



THE BACKTRACKER



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ROOTSTECH 2021

Have you ever wanted to attend a RootsTech Conference, but felt you couldn't afford it? The conference for 2021 is for you then. It is free this year. Family Search gave permission to share the following information.

FamilySearch is thrilled to announce that the RootsTech 2021 conference previously planned for February 3–6, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah, will now be held on February 25–27, 2021, as a free, virtual event online. RootsTech Connect 2021 will enable attendees to participate from around the world and will feature inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of classes in multiple languages, and a virtual marketplace. Reserve your place today at RootsTech.org.

“The pandemic is giving us the opportunity to bring RootsTech to a broader audience worldwide,” said Steve Rockwood, FamilySearch International CEO. A virtual event also allows us to expand our planning to truly make this a global celebration of family and connection.”

RootsTech Connect 2021 will be global in scope while offering many experiences that attendees have come to know and love from RootsTech events—including inspirational keynote speakers, dozens of classes to choose from, and an expo hall.

Throughout the three-day online event, attendees will have the ability to interact with presenters, exhibitors, and other attendees through live chat and question and answer sessions. “Classes will be taught in many languages, and presenters will teach from a number of international locations,” said Rockwood. “We will celebrate cultures and traditions from around the world, with activities that the audience can participate in from home—such as homeland cooking demonstrations, storytelling, and music performances. This is one virtual event you won't want to miss.”

RootsTech Connect 2021 will offer a combination of both livestream and on-demand content to accommodate differences in time zone for participants. In addition, sessions will be available to view on-demand after the event concludes.

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

I do not have a lot to share this time, but what I have is this:

Kitsap Regional Library: As it stands, the KRL buildings will be closed for public meetings and volunteers through December 31st. KRL cannot make any decisions about public access to the library buildings until the Governor gives permission. To stay informed, go to KRL's website <https://www.krl.org/welcomeback>, where you will also learn about their Curbside Service.

Christmas Party: Chances are this year's Christmas party, scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd, will be cancelled. I will send out an email blast when we officially hear from the Parks Dept. If we are fortunate enough to open up the first part of 2021, I would like to have a kick-off, get-back-together party, to make up for our lost Christmas party and to, well, physically see one another again. I truly miss seeing everyone. I didn't realize how much I took our gatherings for granted.

Antique Show: Our one-and-only fundraiser was scheduled for February 27th & 28th but the committee felt if the state didn't fully open by the first of the year, (cont'd on page 3)

Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

Although the Genealogy Center is currently closed, the following titles have been added to the collection since the last Backtracker newsletter with my thanks to those who donated them.

USA

Early Records of Georgia: Wilkes County by Grace Gillam Davidson.

Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois: Transcription of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947 by Dennis Northcott.

History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: Including an account of its original exploration by J. H Battle.

Index of the Rolls of Honor (Ancestor's Index) in the Lineage Books of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. (2 Volumes)

(cont'd on page 3)

The Backtracker — A publication of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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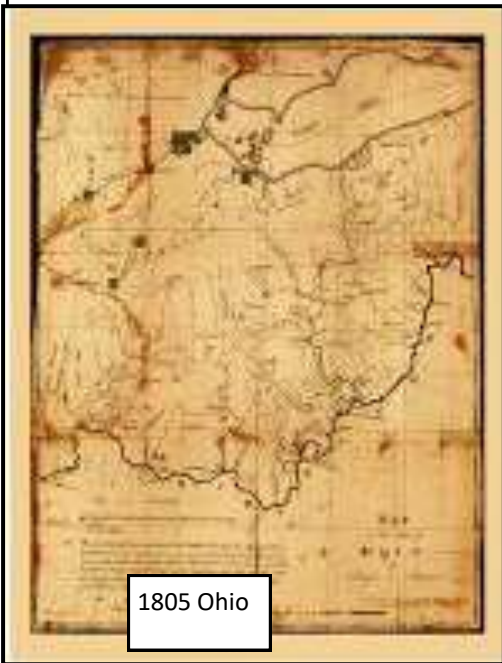
HOW MUCH POWDER DOES IT TAKE?

by Lew Noah

The explosion rocked the night. Folks in Garrettsville, Ohio, ran to put out the flames. The old Baptist Church was gone, nothing remained. Local newspapers reported that the church had been destroyed by twenty-four kegs of black powder set by “Whiskey Apologists”. One-hundred-sixty-four years later, I stood before the Historic Society of Garrettsville and apologized for my ancestors’ transgression. Here is the story of how it happened.

In 1805, John Noah was the leader of one of the founding families of Garrettsville. The area was then

known as the Northwest Territory of Connecticut. New settlers came from the east and started to fill the land. The Noahs came to their new home from Chester, Pennsylvania, at the request of John Garrett.



1805 Ohio

Garrett was intent on building a mill on the small falls in the river that bisected the town. Noah and the other settlers were to provide the grain and corn for the mill. This small community started off well; the Noahs and Garretts founded a Baptist Church as was required by social standards in the early 1800s.

Since John Garrett passed away before finishing the mill, the Noah family completed its construction.

John Garrett’s wife and family ran the mill for the benefit of the townsfolk.

The constrictions of the church, fines for non-attendance, bans on travel on Sunday, and more, caused friction in the congregation. Mrs. Garrett called a meeting and voted to expel the Noah family and fourteen other members.

It was soon after, in the 1830s, that Joseph Smith moved in to the next little town up stream, Hiram. His charisma and radical new teaching caught fire across the area. The Noah family was among the first to join the new religious movement. All was well until the church proposed that its members turn over farms and businesses to the church. John Noah, in opposition, proposed, speaking in tongues, the radical idea of allowing shoulder pads in coats. Again, John Noah was expelled from his church.

Several of his adult children, however, were ardent followers and migrated with the Mormons all the way to Utah where they founded the town of Logan. John’s oldest son, Rueben, went with the Mormons to Missouri and set up a farm.

The pain of the Noah family’s original expulsion from the Baptist Church they had founded in Garrettsville, Ohio, continued to affect family members even in this new state. Why? Well, Noah DNA has a slight flaw in that we have a propensity to drink.

(cont’d on page 6)



Whiskey Barrels



Side by Side

Melody Knight

I was born in Aberdeen, Washington but when we retired we came back to Kitsap County where we had previously lived. We still had a home in Port Orchard and our immediate family members were within a day's travel from there.

My father's fascination about different cultures and customs rubbed off on me. When I retired in 2010 I wanted to do things I couldn't do as a busy mother, wife, teacher, or missionary (like learning to play a harp, finding more about my family to share with the rest of the family, knit more, carve things from wood, and do wood-burning—all as part of my gift-giving).

I knew so little about the Finnish side of my family. I started with Ancestry.com. I knew "Johantytar" meant that my grandmother was John's daughter. A ship's manifest gave me my grandfather's dad's name, Aku! I joined the Swedish Finn Society. They found me names, places and dates and I was off like a racehorse!

I found the library's quarterly pamphlet that told me about our PSGS group. It had topics that interested me so I attended every session I could. I joined PSGS and try not to miss anything. I have learned so much—Thank you all for all your help! Some of my family lines now go back as far as the 1500s or 1400s or further! I've had Finnish letters and a family history on a great uncle translated. I am working on making a booklet that combines the letters and information I know from research and from my incredible trip to Finland last year. It will be part of a Christmas gift for family members this year!



Joyce Stockman

I can remember my paternal grandmother always being interested in the family connections. We have a shirt-tail relative, Fred Machetanz, who is/was a famous artist in Alaska, and he and his wife also wrote books. Grandma wrote on the back inside covers of those books the family tree showing the connection, so it seems like its been just something that's always been important. She never went any further than what she had, so in the last 20 years I've filled in some of the blanks and answered gap questions. She also kept a huge amount of newspaper clippings and pictures; what a treasure trove that has turned out to be!

Right now I am working on the connection of migration dots from Ohio and Nebraska to the Pendleton, Oregon area. It has been tedious work keeping one guy straight since he had three or four different wives, children and stepchildren. Then throw in one of the censuses that doesn't make sense - our families were storekeepers and farmers, never a physician. That one I am stuck on.

My goal is to get easy-to-understand family books put together with direct lines for my nieces and nephews (I don't have children). I got one put together of my mother; one niece asked me last spring what her grandma was like. I was caught off-guard and didn't have much to say. That spurred me on to get going. I made a book about my mom, opening up with a family tree going back to just her great grandparents, then scanned in pictures of them all, which gave a sketch of their birth information and wedding dates. Then I created through photos the essence of my mother.

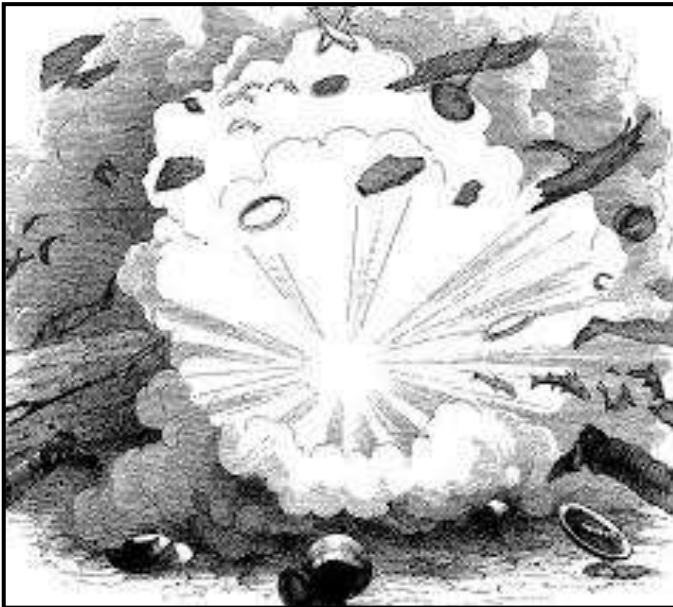
I moved to "the other side of the water" in 2018 after retiring from working at the King County Courthouses in Seattle and Kent. I ended up in Sequim first, then Belfair; my current home. I contacted PSGS last fall and began going to the meetings in Port Orchard and Belfair trying to make physical connections.

HOW MUCH POWDER, by Lew Noah

(cont'd from page 4)

What happened next I would have never known except a relative found the diary of my great-great-great aunt. In this awesome document, I found her account of what happened when the Noah boys went back to Garretttsville to settle their father, John Noah's, estate. John and eldest son Lucian went to deal with the land owned in Garretttsville. While in the process of doing so, the son met up with some of the others who had been kicked out of the original Baptist Church, and well, after copious rounds of the local whiskey the boy had an idea. One of the group had a quarry which used black powder to loosen stone. In an overkill, twenty four kegs were placed in the old church. BOOM!

The site, by the original cemetery is still a barren lot. The curse of drink ended up killing Lucian as after selling some cattle he took up with some loose women in Kansas City. Said ladies of the evening drank with him, drugged him, rolled him, and left him for dead behind the local house of ill-repute.



A FEW MORE PICTURES FROM SIDE BY SIDE

Carl & Melody Knight at a Luau on their 50th Anniversary trip to Hawaii in 2016. Wouldn't many of us like to be there now?



Two book ideas from Joyce Stockman. Does this make you want to start your family book? Maybe you could start with just one person.



ACRONYMS—A GOOD THING OR NOT?

by Sharon Hornback

We have probably attended the same classes and were told not to use acronyms. When you are typing out all the information on your ancestors, it seems so much easier to use a shortened version of a few words. What could be wrong with that? It all comes down to who your audience is and their age.

When I was much younger, I worked in the finance industry. One of the very common acronyms used on credit reports was, NMI. To me it was a no brainer. I used it many years later when filling out forms for my mother. NMI stood for “no middle initial”. My mother’s name was Ann Jane (first name) Smith (last name). People in the medical office had no idea what I meant. Of course, NMI can also mean “National Museum Ireland”, “Nazarene Missions International”, or a few others.

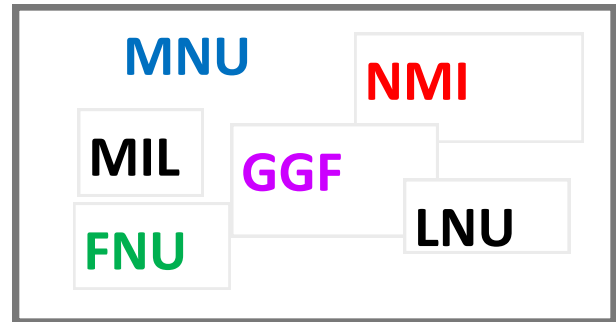
A common acronym we see when working with names is AKA. Most of us will recognize, “also known as,” to be the definition. Did you know it also stands for Alpha Kappa Alpha? Perhaps you could just type “alias”. Of course, if your genealogy program wants AKA, definitely use it.

I thought about acronyms again when I heard from Gail Reynolds in June of 2020. She was talking about a last name of MNU. What, are we related? I had a 3x great grandmother with the name of MNU.

I was amazed that over a number of years, I could not find anything about this grandmother with the strange name. I was convinced I should have found her in a ship’s manifest coming from somewhere in Eastern Europe. I wasn’t really sure of the origin of the name MNU. She married Ira Partridge sometime before 1839. My Partridge family is one of my brick

walls, so not much help there. I kept putting Mariella MNU away for another time.

It turns out that Gail was much smarter than I. She too thought MNU was an odd name. She tried



adding a vowel, but nothing seemed to work. Then Gail used the old standby of putting it in Google and at the bottom of the page it said...MNU in genealogy? She clicked on it and it was explained.

I just kept that name in the back of my mind. One day...I saw it spelled out in another record. I was not being pro-active so it took me a few years to figure out.

We both learned that MNU stands for “maiden name unknown”. I think we both felt that same moment of hitting yourself in the forehead and saying “duh”. When you know it, it seems easy.

So, the moral of the story is, if you are ever in doubt, spell it out. An ancestor in 20, 40, or 60 years, may go through the same thing Gail and I did. I only hope the ancestors are quicker in finding a solution. Google is a life saver as Gail showed. By the way, MNU also means MidAmerica Nazarene University.

A new emoji— Never Married—always something knew to understand



REMEMBERING OUR WAR OF 1812 VETERANS THROUGH LEARNING AND RESEARCH

by Elisabeth Demmon

As the days grow shorter and the weather begins to change from warm summer temperatures to cooler and rainy days ahead, how about thinking of a winter project to tide you over until spring? I realize that thanks to COVID-19, most of us have had plenty of time for organizing files and best of all, research, so after all that work, how about giving yourself an early birthday/holiday gift?

For those of you with ancestors who served their country, there so many resources, it is easy to go down rabbit holes (and yes, I speak from experience!). I have found a way to research military records in a more constructive and methodical manner thanks to the genealogy courses offered by the National Genealogical Society:

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/learning-center/>.

The courses are not that expensive, they are self-paced to suit your schedule and learning style, and are available for 6 months, which is plenty of time to absorb the material while having fun with the numerous links that are provided to augment the text. You do not have to be a member of NGS to access these courses though the non-member price is slightly higher than the price for members. All you need is a computer or any device that gives you access to the internet – no zooms, no webinars. There is a no-pressure, open-book quiz at the end of each module.

Why this suggestion? I have taken the Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors course and just completed the War of 1812 Records course. Even though the War of 1812 lasted a relatively short time it produced plenty of records from a variety of sources. I learned how to interpret the various records sets that are available for the researcher plus where to find and access other record sets

beyond the more familiar Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Index and Pension Files available from FOLD3 and/or the National Archives.



War of 1812—Major General Andrew Jackson
and his soldiers

One set of records that was presented during the course is the U.S. Serials Set which is available from the Kitsap Regional Library at Heritage Quest: <https://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/serialset/>. If your veteran wrote a petition or complaint to his representative in Congress, you just might blast through a brick wall with the help of this record set. If you need to know the name of your ancestor's representative through the years look online for the "Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-2005." As of this writing, there is going to be a new website for this information so I am not posting a link; just search by the title of the book. The Library of Congress (<https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>) was also given as a great resource for government records.

(cont'd on page 9)

Remembering our War of 1812 Veterans Through Learning and Research

(cont'd from page 8)

Since the war involved Canada and the United Kingdom, do not forget to check the National Archives of those countries: Canada - <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx> and the UK: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Ancestry Library Edition continues to be available by remote access from KRL at <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>; there is a great collection of War of 1812 records if you search the catalog using the keyword(s) War of 1812.

By understanding the reason for the creation of the records while learning and understanding the

times in which our veterans lived, we remember them.

As you might imagine, there is much more to this subject that I can include in this article so if you have any questions, want more information, or would like to share any success stories you have with the U.S. Serial Set, please email me at edemmon@krl.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Elisabeth Demmon
KRL Liaison to PSGS

**D
Y
K** Mary Ann Wright has discovered another way to display and organize your family tree information. She found a Facebook group, Family Tree Genealogy, and also the website, familytreenotebooks.com. Both sites are managed by Carly Morgan. Carly uses her iPad to create digital notebooks and offers digital PDF pages to help you input and organize your information. With her iPad she uses the Goodnotes app to edit the PDF pages. Using a PC is also an option if you have a program that lets you annotate/edit PDF documents, like Adobe DC, which

has a subscription, or one of several free PDF editors. Carly has several blog posts and uses YouTube to show webinars on how to use her pages. You can check this out at her website or the FB group.

Here is a link to her Family Tree Notebooks Starter Guide (just click on the PDF icon) that's also available as a free download on her website:



FTN Starter Guide 2020.pdf

If you're bored with Legacy or FTM report options, this might be an interesting alternative.

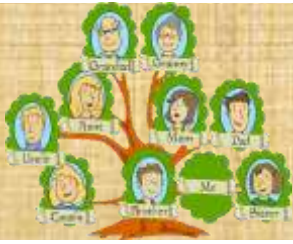
ANOTHER STORY?

This space is for the beginning of **YOUR STORY** in the Backtracker. What wonderful finds did you make these last few months? Please share your finds in a story. Send it to the PSGS editor, Sharon Hornback, at the following address.

bt-editor@pusogensoc.org

Wouldn't it be great to see your ancestor's story in print? You could have the start of a family book to share with future generations.

Looking forward to hearing from you.



THE TWO SEDGWICKS —

by Judy Joaquin

Major General Robert Sedgwick (baptized May 6, 1613 - 1656) was the earliest Sedgwick to arrive in America and the grandfather of Samuel Sedgwick, one of the early settlers of West Hartford, and great-great-grandfather of Theodore Sedgwick, a Delegate to the Continental Congress and the 5th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Robert Sedgwick was born in 1613 in Woburn, Bedfordshire, England to William Sedgwick (1579 - Jul. 25, 1632), a warden of St. Mary's Church, and Elizabeth Howe, the fourth of ten children. He was baptized at St. Mary's Church on May 6, 1613. It is possible that he traveled aboard the ship Truelove from London to New England on September 19, 1635, as a "Sedgwick, Jo" appeared in the passenger list, and most have assumed him to be Robert. He may have made the trip for any number of reasons, including military or government orders or a personal exploitation before he moved his bride-to-be to New England. After returning to England, he married Joanna Blake (b. 1617) on January 6, 1636. Shortly after their marriage, the couple left for the New World, as Robert Sedgwick was listed as an Inhabitant of Charlestown, Massachusetts, about five months later on June 6, 1636.

Robert was "trained in the military," and on March 9, 1637, he was made a freeman and appointed Captain for Charlestown. He was active in the construction of the early defenses of Boston, where he later lived. He was one of the founders, Captain and later General of The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. He was commissioned by Oliver Cromwell from England to organize a force against the Dutch in New York during the Anglo-Dutch War, but before they could leave, word came that a

settlement had been made with the Dutch. Since he had an expeditionary force organized, General Robert Sedgwick turned them against the French in the Penobscot area of what is now Maine. The French Commander chose not to fight.

Sedgwick, Maine was named for Robert about 150 years later through the efforts of his great-great-grandson, Theodore Sedgwick. The move against the French was considered very controversial at the time, as there was no war with the French, and no justification for the action.



Major General John Sedgwick

However, Cromwell called Robert Sedgwick to England and sent him to Jamaica as one of the Generals in an occupational force. Jamaica had recently been taken from the Spanish. Later, Major General Sedgwick was appointed Governor of Jamaica, but almost immediately afterward, on May 24, 1656, he died of a "fever." The new responsibility imposed upon him aggravated his illness and brought him to his grave.

Sedgwick left a widow, Joanna Blake, and five children.

Source: www.sedgwick.org

As Robert Sedgwick is my 10th great-grandfather I was curious if he could somehow be related to the person for whom a school, cemetery and, of course, Sedgwick Road in Port Orchard are named.

I began my search. It turned out to be very simple thanks to Google.

(cont'd on page 11)

THE TWO SEDGWICKS — by Judy Joquin

(cont'd from page 10)

Major General John Sedgwick (1813-1864) was born in Cornwall, Connecticut to Benjamin and Olive Collins Sedgwick. He was a graduate of West Point. He served in the Civil War and died in Spotsylvania County, Virginia in 1864.

As was the custom in those days, towns, roads, buildings and schools were named after Civil War heroes. Ladies in Colby got together and formed a G.A.R (Grand Army of the Republic) in honor of the war hero, John Sedgwick.

Sedgwick Cemetery was founded by the Ladies of G.A.R. General John Sedgwick Circle of Harper and Colby. This cemetery was named in honor of General John Sedgwick, a Civil War Officer. In the year 1905, a group of women, wives, daughters, and nieces of Civil War Veterans organized the General Sedgwick Circle, No. 28, Ladies of the G.A.R., Women's Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic. The charter members were Miriam Grant, Annie Cox, Mrs. Premo, Rosa Carr, Eva Peterson, Alice Kenney, Mrs. Ford Kenney, Juaquina Higgins, Annie Malone and Mrs. Myron Mix, all residents of Harper and Colby. The Circle at once adopted a project, namely, a suitable burial place for the future use of veterans and their families. Two acres of land, level and uncleared were bought from Major Carr of Harper. In 1910, the little cemetery had been surveyed and platted. Driveways and alleys were laid out and a formal dedication was made to the public. Records have been faithfully kept and their pages show the names of many pioneers, women and men, who, by their industry and integrity, have helped to bring Kitsap County to its fine level of today.

Source: **A Tale of Three Cemeteries**

This is very interesting to me but are we related? Further research into John's family I discovered that we share the same ancestor, Samuel and Mary Hopkins Sedgwick, grandson of the immigrant, Robert. With the aid of my Family Tree Maker I find that John Sedgwick is my 3rd cousin 6 times removed!!



Sedgwick Cemetery Entrance

So, what does all this mean and is it really important? It probably is not important in the big scheme of things but we as genealogists cannot resist a good mystery and a research project. It was a lazy Sunday afternoon during our Covid-19 isolation that I embarked upon this quest. I trust this is of some interest to you if only to whet your appetite to dig further into your genealogy to find out tidbits that make life more fun.



Antique Show 2021

Mark your calendars for September 18 & 19, 2021. That is the new date for our next Antique Show. Volunteers will be needed.

Look for more information to come in the new year.

GC Volunteers

We will be needing volunteers in the Genealogy Center at some time in the future. Right now, there is no definite opening date, but hopefully will be some time early in 2021. The volunteer program will probably be one of the last areas reinstated by the library. As soon as we hear that the Genealogy Center will reopen, I will send out information to all the current volunteers.

I am so looking forward to seeing all of you again and having the GC open to welcome researchers. Thank you, Elisabeth, for continuing to add more books to our collection all the time.

Sharon Hornback, Volunteer Coordinator



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