



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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

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It was a dark and stormy night. Outside the wind howled through the trees making them bend to its will. Trees touched the power lines in a slow ballet. All the genealogists were sitting around the table talking about their ancestors. The electricity was out and the only light was the soft, flickering glow of 13 candles arranged around the room. Suddenly, The Backtracker Editor jumped up and said we need stories for The Backtracker. The stories you are telling would be perfect for a Halloween Issue. Let's gather stories about strange happenings in our history, stories about things that go bump in the night, stories about witches and graveyards, and stories that make you wonder. We need stories about the unexplained. And so, this issue of The Backtracker was born.

You may need to turn up the lights and lock the doors. We do hope you enjoy this issue.

Save the dates,  
February 22-23, 2020  
Kitsap Antique Show



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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

2020 will also be my last year as President, as this position has a two-year term limit. SOOOO, someone will need to step up to the plate for 2021! If you haven't held a board position, don't let that stop you! You are welcome to attend the board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month (except December) to learn how this society is organized. The Executive Board stands behind the President and they are a great group of people to work with. All I'm asking is think about it...you don't need to commit until October 2020.

As a member, you have access to the Member's page on the PSGS website. If you haven't already registered, click on the Member's tab on our website [www.pusogensoc.org](http://www.pusogensoc.org) and follow the directions at the bottom of the page. Once you have access, you will find all the Backtrackers from 1978 to present. (Did you know "in the beginning" it was called "Family Backtracking" and the society's name was Olympic Genealogical Society??). Also, on the Members (cont'd on page 3)

Genealogy Center Report

**Latest News!** There is a new Beginner's Corner in the Genealogy Center. With the help of Sharon Hornback, all books that are considered Guides and Instruction Books are now available on one book shelf in the back corner conveniently located next to the round table. Grab a book off the shelf and sit down at the table, browse, take notes, and unearth some gems of knowledge from these great resources. Whether you are new to genealogy or have been researching for years, it is always helpful to return to the basics and these books will help you do exactly that.

**Spotlight on a Series!** On top of the shelf to the right of the Beginner's shelf is a wonderful series of books called "This is Who We Were". The series covers (in separate volumes) the Census years starting with the years 1880-1899. The contents include profiles of various occupations, historical snapshots, all types of economic data including annual incomes, what people were thinking about during the time, and an entire section on Census Data. Included in the first volume is a report called (cont'd on page 3)

The Backtracker — A publication of the  
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

Editor .....	Sharon Hornback
	<a href="mailto:bt-editor@pusogensoc.org">bt-editor@pusogensoc.org</a>
Associate Editor .....	Mary Ann Wright
Copy Editor/Distribution .....	Jean Yager
Circulation .....	Terry Mettling
<b>Editorial Group:</b> Larry Harden, Lew Noah, Peg Powell, Jeanie Schulze, "Woody" Wood	
<b>PSGS Board</b>	
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# Grandma's Kitchen—Recipes from the past

## Aunt Fanny's Funny Doughnut Recipe

by Jeanie Schulze



My great aunt Fanny often shared recipes in her letters to my grandmother. This doughnut recipe is among several from one of her letters. It gives a little insight into her sense of humor while cooking! *Clarifications from me are in italics. Jeanie Schulze*

### Great Aunt Fanny's Doughnut Recipe

Doughnuts! Raised! And the kind mother used to make—my word! Let Bill (*her son*) do it!

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup shortening melted—butter and lard
- 1 egg
- 1 pint milk (just hot)
- ½ teaspoon saleratus (*baking powder*)
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- About 1 quart of flour and ½ teaspoon of salt
- 1 yeast cake

Beat egg and sugar together Good! Add melted shortening, salt, and spices, then milk, then yeast cake which has been dissolved in a little of the warm milk, then add the flour and sift the saleratus

with the flour—you may need a little more flour—enough to make a stiff dough. (Then go to bed!) Next morning! Knead, roll out (of bed) and cut—let rise until good and light. Fry in hot lard—and the “Good Angels” hover over you! Finis!

Don't think you have to eat pudding, cookies and donuts at one meal. Take'm one at a time!

Love, Fanny



## Presidential Ponderings (cont'd from page 2)

page, you will find the job descriptions of all the officers and committee chairs. If you are thinking of getting more involved, you can read through them to understand each position, especially President!!

The week-long visit to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is scheduled for March 22 – 29. Eleven people have, so far, signed up to go. If you haven't had the opportunity to go to the FHL, you might want to consider going. It's a lot of fun and you just might break through a brick wall or two. If you're interested, contact Larry Harden at [treas@pusogensoc.org](mailto:treas@pusogensoc.org).

## Genealogy Center Report (cont'd from page 2)

“Progress of the Nation 1790-1890” filled with maps and statistics that will help researchers discover more about this time period and place their family in context of the time in which they lived. So if you want to find out what your ancestor paid for food or rent, what they read and what they ate – this is the series for you!



# One Last Ghostly Prank

by Jeanie Schulze

Daniel and Ella Bean's boys were almost inseparable throughout their childhood. Ella's diary tracks their adventures, parties, dances, friends, and illnesses. It seemed as if the two brothers were always together and if one caught a cold the other was sure to follow within a day or two. They spent their childhood in and out of each other's pockets sharing friends and pulling pranks on one and all.

As they grew up, they both married but their paths went in different directions. Daniel Bean went on to become a successful salesman in Albany, New York. My grandfather Frank entered the family profession of learning the textile mill business and eventually managed different mills throughout the northeast during the depression. While Daniel stayed in one place, Frank moved several times during my mother's childhood—from Lisbon, Maine to Victory Mills, New York. But the brothers always made an effort to stay close with regular visits back and forth. Their children grew up playing with each other and sometimes experienced one of those pranks from their fathers.

Eventually time passed and as they both came within sight of retiring, Daniel died unexpectedly. His grieving wife Catherine made arrangements at the funeral home and then contacted my grandfather. Since he had to take a late train, Catherine made spe-

cial arrangements for Frank to go directly to the funeral home to view his brother's body. The director would be expecting him—just ring the bell.

Deeply saddened by his brother's death, Frank made his way to Albany and caught a cab to the funeral home. The lights were on anticipating his arrival. Frank rang the doorbell expecting a somber greeting. When the door opened, the funeral director turned white—and slammed the door in my grandfather's face.



What! This was not what Frank expected! Still, he was not leaving without seeing his brother and rang the doorbell again. He heard slow steps approaching the door and when it opened the funeral director peeked around the door with a pale face.

"No one told me that the deceased's brother was an identical twin! You are even wearing the same suit as your brother right down

to the tie! I was sure you were a GHOST! I had to go back to the coffin to make sure you were dead—or that your brother was!

And with that, the brothers who were so alike throughout their lives pulled one last ghostly prank together.

(See page 8 for more information)

# Who Was That? —

by Terry Mettling



After my dad divorced his second wife, for many of my early years, I was raised by my grandparents on the family farm in south-central Kansas. Small children tend to have extremely vivid imaginations so therefore much of what they say is generally dismissed by more level-headed adults. I am more inclined to listen to what children have to say after having my own experience.

My grandparents' farmhouse was an older two-story structure with the living areas and master bedroom downstairs and three more bedrooms plus a nursery/storage room upstairs. Once a person goes up

the stairs, the bedroom to the left was mine. It was on the southeast corner with three windows. One night, I had gotten up and gone downstairs to the bathroom (we had modernized so this did not require a trek outside anymore). I headed back upstairs, turning off the lights as I went. Once I entered the bedroom, I turned off the bedroom light and dove for the bed so that

whatever was hiding under the bed wouldn't reach out and grab me. Yes, I had a vivid imagination, so sue me!

Once safely in bed, I curled up under the blankets and gradually started to drowse off. About that time, the wind picked up and it started to rain. I knew that my grandfather was a light sleeper and would come up and close my windows as he always did when it rained.

Shortly after that, I heard him moving around the room and closing my windows one by one. Only this

night, there was one small difference that I immediately noticed.

In the morning at breakfast, I asked my grandfather about this and why didn't he say anything to me while he was closing my windows. His response left me stunned! He stated that he did not come up and close my windows, at which point I looked at my grandmother. She said that she had a migraine and my grandfather was up with her getting compresses to help ease her headache. Once the headache eased up, grandfather dozed off while my grandmother was lying there still awake when it started to rain. She said

that neither of them got out of bed. Since there were only three people in that house and she could vouch for the other two and I knew it wasn't me, the question arose... Who Shut My Windows?

I will say that from then on, when

the weather got nasty, my grandparents never had a problem with me sleeping on the couch in the front room downstairs.

Years later, at a family gathering, I did what I usually did. I asked my grandmother, "Who shut my windows?" Her answer was the same, "I don't know". My two aunts heard this and had me tell the story since neither of them had ever heard it. Once I finished, the younger aunt looked at the older one and said,

(cont'd on page 8)



The Stanley Mettling farmhouse (picture taken in winter of 1953)



# Witches, Skeletons in the Closet, Superstition and Other Scary Things

by Melody Knight



According to family lore, my grandmother, Edith Jane Plotner Eldred, was “born of the seven veils”. In other words she was a “blue baby” who was deprived of oxygen as she was being born because the placenta was still over her face. In the early 1900s there was still a lot of superstition surrounding this phenomenon and other things people didn’t understand. Some people believed that the people born this way were born with heightened senses and had knowledge about things that others were not aware of.

The only time I saw anything like that in action, I was a young teenager. My sister and I had been shopping in Portland with our mom and Edith Jane Plotner, “Grandma Edie”, to me. I was using my babysitting money to buy clothes and shoes for school. My sister, Sherry, and I were playing a game with a Ouija Board we had bought at “Sally’s”. Sally’s was Edith’s name for the Salvation Army stores—always family favorites. Sherry had just asked, “What color is my new bathing suit?” I was confident that we would together spell out “tan”. But the pointer seemed to have a mind of its own—strongly guiding us. It moved to the “t” and the “a” and then passed up the expected “n” and spelled out the word “taupe”! I wasn’t sure what was happening. Was I unaware that I might be thinking of an old-fashioned word that would mean the same color? Or was my grandmother, watching nearby, using her “powers” of telepathy or the ability to move objects? Whatever it was, it was really “eerie” and I never really wanted to use that game again! I was told that she read tea leaves for other people but not for her family. I guess she was so superstitious that she didn’t want to see into the future of family members.



Edith Jane  
Plotner  
and  
Chester  
Arthur  
Eldred

Edith had grown up in Arkansas among Native Americans and even used Cherokee cuss words sometimes. There is even family lore that we have Cherokee blood through her husband, Chester Eldred. I think she may also have had some knowledge of herbs and other natural medicines. My mother said that when a neighbor prayed and wrung her hands when her child was sick, Grandma Edie would use cold water or ice and teas and probably other things from her garden to help the child get well. She was really very practical. For centuries some people thought those who used herbs were witches.

But don’t get me wrong. I loved my grandmother and she was a very loving generous person. She was an excellent cook. I especially remember her chocolate cakes with mounds of yummy frosting! Everyone knew they were welcome at mealtimes. Even those that rode the rails would tell each other about her and would show up at the back door. She was always

(cont’d on page 7)

## Witches, Skeletons in the Closet, Superstition and Other Scary Things by Melody Knight

(cont'd from page 6)

making us beautiful Easter outfits or crocheting us an afghan or sweater. Once she crocheted a skating skirt and sweater for one of my dolls. She also made sock monkeys and Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls to earn spending money. But I digress.



Raggedy Ann  
and Andy dolls

This serves as background about other family lore. I had told my mother that sometimes I know that there were big situations going on and that I felt that the Lord was prompting me to pray at these times. Her response upset me. She said, "Be careful who you give credit to." Then she gave me the book, "The Crucible" to read which is supposed to be loosely based on the Salem Witch Trials (although they added affairs that didn't happen and other information that wasn't true). It was a fascinating book to read as a teenager. I don't remember how she said it but she said some of the people accused in that trial were our relatives. One of my Grandpa Chet's sisters was the family unofficial genealogist. (She also said we were related to Robert the Bruce and the first king of Scotland. Some DNA cousins and Ancestry.com trees insist we are also related to Charlemagne—but those people are for another story!)

According to my research, there is a possibility we could be related to people from the Salem Witch Trials—since I am related to a Sarah Proctor. There are two women named Sarah Proctor about the same age in the Salem area about the time of the trials. The parents of one Sarah Proctor were Elizabeth Bassett and John Proctor. Elizabeth and John were part of that trial.



Salem Witch Trials

Initially Elizabeth was the one accused. When John started to defend her and question what the accusers charged, others began accusing him of various offenses. At least one of the accusers was a girl of 11 or 12, a servant. She may even have been fired by Elizabeth. All of the "evidence" was what the accusers said happened. There was no other evidence. John had even shown the court a petition that 32 neighbors had signed in his favor stating that he lived a "Christian life in his family and was ever ready to help as they stood in need," but it seemed to mean nothing. John and Elizabeth were tried on 5 August 1692. They were found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. Since Elizabeth was pregnant she was given a reprieve and was not hanged. Other members of the family were also accused. The sheriff had seized all of their household belongings. The cattle they owned had been sold very cheaply, slaughtered, and the meat was sent to the West Indies. Their barrels of beer were emptied. John Proctor was hanged on 19 August 1692. Their children did not have any means of support. There were many legal trials concerning those falsely accused and compensation. Only those who filed for compensation were compensated.

My main thought is that many people during those times of superstition were falsely accused of

(cont'd on page 8)

## Witches, Skeletons in the Closet, Superstition and Other Scary Things by Melody Knight

(cont'd from page 7)

being witches. Maybe they owned a tavern, used herbs for healing, or had some kind of odd behavior or illness that people didn't understand. Also some people accused others that they didn't like or had some dispute with. Ignorance of what was really true made many people appear guilty and accused of terrible crimes they didn't do! Mass hysteria was also credited as a cause of the Salem Witch Trials. I know that there are people, even today, who consider themselves to be witches. There is even a group (called Wicken, I think) that has people who call themselves witches. I have met one man who calls himself a wizard, the male version of a witch. So maybe they do exist but are not like those people like John Proctor, considered witches in the Salem Witch Trials!



John Proctor during the Salem Witch Trials. He was hanged on August 19, 1682

(Information for Salem Witch Trials came from:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Proctor\\_\(Salem\\_witch\\_trials\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Proctor_(Salem_witch_trials)))

## Who Was That?

by Terry Mettling

(cont'd from page 5)

(cont'd from page 5)

"I told you that was Uncle Glenn in the window!"

This brought on another story from when they were young. The girls had finished milking the cows and were headed back to the house when my Aunt Ruth looked up and swore that she saw their Uncle Glenn in the bedroom window. Aunt Gloria had not looked up in time to see this and told her she was see-

ing things since he had died about six months before that.

There are a few more stories about that house that tie in but this is the one that had a profound effect on my life. I have always wondered what I would have seen had I opened my eyes and looked towards what I thought was my grandfather that night.

## One Last Ghostly Prank

### Addendum

Jeanie couldn't show a picture of both brothers, or you would know the end of the story before you

read it. Your challenge....is the picture on page 4 of Daniel Bean or Frank Bean? You decide.

## Coming to PSGS— 2020

by Jean Yager

We are nearing the end of 2019, soon to be 2020 when we are going to have better eyesight, I mean, insight into some really great classes and programs.

For our classes, Janet Camarata will start the new year (January 25<sup>th</sup>) with a third hands-on class on Google Earth (limited to 16). On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Megan Churchwell, a curator at the Puget Sound Navy Museum, will present “Military Records for Genealogy Research”. Janet Camarata has agreed to do a Series IV called “Deep Dive in Genealogy Gateways” from March to May. Then in June to August, she will repeat the popular Series I (Beginning Genealogy).

The program for our January 22<sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting will feature our very own Sharon Hornback. She will share with you what’s available in the Genealogy Center that could help you write your family history. At our February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mary Kircher Roddy will present a new lecture: **Fraktur und Fremdwörter\*:Hacks for Reading Foreign Books & Newspapers (\*foreign words).**

So, get your new 2020 calendar out (the one you purchased from Larry Harden) and save these dates!! If you have any suggestions for future classes or programs, please let myself ([pres@pusogensoc.org](mailto:pres@pusogensoc.org)) or Heidi Ginder ([VP1-prog@pusogensoc.org](mailto:VP1-prog@pusogensoc.org)) know.

## Water Witching — What Do You Believe?

by Sharon Hornback

My great grandmother, Mary Emily (Potts) Partridge was born in Ontario, Canada in 1871. I was only two years old when she passed in 1948, so I never really knew her. But I have heard stories about her gift of “Water Witching”.

The “Water Witch” would hold a forked branch and slowly walk over the ground. When the stick turned downward, water would be found below. In the 17th Century, some believed that the branch’s movement was influenced by the devil or by the use of magic. It is not just the stick, but the connection between the person and the stick.

In the mid 1930s, my aunt and uncle were trying to get a well dug on their property in north Seattle. The well diggers came out and drilled three separate, but very dry wells. My aunt and uncle were getting frustrated because they needed water for their home. The next step was to call on

Grandma Partridge. She lived on a corner of the quarter section that belonged to my family at that time. Mary cut a branch and proceeded to walk the land. Yes, she found water. She succeeded where the professional well diggers failed. The well was drilled and the house was built.

I think I was told she also found the water on her part of the quarter section as well as the water on my grandma Smith’s land. Geologists may say it is not possible without charts and measurements and knowledge of rocks, to find water. But I believe my great grandmother had “the gift”.

Mary Emily Partridge  
about 1898





# Consider This Mystery Solved

by Kathy Cowsert

I can recall my Mother's Mother, Addie Roberts Cowsert, would occasionally telephone long distance even in the middle of the week. This was more expensive than the cheaper weekend calling rates back in the day (1950-1960s) and neither were cheap. She'd be calling to the various places where we lived according to the assignment by the Air Force of my father, such as South Dakota, Illinois, Nebraska, Washington, Alabama or Maryland. You could hear the concern in her voice as she was calling to inform Mom that the picture had fallen off the wall again.

The picture hung in the front bedroom of their Southern Illinois farmhouse. This was the guest room so it didn't have as much use and comings and goings as the master bedroom. Thus, less likely to have doors slamming or windows open for a breeze to cause the photo to fall. Whenever this picture fell, something bad happened to someone in the family, or so it seemed.

The farmhouse was a sturdy house, as it had survived the devastating Tri-State tornado in 1925 that meteorologists still study to this day. It was one of the longest in mileage and time on the ground resulting in one of the most deadly tornados to hit North America. Coincidentally, this is not too far from one of the worst series of earthquakes to hit east of the Rocky Mountains. A series of estimated to be about 7.0-8.0 scale earthquakes hit this area in December 1811 through February 1812.

As part of the Louisiana Purchase, it was still sparsely settled. Reports from the Native Americans

and early settlers in the area tell of the Mississippi River temporarily flowing backwards along with creating waterfalls which became navigation hazards that hadn't existed before. Earthquakes also caused lesser bodies of water to change course along with forming new lakes. These are intraplate earthquakes unlike what we experience here with Pacific Rim tec-

tonic earthquakes. An intraplate earthquake occurs inside a larger tectonic plate and is commonly felt over a much larger area than tectonic shifts. Named the New Madrid Missouri earthquake series, reportedly they were felt as far away as Boston – and other east coast areas. Locally in Missouri and Illinois it toppled chimneys and caused church bells to ring besides altering the landscape.

In 1855 the governor of Illinois, John Reynolds, mentions that they were still having aftershocks. That

is what I suspect would occasionally knock this picture off of the wall. The most recent report I found being a 4.0 on 2 April 2015 in this Southern Illinois region



Addie Roberts Cowsert

*Editor's Note—Kathy believes she has explained why the picture fell off the wall. What do you think? The picture fell when something bad happened in the family. Did the after shocks only occur when something happened in the family? Or ....is it still unexplained?*

## Introducing—Mahala Henry

As I child, I understood that I was related to at least half of the people I saw. I was the fifth generation on the same farm and the fourth generation to have lived in the house that was built in 1913 by my maternal great grandparents. My great grandmother, grandfather, and sister graduated from the same high school building. We would go to one of the local parks in early summer and attend three different family reunions. Family ties were always part of the story that looped in my head and provided me a foundation of identity; however, my father always prefaced the 'family tree' with a warning that not all of the members were on the tree. Some family members may be found hanging from the tree with less than illustrious reputations.

In the late 1990s, I started focusing on my husband's family genealogy - new puzzles to pursue. His family members were more recent immigrants; so, I 'played' in the Ellis Island sandbox, Chicago censuses, and city directories. Who needs anagrams? Just try Polish, Czech, and Bohemian names being recorded by native German speaking clerks. 'V' and 'W' were exchanged freely and vowels redefined. I particularly wanted to follow the women in the family. They were both literally and figuratively difficult to 'see'.

After having attended some PSGS meetings, presentations, and classes in 2018, I joined PSGS in early 2019. I found these events to be well organized and informative and the people in the group to be dedicated to and excited about genealogical research. It seemed the place to start my transition from 'puzzle dabbler' to researcher and genealogist.

My goal at this time is 'process'. As I said, I have been a puzzle dabbler and have many times numbed myself to sleep pursuing one more thread to a button that will close the loop; however, I now have a button box full of buttons with threads that I dearly want to untangle and sort. I have started with outlin-



ing my course of action from The Genealogical Do Over Workbook by Thomas MacEntee. My intention is to pursue this course this fall and winter rather than ADD more buttons to the box (but it is, oh, so tempting).

As a member of PSGS, I have been volunteering in the Genealogical Center a couple of times per month. I have read, handed out forms and information, helped patrons find books, and watched people cry with amazement when THAT SOMEONE's existence is revealed and confirmed before their eyes. It is a valuable resource which I encourage all to use and support as a volunteer.

I moved to Seattle in 1982, to Kitsap County in 1988, and to Jefferson County in 1994 where I still reside 25 miles from anywhere (and commute time is variable because of the bridge). I am married, have one son and two degrees (notice I equate the degrees to parenthood), can identify at least 10 varieties of potatoes, have hiked the Chilkoot Trail, but do not have any partridge in a pear tree. Over the past two years, I have been making a concerted effort to travel. I have also focused my attention on involvement in community groups such as PSGS where it has been a pleasure to learn, participate, and be inspired by other PSGS members.

## A Look Back...

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



July 31, 2019: Elisabeth Demmon

### **Fraternal Organizations:**

Elisabeth shared the six types of fraternal organizations (social/business, benevolent, ethnic, trade, military, and religious) with us. She suggested how to find out if your ancestors belonged to fraternal organizations by looking at symbols on tombstones, obituaries and old photographs. Research the organizations to see if they keep historical or genealogical records that might help you. During the Depression, many of the organizations disbanded because members couldn't afford the dues. She shared many online resources for the various organizations and reminded us to use Wikipedia as a great resource along with Google.

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Aug 28, 2019: Jolene Aitchison

### **Family Search: Ways with the Wiki**

The FamilySearch Wiki is a marvelous resource for genealogists. It contains links to databases and online resources, as well as research training guidance. We took an in-depth look at many of the features of the Wiki. We followed a path from one page to another, and into the World Wide Web and discovered how this vast site can make a difference in our research.

We had some discussion time at the end to work on our FamilySearch questions.

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Sep 25, 2019: Jerri McCoy—

### **Overcoming the Boulders on the Way to the Cemetery—DAR Real Daughters:**

Jerri shared the story of how she helped find tombstones/gravestones for a DAR project of the "Real Daughters". Things to check included funeral homes (not just the cemeteries), family websites, and maiden names. If the wife outlived her husband, she might have followed a daughter who been buried with her family. Wives could be buried with second spouses. The WPA did a project in the 1930s to list names of all the people buried in Connecticut cemeteries and some in Massachusetts. Jerri worked with many volunteers who braved the rain and storms to travel the roads looking for hidden cemeteries. They are out there. Just be persistent.





## Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

**Oct 23, 2019**

### Unraveling Family Myths Using the Principles of Logic

with Jill Morelli

Using three case studies, Jill explores family myths that are ubiquitous in every one's family history, but also recognizes that no myth should be discarded before investigation for elements of truth. Using principles of logic we separate the provable from the possible and the unprovable.

**Nov 20, 2019**

### George and Martha Washington: The Early Years

with Vern Frykholm and Jane Ritchey

A presentation from George about Martha. Her background, first marriage, how we met, her children that I adopted, our grandchildren from the adoption, what it was like for her to come to winter quarters during the Revolutionary War and to be the first, first lady, etc.

**Dec 5, 2019**

### PSGS Annual Christmas Party

Come join your fellow PSGS members for a fun-filled afternoon. A buffet luncheon will be provided. We will recognize our outgoing officers for 2019 and welcome new officers for 2020. Our Yankee gift exchange always provides many laughs.

Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10-\$20) for the exchange and a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

**Where:** Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Eagle's Nest Meeting Room  
(across from the Pavilion)

**When:** 11:30 am to 2:30 pm



## Schedule of Classes — October — November 2019

**Sat, Oct 26**

**Evernote: The Genealogist's Best Friend**

Presenter: Janet Camarata

This hands-on class is limited to 16

**Tues, Nov 5**

**Quakers on the Move—Migration of US Quaker Meetings**

Presenter: Steven Morrison

**All classes are held in the Heninger Room, Sylvan Way Library**

**1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton**

**Contact:** [educ@pusogensoc.org](mailto:educ@pusogensoc.org) or call 360-475-9172 to register

*Judy Joaquin's*

## Belfair Bulletin

Gail Reynolds has moved and left a big hole in some of the activities of Puget Sound Genealogical Society. One of these holes is writing for the Belfair Bulletin. Please be patient with me as I attempt, with fear and trepidation, to keep up the work for the Bulletin.

The Belfair Chapter of PSGS met on August 7 at the Timberland Library in Belfair. Madi Cataldo led the meeting with some announcements from the Executive Board. It is hard to believe but the 2020 calendar sales will start soon. If you'd like a name tag for PSGS those are also on sale-\$10.00 apiece.

It is time to start planning for the Salt Lake City genealogical research trip which will be March 22-29, 2020. Please contact Larry Harden. I encourage all who are able to come—it is a time for research and fun.

At our meeting on August 7 we were privileged to have Betty Kay Anderson speak to us. Betty Kay is from Union. She has escorted genealogical groups to Salt Lake City, New England and England. Betty Kay learned much from her several years of tutoring from Arthur Fiske of the Seattle Fiske Library. Her topic for the day was "Ten Steps of Genealogy". Her first three I'll mention to whet your appetite to learn more. She emphasized family interviews and photo albums. Next were utilizing Vital Records and the third was Census Records. The other seven were most helpful, too.

Our meetings for the rest of year are as follows:

Sept 5<sup>th</sup> at Shelton Genealogy Society as Betty Kay will be presenting a talk on the research tool, PERSI. In October, Bob Edwards will be presenting "Research in Virginia". November is our fun and early Christmas potluck and gift exchange. December and January the Belfair group takes a two month rest.

Until next time I will sign off and happy researching!

Judy

**Bob Howard's**

# South Kitsap's Happenings

We meet at 9:30 at the Church of Christ, 2535 Carr Lane SE, Port Orchard. Carr Lane is off of Salmonberry. Entry is through the basement door at the lower parking lot. A small orange sign will be posted on the door.

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

We did not meet on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

During our August meeting, Melody shared information with us about her trip to Finland, the homeland of her Finnish ancestors. She visited her Finnish friends she knew from her missionary work there, toured cemeteries and received information from relatives there.

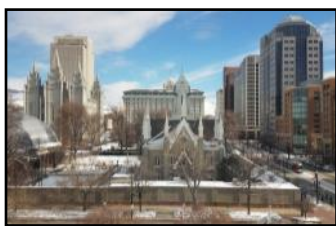
Dennis Mannick, of the Port Orchard American Legion Post, brought a request for help getting started on researching the founding members of the Port Orchard American Legion Post. Heidi started the search from the list Dennis had of those members. There were a lot of interesting suggestions and questions from all of us.

A brief mention of the value of Thrulines and how it could help break "brick walls" OR could make them worse!

September's meeting centered around breaking brick walls. Melody's problem concerned a relative with the first name of Betsy. She had found some information but couldn't find her birth date. After a lot of searching it was discovered the first name was actually Elisabeth. This was finally discovered through using collateral relatives which led to some of the records she needed.

Our next meeting will be October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will continue trying to solve "brick walls".

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](mailto:treas@pusogensoc.org).

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

## PSGS Annual Business Meeting

At our upcoming meeting, October 23, all members present will have the opportunity and responsibility to elect the members of the 2020 PSGS Executive Board. All officer positions are open to any member who would like to serve as President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary or Treasurer. We will also vote for the Member-at-Large position. Information on all of the Executive Board positions, which includes the committee chairpersons, is posted on the members only page of our website: [www.pusogensoc.org/members](http://www.pusogensoc.org/members) Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.



1301 Sylvan Way

Bremerton, WA 98310

(360) 475-9172 • [www.pusogensoc.org](http://www.pusogensoc.org)