



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

www.psgsociety.org

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At our last Executive Board Meeting in June, our 2nd Vice President Charles Treiberg shared that we currently have 117 PSGS members. Of those, 22 are NEW members. How wonderful that we are growing again! During COVID, we took a step back. We were not able to meet in the library for our General Meetings or for classes as the library was closed. That is when we started having ZOOM meetings. Then we progressed to hybrid meetings and classes. It is wonderful to see more and more people attending our classes and meetings in person.



Whether you are one of the new members or a continuing member, please read the President Ponderings article on page 2. Read it carefully and ask yourself, “What can I do to become more involved in PSGS?”

Do you like to organize and lead meetings, perhaps with a partner?

Do you like to plan holiday parties?

Do you like to gather member input and find interesting speakers for our group?

Do you like to collect stories from our members and put them together into a newsletter like this one?

Your help is needed to work on a committee or chair a committee.

Please consider becoming more involved. Contact Jean Yager at psgsociety1301@gmail.com if you are interested in chairing a committee or running for an office.

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

To engage the younger generation with genealogy, PSGS is developing two outreach programs. One is a Family Crest for Teens event. Mahala Henry has composed an excellent article detailing its execution. Please refer to pages 3 and 7 for further information.

The other outreach program is offering a scholarship to students pursuing higher education in college, university or vocational schools. Karen Duke, Elisabeth Demmon, Mark Watson, Alta Drane and I have begun the process of creating an application. The goal is to present it to Kitsap County schools in September and to award it at the end of 2025-2026 school year. If you have any experience (or not) in developing scholarships, we could use your help. Contact me at psgsociety1301@gmail.com.

We need more involvement in our society. If you're reading this, then you're a PSGS member. Consider joining the Executive Board. The board consists of 15 positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Member-at-Large, Belfair Chapter and South Kitsap Chapter reps, Genealogy Center Coordinator, Antique Show Chair, Education Chair, Newsletter Chair, Publicity Chair, Website Chair, and Past President Advisor. I am interested in assuming the role of Past President Advisor but to do so we need someone to take on the position of President (this could also be a Co-President position). All positions are available, but four are definitely being vacated at the end of the year: President, 1st Vice President, Education Chair and Newsletter Chair (the Backtracker). While I am reluctant to make an urgent appeal, I kindly ask you to consider participating to ensure the continued existence of our society.

One last appeal: As mentioned above, we are looking for an Education Chair. I have been the chair (pulling double duty on the Eboard) for umpteen years. If this is something of interest to you, please contact me and let's talk.

The Backtracker — A publication of the Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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Genealogy Center Report

By Elisabeth Demmon

The Genealogy Center has been busy this quarter with over 225 visitors since the beginning of April. The Center's volunteers continue to provide a wonderful resource for those researching their family history. I am very grateful to all of you who spend your time and expertise on helping patrons find the tools they need to discover their ancestors.

Coming Soon!

The PSGS, in partnership with Jacqueline Keating, Sylvan Way Branch's Teen Librarian, is supporting and facilitating a genealogy program

designed for the youth on October 7 th.

For more information on this program, please read Mahala Henry's article included in the newsletter. To support this program, new books designed for younger readers, will be added to the Genealogy Center collection with a special display in time for the October event. Stay tuned!

Have a safe and lovely summer
Elisabeth Demmon, Library Associate
KRL Liaison to the PSGS.

The Genealogy Center Needs You

The Genealogy Center is open for patrons every Monday through Saturday from 12—4 p.m. However, it can only be open when volunteers are available to staff it. Would you like to be a Genealogy Center Volunteer? Can you volunteer 4 hours of your time each month? You do not need to be an expert genealogist. You will receive orientation training for the library and the GC.

During the time you are volunteering in the GC, if there are no visitors, you can work on

your own genealogy. This is also a great time to familiarize yourself with the extensive selection of books available. You can also access the Library Editions of Fold 3, Family Search, and Ancestry.

Contact Sharon Hornback if you are interested at sharonhornback@comcast.net .

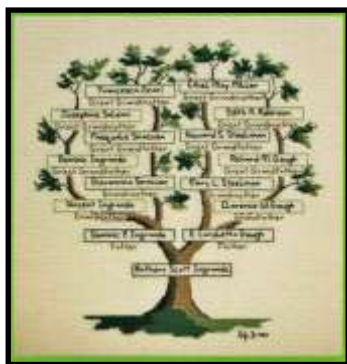


Will my correct William Hamilton please stand up?

By Sharon Hornback

In the fall of 2024, I received an email from Valerie Potts. She wanted to tell me that she saw my information on Ancestry and that my information was wrong. I had never heard of her before, but I was interested. My 2-x great grandmother was named Ann Jane (Hamilton) Potts. According to Valerie, the information I had on William Hamilton, her father, was all wrong. I am trying to remember where I got the information in the first place. I knew from my grandma Smith (Ann Jane's great granddaughter) that William Hamilton was from Ontario, Canada and had immigrated there from Ireland. I must have searched census records, in the long-ago times before I learned much about genealogy. Could there be more than one William Hamilton from Ireland that settled in Ontario and had a daughter named "Jane"? I looked back over my papers and found the following information.

My first William Hamilton was born 1794 – 1797 in Mayo, Connacht, Ireland and died in 1879 in Fitzroy Township, Carleton, Ontario, Canada. His wife was Deborah Hodgins, born in 1812 in Newtown County, Tipperary, Ireland and she died in 1871 in Fitzroy, Carleton, Ontario. I only knew of one child's name, Ann Jane Hamilton. I found an 1851 census from Carleton County, Fitzroy to support this information. There was a child listed as Jane that would have been close to the age of my 2x great grandmother Ann Jane, so I decided this must be



the right family. The Hodgins family was quite prominent in Tipperary and later in Ontario, so there was a lot of information on the probable uncles. I took this information into my working tree and considered it good until I could delve into that branch in more detail.

However, Valerie told me that she had a paper from Great Aunt Eva with the correct information. I remember Aunt Eva. When I was a little girl, we went to the aunts' house and watched the hydroplane races on Lake Washington. Three aunts lived together, Martha, Margaret, and Eva. Valerie said she would look for the information and get a copy of it for me. In the spring of 2025, I heard back from her. Valerie said her brother was looking in the Potts' Bible and found the papers. Here is what she shared.

William Hamilton was an only child, born in 1812 at Enniskillen, Farmanagh County in North Ireland. His father, John Hamilton, died when William was a young boy. William and his mother migrated to Canada and settled in the Lake Beauport area near the City of Quebec.

Margaret Murray was born in 1815 in County Down, North Ireland, near Belfast. Her father, Hammond Murray, moved his family to Canada and they settled near the Hamiltons at Lake Beauport.

William and Margaret were married in the spring of 1831 and farmed in the Lake Beauport area. They had nine children – James, John, William, Jacob, Isaac, David, Margaret, Ann Jane, and Martha.

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Will my correct William Hamilton please stand up?

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"When James was 18 and John 16, the two boys went to the Township of Osprey, County Grey, Ontario, Canada. For three years they endured the hardships of cold winters and hot summers and laboring with axes to hew a homestead out of a forest wilderness of giant 100 year old sugar maple, elm and beach trees – their only company the lonely sounds of the wild things of the forest. The boys built a small log cabin for themselves from the fallen trees, then a larger one for the family, and cleared a large field for spring planting. In the spring of 1853, the family joined them with great rejoicing." (Eva Grant)*

Now I have a better understanding on how the Hamilton family came to Ontario. I also have learned that the Hamilton's may have been Scots-

Irish. My grandmother, Myrtle Partridge Smith once told me that Scots-Irish was part of my heritage. I just thought she meant Scottish and Irish. I never realized that she truly meant they were a part of the Ulster Scots. So I have learned that I need to go back to my previous webinars that I attended, but sort of ignored. Of course I thought I had no Ulster Scots in my family. Of course there was only one William Hamilton who came from Ireland to Canada and had a daughter named Ann Jane. Of course, I was wrong. I have thanked Cousin Valerie Potts for pointing out the error of my ways. Now I have a whole new group of ancestors to research, as if I didn't have enough relatives already. One thing I love (and dislike) about genealogy is that you are never done. I so enjoy the people that come into the GC and say, "Oh, my genealogy is all done." It cannot be. Something or someone always pops up out of the woodwork leading you to another branch of your ever-growing tree.



Eva Potts Grant, about 1905. She wrote the story of the Hamilton migration that ended up inside the Potts family Bible. So glad she was interested in her grandfather's history.

*From Great Aunt Eva Grant's report



Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

- Jul 23, 2025 American Revolution Genealogy—Presented by Beth Foulk**
The War of Independence changed history; our history; our families' history. It's a story about which we want to know more. In this class, we'll discover where to start, what the best resources are, and how to tackle the research.
- Aug 27, 2025 Western Trail-Following the Seven Ts—Presented by Steven Morrison**
The major trails from the Midwest to the west will be covered in this session. The principal routes will include the Oregon and California Trails, the Mormon migration, the Santa Fe Trail, and more. These were the OVERLAND RIVERS which helped populate the West..
- Sep 24, 2024 Alienation of Affection: Divorce in the United States—Presented by Christine Cohen**
Divorce is not just a 20th Century phenomenon. At first, granted by the State Legislature and then by the Courts, these case files are public records. The case files can include marriage date and place, names and ages of children, and other information. Clues are in the Census, City Directories, Military Pen - sions, County Courthouses & especially in Newspapers. This could be the reason for a "lost spouse".

Schedule of Classes — Jul — Sep 2025

Due to summer schedules, there will be no classes in July and August. Classes will begin again in September. Classes are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. September's classes have not been confirmed as yet. Please check your email blasts, facebook, and the website to find the most current class lists.

All classes are from 10:30 am to 12 noon at Sylvan Way Library Heninger Room. They are open to the public and are hybrid. The Zoom link is emailed to members two days prior to class. It is shareable to anyone interested in genealogy. The Zoom link can also be found on the PSGS website www.psgsociety.org or the PSGS Facebook page.

Family Crest Program for Teens

By Mahala Henry

As part of the PSGS commitment to share their members' passion for genealogy, we are embarking on developing a teen program whose goal is to spark interest via exposure to and experience with genealogy concepts, practices, and tools. Genealogy is a means to explore the elements and context of familial identity. Defining those elements and context via exploration and research connects the individual identities of family members with one another, and the tools that genealogists use such as Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets assist in organizing individual information in a form that can be used to analyze and associate those relationships.

The program we are developing to ignite in teens an awareness of genealogy is to create a family crest. The crest is the product in that it symbolizes the familial identity; however, it is the process that we are most interested in conveying and encouraging.

Our target date for the program presentation is October 7, 2025. The program will be presented as part of an ongoing KRL activity but participation is open to all teens. For program volunteers, the development process will include six meetings to be held at the Genealogical Center and some individual independent volunteer tasks to support program activities.

Developing such a program requires contributions of time, interest, and participation by several PSGS program volunteers, who want to share their passion for genealogy and believe it is important to encourage and expose youth to the tools and practices a genealogist may use to explore and discover the unknowns of family, community, history, and personal context. We ask for your help in this development process and presentation of the program.

Please volunteer to support this program. Contact Mahala Henry at marymahalahenry@gmail.com.

Genealogy Center Book Drawing

PSGS Genealogy Center Volunteers are the stars that keep the center open for research at KRL, Sylvan Way Branch. As a special thank you to the volunteers, they get a chance to enter quarterly drawings for genealogy related books. Volunteers have their names entered in the drawing when they volunteer 3 times in the quarter and get another entry for each time they volunteer there after.



Joyce Stockman won the April drawing, Marriage Law for Genealogists.

The July drawing will be for the book titled, Scottish Genealogy by Bruce Durie.

Lineage Societies – Part 2

By Diane Howell Evans

In this issue of the *Backtracker* I am sharing my experience with completing the application for membership in the Associated Daughters of Early American Witches (ADEAW). I wasn't even aware of any witches in my family until my cousin's wife and her girlfriends made a trip to Boston MA. While there they visited the Salem Witch Museum and somehow discovered we had ancestors who were charged with witchcraft during the Salem Witch trials. Who knew!

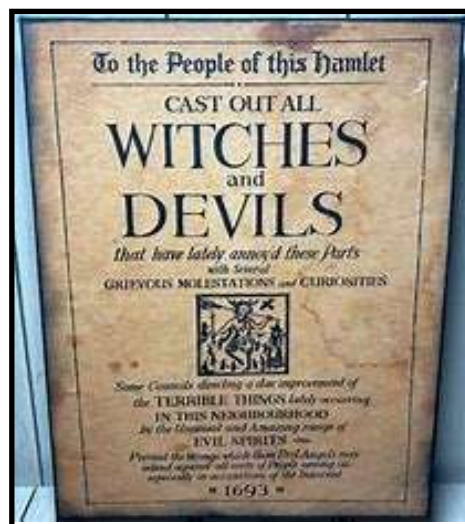
One must be invited to join the ADEAW which at first I thought meant you had to know a member but in fact you just go to their website, [Home | Associated Daughters of Early American Witches](#), and towards the bottom of the home page is located a section titled "Contact Us" and there is a link "Request Invitation to Join." Once you click on it you receive an online form where you indicate your name, e-mail address, convicted ancestor's name and then a message box. When finished just click on the "Submit" button.

A day or two later you will receive an e-mail from the President General of ADEAW thanking you for your inquiry with 3 attachments. One is the application form, in both pdf and doc formats, and the third is a document with instructions for completing the application.

On the front page of the application form you indicate your name, address, phone, e-mail, the name of the ancestor you are using to claim justification for membership, a brief description of the accusation/conviction, and then the documentation you are using for proof of the accusation/conviction.

The next 3 pages of the application form are used to list your lineage, up to 15 generations, beginning with yourself and back through the generations until you reach the accused, convicted ancestor. For each generation you must indicate the relationship between the generations (son/daughter) and then for each of your ancestors their name, birth date/place, death date/place, married date/place, spouse's name, birth date/place, death date/place and then a list of the documents you are using for proof.

You are advised to type your responses on the form. There is no way I could print legible information that fits in the small spaces provided. So, I created a spreadsheet in the same format as the hard copy with the information. I am hoping now with advanced technology they will accept my



spreadsheet.

I worked back through 12 generations, following the surnames of Howell (father), Roundy (grandmother), Merrifield (G grandmother and 3G grandfather), Estey (4G grandmother and 5, 6, 7G grandfathers), Towne (8G grandmother), and Blessings (9G grandmother). From this point forward my time will be collecting all the documentation to support the dates and relationships. There are very specific instructions for collecting the doc-

Lineage Societies – Part 2

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umentation for each generation and showing the relationship between the generations. I am sort of overwhelmed right now with this next step!

So, who are my ancestors accused and convicted of witchcraft at the Salem Witch Trials of 1692? My 8th great grandmother, Mary Towne Estey (Eastey, Easty, Estey, Esty), wife of a very wealthy farmer in Topsfield MA, was accused of witchcraft in April 1692 and arrested on April 21st. Her arrest happened just a few weeks after her two sisters, Rebecca Towne Nurse and Sarah Towne Bridges Cloyce, were also arrested on the same charges. Sidenote: Their mother, Joanna Blessings Towne (9G grandmother), in her mid-70's, was also suspected of witchcraft but never tried.



To make a long story short, Mary and her sister Rebecca, were tried and convicted. On September 22, 1692, Mary was hanged with 7 other convicted witches. Rebecca was hanged on July 19, 1692. Sarah spent many months in jail but managed to survive until the end of the witch trials in 1693.

What did my 8G and 9G grandmothers and my 8G aunts do to cause the accusations of witchcraft?

They all came from reputable families and were highly respected in their villages. Unfortunately, the determined defense of a local minister, Reverend Gilbert, by Joanna Blessings Towne, resulted in her pitted against the Gould family – her daughter-in-law's family. Plus, the Estey and Towne men also found themselves pitted against the Putnam family when they testified against Captain John Putnam claiming they saw the Captain, his sons and some of his cousins, cutting down timber within the boundaries of the village of Topsfield and on other men's property. The Putnams lost the case which only caused more bitterness to their already known behavior of high-temper, controversy and the desire for personal conflicts.

The Goulds and the Putnams were close friends and would become some of the main accusers against the Towne sisters. Retribution, vengeance, payback – you name it.

If you have a chance to stream *"The Crucible"* it is well worth it to watch. There is the 1967 version with George C. Scott, Colleen Dewhurst and Tuesday Weld. The updated 1996 version stars Daniel Day-Lewis and Winona Ryder. Both leave you in amazement as to how hysteria evolves. Rebecca Towne Nurse is a major character in both, and I know Mary Towne Estey is mentioned as one of the accused. The back story has nothing to do with the Estey, Towne, Gould or Putnam controversy but is instead the story of a young girl trying to frame the wife of her ex-lover as a witch during the 1692 witch trials.

I'll keep you posted on the status of my application to ADEAW in future issues.

Alternate Genealogy Libraries for Future Annual Research Trips

By Diane Howell Evans

In the October-December 2024 Backtracker, I wrote an article listing the top ten genealogy libraries in the US and requested input on any you might be interested in visiting as an alternate to the annual FamilySearch Library trip. I received 3 suggestions as alternate possibilities. The following is a description of each and includes details on the library and the surrounding area for trip planning purposes. Please review and forward any comments or questions to DEvansAVA@aol.com



Allen County Public Library (ACPL) located in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is a major research destination and is the second largest genealogical library in the United States, after the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. The Genealogy Center describes its facility as “a unique and valuable resource for the Northeastern Indiana community and the entire genealogical community at large. We have one of the largest collections available, incorporating records from around the world. Our staff specializes in genealogy and is always available to help.” The Genealogy Center’s large collection of materials includes the following:

- Family Histories totaling more than 72,000 histories located in an online catalog
- Census Records and City Directories
- Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records
- Military Records

- U.S. Local Records and Special Collections totaling more than 372,000 printed volumes containing the history and records of U.S. towns and counties
- Native American/First Nations Records
- African American Records including one of the top 100 African American genealogy websites
- Canadian Records
- British Isles
- Twelve Online Databases you can access from anywhere
- Pathfinder Research Guides
- The Family History Archives page with links to free access to digitized books and materials
- FamilySearch affiliate library
- YouTube Channel

ACPL Genealogy Center Visitor Information:

- Location: 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne IN 46802
- Phone/e-mail: 260-421-1225 / Genealogy@ACPL.Info
- Website: Genealogy | Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center
- Hours: Monday through Thursday 9 am – 9 pm; Friday & Saturday 9 am – 6 pm; Sunday Noon – 5 pm.

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- Parking: Underground parking as well as street parking lots for a fee.
- Parking Fee: \$1.00 per hour up to \$7.00 unless a parking ticket is validated.
- Entry Fee: Free
- Library/Research Card Needed: No
- Computers Available for Research: Yes, but you need to reserve for one hour sessions up to 4 times a day with a guest pass but the time can be extended.
- Personal Computers Allowed on the ACPL Internet: Yes, but there may be some library databases you need to access from a library computer.
- Additional Fees: The library charges 10 cents per page for black and white prints and 25 cents per page for color prints made by patrons from library computers, printers and photocopiers. Flash drives - \$2.
- Genealogy Center Tour: Yes, 20 minutes to one hour in length depending on research interests and time constraints. Highly recommended that individuals and small groups planning a research visit watch [The Genealogy Center Orientation Videos](#) before their journey to Fort Wayne.
- Individual Consultation with Genealogist: Yes, 30 minutes, by appointment.
- Airport: Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA) is located 10-16 miles from downtown Fort Wayne depending on route taken.
- Transit: Public transport options are limited at Fort Wayne Airport. Ride-share services (Uber, Lyft), private shuttle & buses, taxis, limousines, or hotel shuttles are recommended for transportation options from the airport to downtown Fort Wayne. Local bus transportation is not convenient, so ride-share or taxis are recommended.
- Nearby Hotels: Hilton Fort Wayne at the Grand Wayne Convention Center; Courtyard Fort Wayne Downtown at the Grand Wayne Convention Center; The Bradley Hotel; LaSalle Downtown Inn.
- Group Hotel Rates: The Hilton Fort Wayne offers a Genealogy Getaway package available July 23, 2024 – July 31, 2025.
- Restaurants: Many available in the local downtown area.
- Best Time to Visit Fort Wayne, IN: Between April 30th and July 15th based on temperatures and humidity data from NOAA. Another good time to visit is September when it is rare to get heat waves or thunderstorms and the weather is perfect for walking.



Mid-Continent Public Library (MCPL) located in Independence, Missouri, and the Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC) is one of the United States' preeminent resources for family history providing access to almost three-quarters of a million on-site

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materials. MGC's collections offer resources for genealogy research that span the US and countries around the world. The Midwest Genealogy Center houses over 250,000 books and tens of thousands of pieces of microform. This collection includes:

- Local, national, and international materials such as family histories, city directories, phone books, yearbooks, state and county records, maps, and more.
- Family bibles, local histories, fragile materials, and more can be found in the MGC Rare Book room.
- MGC's periodical collection encompasses hundreds of subscriptions from genealogical and historical societies across the country.

MCPL Midwest Genealogy Center Visitor Information:

- Location: 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO 64055-1923
- Phone/e-mail: 816-252-7228/KKSmith@mcpl.org
- Website: [Midwest Genealogy Center | Mid-Continent Public Library](#)
- Hours: Monday through Saturday 10 am – 8 pm; Sunday 1pm – 8 pm.
- Parking: On-site parking available
- Parking Fee: Free
- Entry Fee: Free
- Library/Research Card Needed: No
- Computers Available for Research: Yes
- Personal Computers Allowed on the MCPL Internet: Yes
- Additional Fees: Black and white prints cost 10¢ per page. Color prints cost 50¢ per page. Flash drives available for purchase.
- Genealogy Center Tour: Yes, 45 minutes to an

hour dependent on staff availability.

- Individual Consultation with Genealogist: Yes, 45 minutes, by appointment.

Airport: Kansas City International Airport (MCI) is located 33 miles from Independence, MO, city center.

- Transit: Beginning January 1, 2025, the City of Independence implemented the IRIS rideshare program to replace most fixed bus route lines in the city. It will keep the 24 Route bus line into downtown Kansas City. IRIS rides cost \$5 per person within the city of Independence and drop off riders within ¼ mile of their destination.
- Nearby Hotels: Residence Inn Kansas City Independence and Best Western Independence are located about 2.5 miles from the MGC. Super 8, Days Inn, Quality Inn and Suites Kansas City - Independence, America's Best Value Inn Kansas City – Independence and Birch Hill Suites Kansas City – Independence are located 1.8 – 2.4 miles from the MGC.
- Group Hotel Rates – MGC does not have any partnership with local hotels to offer discounted rates.
- Restaurants: Available near the hotel areas.
- Best Time to Visit Independence, MO: Between April 16th and June 3rd based on temperatures and humidity data from NOAA. The months with the lowest chance of significant precipitation in Independence are November through January.

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New England Historic Genealogical Society

(NEHGS) located in Boston, Massachusetts, is one of the nation's leading research centers for genealogists of every skill level. Now known as American Ancestors, it was the first genealogical society established in the United States. It was founded in 1845 by a group of five Bostonians. Many notable figures, including numerous presidents, have been elected members of American Ancestors. The building is 8 stories and houses the Brim-DeForest Library, Brue Family Learning Center, Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, and the Family Heritage Experience. Contained in the various center collections are millions of documents, manuscripts, records, books, microfilms, photographs, artifacts, electronic resources, and other items that preserve and reveal our history. American Ancestors has been collecting information about families in America since 1845. The growing collection dates from the fourteenth century to the present and is international in scope and contains significant materials for Canada and Europe and include the following:

- Published Genealogies totaling 30,000 titles covering families in America, Canada, Europe and around the world
- Local Histories and Records totaling 40,000

state, county, and town histories and record collections covering all U.S. states and eastern Canadian provinces

- Genealogical Journals and Periodicals totaling 4,500 core journals
- Reference Works – compilations, study projects, finding aids and how-to-guides
- Rare Books totaling 12,000 rare genealogies, church records, local and military histories
- Records on Microform for New England vital records, census records, city directories, newspapers and pre-1906 naturalizations; Canadian records for Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island; Irish Griffiths Valuation, Tithe Applotment Books and Ordinance Survey maps; Portugal and the Azores Islands Catholic parish registers and civil records (birth, baptismal, etc.); Scottish parish register index; English city directories and parish registers
- Manuscripts totaling more than 28 million original documents and objects including family papers, diaries, account books, family Bibles, etc.

NEHGS Genealogy Center Visitor Information:

- Location: 97 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116-3007
- Phone/e-mail: 1-888-296-3447 / library@americanancestors.org
- Website: AmericanAncestors.org
- Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 am 6:00 pm
- Parking: Paid street parking is available on Newbury Street and surrounding streets. Sev

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eral parking garages are nearby, including the Prudential Center Garage and Boston Common Garage.

- **Parking Fee:** Use the mobile SpotHERO app to find a parking space and cost.
- **Entry Fee:** Free for American Ancestor members; non-member fee is \$25 per day. Memberships include one person/3-months for \$34.95; one person/12 months for \$99.95; and family, 3 members in same household/12 months for \$119.95.
- **Library/Research Card Needed:** No mention on website that one is needed but it states that upon entry you need to check-in at the information desk for a colored lanyard granting access to different library areas.
- **Computers Available for Research:** Website indicates there are dedicated spaces for researchers with lockers, copier, information desk and library stacks but no mention of computer stations.
- **Personal Computers Allowed on the NEHGS Internet:** No specific mention of Wi-Fi access from personal computers on the website.
- **Additional Fees:** Photocopies and printouts (from computer and microfilm printers) cost 25 cents per page, except library catalog printouts, which are free. Copies from the photocopiers and microfilm scanners may also be saved to flash drives at no charge. Flash drives are available for purchase.
- **Genealogy Center Tour:** Yes, orientation and a tour of the Brim-DeForest Library to groups coming to do research. Non-members of

American Ancestors who visit with a group receive a special discounted day fee rate of \$20.

- **Individual Consultation with Genealogist:** Yes, free 15 minute or less live chat; zoom or in person meeting with a genealogist by appointment with member/non-member hourly fees up to 5 hours; or a one full day Expert Assessment service with member/non-member fees.
- **Airport:** Boston Logan International Airport (BOD) is located 4 miles northeast of Boston and offers several public transportation options to and from the airport to downtown Boston.
- **Transit:** Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) provides several public transportation services to and from Boston Logan, including the Blue Line, the Silver Line 1 (SL1), and ferry service. Also, provide a mobile app for trip planning in Boston area.
- **Nearby Hotels:** Charlesmark Hotel and Hilton Boston Back Bay as well as many others in the local area but many are not budget priced.
- **Group Hotel Rates for Visiting Genealogists:** Agreement between American Ancestors and Historic Hotels of America, allows members overnight accommodations at discounted rates up to 30% off. Example, the Charlesmark Hotel is the least expensive for \$99/night December – February to members. The Hilton Boston Back Bay offers a 12% discount off the best available price on a space available basis to members and visitors.
- **Restaurants:** Many restaurants are available nearby.

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Alternate Genealogy Libraries for Future Annual Research Trips

(Cont'd from page 14)

- Best Time to Visit Boston, MA: June to October. Winter is chilly, so pack a warm coat and a pair of boots when Boston might be sprinkled (or immersed) with snow. Great deals on hotels during winter and deals can also occur at the start of the spring season.

Please review the 3 alternate genealogy

libraries under consideration, especially the visitor information for each, and let Diane know your preferred destination and time of year for a visit. Diane can be reached by e-Mail at DEvansAVA@aol.com or by phone at (360)900-8681.

Thank you and looking forward to your selection and comments.



Upcoming in the next issue....

- Where in the country/world are your ancestors from? So far, we have only received information from 12 members. If you already sent in your list, thank you. Please send your list of 5 places you are researching by August 15. This way you can compare and maybe you will find another member who is searching a place you are interested in. Then you can share notes. Also, it will give the committee more time to plan the perfect format for this information.



- A story or two about Holly (AKA Joe Hammond Bay, then Wyatt Bay then Holly Bay) as reprinted from the Kitsap County Herald. Forward written by one of our newer members. He collects stories about the area and is interested in the way newspaper articles used to be written.
- A story of how one of our members met a new relative through an article printed in a 2019 issue of the Backtracker.
- Slate of Officers for 2026 PSGS.
- And more....



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SOUTH KITSAP CHAPTER

Do you live in the South Kitsap area? Are you interested in helping to reactivate the South Kitsap Chapter of PSGS? This is a group of like minded genealogists that get together each month to discuss brick walls, or successes. They could meet in the South Kitsap area. If you are interested in this group, contact . Jean Yager at psgsociety1301@gmail.com

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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 four 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

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 11:30pm. This is an in-person only group facilitated by Karen Duke. 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 facilitated by Lynda Peel. You do not need to live in Belfair to come. All are welcome. Please join us.