



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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

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## New Dates for the 26th Kitsap Antique Show

By Rich Peel, Show Chair



The Antique Show Committee recently decided to reschedule the 26<sup>th</sup> Kitsap Antique Show from October 2023 to March 2024. This decision was based primarily upon the relatively low rate of dealer registra-

tions received through the end of July, compared to previous shows. We found that a few antique shows in other states, including a show in Oregon that is much like ours and on the same October weekend, were drawing away some of the dealers who often participate in our shows. Also, several dealers informed us that they are simply not as available for shows in the fall season.

So, postponing our show until March will enable us to return to the traditional late-winter time frame that worked well for many years, until the COVID pandemic caused the schedule to be shifted to later in the year since 2021.

The new show dates are March 16-17, 2024. Most of the dealers who had registered for the October 2023 show have confirmed that they can also join us in March.

Registration was reopened at the beginning of October, and we are offering a new “early-bird \$25 discount” through the end of November, which we hope will encourage more timely dealer registrations.

(cont'd on page 4)

### 26th Annual Kitsap Antique Show *Sales & Appraisals*

**March 16 & 17**  
**Saturday 9 - 5**  
**Sunday 9 - 4**

**Kitsap Fairgrounds | Presidents' Hall**  
**\$6 Entry | \$5 Per Item Appraisal Fee**  
**Free Parking | Café On-Site**

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

[www.AntiqueShowKitsap.com](http://www.AntiqueShowKitsap.com)



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# Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

The Backtracker — A publication of the  
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, to all members of PSGS! The leadership needs your involvement! Whether it's on the Executive Board, a committee, volunteering in the Genealogy Center or at the Antique Show, your help is needed. At present, we have **108** members.

The Executive Board is comprised of 15 positions which include our six elected officers, six Chairpersons, two Chapter Representatives, and Advisory.

Officers	Chairpersons	Chapter Reps
1. President	1. Antique Show	1. South Kitsap
2. Vice President #1	2. Education	2. Belfair
3. Vice President #2	3. Genealogy Center	
4. Secretary	4. Newsletter	<u>Advisory</u>
5. Treasurer	5. Publicity **	1. (Past President)
6. Member at Large	6. Website	

A few of us wear more than one hat, but only have one vote. There are still two vacant seats: Publicity Chair and South Kitsap Chapter Rep. Presently, there are only **11** members serving on the board. The board meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month (except December) in the Heninger Room.

Another opportunity to serve is to be a part of the Antique Show committee. There are several sub-committees you can serve on, such as: Appraisal, Dealer, Facility, Publicity, Website, and Volunteer at the show. For more information read Rich Peel's Article on the Antique Show. The committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 10:15am in the Heninger Room.

There are non-board activities which could use your help as well. They include Ancestry and DNA Special Interest Groups, Field Trips (local), Historian, Historian School Records Project and Research.

For this society to function successfully, we really need more members to get involved!

(Cont'd on page 3)

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## Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

The summer has been a busy time in the Genealogy Center with over 130 visitors during the months of July, August, and September. I continue to appreciate all the members who volunteer their time and expertise to help visitors research their ancestors; even during the quiet times, please know that your presence is invaluable. You never know when someone might pop in to find their ancestor, especially if they have seen all those heart-warming TV ads for Ancestry.com!

I am slowly adding a few books to the GC Collection based on their relevance and condition; I will have details on the new additions for the next Backtracker.

Sincerely, Elisabeth Demmon – KRL Liaison to the PSGS

## Presidential Ponderings

(Cont'd from page 2)

Speaking of field trips, I am planning a trip to the Washington State Archives in Olympia in late November. The specific date is yet to be determined (Nov 27, 29 or 30) and will follow our November speaker from the Washington State Archives.

The 2024 Membership form is now available in the Genealogy Center and on our website. The Executive Board voted to keep dues the same (\$15 for Individual and \$20 for Joint).

Thank you and let's all work to keep this organization healthy.

## PSGS Needs You!

Please mark your calendar for October 25, 2023 for the PSGS General Meeting. Your presence is encouraged whether in person or on zoom, in order to vote in our new schedule of officers for the 2024 year. Read the Presidential Ponderings for a complete list of the positions available. Gwen Detweiler has been the chair of the Elections Committee this year, which has been tasked with filling out a roster of PSGS



members running for these positions. If you missed your chance to get on the current nominee roster, write-in names will also be considered.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting, either in person or on zoom. Watch for the zoom link coming soon.

## KITSAP ANTIQUE SHOW

(Cont'd from page 1)

We will, of course, need a full team of PSGS volunteers to conduct the show, our only annual fundraising event. This help is particularly important now because we will be operating without the Kitsap History Museum as a joint host.

So, members are encouraged to sign up to help for a few hours with one of the easy, but essential, jobs at the show. A nice advantage of volunteering at the show is that everyone who helps can also enjoy attending the show before or after their shift, taking advantage of free admission.

A volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated at the monthly PSGS meetings, and more infor-



*Volunteers Staffing a Cashier Table at a Kitsap Antique Show*

mation will be emailed to members as we get closer to the event.

## ROOTS TECH REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Roots Tech, sponsored by Family Search, is taking place in Salt Lake City, February 29 to March 2, 2024. You can attend in person or on-line. Don't miss this exciting family history event to uncover fascinating stories of your ancestors.

On-line registration is free. There will be 200 plus new online sessions. You will have access to digital syllabi and class handouts. Speakers at RootsTech

come from around the world and cover a wide range of family history subjects. Go to :

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/registration>

today and begin browsing the long list of classes available. You can sign up to receive information from Roots Tech so that you will be set when the new year rolls around.

## BROWNSVILLE CEMETERY ASSISTANCE NEEDED

I was recently contacted by Michael Brownlee, a former PSGS member, to see if anyone wanted to take over the management of the Brownsville Cemetery. Michael took over the project from his father who did it from the 20s to the 40s. Michael is 87 and can't be the President of the cemetery group forever. He would like to turn it over now. The request is for more of an

overseer. Scouts help with the work at the cemetery as projects for badges.

Let me (Sharon Hornback) know if you have an interest in the Brownsville Cemetery.

(Please note, that Michael Brownlee has since passed on. The request still holds if you are interested. His widow is still looking for help.)



## 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. We have three stories left. Most of you agreed that we need more than 15 minutes.

I know I found all the stories interesting, and I hope you do too. Read on and enjoy!

Look on page 7 to see the next question for the readers to respond to for our next issue.

### Melody Knight's questions for Aku Asikainen and Anna Tolonen Asikainen

Aku and Anna, the first time I saw a photo of the both of you, I wished I had been able to meet you and talk with you. It would not have been possible because you were in Finland and I was in the US and you died before I was even born.

Aku, in your photo (taken in Iisalmi, Finland), I could see that you were someone who worked very hard and endured many things, but still looked very calm. My clues were your well-worn shoes, the pipe you are smoking, and your lack of wrinkles and worry lines. What accounts for how you appeared in that photo? Anna made such a beautiful, touching description of your relationship with God, her, and your children in your obituary. It really blessed me and made me and several other people shed tears as we read it. Did your calm, peaceful demeanor have to do with your relationship with God, which your wife described along with other traits, or your relationship with your wife and family, or something else?



Aku and Anna Asikainen

Aku, there were so many wars and occupations in Finland over the years. For example, when Russia was waging war on one occasion, they set conditions that they would leave if Finland would give them a large portion of the area on the edge of Finland next to Russia's borders. You lived very close to that area. How did that feel to give up part of your country and maybe friends and family because Russia couldn't defeat Finland?

Anna in the photo I have, you look tired, sad, and like you have the weight of the world on your shoulders and you seemed to have a deep sadness. I know that, in those years, life was very difficult. As a farmer's wife you probably helped with the farming, cooking, cleaning and child care. You had your children, and additional children, you took care of as if they were your own. What caused you to look that way in the photo? What was your daily life really like?

# Talking to an Ancestor

Cont'd from page 5

## MELODY KNIGHT'S QUESTIONS FOR JOHAN ESANPOIKA (VAINIONPAA) TOIVOLA

The first photo I saw of you was one taken of you at the age of 75; I was the same age at the time I saw the photo. You were still working as a church carpenter repairing the church roof with tar then. I could not have done what you did at that age. You were still a subsistence farmer and I think, made and transported the tar needed for repairs. In the photo, you wore a black hat, and you were sitting on a wooden chair outside. I heard that you were a “jolly” person. I assume that meant you were a happy person and you had a sense of humor. I loved everything I heard about you. They all said you were such a hard worker, not a drinker, could read and write, read your Bible with its wooden cover and could be counted on (all of which were not typical for the time and place). I really wish I could have met and talked with you. I think I was probably a toddler when you died in Finland when I would have been in the United States.

You lived through several wars, occupations, and other difficulties. How were you and your family affected by these wars and changes which divided families and friends physically and politically?

Your wife, Sanna, and you lost several children shortly after birth. How did that affect both of you? How did Sanna die and what did she die of? Why didn't you marry again?

What accounts for your happy or jolly personality? I have heard people often saw you read from your Bible. Did your Christian faith account for your personality and your traits as a sober, reliable and good worker?

How did you cope in the hard times? There were wars, times of insufficient employment, times of hunger, and politics and other things caused about half of your children to leave Finland to go to other countries to be safe or in search of a better life. How did that affect you?

Incidentally, Johan, I am going to use the beautiful words you used at the end of your letters to your children as the title of the book I am writing about the people on the Finnish side of my family. You always sent them “a thousand blessings”!

## BOBBI KLIPPERT HAS QUESTIONS FOR JOHN KLIPPERT

If I had some time with an ancestor, it would be my husband's father, John Klippert. He was born in 1898 and was referred to as a “German from Russia”. The family came to Russia in 1766 and settled in Walter, Russia. He lived there for 15 years before he came with the family to America, sailing from Bremen, Germany, to Baltimore. How did they get to Bremen? The family came to Michigan.

John was in the army during World War I and became a citizen while serving. On his way home from the service, he was involved in a train accident and eventually lost a leg. He married a young woman he met while in the hospital. She was also a “German From Russia” but came as a very young child. They had ten children with my husband being number nine.

John spent his early years in the Volga area of Russia and traveled as a young man to America. Why did we never talk about those early years or the experience of crossing through Germany and crossing the Atlantic to America? My husband's older sisters don't seem to recall any stories being told of that time. I waited too long.



## Talking to an Ancestor

(Cont'd from page 6)

### Question from Ruth Reinert for Rasmus Andersen Solbjør

My family stories revealed hardships and successes. I want to talk with my eighth great-grandfather, Rasmus, and ask him about the evidence of a case in which he was a juror.

In 1667 Rasmus Andersen Solbjør (8th great-grandfather), his brother Askild Andersen Solbjør, Ole Torgrimsen Duyvoll, and Søren Christensen Torp, were jurors in a horrible case, namely the witch trial of Barbro Osmund, a daughter from Herad parish. The incident caused great anguish and doubt; they postponed again and again. Finally, most of the council had to move forward as the community pressed for the woman's conviction. Hans Gabrielsen Schønnemann, the Royal Majesty Bailiff, concluded her sentence was to put Barbro Osmund to death. After receiving the altar sacrament, she was seriously encouraged to provide other names who also practiced witchcraft; she called out the name of those who had testified against her. Shortly after, Barbro was burned in Farsund, Norway, by fire.



Trial of Gilles Corry.

## NEXT BACKTRACKER QUESTION FOR THE HOLIDAYS



PSGS members, you have been so prolific with your responses to the last two questions, I am again looking for your input for the next issue. The holidays are coming. Let's think about what has meaning for your family. What does Christmas or Hannukah mean

to you? Does your family have any special traditions that you follow? When do you put your Christmas tree up? Is it real or artificial? Do you decorate your house, inside and out? Are there any special holiday foods your family always serves?

If you are spending the holidays with family, it is a great time to ask older relatives to share

stories about your family. If you are the oldest, remember to share family stories with the younger members of your family. Think ahead about what you want to know or what you want to share. If you want to expand your holiday memory, it could be an entire story for a future issue of the Backtracker. If you want ideas for interviewing your family, I will bring some suggestions to the Christmas Party on December 7.

Holiday tradition submissions can be a paragraph or two in length. They can be a couple of sentences long. It is your call. Please send them to me at [sharonhornback@comcast.net](mailto:sharonhornback@comcast.net). Submissions for the next issue will be due December 30, 2023. Thank you all for sending so many wonderful stories about talking to an ancestor. Let's see if we can get as many about holiday traditions.



## PSGS ANCESTRY SIG (SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP)

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 10:15am to 12:30pm. This is an in-person and hybrid group. Hope to see you there!

Next meeting is January 8, 2024.

## BELFAIR CHAPTER

The Belfair Chapter meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Timberline Library in Belfair. Meetings begin at 10:30 am. You do not need to live in Belfair to come. All are welcome. Please join us.

## ANNUAL SALT LAKE CITY GENEALOGY TRIP 2024

Come and join us on March 3 – 9, 2024, as we explore the largest repository of genealogical records in the world – free to the public! Check out the FamilySearch Library's website for more information at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/library/visit>

Please use the information below when calling to make reservations:

Hotel: Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square

Address: 122 West South Temple, Salt Lake City UT 84101

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

Reservation Group Code: Puget Sound

Group Rates: Standard Double Queen - \$100 plus taxes; Deluxe Double Queen - \$110 plus taxes.

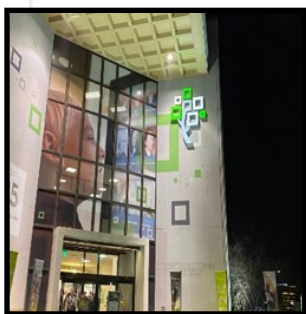
Please be prepared to provide your credit card information to guarantee reservations. The guest

room block will be held until February 2, 2024, which is 30 days prior to arrival or until such time as the block has been filled. Any sleeping rooms not reserved by the cut-off date shall be released by the HOTEL for sale to the public.

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. Also, Diane will forward a trip registration form and information packet for the trip and visit to the FamilySearch Library. Diane can be contacted by e-mail at [DEvansA-VA@aol.com](mailto:DEvansA-VA@aol.com) or by phone at (360)830-4398 or (360)900-8681.

For more information on the Salt Lake City area and activities, please check out the Visitor's Center website at:

<https://www.visitsaltlake.com/plan-your-visit/visitors-center-info/>







## Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

**October 25, 2023**

**Evelyn Roehl: Mayflower — in person**

Why did folks in rural Nottinghamshire, England, flee their homes in the early 1600s, escape to Holland, and eventually cross the Atlantic to settle in the New World? Learn the backstory of the celebrated *Mayflower* Pilgrims who shared the first Thanksgiving meal with native Narragansets. Those immigrant ancestors have many descendants—and genealogical records abound for you to discover if you are one of them.

**November 15, 2023**

**Jewell Dunn: Washington State Archives — in person**

**December 7, 2023**

**PSGS Christmas Party**

Our annual PSGS Christmas Party will be held at the Eagle's Nest on Thursday, December 7th. Set up begins at 10 a.m. with the luncheon party being held from 12—2. The lunch will be catered, as it was last year. We will have sandwiches, fruits, and veggies. Of course, there will be desserts!

2024 officers will be installed during the party. We will also be giving away door prizes. Everyone will receive a ticket upon entering the facility. If you wish to donate a prize or two for this event, please do so. Just bring your item on December 7. It can be wrapped, if you wish. Ticket drawings will continue until the prizes are all given out. Hope to see you there.

Please consider helping with clean up afterwards. We need to be out of the facility by 3 p.m.



## Schedule of Classes — Oct — Dec 2023

Janet O'Connor Camarata will be presenting her new and improved Series III, Discovering Your Ancestor classes. These will be on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Heninger Room. Please check the PSGS website or Facebook to verify which classes will be hybrid and which will be Zoom only. Dates for these classes will be October 21 (Zoom only) and 28, November 4 (Zoom only) and 18, and December 2. Remember to mark your calendar and join us for an exciting learning experience. Janet always gives us extra tips and tricks she has learned doing her own genealogy. This is great for beginners as well as the advanced genealogist.



## INTRODUCING INGRID JONES

### MENDING BOOKS WITHIN OUR COLLECTION

Hello! I've been given an opportunity to share a little about mending some of the well-loved volumes that you have in the Genealogy Center at Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way Branch.

After learning some book mending practices and techniques from Rachele Deininger here at Sylvan Way over several years, starting in 2013, work is once again progressing on 'in-need' old books, specifically for the PSGS Center. The library has graciously donated surplus supplies to this cause, and these are being put to good use. In addition, PSGS has funded supplies as needed.

In these photos, the current work being done addresses broken spines and loose pages, lost spines, old leather cover corners, and old glue that has failed over time.

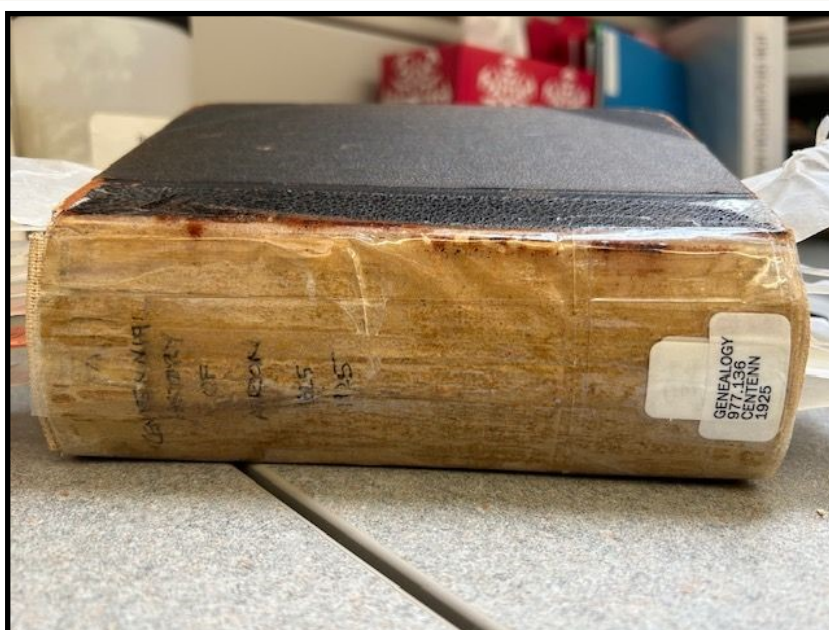
Some of the work repairs or renews these things, and sometimes a gentle conservation effort

is the best way to further an old book's use. Supplies include acid free glues, special Japanese papers known for strength and use in paper conservation, wheat and rice pastes compatible with acid free materials, and transparent paper tapes useful in mending pages. A key aspect of this work is that these archival materials are removable and may be redone as needed.

Book mending, conservation and preservation is a science, one which I find very interesting. Its practical applications for these genealogy books keeps information in its original form available and adds an element of history to researching our past.

Thank you, PSGS and Kitsap Regional Library, for this support of the Genealogy Center book collection and its preservation.

Ingrid Jones, PSGS Volunteer



This is a book badly in need of repair. See pictures on page 11 to learn how Ingrid proceeds to make the book ready for our shelves and your research

## MENDING BOOKS WITHIN OUR COLLECTION

### PICTURES OF THE PROCESS (Cont'd from page 10)



1



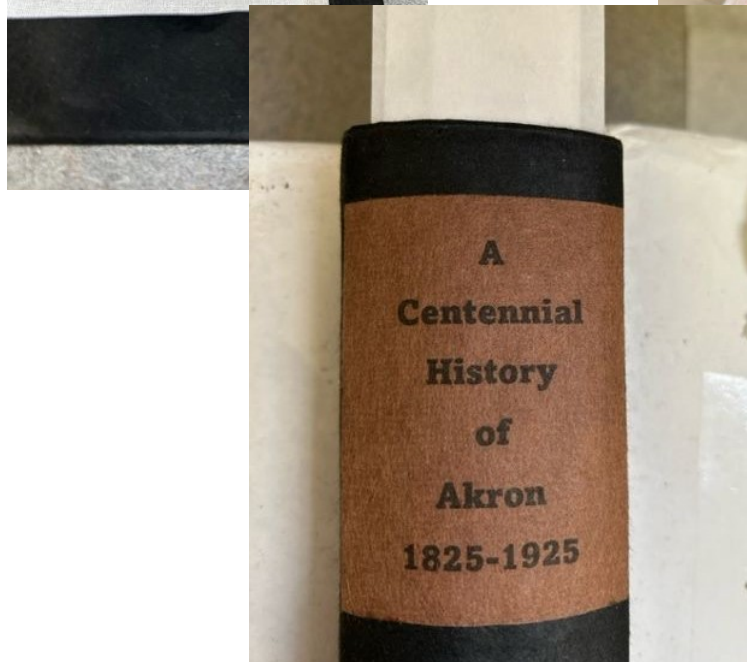
2



3



4



Almost ready for the shelf. It just needs a little more time to dry. What a change from the beginning on page 10.



## BOOK DRAWING FOR VOLUNTEERS

GC Volunteers will begin taking part in the drawing for new books in 2024. Some of these books are: Marriage Law for Genealogists, A to Zax A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians, and The Organized Family Historian.

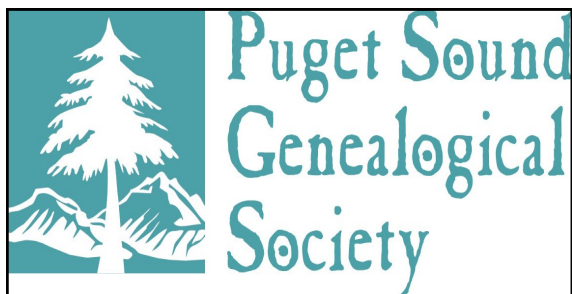
Volunteers will earn chances for the drawing by volunteering in the GC beginning in January of 2024. If you have been thinking about getting trained to volunteer, now is the time. See the information in the adjoining article and contact me to get started at [Sharonhornback@comcast.net](mailto:Sharonhornback@comcast.net)

## 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 have time to work on your own 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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