



# THE BACKTRACKER



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

October-January 2013

## Christmas Memories and more in My Village

By Susan Selders Evans

Hillary Clinton said it takes a village to raise a child. I grew up in that village.

Ross Drive is one long block, which dead-ends in a nursery on the southeast corner of Bloomington, Illinois, just on the west side of Route 66. My great-grandfather, Harry Mark Ross, divided a cornfield into half acre lots for his grandchildren to homestead. Some houses were built there and others were brought in from elsewhere. Ours was moved in on big rollers from the family farmhouse two blocks north. I helped pull cornstalks from the lot so grass could be planted.

When I started school, Maple Grove School had one teacher and 16 students in the eight grades. Eleven of us were the first 11 Selders grandchildren (ultimately there were 26 in my generation but the younger 12 started school elsewhere), and the school board was my dad's three older sisters. We had potluck dinners and square dances instead of PTA meetings. Eventually, District 89 was absorbed by the Bloomington school system, and Maple Grove School was closed.

We all attended the same church, too, a congregation in town established by my great-grandparents and grandparents, among others. Again, family members carried many leadership roles. My dad taught a class of boys a year ahead of me; he got promoted with them each year,

so I never got to be in his class. If the roads were snowed in, we had Sunday school and church at the home of the aunt who had a piano.

Holidays were celebrated in the "big house," the family farmhouse two blocks north through a cornfield. These meals were potlucks with the meat prepared there and the kitchen swarming with aunts. Adults sat at the table in the dining room, and my generation sat on the stairs in the entrance hall, balancing plates on our knees to keep them out of danger of being stepped on as the big boys came and went for refills.

We drew names for Christmas gifts. Somehow, one of the boys always drew my name, and, to my mortification, the gift was always underwear, picked out, I am sure, by his mother.

Summer days ended in twilight games of Tap the Ice-box (a local version of Hide and Seek) and then a sleep out on the lawn or a porch. For 4<sup>th</sup> of July, we sat on the lawn by the school on the hill to watch the fireworks at two country clubs and Miller Park.

After that, we had our own celebration on Ross Drive, sharing sparklers and various other fireworks followed by the railroad flares an uncle brought home.

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## Presidential Ponderings by Jean Yager



I'm so glad we had this time together.....

Before the sun was even up, on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Johnny Wilson, Ann Northcutt and I were on the road to Sumner to attend Autumn Quest 2013, sponsored by Heritage Quest Research Library. When we arrived, we saw Bev and Walt Smith and Linnie Griffin. The theme was "A Tour of Futuristic Tools to Help to Uncover the Past," featuring Cyndi Ingle, Mary Kathryn Kozy and Jim Johnson. There were lots of door prizes, raffles and many silent auction items. Autumn Quest 2014 will be October 11<sup>th</sup> with Lisa Louise Cooke. I strongly encourage you to go!!

If you haven't already, check out the fabulous display cases in the KRL lobby. A big THANK YOU goes out to Nora Clemons and Consuelo Udave for recognizing National Family History Month!

The planning for next year's activities is already under way (classes, programs, field trips, the Antique Fair, bi-annual seminar) and we are always in need of your participation. If interested, check out the website calendar for committee meetings and times. Your input is important to us!

This is my last Presidential Ponderings article as my term of president is coming to an end. I have enjoyed being the leader of this fine society, but it is time to let someone else have this experience. I want to thank all of you for your involvement and support as this society would not be where it is today if it wasn't for you, the members!

## Genealogy Center Report by Mary Ann Wright



I'm happy to announce the addition of a listing of all the donated or purchased research material added to our collection since we moved to Sylvan Way. The listing of new acquisitions is in a red folder located on the end cap of the center section of books, just as you enter the Genealogy Center. If you don't see it, just ask one of our knowledgeable volunteers!

The listing is organized alphabetically by state/country or type (family, guides, etc.). Then the KRL call number is listed, followed by the title and author. This should help you quickly find books of interest in your research. The listing will be updated periodically, so keep checking. Also, you can find the same listing on the PSGS webpage under Genealogy Center.

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## Milestones

by Karin Burke



This column is being written soon after my return from a trip to California again to see those granddaughters. The youngest started to walk while we were there. My other granddaughter started Kindergarten. Nyla and Lorrin Walsh's granddaughter started law school. Other members have made trips this summer and many are still to make trips before the holidays.

Jackie Horton has to be the busiest traveler this year. After traveling to Russia, she and the "Girls of Belfair" i.e., Linnie Griffin, Madi Cataldo, Delana Cox, and Marlys Marrs went together to New England in September. Ann Northcutt and her daughter explored Washington, DC in September. Karen Watson told me that she and her husband Ted will stop in Salt Lake City for two days of research while on a road trip. This will be her first experience. Our esteemed Editor Fran Moyer and her husband went to Russia in October after going to a wedding out of state. Dorothy and Don Lindquist went to Italy and Nyla and Lorrin will cruise through Europe with the Viking River Cruise line in November.

Unfortunately, we have members still needing our prayers and concern. Linda Webb remains with her parents in Utah. Carol Johnson is caring for her mother here. Mary Anderson and Phyllis Nelson-Langworthy are caring for their husbands.

Our members who are having some medical concerns right now could use a bit of cheer. Paulette Waggoner, Sandie Morrison, Johnny Wilson, and Carol Caldwell are the ones I know about and Marlys Marrs took a fall but is improving.

Our longtime member Mary Fincher passed away in September. We send our condolences to Mary's family.

## Memories of a Veteran's Days

by Kathy Duncan Hughes

"WESTERN UNION... WASHINGTON DC, MRS EDITH A HUGHES = 300 WEST FORREST LANE BOX – 1404 OAKRIDGE TENN = THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON 1/LT EMMETT W HUGHES HAS BEEN MISSING IN ACTION OVER ITALY SINCE 30 MAR 45 IF FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED = J A ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL." This is the telegram my husband's paternal grandmother received in the spring of 1945.

Since I married his son four years after his death, I did not have the pleasure of meeting Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Emmett William "Bill" Hughes. Yet, I feel I know him by the integrity he instilled in his only child and the love that was apparent by his widow. He makes telling his story easy, leaving behind a binder filled with photographs, telegrams, and letters documenting two years in his life.

Bill was born 8 May 1922, in West Virginia. The eldest of two sons of Emmett D. Hughes (b.10 Mar 1897 – d.18 Sep 1965) and Edythe B. Alexander (b.27 Jul 1896 - d.3 Jan 1975), he married Martha Ann Taylor (b.7 Jan 1923 – d.31 Jul 2013) in Radford, Virginia on 14 November 1942. He joined the United States Army Air Corps on 19 February 1943. Assigned October 1944 to a B-25 Bombardment group based in Corsica, Italy, his bombardier on many missions was Joe Heller, author of *Catch-22*.

Two years after joining the Air Corps, Bill's plane was shot down while flying in a formation attacking a railroad bridge southeast of Venice. He was in training for a flight leader and flew this mission only because they were short of crew. His father received the initial communication from the War Department before his wife. Emmett was also serving his country, with the Safety Department, working on the Manhattan Project.

"I feel sure that the War Department has notified you that your son, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Emmett W. Hughes... is

missing in action. This letter is intended to supplement the War Department telegram by stating all the known facts surrounding his disappearance.

Lt. Hughes was leading a three plane element in an attack upon a vital target in Italy. Intense antiaircraft fire was encountered over the target and his plane was severely damaged, rendering one engine inoperative. He was seen to leave the formation and head for friendly territory flying on single engine. An allied Airman reported that he

observed a "substantial" number of parachutes came from a B-25 type aircraft several minutes after the aircraft was last seen by our formation.

Lt. Hughes has proven to be a very dependable pilot and was considered one of our best leaders. Through his superior airmanship and selfless devotion to duty on thirty-five combat missions, he contributed much toward our complete victory over a ruthless enemy. As evidence of his outstanding proficiency, has received the Air Medal with three clusters and has been recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross."

As his B-25 descended rapidly over the Adriatic Sea, wounded by the same blast that had disabled it, Bill refused to leave the controls until his entire crew was safely free of the aircraft. Seconds before crashing into the sea, he found the open hatch, jumped, and pulled the rip cord of his parachute. With the plane now too low for the parachute to fully open, Bill hit

the surface of the water so hard that he was knocked unconscious. A group of fisherman had witnessed this unfolding and rescued him. Unfortunately, the Nazi's also observed the entire scene. Bill and his crew of five were marched to Moosburg, Germany, and confined in prison camp Stalag Luft 7A. Bill received two Purple Hearts after their liberation by General Patton's Army on 29 April 1945.



Bill & Martha Ann's wedding Day, 1942



With some of his fellow pilots. Bill is 3rd from Left, Heller is to the far right

(cont'd page 5)



## Introductions

by Carol Caldwell

**Floyd Bright** – Floyd came to Bremerton from Salmon, Idaho by way of the Navy and decided to retire here. He became interested in genealogy when he was in Salt Lake City for a business conference that was in a building next door to the Family History Library. Out of curiosity he went in to look for his father's family and found a lot of information. He learned about PSGS at the County Fair one summer, but did not pursue his interest then. But one day recently while he was waiting for the library to open, someone told him there was a genealogy meeting going on. It was one of our special interest groups. He came in to see what we are all about. His primary research is for Bright, Payne, Phillips, Morton, Gourley, Farr, Hudson and Davis.

**Lilla Giblin**- Lilla is a native of south Florida. She moved to Bremerton from Georgia to be near her son who retired from the Navy here. She grew up listening to her mother's family stories and that fueled her interest in genealogy. Most of her tales have been hints to proof later found in vital records. Lilla discovered PSGS through the library. She has 30 years experience in researching her family lines which are Gore, Pearce, Ragan, Mobley, Engram, Hodges, Canada/Canaday, Driggers, Duval, Giblin, Giovannini, Angelini, Muir, and Renwick.

**Faye Johnson-Sackett** – Faye is originally from Minnesota. She came to Port Orchard with her husband when he got a job with the Navy. She became interested in genealogy trying to find out information about her family from Sweden and England. A co-worker told her about PSGS and she has been able to trace ancestors back to the 1600s. Names she is researching are Johnson, Tarr, Garish, and Sackett.



**Did  
You  
Know**

A recent article in *GenealogyinTime Magazine* reported that the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) announced the release of the Canada 1921 census. However, LAC admitted they lack the capability and resources to host the census images on their own website. Instead, LAC signed a contract with Ancestry that allows [Ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) exclusive right to host the images. The images will be available for free, but only to Canadian residents and only on the Ancestry.ca website. Ancestry is currently indexing the images and a name index is expected to be available within 2 to 3 months. Anyone wanting to search the Canada 1921 census by name will require an Ancestry subscription. It gives Ancestry exclusive commercial access to the digitized images for a period of five years. Three years after Ancestry publishes an index to the Canada 1921 census images on its website, LAC will get a copy to publish on its own website. There is clearly some controversy surrounding LAC's approach to releasing the Canada 1921 census. *GenealogyinTime Magazine* staffers are not aware of any other large gov-

ernment archive anywhere in the world that gives its most important genealogical records away to a for-profit company on such generous terms. One of the most important fields in the Canada 1921 census is the one that lists the country of origin of the mother and father of the person being enumerated. This was new to the 1921 census and can be very valuable information for anyone tracing their ancestors. - See more at:

[http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/NewGenealogyRecords/newest\\_genealogy\\_records\\_on\\_the\\_internet.html?](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/NewGenealogyRecords/newest_genealogy_records_on_the_internet.html?)

You can read a Civil War Diary on the website [www.kyhistory.com](http://www.kyhistory.com). Union Sgt. Jesse Hyde wrote it from January 6, 1862 to July 6, 1864. The diary was discovered in an old farm house near Arlington, WA. Jesse Hyde apparently came to Yakima, WA after the war and died there. His widow then moved to Suquamish, WA, bringing the diary with her.  
*(The above comes from an article published in the Everett Herald Sept. 10, 2013 by Gale Fiege)*

Village, (cont'd from page 1)

Winter brought snow forts and great snowball fights between yards on opposite sides of the road. There was a tree house south of our houses; only a couple of years ago did most of us learn how the fire that destroyed it started.

During World War II, Army convoys often stopped near us along Route 66, and we would greet them in hopes of a chocolate treat, which never failed to materialize.

In case of a skinned knee or elbow, we ran to the nearest house for first aid and a hug; if it wasn't Mom there, it was an aunt or cousin.

Grammy baked bread every Saturday from the sourdough starter that was a wedding gift in 1905. There was a small loaf that went to the first grandchild in the door after it came from the oven. Breakfast at Grammy's always stretched to accommodate one more – oatmeal

with wheat germ, sourdough pancakes (from the same starter), and sausage or bacon.

We were on a telephone party line. It was difficult to have any privacy on the phone – misery for teenagers. How did the boys know when a crucial call came in?

Redecorating was a family affair. The aunts were expert wallpaper hangers, even with kids dashing under ladders. Worn linoleum floors were painted and trimmed with a pattern resembling puppy paw prints. One of the aunts traded furniture with a friend to get a fresh look in her living room.

Eventually, families started moving away, and some of the homes were sold to "outsiders." Our last surviving aunt just turned 90, and the cousins are scattered in Florida, Texas, Illinois, Colorado, and Washington. Today, my side of Ross Drive boasts two apartment buildings, proof "you can't go home again." But the memories live with all of us who lived in that village.

Veteran's, (cont'd from page 3)

Bill also was inducted into The Caterpillar Club. These are airmen who were forced to evacuate their aircraft and deploy their parachutes to safety. He kept the handle to his rip cord throughout his ordeal and later mounted it on a plaque. It is proudly displayed in our family room next to his ribbons and medals.

Bill's military career spanned 30 years. Emmet W. Hughes died 31 August 1999. Escorted by an Honor Motorcade of hundreds, he was buried with full military honors at Riverside National Cemetery. His legacy of honor and duty was born of his father and grandfather, yet continues with his son and granddaughter. There is always more to the story, if only we listen and write it down before it is lost forever



Portrait photo of Bill Hughes when he was commissioned as Lt. Colonel in 1965

Ancestors at Sleep by Carol Caldwell

Roger Ekirch, a professor of History at Virginia Tech, researched old diaries, letters, and essays to find that sleep for our ancestors was very different than it is for us.

They had a first sleep with a period of being awake, and then a second sleep. The first sleep usually began at sundown and lasted until midnight. The second sleep began two hours later and lasted until morning.

During their awake period, our ancestors had conversations with their bed mates, they read, wrote letters, smoked, dressed and visited neighbors, prayed, reflected on their dreams, went to the bathroom, and made love. One of Chaucer's characters in "Canterbury Tales" mentions her first sleep. Court documents also contain references to two-part sleeping. It was the standard and accepted way to sleep. Religious manuals had specific prayers to say during the two hours of reflection.

The custom began to fade at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and was completely gone by the 1920s. Ekirch cites the advent of street lighting and electric indoor light as the cause. Electricity made it possible to socialize and do business at night.





## Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

**Oct 23**      **“Preparing for a Library Research Trip”**      presenter: **Carol Johnson**  
director of the Bremerton Family History Center

Heading to Salt Lake City’s Family History Library? Join Carol as she shares strategies on using a library’s catalog to maximize your research time at this or any other research library.

**Nov 13**      **“Discovering Family Heirlooms”**      presenters: **PSGS members**

Have you unearthed trinkets, jewelry, linens, photos, etc. from among your ancestor’s possessions? Bring your treasure and join other PSGS members in sharing how the family treasures were discovered.

**Dec 11**       **“The Puget Sound Genealogical Society’s Annual Christmas Party”**



Come join your fellow PSGS members for a fun-filled afternoon. A buffet luncheon will be provided. We will recognize outgoing officers for 2013 and welcome new officers for 2014. We will celebrate the Member of the Year and enjoy many laughs with our famous Yankee exchange of gifts. Please bring a wrapped \$10 gift for the exchange and a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

**Where:** Silverdale Community Center, Evergreen Room, 9729 Silverdale Way NW

**When:** 11:30 to 3:00 pm

### Schedule of classes — October

<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Deciphering Cemetery Clues Presenter: Jean Yager
<b>Oct 26</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10AM-2PM</b>	Gen 103 -- Vital Records: Filling in the Blanks Presenter: Ann Northcutt

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

**No classes scheduled for November and December due to the holidays.**

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

## RootsTech 2014

Registration is now open for RootsTech 2014, which will be held February 6–8, 2014 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. An announcement on the FamilySearch Blog states, “This annual family history conference, hosted by FamilySearch, is a unique global event where people of all ages learn to **discover** and **share** their family stories and connections through technology. Early Bird pricing discounts for a Full Access Pass (\$159) and a Getting Started Pass (\$39) are available until January 6, 2014.”

To get more information and register, visit [rootstech.org](http://rootstech.org).

# Putting Down Roots

## Trial by Fire

by Beverly Mead Smith

### Part One



St. Mary's Church,  
Lichfield, England

My 10<sup>th</sup> Grandfather Edward Wightman was born on December 20, 1566 in Burbage, England. He was the son of John Wightman, a school teacher, and Modwen Caldwell, a draper (cloth trader).

His family moved to Burton-on-

Trent where Edward was educated at Burton Grammar School. He began to work with his mother's draper business and then was apprenticed by a wool cloth trader in Shrewsbury.

In 1590, Edward was admitted as a master into the Shrewsbury Draper's Company, but in a few years he returned to Burton-on-Trent and started his own clothing business. It was there that he married Frances Darbye of Hinkley in 1593. They had 2 sons and five daughters. Two of his sons emigrated to Rhode Island, probably due to the intensity of their father's subsequent religious persecution.

This was the time of the reign of Elizabeth Tudor and the religious transformation engulfing the entire European Continent. Elizabeth I was more tolerant of differing religious views, but that would change under James I.

Edward was raised in the Church of England, but when he returned to Burton-on-Trent, the religious views had changed. It is believed that his religious transformation began in Shrewsbury when he was strongly influenced by a group of Puritans. This radical branch of Protestantism included the rejection of the Holy Trinity, the divinity of Jesus Christ, and a complete rejection of the institutionalized Church of England. It was during this time that many Puritans fled England for these heretical beliefs to escape torture, or even death.

The clothiers and many other business people in Burton were very much involved in the various religious transformations. Edward's embracing of Puritanism was



part of the trend in his town. Edward became popular and was able to become a "lay leader" in his community.

In 1696 a 13 year old boy accused a woman, Alice Goodridge, of witchcraft. She was jailed and "interrogated" in Burton and Edward, although only 30 years old, was one of the 5 interrogators. She confessed; however, many in the town did not believe the boy was possessed. Edward's involvement proved he was by then a respected member of the religious community and it became a turning point in his life. However, there was a severe backlash against spiritual/charismatic puritans. Group exorcisms were either suppressed or simply died out.

Edward became even more radical when he lost his clothing business due to the harsh economic times of the 1590s. He was also involved in a court case over a dispute between him and a former apprentice. Edward never showed up for the hearing and was charged a 40 pound bond. That finished him in the clothing business.

Although he was now an impoverished tavern keeper, he was able to maintain prominence among the puritans and Burton's religious society.

The first documented evidence of Edward's religious descent into more extremism came in January 1608. Edward was entertaining company in his home when the subject of Sir Humphrey Ferrers came up. He was the presiding judge in the case Edward never showed up for and it seems Edward bore a grudge against him.

Ferrers had recently died and Edward stated to the company present that he believed the soul does not leave the body upon death, but rather stays within the body until Judgment Day. This was a most shocking statement for that time.

Edward became more vocal about death and the soul and engaged in many verbal outbursts against even those clergy friendly to him. *(to be continued)*

# Putting Down Roots

## One American Family by Julia Wright Joaquin



Nestled in the outskirts of Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk County, England is a little village called Little Waldingfield. It is there that my 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, Samuel Appleton, was born in 1586.

Samuel was born at Holbrook Hall in Little Waldingfield. The Appleton family held Holbrook Hall from 1433-1676. Samuel's brother, Sir Issack, was the heir.

Samuel married Judith Everard in Preston, England, migrating to the Massachusetts Bay in 1635. He took the Freeman's Oath May 25, 1636. The same year he settled at Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts, receiving a grant of 460

acres between Ipswich River and the Miles River. The farm is known as The Appleton Farms and has been in continual use since its founding. This is where my third great-grandmother, Susannah Appleton, was born and raised.



Appleton Farms, Ipswich, Massachusetts

Samuel and Judith were the ancestors of an illustrious family, which produced lawyers, college presidents and the founder of the Appleton Publishing Company. Susannah's cousins were married to President Franklin Pierce and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Even though many were famous and many wealthy most in those early days were farmers.

Samuel Appleton (1738-1819) married Mary White (1746-1834) of Nantucket Island. She is descended from Jethro Coffin. Samuel and Mary had eleven children, one of whom was Susannah (1774-1851) who married John Willett of Haverhill, Essex, Massachusetts.

My grandfather told me of his great-grandmother who left the comfort of her family home in Massachusetts to enter into the wilds of Maine. It is hard to imagine what



Jethro Coffin House, the oldest in Nantucket

Maine was like in 1808 but it was no doubt wild.

Susannah and John Willett first settled in Alfred, Maine. John was a farmer but other information has come forth that he was also a sea captain. Before 1814 the family moved to Bridgton, Maine, where my great-great grandmother, Sarah Willett, was born. Bridgton and Alfred are separated by fifty-one miles. It makes me wonder how long those fifty-one miles were through woods and trails.

Little is known of their life in Bridgton. The records indicate that John was a selectman for the town of Bridgton. One fun story printed in "The History of Bridgton" tells of a little boy who asked Susannah if she would like to adopt him. Whether he was legally adopted or not he did live with them. As an adult he lived at the Willett farm with his family.

John and Susannah's daughter Sarah left Bridgton as a young woman with her brother and his family to another "wilds," this time in Michigan. There Sarah taught school and married. My great-grandmother, Susan Appleton Swift, was born in Niles, Michigan. Susan is my favorite character in this whole story. She left her comfortable home in Chicago in 1865 to teach school in Florida and South Carolina for the Freedman's Society.

During my travels I have visited Little Waldingfield where I saw the church the Appleton's built, visited the rebuilt Holbrook Hall where I looked through the huge windows and gazed on the land where my ancestors walked. Later, in Ipswich, Massachusetts, I went to the Appleton Farms and tried to imagine Susannah growing up in this vast area which she called home. The main street going into the Farm is named "Little Waldingfield." Samuel no doubt wanted to be reminded of his home across the water.

Taking the boat to Nantucket was a dream of mine and one day that dream was fulfilled. Being guided through the house (very small) of Jethro Coffin was a privilege and thrill to me.



# Meanderings

by Madelyn (Madi) Smith Cataldo



My husband Edward Carmen Cataldo always said that “genealogy is looking through the rear view mirror.” He never became interested in researching his Italian heritage, but I did.

So began my difficult search in Italian records. Ed was a first generation American, both parents were from Italy and came to the U.S. as children. I was able to quiz Ed’s mother, Teresa Martignetti Cataldo, at great length, therefore obtaining very important information. She was able to give me many names, dates, and places. When doing research, I have found the **place** to be of prime importance.

I went to Salt Lake City many times, which was a great help. Pre-computer days, one had to research through many books, films and microfiche to find the tiniest bits and pieces to one’s story. It took several years before I finally found Monte Falcione, Italy in the index file.

They also had Italian/English “cheat sheets” available to help with some of the translation. One year I met an Italian volunteer who was a huge help in translating forms.

In many small towns there are many intermarriages and many repetitive surnames. Many forms were legible and many were not. However, I was able to fill out quite a few ancestor sheets back to the late 18th century. My research pleased Ed greatly.

One year I put together several booklets and sent them to Ed’s siblings and their families. The word spread to some of Ed’s cousins and we became re-acquainted.

Two of the cousins decided they needed to take a trip to Italy and insisted that I go, too!

We landed in Naples and did some research at the Town Hall located in the center of the city. Ed’s cousins worked on their research, while I was able to look at the original books from which I had gathered my research at Salt Lake City. What a thrill.

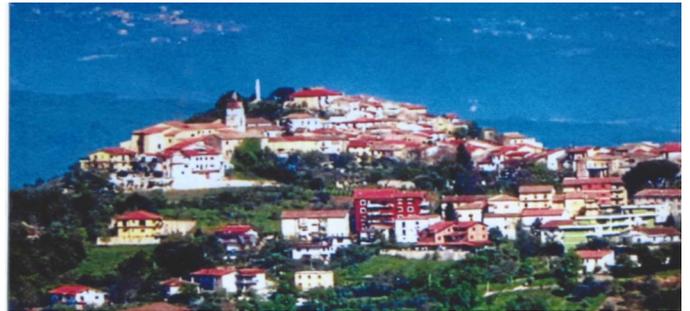
We all wanted to see Monte Falcione, which is in the mountains NE of Naples and is the town the Martignetti’s emigrated from.

We found a young taxi driver who could speak English and hired him for the day. He drove us to the town hall and I was so pleased to be able to see the actual ledgers that I had seen in Salt Lake. On film. We obtained an address of the DiGiovanni farm. On the way, our driver stopped occasionally to get clear directions. How lucky we were when he stopped an elderly gentleman, who just happened to be the town historian, author, and poet.

He led us to the house but explained there were no longer any Martignetti’s or DiGiovanni’s living there. He then took us to a building he had built and when he unlocked the door, what a surprise awaited us. All the walls were covered with old and new pictures, articles, and hand written notes of all kinds. I found a picture taken in the late 19th century of a Martignetti group. We all signed a paper with our information on it and he taped those up on the wall.

Back at the village square we visited the ornate and elegant little church where our family name is very prominent.

I cannot stress enough how important **place** is. Our trip was rewarding as we enjoyed visiting Monte Falcione to get a little taste of where our ancestors originated.



Top: The village of Monte Falcione  
R: Ed’s GGrandmothers & other unknown relatives

## How a Genealogist Prepares for a Reunion

by Jean Yager

Charles and Lydia (Conover) Jones were my great grandparents on my mom's side. They had nine children, seven of which lived to adulthood. In 2002, I decided to meet the descendants of these seven children, so (with help from my mom and husband) I organized my first family reunion (August 2003). This has turned out to be an every other year event. We just completed our 6th reunion.

The Jones family originated in Minnesota. Due to the economy, Charles and Lydia and their adult children moved their families to Washington state in the early 1940s. Two lines returned to Minnesota and part of another line moved to northern California. The majority were home based in Eatonville, Washington.

In preparing for this reunion, my husband and I traveled to Minnesota to meet with the descendants of the two lines there. I gathered family stories, pictures, names and addresses.

The first reunion was held at the Bremerton Elks, but all others have been held at the community park in Eatonville. This park happens to be next to the town cemetery where Charles, Lydia and three of their nine children (and spouses) are buried.

We have the usual barbeque, where everyone is welcomed to bring a side dish. I set up an agenda where the first hour is for mingling with others and an ice breaker game. One year I made copies of pictures of the seven siblings, cut them in half, glued each piece to heavy card stock paper. As each person checked in, I gave them half



Jones family

a picture and they had to find the person with the other half.

This year I gave each person a poker chip and the object was to collect as many poker chips by making the other person say my name. We then have a family meeting, where we have introductions of each line, honor those we have lost since the previous reunion and say a blessing for the meal.

I created display boards with pictures of each line and of each reunion. At this last reunion I had nine display boards. I noticed the boards were getting a bit worn and space to exhibit more was limited, therefore, my plan for the next reunion, is to turn them into photobooks using Costco Photo Center. I also have available binders of each line with pedigree charts and family group sheets. These are for family members to go through and add or make corrections of names, dates, and places.

After the barbeque, we play three games. The first one is for the little ones. This year we had a treasure hunt of hard candy and coins in a pile of straw. We then had our traditional water balloon toss. Our third game involves tidbits from the past. One year we did a Jones Jeopardy game; this year we did a Jones style Bingo game. It's lots of fun and gets the entire gang involved. Prizes are given out at the "Awards Ceremony" and family pictures of each line are taken.

Even though family reunions can be a lot of work, getting to know your collateral relatives and learning more about your ancestors is extremely rewarding!

### Reminder: Annual Salt Lake City Trip for 2014

The PSGS annual research trip to the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City is next February! A block of rooms has been reserved for Sunday, February 9 through Sunday, February 16 at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel, next door to the FHL. Rooms are \$85 per night for single/double, \$95 for triple; \$105 for a quad, plus tax.

Our genealogy package includes a free genealogy class, plus a free night at the hotel if you stay five nights. A firm rooming list needs to be provided to the hotel by **November 30, 2013**. All those interested in going or who would like more information, contact Larry Harden at: [treasurer@pusogensoc.org](mailto:treasurer@pusogensoc.org).



## My Elusive Great-Great-Great Grandfather

by Hazel Thornton

### Or, you thought YOU had brick walls!

Lyman Benoni (or Benona) Stilson was born about 1812 in Connecticut. His parents have never been located, nor any definite birth or death dates.

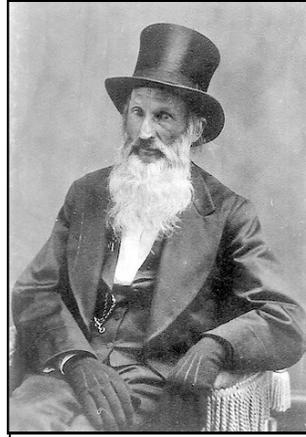
He married Phoebe Lodema Woodbury on 15 Dec 1839 in Aurora, Kane, Illinois, and they had eleven children, one of which was my great-great grandmother Thursey. He enlisted in the Mexican War in 1847 at Alton, Illinois and deserted one month later.

He then took his family, in 1854, and followed in the footsteps of his father-in-law, Ira Kelley Woodbury, and settled in Lyle, Mower County, Minnesota. He built a temporary dwelling of bark on what is now called the Woodbury Cemetery.

Later in 1855, he went to Albert Lea in Freeborn County, Minnesota. The "History of Mower County" labeled all three sons-in-law of Ira Woodbury as **rolling stones**. None of them stayed put very long.

So, after a short time in Albert Lea he moved to Faribault County, Minnesota, then three years later to Blue Earth County where he lived along the east side of the

Blue Earth River. In 1862, there was a big flood of the Blue Earth River. Several news articles stated that the



Lyman Benoni Stilson

parents and four children had gone to the Butternut Mill and tried to escape the flood by crossing the river by boat. They overturned, and three of the children drowned and the parents were rescued along with an infant.

In the 1865 Minnesota census they were living in Woodland, Wright County and by 1870 in Minneapolis. His wife died sometime between late 1875 and 1880 after they had moved to Minneapolis.

Starting in the 1860s, Lyman starting patenting some of his inventions. He has six patents at the National Archives. I actually got to see the originals when I went back there several years ago. He went to Washington, DC in 1880 for his last and most important patent and that is where I lost his trail. It's possible he went back to Minnesota as I found him in a Minneapolis city directory for 1881, but not knowing when the information for the directory was taken, it is hard to tell. *(cont'd page 16)*

## A Trip to the Bank

by Linda Sloan

Beatrice Bartolini was just 17 years old when she traveled from Montecreto, Italy to West Frankfort, Illinois in 1921 to join her father, Luigi Bartolini, in America.

Soon after her arrival in West Frankfort, Beatrice was sent on an errand by her father. He said, "Go to the bank, it is very close and find out how much money I have in my account."

Beatrice, convinced by her father she could do this, agreed to go to the bank. A seemingly easy task, but one made more difficult since Beatrice only spoke Italian and the bankers only spoke English. After only one lesson in English, she was off to the bank.

While walking she repeated to herself over and over again, her first American words—"How much money in

the bank?" By the time she reached the bank she felt quite sure of herself, and was anxious to impress the pleasant but important-looking people, with her new found command of the English language.

When her turn came, she looked the teller squarely in the eye and proudly inquired, "How much money in the bucket?" When the laughter died down, hers included, she came to realize just how much she had to learn about her newly adopted homeland and its very peculiar language. For months following this incident, every time she stepped foot inside the bank, she was greeted by a smile and the inevitable question, "you want to know how much money in the bucket?"

## Side By Side



**Lorrin Walsh**

**Member since 2002**

I was born in and have lived almost all my life in Bremerton. After graduating from West High School in 1964, I started working in the Shipyard. I married Nyla in 1966. We have two children and two grandchildren. I retired from the Shipyard after 38 years in 2002. Before retirement I started to drive tour coaches and spent 6 months a year for 3 years on the road promoting tours in Alaska and The Yukon. I currently work as a driver/guide and an instructor for Horizon Coach Lines. I have written and published 2 books on driving RV's.

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

Nyla's mother had some genealogy research on their family. I took what she had and put it into a workable format in the late 1980s. After I got all the information on Nyla's family organized, I started researching my line(s).

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

Nyla found out about PSGS, so we looked into it and thought it would help us further our research, which it has.

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

I think the biggest goal I have is tracing my "Walsh" line across the pond to Ireland. I, unfortunately, am currently in a quagmire of the "Black Hole" called New York City.

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

The primary names I am currently researching are: Walsh, Buss, Alger, Shaw. New York City.

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

I have a strong back, so I help in the background when I can. I do library duty and saying "Yes Dear" when Nyla twists my arm.



**Christine Maltby**

**Member since 2011**

I earned a degree in library science at The University of Chicago, writing my master's paper comparing revisions of the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys series. Most of my career has been as a school librarian, a neat fit for a curious information seeker and lover of literature. A job opening for my former husband brought us to Tacoma. We share three children and three energetic grandchildren. My second marriage to Gary Bertram gives me the opportunity to explore his Romanian and Polish Jewish ancestry, and his daughter's Native American and European ancestry.

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

My mother was growing older, and there was a sense of loss, both for her Polish-American family in Detroit and for her father, from whom she'd been separated at a young age. So I reached out to surviving cousins, and learned from all the sources I could find.

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

One day on an errand, I found myself near the old Port Orchard office. I stopped by. A class was in session and Sandi Morrison was at the desk, busy putting local cemetery records in Find-a-Grave. I was drawn to the energy and openness of the group.

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

I want to find all my primary immigrant ancestors and their origins. But some of them are lost in the swamps and forests of the frontier of western New York State and what became the Province of Ontario.

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

I have ancestors from all three sectors of previously partitioned Poland: Prussia, Russia, and Austrian-Hungarian Empire. My Maltby surname line is based in Yorkshire.

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

By writing articles for the Backtracker.

Gail Reynolds'

## Belfair Bulletin

Here we are almost to the end of the year and thinking about the holidays coming. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. I have my house decorated for Halloween and am starting to plan Christmas dinner. I know...I know...a bit too early but I have already bought some Christmas presents and will be hosting at least one Christmas dinner. And, this made the national news: There are going to be more people out shopping and there are fewer days this year between Thanksgiving and Christmas so the stores will be busy.

Belfair's August meeting was a small one. There were only three of us there. The sun had been shining for a while so I believe the others were busy outdoors. We discussed the meetings for the rest of the year and shared some brick walls with each other. Suggestions were given and received with great enthusiasm.

The cemetery walk on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Twin Firs Cemetery in Belfair had a smaller than normal turnout. Seems that rain was in the forecast and there was a funeral scheduled during the hours the walk was planned. Ted and Anna Blair were represented by their great-granddaughter. Naomi Butterfield was there to speak about Alice Pope. Along with others, they were very knowledgeable and gave great presentations. Also, the Mason County Historical Society had books for sale from their collection.

Our October meeting was well attended. Bob, Rosie, Lynda, Judy, Jackie, Linnie and I were all there.

Nominations were made for the November election for chairperson. Plans were firmed up for the November Christmas party. Our Belfair group is completing the display window in the Timberland Library for the month of November with the theme being the War between the States. If you have a chance, please stop by to see the display. Linnie, Jackie and Judy shared about their trips to New England. Seems everyone had a new discovery while there.

Now for the future...Our Christmas party will be held November 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. so mark your calendar. Any and all are welcome. It is a potluck so fix something and come. We are also exchanging a \$10-\$20 gift with Linnie choosing a game to match the exchange. The next meeting will be held February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Timberland Library at 12:30 pm since we do not have any meetings in December and January.

Hope to see you there!

### *Time to Vote for Outstanding Member of the Year Award!*

It is time, once again, to choose the Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) **Outstanding Member of the Year**. This annual award is presented to the individual who has made the most significant contribution by volunteer service and/or innovation to the society in the past year.

The recipient is honored at the December General meeting, AKA the Christmas Party, and his/her name is engraved on a plaque. Voting will take place at the October and November general meetings. Ballots will be avail-

able at each meeting. Email voting is not allowed. One vote per person, please!

Those who have previously received this award, and thus cannot receive another, are: Dorothy Lindquist, Marjorie Menees, Sandie Morrison, Larry Harden, Terry Mettling, Shanda Hoover, Jean Yager, Mary Ann Wright, Charlotte Long-Thornton and Ann Northcutt.

So, please mark your ballot at either the October or November meeting for the per-



## Messages in Bottles?

By Nyla Crawford Walsh

My mother, Majel Bates, was an adventurous lady for 1933. She was always doing fun, crazy things like this.

Majel found a lodge at Illahee, which she could rent for the summer. It belonged to Major Ingraham from Seattle. He was an active member of the Mountaineers Club and had built this lodge with the idea of having a place where the club members could come over and spend weekends. The lodge itself had a large living room with a huge fireplace, a dining room that could seat 20 - 30 people, a bathroom with several bowls, a big downstairs bedroom and upstairs were several rooms filled with bunk beds! (It has since burnt to the ground)



Outside was a large yard where any number of people could spread sleeping bags, a summer house where you could have bonfires in case of rainy weather, a nice beach and a row boat! We had a wonderful time that summer, with beach parties, salmon bakes, swimming, croquet, lots of company, charades, etc. We even had a "Murder Mystery" one night!

The lodge was furnished enough so we didn't have to worry about taking anything except our personal belongings. Major Ingraham had just died and his family was trying to care for the lodge. The lodge turned out to be just the place for us - plenty of room - and all the company that came over that summer!

There was no garbage collection in rural Kitsap County, so we did what everyone else did - burned what we could in the fireplace - and rowed out to the middle of the channel and dumped the rest hoping it would sink. This task usually fell to the younger girls. My sister, Myrle, watched the process and came up with the idea that she would put a note in a bottle, set it afloat and see if she could get a response.

I wrote a verse and she put it in a root beer bottle and set it afloat that night. The idea was that anyone finding the bottle, would put their name, time and place, etc. on the slip, put it back in the bottle and throw it back in the

water. After several names had been added it should be sent back to Myrle.

That night a group of high schoolers from Bremerton were having a beach party at Enetai Beach. One of them, Bruce Walker, while out in a row boat saw and retrieved it. Myrle had used a bottle capper to close the bottle so Bruce had to break the bottle to get the note. (We figured afterwards that it probably had not been in the water for more than an hour.) Bruce kept the note and finally decided to investigate.

Myrle had used the address of the Illahee Store because that is where we got our mail. Bruce went to the store and was told "yes, there were a lot of school teachers living down the beach." That did it! School teachers were not interesting to a high schooler! He put the letter in his pocket and tried to forget it, but he couldn't and finally wrote to Myrle telling her about finding the bottle.

Myrle answered the letter and assured Bruce that only 2 were school teachers and 2 were high schoolers, like himself! She invited Bruce to bring anyone who was at his beach party to our house for a beach party! As a result of that bottle story, Myrle and Bruce fell in love and eventually were married in April 1935.

(Some years later, Myrle entered a radio contest answering "How I Met My Husband" and won a \$25.00

*Oh, ships that sail across the sea,  
My bark has joined your company,  
Unknown ports shall be my call,  
On foreign sea I'll rise and fall,  
From Illahee, Washington, I cleared  
One day, (July 27, 1933)  
Launched by my captain brave  
And gay, (Myrle Bates) Address  
If to your port I chance to stray,  
Please, add your name and send me on my way  
When my ship has journeyed far  
Led by its own bright guiding star,  
Please, send the log back home again  
And receive the thanks of a new friend.*

**Elusive Ancestor, (cont'd from page 12)**

Between all the children, all the moving, and the inventing he seems to have been a very busy man, and he also was farming in between.

I wonder if the inclination to invent is inherited. I found one of his daughters, Mina Stilson Woodruff, in California, who had a patent for new and useful improvements on a corset in 1896.

I don't know if Lyman lived long enough to know about his great granddaughter Lydia Oliver who was murdered along with her elderly husband with an axe in 1897 in Wright County, Minnesota. I found a massive quantity of newspaper articles on-line that went through the whole trial, over and over. It was quite a sensation.

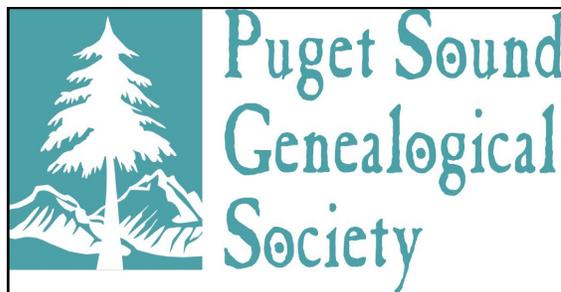
Lyman had a very full and "eventful" life, but I wish I could put a beginning and end to it to make it complete.

# Classified Ads

The 2014 Antique Fair committee needs your help once again! Co-sponsored with the Kitsap Historical Society, this is the largest antique show in the area. Next year's show is scheduled for April 5-6, 2014 at the President's Hall at the Kitsap Fairgrounds. The Antique Fair committee needs additional members to ensure this annual event is successful. Please consider volunteering your time once a month. For more information, contact Ann Northcutt at: [antiqueshow@pusogensoc.org](mailto:antiqueshow@pusogensoc.org)



**Genealogy Center volunteers needed!!** Join our volunteer team and share your genealogy research skills. Contact Charlotte at: [gc\\_volunteer\\_coordinator@pusogensoc.org](mailto:gc_volunteer_coordinator@pusogensoc.org) for more information.



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