



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

www.pusogensoc.org

October thru December 2015

World War II Christmas letters—from home and at war

by Jeanie Schulze



Marion Bean Parnell & Maj. Norman Parnell

While both Parnells and Beans served proudly in all of America's wars from the beginning of our nation's settlement, it is the World War II letters my parents wrote every day that give a peek into the day-to-day life of enduring war both at home and in the midst of battle. They begin from the day my Mother (Marion Bean Parnell) took my Fa-

ther (Major Norman Parnell) to the train to join up with Patton's Third Army in 1944 as it shipped out to Cherbourg, France. Most letters were written late at night; some in the comfort of home and others written in the cold by candle light. The most heart wrenching are of Christmas 1944.

My Mother's letters tell of daily life in West Lafayette, Indiana, and the hard work to keep the family going on limited war rations and resources. They tell of a time when Christmas presents of new or used toys were hard to find for her two little girls Pat and Sandy. All December, Mom looked forward to spending Christmas with my father's family and Uncle Dud in Indianapolis.

From December 19, 1944 through Christmas day my Dad was in the midst of the Battle of the Bulge. As the

staff officer in charge of ordnance for Third Army, Third Corps, he made sure troops moving quickly into Belgium had the ammunition needed to relieve Bastogne. He wrote to my mother late each night imagining what his family would be doing on Christmas day—especially since he arranged for a special surprise for my mother.

Christmas Day was not what either expected. The ongoing cold weather had created snow and ice that completely dashed my father's and mother's plans. She describes the day in her December 25 letter:

"I decided to drive to 52 and see what its condition might be. It was fine, so I kept going for 25 miles. About 11 miles north of Lebanon, the snow was gone, the road was clear for all of a mile. But then I met my Waterloo—the road was covered with a sheet of clear ice—so smooth that when I varied my wheels to swing over on a dual highway I was suddenly heading toward Lafayette!"

My Mom turned around and drove south on the ice for a couple of miles when she stopped and asked about the roads ahead. "The chief trouble was that the ice coated the grass and gravel as well as the road so there was nothing to get a grip on." She turned around and headed home. The longed for trip to join my father's family for Christmas was over.

(cont'd on page 5)

Table of Contents

A Look Back.....6	Genealogy Gems ...1, 5, 10, 15	News..... 6, 12, 14
Belfair Bulletin..... 14	Introductions.....4	Presidential Ponderings 2
Classified Ads 16	Looking Forward.....7	Putting Down Roots8, 9
Dear Genie 11	Meanderings 3	Schedules 7
Did You Know? 7, 11	Milestones 2	Side by Side13

Presidential Ponderings

by Ann Northcutt



When I started to write this it occurred to me that this is my last Presidential Pondering article! How did two years go by so quickly? I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your President; I have enjoyed every minute of it. I also want to give a huge thank you to the Executive Board for all of their advice and patience over the past two years.

But I'm not done yet!

I want to remind everyone to check out the Sylvan Way library display windows in October, which were done by our own Consuelo Udave to honor Family History month.

Do you know of a member that has put forth that "special effort" by volunteering their time, working on a project or maybe someone who has done something spe-

cial for our Society? Perhaps a member completed a project or volunteered for an event? What about the member who is "always there" working in the background donating their time and energy for your society! Such a person is truly a Society Gem! The Society Gem nomination form is found on the Members Only page of our website. Fill it out and send it in (the directions are on the webpage also). Any member can make a recommendation and your name is kept confidential.

With Christmas right around the corner, I want to encourage all members to come to the Christmas Party on the 9th of December at the Eagles Nest, Kitsap County Fairgrounds. The party is put on by the Executive Board for members of our society each year. Good food, good company and a Yankee Gift Exchange; come and enjoy!



Milestones

By Judy Joaquin

It is with great pleasure that I begin this article with a

hearty and heart-felt happy 90th birthday to IdaMae Swedberg, pictured with her cake.



Happy anniversary greetings are given to Ann Northcutt and her hubby as well as Bob & Fran Moyer who will be taking a riverboat cruise down the Danube to celebrate their 28th wedding anniversary.

President Ann Northcutt had oral surgery this past month but seems to be on the mend as well as Vicki Bushnell who underwent knee surgery. Our best to Ann and Vicki in their recuperation.

It is exciting when we hear of successes of our members and this month I am calling to your attention our newest "published" member, Carol Caldwell. Here is her story in her own words:

"My milestone is that since my youth I wanted to be an author. My goal was to write the great American novel. School, marriage, child-raising got in the way and it wasn't until my first granddaughter appeared that I was inspired. Her name is Claire and we called her our princess (don't all grandparents say that?). It took me at least

six months to get the story on paper and another six months to fine tune it. A friend recommended a small publishing company and they liked the story. However, the process took longer than I expected. It was from 2013 to 2015 before I saw my book in print. But now it is here and available on Amazon. The name is "Princess To The Rescue" and is about Princess Claire meeting a boy that came to see the King for help. She learns what his trouble is and figures out how her father can help him. In the process Claire learns how other people live who don't have the King's riches. And her new friend learns that Kings and princesses can be very nice.

So while my book isn't the great American novel, it is published and I am an author now. And while the book isn't about genealogy, it is a piece of my history, which is what genealogy is all about. I have two more Princess Claire stories, one third grade story, a middle grade trilogy, and I'm working on a women's inspirational short story that will be part of an anthology of Christmas stories. Give me time and I will write about genealogy."



Carol Caldwell with her book.

Meanderings

by Mary Ann Wright & Vicki Bushnell



Mary Ann Wright & Cousins

I attended my very first family reunion this June. Nothing like seeing cousins you hadn't seen since our teenage years! Our paternal grandparents had seven children, and between them they had 21 children—the first cousins. Last year, the wife of the youngest of those seven children passed away at the age of 96, so we cousins are now the elders of the family . . . and the keepers of the family stories!

After almost a year of planning, we gathered in Memphis, TN on June 20, 2015. While quite a few lived in or near Memphis, the rest of us came from Washington, Montana, Florida, Texas, and Arizona. Three of the cousins had passed away and of the remaining 18 cousins, 11 were able to attend the reunion. The last time any of us had seen one of our cousins was at her father's funeral in 1971. We tracked her down (hooray for public records)

and she was delighted to come and get reacquainted with her family.

As the cousins arrived in town, we met at the reunion organizer's home a couple of days before the actual event to catch up and share photos and memories. It was a great way to connect without the distraction of the crowd of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who came to the official reunion.

Each of the cousins received a packet jointly prepared by my cousin and I. Betty was responsible for getting contact information for each of the cousins and their children in hopes that the younger generation would stay in touch. My job was to prepare a reunion chart and descendant trees for each of the cousins.

All in all, it was a memorable trip. I even was able to squeeze in a little research time!



Vicki with Peter's Violin

I guess I was the prodigal great-granddaughter. Of the five surviving branches of my immigrant family, my branch was the only one that wandered off from where Peter Jensen settled in Colorado in the 1880s after

a tragic voyage from Denmark that ended the life of his wife, Anna. It took years of research to locate the other descendants, but there we all were in Colorado Springs. Everyone knew everyone except the hippie, West-Coaster who invited herself and stayed for the feast.

Distant relatives gathered from all over the country and even Argentina. This reunion was a genealogist's dream. This year included an update and booklet on recent genealogical findings by the host (a skilled researcher with a PhD), an overview of 19th century German-Danish politics that led to our immigration (by a 2nd cousin who is a history teacher), and my presentation on our family's life in Denmark.

People brought old photos to share, Peter Jensen's old violin, and Anna's spinning wheel, which made it to America even though she did not.

Sixty newly found relatives included two redheads, a baby that is half Korean, and a little girl whose mother is half Guyanan and half East Indian, vintners, teachers, microbiologists, nurses, and environmentalists. I wondered what Peter and Anna would think about the diversity of their family 130 years later.

I told one of my new relatives of my frustration to identify the relatives in an old Danish photo album. I might never know their names. She wisely pointed out, "They're *relatives*. Their names are just what someone gave them. We are related to them like we are related to the trees, and that's good enough." And that was good enough for me.

Anna's spinning wheel & cousins





Introductions

by Carol Caldwell

Jay and Barbara Bakst – Jay is from Worcester, MA and Barbara is from Brooklyn, NY. They moved to Bremerton in 1980 from Chicago after coming here on vacation. Barbara's interest in genealogy grew as a result of family gatherings and she asked about their family information. Now she is the official family record keeper. She learned about PSGS from a KRL mailing. Recent research highlighted a book on a part of the family no one had researched previously. This led them to Jay's fourth great-grandfather and the town in Lithuania they came from. Barbara's searches center on Kanowitz (Kahanovich), Begalman, Ackerman, and Malumuth. Jay's family surnames are Cotton (Koton), Jaffe, Orman, and Cohen.

Bill Demmon – Bill is originally from Boulder, CO and came to Bremerton in 1987 by way of the U. S. Navy. His wife Elisabeth is a member of PSGS and the KRL Liaison to PSGS. She encouraged Bill to join. An interesting fact he discovered is that his great grandfather Orson Demmon was with the unit of soldiers who chased John Wilkes Booth after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. His surnames include Demmon/Damon, Pennock, Graham, Evans, Knight, and Thompson.

Kerry Grindinger – Kerry was born and raised in Bremerton. Her interest in family history was nurtured by her mother's long-time membership in PSGS. Kerry chose to search out her father's relatives, including biological blood lines for two adopted grandfathers. Her research unearthed information about her 7th great-grandfather Hezekiah Alexander who joined other North Carolinians in 1776 to form the Fifth Provincial Congress charged with the writing of the first state constitution. Her surname searches are for Dale, Worthington, and Price.

Sallie Horne – Sallie is a transplant from Waukegan, IL, coming to Bremerton with her former husband. She finished her nursing degree at Olympic College. Her interest in genealogy grew from a desire to have a hobby she and a friend could share and from wanting to find out more about her biological father's family. She discovered PSGS

at the Antique Show. The surnames Sallie is looking for are Halteman and Bishop.

Cindy Peterson – Cindy came to Kitsap County from IA, by way of Florida, which is where she met her husband, who is originally from Tacoma. They came here in 1975. Cindy became interested in genealogy after her father died in 2000. A friend suggested they join PSGS. She didn't know where her father's middle name Kimsey came from, but looking through marriage records, she found T. J. Anderson and Maddie Kimsey. Not only did she find where the name came from, she discovered another family line to trace. She is working on the surnames of Blomquist, Anderson, and Kimsey.

Judy Rice – Judy grew up in Gales Ferry, CT, and came to Kitsap County in 1978. She found out about PSGS from genealogy class brochures at the Sylvan Way library and took several classes and the seminar in September 2014. She "was impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm that went into it." She found on the 1900 U.S. census, that her maternal great-great grandmother was three years old when William and Agusta Gudeahn immigrated from Germany. Judy says, "my ancestors were not unique in their determination to immigrate to the U.S., although I am in awe of their willingness to cross an ocean with small children and an infant. Judy is researching Gudeahn, Allyn and Avery.

Bill Price - was born in London, England. His father was an American servicemen and his mother is British. However, his origins are Welsh from a family who came to America in the early 1700s. He and his wife came to Port Orchard about three years ago from Olympia after he retired. His interest in family history comes from the stories his father recounted as a boy of how two brothers came to this country; one stayed in the Carolinas and one went north into Indiana. In 2003 he started researching his family's history and found surprisingly the stories to be true and he has been doing family history ever since. The names of interest are Price, Thomas, Tackman, Timmerman, Braun, Wys and Whitson.

Christmas Letters, (cont'd from page 1)

After sending a wire to Uncle Dud she shared, "I'm still tired and shaky and to help out, I slipped in the kitchen and wrenched my shoulder and leg a little while ago." Friends came over with eggnog and helped sort the girls and dinner out before my Mom went to bed and cried.

The next day's letter tells a different story. "Today was Xmas! Now I can really say Merry Xmas. I've been terribly blue and lonely and yesterday's experience was the final of a series of blows! But this A.M. Uncle Dud, Did, and Lawrence walked in about 11 a.m. complete with gifts, turkey, etc. I was completely bowled over and delighted." She goes on to tell Dad that his surprise finally arrived, "You did manage it! Yup—with them they brought a dozen of the loveliest long-stemmed roses I've ever seen. They were and are exquisite. You certainly surprised me, and oh, dearest, I just cried all over Uncle Dud's shoulder—I couldn't help it."

For my Dad, it was another day fighting a war—but Bastogne had been relieved. When the 101st Airborne asked how soon they could have ammunition, he pointed to some trucks and told them, "those are all yours." Still he found time to write my mother. "Did Santa Claus pay the three of you a nice visit this



Major Parnell

Xmas? Did "they" come thru as I had it planned? Now I have to sit and wait for the answer. I certainly hope you liked "them." In spite of all the work, I have been thinking about whether you got "them" all day. Cuddle up to an extra nice sweet dream tonight."

He didn't know for a few weeks what happened on Christmas but his hope of the end of the war and re-reading letters from Mom carried him through. Each letter they wrote shapes a picture of war and sacrifices both big and small both at home and for the troops abroad. Each letter was a lifeline to family and the journey to an eventual peace and return home.

My Trip Visiting the Germanna Colony of Virginia

by Bev Smith

Some months ago I decided that I wanted to visit the part of Virginia that my German ancestors had come to in the new world. It is known as the Germanna Colonies of Virginia and is located in Spotsylvania County.

There were three separate time periods that the Germans arrived there. Some of my ancestors came in the 1714 group and others in 1717 and the last in 1725.

They came here as indentured servants who served seven years as promised before they could obtain land of their own. Unfortunately, they were made to remain indentured for an extra year before they would be granted their release.

My German ancestors had come from villages near Siegen, in North Rhine in the Baden-Wurttemberg area, and many had been mine workers. Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood had paid their passage so his intent was for them to work his coal and later silver mines.

Where they once walked I felt I too now walked. I visited their farm lands and the Lutheran Hebron Church where they attended Sunday worship, which still holds Sunday services, the oldest and longest Lutheran Church still in use. I was disappointed to discover that I was not able to locate my family in the connecting cemetery. I was told that they were no doubt buried on their own land as was normally done during that time period.

As I traveled through the northeastern counties I felt it was like being in a history book, particularly about the Civil War time period. Every few miles a roadside plaque would designate a particular battle that had been fought there or the home of one of our presidents.

My trip was not to research for information but simply to visit here my ancestors once settled, lived, worked and died.

Germanna Foundation now has a central repository that houses many records of these German families, which I visited. When I arrived and registered there I was greeted by a lovely gentleman who, when he saw where I was from, said, "Ah, I once lived in Bremerton!" Small world.

A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



Jul 22 “Fraternal Organizations”

presenter: Elisabeth Demmon

Elisabeth explained the differences between the types of fraternal organizations, e.g., social/business, benevolent, trade, ethnic, or religious. She suggested looking through old photographs, in obituaries, or on tombstones to discover any clues to a possible membership. Researching the various organizations can provide information on the history and purpose of the organization. Searching Google, Rootsweb, Cyndi’s List, or FamilySearch Wiki can give more information, as can city directories, genealogical/historical societies, or books on specific organizations.



Aug 25 “Jewish Genealogy”

presenter: Steve Louis

Steve listed 4 myths on Jewish genealogy and how they can be overcome with a bit of work. He stressed the importance of having good records, particularly from the U.S., then searching foreign country civil records and ship manifests when they are available. Some challenges include common immigrant Jewish names, phonetic spelling problems, and Jewish town names, among others. He recommended the website JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org) for databases, research tools, and other resources for those with Jewish ancestry. In addition, DNA testing is very popular for Jewish genealogists. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State, www.jgsws.org, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, www.iajgs.org, are additional resources.

Sep 23 “Fill out the Paperwork—Applications vs Certificates” presenter: Deanna Dowell

Social Security, Naturalization, and Homestead Act Applications can contain a wealth of information for researchers. Deanna showed us history of each kind of application, the types of information that can be gleaned, some challenges in finding the actual applications and how to search for them. Some websites included: www.socialsecurity.gov, www.us-immigration.com, www.archives.gov, and www.glorerecords.blm.gov.

	<p>At our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, October 28th, all PSGS members will be voting on a new Executive Board. Join us and meet the members who want to be your President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Member-at-Large. It is important that you take part in this exercise, so please try to make this important meeting.</p> <p>Besides, you don’t want to miss Jerri McCoy’s fascinating presentation on the Salem witches and their accusing neighbors.</p>		<p>Annual Salt Lake City Trip for 2016</p> <p>Come and join the Puget Sound Genealogical Society (PSGS) on their 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 from Sunday February 14, 2016 to Sunday February 21, 2016.</p> <p>The hotel provides a genealogy package that includes the following: Rooms are \$87 a night for Single/Double \$97 a night for Triple \$107 a night for Quad \$10 for each rollaway bed.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto;"> <p>Plus 12.761% tax (subject to change).</p> </div> <p>Please contact Larry Harden prior to December 15, 2015 at: treas@pusogensoc.org</p>
--	---	---	--



Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

Oct 28 "Salem Witches"

presenter: Jerri McCoy

Jerri McCoy will help us understand the madness in 1692 Salem, Massachusetts, when charity and mercy and plain good sense were all thrown into the fire of zealotry. How were witches identified? What happened to them? Come learn a little bit about them and their accusing neighbors.

Nov 18 "Swedish Research"

presenter: Jim Johnson

Jim Johnson, Director of the Heritage Quest Research Library, will discuss available Swedish on-line records, naming patterns, church records, migration reasons, and other useful tips as you research your Swedish ancestors.

Dec 9 "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 our outgoing officers for 2014 and welcome new officers for 2015. Our Yankee gift exchange always provides many laughs. Please bring a wrapped gift (around \$10) for the exchange and a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

Where: Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Eagle's Nest Meeting Room (across the street from the Pavilion)

When: 11:30am to 2:30 pm

Schedule of Classes — October through November

Oct 24	Saturday	10AM-2PM	Missouri State Research Presenter: Sandie Morrison
Nov 3	Tuesday	10AM-Noon	Scottish Research Presenter: Elisabeth Demmon

No classes scheduled in December due to the Holidays

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

Contact: educ@pusogensoc.org

D In celebration of Family History Month, FamilySearch International (FamilySearch.org) and GenealogyBank (GenealogyBank.com) announced an agreement on October 1 to make over a billion records from historical obituaries searchable online. It will be the largest—and perhaps most significant—online US historic records access initiative yet. It will take tens of thousands of online volunteers to make GenealogyBank's vast U.S. obituary collection more discoverable online. Find out more at FamilySearch.org/Campaign/Obituaries.

Putting Down Roots

From Persecution to Liberty

by Fran Moyer

Part Two



Original log cabin foundation with memorial to the original founders.

After the disastrous 100 day voyage across the Atlantic, the surviving 120 Presbyterians from Scotland, including my ancestor Walter Ker, hoped to be able to practice their religion without harassment.

They settled in Monmouth County of East New Jersey colony where they built an original log cabin church on a hill they named Freehill, later Freehold.

Walter was indentured for five years as a bricklayer to pay his debt for the voyage. In 1667 he married Margaret Johnstone, the sister of the governor of East New Jersey. They had three sons who survived childhood, John (1692), William (1700) and Samuel (1704).

Upon his release from servitude in 1690 Walter received 50 acres of land, an axe and a new suit of clothes. When their first child, James, was born the governor gave him another 100 acres of land, which when the baby died in infancy, was held in trust for John by Walter.

In the book, *The History of the Old Tennent Church*, the Rev. William Tennent wrote as to its beginning, "It was the first in the East Jersey, which was settled with a gospel ministry. This was owing, under God, to the agency of some Scotch people that came to it; among them were none so painful in this blessed undertaking as one Walter Ker..." It is generally thought the church first came to being in 1692 in the log cabin.

In court records of December 1705, it reads: *At ye Request of John Craig, Walter Ker, William Runnel, Patrick Imly in behalf of themselves & their bretheren ye protestant decenters of freehold Called Presbyterians that there Publick house may be Recorded Ordered by this Cort."*

Also, church records reveal that on August 3, 1730, in a meeting of the congregation at Walter Ker's, it was

agreed, "that the Old or Lower Meeting House be Repaired with All the Haste that can be." So, there was an old house converted to their church when they outgrew the log cabin.

Within this first house the first Presbytery formed in America, which was the Philadelphia Presbytery, convened by the Rev. John Boyd.

There were 7 original members, including Walter, who gave some of their land to build a permanent church on the hill with a cemetery. He and those others were the original wardens of the church.

In 1724 at the age of 74 Walter was chosen to travel 100 miles through the frontier forests to the Tennent Log Cabin College of Neyshaminy, PA, which trained Presbyterian ministers. Two of Tennent's sons were being trained for the ministry and Walter presented their Call, which was refused.

Walter pled his case once more and asked they reconsider then left for the long ride home. An hour later William Tennent caught up with him and came to Upper Freehold Church that now bears his name.

Walter had left his harvest unreaped and when he returned home found his neighbors had reaped his grain and shocked all his fields. When the next season arrived the best seed grain was Walter's. His neighbors had gathered their own seeds before they were fully ripe and many had to apply to Walter for seed, which he willingly gave to them.

The "Old Tennent Church" built in 1750 remains a working church to this day. After surviving imprisonment and torture, Walter lived to be 91 years of age and died in June of 1748. He is called the "Father of American Presbyterians."

Two years ago at my Carr family reunion we welcomed a couple of new members, husband & wife. Ralph is a retired Presbyterian minister.

Putting Down Roots

My Ancestors' First Thanksgiving

by Judy Joaquin



From 1st grade on (I didn't go to kindergarten) I knew about the first Thanksgiving. Who didn't? At school we dressed up as Pilgrims and Indians and presented plays about which our parents came and oohed and awed. Vaguely I remember my mother telling me that our ancestors were there! But it was not until recently when my niece asked me which of our Mayflower ancestors were at that famous first dinner that I decided to find out!!

How easy it was! Thanks to Google! I typed in "First Thanksgiving Dinner" and the story came up as well as the attendees. Then I just checked my Mayflower list against the Google list. You can do the same! This is only for a fun exercise. Thanks to William Bradford and Edward Winslow we have two firsthand accounts of what really happened. The following is Edward Winslow's writing:

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the company almost a week, at which time amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

It was quite a surprise to find that only four women were at the feast. On further research I find that many of the families of the men came later so of course were not there as well as sadly many of the wives who came on the Mayflower did not survive. One of the women who

was there was Eleanor Billington—my 9th great-grandmother! She and her husband, John, who also came on the Mayflower, were not considered upright citizens. As the old adage says, "one can choose ones friends but not relatives"! In genealogy one must take the bad with the good. John was executed for murder and six years later Eleanor was sentenced to sit in the stock and be whipped for a slander against John Doane. Their son, Francis, also on the Mayflower was just 14 at the time of the feast. He, by all accounts, was a rambunctious lad but soon settled down and married and had nine children! It was from this family that I am related to another Mayflower person, Richard Warren. Richard's wife and children came over on the Anne in 1623.

Francis Cooke, John Soule and Peter Brown were my other pilgrims who attended the first Thanksgiving. Their lives were less interesting (which is good!) but nevertheless they were good solid citizens who would be the founders of many, many families over the generations.

In 1661 a town 15 miles west of Plymouth called Middleborough was founded. The second and third generations of all my pilgrims had settled in Middleborough starting in 1666. Within forty years after the great feast all my family had left Plymouth and settled in Middleborough. On a recent trip to Middleborough I was able to find the gravestones of the descendants of Francis Cooke, John Soule, Richard Warren and Peter Brown as well as Francis Billington.

As our families come together for Thanksgiving this year let us remember the 53 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag Indians who gathered that day long ago to give thanks for surviving that first year.



Cleaning Mother's House

(thanks to Mary Ann Wright)

Reprinted with permission, Michael John Neill,

mjnrootdig@myfamily.com

It has been nearly a year since fictional genealogist Barbara passed away. Her daughter Charlene reflects upon that year in a letter to her friend Karen. Charlene truly has been busy. Barbara is probably rolling over in her grave.

Karen,

As usual, my cards are late. It has been a busy year.

We spent much of the year settling up Mother's estate. The house sold well, but cleaning it took longer than we expected.

You are probably the only person who did not know Mother was a genealogy buff. She told practically every human she encountered. I'm convinced that genealogy "nut" was the most accurate phrase. The stuff was all over the house. The inheritance would have been enough to pay for my new Mercedes had she not insisted on spending money on that blasted hobby. I don't know why she couldn't be more like Tom's mother. Nadine spends her day doing needlepoint and watching reruns of 50s television shows. Tom just does not realize how lucky he is, but men never do. My mother had to run off to cemeteries and courthouses. She even went to a conference in Davenport, Iowa, last year! Can you imagine? Davenport, Iowa! After she got back, she was so excited about all that she had learned and all the fun she had. She was planning on going to another one in California this year. Well, the grim reaper took care of that.

Because of my promotion to head of knick knock sales at Garbageforless.com, I had not been home for several years. I was appalled to learn that Mother had converted my old bedroom into her family history "headquarters." My shelves of Teen Beat and other magazines documenting my adolescence had been replaced with old family photographs, copies of old documents, and something called family group sheets. She even got rid of the pants I wore to my first junior high dance. I cried at the thought.

I could not bear to go in the room and be reminded that my childhood had been stripped from me and replaced with an obsession with the past. I told the children that if they would clean the room and prepare the items for the garage (should I say "garbage"?) sale they could have the proceeds. I learned what true entrepreneurs they are.

Kenny stripped Mother's hard drive in under ten minutes. I kept hearing him say "GedCom is GedGone . . . GedCom is GedGone . . ." I have no idea what it meant, but the computer fetched a good price. Before he unplugged the computer, he erased all Mom's floppy disks and downloaded public domain games. He sold these at a nominal price.

Susan took the old photographs to a flea market and was able to sell many of them. Some special labels had to be taken off and we had to take them out of protective envelopes. Mother had written the names on the back of many of them. At least none of those pictures of depressing old dead people had our last name written on them. I don't want to be associated with such sour people.

Mother had some type of old plat book -- whatever that is. Kenny tore out the pages individually and sold them separately on Ebay. It was so clever. His dad said he got much more than if he had left the book in one piece.

Susan didn't tear the bibles apart though. I thought that showed tremendously good sense. She's learning that not everything can be marketed in the same way. The 1790 bible brought her a good penny, but she couldn't get the one from 1900 to bring more than fifty cents. She donated it to a local church, and here is where I am so proud of her. We can write it off as a charitable deduction. Someone had written what they had paid for the bible on the back cover. I've already enrolled Susan in lawyer summer camp this coming August.

(cont'd on page 11)

Cleaning Mother's House, (cont'd from page 11)

There was some old large certificate of written on heavy paper. The silly thing wasn't even in English, so why would Mother keep it? Kenny used the other side to keep track of the things he had sold. Waste not, want not. When we were finished we put the paper in the recycling bin.

The kids put an old wedding dress from the 1870s in the washer to get the stains out. It was terribly filthy. The worthless thing didn't even survive the extra-long cycle and the half-gallon of bleach. It's doubtful we can even use it for cleaning rags.

The dress was in some kind of old trunk. I'm not certain what it was for, but it had a name stenciled on the front in huge letters along with the name of a town. Susan gave it a good coating of red paint and sold it as a toy box.

The filing cabinets were emptied of their contents, as were the three shelves of binders. Kenny got the bright idea to shred the paper and sell it in bags as New Year's confetti. The file folders were too heavy to shred.

The baby did not react well to any of this. She cried and fussed almost the entire time. Kenny thought she wanted tea, which made no sense to me at all. As she cried, it sounded like she was saying "family tee." She can't even talk yet and I think Kenny was hearing things. The baby does look exactly like my mother though, it's the oddest thing. The fussing didn't stop until she spit up an entire bottle of strained prunes on my junior high jeans, which we did find in the basement. They were ruined -- it was the one real loss. Now my past has really been taken from me -- magazines and all.

Charlene

Whether you have a child like Charlene or not, have you thought about what might happen to your genealogy collection upon your demise?



Dear Genie



Q: My German gggrandfather's first family listed a wife, three sons and two daughters. The wife and all sons died the same year, 1839 between January and September. The daughters survived. I've tried googling the year, but nothing comes up. How can I find out what caused the deaths?

A: Church records contain a wealth of information. The next step would be to send off for death certificates. If they aren't accessible, try getting in touch with a genealogy society in the town your ancestors lived in. Someone there might be able to find newspaper archives, hospital records, or local civil records. Some death certificates are very generalized, but if there was an epidemic or natural disaster of some kind, that would be found in newspapers. Genealogists are usually glad to help one another

Q: My great uncle died as a young man in Colorado in the 1880s. I haven't been able to locate a death certificate. More than anything, I am curious as to why he died young. I don't the exact year. Any suggestions?

A: Check for his name on Find A Grave (www.findagrave.com), which will sometimes only yield birth and death dates, but in some cases an elaborate memorial has been posted by another researcher, complete with pictures. Back in the day local newspapers often reported what the residents had for dinner when their relatives came for a visit -- so you could be in luck that your gr-uncle's early demise was newsworthy. Check the Colorado Historic Newspaper Collections at www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org. Once you find a date, contact the local historical society and inquire about what may have been going on in that area around that time, such as a typhoid outbreak, meningitis, or a mining disaster. A list of societies may be found by searching D'Addezio at <http://www.daddezio.com/society/hill/SH-CO-001.html>. This unique website has many other resources, such as lists of newspapers, cemeteries, and an obituary index.



The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History Seminar

by Carol Caldwell

The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (<http://isbgfh.org/>) held a week-long seminar in Salt Lake City on September 21-25. This yearly event was news to me as I'd never heard of the society until a friend of mine went. She called it "wonderful, inspiring and informative." I wanted to know more.

Sessions or classes were held in the morning, leaving the afternoon to practice the lessons researching at the Family History Library. Subjects included England, Scotland, Ireland, and Writing. Speakers were from The Society of Genealogists (www.sog.org.uk/). Else Churchill and Alex Tritton were very knowledgeable instructors. Class size was limited so that everyone got the help they needed, which included one-on-one time with the instructors.

Attendees were told where and how to look for everything. This could be a challenge because parishes, where the records were kept, moved depending on wars, fires, and who was king. Knowing the background of the area of research would be essential. Parish records could go back to 1400 or 1500, but Civil Registration in England and Wales didn't begin until July 1, 1837 and wasn't re-

quired until 1874. The Census Records from 1841 contained more details on people than was listed before. Other records to look for were electoral records, poll books, and non-conformist records.

Good resources were *Ancestral Trails* by Mark Heber and *Tracing Your Ancestors in the National Archives* by Amanda Bevan, highly recommended, as were the websites Findmypast.co.uk and Ancestry.co.uk.

Locating where the family lived was possible via Ge-nUKI and FamilySearch Wiki. [Http://maps.familysearch.org/](http://maps.familysearch.org/) showed parish maps of 40 counties in England. Look for wills and administrations in one of three places: <https://www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance>, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, or <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-home/>. Look for people mentioned in [The Times Digital Archive](http://www.thetimes.com/digital) that would give a look at what was happening during a specific time period.

The Institute's next seminar is October 10-14, 2016, and it sounds like it wouldn't be too early to make plans now to attend.

D
Y
K

ROOTSTECH 2016

The sixth annual global conference is scheduled for February 3-6, 2016 in Salt Lake City, Utah. If you've wanted to attend this conference but heard that it was too expensive or there are too many people or the schedule was confusing, one option for attendees might be just the answer. By signing up for a **"Getting Started Three-Day Pass (Thursday-Saturday)**, you have access to over 30 beginner classes designed to help you get started with your family tree. A complete listing of the classes on the Getting Started track can be found at: <https://rootstech2016.smarteventscloud.com>. Just select "Getting Started Track" to see the listing. Classes include titles such as, *Can I Undo That? 25 Tech Mistakes You Should Avoid*; *Are My Roots Showing? Security & Online Genealogy*; *Organizing Your Genealogy Research Process*; *5 Steps to Identify a Family Photo*; and *Beyond Hints, Research Strategies for Beginners*; just to name a few.

The Pass includes access to the Expo Hall and each evening's events, plus a conference bag. And the price is right at just \$39 until January 24, 2016. The regular price for all 200+ classes is \$159 until January 24, 2016. For more information or to register, check out the Rootstech webpage at: rootstech.org.

Side By Side



Jeanne Wolf

Member since 2012

I was raised in Seattle and graduated from Shoreline High School. I was married and have two children. My son is in the U.S. Army and my daughter lives in Bremerton. I worked in Army Housing, which allowed me to travel overseas. I worked and lived in Korea on 3 assignments, Vicenza and Naples, Italy and San Diego, California. I retired in 2003. I traveled to Germany in May and attended a birthday celebration of my daughter-in-law's mother who lives in Poland. I have 3 Grand daughters

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

My mother wanted me to become a 'Daughter of the American Revolution' because my Paternal Grandmother was a DAR. Soon after my application was accepted, my mother died as a passenger in a car traveling to her winter home. So, while I was clearing my mother's estate, I attended my first meeting of the DAR in Arizona and later a few meetings in this area.

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

I learned of the PSGS library at a table at the Kitsap Fair. So, after moving from Silverdale to Bremerton, I began as a Volunteer in the PSGS Genealogy Center.

Q: What are your research goals?

My Genealogy interests are centered in the U.S. I know my father's side were early colonists. My mother's side is more difficult. I have more research to do to find the supporting documents from town records that my mother collected. I have many photos that I hope to include in the on-line programs. I've found some of my father's ancestors recorded in 'The Records of the Plymouth Colony' book in our PSGS Genealogy Room.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

Jonathan, Delano, Ormsby, Wetherell, and Simmons.

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I volunteer in the Genealogy Center.



Marilyn Roberts

Member since 1998

My husband and I are both originally from Bremerton and I have lived here all my life with the exception of a 7 year stint in Florida. I worked in the healthcare field for 45 years as a medical transcriptionist. We have four children all but one living here, our son lives in Florida.

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

My relatives decided I would be the one to receive information they had stored away or written down or cut from newspaper clippings. They couldn't throw anything away and I was the youngest among siblings and cousins and I was happy to do it. I was always interested in my grandfather's family who settled here very early.

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

Both my parents died unexpectedly in 1970 and my lone grandmother a couple years later. I realized I had not asked any of them about our family.

Q: What are your research goals?

My goal is to go to Salt Lake City to do some research so I can better organize all the bits of information that I received and be able to leave my family a foundation to further work on. With a maiden name of McNutt I wasn't sure if I was Irish or Scottish. I'm sure it is a little of both as the three McNutt brothers emigrated from Ireland to Virginia, but they had originally been from Scotland.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

Paternal family: McNutt, Bradley, Bell, Roberts. Maternal: Lent, Lyon, Allgood and Davenport. I would like to delve into my husband's family more as his grandfather came to the U.S. from Denmark as Rasmus Rasmussen and changed his name to Park Roberts.

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I was secretary for a couple of years and served on different committees in the past. We are so fortunate to be associated with KRL.

Gail Reynolds'

Belfair Bulletin

Here we are again and the year will be over before we know it. Belfair Chapter has had a bit of a busy summer. In August, we had a potluck picnic at Belfair State Park. We had goodies from our heritage or for other reasons. I brought sausage and sauerkraut to represent my German heritage and Lynda brought peanut butter cookies because the recipe was a favorite of hers from her mother. Judy brought cupcakes because we celebrated my birthday. Madi made a ricotta cheesecake pie with an old recipe of her husband's Italian family. Other dishes rounded out the meal, which was delicious eaten outdoors in the park.

September was my turn to either confuse or clarify my family bramble bush. I know I had to study it while making cards to put on the board to make sure I included everyone of note in just three generations of my family. I am sure some of the people there must have just shaken their heads as I tried to explain that I have one sister, three step-sisters and two half-sisters and one half-brother and it didn't stop there.

October is still up in the air. Linnie Griffin says she has a couple of possibilities for speakers so keep your eye on the PSGS website. Looking ahead, November is our Christmas party. See I told you 2016 was just around the corner. The party starts at 1:00 p.m. and is a potluck with a gift exchange. Hope to see you there for everyone is welcome.

A couple of notes to remember: Our meetings are still held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Belfair Library but now the meetings will start at 1:00 p.m. Also, the Belfair Chapter does not have meetings in the months of December and January. So, here we are in 2016.



Gail looks over the different recipes



Above: Carol Caldwell, Vicki Bushnell, Linda Wilson, Judy Joaquin, Fran Moyer and Jeanne Schulze.

5th Anniversary celebration of the Backtracker Staff

This edition of the October-December Backtracker marks five years of staff continuity dedicated to bringing an informative, useful and enjoyable newsletter to our PSGS organization. Pictures were taken at our October 8th meeting. Some key members were not present: Ann Northcutt, Mary Ann Wright, Larry Harden, Karin Burke, Gail Reynolds, and Jean Yager.



Have you Heard of Jack Jouett? Let me Tell You About Him

by Betty Burdyslaw



Jack Jouett

Several years ago, we took two of our granddaughters with us to Chattanooga, TN to visit their cousins. On our final day we decided to go see "The Hermitage", Andrew Jackson's estate. A surprise awaited.

After arriving home, I was curious about Andrew Jackson when a story caught my eye. This story was about the scandal that Andrew caused when he was staying in a house owned by a Mrs. Robards. Mrs. Robards' son, Capt. Lewis Robards, was married to a Rachel Donelson and Andrew and Rachel fell in love and ran off together. Andrew and Rachel claimed that they were married but a couple of years later, they found that her husband had not yet filed for divorce. Eventually, they married, but Rachel died shortly after Andrew was elected President but before he took office.

The item that really caught my eye was that Mrs. Robards, at whose house Andrew Jackson had stayed, also had a daughter Sally who married a Jack Jouett. The Jouett name was significant to me because I have a 3rd great grandmother named Permelia Jouett. I started looking for Jack Jouett online. They were French Huguenot's and were very prominent in Virginia during the Revolutionary War. One story claimed that he would have been as famous as Paul Revere if only he'd had a Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to write a poem about him. In fact, in Virginia, school students learn that Jack Jouett was "**The Paul Revere of the South**".

In 1781, the British (including Benedict Arnold) had turned their attention to colonial Virginia. At that point most of the American troops were engaged further north and there were few forces in Virginia to mount any kind of defense. On the evening of June 3, 1781, a young 26-year-old Captain in the 16th Regiment of the Virginia Militia named Jack Jouett was asleep on the lawn of the Cuckoo Tavern when British Cavalry led by Colonel Banastre Tarleton started through town. Jack Jouett guessed that they were headed to Charlottesville to capture Thomas Jefferson, who was Governor at the time,

and the Virginia House of Burgesses. He also surmised that there would be spies along the road and that if he were to warn Jefferson and the others, he would have to travel back roads to get to Charlottesville and Monticello before the British arrived. This proved to be a grueling 40 miles overnight ride with only moonlight to mark his way.

He arrived early the next morning and warned Governor Jefferson and some of the Virginia Legislators who were staying at Monticello and then hurried onto Charlottesville to warn the others. Jefferson sent his family to safety but dallied gathering papers and was nearly captured but escaped into the woods.

Tarleton and his men caught seven legislators when they arrived in Charlottesville but most of the assemblymen escaped. Some of the officials included Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison and General Thomas Nelson, Jr. Daniel Boone was captured but later released.

The Virginia General Assembly voted to reward Jouett with a sword and a brace of pistols for his service.

Jack Jouett moved to what would become Kentucky in 1782, married Sally Robards in 1784, became involved in the politics and was instrumental in Kentucky's break from Tennessee to become its own state. In later years, he became friends with Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay.

Jack's son Matthew Harris Jouett was a famous portrait painter. One of the sons of this Matthew was Rear Admiral James Edward Jouett, known for his service during the Mexican-American and Civil Wars. Three ships in the U.S. Navy have been named in his honor.

My connection to the Jouett's appears to be through my Dad's mother's side of the family when Permelia Jouett married William Pinkney McGinnis July 20, 1838. There is some confusion as to whether her father, the third Matthew Jouett, was the first cousin of Jack Jouett or his nephew so it seems that my research is not complete.



James E. Jouett



Classified Ads

Antique Show Volunteers Needed!

As you can see on the left, our new flyer has changed and more changes will be coming to the show itself. We can always use volunteers, but even more, since this is our only fundraising event of the year, we hope you all plan to attend. If you haven't before, this is a wonderful, fun event that you are sure to enjoy. Do you have an heirloom you want appraised? We do that, too!



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

The Backtracker Staff

Editor Fran Moyer
Associate Editor Mary Ann Wright
Associate Editor Elisabeth Demmon
Copy Editor Linda Wilson
Layout & Design Fran Moyer
Circulation Terry Mettling
Distribution Linda Wilson