



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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

Vol. 43: Issue 1

Jan-Mar 2018



The 17th annual Kitsap Antique Show will return to the Kitsap Fairgrounds on February 24 – 25, 2018. Co-organized by the Puget Sound Genealogical Society and the Kitsap History Museum, this annual fund-raising event has grown to be one of the largest antique shows in the area and attracts a vast number of knowledgeable dealers and collectors from around the Northwest. The Antique Show begins on Saturday, February 24 with doors open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and continues Sunday, February 25 also from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission is just \$6.00 per person and those 12 and under are admitted for free. One of the highlights of the Antique Show is the opportunity to have a verbal appraisal of your treasures from one of the expert appraisers on hand. The fee for appraisals is \$5.00 per item. In addition, PSGS and the Kitsap History Museum will host a food court this year for the convenience and enjoyment of attendees.

This two-day event will once again be held in the President's Hall at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds complex located at 1200 NW Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton, Washington. As our only fundraiser, we count on this event to provide the funds necessary to bring in the many expert and engaging speakers for our classes and lectures.

I encourage you to volunteer to help during the show or just to come and show your support! Volunteer opportunities include: greeters, cashiers, security, traffic control, floor assistants, set-up and clean-up crews. For more information, contact Ann Northcutt ( [antique-show@pusogensoc.org](mailto:antique-show@pusogensoc.org) ). Hope to see you there!

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# Presidential Ponderings

by Mary Ann Wright

Welcome to the New Year! Make your resolution now to improve your research skills so you can finally solve the family mystery. Here are a couple ideas to get you started. First step is education—learn how to pull every piece of information out of a record. Second—READ. We can help you with those steps. First, attend our twice-monthly classes and the lectures prior to our membership meetings. The professional instructors always have informative handouts and presentations, guaranteeing the attendees will learn something new. Then, our Genealogy Center comes to the rescue with books on how to do almost anything genealogy-related. Plus, we subscribe to magazines with helpful articles on research strategies. Finally, while physically going to the courthouse in your ancestor’s home town may not be feasible, several ways around actual traveling do exist. Again, the Genealogy Center has many books dedicated to

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# Genealogy Center Report

by Mary Ann Wright

I’m excited about the progress the Collection Review Committee has made the last few months in evaluating our reference collection in the Genealogy Center. These next few months will have us focused on the Canadian and European collections and then we’ll move on to those books related to immigration and migration. The committee meets twice monthly on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday at 10:15 a.m. and we’d love to have you join us.

We recently received a marvelous donation from the Manchester Friends of the Library of a four-volume set of the Genealogical and Family Histories of the State of Maine. These books were printed in 1909 and are beautifully bound. I’m looking forward to having them added to our collection, as well as a few other donations received late last year.

Our Society is very fortunate to have a cadre of dedicated volunteers for the Genealogy Center. These selfless individuals give of their time week in and week out to ensure the GC is available to anyone wishing to explore their family history. Welcome to

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**The Backtracker** — A publication of the  
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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## Welcome to Puget Sound Genealogical Society's New Officers for 2018



From left to right...

Sharon Overman—Secretary  
 Heidi Ginder—First Vice President  
 Larry Harden—Treasurer  
 Mary Ann Wright—President  
 Terry Mettling—Second Vice President  
 Judy Joaquin—Member at Large

Our new officers were installed at the PSGS Christmas Party on December 7, 2017 by Sandie Morrison. Congratulations to all and thank you for guiding our society.

## PSGS CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 7, 2017



Santa arrives at the Eagle's Nest;



Sandie makes sure food is ready;



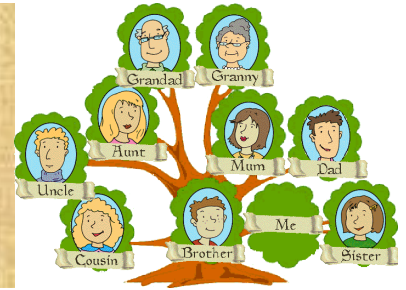
IdaMae takes part in Yankee Gift Exchange with help of Santa & Ann



Tables full of members, desserts galore, gifts ready for the Yankee Gift Exchange—this was our Christmas Party. Thank you Sandie Morrison for coordinating the food for this holiday event. Thank you Consuela Udave for decorating with a true Christmas Spirit! A fun time was had by all.

# My Favorite Ancestor

## Grandma Violet Part One by Jackie Horton



When I was asked this question, I had to think long and hard because I feel all my ancestors need to be considered. I have picked one close to me who has inspired me from a child – my grandmother Viola Violet (Bates) Valiquet. You could not possibly realize why I feel this way unless first I tell you why she means so much to me and the kind of person she was.

She was born in 1884 to Susan Morrison (family from Virginia) and William Bates (family from Massachusetts and Rhode Island). The family always referred to her as Grandma Valiquet and she hated her name of Viola so is actually buried and listed in the Minnesota Vital records as Violet Valiquet. She died on my birthday September 1, 1975 and I knew before I got home from work driving down Olympic View in Silverdale – as soon as I walked into the door, I looked at my husband and said Grandma died and he said yes he had just hung up the phone – my oldest sister, LaReine, had called.

She had a very hard life since her husband died in January 1919 in the last of the flu epidemic. She was left with four young children, from oldest to youngest – my mother Myrtle (Valiquet) Perkins, age 13; Gladys (Valiquet) Bickford, age 9; Virginia (Valiquet) Moon, age 4; and Napoleon (called Bones) Valiquet, age 3. There is little known why or how she moved back to Minnesota. Rumors were the Valiquet family were trying to adopt the children out to foster parents – true or not, this was my mother's opinion. Her brother Henry Bates came to Chicago and they returned

to his home on 525 Michigan Avenue in Crosby, Crow Wing county, Minnesota by 1920. This is where she lived while bringing up her children. She refused to talk about her life and what is known was provided by relatives and her two brothers, my uncles Newt and Henry who were both younger than she was. I do know she was the person who delivered the babies in three of the four families above. My family's seven children, Bickford's four boys, Moon's two girls and two boys, and lastly, I believe, my Uncle's two children were actually born in the hospital.



Viola Violet Bates Valiquet

She had to have been very good at this because one of my younger sisters was born with the cord wrapped around her neck. The first time I remember, she was a cook in the only large restaurant in Crosby about 1938 or 39 because we visited her in the kitchen and she had us try a new meat. It was rabbit. I do not know what year she started cooking in the hospital but she was there before I was 9 years old when we moved to Washington. She loved her canary and kept it in her room at the hospital. She was the only cook – no one helping her.

While we lived in Minnesota, during the depression years, dad had taught himself electricity, worked for Proctor Gamble and ran the movies in the theater evenings and weekends. I was allowed to go to the show any time I wanted to – about one to two miles from our home on 525 Erie Ave just across the alley from Uncle Henry's where Gram lived. I would go to her house and she would make me brown sugar sandwiches (loved them!).

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# Introductions

by Carol Caldwell

**Kathleen Cowsert:** Kathleen claims Hawaii as the place she is from, mainly because her Air Force father moved the family often, but stayed in the 50<sup>th</sup> state the longest. She comes here as a Navy spouse. Again, the Library has led another genealogy seeker to PSGS. Her maiden name is Johnson, but after having been mistaken too many times for some other Johnson, she legally changed her name to Cowsert and didn't take her husband's name of Webster. Right now her research focus is on Cowsert. She'll leave the Johnsons to when she knows more about what she is doing.

*Welcome*

**Linda LeClaire:** Linda comes to us from New Orleans by way of Houston and Hawaii. She works in home mortgages, a job that brought her to Olympia. She is drawn to family history because she is an only child and after Hurricane Katrina broke so many homes, she wants to find people to connect with. Also, her husband is adopted and wants to look for his father. An event listing in Kitsap Weekly brings her to PSGS through an e-mail from Ann Northcutt. Linda has used Google to begin her genealogy research with a 3X great grandfather from Cherbourg, France, and wants to discover how he came from there to Canada and eventually to Louisiana. With her husband's family, they tried an investigator, but it was Google again where she finds his uncle, and is waiting for his biological father to respond. Her surname research focuses on Lirette, Faler, Mangold, Pearson and Galvan.

## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS — *(cont'd from page 2)*

abstracts from courthouse records and periodicals in which local historical or genealogical societies have included transcriptions of wills or marriage bonds. FamilySearch.org has made huge strides in digitizing their massive microfilm collection and searching those records are now much easier. My hope for each of you is that genealogy continues to be a rewarding activity, bringing delightful surprises with every discovery.

And now, a sincere appeal for volunteers. PSGS is able to provide professional instructors with the financial benefit from our annual Antique Show. And that income is also one of the reasons why our dues are so low. Our only fundraiser is in partnership with the Kitsap History Museum. Both organizations recruit volunteers to ensure success and both organizations share equally in the proceeds. I'm asking for your help on February 24 and 25. More information on the Antique Show is on the front page, and includes several suggested volunteer activities and how to get more information.

## GENEALOGY CENTER REPORT — *(cont'd from page 2)*

Gwen Detweiler and Audrey Harris, who joined Don Westfall, Lew Noah and Joyce Oswald as our new volunteers during 2017. Special congratulations to eight of our volunteers who logged more than 100 hours each this past year. Regardless of how many hours you can contribute, please consider joining our volunteer team. For more information, contact: [gcc@pusogensoc.org](mailto:gcc@pusogensoc.org)



## Side By Side

### Rich Peel

I was born in Bremerton and have been a Kitsap County resident all of my life. Following an interesting engineering career involving applied research and then technical and program management supporting Navy undersea systems, I retired just over ten years ago to spend more time raising teenage twins and doing a variety of community volunteer work.

With a casual interest in genealogy for many years, I (along with my wife, Jeanny) started attending PSGS meetings at the invitation of my sister-in-law, Lynda Peel, in 2015. I had learned a lot about our family history from the genealogy research that Lynda had done, and she assured us that we would enjoy the PSGS meeting presentations (she was right!). Also, Jeanny's second cousin, Ruth Reese, has been involved with PSGS, local historical societies, and antique businesses for many years. So, any discussions with Ruth regarding Jeanny's family history only further fueled my interest in exploring genealogy in a more "organized" manner.

I was readily able to trace my paternal grandmother's family line back to the 1500s, learning, in the process, much more about my ancestors who were Civil War and Revolutionary War veterans. My primary research goal is to trace my paternal grandfather's (Peel) family roots further back through ancestors who lived in England, as several family members have tried without success to reach back farther than the 1800s. I would also like to explore my maternal line, which was made more difficult by limited records and surname "adjustments" for family members who immigrated to this country in the 1800s.

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### Jeanny Peel

I was born in Panama City, Florida. My father's military career took our family to numerous locations throughout the U.S., and we finally settled in the Illahee / Manette area of Bremerton, where he grew up. His maternal grandfather had participated in the Klondike Gold Rush and then was one of the early settlers in Keyport, before the Navy acquired their waterfront property in 1913 to build the Pacific Coast Torpedo Station. So, I have family roots in Kitsap County, with paternal ancestors who immigrated from Italy and Sweden. I do not yet know how or when my maternal ancestors arrived in this country.

My brother-in-law's wife, Lynda Peel, who has been involved with genealogy research for many years, inspired me to start attending PSGS meetings in 2015. My mother, sister, and I have also enjoyed visiting the library's Genealogy Center, to start the process to better document our family roots.

I had never explored my family history much, on either side, and I had not known about some of my more distant maternal family members, many of whom still live in Florida and the Southeast U.S. In recent years, I became more interested in learning more about my family ancestors, and I want to be able to share that information with my now young-adult children.

I have yet to do much detailed research on my own; however, a near-term goal is to better record the family history that my mother can share with us. One of my nephews has recently been busy exploring my paternal grandfather's family line; so, I want to get up to speed using Ancestry.com and other online resources to see his

(Continued on page 13)

# Putting Down Roots

## A Tale of Two Families, Part Three

by Nancy Churchill



The days crawled by as I waited to see if my sister would reply and if so, what would she say? Would she be glad and want a relationship, or would she tell me to take a flying leap off the nearest cliff?

Late July, 2015—I'd slept in late that morning thanks to a fractured night rife with insomnia. As I approached the dresser where my phone lay, it rang. *Already?* I thought. *Don't they know I'm barely out of bed?* Suddenly, my irritation morphed into fear, euphoria, and relief, as I read the State name above the unfamiliar number: Georgia.

I nearly swooned in excitement and terror. "It's her!" I squawked.

"Who?" my husband yelled from downstairs.

"Tina! My sister!" I shouted, then breathlessly answered and listened as a woman with a lovely Southern accent asked if I was Nancy, and when I told her yes, shrieked like a banshee, "OH MY GOD! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!!!"

A warm, yet surreal conversation ensued, as the story unfolded and Tina me told about our parents, siblings, and growing up near Sacramento for the first 13 years of her life, until our mom remarried, had two more baby girls, and eventually moved to Georgia. Tina was not quite two when our mom came to Washington to stay with her younger sister, Sherry and her husband, Roy for the last few weeks of her pregnancy with me as she arranged for my adoption, and was too young to remember it. However, in 2014, when Aunt Sherry and Uncle Roy were visiting the family in Georgia, dear old Uncle Roy spilled the beans to my sisters about them having a sister in Washington state who had been given up for adoption, and that their mom had recently asked his and Aunt Sherry's help in searching for me, but they'd had no luck. Unfortunately, that was to be all they heard, as poor Un-

cle Roy must have gotten into hot water with Aunt Sherry over that little revelation. No one ever revealed to my mother that my siblings now knew, as she was quite ill at the time. After she passed, they began to search for me, but the only facts they had were, baby girl born in 1962 in Tacoma, Washington. Not much to go on.

Just a few days short of a month after my son had come to me with his request, I was reunited with my sisters via phone and Facebook. From that first conversation with Tina and later with each one of them, it was like we'd never been raised apart. It seemed like we grew up together, then were scattered about the globe, only to reunite, picking up right where we'd left off. A couple of weeks after that first contact, we were able to Skype, this time including my older brother Larry and his wife Pam. And what made it extra special was my son Michael and his daughter Emma were with me as we all met our new family for the first time.

December 7, 2015—*This is the busiest airport in the world!* I moved in a daze, exhausted from the ravages of Lyme disease, too little sleep, and a long, mind-numbing flight. But God had seated an ATL-savvy angel named Angie across the aisle from me on the plane, and after hearing my story and seeing the glazed look in my eyes, this angel promised to lead me to my waiting family. Very few souls traversed the hallowed halls of the "world's busiest airport" in Atlanta, and an almost mystical, dreamlike hush seemed to envelop the cavernous building as we rode the escalator up to the waiting area. Suddenly Angie leaned in and whispered, "I see Santa hats." My youngest sister, Lisa, had informed me they'd be wearing Santa hats so I could easily spot them. I looked up and saw them. They saw me.

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## A Look Back...

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



#### October 25 “National Family History Month & PSGS’s History”

**Presented by Sandie Morrison**

Sandie spoke of the history of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society. It began on May 2, 1973 when a small group gathered to discuss their genealogy research. They decided to organize a club and Jim Hanf was elected President. In 1974 the Olympic Genealogical Society was the name of the society and the library was started. In May of 1975 the new name of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society was adopted. As it grew, the PSGS library had many locations, most often in members’ homes such as Marlys Marrs home. Through the years many speakers spoke before the society. Among them were Arthur Fiske of the Fiske Library. In 1995 the library and monthly meetings moved to the Givens Community Center in Port Orchard. In April of 2003, the library was moved to the North Kitsap Memorial Armory in Poulsbo. In 2011 PSGS formed a partnership with the Kitsap Regional Library. The Genealogy Center was established at the Sylvan Way Library in January of 2012. The Genealogy Center keeps the same hours as the library.

#### November 15 “The Evergreen State – Researching Your Washington State Ancestors.”

**Presented by Mary Kircher Roddy**

Mary shared some quick facts with us regarding Washington State. Did you know that Washington was part of the Oregon Territory until 1853? Washington became a state on 11 Nov 1889; ranks 18th in area and 13th in population. In 1891 our counties were required by law to keep vital records. Our state took over collecting birth and death records on 1 July 1907 and on 1 January 1968 our state took over collecting divorce and marriage records. Before 1968 you will find them at the county level. Some historical resources: History Link – Free online encyclopedia of Washington State History – <http://www.historylink.org/> and Washington State Historical Society – [www.washingtonhistory.org](http://www.washingtonhistory.org). Online genealogy resources: FamilySearch wiki – [http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Washington\\_Genealogy](http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Washington_Genealogy) and US GenWeb for Washington – <http://wagenweb.org/>.

## CONGRATULATIONS—JUDY JOAQUIN

Judy is now an official member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. She was inducted into the society at a luncheon at the Red Lion Inn in Bellevue on October 29, 2017. Judy’s ancestor is George Soule, 8x great grandfather on her mother’s side. George came on the Mayflower as the “man servant” of Mr. Edward Winslow (per the Bradford Account). He was one of the signers of the Mayflower Compact who became a free man prior to 1632. Judy has done extensive work to trace her lineage back to George, especially during the past two years.

Last year’s trip to Salt Lake City, armed with FHL film numbers, finalized the necessary documentation to join the 1766 Washington State members (92,000 national members).



Judy holding her certificate.





## Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

Hi, my name is Heidi Ginder. I am your 1st Vice President for Puget Sound Genealogical Society. I look forward to giving you informative and exciting programs for the 2018 year.

### Jan 24 "Finding Your Great Britain Ancestors"

presenter: Joleen Aitchison

Discover which popular online sites can help you locate your ancestors from England, Wales and Scotland.

### Feb 28 "Soldiers, Spies & Farm Wives: The Changing Roles for Women During the Civil War"

presenter: Jill Morelli

Learn about the roles of women before the war, the roles they accepted during the war and the legacy of the Civil War.

### Mar 28 "Beyond Outlander: Researching Your Scottish and English Ancestry"

presenter: Claudia Breland

Trace your Scottish and English ancestors using the top record types and online databases as well as records not on online.

## Schedule of Classes — January through March

Jan 27	Saturday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Supplemental Census Records
			Presenter: Winona Laird
Feb 6	Tuesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Naturalization & Ship Passenger Lists
			Presenter: Laura Sparr
Feb 24	Saturday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	WEBINAR: Finding Ancestors Amid the Rubble of Disaster
			Presenter: Thomas MacEntee
Mar 6	Tuesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	The Other Half of the Story (Women's Research)
			Presenter: Judy Line
Mar 24	Saturday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Dealing with Digital Images in Genealogy
			Presenter: MaryLynn Strickland

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

From France to America by

Mary Lou Splett



Jean Pierre Reff was my third great grandfather, of the six great grandfathers in the Reff genealogy, Jean Pierre is the one I found most interesting and have the most information about.

Jean Pierre Reff, was born in 1787 in Berthelming, Moselle, Lorraine, France. It is likely that Peter was in the battle for and retreat from Moscow in the year 1812, only to find that the Russians had retreated from that city, only to sneak back at night to start fires to burn out the French. Their lodgings and their food supply being burned, they started to retreat from Moscow in October. Too Late. Three thousand miles from home, nothing to eat, their clothes in rags, they started walking to France. Thousands of men perished on the way back to France.

As the best that we can determine is that Jean Pierre was in the Napoleon's Grand Army between 1805 – 1812 and made it through all of that. He must have been tough and courageous, and maybe the trip to America didn't scare him at all.

After the wars, times were hard in France. The year 1816 was known as the year without summer. There was high water in the Rhine Valley. Many people died from starvation and fever. Soup kitchens kept many alive. The winters of 1825, 26, and 27 were also very hard. The coldest winter on record was 1829-30. There was Cholera in 1832 and 1834.

Still, it must have been hard for the Reff family to decide to leave the only home they'd ever known and go to America. The ocean was a dangerous place for the sailing ships of those days. Fierce storms sent many

ships to the bottom of the sea, killing hundreds of emigrants. The Quebec route was said to be the worst.

After the wars Jean Pierre married Mary Ann Spormann Mathis to start his new life. In May 1834, Jean Pierre and Mary Ann, with their four children, Peter Jr., 17, John, 14, Michael, 10, and Mary Barbara, 7, left Le Havre for the United States, via Quebec, down the St. Lawrence. It has been said a relative recalled hearing Peter Jr., talk about the open boat and sleeping on the deck. We don't know how long the trip took, but by September 22, 1834, the Reff's were settled in West Turin, Lewis County, New York.

Jean Pierre made his application for citizenship. After being in United States he started going by Peter Reff. He stated at that time he was 48 years old, and he gave up his allegiance to the king of the France. He signed his



Jean Pierre Reff

name with an "X", his mark. Peter was naturalized on March 1, 1842. Land Deed records state on July 2, 1841, "Peter Reff of Lyme" (Cape Vincent, NY) paid \$450 for 100 acres of Lot 388 on the Cape Vincent Turnpike at Kent's creek. The stone house wasn't mentioned in the deed, but it is thought, because of the price, that the house was on the lot at the time of the sale. This property was in Rosiere, also known as the "French Settlement." In 1859 it was sold by his son John and wife Julia to Joseph Favret for \$3,563. The house still stands. Someone told

me at one time it was being used as a museum. It is listed in the book of old houses of northern New York, with a picture of it.

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**France to America** —(Cont'd from page 10)

My mother would tell me stories of her family settling in Cape Vincent New York area. It is a beautiful place also known as the Thousand Island area with its many small islands on the St. Lawrence River and connects with Lake Ontario. I am truly blessed that I made many trips to Cape Vincent to enjoy my cousins and the area.

Peter was a farmer, and his sons were farmers, carpenters and painters. Peter died on February 25, 1866, at the age of 78. His wife Mary Ann died May 3, 1869 at the age of 77. They are buried in Rosiere at St. Vincent de Paul's church cemetery. I am related to eighty percent of the people buried in that cemetery.

Concerning the children, the family grew after the four children all married. Peter and Mary Ann had a total of 33 grandchildren. My 2x great grandfather John Reff married Julia Ann Greschback in 1847 in New York state. Julia came to America with her parents at the age of three. She was from Germany, and she was raised by a couple in Pennsylvania. She had a sister named Josephine. We

know nothing else about her or what happened to her parents.

In 1879, John and Julia and their four youngest children along with their spouses and families moved to Minnesota in the town of Luce in Otter Tail County.

My great grandmother Mary Barbara Reff Smithlin was a housewife and Midwife delivering many of her grandchildren. Her name is given as Midwife on my mother's birth certificate.

I admire my ancestors for their strong faith, endurance and hard work. Just coming to America and leaving everything known to them and the scary long trip on dangerous waters. It is a feat, within itself. If not for them, any one of my ancestors, I would not be who I am.

Sources:

*202 Years of Reffs, 1787 – 1989*

Ancestry.com

Genenet.com

Various public records from Jefferson County, NY and Ottertail County, MN.

**My Favorite Ancestor**—(Cont'd from page 4)

I never saw her get mad or yell at anyone. One year Dad and Mom were having a hard time (seven children and he working those jobs – never was on welfare!). Gram bought me a new snowsuit because they could not afford one. I am sure she did the same for the other families when they were hurting during these years. I also remember when the show "World of Wars – the invasion of outer space" came on. She had a pair of binoculars and we stood in her yard looking up at the sky. She allowed each one of us a turn and then she said this is just a made-up story – and we all went home.

Dad used to laugh at her trying to drive – he did try to teach her – he said she looked into the field and off they

went wherever she looked, straight across the open field! I never once saw her drive a car. She laughed right along with him. She had a chicken coop and we would get the eggs for her – it was a horrible smelling place. Thanksgiving and Christmas were always spent with all of the families together and names would be drawn – we of course had seven children so that was nine names each year Mom and Dad had to get gifts for. It puzzles me to understand how they did it since times were so poor.

Gram came to Washington with my sister Shirley (second oldest, now 91). They brought our dog Mickey with them and had a story to tell – Mickey got loose somewhere in Montana where they stopped for the dog – he took off across a field and guess who was running after him – Gram. She laughed with us.

**Reminder.....**

Have you paid your 2018 Puget Sound Genealogical Society Dues yet? Dues are \$15 for a single membership and \$20 for a family in the same household. Applications can be found on the members page at [www.pusogensoc.org](http://www.pusogensoc.org) or the Genealogy Center in the library. Thanks for your support!





*Linda LeClaire's*

# South Kitsap's Happenings

Happy New Year—we hope your holidays were joyous! Come join us 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30am at Church of Christ located at 2585 Carr Ln SE, Port Orchard. We have fun. Most meetings we call “Brainstorming.” We bring our questions, brick walls, and explore new software programs.

At our Thursday, October 5th meeting four of us shared our opportunity to take our personal brick wall to a professional genealogist at ‘Ask the Experts’. Margaret Howard shared how Karin Borgerson of Borgerson Research (contact Linda LeClaire for more info on fees) was well organized and knowledgeable about how to do research. Margaret’s question was about DNA and her great grandfather along with his father. Karin presented Margaret with a prepared guide to help her with her research!

Chris LeClaire also worked with Karin and she really located his dad & his family! Karin got busy before the meeting checking DNA on Ancestry. Karin prepared several options of brothers. We immediately knew which one because we had the name from the mother’s diary! The dad was located in Texas. Of course, the hurricane came and may have swept the chance of connecting away! Both Margaret and Chris were impressed with Karin’s work.

Polly Nelson gave an enchanting explanation of what she learned about her Lyon family roots straight from Lyon, France. Polly is related to the Queen. Steve Morrison did a great job in moving her family history forward.

At the November meeting we discussed an array of different topics both on general subjects and genealogy wise. Heidi did track an ancestor of Margaret's to help clarify his location. As the New Year begins, we are looking forward to the return of some of those who have not been able to attend.

Hope to see ya there!

## DID YOU KNOW?

MyHeritage and FamilyTreeWebinars.com have announced that registration is now open for its 2018 Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series. Choose from 106 classes from genealogy’s leading educators on many topics. You will get information from Legacy, Geni and MyHeritage.

You will learn about matching technology, DNA ethnicity, digital photos and much more. Sign up (it's FREE!) for one or for all of them today and you will receive a reminder email both one day and two hours prior to the live event. Just go to [Familytreewebinars.com](http://Familytreewebinars.com) and look for the free webinars. You do not need to be a member, but will be directed to special offers for joining.

**Side by Side—Rich Peel** (*Cont'd from page 6*)

Surnames of most interest are, of course, Peel, as well as Hubbard (which I have observed to be an extremely well-documented family in America), Tuttle, Taggart, Shinazy, and Adams (and whatever original surname preceded that immigration-shortened version).

Since joining PSGS, I have been involved in supporting the Kitsap Antique Show, first as a volunteer in the appraisal area at the 2016 show, then as a member of the show committee and onsite staff for the 2017 show, and now as “computer support staff” for the 2018 show’s Dealer Chair (Jeanny).

**Side by Side—Jeanny Peel** (*Cont'd from page 6*)

research work to date, and then investigate more on my own using the Genealogy Center and online resources. Surnames of most interest for my family research are Morello, Peterson, Stanley, and Davis, in Italy, Sweden, Florida, and the Carolinas.

I have enjoyed supporting the Kitsap Antique Show for several years, and I currently serve as the Dealer Chair for the 2018 show.

**Putting Down Roots—A Tale of Two Families—**  
(*Cont'd from page 7*)

For a split second the five of us stared at each other. Then with a shout, they bolted toward me, enveloping me in the biggest, most wonderful, tearful, group hug I’ve ever experienced. When they let me breathe, I looked around for my angel. She had disappeared.

I spent the next two glorious weeks getting to know at least 40 members of my huge family. The following year, my sister Lisa and her husband, James, came and stayed a week with us, and we all spent a lot of time with my oldest adopted sister Karen, husband Mark, and my mom, who immediately “adopted” them and they, her. Last March, my husband and I went on a week-long

cruise with them and Karen and Mark, then my husband and I spent a week in Georgia with the rest of the family. I realize that sadly, many searches for birth families do not turn out well – which makes me even more grateful that mine turned out like a fairy tale come true!

**WANTED.....**

Have you completed the extensive search and document collection necessary to become a member of one of the many lineage societies? Are you a member of DAR, SAR, Mayflower Descendants, Order of the Founder’s and Patriots of America, Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the US, General Society of the War of 1812, etc.? If you are, please contact me (BT editor email on page 2 of Backtracker). I would love to acknowledge you in a future Backtracker issue. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to citations, as you well know, and we want to celebrate your accomplishment. Thank you for contacting me.

Sharon Hornback, BT-editor



# Grandma's Kitchen—Recipes From the Past

## by Lew Noah



### Herman Sourdough Starter

Herman is a very old family member. He has been around for eons but came to the fore during the Klondike Gold Rush. The gold miners got very tired of sourdough and wanted something sweet. Well, my Great Grandmother brought Herman north to Juneau and put him to work. She made sweet rolls, donuts, etc. and fed those miners. She also shared the starter with any and all who wanted it. Grandma Clare passed this down to her kids, grandkids and great grand kids.

**Ingredients:** Sorry if you don't have a descendent of the Alaska version:

2 1/4 teaspoons active Dry yeast

1 Cup white sugar, divided

2 cups warm water(110 degrees)

2 cups all-purpose flour, divided

2 cups all purpose flour

2 cups milk divided

1/4 cup white sugar



### Directions:

Grandma always used a crock bowl and wooden spoon: Dissolve yeast in warm water, stir in flour and sugar, mix until smooth, Cover loosely and store in warm place overnight.

Next day stir and refrigerate.

Stir once each day for the next four days; on the fifth day stir then divide in half. Give half away with feeding instructions.

Feed starter with 1/2 cup white sugar, 1 cup flour and 1 cup milk, stir until smooth. Cover and place in refrigerator. Stir once each day for next four days.

On the tenth day, feed again with 1/2 cup sugar, cup flour and cup milk, return to refrigerator and stir once each day for the next four days.

On the fifteenth day it is ready to be used for baking. Reserve one cup of the starter in the refrigerator and continue to follow the stir and feed cycle.

Use and share, Grandma Clare would be proud.



Left to right—

Brother Alan, Grandma Clare & mom Margaret



**Gail Reynolds'**

# Belfair Bulletin

Hello Everyone –

Welcome to 2018! Hope you had a great holiday season and enjoyed visiting with your friends and especially your relatives. I hope you gleaned some information or stories from them that you didn't know before. These gatherings are always wonderful sources of great stories or anecdotes that make your personal history much more interesting.

November's meeting was our Christmas potluck. We enjoyed everyone's food and gift exchange and general comradery. What a fun time we had. Since we celebrated the season in November, we did not have a meeting in December.

Fast forward to 2018--We also do not have a meeting in January every year. So, on we go to February, which is our next meeting. We meet the first Wednesday of the month from February through November at 1:00 pm at the Mason County library in Belfair. We hope all of you will join us.

The subject of our February meeting will be "I have my DNA results, now what?" Jackie Horton will be our narrator.

At the March meeting, we will be sharing what our goals and expectations are for the trip to Salt Lake City. There are at least six of us from our chapter going to the Family History Library this year. Preparation has already begun so we will know just what we are looking for while down there.

In April we will review our findings and/or our narrowing down of resources from Salt Lake City.

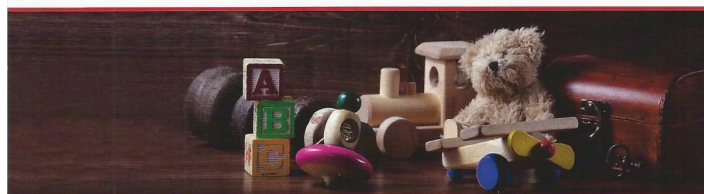
May and June meeting programs are still up in the air, so please check the PSGS website for additional information. Next time we talk it will be summertime so, keep warm until then.

Hope to see you at one of our meetings!

# Kitsap ANTIQUE SHOW

**Save the date!**  
February 24-25, 2018

APPRAISALS | ANTIQUES | COLLECTIBLES | VINTAGE



**President's Hall | Kitsap Fairgrounds**

Read the article on page 1 for detailed information & Presidential Ponderings on page 5 for a special request.

## Classified Ads

### **Genealogy Center Volunteers NEEDED!**

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 projects? Then being a GC Volunteer is the perfect answer to these questions!

Please sign up to volunteer. For more information, contact:

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



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