

THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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Volunteers Needed for the Kitsap Antique Show

By Rich Peel, Show Chair



The Antique Show Committee has been busy planning the March 2024 show and focusing on advertising to bring in both dealers and customers for the event. However, another essential element for hosting a successful show is arranging for a team of volunteers to serve as cashiers and to provide unloading / loading assistance to some of the dealers.

Because PSGS is now the sole host, all volunteers will need to come from the society membership (and from their family members and friends who would like to help — and attend the show for free!).

Fortunately, we had a good number of volunteer sign-ups at our recent Christmas Party. However, we do still need more helpers, particularly individuals who can assist dealers with moving their treasures into Presidents' Hall on the Friday before the show and assist with load-out on Sunday evening. Most dealers prefer to handle their own items, but a few appreciate some help. Our show has developed a reputation for providing great support to the dealers, and we want to continue that tradition!

Volunteers are needed to work two-hour shifts for the following dates and times:

Friday, March 15, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Help dealers to move in their items

Saturday, March 16, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cashiers to collect admission fees Cashiers for the Appraisal Area

Sunday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cashiers to collect admission fees

Cashiers for the Appraisal Area

Sunday, March 17, 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Help dealers to load out their items



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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

2024. Hard to believe it's 2024. Time flies. seems like yesterday....." "I remember when...." We all have said that haven't we? Not only of our own lives, but in researching our families we have thought about how they lived, and probably wondered how they got by without the technology we have today. Compared to, say, 50 years ago (1974!), where one had to plan inperson visits to different repositories, write letters and wait weeks, even months, for a response to now, having the technology that allows us to sit in front of a computer (in our comfy clothes, any hour of the day) and explore all sorts of records and places afar and receive answers in minutes. We can attend classes, conferences, seminars by zoom (or other forms of telecommunication) from the comfort of our home. This is a good thing as it provides access to more learning opportunities. However, there is a downside. That can devaluate the importance of in-person relationships. So, to help remedy this, the General meeting on Wednesday, January 24th will be an in-person Social, where we can talk face-to-face with one another, meet with the 2024 Officers, understanding our mission and what's offered in the coming year. Come and check out what committees are available that you might want to participate in. There will also be refreshments! Oh, and you will be able to pay your dues on-site. This is open to the public, so bring a friend or two!

DO mark your calendar for the upcoming classes with Janet Camarata. For the next six weeks, she will be doing a deep dive into different genealogical websites. However, by the time you receive this issue, Janet would have already held her first class on FamilySearch. (You should have received an email on this, if not, please email me at psgssociety1301@gmail.com). The other classes are:

Jan 27[:] Ancestry

Feb 3[:] BLM GLO (Bureau of Land Management / General Land Office Records)

Feb 24: Fold3

Mar 9: Internet Access Mar 23: Google Earth

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Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

The following donated books are in the process of being added to the GC with the support of KRL's Collection and Technical Services staff.

American Migration Routes Part 1: Indian Paths, Post Roads, and Wagon Roads by William Dollarhide, 2022 (with thanks to Don Westfall).

<u>Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books 1817-1840</u> by Katherine Kerr Kendall, 1992.

A Centennial History of Akron (OH) 1825-1925 by the Summit County Historical Society, 1925.

A History of Lynches Forks and Extended Areas on Big and Little Lynch's River, South Carolina by Lon D Outen, 2012.

Memorial Record of the Fathers of Wisconsin by H. A. Tenny and David Atwood, 1992.

<u>Quakers in South Carolina Wateree and Bush River, Cane Creek, Piney Grove, and Charleston</u>

Meetings by the Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., Editor, 1991.

Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina, 1772: Rev. William Martin and His Five Shiploads of Settlers by Jean Stephenson, 1971.

As of this writing, there were almost 500 visitors to the GC during 2023. Thank you to all the volunteers who have donated their time over the past year; your presence in the GC is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

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



Prez Ponders

(Cont'd from page 2)

These classes will be Hybrid (zoom and in-person in the Heninger room) from 10:30am - 12:30pm.

PSGS members and non-members are invited to attend.

March 16 & 17 is our annual Antique Show. We are the only sponsor this year, so we need volunteers more than ever. I'll be sending out an email with more details later.

Hope to see you ALL soon!

KITSAP ANTIQUE SHOW

(Cont'd from page 1)

The work is easy, and most jobs are done while sitting. A nice benefit of volunteering at the show is that everyone who helps can also enjoy attending the show before or after their shift(s), taking advantage of free admission.

A volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated at the monthly PSGS meetings, and more information will be emailed to members as we get closer to the event.

2024 PSGS OFFICERS



Welcome to PSGS 2024 officers. From left to right they are: Lisa Treiberg, Member At Large; Charles Treiberg, First Vice President; Heidi Ginder, Second Vice President; and Jean Yager, President. Gwen Detweiler (on the right) provided the installation program for the new officers during our Christmas Party on December 7, 2023. Not in attendance: Larry Harden, Treasurer and Mahala Henry, Secretary. Thank you for supporting our officers. Be sure and come by our PSGS In-Person Social on Wednesday, January 24 in the Heninger Room at KRL to meet and talk with these people and Committee Chairpersons. Plan what positions you would like to fill for 2025. It's never to soon to start thinking ahead.

Please look on the following page for pictures of our 2023 Christmas Party. It was a great turn-out and a wonderful chance to catch up with old friends.

2023 PSGS Christmas Party Pictures

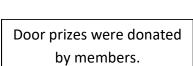


Can you find yourself on this page or the next?

A continuous slide show about the upcoming Antique Show played during the party. It was strategically located above the dessert table. Remember to sign up to volunteer at the Antique Show.

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More Christmas Party Pictures
(Cont'd from page 5)



Clean up went quickly with many people helping.

Field Trip to Washington State Archives in Olympia

On November 30, 2023 three PSGS members and two non-members met at the Washington State Archives in Olympia for what started out as a one-hour tour of the facility, ended up being two interesting hours. Ben Helle, an Outreach Archivist was our tour guide. One of many stories Ben shared with us was when Dan Evans, (Governor 1965-1977) declared the Sasquatch "Bigfoot" as the state monster. Ben showed us the original Proclamation and attached to the letter was a lock of hair from the

right front shoulder of the Sasquatch.

To read more on this subject see the blog below, written January 12, 2018 from the Secretary of State office.

https:// blogs.sos.wa.gov/ fromourcorner/ index.php/2018/01/



history-friday-washingtons-official-state-monster/

We explored the basement where several paper records and collections are housed. Ben showed us original vital records books and examples of the many map collections.







Besides the State Archives, there are five other branches throughout the state along with the Digital Archives. If you have Washington ancestors, check out the Washington State Archives website.

https://www.sos.wa.gov/

archives/ It will explain what branch serves what counties. If you're unable to retrieve documents from the Digital Archives, perhaps a visit to one of the branches that holds the county records of your ancestor is in order.



Jean Yager, Alta Drane, Heidi Ginder, David and Linda Langberg (Jean's Aunt and Uncle) and Ben Helle

Afterwards, we treated ourselves to lunch at Pellegrino's Italian Kitchen in Tumwater. Do you know what we had a view of as we ate? The Masonic Memorial Park cemetery!

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 only group. Hope to see you there!

Next meeting is February 12, 2024.

Last Reminder for PSGS Genealogy 2024 Trip to Salt Lake City!

Gentle nudge - if you are still interested in joining us for the upcoming 2024 Salt Lake City FamilySearch Library Genealogy trip, March 3-9, the quickly approaching cutoff date for hotel reservations at the Plaza Hotel at Temple Square using the Group Reservation Code of "Puget Sound" is 02/02/2024.

Last year was my first trip to the FamilySearch Library and it was amazing. Both the Library staff and volunteers were so helpful and really went out of their way to assist our group with family research questions. Our trip immediately follows the annual RootsTech Conference and based on last years' experience the Library was quiet with lots of open seating as well as available handouts from RootsTech. It was very easy to schedule a 20-minute personal session, which most times actually exceeded 20 minutes, with one of the library researchers to learn tips and strategies for research methods and roadblocks. Be prepared for the researchers sitting with you at the computer as they assist you.... but you must do all the typing. They will not do it for you!

Construction at Temple Square is still in progress through 2025 and many buildings are still closed to the public but if you check at the Library Information Desk on the first floor of the



Library they can provide you a list of tours, Tabernacle Choir or Organ Performances occurring during the week.

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 \$100 plus taxes; Deluxe Double Queen \$110 plus taxes **Payment** – Provide your credit card information to guarantee your reservations

Rooms held until 02/02/2024!

Once your reservations have been made, please notify Diane Howell Evans of your travel arrangements and arrival/departure dates so a Trip Registration Form and a FamilySearch Library Information document can be forwarded to you. Diane can be contacted by phone at (360) 900-8681 or by e-mail at

DEvansAVA@aol.com.



Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

January 24, 2024 "Getting to Know PSGS" — A Social Event

You will have the opportunity to talk with others interested in genealogy, check out what PSGS is all about, what is currently planned for the upcoming year, and what committees are available that might interest you. You can even pay your 2024 dues and save money on postage. Refreshments will be served. You can meet your 2024 PSGS Officers. It is open to the public so bring a friend or two. The Social is in-person only from 1:00—3:00 pm.

February 28, 2024 TBD

March 27, 2024 TBD

Watch for an email blast giving you the details for February and March.

Schedule of Classes — Jan—Mar 2024

Janet O'Conor Camarata will be presenting her new and improved Series IV, 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 January 27, February 3 and 24, March 9 and 23. Remember to mark your calendar and join us for an exciting learning experience. Please read the Prez Ponders section for subject matter on each class date. 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.



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.



Do you have any special holiday traditions in your family?

This was the winter question asked of our members. We got a number of responses and

those will be shared with you in this issue of the Backtracker. Thank you to all who submitted stories of their holidays. Enjoy!

Gwen Detweiler said:

We have never traveled to see family around or on Christmas. We would read *T'was the Night Before Christmas* on Christmas Eve before bedtime. Our sons would come over for dinner and watch football. Our artificial Christmas tree would be put up a week or two before Christmas. Have had real trees years ago, but got away from that since a mouse came in one year with the tree. Spent years with a table top 24" artificial tree because we had big dogs and their tails would hit the decorations. Other Christmas decorations go up anytime in December. Christmas dinner is roast with mashed potatoes, corn, and gravy with biscuits. We always have Christmas cookies, pie, and cheesecake.

Kathy Cowsert shared:

We spent our teenage years in Hawaii. My Father was on active duty in the Air Force. He was assigned there partially to assist NASA with the splash down pick ups of the astronauts. "Live/real" Christmas trees had to be shipped in and consequently very expensive. After the age of

mas trees had to be shipped in and consequently very expensive. After the age of 12 we never had a tree of any kind. The houses had no attics nor basements for storing large items like an artificial tree etc. We hung some of the family collection of ornaments around the house. We did have a great experience as we went caroling through the Air Force and Navy housing on horseback. My Mom was a church organist, and she borrowed a small pump organ from the Army Base nearby. The Army had them for field maneuver church services as they don't require electricity. They placed the organ in the back of a pick-up truck and someone held a flashlight for her. We sang and threw out candy. After the caroling we had a potluck at the stables.



Jean Bray said:



My family's tradition is to go look at holiday lights by car. My mom and dad took us - my younger brother, younger sister and I - in Bellevue, and sometimes, in Seattle. I took my children, who were raised in Jefferson County, West Virginia, and it is the tradition in my son's family for recent years as well as this year.

(Cont'd from page 10)

Liz Du Bois shared:

Sometime before I was born, my maternal grandparents started a tradition of a "Christmas Present Pie" on Christmas Eve. The "pie" was made up of small gifts, one for each family member, specially chosen by my grandparents. The little gifts were wrapped and tied with a long ribbon or yarn. My grandmother stacked the presents in the center of the dining table, with the ribbon or yarn going to the place where the recipient would be sitting. She carefully covered the pile of gifts so it looked like a table centerpiece and so no one could snoop beforehand. After dessert she lifted the covering and we



each pulled our ribbon or yarn, then opened our little presents. One year my grandparents gave my mother and my aunt beautiful watches. Often the gifts were a game or puzzle the children could play with on Christmas Eve before we went to church. When my husband and I married in 1965, we continued that tradition, even though we moved far away from the family and no longer had grandparents or my aunt's family gathered at Christmas. Our son and daughter enjoyed having a small special gift to open on Christmas Eve, a tradition we continued until the kids grew up and moved away.

Since my father was a minister, church was the main focus of our Christmas celebrations. The season began with the lighting a candle on the Advent wreath on the 1st Sunday in Advent and lasted through Epiphany on January 6th. My husband and I continued the Advent wreath tradition with our children. After he passed a dear friend stayed with me for several months. Even though he is Catholic and I'm Protestant, we had that same tradition from our childhoods and enjoyed using the Advent wreath together.

I can't really remember when my parents put up our Christmas tree, but after my husband and I moved north, we started putting up the tree by the 2nd Sunday of Advent and taking it down on Epiphany (unless it dried out before then!). Going to an artificial tree meant there's no worry about fire.

As for foods, we were rather traditional. About 45 years ago I came up with a pecan-macadamia pie and have made it every year since then, serving it at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Charles Treiberg said:

As far as Christmas traditions - As a child, I loved playing with the Lionel Train set we had under the tree. The problem arose when we were decorating the tree. My siblings and I (4 of us) had contests to see how much metal tinsel we could put on the tree without it falling off. Days later while playing with the

train, the tinsel would fall on the track and would short it out. We spent more time cleaning Tinsel off the track than we did playing with the train.

(Cont'd on page 12)

(Cont'd from page 11)

Diane Bertram shared:

As a child, I lived in Southern California during the 1950's and 60's. My sister, brothers and I always knew it was Christmas time when we noticed the snow drifts on our front living room window. Of course, having never seen real snow, we had no idea the white shoe polish snow drifts painstakingly drawn on the window by our mom was not real. And everyone knows Santa needs a fireplace and chimney to deliver presents. Because we didn't have a fireplace and Santa needed a point of entry, the next best thing were the boxes covered in brick crepe paper resembling a



fireplace. Two little vinyl blow-up Santa Claus figures always stood on each side of our makeshift fireplace filling the room with the fresh aroma of new shower curtains. Now, the only thing left to truly bring-on Christmas was the aluminum Christmas tree with the color wheel and blue ornaments. Now, it was truly

Christmas.

- To 12

Fast forward forty years into the future. After years of reminiscing about Christmas past and recognizing the reality that our holidays with mom were limited due to her health issues, my sister, brothers and I decided to do our best to surprise our mom by recreating Christmas past. We each agreed to take on a task to make this happen. My brothers were responsible for painting the windows and building a cardboard fireplace complete with a chimney and two little blow-up Santas on each side. My sister was tasked with checking out antique stores and garage sales looking for the perfect aluminum tree and color wheel.

Each year, whether she wanted it or not, as kids we would gather up our

allowance money and buy mom the largest bottle of Evening in Paris Eau de Parfum we could find at New-

berry's Dime Store. Finding an old bottle of Evening in Paris was my task. (Keep in mind this was way before eBay or Amazon) Lastly, we agreed that all gifts exchanged would be gifts from our childhood.

It has now been twenty-seven years since we enjoyed the Best Christ-mas ever! Whenever we have an opportunity to get together during the holidays, we no longer reminisce about Christmas past, but find joy in remembering the Magic of Christmas 1996.

Epilogue: We proudly gave mom the bottle of Evening in Paris Eau de Parfum and she smiled at each of us and lovingly said "I hate this sh%#!"

(Cont'd on page 13)



(Cont'd from page 12)

Janet Ravenkamp shared a new tradition:

Merry Christmas to everyone and have a Happy New Year.

This year was kind of different for me. All my life I've been around people all the time but this year I treated myself to something special.

You have to understand one thing. I come from a family of 12 children. There were always lots of people around in the house and around me all the time growing up. Even when I grew up, got married, had kids now grandkids and great grandbabies there were always people around.

So this Christmas I did something for me. I told everyone I wanted to stay home for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. My daughter and her husband to be and one of the great grandchildren went with them to California, my grandson and his wife went to her mother and father's house across the water. I had just myself for Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. Later my son came over from Seattle and we spent the afternoon together and he took me out to eat.

I know a lot of people were upset at me because I was alone. Just for once, I did not want anybody around. To me that was the best Christmas gift I ever gave myself. So glad my family understood and allowed me this gift.

(Cont'd on page 15)

2024 Membership Dues

It is time to renew your Puget Sound Genealogical Society Membership dues. Forms can be found on our website (psgsociety.org) or in the Genealogy Center. Please fill out the form and mail it back to the address on the form.

Dues are \$15.00 for an individual or \$20.00 for a joint membership. Please fill out the portion on the form about volunteer support. We need

your help. You can also pay your dues at the January 24 General Meeting in the Heninger Room and save yourself a stamp.

Thank you for being a part of PSGS.

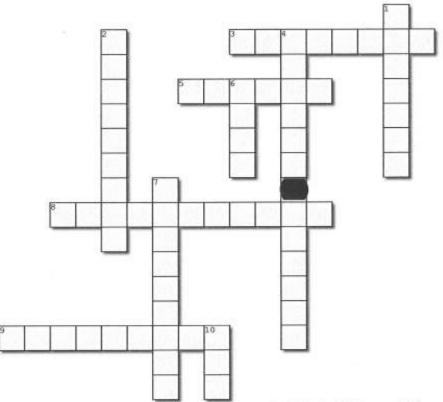
Game Time

Submitted by Diane Evans

2024-P1

Do you know Genealogy Terms

Complete the crossword puzzle below.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 3. List of a person's ancestors
- 5. An official count or survey of a population
- The practice of creating last names from the name of one's father
- An 1862 Act allowing people up to 160 acres of public land to live on for 5 years and make improvements

Down

- A term describing a situation in which 2 relatives have a different number of generations between them and a common ancestor
- 2. Describes a person who died without a will
- The children of 2 brothers of one family marrying 2 sisters of another family - 2 words
- 6. U.S. Archive of all Federal records
- Annual family history and technology conference in SLC
- A chemical in the cells of a living thing that contains genetic information

See answers on page 15

(Cont'd from page 13)

Sharon Hornback shared:

It was a dark and stormy night. Well okay, maybe not really stormy, but it was certainly dark. It was time to go pick out our Christmas tree. It was always dark because we had to wait until my dad got home from work. Mom didn't drive, and there was no way to get a tree without a car.

We didn't go to the woods when I was a child. That was something that didn't happen until I had children of my own. We went to Chubby and Tubby's to get a Christmas tree. This was a store in Seattle on Aurora Avenue that had everything. You could buy Revere Ware, dishes, plants, jeans, coffee pots, cocoa, cake mixes, holiday decorations, and of course, Christmas trees.

We would go outside the store to the parking lot a couple of weeks before Christmas to find a tree. The tree was always a Douglas Fir and usually about five to six feet tall. We went to the \$2.00-\$3.00 area to find the perfect tree. If it had a bare spot, we would fix that after we got home. You could collect an extra branch or two from the tree lot, for free. At home, daddy would drill a hole in the trunk and insert a branch in the newly made hole. Of course, that branch did not last as long as the rest of the tree. The tree went up about a week before Christmas and we added water to the tree stand daily. There was nothing as wonderful as the scent of a fir tree in the house. We never thought of getting an artificial tree. Not sure if they even had such a thing in the late 40s.

I got a small tree for my bedroom. The tiny tree was free or maybe 25 cents. I enjoyed having a tiny tree in my room. I would go to sleep with the colored lights glowing on the small tree that sat on the table my grandad built for me. Santa would leave a present or two under my tiny tree when he came.

Please note, there is one more Holiday Traditions story. Look for it in the next issue of the Backtracker.

Game Time Crossword Answers

Across

- 3 Pedigree
- 5 Census
- 8 Patronymics
- 9 Homestead

Down

- 1 Removed
- 2 Intestate
- 4 Double Cousin
- 6 NARA
- 7 RootsTech
- 10 DNA

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

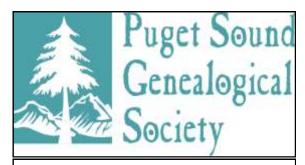
VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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

Thank you for helping.





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