



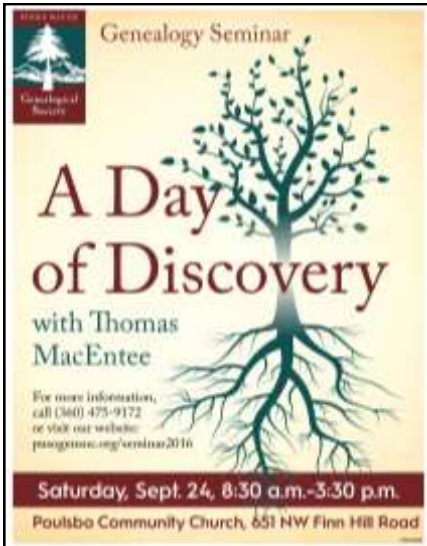
THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

www.pusogensoc.org

July through September 2016



The Seminar Committee is pleased to announce our upcoming bi-annual seminar is *A Day of Discovery* on **Saturday, September 24**, at the Poulsbo Community Church from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Our featured presenter is Thomas MacEntee, who hails from

Chicago, Illinois. In the genealogy world, Thomas is a well-known and popular speaker. He is a genealogy professional along with being a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, marketer, network builder and more. He built his own genealogy-related business called High Definition Genealogy, created an online community of over 3,000 family history bloggers known as Genea-Bloggers, and most recently formed Hack Genealogy, an attempt to “re-purpose today’s technology for tomorrow’s genealogy.” Learn more about Thomas on the Seminar webpage, www.pusogensoc.org/psgs/Seminar2016.

From over 75 genealogy-related topics available, the committee asked Thomas to speak on the following: **Internet Archive: A Gold Mine for Genealogists; Managing the Genealogy Data Monster; Mapping Your Genealogy:**

From A to Z and In-Between; and Successful Collateral and Cluster Searching. Full descriptions of these topics are in our Seminar 2016 brochure, located on the Seminar webpage on our website.

The registration fee is \$40.00 for PSGS members and \$45.00 for non-members. The late registration fee after September 15 is an additional \$5.00. Your registration includes a light lunch, morning and afternoon snacks and a chance to win one of more than 20 genealogy-related door prizes, such as Ancestry.com memberships, Genealogy Bank subscriptions, a DNA kit and lots more. Committee members have assembled an exciting basket of technology-related items (\$250+ value, plus a 16GB Apple iPad Mini 2) as this year’s raffle item. As in past years, raffle tickets are only \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, and can be purchased in advance with your registration or at the door. Jim Johnson will also bring lots of research goodies from the Heritage Quest Research Library’s Bookstore.

For more information, or to download the brochure and registration form, go to the PSGS website, www.pusogensoc.org/psgs/Seminar2016.

We hope you will join us for an exciting and productive day!



Thomas MacEntee

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Genealogy Center Report

by Mary Ann Wright

We're excited to announce that our members now have access to two fabulous databases . . . for FREE! The Executive Board approved a one-year institutional membership for both the New England Historic and Genealogical Society's AmericanAncestors.org and the World Collection at findmypast.com.

Our members can now explore the extensive collection of New England records and documents, town guides, an extensive collection of New York records, subject guides and books as well as access to 19th Century U.S. Newspapers and Marquis Biographies Online. In addition, the Genealogy Center will receive the quarterly scholarly journal, *The New England Historic and Genealogical Register*, along with the quarterly magazine, *American Ancestors*. Both publications are valuable tools for research.

After you have located your many ancestors in New England, now it's time to trace them back to Canada or the British Isles. Just some of the search categories available on findmypast.com include military records, institutes and organizations, immigration, directories, vital and land records, and much more. In addition, their US and World newspapers collection provide access to newspapers from all 50 states, Washington, DC, Panama, the Virgin Islands, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Jamaica and South Africa. Separate collections include British and Irish newspapers and access to PERSI, the Periodical Source Index. PERSI contains articles from thousands of historical, genealogical and ethnic publications, including our very own *Backtracker*!

Access to these databases is limited to the Genealogy Center. You can bring your own laptop/tablet or use the new laptop purchased just for this purpose. Sign in to our Members Only page and then link to either or both databases. Instructions are posted by the laptop. I recommend you bring a flash drive so you can save all the documents you find. Please do not save documents to the PSGS laptop's hard drive. If you do use the PSGS laptop, just remember to sign out of the database and our PSGS website when you're finished.

One more exciting opportunity for members is the offer of a 50% discount from findmypast.com for a yearly World Collection subscription. The coupon code is also on the Members Only page.

We hope you enjoy these outstanding member benefits!



Milestones by Judy Joaquin

It was with excitement and some trepidation my husband and I set off for a road trip across the US in April. No, we don't have a motor home. During that month I saw the insides of more hotels than I ever wanted to see! The trip culminated in Annapolis, Maryland to see our grandson, Logan Knowles. We enjoyed several days with him as well as attending his baseball games-Navy vs Army. It was a thrill.

Thankfully we arrived home safe and sound 4 weeks after our journey began. I had a fun experience in Cawker City, Kansas-that's for another article.

Unfortunately not all road trips turned out to be all fun! Jean and Rick Yager set off for a great trip in their motor home only to have Rick become very ill. Thankfully he received good medical care and is now home. Our best to Rick!

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Bob Crump and his wife for her recent illness as well as sympathy for Nancy Ladenberger in her recent loss. Bob Caldwell recently suffered a stroke and our best goes to him and Carol.

Charlotte and Ken Thornton welcomed their great-grand daughter, Bryanna-June Destinnie .

Hazel Thornton suffered a sprained elbow to her dominant arm. We hope rehab proves successful in regaining all your function!

Congratulations to all the new High School and College graduates-children and grandchildren of our members. My grandson, Lucas Knowles, graduated from South Kitsap High School. Our best wishes to all.

Larry and Gail Reynolds celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary this month. Congratulations to them and others who have reached milestones. Please keep me abreast of the news—good news is welcome!!



Dear Genie

Q. I have been searching for my great-great grandmother, America Howard Bryant. She was born, lived, married and died in Kentucky. Kentucky didn't keep death and birth records until 1852. America was born 1810, married in March 1836, Logan County. She had 5 children before her death. She died before March 1848, when her husband remarried. The 1850 Census lists her 5 children, the youngest is 5 years old. Where can I search to verify her death? Where was she buried? Logan Co.? Date of Death? I know her parent, husband, children.

- A.** 1. Check Find-a-Grave and/or obituaries for each of her children to see if there is any mention or clues for their mother.
2. Check to see where her parents are buried. She may have been buried with her parents in a family plot.
3. FamilySearch.org has several books online available for Logan County. I would check through them to see if there is any mention in an early newspaper or court record or county history. Same for Google Books.
4. Check USGENWEB for Kentucky, Logan County to see if any records have been posted there.
5. Mine the info in Family Trees on Ancestry.com for clues. Maybe someone has found something useful . . . and sourced! Contact some of the tree owners for their sources.
6. Post a query on RootsWeb or Ancestry.

Q. I am looking for my bio-father who was born in 1955 in Missouri. My mother met him in May/June 1975 at Naval Air Station, Miramar, CA. She was 17 years old

and he was 20. He was stationed in Norfolk, VA, but was just at Miramar for schooling. I have tried all the web-sites your volunteers have recommended. Is there any way to get military info without next of kin?

- A.** 1. If you believe he is living and you have a Facebook account, try searching for him by name at the top of your Facebook page. If you can figure out his possible high school, search Facebook for his graduating class as they often keep addresses for class reunion purposes.
2. A basic Internet search, such as a Google search, can find persons with his name and some basic information such as age and places he has lived, professional affiliations or some legal transactions. You may get a number of people with his name that you will have to weed through.
3. If you have an account at Ancestry.com begin a basic family tree that includes his name and see if it populates with hints that may include other members' family trees or other documents.
4. If you believe your father is deceased, visit <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/115958> for instruction on how to access his military records. According to the General Services Administration, next of kin is described as "unremarried surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother." Requestors must provide proof of death, and acceptable records are listed on the website. This information might not be helpful now, but may in the future if you find his name listed in any of the acceptable records.
5. Don't forget to check Find a Grave and the Social Security Death Index on Ancestry.com.

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By accessing the Daughters of the American Revolution website you may search for data on family Bibles. There are over 60,000 entries from all over the country. Purely by accident I stumbled onto this and was successful. You might be too! Here are the steps:

1. Access Daughters of the American Revolution website at http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search/?Tab_ID=12

2. Enter a name.

Try it—it's fun and even productive!

by Judy Joaquin

Two of PSGS's Society Gems

Mary Ann Wright and Johnny Wilson have been the force behind the creation of our new website. Their hard work, dedication and vision have gone towards creating a site for PSGS to be proud of. As well as learning how to use WordPress, Johnny and Mary Ann were responsible for transferring and configuring all of our old website information onto our new website. But they didn't stop there! We now have photos, themes, plug-ins and a website that is truly dynamic. Thank you, Mary Ann and Johnny, for all of your hard work – you are true society gems.



Education Report

by Jean Yager

Do you have an elusive ancestor or brick wall? Are you interested in your family history and just don't know where to begin? Do you need information on researching a state or in a foreign country?

We have invited members of the Puget Sound Chapter – Association of Professional Genealogists to provide free 20-minute sessions to help you with your family history research. This **Ask the Experts** event is scheduled for Saturday, August 27, from 10am to 2pm. Sign up in the Genealogy Center and pick up an informational flyer and Ask the Experts registration form. This is your opportunity to share what you've done on your particular research problem, seek answers to those burning questions, and get new ideas about your next steps. Pre-registration is required. Information and registration forms are also available on our website under Upcoming Events.

...And Then There Were Three!



Fran is a person who has worn many hats for our organization- President, Nomination Committee Chair, Antique Show Vendor Chair, GC Volunteer-often at the same time. But one that stands out above all is Fran's work as the Editor of the Backtracker. Just one year after joining PSGS, Fran took the job as Backtracker Editor in 2011. She believes everyone can write and encourages all of us to tell the stories of our ancestors. As a result, our quarterly publication is full of heartwarming stories of pioneer families, military veterans, exciting genealogy discoveries and adventures on the road. Being editor doesn't just mean gathering stories. It also means artfully placing those stories on the pages of the publication. This time-consuming task is obviously a labor of love because the end result is a publication we all appreciate and admire. Thank you, Fran for all your hard work and dedication. You truly are a society gem.

A Big Success at our May Meeting!

Recipe Treat from Barb Chesley

40 Club Crackers (2 1/2 inches x 1 inch)

1/2 cup butter or Margarine

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract

1/2 cup silvered almonds

Place crackers in a single layer in a foil lined 15 x 10 baking sheet. In a saucepan over low heat melt butter. Add sugar; bring to a boil stirring constantly for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; add vanilla.

Pour evenly over crackers, sprinkle with nuts. Push into the liquid. Bake 350 for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Immediately remove from the pan cutting between crackers if necessary, and cool on wire rack. Store in an airtight container.



Edward Francis Smith, a Brave Bugler of the Civil War

by Bonnie Peterson



Music played an important part in the Civil War. In August 1861, the U.S. War Department required that each company have two musicians and that those company musicians would get together from each company of the regiment to form the regimental band. There were also buglers, fifers and drummers. The buglers were not part of those regimental bands.

1863 Army regulations allowed recruiters to enlist young men (many who were under the age of 18) who had a natural talent for music. They were taught how to play various instruments including bugles, fifes and drums. Music was used to indicate the time and when duties were to be done in the camp. It also guided the actions of the troops when in battle.

The bugle is most associated with the cavalry and artillery and the drum and fife was greatly used in the infantry. Over time, it was demonstrated that drum beats and fife tunes were hard to hear over musket and artillery fire. The bugle could be heard over a greater distance and many leaders would have a bugler by their sides at all times.

Buglers had to know how to play forty different calls and when to play the correct ones in battle. There was a thick manual that the bugler had to memorize. The more common calls included Reveille, Halt, Deploy, Charge, Assembly, Commence, Rally by Fours, To the Color, Attention, and Tap.

Edward Francis Smith was my daughter's great grandfather on her paternal grandmother's side. Edward's parents kept all of his letters that he sent home from 1862 to 1865, leaving his descendants a first hand account of his Civil War experiences.

Edward was born in Ashland County, Ohio on 31 July 1845. In order to enlist, he lied about his age (he was fifteen), and enlisted in the 7th Ohio Cavalry. Later he went into the 42nd Ohio Cavalry under Major James Garfield (later the 20th President of the United States). Ed-

ward remained in the unit until being mustered out in 1862.

Edward then enlisted in the 2nd Ohio Cavalry and served more than four years. During this time, he was under fire in ninety-six engagements and served under Generals Grant, Sheridan and Custer.

Edward's service for the Union Army was as a bugler. Mr. Smith wrote home often and most of his letters about his experiences were saved.

One significant battle of which he was a part is recalled in his obituary published in the July 11, 1907 edition of Daily Globe of Shelby, Ohio. The day after the fight at Appomattox (where General Lee surrendered) contingents of Lee's army were retreating. One of the rebel commanders, in a last display of boldness, turned his soldiers to face

General Custer's army.

Custer ordered Smith to take his band halfway across the space between the two armies within range of the muskets of the rebels and to play Yankee Doodle. Both armies watched in silence as the band, on horseback, marched to the ground between both forces. When the band started playing Yankee Doodle, the rebels sent a storm of bullets into the buglers that sent them flying in retreat.

The rebels started cheering until they realized that they were still hearing a single bugle playing Yankee Doodle in defiance.

(cont'd page 15)



Edward Francis Smith

Buckeye Band 1906
Edward F. Smith, Band Leader



A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



April 27 **“From Pilgrims to Patriots”**

presenter: Jerri McCoy

Jerri McCoy presented the genealogist’s point of view on the history of the settlement of the original 13 colonies. Details included a small collection of pilgrims and patriots, with names, dates and their country of origin. The first settlement was in Jamestown, VA in 1609 with colonists arriving from England and Scotland. The second permanent settlement took place in 1620 in Plymouth, MA, followed by settlements in New York, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina and Pennsylvania. Georgia was the last of the original colonies to be settled, with the first settlement to that area arriving in 1733. In closing, Jerri tied the names of many of those settling colonists to their role in signing the Declaration of Independence themselves, or in several instances it was their following generation who were signers.

May 28 **“On-Site Research far or near? Strategies for Success”** **presenter: Janet Camarata**

Janet Camarata shared her knowledge, tips and many logical and practical approaches to on-site research, from the logistical preparations for a research trip, such as packing recommendations based on your mode of travel, to the organizational techniques known to work best during your actual research, for example updating your research lists and logs daily. She offered suggestions for beginning researchers as well as some helpful technology tools to take along and use in your genealogy research, as well as techniques not dependent on technology. And, although last but not in the least important, tasks to complete upon your return from a research trip, including transcribing your research results as soon as possible. Some helpful website resources Janet mentioned were: Thomas MacEntee’s blog entry on July 23, 2013, “What to Pack for a Family History Research Trip,” (<http://flip-pal.com/what-to-pack/>) and Family History Trippin’ <http://pinterest.com/flippal/family-history-trippin/>.

Jun 22 **“Trails West: Crossing the Continent 1840-1860”** **presenter: Mary Roddy**

Mary Roddy’s talk brought to life the challenges of the east to west migration. She spoke about several migration routes, with the largest number of migrants traveling the overland routes. Additionally, there were two routes via water, usually chosen by the eastern seaboard residents wanting to migrate to the west. The Oregon Trail was a popular wagon trail, with some using the southern route portion of it known as the Applegate Trail. The eastern seaboard residents were the most likely water route travelers, taking either a very long voyage south to Cape Horn, South America and then north to California, or traveling the Panama Route through the Isthmus of Panama on the Chagres River and then, after reaching the Pacific Ocean, boarding steamships northward to the California coast. To learn more about these travelers, Mary recommended *The Prairie Traveler: A Handbook for Overland Expeditions* by Randolph Barnes Marcy. Some internet resources included: The Oregon Trail Site at <http://oregontrail101.com/> and another site, created by Stephenie Flora, offering information on the Oregon Territory and its pioneers, <http://www.oregonpioneers.com/ortrail.htm>.



Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

Jul 27 “Adoption—Secrets Revealed”

presenter: **Dee Haviland Fournier**

Adoption records are often marked closed and sealed, yet they contain the secret to your identity. Dee will show us how to get started searching.

Aug 24 “Quaker Dates—And the Missing 11 Days of 1752”

presenter: **Steven W. Morrison**

Steven will teach us how clerks in the British Isles and American colonies created a dating system linking the old Julian and new Gregorian calendars.

Sep 28 “Pledging Allegiance--the Paper Trail to Naturalizations ”

presenter: **Evelyn Roehl**

Evelyn will show us which naturalization sources and resources are available to help us find those documents our ancestors may have filed.

Schedule of Classes — July through September

Jul 5	Tuesday	10AM-Noon	An Introduction to African American Genealogy Presenter: Janice Lovelace
Jul 23	Saturday	10AM-Noon	Webinar: Taming Your Inner Packrat Presenter: Lisa Alzo
Aug 2	Tuesday	10AM-Noon	What is a Huguenot? Presenter: Jim Johnson
Aug 27	Tuesday	10AM-2PM	Ask the Experts Presenter: Members of PS-APG
Sep 6	Tuesday	10AM-Noon	Social Media including Facebook Presenter: Dee Haviland Fournier

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

Contact: educ@pusogensoc.org

Putting Down Roots

Homesteading, Orcas Island

by Lorraine Jackson

Part Two



In 1872 tragedy struck. Idel's husband Jim was away on business near Whatcom. According to newspaper articles he had a fit, fell off his wagon and the wagon wheel ran over his chest, crushing him. Someone eventually found him, took him to Whatcom, but he was mortally wounded and died. The doctor said he could have saved him if someone had found him sooner. At just 18, Idel was now a widow with two young children, Libby and Jepther Bradshaw. She had to take a long trip on the steamboat *Islander* down to Seattle to identify her husband's body. In later years she related to my grandmother that the trip "took forever."

Idel remarried in 1875 to my great-grandfather, Martin White Nichols, who was born in Searsport, Maine in 1845. He was from a long line of shipbuilders and sea captains but apparently decided to do something different and come out West. He and Idel lived in Friday Harbor. Together they ran the store and hotel there (now the present-day San Juan Hotel). Their house is still standing on Spring Street in Friday Harbor, known as the Nichols House, and is the oldest house in town, having been built by Judge Bowman in 1885.

Again tragedy struck Idel. Martin passed away from consumption in 1891 and Idel was again widowed with 8 more children, having lost a child earlier in 1891, too. She received a pension of \$8 a month from the Navy to help with raising the children, as Martin had served in the Navy in the Civil War. At one time she owned a good portion of land in what is now downtown Friday Harbor but she deeded some to her children and there is a rumor that she was "swindled" out of some of it but it's hard to say. She probably needed the money. At that time it was not the prosperous area on the island. In the 1900 Census

Idel was living in Port Townsend with her children and worked as a cook for a logging camp but later returned to Friday Harbor. She did not read or write but made her X when she signed a document, as did her father, Pierre LaPlante. My grandmother said of Idel, "She didn't know



Catherine Varnier

how to read or write but she knew what was going on." My grandmother was very close to Idel. She said, "I think I married your Grandpa (Cyrus Nichols) for his mother." Idel would make a yearly trip to Port Townsend on the launch to buy supplies she could not get in Friday Harbor and she always brought back material to make something for "my baby"--Grandma.

Idel's mother, Catherine Delaunais Laplante Verrier, settled on a farm with her husband at Roche Harbor for awhile in their early days on San Juan Island when it was disputed territory. At some point in time, after her husband LeZim Verrier passed away, leaving her with a large family, she moved to Orcas Island to live with her son, LeZim Verrier. (LeZim lived on Orcas for a total of 50 years). They lived in West Sound where he farmed.

Catherine was a strong woman and supported her family by doing everything from delivering babies to weeding and cultivating fields. She died at her home on Orcas Island at the age of 67 on 26 August 1902. On her death certificate it says, "half breed." In her obituary it says: "The people of this vicinity express their sincere sympathy for the relatives of the late Mrs. Catherine Verrier, who died at her home here last Wednesday. No one was better known on all Orcas and no one held in higher esteem. She lost no opportunity of doing a kind deed; her little acts of charity will be greatly missed...It is hard for bereaved ones to be reconciled, but "some day, some day we'll understand."

Putting Down Roots

From the NW Territory to the Redwood Forest

by Rusty Lynn Anderson Fischer



Myrtle & Burtie's family

Nearly a century after my grandmother, Myrtle May Herrmann, was born, my mother, Elaine May Johnson Anderson, gave me grandma's birth certificate. Mother was grandma's youngest child. I am mother's eldest. Twenty-five years later I've begun researching grandma's life.

Myrtle May's mother was Margaret Elizabeth Richey, born in

Nebo, Pike, Illinois, daughter of Margaret Lavina Kirkpatrick Richey Roper and Joseph George Richey. Her father was Henry Paul Herrmann born in Prussia, Brandenburg, Germany. Henry was a carpenter and his father, Heinrich, a joiner carpenter. In 1867 Henry immigrated with Heinrich and Caroline. By 1885 they resided in Whatcom County. By 1889 Henry was employed in Port Townsend by BJ Cummings Carpentry. Myrtle's Port Townsend "Hilltop Community" home was built by her father.

While in Port Townsend, Myrtle's Aunt Addie Roper provided beautiful dresses for Myrtle and sisters. Addie owned Butler and Roper Dressmakers on Water Street in the Tucker Building.

In 1892 the family returned to Whatcom County. Bellingham had seen many improvements in the community: a high school had been built and a transportation system was being developed. By 1900 they were a family of nine living in New Whatcom City District, Bellingham.

Age 16, Myrtle May married Jack Dennis O'Connor, age 26. It was her first time traveling East, across the Cascades to Spokane. They had two sons. After one died in 1910 Myrtle's marriage ended. Myrtle and son Kenneth returned to Bellingham to live with her mother who had remarried. In 1909 Myrtle's father died and in 1911 Myrtle's brother, age 15, died from meningitis.

In 1913 Myrtle married Hiram Thomas Barron who was living in Sumas with his widowed father. While in Sumas, Jack, and Laveria were born. Advertisements of well-irrigated Yakima farmland reached Hiram. He purchased a large fruit ranch, and by late Spring, Myrtle was organizing her Mabton, Yakima, Washington, home. Hiram registered for the WWI draft and Myrtle had to manage affairs for several years. In 1919 Hiram became ill and in 1921 died at Fort Steilacoom, Washington.

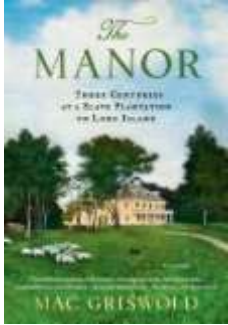
That summer Myrtle accepted Burtie E Johnson's marriage proposal. He was divorced and a father. In late summer 1921, Myrtle and Burtie were married in Westminster, Vancouver, BC. Those in attendance with Myrtle's children were Grandmother Margaret Lavina Kirkpatrick Richey Roper, Aunt Maude Roper and Uncle Rollie Milton Roper who lived in White Rock, Vancouver, BC.

Myrtle sold the ranch and the family moved back to Bellingham and two more children, Nadine and Elaine May, joined the family. Burtie was a salesman of oil burners. The Depression forced the entire family to move to Sonoma County, California. In 1940 Burtie purchased a Redwood grove in Mendocino County, California and built a shake mill on Old Redwood Highway, Ukiah. Grandpa, by then known as "Shakey," sold the Grove to the State of California. It is now known as Montgomery Grove State Park. Burtie and Myrtle May's 50th Wedding Anniversary was July 1971.



Soul Searching

by Christine Maltby



In the Name of God Amen the twentieth day of September in the Year of our Lord Seventeen hundred and Seventy three I Jeremiah Bedell of Hempstead in Queens County on Nassau Island and Province of New York being weak in Body but of sound disposing Mind and understanding and considering the uncertainty of this transitory Life do

make this my last Will and Testament ... I give and recommend my Soul unto Almighty God that gave it and all the Estate that I have in this World ... I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Hannah Bedell at her disposal the sum of one hundred and forty Pounds lawful money of New York which Sum I give her in lieu of the Sixty Pounds I sold her Negro Girl for

Haunting, disturbing. Jeremiah Bedell is my yeoman sixth great-grandfather. For generations, this family had been Quakers — pacifists, gentle folk, right? But we didn't know when the family had experienced conversion.

In the *Documentary History of the State of New York, Vol. 3* by Christopher Morgan (Google Books) a table appears for “A List of the Slaves Male and Female above 14 years of age ... Township of Hempstead” tallied April 5th, 1755. Jerm. Bedell owned two slaves, a male and a female. Was this female the “Negro Girl” or was she a girl child yet too young to be counted in 1755?

Then, by chance, browsing at the University Bookstore in Tacoma, I spotted Mac Griswold's *The Manor: Three Centuries at a Slave Plantation on Long Island* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, c 2013). I knew I had to read it.

In 1984, with her friend guiding, Mac Griswold rowed through a culvert up Gardiners Creek on Shelter Island in Long Island Sound. What she discovered was Sylvester Manor, a yellow 19th century house nearly obscured behind boxwoods twelve feet high.

With gracious persistence, she arranged to meet Andrew Fiske and his wife Alice, direct descendants of Nathaniel Sylvester, whose family had continuously occupied the estate for eleven generations.

In 1997, Ms. Griswold returned to begin research. I wish I could summarize here the fifteen years of collaborative research, archaeology, subsequent publications,

and linear feet of archival papers. Mac Griswold struck a spark that enlightens this period of history.

In June 1651, Nathaniel Sylvester, his brother Constance of Barbados and their partners purchased the 8,000 acre Shelter Island from Stephen Goodyear of New Haven, Connecticut Colony. The purchase price? Barbados sugar. When Youghco, sachem of the Manhansetts tribal people, appealed to the New Haven Colony court in Hartford, the partners were required to purchase the island a second time. In 1653, to his new home, Nathaniel brought his bride, Grizzell Brinley: daughter of Thomas Brinley, Auditor of the Revenue for Charles I and Charles II; sister-in-law of Governor William Coddington of Rhode Island Colony.

The source of Nathaniel Sylvester's wealth? The Atlantic currents which carried ship cargoes in a trade quadrangle — grain, salted meat, horses, oak staves for barrels from Shelter Island — to his brother Constance and their partners on the isle of Barbados — sugar, molasses, rum to his English father Giles Sylvester, a merchant in Amsterdam — and then along the coast of West Africa to take on board enslaved Africans to be “seasoned” in Barbados, some to be shipped north to New Amsterdam and New England.

Was Northern slavery more benign? There are differences, one that Northern slave owners generally owned fewer slaves, and that the enslaved Africans (or Indians) often lived in the same dwelling as the family. Unequivocally, slavery was a brutal practice in a brutal era.

The irony is that Nathaniel and his family and business partners were early converts to the Society of Friends and provided refuge to the charismatic Quakers who alternately proselytized, and were imprisoned, maimed, and sometimes executed in the Colonies. Quaker leader George Fox who early preached against slavery, both in Barbados and on Shelter Island, was a guest of the family. Yet slavery in New York was only outlawed thirty years before the onset of the Civil War.

More about Mac Griswold at macgriswold.com.

Letters from the Field During the Civil War Part One

by Helen Schwartz

The Riggs side of my family had been elusive ever since I took up genealogy. I found far fewer documents about them than the three other sides of the family. On familysearch.org I found nothing, even with help from my cousin who did her Mormon mission answering questions from callers to the Salt Lake City genealogy library.

My great great grandfather William "Henry" Riggs moved to Illinois as a child and then eventually lived in Atchison, Kansas. I found Henry at 18, working on his father's farm. Then he was in the 1875 census as a married father of five children. That was it.

To find his wife Ruth, I went through every 1860 census in the Kansas county where she and Henry lived after they married. Then, nothing.

I'd been looking for Henry and Ruth for over a year when I received an email from someone who had seen my virtual memorials for them on findagrave.com.

His great great grandfather was George Riggs, Henry's younger brother. It was a treasure to find Riggs descendants and I was thrilled. Then he stunned me by saying that he had letters that Henry had written to George and their mother and sister. He'd found them in a trunk when he was about 10 years old and they were still in his family's possession. I couldn't believe my good fortune. Rob had transcribed the letters and would send me copies.

Many of the letters were written during the Civil War when Henry was a soldier and then a prisoner of war. Henry and George's younger brother, Alfred, was killed at the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee at Stove River.

Henry and Ruth married in about 1866 and had four children, in addition to Dora. Henry died in 1877 when the children were young; Ruth and Dora went to work as hotel housekeepers. Then Ruth died in 1879 and the children were farmed out; it became a very sad story.

Through the letters I've come to know Henry and Ruth and have been able to find other documents I would never have found otherwise. Thanks to my cousin Rod Wright.

Letter from Henry to his mother, October 25th, 1857, Manhattan (Kansas)

Times is very dull here now. I am at work burning some lime at present to plaster up my cabin with...Next month I commence butchering and shall stick to it and do nothing else.

I shall git a chance to go out buffalo hunting this fall I think. There has been a party out and got in yesterday with two barrels of beef and one of tallow.

Governor Warker took the troops up to the polls and had them vote and voted himself. Lane is in Leecomton and threatens to burn the place if the vote is taken. Secretary Stanton is going to fight a duel with sheriff Jones next month. I hope that they both will git killed.

Letter from Henry to his mother, May 21st, 1862, Ft Scott

I had my likeness taken today again...They are poorly taken as you will see by the likeness, when you look. The one on horseback my pants were too short and my uniform was dusty and so forth.

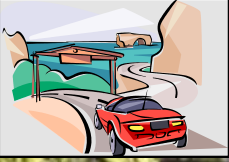
Our regiment has been ordered here three times for payment and then to proceed to the Cherokee Nation. But Col. Clayton thinks he is in Hallecks Division and will not come back here for fear that he will be sent to fight the Indians and Gen. Curtis tells him to stay and not come up here if he does not want to.

Letter from Henry to George, Sept. 13, 1862, Helena (Ark.)

"We have rec'd orders to have our horses shod within three days and then we have to march. We are not sure which way yet. Either down the river to Vicksburg or to reinforce Grant in Miss. I want to have my horse shod in the morning. I am glad to get out of this place. I have been sick very near all the time that we have been here.

"As we captured a secesh (secessionist) mail the other day and that was the reason that our regiment was sent out. It had letters from Gen. Hinman to Price in Miss telling all his plans. He has left Little Rock and is marching to Mo. With his army 30,000 thirty thousand, fifty pieces of cannon. He thinks to clear all before him as he goes. By his letters maybe he will.

(More letters from the Civil War in the October Issue!)



Meanderings

by Madi Cataldo



My travel friend and I took a trip to Charleston, South Carolina. There is much history there of the Revolution and Civil Wars. One day we took a random trip heading towards Summerville and soon came to Dorchester Road. I remarked that Massachusetts has both a Somerville and a Dorchester. It seemed strange and my curiosity came up when we saw a Historical State Park—I had to go in.

In 1697 a group of Congregationalists sailed from Massachusetts and settled in South Carolina. They created a town along the Ashley River that lasted at least 100 years. It was abandoned after the Revolutionary war.

Today the area is the Dorchester State Park, a historical site. Ongoing archeology research has provided us with a glimpse of what life was like years ago. The colonists acquired 4,050 acres and named it Dorchester, built a fort, a church, farms, a common,

and a mill. As the town developed it became an important trading center. In the 18th century a Richard Baker operated a wharf. Other names were found in deeds, diaries, wills and letters.

Patriots fortified the town during the Revolutionary war in 1775. They feared a Loyalist attack. Soldiers assembled at Dorchester before marching to Charles Town in 1779 and 1780. When Charles Town fell to the British, a foraging party found Dorchester deserted. The British held the town until near the end of the war. They fled damaging most of the buildings. Dorchester never recovered due to damage and economic disruption. In 1886 an earthquake destroyed what remained except portions of the fort walls and the church bell tower.

If you had early ancestors in Dorchester, Massachusetts and they suddenly disappeared, take a look in the South Carolina records.



It is Time to Plan Ahead for our annual Salt Lake City Trip 2017

by Larry Harden

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 March 12, 2017 to Sunday March 19, 2017**.

Here are the details:

- Rooms are \$87 a night for Single/Double
- \$97 a night for Triple/Quad
- \$10 for each rollaway bed
- Plus 12.60% tax (subject to change)

- Above rates are for standard rooms
 - Deluxe room rate is \$97.00 single/double and \$107.00 triple/quad.
 - Participants take care of their own transportation and provide a credit card for the room on arrival.
- A firm rooming list needs to be provided to the hotel by **January 15, 2017**.

All those interested in going or who would like more information, please contact Larry Harden prior to December 15, 2016 at: treas@pusogensoc.org

Side By Side



IdaMae Swedberg

Member since 1980

I was born in Astoria, Oregon and attended school there and in Seaside and at Mt. Angel. After graduation, I worked for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., holding several jobs there. I was married for 15 months and had a daughter, then married again and had more children. My husband got a job at the Navy Yard and we moved here in 1975.

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

I think I was always interested in learning about my family, but it wasn't until my son's funeral that I realized I was the link to my children's knowledge about their family.

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

I attended a few meetings at Marlys Marrs' home but didn't officially join until PSGS became active in Port Orchard.

Q: What are your research goals?

I have been extremely lucky in my researching, due to contacts with 2nd and 3rd cousins who are genealogists and willing to share their findings. Through Ancestry.com I have been in contact with a lady from Norway whose husband's line is linked to my line. Since she speaks the language she has been able to follow the family in the Bigdaboks and found our common 9th great grandfather! I also have a sheaf of letters I am trying to get translated from Norwegian that I found in an old chest. Hopefully, they will shed some light on my grandfather's life.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

My brick wall surnames are Hooper in England, Kane in Ireland and Svorkmo in Norway.

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I have been a volunteer librarian at Port Orchard and at the Genealogy Center. I also created the window displays at our Port Orchard location with items of interest.



Leah Snider

Member since 2013

I was born and raised in Seattle and graduated from Central Washington University. After several years as an elementary teacher, I worked for the DoD teaching in Japan and Germany. I met my husband in Germany and we married several years later. After his retirement from the Air Force, we settled in Gig Harbor and then moved to Silverdale in 2008. We enjoy traveling the world and I enjoy card making, gardening and genealogy!

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

I can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in my family history. My grandmother, mother and a couple of aunts gathered and recorded family documents and information. I have contact with several family members in Norway. After retiring I was able to devote serious effort to the task. It's a giant puzzle with missing pieces!

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

I saw posters in the library and came to a meeting. I felt being around others with more than a passing interest in genealogy would be both inspirational and educational—which it has!

Q: What are your research goals?

I want to gather and organize my family history for my own satisfaction and then share it with future generations.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

Heilpern in Austria, Ukraine, Poland, Argentina and Israel; **Korpus** in Poland, Ukraine and Austria, **Talg/Talch** in Germany; and **Goldenthal** in Poland, Austria and Mexico

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I'm a member of the Program and Education Committees, been a TA for classes, served on the Seminar Committee and volunteered at the Antique Show.

Gail Reynolds'

Belfair Bulletin

Hello Everyone

Bet you never thought that I would be wishing you a Merry Christmas already and it is only July but you will see by the end of the Belfair Bulletin it will be December.

In May the Belfair group had Steve Morrison come to talk about Using Manuscripts and Family Records for Genealogical Proof. It was very enlightening. Steve explained the Genealogical Proof Standard to us. We also learned more about first hand knowledge. Seems the closer you are to being there at the time of the event, the more reliable the "facts" are.

June brought us a unique experience. We watched a webinar about Naturalization Records. We learned more about the Naturalization process and what changes and milestones have occurred over the years.

We so enjoy having Janet O'Connor Camarata speak that in July we had her come again to our meeting and speak about the Scots-Irish Settlers. We learned why they settled Northern Ireland and how they came to America.

Now, let's look forward at warp speed...In August we will meet again at the QFC in Belfair in the meeting room above the bakery. Janice Lovelace will be speaking on "Grandpa worked for the Railroad." I am excited to have her speak on this subject since I have a couple of relatives that did work for the railroad and I would like to delve into their lives.

In September we will be back at the Library in Belfair and will be sharing some of our finds and brick walls so that will be fun to see if having someone else in the group make suggestions on resources we could use can help us.

October brings us back to QFC over the bakery again. Janet O'Connor Camarata will be back to speak about Google Tools. Hope you can all be there for this presentation. This sound very interesting.

November is our Christmas Party back at the Belfair Library. Be there or be square. We have no meeting in December so MERRY CHRISTMAS! Please remember that our meetings start at 1:00 p.m. no matter where they are located and EVERYONE is invited to attend.

New digital archive available

D In 2012, the Bainbridge Public Library, the Kitsap Regional Library, and the people of Bainbridge Island began working on a digital archive of the *Bainbridge Review* between the years of 1941 and 1946.

Y This is important because it was the only newspaper in the country to oppose the incarceration of Japanese Americans during the war. The *Bainbridge Review* published countless photos and letters from the more than 200 residents of Japanese descent who were sent away as well as the opinions of the local citizenry who voiced their outrage.

K The text of this important historical archive is searchable by keyword at www.krl.org/kitsap-history and also by topic, such as military activity, obituaries, camp news, and much more.



With over 160 sessions, 72 expert speakers from around the world, 10 luncheons with speakers, 7 workshops, 2 interactive seminars, and exhibit hall, learning opportunities abound in the FGS 2016 program!

With strong daily tracks covering the U.S. Midwest (regional track), the United Kingdom (British Isles and Commonwealth track), and continental European research (ethnic track), you'll learn a multitude of ways to uncover more about your family's history. The migration track will provide many ideas for tracing how ancestors moved, and attendees will learn how to put their ancestors into context with the occupations, military, and religions tracks.

For further information, contact: 1-888-347-1500 or <https://www.fgsconference.org/registration/>

A welcome message from Findmypast.com—

Your society leadership has just acquired one more benefit to add to the long list of reasons to be an active member. We invite you to explore findmypast.com today, and all it has to offer you, then come back together and share your success stories as a group.

The team at Findmypast is very excited to have the Puget Sound Genealogical Society as our newest partners.

Findmypast is a constantly growing resource, and we hope to offer you a unique and diverse collection of genealogical records. We currently have more than 850 million U.S. records on Findmypast, and more than 1.8 billion records in our global collection. One of the many strengths of our holdings is a reflection on the history of the UK, Ireland and Australia. By taking advantage of this program, you are joining a network of 18 million subscribers around the world. Our partners include FamilySearch, the Allen County Public Library, the British Library, and the UK National Archives. We have been working closely with all of these collections to bring you interesting and dynamic records that will enhance your family history and allow you to explore the world in which your ancestors' lived.

A world subscription will give you access to our entire online collection of material, including the incredible British Newspapers collection, which spans from 1710-1953, and includes thousands of local and regional publications from England, Wales and Scotland. Your subscription will give you access to immigration and naturalization records as well as the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI), now exclusively housed at Findmypast. These are just a few titles that are available that span a global history, reaching back to the year 1200.

What does it mean for you? As a part of our commitment to the family history community, findmypast.com is always looking for ways to assist genealogical and historical societies. Through the Society Membership Program, in conjunction with FGS, as a member of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society, you receive a 50% discount to a twelve month world subscription on findmypast.com.

The leadership team of your organization has been issued a unique registration code for use on findmypast.com, so when you register for a world subscription, and enter the code, the 50% discount will automatically be applied to your subscription. It's that easy!

Happy searching!

---Your friends at Findmypast

Bugler, (cont'd from page 5)

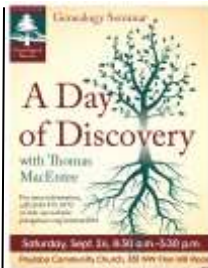
As the smoke of their guns and the dust of the re-treating horses cleared away, Mr. Smith was seen to be sitting on his horse still playing. After the last strain, he turned his horse and walked him back to the lines, resulting in an ovation of cheers from the Union army. Mr. Smith received a silver medal of honor from General Custer.

After the war, Edward Smith returned to civilian life in Ohio. He was a talented musician who led many bands (he was known as "Jerry, the band leader"). He became a music teacher, and it is said that he had as many as 1600 pupils.

Edward married Ella R. Hayden on 27 December 1870. Edward died 10 July 1907 in Shelby, Ohio at the age of 62.

Classified Ads

2016 Seminar



If you're planning to attend this year's Seminar, help is needed to greet attendees, pass out registration packets, help with morning snacks and lunch, and much more. Sign up at the July and August membership meetings or contact our Seminar Chair, Jean Yager, at seminar@pusogensoc.org.



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