



# TPCGS

# NEWSLETTER

November 2015

Vol. IX, No. 4

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS SCHEDULE

*No meeting in December . . . Have a happy and relaxing holiday.*

12 January Tuesday 2016 . . . . . South Bates campus

9 February Tuesday 2016 . . . . . South Bates campus

## Message from the President

by D Becker, TPCGS President

If you attended the September meeting, you know that I was assigned to a wildfire rather than at the meeting. One of my co-workers on that assignment had been forced to leave her home when a Level 3 evacuation. It was very traumatic for her and her family, but she was extremely lucky – her home was saved.

All this has gotten me thinking – how many of us know what to do when disaster threatens?

If emergency services bangs on your door and tells you and your family a Level 3 evacuation order is in place, get out – immediately! Get in your car or truck or van, on your bike or skate board or roller skates – whatever! Just get out! You will be in the way of those who are trained to protect your property, and you are also putting them at risk.

But plan for these circumstances now. I have some specific suggestions:

First, figure out your escape routes. Have more than one way to get out of the area. If a flood threatens, you will want to get to high ground, but since fires tend to burn up hill, “down” might be the better if that is the threat. Decide now, when there is no urgency, what must be left behind.

In the case of a Level 1 evacuation warning, gather up those precious documents, photos and other items. Pack them carefully so that they can be quickly loaded, or consider taking or shipping them to a safe place – maybe that nephew in Timbuktu.

If the risk is elevated to a Level 2, put what you have packed into the car or truck or van or trailer. Park any vehicles so that they face onto the road for a quicker exit. If you have a trailer, hitch it to the tow vehicle. Be ready to walk out the door with your family and pets, without having to remember what you want to take.

Too many people had to leave memories behind this summer. Please don't be on that list.

## **From the Education Desk ...**

*George Snyder*

Recently I was contacted via email, promoting personal, genealogical websites for a relatively low cost. After performing a cursory review the notion of crowdsourcing crossed my mind and then a quick reflection on how it benefitted my family research via the web over the past 12-13 years. It was from this that I decided to use this as topic material for this “*From the Education Desk ...*” newsletter article.

I suppose the best place to start is a brief of my experience, which was initiated about 1999 when I finally got rid of my late aunt’s rotary phone, extended the phone to my ‘office’ and hooked up the computer. That put me on line and I was on my way. The next step, after familiarizing myself with this new-fangled method of communication, was to hook up my Family Tree Maker to Genealogy.com and investigate Ancestry.com’s offering of “*freepages*” (at that time the two were separate). That was all it took to encourage me to think bigger and set out to develop my personal website of which part was hosted by “*freepages*”. That was my introduction to the scheme of crowdsourcing, and at that time, there wasn’t the help in developing a “*freepages*” website that there is today, so I picked up a book and learned HTML which I still use today to manage my personal website. It is from the response to publishing my family history of sorts on the web that I was contacted by some 1½ dozen cuzn’s I didn’t know existed’ and from these cuzn’s I was able to add to my pedigree, corroborate my findings, source christenings with documentation, etc. largely from the work of others. My web offerings also offered a place where some of my family could go and review my work into our family history as well as refer it to others.

What does this have to do with you? A good question as I don’t know most of you but based on an assumption that some of you may have an interest of providing a personal website with your family history and other information, I have included below, links to three websites that can assist you in your pursuit of your own website or crowdsourcing.

- Freepages -- <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>
- StoryWorth -- <https://www.storyworth.com/>
- Genealone -- <http://genealone.com/>

Each of these offer you a simple methodology for you to use to gain web presence and benefit your genealogical activities on the web.

### *Save the Date*

**The Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogy Society will be hosting the  
WASHINGTON STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, June 18, 2016**

## **Upcoming Meetings...**

*Bob McDole*

### **Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

**“My yDNA RESEARCH or WHAT NOT TO DO WITH DNA”,** Dr. Robert E. McDole (Ph.D)

Our Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogy Society, Vice President, Programs Robert McDole, had a 38- year career as a research scientist. His love of research led him to undertake an extensive yDNA (male) research project. He has found this research to be interesting, exciting, frustrating, entertaining and time consuming. He has enjoyed some very interesting successes and has learned a lot about evaluating yDNA results in the complicated field of DNA as it relates to genealogy and family connections.

### **Tuesday, February 9, 2016**

**Digital Archives,** Mike Sanders, Washington State Archives,  
Puget Sound Regional Branch, Bellevue

## **TPCGS Now has a blog,**

Which can be found at <http://tpcgs.wordpress.com/>

I hope to use it to post updates on what's happening in genealogy.

But first, it needs a better title. Right now, it's called "Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society", but I'd really like to change that to TPCGS \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm hoping you can help me fill in the blank!

In addition we can also use a tagline, something to briefly describe the blog. Like the New York Times motto, "All the News That's Fit to Print", only with a genealogical slant.

Send your suggestions to me at [jane\\_irish\\_nelson@yahoo.com](mailto:jane_irish_nelson@yahoo.com)

Also, if you come across anything you think might make a good blog topic, let me know. Topics might include an event announcement, new or unusual sources you have found,

You can subscribe to receive updates by clicking on the "Follow" link on the lower right-hand corner.



## A Feast in Jail

By George Snyder

While researching my great grandfather's life in Tacoma in the early 1900's, I ran across his story that was reported in a local Tacoma newspaper on Christmas Eve. It seems that the residents of the local city jail may have wanted to stay inside, rather than be put on the street, to suffer the weather and hunger. Perhaps, they were dreaming of the warmth behind bars opposed to the northwest weather at that time of year. Reportedly, a number of guests refused Chief Loomis' offer of release, preferring to spend Christmas in comfortable quarters to roaming the streets of Tacoma on an empty stomach. One of those inside the barred strongbox was an old sailor, specifically a cook who plied his trade on the high seas for some 20 years. This cook was described as one whose speech "savored of salt and is merry as the sea breeze itself," finally dropped anchor in Tacoma. This was the Chief Cook who was about to prepare the Christmas meal. Seems those in this city prison were going to partake of a Christmas meal fit for those of means, a menu as described as:

- ✓ **Soup: Puree of Navy Bean or Vegetable**
- ✓ **Roast: Leg of Mutton or Beef**
- ✓ **Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Bread & Butter, Coffee, Milk & Sugar**
- ✓ **Pies: Mince, Apple and Raisin**
- ✓ **Custard: Cranberry, Assorted Nuts and Fruit**
- ✓ **CIGARS**

It seems that even in jail, the warm fuzzy feeling of a roof over your head, a fine meal, and even an after dinner cigar, is something that Christmas brings out and sets to life in those who celebrate the season.

*Synopsis of a Tacoma Times article on page seven of the December 24<sup>th</sup> 1912 issue.*

Happy Holidays,  
George

## Recommended Reading...

Jane Irish Nelson

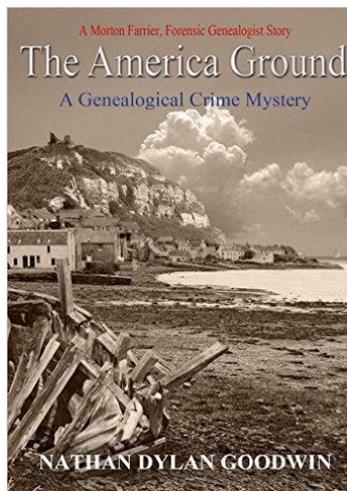
*The America Ground*  
*A Genealogical Crime Mystery*  
By Nathan Dylan Goodwin

Morton Farrier has finally set aside some time to explore his own family history. But no sooner does he find a clue, When a compelling case is presented to him, and once Again he is off on a search into unexpected danger.

A painting of Eliza Lovekin, a newspaper article about her murder, and a legal document are the only clues. But, Morton knows how to use these clues to discover more. What he doesn't know is that someone has killed, and is willing to kill again to keep some of this information hidden.

The book alternates between Morton's contemporary research and the story of what really happened to Eliza, told mostly from the viewpoint of her eldest daughter, Harriet.

While this book is complete unto itself, I recommend reading the other books in the series first, especially the novella *The Orange Lilies*, in which he begins his research into the Farrier family.



## Writing Letters and Life on a Homestead Claim

Letters live a long time. Letters, hand written on paper, have a personal character that cannot be reproduced in an email or a word document. Paper letters don't disappear after 30 days in a delete file. Sometimes they end up as treasured ephemera left us from a relative. One, and only one, letter written by my maternal grandmother has survived.

I never met her, Villa Maud Ford Grafton, although she lived until I was 10. She wrote a letter to my mother in 1933. My mother was a student at the University of Chicago, it was her 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Maud gave her a gift of family history. Her letter describes the place Maud and Reverend Jesse Grafton lived for several years between 1906 and 1912. My mother was born there on a homestead in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It was a hard place, and Maud only lived there part time. This is Maud's description of life on a homestead claim, a photograph in words, just as she wrote it.

“Yakima, Wash.

March 1933

...my mind goes back 24 years to, not a “sod shanty on the claim” as most of them were in S. Dakota, but almost the same. The inside was all made of lumber, but there was plenty of sod or soil out side. The front side, which faced the “Bad lands” about three miles away or less, was set down into the ground about three feet. Of course the house was built in the side of the hill so that the top of the ground was about level or perhaps even higher than the house. Except for the “Bad lands” to be seen from the front and a few flat hills or plateaus on which people had small farms, the view was unbroken for many miles.

In the summer the sun beat down on this almost flat roof and no refuge except the shade of the house, and one solitary tree quite a ways from the house. A little girl, I do not know where she lived, would take you down to the shade of this tree. There were a few trees far away from the house in another direction, yet on our homestead. Here we spent one of the, two I think, Fourths of July. You had a homemade cab, made from a box. We took you in this one time with the rest of us to the place where we were planting potatoes. That was during the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer. The prickly cactus were all about our house, and many times the ‘pricks’ left the cactus for our hands or feet. But no rose was ever more beautiful than the pink and yellow cactus flowers.

There were only two real rooms in the house and a room or cellar dug straight out from the kitchen into the hill, from which flees seemed to grow and thrive; that is until they got onto our bodies, esp. at night, and Oh, my poor baby, as well as my self. How little sleep did I get, and your father slept thru it all. This is the end of my sheet so I will close this reminiscence by your mother.

*Around the edges of the page:* This might be of interest to you many years from now, or your grandchildren. You might type write it as the writing is so poor, and ink may fade. I have not mentioned the rattlesnakes. “

The words of this letter tell so much about where and how they lived. I see Maud with her fountain pen, writing her small and quite lovely script on a piece of blank paper that was taken from her little church women's cookbook. (I have her cookbook, and the paper is a perfect match.) Every inch of paper is written over. Maud was very poor and very thrifty when she wrote this. She was surviving alone, children away, owner of a small fruit orchard during the depression.

Buy some archival paper. Write letters, in the idiom of your current time and place. Write to your children about the house and landscape where you were born and grew up. A split level rambler in a middle-class suburb in 1950 may seem as alien as a wood and sod house on a South Dakota prairie in another hundred years. And your handwriting on a piece of paper may become treasured ephemera to your grandchildren.

**Carol Rikerd**



## BROWSING PERIODICALS

..... By Elaine Workman

*Publications exchanged with or subscribed to by the Society are available in the Northwest Room of the Tacoma Public Library, and may be found by a call number or hanging file designator (HF). Due to limitations of shelf space, some periodicals are stored in the Basement Stacks. If you provide the library staff with the call number, they will retrieve the journals for you. Just ask.*

### INTERNATIONAL / NATIONAL

**American Spirit** Volume 149.5 September/October 2015: Sue KELLERMAN is making history accessible; taking the DAR for a spin; Chicago students make beautiful music; Philadelphia freedom; the vision of the DAR's first leaders and the legacy they built; remembering the revolution at the DAR Museum; a responsibility to preserve; DAR resources simplify genealogy research and expand access to Revolutionary era documents; illustrating the vibrancy of today's DAR; safeguarding a revolutionary resource; freedom fighters. (DAR, Washington DC) (HF)

### AROUND THE U.S.A.

**GA Family Tree Quarterly** Volume 25.1-3, 2015: generational differences and how genealogical research may differ in the future; when is the "2nd inst." of anything?; Cobb County newspaper obituary project extract ABBOT-DAMON; The Prince, a story about DNA and the culture of families; Smyrna Museum. (Cobb Co. Gen. Soc., Marietta) (929.1/F21FT)

**MN Minnesota Genealogist** Volume 46.3, Autumn 2015: skeletons on gravestones a reminder of life's brevity; protecting the home front during WWI; making cemetery records part of your research plan; Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis; tales from three cemeteries, Ole PETERSON, Freddie FAWKNER, and Katharyn FAWKNER; military records 101 pt. 2; Minnesota Civil War Veterans buried in the GAR Cemetery in Portland, Oregon; (Minneapolis) (929.1/M666M)

**NC Burke County Journal** Volume XXXIII.3 August 2015: CLINE historic GPS tour guide; WWI service records of Burke County ABEE-BYRD; Burke County land grants 2783-2799; 1931 Icard Township voter registration list; Burke County road records 1810-1813 #1-21. (Morganton) (929.1/J826J)

**OR Bulletin** Volume 65.1 September 2015: "Scared Out of My Mind" by Sharon HELGERSON; "Skeletons in the Closet" by Emily AULICINO; "My Brick Wall - who was Emma Louisa WALLACE or INGERSOLL?" by Barbara WEGNER; "Have Autosomal DNA test; Now What?" by Emily AULICINO; "GFO Library Catalog - More than just a list of books!" by Nanci REMINGTON; "Ardent Spirits and Early Northwest Jails" by Harvey STEELE; "Using Land Records at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon" by Gerry LENZEN; "NORRIS Family Bible" by Nanci REMINGTON. (Gen. Forum of OR, Portland) (929.1/G286B)

## TPCGS Officers for 2015

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VP Family Line Research .....	Gretchen Campbell
VP Programs .....	Bob McDole
VP Education & Development .....	George Snyder
Recording Secretary .....	Sandra D. Johnson
Corresponding Secretary .....	Elaine Workman
Treasurer .....	Lorraine Graeber
Membership .....	Carol Rikerd
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Research editor .....	Dusty Gorman
Publication Sales .....	Marie Hayden
Records Preservation Chair .....	Janet Baccus
Webmaster .....	Jane Irish Nelson

*All officers can be reached through their email address listed on the TPCGS website at <http://www.tpcgs.org>*