



THE BACKTRACKER



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January-March 2013

A Year to Remember for PSGS

by Fran Moyer

PSGS partnered with the Kitsap Regional Library thus enabling us to reach more members of our community and challenged us to participate on a grander scale than we had previously. Our organization and members have grown and excelled at what we do. A look back at the four major accomplishments this past busy, exciting year.

The Partnership with Kitsap Regional Library



We opened our doors on Jan. 2nd and have had a monthly average of 90 visitors to our Genealogy Center.



The Antique Faire



PSGS co-hosts this event with the Historical Society. We had 5 lecturers, 10 appraisers, 50 vendors and over 5500 happy folks come visit President's Hall.



"Digging Up Granny" Seminar



PSGS offered 6 one-hour classes devoted to finding those elusive female ancestors. We also had Tames Alan perform 2 of her "living history" presentations that were not only entertaining, but very informative, as well.



Fall at the Mall—Finding Debbie Macomber's Roots



PSGS participated in one of the Library's "Fall at the Mall" series. Ten of our members worked for seven weeks on Debbie Macomber's genealogy. Our discoveries were presented to Debbie and SRO public.



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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager



A short recap of 2012: we had the annual trip to Salt Lake City; had motivating programs at our monthly meetings; co-sponsored the annual Antique Fair; had volunteers help with the indexing of the 1940 census; offered genealogy classes twice a month; participated in Kitsap Regional Library's "Fall at the Mall"; staffed the PSGS booth at the county fair, not to mention all the volunteers in the Genealogy Center; sponsored the bi-annual fall seminar; and capped the year off with our annual Christmas party.

We have made improvements to our website where we have a "Members Only" area where you can access the color version of *The Backtracker* (archived and current) as well as the Bylaws, Standing Rules and the Member Handbook. Your new VP is Nyla Walsh. Sandie Morrison is just stepping down, not stepping away because we won't let her. ***We encourage our members to get involved, so think seriously about what you can do for your society this coming year, e.g. volunteering in the GC, teaching a class or giving a program presentation. Make this your New Year's resolution! This time next year you will have a new President... something to think about...if I can do it, so can YOU!***

Genealogy Center Report

by Mary Ann Wright



Busy times ahead for the Genealogy Center! Our committee will be establishing a procedure for selecting research material for our collection. We will most likely concentrate on areas where our collection is slim, based on the criteria the committee develops. If you are interested in joining in the conversation, the Genealogy Center committee meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at noon in the Genealogy Center. We would love to have your opinion!

Additionally, we have added several new books to our collection that were generously donated by our members. If you need to clear some space in your office, we'd be happy to accept your research books—and, you can come visit them any time!

And, finally, a huge shout-out to our volunteers!! They racked up an impressive total of 2838.7 hours during 551 individual shifts volunteering their time and expertise in the Genealogy Center this past year. As a result, our 1140 visitors have had personal assistance in learning more about their ancestors, and library patrons have another reason to visit the library. Thank You!

Milestones

by Karin Burke



We have some members who need our good wishes for continued recuperations from surgeries or illness and just extra encouragement. Think good thoughts for Dorothy Lindquist, Kathy De Los Reyes, Jackie Horton, and Martha Smith.

Please remember our members who have recently lost their life-mates. They are Jackie Horton whose husband passed after a long illness and Marlys Marrs who also lost her husband. We extend our sympathies, too, to Holly and Larry Harden on the loss of her mother.

I know there have been a lot of travelers since our last issue. Linda Webb went to Alaska to babysit grandchildren for two weeks and has been going to Utah to help with caregiving for her parents. Jean Yager was gone for two weeks in California to care for friends' children as well, but since they are also home schooled, that was a huge assignment. Jean is very happy to be back home, even though she comes back to the heavy workload as President of PSGS!

Mary Ann Wright traveled to Tennessee to visit her sister and family and Fran Moyer visited family in Pennsylvania and took a day trip to New Jersey for genealogical findings.

Jackie Horton spent a week in the hospital for a viral bronchial infection, during the holidays. It is great to see her back.

Pat Eder had to fly home early from Salt Lake because Ken became ill.

We just heard that Dr. Bill Richardson, one of the founding members of PSGS, died on Dec. 15th. Bill had recurring illnesses, starting in childhood, but never let illness stop him from leading an extraordinary life. He became a physician, had many hobbies and was passionate about genealogy and PSGS.

Outstanding Members of the Year Award 2012



Ann Northcutt (L) and Charlotte Long-Thornton shown receiving the Outstanding Member of the Year Award.

We had a tie this year for the Outstanding Member of the Year Award. **Charlotte Long-Thornton and Ann Northcutt** were both voted by our members to receive this award.

Both work very hard behind the scenes to ensure the PSGS organization runs smoothly. Some of the comments for Charlotte: “expanded her workload with PSGS move to KRL, trains new library volunteers, spends long hours of work on the library work/volunteer schedule” and more...

For Ann: Chairs the school and cemetery committees and now chairs the Antique Fair Committee, works behind the scenes at seminars, teaching classes, busy with nametags to keep track of all of us, and more...

It is members like Charlotte and Ann who keep PSGS an outstanding organization.

Incoming Officers for 2013



The incoming officers as Linda Webb explains the duties of each office.

On the right and from left to right: Karin Burke, Member-at-Large, Terry Mettling, 2nd VP, Larry Harden, Treasurer, Ann Northcutt, secretary, and Nyla Walsh, our newest officer, as 1st VP. President Jean Yager was out of town.



Outgoing Officer, Sandie Morrison

Sandie Morrison has decided to step down as the 1st VP, after many years in that position. That is only one of the several positions she has held since she became a member in 1998, including serving as President. She has been the chair of the 2010 Seminar Committee and the cemetery project. Sandie is a GC volunteer, teaches classes for the Education Committee and has chaired SIGs. Sandie has also served as Chair of Ways & Means and the Antique Fair. Fortunately, Sandie is giving up just a few things, but promises to continue to be a very active member. Thank you, Sandie, for your extraordinary work.





Accessing Ancestry's U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta) by Christine Maltby

Censuses are marvelous genealogical tools, but they come once a decade, and the fire that destroyed the 1890 census created that troublesome twenty year gap.

Many city directories were published annually, providing addresses and occupations for men, and sometimes for women, especially widows and those with a business occupation or personal enterprise. Some directories include reverse directories, listing by house number and street address who were the occupants. Some provide information on street numbering changes.

However, city directories are more problematic than censuses that have been indexed by field, with data keyed in by an individual. It has not proven efficient or cost effective to key in all those directory entries.

Now city directories (and newspapers) are becoming more accessible as the technology for OCR (optical character recognition) advances. Challenges include varying font and size, blurred type, columns, headings, damaged microfilm, or torn pages, variant spellings of names.

So often the best option is to go directly to the source, not using the search boxes on the Ancestry.com home page. The "source" here being the digital image of a microfilm. (This direct approach through the card catalog works just as well with other sources besides the city directories).

U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta) is listed as including 1,051,103,051 records. Experience suggests that number is a raw estimate. (Washington State lists 20 cities. Bremerton's directories range from 1909 to 1960).

This is a Beta version undergoing updates. Many of the later directories are only partial scans. Spelling variations and printing errors in the originals are a challenge. But it's oh, so exciting when a new detail surfaces! Following are steps to help you with this search.

1. On Ancestry's homepage, move the cursor to **Search**, drop down to **Card Catalog**, and click.
2. Under **Filter Titles/Filter by Collection**, scroll to **Schools, Directories & Church Histories** and click.
3. The first entry in the search results (at this time) is **U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)**. Click on that title.
4. Skip over the search boxes in the left column. Below the search boxes is useful introductory information **About U.S. City Directories** At the top of the right hand column, use the drop-down options: first choosing a state, then a city, then the choice of years.
5. After choosing a year, click on the title. This opens the images.
6. Having skipped the step of the search boxes with their unpredictable results, the process is now like scrolling through a microfilm (or thumbing and turning pages of a book) by entering an image number or using the arrows to go forward and back (below the green bar, on the right). Try to estimate at what page the surname might be in the sections and alphabetical listings. (The image number is often different than the page number in the original directory.)
7. Save or print any results.

Did

You

Know

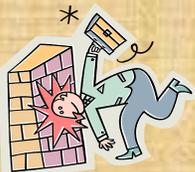


You can geolocate your pictures of headstones and memorials on Google Maps. Just enter the name of the city/town and the street address to automatically geolocate your pictures. Then, you and other members can search for a picture and easily view the nearby headstones and memorials on Google Maps.

from GeoNet Newsletter, via Carol Caldwell

Nova Scotia - Archives Bring 19th Century History Into Digital Age

*Decades of 19th century Nova Scotia history has been given the online treatment at the Nova Scotia Archives. History buffs can now access two early newspapers, the **Acadian Recorder** and the **Liverpool Transcript**, electronically by the click of a button. More than 50 years of history, beginning in 1813 are available. The **Acadian Recorder** from 1813 to 1853 is online, as well as the **Liverpool Transcript** from 1854 to 1867.*



Solving a Brick Wall — The Swede Who Wasn't

by Marilyn Jorgenson as told to
Carol Caldwell



Immigrants from Finland, Hannah & Charles Erickson, married in Tower, Minn.



The family farm in Finland, in continuous use for over 400 years



Marilyn's paternal great grandmother, Maja

Marilyn Jorgenson was born an Erickson. She and her siblings always assumed the family was Swedish because her grandfather, Charles Erickson, spoke Swedish. When she began to research family history she hit a brick wall. She could not find any link to her family in Sweden.

Then Marilyn took a Genealogy 101 class where she learned how to send away for birth certificates. She sent to Minnesota for her father's and his siblings' information. When the certificates came, they only heightened the mystery. Half of the certificates said Marilyn's grandfather was born in Sweden and half of them said he was born in Finland.

Marilyn set genealogy aside for awhile until she received a strange call one day. A voice with a foreign accent said he thought he was her second cousin. She thought it was a scam for money. But Leif Ronnksog quickly explained that he was visiting Florida from Finland. He knew there must be some relatives in the country because he knew that two brothers immigrated here in 1891. He had done research on his family and found Marilyn through Ancestry.

His explanations cleared up the mystery for Marilyn. The family was Finnish, but spoke Swedish. Her grandfather was born Karl Johan Erickson Ollandt and his brother was Gabriel Ollandt. For whatever reason, Karl changed his name to Charles Erickson, but his brother Gabriel remained an Ollandt.

Marilyn also learned that the ancestral farm in Finland was still in the family after 400 years. Leif sent her a copy of the ship's roster when her grandfather immigrated, along with some pictures. It happens more than not that the answer to our brick walls comes when we aren't looking. Marilyn hasn't been to Finland, but she is looking forward to going.

Did You Know Be sure to try out the new Learning Center in HeritageQuest -- a series of great Videos on a variety of intermediate genealogy topics, taught by experts!

Log onto the Kitsap Regional Library website with your library card number and then select the Genealogy Link under the Information and Resources tab. Find the HeritageQuest Online link on the right side of the page. From the HeritageQuest home page, just click into any section and you will see the Learning Center option across the top on the upper right.



A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



October 24 **“How to Keep Your Records Alive, Even When You Are Not!** **Presenters: Sandie Morrison, Hazel Thornton and Ann Northcutt**

On your list of things you can do to keep your genealogical research alive, hold a family reunion, preserve those family stories, create a family scrapbook, take digital photos of family heirlooms. Share your family’s research with the Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/gifts.html>), the Family History Library in Salt Lake City (https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/7/75/Donations_Guidelines_Revision_12July_2012.pdf), and the Allen County Public Library (<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Donate.aspx>). Organize your materials including your electronic filing system. Make sure a family member has access to your passwords and make backup copies of your research. Be sure to name someone in your will who will be responsible to take all of your genealogy records.

November 14 **“Using Our Nation’s Library Online”** **Presenter: Jean Yager**

The Library of Congress is the research library of the United States and is open to the public. Its collection consists of over 141 million items. The Library of Congress website is an underexplored resource that will benefit genealogists who are interested in U.S. History and want to apply it to their family history research. There are several collections to explore, e.g. the American Memory is an online in the Historical File with a digital collection with over 15.3 million files. Other collections include Prints and Photographs, Historical newspapers, Veterans History, Maps and much more. Visit the library online at www.loc.gov to see their vast inventory. The program handout is also available on the PSGS website under the Members Only tab.



December 5th - the PSGS annual Christmas Party



Once again, our Christmas celebration was well attended and enjoyed by all as you can see! The Yankee Exchange was a highlight with multiple swaps looking for the wine & chocolates. ..hmmm, who got them last?? The potluck was outstanding with plenty for everyone attending and leftovers taken to the library to share. Boxes were full from those bringing food for the food bank. It was a merry time for one and all.





Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

January 23

What's new in Family Search?

Presenter: Carol Johnson

Carol will highlight the latest exciting additions to the popular free website FamilySearch.org and also will share hints and tips on how to make it work for you. If there is time at the end, some of our recent travelers to the Family History Library will highlight their discoveries.

Feb 27

Decoding DNA results

Presenter: Mary Kozy

Come learn from guest speaker Mary Kozy how DNA and genetic genealogy can help you. She'll talk about what DNA is, what kinds of questions it can (and can't) answer, who should be tested, and what the results mean.

Mar 27

Are You Lost in the "Cloud"?

Presenter: Susan Whitford

Join KRL's Director of Technology Susan Whitford as she explains what cloud storage is, what's good and not so good about it, and some ways you can use the "cloud" to save your research and share photos and documents with others.

Schedule of classes-January through March

Jan 26	Saturday	12:30PM-2PM	Curious About Your Family History? A Basic Introduction to Genealogy Presenters: Mary Ann Wright, Elisabeth Demmon, Fran Moyer
Feb 5	Tuesday	10AM-2PM	Timelines—Who, What, When and Why Presenter: Barbara Chesley
Feb 23	Saturday	10AM-2PM	Genealogy 101—Beginning Genealogy Presenter: Jean Yager
Mar 5	Tuesday	10AM-2PM	Organizing Your Stuff Presenters: Jean Yager and Ann Northcutt
Mar 23	Saturday	10AM-2PM	Genealogy 102—Tracking Your Family through the US Census Presenter: Linda Webb

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

Contact: education.chairperson@pusogensoc.org

Putting Down Roots

By Elizabeth Demmon

Part One: Mother Feather Legs & Frontier Life



Orson Demmon family, circa 1897
Middle row sitting: Orson Demmon & wife Mary Pennock Demmon

I always enjoy finding the stories of ancestors behind the records especially female ancestors because they are so difficult to find. One day, while trying to find out more about my husband's paternal

great grandfather, Orson Demmon, I found an intriguing event that was part of the life story of Orson's wife, Mary Cordelia Pennock Demmon.

Mary Pennock's family tree began in America with her ancestor, Samuel Pennock (1679-1792 CT) who sailed from Yorkshire, England to Connecticut in the year 1714. His son James Sr. (1714-1808 VT) was born at sea during the journey. He and his wife, Thankful Boardman (1719 CT - 1798 VT), eventually became founders of the town of Strafford, Orange County, Vermont. Three of their nine sons fought and died at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, including Mary's great-great grandfather, James Jr. (1739 CT - 1777). Two other sons moved to Canada after the Battle.

Some of James Jr.'s descendants (he had 14 children with wife Mary Seeley before he was killed at the Battle of Saratoga) migrated into New York State with several eventually ending up in Illinois. One of these descendants was Mary Cordelia Pennock who was born at Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois on January 28, 1850. She was the child of James Jr.'s great grandson William DeGrasse Pennock (1822 NY - 1898 CO) and Mary Cordelia Chandler (1828 NY - 1888 CO).

In December 1862, Mary and her mother travelled from Rockford, Illinois by covered wagon to the frontier

of Colorado Territory to join her father who was already there. They travelled with Mary's uncle, Andrew Jackson Pennock, his family, and a friend, Ellen Coffin. Ellen was going to join her brothers who had been in the Colorado Territory since 1860. Ellen wrote the story of her journey in the April 1953 issue of The Colorado Magazine; she later married another of Mary's uncles, Porter Pennock.

Mary married 24 year old Orson Jewell Demmon at Burlington, Boulder County, Colorado on November 5, 1867. Orson was a Civil War Veteran, also born in Illinois, who had come to Colorado after the war to seek his fortune. Shortly after their wedding, the young couple travelled to the Territory of Wyoming where they settled down to raise a family. In 1876, Orson and Mary moved to an area about 37 miles north of old Fort Laramie where Orson established a cattle and horse ranch. The 1880 Census lists Orson's occupation as Ranchman.

Mary's neighbors were the Plains Indians, soldiers, and outlaws. The closest female within any distance from Mary's home was Charlotte Shepherd. Charlotte became better known as Mother Feather Legs because one of her visitors noted that when she rode a horse: "Them drawers looked exactly like a feather-legged chicken in a high wind." Mother Feather Legs, whose birthplace and date are unknown, lived in a structure called a half dugout that had a stone fireplace. Mother Feather Legs' place was a hangout for various outlaws along the Cheyenne-Black Hills trails and stage routes as well as a place of entertainment for travelers; a polite euphemism for a one-woman brothel.

One day in 1879, Mary needed female company so she set off to visit the only woman she knew that lived near her. When she arrived, Mary found the body of Mother Feather Legs by a stream, a bucket beside her. Mother Feather Legs had been shot dead.

Putting Down Roots

By Susan Selders Evans

The Stone House



Home, sweet home! I've lamented that they have torn down my childhood—the house I grew up in, my one-room country school, and the homes of my

grandparents. But, my ancestral home remains.

My great-great-great-great-grandfather, George Selders, was kidnapped from the family farm in the Hannover region of Germany about 1734, taken to northern Ireland, and sold to a stone mason (Mr. Baird) who brought him to America.

About 19 years after he worked off his indenture, he asked for the hand of a young lady and was denied by her stepfather because he worked with his hands, according to the family story. He and Miss Ann Leeper eloped from Maryland to western Pennsylvania in 1763. At a fork in the road, they disagreed about the direction they should take. She wanted to go to a settlement on the river, and he wanted to go up into the hills. He gave the horse its head, and they went up to a knoll on the Chestnut Ridge east of Pittsburgh between Ligonier and Latrobe. (The horse should be immortalized—the community on the river fell to an Indian raid shortly after that, and all the Caucasians were slain.)

There, he built a cabin, which was replaced by a larger cabin as the family grew. Finally, in 1792 at the age of 68, he completed a large, four-story stone house. In the basement are two fireplaces, each large enough to roast an ox, and a flowing spring. He numbered the beams in order to support the roof, and the Roman numerals are still legible. Those walls are 30 inches thick. A stone in the peak of the roof reads "G and A S 1792."

George and Ann raised nine children, seven boys and two girls, and buried one boy on that knoll. The first United States census (1790) shows George and Ann with four children over 16 and four under 16; the oldest daughter would have been 29 and probably married. After the stone house was completed, the others began to marry and move away, except the youngest two, Nancy and Benjamin.

George died at 104 in 1828, leaving the house to Nancy and Benjamin. Tax records show the house left the family about 10 years after that. George and Ann lie nearby in unmarked graves in a small country cemetery.

Over the years members of the family migrated as far west as Iowa and back to Illinois where my grandfather was born. Large families were common. My great-great-great-grandfather sired 10 children, and one of his sons had 15! My father was the middle child of seven. I am the eleventh of 26 grandchildren. We are spread from Florida to Washington with two first cousins still back in Illinois. Other descendants of George are found in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, Oregon and other places I don't know—all over the Midwest and Western US.

The couple who own the house and enjoy it for weekends and family gatherings in the country are very generous in sharing the house with George's descendants. They keep a guest book for visiting members of the Selders family. In 2011, I read comments from my father from 1977 and from various aunts and cousins. The spring still provides good, clean water for the household. The drive is lined with trees planted by the parents of the present owner.

Maybe I can't go home again to the house in the cornfields where I grew up in Illinois, but George Selders built for the ages in Pennsylvania, and I treasure that visit to my ancestral home.



Welcome to Our New Members

by Carol Caldwell

Holly Harden – is originally from Port Orchard, where she lives now. However, she did live in Oregon when her father helped build the Tillamook Cheese factory. Her mother was very interested in family history, but Holly wasn't. Then she married Larry Harden, a genealogist, and she didn't have a chance. Larry signed her up with PSGS. She helps him teach some of the genealogy classes, but leaves the research up to him. Her family surnames are Sheets, Rankin, and Kimble. Her Kimble relatives homesteaded the Gig Harbor area and had a farm on the bay.

Mickey Willman – moved to Bremerton from Michigan to be near her recently born granddaughter. Her interest in genealogy grew from hearing stories told by family members when she was young. Just before her father died, she asked him all the questions we wish we could have asked our parents but didn't. She put the information aside, and found it years later. Mickey loves history and libraries, and that is how she discovered PSGS. She recently sent for an Ancestry DNA kit and is looking forward to seeing the results. Her surname research focuses on Donaghy (Donathy), Doty, Lempke, and Lavalley.

Tonia Simpson – is another home-grown girl, originally from Gig Harbor where she still lives. She says family stories always interested her. Two of her favorites are that her grandfather came from Norway when he was 18 and never saw his parents again, and her grandmother came from Holland when she was 3. Tonia learned about PSGS from her friend Robin Horne, and is just now starting her research into Veldkamp, Metheny, Johnson, and Moe families.

Linda Terry – is from Massachusetts and came to Silverdale after spending thirty years in California. Family history always intrigued her, but she had no idea how to start researching. Then she won an introductory genealogy class at a silent auction. From there she found out about PSGS and more classes. She is concentrating on her mother's side of the family with surnames of Avery, Blatchford, and Randall.



Another Classy Year

by Linda Webb,
Education Chair

Ever wondered about those symbols seen on old headstones? Have you searched in vain for a maiden name? Were any of your ancestors here when the country was being founded? Have your research records taken over your office and you still can't find anything you need? Take heart because help is on the way. The Education Committee has been hard at work for several weeks planning the 2013 classes. The upcoming months will feature a wide choice of subjects; all geared toward sharpening research skills.

The education year will kick off with a special presentation entitled "Curious About Your Family?" offered for the first time on Saturday, January 26, 2013. Intended for those who want to know more about this rapidly growing hobby before taking a four hour class, this one and half hour presentation will give an overview of the hobby of genealogy, share information about our society and what it offers and answer questions. What a good way to increase our community outreach!

The ten "First Tuesday" classes, which begin in February, will feature four exciting new topics; an encore of three classes that had long waiting lists and disappointed members who couldn't attend; and updated versions of how to organize your research records, break through a brick wall, and cite your sources—all critical skills for family researchers.

(cont'd on page 11)

Serial One

“Pioneer Days in Malmo” courtesy of IdaMae Swedberg

Part Three:

P. W. Swedberg's excerpts from his diary

Arriving at our destination (Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota) we settled down in a 16x16 foot log cabin with a water proof roof of birch bark, surrounded by virgin forest replete with all the composite and splendor that make up the wonderful kingdom of nature, untouched by the hand of man.

The grub stake was not great to begin with yet we never missed any meals or went hungry because there wasn't anything to eat.

Three or four days after we arrived, I was down along the lake shore a short distance from home when I heard some Indian dogs barking...and suddenly out came an animal the likes of which I had never seen, and went into the lake swimming straight out. I ran back home and told what I had seen, Dad and brother John took the boat and went out after the animal, shot it and came back with a nice deer, a nice lot of meat obtained right in front of the shanty.

There were then some 900 Indians in that part of the country, but there was no hostility toward the coming of the white man. They never took any more game than

needed, that was why the woods were full of it.

I do remember one year when there were very few deer. It was a hard winter for the Indians. They suffered from hunger and sickness.

One bitter cold evening in February an Indian came to the door and asked if we would let him have a few matches to build a fire. He was on his way to Sandy Lake and all he had was a thin red blanket. Mother said to me if I wasn't afraid, we would let him sleep on the floor, he would freeze outdoors in this weather (30 degrees below zero). I told her he is not dangerous, so I told Hitchy he could sleep on our floor in the house and his face brightened considerably.

He understood that Mother was a little shy so he stepped outside and unloaded his Winchester and brought his weapon inside. He asked me where Mother slept, then he stuck the rifle under her bed and gave her all the ammunition.

He had supper, slept well all night and after a hearty breakfast he was on his way, a grateful and happy Indian.

*(cont'd from page 10)***Another Classy Year**

The four new topics, currently in development, include a session in June on how to research those lost female ancestors, July will honor our country's founding history with a look at the times and tribulations our ancestors faced and the wealth of information they left behind. August will be devoted to new ideas for finding and using obscure records and resources, and October will feature an in-depth look at symbols found in cemeteries and other records and how they can tell a story.

If you missed that one class you really wanted, you may get another chance. Making a timeline, church and death records, and learning how read and use land records will be offered again this coming year. These skills are basic tools for every researcher, making them worth attending more than once. The popular 100 Series, taught the fourth Saturday of each month, will continue to be offered on a recurring basis, beginning in February. Geared toward new genealogists, the classes teach the basics of how to get started (101), using the census for research (102) and finding vital records (103). These classes are also a great refresher for the seasoned genealogist who may need a new look at old information.



by Carol Caldwell

MEANDERINGS

by Fran Moyer

In August Bob and I drove to Sun Valley, Idaho for a reunion of Hargesheimers, my dad’s side of the family. My dad had four sisters and three of those sisters had a son and daughter each. The fourth sister had a son and my dad had just me. So we are four sets of first cousins. Some of them I know, but more I didn’t know. Rather than a reunion, it was more like a get-to-know-you affair.

To prepare for the reunion, we sent family pictures, and each wrote a bio on our Hargesheimer parent and ourselves to Cousin Bill. He compiled these in booklets that included a genealogy report I sent him from Family Tree Maker. Bill also posted all the pictures on display boards. It was exciting for me to see an actual picture of our great grandfather, Gustave who came from Germany, plus the Hargesheimer homestead in Rochester, MN.

The family was not close. If my dad visited his sisters or parents, it was usually without my mom and me. So I didn’t get to know my grandparents. I looked forward to hearing stories about them from my cousins, but only Cousin Nancy could recall getting free sodas from Grandpa Gus’s drug store once. There were no stories that passed down from great-grandparents.

We shared about our parents’ lives. I learned that two of my aunts survived breast cancer. One aunt is still living, but suffers from dementia and is unable to remember anything.

Families are strange things and when you go to a reunion,



you need to go without expectations. Because of the report I printed out from Family Tree Maker, the cousins have dubbed me the “keeper of the family history.”



Foundation of the original log cabin church of 1705 and a memorial to Walter Ker



The Old Tennent Church as it appears today, completed in 1753

While visiting Bob’s family in Pennsylvania, we took a day and visited Monmouth, New Jersey, where my 6th GGrandfather, Walter Ker and GGrandmother Margaret Johnstone Ker are buried in the Old Scot’s Cemetery where the First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1705, by Ker and 5 others. The first meeting of Presbyterians in North America was held in the little log cabin. We also visited the Old Tennent Church, which Ker also helped establish before he died in 1748 as the first permanent Presbyterian Church. It was opened in 1751 and completed in 1753.

A letter written by Rev. William Tennent in 1744 states “...there was none so painful in this blessed undertaking as one Walter Ker, who, in the year 1685, for his faithful and conscientious adherence to God and His truth, as professed by the Church of Scotland, was there apprehended and sent to this country under a sentence of perpetual banishment.”

This church is located on Monmouth Battlefield, the largest battlefield in the Revolutionary War. Some of the pews were used for amputations and one of the outbuildings was used by the Royalists. It remains open for services and we were given a tour by its first female pastor in it’s 260 years, Barbara McDonald.



Graves of Walter & Margaret Johnstone Ker located in the Old Scots Cemetery. Walter died June 10, 1748 in his 92nd year.

Side By Side



Nyla Walsh

Member Since 2002

I was born and have lived in Bremerton my entire life as has my husband Lorrin. We met hiking, married young and raised two sons. I was a nurse, crafted and sold stained glass, was a tour guide, traveled the globe and have written a book or two.

Q: How did you get started in genealogy?

My mom did some research and kept a record of her family's marriages, births, deaths, etc. I have been able to find quite a bit about her side through her records. As for my father's side, not so much

Q: How did you come to join PSGS?

Word of mouth and a need for finding out how to do research brought us to PSGS

Q: What are your research goals?

I have some questions that I want to answer, having a few mysteries not answered! I love learning about what happened in the past with my relatives that makes me who I am today. It fascinates me to see what was happening in the world at the same time as each generation lived. It makes both history and family come alive!

Q: Any surnames or locales of special interest?

Crawford, Eldredge, Watt, Morrow, Plummer, Batz/Bates, Franks, Umbreit/Umbrite. Oh, I could go on forever!

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

Helping on committees, working as a volunteer in the library and soon to be 1st VP. By the way if you have wondered about maybe getting involved in any of PSGS projects or working at the library, get on the wagon, it is a great way to learn more and meet new friends to boot! It is not hard, and you will get lots of help getting started!

Alta Drane

Member Since 2010



I was born in Minnesota. My dad moved the family to Washington in 1941 so he could find work. I married John Drane in 1952; he passed on in 2005, a week after his 75th birthday. We lived in Tacoma for ten years, then moved to Bremerton in 1962. When the three children were older, I worked as a secretary for the Bremerton School District, retiring in 1992.

Q: How did you get started in genealogy?

In the late 1990s, my daughter (Jean Yager) started dragging her father and me to different cemeteries and genealogical seminars.

Q: How did you come to join PSGS?

My daughter gave me a membership in my Christmas stocking in 2009. I've enjoyed so much making new friends and listening to their stories of found ancestors.

Q: What are your research goals?

I have a relative that fought in the War of 1812 and I would like to pursue that direction. I really enjoy watching my daughter put my family tree together.

Q: Any surnames or locales of special interest?

We traveled to Minnesota and visited quite a few relatives in cemeteries; also a couple of found cousins living in Baxter, Minnesota. Surnames of Applebee (Appleby), Crabtree, Conover, Jones, Stackhouse and Martin I'm interesting in plus places of Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin. In our search for cemeteries we passed a billboard advertising a hotel, "The only thing we overlook is the river."

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I volunteer at the Genealogy Center as well as several committees, such as the Seminar, Antique Faire and any other committee my daughter suggests that I be on. I am also the hostess chairperson for the PSGS general meetings.

Gail Reynolds'

Belfair Bulletin

I hope this bulletin finds you all healthy and happy. By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year's Day will be over and we will be into making and keeping our resolutions! Before we think about resolutions, let me review the last part of 2012.

In August, Madi Cataldo made a presentation on some of the lexicon used during the Civil War. It was quite interesting and I now know for sure what a "toad sticker" is. September was an exciting meeting for Rosie Welch showed us some of her vast collection of photographs of her family. What great pictures they were and she told us all about each one. I wish that I had all my photographs organized so I could show them off. Maybe that will be one of my 2013 resolutions? Our October meeting was another great presentation by another one of our members, Judy Joaquin. She showed us how she traced just one leg (or is that root or maybe limb) of her family tree. Wish that I could be that exact and just trace the line directly but my family just isn't made that way.

November was our Christmas celebration and potluck. We elected Judy Joaquin as our chairperson for 2013. She already has most of her programs laid out for the year by just asking for volunteers and ideas. Wow – what an organized lady! Judy—keep up the good work and we just may re-elect you next November! The potluck featured delicious food whether store bought or homemade. It was nice to have such a variety. We had a gift exchange as well so everyone went home with their first Christmas present of 2012.

Since our chapter does not have a meeting in either December or January, our next meeting will be February 6, 2013. The time will not change—still 12:30 PM—but since it is tax season, we will be at the QFC meeting room in Belfair. Speaking of resolutions, the meeting room is over the bakery....

I may still be in Arizona for the February meeting but am looking forward to hearing that YOU ALL were there!

A New Microfilm Reader at Sylvan Way

by Mary Ann Wright

A new benefit to our members and visitors to the Sylvan Way Library has finally arrived! The ScanPro 2000 microfilm reader is now located just outside the Genealogy Center. This reader is the same one available to researchers at the Family History Library at Salt Lake City.

This new reader is a joint purchase by the library and our Society. We have been in discussion with KRL this past year, encouraging them to upgrade their current machines. Having this new machine will make it easier to look through the microfilm collection at the library as well as the various films and fiche we brought over after the move from our former Port Orchard location. It will

now be worthwhile to order films through interlibrary loan.

Some of the advantages of the new machine include the ability to adjust the contrast and brightness, select and enlarge a portion of the film image, and save the image to a flash drive or print it. The screen also rotates so those legal probate records are much easier to read. A handy user's guide is displayed near the machine and the reference librarians can provide assistance, though using the machine is pretty intuitive.

Be sure to stop by and check it out!



PSGS Trip to Salt Lake City Family Research Center 2013 by Mary Ann Wright



Some, but not all, of the members who attended

In the middle of December, 19 of the 21 travelers to the PSGS 2013 research trip to Salt Lake City's Family History Library (FHL) met at the Sylvan Way branch to meet each other and learn about the FHL. Larry Harden, trip coordinator, shared specific details on the various arrival times, the hotel courtesy van, location of the hotel, and the free genealogy class that is part of our trip package. Several first-timers are part of the group and they had lots of questions!

Mary Ann Wright repeated the highlights of a presentation Kari Trogden gave a couple of years ago on how to prepare for the trip, including a quick lesson on using the FHL catalog, and other veteran travelers chimed in with their suggestions, too. Lots of questions, but everyone left the meeting with to-do lists to help them prepare as much as possible before the trip. A quick survey of research goals for the trip includes the following:

- o Will Linda Webb finally find her elusive 3rd great grandfather William in Kentucky?
- o Will Nancy Ladenberger locate the burial site of her 2nd great grandparents?
- o Will Karin Burke prove her ancestor Dennis Connor's involvement in the Great Chicago Fire in 1871?
- o Will Mary Ann Wright confirm two of her maternal 3rd great grandparents are siblings?

Some travelers plan to cross the pond in search of ancestors in Germany, Ireland, Scotland, England, and Norway, while others are researching in various Midwest and eastern states, hoping to further their lineage. Kentucky

is mentioned by several travelers . . . what is it about Kentucky research that has us so stymied?

Sunday, January 13 arrived. Our travelers arrived in Salt Lake City, settled in at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, and headed out for dinner. Monday morning saw early breakfasts in the restaurant and then settling down at research tables on the various floors of the Library. The Library can be a little overwhelming for first-timers, so several of them took the quick orientation offered by Library staff to get them started on the right foot.

The day ended by 5pm and the group gathered for an 8pm class on getting the most out of our research at the FHL by using Finding Aids. The Finding Aids cover immigration, military records, county boundary maps, archaic word meanings, and much more. It was a great reminder of the many extra resources available to researchers.

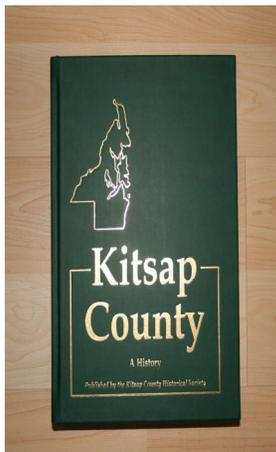
As the week progressed, some brick walls remained intact, while others cracked a bit. Nancy is still looking for her 2nd great grandparents final resting place and Linda is following some tantalizing new clues on her missing 3rd great grandfather. Mary Ann is closer to making the connection with two of her 3rd great grandparents as siblings and Karen is still researching the Chicago Fire. However, Ann Northcutt made a firm connection through two lines of her ancestors who arrived on Mayflower! All in all, everyone seemed pleased with the work they accomplished.

Finally, several of us remarked how helpful the library staff has been. Robin Horne summed it up best when she commented that she hadn't said "Thank You" as often as she has at the Library. Everywhere she turned someone was there asking if she needed any assistance. The library was very busy this trip, due to the Utah Genealogical Association's Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy 2013, but we were never made to feel like we were imposing on the staff and volunteers.



Jeanne & Paulette in the picture on the left and Linda in the picture on the right, working on their genealogy.





The Kitsap County Historical Society first published *Kitsap County: A History* in 1977. A second printing was issued in 1981 with a few minor corrections. Later in the 1980s, the book was out of print and the original plates were lost. In 2007 the Society began work to find and scan as many of the original photographs as

possible, correct errors, include important material and have the book make as much sense as possible. Finally, in 2012, the 3rd edition of *Kitsap County: A History*, was published. This new edition is now available in the Genealogy Center for your perusal and enjoyment. Books are also on sale through the Kitsap Historical Society for \$75.00 plus tax.

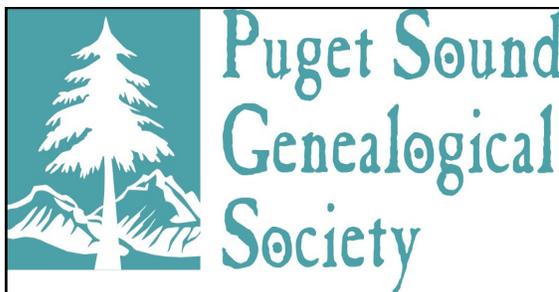
Classified Ads

Join Washington's Civil War Read-in!

In 2013, hundreds of researchers will fan out across Washington State, visiting archives, museums and libraries to read the primary documents of our history, 1857-1871. You are invited to attend a training session and to join the Read-In.

Participants will read an assignment in newspapers, classic published histories, and archival material of all sorts, and then report their discoveries to make a permanent record.

It's not too late to sign up; attendance at one of the training sessions being held around the State this coming February through May will be required. For more information contact: Lorraine McConaghy at lorraine.mcconaghy@wshs.wa.gov



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