



THE BACKTRACKER



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BROWNSVILLE CEMETERY CLEAN UP

by Michael Brownell



Roy Barton by the refinished sign

About 15 years ago the PSGS Cemetery Committee donated, built and installed a sign for Brownsville Cemetery. It had become weathered and a member of the community, Roy Barton, recently took on the project of refinishing the sign. He did a great job and now it looks like new.

Marty Weglarz and Roy also cut down about 20 small 3—4 inch Locust trees between the trail and road. The Locust trees are very invasive and have awful thorns, so they need to be kept out.

Michael Brownell is the President of the Brownsville Cemetery Historic Preservation Association. The Brownsville Cemetery is believed to be more than 100 years old and was once possibly part of a homestead belonging to Andrew (“Dogfish”) Nelson.

An article about the Brownsville Cemetery was written by Lisetta Lindstrom for the Central Kitsap Journal on June 25, 1975. If you have access to online newspapers, you may want to read it. You will find a lot of family names and historical information about the cemetery.

When we are able to get back to the library, a copy of the article will be placed in the Brownsville Cemetery Binder in the Genealogy Center.

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Presidential Ponderings

by Jean Yager

2021....what can I say about the plans PSGS has to offer for this year? Not a lot. By this date, the Education Committee would have met and scheduled a full slate of motivating genealogical classes. But there is only one....so far. Thomas MacEntee is going to do a zoom class for us on Tuesday, February 2nd. The topic will be "Brick Wall Breakthroughs". I sent out an email blast on January 4th to the membership on how to register for the class. If you know of anyone that is not a PSGS member and might be interested in "attending", feel free to forward my email. We are following the same standard as if it were an in-person class where you do not need to be a PSGS member to participate. You can find more information on Thomas' class on page 11.

If the response is good and we are still unable to meet in-person, then the Executive Board and Education Committee will consider adding more classes using zoom. I would be interested in hearing from you if you have a topic you would like to see presented. You can send those requests to psgs.no.reply@gmail.com

(cont'd. on pg 3)

Genealogy Center Report

by Elisabeth Demmon

Scottish Genealogy Research with a Blog, a Conference, and a Facebook Group

As the great-granddaughter of Scottish emigrants who travelled from Selkirkshire to Canada back in the mid-19th Century, I have dedicated a lot of time to Scottish genealogy research. The historic county of Selkirk, a part of the Scottish Borders area, is where my mother's family lived until 1855 when they came to Canada.

I want to highlight three sources that have been of great help to me especially during this time of lockdown and subsequent virtual conferences and classes. I write from personal experience and pass on this information to you in the hope that it might help you with your research.

(cont'd. on pg 3)

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Genealogy Center Report by Elisabeth Demmon (cont'd. from pg 2)

One of the best blogs for Scottish research (in my humble opinion) is Chris Paton's Scottish Genes: <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>. Chris is a professional genealogist, writer, and speaker to name just a few professions. I have several of his books, "Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry through Church and State Records" and "Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd ed.)", both of which I have found to be immensely helpful in my research as it is unlikely I will be visiting Scotland any time soon. I have also listened to several of his presentations during virtual conferences this year; he is an engaging speaker who presents his material in a clear and comprehensible manner.

The first source led to the second, which is the searchable website [ScottishIndexes.com](https://www.scottishindexes.com/):

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/>. This website offers free searches and conferences. I attended the December one-day conference, which had a mixture of classes on understanding records particular to Scotland, presentations by representatives from various Family History Societies who explained how their organizations can help researchers who have ancestors from their areas, and even an update on the latest records

added to the FindMyPast databases. For more details, I encourage you to visit the website and get acquainted. The next conference is on 30 January 2021.

The third source is for those of you who like to use social media. Facebook groups can be a wonderful place to ask questions and share information with folks who are interested in the places, resources, and records that are important to your family history. I have joined only a few groups because it can be overwhelming to keep up with all the posts but one I have found helpful to me as a descendant of Selkirk ancestors is the Border Reiver Family Heritage & Genealogy group. I have learned so much about the various clans and their proximity to one another in history which helps when one of my surnames is Scott!

Whether you have Scottish ancestry or not, check out blogs, conferences, and Facebook groups to help you with your research. If you would like a suggestion for your area of interest, I will be glad to help; just contact me at edemmon@krl.org.

I wish you all a very safe and happy New Year filled with opportunities for research success.

Presidential Ponderings by Jean Yager

(cont'd. from page 2)

(ignore the "no.reply". I generally don't check this email account, but I promise to add it to my daily routine).

The Board voted to purchase a zoom account so in February I hope to start having zoom meetings (Committees, SIGs, Eboard and General). Megan Churchwell from Kitsap County Historical Society & Museum will be the speaker at the February 24th general zoom meeting. She will be presenting, "*Preservation Principles for Genealogists*".

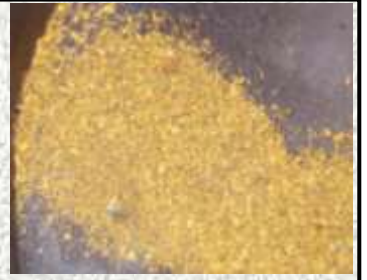
Before you know it, we will be gathering again in-person. But until then, participate in the upcoming zoom class, take the information you learn, break a few of your brick walls, then write about them and submit a story for our next Backtracker!!

Ancestry Library Edition

We are pleased to let you know that Ancestry.com has extended access to Ancestry Library Edition from remote locations (i. e. your home) to at least March 31, 2021. Happy hunting!

The Golden Dream * —

My Ancestor's Story by Sharon Hornback



The sun was setting as Neely Dobson looked across his corn fields. He wondered if the harvest would be enough to support his family. He and his wife Zilpha (Goss) lived on the farm in Lumpkin County, Georgia. Zilpha had born twelve children, all living. Seven of these children are still dependent upon Neely and his farm in 1850.

The newspapers have been full of stories lately ... GOLD in California. They said it was just lying on the ground ready for anyone to just pick up. Should he go to California? How could he afford it? The family was barely able to survive from one month to the next. Neely felt he needed money. California was the place to get it, all he needed was a plan to get there.

There were basically three ways to get to California. A clipper ship around Cape Horn took four to eight months and cost about \$500 to \$1000. A ship to Panama, mules over the isthmus, and a ship from Panama to California cost about \$300 to \$500. That trip took two to three months. If he had that kind of money, Neely wouldn't need to look for gold. Overland was the way to go. That trip would take three to seven months and cost \$150 to \$300.

It was time to make that plan for his family's future. Neely's son, James Whitten Dobson age 24, could come along on this California adventure. James was currently living and working on the farm of a family friend. James was strong and could definitely help his 53-year-old father, Neely. They would need a wagon and oxen. Neely had an extra wagon they could fix up. He had one ox he could spare; but would need to buy one more. Tools like picks and shovels could be taken from the farm. Neely and James had their own guns and knives to bring along with rifle balls and gun powder. They would need to

buy food that would travel well. Suggestions in the newspapers included flour, bacon, sugar, coffee, rice, beans, jerky and pemmican. They planned to hunt game along the way. Cooking utensils like a fry pan, cooking pot, coffee pot, along with metal plates were needed, too. A little alcohol (for medicinal purposes, of course) would be among their packed supplies. They would need money for tolls on some rivers and trails. Neely could sell the wagon and oxen in California and get some money for living expenses. If they planned carefully, Neely and James could get to California on \$200. The big question still was....where would the money come from?

Neely's brother-in-law, William Washington Ayers, owned a farm worth about \$1,000 in Lumpkin County, Georgia. William was married to Zilpha's sister, Louisa. Surely, he would help a family member. Neely got up his courage to ask and William agreed to grubstake his brother-in-law.

Neely and his son, James, left Georgia around April of 1851 and traveled to Independence, Missouri. From there, they joined others on the Oregon California Trail heading to the gold fields and dreaming of riches. The journey was long and they faced many hardships before arriving in California. They ended up in Calaveras County, California sometime in August of 1851 and settled in.

Calaveras County had a population of about 16,000 people in 1850 – 1860, mostly prospectors. Some prospectors learned that looking for gold was hard worth and often showed little success. Some men gave up and became merchants starting general stores that sold flour, coffee, and shovels for outrageous prices. Some men went home empty handed. Others died of various illnesses. (cont'd. on pg 5)

The Golden Dream *

by Sharon Hornback

(cont'd. from pg 4)



Still others looked for any job they could find or just drifted away, afraid to go home without gold.

Neely and James didn't sell their wagon as they had planned. They lived in it by a river where they staked out their claim. They did end up selling their one surviving ox for a paltry sum. Every little bit of money helped. "Life was a gamble and success a matter of stumbling on the right stretch of streambed."⁽¹⁾ They worked all day and fell into bed at night. When they found gold, they would hide it or spend it on the high prices demanded for staples such as flour and coffee.

No record has yet been located about exactly how much gold they found, although they were successful. One day, while swishing the pan filled with gravel and river water, Neely spotted something shiny in the bottom of the pan. He excitedly called James to his side. Both men saw the gold glinting back at them. James and Neely worked that area of the river until the sun went down and they could no longer see anything in the pan. That night they slept beside the river to guard their claim.

Neely knew his family needed money. After all, that is why he came to California in the first place. He took a chance and sent some gold dust back to Zilpha in a letter. William Ayers found out and was angry, he thought he should get pay back from Neely first. William brought Zilpha up on charges at the Goshen Baptist Church. Zilpha wrote to her husband to not send any gold, just wait until he came home. She later had her fellowship within the church restored.

Disease was rampant in the gold fields as the prospectors were not concerned much with cleanliness, only with finding the gold. They did not eat well, especially when food costs were so high. Cholera and Typhoid ran rampant through the camps. Typhoid was often contracted by drinking water containing human

waste. Doctors were in short supply and, if they could be found, their prices were very high. A visit could cost \$100 and the education of the doctor was sometimes in question. Neely came down with Typhoid Fever and died in Calaveras County probably in 1855. There has been no record found of his death.

James traveled home to Georgia with gold in his saddle bags. When he got home, he purchased 160 acres along the east branch of Long Swamp Creek in Cherokee County, Georgia at a cost of \$300. He built a grist mill on this property and two houses. James married Mary Elizabeth Cantrell in January of 1856, soon after he returned home to Georgia.

James Whitten Dobson joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He was a Captain in Company G, 8th Battalion of the Georgia Infantry. James died in March of 1862 from pneumonia.

*This is a work of historical fiction. Yes, my 2x great grandfather Neely Dobson and his son James did go to the gold fields in California. Neely was in Georgia in the 1850 census and his wife Zilpha was listed as a widow in 1860. History says Neely died in Calaveras County, California. James married in January of 1856 in Georgia and I assume his father died before he left California for home. They did find gold, but I have not found any record yet of how much. In the 1860 census, James had listed land and personal property valued at \$2,000. He seems to have done well after the gold fields.

Bibliography:

⁽¹⁾ Brands, HW; [The Age of Gold](#) Doubleday New York 2002, p 214
Koeppel, Elliott, [California Gold Country, Highway 49 Revisited](#); pub Malakoffin Co

Perry, Eugene R.; [The Perry and Allied Families](#); pp 34-35

[Pickens County Progress](#) (newspaper) Pickens County, Georgia; August 17, 1989

Wikipedia – California Trail; Calaveras County

What do you know about the Spanish Flu of 1918?

by Melody (Asikainen) Knight

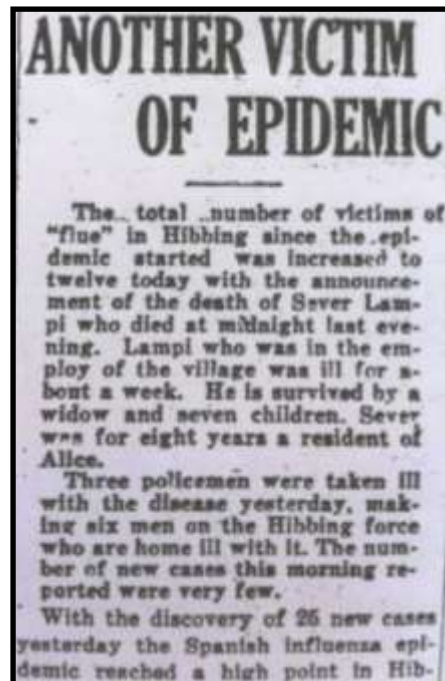
I have always been interested in the Spanish Flu of 1918 but I recently found out much more about it! My interest began because my Finnish grandmother and grandfather were recent immigrants when it hit the United States. **John August Asikainen arrived in Rock Springs, Wyoming after immigrating in 1906. Helmi Katarina Toivola, immigrated in 1912. They were married in August of 1915. Their son, Arne August Asikainen (my father), was born in Reliance, Sweetwater County, September 24, 1916.** He was less than two years old when the pandemic began.

Recent immigrants and Native Americans had special circumstances that caused them to be especially impacted, just as the same is true today. I can't help but see that history repeats itself! At that time some people did some things right as some are doing now, but some people don't necessarily learn from previous mistakes and do the things that have led to illness or deaths in our current pandemic.

The Spanish Flu, also known as the 1918 Flue Pandemic, was an unusually deadly influenza caused by the H1N1 virus (with genes of avian origin), according to Wikipedia. It lasted from February 1918 to April of 1920. This flu came in about four major waves and infected about 500 million people—about one third of the world's population — and killing millions of people (Wikipedia says between 20 and 50 Million people). 675,000 victims were American. Historians now believe that a mutated virus spread by wartime troop movements caused the fatal severity of the Spanish Flu's second wave. Most people seem to have died because they developed pneumonia. **Some alarming symptoms were that some people actually turned blue or black, or bled from their eyes, nose, or ears before dying!**

As I had more time this year to spend searching for information about my ancestors on Ancestry.com and

other sites I found one of my distant cousins, a recent immigrant, who died during that pandemic. He was the 12th person to die of the flu in November of 1918 in Hibbing, Minnesota, according to a local paper (*Hibbing Daily Tribune*). The article said he was born in Alavus, Finland a town that many of my early Finnish relatives come from. "The total number of victims of 'flu' in Hibbing since the epidemic started was increased to twelve today with the announcement of the death of Sever Lampi who died at midnight last evening. Lampi who was in the employ of the village was ill for about a week. He was survived by a widow and seven children. Sever was for eight years a resident of Alice." The article also mentioned that three local policemen were also ill from the virus.

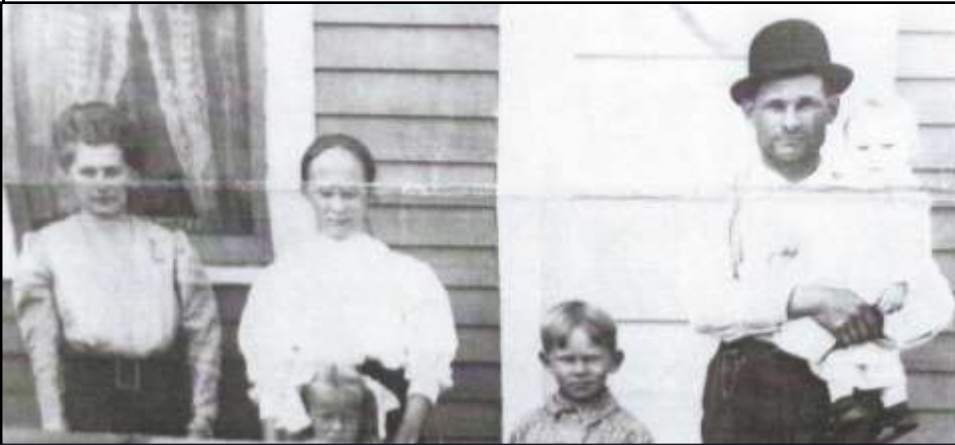


Sever Juhonpoika (Palolampi) Lampi, sometimes called "Fats", was born in 1876 in Alavus, Finland. Juhonpoika means that he is the son of John. His surname at one time was Palolampi possibly because that was the village or hamlet he was living in. His wife was Amelia Matintytar (meaning "daughter of Martin Kangasaho (Allanpaa)). She was also born in Alavus in 1876. They had seven children. Sever was my 4th cousin 2x removed.

Some people had the foresight to collect stories from Immigrants and Native Americans who were in the midst of that pandemic. Some stories really stuck with me. (cont'd. on pg 7)

What do you know about the Spanish Flu of 1918?

by Melody (Asikainen) Knight (cont'd. from pg 6)



Hulda Palolampi (Sever's sister), Amelia (his wife) with their daughter, Lydia, Wayne (their son), and Sever holding baby daughter, Sophie

Some were really sad--like the story of one lady who described what she remembered. She and six of her siblings were sick with the virus. Her mother would sit in a rocking chair and hold, rock, and sing to the sickest children, one at a time. Each time, when the rocker stopped creaking, she knew that another of her siblings had died. Four of her six siblings died from their illness.

Another story demonstrated how people cared for each other during the pandemic. One English-speaking neighbor came into the home of his sick neighbors, changed all the laundry leaving the soiled laundry outside, cleaned them up, and slaughtered some of their chickens to make them soup so he could spoon-feed each one of them. When they recovered they looked for him and found out that he had done this for other neighbors, but his house was now empty and he and his wife were nowhere to be found.

One of the Native American stories that I read from a CDC site told of one very wise woman who cared from the Red Cloud family during the pandemic. Sadie Afraid of His Horses—Janis was only seven years old when this happened. The extended Red Cloud family had been on a trip picking pota-

toes. They were far away from their home. A farmer told them to camp at his farm until the rains stopped. But Sadie's first cousin, Nancy, was the real hero. She used some very good principles that ended up saving all their lives! She had them isolate or quarantine by keeping them in their own tepees. She made Flat Cedar tea to keep them hydrated. She made them use only their own cups, utensils, comb, wash basins and other

personal items to prevent cross-contamination. She used a humidifying process using the local plant, Sweet Grass, "So they could breathe better and ward-off evil spirits". She used local plants for nutrition and pharmacology to nourish them and cure headaches and other problems. But she used one questionable concoction they all laughed about later and dropped from their health routines—when people had such severe coughing that it caused their throats to close, she mixed a teaspoon of kerosene mixed with sugar.

However, we haven't all learned from the past in some ways! The presidents, and some government officials, at the time of these pandemics have played down the severity of each virus and have not had a solid plan to deal with all the problems. Many people refuse to do what is advised (and is necessary) like wearing masks. Huge gatherings happened despite recommendations against them! So wear a mask, wash your hands, stay at least six feet apart, and don't attend large gatherings and maybe more people can survive the current pandemic with a little help from what we have learned from our past!

Subject: Brick Wall--One Step Forward

by Judy Houle

In October of 2015, I came to a meeting of PSGS and in the conversation I heard about some articles in the Backtracker. Thinking that sounded interesting I followed up and found the October thru January 2015 issue, which was very interesting and to my surprise there was an article about a family named Carr. I set the paper aside until later and when the opportunity presented itself, I began working on my genealogical folders.

There were a few personal notes on my grandmother, Estelle Carr. When I searched the data bases for records, there was very little data to be found either on she or her sister Carrie Glen Carr (Perkins) (Brown). In looking through some of my Aunt's things, I found a picture of someone named Annie Estelle Smith Carr (Venable) written in very light pencil on a sepia colored photograph. The search was on.

With the help of friends and data bases, the mystery was beginning to unravel. Julia Caroline Lowry Smith (Carr) was the mother of Annie Estelle Smith (Carr) Venable. Annie was born in approximately 1880 and died in 1968 in Portland, Oregon. She was married in December of 1903 in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Charleston News and Courier articles reports "Married-Smith-Lowry on Thursday December 24, 18X4 (not legible) at the residence of the bride's sister in Charleston, S.C. by the Reverend Mr. Chambliss to Mr. W. Glenn Smith to Mrs. J. Carrie Lowry, daughter of Wm. Lowry, Esq. all of this state." Lacking concrete evidence, i.e., formal documents of birth, death, and marriage, there are many questions not yet resolved. However, this study has moved me closer to the resolution, therefore the title, **One Step Forward**.

Conclusion:

Thank you to those who have supported me in this effort and to the Backtracker for giving me the opportunity. It is my hope that the notes will help you in your future endeavors and that there will be others who will want to take that One Step Forward.

If you can help me in my study to find the formal documents referred to, or if you have a brick wall you would like to share, please do so through the Backtracker at: bt-editor@pusogensoc.org Responses will be collected and the Backtracker Committee will consider if **One Step Forward** becomes a regular feature in the newsletter.

What follows is included as a basic guide I use to help organize a project such as this.

Source: Family Story, Picture, Articles, Word of Mouth

Diary Entry at current date: Name or names and all information to include all other dates and details, pictures, etc.

Budget: Books, Seminars, Postage, Data Fees

Accomplishment: Date, Actual cost

Document preservation: Copies of specifics...who, what, where, when

Additional Research Information

Research Resources: Databases, Specific Libraries

Additional Mention: Verbal comments need to be annotated as do physical observations in the ledger



Clues in the Backtracker

by Brainerd Wood

I emailed Francis Jenkins and received three letters, one of which is very important information concerning my paternal grandmother and great-grandfather. My grandmother was married twice (I didn't know that!). My great-grandfather lived in North Carolina (I didn't know that!).

My grandfather and grandmother were married in North Carolina (I didn't know that!) and moved to Haines City, Florida. I knew that, but I have no idea why they moved. At that time, Haines City was a very small settlement at the edge of the Everglades, with alligators and snakes and stuff. Not a very delightful neighborhood.

The Backtracker has gained me some unexpected information. Read it and find information that you want.

Note—As Backtracker Editor, I received the following email.

“Hello, I came across a piece written by Brainerd Wood in one of your Backtracker issues. I have letters in my files from his sister written to my great grandfather regarding his paternal lineage. If you could forward this email to him, I could send him copies of the letters. Thank you in advance. Francis Jenkins”

It pays to write and submit stories to the Backtracker because someone may see your family information and be able to add to your family history. Looking forward to more stories for our 2021 issues!

YOUR ANCESTOR'S STORY

This space is reserved for you to begin writing your story.

Golden Rules of Genealogy

by Thomas MacEntee



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For more information, please visit *Genealogy Bargains* at <https://genealogybargains.com>

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1. **There is No Easy Button in Genealogy.** You will work hard to find your ancestors. Genealogy will require more than passion; it will require skills, smarts, and dedication. Don't believe the hype of instant hints, smart matches and shaky leaves. If it were that easy, the journey of discovering our roots would have little or no meaning.
2. **Research from a Place of "I Don't Know."** Your genealogy research will likely run counter to your cherished family stories. It will upend your preconceived notions about certain events and people. It will change the way you think about your ancestors. This can only happen if you research with an open mind and take off the blinders.
3. **Track Your Work and Cite Your Sources.** When I started out in genealogy, I'll admit I was a name collector and would "dump" almost any name into my database. Years later, I am crossing out entire branches of a tree that never really should have been "grafted" on to mine. Use a research log, track your work, cite your sources, and analyze data before it is entered into any software or online family tree program.
4. **Ask for Help.** The genealogy community is populated with people of all skill levels and areas of expertise, most of whom want to assist others. There are no stupid questions; we all started as beginners. There is no right way to ask. Post a query on Facebook or ask a question during a webinar or email your favorite genealogy rock star.
5. **You Can't Edit a Blank Page.** Which means: you have to start in order to have something to work with. That project you keep putting off, like publishing your family history, won't complete itself. Commit yourself to move from "obsession" to "reality." Remember: *A year from now, you'll wish you had started today.*
6. **Work and Think Like Your Ancestors.** While I'm not sure about your ancestors, mine were resourceful and developed tools and skills to get what they wanted. They were not "educated" *per se*, but they had "street smarts" and knew where to go so they could learn new things. Also make sure you have a plan; my ancestors didn't just wake up one day and on a whim decide to come to America and make a better life. They had a plan, they had a network of people to help them, and they made it happen.
7. **You Do Not Own Your Ancestors.** Researching your roots can create emotional connections to not only your ancestors, but to the actual research itself. Many people become "possessive" of their ancestors and fail to realize that a 3rd great-grandparent is likely the ancestor of hundreds of others. You can't take your research or your ancestor with you when you die; take time to share your research and be open to differences in information and research when collaborating with others.
8. **Be Nice. The Genealogy Community is a Small Place.** While there are millions of people searching for ancestors, genealogists worldwide have developed a community with relatively few degrees of separation. Whether it is online in a Facebook group or in-person at genealogy conference, it is likely you'll already know someone. Being "genealogy nice" is not fake; the connections with other researchers tend to be deep and genuine. We know that all of our roots are inter-locked and a genealogist can't always go it alone.
9. **Give and Be Abundant.** Exchange information freely with other researchers; don't hold data "close" to you or exchange it in lieu of something else. Most genealogists who have heard me speak know my own story of abundance: Don't let your hand keep a tight grip on information. Let it go. Once your hand is free, it can be open and ready to receive the next good thing coming your way.



Looking Forward...

to the next program presented by PSGS

Feb 2, 2021

Brick Wall Breakthroughs

with **Thomas MacEntee**

10:00 AM



Want to see first-hand how to break through that persistent “brick wall” in genealogy? Using actual research problems submitted by webinar attendees, professional genealogist Thomas MacEntee will walk participants through a step-by-step research methodology process to find clues and possible solutions. Participants will have access to research logs, digital images and more during and after the webinar. Also included is a “habit recipe” to implement the same techniques used in the webinar on your own genealogy research.

You need to register in advance for this Webinar.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcucuiorT0iGtDgTHTlvfYWP6S59HhVwyPY>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Feel free to share this email if you know of someone that would be interested in this topic. You don't need to be a member of PSGS to “attend” our classes.

OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

ROOTSTECH 2021

This year the famous RootsTech Conference will be held on February 25-27, 2021, as a free, virtual event online. See our last Backtracer for more information. Register for free at <https://rootstech.org> where you can also subscribe to the newsletter.

FAMILY TREE WEBINARS

Did you know you can sign up for free Family Tree Webinars? The list for 2021 has been set. When you attend a free webinar, you will receive a special code to receive a 10% discount on an annual membership, if you wish to become a member. An annual membership costs \$49.95 and allows you access to over 1400 webinars in their library as well as a syllabus for each. Go to <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> to scroll through all the offers of free webinars you can sign up for.

Volunteers will be needed for the Genealogy Center

We need members to step forward and volunteer to work in the Genealogy Center. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our collection. Most days are fairly quiet so you would be able to do your own research. Training is provided. You do not need to be an "expert" at genealogy. KRL provides us this space, cataloging all materials in the Center, and the meeting room for our classes and programs. In return, we provide volunteers in the GC. Send an email to Sharon Hornback at gcvol@pusogensoc.org. When the library reopens, a training date will be set and interested members will be contacted.

STORIES NEEDED

The Backtracker wants you to send in your stories about your ancestors, research successes, or not quite successes. While you are in a stay-at-home situation, it is the perfect time to write your story. It can be short or 2 or 3 pages long. If you have pictures to add, that is even better.

Looking forward to reading about your family and your research processes.



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