



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

www.pusogensoc.org

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PSGS Antique Show—September 18—19, 2021

A crew of smiling faces to welcome you to the show, aisles with displays on both sides, a group of great antique dealers to show off their goods, the smells of good food from the café, the memories evoked from treasures from your childhood or your grandmother's house...This is what you will see at the Kitsap Antique Show. We are getting ready for our show on Sept. 18-19.

The Genealogical Society once held candle parties and Tupperware parties to bolster the treasury. Now the Antique Show is the big money maker. In fact, it accounts for over half of the money that is used to provide our programs and classes. It does take a village to put it on. The committee works throughout the year to plan, but on the weekend of the show, we need YOU!

We will need volunteers on Friday, September 17—Sunday, September 19. Please contact Rachelle Peel at rachellep98370@gmail.com or by phone at 360-697-5889, if you can help.

How can you help? We need volunteers to work in 2 hour shifts Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00

and Sunday from 9:00 to 4:00. Volunteers are needed for the following positions—Cashier and Assistant, Appraiser Cashier and Assistant, Dealer Assistant, and Café Cashier and Cashier Assistant. Your help is also needed Friday to help load in the dealers for set-up starting at 8:00 a.m. and Sunday evening to help the dealers pack up their merchandise at the end of the show plus sweeping and cleaning President's Hall. After all is clean, you may even be able to sit down and enjoy the hall as Peg Powell is doing below.



Don't miss it!!

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

I seem to be having some issues when sending out email blasts to members. Email addresses with @q.com, @wavecable, and @embarqmail.com are bouncing back saying the message contains Spam. I am not sure what I am doing to cause this because it doesn't happen all the time. Messages recently sent regarding the Antique Show and Backtracker did not bounce, but messages with Upcoming PSGS classes that contain zoom links did. So, in the future, if you do not receive a zoom link for a class or general meeting two days prior to the class/meeting, there are 4 options: 1) check your Spam folder; 2) check the PSGS Facebook page; 3) check the PSGS website; and lastly 4) contact me at jeanyager@gmail.com.

I am in the process of creating a new email account called psg-society1301@gmail.com. I felt the email account psgs.no.reply@gmail.com was a bit unfriendly as I don't mind receiving replies on the emails I send. FYI: when this new account is up and running you might receive a message "Be careful with this message...." Once you open the message, you shouldn't receive another "warning".

Check KRL's website (www.krl.org) for updates on the GC status. Again, until we meet again....in-person or on zoom, stay safe!

Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

Changes are in the wind for the Genealogy Center, which is currently closed due to COVID. Although there is no definitive date as I write this article, Kitsap Regional Library is working on a plan to fully resume library services. This could mean the day is not far off when our great KRL and PSGS volunteers will be welcomed back. It will be wonderful to see the dedicated GC Volunteers back (and those of you who are interested in becoming a volunteer!) as researchers enjoy using the print and online resources in the Center. In the meantime, I am happy to continue doing look-ups for those of you who need copies of pages or even just information needed for source citations as I have done over these past months. Contact me at edemmon@krl.org.

Best wishes, Elisabeth Demmon, KRL Liaison to the PSGS.

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Mysteries, Miracles, and Tales About the Titanic

by Melody (Asikainen) Knight



I think we all have some fascination about the story or stories behind the sinking of the *Titanic*. After all it was the largest vessel disaster ever to happen. Six people even died and hundreds of injuries happened, some serious, in the process of building it.

During my extended periods at home this year, recuperating from knee surgery, then the pandemic, I found some relatives that seem to be connected to that famous, or is it infamous ship! I found out I have a 5th cousin 2x removed named, Matti Matinpoika Maenpaa, born on September 9, 1885 in Finland. Matti Mikonpoika Maenpaa (1855-1932) is also in my tree. He is my cousin's father. According to church census records, Matti Matinpoika lived in Kauukola, Finland with his father and other family members at one time. In the year 1905 Matti Matinpoika Maenpaa left Finland and arrived in Southampton, England. He left there on a ship called, *St. Louis*, and arrived in New York, New York on July 9, 1905. Nothing else is known about him. When I did searches for these relatives, the name Matti Maenpaa appears on the list of missing passengers from 4th class after the sinking of the *Titanic*. Could this be one of the two members of my tree? To me it is unlikely that it is Matti Mikonpoika Maenpaa because he lived and died in Finland according to birth and death records and other people's trees! It is more likely that it could be Matti Matinpoika Maenpaa. But he was already in America in 1905. If those records are truly his, he would have to have traveled maybe back to Finland to visit friends and relatives in Finland or maybe gone to England or somewhere else for work or other purposes to be in Southampton in 1912. While researching this article I found more information about the *Titanic*'s missing passen-

ger. His full name was Matti Alexanteri Maenpaa born in about 1890 in Kauhajoki, Finland. (That is 5 years off in age—which can happen, where he comes from is one of the villages many of my relatives come from, and Alexanteri is a middle name—so it may or may not be the same person.) It is likely he would have been a 3rd class passenger. If the Matti Maenpaa on the 3rd class passenger list is not my Matti then what happened to him?

Incidentally, 3rd class, which is where most immigrants ended up in (or on) was much more comfortable than 3rd class on most other vessels. One disadvantage was that there were only 2 bathtubs for the 700-1,000 passengers there! First class had such things as a seven foot deep salt-water swimming pool, a gymnasium, squash court, Turkish bath, a fancy restaurant, and lavishly decorated rooms.

It is not unusual that they do not know about what happened to all of the missing passengers. Currents move objects quickly and life-vests deteriorate so then the bodies sink. They didn't find the ship itself until 1985, 73 years later, and it was huge! One member of the crew was one of the ship's musicians, Roger Bricoux, who was only 21 years old. He had been listed as missing for decades. He was finally declared dead in 2000. A society connected with the *Titanic* wanted people to know that all the musicians had died the day the *Titanic* sank. They continued playing their music in the lounge of the ship (probably to help people stay calm) until they had to come to the ship's deck just before it sank. The society did this out of respect because Roger had been service in France during WWI.

(Cont'd on page 4)

Titanic Mystery by Melody (Asikainen) Knight

(Cont'd from page 3)

But seriously what happened to all the people that were missing? That is a mystery. Some bodies were found and identified, some were never found! Maybe the body of the lady found holding her dog was the lady that jumped out of a lifeboat because she couldn't take her dog in the boat with her. They finally identified the body of one child when they donated his shoes to a museum that had them tested for DNA decades later. The bodies probably went the way many drowning victims bodies go.

Many mistakes were made on the maiden voyage of the Titanic. Two stand out. One could have avoided the disaster entirely; the other could have saved many more lives. Some say that somebody had forgotten the key to a cupboard at home. It meant that the binoculars for the crow's nest were not where they should have been but locked in the cupboard. If they had the key for the binoculars, would the iceberg have been avoided? If they had twice as many lifeboats (which was what had been advised) and filled them to capacity (they were only half full) more people could have been saved. There were other simple mistakes that could have saved people and changes were made in the Ocean Liner Industry because of this disaster!



More lifeboats were needed

There were some "Miracles". One man, a baker from the crew, stayed to help where needed. I saw on a special on TV that he stayed on the ship and survived a jump with only minor injuries. A pastor was

called a hero because he kept many passengers calm even lead some to faith in Christ. One lady, Violet Jessop, miraculously survived the sinking of the *Titanic* but also the sinking of the *Britannic*, and survived the *Olympic* disaster, too. And speaking of miracles, the reason they do not know how many people survived, died or were missing is because the records were not accurate and some people had canceled their reservations—lucky people!

So another connection I have to the Titanic, is that two of my distant cousins had to cancel their reservations the day before. I don't remember if one of the sisters was ill or had a toothache and had to have a tooth pulled but it saved two lives that would have been gone forever!

Sources—

I looked for my notes from that article and did not find them! Yesterday Wikipedia had some different entries not listed on today's articles. They did say on Wikipedia that they do make changes on the articles when they get updated material.

Most of what I have written in my article can be verified on the following Wikipedia articles I Googled: Titanic, The Sinking of the Titanic, Violet Jessup, and Musicians of the Titanic. Under the Titanic article--I used information from the following headings: Background, Lifeboats, Survivors and Victims, Retrieval and Burial of the Dead. The Sinking of the Titanic article came from the Titanic article. I pulled the section on Roger Bricoux from the article entitled Musicians of the Titanic.

You may want to use my problem of verifying things after the fact to help us all to make sure we note our sources clearly and check our facts!

Melody

National Genealogical Society Conference Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

Another day, another webinar or seminar or conference – or so it has seemed this past year. It has been very easy to fill up the calendar with a variety of learning opportunities; those of you who use Tami's Conference Keeper (<https://conferencekeeper.org/conference-keeper/>) will be nodding your heads; it is definitely a great resource for those who want to learn about all kinds of subjects relevant to their personal and professional genealogy research. It is also a fascinating way to find out about the activities of other societies from not just the USA but worldwide that offer virtual events. I have become a genealogical armchair traveler despite the time differences! I do not know how long these virtual riches will continue though I have noticed that many societies, large or small, are considering hybrid webinars and conferences so that researchers have the choice to stay at home to attend virtually or travel to attend in person.

One of the major conferences I attended recently was the annual conference of the National Genealogical Society (NGS); the supporting host was the Virginia Genealogical Society and the event occurred virtually from May 18 to 21. The first day introduced a new event for the annual conference: the NGS presented projects and ideas from societies, libraries, museums, and archives. The presentations ranged from digitalization projects, indexing a town's church records, creating a memory project of a select group of people, to a simple but effective change in the family group sheet to make it more inclusive for researchers whose families cannot be charted easily on the usual family group sheets that have been in use for years.

This last idea was presented by Mary Ann Gliedt, Genealogy Manager of the St. Louis Public Library. She introduced a new model of a family group

worksheet for family historians of all ages who need to document family connections on a form that has more flexibility than the standard family group sheets. Think of the family history projects required by school curriculums, those scouting or youth organizations that have family history badge/project requirements, and researchers who need/prefer a more open model of a chart to record their family. Let me know if you are interested in a copy and I will contact the presenter.

The second and third days of the conference had a multitude of live lectures with great presenters (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Thomas Jones, and Judy Russell to name just a few) with an "On Demand" option for purchasing previously recorded lectures for viewing in your own time.

Since the NGS merged with the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) in October 2020, the last day of the NGS was for genealogical societies. The main theme was Society Management: lectures on topics relating to communications, events management, and how to go virtual to different audiences. The lecture I found particularly interesting and pertinent was the one by Daniel Earl; he started his talk by asking several thought-provoking questions, the first one being "What will your society look like in ten years if the average age of members were 45?" This question and those that followed led to his presentation of ideas on how a society can involve younger people, how to invite them to join a society, and how to include and involve them in a society's projects and virtual meetings.

Thoughts, questions, more information? Contact me at edemmon@krl.org

Best wishes,

Elisabeth Demmon, KRL Liaison to PSGS.

DID YOU KNOW?

ProQuest will be able to continue to provide public libraries with temporary remote access to *Ancestry Library Edition* through **December 31, 2021**.

Go to: <https://www.krl.org/research>
And click on the following icon...

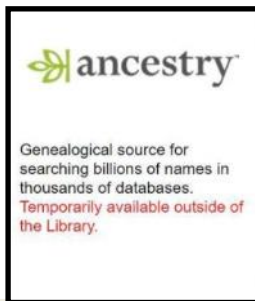


Photo credit: <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/index.php?curid=259820>

The FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, announced it will begin a phased reopening starting 6 July 2021. The popular destination service has been closed since March 13, 2020, due to precautions pertaining to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The library serves beginner and professional family history patrons from all over the world and is a popular tourist attraction for the state of Utah. Initially, hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with plans to extend to additional days and hours soon. For more info: <https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/welcome-to-the-family-history-library>

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

As told by Gail Reynolds

Gail was recently doing research on a “shirt-tail” relation of her husbands. Mary Margaret Dewald was born in 1761. She is the 3rd great aunt of wife of nephew of husband of aunt of wife of 2nd cousin 3x removed of Larry. [And if you can follow that breadcrumb trail, do I have some relations I would like to introduce to you.] She was looking on Find A Grave and found the following:

“Margaret’s stone no longer exists. About 1976 the officials of St. Matthew Lutheran Church decided to expand the church complex. They dug a hole in what is now the back parking lot and dumped all the stones that were on graves around the church into the hole and covered them over. None of the graves were moved.”

Note from the editor—

I am sure that others of you have heard of similar stories. I heard about one where a bridge was being built back east. The headstones were used for fill at the base of the bridge supports.

The Monument Cemetery in Philadelphia held the remains of 28,000 people before it was condemned by the city and given over to Temple University. The land was turned into a parking lot in the 1950s, 8,000 bodies moved to new marked graves and 20,000 unclaimed corpses were shifted to a mass burial site.

According to Monument Cemetery-Wikipedia, “the grave markers, were reused as column-footer foundations for and around a nearby bridge connecting New Jersey and Philly. Some were ground into rubble, but on the surfaces of many of these stones remain names, dates and other details still visible to those who would seek to unbury their past.”

Dead Men Tell No Tales....

by Peg Powell

...But cemeteries do.

The Tracyton Cemetery has a lot to tell for such a little place. Thanks to Teichert Fischer those tales may soon be a little easier to discover. The Tracyton Cemetery is on a small corner of land off of Tracyton Boulevard. The land for the cemetery was donated in the 1890s by the Sackman family.

Teich contacted our society to see if we would be interested in donating funds to his Eagle Project for Boy Scouts. He planned to build a kiosk at the Tracyton Cemetery. After the initial contact, he was invited to join us at a Zoom meeting of the Executive Board to tell us about the project and answer questions. The Board decided to donate the major cost of the lumber for the project. The kiosk was installed on March 28. I contacted Teich to find out a little more about him and why this project. Here are his answers. "I am from the area, I live near Brownsville. I go to Central Kitsap High School. I started as a cub scout when I was eight in 2011. I became a boy scout in 2015 when I turned 12. After High School, I plan to go into the military. I chose to do a project at this cemetery while my sister and I were documenting graves on an app. I then contacted the caretaker and set up an appointment

where we talked about what he wanted to be done." In his thank you to our society he said, "I'm grateful to be a part of a community that supports genealogical endeavors."

The cemetery doesn't currently have any formal caretakers. When I contacted them to find out more about the kiosk, I got this message. "Hello, we sure appreciate Teich and we thank you for supporting him. We are working on a history of the cemetery, some interesting facts about people buried there, a large map with legend of those buried, and general contact info. We have only been two working people up to this point due to board members passing and not staying engaged. We recently got people back together following Covid and have added two board members. Many plans ahead... but things were in rough shape. Thank you again for your support." (P.S.- other Boy Scout Eagle projects there have included a flag pole and a bench.)

As a side note, some of the Sackman family are buried there. Tracyton was originally named Sackman. The Sackman family is descended from Chief Seattle.

See, cemeteries do tell tales.



Teich and his father



Teich doing a final cleaning



Kiosk ready for cemetery paperwork

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

by Gail Reynolds

I was reading my Reader's Digest and found an article on Arlington National Cemetery. Thirteen very interesting facts. Some I knew, at least a couple I didn't. One I was particularly drawn to.

In 2013, the cemetery launched a free mobile and web app...ANC Explorer. Not one to haphazardly download an app, I just googled it thinking it would be nice to see if my husband's adoptive uncle was listed. Sure enough, there he was. Not on-

ly were his "dash" dates matching to the ones I had but there were two photos. Front and back. Now I was curious as to what was on the back. His wife was listed on the back. I only had an approximate birth date for her. Now....YIPPEE....I have her date of birth, death and the location of her burial! I love it when things work out, especially as a surprise. Thanks to Reader's Digest!

GOOD NEWS

On April 8, 2021, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memo to the Public Buildings Reform Board with the decision to withdraw its approval of the sale of National Archives and Records Administration's Seattle (NARA) Facility.

This is a great success especially for Pacific Northwest tribes. Now with the help of several

organizations and politicians from Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon, the federal government agreed to keep Pacific Northwest records local.

You can read more about this achievement at the Washington State Archives' website. Well done everyone!

LOOK FOR THESE STORIES IN FUTURE BACKTRACKER ISSUES

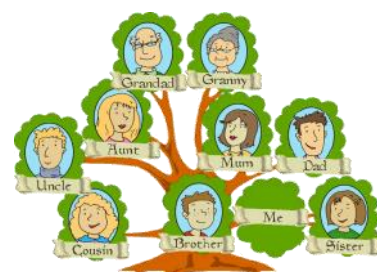
Cousin Jolly's Miracle Gift To Me by Polly Langworthy

Who Was the Man Called "John Erland Ahlquist" and Who was "Grandpa Oh"? A Mystery
by Melody Knight

May we add your story?

Please send it in to the editor at bt-editor@pusogensoc.org

Thank you for making a difference in the Backtracker.



SOUTH KITSAP GENEALOGY CHAPTER

The South Kitsap Chapter met in May and again in June. The turnout was small, five of us each month. It was nice to see real people again.

We meet at the Church Of Christ, 2535 Carr Lane SE, Port Orchard. Carr Lane is off of Salmonberry. Everybody is welcome.

Our meeting day has changed from the first Thursday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month and we now meet in a room on the main level upstairs. We still meet at 9:30. We finish at noon.

Bev Smith gives us an update on the executive board meeting at the beginning of each meeting.

In May Bev Smith brought in a bunch of genealogy books for the taking and they were quickly distributed. We did catching up with each other after not being in contact for over a year. Heidi reviewed some novels based on historical background/facts that put genealogy in perspective. That was followed by Heidi researching a problem Margaret was having with an Irish borne ancestor though no definitive conclusion was reached.

In our June meeting Heidi demonstrated how we can “add” a book source into our Ancestry tree. We then took on trying to find the unknown great grandfather and great grandmother of Margaret’s and did have some success in avenues to follow up.

Our next meeting was July 7th @9:30

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Howard

Belfair Genealogy Chapter

Please note that Belfair Chapter has not started their meetings since Covid closed them down. When they resume their meetings, the Backtracker will again print their reports. Thank you for your patience.

A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



April 28 2021: Michael Lee Stills

Myths, Legends, and Lies: The Dangers of Family History

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.” We were taught to ask ourselves if we are fully prepared for what we might discover. We were shown opening closets, Pandora’s Box, and shining the light on ethical dilemmas which can open pathways to find your missing ancestor. Sometimes they are hidden from you for a reason.

May 26, 2021: Jerri McCoy

Mayflower 400 years—Finding Potential Mayflower Ancestors



We showed several shortcut methods to help you determine if you might have Mayflower Ancestors. Jerri showed us how to use a 10 generation ancestral fan chart for this process.

June 23, 2021: Mary Kircher Roddy

Fraktur und Fremwörter: Hacks for Reading Foreign Books & Newspapers (Foreign Words)

Mary showed us how to use Optical Character Recognition text (OCR). Translation tools will quickly make those foreign words readable for even the most die-hard English-only speaker. The OCR shows us how to translate old Fraktur font that was printed in old German Newspapers.





Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

July 28, 2021 Pacific Northwest

with Jewell Dunn

Jewell will talk about Federal, State and local records available in the Pacific Northwest. Mainly in Oregon and Washington. And the importance of Fringe records in the neighboring states.

Aug 25, 2021 Understanding Migration

With Winona Laird

Peopled traveled the waterways, trails, to migrate across the United States. Find out Who moved, the reason why they moved. Where did they come from? How did they migrate? Where did they go? All these questions will be answered in this class.

Sept 22, 2021 Is It true? Using Manuscripts and Family Records for Genealogical Proof

With Steven Morison

To some, family records -including diaries, letters, and personal photographs-may be seen as having little genealogical value. Nothing can be further from the truth! Explore how original information from the Oregon Trail can shine new light on undiscovered facts or family relationships.

Schedule of Classes — July — August 2021

Sat, July 24 Class 4—Organizing Paper, Books & Digital Files; Courthouse Research, including Wills and Probate
Presenter: Janet O'Connor Camarata

Sat, Aug 7 Class 5 — Genealogical Proof Standard; Military Records
Presenter: Janet O'Connor Camarata

Sat, Aug 28 Class 6 — Immigration & Naturalization Records; Students share research
Presenter: Janet O'Connor 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

Mark Your Calendar — Read Page One — Call to Volunteer

Kitsap

ANTIQUE SHOW

Save the Dates!

18 - 19 September 2021



Presidents' Hall at Kitsap Fairgrounds

Saturday | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$6 Entry | \$5 Per Item Appraisal Fee

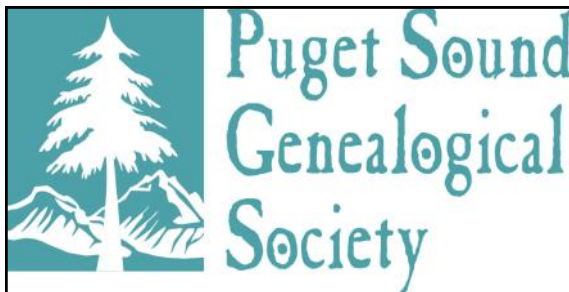
Free Parking

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

Please see show details at: www.AntiqueShowKitsap.com

PSGS NEEDS YOU!

It is time to be thinking about serving as part of the leadership team for Puget Sound Genealogical Society in 2022. 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 speaks to you. Our new Nominating Committee will soon be hard at work. Elections will be held at our General Meeting, October 27, 2021.



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