



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society [www.pusogensoc.org](http://www.pusogensoc.org)

July through September 2013

## Fun, Mystery, Excitement provide for another successful Antique Show

Our annual Antique Show, co-hosted by the Kitsap County Historical Society and PSGS, was an outstanding success even though we had to hold it on Mother's Day Weekend. We opened the doors to a waiting line of people who, on a warm, sunny weekend came in, many with objects to be appraised, and a steady stream followed throughout Saturday and Sunday.

The vendors were very happy with their sales, all want to return and some are going to tell about our event to their other vendor-friends.

The variety of wonderful objects for sale, the distinctive and beautiful...and sometimes not so, objects for appraisal and the lecturers who gave their time, passion and expertise for those to enjoy all made for a magical day.



Photo courtesy of Gary Beanland

One of the most unusual items ever brought into any of our shows for appraisal was this "smoking chair" made out of moose, elk and deer antlers. The small table had a bored out antler that held the pipe. It was appraised for \$6-7000.



Lecturer Teresa Stone sharing information on her antique tablecloth with the help of Linnie Griffin.

Just one view of a few folks searching for that perfect item. From antique furniture, china, jewelry, tools, linens, albums, clothing, crystal, comics and ephemera, there was something to interest and please everyone.



Necklace made of solid gold nuggets brought back from Alaska in 1914. Also, a solid gold watch with a diamond cover brought back in the late 1870s.



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## Presidential Ponderings

By Jean Yager



Shown with Jean are Bret Peterson and Leslee Dunlap.

I am so glad I went to the Washington State Genealogical Society conference on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. It was held in Yakima and this year they offered a bonus seminar on the 28<sup>th</sup>: "Improved Genealogy through Better Methods and Tech-

niques" presented by Eric Stroschein. This was a four hour hands-on evaluating evidence project. The theme for Saturday was "Researching Rare Apples on Your Family Tree" with keynote speaker Bret Petersen. Bret gave three lectures: *Using Newspapers in Research – You sNEWS, You Lose; Are You My Mother? – Finding the Maiden Name in Your Tree*. I thought I knew everything there is to know about using newspapers and looking for maiden names, but I walked away with some new and improved information. The third lecture, for me, was the BEST! *The Shady Side of the Family Tree – Prison, Criminal, Asylum Records and More*. There were also three break-out sessions offering three lectures each. When I returned to the RV, I had very limited internet access, but was able to check out some of the websites he shared. Bret Petersen is a very entertaining presenter.

We all hear stories of meeting collateral relatives while researching at libraries or archives. Well, I had one of those moments at the conference, but it wasn't a collateral relative but a neighbor who knew my direct ancestor. At the Friday session I was talking to a lady (Leslee Dunlap) across from me who was from Mineral, Washington. I have maternal relatives buried there and I mentioned their names and she knew of them. Mineral isn't a very big town, so I wasn't surprised. Mineral isn't far from Eatonville where my mom grew up and my dad's parents lived. I learned Leslee's grandmother (age 100 and still alive!) knew my dad's mom. In fact, they went on a few trips together and I have my grandma's scrapbooks that document those trips.

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## Milestones

By Karin Burke

Finally, summer is here and many of our members are ready to leave the wonderful weather here! I am included as we are heading for California to see grandbabies. In August, we will be in Texas for our daughter's promotion to Lt Colonel in the Air Force. Many of you know Alicia as she has helped with fundraisers when in town and joins me in Salt Lake City. Jeanne Menchenton is headed south again, too. Mary Ann Wright will spend time in Memphis for her 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.

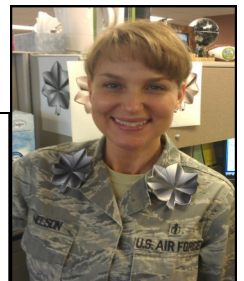
Not all trips to other states are for pleasure. Linda Webb will be spending the rest of the summer in Utah caring for her mother. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Also, our own Johnny Wilson had a stay in the hospital quite suddenly in June. He is doing very well, but needs good thoughts, too. And don't forget about Larry Harden and his new knee.

At this time of year there are graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays. Gail Reynolds and husband, Larry, are celebrating 43 years of wedded bliss. Carol Caldwell and husband, Bob, will soon celebrate 47 years. Best wishes are extended to them and to the graduates that I have heard about from proud relatives. The graduates from high school are a grandson of Gail Reynolds, a great-granddaughter of Jeanne Menchenton, and a granddaughter of Mary Ann Wright. Mary Ann's granddaughter will graduate from high school, join the Army and begin school in Monterey at the Defense Language Institute to become a cryptologic linguist.

I have one more item about Jeanne and her "large" family. If you happen to know that a new Jimmy John's has opened in Bremerton, you might find it interesting that her great-grandson is the manager, another is the delivery person and their cousin is one of the waitresses.

Hope your genealogy "hunt" is successful this summer!

Karin & Michael Burke's daughter, Alicia, pictured on the day her promotion was announced. Alicia has traveled to Salt Lake City several times with our members.







## The Genealogy Center Report

by MaryAnn Wright

This quarter I'm happy to report that the Genealogy Center Committee has recommended the purchase of several books for our collection in the Western States category.

In order to make wise purchases, the committee set priorities. The books would have a wide audience, not be very expensive, be in good condition, and not be available through a local or nearby library. We would look for vital records, county/centennial histories, land/tax/probate records, books on early settlers, church records, etc.

The committee found that some of the books we initially identified were ultimately available as digital books through Google Books or Family Search Books.

Finally, after several months' research, genealogy reference books for Wyoming, New Mexico, and North Dakota have arrived. Additionally, the committee is hoping to add a few books on Colorado in the near future. Our next focus area is the South Central United States, and we are researching possible books on Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Our plan is to have books on these states in our collection during this upcoming quarter.

We would be happy to accept your donations of books, particularly in the above areas, to expand our collection. Be sure to stop by to check out our new additions!

### Charlotte presenting volunteer certificates to some of our library volunteers



### A First Family of Kitsap

Last September, the Kitsap County Historical Society held its second annual Kitsap Heritage Banquet. The five heritage families were selected from over thirty nominees, one from each of the five geographical areas in Kitsap County. To be nominated, a family must have been in Kitsap County at least one hundred years, have made a significant contribution to the community and still have family members living here.

My grandfather's family, the Lent family of Bremerton, was one of the five families so honored for 2012.

Since their arrival in Bremerton, four generations of Lents have participated in local businesses and have served the community in various ways: State Legislator,

### by Marilyn Roberts

Chamber of Commerce, Fire Chief, Elks, Eagles, Charleston City Council, Bremerton Mayor and many other organizations of benefit to the community. The upcoming fifth generation remain active around the county in business, schools, the shipyard and sports. We are proud of our heritage and hope to give back to our community for years to come.

Picture taken at the Kitsap Heritage Banquet: L to R: Commissioner Charlotte Garrido, Donna Gay Lent Boyle, Marilyn McNutt Roberts, Doug Lent and Commissioner Rob Gelder.



## Why Ambrose Mettling Emigrated to the U.S.

By Terry Mettling



Ambrose, shortly after his arrival in the U.S. circa 1854

In the mid-1800's, life in the Alsace-Lorraine was somewhat unsettled to say the least. Having been controlled by France, then Germany, then France again and soon to be back under German control, it was very difficult to know where you belonged.

During this time period, both the German and the French armies would come through to conscript young men

to become soldiers.

One of the aspects to this was that when the "Frenchies" were conscripted for the German army, they were not trusted. Many of these unfortunate young men failed to survive training exercises that the army required. Therefore, it is not very surprising that many young men in this area left for greener pastures when they came of age.

The Mettling family lived for many years in the area of Engenthal, France, a small community about 40 kilometers west of Strasbourg. They were primarily woodworkers and blacksmiths. Apparently, they were good at their craft because the town honored them by planting a tree each year for each living Mettling male.

In 1854, shortly after he turned 21, my gggrandfather Ambrose Mettling decided to leave the Alsace to live somewhere that he had better odds of survival.

His eldest brother, Joseph, had gone to the United States several years earlier and had settled in the vicinity of Frankfort, Kentucky where he had a family and a blacksmith shop. Ambrose traveled the waterways of France to the west and eventually reached Le Havre, on the coast of Normandy. There he embarked on the SS Elvira Owen and arrived at New Orleans on March 7, 1854.

Apparently he had no desire to be conscripted into the French army either as he gave his birthplace to the authorities as Bade, Germany. During this entire trip, he

may have been traveling with a cousin but he disappears upon arrival at New Orleans.

It is very obvious that Ambrose and his family in France had kept in contact with Ambrose's elder brother Joseph in Kentucky. Within weeks, Ambrose had made his way up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to Frankfort, Kentucky where he appears as a witness at his newest niece's christening.

Within the next couple of years, the brothers relocated across the Ohio River to Harrison County, Indiana, where they homesteaded adjoining 80 acre lots.

Today, there is no evidence of Ambrose's residence in this area but the building that was once his brother Joseph's blacksmith shop is still standing.

Ambrose was married 4 times and fathered 10 children, 1 with first wife Elizabeth Ritter, 5 with #2 Elizabeth Lutz (my line), none with #3 Mary Russell and 4 more with #4 Christina Graf.

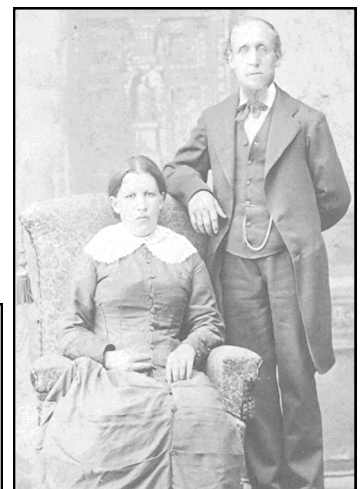
We do not know what happened with his first wife, they were only married a little over two years. Elizabeth Lutz died of smallpox in 1873. Mary Russell & Ambrose were in the process of getting a divorce when she died and Christina Graf outlived him and died in 1936.

We believe the portrait of young Ambrose was taken shortly after he arrived in the U.S. in 1854. He would have been 22 then, about the right age for the picture.

The second picture was of him and his 4th wife Christina Graf and we are guessing that it was taken in the mid 1890's.

One more interesting piece of information that created some in-family animosity was that Christina Graf was the sister of Ambrose's eldest daughter's husband, Peter; making her sister-in-law her stepmother.

Ambrose died in January of 1900 of kidney failure due to complications of alcoholism.



Ambrose shown with his fourth wife, Christina Graf, circa 1890s



Meanderings

by Jean Yager

While planning their spring trip, Jean Yager suggested visiting the D.C. area to her husband, Richard, who quickly responded “let’s go!”

After attending an Easter sunrise service in Carlsbad, California, they headed towards Benton, Franklin County, Illinois.

They had visited this area last year , but were unsuccessful in locating the grave of Jean’s 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather, Andrew Mannering/Manering (her dad’s dad side). In preparing for this year’s trip, Jean rechecked his death certificate and noticed there was a place of burial: Wells Cemetery in Six Mile, Franklin County. Using the Find-A-Grave database, she found the cemetery, checked the list of internments, and found Andrew’s name listed! On the map, it appeared to be located along the same road they had searched the previous year. How had they missed it? Apparently, what couldn’t be seen traveling westerly could be seen, going in the opposite direction. Off to the right, behind a larger cemetery and obstructed by brush, could barely be seen what looked like tombstones. After a short off-road drive along a narrow path, they discovered the Wells cemetery and Andrew along with other family members.

Their next stop was in Columbia, Adair County, Kentucky. Jean’s great grandmother, Valla Dona Nance, (on her dad’s mother side) was born there in 1871. They stopped at the courthouse to inquire about old records. There in a vault-type room they discovered shelves full of old record books. Jackpot! They found land records for Jean’s 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandparents (William and Rebecca Nance, Valla Dona’s parents)!

Next, they headed for Henry County, Virginia. Their objective was to locate the cemetery of Hardin and Mary Nance, Jean’s 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents (William’s parents). They allowed two days to complete this task. After hours

at the Bassett Historical Center, they spent the rest of the day cemetery hopping along the back roads of Henry County. “Find-A-Grave” specifically indicated a “Nance” cemetery somewhere along a road called Morgan Ford Road. This road, as well as those connected to it, was littered with family plots. They stopped at every one but found no Nances. After returning to the RV tired and discouraged, Jean went to “Google Earth” to search the road by satellite for anything resembling a graveyard. There she discovered what looked like gravestones behind a house they had driven by numerous times. The next day they located the house and spoke to the owner. He gave them permission to check out the small plot behind his fence. Excitement, however, again turned into disappointment. They asked the owner if he was aware of any other grave locations. He suggested they talk with his mother who lived next door. She, in turn, led them to another home that had some old gravestones nearby. There the son-in-law of the owner took them down past the home to a small stand of trees with heavy underbrush. There, almost completely hidden from view, was what appeared to be a grave site. After a warning about copperheads and ticks, discretion became the better part of valor for Jean, leaving further exploration to Richard. After some time clearing away brush, he yelled out “I’ve found a gravestone with the letters "NANCE" who died in 1876.” Information on the tombstones indicated that the couple had attended the “Primitive Baptist Church” located nearby but now abandoned.

The following day they headed for Washington D.C. where they would visit the capital area for a few days. This would include a visit to the Library of Congress.

After 46 days, 20 states and 7800 miles (including Kansas) there’s still no place like home.



Picture on the left:  
  
The Wells Cemetery



Picture on the Left:  
  
“Primitive Baptist Church



Picture on the Left:  
  
Morgan Ford Road



## A Look Back...

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



**April 24**                                      **"Chipping Away at Your Brick Walls"**                                      **Presenters: Macomber Research Team**

The focus of this program was to share how the team overcame the problems of making the family connection on the Zimmermann line. They had hit a "brick wall," which is not uncommon in genealogy research. One must keep an open mind and look outside the box for sources, such as ordering books through inter library loan, checking sources in our genealogy center, looking into the history of the area you are researching and taking a second look at the records you have collected. Look closely at all the information on the family and do not take family lore as the final say on a fact. Check beyond and see what might have happened if, for example, a person did not die as the family story said.

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**May 22**    **"Beg, Borrow or Steal?"**    **Presenter: Sandi Morrison**

Land records contain a wealth of genealogical and legal information. Land records are written evidence of people's entitlement to land and property and goes back in time further than virtually any other type of record a genealogist might use.

In America, land and property records apply to more people than any other type of written records.

If you have the name of your ancestor and the time frame they resided in a certain location, look into land records for them. The PSGS Genealogy Center's *Land and Property Research in the United States* by E. Wade Hone is excellent for this purpose. Additional sources include:

National Archives in Washington, D.C. [www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington)

Bureau of Land Management site at BLM's General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

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**June 26**    **"Revolutionary Ancestors"**    **Presenter: Doug Nelson**

Doug shared with us what the Sons of the American Revolution is founded on among other things. The SAR is a "lineage" society, meaning that each member has traced their family tree back to a point of having an ancestor who supported the cause of American Independence during the years 1774-1783.

The SAR application requires listing your lineage and must be accompanied by copies of the documents that support this lineage; this means finding documents linking parents to children through seven to nine generations or more. Just some of the websites he included were:

Sons of the American Revolution <http://www.sar.org/>

Ancestry.com/Revolutionary War <http://www.ancestry.com>

DAR Patriot Search: [http://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research/search?tab\\_ID=1](http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search?tab_ID=1)

Military Records: [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)



## Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

**July 24**                      **Demystifying the library and all its Resources**                      **Presenter: Elisabeth Demmon**

Elisabeth Demmon will take us on a virtual walk through all the library's resources that can help you with your genealogy journey.

**August 28**                      **Cameras, Photos, Genealogy . . . oh, my!**                      **Lorrin Walsh and Kathy De Los Reyes**

Lorrin Walsh and Kathy De Los Reyes will share tips on managing your digital media on the road and at home.

**September 25**                      **Download eBooks from your Library**                      **Sharon Grant**

Did you know KRL has over 10,000 eBooks? Want to learn how to download them? Sharon Grant, Digital Branch Manager at Kitsap Regional Library, will share how to download library eBooks to your computer or portable device.

### Schedule of classes – July through September

<b>Jul 27</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Gen 103 -- Vital Records: Filling in the Blanks Presenter: Ann Northcutt
<b>Aug 6</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Have a Genealogy Question? PSGS volunteers
<b>Aug 24</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Gen 101 -- Beginning Genealogy Presenter: Jean Yager
<b>Sep 3</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Land Records Presenter: Larry Harden
<b>Sep 28</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Gen 102 -- Tracking Your Family through the US Census Presenter: Mary Ann Wright

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

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

# Putting Down Roots

By Larry Harden

## Part Two: The Sheets Family Band



Benjamin Stalker, better known as "Buckskin Ben" Stalker was born "out west" around 1863. Orphaned at the age of five he was raised by cowboys.

Later, while living in Indianapolis,

he decided to start a wild west show. His success in this endeavor was undoubtedly a direct result of the many ranching and shooting skills he had learned out west. The show proved to be an immediate success. The entire Stalker family, Ben, his wife, and their six children, were all part of the performances. As part of their act, his wife stood patiently while he threw knives at her. She repaid him by shooting objects from his hand. They later moved to Cambridge City, Wayne County, Indiana, where they maintained their residence. It became their winter home. Their Wild West Show ran from 1897-1936.

In the summer of 1907, the Sheets Family Band combined with the "Buckskin Ben" Family Band. The whole organization toured the eastern and southern states.

In 1908 "The Sheets Family Concert Company" as they were then called, joined the showboat "New Era" for a life that reads right out of Mark Twain's "Life On The Mississippi."

They traveled the Green, Kanawha, Ohio, Arkansas, Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers and down into the bayou country of Louisiana. Once aboard the "New Era" they had plenty of time to do anything they wanted. They would tie up at a landing around noon, don their fanciest uniforms, march to the center of the town and give a short band concert. Then they had the rest of the day to explore the town, the countryside, or, if there was nothing else to do, they could always go fishing until time for the evening performance.

Once they went up the Kanawha River locks, up into the mining country of West Virginia. When they reached their destination the family piled into a cable car, and, with a huffing, puffing little engine, were transported to the top of one of the mountains. There they were loaded into a mining car and, playing their instruments, were taken through a mine so that the miners might have the

opportunity to hear them. Following that they piled back into their cable car and, while the engine went on, they started back down the hill. The car was operated only by brakes, and they stopped at each little hamlet, got out and gave a short concert then they hopped back in the car, went to the next town and repeated their performance until they reached the bottom of the mountain.

Finally the time came for them to make the long trek down the Mississippi, clear to the bayou country. As they stopped along the sleepy southern towns, the youngsters had an opportunity to watch the field hands picking and loading cotton, singing as they worked. The boat stopped at one cotton plantation where the boys were astonished to see acres and acres of cotton, white and fluffy, under the hot sun. The plantation owner had a railroad track built on the grounds and a small train to transport the cotton to the boat landing. At his request the Sheets family loaded into the open car and were taken all over the plantation, playing as they went. Then in the evening the plantation owner purchased the entire evening's performance for his workers.

Because the Mississippi is tricky, it was necessary to hire different pilots to maneuver the boat through the different sections of the river. After they left Vicksburg, the riverboat captain who was to take the boat on to New Orleans took the time to let the boys steer the huge show boat.

Unfortunately, time does not stand still, and around 1912 the band broke up as the children were growing up and thinking of marriage and families of their own. They later got together for family reunions and anniversaries but never played for the public again.





# Putting Down Roots

By Marilyn Roberts

## The Lents of Bremerton



1905 wedding photo of Shippy Lent & Margaret Allgood married at the Methodist Church at 5th & Pacific

My grandfather, Shippy Brinton Lent, was the second born of seven children to James Hanford Lent and Annie Sarah Lyon at Freeport, Digby County, Nova Scotia, 15 August 1876.

His father was working in the shoe and clothing manufacturing business and immigrated to Lynn, Massachusetts, bringing his family a few years later.

Shippy, being an adventurous soul, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, August 1899 at Boston, MA.

And see the world he did. Serving on board the USS Iowa and USS Wisconsin

he ended up at the Bremerton Navy Shipyard where he was stationed until discharge in 1904. He took a job in the shipyard and fell in love with the area as well as a local young lady, Margaret Maude Allgood and they were married the following year.

He also saw the great potential for growth and opportunity in the young growing city and encouraged one of his brothers, Llewellyn "Lou" Lyon Lent, a journeyman plumber to join him here. They became partners and established a plumbing firm. This in turn encouraged two of their other brothers, Percy Frank Lent and Arthur Judson "Steve" Lent and wives to relocate here.

Parents James Hanford and Annie, knowing that the four boys and their families were going to be making Bremerton their home, decided they too would move and became Bremerton residents in 1909. James opened Lent's Cigars and Tobaccos at 4<sup>th</sup> and Chester where he sold groceries and repaired shoes. Annie, ever the social butterfly, organized a neighborhood ladies' group, the Pansy Circle. She was also active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Red Cross and Sunshine Society.

All the brothers were involved in community service. Shippy served as volunteer fireman and subsequently Fire Chief, retiring in 1936. He then worked for the city as inspector for the Housing Authority and also as a process server for the Bremerton Court System. His daughter, Anna Mabel Lent, lived and worked in Bremerton her entire life.

Lou laid the groundwork for a very successful plumbing business and by 1957 the company had developed into a contracting firm with far-reaching operations. He twice served as a member of the State House of Representatives, was a member of the Charleston City Council and school board member. His sons, Ernest and Harold, carried on the family business.

Frank worked for a while with his brothers then went to work at the Navy Yard as a shipfitter, progressing up to Planning and Estimating. He worked for several private contractors including construction of the largest shipyard crane in the world. After retirement he worked as credit manager for Lent's Inc. His son Bruce had a successful career in the shipyard.

Arthur Judson "Steve" Lent worked in the plumbing and heating business and then worked at the Navy Yard and retired as a pipefitter quartermaster after WWII, returning to Lent's Inc. as a project supervisor. His children were Virginia, Marion and Robert Lent.

All the original Lents who arrived in Bremerton at the beginning of the century have been laid to rest in local cemeteries.



James Hanford Lent & sons, Shippy, Lou, Arthur and Frank at home on 5th Street in Bremerton



James Hanford Lent's cigar store, opened in 1909



## Introductions

by Carol Caldwell

**Rhonda McMullen** – Rhonda comes to us originally from Eugene, Oregon, and moved to North Kitsap after her parents retired here. She never thought much about her home town because her father's Navy career moved the family often. But Eugene took on new meaning when she started to research her family history. She stumbled onto some great historical and genealogical societies early on. The librarian in Poulsbo steered Rhonda to PSGS. She says, "I have truly enjoyed the classes, groups and meetings." Her current search includes the names Colgan, DeVitt, Elder, and Long.

**Leah Snider** – Leah began in Seattle, but her desire to go overseas led her to teach for the Department of Defense Dependents, first in Okinawa and then in Germany. She married an Air Force Officer and continued world and stateside traveling. They retired first to Gig Harbor and now in Silverdale. She discovered PSGS from a brochure in the library. Leah is a first generation American. Her mother came from Norway and her father came from Austria. She has the advantage of family in Norway from whom to glean information. But her brick wall has been finding her father's family since his father deserted the family, and Jewish records were lost or destroyed during WWII. Her dream is to trace her father's family's journey in Eastern Europe and the Ukraine. The surnames she is tracing are Heilpern and Korpus.

**Tonia Simpson** – Tonia is a Gig Harbor native. She has always been interested in family history, but until recent-

ly she did not have the time. Her friend, Robin Horne, led her to PSGS. Her research has focused on finding her mother's grandmother's roots. The family story is that the grandmother was adopted as a child, and was a Native American. But there are no proofs on paper. The physical characteristic of thick black hair seen in Native Americans passed onto her mother and even to Tonia's daughter. The surnames she is concentrating on are Moe, Metheny, and Johnson.

**Kaitlin Eckles** – Kaitlin is a Washington native, living in Seabeck. Her interest in family genealogy began early. However, she needed to dig deeper for an assignment for an English class at Klahowya Secondary School. Her grandmother, Jean Wynn, proposed that they both join PSGS. They enjoyed Genealogy 101, 102, and 103. The names she is working on are Wynn and Hamm.

**Barbara Resager** – Barbara grew up in southern California. She and her husband came to Bainbridge Island in 1985 because there are no olive trees here, to which he is allergic. Barbara has always been interested in family history. Her grandparents lived close by and so did lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins. She heard family stories from an early age. She found PSGS through the library and was very surprised to find a book on one of her research names on our genealogy shelf. That discovery made her a quick fan. Barbara is researching on Rutherford, White-side, Minder, Swinger, Holfer, Larson, and Gallagher.

### Valuation Revision Book Search

This application provides a fully searchable placename index to the **Valuation** Revision Books (VAL/12/B) covering counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone between the years 1864 to 1933. In total, c. 3,900 volumes were digitally captured, with over 440,000 images now available to view online.

The digital application is searchable by Placename (City, County, Parish, Townland) or PRONI Reference. The cities of Londonderry and Belfast have been indexed to Street and Ward level. Use the free text search to find streets.

### Valuation Revision Books in Context

PRONI holds records relating to the valuation of property in Northern Ireland from the 1830s to 1993. The original purpose was, and still remains, the assessment of every building and every piece of land and an estimation of its financial value. A Primary Valuation of Ireland (1848-1864), better known as Griffith's Valuation, followed the first Townland Valuation (VAL/1) of 1828-40. After that properties were valued annually from 1864 until the early 1930s. Each year, valuers recorded any change in the quality or dimensions of the properties, or in the names of occupiers or immediate lessors, and any differences in the acreage and value.



**Did  
You  
Know**

## Annual Salt Lake City Trip for 2014

by Larry Harden

Come and join the Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) on our annual trek to the Family History Library at Salt Lake City.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square [www.plaza-hotel.com](http://www.plaza-hotel.com) from Sunday, February 9, 2014 to Sunday, February 16, 2014. The hotel provides a genealogy package that includes the following:

Rooms are \$85 a night for Single/Double

\$95 a night for Triple

\$105 a night for Quad

\$10 for each rollaway bed.

Plus 12.761% tax (subject to change).

Stay five nights and get the sixth night free.

Included in the genealogy package is a free one hour class.

Please contact Larry Harden at: [leharden@wavecable.com](mailto:leharden@wavecable.com) to reserve your spot at the hotel.

Participants take care of their own transportation and provide a credit card for the room on arrival.

For those interested in **Roots Tech 2014**, it will be held in the Salt Palace Convention Center February 6 to 8, 2014. This is Thursday/Friday/Saturday prior to our arrival. Those interested in attending Roots Tech will need to take care of their own registration and hotel reservations for the event.

## Looking for Officers, Rewarding and Fun

by Judy Joaquin

It is time to find those folks who would like the opportunity to serve in leadership of our organization. All positions are available, but some will be vacant and must be filled. Those are **President, Vice-President and Member-at-Large**. Those occupying other positions would like to run again for those same positions, but anyone can run for any position.

If I or Sandie Morrison or Ann Norhtcutt give you a call to think about running for one of these positions, please remember that we have all served in numerous positions and we loved it!

Below is a short description of the 3 soon to be vacant positions:

### President's Duties:

The President will preside at all Board of Directors, Executive Board and General Membership meetings and supervise all activities of PSGS.

### First Vice President's Duties:

In the absence of the President, the First Vice President will assume the duties of the President. This officer will also serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee to plan and organize the programs for the general membership meetings as well as serve as liaison to the Education Group.

### Secretary's Duties

The Secretary will record the minutes of all General Membership meetings, Board of Director meetings, Executive Board meetings and any Special meetings. This officer will serve as liaison to the Communication Group as well as maintain all PSGS legal records and documents including By-laws and Standing Rules.

### At-Large Representative

The At-Large Representative represents the general membership. This officer is responsible for member communication and correspondence including but not limited to, special announcements, welcome letters, thank you letters, get well and sympathy cards to members as appropriate.



## When Opportunity Knocks...

by Christine Maltby

Magnifying glass in one hand and pen poised in the other, I scrutinized the photocopy of a 1748 land transaction in Farmington, Hartford, Colony of Connecticut. I was making the most of my time at SeaTac, awaiting flight departure. I was startled by a voice, "That looks familiar."

I looked up to find a woman smiling at me. "Are you going to SLIG?" "No, is that something to do with genealogy?" So began my introduction to the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and to the friendliness of Jan Tischmacher -- who was on her way to SLIG.

By luck, coincidence, or godsend, the 2013 SLIG was falling within the same week as Puget Sound Genealogical Society's annual research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. But at that point, I was still confused. So upfront here's the synopsis from the Utah Genealogical Association website:

**The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy is organized into 10-12 subjects, called tracks. The foremost experts in the field for each subject provide students with at least twenty hours of in-depth instruction on their topic. The format allows coordinators and instructors to build on the understanding gained from each lecture, building a foundation rather than giving scattered information. Students leave with a much deeper understanding of the topic at hand. While a few tracks are offered each year, most rotate. Visit our future institutes page for more information. [www.infouga.org/cpage.php?pt=42](http://www.infouga.org/cpage.php?pt=42)**

Each year there's a race to register early to claim a coveted spot. Tuition is \$375/\$425 for intensive study and training of seasoned and serious genealogical researchers. However ... SLIG classes end by 3 pm each day to allow time for research.

Evening lectures by those "foremost experts" are held at 7 and 8:15 pm Monday through Thursday, and the general public is welcomed. The Plenary Session on Monday night is free, and tickets for each of the other evening classes are \$10 each. Jan urged me to attend some evening sessions.

We were both staying at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. The SLIG sessions were just a block away, at the Radisson Hotel. My early Saturday arrival in Salt Lake City allowed a quick check-in before heading for the Family History

Library next door.

A kind and distinguished looking man held the hotel exit door and fell in step beside me. Again, that question -- was I attending SLIG? He too urged me to attend the evening sessions.

I showed up for the Monday evening Plenary Session. Somehow I was not surprised and yet delighted to find that this gentleman was the opening speaker -- Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASQ, FUGA, FNGS, Co-Editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

The topic was *Planning Efficient and Effective Research*. I slipped back into the Plaza Hotel just as Stan Lindeas' presentation on *Obscure and Little Used Records in the FHL* was starting.

After each succeeding day of research at the library, I crossed to the Radisson to hear speakers with new topics and intriguing case studies: Michael Hait *What Is a Reasonably Exhaustive Search?* D. Joshua Taylor *Putting It Together*, Thomas W. Jones *Documentation: The What, Why, Where, and How*, John Philip Colletta *U.S. Passenger Arrival Records, 1820-1930s*, Jay Fonkert *3-D Genealogy: Merging and Separating Identities in Family History Research*, Elissa Scalise Powell *Don't Fish in a Swimming Pool: Creating an Efficient Research Plan*.

Thomas W. Jones differentiated the FamilySearch.org IGI community indexed records from the community-contributed IGI entries.

The next morning I searched for an ancestor in Wittenberg, Saxony, locating an entry with his surname that showed the subject heading - Evangelische Kirche, Wittenberg, Sachsen, Preußen, Germany. Searching under that heading I located microfilms that included the marriage of my ancestors, and the baptismal records for their three older sons!

It wasn't all methods and strategy. Two of the speakers related uncanny stories about research-related finds. Some genealogists believe our ancestors want to be found. I don't disbelieve, but I'm drawn to genealogy by logic as well as intuition.

I do believe in synchronicity, the meaning-filled overlap of events. So as Jan Tischmacher and Thomas W. Jones invited me, you're invited to be open and quick on the uptake when unforeseen opportunities arise.

# Side By Side



**Jim Morrison**

**Member since 1998**

Jim was born in Raleigh, North Dakota. His family moved to Bremerton in 1941, via California and Enumclaw. He graduated from Bremerton High in 1951, from the shipyard apprentice program in 1959 and Olympic College in 1963. Jim had a great 34-year career with the Department of the Navy. He retired in 1988 as the division manager of the navy's aircraft carriers long range advance planning program. While employed by the federal government he enjoyed working part time as a teacher and assistant teacher of ballroom dancing for Olympic College and as a massage therapist.

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

While visiting my sister in Salt Lake City, she took my wife Sandie and I to the Family History Library. She told us that genealogy was a great hobby, but she failed to tell us that it could turn into an obsession

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

My goals are: 1. To track down all of my living cousins; 2. to update the booklet that I wrote in 2005 on the Morrison family history; 3. To improve communications with my cousins on the other family lines and to encourage them to write their family stories.

**Q: Any surnames or locations of special interest?**

The Morrison's and Reed's from Sligo County, Ireland; the Christensen's from Denmark and the Owens from Wales.

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

I have given programs and classes on Irish Research for PSGS. I am a volunteer for the genealogy center. I have assisted with various fundraising efforts in the past such as the antique show, garage sales and seminars. My main contributions have been in supporting my wife Sandie's efforts with PSGS.



**Bev Smith**

**Member since 2009**

I was born in Red Oak, Iowa, and as a preschooler, my parents packed up my brother, myself and our dog and headed west. I grew and was schooled in Shelton, then moved to Port Orchard. I retired from the South Kitsap High School library after 20+ yrs. Walt and I RV'd for awhile, later to spend our winters in Nevada. I wish my children had some interest in what all I have accumulated!

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

My interest started long before I knew anything about researching. As a teen while visiting my maternal grandparents in Iowa, I discovered and was given a college memory/autograph book from the 1860s having belonged to my great-grandmother. This interest laid dormant for many years, and was rekindled after attending a PSGS seminar.

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

I joined PSGS sometime in the early '80s after attending meetings at Marlys Marrs residence.

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

My goals are to hopefully find some of my "missing" ancestors here in the US then dig deeper into the homelands of those from Germany & England.

**O: Any surnames or locales of special interest?**

It is hard to pick any definite surnames/localities as they are all of interest to me from New York to Virginia.

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

My contribution to PSGS? I have to admit, the society has done more for me than me for it. I am on the cemetery committee.



## Gail Reynolds' *Belfair Bulletin*

Wow! The year is half over now...have you met the genealogy goals you set for the New Year of 2013? Something to think about! One of my goals was to put pictures in my Family Tree Maker program. I thought about it at the first of the year but let it slide since it was a goal for last year also. Now my niece has decided that genealogy would be a fun new hobby for her and she wants any information I would be willing to share plus *photos*. So here I am needing to achieve one of my goals so that I can keep her interested.

Our Belfair chapter has been busy. Our April meeting featured Judy Joaquin who gave us a tutorial for organizing and printing out our story from the Family Tree Maker program.

In May we had a fun meeting. It was our Genealogy social where refreshments were served and a few of us reviewed some of the methods we used for tracing our family tree as well as some of the road blocks.

Our June meeting was a full one since we were busy planning the programs and activities for the rest of the year.

Our members welcomed back Ken Dunlap in July. Once again I was unable to attend when Ken was speaking. He is going to think that I am avoiding him. His subject was "Captain Nimrod Long –hero or scoundrel? Captain Nimrod Long was born circa 1752 and died circa 1847. He served in the Revolutionary War as well as the War of 1812. He had been court-marshaled twice as well as going from riches to rags. Ken also shared that by watching "Who do you think you are?" he discovered that he shared his ancestor, Captain Long, with the singer, Tim McGraw.

I am looking forward to our August meeting since we will be firming up the plans for our Cemetery Walk which will occur on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We will have no meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. Anyone with genealogy problems or breakthroughs please come to the August meeting for an informal session after our plans are discussed for the Cemetery Walk.

Currently, our plans are up in the air for the October meeting.

November will be our Christmas celebration and we will have no meetings in December 2013 or January 2014. Well, that was a quick trip through the second half of the year, wasn't it?

Our meetings are held at the Mason County branch of the Timberland Library on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. See all of you there!

### Now and Then: A Book Review

by Christine Maltby

One of my favorite places for finding genealogy sources is browsing in used bookstores. That's how I found "Shaking Your Family Tree: A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family's Genealogy" by Dr. Ralph Crandall, Yankee Books, 1986.

Since I'd discovered my Canadian 2nd great grandmother had a host of Puritan ancestors, I needed some help. At the time of publication, Dr. Crandall was President of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Most is still pertinent. But the book is also a testament to change in the order of research priorities. Talking to family members is still first and foremost; but it wasn't until the ninth chapter and research step that Dr. Crandall painstakingly explained access to census records.

Ease of comparison, family constellations, residential moves ... so much vital information is now available to us at the touch of a key.

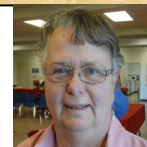


## Immigrant Life as told by Traugott Umbrecht by Nyla Crawford Walsh

The biography of Traugott Umbreit, 1836 - 1899, oldest of 11, was my mother's grand uncle. Her grandmother, sister of Traugott, Adolphine Caroline 1848 – 1923, was my Great Grand Uncle.

This story was written later in Traugott's life. I have found several hand written versions and at least one book written about Traugott and his relatives. It was said he wrote this very detailed story of strong religious belief and perseverance in hopes of becoming a Bishop in the Evangelical Church.

The story follows Traugott and his family from Germany to Wisconsin. More than just the story of my relatives, I find it a very interesting look back into the day by day life of a family of immigrants making a new life in America. I never had the chance to know any of my grandparents as they passed when I was very young, yet there was always a very strong family bond in my mother's family and this story gives me so much genealogy information as well as much family history.



## Diary of TRAUGOTT UMBREIT (1836-1899)

The human life is of short duration. It goes along quickly as if it would fly away. It is full of labor, work, also full of unrest. Where are the ancestors and how suddenly and quickly we follow them. Thank God there is a home where no death is, where no pain of separation is experienced; it's a home of eternal duration. This is also my goal and the goal of my family and may it please the Lord that we get there all together happily. Amen.

### Grandparents

The paternal grandfather, **David Umbreit**, was born **1772** in the village of **Wolfis in the ducly Saxe-Coburg Gotha**. He lived and he died in the place of birth in **1820** when he was 48 years old. The grandmother, his life partner, was born in the place in the year **1771** and her name was **Martha Katherine**. Also she lived and died in the same place, **1830, Feb. 11** at the age of 59 and was a widow for 10 years.

### Their Children

This marriage produced 8 children, 3 sons, **Abraham**, the eldest (who is still living at the present date **1877**), **Friedrich** and **Johannes**, the second youngest (Johann). This **Johannes** is my father. And five sisters of which **Henrietta**, the youngest of the five, is still alive and living in the above named village. **Carl Reittermann** is her husband. On the mother's side. This grandfather's name was **Michael Jacob Wagner**, born in the year **1787** in the village of **Stutzhausen**, which is one hours walk south of **Wolfis**. When he was 24 years of age he moved to **Wolfis** where he founded his family and he must have been blind for the last half of his life. I have known him for six years and I have often been his guide. He was a very strong man and industrious worker and had a very unhappy marriage -- on this account he many times was nasty and irritable, never the less he was magnanimous and especially toward the poor. He visited the church frequently and often. I have guided him into the church. He died in February **1848** when he was 61 years old. His sickness was bleeding. The grandmother, his wife, was named **Ava Elisabetha, nee Nollkoot**. (Those **Nollkoots** came from **Steinbach, Rurhessen** (?). She also was born in **Wolfis** in **1784** and was the only daughter and she had a most pitiable and un-peaceful later life and the last two years she spent with my parents ... and she died after a long illness in the **ninth month of the autumn in 1843**. One hopes in peace.

### My Parents

Our mother (**Anna Rosina Wagner**) is the eldest of the living children. The name of my father is **Johannes** and he was born **July 31, 1811** in **Wolfis, Dukedome of Heisen, Coburg Gotha, Germany**.

(To be continued, next issue)

(continued from page 2)

I also found out my mom went to school with her mom. Leslee also knows my aunt Linda and uncle David, and his parents! It's a small world, after all! So, mark your calendar, next year's conference is **"Improved Genealogy through Better Methodology"** and will be held **August 15 – 16, 2014 at the Skagit Valley Hotel & Casino Conference Center in Bow, WA.** Keynote speaker will be David E. Rencher, an internationally known lecturer and genealogist.



Did  
You  
know

*Mother, bark and spit* are just three of 23 words that researchers believe date back 15,000 years, making them the oldest known words.

## Classified Ads

### Help Wanted!

Judy Joaquin, Sandi Morrison and Ann Northcutt are going to give you a call to join us in leadership. Give this opportunity a chance!

WE promise you will learn more and have a great time doing it than you can imagine.

Does it mean work? Sure, but it is all about Genealogy so this is fun work with great people who will help you all along your way.



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