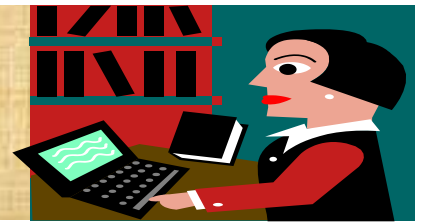




THE BACKTRACKER



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January thru March 2014



Stepping Back in Time

by Fran Moyer



Walking into Ruth Reese’s home on Enetai Beach is like walking into the most wonderful antique store, but, as she says, nothing is for sale. I was there to interview Ruth and Ernie Lopez, two of our appraisers for the upcoming **Antique Show at the Fairgrounds**. Prior to Ernie’s arrival Ruth gave me a tour. An antique bike hanging across one window, a canoe hanging from a beam, an antique rifle on another beam held there by two deer feet, are just a few of the items I saw when I looked up!

Ernie’s parents were collectors and Ernie began his collection at the age of 8 when he got an antique truck from a friend. He still has the truck. Ruth praises Ernie as a **“great appraiser with a wonderful mind.”** He is retired from 30 years in the Navy, but still works as a civilian, so he can continue his passion of buying antiques. Ernie specializes in antique clocks and mechanical music boxes, some as large as dining tables.

Every room is filled with antiques she has been collect-

ing since a boy gave her a trunk when she was 13 years old. The furniture she uses, including her bed, lamps and tables are all antiques. One of the beds was in the old Puget Hotel in Port Gamble. Every doorknob, doll, magazines, books, ephemera are organized into neat display cases and rooms.



Ruth Reese in her den, complete with Grizzly Bear Rug

Ernie is currently the director of the West Coast Clock & Watch Museum, (www.wccwm.org), and does appraisals on Vashon Island, Steilacoom and Enumclaw as well as our Antique Show. He has over 500 books on clocks and watches alone.



Ernie Lopez sitting at Ruth’s dining room table, kitchen in background

Every county has its own distinct collections, but it surprises Ernie at the diversity in the Kitsap County collections. From fancy French bronzes to wonderful English porcelain, Kitsap’s collections have come from all over the world.

Even the house is an antique, built in 1901 for the first mayor of Bremerton, Alwyn Croxton. After my tour, Ernie arrived and it was immediately apparent why these two are friends as well as colleagues.

But for at least a couple of his appraisals, he had to use the Internet to follow the history through genealogical websites. *(text cont’d on page 15 and more pictures of Ruth’s bedroom, kitchen, parlor, lamp & Xmas antiques)*

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Presidential Ponderings by Ann Northcutt



Happy New Year! I am so excited to be given this opportunity to lead you into 2014! I will be working with a great team of Officers and committee chairpersons and together we can make this a great year. First, I would like to thank Jean Yager for her hard work, dedication and direction over the past two years. Jean took over the President position at a time of great change and challenge as we moved into our new home at the Kitsap Regional Library.

So let's take a quick look ahead at some of our upcoming events for 2014. On April 5th and 6th we will be holding our annual Antique Show at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. Bring friends and family and enjoy this wonderful event and support PSGS in our only fundraiser of the year. I am very excited that on September 27th we will be bringing you the biennial fall seminar. We have just begun the planning stage for this great event and have secured a **wonderful speaker from Salt Lake City.** I'm looking forward to an educational and fun filled day and I encourage all of you to sign up for this event later in the year. *(cont'd on page 16)*

Genealogy Center Report by Mary Ann Wright



We have more books! The KRL library staff have been weeding and all of the genealogy titles in the Sylvan Way reference collection are now included in **the Genealogy Center's collection.** If duplicates were found, the GC kept the newest edition with the replaced books going to the genealogy circulation section (929), which is located on **the back wall of the library near the Children's Corner.**

On Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 17 Genealogy Center volunteers attended a refresher training facilitated by Elisabeth Demmon and Mary Ann Wright. This training expanded the work of our volunteer coordinator/trainer, Charlotte Long-Thornton, by focusing on an **in-depth tour of the Genealogy Center's book categories,** the online databases available for patrons, and instruction on how to help patrons either save a document or send a document to the printer. Those attending felt the training was very useful, making them more confident in their ability to help visitors. An additional training for GC volunteers is Saturday, January 25. There is still room in that class for any current volunteers or those who want more information. Call 360-475-9172 or stop by the GC to register.



Milestones by Judy Joaquin

With the New Year upon us you will notice a few changes in the leadership of PSGS. A big thank you to Karin Burke for her faithful work as Member-at-Large and in writing this column each quarter. As I undertake that role to write the Milestones column, I will be dependent on YOU, the PSGS members, to keep me abreast of events in your lives that you would like to share. Happy news is always welcomed! You can reach me at: member-at-large@pusogensoc.org.

Sadly, a few of our members have had illnesses lately—Carole Baker, Charlotte Long-Thornton, Walter Smith and Marjorie Menees. We trust that they are on the mend and can join in our activities soon.

I understand that Kathy Hughes has had hand surgery and will not be available to work in the Genealogy Center for three months. I am sure that any one who would be willing to substitute for her will be appreciated.

We certainly were thinking of Marilyn Roberts as her family recently lost a dear member, John D. Hawks. We were also saddened to hear **of the death of Linda Webb's mother on October 30th.** Hopefully, Linda will be back soon in our midst. We have missed her as she has faithfully taken care of her parents.

Our treasurer, Larry Harden, has been quite ill with an infection in his knee, which had been replaced earlier in the year. We trust by this publication he will be back on his feet. We add a thank you to Jean and Ann for coordinating the Salt Lake City trip while Larry recuperates.

We send best wishes to Madge Norton & Bob Caldwell for speedy recoveries.

I bid you adieu hoping that the next Milestones article will be filled with happy news and less of illnesses.

Outstanding Member of the Year Award 2013



The Outstanding Member-of-the-Year Award was presented at the PSGS Christmas Party on December 11th. However, the recipient was not present. She was gallivanting around the world. Some of the comments written on the ballots were, "She has done so much for the society;" "Works hard as Editor for Backtracker and other committees;" Great work on the newsletter and joins in on different committees and has always been enthusiastic on behalf of PSGS, Backtracker, Ancestry.com, antique show and executive board, etc.;" "Excellent work on Backtracker;" and last, but by no means least, "Faithful and talented Backtracker Editor." From these comments, you can guess who it is: Fran Moyer! She has been an asset to this society since the day she joined in 2010. Along with the Backtracker, she has facilitated several Special Interest Groups such as the Native American and Ancestry.com. She was the Committee Chair for the Friday Night Preview Party of the Antique Fair and she continues to serve on the Antique Fair committee. As the *Backtracker* editor, Fran serves on the Executive Board and is one of many who has shaped PSGS into what it is today. In her spare time, she volunteers in the Genealogy Center. Congratulations, Fran! Thank you for your dedication to PSGS; you are very much appreciated!

Incoming Officers for 2014



Sandie Morrison (left) introduces the 2013 officers and explains the duties of each office:

(left to right) Ann Northcutt, President; Karin Burke, 1st VP; Terry Mettling, 2nd VP; and Susan Evans, Secretary. Two officers, Larry Harden, Treasurer, and Judy Joaquin, Member-at-Large, were absent.

Outgoing Officers for 2013



(left to right) Jean Yager, Nyla Walsh, Terry Mettling, Ann Northcutt, and Karin Burke. Larry Harden was absent.

Each of these officers will continue to serve on the 2014 Executive Board in some capacity except for Nyla Walsh. Nyla served as our 1st VP in charge of Programs during 2013. She brought us exciting and informative program topics and we thank her for her hard work. She and husband Lorrin plan to do lots of traveling this year, but will continue to be as active as she can. Thank you, Nyla!



Education Committee has been busy!

by Jean Yager

The Education Committee has been working hard creating an exciting class schedule for 2014.

We start the year off by offering a refresher class to the Genealogy Center volunteers (both current and those interested in becoming a volunteer). This class was given on Tuesday, January 7 and will be repeated on Saturday, January 25. If necessary, another class will be offered on Saturday, June 27. This gives volunteers a more in-depth understanding of the library and genealogy center, and tips on helping patrons find genealogy resources.

We will continue the Genealogy Series (101: Beginning Genealogy; 102: Using Census Records; and 103: Finding Vital Records), offering it again three times this year. Normally, they have all been held at the Sylvan Way branch. This year, however, one series will be held at the Poulsbo library on the fourth Tuesday in May (Gen 101), June (Gen 102) and July (Gen 103). The other two series will remain at the Sylvan Way branch on the fourth Saturday in February (Gen 101), March (Gen 102), April (Gen 103), August (Gen 101) and October (Gen 103). The September Gen 102 class will be held Tuesday, October 7 because we will be having our seminar on that fourth Saturday, September 27. Flyers are available in the Genealogy Center with all the dates and places.

We will still offer classes on those fourth Saturdays at Sylvan Way: May will feature Mary Kathryn Kozy on how to navigate the familysearch.org website. This will be a hands-on class so laptops are optional. June is the Gene-

alogy Volunteer Refresher class (mentioned above) and the topic for the fourth Saturday in July is still to be determined.

The “First Tuesday” classes start in February with Steven W. Morrison presenting *New England Immigrants: Digging Up New Dirt*. In March, we have the pleasure of Patricia Moncure Thomas sharing with us how to search for African American ancestors. In April, Jim Johnson returns with a class on *Canadian Research*. Since we had a good turn-out at the Open Workshop last August, we have decided to have another one in June. This is an opportunity for you to bring your genealogy questions to the Education Committee for some one-on-one help. In November, our very own Elisabeth Demmon will hold a **class on “Writing a Genealogical Narrative.” This will be an advanced class.**

As mentioned above, we will be having a seminar this year. Mark your calendars for September 27. We have retained Bret Petersen from Salt Lake City, Utah. The seminar will be held at the Poulsbo Community Church, and more details are coming as we get closer to the date.

We still have a few dates to fill for classes this year so we will continue to meet the first Monday of every month at 10am in the Genealogy Center. If you have a class suggestion, please feel free to join us. Stay up-to-date by checking our website: www.pusogensoc.org, under Events.

Introduction—David Elkins – David was born and raised in Kingston, WA. Through his mother Eleanor Denton, his Kingston roots go way back. She gathered much on family history and David has organized it. Daughter Bristol added more information. David’s father’s roots are in Oregon. His great grandparents met at a school for the deaf in Salem. He has plans for a trip to Oregon where he found an Elkins Community Center. He also found an intersection of Elkins and Zumwalt roads, two of the names he is researching. Other names he is looking for are Bannister, Denton, and Horn.



D
Y
K

The National Library of Norway plans to digitize all of its books by the mid 2020s.

AND

Lincoln Library in Springfield, IL will soon have the State Journal-Register and its predecessors in its digital newspaper archive. They will be the years from 1831 to 1950.

Witness Bias & Creeping Bear

by Mary Ann Wright

“Victim of a Tomahawk.” This is the headline from the Saturday morning edition of *The Commercial Appeal* newspaper (January 17, 1903), which describes the murder of my great grand uncle.

My great grand uncle was George Millard, the brother of my paternal great grandmother. In 1900, George, then 27, was a policeman for the City of Memphis living with his wife, daughter and father.

By the time of this attack, George had lost his job with the police force. According to the newspaper article, he and some companions were celebrating the coming New Year when Creeping Bear approached the group. **Creeping Bear was “a follower of Buffalo Bill’s show, a graduate of Carlisle, a vender of medicine, and a denizen of an El Reno reservation on parole.”** Already under the influence, George made some remarks that Creeping Bear didn’t appreciate, so Creeping Bear wielded his tomahawk and hit George in the middle of his forehead. George died two weeks later. The newspaper reported that Creeping Bear was arrested for murder.

Over the course of his life W. W. “Willie” Busby, who, at 10 years of age, witnessed the murder, wrote several letters to local historians and writers for *The Commercial Appeal* in the 1960s. (The Busby Collection of letters and essays is housed in the history department of the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library.)

According to Willie, a Wild West show had just ended and the Indians from the show, many still dressed in their costumes, were walking the local streets before they had to head out of town. The fire house alarm sounded and several people had gone to the station to stand around and talk, including Creeping Bear. As Willie noted, a **“drunken Irishman was there, talking big and staggering around.”** The **“drunk” (my great grand uncle)** poked fun at the Indian and became verbally abusive until the Indian snatched his tomahawk from his belt and **“let him have it on top of his head about midway between his eyes, just one lick.”** Willie and his family moved away



Creeping Bear

from Memphis shortly after and was unaware of what transpired later.

A postscript to Willie’s account, as detailed in *Old Shelby County* magazine, Issue 6, pages 2-6, provides the rest of the story. Willie did not know the name of the victim, but Steven Brammer wrote for *Old Shelby County* magazine and confirmed his name as George Millard. The public sentiment at the time of the attack was that Millard **“had it coming.”** **Creeping Bear was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary.** He appealed and the Tennessee Supreme Court reversed the judgment. He was tried and convicted again of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Again the Supreme Court intervened **because the prosecution’s lead witness was Millard’s best friend. The trial judge had not allowed testimony that would have shown the witness was Millard’s friend and therefore biased.** When the case came to trial for the third time, public sympathy was such they gave up and did not pursue the case.

After finally being released from jail in 1904, Creeping Bear started making his way home to a reservation in the Dakotas. En route he got off the train and got drunk in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was arrested and worked off the fine by sweeping the city streets.

A brief recount of this event is included in “The History of the Memphis Police Department,” written by Eddie M Ashmore. Additional accounts appeared in many other publications. In the *New York Times* edition of October 18, 1904, a brief notice announced Creeping Bear’s release from jail. **Creeping Bear “celebrated by donning a full Indian war regalia and parading the streets, followed by a cheering mob.”**

The case against Creeping Bear (*Creeping Bear v State*, 113 Tenn. 322, 87 S.W. 653 (1905)) appears in the Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Tennessee (which explains the opinion of the Court and has been used as a reference for similar cases dealing with witness bias).

A Look Back...

at the past three months of programs presented by PSGS



October 23

“Preparing for a Library Research Trip”

presenter: Carol Johnson

Carol Johnson, director of the Bremerton Family Research Center, gave us many helpful hints on how to prepare for a major research trip, such as the upcoming Salt Lake City Trip. She also shared strategies on how to best re-search the Family History Library catalog.

Carol also presented many helpful suggestions on how to better use the Library and the familysearch.org website after all the recent changes.

November 13

“Discovering Family Heirlooms”

presenters: PSGS members

The hand-painted brooch belonged to my maternal grandmother, Eunice Belle Lord Harvey, who was born in Monticello, MN in 1867. I never knew her, so this picture of her in an ivory frame are special mementos. The design of the brooch matches that of some hand painted china plates that were painted by my Great Aunt Alice Lord, my grandmother’s sister-in-law, so I assume she also painted the brooch. Eunice’s mother died when she was only 10 and she was raised by her oldest sister until she married and started her own home.



By Phyllis Searles Wahlquist

I inherited a collection of tea cups and saucers from Don’s paternal grandparents. Among them was a pair of very unusual square teacups and saucers that were very lightweight. The decoration on them is dark blue and gold on a white background. The handles on the cups were shaped so the thumb would fit on one side of it but there is no hole through the handle. I wanted to know their value so I took them to last year’s Antique Show and they were valued at \$250-\$300/set.



By Dorothy Lindquist (cont’d on page 10)



December 11th - The PSGS Annual Christmas Party



Our Christmas Party had a great crowd again this year. We filled boxes of food for the food bank and addressed Christmas cards to our veterans and troops without family members. The Yankee exchange was great fun with everyone wondering how many bottles of wine would be brought! Ann Northcutt got an emergency light, turned it on and couldn’t get the alarm off! You can see her wrestling with it to turn it off!





Looking Forward...

at the next three months of programs presented by PSGS

Jan 22 **“Do You Have Huguenot Ancestry?”** presenters: Peggy and Marissa Goldenman

Peggy Goldenman is the past president of the Huguenot Society of Washington State and DAR member. Marissa is the current president. They will provide historical context regarding the religious persecution of these French Protestants and their subsequent migration to North America during the Colonial period.

Feb 26 **“How to Get Started in African American Research”** presenter: Patricia M Thomas

Patricia Moncure Thomas is a retired teacher, museum volunteer, historian and author of a Moncure family genealogical book. She will talk about her own family’s research. Currently, she is President of the Black Historical Society of Kitsap County and a member of “Come to the Table” while researching untold stories of the slave experience.

Mar 26 **“Tips on Writing your Family History”** presenter: Sharon Jackson

Could you use some help putting your family stories into well-written narratives? Sharon, a long-time educator who specializes in the written word, will offer ideas that will inspire us to get started on our own narratives.

Schedule of Classes — January through April 1

Jan 25	Saturday	10AM-2PM	Library Volunteers Refresher Class Presenters: MaryAnn Wright & Elisabeth Demmon
Feb 4	Tuesday	10AM-2PM	Digging Up New Dirt Presenter: Steven W Morrison
Feb 22	Saturday	10AM-2PM	Gen 101: Beginning Genealogy Presenter: Jean Yager
Mar 4	Tuesday	10AM-2PM	African American Genealogy Presenter: Patricia Moncure Thomas
Mar 22	Saturday	10AM-2PM	Gen 102: Census Records Presenter: Mary Ann Wright
Apr 1	Tuesday	10AM-2PM	Canadian Research Presenter: Jim Johnson

All classes are held in the Heninger Room at the Kitsap Regional Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton
Contact: education.chairperson@pusogensoc.org

Putting Down Roots

Trial by Fire
Part Two

by Beverly Mead Smith



King James I

As mentioned in the last *Backtracker*, my 10th GreatGrandfather, Edward Wightman, became a Puritan lay minister at the time when Puritans were forced to flee England in the early part of the 17th century. The older Edward became the more shocking his heretical statements became, even to fellow Puritans. Puritanical communities did not punish those with more heretical views than theirs, but tried to reform them to their views.

Rev. Arthur Hildersham and Rev. Simon Presse met with Edward privately and tried to convince him to moderate his sermons and views, but Edward refused. In **1609, Hildersham ultimately preached against Edward's views but continued to correspond with him for a time.** However, he eventually gave up trying to change Edward.

From 1609-1611, the attempts to "correct" Edward's views continued, but he became even more radicalized in his beliefs. He was a prolific writer and wrote copious manuscripts (none survive) stating his views. He carried his books with him and continued to preach to anyone who listened, but eventually, his ideas were too heretical and he became a loner.

When James I came to the throne in 1603, he was tolerant of Catholics (his mother was Elizabeth I's cousin, Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots) and he helped liberalize the Church of England with the English translation of the Bible that bore his name. However, he came to believe that the Protestants, Puritans, Baptists and Quakers were major problems.

Wightman put together his own theological manuscripts that explained in detail his views. He so believed in his own views that he sent a copy to King James I thinking his writings would convince him, even though Edward knew the King's views. At the same time, in 1611, Edward interrupted Lenten services with loud outbursts. The Bur-

ton religious community had enough and presented the case against Edward to the Bishop in Westminster.

In April 1611 the King ordered Edward to be arrested and interrogated and forced to conform to the Anglican order. **The first day of Edward's trial was December 14, 1611.** Throughout the trial, Edward never tried to defend himself, but attempted to "educate" the interrogators.

He was convicted of eleven separate heresies. One of the charges included his Anabaptist beliefs. He said "that baptizing infants was an abominable custom and that it was a doctrinal fabrication because Christ was a mere man and not the son of God."

Wightman refused to change any of his views and was sentenced to be excommunicated and burned at the stake, following King James' order.

On March 20, 1612, Edward was tied to a stake on Lichfield Square next to St. Mary's Church and the fire was lit under him. On feeling the heat, Edward screamed out, recanting. He was pulled down, badly burned and taken back to jail. He verbally gave his recantation, but later, refused to sign it. King James again approved the execution and on April 11, Edward Wightman was burned to ashes.

King James I realized that heretics to his faith continued and abandoned burning at the stake. He was fearful that moderates would eventually sympathize with those being so persecuted, thus, Edward Wightman was the last heretic burned at the stake in England. Having just discovered this story, I did not realize when my husband and I happened to visit Burton-on-Trent what an amazing story I would have to tell in later years.



Rev. Arthur
Hildersham



Putting Down Roots

My Italian Immigrant Mother by Linda Z Sloan

Part One



Beatrice with mother and siblings. She is on the far right at 12 years of age in 1915

I am a very proud first generation Italian/American as both of my parents were born and raised in Northern Italy.

My Mom, Beatrice Bartolini, came from Montecreto, a small mountain village near Bologna and my dad, Mario Zaccanti, grew up in a village near-

by, but they did not meet until both had emigrated to the United States.

I know very little about my Dad's history as he died when I was only 4 years old, but I heard mom's stories for many years.

She arrived as a 17 year old who couldn't speak a word of English with a 5th grade education. She retired a successful businesswoman at the age of 61. This is her story.

Beatrice was the third child born on 6 August 1903 to parents Luigi and Guisseppina Bartolini. When Beatrice was born she had 2 older sisters, Maria just 2 years old and Condida age 5.

Luigi was a blacksmith as was his father. Unfortunately, there was not enough work in their small village of Montecreto for both to make a living so in 1908 Luigi had a job offer in Algeria, Africa to work on a new railroad being built, and the need for good blacksmiths made employment easy.

Luigi and his wife decided to take their oldest daughter Condida, now 10 years old, and the youngest child, 2 year old Lamberto with them to Africa. The two middle children, Maria age 7 and Beatrice age 5, were left behind in the care of a relative who was a Mother Superior in the village convent.

The two girls remained there for 5 years. Life with the nuns was brutal. They did attend school but had to work in the garden and perform chores inside the convent.

Food was very limited. At meal time each child would pick up a bowl and walk along a table where one nun would place a hunk of bread in the bowl and another nun poured olive oil over the bread and the last nun would pour boiling water over all. At times they would have vegetables from the garden and, rarely, a tiny piece of meat. One day the Mother Superior, their aunt, took the two girls to a secluded area of the garden and tried to make them eat a raw egg. She was trying to help them but of course they would not swallow the raw egg. (Maria would later die at a young age of malnutrition.)

Maria was a quiet child who was very obedient but Beatrice had too much life in her and showed too much spunk as far as the nuns were concerned. When she misbehaved the nuns put her inside a wooden wardrobe and locked the door. There Beatrice was tormented by a nun who would run her fingernails down the wooden door **and say "the devil is here to get you."** Beatrice suffered from a life time of claustrophobia.

In 1913 at the age of 10, Beatrice was finally reunited with her family when her parents, sister, brother and now a new baby born in Africa, Alfonsina, arrived back in Montecreto.

War was looming and work remained hard to find so Luigi decided to immigrate to the United States and did so arriving in West Frankfort, IL in 1914. As a coal mining town there was ample work for an experienced blacksmith. Luigi would remain there for the rest of his life, opening up a blacksmith shop. He began saving as much money as possible to bring his family to America. However, World War I got in the way of his plans.

In 1915 when Beatrice was 12 she was sent to the city of Milan to work in a wealthy home as a servant. She worked in the kitchen doing dishes and helping with the meals. She had a warm place to sleep and three meals a day, happy in the city and she loved it. She eventually returned home. Events happened there that would culminate in her leaving Italy at the age of 17 to join her father in America.

To be continued



I have had my “collar & cuff” boxes since 1941. They were given to me by my grandfather in Iowa while on a visit when I was quite young. A detachable collar was first invented in 1827 by a housewife in Troy, NY. She was having difficulties with her husband's “ring around the collar.” Her husband showed off his wife's invention to the guys around town and soon all the wives embraced this new invention. I am sure storage for these starched items soon led to the collar & cuff boxes. At the Antique Show they were appraised at \$250 for the large one and the smaller at \$125. The appraiser also commented that he had seen several of these boxes but never ones that were trimmed with leather as are mine.

By Beverly Smith

In November 1912, my mother’s parents were living in Gatesville, Texas. My grandfather was a traveling salesman for a drug company and was away from home during the week. My mother was one of three children, then all under the age of five with her sister barely 3 months old. Charles and Emma were young parents not yet 30 years of age. As their fifth anniversary approached, Charles was, again, on the road. But he decided to write his wife and share his feelings of love and devotion to her. The letter survived and is a heartfelt testament to his utter devotion. Charles lived less than three more years, dying from TB in 1915. Emma returned to her native Mississippi where she worked and raised her children. She never remarried.

By Mary Ann Wright



My grandfather bought his pocket watch from a watchmaker in Lead, South Dakota around 1913. My paternal grandfather was born in Truro, Cornwall, England in 1888. After finishing his education, he met the girl who would become my grandmother and they decided to marry and he would emigrate to the United States. She would follow after he was established.

In 1912 he booked his passage on a trans-Atlantic ship to go to the United States. He was nearing his departure date when his employer talked him into staying another week and finishing up a project he was working on for them. He agreed and changed his passage to another White Star Line ship, the *RMS Adriatic* --- and canceled his booking on the *RMS Titanic*.

By Jack Merrifield

I brought a leather letter carrier that belonged to my maternal Great grandfather, B.F. Wyant. Inside was an eight-page letter describing “My trip to the Yukon” in 1886, as well as 3 very sad letters written in verse as was the custom in that time. They were unsigned. One referred to a story about a young man who rebelled against his parents and led a life of robbing until he was sent “across the great blue sea” instead of going to jail for 10 years.

There was also a picture of a lovely lady whose name was never mentioned, but I assume was my Great Grandmother, Martha Van Blaricom Wyant.

By Fran Moyer



I acquired this chair from my cousin, Melvin Nelson. It had belonged to my great-grandmother, Mary Ann (Phillips) Mannering Merwin. She was born in Wales in 1885, immigrating with her parents to the United States when she was 2 years old. They lived in the Puyallup area and in 1907, she married Elmer Mannering and they had five children. Their second child, Robert (1910-1992), was my grandpa. When Mary Ann passed away in 1949, her fourth child, Dorothy (1914-1994), acquired the chair. I do not know what the color was when Mary Ann had it. When Dorothy died, it was passed on to her son, Melvin. I have been in contact with Melvin several times, sharing family stories and pictures. So, when Melvin called last March asking if I wanted this chair, I did not hesitate in accepting.

By Jean Yager



November meeting

“Discovering Family Heirlooms”*(cont'd from page 10)*

Two small paintings always hung in my in-law's family room. They were paintings he had sent back from Italy at the end of the war in 1945. No one knew anything other than that about them until two years ago.

A relative of my husband called and said that she was ready to toss two old boxes of family “stuff” that she had. Among the numerous old family photos was a scrapbook of WWI and WWII. Included in the WWII album were

six letters from my father-in-law, who was in the US Army in Italy. Not one of his three children had ever known anything about his experiences. Discovered in one of the letters was the story of the paintings.

They had been painted by the father of a partisan from the town of Feltre. My father-in-law and several fellow officers were housed in his parent's home. The artist was a professor and his wife a former Hungarian royal. They were very grateful for the Americans and the paintings were a gift.



By Karin Burke

Mary Ann Casson was a pretty girl of 12 years of age in 1861 when she stood on the dock at Liverpool, England waiting to board the ship Valentia that would take her family to America. Unlike her older brothers and sisters, Mary Ann couldn't look forward to the promise of work in her future. She lost almost all of her hearing in a childhood disease. Because she was deaf, the ship's crew in any danger. The ship's Captain became quite fond of her and after landing in Boston, he gave Mary Ann an 1842 Queen Victoria Silver Crown as a reward and keepsake.

Mary Ann's family settled in Lisbon, Maine. Her father, brother and older sisters found jobs in the textile mills becoming spinners and weavers. Mary Ann's future was uncertain, until she met William Duckworth, a supervisor at one of the mills and determined not only to win Mary Ann, but to provide her with everything she might need. He adored his Mary Ann and their daughters.



When William died, Mary Ann could not live on her own. She spent part of each year with her daughters, spring and summer in Maine—fall and winter with my grandmother Florence in New York.

Mary Ann passed away in July of 1945 and rejoined her William at last. She kept her treasured silver Crown with her all of her life as a reminder of her childhood home. She gave it to my grandmother, who gave it to my mother, and now it is mine. And just so you know, when my daughter was a young girl, she had long auburn hair that fell in ringlets down her back. A gift from Mary Ann, and someday my daughter will have Mary Ann's silver crown as well.

By Jeanie Schulze

An Overwhelming Cemetery Visit

My husband Larry and I were in the San Francisco area in November 2013 and decided to go to the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, where my grandfather is buried. We drove into the cemetery and there was a kiosk outside the office that made it easy to locate a relative's gravesite. We drove from the office around the corner and were absolutely awestruck. This was the first time I had ever been to a national cemetery. I teared up as I realized the number of people who have been in the military and were buried in this one cemetery.

We were able to find my grandfather, Alvin Ray Kinney, and his first wife Frances Dresser. The pictures don't do the cemetery justice since it is so hard to try to include so many rows of headstones in one picture.

By Gail Reynolds





Meanderings

by Jack Merrifield

Our ramblings in 2013 have taken us over ten thousand miles visiting distant relatives and researching family history for both my wife and myself. On our spring trip, **after visiting my wife's 93 year old first cousin once removed in Rose City, MN, a few miles north of Alexandria, MN and research at the Douglas County, MN Historical Society Museum library, we found —**

“An Unexpected Treasure on the Plains of South Dakota” Hitchcock, South Dakota, Population 108, Next 3 Exits” – (well, really next 3 dirt roads). This is the sign that greets you as you enter Hitchcock from the West on SD Highway 28. There is also a sign that says **“Free Museum.”** Little did we know what a treasure find the Hitchcock Museum would be!

We had gone to Hitchcock for a quick look around as **that was where my wife's mother and her siblings had gone to high school back around 1930.** We pulled up to the Museum just as the owner was leaving the Post Office next door after bringing his wife Rita, the postmistress, back from lunch. He asked if we would like to see **the Museum and, of course, we said, “Yes!”**

Upon entering the Museum, Ray Waldner, the owner, went around the building turning on the lights. As the lights came on, my mouth hung further and further open. I could not believe what I was seeing. Ray has a collection of about everything old from his days of growing up in this area of the plains of South Dakota. There are more old things in this museum, neatly displayed, than anyone can imagine. And Ray himself is a treasure trove of information about the area, having lived there all of his life. My wife's grandparents at one time had a general store in the little town of LaDelle, a few miles away, that today is only a dot on the map. Ray gave us much history on that town, too. I was in awe of all of the old things displayed in this museum, from saddles, to license plates, to barbed wire, to old manual typewriters, to old metal disk music

players. There is no way to describe everything there. My wife was in awe of the old newspapers, pictures and other information about her family. We were able to get copies of newspaper articles about the graduation of her **mother's class from high school in 1932 as well as other** articles and pictures about her family. It was a very emotional experience for her. And the neat part about this is that Ray does all of this just for his love of the history of the area.

There is a donation jar available but I doubt it does much more than pay the light bill. We spent about two hours in the Museum and then Ray took us around town **and over to the school where my wife's family went to high school.** It is now an elementary school as the school districts of a couple of towns have combined. My wife got to walk the floor where her mother walked and visualize her and her sisters and brother gaining their education there many years ago.

At one time, Hitchcock was a booming town with several grain elevators on the rail line. Most of the people are now gone as well as the rail line and most of the grain elevators. This town and the Hitchcock Museum are real nostalgia for anyone who has an interest in the past.

Don't miss the Hitchcock Museum if you are ever in the area.

We are already planning our trip back for next spring and plan to spend a couple of days at the Hitchcock Museum.

Hitchcock is located about 35 miles North and West of Huron, South Dakota which is about 55 miles North of Mitchel, South Dakota on I-90.

The location of the Hitchcock Museum is on Clarke Street in the same building as the Post Office.

Our fall trip took us to the southwest and as far east as Oklahoma City, but that is another story for another time.

Side By Side



Susan Evans

Member since 1998



Linda Sloan

Member since 2011

I'm a native of Bloomington, Illinois, who came to Port Orchard via Texas, England, Germany, and Tacoma as an Air Force wife, and I retired from the Federal Civil Service after 31 years. I am an avid reader, mostly mysteries, love to travel (I've visited all 50 states, much of Europe, and Japan), am very involved in my church, and enjoy cards with friends. With 35 years in International Training in Communication, I have a special interest in parliamentary procedure.

Q: How and when did you get started in genealogy?

I've always been interested; a book about my Hart family was favorite reading on visits to my maternal grandparents. I made frequent cemetery visits with both grandmothers. I postponed any real involvement until I retired in 1998.

Q: How and when did you come to join PSGS?

I joined PSGS in 1998 after someone made a presentation to the PSNS Family Service Center staff about the organization.

Q: What are your research goals?

I'm starting with other people's brick walls since I have a lot of information gathered from grandparents, two very active cousins, and an aunt. I'm letting Ed do his own digging.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

Surnames: Selders, Ross, English, Broughton, Busby, French, Miller, Brown, Leeper. Localities: They came from Germany, England, Ireland, Scotland.

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I've served as secretary, and I try to spend two shifts a month in the Genealogy Center.

I was born in Oroville, CA, and grew up in an auto court that my parents owned. My Dad died when I was 4 years old. I have always been a bit of a gypsy and have lived in Reno, NV, San Francisco, CA, San Diego, CA and Norfolk, VA. I married a Chief in the Navy and had 2 sons, Joseph and James Rosales. I moved to Bremerton, WA in 1978. Married the love of my life, Gordy Sloan, and had 25 wonderful years together. I always wanted to be a nurse so at **the age of 55....I went back to school and got my LPN.**

Q: How and when did you get started in genealogy?

Even as a child I loved listening to my Mom's stories of her life in Italy and how she came to America. I was the last of 6 kids and Mom was 43 years old when I was born so I always felt like I had missed out on all those years that my siblings had with her. So I listened very carefully.

Q: How and when did you come to join PSGS?

I actually joined years ago in the 80s when I attended a class taught by Marlys Marrs. I did not stay a member, but about 3 years ago I re-discovered PSGS through KRL.

Q: What are your research goals?

I'd like to write a family history, especially in honor of my Mother.

Q: Any surnames and localities of special interest?

My surnames are: Zaccanti, Bartolini, Masinelli and **Tanari. I'm most interested in Chicago during the 1920s and 30s when my parents lived there.**

Q: How have you contributed to PSGS?

I taught everyone how to bring wine to the PSGS Christmas Party.

Gail Reynolds'

Belfair Bulletin

Hello Everyone – **Hope that you had a wonderful holiday season. My New Year's resolution is to get organized.** Seems that must be the number one resolution of genealogists everywhere – GET ORGANIZED! I know with the trip to Salt Lake City in the offing we must at least have some of the brick walls, etc. ready to research.

So what has our Belfair Chapter been up to? Our November meeting was the Christmas party with food and a gift exchange. Linnie as always came up with games for us to play. Elections were also held. Our new co-chair leaders are Madi Cataldo and Rosemarie Welch. Linnie will remain treasurer and I will be still be reporting to the *Back-tracker* on our fun activities. Our outgoing chairperson, Judy Joaquin, will now be Member at Large for PSGS. Belfair Chapter does not have any meetings in December and January. Programs for some of our upcoming meetings were discussed and some planning still has to be completed.

During November, our chapter filled the Belfair branch of the North Mason Library window with information about the War between the States. The battles were listed and a map was posted as well as some pictures of **Judy's relatives that were members of the military. That display remained in the library during the month of November** and I hope that you were able to stop by and take a peek at it.

Our February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5th at 12:30 p.m. at the library branch in Belfair. Our speaker will be Ken Dunlap. He will be sharing the process by which he became an SAR member. Sounds very interesting – **everyone is welcome so please come and see what it's all about.**

This is the display case at the Belfair Timberland Library. Our chapter was responsible **for the month of November's** presentation. We decided on the Civil War and are proud of our work.



The Thomas Piano and More

by Mary Whittlesey

My maternal grandparents lived in Seattle for many years. One of my favorite memories of their home was an old piano. In 1978 my grandparents moved into my parent's house in Bremerton. **One of the items they brought with them was that old piano and it's bench.**

The bench contained what looked like old piano sheet music and was left in place, untouched. After my parents and grandparents passed away, I gave the piano and bench to my niece.

My sister-in-law took the sheet music out of the bench and forgot about it until August 2013 when she went through it and found tucked away in a magazine **typed pages of Grandpa Thomas' family going back several generations.** It had the Rice and Crouse names, marriages to the Thomas line, births and deaths.

We shared a great laugh at how much information was right under my nose all these years for my genealogy research!

Stepping Back in Time, (cont'd from page 1)

A gentleman brought an antique pocket watch he said was given to an ancestor who was one of George Washington's generals and a silver inkwell. Authenticating the watch took Ernie to genealogical websites. He found the name of the watchmaker on census records that showed him residing in New York City in the 1760s. He also found that this watchmaker had made 6 watches for President Washington to give to his 6 generals. His appraisal for the watch included 3 tiers to decide what the appraisal should be. The first tier would be \$1,000 for an 18th century pocket watch. The second tier would find that the watch was made in America...very few were at that early date. This watch was made in New York City, in the **1760's Ernie had found. That would bring an amount of \$10,000.** The third tier would be appraised at \$100,000+ if the provenance could be proved, as he did, that it came from President Washington. The owner was, understandably, very pleased. The inkwell was easier and even earlier, but without the significant provenance of the watch.

At last year's show Ernie saw a woman carrying a paper shopping bag by its handles and occasionally bump-

ing it on the cement floor. Sitting in his chair in the appraisal area, Ernie could see that it was a very large, impressive vase because she had not even bothered to wrap the vase in the bag.

Ernie jumped out of his chair, ran to the surprised woman, and grabbed the bag out of her hands. He said he was taking it over to his table and as soon as he finished with his current client he would help her.

Without looking at any of his books, he knew that it was an original Tiffany centerpiece. He said it even had the original paper on the bottom. He appraised it at approximately \$50,000, which thrilled the woman. When she got up to leave, Ernie said, "I hope you take better care of it then when you brought it in."

Ruth and Ernie give of their time and knowledge because of their enduring passion for antiques and their rightful place in history.

They, and others like them, will be at our Kitsap Antique Show to help you find out about your own antiques. You can read about more stories of heirlooms that were appraised at last year's Antique Show on pages 6, 10 and 11 in this issue.



Heading to the Family History Library at Salt Lake City

by Jean Yager

The annual research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is scheduled for Feb 9th to Feb 16th. There are 15 people signed up to go. Madi Cataldo, Alta Drane, Georgia Gail, Linnie Griffin, Val Horner, Jackie Horton, Judy Joaquin, Linda Langberg, Marlys Marrs, Phyllis Nelson, Jim Nygard, Gail Reynolds, Bev and Walter Smith, and Jean Yager. Unfortunately, Larry Harden, who has been coordinating and attending this expedition for umpteenth years, will not be going due to health issues. We will be on our own! Fortunately, we have some seasoned at-

tendees who will be able to help the newbies. We pretty much have the basics down: arrive on a Sunday, settle into our room at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, meet up for dinner that evening, then during the week rise early and stay late at the library. Mondays the library closes at 5pm, so we will have the opportunity to attend, held at the hotel, an evening presentation, "Getting the Most out of your research at the Family History Library." By the end of the week most of us will return home having discovered some exciting findings!

Presidential Ponderings, (cont'd from page 2)

Our Genealogy 101, 102 & 103 series of classes will again be presented during 2014. This will be the first year that we will be taking these three classes on the road. In May, June and July they will be given at the Poulsbo Library. The Education Committee is currently working on a schedule of Tuesday classes to bring to you and I know you're going to be pleased with their selections.

I encourage all of you to become involved in PSGS and to think about what you can do for your society this coming year. We need volunteers to work in the Genealogy Center, teachers for classes, stories for the Backtracker and help with both the Antique and Seminar committees. These are but a few of many opportunities and this is your opportunity to give back to PSGS. Let's make this a great year!

Classified Ads

HERE YE HERE YE HERE YE

PSGS has over 200 members. We need YOU to join us on our committees. Our only fundraiser is the Antique Show. We welcome people from all over the state and beyond our borders. We are going to host our bi-annual Seminar. We have fun and encourage you to join us in our efforts.

We Want You



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