



# THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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

Vol. 50: Issue 1 Jan—Mar 2025

## Kitsap Antique Show 2025

### Our Annual Fundraiser

By Rich Peel, Antique Show Committee Chair

The 27<sup>th</sup> Kitsap Antique Show will be held on the weekend of February 22-23 in Presidents' Hall at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds and Events Center. This returns the show to our traditional 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in February timeframe, which has been popular with many of the participating dealers. As usual, the 2025 show will feature sales of wonderful antiques, great vintage items, and fascinating collectibles as well as a team of on-site appraisers to offer oral evaluations of family heirlooms and treasures.

The Antique Show Committee has been working all year to plan and advertise the show, our only annual fundraising event. Our 2024 show contributed \$8,000 for PSGS projects and programs! *Continued success, of course, relies on PSGS members volunteering to help staff the show.*

So, we will again need PSGS members to step up to serve as entrance and appraisal area cashiers as well as to assist dealers with load-in on Friday and load-out on Sunday evening. In addition, we always need help with some essential advertising activities prior to the show, such as placing road signs (on the Monday before

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## Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

2024 came to an end with our annual Christmas party. Once again Heidi did an excellent job of organizing it. I'm sure there is an article about it on one of these pages, so I won't go into it. However, we did honor Larry Harden for his many years of dedication to PSGS as he decided to "retire" from being our Treasurer. Larry became a lifetime member in 1995. He was 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in 1998, 1999 and 2011, President in 2000 and 2001. One of the duties of being President was coordinating the yearly Salt Lake City trips. Since he was planning to continue going to Salt Lake City, he took on the role of coordinator for the next 22 years. He also formed the Obituary committee in 2001. Since 2004, he has been the chairperson of the Research Committee (of one). He was the Treasurer for a total of 14 years (2005, 2010, 2012-2024), which included being the Treasurer for the Antique Show. Larry has done a lot for this society and his knowledge will be missed!

Speaking of the Antique Show, it's just around the corner! February 22 and 23, at the usual place, Presidents' Hall, Kitsap County Fairgrounds. Tessio Catering will be managing the café. If you haven't already signed up to help and want to, contact Rachele Peel, the Volunteer Coordinator, at [rachelep98370@gmail.com](mailto:rachelep98370@gmail.com). I think there is an article with more information on one of these pages.

And don't forget to plan to attend the January Social (aka General Meeting) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is in-person only where you will have the opportunity to see what PSGS has to offer. Bring a friend or two or three. Refreshments and good conversations provided!

The Salt City Trip is scheduled for March 9-15. If you're interested in going, contact Diane Evans at [devansava@aol.com](mailto:devansava@aol.com) I think there is an article somewhere in this edition as well.

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# Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

It has been another busy quarter with 119 visitors to the Genealogy Center (GC) between October and December. A huge vote of thanks to all the PSGS volunteers who faithfully keep the GC open 6 days a week to ensure that patrons have the online and print resources they need to help them with their family history research.

Ingrid, the PSGS Volunteer book mender, continues to give her time and talent to repair and conserve the more fragile books that have been donated over the past year.

Here are a few books that I have added since the beginning of November:

Title	Call Number
The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Company Immigrants to New England 1629-1630	Genealogy 929.374 Anderso 2012
Pilgrim Migration Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1629-1633	Genealogy 929.3744 Anderso 2006
New York State Censuses and Substitutes	Genealogy 929.3747 Dollarh 2006
History of Ancient Families of New Amsterdam and New York	Genealogy 929.3747 Purple 2013
Early Ohio Tax Records	Genealogy 929.3771 Early O 1985
The Custer Battle Casualties	Genealogy 929.3786 Hardoff 1989

Finally, I have been adding books to the Free Cart intermittently during the quarter so check that out when you visit the GC – you never know what you might find.

Happy New Year to you all.

Elisabeth Demmon, Library Associate

## Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager (Cont'd from page 2)

And one last item: Don't forget dues are due! You can mail it to Sylvan Way Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310 or drop it off at the Genealogy Center, to the attention of Charles Treiberg. You can pick up a membership form at the GC or download it from the PSGS website.

Be sure to read any emails with the subject line that starts with PSGS, as those are reminders of upcoming PSGS events.

Happy New Year!

## Annual Trip to SLC FamilySearch Library ....

By Diane Howell Evans

### Last Reminder for PSGS Genealogy 2025 Trip to Salt Lake City!

Gentle nudge - if you are still interested in joining us for the upcoming 2025 Salt Lake City FamilySearch Library Genealogy trip, March 9-15, the quickly approaching cutoff date for hotel reservations at the Plaza Hotel at Temple Square using the Group Reservation Code of "Puget Sound" is February 8, 2025.

Last year our trip to the FamilySearch Library 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 our experience last year 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 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 and the expected completion is now projected to be the end of 2026. 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 with a list of tours, Tabernacle Choir or Organ Performances occurring during the week.

So come join us for a remarkable journey! Please use the following information 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 \$105 plus taxes; Deluxe Double Queen \$115 plus taxes

**Payment** – Provide your credit card information to guarantee your reservations

**Rooms held until 02/08/2025!**

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](mailto:DEvansAVA@aol.com).



FamilySearch Library

# Antique Show

(Cont'd from page 1)

the show) and retrieving them (by the Monday after the show), distributing show postcards at antique shops and area retirement homes, and posting flyers at local businesses and other high-traffic, public locations. None of this work is difficult, and having lots of volunteers makes less work for everyone.

Work shifts at the show are short, typically only two hours, although members are welcome to sign up for more than one shift. By serving in a show staff position, all volunteers are rewarded with free coffee and donuts during their shifts as well as free admission to enjoy the show all weekend — plus, of course, the satisfaction of knowing that their participation was key to enabling PSGS to host this important annual fundraising event.



*An easy, seated job for show volunteers is serving as a cashier at either the admissions entrance or in the appraisal area.*

We will have volunteer sign-up sheets at the PSGS January Social, and members can also volunteer by simply contacting the show's Volunteer Coordinator, Rachele Peel by email at: [Rachel-leP98370@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel-leP98370@gmail.com).



*Dealers at the Kitsap Antique Show greatly appreciate the availability of show volunteers to help them load their booth items in and out of Presidents' Hall.*



*What treasures will you find at the show?*

## DC Metro Area Genealogical Research Libraries

### Possible Alternative to the Annual SLC FamilySearch Library Trip

By Diane Evans

In the Oct-Dec 2024 Backtracker I listed several genealogical libraries as possible alternatives to the annual trip to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. In this issue I am listing several libraries in the metro DC area for consideration.

#### Library of Congress

The world's largest library in Washington, DC, holds more than 50,000 genealogies, 100,000 local histories, 5 million maps and extensive collections of city directories and newspapers. Its' North American, British Isles and German collections are especially strong.

Check out the online American Memory collections and guides to the library's genealogy collections at: <https://www.loc.gov/search/?in=&q=genealogy+guides&new=true&st=>

#### Washington DC Family History Center

The Washington DC Family History Center (FHC) is a branch of the Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and is open for genealogical research by both church members and the public. FHCs provide local access to Church microfilmed family history records, family history computer resources, and internet genealogical websites.

The FHC offers **free access** to several fee-based databases: World Vital Records; Footnote.com, Heritage Quest, FamilyLink, Godfrey Memorial Library, Genline, FindMyPast.uk, FamilyHistoryLink, Alexander Street Press (Civil War), The Genealogist, Historic Map Works, 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive.

Our computers also have direct links to hundreds of genealogical websites.

For more information, see the website at: <https://wdcfhc.org/about/>

#### National Archives in Washington, DC (Archives I)

##### **Genealogical Research**

The National Archives in Washington, DC, has extensive microfilm holdings of value for genealogy research, among them:

- Federal population censuses for all States, 1790-1930;
- indexes for the censuses, both published and on CD;
- military service records and indexes;
- pension and bounty-land warrant applications;

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## Possible Alternative to the Annual SLC FamilySearch Library Trip (Cont'd from page 6)

- indexes to passenger arrival records;
- indexes to selected naturalization records processed through Federal courts;
- passport applications

In addition, the Archives Library Information Center has many published materials that are of assistance to genealogists.

### Historical Research

In addition to Genealogy, the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, houses textual and microfilm records relating to:

- American Indians
- The New Deal
- the District of Columbia
- the Federal Courts
- Congress
- pre-World War II military and naval-maritime matters

For more information, see: <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/index.html>

### National Archives in College Park, MD (Archives II)

#### Genealogical Research

- On microfilm, we have post-Civil War Internal Revenue tax assessment lists, 1862-1874
- Cartographic Research Room has maps and aerial photographs
- The Archives Library Information Center in College Park has published materials, such as indexes and directories from Federal agencies, the military, and Congress.

#### Historical Research

We hold permanent records created by Federal agencies that include:

- Textual records from civilian agencies
- Army unit records dating from WW1
- Navy unit records dating from WW2
- Still pictures
- Electronic records
- Cartographic and architectural holdings

## Possible Alternative to the Annual SLC FamilySearch Library Trip (Cont'd from page 7)

- Motion picture, sound, and video records
- JFK Assassination Records
- Berlin Documents Center microfilm

For more information, see: <https://www.archives.gov/college-park>

### National Archives in Suitland, MD (Archives III)

#### **Bankruptcy and Court Records**

We have closed civil and criminal case records of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Court of Claims, and Court of Appeals available for public research.

For more information, see: <https://www.archives.gov/frc/suitland>

### National DAR Library

This library of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Washington, DC was founded as a collection of genealogical and historical publications used to verify application papers for society membership. It now houses those applications and supporting files plus biographies, genealogies, cemetery records, Bible records, church records, city directories, periodicals and manuscripts—making it an especially great resource for tracing your ancestry to the Revolutionary War.

For more information, see: <https://www.dar.org/>

Please let me know if you are interested in making an annual trip to any of the above listed metro DC area libraries or any of the other libraries listed in the Oct-Dec 2024 Backtracker issue. When I am aware of any interest in a specific library, I will research the requirements for an in-person visit, local transportation and near-by housing/dining. You can contact me at: [DEvansAVA@aol.com](mailto:DEvansAVA@aol.com). Please include “PSGS – genealogy library visits” in the subject line. Thank you.







## Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

**Jan 22, 2025 Getting to Know PSGS—A Social Event**

In-person only from 1:00 — 3:00 pm See page 10 for more information

**Feb 26, 2025 AI and Family History — Presented by Joleen Aitchison**

Artificial Intelligence is an exciting and sometimes frightening, technology that we seem to be hearing about everywhere we turn! What is it? Can it be another tool in our research toolbox? We will learn how and where to use it, and how it may help us in our family history research.

**Mar 26, 2024 Homesteading: Land for All — Presented by Christine Cohen**

Homestead application packets from 1862-1934 are great sources of genealogical information. These applications list family members and statements from neighbors, plus notations of previous residences. Plus, pages from the family Bible, birth, marriage or death certificates, newspaper clippings, and witness affidavits. Union Civil War Veterans had to provide proof of military service and immigrants had to provide naturalization documents.

## Schedule of Classes — Jan — Mar 2025

**Genealogy Series III: Learn more about your Genealogy**

By Janet O’Conor Camarata


Janet will be continuing her enriching and rewarding series using a variety of lesser known sources, including county and family histories; maps, atlases, and gazetteers; land records; courthouses, including wills and probate; immigration, naturalization and passenger lists and military records. Gain skills in the research process; on-site research planning; using timelines and chronologies; organizing paper, books and digital files and the Genealogical Proof Standard.

- Jan 25, 2025** Class #2 Analysis Process; Analysis Tools
- Feb 8, 2025** Class #3 Historical Research; Church Records
- Mar 1, 2025** Class #4 Social History, Calculating Our Ancestor’s Lives
- Mar 29, 2025** Class #5 What to Do With What We Have
- Apr 5, 2025** Class #6 Writing Your Research Results; Sharing Success Stories and/or Questions and Answers



All classes are from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and are open to the public. Zoom link will be emailed to members two days prior to class. The Zoom link is shareable to non-members. All classes will be hybrid.




## GETTING TO KNOW PSGS



**Puget Sound Genealogical Society**  
*Preserving Family History  
 Through Education & Research*

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Please Join Us At Our  
**JANUARY SOCIAL**

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Open to the  
Public!

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**  
 Heninger Room  
 Kitsap Regional Library  
 Sylvan Way Branch

Refreshments  
Included!

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- See What PSGS is All About
- Chat with Others Interested in Genealogy
- Learn About Fun Committee Opportunities
- Discover Upcoming Classes & Programs

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Please Visit Us Online at: [PSGSociety.org](http://PSGSociety.org) and [Facebook.com/PSGSroots](https://www.facebook.com/PSGSroots)

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 2025 dues and save on postage. You can meet your 2025 PSGS Officers. It is open to the public so bring a friend or two. Remember, this is an in-person only event.

We will also have a chance for you to win prizes while meeting others with interests similar to yours. You may find a relative seated next to you. You may find someone who is researching the same area you are working on.

Looking forward to seeing you on January 22!

# My Journey to Ireland and Standing on the Auld Sod

By Tamma Farra

I inherited a few pieces to the ancestry puzzle about the Craigmiles, my mother's maiden name. One of the pieces stated the Town and County they were from. That was great information. Another puzzle piece stated there were 6 Creagmile (that was the spelling they used in Ireland) brothers. Because it is not a common surname in Ireland, any information I came across with that name I copied down. But just because the surname wasn't common, the given names were very common and there were lots of duplicates: William, Alexander, Charles, John, Samuel and so on. In 2018 I tried to figure out family groups, but it was too overwhelming, so though I made some progress, I had to put it away for awhile. Then I picked it up again several years later and made another attempt. I realized I needed to come up with a numbering system to keep everyone straight if I was going to create family groups and separate them into generations and find connections. It was impossible to only focus on one branch at this point when the branches hadn't been defined other than there were 6 brothers. I did have those names though. Another lucky break! So each of the 6 brothers was given an alphabet number; A-F. My branch became "F Charles". Then I could have his children become F1, F2, F3, etc. I think there are many ways to number family groups and generations, but so far this seems to work for me.

Most of my time in 2024 was devoted to gathering more information and sorting it out. A trip

to Ireland was scheduled for the fall of 2024, so the pressure was on to make as much progress as I could before we left. I am amazed at how much can be found on the internet these days. One of the treasures I found through PRONI's website was the 3 lives land lease the Creagmile were given in 1757. Though records are sparse for the mid 1700s-mid 1800s, which makes it hard to fill in all the gaps, I was making progress. One thing I found particularly helpful to me was to organize the information I was working with in different ways. It helped to sometimes organize it by location, by



Standing on the sod and looking out across the land the Craigmiles lived on. Ellie, Tom, Tamma, Pdraig Sr who grew up there and my daughter Katie.

Dungoran, Co Tyrone

date, by type of event, or by the same forename along with surname. I have lots of different documents I created with this in mind. To see

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## My Journey to Ireland and Standing on the Auld Sod

(Cont'd from page 11)

the data organized differently helped me to see new connections. I paid for an hour's consultation with William Roulston, a research expert from the Ulster Historical Foundation to see if my arguments for linking my branch up to the John Creagmile on the land lease would hold up. He thought they would.

One of my goals when we were in Ireland was to find the townlands they were on and see what the land looked like now. So I began to inquire about finding a guide to show us around. Lots of dead ends on that one. I tried getting in touch with the local library but didn't hear back. Several months passed and I tried the library again. Bingo! She suggested I try the Fintona By Gone Days Facebook group. I made a post on that and boy..... was I excited! Several people answered immediately that they knew the Craigmiles. Ann McDermott said they were the only family who lived in Screggagh now (which is where the land lease was), and another person sent a picture of a Creagmile house in serious dilapidation.... but somewhat still standing! We began to back and forth and I suggested we share a meal in Fintona when we were planning on being there and would they mind showing us around.

As the time to leave for Ireland became close, we made plans to meet. This is the most amazing part..... I think they were as excited to meet us as we were to meet them. They lined up Wellies for us to wear and we were to come for lunch, they would take us out to the fields, and we were to share a supper. These people, the McDermotts, weren't Craigmiles, but Pdraig Sr. who is in his 90s remembered some of them, and the McDermotts now own most of the land the Creagmile people did. The land is still

being farmed and the view from atop the hill was spectacular. Standing on the sod was a deeply amazing feeling that is hard to describe. There are 3 Creagmile houses they showed us: one is gone but an outbuilding still exists where corn was ground. A second house looked in better shape, but was too overgrown to even get to it. And the third house was in the best shape you could say, even though the slate roof was half gone and the walls had their issues. The iron arm you hang a cooking pot on and swing it back into the fireplace was still there. Pdraig Jr. said yes it was ok to take a rock, which I did, and Katie took a piece of slate from the roof that was lying on the ground.



Somewhat still standing. A Craigmiles house in Dungoran, Co Tyrone.

We checked into our lodging for the night then went up to Pdraig Jr. and Lucy's house for an amazing meal and amazing conversation that went on 'till midnight. We drank, laughed, sang, drank some

(Cont'd on page 13)

# My Journey to Ireland and Standing on the Auld Sod

( Cont'd from page 12)

more, and talked some more. As we were leaving, it felt like we had made friends for the rest of our lives. So with snow falling, we said our goodbyes and rolled down the hill to Fintona for the night. We were filled with afterglow for several days...and it's still there. Oh and did I say, on this trip was my daughter Katie, her husband Tom, and

my 11 year old granddaughter Ellie. And Katie felt a connection to the land and the people that I was hoping she would feel. What perfect icing to top the incredible cake so to speak.

So in conclusion I would say: be persistent! Don't give up. Take a break if you need to, but don't give up!

## 2024 Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party was held on December 12 at the Eagle's Nest. New officers for 2025 were installed. Larry Harden retired as Treasurer and was honored for his many years of service to PSGS. A great lunch was consumed.

Door prizes were passed out. And there was even a visit from an historic Santa Claus.

If you were unable to attend this meeting, please enjoy the following pictures and plan to be part of the festivities in 2025.



Lots of help made quick work of setting up



(Cont'd on page 14)

# 2024 Christmas Party

(Cont'd from page 13)



Attendees ate well and enjoyed a time to sit down and visit before heading to the most important table...dessert!



A big thank you goes to the PSGS Official Christmas Party photographer, Rick Yager



Alta gets ready to install the 2025 officers



# 2024 Christmas Party

(Cont'd from page 14)



Jean and Heidi honor Larry



Santa arrives



2025 PSGS Officers — Thank you all !!

Lisa Treiberg — Member at Large

Karen Duke — Treasurer

Mahala Henry — Secretary

Charles Treiberg — 1st Vice President/Membership

Heidi Ginder — 2nd Vice President/Programs

Jean Yager — President

# 2024 Christmas Party

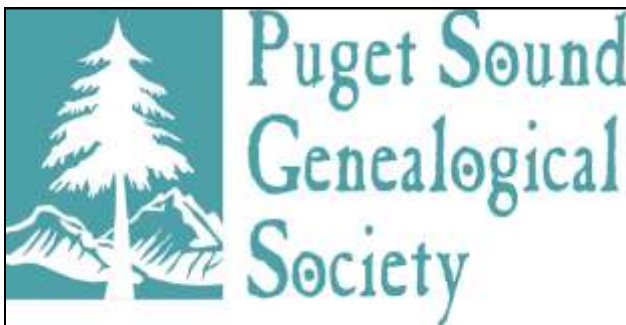
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Santa helps with the door prizes. There are many smiling faces . Even more than there is room for on these pages. What fun was had by all.







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## BACKTRACKER UPDATE

Reminder—Due to rising costs of printing and postage, beginning with this issue, all issues of the Backtracker will be on-line only.

Thank you.

PSGS Executive Board

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Sharon Hornback will soon prepare her last Backtracker. PSGS is looking for a new editor. Sharon will cease being the Backtracker Editor in six more issues.

Are you ready to become the new editor? You must be a member of PSGS. If you wish to accept now, Sharon will work with you on a few issues. Please let her know if this is something you would like to do. Contact Sharon at ...

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

## 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!

## BELFAIR CHAPTER

The Belfair Chapter meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Timberland 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.