



THE BACKTRACKER



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PSGS January 2026 Social Event

Our 2026 Social held January 28th in the Heninger Room at the Sylvan Library Branch was a busy event! Tables were filled with information on our different committees, notebooks and photo albums of past PSGS events were set out for people to look through, and the membership table was busy with people renewing their memberships or joining for the first time. The Antique Show table headed by Rich Peel was set up to answer questions and sign-up volunteers. This is our one and only fundraiser for the whole year, which takes a lot of planning and helps to make it a success. And last but not least, of course, there was a table of assorted snacks and beverages to consume. I would say the room was lively with people socializing and having a good time getting to know fellow members new to them or greeting familiar faces. Thanks to everyone who was there (38 people) enjoying your Puget Sound Genealogical Society gathering.

Genealogy Bingo was again used as an ice breaker. Guests and members spent time asking neighbors if they are a member of PSGS, have German ancestors, rescued items from a thrift store, and more genealogy related questions. Completed Bingo Cards were entered in two book drawings. Your DNA Guide: the book by Diahna Southard was won by Patricia Kelly. Arija Noel won the book, Organizing Your Family History Search by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Congratulations to you both.



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Presidential Ponderings

by Tamma Farra

It has been a busy start to 2026 for PSGS. As I ease into my new role as President of our Society, I am amazed at all we have accomplished. Those accomplishments could not have happened without our amazing Board of Directors and everyone else who has volunteered in so many various ways. I am grateful to them for their dedication in keeping PSGS going and being successful. We have passed our 2026 Budget, completed our annual audit, secured a location for our Christmas party (which will be held on a Saturday this year), and are in the long process of updating the job descriptions for our Elected officers and Appointed Committee Chairpersons. This update process has taken many months of fine tuning, but we are almost done. Perhaps by the time this newsletter comes out we will have completed this much-needed task. We had another successful Antique Show this year, but I will let Rich address that report. Two positions are finally filled! Gina Schulz is our new Publicity Chair and has some interesting ideas on different ways to promote our Society. Mark Watson is our new Education Chair who will be assisted by Jean Yager, and we look forward to getting some classes lined up. There's always something more we can learn, right?

This year we are leaning towards taking day trips or possibly overnight trips to various research facilities nearby that wouldn't require airplane expense. Stay tuned for more information on this. We have been looking into ways we can help celebrate and participate in the many opportunities available for America's 250th Anniversary. If there is something that you would like our society to be doing and you don't see it happening, please let me know. If four hours a month is manageable in your life, you can volunteer to staff the Genealogy Center to help keep it open... and no you don't have to be an expert on all genealogy subjects. There are many different committees to be a part of, or just offer to help set up an event, or stick around to help take it down. If attending meetings via zoom is a better fit for you, please use that to connect with your fellow genealogy pals, or attend in person for more interactive conversations. By the time this Backtracker comes out, I hope we have all adjusted to the Daylight Savings time change. It seems to take me a bit longer each year. May your brick walls start to crumble!

Tamma Farra

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Genealogy Center Report

By Elisabeth Demmon

It is a little late, but I am going to wish you all a Happy New Year anyway and hope that all is going well with your family history research in 2026. The GC has been very busy with 119 visitors from the day the branch re-opened on January 20 to March 25 when I submitted this report. Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to give their time and talent to help patrons with their family research.

Sharon Hornback and I have been working on a book selection project thanks to the generous donation from the sister of Jim Brown, a faithful GC volunteer who passed away recently. Thank you to all who have given suggestions so far. We are working on adding books for states, countries, and subjects that are not well represented in the collection. Stay tuned for updates in the next newsletter.

Elisabeth Demmon, APG, QC; KRL Liaison to the PSGS.

PSGS Dues Reminder

By Charles Treiberg

Hello. Just a reminder that to continue receiving Emails about upcoming programs, classes, and the link to the Backtracker, you will need to have a current PSGS membership. If you have not yet renewed, there are membership forms available on our website and in the Genealogy Center at the Library.

I'm Looking forward to your membership.

Charles Treiberg
Membership Chair

General Meeting Time Changes

Please mark your calendars for these meeting changes for June, July, and September.

Time change:

Jun 24 1-4 pm.... due to school lunch program (PSGS program starting at 1:30)

Jul 22 1-4 pm... due to school lunch program (PSGS program starting at 1:30)

Date change:

Sep 30 12:30-3 pm... due to Library closure on Sept 23

JANUARY 2026 PSGS SOCIAL

(Cont'd from page 1)



Find friends on this page and the next. Some are updating their memberships, some finding cousin connections, some are just chatting, and some are checking out the book carts.

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JANUARY 2026 PSGS SOCIAL

(Cont'd from page 4)



A few new members and lots of catching up with friends at our social. And finally a picture of our photographer, the man behind the camera, Rick Yager.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL KITSAP ANTIQUE SHOW

By Rich Peel, Antique Show Committee Chair

The 28th Kitsap Antique Show was held on the weekend of February 21-22 in Presidents' Hall at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds and Events Center. With enthusiastic participation by PSGS volunteers and a hard-working show committee, our annual fundraiser was again quite successful and will provide significant income to support PSGS programs.

A total of 28 dealers offering antiques, vintage items, and collectibles participated this year, many with larger than usual booth spaces. Our planned booth space layout was filled more than a month before the show, which is unusual, and we even had two dealers request to be placed on a waiting list. We often have last-minute cancellations due to health or vehicle issues, etc.; however, this year all registered dealers were able to participate as planned. Even with the full show, we were able to create a space for a nice PSGS display, which was staffed by some of our dedicated volunteers.

More than 1,400 attendees and volunteers enjoyed exploring the dealers' offerings, and many brought in their own treasures and family heirlooms for oral appraisals by our great team of professional appraisers. The dealers reported very good sales, and we received numerous comments about how much they enjoyed our show, with positive comparisons to other shows in which they usually participate.

Our active Antique Show Committee worked all year to plan and advertise the show, which is our only annual fundraising event. Through the dedicated efforts by our Dealer Coordinator, Jeanny Peel, to expand awareness of our show within the antique-dealer community, seven new dealers registered this year, and nine others who attended the show signed up to be added to our invitation list for the next one, in 2027. Our Publicity Coordinator, Janet Boswell, again expanded show advertising, both in print media and online, and coordinated distribution of 2,500 postcards and hundreds of flyers. Janet also took on the position of Appraisal Corner Coordinator after the passing of Ruth Reese in 2025, continuing her valued legacy ensuring high-quality appraisals as a primary focus of our show. She arranged for the services of five expert appraisers who have helped our show for many years: Ernie Lopez, Bill Henderson, Earl Bowers, Dick Keiser, and Lee Johnson. They again generously volunteered their time to help both PSGS and members of the community, who were able to have their items economically appraised for just \$5 each (such appraisals would typically cost as much as \$150 outside of the show). Our Facilities Coordinator, Richard Yager, focused on additional improvements to building access for the dealers, better inside signage, and expansion of the Heritage Café's offerings. Dorothy Reinhardt coordinated the preparation of more than 100 show-access name-badges for dealers, volunteers, and staff, prepared dealer packets, and assisted with publicity. Karen Duke, who serves as Treasurer for both PSGS and the Antique Show Committee, developed a much-improved money-handling process for the cashiers and worked throughout the show to manage and record funds and carefully track the attendance and the number of items appraised. Jean Yager again coordinated the distribution of well over 100 road signs in addition to managing the free coffee, tea, and donut area for show dealers and staff. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Rachele Peel, carefully organized and scheduled a wonderful team of volunteers to staff the show all weekend. She also continued to serve throughout the year as committee's Secretary, recording detailed meeting minutes to help track action items and capture the work and decisions of the committee for future reference.

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL KITSAP ANTIQUE SHOW

(Cont'd from page 6)

Of course, we always appreciate the great help offered by the many PSGS volunteers and various family members and friends who served as show-weekend staff as well as those who dedicated a significant amount of time to place road signs throughout the local area and retrieve them immediately after the show.

Due to the growth and success of the 2026 Kitsap Antique Show, we estimate that after we settle all related expenses and receipts, this year's fundraiser will contribute \$12,000 to support PSGS projects and programs, which is \$1,000 more than resulted from the 2025 show!

We look forward to building upon this year's momentum with another exciting show next year, which is already being planned. Although we want to continue to schedule it to take place on the third weekend in February, the committee is exploring the possibility of having a Friday-Saturday show, instead of the traditional Saturday-Sunday format, based upon feedback from dealers and the apparent success of that arrangement for similar shows in the Pacific Northwest. The decision about the dates will be made before the end of April, after which we will immediately begin publicity efforts for 2027. As always, the show committee much appreciates the help of PSGS members who share the show's social media postings as widely as possible!



Attendees eagerly lined up in the rain early Saturday morning to be among the first to enter Presidents' Hall for the 2026 Kitsap Antique Show.



Twenty-eight dealers from Washington, Oregon, and California offered show attendees a wide variety of antiques, vintage items, and collectibles.

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL KITSAP ANTIQUE SHOW

(Cont'd from page 7)



The show added improved signage this year for the Appraisal Corner and the Heritage Café. Mike and Carole Zeitner served as appraisal cashiers, welcoming attendees who brought items to be appraised.



Appraisers were busy at the show on Saturday morning. Ernie Lopez examined an antique sword while Bill Henderson and Earl Bowers served other Appraisal Corner customers.



Show Treasurer Karen Duke and Carole Zeitner, one of the cashiers, carefully counted the fees collected from one work shift.



Walt and Wanda Meeker, as well as several other PSGS volunteers, helped to share details and answer questions about PSGS programs, history, and membership.

BE THE FIRST...IN OVER 200 YEARS TO LEARN THE STORIES OF AMERICA'S FIRST VETERANS

By Diane Howell Evans

The National Park Service and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) are collaborating on a special project to transcribe the pension records of more than 80,000 of America's first veterans and their widows. So, learn their stories and make a significant contribution to the historical record in time for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

This special project transcribes Revolutionary War Pension Files which consist of applications and other records pertaining to claims for pensions and bounty land warrants. These records may contain valuable details about the veterans and their families, such as rank, unit, period of service, age, residence, date and place of marriage, and date and place of death. An added benefit is the discovery within these records of marriage or other family records, information pertaining to military activities or details about soldier's lives, along with letters, diaries or family trees.

Not interested in transcribing cursive? Then join the Revolutionary War Tagging Mission – read the transcriptions by other Citizen Archivists and add tags to enhance searchability.

To learn more about these two projects, check out the following links:

-Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Project: [Revolutionary War Pension Project - American Revolution \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

-About the Program, Revolutionary War Pension File Transcription Project FAQs: [Revolutionary War Pension File Transcription Project FAQs - American Revolution \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

-Revolutionary War Pension Files Tagging Mission

[Revolutionary War Pension Files Tagging Mission | National Archives](#)

-YouTube "How to Transcribe in the National Archives Catalog: [How to Transcribe in the National Archives Catalog](#)

-Frequently Asked Questions: [Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Mission | National Archives](#)



Status of Research on Local Field Trips

by Diane Howell Evans

Thank you to all for your suggestions on possible field trips. Below you will find the result of several investigations into these ideas for possible one-day in-person trips as well as a virtual Conference/Seminar I discovered during my research that you might be interested in attending virtually on your own.

Conferences/Seminars:

The seminars that I found will have passed by the time the Backtracker is published.

For more information, check out the website at: [Seattle Genealogical Society - Calendar of Events](#)

Special Events:

The Jefferson County Genealogy Society of Port Townsend, WA, cordially invites you to join them in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. The observance of this historical event will be held at the Tri-Area Community Center, 10 West Valley Rd, Chimacum, WA, on June 13, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will feature guest speakers from the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Museums:

The Washington State Genealogical Society lists museums throughout the state, and it is extensive! I am providing a link to the page for you to review. Please advise me which museums you would be interested in visiting as I am not aware of your current research or interest in a specific area. Please visit: [Museums in Washington State](#)

Libraries

1. *University of Washington, Suzzallo Library University Archives*, is the repository for historical records of the University of Washington community. A wide range of primary source material relating to the administrative, academic, legal, fiscal, social and cultural interaction of individuals, departments and programs of the University since 1861 can be found here.

- University Records - Records of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the University.
- Faculty Papers - Papers of teaching and research faculty and professional staff that document the academic and administrative life of the University.
- University Publications - Materials written, compiled, or produced for distribution by offices, departments, or organizations that are a part of the University of Washington.
- Student Life & Alumni - Documentation that illuminates the daily activities and special events of students at the University of Washington as well as the alumni organization and its affiliate chapters.

UW Libraries offer both guided and self-guided tours. Self-Guided Tours: Available online or in-person, starting at Odegaard Library, then moving to Suzzallo and Allen Libraries, with the option to visit other libraries in any order. These tours highlight library spaces, collections, and services for students and visitors. To participate in campus tours that include libraries, prospective students can register through the UW Visitor Center or Office of Admissions. Tours are typically student-led, 75 minutes long, and may include highlights like Suzzallo Library, Odegaard Library, and other campus landmarks

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Status of Research on Local Field Trips

(Cont'd from page 10)

I found a very interesting article on "How to Visit the Suzzallo Library" by Anshula Varma. Here is the link to the article for your review: [Here's How To Visit The Suzzallo Library In Seattle - Passport To Eden](#)

NOTE: This article indicates the Suzzallo Library will be under construction until October 2026 and currently scaffolding is covering some of the exterior terracotta statues so we might consider saving a visit until after the construction is completed.

2. *The Fiske Genealogical Foundation* is a non-profit (501(c)3) educational institution. Successor to the Fiske Genealogical Center, founded in 1970 by Arthur D. Fiske, a professional genealogist. The Foundation has two major goals:

- to provide on-going education in genealogical research techniques
- to build a library of genealogical materials not readily available, especially for those townships east of the Mississippi River

Fiske Library has reopened with limited hours. The library is open from noon until 3 p.m. on Wednesdays. As new volunteers are trained, additional days will be added. Appointments are still available on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Fees: Daily Use Fee \$5, Annual Library Pass \$50, Annual Family Pass \$70.

The Fiske Genealogical Library is located on the lower level of the Washington Pioneer Hall at 1644 43rd Avenue East in Seattle, just south of Madison Park on the shore of Lake Washington. Please use the stairway on the North side of the building. The 11 Madison Park Metro bus from Downtown Seattle comes directly to our door. You can catch the #11 bus on Pine Street next to Westlake Station.

NOTE: As of the writing of this article there is correspondence with the Fiske Library regarding tours for PSGS.

Next Step: Please advise Diane Howell Evans, DEvansPSGS@yahoo.com, of your choice of the above in-person visits by May 10, 2026. Survey results will be presented at the future Executive Board meeting on May 20, 2026, for action.



Setting the Record Straight

By Jean Yager

Have you ever been confused about when to use "Great" versus "Grand"? These terms are often mixed up, but the distinction is actually straightforward. Your Grandparents' siblings are called your Grandaunt and Granduncle, while your Great-Grandparents' siblings are known as your Great-Grandaunt and Great-Granduncle. Likewise, your siblings' Grandchildren are your Grandniece and Grandnephew; their Great-Grandchildren are your Great-Grandniece and Great-Grandnephew.

Parent	Aunt/Uncle
Grandparent	Grandaunt / Granduncle
Great-Grandparent	Great-Grandaunt / Great-Granduncle
2 nd Great Grandparent	2 nd Great-Grandaunt / 2 nd Great-Granduncle

CHRISTMAS 2026

Mark your calendars now for the 2026 Christmas Party on December 5. We are trying something different this year by having it on a Saturday. It will be held at the VFW Hall at 9931 Central Valley Road, Silverdale, VFW Post 4992. More details will come in future Backtrackers.

And a note from our 2025 Christmas Party...We donated 180 pounds of food to the food bank. Thank you to all the members who brought non-perishable food items to further





Looking Forward...

to the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

Apr 22, 2026 **Meanwhile During the American Revolution**

By Marissa Goldenman, PSGS Member

This presentation gives a look inside and outside the US Founders' 13 British Colonies

May 27, 2026 TBD

June 24, 2026 TBD

The program schedules are part of the duties of the 1st Vice President. Currently, we are still looking for a PSGS member to fill this position. If you are interested, please contact Tamma Farra, President. Thank you for stepping up.

Schedule of Classes

Please welcome Mark Watson as our new Education Chair. He has been busy with the Education Committee preparing a survey for the members to find out their interests. Now the big project of reviewing those surveys and looking for presenters for classes can begin soon. Stay tuned and Mark will be letting you know when classes are lined up. Thank you Mark and the committee for all your hard work. We are looking forward to more learning.

NEW BACKTRACKER EDITOR

My name is Diane Bertram, and I'm delighted to step into the role of Backtracker editor.

But, before anything else, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Sharon Hornback for her exceptional leadership and dedication to the Puget Sound Genealogical Society as Backtracker editor for the past several years. Her creativity, savvy newsletter skills and commitment helped shape a newsletter we can all enjoy and be proud of. **"I feel both deeply honored and just the right amount of terrified to follow in her footsteps."**

Like many of you, I came to genealogy through a mix of curiosity and family stories. What began as a hobby has grown into a passion which involves many late nights trying to knock down or climb over brick walls.

I've been a member of PSGS for the past 15 years. Now that I'm retired, I look forward to this new challenge. I'm excited to get to know more of you. Please feel free to reach out with any suggestions, questions or just to share your latest genealogy mystery.



Genealogy Center Drawing

PSGS Genealogy Center Volunteers are the stars that keep the center open for research at KRL, Sylvan Way Branch. Volunteers can enter quarterly drawings to receive a Genealogy item. Karen Duke won the January drawing of an assortment of Family Tree Charts showing multiple generations. Congratulations Karen!



IN MEMORIAM

Please join PSGS in remembering the following members and their families. Thank you for being a part of our greater family.

James Ralph Brown

February 7, 1948 – October 20, 2025

Jim Brown was a member of PSGS since 2016. He was a faithful Genealogy Center Volunteer who enjoyed helping others find their ancestors.



Donald Michael Darling

July 18, 1953 – May 24, 2025

Don was the husband of our PSGS member, Kathy Darling. Kathy has been a member since 2022 and is a willing volunteer in the Genealogy Center. Don was committed to his family and friends. He is shown here with his grandchildren.

Alta Georgia Drane

February 15, 1936 – September 11, 2025

Alta was a member of PSGS since 2010. She attended every meeting, along with her daughter Jean Yager. She greeted everyone with a smile and kind words. Alta was PSGS Refreshment Chairperson, ran the 50/50 drawings at our General Meetings, and was a dedicated Genealogy Center Volunteer. She was involved in Friends of the Library, Sylvan Way Library Book Group, Central Valley Garden Club, Piano Theory Group, and Lady Elks.



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IN MEMORIAM

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Susan Helen Evans

April 24, 1938 – February 12, 2025

Susan traveled in much of Europe and visited all 50 states as an Air Force wife. She joined PSGS in 1998 when she retired. Susan served as PSGS Secretary and as a volunteer in the Genealogy Center. She enjoyed knitting and she and her husband Ed often played Santa and Mrs Claus at our Christmas Parties.

Marol Ann Maves

May 28, 1964 – November 4, 2025

Marol was the daughter of PSGS member, Lorraine Maves (member since 2005). Marol lived her life in the Bremerton area and grew up camping and hiking all over the Pacific Northwest. She was an avid sports fan watching the Seahawks, Mariners, U of W Husky football, and Bremerton Knights football and basketball.



Ruth Ellen Reese

April 8, 1939 – May 18, 2025

Ruth lived her life on the Kitsap Peninsula. Her ancestors emigrated here from Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Scotland. Ruth was a volunteer firefighter and EMT, swim instructor, Cub Scout leader, President of the Manette Historical Society, and a proud member of PSGS since 2005. She had a broad knowledge of antiques and served as the Appraisal Corner Coordinator for PSGS' Antique Show for many years.



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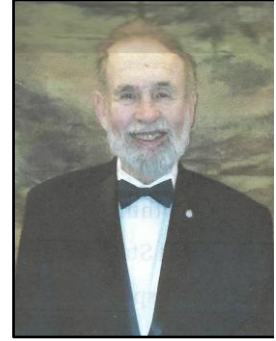
IN MEMORIAM

(Cont'd from page 16)

Norman Lawrence Reinhardt

May 12, 1950 – June 6, 2025

Norman was the husband of PSGS member, Dorothy Reinhardt (member since 2006). Norman was born in Maryland and served in the US Navy. He was involved in conservation of the environment, especially salmon. Norman was Chief Poggie of Kitsap Poggie Club and worked with his neighbors in the Suquamish Tribe as well as with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Fishing Advisory Committees as a steward for the preservation of salmon runs.



Beverly Smith

Passed on February 21, 2025

Bev was a dedicated member of PSGS since 1977, when meetings were held in Marlys Marrs' home. She served on many committees of our Society including Cemetery Committee, Nominating Committee, and Genealogy Center Book Review Committee. Bev was born in Iowa and moved West as a preschooler. She was the South Kitsap High School librarian for over 20 years before retirement. Bev always had a story to share about finding a new relative or how to find information on a brick wall.

Ida Mae Swedberg

September 20th, 1925 – October 30, 2025

Ida Mae was born in Oregon and has been in the Bremerton area since 1975. She was a member of PSGS since 1980. Many of her ancestors came from Norway, England, and Ireland. Ida Mae was a volunteer genealogy librarian at Port Orchard and also volunteered in the Genealogy Center in Bremerton. She created the window displays when PSGS was in Port Orchard. Ida Mae had an extensive collection of genealogy books, many of which have been donated to PSGS.

