



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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It is time to be thinking about serving as part of the leadership team for Puget Sound Genealogical Society in 2020. 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, 1st Vice-President, 2nd 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). Take a look and see what position interests you. Our new Nominating Committee will soon be hard at work. Elections will be held at our Annual Business Meeting, October 23, 2019.

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As a PSGS member, you can access American Ancestors by the New England Historic Genealogical Society when you are in our Genealogy Center at the Sylvan Way Branch of KRL. There are many records you will have access to, especially in the New England area. A laptop is available for your use or you can bring your own. Check with the volunteer if you have questions about access. Enjoy your discoveries!

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

A Special Interest Group (also known as a SIG) is a group of people with a common interest in learning more or sharing what knowledge they have on a certain subject. PSGS currently sponsors two SIGs: Ancestry and DNA. Ancestry used to be called Ancestry.com SIG where we discussed hints and updates on the database Ancestry.com. But over the years, our discussions shifted to other genealogical databases, personal brick walls, and sharing our family finds. Ancestry and DNA both meet on the 2nd Monday of every month (except December). Ancestry meets from 10:15am to 11:30am and DNA meets from 11:45am to 1pm. We average about 10 to 12 people each month. However, on June 10th Ancestry and DNA joined forces and invited Judy Line from Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner to speak on “DNA Tools with an Emphasis in Ancestry Tool”; a two-hour lecture where 53 people attended!!!

Recently, there was an interest in starting a new SIG: Family Tree Maker (FTM). They will begin meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month starting on August 13. (cont’d on page 3)

Genealogy Center Report

The Genealogy Center’s Weeding Project Committee – which should also be known as the Weeding and Conservation Project Committee, has been busy checking each book or periodical collection about the Mid-West states. There have been very few if any books that were weeded but there have been books that needed repair or changes in the call or spine number. The Committee meets monthly during the summer and may meet more often in the fall, depending on the members’ schedules.

A sincere vote of thanks to all who have donated items for the Genealogy Center collection. It is hoped that many if not all of these items will eventually be added to the collection; however due to your generosity, there is currently a backlog of books and journals in the PSGS Back Office. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you would like to donate any items to the Genealogy Center that you check with Elisabeth Demmon, the library’s Liaison to the PSGS, before donating any more items at this time. (cont’d on page 3)

The Backtracker — A publication of the
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What's in a Name by Sharon Overman

Growing up in the 60s, my cousins and my brother, sister and I were told by our dads that they had a distant cousin who was an actress. Her name was Lynne Overman and had small parts in several films during the 40s and 50s.

This was before VHS, DVDs and Netflix so we watched as many old movies we could on TV so we could see her. Once in awhile we would see her name in the credits. At that time they ran the credits before the movie with no identification as to what part they played. We would try to guess which one was cousin Lynne, but could never quite figure it out.

Years later we now have VHS, DVDs, Netflix and the Internet. Finally, I Googled Lynne Overman. Imagine my surprise when the picture of him came up. Lynne's real name is Woodson Lynne Overman. Some of his movie credits were "Little Miss Marker" with Shirley Temple, "Union Pacific" and "Safari".

After charting him out he is a third cousin to my dad, so that makes him a third cousin once removed for me.



Presidential Ponderings (cont'd from page 2)

So, if you have the software program Family Tree Maker and are interested in learning more about it, how to use it, or simply want to help others to understand it, please consider attending. Yours truly, facilitates the Ancestry SIG, Larry Harden the DNA SIG, and Hazel Thornton will facilitate the FTM SIG. All SIGs are open to anyone interested in these topics.

Genealogy Center Report (cont'd from page 2)

Her phone number is 360-405-9132. An update on the donations situation will hopefully be available for the next issue of the Backtracker.



DNA Analysis and an Interesting Situation

by Brainerd "Woody" Wood

Several years ago I had my DNA analysis done by Ancestry. The result was that my ancestors are from Northern Europe. That was about as vague as anything I have come across.

Ancestry compares your DNA analysis to a database of millions of other analyses. Ancestry will notify you by email if there is a match with a 0.2% to 0.5% probability of a relationship, where 0.2% can mean a probable close relationship (second or third cousin) and 0.5% a remote possibility. Almost all of my matches have been in the 0.3% to 0.5% range. However, I have received two notifications of 0.2% to 0.3%!

I contacted the person listed in the first notification and found an active genealogist; my second or third cousin. We share a great-grandfather. Not only that, but her great-grandmother and my great-grandmother were the best of friends, and she loved to tell a story about my great-grandmother.

In the 1880s the families lived in the small community of Haines City, Florida, on the edge of the Everglades. My great-grandmother had a friend that she could only get to by canoe, and she would. BUT, she was terrified of alligators. Apparently, it was a common sight to see her paddling in her canoe with a hunting rifle.

One other thing came of this contact: they had a photograph of my grandfather, grandmother, uncle (about 10 years old), and father (about eight years old). This is the only photo I have of my family. Needless to say, I have several copies tucked away safely!

I recently received a second 0.2% notification and when I opened it....WOW! I have found a second cousin, the granddaughter of my cousin.

This DNA is great stuff!



From left to right:

Charles Henry Wood (my grandfather)

Charles Henry Wood, Jr (my uncle)

Sidney Clark Wood (my father)

Sydney Clark Grist Wood (my grandmother)

My Favorite Ancestor — Hospitality in Action

by Jean Balcom Balter



Three strong women do come to mind: a paternal grandmother, a maternal grandmother, and my mother whom I want to share with you. She excelled in hospitality, especially under unusual circumstances. Challenges were her game.

First, the definition of Hospitality: the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, and strangers. Synonyms: welcome, warm reception, helpfulness and friendliness.

Add gentleness, soft-spoken, and loving unconditionally, and that's my Mom.

Now, a little of her history.

Born Evelyn Irene Adkins to parents, Thomas Madison Adkins and Amanda Norma Woodard Adkins on 31 May 1914, in Clarksville, Johnson County, Arkansas. (Both women, later, would use their middle name as their first name.) Born two years later, sister Clarice Lorraine Adkins on 26 Aug 1916, completed the family.

Well-paying and steady work was scarce in Arkansas at that time and the Great Depression was in its early stages. Hearing of workers needed in all the shop trades at the Navy Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, the family packed suitcases and boxes atop and inside their car and drove to Bremerton. The 1920 Federal Census for Washington listed them residing on Sidney Avenue, Bremerton and the girls' ages as 5-years and 3-years, respectfully. Thomas worked in the foundry shop until he retired.

Mom married Ray Elton Balcom on 11 April 1934 in Kelso, Washington. Two children would be born in Bremerton to this union, Jean Rene' and Bradley

Thomas, nicknamed Tommy. After renting and moving around for years, Mom and Dad purchased waterfront property at Chico, between Bremerton and Silverdale, and a two-story with full basement was in the building process when Pearl Harbor was bombed 7 Dec 1941. Building materials were now no longer available. The knot holes in the sub-flooring of the upstairs and downstairs areas were covered and nailed down with flattened empty tin cans from canned goods.

Although Chico was a small community, a grocery store was available, owned by the William Bixby family. On a cold raining-snowy night a few weeks after

Pearl Harbor, Mom and us two kids were shopping when the bell above the main door clanged and in walked 8 cold and dripping wet soldiers wanting to purchase snacks. Mr. Bixby asked them when was the last time they'd had a hot meal. About 3 or 4 days ago was the reply; the chow truck broke down. Mr. Bixby turned to Mom and asked her if he gave her all the fixin's for a big pot of stew and fixin's for sandwiches would she make them for the fellas? Mom immediately said she would, and asked how long before they'd be returning.

In about three hours, was the reply. They were stringing telephone lines from Bremerton to Silverdale. In his delivery truck to our house, Mr. Bixby had even included cocoa and milk for hot chocolate.

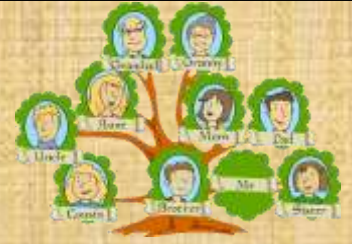
They did return in about 3 hours and Mom had the stew done, and a mountain of sandwiches made, and hot chocolate on the stove just waiting for them. When they entered Mom handed each one a towel to dry themselves. (cont'd on page 13)



Irene Evelyn Adkins Balcom &
Jean Rene' Balcom Balter, 1992

My Favorite Ancestor— Musa Polley Jensen

by Vicki Bushnell



So often in my genealogical research I have wished I could meet my ancestors.

In a way, I did. My grandmother, Musa Polley Jensen, was born in Nebraska in 1876 – many years sooner than the grandparents of any of my friends. She was a frail, silver-haired grandma in black silk and big, black granny shoes, who used to talk to me about being the daughter of pioneers and how the grandfather I never met was born in a far away place called Denmark. She singlehandedly planted the seed that would become my life's passion.



Vicki Bushnell
& grandma
Musa Polley
Jensen

That's all I knew until my mid-twenties when the mini-series *Roots* and *Centennial* piqued my curiosity and I set forth on the best journey ever: finding Grandma.

Over the decades I pieced together a trove of information about my grandmother's life. As I look at the old photos of Grandma standing in the dust and dirt at the Jurgenson Ranch, near the town of Julesburg, Colorado, I have a feeling she came to my childhood a real-life time traveler, a pioneer woman who grew up on the prairie and witnessed bull ditching and saw Buffalo Bill.

There is a photo of Grandma standing on the porch of her parents' boarding house, a little pioneer girl who went to farm school and traveled to family gatherings in a horse-drawn wagon. But in my world, Grandma took me on the city bus, rode in the front seat of my Dad's '51 Studebaker, and watched *Days of our Lives* on a black and white TV while Elvis rocked the world.

It is strange to me that she traversed such disparate cultures in her lifetime, but my own grandchild will learn I grew up with a black and white TV that only got three stations. Like sands through the hourglass.

I wonder how she viewed such vast changes in her lifetime, both in technology and social changes. For instance, in 1902 she was forced to quit her teaching job because she got married. Four years later she got the last laugh when her husband built a post office in Sedgwick, CO and she was hired as the town's first Postmistress.



1906 Musa Polley Jensen at Sedgwick
Colorado Post Office

(cont'd on page 7)

MY FAVORITE ANCESTOR

by Vicki Bushnell

(cont'd from page 6)

I think she would applaud a woman running for President of the United States ---- because she would actually remember when the 19th Amendment finally gave her the right to vote.

She dealt with the failures of her family's hotels and boarding houses, left her life on the prairie and moved west. She saw her sons fight in the South Pacific, and listened about it on a radio in a house with electricity. Thankfully, she took the time to impress

on her last little granddaughter that she was "from good pioneer stock", when she had so, so much more to say and so little time.

So here's to Grandma Jensen, my favorite ancestor. Please time travel once more – I have so many questions now!

Congratulations to Bobbi and Janelle

Last year Bobbi Klippert and Janell Crumpacker attended the Northwest Genealogy Conference in Arlington, Washington. It was a four-day conference with many excellent speakers and a really fine venue and food. On Friday, one of the options was to dress as an ancestor or wear a costume that represents your heritage. They decided to do something different. They decided to create and wear a heritage necklace. They visited Bobbi's sister, who creates beautiful decorations using soldering. They brought mini picture frames of different sizes and shapes. Bobbi's sister printed the

family pictures in various sizes so they could fit them into the frames. Then she soldered jump rings on the frames that did not have rings and they hooked them all together. It sounds simpler than it was as they worked for three days on these amazing creations.

This year, Bobbi and Janell won first place in the state for their entry in the DAR American Heritage Contest for jewelry for their "Heritage Necklaces". If you haven't seen these delightful works of art, a picture is shown below.



Bobbi Klippert
and cousin
Janell Crumpacker

Genealogy Gems — Hippies Before Their Time

by Sharon Overman



While researching up my dad's maternal side, I found my 3rd Great Grandfather, Samuel Ross, had married a woman named Candis Maker. I found a listing of marriage records for Franklin in with my grandfather Samuel and grandmother Candis. Listed just above them was another couple named Peace Maker and Rebecca Richy. I added the find to my grandfather's page and continued to research him.

After awhile curiosity got the better part of me and I had to go check out grandma Candis and her family some more. One of the early census that she was listed on had her listed as Candy. Candy Maker, she was born in 1807. She had brothers named Peace, Freedom, Independence, Solomon and others with regular names like David and John. One of her sister's was named Mary. My fourth great grandparents, Archelaus Maker (1773 -1843) and Susannah Havens (1774-1835), had 11 kids total.



Either they were love children before their time or had a wicked sense of humor.

Peace Maker, Freedom Maker, Candis (Candy) Maker, Independence Maker, Mary Maker . . . way too funny.

This space is reserved for the start of
your story.....

PSGS Society Gems

Do you know of someone who has done something special for our Society? Perhaps a member completed a project or volunteered for an event? What about the member who is “always there” working in the background donating their time and energy for your society! Such a person is truly a Society Gem! This nomination form is for members of PSGS to recognize these members. Nominations may be made at any time. Nomination forms are available on the Members page of the PSGS website. pusogensoc.org

Instructions: You must be a member of PSGS to submit a nomination form. Your nominee must also be a member of PSGS. After completing this form, put it in an envelope, seal it, and write “Society Gem” on the front. Give to the volunteer on duty in the Genealogy Center at Sylvan Way Library who will then put the sealed envelope in a folder for the President. Or you may mail the form to: Puget Sound Genealogical Society; Attn. Society Gem; 1301 Sylvan Way; Bremerton, WA 98310.

Articles for the Backtracker

We are always looking for stories for the Backtracker. As genealogists, we all love to share information with others. The Backtracker is a perfect venue to share your ancestral tales. We want to hear about your history. Please send them in any time.

In the October-December issue, there will be a special theme. Since it comes out in October, we would like to present a special Halloween Ghost Story Issue. We already have a couple of ghostly ancestor stories, but there must be more out there. Do you have one to share? What is your ancestral legend about things that go bump in the night? Or do you have a Salem Witch in your tree? All stories are welcome and they are due September 30. Thank you in advance for sharing.



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Have you ever looked at the Digital Public Library of America? You can look up so many things from the comfort of your computer area, even while still in your pajamas. Search periods in history—books and photos. Search locations. Search manuscripts from the New York Public Library. Search records at NARA. It is all digital. Log into dp.la and enjoy!

A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



April 24, 2019: Evelyn Roehl

Germanic Immigration in the 1800s:

We learned about the changing borders of Germany through the years. Also discussed where the “German Element” may have come from, their ports of departure from Europe, and where they settled in America. We were also familiarized with German naming patterns and sources to check.

May 22 2019: Vern Frykholm as George Washington

The Constitutional Convention of 1787:

Vern put on his hat and became George Washington attending the Constitutional Convention of 1787. This convention met to address the problems of the weak central government that existed under the Articles of Confederation. There were 13 different currencies among the first states. They had border disagreements and disagreements about power. The historic result of the Convention was the crafting of the United States Constitution.

Vern attended the program with his father, Vern Sr. who will be 103 years old in September of this year.



June 26, 2019: Mary Kircher Roddy

Censational Census Strategies:



Mary Kircher Roddy led us through many strategies for finding missing family in the census including paging backward & forward, first name search, middle name search, and searching for young children. If your image is not clear, check another image provider, i.e. Ancestry vs Family Search. Compile a list of surname variants and use throughout your research. Look for pages out of order and search for neighbors. Remember to glean every bit of information you can from these census forms. We learned of a particular problem in the 1870 census with semi-literate enumerators in the South. Some northern cities had a second enumeration taken six months later (New York City, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, and St. Louis) so try and track down both enumerations. Also consider the ethnic relationship the enumerators had with the people they are enumerating.



Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

- July 31, 2019** **Fraternal Organizations** with Elisabeth Demmon
Research tips for discovering ancestors in fraternal organizations
- Aug 28, 2019** **Family Search: Ways with the Wiki** with Jolene Aitchison
An in-depth look at many features of the Wiki to help with your research
- Sep 25, 2019** **Overcoming the Boulders on the Way to the Cemetery—DAR Real Daughters** with Jerri McCoy
Learn methods to get around boulders that block your research in finding the final resting place of your ancestors. Jerri will share the methods she used to work on a special DAR project

Schedule of Classes — July — Sep 2019

Sat, July 27	Class #4	Social History and Church Records	Presenter: Janet Camarata
Sat, Aug 3	Class #5	What To Do With What We Have	Presenter: Janet Camarata
Sat, Aug 24	Class #6	Writing Your Research Results & Sharing Success Stories and/or Questions & Answers	Presenter: Janet Camarata



Thank you Janet O'Connor Camarata for sharing three series of classes with PSGS from June, 2018 through August, 2019. We are learning so much!

Tues, Sept 3	Profile of a Quaker—Finding a Friend in Colonial America	Presenter: Steven Morrison
Sat, Sept 28	Webinar: 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists	Presenter: Thomas MacEntee

All classes are held in the Heninger Room, Sylvan Way,
1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

Contact: educ@pusogensoc.org or call 360-475-9172 to register

Side By Side



Kathy Cowsert

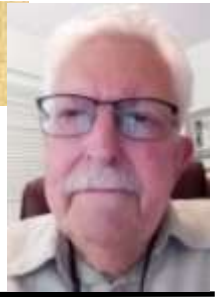
I joined PSGS in 2017 shortly before my retirement from civil service. I have lived in Kitsap County twice as a Navy wife. I regularly contribute to the Education and Program committees and attend Ancestry and DNA SIG meetings. Also assist in GC Collection evaluation sessions.

My current name is Kathleen Cowsert, a name for which I paid good money. My given name was Kathleen Johnson. The Johnsons, which I haven't researched much, were a line of glass blowers in New Jersey. After having my college GPA plummet when they combined it with another Kathleen Johnson and them getting the wrong patient for surgery among other issues, I legally changed my surname. Choosing a new surname is very significant. Cowsert is a family name which I believe is derived from the Gaelic term courser—which translates to having to do with horses. Interestingly, horses appear to be a theme on this side of the family.

I am researching DAR status based on a Cowsert in the Calvary during the Revolutionary War. Another Cowsert was in the Calvary in the (Indian) Black Hawk Wars and yet another the Illinois 6th Calvary Regiment (Union side) of the Civil War. I was National 4-H Winner in the Equine (Horse) Program. Also "B" rated (3rd highest) in the United States Pony Club, which is part of an international organization that teaches horsemanship. Seems that horses are literally in my blood.

Other names I am interested in are: Roberts, Duncan, Hunter, Sizemore, Mixner, and Crawford.

I look forward to classes and further exploring my past through PSGS.



Brainerd "Woody" Wood

I grew up in Noank, Connecticut. Two or three times a year we would go to my grandparents' home in Windham, New York. I would sit in the living room and listen to my grandparents tell tales of family adventures and adventurers, and I was always totally fascinated. (The tales were almost always inaccurate. For example, Brainerd, Nebraska was not founded by a preacher to the Indians but by a railroad executive whose wife's maiden name was Brainerd.)

As an adult I moved from Noank to Sudbury, Massachusetts, to Kansas City, Missouri, always dabbling in genealogy. In 2000 we moved to Bremerton, chasing our daughters and granddaughters, and I continued to dabble in genealogy. About four years ago I became involved in Sons of the American Revolution and suddenly found myself immersed in genealogy. And, more confused and frustrated.

Information in a copy of KRL's *Inspire* caused me to sign up for a series of lectures offered by Janet O'Connor Camarata. This in turn convinced me to join the Puget Sound Genealogical Society where I am now a member of the Backtracker committee.

I have found a great deal about my family tree from genealogies written by others. Now my major goal is to find information that fills out their lives and makes them real people. I am researching my family line, Brainerd and Wood. I am also working on my wife's family line, Banthin and Reuther, although I've hit a brick wall after two generations.

My Favorite Ancestor by Jean Balcom Balter

(cont'd from page 5)

They even apologized for dripping water on the floor. We all laughed about that, but Mom appreciated the kind thought. Tommy and I sat on the lower stairs being completely fascinated by these soldiers eating in our house! We never did see them again. They were headed to another town to string more wire. Years later I realized I had seen the true meaning of Hospitality in Action.

In the fall of 1949, our house had been sold and the family was “on the move again” and Dad rented a house in Silverdale. Little did we know we were about to enter into another interesting Hospitality in Action.

Snow began falling late evening the day before, but, by morning of 13 January 1950, a major, no holds barred, blizzard of extremely cold weather and falling snow halted everything in Kitsap County and state-wide. Early morning Central Kitsap School District school buses had arrived, except buses from the out-lying areas of Seabeck, Holly and hilly areas. By 10:00am most streets and roads in Kitsap County were now either impassable and/or closed. Students who had arrived earlier were stranded and parents were unable to get to them. CK High School and Silverdale Grade School provided emergency shelter for the early students, as did other District schools in the County. Homeowners offered to take in the stranded until snow plows could clear the roads. In Silverdale, our home became a refuge for many of Tommy’s and my friends. That day, my Mom gallantly walked two blocks to the Silverdale Variety Store, returning with a “sled” full of crayons, coloring

books, puzzles, games, cards (Canasta was all the rage), Cribbage boards, tablets, pencils, and a popcorn popper with a turn-handle in the center of the lid. (I still have it; use it often.) She also stopped by the grocery store for popcorn, powdered milk and cocoa. Where did she get the sled? Doc Hudson, the owner of the Variety Store loaned it to her. All she really needed were a few sled dogs, we teased her. And, the snow continued to fall.

Schools were closed for 5 weeks. After the snow and ice had melted the roads were so soft that load restrictions were imposed. As long as the snow permitted, sledding was the major activity. Hills everywhere in Kitsap County were in use. In Silverdale, the major one was Bucklin Hill – both sides. Tired from sledding, friends headed to friends’ homes nearby, to rest, dry off, warm up, change clothes, and to get a bite to eat. Other parents would also donate food to these volunteer “refugee” homes. We always had many friends at our house during and after sledding hours. They would gather around our big oil heating stove in the dining room and the wood burning stove in the living room. Mom called them her “urchins”. I was not that fond of sledding, and neither were some of my friends, but we joined in the fun. Mom would make popcorn and cocoa, and, sometimes, a huge pot of soup or spaghetti. Friends really loved my Mom, the caring Hospitality in Action.

Mom was a strong Christian and Prayer Warrior, and a member of Westside Baptist Church in Bremerton. Her faith strengthened her through trials of health concerns, grief, hurts, discouragements and disappointments. “I just lift everything up to the Lord and put my trust in Him.” The Lord took her home 3 Jan 1997.

(cont'd on page 14)



Gail Reynolds'

Belfair Bulletin

Hello Genealogy Researchers –

Just a short review of the meetings we have had in the last few months. The June meeting was a discussion of random findings by our members. Janet O'Connor Camarata was our speaker for May and July. She did a two-part series on Familysearch.org. We all learned there are several ways to search this website. We all use surnames but should also be using locations and collections as well. Also, Janet has a wonderful website, stepstonegenealogy.com, that is a great resource for you. It also shows her schedule so you can keep track of her comings and goings as well as topics to be discussed.

As some of you know, I have moved to Puyallup. I will no longer be imparting the news of the Belfair Chapter, will not be volunteering in the PSGS library and will not be on the Executive Board. Most of all, I will miss all of the great members of this Society. I will say that PSGS members are the best around. So many of you are very active in the Society and willing to share your time and knowledge with others. You also have at least nodded (as if you understand) my bramble bush of a family. You are lucky to have each other and such great leaders and speakers as well.

Hold on to each other and keep on researching.

I will miss you all.

Gail Reynolds

My Favorite Ancestor by Jean Balcom Balter

(cont'd from page 13)

A brave soul and strong of heart with colon cancer, she refused chemo and radiation, wanting to be alert and be able to visit with her family and friends. In one of our family favorite photos she is wearing her fancy pink sweater and pink slacks, and swinging a baseball bat in a hastily created Easter Sunday Baseball game. Yes, a strong woman of grace, wisdom and compassion, and fun.

The favorite hostess of Hospitality in Action.

"Welcome! Oh, do come in and have a cup of tea."

The last time she was admitted to the hospital, a major rain, snow and ice storm was on the horizon: December 1996.

Bob Howard's

South Kitsap's Happenings

We meet at 9:30am at the Church Of Christ, 2535 Carr Lane SE, Port Orchard. Carr Lane is off of Salmonberry. Entry is usually through the basement door at the lower parking lot. A small orange sign will be posted on the door. Lately, we have been meeting in an upstairs room. Entry will be through the main entrance off the upper parking lot. Orange sign, meet in basement, no sign, meet upstairs.

Bev Smith gives us an update on the Executive Board meeting at the beginning of each meeting.

April discussion centered around Melody's problems with her searching for her Finnish ancestors. Heidi came up with several possible avenues to follow including new names to research. Melody said she was going to visit Finland in May and would give us an update when she returned. We discussed the different companies now offering DNA testing. We also discussed the new PSGS general meeting agenda handout, which we all thought was a great idea.

May's discussion centered around other resources beyond Ancestry such as Cyndi's List, Olive Tree, U.S. War Documents and Heritage Quest. Heidi demonstrated saving to the "Shoebox" and how to access items saved there. We talked about ships manifest/passenger lists. Heidi did a search for one of Bev's ancestors and successfully located some previously unknown information. Melody shared some of her ancestor's unusual Finnish names and the uniqueness of how they got them.

A large part of the June meeting centered around the Bernie Kountz boxes containing his family genealogy research and on whether our chapter to take it as a group project. Bev Smith and I were part of a group that had previously investigated these boxes. There were at least eight large boxes with no organization. This would be a massive undertaking. This included pre computer age documents and photos. A book could be written on this material. Issues we considered were a meeting place, time involved, and where the contents could remain out and be available to revisit. It was finally concluded it would be more than we could commit to. We followed with discussion of Ancestry's "Thru Lines" with DNA. This is an area that needs to be explored to understand its usefulness. Since it was D-Day Heidi researched Bev's WW II uncle who was a bomber pilot and this led to searching veteran's records.

There was not a July meeting due to it's falling on July 4. Our next meeting will be August 1.

Submitted by Bob Howard



March 2020 Salt Lake City Trip

Mark your calendars for March 22 to March 29, 2020 to take part in

the Salt Lake City Trip. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square. Standard Room rates are \$95 a night for single/double and \$102 a night for triple/quad. Deluxe room rates are \$105 a night for single/double and \$112 a night for triple/quad. Taxes are additional. If you are interested, contact Larry Harden prior to January 31, 2020 at

treas@pusogensoc.org.

Watch for more information about SLC in future issues of The Backtracker.

Opportunities

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 explore the new FamilySearch digitized records and images only available at Sylvan Way? 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



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