



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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

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## Salt Lake City March 2023

by Diane Evans



Many hours were spent in the library re-searching ancestors and taking advantage of all the new services and resources due to the recent renovations at the Family History Library.

Puget Sound Genealogical Society had their own personal welcome on the screen at the FHL, see the picture to the left.

Below is a picture of Janell Crumpacker, Sandi Stokke, and Nancy Sullivan doing research in one of the new areas.



See page 4 for more pictures and information on the trip to Salt Lake City FHL. Maybe your picture will be here for the 2024 trip!

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# Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

# The Backtracker

— A publication of the  
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

For the last 25 years Puget Sound Genealogical Society has partnered with Kitsap Historical Society in sponsoring the annual Antique Show. This year, PSGS will be going at it alone as KHS has decided not to continue due to other endeavors. What this means is the members of this society will need to come together more than ever to volunteer their time for our one-and-only fundraiser. The shifts are generally two-hours and as a volunteer the entry fee is free. You will have the opportunity to roam around looking for treasures before or after your shift. We will also need able-bodied humans to help the dealers move-in (on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>) and move-out (on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>) their merchandise. (Cont'd on page 3 )

# Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

As of this writing there have been 133 visitors to the Genealogy Center this quarter.

I am happy to report that there have been 27 books added to the GC collection since January. Some of the titles include the following:

The Genealogist Google Toolbox by Lisa Louise Cooke  
Genetic Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond  
by Emily D. Aulicino

The Genealogy of Thomas Barnes of Hartford, Connecticut  
by Frederic Wayne Barnes

The Transcription of the Rockefeller Family Association  
by Henry Oscar Rockefeller

A Tale of New England: The Diaries of Hiram Harwood, Vermont Farmer 1810-1837 by Robert Shalhope

An Unstoppable Force: The Scottish Exodus to Canada  
by Lucille H. Campey

New York State Probate Records, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
by Gordon L. Remington

From America to Norway: Norwegian – American Immigrant Letters in 4 Volumes by Orm Overland

Happy Researching!

Elisabeth Demmon, Library Associate & KRL Liaison to PSGS

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## Presidential Ponderings by Jean Yager

(Cont'd from page 2 )

This year's show is October 14th and 15<sup>th</sup>. I know this seems far away, but the Antique Show committee meets once a month and before we (and you) know it, the event is upon us. So, mark the event dates on your calendar now!

I want to give a huge THANK YOU to Diane Evans for organizing this year's Salt Lake City trip to

the Family History Library. I understand it was a success and Diane is planning next year's excursion. You can read her report on pages 1 and 4.

Another THANK YOU goes to Gwen Detweiler for submitting our application for the Kitsap Great Give. By the time you read this it will have already happened (April 11) and a report will be in the Jul — Sep issue of the Backtracker.

## PSGS SIG

Do you want a place to discuss genealogy? Do you want help in finding new ideas for research? Do you want to share a great find you made that may help others? Then the PSGS Ancestry SIG is the place for you. Join us on the second Monday of each month in the Heninger Room at the Sylvan Way Library from 10:30am to 12:30pm. This is an in-person only group. Hope to see you there! Next meeting is May 8, 2023.

## SOUTH KITSAP CHAPTER

Are you interested in restarting the South Kitsap Chapter of PSGS? If you live in the South Kitsap County area, you may wish to have a monthly meeting closer to home. This is a place to ask for help, discuss new websites you may have found, or anything else related to your genealogy search.

If you are interested, please contact Heidi Ginder at 360-876-0326.

## BELFAIR CHAPTER

We are a small group, wanting to expand. We meet every third Thursday of the month from 10:30am —12:00pm in the North Mason Timberland Library in Belfair, Washington.

Some perks of coming to the library include: available computers for research; free Wi-Fi available so you can bring your own computer; and free Ancestry link at no charge. You have the ability to print 440 black and white copies of books or documents per month. Inter-library genealogy loans can be arranged.

In our discussions, we can sometimes help one another over brick walls through the knowledge of our members. We hope eventually to have speakers again in our library.

Our next meeting is May 18, 2023.

Submitted by Lynda Peel



## Salt Lake City

Cont'd from page 1

On the Main floor of the Library are located many family activities, such as the Discovery Center, where one can learn where their relatives came from, the meaning of your name, what took place the year you were born, and find out what famous individuals are in your family tree. Imagine our surprise when Diane Bertram and I discovered we were related! Plus there were green screens where you can take group photos with a variety of backgrounds.



Bobbi Klippert  
researches her  
ancestors

Diane Howell Evans  
and  
Diane Love Bertram



Bobbi Klippert, Diane Evans, Janell Crumpacker,  
Diane Bertram, and Sandi Stokke in front of a cus-  
tom Salt Lake Temple background



With another click, they have traveled to Ireland

# Antique Show 2022

by Peg Powell

It's in the books. Yes, we had a successful Antique Show last October. I'm sorry it took so long to get an official announcement to you. We had fewer vendors than we usually have. We were able to get a grant that reimbursed us for our expenses. That enabled us to have a very successful show. The Puget Sound Genealogical Society and the Kitsap History Museum each received \$5000. I would like to thank all of you who supported the show by volunteering. You are such an important part of the show.

Now for the big news. The History Museum has decided to end our partnership for the show. Our committee has done a lot of research and planning to see if we can continue the show on our own. We had to find volunteers to fill three positions on the committee. We have been able to do that and the 2023 show is a go! It will mean that your help is going to be even more needed.

So, put October 13-15, 2023 on your calendar. That includes Friday setup and the Saturday and Sunday show dates.



Jane takes admission fee from Lew



Juahela and Margaret greet treasure seekers wanting appraisals



Heidi eyes some cute dolls

More pictures on page 6



## FAMILY HISTORY WRITING GROUP

Do you want to write your family history? Have you already started? Do you have ideas to share? Then join us on the 4th Tuesday of every month **in-person** at the Sylvan Way Branch Heninger Meeting Room to learn how to write your family story, receive positive feedback, and share ideas for writing projects.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 25 at 3:30 – 4:30/5:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please email the facilitator, Elisabeth Demmon at [edemmon@krl.org](mailto:edemmon@krl.org) so you can receive the monthly writing prompts to help develop your writing skills and a meeting reminder via email.

## MORE ANTIQUE SHOW PICTURES



A new Vendor

So many treasurers to see



Jean and Lew count (?) the receipts

## LOOKING BACK — IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Good bye to:



Donald L. Brown



Johnny D. Wilson

We extend our deepest sympathies to their families

## MEMORIAL TO JOHNNY WILSON 1945—2023

Johnny and his wife Linda joined PSGS in 2008, after Johnny retired from the shipyard. Together they hosted the Second Saturday Film Series at the Port Orchard location until PSGS moved to the KRL location in 2012. They showed genealogy lecture films from the old Ancestors series, originally broadcast by BYU...on VHS tapes! This must have been the precursor to our Zoom Webinars!

Johnny's history with electronics made him a perfect fit to assist in researching, updating, and maintaining the PSGS website after we moved to the KRL site. He kept the website current, attractive, and easy to navigate. His position as Webmaster gave him a seat on the Executive Board where he helped make decisions to benefit the society.

Johnny was involved in various groups and committees through PSGS including Genealogy Center Volunteer, Education and Seminar Committees, and Backtracker printing and mailings. He was a part of the group who researched Debbie Macomber's genealogy for the KRL Fall at the Mall Event in 2012. He and Linda provided members with a monthly bulletin reminding everyone of important dates.

In September of 2012, he was nominated by PSGS for the WSGS Outstanding Volunteer Award and was a co-honoree with Linda Webb. Johnny always said yes and was very active in PSGS until his health got in the way. He made several trips to genealogy conferences along with his wife Linda and other members.

Johnny's interest in genealogy began when he heard the family legends about his ancestors. Like many of us, retirement brings the time to do research in earnest. He enjoyed receiving instruction on how to research and document his findings by attending numerous classes offered by PSGS. He wanted to confirm his Native American heritage and was confident he traced his Taylor line back to a Mississippi Choctaw Indian Chief, Captain James Fletcher. James Fletcher was one of the many tribal chiefs who signed the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830 that was responsible for the Choctaw nation being moved from Mississippi to Oklahoma Indian Territory on "the Trail of Tears."



## Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

### **April 26, 2023      Gregory C. Gardner MD, MACP: Digging into Death Certification Data to Uncover Family History and Family Health Information Treasures: A Physician's Perspective**

During this session we will discuss the fascinating history of recording death. We will then explore those death records in the US that contain a cause of death such mortality schedules, mortality registries and death certification all from a physicians perspective. We will discuss some pearls and pitfalls along the way and help those participating to access these useful records. Finally we will discuss diseases to be on the watch for during your family history journey and how to use family health information to develop a family history portrait and actually calculate your risk of certain illnesses.

### **May 24, 2023      Midori Okazaki: Using Washington State Archives**

Midori Okazaki, Archivist at the Puget Sound Regional Branch of the Washington State Archives, will give an overview of the state archives system and discuss public records frequently used by genealogical researchers. She will also provide information on how to go about researching at the archives in person, submitting remote requests for records, and searching online at the Washington State Digital Archives.

### **June 28, 2023      Michael Lee Stills: Torrey's Treasurers; Discovering Hidden Gems buried inside New England Marriages Prior to 1700**

Genealogists often cite Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700 as the source for documenting the marriages of their Colonial New England ancestors. In doing so, they often overlook the real source gems hiding in this Index. Together we will open this treasure chest to learn who Clarence Almon Torrey was, what's hiding inside, where his sources can be found, why you need to understand sources, when you should use this reference and how using this Index properly will further your research.

## Schedule of Classes — May to June 2023

We will present the Janet O'Connor Camarata's popular **Discovering Your Ancestor, Series II**. 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:

May 6: Land Records/Timelines

May 27: Organizing Genealogical Data/Courthouse Research

Jun 3: Genealogical Proof Standards/Military Records

Jun 24: Immigration & Naturalization/Tips, Tools, Tricks

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

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

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

**No registration is required**



Janet O'Connor Camarata



## If you could talk with an ancestor for 15 minutes....who would it be and what questions would you ask?



The question above was asked and our members came through with flying colors. Some of the responses will be seen in the next issue, as there were just too many to fit in this one. I love it when that happens. Most of you agreed that we need

more than 15 minutes.

In the next issue, you will also see more questions and a couple of longer version responses that I am sure you will find interesting. I certainly did. Read on and enjoy!

---

Bill Mania wrote:

I'd like to talk with my maternal biological grandfather, on 29 December 1935. My questions would be how he met my maternal biological grandmother, to whom he was never married, and if he had any other children.

---

Jim Bryant said:

Would like to ask my Maternal 2nd Great Grandmother, Leah Isabel Cornman Bice who her parents were. There is a vast amount of information on who her parents could be but nothing definitive.

---

Deanna Egeland Dowell shared:

Without a doubt, my husband's paternal grandfather, Ephraim W Dowell (b) 5 Aug 1837 Knox Co TN (m1) 3 Jul 1861 Knox Co TN Charlotte Jett, (m2) 13 Oct 1901 Knox Co TN Dora Lane (d) 12 Oct 1917 Knox Co TN. I would so love to find his parents.

Ephraim was a hard-working church-going man, a farmer and a peddler just outside of Knoxville in an area called Fountain City. His first marriage included seven children - his second gave him four more. I'm not sure how I would ask him about his parents - I believe I would have to talk about other areas of his life before I settled on the big question...but I'd have to talk fast if you're only giving me 15 minutes. In the 1850 Knox Co TN federal census, Ephraim (b) TN, age 12, is listed with Elijah Dowell (b) VA, age 83, Farmer....just those two in the household. In the 1840 census, the ages indicate he was living there also, probably with some of Elijah's children...no names in the 1840 census.

There should be plenty of clues on this one - there's eleven children to research - Elijah and Sarah had seven children - each researched as well. And Knox County has good records....death records/not so good in the early 1900s. My conclusion...one of Elijah's daughters had an illegitimate child.

Darn it, now I have to go back and check each bit of data I have plus find out if something new is now available....Back on my do-list!

(Cont'd on page 10)

## Talking to an Ancestor

Cont'd from page 9

Liz DuBois shared:

I would like to talk to John Munn who was born 1736. He moved to Washington County by the Revolutionary War and served there during the war in the local militia. He died 19 Mar 1802 in Washington County, PA. I'd ask him who were his parents, grandparents, etc. and where did they come from. I also would ask him his wife's surname and the names of her parents. He is a brick wall that cannot be solved by undocumented information on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org!

And, yes, I'm with you. I have a long list of ancestors that I'd like to talk to, starting with my dad's mother and my mother's maternal grandmother. Can we host a séance??

---

Cecilia Hughes said:

I know all about the harrowing journey from Zurich to America of my ancestor, Hans Jacob Radtgab. He left on October 4, 1734 and traveled with his wife to be. They traveled on the Rhine river and arrived in Rotterdam. It took 12 weeks to cross the Atlantic where they arrived in Virginia on May 29, 1735.

I would ask him about his experience of arriving in America and how they managed their early life here. I know they were indentured and eventually were granted several hundred acres of land in Page County.

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Holly Harden wrote:

I would like to talk to my mom's dad's mom, my great grandmother, Jennie Smith Sheets. I was only able to visit her once or twice when she was living in a nursing home in her hometown of Tillamook, Oregon, her last stop before she passed away. I was only 9 or 10 at the time. My mom told me that Jennie came across the Rocky Mountains from Missouri to Tillamook in a covered wagon. I would love to hear stories about that journey. I don't know how old she was at the time but I think she was a new bride. Unfortunately I wasn't really interested enough when I had a chance to ask a few questions. Now of course it is even too late to ask my mom what she knew about it.

---

Madi Cataldo shared:

Now that I am older, maybe wiser, I would love to talk with my mother's granddad. My questions would be about his army time in the Civil War. I knew he was injured at Gaines Mill, Virginia as he was hospitalized there. I was fortunate to walk those grounds. He eventually became an ambulance driver as he knew about horses. He owned a farm in Maine. Would be such an honor to know him and his family. I loved one of his sons, my mom's dad.

---

Vickie Bushnell said:

I would visit my Grandma, Lily Belle. I'd say: Grandma, your line has a convicted witch, at least 3 Revolutionary War soldiers, a Civil War soldier and a Mayflower passenger. It took me decades of research to gather this information. DID YOU KNOW ALL THIS? (note the editor found out the following information—And she not only labeled her 100 year old photos, she identified the relationships!!)

(Cont'd on page 11)

## Talking to an Ancestor

Cont'd from page 10

Jen Taylor wrote:

My grandmother, Lila, was born in South Dakota in 1925 to a lovely Prussian mother, whose family immigrated in the 1860s, and a hard-nosed father of German lineage, whose ancestry includes Revolutionary War veterans from Pennsylvania. Lila struggled alongside her family during the Depression in a small farming town in central Illinois, where her father was a dairy distributor.

As soon as she was able, she made her own adventurous way out and up: she left her small town and looked into college and careers, soon settling into a secretary job at a large insurance company in Bloomington, IL. She earned a private pilot's license in the early 40s.

After WWII, she enlisted in the Navy at Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago. Working at the Pentagon in 1949, she met and married my grandfather. From there they travelled all over the world, taking their daughter, my mother, with them, to Japan, San Diego, Guam, and Naples.

I "know" a lot about Grandma Lila, but she died two weeks before I graduated from high school. I would love to listen to her life story from her own lips and perspective to hear how she made some of her decisions and what influenced her the most in her life.

And, of course, 15 minutes would never be enough.

---

Hazel Thornton wants to talk to:

My ancestor that I would like to talk to is Thomas Alexander Leise, my third great grandfather. I would like to ask him, when and where he was born, the same for his death. What did he do for a living, I know farmer, but what did he farm, etc. Definitely more information and dates about his father and his grandfather, what he did as a farmer. And the biggest thing would be what did he know about his great grandfather, where they came from in Germany and absolutely everything he knows about the family, where one of his daughters went after marriage, what happened to his son William after the Civil War. Information on his wife, how she spelled her name, where she was born and when, what happened to her between 1850 and 1860. Also, what religion the family was and stories he may have heard. He would probably wish he never heard of me after I got done asking millions of questions.

Not sure if 15 minutes would be enough.

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Audrey Logan Harris wrote:

I would choose my 3rd great grandfather, William Logan, who was born in 1779. He may have been born in Scotland or New Brunswick, Canada. I would ask him about his parents. What were their names? What was their family life like? Where were you and your parents born? Tell me about your grandparents. Was your father a Loyalist? Did your family live in New York and then travel to New Brunswick? Is it true that your father received 250 acres of land as a Loyalist? I have spent the last 6 years searching for your father and family and have not been able to verify who your parents were.

Look for more responses in the Jul — Sep issue !



## 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.

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

[sharonhornback@comcast.net](mailto:sharonhornback@comcast.net)

See page 6 — Family History Writing Group — for more ideas about writing.

Sharon Hornback — Backtracker Editor

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

You are needed in the Genealogy Center. Shifts are four hours per day Monday through Saturday. When there are no patrons in the GC, you can have time to work on your genealogy with the library free resources of Ancestry, Fold 3, and Affiliate Library Records for Family Search.

Each volunteer goes through a training process. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Hornback at [sharonhornback@comcast.net](mailto:sharonhornback@comcast.net)

Thank you for helping.



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