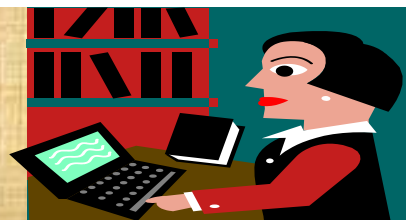




THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

www.pusogensoc.org

April-June, 2017

The Saturday opening day of the **Kitsap Antique Show 2017** was the largest crowd we have ever had. Sunday was also steadily busy. There were many who came bearing their heirlooms to be appraised. But since it has been said that pictures can be worth a thousand words, I include some for your perusal. by Fran Moyer



There were nine of our members who made the PSGS annual trip to the **Family History Library at Salt Lake City** this year. We haven't any stories from them yet, but are hopeful we will receive some exciting news from a few who were able to solve some of their ancestry mysteries for our next edition of the Backtracker.



Larry working with the Microfiche Machine



Madi, Jackie & Linnie working on the computers



Girls Night Out!
Left, front to back-
Madi, Jackie, and
Judy. Right, front to
back: Marlys, Linnie
and Gail

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Presidential Ponderings

by Mary Ann Wright



Congratulations to all the committee members who worked tirelessly over the last several months to plan and organize the 2017 Kitsap Antique Show! Our attendance increased from last year, meaning more revenue, and our dealers were feeling the love and vowing to return next year. Read more about the show on other pages in this issue. A tremendous amount of outreach goes into the planning of this event. The dealers and their quality products make our show one of the best around and we are grateful for the time and energy Fran Moyer, the 2017 Dealer Chair, has devoted to the show. She deserves our heartfelt thanks for all her efforts in recruiting dealers from near and far as well as her many years as a committee member to ensure a successful event. As Fran takes a well-earned break from the committee, our new Dealer Chair Jeanny Peel has the support of all of the committee members as she continues the good work Fran has put in place.

In addition to taking a break from the Antique Show committee, Fran is also ready to hand over the *Backtracker* editor's role to a new person. This issue is her last as editor. Fran stepped up back in 2011 to take the helm as editor and since then has consistently produced a quality newsletter. Her ability to encourage members to write their ancestors' stories is legendary! As a result, each issue continues to raise the bar for containing fascinating and inspiring stories of our ancestors. A new editor is yet to be named, but will have the full support of the *Backtracker* committee members. If you are interested in learning more about the editor's job, please contact me at: pres@pusogensoc.org.

Genealogy Center Report

by Mary Ann Wright

Those of you who frequent the Genealogy Center have noticed the lack of available shelf space, the crammed books and the reduced area in which to do research. To help with all of that, I've begun to work with Elisabeth Demmon, Library Associate and Liaison to PSGS, to develop an evaluation process to selectively reduce the number of books in our collection. Think quality, not quantity. For instance, we have numerous Census Indexes for several states. Before the digital age, these indexes were valuable research aids in locating the surnames of our ancestors. Now that actual census images are available in multiple places online, the indexes are no longer relevant. Eliminating just those books will free up several shelves. After Elisabeth and I have finalized the evaluation process, the Genealogy Center Committee will begin the review. The committee will prepare a list of books recommended for removal from the collection, with rationale, and the Executive Board will make the final decision as to the disposition of the books. If you have any suggestions or requests, please let us know. If you are interested in participating on the committee, contact me at: gcc@pusogensoc.org.

I'm happy to report our visitor counts to the Genealogy Center have continued to remain steady and new volunteers are beginning training. With the free access to Findmypast.com and AmericanAncestors.org in the Genealogy Center, coupled with the recent class on searching in those databases, interest in serving as a volunteer has increased. We welcome the new volunteers and invite interested members to join our team! For more information, please contact Charlotte, our Volunteer Coordinator and Trainer, at: gc-vol@pusogensoc.org.

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Looking for something to replace your Family Tree Maker software? Consider RootsMagic. The RootsMagic Blog, dated March 28, 2017, has exciting news about how RootsMagic will sync with Ancestry, including the fact that the syncing ability will be available even on the free version of RootsMagic! And, RootsMagic can be installed on all of your computers, including a RootsMagic To-Go version that lets you take your files with you on your flash drive. Read more here, <http://blog.rootsmagic.com/?p=2996>.



A search within these pages finds a 9th Great-Cousin!

by Larry Harden

While perusing the fourth quarter 2013 issue of my favorite publication (the PSGS *Backtracker*), I came across an article in “Putting Down Roots” by Julia Joaquin where she mentions her ancestor Samuel Appleton married Mary White, who was descended from Jethro Coffin of Nantucket Island. So, doing a little checking I found that Jethro Coffin’s father was Peter Coffin, a brother to two of my seven great grandparents John & Steven Coffin. Their father was Tristram Coffin, born ca 1609 in Brixton, Devon, England and came to Massachusetts in 1642 with his wife, five children, two sisters and his mother. In

1659, he and other investors bought Nantucket Island. Tristram Coffin died October 2, 1681. At the time of his death he was survived by seven children, sixty grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. It was estimated that by the year 1728 he had 1582 descendants of whom 1128 were still alive. Today, there would be many descendants of Tristram Coffin so maybe it’s not surprising one would find someone in their genealogy society also descended from him.

By my calculations, Judy and I would be 9th cousins once removed. Although not a close relationship, we still share a common ancestor. So, by writing an article about your family for the *Backtracker* and sharing your group sheets with other members, you also might find a relative among the membership.



Debunking Family Myths, For Better or For Worse

by Vickie Bushnell

Did you grow up with a story about your family that is so interesting and so well known it must be true? Often-times the story is so good you don’t want to find out it’s not true, but you are the family historian so you set out on a journey to find the truth, not sure if you will prove it or destroy the family legend in the process. This has happened to me with results that were sometimes disappointing, sometimes amusing. Here are a few family myths I ingloriously debunked, for better or worse.

Myth #1: My mother always said we were related to the actor Edward G. Robinson. Grandma was a Robinson and her father resembled Edward G. In my twenties I diligently researched my Robinsons, forwards, backwards and sideways but no Edward G.

Then Ancestry.com came along, so I looked up Edward and guess what? His real name was Emanuel Goldenberg. He was a Jew born in Bucharest, Romania in 1893 and he came to America when he was ten years old – over 250 years after my Robinsons came from England via Leyden, Holland. He was in no way related to us. Someone had added two and two together to get, well, five.

Myth #2: According to my aunt, we are related to Kit Carson. To be fair, she didn’t say “descended from”. As you know, “related to” leaves it wide open to discussion and results in a lot more research.

Off and on since 1978 I have looked for a family link to frontiersman Kit Carson, to no avail. No Carson anywhere. I dismissed the idea. Skip forward to 2015.

My cousin is curious about her mother’s family, who I am related to by marriage, not by genetics. I go on the hunt and easily find an extensive tree of my aunt’s Henry line, and I find...Carsons. After a cursory glance I don’t find Kit, but these Carsons are in the same town in Missouri at the same time as Kit, so “related to” is possible, and the mystery is almost solved. Someone in my extended family really might be related to Kit Carson, but it’s not me.

Myth #3: Two distant, elderly relatives wrote speeches many decades ago for a Colorado historical society, recalling their farm life with my immigrant ancestor who came to America in 1884. They mention how we are descended from Margaretha, the sister of Martin Luther. Long story short, I learned all Martin Luther researchers agreed that Margaretha had no children.

The moral of the story is, don’t be afraid to debunk the family legends. Sometimes it just gets more interesting.

A Further Search in Funeral Ledgers

by Mary Ann Wright

Taking the extra time to research funeral homes records can be very rewarding. My research took a natural path—confirming the event surrounding the death of my great grandfather, finding newspaper articles covering the event and then using the information in one newspaper to locate the name of the funeral home that handled the final arrangements. Here's my story.

My great grandfather, Robert D Compton, was born in 1836 in Mercer County, Kentucky. Sometime during the years after the Civil War he moved to Waco, McLennan, Texas and married Sarah Wilkinson in 1869. By 1887, he and Sarah and their five sons and one daughter moved to Williamson County, Tennessee, to settle on a farm he had recently purchased. He still retained interest in some land in Texas and traveled between the two states regularly to attend to business affairs.

On one such fateful trip in May 1892, he was a passenger on a train headed to Waco when the passenger train collided with a freight train on a bridge at Crooked Bayou in Arkansas County, Arkansas. Robert and eight others did not survive the devastating crash. He was 57 years of age. Divers were able to recover all of the bodies and seven of the dead were taken to a funeral home in nearby Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

My research led me to an article in the *Pine Bluff Daily Newspaper* for May 27, 1892, where it was reported that “hundreds of people viewed the bodies of the dead at McFadden’s Sunday and Monday. The good ladies of the city sent flowers and floral offerings in profusion to decorate the coffins of the dead. Mr. Holderness [the undertaker] received shipping instructions for every body in his possession, and by Tuesday every corpse had been shipped to the relatives of the unfortunate victims of the horrible accident. The railroad officials had all the bodies embalmed and provided with coffins, and in several instances sent acquaintances of members of benevolent organizations to accompany the remains to their last resting place.”

I then searched for information on the funeral home and the undertaker, hoping to discover more information, like a death certificate or the name of the funeral home in Tennessee where his remains were sent. While I never discovered those two facts, I did discover the R. H. McFadden Company has had five owners since its establishment in 1866 and is now known as Fuller Hale-South Funeral Services, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. I contacted the



Fuller Hale-South Funeral Services

owner, Chuck Fuller, and asked if he had information on the crash and the disposition of the remains. What he discovered, I think, is fascinating and made this additional research time worthwhile.

He confirmed my great grandfather’s remains were shipped to Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee, and said a death certificate was not available but he did include the more interesting, and unexpected, information—the listing of funeral expenses.

The railroad company paid all expenses, of course, and Mr. Fuller noted this was a more expensive funeral than most, based on other funerals in his ledger. The charges were as follows: Metallic casket, \$150; Suit \$20; Slippers \$2.25; Hose and Underwear \$5; and Embalming \$50, for a total of \$227.25. Mighty expensive, indeed.

Epilogue: I have since discovered that my great grandfather was buried in Leiper’s Fork Cemetery, Leiper’s Fork, Tennessee, which is a bit south of Franklin on the Natchez Trace Parkway. He had joined the Leiper’s Fork congregation just two years earlier. Death certificates were not required in Arkansas until 1914.



Meanderings

by Betty Burdyslaw

When we think about conflicts like the Civil War, we think about the soldiers who are injured or killed but we don't often think of the civilians living in the vicinities of the battles. This was brought home to me when we traveled across country last Fall. We decided to take our time and drive back to Chattanooga, TN for our son's wedding. Along the way, we planned to stop at some of the Indian War Sites along the Bozeman Trail, follow the Oregon Trail through southern Nebraska and take in some of the Civil War sites in southwestern Missouri and northwestern Arkansas.

I was interested in two Civil War sites in particular, Wilson's Creek out of Springfield, Missouri and Pea Ridge just over the border in Arkansas. One of my 2 times great grandfathers had fought as a Confederate soldier in a Missouri infantry group and a 3 times great grandmother had traveled on the Butterfield Stage Coach, which stopped at the Elkhorn Tavern at Pea Ridge.

My genealogy curiosity was especially piqued when I learned that there might be a family connection with the Ray/Steele family in the middle of the battle at Wilson's Creek as I had Steele family connections in the area.

It seems that William and Roxanna (Gizzard) Steele moved to Greene County, Missouri in 1840. They had 3 children with Roxanna pregnant with the 4th and had acquired 3 plots of land near Wilson's Creek when William died in 1848. John Ray, a widower with one daughter, courted Roxanna and in September of 1849, the two married. John bought the 120 acres belonging to the Steele estate along with an adjacent 40 acres which ran along the telegraph road to Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The family was prosperous over the next decade, adding an additional 5 children and the farm expanding to 420 acres.

According to the Green County Archives and Records Center at <http://www.ozarkscivilwar.org/archives/3409>, "the Rays grew corn, wheat, oats, Irish potatoes and hay. They also had beehives, a fruit orchard and plentiful livestock, including horses, hogs, cattle and sheep. John's

position as postmaster of Wilson Creek was a cash producing occupation and contributed to his status as a well to do farmer and citizen of the community. John's real estate value was \$6,800 and his personal estate was valued at \$4,000." This article goes on further to explain that even though Missouri was a slave state and that the Rays did own a woman and her four children, they were devout Unionists and that John Ray's two step-sons enlisted in Missouri Union regiments and he was allowed to keep his federal government position as postmaster.

Some of the Ray children were rounding up some horses on the morning of August 10, 1861 when a Confederate soldier came upon them and warned them that a battle was about to ensue. The entire family but for John Ray, along with their slave Rhoda and her children, hid in the cellar during the 6 ½ hour battle. John Ray sat on his porch and watched the action in his cornfield and beyond. During the fighting, the Ray house became the field hospital and when the fighting ceased, the family went to work carrying water from the spring house, with Mrs. Ray and Rhoda assisting the doctors with towels, bandages and the like.

According to "The Ray House at Wilson's Creek" at <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/wilsons-creek/wilsons-creek-history-articles/rayhousealangum.html> we learn that the Union commander, General Nathaniel Lyon, had been killed on Bloody Hill and his body was brought to the Ray House and placed on a bed, which is currently located in the house, the counterpane that covered him is in the park's Visitor Center. The article goes on to tell us "The Southern dead were buried immediately but some of the bodies of the Federals remained in the field for as long as six days after the battle.

Ray/Steele House
Green County, Missouri



(cont'd on page 11)

A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



Jan 25 “How Women’s Name Changes Confound Our Research” presenter: Janet Camarata

Women historically did not always leave the same type of paper trail due to not having the same legal rights as men. In the past, women could not own real estate, sign legal documents and leave a will. Janet described the different naming conventions for women, such as forenames, nicknames, diminutives and matronymic.

Tips to use in your research: Listen to family stories. Know your extended family. Don’t neglect the collateral lines (sister, cousins, etc.) not in your direct line of descent. Learn about national, ethnic, and religious name customs of your ancestors. Some helpful articles include: *Finding Female Ancestors and Maiden Names*, by Donna Przech, www.genealogy.com/articles/research/50_donna.html and *Invisible Women Ancestors: How to Research the Women in Your Family Tree*, by Kimberly Powell, www.thoughtco.com/invisible-women-ancestors-1422869

Feb 22 “Growing Up in the American Colonies” presenter: Vern Frykholm

Appearing in full costume, Vern Frykholm provided a glimpse into the history of President George Washington. In 1657 George’s grandfather, Lawrence Washington, migrated to Virginia. George’s father, Augustine, was born in 1694 and acquired land and slaves, built mills, and grew tobacco. Augustine married his second wife, Mary Ball in 1731. George was the eldest of Augustine and Mary’s six children. The family lived on Pope’s Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia. They were moderately prosperous members of Virginia’s “middling class.” Augustine moved the family up the Potomac River to another Washington family home, Little Hunting Creek Plantation (later renamed Mount Vernon) in 1735 and then moved again in 1738 to Ferry Farm on the Rappahannock River, opposite Fredericksburg, Virginia, where George Washington spent much of his youth. To learn more of George Washington’s life, go to www.biography.com/people/george-washington.



Mar 22 “Using Land Records to Break Down Brick Walls” presenter: Jerri McCoy

Jerri presented the differences between State land states and Federal land states. Important to remember is that State land states used the metes & bounds surveying system. The legal description generated by metes & bounds uses physical features of the land (trees, creeks, rivers, roads, swamps, etc.), often citing boundaries by naming neighbors. The Federal land states each use the Public Land Survey System also known as the Township, Range, and Section system. When your ancestors inherited property, a deed often would record the transfer of inherited interest. When taxes or debts were owed, your ancestor might have bought land the county seized—or he or she might be the one who lost the land. You can search land records to try to determine when your ancestor arrived and left any given area. Often when a man purchased land in a new area his former county/state of residence would be mentioned in the grantee deed. This helps you to trace his migration pattern backward — hopefully to his county/state of birth and all the stops along the way. Read: *Genealogy and Property Records*, by Harold Henderson, <http://www.archives.com/experts/henderson-harold/property-records.html> and *Land Records*, at <https://www.archives.gov/research/land>.



Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

Apr 26 "The Melungeons"

presenter: **Jim Johnson**

Learn the lineage of these Central Appalachian people, where they lived and the types of records available.

May 24 "World War II Heroes: Telling Their Stories"

presenter: **Mary Kircher Roddy**

Learn how to find and access multiple sources to uncover the experiences of WW II heroes.)

Jun 28 "Naturalization and Ship Passenger Lists"

presenter: **Laura Sparr**

Learn about passenger lists, the European ports of departure, changing immigration laws and where to find the records

Schedule of Classes — April through June

Apr 4	Tuesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	The Scots-Irish: Settlers in the Wilderness Presenter: Janet Camarata
Apr 22	Saturday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Detours Around Irish Roadblockws PLUS Irish Roots Jeopardy Presenter: Steven Morrison
May 2	Tuesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Spreadsheets 101 and 201: Excel-lence in Genealogy Presenter: Mary Kircher Roddy
May 27	Saturday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Grandpa Worked for the Railroad Presenter: Janice Lovelace
Jun 6	Tuesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	I've Had My DNA Tested...Now What? Presenter: Mary Kathryn Kozy
Jun 24	Saturday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Discover County Histories Online Presenter: Janet Camarata

Unless noted, all classes are held in the Heninger Room, Sylvan Way,
1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

Contact: educ@pusogensoc.org

Putting Down Roots

Captain Keen, A Northwest Nautical Pioneer
by Lew Noah



My great uncle, James Keen, was born of stout Scottish stock in 1842. His adventures truly started when he signed on to the Hudson Bay Company bark-rigged steamer Labouchere at age 16 as an apprentice. The grit needed to undertake the great voyage from England to Victoria, BC and on to trade in Alaska was well laid in his genes. His grandfather Col. Thomas Keen of the Scottish “BlackWatch” was on his way home from besting Napoleon in Egypt when his son Thomas E. Keen was born on the ship in Vego Bay, Spain. The voyage was a true learning experience as an apprentice was required to acquire knowledge of all aspects of seamanship, navigation, and with the advent of steam power, the intricacies of engineering. At 16, the larger lesson of dealing with men at sea matured the lad and made him into a solid man.

Upon arrival at Victoria, BC, Feb 2, 1859, the ship resupplied and set sail for the first trading mission to Alaska. The news that Capt. Ebby from Whidbey Island had been killed and decapitated by Indians from the trading grounds added a request to bring this grizzly item back for the family to bury. The natives proved very hostile but the ship carried cannon that provided the incentive for the locals to hand over the scalp, which was returned. This incident set the precedence for the Hudson Bay Company to trade only from their ships and not establish posts on shore.

James began a career upon the seas. From 1863 thru 1867 he was Master or Mate on 18 ships on the west coast. This gave him the knowledge to acquire the first navigational pilot’s license issued on the Pacific coast. In 1869 Secretary Seward was on his way to the Chilcat river to hold a grand pow-wow with the natives. The naval commander of the ship Active told Seward that although he had two pilots aboard he had none that could do the job that James Keen could do. Seward sent for Keen and

said, “Boy, you are mine; I want you and I want you bad, as I am on my way to have a pow-wow with the Chilcat Indians and I must have you before I can accomplish anything; we are under your direction from now on.” Capt. Keen transferred Secretary Seward to a large native canoe and guided them into the harbor and up the river to the meeting. During the pow-wow Seward told the Chilcat chief he had purchased all of Alaska for 7,200,000 dollars. The Chief gave him a shrug of disgust and said, “Why you no come to me? I would have sold the whole thing for two buckets silver dollars.”

His work with Seward led to becoming Pilot for the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service (later U.S. Coast Guard). In 1872 he became a naturalized citizen. Capt. Keen piloted all Revenue Cutters on the west coast and Alaska; these included the most famous ships—Lincoln, Reliance, Leo, Wolcott, Grant, Perry and the Bear.

His tenacity was such that in 1915 he reported aboard the USRC Perry at Port Townsend to pilot her on the yearly run to Alaska. The ship’s Captain ascertained Old Captain Keen was blind and could not hear but was on deck to lead the way to Alaska again. The Commandant of the Revenue Cutter Service introduced a special bill in Congress to retire the grand old man. The bill passed and Capt. James W. Keen was retired with the rank of “Master Mariner”. On Sept 19, 1932, the grand seaman passed away in Seattle at age 91. His legacy includes the border dispute with Canada over the Lynn Canal and all of the panhandle of Alaska. Canada claimed that the Hudson’s Bay Company had traded on land in the area. James testified about the fear of the natives, which kept them trading from onboard ship. This statement gave us the Panhandle, including Juneau, Alaska’s capital. An island in the Lynn Canal carries his name as does some treacherous rocks at the entrance to Sitka harbor.



Capt. James Keen
circa 1915, age 73

Putting Down Roots

A Tale of Two Families

by Nancy Churchill

Part One



“Mothers give up their babies for adoption not because they don’t love them, but because they *do* – and want them to have a better life than they can give them.” It seemed as I was growing up that these wise words were invariably rolling off my adoptive mom’s lips. I’d always known I was adopted. We all did. I was the third adopted child of Harold and Lois Richardson.

Mom and dad met in the 3rd or 4th grade in Colorado. After graduation he followed his older brothers into the Army Air Force, training as a navigator. After the War, Dad came home to marry his sweetheart in May of 1946. Although the war was over, there was still plenty of work in the Shipyard (or, the “Navy Yard”, as they called it then), and while Dad was in the service, Grandpa, Grandma, and my eleven-year-old aunt moved to Meadowdale, just outside East Bremerton, and Grandpa went to work in the Shipyard. About a week after their wedding, Mom and Dad made the move to Washington as well, together with my grandparents buying a small ten-acre farm less than a mile north of Meadowdale on what was then the Brownsville Highway (now Highway 303 NE), where they raised and sold eggs and chickens, as well as milk and cream from their Jersey cow.

My grandparents and aunt lived in the small farmhouse while Mom and Dad bunked in the tiny “house” next door – not much more than a tar-paper shack on stilts. Dad went to work as an apprentice in the Shipyard and Mom took a job as a telephone operator, then later as a secretary, and they worked on their little house.

All was not well, however, as the months and then years went by, leaving the happy young couple filled with dreams of a family, bereft, unable to have children. Dad had left his job in the Shipyard to attend the Univ. of WA on the G.I. bill, while Mom continued working. As they slowly came to the sad realization that they would never have children naturally, they decided to adopt.

Eventually Dad graduated and took a job teaching math to the apprentices at Olympic College. After several attempts to adopt in 1954 a baby girl, my oldest sister Karen, was placed in their home, and my brother Steve followed in 1958. When they applied to adopt their third child, they were told that, at thirty-six and thirty-eight years of age, they were really too “old” to adopt, but since they seemed to have done well with my older siblings, perhaps an exception could be made. It was, and in June of 1962 I joined the family.

By this time, Dad had given up teaching, as that was a time when the paychecks of even many college-level instructors were too small to support a growing family – and returned to work in the Shipyard, this time as a Mathematician/Computer Programmer. The former “shack” was now a two-story, five bedroom home with a two-car garage.

My paternal grandparents still lived in the house next door that they had purchased in the ‘40s. This house had also undergone a metamorphosis, with Grandpa and Dad having added an upper story a few years after he and Mom moved here. I loved to go visit them, as Grandma would read to me, play cards and checkers with me have tea parties with me and tell me stories of her youth.

My idyllic childhood even included horses. My sister and I had our own horses and we were excellent riders. I was fearless and very confident in my riding abilities.

I took this confidence with me to Colorado at the age of five, when we went, as we did most summers, to visit my maternal grandmother.

A couple who Mom and Dad had grown up with had five kids, some near our ages, and a horse. Once, when it was my turn to ride, someone offered to lift me up into the saddle, as not only was I barely five, but I was tiny for my age.

(cont’d on page 16)



Meanderings

by Judy Joaquin

This past April my husband and I took a road trip to the East Coast. As this was a sight-seeing and family orientated vacation I knew that not much genealogy would be done. However, I did have one request. I wanted to go to Cawker City, Mitchell County, Kansas to see where my Grandmother, Lillian Thompson, was born and to see the stone house her father had built and in which they lived for several years.

Through my research over the years I found that my great-great grandparents, Nathaniel and Esther Gates Lines, were from Connecticut and migrated to Kansas in 1870. Nathaniel was born in 1825 in Fluteville, Litchfield, Connecticut. Fluteville interested me especially as it is no longer on the map. After searching for information on the town with little success I looked on Facebook.

There is a Facebook page for Fluteville and this map was there. It is called the forgotten town. Nathaniel Lines was born there and according to the cen-



suses his father, Sherman Lines, was a flute maker and music maker. This gave me the hint that Fluteville must have been a manufacturing town for flutes as most of their neighbors were also flute makers. Apparently the need for flutes ended and thus the demise of the town.

Utilizing censuses and Connecticut vital records I found the Lines family was in Oxford, New Haven, Connecticut in 1824 where Sherman Lines and Harriet French were married. Their son, Nathaniel, was born in Fluteville in 1825. Up until this time the family was in New Haven, Connecticut. It could well have been the Flute factory that brought them to Fluteville. According to a letter my grandmother had written a depression caused Nathaniel and Lillias to migrate to Kansas.

Nathaniel, as I said before, was born in Fluteville but in 1848 married Lillias Gates in Simsbury, Hartford, Con-

necticut and was there on the 1850 census listed as a joiner. The 1860 census finds the family in Southbury New Haven and in 1870 in Litchfield with his parents living with them. He is listed as a carpenter.

My great-grandmother, Lillias Lines, was born in 1849. I have found from newspapers in Cawker City that she attended the Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute in Poughkeepsie, New York. She is listed on the 1870 census in Litchfield as a music teacher.

On a cool Sunday afternoon we arrived in Cawker City. I have to tell you that the town is not a city. In 1870 the railroad was supposed to have made a regular stop there but as so often was the case it didn't transpire so the town never became a city. My great-great grandparents came and soon after another person arrived, Charles Lawton Thompson. He was born in 1842 in Middleboro Plymouth, Massachusetts. By this time Lillias Lines, an accomplished pianist, was teaching piano and voice in Cawker and this young man soon set his sights on her. They married in 1872. In researching Kansas history I came upon a publication from the Kansas Historical Quarterly, "The Diary of Luna E. Warner." She wrote this in 1871. Luna made several references in her diary to the Lines and to Charles Thompson. It was exciting to read about the family—she talked of Miss Lines coming to her house and playing the piano all day and Miss Lines and Mr. Thompson driving the buggy out to their house for dinner.

From the Facebook page I contacted Steve Richardson, the President of the Historical Society. He knew of the Lines and Thompson families and today owns the stone house that I was so interested in. He also sent me newspaper articles of the family. It was from these articles I found where Lillias had attended school as well as other tidbits of information, such as Charles Thompson Cawker's sale. The advertisement said, "**And I mean Business!**"

(cont'd on page 11)

Meanderings-Joaquin, (cont'd from p 10)

So it was quite natural for me to email Steve before we made the trip to Cawker and ask if he could direct me to the house. He was excited to meet us and offered to show us around. This increased my excitement.



Cawker House

As we drove into town I found the house myself. I called Steve and he met us at the house. This was really a wonderful treat. Steve is remodeling the house back to its original state. He gave me the royal tour, which was rather dangerous (I thought) as he was tearing things apart, and as we climbed the dubious stairs I knew I didn't want to fall. Looking at the upstairs I imagined Grandma as a little girl sleeping there and looking out the very window I was looking out. After a tour of the house Steve drove us around to look at other old homes (the stone ones could have been built by Great-Grandfather Thompson). One of Steve's projects is to identify the builders of these homes. He told us that the town had a large fire that destroyed several buildings and after that they ruled that all construction would be of stone. Lucky for the quarry owner nearby!

As we said our goodbyes and thank you I kept wondering how the Lines got to Cawker City. In 1870 there were only 1283 miles of railroad in Kansas and the rail didn't come to Cawker until 1879. Maybe they packed all their worldly goods into a covered wagon and headed off! That's the oral family story but I do wish someone had written down the adventure from Litchfield to Cawker City.

We only spent a short time in this little "city" but it was well worth the time and effort to divert off the highway. We then headed home and I was happy!



Judy Joaquin in front of the Cawker House

Meanderings-Burdyslaw (cont'd from p 5)

The soldiers, during their brief stay in the area, made off with practically everything the Ray family had prepared to get them through the winter. Horses, hogs, chickens, and grain were all gone, and the winter of 1861 would be a rough one for not only the Ray family but the rest of the local residents."

In the park's Visitor Center is a picture and story of Anna Steele, step-daughter of John Ray. She died in September 1862 and, although undetermined, it is believed that she died of typhoid fever from the carnage in the fields.

The property changed hands several times after John and Roxanna died in the 1870s and was made into Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the 1960s. There are several very interesting articles about the park, the battlefield and the families caught up in the fight online.

I have not been able to find a direct connection between William Steele and my Steele family but have also seen several other surnames of interest in the area and would not be surprised if indeed there may be some family connection.

Our next stop was the Pea Ridge National Battlefield. The famous Elkhorn Tavern, so named because of the set of elk horns on the roof, is located there. Besides being another battlefield hospital during the Civil War it was a stage coach stop for the Butterfield Stage Coach Company and a stop along the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

It's fun when we can learn some of our history, heritage and see our beautiful country. There's nothing like seeing the landscape where family lived and learning what life was like for them. Reading stories help us gain some knowledge but seeing a place and perhaps the tools of the times give a fuller understanding and appreciation.

Gen. Lyons Bed



Elkhorn Tavern



A Society Dependent upon Each Other-And Witchcraft

by Katy Fulton

Reasons and purposes for beliefs about witchcraft have always been of academic interest to me, but in recent weeks, my private genealogy research personalizes questions about culture and witchcraft. For Halloween, 2016, I was able to send my sisters a chart of our direct lineage to our 10X great grandmother, Joanna Blessing Towne, a resident of Topsfield near Salem, Mass. In the 1670s, Joanna was rumored to be a witch, but never tried. At the time, she was a widow in her mid-70s. Her husband, William Towne, died in 1673. Husband and wife had immigrated in about 1635 from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. Joanna died in 1682, ten years before three of her daughters would be formally accused and tried for witchcraft. The accused daughters were sisters of our direct ancestor, Jacob Towne. Rebecca (Towne) Nurse and Mary (Towne) Esty were hung in 1692 for being witches. Sarah (Towne) Clayes (formerly Bridges) was accused but escaped jail. The rumors about their mother, Joanna, being a witch were brought into the trials of her daughters as evidence of the Towne women's witchcraft associations (McMillen 1990).

I never heard this history from my mother, grandmother or great grandmother, and I doubt that they knew it. I suppose that associations with this shameful, dangerous event were best avoided or forgotten in the decades following the hangings - not something to pass on easily as family lore. My great great grandmother, Corrie Alzesta Towne Douglass, buried in 1951 in Olympia, Washington, was the last in my line with the maiden name Towne. My mother, Kathryn Alzesta Simmons, went by the name of Alzesta in honor of Corrie, and it was only through researching my great great grandmother's family line that I discovered genealogical connections to the witch trials in Salem.

Although there are always exceptions, anthropologists find that witchcraft beliefs and accusations are largely absent among hunter and gatherer groups (foragers) and people in industrialized societies. Witchcraft is most often a social phenomenon among horticulturalists (small scale gardeners) and agriculturalists. That's because people

who grow their food end up being bound to their land and the people and communities around them. If there is discord, people must endure interpersonal struggles. Leaving is not an easy option. Witchcraft accusations become a means to deal with social conflict.

People living in 17th century Salem and Topsfield were heavily dependent upon each other. Land boundary conflicts were pervasive. Their less than flexible, religious-based boundaries for behavior were intensely monitored, and their severe scrutiny of one another amplified community relationship struggles, but moving to other locations was difficult. For one thing, settlers had years of sweat equity in their lands and buildings, and their farms were surrounded by increasingly agitated Native American communities, whose lands they occupied.

Joanna, in the early 1670s, spoke out in spirited defense of her minister, Rev. Thomas Gilbert. Her son-in-law, Edmund Bridges, also defended the minister when one of the wealthier families, the Gould clan, was set on removing the reverend from his position, charging him with intemperance. Because Joanna defended the minister, the Gould family took offense. Apparently, members of the Gould family spread rumors that Joanna Towne was a witch. This contributed to underlying conflict between the families and was one reason the Towne sisters were accused of witchcraft years later (McMillen 1990).

While Towne and Gould family relationships were strained, they were also close, as there were intermarriages in more than a few generations. At the time, people believed witchcraft ran in families, and if the Towne and Gould families were connected, then witchcraft traits might be linked as well (McMillen 1990, 286). John Gould (1635-1710), though, was first cousin to key members of the Putnam family, from which many of the witchcraft accusations of the early 1690s originated.

Economic competition and politics were also in the background of witchcraft accusations between families, including the Towne and Gould clans.

(cont'd on page 15)

Side By Side



Phyllis Wahlquist

Member since 1993

In 1928, I arrived in Kitsap County in the delivery room of one of Bremerton's first hospitals. I lived in the same house until I was married. I worked in retail and banking to help feed, dress and educate Don & my 4 boys and finally graduated from college in 1985!

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

In 1975 my interest was peaked when my husband Don's aunts talked about translating their father, Axel Wahlquist's, memoirs of his sea travels, titled "Svenska Pacific Tribunen" that became a series. After a trip to Sweden in 2005 to visit relatives, plus the help I received at Salt Lake, I have the Wahlquist, Lundblads, and Pearson's back to the early 1700s.

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

While I was still working, I didn't have much time but in about 1992/3 I decided I needed help and visited the PSGS library and joined. They were in Port Orchard at that time.

Q: What are your research goals?

I still have to find how and when my father's Searls, Belden & Kennedy families got to New Brunswick from, presumably, England.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

Besides the above, I am trying to fill in some of my mother's family – Harvey & Lord. All are in New England as far as I know.

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I have served on the program committee, worked on the Antique Fair, and I work in the Genealogy Center as a volunteer



Lew Noah

Member since 1980

I am a Washington native from Mountlake Terrace. I spent 35 years with the Government, first as a U.S. Coast Guardsman, then 5 years with the Dept. of Navy at PSNS, 5 years in South Korea with the Dept. of Army and 3 years at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. I finished my career in Ohio. After retirement, my wife and I decided to return to the Bremerton area.

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

In the mid-70s my brother started a family tree, went 3 generations and then took a giant leap of faith and stated we were descendants of English Royalty. I had to fix that error.

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

In the late '70s I met a Marlys Marrs, my backdoor neighbor, a treasure trove of information, help and encouragement. I was a member until my job took me to South Korea and elsewhere. Upon my return I rejoined and am looking forward to working with this great group of folks again.

Q: What are your research goals?

My maternal line (Clare) has been stalled in Canada and I seek the next link back to Ireland. On my paternal line, the Noah's, I am back to the 1790s in Philadelphia with lore links to Germany. I seek solid links.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

Noah's in 1790s Philadelphia and Clare's in Ontario, Canada.

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I had a fun time assisting at the Antique Show

Gail Reynolds'

Belfair Bulletin

The Belfair Chapter meeting in February was a great discussion group. I brought up some questions that would give all of us something to think about. Who will take care of your genealogy when you are gone? The majority of our members had someone that is waiting in the wings to take over this task when the time comes. It is hard for anyone doing their research to think that no one will be there to take up the search for the elusive ancestors. Are you related to anyone within the PSGS group? There were several people mentioned and I suggested to all to submit these to the Backtracker as a *Did You Know* item. We then discussed brick walls and goals for the SLC trip. Last but not least, what advice would you give to a person just getting started doing their genealogy? My advice was to realize that, no matter how soon you get started, there will be people that you wished were still around to talk to. One person who shall remain nameless suggested to take up bowling. Now that was funny!!

March's meeting was very informative. Judy Joaquin talked about her relatives that migrated from Connecticut to Kansas. She also speculated on the whys and wherefores for them to do so. She also told us about her visit to Cawker City, Kansas to find some information on these ancestors.

No one was fooling around for our April meeting. Judy, Linnie and I shared some of our adventures and finds in the library in Salt Lake City. Unfortunately, the rest of the people from the group that went to SLC were unable to attend that meeting.

Looking forward to May, we have our own Mary Ann Wright coming to talk about the genealogy library within the Kitsap Regional Library at Sylvan Way. Our June and July meetings are up in the air at this time but we are looking forward to sunshine soon. As usual our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Mason County library in Belfair at 1:00 pm.

All are invited!!

Just a P.S. – Madi is recuperating from her surgery, which went well.



Introductions

by Carol Caldwell

Ellen Stanley – Ellen is originally from Sequim and currently lives in Anchorage, AK. However she winters in Quilcene, which brings her to our neighborhood looking for great classes and people who can help in her Scots-Irish and Norwegian research. Before her mother's death, Ellen heard all about her mother's family homesteading on the Hoh River. The surnames she is looking for are McDonald, Farquharson, Nordby, Brandeberry and Crippen.

Steve Marques – Steve grew up in Longview, WA, but has been in Kitsap County since college graduation. As a history teacher, he had a desire to see where his family connected to events in American history. His grandmother and father were also interested in tracing family genealogy. After retiring, he found PSGS on a Google search. Steve has traced his branch of the Marques/Marquis family across the country, beginning about 1720 as they moved from Maryland to Washington. His research is focused on Marques/Marquis, Sparling, Rice, Widdifield, and Urmy.

Witchcraft, (cont'd from page 12)

In 1684, the Massachusetts charter was nullified to be replaced by the Dominion of New England. John Gould was a critic of the change and so some of his Topsfield neighbors signed a document accusing him of being "in contempt of his Majesty's laws ...". Gould was jailed for treason and had to retract his words to be released. Although Jacob Towne, brother of the three sisters accused of witchcraft, did not sign the document accusing John Gould of treason, he was apparently connected to Gould's imprisonment. John Wilds, John and Ephraim How, and Isaac Cummings did sign the accusation. Reverend Joseph Capen, Topsfield minister, wrote that he orchestrated a church meeting to try and end the differences between Ephraim How, Jacob Towne, and John Gould. The three men shook hands to agree to a better future. This happened in June 1692, but already Mary (Towne) Esty, Rebecca (Towne) Nurse, Sarah Wilds, and Elizabeth How had been charged with witchcraft. In July, Elizabeth How, Sarah Wilds, and Rebecca Nurse were hanged for the crime of witchcraft. Later, Mary Esty was also hanged.

"Often the quarrels were between the men, and they were in the open. But when it came to the (witchcraft) accusations themselves, they were usually directed at a member of the offending family, usually a woman, who for some reason or another was vulnerable to attack (McMillen 1990, 89)."

Interestingly, also in my direct line, Hannah Edna Gould, granddaughter of John Gould and Sarah (Baker) Gould, married Gideon Towne, grandson of Jacob and Kathrine (Symonds) Towne. Somehow the unions of the grandchildren of conflicted families were possible and perhaps helped to heal family rifts.

McMillen, Persis W. 1990. *Currents of Malice: Mary Towne Esty and Her Family in Salem Witchcraft*. Peter E Randall Publisher.

Exciting Changes Coming to Backtracker!

by Fran Moyer

I have had such a great time reading all your family stories, written from your heart, during the past six plus years.

I began this adventure with an abrupt beginning. It had been 15 years since I had done a newsletter and then it was not for an organization like PSGS. When the previous editor left I didn't have much time to "get up to speed." I bought the latest Publisher desktop publishing and started to play around with it. I thought I might be able to do the job and with the help of Mary Ann Wright and Terry Mettling, I became the editor and layout designer.

The first couple of issues were not as professional as I wanted it to look, but after a few more I started to feel comfortable in the presentation. Of course, that has much to do with the very stable staff we have on our Backtracker Committee: Mary Ann Wright, Terry Mettling, Larry Harden, Carol Caldwell, Gail Reynolds, Judy Joaquin, Linda and Johnny Wilson, Vicki Bushnell, Jeanne Schulze, our new member Lew Noah and, occasionally, Christine Maltby and Elisabeth Demmon.

I have been and remain on several committees, but I can tell you this one has been the most fun! And they work hard. They do their best to wrest your well-kept stories out of you to share with the rest of us. This team has been key to the BT success.

After 6 1/2 years it is time for me to move on and set aside this project. Someone new will bring their own perspective and ideas to make this fresh and new again.

Sharon Hornback called me and after discussing the project she agreed to become the new editor and to do the layout and design. I was doing my best Snoopy dance while we were talking.

Sharon did a weekly newsletter for an elementary school and used Publisher, which will make the transition easy. Sharon is an excellent writer, as she exhibited writing her own article for us. Welcome to the Team Backtracker, Sharon. I know you will be great!

Tale of Two Families, (cont'd from page 9)

I proceeded to shinny up the poor horse's left front leg until I could grasp the stirrup, then pulled myself up into the saddle and off I went.

The visits to Grandma in Colorado were always fun as we enjoyed playing with the kids next door. A couple were older than us and had gone off to school, but since we had so much in common with the younger ones (I was the youngest of everyone!) we always made time to play and talk with each other. Little did I know...

(to be continued in the next edition)

Classified Ads

Our Genealogy Library Needs Your Attention!

We value our library volunteers and we can always use more. We don't want to wear out those who give so much of their time. If you could spare even one day a month (or two or three) PSGS and you will be all the richer for it. Join us, won't you?



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