



THE BACKTRACKER



A Publication of Puget Sound Genealogical Society

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Kitsap Antique Show 2026 — Our Annual Fundraiser

By Rich Peel, Antique Show Committee Chair

Set aside the weekend of **21-22 February 2026** to enjoy our only annual fundraising event, the Kitsap Antique Show! It will again be held in Presidents' Hall at the Kitsap Fairgrounds and Events Center. This will be our 28th annual show, and we can only host it if we have enough PSGS volunteers to serve in a few important show-staff roles.

As usual, the 2026 show will feature a team of expert appraisers who will offer oral evaluations of family heirlooms and treasures as well as dozens of dealers selling wonderful antiques, great vintage items, and fascinating collectibles.

Our 2025 show, which was held last February, contributed \$11,000 for PSGS projects and programs, the highest amount ever! The Antique Show Committee has been busy planning the 2026 show throughout the year, focusing on both bringing in more dealers and expanding advertising to attract attendees for the event. However, another

Kitsap ANTIQUE SHOW

- ✓ Sales & Appraisals
- ✓ Free Parking
- ✓ On-Site Café
- ✓ Discover Treasures

Antiques Vintage Items Collectibles Expert Appraisals

February 21 & 22, 2026

Presidents' Hall at Kitsap Fairgrounds

essential element for hosting a successful show is arranging for a team of volunteers for two important tasks, serving as cashiers and providing unloading / loading assistance to some of the dealers. Most dealers prefer to handle their own items, but a few greatly appreciate some help. Our show has developed a reputation for providing tremendous support to the dealers, and we certainly want to continue that tradition!

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Presidential Ponderings

by Tamma Farra

Greetings, fellow genealogists! Let me introduce myself to you and tell you a little about how I ended up becoming your new President. My first memory of doing genealogy research was when my dad took me to the Ohio State University Library in Columbus, Ohio where we lived. We went to the genealogy section, and I was told to take books off the shelf and look in the index for our surname Farra. This would have been 1957 or 1958, way before computers, internet, cell phones, etc. But I always liked hearing the older relatives tell family stories or stories about what life was like when they were growing up, and so it was great fun to look at indexes with my dad.

Fast forward; I've had the genealogy bug for many years and don't intend to ever stop. I'm fairly new to Kitsap County. This will be my 16th year here and a few years ago I decided to join PSGS. I have to admit I wasn't very active in the Society, but several years ago I decided I finally had time to be able to volunteer more, so I began doing shifts in the Genealogy Center and found that rewarding personally and I also knew that PSGS appreciated all the volunteers they could find.

Fast forward again. Members of PSGS know that we have been lucky and very appreciative of our soon to be past President Jean Yager. She has done a great job and will be sorely missed. I was both surprised and alarmed that nobody was volunteering to fill that position even as Jean kept sounding the alarm that the society needed a president to keep functioning. I didn't want to see that happen...all the hard work that had been put into PSGS to get to where we are today suddenly ending? So on a drive with our Treasurer, Karen Duke, we talked about what the President's duties were and I mulled it over and told her to put me down as a nomination.

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Genealogy Center Report

By Elisabeth Demmon

2025 was a great year for the Genealogy Center in so many ways. Wonderful volunteers who give their time and expertise so patrons can research their family history, all the patrons who visited (711 at the time of writing), plus 64 books added to the Genealogy Center collection over the past year. Check previous Backtrackers for the details on these additions.

My sincere thanks to Sharon Hornback, the GC Volunteer Coordinator, for all her hard work during the past year in ensuring the GC runs like clockwork and to all the volunteers who have kept the GC door open.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Elisabeth Demmon, KRL Liaison to the PSGS

Kitsap Antique Show 2026

(Cont'd from page 1)

We will need cashiers at the entrance and in the Appraisal Corner. Several helpers are also needed on Friday, February 20th and Sunday, the 22nd, for dealer load-in and load-out support. Volunteers typically work short, two-hour shifts, sometimes signing up for more than one (it's easy work!). By serving in a show staff position, all volunteers are rewarded with free admission to enjoy the show all weekend and free coffee and donuts during their shifts — plus, of course, the satisfac-

tion of knowing that their participation was key to enabling us to host our fundraiser in support of PSGS educational programs offered throughout the year.

We will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at the PSGS January Social; however, members can always volunteer by simply contacting the show's Volunteer Coordinator, Rachele Peel, by email at: RacheleP98370@gmail.com.

Presidential Ponderings

(Cont'd from page 2)

And so here I am, your new President. It's time for me to give back. It might take me a bit of time to catch up with my duties, but I'm assured there are plenty of people who will offer support as I go through this learning curve. After attending the last Executive Board Meeting, I feel that there are some exciting ideas for us in 2026 and look forward to hearing from you about

what you would like to see from your Society. Think about volunteering; think about getting engaged with PSGS. It is your society.

Again, a big thank-you Jean for all the time and energy you gave to PSGS. As Ann Lovejoy always closes her gardening column in the Kitsap Sun...Onward, right?

Introducing PSGS 2026 Leadership Team



Puget Sound Genealogical Society is proud to present our new officers for 2026.

Pictured from left to right are:

Tamma Farra—President

Janet Ravenkamp—First Vice President

Charles Treiberg—Second Vice President

Karen Duke—Treasurer

Lisa Treiberg—Member at Large

Not in the group picture:

Mahala Henry—Secretary



Congratulations to you all! Looking forward to working with you in the coming year.

PSGS Christmas Party

The 2025 Christmas party was held on Thursday, December 4. There was a last minute change of location and a big thank you goes out to Heidi Ginder, first vice-president, who found a new venue for us. After many years at the Eagle's Nest, the hours were changed and it just didn't work any more. The new location was the Bremerton Senior Center on Lebo. As a bonus, the rent is cheaper. Tables were different, room size was changed, kitchen facilities a bit different too. Another plus was the chairs were padded. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves and decorated the new location and a good time was enjoyed by all. PSGS provided

sandwiches, desserts, fruits and veggies, and beverages.

The raffle drawing was a big hit. Attendees brought a gift or two and everyone went home with a prize. There were enough that some people even got two prizes. If you weren't able to attend please take a look at the photos on the following pages. Thank you Richard Yager, our resident photographer.

Hope this makes you want to attend the 2026 party. Thank you Richard for sharing your skill. Can you find yourself in the photos, or a friend?



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PSGS Christmas Party

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PSGS Christmas Party

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PSGS Christmas Party

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PSGS Christmas Party

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Thank you Jean and Heidi

A big thank you goes to Jean Yager and Heidi Ginder for all the years they have served as President and First Vice-President of PSGS. They have gone above and beyond for our society. At a recent Executive Board Meeting, the board voted to present each of them with a \$100 gift card for Anthony's. Enjoy a relaxing meal out ladies. They received their gifts at the Christmas party.



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, only a PSGS member. 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 .

Update on Annual PSGS Trip to Library

By Diane Howell Evans

Due to the inability to find another library location with all the benefits, affordable air from SeaTac, ease of access to local transportation to library, proximity of a hotel to the library, and group pricing in favorable months of visits – all things we enjoyed in our annual Salt Lake City trips – it has been decided that closer, one day visits to WA genealogy resources will be researched for trips in 2026.

Suggestions received, but not limited to, include:

- Washington State Government Archives in Olympia
 - Washington State Branch Archives Northwest in Bellingham
 - Southwest in Olympia
 - Central in Ellensburg
 - Eastern in Cheney

Puget Sound in Bellevue

- Washington State Library in Tumwater - currently closed to the public but limited access by appointment on Thursdays only
- Washington State Genealogical Society in Union Gap
- Washington genealogy society conferences/seminars/workshops

At the time of preparing this article, the calendars of many libraries and genealogy societies did not show any 2026 events yet. Research by Diane Howell Evans is ongoing and when an event is found, information will be provided via the Backtracker or an e-mail blast notification. If anyone happens to discover an event that should be considered for a PSGS trip, please contact Diane at: DEvansPSGS@yahoo.com or leave a message at (360)900-8681.

PSGS JANUARY SOCIAL EVENT

January 28, 2026 1-3 PM

Please come to the January Social. 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 2026 dues and save on postage. You can meet your 2026 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. Refreshments will be served. 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 28!

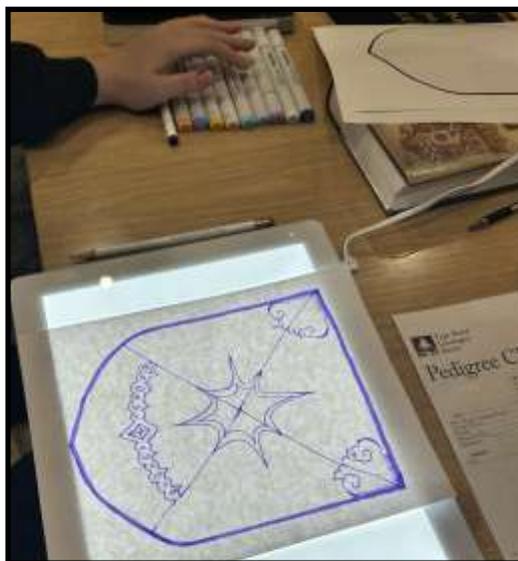
Family Crest Program for Teens

By Mahala Henry

Exposure and experience, those were the goals of the Family Crest program that the PSGS volunteers presented to a Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) group that meets every Tuesday afternoon at the Sylvan Way Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library (KRL). For a year and a half they have met and have played in the library less than 25 feet from the Genealogy Center door, but none of them had ever walked through it. As part of the program, they did.

The PSGS volunteers presented a short summary of the European coat of arms and the Japanese kamon traditions, led a tour of the GC, and provided some information and graphics for them to make a coat of arms for their D&D character. Three PSGS volunteers presented the program, one KRL staff member, Jacqueline Keating, who manages the D&D program helped set up the Henninger Room, and five D&D participants made their own coat of arms.

"It was fun" and "I learned about heraldry" were the basic participant reviews of the program. The photos show what they created.



If you are interested in the Family Crest program presentation or the research information used to inform the program, take a look at the PSGS website members page.

Thank you PSGS volunteers Karen Duke, Sharon Hornback, and Mahala Henry for developing this program and assisting in its presentation.

Central Kitsap History

Submitted by Randy Hunt

You may remember a couple of newspaper articles in our last Backtracker issue. They were from the Kitsap County Herald. Following are more articles from Randy Hunt's research. Hope you enjoy these as well. Please remember that

spelling and punctuation are from the 1920 paper.

If anyone needs a little help with Central Kitsap History, you would be welcome to contact Randy at marvelrandy306@gmail.com

[Article, Kitsap County Herald, Friday, 3 December 1920, Holly.](#)

Holly

Good morning! What wonderful weather we are having! Thanksgiving! and as yet no frosts severe enough to kill our nasturtium vines, but just enough to turn the leaves of the loganberries a brilliant red, against which the bright plumage of the black-hooded blu-birds are strikingly pleasing and enough frost to set the maple and alder leaves free so that with each breeze another brown or yellow beauty is added to the carpet nature provides to please the eye and enrich the already fertile soil. Nature is never monotonous. Each season brings a change and to us who live so near "God's Out of Doors" these changes are anticipated. We look forward to them and take note of each sign, however small. We tell our neighbors that the time has come when we must protect our vegetables from the freeze that is coming, we know, because of the absence of something in the air that we can't explain.

In the "Happy Valley" Dan Buchanan can sit beside his cozy fire with his good wife and babies, feeling no qualms of fear for his spuds, etc., because of the fact that while the sun shone Dan worked, and an extraordinary out-door cellar is the result of his labor. This cellar is worthy of notice of remark because of the fact that it is two story. The second story provides a playroom for little Miss Buchanan and her two brothers. The playroom is provided with a stove, which will make the room quite "comfy" even in zero weather. Dan and his wife, Jessie, believe in the golden rule. They do unto others as they would that others should do unto them. When they butchered last week, almost every family in Holly received a piece of corn-fed pork. We'll say it was good! Many thanks to the owners of "The Maples."

Altho, Mr. and Mrs. Tomes' place is at the far end of Happy Valley and they have named their lovely place "End of the Trail," we must not imagine that they are missing anything. In fact, the Tomes' have had more than their share of excitement lately. As Mrs. Tomes was returning from the Holly post office and store, a few days ago, she executed quite a maneuver. She had piled her bags and baskets on the old hand car which the inhabitants of the valley use on the discarded logging railroad. When she reached the stretch of down grade the brake-stick broke and she lost control of the car. It was steadily gaining speed and so Mrs. Tomes decided "safety first" and since there was no way to govern or regulate the speed, she at once alighted, descended or disappeared from the car. Set free, the car bounded off merrily and scattered Mrs. Tomes' purchases along the road in a gay fashion. When the car arrived at the pasture gate on Dan Buchanan's place it did not stop for ceremony but treated it rough. Mrs. Tomes was not hurt and she retrieved most of her cargo unharmed.



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Central Kitsap History

(Cont'd from page 13)

Mr. Guy Tomes has recently purchased a Studebaker. Mr. Tomes has had a little difficulty driving this car because of it having extra speeds. He ran over the bank above the dock while trying to make the sharp turn. However, a stump caught the car and kept it from a plunge in the canal. An S.O.S. was sent to the Buchanan ranch and Dan's mare hauled the machine to the road again. We can all laugh, because of the fact that no one was hurt. This Studebaker seems to be some racer and so until Mr. Tomes; is well acquainted with her, Holly gives him the road.

Mrs. Hildebrand holds the record, so far as we know, for Spring salmon caught in the canal. The beauty she exhibited weighed 25 pounds.

To one who has left but is not forgotten, we dedicate these humble lines:

[In explanation:]

Holly lost someone
That Holly loved.
We may regain her
That gave us the glove. (mitten)

[In praise of the lost one:]

No one swims like her;
We need her to grace
Our waters in summer
And in winter her face
Is always so cheery,
We long for her smile,
We've missed it at Circle
All of this while.

[A secret:]

A young man of Holly
Is often seen wandering
Away from our Eden
And good hours squandering;
Somewhere near Potlatch
They tell us he goes,
And there he hopes
To pick Holly's fair Rose.

[Encouragement:]

We are wishing you luck
With your wooing, young man;
If you'll bring her to Holly
As soon as you can.



Mrs. Cora Tate, nee Lallee, was married at East Sound, Nov. 9th. Mrs. Tate spent about five years in Holly, making her - - - - -
A.H.Y.

Adessia Ruby Pearl 'Hooker' Yarborough -- 1889 Lincoln, Neb.-1920 Holly, Wa.
m. Leroy William Yarborough -- 1888 Hastings, Neb.-1965 Philadelphia, Penn.

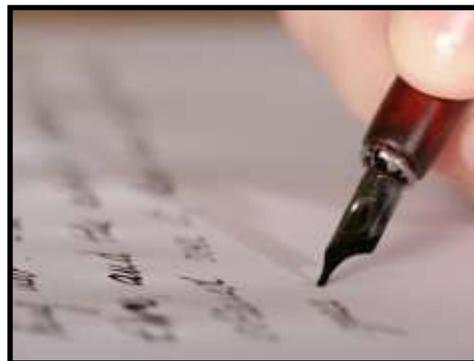
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Central Kitsap History

(Cont'd from page 14)

Timeline

1919-Holly: **Adessia Ruby Pearl 'Hooker' Yarborough** (1889 Lincoln, Neb.-1920 Holly, Wa.) arrived on the scene at Holly about 1919 with three young sons. Her husband, **Leroy William Yarborough** (1888 Hastings, Neb.-1965 Philadelphia, Penn.) was an officer in the U.S. military stationed in the Philippines, eventually retiring as a colonel. Her normal address was on Aurora Avenue in Seattle, but her intent was to stay in Holly as she enrolled her sons in the school at Holly. Her parents, she was the oldest of three, Edwin T. L. and Ruby Helena Hooker, also lived in Seattle and would come for visits. In a very short time, she became enamored of the area and the community enamored of her. A writer, poet and artist, she became a stringer for the *Kitsap County Herald* newspaper, writing articles about the people and about the area that would bring it alive in the mind. In January 1921, when her heart failed, it was written of her, "*Mrs. Yarborough was a lady of genius. It seems too bad that death removed from our midst one of such rare talent. She was only a little more than thirty years of age.*" She left behind her 3 boys, Willaim Pellam (1912 Seattle, Wa.-2005 Southern Pines, N.C.), Edwin Kay (1914 Seattle, Wa.-1987 Morristown, N.J.) and Alfred Leroy Yarborough (1916 Seattle, Wa.-1991 Seattle, Wa.). With the pen name "A.H.Y." her most significant writing in the newspaper was a descriptive story about *Joe Hammond Bay* (at Holly).



Article, **Kitsap County Herald**, Friday, 31 December 1920, Holly.
IN MEMORIUM

*And fairer she, but oh how soon to die!
Her quiet dream of life this hour may cease.
Her peaceful being slowly passes by
To some more perfect peace.*
---Tennyson

Holly's Christmas was greatly saddened by the death of Mrs. Adessia Yarborough, who, although lately come to our community, was revered and respected by all who knew her. Her's was a real loss for she has done much toward keeping Holly a wholesome, friendly community in her brief stay. Mrs. Yarborough's husband is at present stationed with the Unites States army in the Philippines, and she leaves three young boys; Pelham, and Ray and Alfred. Her mother and relatives reside in Seattle where funeral services will take place.

Mrs. Hooker, mother to Mrs. Yarborough of Holly, sustained a broken collar bone and two broken ribs in a fall over and embankment near the Holly dock. Mrs. Hooker was on her way back to Seattle after attending the illness of her daughter, whom she believed was on her way to better health. We sincerely sympathize with her and wish her a speedy recovery although it is easy to perceive that she has had her full share of sorrow. J.R.F.



Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

Jan 28 2026 **PSGS Social**

1-3 PM. This is an in-person event only. Come meet others interested in genealogy, learn what is planned for 2026, and find a committee that speaks to you. Refreshments will be served. This is also a time that you can pay your 2026 PSGS dues.

Feb 25 2026 **25 Uncommon Sources For Your Genealogy— Presented by Gena Philibert-Ortega**

You start with vital records and the census but then what do you do when you've exhausted those common genealogical records? What happens if they don't exist for the time and place you are researching? Knowing more about other types of records can help you find your ancestors and document their lives. In this presentation we will go over more unusual sources and how to find them and others that are new to you.

Mar 25 2026 **Dual Citizenship and The Right of Return Presented by Janice Sellers**

Stay tuned for more information.

Schedule of Classes — January—March 2026

Please note that there are no classes scheduled at this time.

PSGS is currently looking for a new Education Chair so that we can continue to present more exciting and informative Genealogy Classes for our membership and the community in the new year. Please consider filling this worthwhile position. If you are interested, contact Tamma Farra at Trfarra@colorsonsilks.com

Kitsap Sun Bellringer Donation

This year PSGS again decided to donate to a worthy charity. We had done so annually in the past when money was collected through the 50/50 drawings at our general meetings. Since COVID, we have not held the drawings, as our in-person attendance at the general meetings did not warrant it. Where to send our donation was discussed and voted upon at a recent Executive Board Meeting.

The Kitsap Sun Bellringer Program seemed to fit our wishes. All the donations collected go to the Kitsap County food banks. Money is shared

with Bremerton’s Salvation Army, Bremerton Foodline, St. Vincent DePaul, South Kitsap Helpline, North Mason Food Bank, Central Kitsap Food Bank, North Kitsap Fishline, Kingston ShareNet and Helpline House on Bainbridge Island.

PSGS is proud to have been able to donate **\$1,000.00** to the Bell Ringer Program. It was exciting to see the name Puget Sound Genealogical Society listed among the donors in the December 21, 2025 edition of the Kitsap Sun.



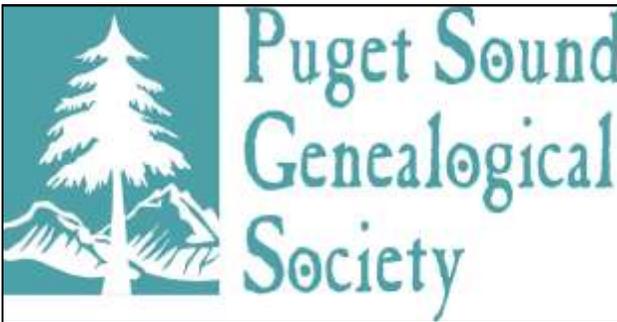
Genealogy Center Drawing

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 items. 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 thereafter.



Kathy Darling won the October drawing, [Organizing Your Family History Search](#) by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack.

The January drawing will be for Family Tree Charts showing multiple generations.



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Looking for an Education Chair

Do you like to attend classes where you can learn about Genealogy? Are you looking for more ways to find your ancestors? Consider chairing the Education Committee to help locate classes for our membership and the community at large. Contact Tamma Farra at Trfarra@colorsonsilk.com if you are interested. Thank you for volunteering for this important position.

PSGS Dues for 2026

Have you paid your dues for 2026 yet? Forms are available in the Genealogy Center and on our website. Dues have remained the same; \$15 per person or \$20 for a family (living in the same household).

Please keep your membership current so you can continue to receive the Backtracker and be a part of email blasts informing members of upcoming events.

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.