



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

www.pusogensoc.org

Vol. 46: Issue 2 Apr-Jun 2021

Kitsap
ANTIQUE SHOW

Save the Dates!
18 - 19 September 2021

Presidents' Hall at Kitsap Fairgrounds

Saturday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$6 Entry | \$5 Per Item Appraisal Fee
Sunday | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free Parking

*Fabulous Antiques, Vintage Pieces, and Collectibles
Plus Verbal Appraisals of Your Family Heirlooms*

Please see show details at: www.AntiqueShowKitsap.com

Are you looking for a great piece to add to a treasured collection? Maybe you need to find out more about that necklace that you got from Great Aunt Sally. Perhaps you want to help the Puget Sound Genealogical Society. Or maybe you just need to spend a few hours browsing antiques after eighteen months. As the old saying goes, "The good Lord willing and the creek don't rise," you can do that at the Kitsap Antique Show.

The show dates have been moved from February to September 18 (9-5) and September 19 (9-4). Admission is \$6. Want to save \$6? Volunteer to help at the

show and you get in free!

The committee is working hard on planning this event. We need you to...

- Put it on your calendar
- Share the event with all your friends and neighbors
- Volunteer if you can
- Cross your fingers that we will have lots of dealers and shoppers

If you have questions, please contact Peg Powell at antique-show@pusogensoc.org

Hope to see you in September!

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

All branches of the Kitsap Regional Library are now open on a limited capacity basis. For detail information go to <https://www.krl.org/welcomeback>. For the time being the Genealogy Center is still closed. However, Elisabeth Demmon is willing to continue doing genealogical look-ups. You can contact her with your request at edemmon@krl.org.

We will continue our classes and General meetings by Zoom until further notice. For more information on our upcoming classes see page 11. And for information on our speaker for our General meeting on April 28th, see page 11. If you are having difficulty using Zoom, please feel free to contact me at psgs.no.reply@gmail.com.

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Genealogy Center Report

By Elisabeth Demmon

The library opened to the public for limited services on Monday, April 5th; please check www.KRL.org for up to date information. KRL will be observing social distancing and 25% capacity along with other safety measures which means the Genealogy Center will remain closed for now. I had an enquiry recently from a patron who was asking about the donation policy to the PSGS; KRL is still quarantining materials so no donations are being accepted at this time though if they are willing, I am keeping their contact information for future reference.

One change you will notice when you return is new carpet; the Sylvan Way Branch had new carpet installed in late February. Once the carpet installation was completed, I tidied the space, restored the misplaced books to their rightful place on the shelves and did some shelf reading – sometimes I wonder if the books wander about at night and go visiting to other shelves! One new addition to the GC collection is the *"This is Who We Were In the 1990s"* which has been re-catalogued from the Reference Collection to the Genealogy Collection; this book has joined the rest of the series on the top of the shelving unit next to the Beginners Corner. If you need information from any of the items in the GC, do not hesitate to ask me for help. I will copy and scan the pages then email them to you, though please limit the number of pages to 25. Contact me at edemmon@krl.org for help.

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Editor Sharon Hornback
bt-editor@pusogensoc.org
Associate Editor Mary Ann Wright
Copy Editor/Distribution Jean Yager
Circulation Terry Mettling

Editorial Group: Elisabeth Demmon, Diane Evans,
Larry Harden, Lew Noah, Peg Powell, Jeanie Schulze,
"Woody" Wood

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Pandemic 1918

By Ruth Reinert



A family story about Anne Birkeland's (my paternal grandmother) and her brother Konrad Birkeland's wife, **Edna Marie Gabrielsen**.

Julius and Marie Gabrielsen said goodbye to their son Martin Edward Gabrielsen (born in 1893 at Lista, Norway) when he traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, to work as a draftsman. The Fort Pitt Bridge Works was his employer. That company provided steel and structural design for projects in Pittsburgh and across the nation. They made many contributions locally on Pittsburgh's bridges. While Martin worked in Pittsburgh, projects were likely the 16th Street Bridge or Point Bridge projects.

16th Street Bridge
Pittsburgh, PA
Completed 1922



In 1913, at 23 years old, Benedicte Andreassen left Lista, Norway, via the ship Kristianiafjord heading to Ellis Island; she was listed as a servant girl on the passenger list.

How Benedict met Martin is a mystery; however, since both families came from the same area of Lista, Norway and shared their commitment to the Lutheran Church, the rest is history, as they say.

They were married in 1915 in Pittsburg, PA, and had a daughter in Nov 1916 named Edna Marie.

On Martin's 1917 military registration, he is documented as 6 feet tall, weighing 164 pounds with brown hair and eyes, working as a structural engineer for the Fort Pitts Bridge Works.

"On October 1, 1918, the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times reported the city's first case of "the so-called Spanish

disease" – Influenza. The paper noted, however, that every section of Pittsburgh had experienced "incipient grippe" already. Like many across the nation, Pittsburghers dismissed milder cases of the disease as unimportant. Few were alarmed. They should have been.

On the other side of the state, Influenza was already causing a great deal of alarm. On the same day that Pittsburgh reported its case, the Philadelphia Health Department reported a staggering 635 civilian cases in 24 hours. Pennsylvania's Acting Commissioner of Health, Dr. Benjamin Royer, on October 3, issued a statewide closure order; for saloons, theaters, movie houses, other places of amusement, and public meetings; other gatherings; public funerals; parades; and visits to the sick. Still, Royer left the issue of closing schools and churches up to local authorities.

Influenza continued to tighten its grip on Pittsburgh. On October 16, more than 800 new cases appeared, bringing the city to 4,445. A few days later, that total jumped to nearly 7,500. Pittsburgh continued to experience instances of Influenza and pneumonia throughout the rest of the winter. By the start of February, more than 25,000 Pittsburghers had contracted Influenza.

Martin and Benedicte Gabrielsen-
Wedding Photo 1915
Pittsburgh, PA



Overall, Pittsburgh experienced the worst epidemic of any major city in the United States. The average death rate for Eastern cities was 555 per 100,000.

(Cont'd on page 4)

Pandemic 1918

By Ruth Reinert

(Cont'd from page 3)

a whopping 807 per 100,000 people.” (In Dec 2020, the death rate for the entire USA was 18,819 per 100,000; I am not certain how the 1918 results were calculated as compared to CDC today.)

We know with certainty that Pittsburgh had a poor outcome; it is difficult to explain why. There are several significant differences between Pittsburgh and either Philadelphia or Boston that may account for the more severe epidemic in the Steel City. Both Philadelphia and Boston closed schools earlier in their epidemics. It is also possible that Pittsburgh's high death rate was in part due to the city's notoriously poor air quality during the time. A lifetime of exposure to heavy smoke pollution from the city's coal-fed steel mills may have left many residents more susceptible to respiratory complications from Influenza. Pittsburgh's pollution may have contributed to the severity of its bout with Influenza in 1918.”

Martin married at 22 years old, and by February 16, 1919, he was dead at 26 years old; Martin died of pneumonia due to Influenza. His wife, Benedikte, left

shortly after that to travel with their young daughter, heading home to Norway; while on the ship, Benedikte, grieving and diabetic, succumbed and died at 27 years old. She was buried at sea. Edna, the three-year-old daughter, traveled the rest of the way alone, under the care of the Oskar II Ship's Captain. The ship docked in Farsund, Norway where her maternal grandparents were waiting for her. They lovingly



Edna Marie Gabrielsen Birke-land—both parents died when she was 3 years old.

raised her. Edna, the wife of Konrad Birkeland, had a family of eight children. Edna lived an engaged, active life, loved by her many friends and family. She passed at 49 years of age from cancer.

Source - historical records, Pittsburgh Gazette and Edna's children

Presidential Ponderings (Cont'd from page 2)

I can set up a test Zoom meeting with you to see if we can resolve your issue.

QUESTION: Is anyone interested in starting up the Ancestry Special Interest Group using Zoom? We would meet on the second Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. If you're interested, email me at psgs.no.reply@gmail.com.

CALENDARS: Larry has a limited amount of 2021 calendars for sale at \$10.00 each (if mailed, postage is \$2.00). Contact him at treas@pusogensoc.org.

CHEER: If you or someone you know in our PSGS family could use some cheer due to illness, a death in the family, surgery, or simply needing a “thinking-of-you”, please contact Lisa Treiberg at memberrep@pusogensoc.org and she will be happy to send a card on behalf of PSGS.

I will keep you posted through member email blasts when there is “Important PSGS News”.

Until we meet again—either in person or on Zoom—stay safe.

DID YOU KNOW—

The Library Edition of Ancestry is now available free from our homes through June 30, 2021. Ancestry has been very accommodating to genealogists during this time of numerous closures due to the Pandemic. All you need to do to access Ancestry Library Edition is log into KRL.org and use your library card. Find the Research Section, go to Genealogy, and you will find Ancestry. Happy Hunting!!

Webinars and Blogs with a Canadian Flavor!

By Elisabeth Demmon

In the last Backtracker, I wrote about Scottish resources available online in a variety of formats that I found helpful, especially during this past year. The Scots were one of the first Europeans to settle in Canada, many to Ontario (aka Canada West, Upper Canada) including my great grandfather and his family. I thought it would be a natural progression to write about the various webinars available to those of you with Ontario Canada ancestors.

My great grandfather, John Scott (1845-1931) left Scotland in 1855 and sailed with his father, mother, siblings, and an uncle to Canada. During a bad storm, the family story says “he was thrown out of his bunk, hit the sloping floor midway across the cabin and slid under a bed occupied by his uncle who reached down and hauled him out by the back of his night shirt.” What a vivid image – thank goodness for family stories. They promote curiosity and thus an incentive for further research.

Ontario has some great resources for those seeking information about their ancestors. Although the ideal research method is to visit your ancestor’s hometown/county, this has not been possible since COVID hit. Fortunately, genealogical societies and genealogy bloggers from all over the world have found ways to inform and educate both members and non-members through webinars, classes, conferences, and their daily/weekly blogs.

One of the societies I have used over the past months for webinars has been the Ontario Genealogical Society (now known as Ontario Ancestors). Their newsletter, available at <https://ogs.on.ca/> has been one of my favorite resources for finding the many webinars they offer to the general public for free just as PSGS does with their monthly programs and classes. Ontario Ancestors has 34 branch societies, some of which also offer monthly webinars.

The lectures vary in content and are not necessarily focused on Ontario or Canada; for instance, one webinar I found very helpful was “Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy” presented by Penny Walters who is based in the UK. Other topics include Maps, Migration, Zotero and other non-Canada/Ontario specific subjects. You do not have to be a member to register for these lectures. For those of you who have ancestors who settled in other provinces, check out the societies where your ancestors lived.

For those of you who enjoy reading blogs, there are many to suit any research but the ones I find the most helpful for Canadian content are Anglo-Celtic Connections written by John Reid and Genealogy a la Carte written by Gail Dever – both write about upcoming webinars, repositories, their favorite blogs of the week, and assorted other helpful information. They do not restrict themselves to Canadian material; I have found a lot of information on historical topics as well as genealogy subjects. You never know what gems you might find in the webinar and blogging world. If you have a favorite genealogy society or blogger (other than PSGS of course), please let me know at edemmon@krl.org



Map of Canada

Bumsted, J. M (2013). ‘Scottish Canadians’ In: the Canadian Encyclopedia. P. 2. Online book. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en> : accessed 25 March 2021. Pengally, Roy. (1978). Our Grandfather – John Scott, p. 1

In Remembrance

We are sorry to share that during the past year, five of our valued members and one honorary member have died. Good bye to:



Richard "Dick" D. Helander



Robert McGinnis



Marlys Marrs



Jeanne E. Menchenton



Linda Sue Hein (Haugen) Plummer



Vernon L. Frykholm, Sr.

Note that Vern Sr. is pictured on the left, Vern Jr. (AKA George Washington) is on the right. Vern Sr. accompanied his son to many of our programs.

We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

PLAY BALL!

By Peg Powell

I never heard my dad, Ralph Brant, say those words at a baseball game but I sure heard him tell the stories. I was reminded of those tales when Major League Baseball corrected “a longtime oversight” in the game’s history by officially elevating the Negro leagues to “Major League” status. My dad would have said, “it’s about time.” He often talked of the many great players he saw. Sit awhile and let me share some memories. Several years ago, I videotaped my dad telling his stories. Here are a few of those.

He started umpiring when he was fourteen years old at Idlewild Park near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One story that he took delight in was of a game involving the Allegheny All Stars.

A young lad stepped up to the plate and daddy called a strike. The young man looked at him but didn’t say anything. The next pitch came right down the middle. He hit it out over the cars in centerfield. As he rounded the base, he just gave daddy a smile and walked to the dugout. After the game when my dad asked who that young man was, he was told his name was Stan Musial.

I don’t know who GeeGee was but I know how he got his nickname. Whenever my dad would call a strike on this young man, he would turn around and look at him and say Gee, it looked outside, low, high... to me. It didn’t take long before my dad nicknamed him GeeGee.

He told of a double header where the pitcher pitched one game right handed and the other left. He reported throwing out Father “Red” Casey from the Holy Family team for cursing. He talked of seeing Satchel Paige play.

Living near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the heyday of the Negro Leagues brought lots of opportunities to ump games. Two well-known teams with some incred-

ible players were the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Some names that you might recognize from those teams—Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Oscar Charleston, Satchel Paige, Smokey Joe Williams, Cool Papa Bell, and Cumberland Posey. My dad said that the manager of the Homestead Grays said that if he could afford it, he would take him along to umpire because he knew he would always get a fair shake.



Josh Gibson

Searching the archives of The Latrobe bulletin gave me a little more insight into some of my dad’s baseball history. In 1939 the paper said “Ralph Brant, dean of local umpires, did a very good job of officiating.” But the real treasure was in 1943. The headline said, “Umpires Form Association.” (Cont’d on page 8)

Play Ball by Peg Powell

(Cont'd from page 7)

Formal organization of the Latrobe Umpires Association was consummated at a meeting of the arbiters held following the McKenna Metals-Latrobe Indies game last night.

Russell Buckwalter was elected as President; WR Griffith, Vice President; and Ralph Brant, Secretary of the new organization.

The umpires went on record as strongly favoring adequate marking of the field as well as clearly defining the batter's box. (That seems helpful.)

In an earlier article, it was reported that "Umpires will not be required to buy special uniforms, but it was decided that a baseball hat, shoes, dark trousers and a blue shirt would constitute the garb of the arbiters."

I wish I could have been in the stands watching some of those incredible games.

The Homestead Grays



L-R—Jelly Jackson, Ray Battle, Edward Robinson, Sam Bankhead, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Dave Hoskins, Jerry Benjamin, "Cool Papa" Bell

1931

Standing (L-R) Cum Posey, owner; Bill Evans, SS-OF; Jasper Washington, 1B-3B; Ambrose Reid, OF-INF; Smokey Joe Williams, P; Josh Gibson, C; George Scales, 2B; Oscar Charleston, 1B; Charlie Williams, office.
Kneeling (L-R): George Britt, P-C-OF-INF; Lefty Williams, P; Jud Wilson, 3B; Vic Harris, OF; Ted Radcliffe, P-C; Tex Burnett, C; Ted Page, OF



Writing Your Own Story

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One of our members, Bob Crump, thought our members might be interested in a recent article from the *Family Tree Magazine*. It deals with writing your own story. The title is 16 Facts to Write Down About Yourself and “Memoir Mad Libs” by Allison Dolan. You can check in the magazine to read the full article, as we only have permission to print up to 250 words. Below is a portion of that article.

“Genealogists are often so busy trying to find and record all the details about our ancestors’ lives, that we forget our *own* history will eventually become family history. We forget to preserve information about our own lives. Thus, in 100 or 200 years, our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews will be struggling to understand our lives and what we were really like.

Here’s a list of topics to consider writing about for the future generations of your family tree. Not all apply to every person, but they’re adaptable to fit your unique life:

- Your full name and when and where you were born
- Your siblings’ names, and when and where they were born
- Your parents’ names, and when and where they were born, what they were like, the kind of work they did, special memories about them
- The same for your grandparents and great-grandparents, if you knew them
- How your parents met
- Your childhood: games and books, hobbies, sports, what you wanted to be when you grew up, chores around the house.”

Other items you can put in the story about yourself could include school and college years, working life, military life, how you met your spouse/partner and stories that family members handed down to you.

Memoir Mad Libs

Do you remember doing Mad Libs with your children? You would have a story in a flip book with blanks and be instructed to fill in the blank with a noun, event, person’s name, verb, etc. and that would fill out a story. Making up your own Mad Libs is another way to write your own story. Below are some examples from *Family Tree Magazine*.

- “I’ll never forget the time *[person]* misbehaved at *[event]*. . .
- A(n) *[adjective]* thing that happened at *[place]* was . . .
- A favorite memory of *[place]* is . . .
- I laughed so hard the time *[person]* . . .
- One of my favorite childhood places was *[place]* because . . . “

I hope this gets you started on your own story to file with your genealogy papers. Think how excited your 3x great-grandchild will be to find your story. Be sure and include what life was like during the current Pandemic. Tell what inventions you witnessed during your lifetime. Many children today have no idea what a rotary phone is or how to tell time if the clock is not digital. What clothing fads did you wear in high school or college? What was your first car and how much did it cost? Include prices for things like gas, bread, eggs, and your house.

Your life will be as interesting to future generations as our pioneer ancestors’ stories are to us. Keep that in mind and write your stories today. Have fun!



A Look Back...

at the past two months of programs presented by PSGS



Feb. 23 2021: Megan Churchwell

Preservation Principles for Genealogists

Megan taught us how important pieces of family history are important to keep, like photo albums, handwritten letters, and other keepsakes. She taught us how to preserve these items for generations to come. Megan also taught us to use the right storage materials and optimum storage environment that will help ensure that these item are protected from harm for as long as possible.

Mar. 24, 2021: Steven Morrison

Western Overland Trails and Following the Seven Ts.



Steven presented information about the Seven Trails — Oregon, California, Mormon, Applegate, Santa Fe, Old Spanish, and Gila. He showed us maps, the length of the trails, and shared some reasons why people chose a specific trail.

He also talked about the “Tracking Techniques” which included Tradition, Travel, Trail, Time, Testament, Treasure, and Tale. Asking the following questions will help you find information on your ancestors.

How do you know they moved west?

Why did they migrate?

Which route did they take?

When did they go west?

Is there a record of their journey?

Where can you find records of their trip?

When are you writing the story of your ancestor? Steven included many resources to help us with our search.



Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

April 28, 2021 Myths, Legends, and Lies: The Danger of Family History

with Michael Lee Stills

Can you handle the truth? Family history is a burgeoning pursuit thanks to TV programs like "Who Do You Think You Are," "Genealogy Roadshow," and "Finding your Roots." But before you jump in, have you asked yourself if you're fully prepared for what you might discover. Together we will be opening closets to expose skeletons, peeking under the lid of Pandora's Box, and shining light on the ethical dilemmas you may encounter in the quest to find your missing ancestors. They have good reasons why they're hiding from you.

May 26, 2021 Finding Potential Mayflower Ancestors

with Jerri McCoy

Do you have any Mayflower ancestors? This presentation will walk you through several shortcuts and methods to help you determine if you might have Mayflower Ancestors? Print your own 10 generation ancestral fan chart prior to the presentation if you would like to follow along using your own family.

June 23, 2021 Fraktur und Fremdwörter*: Hacks for Reading Foreign Books & News papers

with Mary Kircher Roddy

Many 19th-and early 20th Century German language newspapers were printed in a Fraktur font. And not only that, they were written in a foreign language! This combination of an archaic font and a foreign language creates two significant hurdles for the 21st century genealogist, perhaps with limited foreign language skills, to overcome. But don't despair. Modern technology has provided solutions. Learn how to "crack the code" and discover where your favorite newspaper sites have hidden the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) text. Translation tools will quickly make those foreign words readable for the die-hard English-only speaker

Schedule of Classes — April - May 2021

Sat, April 24	Class 4 — Sources & Citations and Cemetery Research	Presenter: Janet O'Connor Camarata
Sat, May 1	Class 5 — Evidence Analysis Process, Obituary Research, Newspapers & Periodicals	Presenter: Janet O'Conner Camarata
Sat, May 22	Class 6 — Keeping a Genealogical Diary/Journal, County Histories & Google Books, Internet Archives	Presenter: Janet O'Conner Camarata

All classes are held via Zoom from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.

Class Invite/Link is sent out two days before class. Doors open at 9:30 A.M.

No registration is required

Volunteers will be needed for the Genealogy Center

We need members to step forward and volunteer to work in the Genealogy Center. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our collection. Most days are fairly quiet so you would be able to do your own research. Training is provided. You do not need to be an "expert" at genealogy. KRL provides us this space, cataloging all materials in the Center, and the meeting room for our classes and programs. In return, we provide volunteers in the GC. Send an email to Sharon Hornback at gcvol@pusogensoc.org. When the library reopens, a training date will be set and interested members will be contacted.

STORIES NEEDED

The Backtracker wants you to send in your stories about your ancestors, research successes, or not quite successes. While you are in a stay-at-home situation, it is the perfect time to write your story. It can be short or 2 or 3 pages long. If you have pictures to add, that is even better. For hints, check out the article on page 9.

Come to our Zoom classes and programs to learn more tricks to make your research more successful. Looking forward to reading about your family and your research processes.



1301 Sylvan Way

Bremerton, WA 98310

(360) 475-9172 • www.pusogensoc.org