



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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

Vol. 47: Issue 1 Jan—Mar 2022

## PSGS OFFICERS FOR 2022

Congratulations to our 2022 PSGS officers. We thank you for guiding our organization in the coming year. In the past, officers were installed at our Christmas Party in December. Since there was no party last year, 2022 PSGS Officers will be introduced in the Backtracker.

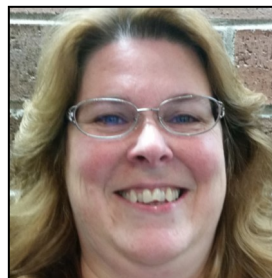


Jean Yager, President

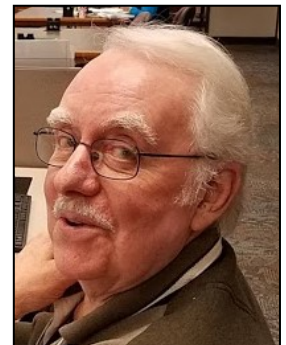


Jean Bray, Secretary

Heidi Ginder, First  
Vice-President



Larry Harden, Treasurer



Terry Mettling, Second  
Vice-President



Lisa Treiberg,  
Member At Large

## Table of Contents

|                                 |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ancestry Stories .....4-5,9-11  | Looking Forward ..... 6   | Presidential Ponderings ... 2-3 |
| Genealogy Center Report ..... 2 | News .....1,3,5,7-8,11,12 | Schedule of Classes .....6      |



# Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

We zoom in, we zoom out, we zoom fast, we zoom...no we don't zoom slow, however, it seems like we are zooming slow as we enter 2022 and continue to use Zoom for our classes, committee meetings and monthly general meetings. There seems to be no end in sight of getting together in-person. So, while we are in this "hold" position, some ideas have been zooming around in my head.

First: We will continue to have classes on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month (unless otherwise specified). I am working on getting classes scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. In March through May, Janet Camarata will once again join us in continuing her classes on "Discovering Your Ancestor" with Series IV. I will send out an email blast to the membership closer to the dates with more information. Also, checkout our website ([www.psgsociety.org](http://www.psgsociety.org)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/PSGSroots](https://facebook.com/PSGSroots)) as Gwen Detweiler promotes upcoming events, not only ours, but others near and far that are Zoomable.

(Cont'd on page 3)

# Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

## Update and a Reason to Celebrate

Thanks to the continuing Covid pandemic, there is no opening date for the Genealogy Center, yet. In the spirit of optimism, I have ordered a 2022 desk calendar for the Volunteer's Desk in the hope that it will be used sooner rather than later.

The Genealogy Center will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this coming year. The GC officially opened on January 25, 2012 at the Sylvan Way location of KRL with a ceremony and reception. Although we may not be able to recreate the party due to the pandemic, we can still celebrate the enduring partnership of KRL and the PSGS!

Best wishes,

Elisabeth Demmon, KRL Liaison to the PSGS

# The Backtracker

— A publication of the  
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

Editor .....Sharon Hornback  
[bt-editor@psgsociety.org](mailto:bt-editor@psgsociety.org)

Associate Editor .....Mary Ann Wright

Copy Editor/Distribution ..... Jean Yager

Circulation ..... Terry Mettling

**Editorial Group:** Larry Harden, Lew Noah, Peg Powell, Jeanie Schulze, "Woody" Wood

**PSGS Board**

President ..... Jean Yager

1st Vice President ..... Heidi Ginder

2nd Vice President/Membership ..... Terry Mettling

Secretary ..... Jean Bray

Treasurer .....Larry Harden

Antique Show Chair ..... Peg Powell

Belfair Chapter Rep ..... Linda Peel

Education Chair ..... Jean Yager

Gene Center Liaison ..... TBD

Member at Large ..... Lisa Treiberg

Publicity Chair .....Judy Rice

South Kitsap Chapter Rep ..... Bev Smith

Web Page Chair..... Gwen Detweiler

**Disclaimer:**

Any material or images contained herein are provided by third party contributors and are used with permission or believed to be in the public domain and, to the best of our knowledge, are from public domain sources. It is our policy to immediately remove, upon first notification and identification, any specific material or image(s) represented to be owned or copyrighted by other parties. Should you possess the copyright to any such material or image(s) and be able to prove such claim, please notify us immediately in writing.

Opinions and statements expressed by individual authors are not necessarily those of PSGS. Errors and omissions of fact are the sole responsibility of the author although every reasonable attempt has been made to ensure the correctness of content.

## Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

(Cont'd from page 2)

Second: Anyone interested in starting a Zoom Book Club to discuss fiction books with a genealogical theme? Check out these websites or any others and, if interested, email me at [psgsociety1301@gmail.com](mailto:psgsociety1301@gmail.com), subject line: Book Club.

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/5-fiction-book-series-for-genealogists/>  
<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/genealogy-fiction>

<https://www.criminalelement.com/genealogy-at-the-root-of-crime-fiction-seven-novels-that-explore-genealogical-connections/>

Third: As we continue this Zoom journey, anyone interested in restarting our Ancestry Special Interest Group? If so, email me at [psgsociety1301@gmail.com](mailto:psgsociety1301@gmail.com), subject line: Ancestry SIG.

DUES ARE DUE!! I encourage you to renew because one of the member perks is being on the email blast list and receiving the Backtracker newsletter. You can download the form: <https://psgsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2022-PSGS-membership-rev.pdf>. Mail it along with your payment to: Kitsap Regional Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310. Indicate on the envelope it is PSGS dues. Elisabeth Demmon will then send it to Larry Harden (Treasurer), who will then send the form to Terry Mettling (2<sup>nd</sup> VP, membership). No zooming here, just plain old snail mail.

I read this tidbit on Facebook and thought it was too witty not to share: Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The GPS blurted out “you have reached your final destination”.

Until next time, zooming on.....



## 2022—A Great Year for Genealogists

The coming year will bring not just 1 but 2 Census releases for genealogists.

The 1921 Census for England and Wales is being released on FindMyPast on 6 January. I am excited about this one as it is the first Census where my father should be listed with his family. Here is a link to help you get acquainted with the Census: <https://www.1921census.org.uk/> and how to access it:

<https://www.findmypast.com/1921-census>

For those of you who are eagerly waiting for the 1950 US Federal Census, have your computers ready for midnight on 1 April 2022 when that

Census will be released. Since the Census information will not yet be indexed, you will need to know where your family lived on 1 April 1950 to determine the Enumeration District so you can browse the images.

Here is a helpful link that should help you prepare for the 1950 Census release:

<https://stevemorse.org/census/1950census.htm>

Happy New Year!

Elisabeth Demmon, KRL Liaison to the PSGS



## Storage Unit Move

What would you do on a rainy Thursday morning in October? Any number of things like working on genealogy, reading a good book, or enjoying a cup of hot tea would be good suggestions. However, a few hardy PSGS Members decided to do something else.

Since 2013, PSGS had the opportunity to store banking papers, Christmas decorations, Antique Show Signs, and other important items at Reliable Storage for free. According to people at Reliable Storage, this ended up being a gift to PSGS of about \$9,000.00. We are very thankful. However, all good things must come

to an end. This fall, we had to vacate the space or start paying a monthly fee.

Thank you Alta Drane for allowing PSGS to use part of the garage in your son's condo as our new storage space. On October 28, the move was made. Thank you to our movers: Gwen and Bob Detweiler, Jean and Rick Yager, Lisa and Charles Treiberg, Peg Powell, and Sharon Hornback. Many hands made sure the job was completed quickly. Cars were loaded, driven to the new location, and unloaded with great speed.



Charles and Bob discuss the right way to unload and carry in the shelving unit, while other team members added their thoughts from the sidelines. If you bring it in the wrong direction, you can't stand it upright and you have to start all over again. It was quite an engineering feat to accomplish this. Once the shelving was in place, the move went more swiftly.



Left—Gwen carries a box into the garage

Right —Peg carries another box in while Jean supervises



# A ONE PLACE STUDY

by Elisabeth Demmon

I recently watched a Zoom webinar on a “One Place Study” with Janet Few, a noted genealogist and instructor from England. A One Place Study is similar to a House History project in that it focuses on a place rather than a name, but it also gives you the opportunity to place your ancestors in context with their community whether it is a neighborhood, village, or parish just to name a few examples.

It was a different yet fascinating approach to genealogy research. I was so impressed by Ms. Few’s resource-rich handout that accompanied her well-laid out lecture that I enrolled in her course at Pharos Tutors at <https://www.pharostutors.com/>. If you check out that website, you will find all kinds of genealogy educational topics that may interest you.

Background: I have always been curious about my father’s family; he grew up in England and came to Canada after WWII. He rarely talked about them perhaps because he was born many years after his two older sisters then sent to boarding school at a young age; his cousins were also much older than he was. He referred to his aunts and uncles by family nicknames so finding them in the records was a challenge.

While researching his family, I discovered that his paternal ancestors had spent a considerable amount of time in a small village called Hatfield Peverel in Essex from about 1750 to 1860. I had previously found church records such as Bishop’s Transcripts from Family Search so decided that the village church, St. Andrew’s Priory and Parish Church would be the focus of my One Place Study despite the remote location from where I currently live and the unlikelihood of being able to visit it anytime soon. Fortunately, I owned a small book on the history of the church published in 1923 which was complete with old photos, diagrams of the interior,

and transcriptions of burials which has proved to be a great resource.

Back to the course: There were 5 Lessons sent via email over the space of 5-6 weeks; each lesson plan is filled with resources to help you through each step in your research and there is an easily accessible platform to “chat” with the tutor and fellow students. Exercises were spread throughout each lesson; you post your comments/results online in the Forum provided.



The favorite exercise for me was the section on newspaper research which will come as no surprise to those of you who have heard my various presentations when I have been rather emphatic about the value of newspaper research.

Despite the small size of Hatfield Peverel, there were quite a few results found in the two main sources used: the British Newspaper Archive and FindMyPast. For instance, my great-grandfather first appeared in a newspaper article in 1866 when he was only 18; he was a witness of a drowning of one of his co-workers on the way home from their workday. The article places him at Hatfield Peverel and gives his employer – yeah!

The course is almost over but I plan to continue the project with the hope of travelling to Hatfield Peverel one day and visit the home and burial place of my paternal ancestors.

Best Wishes in your research!

Elisabeth Demmon



## Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

### January 26, 2022 What's in Your Genes? Deciphering DNA Testing

with Michael Lee Stills

Do the DNA Testing commercials have you curious? Are you considering taking a DNA test but wonder who to test with? Clueless about spitting or swabbing? Join genealogist Michael Lee Stills for an introduction to DNA testing. We will unravel the four types of DNA and their appropriate test, discuss the pros and cons of major testing companies, discover who owns your DNA once you test and answer many of your questions before you buy your first DNA Kit.

### February 23, 2022 Research Techniques for Genealogists

with Winona Laird

A good research plan is a way to stay focused and keep your genealogy goals in sight. Discussion will include helpful hints for unpuzzling your family tree such as recording common surnames, nicknames, and spelling variations. Multiple research options will be shared.

### March 23, 2022 Genealogy "U": Hidden Treasures in Academic Libraries

with Lisa Oberg

College and university libraries generally don't collect material with genealogists in mind, yet they do contain many resources that can help genealogists with their research, particularly social history. The University of Washington's Special Collections holdings include books, journals, maps, newspapers, and more, that can add to your family history. We'll explore some of the hidden treasures in Special Collections and how to find them.

## Schedule of Classes — Jan to Mar 2022

|             |                                     |   |                                    |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Sat, Jan 22 | TBD                                 | Fact Checking Your Family Tradition and No Database, No Problem | Presenter: Steven W. Morrison      |
| Sat, Feb 5  | TBD                                 | (Watch for an Email Blast with details on all classes)          |                                    |
| Sat, Feb 26 | TBD                                 |   |                                    |
| Sat, Mar 5  | Discovering Your Ancestor Series IV |   | Presenter: Janet O'Connor Camarata |
| Sat, Mar 26 | Discovering Your Ancestor Series IV |   | 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



# Love and Sadness in the Civil War Era—A Tragedy

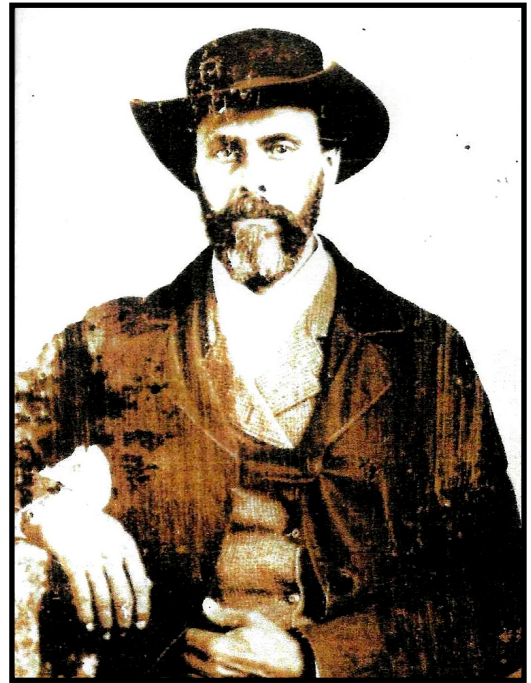
by Melody Knight — Carl Knight's Family Maternal G G Grandparents  
Sylvestre DeBrun Bossier and Narcissa (Waldrop) McDonald Bossier

Rich and poor, young and old, black and white, enslaved and free--the American Civil War wreaked havoc on everyone! It pitted brother against brother, friend against friend and left hardship and tragedy in its wake. 600-750 thousand died in this terrible time in our history **(This was a Wikipedia figure months ago. Sadly Covid 19 has claimed more Americans in less time.)** Sylvestre and Narcissa, my husband's maternal great grandparents, are just two people who had a very tragic story that took place with the backdrop of the Civil War.

Sylvestre Debrun Bossier was born September 21, 1819 in Opelousa, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana to Sylvestre Sezoire (Caesaire) Bossier and Euphrasine Arnaud who were of French Creole descent. Family stories and records say that Euphrasine's husband was from a wealthy family that sent him to France to receive training as a doctor. Educating their children in France was typical of the wealthy French Creole families in Louisiana. One of the descendants said that her grandmother Lum (another relative) remembered seeing him grinding powders in his home.

Sylvestre Debrun Bossier first married Mary Ann McDonald (born about 1820) in 1839. We don't know much about Margaret Ann but they were together for about 18 years and had 9 children that we know about. Daughters were as follows: Louisiana (born about 1841), Sofia Elizabeth (born about 1842), Euphrosine Florida (born about 1844), Coraline Indiana (born about 1846) and her twin Marie Louisiana born 1846), and Elizabeth Ann (born about 1848). Sons were as follows: Albert S. (born about 1850), Robert Quinn (born about 1853), Cesaire (born about 1855), and Newton B. (born in 1858). Since Sylvestre's wife

Margaret Ann died in 1858, I wonder if she died in childbirth or because of complications from the birth.



Sylvestre Bossier

Narcissa Waldrop was born in about 1824 in Sabine Parish, Louisiana. Her first marriage was to John Quincy McDonald in about 1844. John was born in 1820 to Robert Knowles McDonald (from Scotland) and Elizabeth Ann Latham (1805-1875). They had the following children: Claiborne Parrish (born about 1845), Elizabeth "Betty" Lee (born about 1847), Robert Knowles (born about 1849), John Lawrence (born about 1849) and Frances L. (born about 1854). John died May 9, 1859, in Union Springs, Louisiana.

We do not know how Sylvestre and Narcissa met but there were definite needs on both sides. The war was going on and Narcissa was now a widow with many children and without a way to make a living to care for them.

(cont'd on page 8)

## THE CIVIL WAR ERA — A TRAGEDY by Melody Knight

(Cont'd from page 7)

Sylvestre was now a widower with a new baby and other children to care for. Since he was still young enough to help with the war effort, he was probably expected to take part and probably wanted to.

Narcissa and Sylvestre married in 1859. He started or resumed his military service. Their first child together was son Jasper Bossier. He was born in 1860. Narcissa was pregnant with a daughter when Sylvestre left again for his military service.

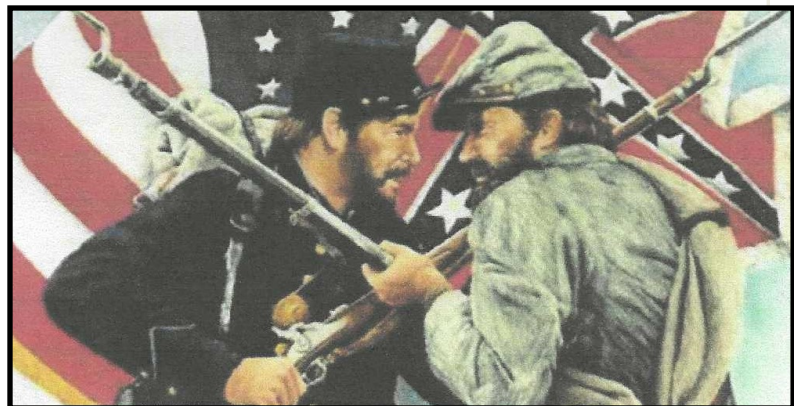
According to Find-A-Grave, Sylvestre was a Sgt. in the 28<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry, Company B, which brought him to Mississippi. He died in Vicksburg several months before the huge standoff and battle of Vicksburg occurred. He was listed as a baggage master on his death certificate. Sadly, he died of a preventable disease. He died of measles! They didn't even have a measles vaccine at that time or the knowledge of how to prevent this and other diseases. During that part of the war so many people died of starvation, disease, or injury in that battle and many other battles around our nation.

I was thankful that the elder Sylvestre had training as a doctor to help with the childbirth and with raising all of the children that resulted from those three marriages. He lived with the family.

Sylvestre and Narcissa's daughter, Laura Ann Bossier, was born February 26, in Union Springs, Sabine Parish, Louisiana, the same year Sylvestre died. It was so sad that their time together was short but we are thankful for the children they had. Laura Ann Bossier married Rev. John Lum born Nov. 2, 1851 in Robiline, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Laura is the "Grandma Lum" that gave the details about Sylvestre Sazoire Bossier.

Sylvestre De Brun Bossier and Narcissa Waldrop McDonald Bossier's son Jasper is my husband's beloved great grandfather. He is the father of James Carl

Knight's grandmother, Mary Etta Bossier. We do not know who inherited the fancy cane (that had precious gems embedded in it) that Sylvestre Bossier once had. All the vestiges of the once wealthy Bossier family had disappeared by the time Mary Etta Bossier married "Papa John" Thornton. Papa John was the lay pastor that gave the message at church on the Sundays when the itinerant pastor wasn't preaching. My husband remembers the itinerant pastor riding up on a white horse or mule the Sundays he preached. He also remembers sitting on his grandpa's lap hearing him reading Bible stories to him. He had a subsistence farm. My husband remembers when his parents, uncles and aunts and cousins were all sleeping together in one room with wall to wall beds! Wars really do take many kinds of tolls!





## BITS AND PIECES

### INFORMATION

KRL is offering FOLD3 Library Edition via remote access to patrons with KRL library cards. Find your ancestors' military records from the Revolutionary War onward. These records include stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served in the military. Access Fold3 through [www.krl.org/research](http://www.krl.org/research)



Unfortunately, Ancestry is no longer available via remote access after December 2021. However, you can access it from the actual library using one of the public computers in the main room or bringing your own laptop to that area. You do not have to be in the GC.



Thomas MacEntee announced his semi-retirement as of 25 April 2022. This only impacts webinars and his genealogy education offers. The Genealogy Do-Over and the [Genealogybargains.com](http://Genealogybargains.com) website will continue.



Finding Your Roots Season 8 started on Tuesday, January 4 on PBS. Mark your calendars and, depending on your cable provider, you may be able to access the past episodes. Find out family mysteries solved and long-hidden secrets uncovered for Regina King, Rebecca Hall and more.



The Family History Library continues to offer a free record lookup service for books, films, CDs, or digital images. Results are provided via your email within 7-14 days. Information is located at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library/family-history-library-records-look-up-service>

### ACTION ITEMS

Articles from you — Did you attend a recent workshop with Janet Camarata about “Writing Your Family History”? She taught us that everything we write doesn’t need to be long. How about writing a Mini Saga (50 words), or a Biographical Blurb (150-300 words) about your family traditions for Easter. Did you have a special meal, decorations, Easter Egg Hunt at the park or, other? Easter stories will be appreciated by March 30, 2022. Send them to me at [bt-editor@psgsociety.org](mailto:bt-editor@psgsociety.org) with the subject: Easter. I look forward to many short stories. We will try to focus on other events in future issues.



The Backtracker Committee wants your opinion. In the past we have had specialized articles in the Backtracker. Those articles included Side by Side (introduction of members), Grandma’s Kitchen (recipes from ancestors) and others. Do you want to continue these? Do you have information to contribute to these articles? Send your responses to [bt-editor@psgsociety.org](mailto:bt-editor@psgsociety.org) with the subject: opinions. Thank you.

## New to Genealogy – 1<sup>st</sup> Roadblock

by Diane Howell Evans

After retiring from the DC Metro area to Seabeck WA in 2018 I decided it was once again time to join a public library. While setting up an account in person at the Silverdale branch in 2019 I discovered KRL's "Inspire" guide. While reading through the guide I learned there was a local genealogy society that met regularly and offered free courses.

I knew my father had been researching our family before he passed in 2004 but I had no idea really how many generations back he had documented. I knew he was using Family Tree Maker per a cousin's recommendation and had gathered several family photos of his parents, siblings and grandparents but that was the depth of my knowledge.

Not knowing one iota of what, when, where, why and how one begins genealogy research I decided to attend one of PSGS's free courses. Best decision I ever made. When I returned home from the course my head was reeling from all the information I had learned that day. Trying to explain everything to my husband was spotty at best as my mind raced from topic to topic and I couldn't answer his questions the majority of the time. Definitely the motivation to return and conquer this new hobby if I was to succeed in researching my family's history!

So began my membership in PSGS and the purchase of Family Tree Maker 2019. My father did have a diskette labeled Family History among the many items I brought home from his house and stored over the years in a storage unit. Unfortunately my version would not read or load the files and of course the manual for FTM 2019 was still not available – and to my knowledge is still not available despite purchasing it along with the software. Oh, well....let's just start from scratch!

So I definitely knew my parents, their siblings, my grandparents and my cousins. I was able to research the Census and find all of them on my father's side of the family (Howell) but for the life of me I could not find very much about my mother's side of the family as all through life I was told she was adopted. Personally I knew her adoptive father, his second wife and my mother's step siblings (Caldwell and Hess).

I found my mother's record in the 1930 Census records as a 2 year old adopted daughter and in the 1940 Census records as a 12 year old daughter with a 6 year old sister. Thus the end for any more census records until sometime in 2022 when the 1950 Census is released. I should find her listed as married with 1 or maybe 2 children depending on the date the Census was taken.

There are no known family members left of her generation to contact for information and after hitting the age of 19 I never saw any of her family ever again. I have her age at my birth and her birth location on my birth certificate as well as her obituary showing me as a survivor but research on various genealogy research sites have never yielded a birth record for her.

I was so excited to learn America's Walking Club (ava.org) would be holding their biennial conference in Madison, WI in June 2021 plus the possibility (depending on Covid) of a high school reunion in July in my home state of Michigan. This all meant a 2 month road trip which would include a side trip to research my mother's history in MI!

So I am armed with my birth certificate and my mother's obituary and as soon as I hit lower MI I head to the Branch County Clerk's office to obtain her birth certificate.

(Cont'd on page 11)

## New to Genealogy by Diane Howell Evans

(Cont'd from page 10)

But lo and behold there is no record of her birth in Branch County or the town listed on my birth certificate. The clerk checks the next adjoining town as well as the state of MI and nada – no record. How can this be? We are talking 1927 or 1928 depending on which record you are looking at. Really, her birth wasn't recorded? I am devastated to say the least – who was my mother?

So I continue on with my research and obtain a copy of my parent's marriage record, divorce record and land deeds for the property where my father built our family home. I visited three local historical societies/museums as well as a local library and document my parents' high school photos, interesting town crier newspaper articles and photograph the first and last house we ever lived in as a family. I drive around the small farming communities where my parents were raised and take photos. I actually meet the Mayor of the small village where I spent my first 7 years of life as I was taking photos of the town square and we chat for a few minutes.

So the trip home was certainly productive but not in the way I imagined it in the months leading up to it. My mother remains a mystery to me. I have joined several generic Facebook adoption pages as well as several MI pages for the birth counties in question and MI adoption. MI is a closed adoption state so I don't know how much progress I will make on any adoption records.

So what other steps am I taking in the future. For one, taking a mitochondrial DNA test to trace my maternal lineage and hope for matches. Researching possible maternal cousins through obits, my age or younger, still living who might know some family history of the step siblings and adoptive/step parents.

One other family rumor about my mother was that her biological father was in prison! Oh my, where do I go with that one!



Mom and Me



## PSGS Membership News

It is time to renew your membership in PSGS for 2022. Please read Jean Yager's Presidential Ponderings for a link to an application form and details on where to send your dues. The cost is \$15.00 for an individual membership and \$20.00 for a family membership (living in the same household).

Just a reminder, if you are a member of a committee or a volunteer for the GC (Yes, we want to be ready when the library says the GC will be able to re-open.), you MUST be a member in good standing.

Thank you in advance for sending your dues in so we can continue our informative classes and programs on Zoom.

## ROOTS TECH 2022

Exciting update...The 2022 Roots Tech event will be entirely VIRTUAL and FREE. The dates are March 3-5, 2022. Registration is now open. Log into:

[RootsTech.org](https://RootsTech.org) and click on subscribe for updates.

It is advertised as the world's largest family history conference with thousands of classes and inspiring speakers. You will have unlimited access to over 1,500 sessions.

You can add the sessions to your playlist so you can view them in your browser and on-demand. All you need is your Family Search account to get an all-access registration. If you don't have an account, you can sign up for one for free. Happy hunting!



1301 Sylvan Way

Bremerton, WA 98310

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