



THE BACKTRACKER



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LOOKING BACK

This issue takes you back through the time before the 2022 10th Year Anniversary of the partnership between PSGS and KRL. A few Genealogy Center Grand Opening pictures are reprinted here and on

page 3. Do you recognize anyone in these pictures? Sorry that we are not able to have a formal Anniversary Party, but maybe in the future we can celebrate.



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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

The Backtracker

— A publication of the
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

We are going HYBRID! (No, we are not hibernating....although I feel we have for the last two years.) What is hybrid, you ask? You’ve heard of hybrid cars where they run on two different elements, electric and gas. In our case, hybrid is a combination of meeting in-person and via Zoom. What does this mean? It means we are finally back in the Heninger room! However, some of you found Zooming to be very convenient; therefore, we are going to do both. Another nice feature of Zoom is we can go outside our reasonable travel boundaries and offer you an array of speakers. And our Interim Secretary, Ann Northcutt, can continue with the secretarial duties from afar.

When will this start? Well, if you received and read my latest email blast, you will know it started on April 16th (Janet Camarata’s class). Our next hybrid meeting will be the General meeting on April 27th, then continuing on with Janet’s class on April 30th.

For the time being, we do have a limit on the number of attendees in the Heninger room. It would be most appreciated if you could email me at psgsociety1301@gmail.com to let me know if you plan to attend in person. It’s not a reservation, it’s to get an idea of the number attending. (Cont’d on page 3)

Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

I am happy to report the re-opening of the Genealogy Center is on the horizon. Sharon Hornback, the GC Volunteer Coordinator, has emailed PSGS members to find out who would like to volunteer at the GC and, as a result, the required paperwork has been sent out to all who have expressed interest. Once the paperwork has been received, the training of volunteers will begin, hopefully in the coming weeks. Although there is no definitive opening date yet, it will be wonderful to soon welcome all of you who have kindly volunteered your time and knowledge to help those patrons who want to use the Genealogy Center resources.

Sincerely, Elisabeth Demmon, KRL Liaison to the PSGS.

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

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This will also be the first time we use the Heninger Room's new audio/visual equipment. Four new speakers were installed and there are four wireless hearing aids available.

On Monday, May 9th the Ancestry and DNA SIGs will commence. Anyone interested in hosting, please

let me know. The Ancestry SIG is at 10:15am and the DNA SIG will follow at 11:30am.

Thank you for paying your 2022 dues! Interim Vice President Charles Treiberg is working to get the membership cards out.

A few more GC Grand Opening pictures continued from page 1. Can you name the members?



1950 Census is Here!

By Sharon Hornback

Have you looked at the 1950 Census yet? There are many articles out there that will help you navigate through this new and exciting census. Check out Genealogy Gems on YouTube; Steve Morse's One-Step Webpages; and the National Archives. One class indicated that the National Archives has already indexed names and places so that would be a good place to start: [1950census.archives.gov/](https://www.1950census.archives.gov/)

I tried this and did not find any of the relatives I was looking for, but maybe you will have better luck. I also got notification that Delaware and Wyoming 1950 census pages have been completely digitized.

Be sure and check out the home pages for Ancestry, Family Search, and My Heritage to find their updated information. Volunteers are busy digitizing the census so new updates are available every day.

For right now, you will need to look for the Enumeration District to find where your ancestors lived. I used Steve Morse's website and found my aunt's family and my grandparents. My grandmother was one of the people that had extra information recorded. I was able to answer the question of how far she went in school. I found out she completed the 9th grade. That helps explain some of her spelling choices in the daily diaries I am transcribing.

I am still looking for myself. Hope to find my immediate family soon!



LOOKING BACK—PSGS 10TH ANNIVERSARY—HOW IT HAPPENED

By Mary Ann Wright

One thing true about PSGS members is they love to gather together to learn and share their genealogy successes and brick walls with other like-minded folks. Over the years, members met in one another's home, community centers and rented spaces. Eventually, the group secured a space in a small complex in Port Orchard along with chiropractors, insurance agents and hair salons. That space had several small rooms for meetings, bookshelves, microfilm readers and a compact office space with computer and phone. While adequate, the space curtailed many of the group's wants and needs. After seven years it was time to move.

In June 2009, the Kitsap Regional Library's then-Director Jill Jean and Port Orchard Library's Manager Kathleen Wilson suggested a meeting with PSGS leaders to explore interest in a partnership. After several positive meetings addressing PSGS members' questions, and a couple of hiccups, the Library and PSGS finally inked their names to a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2011 to move the Society's operations and research collection to the Sylvan Way Branch.

PSGS members worked to dismantle the space in Port Orchard, sort through the collection, and hold sales of surplus materials. Others boxed up and sent the variety of research resources via Library couriers to the Library's Collection Department, housed at Sylvan Way, for cataloguing, labeling and storing until "our" space was available. During this time, the Sylvan Way staff graciously accommodated the PSGS members who attended monthly meetings and classes in their large meeting room.

Finally, after several days readying the new space, we celebrated on January 25, 2012 with an Open House featuring local dignitaries, community supporters, Library Board members and Library leadership. Newspaper articles highlighted the event and visitors to the newly-named Genealogy Center expressed ap-

preciation for the impressive and varied collection of research materials as well as the friendly assistance of PSGS volunteers who answered their questions about genealogy research.

This partnership has been a success for both organizations, spreading interest in genealogy through Kitsap County and increasing opportunities for life-long learning at the Sylvan Way Branch. It didn't happen, however, without significant efforts of those behind-the-scenes at KRL. Collection Department staff, under the leadership of Anne Ross, worked tirelessly to catalogue, label, and enter each item into their database (then about 4,000). Courier drivers stopped by the Port Orchard location twice-weekly on their usual routes from branch to branch and helpfully loaded full boxes into their vans and returned empty boxes for refilling. The Communications staff (particularly David Frazier) designed, printed and displayed eye-catching posters and flyers for each of our classes and programs. Sylvan Way Library staff patiently answered our questions and provided assistance with the meeting room setup. Technical support from the IT Department (mainly Al Wallace) was crucial in setting up the PSGS office computer and phone, and then later assisting with the PSGS website. And, finally, special thanks to then-Branch Managers Ruth Bond and Leigh Ann Winterowd, current Branch Manager Bert Rinderle, and KRL's Liaison to PSGS Elisabeth Demmon who provided valuable guidance and encouragement. Their support was, and remains, deeply appreciated.

Many thanks to Jill Jean for her consistent and positive leadership to enhance the Library's outreach to the greater Kitsap community. Her vision to add a much-needed genealogy research resource at Sylvan Way truly remains a defining factor in PSGS' continued relevance and success in Kitsap County.

Here's to ten more years . . . at least!!



Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

April 27, 2022 Before You Go: End of Life Planning

with Leslie Lawson

As genealogists, we love end-of-life records: death certificates, probate/estate paperwork, cemetery records, obituaries, etc. But in our personal lives, maybe we're not so enthusiastic. Learn how to plan for the inevitable. We will cover everything from creating an 'End of Life' book to making sure your family knows where to look for your last messages. Make it a family project. Do it for your loved ones. It doesn't have to be expensive, and it doesn't have to be difficult. Let Leslie show you how.

May 25, 2022 Researching The Genealogy Center From Home

with Allison DePrey Singleton

The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Indiana is the second largest genealogy library in the country with a vast amount of research materials in both physical and digital form. Discover how you can use this wonderful resource from home!

June 22, 2022 Pledging Allegiance

with Evelyn Roehl

Do you need tips on finding records about your immigrant ancestors who became American citizens? Join us for a historical review of oaths of allegiance and naturalization in the United States, from colonial times to the early 20th century.

Schedule of Classes — April to May 2022

Sat, Apr 30 Google Books/Internet Archive Series IV

Presenter: Janet O'Connor Camarata

Sat, May 7 Wikis/Facebook Series IV

Presenter: Janet O'Connor Camarata

Sat, May 28 Find-a-Grave Series IV

Presenter: Janet O'Connor Camarata

All classes are now hybrid from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Class Invite/Link is sent out two days before class.

No registration is required, however in-person class count is limited.

Please RSVP to psgsociety1301@gmail.com

if you plan to attend in person in the Heninger room

LOOKING BACK — PSGS 1987 TO 2012

By Sharon Hornback

This year, 2022, we are celebrating 10 years of partnership with Kitsap Regional Library. Mary Ann Wright wrote a wonderful article about how this partnership came about. Let's take a look back at what PSGS was like before they joined together. I researched a few of the archived Backtrackers to find the following details about where PSGS lived and how they made their money to purchase books and other research materials.

Take a look back at Volume 45, Issue 3 July-September 2020 to find out about the beginnings of PSGS. Marlys Marrs was very instrumental in starting this group in the 70s. In the beginning the meetings were held in her house and the library was in her basement. PSGS has come a long way since then.

Moving on to 1987—In February, the Backtracker announced that there would be two raffles instead of one in November. They would not have a garage sale that year, but a much larger one in 1988. The May issue listed that each form we take for granted today, i.e., Ancestor Chart, Group Sheets, etc., were available at 4 cents per copy. The November 1987 issue reported that the raffle had three items according to Linnie Griffin, Ways and Means Chairman. First prize a \$50 grocery certificate at Thriftway. Second prize a \$25 dinner for two. (Can two people even go to dinner for \$25 anymore?) A third prize, amounting to \$15, was also given. This was the only fundraising event for 1987. Money made on the raffle was used exclusively to buy books and films for the club's library. The drawing was held at the December meeting.

PSGS members were advised, according to the February 1988 Backtracker, to get ready for the garage sale fundraiser. All members were asked to donate items for the May event. I never did find what

the proceeds were for this event. There was a note that the garage sale and miscellaneous raffles made \$1,052, but not sure how much was from the garage sale. It was a lot of work for everyone. There were three drop off locations. Volunteers had to sort and price all the items. They had to be stored until the event, which in this case, was changed to June. I do hope they made a lot of money at this garage sale and the following ones.

There was another fundraiser around this time. Members would donate two hours of research for the monthly raffle winner.

The May 1989 Backtracker issue advertised an Ice Cream Social and a White Elephant Sale in the Marrs' back yard. I assume this was another fund raiser. Also in this issue was the information that PSGS would be looking for a new home for their library. A few locations were being looked at including the KRL branch on Sylvan Way. They were also looking at downtown spaces, but those would involve rent, heat, electricity, etc. More research was being done on the locations. Another fundraiser was held during the Seminar in the fall of 1989. Prizes included a Thriftway gift certificate, a handmade afghan, a Christmas wreath, and other items.

The Salt Lake City trip in January of 1990 was done by Amtrak. That sounds like a fun experience. I wonder what the cost would be compared with the airlines these days and how long it would take. Does Amtrak even go to Salt Lake City? Round trip was \$146 with a sleeping compartment costing \$210 for 2 people. Three meals are (Cont'd on page 7) included in the sleeping compartment price. Hotel rates in Salt Lake City were \$168 for 2 people for a week or \$119 a week for 3 people. I assume that would be per person, but it was not noted

LOOKING BACK PSGS 1987 TO 2012

(Cont'd from page 6)

as such. The Amtrak trip took about 24 hours. Today the Amtrak trip would take 20 hours and cost about \$159 per person. Alaska Airlines currently takes about 2 hours and costs \$277 per person. The Plaza Hotel would cost about \$92 per night for a single and \$99 for a double (2018 rates).

The last PSGS meeting at the house of Marlys and Bill Marrs was held in June of 1990. In August of 1990 it was reported that the September 1990 meeting would be held at the Fire Hall at Schley Blvd and 31st Avenue. The library was now located at 3804 Harbel Drive, Dick Helander's home. Bill Marrs made bookshelves to hold the library collection. Microfilm and microfiche were housed at the home of Dr. Bill Richardson, 3037 Rocky Point Road. It took three different locations to take care of PSGS. It was too bad there wasn't room at the locations researched earlier so there would be only one location for meetings and the library.

The March 1993 Backtracker indicated that meetings of PSGS were now being held at Clearbrook Inn Living Center, 12295 NW Schold Place in Silverdale. The library was still at Dick Helander's home. The library was open for research the second Thursday of each month from 1 – 9 pm and other times by appointment only. Income for 1992 included about \$500 net from the Seminar, \$300 net from the garage sale, \$150 from raffles, and a few other miscellaneous items. Expenses weren't large and the group was able to carry over about \$2,400 to the 1993 budget.

As advertised in the September 1993 Backtracker, the Salt Lake City trip would be held in January of 1994. Costs would include \$280 for your room and airfare of \$118 by Morris Airlines. Of course, each member would be responsible for their own food.

Also in this issue was notification that PSGS was again looking to relocate their library. A committee was formed to look into this.

By June of 1994 the library was housed at the Givens Community Center in Port Orchard. It was open Mondays from 9 am to 3 pm and Fridays from 9 to 9 for research. The books and microfilm and microfiche were now all in the same spot. By the following Backtracker issue, it was reported that PSGS meetings were also at the Givens Community Center. At last, the society was back in one location.

In March of 1997 there was an order form for the library catalog for \$5.00, a cemetery index for \$10.00, and four other indexes containing Kitsap County information ranging in cost from \$7.50 to \$15.00. These were items that were printed in previous Backtrackers, but now you can have a printed copy all in one place. I am not sure if there was much profit on these index booklets. Currently, we don't have to worry about printing and updating a library catalog because all our books are in the KRL catalog.

In June of 1997, it was reported that PSGS was collecting donations for a new microfilm/microfiche reader/printer for \$6,850. An answering machine was purchased for the phone for \$40. How wonderful that today, being partnered with KRL, these are expenses we don't have to worry about.

At this point I started a lot of skimming to see where PSGS was holding meetings and where the library was housed. December 2002 listed meetings still being held at the Givens Community Center and the library was also there. But there were changes in the wind. Between the Kitsap Board of Commissioners and the Friends of Givens Senior Center, PSGS was given until the end of March 2003 to vacate their

LOOKING BACK PSGS 1987 TO 2012

(Cont'd from page 7)

space. The research library was closed for the month of March 2003 to facilitate packing and storage.

A new space was located at 2501 SE Mile Hill Dr., Suite A102, in Port Orchard. It needed lots of paint, carpet cleaning, and many volunteer hours of labor to move everything in and get it set up for committee meetings and research. It even held a small kitchen area. Unfortunately, it also had a monthly rent expense of \$750 per month. A three-year lease was signed and PSGS prepared for higher expenses. Membership fees were raised to \$25 for a single and \$40 for a family. Members were also asked to contribute \$5.00 per month to the rental fund. Non-members were charged a \$3.00 fee for one day use of the library. (This space was used to house the library collection until we moved to KRL's Sylvan Way branch in 2012.)

PSGS Meetings were then held at the First Methodist Church until September 2005. In December of 2005 the meetings were reported to be at the Gateway Center at 6th and Montgomery in Bremerton. I was not able to find out why this change took place, or if we had to pay for either of these locations. Be sure to read Mary Ann Wright's article to find out what happened next.

It has been fun reading about the start of computer use for genealogy and how members shared their experiences with various computer programs. One thing of interest to me was the fees charged by internet companies for hourly usage. AOL would give you 3 hours for free and charge "a very high rate" for everything thereafter. AOL also had a 20/20 program, 20 hours of use for \$20. Most local companies allowed access to the internet for \$25 to \$35 per month. However, you had to beware of hidden fees. This was in

the time of dial up which made for very slow downloads. Of course, you were charged for download time. Also, some companies charged for long distance rates. Classes were held through PSGS so the members could learn about the internet and how to access genealogy information.

Before we were partnered with KRL, a volunteer position was the Research Library Equipment Manager. He/she was in charge of overseeing the microfilm/fiche machines, copy machines, and computers with printers and their attachments. The position also included being in charge of usage needs and making recommendations for improving the technical setup as well as being the contact person. Today, thanks to our wonderful partnership with KRL, the library takes care of the equipment. This is something I am very glad for.

I believe our partnership with KRL is the best thing



that could have happened to PSGS. Thank you for the last 10 years and here's to another 50 years or more!

LOOKING BACK — IN REMEMBRANCE

We are sorry to share that during the past year, five of our valued members have died.

Good bye to:



Patricia Eder



Dorothy Lindquist



Bonnie McKiernan



Brainerd "Woody"
Woods



Sandy Waltz

We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.



LOOKING BACK AT EASTER MEMORIES/TRADITIONS

About 70 years ago there were some Easter traditions that many of us may have shared, if you are 70 or over! Many of us had an Easter basket we put out Easter Eve hoping it would be filled with good things! Mine had different-colored stripes but was mostly a beige color. My mom decorated it with a new ribbon each year. It had green “grass” inside that was saved each year. Later on it changed to pink or some other bright color. We could count on some “real” eggs, some jelly beans or some egg-shaped candies. If we were really lucky, it might contain a small, solid, milk chocolate rabbit or a large hollow one—if our parents could afford them that year! Later we might have little trinkets, toys, etc., and when marshmallow eggs or peeps came those were added—like when we had our own children.

Most years we got the little Easter-egg decorating kits that contained colored tablets we put in water, a metal egg-holder, and sometimes there were stickers or crayons. We might put a name, a design, or a message on the eggs before we dipped them. We could put an egg in and dip it into one of the containers (or two—if we wanted to dip the top in one color and the other end in another color).

Later my mom, a commercial artist, taught us to “blow eggs” and we experimented with several natural materials, like onion skins, to color them. Sometimes we made some way to fasten them to a pretty, small tree branch as a decoration for the Easter Dinner table. Our egg creations were displayed or were put by each plate, indicating where we were to sit. Dinner usually included a ham studded with cloves, decorated with pineapple circles with a maraschino cherry in the center of each circle, along with other yummy foods.

My most recent Easter egg was a bit more difficult to make, taking several hours! You needed blown eggs, a certain kind of candle, a certain kind of wax, a tool to scratch off some areas to re-wax or re-color, jars of dyes to dip the eggs in, and a spoon to turn them and get them out to dry. This is the wax-resist egg I learned to make!

My dad would hide eggs in interesting places like in tree branches, in the old toilet he had planted flowers in and displayed in the front yard or under our huge rhododendron tree. No prize was given—just bragging rights.

For my two sisters and I, we got dressed in our Easter best, which was often fancy new dresses my grandmother Edith had made, and walked to the local community center in our neighborhood, (which doubled as a Sunday school and church), after seeing our Easter treats. We played our instruments (violins and violas) and sang many of the old familiar Christian songs to celebrate Easter. When we got home we helped get the big meal on the table while grandma and grandpa Ahlquist (and sometimes Grandma Edith) and aunts, uncles and cousins joined us! I have very good memories of our Easter celebrations!

Melody Knight

Ukrainian Easter Egg
made by Melody



LOOKING BACK AT EASTER TRADITIONS/MEMORIES

(Cont'd from page 10)

Easter of 1967. By Jean Yager, as told by John Drane Jr.

This really isn't an Easter tradition, but a family trip that happened around Easter. My brother, who is blind, has a remarkable memory. Even though this event took place 55 years ago, John spoke as if it happened yesterday.

Dad and Mom (*John and Alta*) decided we (*John Jr, age 14, Jean, age 11, and Aaron, age 4*), would go to San Lorenzo, California on spring break to visit Dad's parents Robert and Marie (*his step-mother*) Manner-ing. We departed Bremerton in our new Vista Cruiser station wagon on Friday, March 17th at 4pm, after Jean and I got home from school. Jean wanted to leave at 4:30pm so she wouldn't miss her favorite show "Dark Shadows", but Dad said, "if you want to watch your show, then you'll be in the house all week by yourself". Jean missed her show. Mom had made ham sandwiches for our dinner on the road. We stopped for the night at the Hungry Wolf motel in Wolf Creek, Oregon. For breakfast we had pancakes. We arrived at Grandma and Grandpa's in the afternoon of March 18th. We

spent the week visiting with Grandpa, Grandma and other family members. One night, we were invited over to Uncle Bobby and Aunt Shelia's for a crab feed and Aaron thought Mom was eating crocodile. We were supposed to leave for home on Saturday, March 25th, the day before Easter, but Dad decided we could wait one more day in order to spend Easter with family. Aaron started whining because he was worried the Easter bunny wouldn't find us. Grandpa said if he didn't stop whining, he would go outside and tell the Easter bunny to hop on by. I guess Aaron stopped whining because the next morning we woke up and found Easter baskets! Soon after, we left for our long trek home. Being the next day was school, I suggested that we should take the day off and rest. Dad said no. So, we arrived home late that night, went to school the next day and Jean resumed watching "Dark Shadows".



When I read Melody's memories of Easter, I found it very similar to mine. We colored eggs with the little tablets, but by the time my girls were young in the early 70s, we progressed to the liquid egg colors so we could make swirly designs on the eggs without all the time it took Melody to make hers. You would fill a bowl with water and drop the liquid dye on the top of the water. Dip the egg through the colors turning it as



Daughter Kim coloring hands & egg
1971

you took it down, then blow the colors away and lift the egg up through the cleared water. Coloring hands was always optional depending on your age. I don't remem-

ber hunting eggs as a child, but my children did. Most of our Easter Egg hunts were done in the house due to wet and damp weather.

Dinner, if at home, was like Melody's, ham with cloves. If we went to my aunt's house (and now my cousin's) the main course was lamb. I didn't start eating lamb until about 10 years ago. It always tasted "wooly" to me. Dessert has been the same since I can remember...Chicken and Bunny Honey Cookies. They taste absolutely wonderful. The honey rolled and cut out cookies could be made any time, but they are traditional in my family at Easter Time.

Sharon Hornback

Honey Bunny and Chicken Cookies



Looking for Your Story

Have you written your story for the next issue yet? Articles are due June 30 for the next Backtracker. Not sure what to write about? Below are some suggestions.

- Have you taken a recent genealogy trip? What did you find or not find?
- Have you looked at the 1950 Census yet? What did you find?
- Do you have any family 4th of July traditions to share with the membership? This can be a paragraph or two, or a page. The length is up to you.
- Is your family a Kitsap County pioneer family? Tell us about your history.

Looking forward to receiving so many stories they will fill two or more issues of the Backtracker. Happy writing!

GC Volunteers

No date is set yet for the Genealogy Center Opening but we are hoping it is soon. We are being proactive and getting our paperwork and trainings all completed so we are ready for the opening. If you want to volunteer in the GC and have not yet notified Sharon Hornback, please do so today.

bt-editor@psgsociety.org

Sharon will send you the paperwork you need and will let you know when the needed trainings are scheduled. It will be wonderful to get back and have visitors once again! Thank you for your interest in volunteering for PSGS.



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