



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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“Getting to Know PSGS” — A Social Event



I hope you had a chance to attend our first annual PSGS Social Event. After many months of only Zoom Meetings , it was exciting to see so many people in person. It was a time to reconnect, have a snack, and learn where you can best serve your society.



If you couldn't come this year, please plan to attend next year. Learn about the various committees and find that perfect fit.



You are PSGS!

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

I am simply in awe of the many people in the last 25 years who organized and carried out the Antique Show. I was usually on a genealogy research or family trip, so I wasn't able to be involved in the behind-the-scenes. Last year I got my feet wet and learned how complex this undertaking really is. For many years we partnered with the Kitsap County Historical Society and shared responsibilities. However, after the 2022 show, KCHS decided not to continue. We, the Antique Show committee, weren't sure we could carry it off. We tried finding another organization to partner with, but to no avail. Originally it was planned for October 2023 but too many obstacles caused the committee to rethink having it. We were going to close the show when Rich Peel approached me and asked if he could have a go at it. We had already changed the date to March 2024, so I figured why not?

Rich took it and ran with it, along with his wife Jeanny (Dealer Chair), his sister, Rachelle (Volunteer Coordinator) and Jeanny's sister, Janet Boswell (Publicity). It was truly a family affair as Ruth Reese (Appraisals Chair) is a cousin to Jeanny and Janet. Dorothy Reinhardt, Melva Hill, and Sharon Hornback (Committee members and volunteers) are also cousins. I took on the Treasurer responsibility and even though I don't think I am related to any of the above, I recruited a family member of my own, my husband Richard. Also joining the committee was another husband and wife team, Abbie (Facility Chair) and Michael Dunn. I assure you this endeavor IS A BIG JOB!

BUT all the planning wouldn't have made this show a true success without the PSGS FAMILY!! YOU stepped up to the plate and volunteered your time and I thank you, and you and you and you.... My heart is truly happy! Now let's spend some money! Maybe on books for the GC or speakers for our Programs and Classes. Anything genealogical related. Perhaps another Seminar??? Let's put our hard work to good use.

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Editor Sharon Hornback
bt-editor@psgsociety.org

Associate Editor Mary Ann Wright

Copy Editor/Distribution Jean Yager

Editorial Group: Diane Evans, Larry Harden, Melody Knight, Lew Noah, Peg Powell

PSGS Board of Directors

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Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

There have been over 112 visitors to the Genealogy Center between January and March who, thanks to the PSGS volunteers, are able to research their families in the quiet of the book filled space. I am grateful to the volunteers who check the shelves; occasionally it has been brought to my attention that books are not in the right place or are missing so I “shelf-read” to ensure that the items are in the right place. This is a task I enjoy very much as it gives me the opportunity to revisit the gems that can be found on the shelves.

As reported in the last Backtracker, there have been several donations of books and materials over the past months. Since Genealogy

Libraries rarely, if ever, allow any of their items to be loaned out, we are grateful to all those who have donated their treasures to the PSGS over the years.

Book suggestions are always welcome: if you find out about a new publication or a suggested resource of genealogical interest during a webinar, class, or program, let me know so I can forward your suggestion to the PSGS Executive Board. My email is edemmon@krl.org

Best wishes,

Elisabeth Demmon, KRL Liaison to the PSGS



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!

In Memoriam

According to a recent NCIS TV episode, we all die twice. Once when our physical body leaves and the second time when our stories are no longer told. As genealogists, our stories will continue forever.

We are sorry to say goodbye to the following PSGS members.



Nancy Ladenberger
1933—2023

Nancy was a former active member for a number of years. She had traced her lineage back to the 1400s. Nancy served on the Cemetery Committee for PSGS.



Patricia Collier
1942 — 2024

Patricia was a former teacher who joined PSGS in the 1970s. Pat served on many committees during her time at PSGS. She attended numerous webinars and classes. Pat went to Salt Lake City when they traveled by train!



Jacquelyn
“Jackie”
Faye (Perkins)
Horton

1933—2024

Jackie was another former school teacher. She joined PSGS in 1979 after attending meetings for a couple of years. Jackie wanted to get all her information in order and get as much information as she could on the computer. She worked on family lines in the eastern states as well as England, Ireland France, Germany, and Canada.

She served PSGS in many ways. You could find Jackie involved as the Belfair Chapter Rep, 2nd vice President (Membership Chair), Seminar Committee Chair, Education Committee Chair, and Librarian. She was also a member of the Cemetery Committee, an instructor for beginning Genealogy Classes, and the PSGS Webmaster. Jackie also held the office of President for a time. She volunteered many hours in the Genealogy Center so that others could further their research. Jackie made many friends in PSGS and traveled to Salt Lake City often to visit the Family Search Library. She even made it to Egypt and rode a camel.



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In Memoriam

(Cont'd from page 4)



Terry Mettling
1947—2023

Terry served his country as a Chief Electronics Technician in the Navy . After retirement he became interested in genealogy. He joined PSGS in 1998.

Terry went on many of the annual trips to the

Family Search Library in Salt Lake City to further his research and try and break down those brick walls we all get.

Terry was President of PSGS two terms and was Second Vice-President for many terms. Along with this position, he was also Membership Chair. He was a member of the Backtracker Committee among others. Terry had a great many stories to share about his family and himself as he grew up in Kansas.

His research centered around Kansas, Kentucky, and the Carolinas and across the ocean in Alsace, Hanover and Hessen Kassel.

Terry always greeted people with a smile and a great story. His laughter was contagious.



Genealogy Writing Group

Connect with others as you write your family history. It is recommended that you have done some research on your ancestors so you are now ready to write their story or stories. Please email the facilitator at edemmon@krl.org if you are a first time participant and/or have any questions.

This group meets in person only on the 4th Tuesday afternoon of every month except December. We have an optional writing prompt each month. Look at page 6 for a sample of a prompt.



Genealogy Writing Group Monthly Prompt

By Sharon Hornback

The writing prompt for this month was: **Imagine you are one of your descendants, far in the future, writing about your present self. Write about an event from your own history from that perspective.**

First I made a descendant tree to pick the relative that was writing the story. Here is the result.

The year is 2105 and Devon writes about her 2xggm Sharon.

My 2x ggm Sharon was robbed at gunpoint. Twice in just over a week! It must have been easy to own guns back in 1968. Most of them are in museums now or have been melted down and destroyed. I am sure glad about that.

Grandma Great, that's what we always call great grandparents in my family, did a lot of our family genealogy about 80 years ago. Her records have been handed down through the generations with each generation adding a bit more information. Last night I was sorting through the old titanium discs and found copies of newspaper clippings and the following story.

Sharon was a clerk at Northwest Finance Company in Rainier Valley in Seattle, Washington. The office was in a very poor part of town near the housing projects. One afternoon in late October, two men entered the office and waved a handgun at her demanding money. Sharon gave them the bills from the cash drawer by the front counter. (Yes, they still used paper money in 1968. Just



imagine how bulky their pockets must have been.) After getting their money, the men forced the manager, assistant manager, and Sharon into the bathroom. They were instructed to count to 1,000 before opening the door. When they came out, no one was there. The police were called, and Sharon had to balance the cash drawer to find that the robbers got away with \$153.00 (about \$3,000.00 in today's money). No clues about who the robbers were.

Eight days later it happened again. Two men came in and waved a handgun and demanded money. This time Sharon tried to count the money out as she gave it to the robbers. She knew she would have to account for the amount taken. This upset the robbers as she was going too slow. One of them told her to "give me the ***ing money." She gave them the money and had to figure out the amount of money taken later. The robbers took the money and again ushered the employees into the bathroom. They were told not to come out. This might be a good time to mention that Sharon was pregnant with my ggm, Kim. The bathroom was getting rather crowded with three people, one of them being about 5 months pregnant and taking up more room than the average person.



The police were called again. \$156 was taken this time. Statements were taken. Sharon was

(Cont'd on page 14)

WANT ADS

EDUCATION/PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Are you interested in helping to pick what classes or programs are presented to our members? If so this is the committee for you. Bring your ideas to the committee meetings which are monthly, January through November. Contact: Jean Yager at psgsociety1301@gmail.com if you are interested.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIGs are for those interested in getting together and sharing information on specific topics. At present there is an Ancestry SIG that meets on the 2nd Monday of every month. If you're interested in a SIG on any genealogical topic, such as DNA, Mayflower, a particular country or state, etc., contact Jean Yager at psgsociety1301@gmail.com.

PSGS OFFICERS

Are you interested in a leadership role in PSGS? Officers are elected in October of each year. Read the job descriptions on the PSGS Website and decide which one interests you. Contact Jean Yager at psgsociety1301@gmail.com if you are interested. Your name will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee in the summer.

REPORTERS

Looking for adventurous people who want to write stories or collect stories from other members. You can put your interest to work at the Backtracker.

Contact: sharonhornback@comcast.net if you are interested.

EDITOR IN TRAINING

If creative writing and layout skills are your forte, think about becoming a future Backtracker Editor. Meetings are currently eight times a year in the GC. Put your computer skills to use and learn how the Backtracker gets from ideas to your mailbox.

Contact: sharonhornback@comcast.net if you are interested.

ANTIQUÉ SHOW

Do you like meeting new people? Do you want to find out how much great grandma's emerald necklace is worth? Are you someone who enjoys collecting money? Think about serving on the Antique Show Committee. Contact: Rich Peel at KitsapAntiqueShow@gmail.com if you are interested.

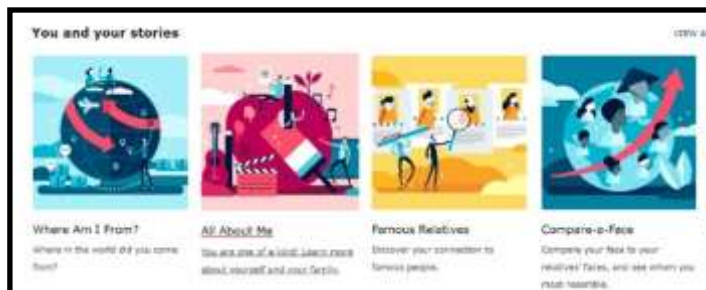


Field Trip to Salt Lake City FamilySearch Library

By Diane Howell Evans

Another inspiring and remarkable visit to the FamilySearch Library! Diane Love Bertram, Dusty Gorman and Diane Howell Evans were the attendees this year for the PSGS annual trip. Dusty was interested in researching her Swedish ancestry and the two Diane's, who by-the-way found out they were cousins on the trip last year, were both researching their lineage to document Mayflower, American Revolution and Salem Witch Trial ancestors. See the photos throughout this article of our visit.

Library popped up and in-person family tree connections were made at the library.



Diane B taking a photo of the other Diane

Temple Plaza is still under construction with expected completion in 2026. There are still noon time organ recitals and a walk through the plaza was a maze in the making with lots of new areas roped off for some major landscaping changes.

The Library is finishing up major restroom renovations and the new construction area is the Book Scanning Operation area which is being enlarged so even more scanning can take place. Jackson Hadley, Scanning Center Director, provided the following information to our Genealogy Group Contact, Julia Anderson.

Dusty G busy researching her Swedish history



The Discovery Center on the main floor continues to amaze all! Last year we needed to login to FamilySearch on tablets then place the tablet in a docking station located next to a large screen. On this we would discover our famous ancestors as well as other living individuals in our family tree currently in the library and also signed into the Discovery Center. This year you simply scanned a QR code on the large screen to open the FamilySearch login webpage on your cell phone. Once logged into FamilySearch the information was displayed on the screen. Once again famous ancestors as well as individuals in the li-

“FamilySearch Library (FSL) scanning stats have increased each year for the last few years. Last year we scanned 7,877 books which totaled 2,127,171 images. All of the scan sites combined (about 25) scanned 29,628 books which totaled 4,793,317 images. FSL contributes 40-50% of all images submitted to the digital library. Our rough and conservative estimates are that we will be able to scan 5 million images per year after the expansion, though this number will be influenced by a variety of factors. All images scanned and submitted go through an OCR (optical character recognition) process which makes them completely searchable. Books scanned by the FSL scanning center were

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Salt Lake City Trip 2024 (Cont'd from page 8)



Scanning Operations done here

accessed 1.8 million times on the digital library in 2023.”

Amazing stats for all family genealogists as they research their family ancestors and history. I am in awe and very appreciative of those organizations that realize they have in their storage vaults, file cabinets, closets and attics historical records that need to be digitized and made available to the public. For information on the process involved in ob-

taining, organizing and digitizing records check out a Family Tree Magazine article titled “How Family Search Obtains and Digitizes Genealogy Records” by Sunny Jane Morton in the May/June 2020 issue.

RootsTech 2025 has been scheduled next year for March 6-8 and the proposed dates for the annual SLC trip are March 9 – 16. Please consider joining us for another remarkable trip to the FamilySearch Library! And.....get a shirt!



Diane B Modeling the PSGS shirt she made for each of us



Exploring Sweden photo op in Discovery Center



Exploring Washington! Shirts received lots of positive comments and questions



Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

April 24, 2024 Janet Camarata: Beyond Maps: Location in Context

Understanding location is essential for successful research. Over time, names change, the surrounding areas change, and boundaries change. Understanding those changes can break through “brick walls” to find “lost relatives.” Learn how to add more descriptive information and context to enhance the accuracy and completeness of our genealogical data.

May 22, 2024 Diahn Southard Series: Light Your DNA Match List on Fire

Come learn to organize and label your DNA matches in such a way that, when you have a family history question, you’ll be able to look for just the right match(es) to help you answer it. Learn what kinds of questions your DNA match list may help you answer. Learn which of your DNA matches you should try to identify and see a demonstration of tools that will help you sort and label them properly. You will walk away with fresh appreciation for what’s possible with DNA matching and powerful tools and strategies for finding answers.

June 26, 2024 Janice Sellers: Get Me to the Church on Time: Finding Religious Records.

You will learn that religious records are often important substitutes when vital records are lost or never existed, but they also add depth to our understanding.

Schedule of Classes — Apr — Jun 2024

April 27, 2024 Janet Camarata: Using Historical Maps for Genealogy Research

Historical maps are crucial to genealogy research! These maps allow genealogy researchers to place our ancestors in a specific location and time, understand people and the land, understand migration patterns and the community where an ancestor lived. Historical maps reduce research time. Fortunately, many maps are found online for FREE.

May 11, 2024 Diahn Southard: Get Started (or Restarted)

Whether you haven’t taken a DNA test or you did but got discouraged and abandoned the effort, it’s time to take another look. In 2024, DNA can answer family history questions so much more powerfully than it could even five years ago. More accurate and precise ethnicity results point more meaningfully to ancestral places and populations. Come learn what’s possible and how to set a good DNA goal (like identifying an unknown ancestor, finding or verifying birth roots, connecting with distant relatives or figuring out where an ancestor was from). The best news is that you don’t have to be a scientist to make DNA discoveries. You can do the DNA—yes, even YOU!



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Schedule of Classes — Apr —Jun 2024

(Cont'd from page 10)

May 25, 2024 Diahn Southard: What DNA Success Looks Like

Come see real life examples where people have found clues about longtime family mysteries, the identities of missing ancestors, and more. See a step-by-step discovery process of what questions were being asked, how they found clues in both DNA and documents, what they did next, and what the results were. You'll walk away with fresh vision and excitement for using genetic genealogy—both the genetics AND the genealogy!--for finding the family history answers you want.

Summer 2024 Janet Camarata: Genealogy Series I: Discovering Your Ancestors

Genealogy is an enriching and rewarding way to discover our own families through their written records, photographs and artifacts. Tracing our ancestral roots expands our understanding of history and how they lived in earlier generations. The individual pieces of the family jigsaw puzzle consists of vital records, censuses, land records, immigration, naturalization, military records, church histories, taxes, court and court-house records, DNA and much more. The tools and techniques used by genealogists today are extensive and include the Internet, specific genealogy programs and websites, i.e. Ancestry and Family Search. Learn in a computer environment the resources available online and off-line to investigate the various jigsaw puzzle pieces that document your ancestors' lives.

June 1, 2004 Basic Forms — Accurate Data Formats — Vital Records: Death, Marriage & Birth

June 29, 2004 Genealogy Software Programs, Online and Off-line Sources, Census Records

More of Janet's classes will follow in July and August. See the next Backtracker for specific dates.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Update on the March 2024 Antique Show

More Want Ads for your review

Genealogy Center Volunteer Recognition



Christmas Traditions in My Family

By Melody Knight



This is our last Holiday Traditions story from 2023. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Christmas is my favorite holiday. It has a lot of meaning for me. It has always been a time for decorating the house, setting up a Christmas tree, putting out a nativity set or two, doing holiday baking and meals, going to or being involved in Christmas activities (programs, plays, concerts, caroling,) getting together with people, and other enjoyable



things. I plan for all this and look forward to making ornaments or gifts for many of my family members and friends. There are other traditions, too.

There are certain things that are always displayed during the Christmas holiday. The turkey salt and pepper shakers that were on our family Christmas (and Thanksgiving) tables now grace ours. The soap angels that sat on our mantle when I was a child, found a home on mantles and other places when our children were little, but now are too "mushy" to display. The beautifully carved wooden figures of my nativity set from Taiwan were made like the Hummel set the artists used as a model. But the clay ones that my maternal grandmother bought in the 1920s were my mother's favorites. They now both occupy their place on one of our buffet cabinets, as do the stocking holders and stockings.

Gathering with my Finnish grandparents at their



home was always fun. I loved the bubble lights on their old-fashioned tree. They always had yummy food. My grandmother Helmi never let us call her "Grandma", but she was a wonderful cook. She usually

made Finnish Cardamom Bread. There was so much food that my grandpa John, my father, and my uncle Johnny vied for one of the two couches, spreading out on the whole thing to take a nap. These gatherings were held in Aberdeen, Washington where my sisters and I grew up. We had clam chowder and clam dip at our home on Christmas Eve.

We had to go to Portland, Oregon to spend Christmas with Grandma Edie (Edith). She made taffy, penuche, fudge and other home-made goodies. She would knit, crochet or sew something like Christmas dresses or toys. I will never forget the red and white skating outfit she had made for my doll one year. She had crocheted it.

Decorating a real evergreen tree was a big deal. We spent the whole evening decorating. We



put on Christmas music and had cocoa. When we married and left our original family my mom gave us ornaments from her tree and her mom's tree. I got a new ornament to put on our

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Holiday Traditions

(Cont'd from page 12)

own tree each year to add to ours. We also got ornaments from foreign countries we visited or lived in. When we had our first child, I started getting three or four ornaments each year so each child could take some with them when they started their own family.

In our original family we each invited a friend over to bake and decorate Christmas cookies. Our friends got to take some home and we made plates of cookies to share with neighbors. I still do that.

We started a new tradition when our children were young. We made a birthday cake for baby Jesus so the kids wouldn't think that Christmas was just a time for getting lots of presents. We also helped them understand the concept of a "giving tree", showed them what we gave to charity, and brought them to events where we helped wrap presents for the underprivileged. I still buy gifts for the "Operation Christmas Child" project that sends shoeboxes all over the world. I usually knit about 50 scarves a year to put in the boxes, too.

Most of our family members have gone to drawing names for Christmas. It has changed what I do. I made and gave gifts to show my love. It makes that more difficult. I miss singing around a piano, reading the Christmas story from the Bible and reading all the favorite Christmas books to the

little ones. I guess what I really miss is having little ones at Christmas, Getting out my music boxes and sharing the skating penguins on one of them gives me so much pleasure.

Some ornaments I've made are drummer boys and swans of felt and angels made of cloth. I've wood-burned or carved deer, penguins, snowmen, red trucks with a tree in the back, and "ugly sweaters" (sweaters that have something not typically used at Christmas which are very significant to the wearer).

Christmas can be a magical time where we can be a part of helping others have a little more joy in their lives. Added to this is the joy of receiving cards, Emails, or gifts from family and friends.



Samples of ornaments by Melody

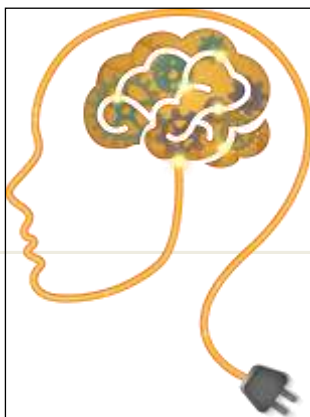
Writing Group

(Cont'd from page 6)

asked to describe the men. All she could remember was they were African American, and one had an orange scarf over his face. She was asked to describe the gun. Have you ever faced down the barrel of a pistol? She felt that the barrel of the gun was about four inches across. That was probably not true.

Sharon decided to resign from Northwest Finance after the second robbery. She did not want to give birth in the bathroom. The police came to her home a few weeks later with mug shots for her to look at. Unfortunately, she could not identify anyone. They again asked about the gun and showed her a few pictures. She was no help there either. Sharon never knew if the robbers were caught or not.

Things have changed in the last 137 years since Grandma Great was robbed. We have done



away with paper money. Wealth is determined today by numbers in a very secure account. This account is kept on a microchip implanted in each person's temple. Hackers face many years in a penal colony on the cold dark side of the moon. Prisoners have no contact with the outside world. This has deterred many a criminal. Thankfully people no longer need to go through what my Grandma Great did long ago.

Sharon's descendant chart for this story

Name	Birth	Relation to Sharon
Sharon	1946	
Kim	1969	mother
Dean	2000	grandmother
Denise	2030	GGM
Devon	2060	2x GGM

Watch for more stories from the writing group monthly writing prompts in future issues. Contact Elisabeth if you wish to become part of this group. Start writing your family history and have a dedicated time to write. It does help keep you focused. Members offer helpful suggestions to your stories. See the information on page 5.

RootsTech 2024

By Diane Howell Evans



This year was my first in-person attendance at RootsTech at the Salt Lake Palace in Salt Lake City! It was magical, overwhelming, amazing, unbelievable, and an experience of my life! The theme for RootsTech 2024 was “Remember” - remembering your family and life through storytelling.

RootsTech included daily general sessions with keynote speakers, so many lectures to select from and an Exhibit Hall with vendors who also hosted hourly learning sessions in their booths.

The conference introduced me to so many genealogy tools and new research methods. There

were many sessions on DNA and the newest Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology. I also did not expect to cry so much during a conference due to the emotional stories of others as they remembered family members and experiences!

The last General Session included first a performance followed by an interview with Keynote comedian Henry Cho – I now need to check him out on Sirius Channel 89. Plus, an interview with and performance by Keynote Kristin Chenoweth. An amazing performance and you should check it out on RootsTech.org.

You can revisit all the General Sessions, keynote speakers and lectures and download all the session handouts on the RootsTech 365 platform. Be sure and check back frequently as RootsTech will be adding new content during the year.

Save the Date: RootsTech 2025 is scheduled for Thursday, March 6th through Saturday, March 8th. If you can attend in person, I highly recommend you do so!



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.

BOOK DRAWING FOR VOLUNTEERS

GC Volunteers are taking part in drawings 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 are earning chances for the drawing by volunteering in the GC. Each quarter will start a new drawing. 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.



1301 Sylvan Way

Bremerton, WA 98310

(360) 475-9172 • www.psgsociety.org