



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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PSGS Officers for 2023

Welcome to our new PSGS Officers for 2023. The officers were installed at our Christmas Party on December 6, 2022 by Sharon Hornback. Thank you to the following people for stepping forward during the nomination process. Our new officers are:

President	Jean Yager
1st Vice President	Heidi Ginder
2nd Vice President	Charles Treiberg
Secretary	Mahala Henry
Treasurer	Larry Harden
Member at Large	Lisa Treiberg



Jean, Heidi, Charles, and Lisa at the Christmas party



Mahala



Larry

Congratulations!

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

The Backtracker — A publication of the
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

Welcome to 2023! If you have been thinking about joining the PSGS Executive Board, now is your chance! There are two chairperson positions available: Publicity and South Kitsap Chapter. Contact me at psgsociety1301@gmail.com for details of responsibilities (pretty easy). The board usually meets the 3rd Monday of every month, hybrid (by zoom and/or in-person at the library). We are a very friendly group and welcome anyone to attend our meetings!

It's that time of year....dues are due! We appreciate YOU for being a member of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society.
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Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

There have been several recent additions to the GC shelves this past quarter:

From America to Norway: Norwegian–America Immigrant Letters, Vol. 3: 1893-1914 by Orm Overland. Call Number: Genealogy 929.181 OVERLAN 2016 (although this call number is under review). I am hoping to get the other 3 volumes added soon.

Genealogical Register of Plymouth Families by William T. Davis Call Number: Genealogy 929.1097 DAVIS 1975 (replacement copy)

A Century of Town Life; a History of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1775-1887, With surveys, records and twenty-eight pages of plans and views by James Frothingham Hunnewell. Call Number: Genealogy 929.3744 HUNNEWE 1888.

There are more books in the processing pipeline, so this is just the beginning of what is to come in 2023.

The GC visitor count since the last Backtracker is 70 with many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who enable the PSGS to keep the GC open and available for researchers.

Happy New Year to you all,
Elisabeth Demmon,
KRL Liaison to the PSGS

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Presidential Ponderings by Jean Yager

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For your convenience, you can download the form at <https://psgsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2023-Membership.pdf>. You can drop it off or 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 (KRL Staff & PSGS Liaison) will send it to Larry Harden (Treasurer), who will send the form to Charles Treiberg (2ndVP, membership). He will present you with your membership card at one of the general meetings or mail it to you. If you have paid your 2023 dues and have not received your card by January 15th, please contact Charles at VP2-mbrs@psgsociety.org.

From the PSGS By-Laws Article II—Mission: The mission of PSGS, organized as a Non-profit corporation, shall be educational as provided in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. PSGS shall be devoted to furthering genealogical research and education, and shall collect, preserve and publish records of genealog-

ical value. With the income from the dues and profit from the Antique Show (our one-and-only fundraiser) we can finance genealogical lectures for our monthly classes and programs; and purchase books and materials for the Genealogy Center (GC). Offering these lectures, resources and a place to research goes towards the fulfillment of our mission statement to our members (and non-members). However, none of this would be possible if it weren't for YOU.

As a member, you receive the benefits: email reminders on upcoming classes/programs, the Backtracker (our quarterly newsletter) and the opportunity to give back by being a volunteer in the GC or helping on the various committees that make this society strong. If it weren't for YOU, we wouldn't exist. So, please consider renewing and encourage your friends, who may have been bitten by the genealogy bug, to join.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN THE GC!

Can you spare 4 hours a month to spend in the Genealogy Center at the Sylvan Way Branch of KRL? Would you like free access to Fold 3 Military Research or have access to enhanced Family Search Records (more than you can access from home because we are an affiliate library)?

If you are interested, please contact Sharon Hornback at sharonhornback@comcast.net and let her know. Each volunteer goes through a training process. Two parts of the process (COVID training and Safety Training) are given by KRL personnel. Sharon will do the actual volunteer training and get you familiar with the GC.

When there are no patrons in the GC, feel free to do your own research. We need your help to keep this space open for all genealogy researchers.



Family Research to Find Heirs

By Diane Howell Evans

On a road trip last winter to visit my husband's maternal relatives in Mississippi, we discovered his one cousin who lives in close proximity to their deceased grandparents' estate and has all the family history knowledge was now starting to forget bits and pieces. Years have passed with the balance of the estate property discussed endlessly but little agreement between my husband's aunts, uncles and cousins as to the disposition of the remaining 105 acres.

Now all the aunts and uncles have passed away except the youngest Aunt June who just turned 98 in September. Just like with my own family, my one surviving uncle, whom also was the baby of the family, has little or no knowledge of his older siblings lives, loves, career, etc. as he was around five when the older ones experienced WWII.

At the last meeting of my husband Rick, his Seattle cousin Jenny, and Aunt June there were so many questions as to which cousins were still alive, how would we find them, who had the latest facts about them, where were the facts located, etc. So, I offered to use my limited genealogy knowledge to see if I could build a family tree starting with the maternal grandparents, their children and their grandchildren. End goal is to identify the remaining living grandchildren, and contact them and come to an agreement on the disposition of the remaining property.

It was a most interesting challenge as I have no knowledge of my husband's maternal family, or even paternal family for that matter, except for what he tells me and his knowledge is limited. His parents moved to Texas when he was five and he would see his aunts, uncles and cousins on family trips back to visit the grandparents. But then high

school, college, Vietnam era, government career and relocation to the DC area all took priority. Only with the death of Rick's mother did he see and catch up with maternal family members. But once again living one's life, career, and immediate family needs and schedules took priority over any future Stribling reunions not just by Rick but also all the other cousins.

So I started with the grandparents, Alfred Wright Stribling and Annie Matheny. Both were from Mississippi and had lived the majority of their lives in the Jackson, MS area. Annie had a U.S. Native American Enrollment Card for the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898 – 1904 and showed she was affiliated with the Choctaw Freedmen tribe. Rick had always been told he had Choctaw ancestors but his DNA test never showed this to be true. This tidbit of information looked like proof of Choctaw heritage.

Alfred and Annie had 10 children between the years of 1903 and 1924; three sons and seven daughters. All had married and all but one had children. I did find some very interesting information via Ancestry public records and Newspapers.com!

One daughter, Wellie, was a college graduate and taught Home Economics and married a professional baseball player in the American League. Unfortunately, she died at the young age of 28 leaving behind 2 children: one 14 months old and another 1 week old. I can only surmise from the obituary that she died from complications with childbirth.

One son, Paul, was a recognized police detective with the Jackson Police Department and had served in WWII and attained the rank of Colonel in the National Guard. He died at the age of 50 from a long illness.

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Family Research to Find Heirs

by Diane Howell Evans

(Cont'd from page 4)

Another son, Rudolph, a 1st Lieutenant, was killed in action in Germany on December 16, 1944. Before going overseas, Rudolph had received a medal for heroism as he had saved a power and light company employee from electrocution. This was not the first time he had received recognition for heroism. Rudolph had also received a medal from the Mississippi Governor, Hugh White, for diving into the turgid waters of Black Creek and saving people from drowning. He left behind a daughter born in Dec 1943. My question: Did he ever meet his daughter?

So 10 children and 29 living grandchildren plus 1 stillborn grandson. Of the 29 grandchildren, I have so far identified 17 deceased and of the 12

remaining, I personally know 6. I still have more deep dives to complete on the remaining six due to the lack of public records based on their given names or family shortened/nick names they were called. Hopefully the upcoming Salt Lake City Family Library trip will help with the answers to the six remaining mysteries.

Rick's Mom passed away in 1983, his father in 2001 and his one sibling in 2016. I only became interested in genealogy in late 2019. So many questions and only public records to rely on, but I must say the Stribling family was lucky to have the *Jackson Clarion Ledger* as their local newspaper as the archives hold many stories about the family.

2022 Christmas Party Pictures

Find your friends, or yourself, in some of the following pictures. We all had a good time. This year the party was catered and we had door prizes. Lots of hands made set-up and clean-up easy. Thank you.





Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

January 25, 2023 **Melody Sky Weaver: My Great Swedish Adventure: The Power of Libraries, Family, and Travel in Pandemic**

In 2021, Port Townsend Public Library Director Melody Sky Weaver starred on the Swedish reality television show *Allt för Sverige* (known in the US as *The Great Swedish Adventure*). The show takes ten Americans to Sweden to trace their Swedish ancestry and meet their living relatives. Weaver will recap her life-changing journey of traveling and meeting family during the pandemic and share fun, behind the scenes stories of what it is like to be in a foreign country on a reality TV show. She will also talk about the library's genealogical resources and how they helped her get cast on the show.

February 22, 2023 **Elisabeth Demmon: How to Get Started on Your Writing Project**

Have you done a lot of research on your ancestors and are now ready to write their story (or yours !) for your family? Elisabeth will provide an introduction on how to get started on your writing project, how to create an outline, and provide tips and resources that will enhance your story. It is hoped that this program will be the start of a monthly Writing Group to begin in March 2023.

March 22, 2023 **To Be Announced**

Schedule of Classes — January to March 2023

We will present the Janet O'Connor Camarata popular **Discovering Your Ancestor, Series 1**. This is a great series for beginning and experienced genealogists alike. Even if you have attended the series before, you are sure to pick up new tips and tricks from Janet. Her classes are always being updated so you get the latest information. Mark your calendar for the following dates and topics:

Jan 28: Software Programs/Census Records

Feb 4: Transcription/Research Planning

Feb 25: Sources/Citation/Cemeteries

Mar 4: Evidence/Obituaries/Newspapers

Mar 25: Journal/City Histories/Google Books



Janet O'Connor Camarata

Classes are from 10:30am to 12:30 pm.

All classes will be Hybrid (Zoom and in the Heninger Room)

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

No registration is required

Last Reminder for PSGS Salt Lake City Trip

March 12—19 by Diane Howell Evans

Gentle nudge - if you are still interested in joining us for the upcoming Salt Lake City Family History Library Genealogy trip, the quickly approaching cutoff date for hotel reservations at the Plaza Hotel at Temple Square using the Group Reservation Code of "Puget Sound" is 2/10/2023.

We currently have seven members registered for the trip. It is my first trip to the Family History Library. I am so looking forward to researching family members and scheduling a 20-minute session with one of the library researchers to learn tips and research strategies for my first and current roadblock.

So come join us for a remarkable journey! Please use the information below when calling to make your reservations:

Hotel – Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square, 122 West South Temple, SLC UT 84101

Reservation POC – Richard Williams, Director of Sales & Marketing, 801-606-2410

Reservation Group Code – Puget Sound

Group Rates – Standard Double Queen is \$98 plus taxes; Deluxe Double Queen is \$108 plus taxes



Rooms held until 2/10/2023!

Please be prepared to provide your credit card information to guarantee reservations. Once your reservations have been made, please notify Diane Howell

Evans of your travel arrangements and arrival/departure dates so a group travel list can be created, and she can ensure your safe arrival. Diane can be contacted by phone at (360)900-8681 or by e-mail at DEvansAVA@aol.com.

More Christmas Party Pictures



October — Family History Month

When and Why PSGS Members came to Kitsap County

A request went out to learn more about our members and how and why they came to settle on the beautiful Kitsap Peninsula. Since October was Family Month, it seemed a perfect time to get some background.

We heard from so many of you, the responses are continuing in this first issue of 2023. Thank you all. If your response was missed, I apologize. Please resend it to me and I will get it published.

Betty said, "We moved to Kitsap County in 1974. Our family included my husband Gary and our two boys and we've lived in the same neighborhood since that time. I grew up in Stanwood in Snohomish County, moved to Seattle after high school and met my husband there. At one time, we moved to San Diego for my husband's work and then back up to Stanwood. The shipyard in Bremerton brought us over here and we became a civilian Navy family with my husband working at Bangor and I working at Keyport. It's been an adventure.

Of course, finding and joining the Puget Sound Genealogical Society has been a part of the fun!"

Audrey said, "I have lived in Kitsap County for 46 years.

Before coming to Kitsap, we lived in Londonderry, Northern Ireland for 3 years.

My ex-husband was in the U.S. Navy. That is how we got here.

I have lived in 10 cities. Born and raised in Providence and Warwick, Rhode Island. Then Anacortes, WA; San Diego, CA; Norfolk, VA, Kiffisia, Greece, Foxborough, MA; Londonderry, Ireland, Bremerton, WA and finally Silverdale, WA."

Cecelia shared, "I have lived here for 34 years. My husband and I moved here from Los Angeles to open an Inn. A property in need of love near Holly on Hood Canal was the reason we moved here. We operated the Inn for 26 years until he became ill.

We both grew up in Southern California when it was more rural. I am a fourth generation Californian and he was second generation. It was a bit like "jumping off a cliff" leaving our city jobs for an unknown outcome of fixing up a property and opening an Inn.

Since he is no longer here, I am grateful his second career was lived in paradise."

Jane said she has lived in Kitsap County for 33 years. She moved here from San Diego, California because of retirement. During all her travels, she lived in 19 cities.

Bonnie shared that she has lived in Kitsap County for 19 years, coming from Kittitas County. She too came for retirement and has lived in seven cities.

(Cont'd on page 9)

When and Why PSGS Members came to Kitsap County

(Cont'd from page 8)

Peg has lived in Kitsap County for 7 1/2 years coming here from Concord, California. They came to Kitsap County to be closer to their daughter and family who lived in Bremerton at the time. Their daughter now lives in Port Orchard. Places Peg has lived in include: Latrobe, PA; San Francisco; Pacifica, CA; McMinnville, OR; Dayton, OR; Clayton, CA; and finally Silverdale.

Marilyn said, "I have lived in Kitsap County all 84 years of my life. My mother Anna Mabel Lent McNutt, was born in Kitsap County in 1906. My grandfather, S. B. Lent came to Bremerton as a U.S Marine serving aboard one of the Naval vessels. He was discharged here, fell in love with the area, and my grandmother, and never left. He liked the area so much he convinced his parents and four of his brothers to move here. He later served as Bremerton's first paid Fire Chief retiring in 1937.

I have lived here always except for a seven-year stint in Fernandina Beach, Florida when my husband worked at Kings Bay Naval Base in Georgia. Most of my children (4), grandchildren (7) and Great grandchildren (7) all remain in Kitsap Co. with the exception of 1 son in Florida and 2 grandchildren in Seattle.

Have seen many changes to our city and county, but I still think it is the best place there is to live."

Kathy said, "My husband (US Naval Submarine Force) was assigned in Kitsap County twice—from 1987-1995 and again from 1998 until 2003.

I was a military child as my Father was US Air Force. I was born in SD moved to IL and went to Kindergarten in NE, Elementary School in MD, then Intermediate and High School in HI.

We once tried to add up how many houses our Siamese cats (lived for 17 years) lived in and it was quite a few as we couldn't or didn't always live in the same dwelling at each base we were assigned. We did repurchase the Kitsap House when we were relocated to Kitsap County the second time. It was nice and unique to come back to the same neighborhood with many of the same neighbors. We had no trouble selling it in 1995 and figured we'd have no trouble if he couldn't find a job in the area upon his retirement. He was able to and we stayed until 2020. It was also unique for us to relocate in retirement as he was a Navy child so neither of us had ever gotten to choose where we live. We lived wherever our Fathers were assigned. "

Sharon said, "We have lived in Kitsap County for about 38 years. I was born in Portland, Oregon and lived there until I was fifteen, when I moved to Seattle. There I finished my education, married, and had three children. Much later, I moved for various teaching jobs, including SW Washington, Lewis County and NE Washington, Okanogan County, following my husband. I moved to Kitsap County to teach in Bremerton when my husband retired. So, I lived in 3 cities and two small towns, most of it in the cities.

This is a new way to look at my past history. Thanks."

Elisabeth has lived in Kitsap County for 35 years. She came here from Virginia Beach, VA because of the US Navy. She has lived in too many cities to count as her father was in the Canadian Army and her husband was in the US Navy. The list of countries are countable and include Germany, Canada, Scotland, England, Italy, and the United States.

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When and Why PSGS Members came to Kitsap County

(Cont'd from page 9)

Leah wrote, "I have lived in Kitsap County for 14 1/2 years. Before that I was in Gig Harbor for 8 1/2 years. Prior to that I was tramping about the world for many years (and loving it). I taught for the DODDS (Dept of Defense Dependents Schools) for several years, met my husband overseas (AF officer) and then continued living/moving around with him after we married. We moved to Kitsap County because it was too crowded, and too much traffic in Pierce County and we also wanted a view. We had intended to be in this area all along, after he retired from the AF, but couldn't find what we wanted/could afford back in 2000, so we settled in Gig Harbor which was a closer commute for him to the airport and work. Sorry, trying to count up all the cities I've lived in would be difficult.

We looked on and off over the years for a place in this area, and then found it in 2008. So here we are, and we've been very happy in our small, close knit community which feels farther away from the hustle and bustle, but is only a short drive away. Like so many other places these days, the removal of trees and increased building, has come to Kitsap County, Silverdale/Poulsbo etc.; we hope it doesn't get too much worse. The only thing I wish was better in this area would be a wider selection of restaurants --- too many fast food & chain establishments for our taste (pun intended)!"

Liz said, "I have lived in Kitsap County since 1967, moving here because my husband got a job offer he liked. Previously, we lived in Newhall, CA where I taught school in a neighboring school district. Growing up, my family lived in various places in California before settling in the Antelope Valley."

Vickie wrote, "I was born in Bremerton, and except for three years I have lived within a five-mile radius of my grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sibling and nieces. My grandparents came in 1917 for a job in the shipyard. I, my younger daughter and her little boy are the last of our family to live here. If my family would go, I'd move to Old Saybrook, CT in two shakes.

Deanna said, "Grew up in southwestern North Dakota (Bowman) where both grandparents homesteaded....Norwegian on my father's side, Austrian on my mother's side. After 'another' hailstorm ruined our crops, my dad and mom (I was the oldest with three younger brothers) decided to move to Seattle, Washington in 1962. Saw Elvis at the Fair.

Met my husband at a party on Capitol Hill in the late 60s and moved to Bremerton with him when we married in 1970. He was a history teacher/football coach at West High. I commuted to Seattle until retirement.

I joined the Puget Sound Genealogy group when Marlys Marrs had the meetings in her basement.....there were no Norwegians in the group so had to figure out that family history by myself.....but not without Marlys' basic rules. Still use them today."

There is one more submission. We are often told that we should write our own stories as we are the best resource for our own information. Ruth submitted her responses in a biography format that I think deserves a page of its own. You will find her story on the next page.

Ruth Reinert Biography

by Ruth Reinert

Ruth Pedersen Reinert was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1949. Her parents had recently immigrated from Southern Norway after WWII. Her father was a carpenter and soon moved to areas outside the city to build single-family homes. The family moved to New Jersey and lived in the Skyland Lakes area, an hour and a half from Brooklyn. In 1956 her family moved to Billings, Montana, where she enjoyed riding horses on the Montana landscape. In 1969 Ruth married her first husband, Steven Berg; in Billings. They began married life in Portland, Oregon, where they had three sons.



In 1983 Ruth started her career in the tourism and hospitality industry.

Steve Berg and Ruth divorced in 1989; she then moved to Kitsap County, Washington.

In 1998 she met her second husband, Erik Reinert, who had gone to school in Norway in his early years. He was serving in the Military as an Army Warrant Officer.

She retired in June of 2010 as president and CEO of the Washington County Visitors Association outside of Portland, Oregon. As CEO, she oversaw the WCVAs efforts to attract conventions, meetings, trade shows, group tours, and individual business and leisure travelers to Washington County, Oregon. Ruth served as president of the Washington Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus (WACVB), a Washington statewide affiliation



of destination marketing organizations that support lobbying, education, and networking to promote increased tourism. She was a member of the Destination Marketing International Association, Travel Industry Association, and National Tour Association, from which she earned the Certified Tour Professional designation. She previously served on the Tourism Advisory Board of Highline Community College in Washington State.

Since retiring from the tourism industry in 2010, Ruth established School Bell Farm on the 2.5 acres of land at her Port Orchard home. Participated in the WA University Extension sustainable farming series of classes and served on the board of directors for the Kitsap County Poultry.

Besides other interests, Ruth had the time to pursue her family history interests further. Ruth has been interested in genealogy since her paternal grandmother, Anne Oline Pedersen, began family record-keeping in the 1950s.

Since retirement, Ruth has enjoyed traveling with her husband, Erik Reinert. She contributed volunteer time to the Kitsap County Washington State University Master Gardener program for the past ten years and expanded her contributions to the Puget Sound Genealogy Society.

Thank you everyone for responding to the question about how and why you came to Kitsap County. I hope you enjoyed finding out member's stories. Be on the lookout for another question coming soon.

Sharon Hornback, Backtracker Editor

LOOKING FOR YOUR STORY

Have you written your story yet? Who knows your history better than you? If you get the facts down now, your story will be there for future generations.

Maybe you would rather tell a story about a parent or grandparent.

Attend the program by Elisabeth Demmon in February to get some hints on writing your story. See page 6 in this issue for more detailed information.

Please email me your stories to share. Looking forward to hearing from you.

sharonhornback@comcast.net

Sharon Hornback — Backtracker Editor

Antique Show 2022

Because of the strange weather we had in December, the Antique Show Committee could not wrap up the information on our last Show. Please look in the next issue to read a report and see a few pictures of our event. Thank you for your patience.

Peg Powell,
Chair Person



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