and settled in Bremerton, where her father went to work as a shipwright at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Marlys took a job at the People's Store.

Then one day, in the 1950s, Marlys was stopped by Bremerton Policeman Bill Marris, who complained about her noisy muffler. This policeman ended up replacing the muffler for her. They began to date and in 1958 Bill and Marlys were married.

When Marlys was a young woman of 18 she went to visit her aunt in Iowa. During her visit, Marlys' aunt gave her a book that piqued her interest—a county history book that included some of Marlys' ancestors. Motivated by a desire to know more, a genealogist was born. Marlys returned to Iowa several times to visit her family and ask them questions and to visit the cemetery where her ancestors were buried.

In the early 1970s while Marlys was working at the Doctors Clinic, she showed her history book to Dr Drew and discovered a fellow genealogy enthusiast. Inspired by their mutual interest, Marlys and Dr Drew decided to form a club, and together with 13 other like-minded individuals the "Olympic Society" (later renamed Puget Sound Genealogical Society) was established. By 1974 their little club's ranks had grown to 42 members.

It wasn't long before Marlys became aware that there was a need among the Society's members for basic instruction in genealogy research methods, and so she stepped into the void and began teaching classes. She also began writing to authors and publishing companies soliciting donations of resource books that would help club members with their research. After the first few years the club's membership had grown too big to continue to meet at the Doctors Clinic, and it became apparent the Society needed a new home. So in 1975, Marlys' husband, Bill, cleaned out their home's daylight basement and went to work building bookshelves to house the Society's growing collection of genealogical resources. Then, still in the days before computers and Internet research, Marlys organized the Society's first research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The trip proved to be so much fun and such a great benefit to club members that it has become an annual event.

After decades of exhaustive genealogical research that had produced a legacy of results including her book, *The Bice Family History (1800-1987)*, Marlys continues to share her passion. These days Marlys is involved in creating notebooks filled with family group sheets, documents, pictures, war records, newspaper items, and everything she has learned about her ancestors over the years for all her grandchildren.

In recent years, Marlys has had to retire from active participation in the Society's functions due to her health, but the interests and welfare of the organization that she helped spawn remain in her heart at all times. Her earnest desire is that as many folks as possible have the opportunity to delve into their ancestors' past and discover their origins. ■

# Side-by-Side



## Jeanne Menchenton

Member since 2000

Jeanne was born and raised in Corona, California. After school Jeanne married Jim Menchenton and the couple moved to Jim's

hometown of Salem, Massachusetts. A short time afterward they moved to the Bremerton area. Jim went to work at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Jeanne started a home-based custom embroidery business that she ran for 30 years. Jeanne and Jim raised three children and enjoyed more than 60 years together before he passed in 2008.

**Q:** *How did you get started doing genealogy?*

**A:** Probably around 1969, Jim and I started to look for information about his dad, whom he was told had died before he was born. We eventually found out Jim's father hadn't died; he was alive until Jim was about 14 and hadn't lived that far away.

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

**A:** Although I'd taken a class from Marlys Marrs years earlier I was busy with my business and didn't get back to genealogy until after I retired. Then I saw some information in the newspaper about PSGS and looked into it and decided to join.

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

**A:** I have a brick wall in my Lyman family. I am trying to find who Major Ozias Lyman's parents were so I can go back further. I am not sure whether "Major" was Ozias' first name or a title. He was married to Sally Parker and lived in the New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts areas about 1750-1760.

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

**A:** Surnames of interest to me are Lyman in New York and Massachusetts, and my grandmother's family, Newkirk and Barber who were in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Also, I'm researching Jim's family, the Menchentons in Massachusetts and Newfoundland, and Violette in Maine and Massachusetts.

**Q:** *How have you participated in the Society?*

**A:** I was working on the obituary project when Larry Harden was chair and then one day, about seven years ago, I woke up and I was the chair. I've also been the Ways & Means chairperson for the past two years. When I was asked if I would do it and I said, "Sandie, are you going to do the Antique Faire?" and she said yes, and I said, "Dorothy, are you going to do the ChocolateFest and the garage sale?" and she said yes, so I said, "OK, I'll do it." I also host the Family Tree Maker SIG and I'm a volunteer worker on numerous events like the Seminar and Antique Faire. ■



## Johnny Wilson

Member since 2008

Johnny was born and raised in Vallejo, California. Following high school Johnny completed an apprenticeship in electronics at the local shipyard and then served two years with the U.S. Army. After his discharge Johnny worked at the shipyard while completing an AA degree in electronics at the local junior college. In 1994 he transferred to the shipyard in Bremerton where he worked until his retirement in 2008. In 1999 Johnny met his future wife, Linda, at church and they were married January 8, 2000.

**Q:** *How did you get started doing genealogy?*

**A:** It was when I heard the family legends about my ancestors that I got the genealogy bug; prompted by a writing assignment, I had some conversations with my aunt and mother about my heritage. My great aunt told me we were descended from a Choctaw Indian chief. My mother told me my ancestors were French, Irish, Dutch and Indian (Cherokee on my dad's side and Choctaw on her side).

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

**A:** I had attended one of PSGS's general meetings some years back, so when I became interested in researching in earnest, I looked to the society for help. A month after I retired, Linda and I joined the society. Since then I have received instruction on how to research and document my findings by attending numerous classes offered by the society.

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

**A:** I want to confirm my heritage as told to me as a child. So far, I feel confident that I have traced my Taylor line back to a Mississippi Choctaw Indian Chief, Captain James Fletcher. James was one of the many tribal chiefs who signed the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830 that was responsible for the Choctaw nation being moved from Mississippi to Oklahoma Indian Territory on "the Trail of Tears."

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

**A:** My current research covers the Wilson, Daffern, Epperly, Taylor and Fletcher surnames located in Oklahoma Indian Territory, Arkansas, Missouri, and Mississippi.

**Q:** *How have you participated in the Society?*

**A:** In addition to co-hosting the 2nd Saturday film series with my wife Linda, I currently hold the position of Web Master for the society's website. I also volunteer for various committees and am a member of several Special Interest Groups including: Family Tree Maker, Ancestry.com, and Legacy. ■

# Milestones

By Paulette Waggoner

Our condolences go to Cyril Taylor's family. For many years Cyril gave a goodly portion of his time and energy in service to PSGS as treasurer and then editor of *The Backtracer*. He truly helped our society. Thanks in absentia, Cyril.

Congratulations to Paulette and Ross Waggoner for 55 years of marriage. They celebrated with a family party on their anniversary and later took a trip to the Grand Union Hotel on the banks of the Missouri River in Fort Benton, Montana.

We also extend many happy returns to Dorothy and Don Lindquist who took a trip to Winthrop, Washington, in celebration of their 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

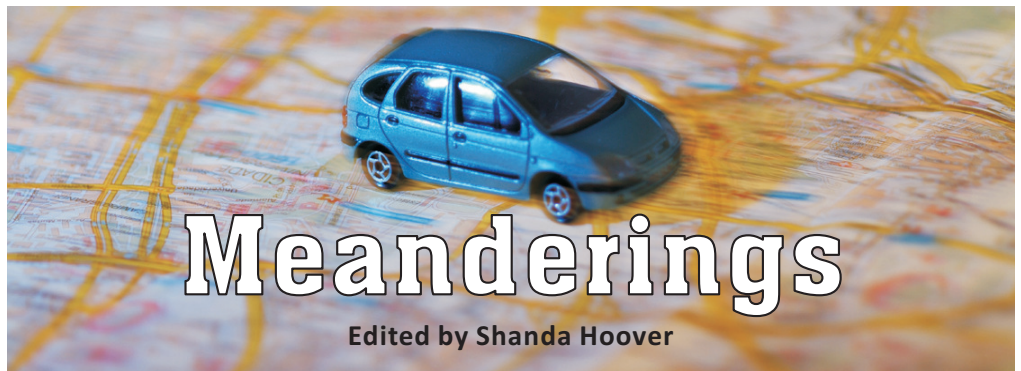
Congratulations to Sandie and Jim Morrison on the purchase of their new home in Manchester. After months of waiting on tenterhooks, we share your excitement that the deal has finally gone through. Rumors have already begun regarding a Manchester Chapter of PSGS.

Hurrahs to Marlys Marrs of Bremer-ton and Marjorie Menees of Port Orchard. These two PSGS members each received a Washington State Genealogical Society Outstanding Volunteer Award in September in recognition of their support of the goals and operation of our Society. We applaud you both; you deserve the recognition for all you've done for PSGS over the years.

A couple of our members have had more than their share of hospitalizations this year. Ken Thornton has recently had another stay in Harrison Hospital, his third this year! He continues to be troubled by heart and kidney problems. Let's hope that an effective treatment is found soon so he can get better and stay better.

Chuck Palmer has also had a rough go this year. After two other surgeries earlier in the year, Chuck had triple bypass surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tacoma on September 30. Chuck has been recovering at home since October 4<sup>th</sup> and his wife Rosalie assures us that "everything is looking good." Keep it

(Continued on page 15)



**W**hen Jean Yager plans a trip, she wants to pack in as much as possible and that includes genealogy. So when Jean and her husband, Richard, agreed to travel to Carlsbad, California to babysit for some friends, Jean made plans to make some genealogy stops along the way. Unfortunately, Jean's plans began to unravel when Richard was unable to accompany her and she had to make the trek alone.

Jean's first stop was The Genealogical Council of Oregon's state conference in Eugene. Elizabeth Shown Mills was the featured speaker at the conference, and Jean focused on her lectures exclusively. During the event, Jean had the opportunity to rub elbows with Elizabeth when she visited Jean's table during a lecture break and later at an "intimate" dinner with 70 other attendees!

After the conference, Jean was ready to start the next leg of her trip and looking forward to making a number of stops en route. When she realized it was Sunday and all the places she had planned to visit were closed, Jean decided to drive straight through to Carlsbad, arriving in 17.5 hours.

In Carlsbad, Jean's babysitting gig went smoothly and she was even able to visit the Carlsbad Library, which has one of the largest genealogical collections in southern California. At the end of her sojourn in Carlsbad, Richard was able to fly down to meet her and together they headed back home via Jean's originally planned route.

The first stop on the reverse journey was the library in Merced. They arrived just before the library closed and were unable to locate the two obituaries Jean wanted, so they abandoned their plans to stop at the cemetery and continued driving north.

The next day, they stopped at a cemetery in Petaluma, where they looked up the grave of their former neighbor. Then it was on to the Eureka Library. Sadly, they arrived just one minute before the library closed and were forced to abandon their obituary look-ups. Instead, they headed straight for the cemetery in Arcata, where they located the graves of Jean's great aunt and uncle.

Ready to stop for the day in Arcata, Jean and Richard were dismayed to discover there were no rooms available. So they ended up driving on to Grants Pass, Oregon before stopping, and in the morning drove the rest of the way home.

While there may have been a few proverbial "bumps in the road" on this particular research trip, Jean does not consider her journey a genealogical failure. She feels that a genealogist should make the best of any trip whether the road leads to genealogy treasures or is full of unfortunate roadblocks.

**O**n the day of their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Georgianna Akers and her husband, Claude "Moe," drove five hours into Iowa. At the Wapello County courthouse in Ottumwa they picked up the 1855 marriage record of Richard Wilford Shahan and Matilda Drummond, Georgianna's 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents. Georgianna was surprised to recognize the name of the Baptist minister on the record, who happened to be the bride's father and Georgianna's 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, Wilford Drummond. Continuing west the Akers located the Brooks and Cuba cemeteries via GPS coordinates. At these locations they found the graves of all three parties mentioned in the marriage record plus two more of Georgianna's 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents.

**Gail Reynolds'**

## BELFAIR BULLETIN

**B**oy, has the Belfair Chapter been busy! At our meeting in August we had a work session and brought interesting research books to share. We also put the final touches on the plans for our Cemetery Walk. By the way, the Cemetery Walk at Twin Firs Cemetery was a great success. I believe Cap Demiro's participation was the best part. Who knew he would come and share such good stories?

September was especially busy. First, there was our general meeting where Jackie Horton told us about settlements in the New York and Connecticut Valley. Then Madi Cataldo, Linnie Griffin, Rosie Welch and I went to Chehalis for the Washington State Genealogical Society's (WSGS) Annual Conference. The conference opened Friday night with dinner, followed by a presentation about outlaws genealogy. On day two the WSGS presented their Outstanding Volunteer Awards and two of PSGS's members, Marlys Marrs and Marjorie Menees, were recipients. How proud we were! As an extra bit of fun, between the four Belfair members we won five raffle prizes.

Near the end of the month we were busy at the PSGS Genealogy Seminar in Port Orchard. The seminar's keynote speaker, Mary Kozy, was the best! I attended two classes that were taught by members of PSGS and learned something new in each one. It was a fruitful day for me because it helped me to get back on track after being on a little detour with my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather. Linnie and Madi were unable to attend the Seminar since they, along with Jackie Horton, Marlys Marrs, and DeLana Cox, were on their annual research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Over the 10 days they were there, Madi discovered a soldier in her line who fought in the Civil War on BOTH sides.

At October's meeting Linnie and Madi recapped the highlights of their SLC trip and others attendees shared some of their new discoveries.

We also planned our November 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Party Potluck at 12:30 pm in the Belfair Library conference room. We hope to see lots of people there. This potluck will be our last meeting until February 2011 since the Belfair Chapter doesn't meet in December and January. See you in 2011!

### Meanderings... *(continued from page 14)*

It was almost dusk when they arrived at Centerville, the county seat of their last known residence for Georgianna's 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents, Sarah (Kelsey) and George Nelson Bowman. The Akers' overnights at a bed and breakfast, just steps away from the Appanoose County courthouse where the next morning Georgianna was able to find land records for the purchase and subsequent sale of 200 acres owned by Sarah and George. The land records revealed that the couple sold their land for more than double their original investment because of plans for the railroad to cross their property. Family tradition held that the couple died in 1873, within a year of the land sale. The next step was to drive north to Albia, in Monroe County, Iowa, where two of George and Sarah's daughters had married.

They arrived in Albia just minutes after the courthouse closed; however, Georgianna knew the local genealogical society's holdings were located in the basement of the nearby public library. A quick trip to the library and 90 minutes later, she emerged victorious! She had found an index listing the location of George N Bowman's probate and guardianship records, proof that George had died in Albia. She also found a plat map that helped her to locate the Bowman's former property so, before riding off into the sunset, Georgianna and Moe drove back to George and Sarah's farm and soaked in the view as a train whistled through the cornfield. ■

### Milestones...

*(continued from page 14)*

going, Chuck; we look forward to seeing you back in action at your favorite SIGs and classes soon.

Not to be left out, Linda Webb, our president, had an unexpected surgery to remove her gallbladder in September. Although she was unable to attend September's general meeting she managed to recover enough to teach two classes at the PSGS Seminar the following week-end! What a trooper!

Clarajane Goux also spent time in the hospital this past September. Thankfully, after a short stint at Swedish Hospital in Seattle, she has been home recuperating since the latter part of the month.

*Hey, enough is enough, the rest of you PSGS members stay healthy!* ■

### Introductions...

*(continued from page 7)*

her family in May of 2010 with the hope of finding her grandmother's birth parents. Surnames she is researching are Catlin in Kentucky and California, Gray in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and Walton in Michigan and New York.

**Nadine Rogers** – Nadine grew up in San Luis Obispo, California, and moved to Oregon in her early 20s. She became interested in genealogy about 35 years ago when she inherited her great-aunt's family history research. Recently, Nadine made contact with a distant cousin who lives in Snohomish, Washington, through Ancestry.com's Member Connect. The surnames she is researching are Benson from Prussia and Rogers, primarily in England and the British Isles.

**Michael Zeitner** – Michael was born in Glasgow, Montana, where he lived until he graduated from high school. Michael recently retired, after 30 years with the Bremerton Naval Shipyard. He started researching his family about a year ago and, since joining PSGS, he has enjoyed attending classes. Michael's ancestors came from Russia, Poland, and Germany and settled in South Dakota. He is researching surnames Zeitner and Lewis. ■

## Take a Class or Join a SIG...

(continued from page 11)

roundtable discussion, one-on-one mentoring, live tutorials, group brainstorming session, or prepared presentation. At present there are four ongoing SIGs including: Legacy, Family Tree Maker, Ancestry.com, and the Virginia-West Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia SIG. Look for two exciting new SIGs in 2011—Citing Your Sources and Brick Walls.

For up-to-date information on available classes and SIG meeting times check the calendar on the PSGS website or the monthly copy of The Bulletin. Members can register for classes at the general meetings, the PSGS Library, or by calling (360) 874-8813. ■

### Cindy Shawley Spore Memorial Library

← 2501 SE Mile Hill Dr • Port Orchard, WA →

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## HELP WANTED

### Volunteers Needed to staff the PSGS Library

Are you available one or two days a month or every other month? Training/Orientation is provided.

Contact Charlotte Long-Thornton at  
[gramapeach@wavecable.com](mailto:gramapeach@wavecable.com)

## !! DONATIONS WANTED !!

### Contributions Needed For Silent Auction!

Quality donations needed for Silent Auction at Dec 8th Christmas Party. Desirable new or "good-as-new" store-bought, hand-crafted, or homemade items are welcome. Donors may designate a minimum bid requirement. All proceeds benefit PSGS.

Contact Shanda Hoover  
**(360) 876-4320** or [niledesign@totacc.com](mailto:niledesign@totacc.com)

## HELP WANTED !!

### Ways & Means Committee Chair

Enterprising, energetic individual to head up Ways & Means committee and identify potential fundraising schemes and organize and execute fundraising projects. The Chair serves on the Budget Committee and is a voting member of the Executive Board.

Email Linda at [lcwebb@wavecable.com](mailto:lcwebb@wavecable.com)

## HELP WANTED !!

### Publicity Committee Chair

Initiative & Innovation describe the individual for this position. Head up the committee that is responsible for promoting PSGS activities and events to the public. The Publicity Chair works closely with the Ways & Means, Website, & Education Committees.

*Excellent interim support available upon request from outgoing chair.*

Email Linda at [lcwebb@wavecable.com](mailto:lcwebb@wavecable.com)



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