



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

[www.pusogensoc.org](http://www.pusogensoc.org)

July-September 2017

## SALT LAKE CITY

by Madi Cataldo

Have you ever been to Salt Lake City's Family Research Library? If not, you need to go. Last year, in March, the first floor was in a shambles. No one would say what the construction was about. This March when we entered the library we saw quite a change in the first floor. It was a wondrous thing. The first floor is "OUR TREE". Many minds, much technology, and a lot of hard work for many years has taken everyone's genealogy tree and merged them into one truly unbelievable marvel.

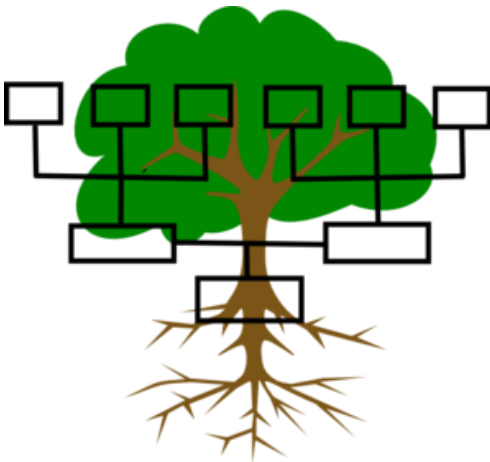
There are huge screens on every wall. Upon entering, if you have an account there, you obtain an iPad with your name entered. As you dock your iPad to a screen, your personal tree will appear on a map showing where

you did research. Little circles appear and as you click on one name of an ancestor your personal tree will come on showing your work, plus names someone else may have researched. Unbelievable!!

There are many different screens. One shows how you are related to famous or well-known persons.

You can have your picture taken by clicking on a variety of backgrounds and then standing on the footprints on the floor. The picture can then be sent to your phone or computer.

When I say it's unbelievable--it truly is. Hope you take advantage of this marvel!



Be sure and check out the Salt Lake City Field Trip information on page 5. March of 2018 might be your time to go see this marvel!

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# Presidential Ponderings

by Mary Ann Wright

It’s hard to believe we’ve already reached the half-way mark for 2017! During the past 6 months we’ve held another outstanding Antique Show, celebrated the successes of our members who spent the week at the Family History Library and welcomed a new editor for our Backtracker newsletter. In addition, the Executive Board decided to maintain our current annual dues structure for the 2018 year—\$15 for a single membership and \$20 for a joint membership. Proposed amendments from our Bylaws and Standing Rules Committees were approved at the June membership meeting. Our Seminar committee is gearing up for the 2018 seminar and the Antique Show committee is doing the same for our annual show in February. The Nominating Committee will soon begin its search for members willing to share their talents by serving as an elected officer in 2018. Each of our other committees is working hard to bring you classes, programs, activities and information to inspire your genealogy research. Please thoughtfully consider how you can be involved.



# Genealogy Center Report

by Mary Ann Wright

I’m excited to report the addition of three new Genealogy Center volunteers! Welcome, Lew Noah, Joyce Osborn and Don Westfall. In addition to offering Findmypast.com and AmericanAncestors.org, we also have added free member access to the Pro version of Geni.com in the Genealogy Center. Geni is a website that allows families to collaborate and build their tree together. According to the Geni website, “Geni’s Pro subscription service allows users to find matching trees and merge those into the single world family tree, which currently contains over 100 million living users and their ancestors. Additional pay services include enhanced research tools and premium support.” Geni began operation in 2007 and was acquired by MyHeritage in 2012. Last year, Geni added the ability to upload DNA test results into the family tree and an integration with Family Tree DNA. Access to the DNA features is free. More information about the DNA features can be found here:

[geni.com/dna-tests/faq](http://geni.com/dna-tests/faq). Let me know what you think!

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## What is in the Gene Center?

by Sharon Hornback

Have you ever wondered why a book is in the library when some of the same information is on the internet? What does the 1940 Federal Census mean to your family? I talked with Elisabeth Demmon from KRL to get some information on the series, *This is Who We Were*.

Take some time to browse this collection, *This is Who We Were*, call numbers 929.1 THIS IS. These books give snapshots of the social histories, economics, current events, etc., one volume for each decade from 1880-1980, except for 1930. Some information on the 1930s is included in the 1940 volume. If you are thinking of writing your family history, these books will help your ancestors come alive as you learn of their lifestyles, employment, struggles, or successes during the different decades. Each volume is partnered with information on the Federal Census for each decade listed.

In the volume *This is Who We Were, Companion to the 1940 Census* learn about the economy of the times including prices for food, clothing, housing, and other items. Review detailed comparisons of the population in larger cities regarding sex, race, age, education and employment. There is also a comparison section in this book showing what percentage of households lacked complete plumbing in 1940 vs 2010; it was quite an eye opener to me. Other comparisons are noted for rent, high school graduation, home values, and more. Find out where your ancestors fit into the bigger picture.

What was it like to be a farmer in 1880; an Irish nanny in 1903; a teacher in 1907; a bank vice president in 1908; a Detroit auto factory worker in 1940; or a farming family in South Carolina in 1940? The 1940 volume includes some excerpts from the actual 1940 Census in these profiles. These are just a few of the many profiles that are available in this series which include details about their community, how they lived, where they went to school, and how they received medical services.

Hope you enjoy an exciting trip through the decades!

## Genealogy Center Report

by Mary Ann Wright

(cont'd from page 2)

Our GC committee has met several times over the last few months to evaluate the books in our collection. What's pretty amazing is to find that so many of our books are not easily available in other repositories or as digital copies. We truly do have a unique collection—all due to the generous donations of our members and others in the genealogical community. We'll continue to review what we have and carefully determine what to do with those books suggested for removal. Simultaneously, I'm processing a new batch of donations. We recently received about 10 books on Indiana to supplement the 15 or so books already on the shelves plus several new books on Massachusetts. If you'd like to assist our committee with the collection evaluation, please contact me at [gcc@pusogensoc.org](mailto:gcc@pusogensoc.org).



## Introductions

by Carol Caldwell

### Dana Brainerd –

Dana was born and raised in Newport Beach, CA. She came to Kitsap County in 1990 to be closer to family. She worked at Kitsap Public Health until retiring recently. Her interest in tracing her family history is twofold: 1) to locate information and pictures of her father's biological father, and 2) to research her mother's paternal lineage back to William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition. So far she has discovered that her direct link to William Clark may have been born out of wedlock and adopted by the Clarks. Dana found PSGS from our webpage. The surnames she is researching are Clark, Verner, Cronn, Campbell, and Willock.

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### Candyce Gustafson –

Candyce came to Washington from South Dakota and has lived in Poulsbo since 1988. She was interested in her family history but didn't have time to do research until she retired. She met a woman who belonged to the DAR and she shared that with her mother, who said a cousin gave her a stack of research papers on her mother's family which included a DAR member. Candyce's goal is to finish the requirements to be a member of DAR. She learned about PSGS from a booth at a fair and has enjoyed coming to functions with a friend. The surnames she is looking for are Silka, Grover, Hines, and Hamilton.

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## DID YOU KNOW—

If the genealogy book you really need isn't available through inter-library loan, follow these steps outlined in the June issue of *genealogyinsider*, the Family Tree magazine e-newsletter (<https://tinyurl.com/ybpx5ew8>). Check to see if it has been digitized online at sites such as [Google Books](#), [Internet Archive](#), [Digital Public Library of America](#) and the [FamilySearch Family History Books](#) collection. If not, the library that has the book might be willing to copy/scan the index or table of contents and then, once you find the pages you want, they could copy/scan those pages for you at a nominal cost. You could also search the [FamilySearch catalog](#) to see if the book is available on microfilm and then order the film to view at a local Family History Center.\* Another option is to contact the local genealogy or historical society to see if one of their members would be willing to help you. And, finally, if your budget allows, visit that library to see how many other books related to your research they may have.

\* read NEWS on page 16 for information on the coming end to microfilm sharing



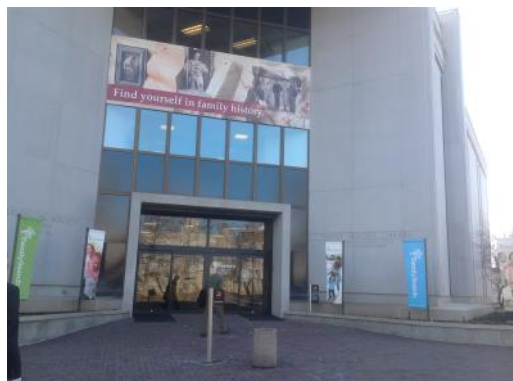
## DID YOU KNOW—

Sending a long webpage link address (URL) to a friend in an email or adding it to an article for your society's newsletter can often lead to broken links that don't go anywhere. At least two free options exist to shorten that long URL: TinyURL!™, <https://tinyURL.com>, and one from Google, <https://goo.gl>. The shortened links do not expire. For example, take those long census page URLs, make them shorter and then add the short link to your research log or genealogy notes. It's also easy to add these webpages to your bookmarks bar in your browser so they're always handy.

## Annual Salt Lake City Trip for 2018

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](http://www.plaza-hotel.com) from



**Sunday March 11, 2018 to Sunday March 18, 2018.**

Rooms are \$89 a night for Single/Double

\$96 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 \$99.00 single/double and \$106 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, 2018.**

All those interested in going or who would like more information please contact Larry Harden prior to January 15, 2018 at: [treas@pusogensoc.org](mailto:treas@pusogensoc.org)

## SOCIETY GEMS April 2017

### IN RECOGNITION: ANN NORTH CUTT and JEAN YAGER

Our Society is very fortunate to have two devoted members who give unselfishly of their time and effort.

They are both facilitators of our SIGs, offering help to those attending, are chairpersons to Society committees and have served or are serving as elected officers.

Jean has organized and headed the committee for our county-wide and most



successful biennial seminars. Ann served as chairperson of our popular and only fundraiser, the Kitsap Antique Show.

Time and time again when an outside organization or club has made contact requesting a representative to visit and make a presentation regarding family research

(genealogy) or our Society, they have stepped up and volunteered to fill their request.

Therefore, they should each be recognized as a true Society Gem as they more than fit the bill.

Thank you, Ann and Jean, from all of us.

## A Look Back...

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



#### April 26 “Melungeon Genealogy”

presenter: Jim Johnson

Jim surprised us by naming familiar people who had Melungeon ancestry such as Abraham Lincoln, Tom Hanks and Elvis Presley. Those of Melungeon descent have a swarthy or olive complexion and blue eyes and a distinct ridge at the base of the skull. Melungeons were families descended from free people of color and mixed-race unions between persons of African ancestry and Native Americans in colonial Virginia. Descriptions of Melungeons have varied widely over time sometimes identified as “Portuguese,” “Native American,” or “light-skinned African American”. They were found living, in isolation, in the central Appalachian Mountains, predominantly in Northeastern Tennessee, Southwestern Virginia, and Southeastern Kentucky and are often associated with bluegrass music.

Family Search Wiki: <https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Melungeons>

Melungeon Resource Page: <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mtnties/melungeon>.

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#### May 24 “World War II Heroes: Telling Their Stories”

presenter: Mary Kircher Roddy

Mary presented us with a case study on the research into a B-17 and its crew. Her hope was that her talk would inspire us to conduct some research into our WWII and Korean War ancestors. It is vitally important that we talk to these veterans and their wives (or husbands!) while they are still here.

For a link to the article she wrote about her research, “Lt. Mark L. Golden: A Case Study in WWII Research,” check out her website at <http://www.mkrgenealogy.com/publications.html>

Sources to help you build your WWII story include: Letters and Yearbooks; Data bases – Available on ancestry.com and/or fold3.com; BIRLS (Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem) Death File contains birth and death dates, and other information; Overseas Veteran burials; Social Security Death Index; Findagrave.com; Switchboard.com, Whitepages.com—Use these to find contact information for “Bagging a Live One.” Obituaries, Military Reports; MACR – Missing Air Crew Reports; Base websites – Google, Wikipedia, etc. Talk to the veterans!!!

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#### Jun 28 “Naturalization and Ship Passenger Lists”

presenter: Laura Sparr

Laura brought tubs of books from her personal collection for us to browse through. She shared insights with us about how to find our relatives. Diaries and manuscripts found in the Library of Congress (LOC.Gov) can be helpful even if they are not about your relative. Stories about people on the same ship or the same time frame give you clues. Our GC Library has a lot of the same books that Laura recommended. Different forms called people by different titles, an indentured servant in one place was called a redemptioner in another. In 1929, only 25.7% of aliens registered, so don’t be discouraged if you don’t find ancestors in Alien Registration Lists. Before Ellis Island, immigrants came through Castle Garden. Later Castle Garden was used as a holding center for people that were ill. In the early years, there were 101 ports that immigrants came through where you had to register, but there were 107 ports where you just came through with no paperwork. Continue to check census records, county histories, and newspapers. A good resource is *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor’s Arrival Records* by John P. Colletta, PhD, SLC, Ancestry, 2002.



## Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

**Jul 26      “DAR”**

presenter: **Jerri McCoy**

Learn how to identify potential Patriot ancestors and the latest proof requirements to join the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Aug 23      “Beyond Online: Beginning Courthouse Research”**

presenter: **Janice Lovelace**

Learn what you can find in county courthouses from land records to court proceedings and how the information aids your research.

**Sep 27      “Start Writing—Your Ancestor’s Legacy Depends Upon You!”**      presenter: **Steven Morrison**

Learn how to refocus your thinking and write a cohesive story about your ancestor.

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### Schedule of Classes — July through September

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<b>Jul 22</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</b>	Webinar: Researching Ancestors in the Era of Freedom Presenter: Angela Walton-Raji
<b>Aug 1</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</b>	Working in Burned Counties in Virginia Presenter: Jewell Dunn
<b>Aug 26</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.</b>	Ask the Experts Presenter: Members of the APG
<b>Sep 5</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</b>	Leveling Up with Land Records Presenter: Claudia Breland
<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</b>	Pennsylvania State Research Presenter: Jim Johnson

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

Contact: [educ@pusogensoc.org](mailto:educ@pusogensoc.org)

# Putting Down Roots

## Timeline Answers WW II Questions

by Jeanie Schulze



At the end of June, they planned a late August wedding, then a honeymoon before returning to their graduate studies at Cornell. But when the War Department's telegram activated my father from reserves on July 1, 1941 to serve one year in the Army—it changed everything. With only four days travel allowed before re-

porting to Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, Marion Bean and Norman Parnell were married on July 1.

After a brief honeymoon, my mother returned to her summer job at Cornell and my father reported for duty. It was the beginning of a very disjointed journey



with the Army just as World War II began.

My parents told many stories about their war time experiences. Some events were clear including my sisters' births in Little Rock, Arkansas and Baltimore, Maryland. However, some stories created confusion about where and when they took place. Fortunately, I have two sets of nearly complete records—personal letters and Army Orders. They helped set a timeline, which was key in verifying or establishing when and where a story happened—from the arrival of the telegram in 1941 until my father was discharged from the Army in 1945.

One of the most confusing stories was how my mother met my father's parents while making the transition from Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey to the Maumelle Ordnance Works in Arkansas. My mother's letters to my father start five days after they were married and by putting the letters together with my father's orders, a

timeline and new information began to unfold. In no particular order and with no date other than the day of the week, sorting my mother's letters into chronological order was challenging. But there were clues sprinkled throughout—so many days until they would meet again or so many days from when they were married. They describe the excitement of their early marriage and the beginnings of how the Army repeatedly up ended their first four years of marriage.

When I asked my mother how she first met my father's family, she said on their trip to Little Rock from Ohio. Ohio? Not New Jersey? Why Ohio? However, my father's orders dated August 1, 1941 made it clear that he would be in transit to Arkansas via the Ravenna Ordnance works in Ohio. He would report for two weeks of temporary duty where he was issued his first uniforms and equipment. He then had four days to report to Little Rock. The key to what day they would meet in Ohio was in my mother's letters—August 16 on the train arriving about 5:30 p.m. They stopped in Indianapolis, Indiana to visit with my father's family before heading south to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Other stories began to fall into place as I sifted through the letters and orders—when my father was promoted, when he was transferred to a new base, and when his Third Corps shipped out to join Patton's Third Army in Europe. But what about the end of the war? My mother talked about living in Louisiana when my father came home, but in her 90s she talked about Florida.

Once again, the combination of letters and orders sorted out my father's return from Europe and his separation from the Army at Camp Polk, Louisiana. When my father returned, his orders gave him 30 days with his family in Indiana before taking a train to Fort Polk. My parent's letters showed this was a very perplexing time.

(continued on page 12)



# Putting Down Roots

## A Tale of Two Families Part II

by Nancy Churchill



"Mom. I hope this doesn't upset you, but...I was wondering if you'd be willing to search for your birth family." These earnest words from my thirty-two year old son, Michael, brought me up short. *What?*

It was June 2015, and my son had come by to pose, what was for him, a difficult question as he thought it might upset me. Far from being upset however, I was inspired and quickly agreed to the request. I had a little information regarding my adoption; in addition to informing my adoptive parents of the usual ethnic mix, the agency also told them the rather unusual story that my birth parents were married but separated at the time of my adoption. Years later, as a young adult, I was able to get some "Non-Identifying" information from the adoption agency. The letter they wrote me stated that indeed, my parents were married and had four children – three boys and one girl – and that despite marriage counseling, they had separated and were planning to divorce. My now-single birth mom, having no idea how to support yet another child, decided that adoption would be the best alternative. My birth father had nothing to do with the adoption proceedings. Later I enrolled with an agency that acted as an adoptee intermediary, sending with the paperwork a substantial, to me, amount of money. Several weeks later I received a letter informing me that they had raised their rates and they would need a lot more. Not having that kind of money growing on trees, I abandoned the effort and tried to forget all about it.

Of course, I never could. Now here I was decades later, unsure of where to begin. I decided to start with the adoption agency. The next day, I was wonderfully shocked when I pulled up their website and the glorious information jumped out at me: a new law in Washington had gone into effect, where eighteen-and-over adoptees could have their original birth certificates sent to them from Olympia! I quickly printed and filled out the form,

enclosed my check for twenty dollars and popped it in the mailbox.

Two weeks later I was holding my birth certificate. I stared at it. *This is it. This is really it!* "My name," I finally managed to stammer out to my husband, who had just delivered The Envelope into my hand, "is Hess. For the first and middle name they wrote 'infant female'...but my last name is Hess." Looking up at him in a daze I incredulously announced, "I have a *name!*" Which naturally was followed by the eye-rolling thought, *well, of course you have a name, you ninny.* Then the big moment of truth came as I scanned the boxes listing my parent's names. Floyd Hess. LaWanda Hess. I sprang into action, grabbing the laptop, frantically searching the internet, only to come up with...nothing. My husband, seeing my frustration, began searching with his phone and within moments, had found a reference to my birth mother – her online obituary. She had passed away fourteen months before. I was crushed.



But, as always, there was a silver lining.

Names. Name after beautiful name sprang from the page to my wondering eyes...the names of my six – yes, *six* – siblings, as my mom had later remarried, had two more little girls, and moved to Georgia.

I hungrily devoured the rich details that, until that moment, I never realized my soul had craved.

*They're real,* my racing mind practically screamed at me; *they're actually REAL!* (Continued on page 12)



# Meanderings

by Carol Caldwell

## My Surprise Genealogy Hunting Trip

In tracing my maternal grandmother's Lane family, I can go as far as the late 1700s to New Bern, North Carolina and Frederick Lane. Then dead end. I can't find where Frederick came from. However, I came across a tidbit from Rootsweb. Someone wrote that Frederick's actual father may have been William Totevine. Well, that mystery needs investigating. I began planning a trip to New Bern.

I collected information I had, plus questions needing answers. I called the local genealogy society to see when their library was open and copied down the address. I thought I was prepared.

My first surprise was New Bern being a tourist mecca on the Neuse and Trent rivers, full of beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century homes, boat harbors, big hotels, and tours galore. So the first thing I did was go on some tours to find out how the town was settled and how my ancestors might have lived. The second surprise was that New Bern was where Pepsi Cola was born. Who knew? The third surprise was how big the genealogy library was.



Surely they had everything I needed. But the last surprise was the information the library didn't have. Swiss and Germans settled New Bern in 1710, but apparently they were not

good at keeping records of early births and marriages. People also, I was told, came into the area from Virginia seeking escape from the law. So I found no birth records for Frederick, his parents, his wife, or his children.

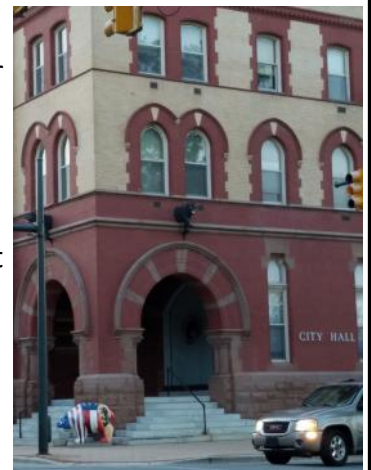
However, the library has early court records and land grant records. I made good use of them and found the record where Frederick Totevine petitioned the court to

change his last name to Lane, his mother's maiden name, because William Totevine, his father, was a scoundrel. Not only that, there was a hand written affidavit saying that William Totevine had left North Carolina owing money.

Now Totevine (Totewine, Toadwine, Totvine) becomes the male line in my grandmother's family. Given that William skipped out on debts in New Bern, he probably came there doing the same thing from Virginia. My trip to New Bern suddenly gave me more questions than answers. Fishing through the court records, I found Frederick's will, which named some other wife than the one I had. I also found a marriage date for Frederick with his wife of my record that was later than the birthdates I had for his children. So who was the first wife? I began to doubt the information I had.

I discovered that Frederick grew corn besides running a grist mill. It looks like he was in business with his grandfather Ephriam Lane, whom he referred to in his will as his "father." His son Hardy Bonner Lane grew up to be a builder and was well known in town for the manor houses he built.

I know that Frederick was often a juror in the years from 1792 to 1797. The court records listed all jurors on each case, so I also know who Frederick's peers were. I have good descriptions of property he bought and sold through land grant records, and from records that he inherited his Lane grandfather's estate.



(continued on page 12)

## What Happens at Ancestry SIG

by Sharon Hornback

The Ancestry SIG (Special Interest Group) met today, Monday, July 10. Summertime often means lower attendance at classes as today proved out. There were only three of us, but we discussed many topics. This SIG used to be Ancestry.com, but the .com was dropped a few months ago because we discuss anything related to genealogy. This is a chance to bring questions, concerns, or ideas to share. Some of the topics we discussed today were:

- How to find the 1850 mortality schedule in Ancestry.com by going into the card catalog.
- Why when I signed up for Family Tree Maker 2017 a while ago, I haven't heard anything yet? (Currently they are having a "test drive 2.0" that current subscribers are offered a chance to join. If you don't wish to test drive, you can wait for the actual software to release, which is scheduled for July 15.)
- How can I print a full page from an ancestry record?
- If you have Ancestry World, and have saved records to your Ancestry account, what happens to those records if you downgrade. A couple of different thoughts were shared on this question. I researched this after I got home and the answer follows. (You will not lose any information you've attached to your tree if you downgrade or cancel your subscription, but you'll no longer be able to see any records attached to your tree that are available only with a higher subscription than you have.)
- How do you save records to your computer so you will always have them available to you no matter what level of subscription you have. We reviewed the process to download and save the document to your computer or a flash drive.
- DNA was discussed briefly with a reminder to attend the DNA SIG that will start up again in October.

Please join us for the next Ancestry SIG, held the second Monday of each month, beginning at 10:15 a.m. in the Henninger Room at the Sylvan Way location.



Bev Smith and Peg Powell at the July Ancestry SIG

## PSGS NEEDS YOU

It is time to be thinking about serving as part of the leadership team for Puget Sound Genealogical Society in 2018. We will be looking for a chair for the Nominating Committee in July. Some of our amazing officers may wish to run again, and that would be wonderful, but all positions are open. Officers of PSGS include President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Descriptions of the duties for each of these positions are listed in the Member Handbook located on the Members page of PSGS ([pusogensoc.org](http://pusogensoc.org)). Take a look and see what position speaks to you. Our new Nominating Committee will soon be hard at work. Elections will be held at our Annual Business Meeting, October 25, 2017.



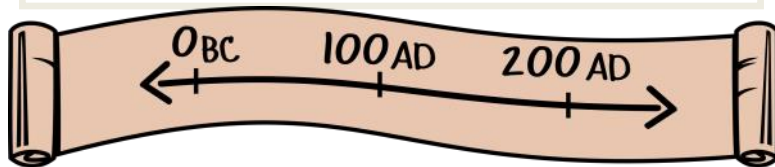


**Timeline Answers WW II Questions****by Jeanie Schulze**

(cont'd from page 8)

In early August, the war was still raging in the Pacific. Would my father be transferred to the Pacific or would his "points" add up to 100 for a discharge? Should my Mother move to Louisiana or extend her lease? In the end, I found the official card with over 100 points that made him eligible for discharge not long after his family arrived in Louisiana.

There are more details to add to the timeline, and some questions will go unanswered. But the letters and records that my mother and father kept will answer most of them. While both of my parents have passed on, their letters and the Army's tell a unique story of what it was like to serve during WWII—both at home and at war.

**Meanderings by Carol Caldwell**

(cont'd from page 10)

Now that I'm home I have to turn my research in another direction, maybe to Virginia. However, I need to consider that there might have been another Frederick Lane, one a son to Ephriam Lane, married to Ann Green not Elizabeth Bryan. Yet William Bryan, Elizabeth's father was a friend and business associate of Frederick Lane. And I can imagine that Frederick changed his last name to get rid of the stigma of being associated with a scoundrel so he could be more acceptable to Elizabeth's father. Then there is the fact that Frederick's will doesn't mention the children that I have for him, from which my Lane family comes. And somewhere I found a statement that Ephriam Lane didn't have any children.

I guess I need to plan another trip east.

**A Tale of Two Families Part II****by Nancy Churchill**

(continued from page 9)

I thought the chances were good that at least one of them would be on Facebook. I found who I thought might be one brother, but he looked so much older and nothing like me, so I wasn't sure and besides, no one listed in the obituary was on his friends list. After more searching I hit pay dirt – and shrieked. There amongst the pictures was a woman who looked identical to how I'd looked fifteen years earlier. An old picture of her, but still. Even the current ones showed the resemblance. This was my older sister Tina, who had been twenty months old at my adoption. And the biggest picture was of an elderly lady who could only have been my mother. The argument with myself began.

*"Time to message your sister.*

*No. Even the thought is terrifying.*

*Too bad. You've come this far. And you promised Michael.*

*I never said I'd actually make contact if I found them.*

*Just do it. You must.*

*How do you know?*

*I just know."*

Sigh. I knew I had to. It's hard to explain, but I felt compelled – pushed by an unseen force to do something wonderful, yet terrifying.

(look for Part III in a future edition)

**PBS Announces Fall 2017 Schedule**

**"FINDING YOUR ROOTS WITH HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.** returns with a new season (October 3) to explore the fascinating family trees of popular figures including Aziz Ansari, Scarlett Johansson, Larry David, Garrison Keillor, Amy Schumer, Ted Danson, William H. Macy, Mary Steenburgen, Ana Navarro, Christopher Walken, Ava DuVernay, Bryant Gumbel and others."

More Fall programming news can be found at:

<http://www.pbs.org/about/blogs/news/pbs-announces-fall-2017-schedule/>



## Side By Side



**Ruthie Pedersen Reinert**

**Member since 2017**

I had 27 years of experience in the tourism and hospitality industries. I retired in June of 2010 as president and CEO of the Washington County Visitors Association.

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

I have been interested in genealogy since my paternal grandmother, Anne Oline Pedersen, began family record keeping. In the 50s Anne collected those records from the various churches in Norway and passed along copies of those documents. Upon retiring in 2010 I had the time possible to pursue family history interests farther. At a cousin's party a professionally done chart was discovered, where my paternal line is traced back to the 1600s.

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

I joined PSGS in 2017.

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

My parents came separately to Brooklyn, New York in 1946 and began their early life together there. In 1954 my mother's parents immigrated to Montana followed by my parents in 1955. Many of my early family historical records have been collected from Norwegian farm and community books. I have been able to reach out and reconnect with 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousins that are still living in Norway.

**Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?**

I have been a faithful attendee to Deanna Dowell's "I am Norsk" seminars since retirement, hopeful to expand my research capabilities. My focus is on Vest-Agder and Rogaland districts of Norway. My maiden name is Pedersen but no surnames to trace, because in the Norwegian naming custom the names all change from each family. My grandfather was Peder's son, hence Pedersen.

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

I am looking forward to include PSGS in my volunteer time.



**Sharon Hornback**

**Member since 2015**

I was born in Seattle, Washington and never moved very far from there. My family moved to Bremerton in 1978 and I soon began working for Central Kitsap School District. I spent 34 years there, mostly as an Office Manager at Tracyton Elementary.

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

My interest started in 1969 when I had to fill in the family tree on my oldest daughter's baby book. I just dabbled in it off and on when I had time, until retirement in 2012.

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

Mary Ann was sitting at a table in the lobby of KRL where I found out that PSGS had moved to Bremerton from Port Orchard. I attended a few informative classes and decided to join in 2015.

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

My goals include always remembering to use citations and stick to one name in research while curbing my desire to follow the shiny object that leads me off to a "probable" ancestor from England in the 1500s. Oh yes, and to be more organized.

**Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?**

Names include Partridge, Hamilton, Boone, Maugridge, Dobson, Willets, Hopper, Barnes, Goss and many, many more. Areas of interest are Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ireland, Ontario and Quebec. See, the shiny object applies to the names and locations, too. I need to focus here as well.

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

I volunteer in the Genealogy Center at KRL a couple of times a month. It is a wonderful time to do research and to meet new people and hear their stories. My latest contribution is becoming editor of the Backtracker. This is my first issue.



Gail Reynolds'

# Belfair Bulletin

Hello and Welcome to Summer – Before we finish this review, we will be talking about Christmas!

In May there was a meeting of our Belfair meeting during which time I was out of town. It featured Mary Ann Wright. It was reported that Mary Ann showed how to look up books in the library system. She described in detail how the books are organized. Sorry I missed it.

In June we had a discussion about the changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules for PSGS. This was prior to the vote to accept these changes at the general meeting on 28 June 2017. We also made a decision to attend the South Kitsap Chapter meeting on Thursday, 07 September, rather than our regular meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. Hope we all remember to remember! Also, I gave everyone an assignment to be used as a topic for our chapter meeting as well as articles for the Backtracker. So here is the topic: Pick one of your relatives – still around or not – to write an article about and tell what intrigues you about them or an interesting story about them.

At our July meeting, Jeanmarie Bray, Madi Cataldo, JuleAnn McHugh, Judy Joaquin, Linnie Griffin and myself shared interesting facts about our relatives. All articles were to be written up and sent to the Backtracker Editor. It will be enjoyable to share these stories with all the readers of the Backtracker. If you have interesting stories to share, please send them to the Backtracker Editor, Sharon Hornback.

So now we will try to get all the way until the end of the year. On Wednesday, 02 August, Sharon Hornback will be our guest speaker. Very interested in finding out some of the goals she has set for the Backtracker as well as some interesting research/brick walls she has encountered.

REMEMBER! The September meeting will be postponed one day and the location changed. We will be attending the South Kitsap Chapter on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 AT 9:30 am. Hope to see you there.

DON'T FORGET!

On 6 October we will be back at the Timberland Library in Belfair and be welcoming Jean Yager as our speaker. Jean will tell us how she prepares and packs for her trips "on the road again". Maybe we can pick up some pointers for the next trip to SLC.

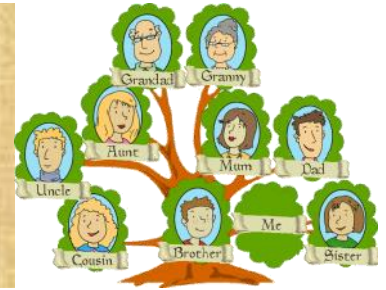
Now I told you we would be to the end of the year, didn't I? On 1 November we will be having our Christmas/Holiday Party. It has always been a potluck so we will continue that tradition. We also have a short business meeting – subjects will be new leader for 2018, ideas for programs for next year, and a volunteer to be the speaker at the February 2018 meeting. We have no meetings in December and January; so after the November meeting we will take a break and next meet in February 2018. See – next year!

D  
Y  
K

You can become a member of the West Valley Genealogical Society in Youngtown, Arizona for the annual membership fee of \$40.00. Along with free access to their library, there is a special deal with this membership. By using their website ([azwvgs.org](http://azwvgs.org)) you can retrieve My Heritage and World Vital Records on your own computer, even from home. Annual fees for these websites can run substantially more.



# My Favorite Ancestor



by Jean Bray

Margaret Isabella Doherty was born a fraternal twin, September 29, 1893, her brother Robert Ferdinand died at less than three months old in December of that year. She was born during the Chicago exposition, which ran from May 1—October 30, 1893. The World's Columbian Exposition was a world's fair to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492, hence the middle names in honor of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand. My great aunt Margaret was born at the family home in LaGrange, Illinois. Her father died when she was six and a half. She was the youngest child.

Margaret received a bachelor's degree in music from University of Illinois at Urbana. Also, she received an M.L.S. (Masters in Library Science) and was a lifelong member of the American Library Association. She used her skills as an indexer for the Montgomery Ward Catalog. She also was a cataloger/indexer for the Chicago-based American Medical Association (AMA). Margaret also played the organ and piano as an accompanist at a few Catholic Churches in the area. Margaret was certainly ahead of her time with two degrees, quite a feat for a woman of her era.

Margaret never married as she was devoted to her family members, especially her widowed mother. She died in October 1977 and is buried at the family plot her mother had purchased 76 and 1/2 years prior to that, at the Bronswood Cemetery, Oakbrook, Illinois.

1906/1907

Margaret Isabella Doherty  
GGM Margaret Doyle Doherty  
G Aunt Mary Doherty DeMott



by Gail Reynolds

A very important person in my life was my paternal grandfather. Ok. Really he is my step-father's adoptive father. His name is Alexander Claude Hamilton Neilson II. He was born in Thedford, Ontario, Canada on 06 June 1887.

He and his first wife raised and trained horses in Bakersfield, Kern County, California. One day he was kicked by a horse "down there" making it impossible to conceive children. His wife wanted children so she divorced him.

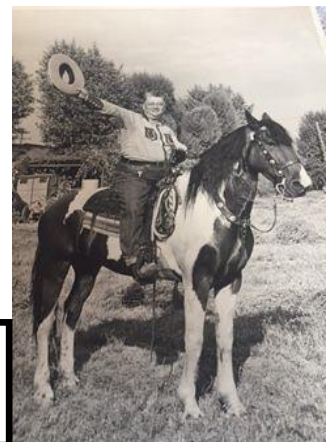
Here he was at about age 25, single and unable to have any children. He married his second wife, Neva Stewart. She already had a daughter from a previous marriage so now he had a child. A few years later he and Neva adopted two sons, so now his life had turned around with a wife and three children.

He was a large man and still raised and trained horses as well as working in a mercantile store. He was pleased that he could use the grain scale to find out how much he weighed.

Claude and Neva were members of the Kern County Rangers. He enjoyed riding in the parades on holidays. Claude also trained show business horses. He trained Cisco Kid's sidekick Poncho's horse. He and Neva taught me how to tell the difference between a paint and a pinto. Poncho's horse was a pinto and Little Joe's (on Bonanza) horse was a paint.

So glad that my step-father adopted my sister and I and gave us another set of grandparents.

Alexander Claude Hamilton  
Neilson II



## NEWS —

**CHANGES TO MICROFILM SHARING  
FROM FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

On Sunday, June 25, 2017, FamilySearch announced that they will discontinue its microfilm distribution services on September 1, 2017. The change results from the progress FamilySearch has made to digitize its records and the obsolescence of microfilm technology. Over 1.5 million microfilms have already been digitized and the remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020. This change also affects their microfiche collection circulation.

For more information, [goo.gl/jQsbjV](https://goo.gl/jQsbjV).

**Classified Ads****Genealogy Center Volunteers NEEDED!**

Interested in sharing your love of genealogy with others? Curious about what resources might be available in the Genealogy Center to help you in your research? How about wanting a few hours of quiet time to work on your own genealogy research? Then being a GC Volunteer is the perfect answer to these questions! We have 24 active GC Volunteers. Each month, we average about 48 scheduled shifts at the Sylvan Way Library. Please sign up to be a volunteer.

Contact Charlotte for more information:

[GC-vol@pusogensoc.org](mailto:GC-vol@pusogensoc.org)



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