



# TPCGS

# NEWSLETTER

August 2012

Vol. VI, No. 5

## MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS SCHEDULE

6 Sep 2012	3 p.m.	TPCGS Board Meeting. . . All members welcome . . . . .	Denny's on 6th Avenue.
11 Sep 2012	7 p.m.	How I spent my summer vacation. . . . Members' stories. . . . .	Bates South Campus
4 Oct 2012	3 p.m.	TPCGS Board Meeting. . . All members welcome . . . . .	Denny's on 6th Avenue.
9 Oct 2012	7 p.m.	Watch for program information via your email . . . . .	Bates South Campus
1 Nov 2012	3 p.m.	TPCGS Board Meeting. . . All members welcome . . . . .	Denny's on 6th Avenue
13 Nov 2012	7 p.m.	Watch for program information via your email . . . . .	Bates South Campus

## President's Message

by Warren Fisk, TPCGS President

### Thoughts on this year at TPCGS:

Hello to all TPCGS members,

I hope everyone is having a great summer. If your summer has been like mine, it has been busy. Hopefully you've had some time to work on your family genealogy.

Our first meeting after the summer break is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11. The regular meeting will be "What did you do this summer?" Bring your stories and share what genealogical gems you discovered and where you found them.

Like last year, we will meet at the Bates Technical College just off of 74<sup>th</sup> and I-5. I will send out an e-mail just before the meeting date with additional information.

I hope everyone has read the latest *Researcher*. I would like to thank all the contributors who helped put together a great read. And, be sure to check out the Pierce County Poor Farm data base. There is a lot of interesting information in the notes.

One more thing to look forward to is the 2013 TPCGS Spring Seminar. It will be held on April 27, 2013, and feature Leland K. Meitzler and William Dollarhide. See your *Researcher* and [www.TPCGS.org](http://www.TPCGS.org) for more information. There will be lots more details to follow.

I hope to see you at all the meetings and the Seminar.

## Revolutionary War Genealogical Resources at the Tacoma Public Library

Compiled by Jean Fisher, TPL Librarian

In addition to many state and/or region-specific soldier lists and record indexes, the library has the following reference sources that focus on some aspect of available Revolutionary War records. Pension and service records feature prominently, but you'll find we also have resources focused on subjects such as vital records, loyalist lists, black patriots, and even portrait collections.

This list is by no means complete! To search TPL's genealogy collection by title, author, or keyword, visit our online catalog at <http://topcat.tacomapubliclibrary.org>. Or stop by and visit us in person at TPL's Main location!

**Revolutionary War period : Bible, family & marriage records gleaned from pension applications.** Lu, Helen M. This multi-volume set contains abstracts of bible, family and marriage records from Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900. This is a wonderful compilation of vital record information that may be otherwise be buried in a variety of files. GEN 929.373 L96R vols. 1-10 plus index

**Summer soldiers : a survey & index of Revolutionary War courts-martial.** Neagles, James C., 1986. This is the story of the 3,315 soldiers who faced a military court-martial for a variety of charges. Besides listing the names, charges and verdicts of each case, it provides interesting historical context to help us understand why some patriots faltered in their commitment to the cause. GEN 929.373 L96R vols. 1-10 plus index

**Mariners of the American Revolution.** Kaminkow, Marion J., 1967. This book compiles information from records concerning patriot sailors who were captured and imprisoned by the British government. The book sources both official British records and the diaries of captured seamen. Includes an alphabetical list of sailors and an appendix with vessel details. GEN 973.36 K129M

**Pierce's register; register of the certificates issued by John Pierce, Esquire, Paymaster General and Commissioner of Army Accounts for the United States, to officers and soldiers of the Continental Army under act of July 4, 1783.** United States. War Dept. Pay Dept., copyright 1915, reprinted 1973. This well-known source for Revolutionary War research lists soldiers who were issued certificates of payments by the Paymaster General for sums owed at the end of the war. GEN 973.74 P61P

**The last muster : images of the Revolutionary War generation.** Taylor, Maureen Alice, 2010. A fascinating collection of rare nineteenth-century photographic images of the Revolutionary War generation. Both women and men are featured, and each photo is accompanied by a brief though information-packed biography. GEN 973.3 T2164L 2010

**Known military dead during the American Revolutionary War, 1775- 1783.** Peterson, Clarence Stewart, 1959. This book contains an alphabetical list of names, with regiment and date of death for each soldier. GEN 929.373 P442KA

**Rejected or suspended applications for Revolutionary War pensions, with an added index to States.** United States. Dept. of the Interior, reprinted 1969.

This reprint of an original 1852 government report gives the names of applications submitted by both veterans and widows that were either rejected or suspended. The residence of the applicant and reason for rejection/suspension are given. GEN 929.373 UN32R

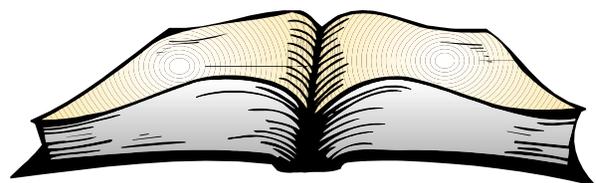
**List of Black servicemen compiled from the War Department collection of Revolutionary War records.** Ham, Debra Newman, 1974. Compiled from various records from the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records at NARA, this brief listing includes name of soldier, regiment, rank, and references the source roll and card number. GEN 973.3 H17L

**Genealogical abstracts of Revolutionary War pension files.** White, Virgil D., 1990. This reference standard contains abstracts with information culled from Revolutionary war Pension & Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, held by NARA. A wealth of genealogical data can be found in these abstracts! GEN 973.34 W586G Vols 1-4.

**FYI – through TPL's subscription to HeritageQuest (available from home with a valid TPL card number) you can find the full scanned application records to which these abstracts refer.**

**Index to Revolutionary War service records.** White, Virgil D., 1995. Another standard reference source, this multi-volume index references the military service records of Revolutionary War Army and Navy personnel, as well as for some civilians who performed service during the war. The data included varies for each person, but generally includes name, rank, and regiment. GEN 973.34 W586I

**Loyalist lists : over 2000 Loyalist names and families from the Haldimand Papers.** Fitzgerald, E. Keith, 1984. Sir Frederick Haldimand was the governor of the Province of Quebec during the Revolutionary War. Thus, the names included in this book relate to loyalists who settled in and around Quebec, Canada. GEN 929.373 F557L



# FAMILY LINE RESEARCH

Researched and Compiled by  
Gretchen Collins Campbell

Recently I received a request for two obituaries for Mattie and David **Jones**. Mattie died in 1935, and David died in 1938. I first checked the Washington State Death Index but did not find either of them listed. Fortunately the requestor knew that they were both buried at Mountain View Memorial Park, and I was able to call and find their interment dates. Since I hadn't found them in the WA death index, I assumed they may have died out of state and checked for an obituary just before their interment dates. Sure enough, Mattie died in Hawaii while they were visiting there, and David died in California while visiting a daughter there. You can't always find an obituary where you want it!!

Then there was the **Vandenburg** obituary request with an additional note that said, "I'd REALLY appreciate receiving these obits. ASP." I try to get requests completed within the week of receipt as long as I can find them readily. Another note on the request stated that they died in Michigan, North Dakota, in August 1945 in a train "crash." I looked on line and found that there was a terrible train accident in North Dakota, and many people were killed. So, I looked in the Tacoma paper for reports of the train crash and the follow up reports each day after that and finally I found the obituary article about 10 days later. Sometimes you have to be persistent!!

I am sure you have run into those brick walls that have stumped you for years. Last night I detailed my research results to a client and today opened this email: "You broke through my brick wall! Thank you! Please let me know if I owe you anymore money for time and/or copies than what I sent. And, thank you so much to you and your Society for offering this service. Yippeeeee!!" That is the reward for finding information for other people.

On Monday I had received a Family Line Research Request from Leigh in California regarding the **Boers/Etzel** family who came to Tacoma in about 1930 from Seattle and prior to that from Wis-

consin. The parents were Harry and Hazel with five children – Evelyn, Dorothy, Frank, Jack and Floyd. She sent me several census print outs and her big question was "What was Hazel's maiden name? Sometimes our clients just live too far away from the records to be effective researchers, and the cost of travel keeps rising so they need to rely on local assistance. That is where TPCGS comes in handy. The first two research aids I used were the Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room site where I looked all those names up in the Obituary Index. I found them all, and those obituaries were a gold mine of information. Hazel's obituary listed her siblings - - her sisters were Dorothy and Dena and her brothers were Frank and Carroll **Brown**. A quick check at Ancestry.com where I listed Hazel Brown with her brother's Frank and Carroll, and I came up with a Brown family living in Missouri with another sibling named Widena. The five Boers children were all born around 1920 and all have passed away so obituaries were easy to find and FULL of family information.

Many of us wish to solve our own brick walls by continued research and travel. Some of us can't afford the costs involved so we resort to using local researchers or genealogy societies. Local people know where the records are and can more easily find the information requested. It took me only about three hours to do the work on Hazel's family, but I knew where the records were. Make use of local genealogical societies and libraries in areas where your family lived. They can be of great help to you in solving your brick wall problems. Always remember to be nice and polite when you request information and volunteer to pay for the research. Most societies, like TPCGS, have a modest charge and their services are well worth the nominal cost.

I hope you have had a good summer of researching and that you found some great information on your families. I know I have had some good finds.

## TPCGS SPRING SEMINAR

**April 27, 2013**

Speakers: **William "Bill" Dollarhide & Leland Meitzler**

Location: La Quinta Inns and Suites, 1425 East 27th Street, Tacoma, Washington  
**A limited number of rooms will be available at a special rate for seminar attendees.**

### **Additional Information:**

**Check out the TPCGS website at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~watpcgs/seminar.html>**

Raffle Tickets – Door Prizes – Vendors – Book Sale

We hope to see you there!



## 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** (DAR, Washington DC) Vol. 145.3 May-June 2012: TN daughter Mary Kelly VOWELL; high wheel bikes of 1880; teacher Jason Anderson uses original sources to inspire history students; battles of Fort Ontario; Mount Vernon; Burlington, VT; Francis MARION swamp fox, SC revolutionary guerrilla warrior; marsh tacky horses; PHILLIPS house of Salem MA; finding Washington's garden at Mount Vernon. (HF)

**Je Me Souviens** (American French Genealogical Society, Woonsocket, RI) Vol.35.1 Spring 2012: Acadian Festivals; Tales of Gravestones; Annette's Odyssey; Seviigny; Pawtucket Club; Le Village Acadien de la Pointe-Sainte-Anne. (929.1/J34J)

### AROUND THE U.S.A.

**CA Redwood Researcher** (Redwood) Vol. 44.4 May 2012: Humboldt Co. births before 1900; ancestors of Orinda Francella BEAN; 1905-1925 burials Humboldt Co; early Humboldt Co marriages; descendants of David B. LEWIS; family of William LYTLE and Ann Eliza REDDEN. (929.1/R248R)

**KS Kansas Kin** (Riley Valley Gen. Soc., Manhattan) Vol.50.2 May 2012: 1885-1886 Riley county KS township officers; DAR Polly OGDEN Chapter celebrates 100 years; Stephen GIRARD, Philadelphia merchant; John Lawrence UMSCHIED and Maria Anna SCHMITT family. (929.1/K133K)

**KS Topeka Gen. Soc. Quarterly** Vol. 42.2 April 2012: Bertha Olive ANDERSON, M.D.; Shawnee Co. marriage license applications BRANDON-CAWKER 1880-1913; former black slaves called Exodusters migrate from MS valley to KS 1879-1881. (929.1/T621T)

**MN Minnesota Genealogist** (Minneapolis) Vol. 43.1 spring 2012: Hulda MAINQUIST family; MOULTON family; adoption research in MN. (929.1/M666M)

**NC Burke County Journal** (Morganton) Vol.XXX.2 May 2012: 1860-1873 Burke Co. Bastardy Bonds; taxable property for 1806 Capt. MILLER's Compenny; taxable property in Captain MILLERS Old Cumpiny for 1807; 1807-1809 road records; CORPENING Family papers 1801-1829. (929.1/J826J)

**OK Oklahoma Gen. Soc. Quarterly** (Oklahoma City)

Vol. 57.2 June 2012: WWI post cards from soldier Roy BRADSHAW; 1929 Wall Street Crash experience. (929.3766/OK4O)

**OR Bulletin** (Gen. Forum of OR, Portland) Vol.61.4 June 2012: American Wars from the Colonial Period to the Present; The Great Calamity, King Philip's War, 1675-1676; Join or Die – The French and Indian War; America's First Naval War; The Spanish-American War, Yellow Journalism, American Character and Imperialism; The Clash of Conviction in North Carolina; Oregon County Research; 1940 Census Brings Back Childhood Memories; A Civil War Veteran's Final Journey; Grant Hones Skills in the Mexican War; Multnomah Co. Marriage Register Index 1911-1912. (929.1/G286B)

**TX Stalkin' Kin in Old West Texas** Vol. XXXIX.3,4 May 2012: family history connection to Lake View School; abstraction from the Sam PHILLIPS Bible 1870-1940; Mark W. BENTON confederate soldier; historic homes of San Angelo; 1924-1925 civil court docket abstract; 1927-1928 marriage records book G; 1932-1934 criminal court docket abstract. (San Angelo Gen. & Hist. Soc.) (929.1/ST18S)

**WA Bulletin** (Yakima Valley Gen. Soc., Yakima) Vol. 44.2 June 2012: Ethbert Allan BROWN, cont'd.; Frank Charles HOWARD (1856-1933) farmer, building contractor, postmaster, merchant; 1932-1935 register of voters and oath book; day book of Rev. E. E. FRANCIS; the steamer G.P. Griffith 1850; extracted BALL Funeral Home records. (929.1/Y111Y)

**WA Seattle Gen. Soc. Bulletin** Vol. 61.2 Spring-Summer 2012: RMS Titanic – Seattle connection; memories of the 1962 Century 21 Seattle World's Fair; John Archibald PARKER and Susan Liley BAILEY; who was Jane GRAHAM?; WA State Supreme Court extracts. (929.1/

### Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

Many of us have experienced the generosity of other researchers through the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) organization. However, with the death of the founder Bridgett Schneider in November, the website went down. Her husband Doc hopes to revive it soon.

However, in the meantime, check out the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness Wiki at [http://raogk.wikia.com/wiki/Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness Wiki](http://raogk.wikia.com/wiki/Random_Acts_of_Genealogical_Kindness_Wiki)

Here you can once again find researchers to obtain that elusive document for you, or volunteer yourself to help others and give back to the genealogical community.



# GENIE GRAB-BAG

Compiled by Janice Weihs

A really interesting web site, and one that might be useful genealogically and for local history is:

[www.usgarchives.org/special/ppcs/ppcs.html](http://www.usgarchives.org/special/ppcs/ppcs.html)

This takes you to *Penny Postcards*, a site with a large collection of postcards, both historical and contemporary. Once there you can click on a button for any US state, and within the state, any of its counties, all in alphabetical order. Within Pierce County you can find postcards that show, for example, the Dupont School, a 1917 photo of the derelict Hudson's Bay trading post, downtown Sumner, and Fairfax in its heyday, among many others.

**Family History Books** is a collection of more than 40,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. The collection includes family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines and how-to books, gazetteers, and medieval histories and pedigrees. The site <http://books.familysearch.org> or you can go to [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) and click on the "books" button. There are now about 31,000 books, with 25,000 more coming this year. You can also now download an entire book instead of just one page at a time, as was the case on the old BYU site.

Do you enjoy learning via Webinars? Learn about upcoming genealogy webinars offered throughout the online genealogy community; look for <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/>. The site includes a calendar and blog devoted exclusively to coordinating online genealogy seminars. The **GeneaWebinars** coordinator is DearMYRTLE .

Most of us by now have discovered and used **Find-a-grave**, but did you know about **billiongraves.com** and **gravelocator.cem.va.gov**? The latter gives grave locations for US veterans and their family members in national and state veterans' cemeteries and in private cemeteries when the grave is marked with a government grave marker. A couple of others to take a look at include **interment.net**, which seems to include entries from more international cemeteries and still another site, **namesinstone.com**.

From *The Insider*, (May 1, 2012, p.8, the GFO newsletter:) A new database on *Ancestry.com* provides access to early Massachusetts town vital records images. Records include births, marriages, and deaths from 315 cities and towns over

330 years. The time span covered is often from the founding of the town until about 1850. These records are from the Holbrook collection, believed to be the most complete collection of early Massachusetts records.

Another item from *The Insider* recommends taking a look at a new genealogy search engine,

[www.mocavo.com/records/ssdi](http://www.mocavo.com/records/ssdi)

that offers free access with expanded search capabilities to the *Social Security Death Index*. With access to the SSDI increasingly limited, knowing of sites that offer such access is valuable.

The **Geograph® Britain and Ireland** project aims to collect geographically representative photographs and information for every square kilometer of [Great Britain](#) and [Ireland](#)

The home page also includes a very small map of Great Britain and Ireland. Clicking on this map allows you to zoom in until you reach a page devoted to one of the grid squares. There you will find one or more images, almost always including the church if there is one in that grid square. Once you have had your fill of that particular grid square, there is also a little box which allows you to move to the next adjacent grid square in any direction. Or, you may return to the original map and set off in another direction.

While that sort of exploration is fascinating, researchers with English ancestors may want to see the place where those ancestral family members lived. On the upper right of the home page is a search slot, where you can type in the name of a place, and the search function will bring up the photos associated with it. <http://www.geograph.org.uk/>



The web site addresses in this column are not set up as links to go to the sites, so you will have to copy and paste them into your search engine in order to use them. I hope the URLs were copied accurately, but if you find there are errors that keep you from accessing these sites, contact me, and we will try to figure out the problem.

## COPING WITH GENEALOGICALLY UNRESPONSIVE RELATIVES

by Louis Lehmann, Ph.D

Hopefully most of us usually get good responses from relatives when we involve them with our shared family history. We are happy when they share our enthusiasm, when they cooperate with our informational requests, and when we can do likewise. We like it when they appreciate our helpful suggestions, additions, or corrections to their genealogies. We cherish special relationships developed through such contacts. And even when none of this happens, we are glad if our relatives are nevertheless interested in what we are doing. But alas, such is not always the case. We are sometimes frustrated by relatives who are not responsive. What, if anything, can we do about this?

First, we need to remind ourselves that unresponsiveness is not always disinterest. The relative may indeed be much too busy with other matters to be involved with genealogy. Many of our children and grandchildren are rightly preoccupied with such things as work and child-rearing and do not have as much leisure that most genealogy enthusiasts have gained. They might be more responsive during a less demanding stage of life. And at any point in life, unresponsiveness can be situational. We could inadvertently be approaching someone at a difficult time. So whenever possible, we should look at the situation and the timing of our contact.

There may be other good reasons for relatives to be unresponsive. Some are contending with difficult medical or age issues which hinder memory and communication capacities. In some such case, some family members may see our inquiries as disruptive and hence may want to protect their loved ones from our investigations. If we do have the opportunity to talk with impaired relatives, we might want to be prepared for frustrations and limited results. Perhaps we would have better results if we tried to relate more to the protectors who might yield some information.

That being said, we must also acknowledge that some relatives may be genuinely and permanently disinterested, regardless of their situation, their condition, or our approach. With those folks, we must respect their position and curb our genealogical passions. And there may be other good reasons to curb our enthusiasm. If we assume that our relatives are eager to hear us talk genealogy, we may overdo it to the point that we are inflicting it upon them. Yes, too much genealogy talk can indeed be boring. Or we may be turning them off as they perceive our genealogical preoccupation to be egocentric. If we boast of our ancestor's achievements, our in-laws might think that we are implying that our ancestors are better than theirs..

Keeping all this in mind, we may still find some relatives unresponsive for a variety of reasons. Some relatives are just more private than others. Some may suspect that you should not be digging into family history and it is best that things should just be left alone. A relative who fears embarrassment may not want to respond. George Morgan cites several examples. Some women

had shaved years off when enumerated in census reports and thus didn't want to encourage research that might reveal their true ages. A woman of Native American descent didn't want to discuss her parents because she was (regrettably) ashamed of her ancestry. Another was secretive because she had been born out of wedlock. Yet another didn't want to be part of any research because she had been a prostitute.<sup>1</sup> In one genealogy forum, a contributor confessed he would not want his own life laid open like a book.<sup>2</sup> This can present a dilemma for the genealogist who wants to respect such privacy but also wants to learn as much as possible about the lives of ancestors. It is best to respect the desire for privacy and not seek sensitive information from embarrassed relatives, especially if the information is current or recent. If we want to explore less recent information about mutual ancestors, it would be better to seek it through other avenues instead of approaching our embarrassed relative.

An unresponsive relative might be an isolated individual with limited capacities for sharing, only wanting to deal with relatives they already know, rather than any new ones. With them, it may be a matter of building trust over time, perhaps by focusing more on sharing your information about those people of more interest to that isolated person.

We might even have an occasional relative with paranoid traits, suspicious that our interest in family history might mask a plot to get money or property out of them. Maybe a cousin won't share information because he/she suspects you will steal ideas that he/she plans to use in some other project. In such cases, there may not be much you can do to allay suspicions. Better to explore your genealogy elsewhere.

Another difficult relative is the one who refuses to respond to your sharing of better information than he or she has asserted for some time. When shown the evidence for more accurate information, this person just sets his or her teeth and mutters... "I know what I know." If possible, you might praise his or her information as being very valuable in leading you to new information. But you may not have much success as it is very difficult to change somebody with a closed mind.

But perhaps the most frustrating unresponsive relative is the one who is irrationally territorial. As another TPCGS member put it: "family members who clutch their family knowledge to themselves and won't share." One researcher refused to share any information with anybody else, maintaining, "*I did it the hard way, and that's the way everybody else should do it.*" Other relatives may not want to share because they feel special being the only one to possess something. Perhaps this is why my wife and I have been unable to persuade a cousin to copy and share pages from the family bible which she owns, although she promised to do so at a past family gathering when she proudly passed the bible around for examination. Fearing that she might not follow through, I quickly found a paper napkin and scribbled valuable notes from the bible.

(continued on p. 7)

## Our Financial Health

By Gary Robbins, Treasurer

Have you wondered about the society's fiscal health lately? Or, is it something you don't really think about?

I'm the guy you elected to worry about our money. My job description requires me to dig into our accounts and find places where things might go awry. I don't just pay the bills. I'm supposed to find out if our money is properly spent and if we have enough of it to keep holding meetings. I'm supposed to put up a red light if our projects get too ambitious compared to our budget. I bring financial issues to the attention of the Executive Board so that necessary action may be taken.

Within a few months of becoming your treasurer in January of 2011, I discovered that we have been slowly bleeding money from our bank account for a number of years. There are a number of reasons for this, not the least of which is dwindling membership over the past decade. But, three recent turns of events have reversed this downward trend and our finances are now improving.

First, your Executive Board decided to publish this *Newsletter* via electronic means and eliminate as much as possible sending via US Mail. While perhaps fifteen or so members have no e-mail address, the remainder uses the internet to receive communication. For one year now, we have published this newsletter in PDF format and sent it via e-mail. This saves us over \$1,500 per year. You can thank the *Newsletter* editor Janice Weihs for this.

The second major event was that our society Vice President of Family Line took over obituary lookups at the Tacoma Public Library in February 2011. We charge \$7.50 per obituary lookup and our VPFL will also do a little research for an additional fee. Our Family Line net income has increased from an average of about \$900 per year to \$2,000 in 2011 and we are on track to net over \$5,000 this year. Wow! You can thank our Vice President of Family Line Gretchen Campbell and the Tacoma Public Library for this.

These two items increased our net income by about \$1,500 in 2011 and it should be over \$5,000 this year. Our progressive loss of about \$2,000 per year has been reversed and our checking account is growing again. I don't know if our Family Line success will continue but our *Newsletter* savings is a permanent improvement. Our long term financial health is considerably better than a year or two ago.

In addition, I'd like to call your attention to a third item of great financial importance to our society. That is our annual seminar. Our recently concluded and successful 2012 annual spring seminar should be fresh in your mind. Our society nets an average of \$1,500 per seminar (has varied from \$700 to \$2,300 in recent years) which makes it a significant con-

tributor to our annual budget. We skipped hosting the annual seminar in 2009 and 2010 so we did not have income from this source for two years in a row. You might argue that our checking account might be \$3,000 better today if we had held those seminars. Continuing to host an annual seminar will help keep us in the black in the coming years and we should make every effort to keep this tradition alive for both financial and educational purposes.

Another financial matter of note is that we have applied for a financial grant so that we can resume publishing documents containing genealogical information from local sources. These sources are cemetery records, census records, and death records. Some publications will be new while others on our list are reprints. We have had to put a hold on significant publishing activity the past several years but we may once again be able to publish new source material of value to genealogists. You can thank our Publications chair Marie Hayden for putting our grant application forward.

Please keep your e-mail addresses up to date with our Membership chair Carol Rikerd so that we can continue to send your *Newsletter* via e-mail. Elaine Workman, Pat Wood, and several other volunteers expended a lot of effort last year to consolidate and update our e-mail list so that the *Newsletter* and other notices can be quickly and inexpensively sent to the membership. Please help us to keep this list up to date so you can stay in the loop.

Our financial health is looking good both short term and long term. Your board and committee people will continue to look for ways to save money and enhance the value of your membership. I can safely say there will not be a need to raise dues in the near future.

I hope your summer research was fruitful and the health of your family tree has also improved.

## Coping . . . continued

By Lou Lehmann

So let's recognize and respect the fact that some relatives have good reasons for being unresponsive and some do not. Sometimes we can help them to be more responsive and sometimes we can't. It's always good to be sensitive to their circumstances and to examine our approaches and responses to them. When we have done all we can, it's time to move on, perhaps exploring other avenues and certainly appreciating the many other relatives who are so very helpful and cooperative.

### ENDNOTES

1. Morgan, George G. How to Do Everything with your Genealogy McGraw-Hill. New York. 2004. Page 21
2. AfriGeneas Genealogy and History Forum, <http://www.afriGeneas.com/forum/index.cgi/md/read/id/63764/sbj/unhelpful-relatives/>

# Now, just what WAS her maiden name?

Missing the maiden name of a female ancestor? Here are some suggestions of places where that name might be found.

**Marriage certificates and marriage licenses:** but be aware that if this is a second marriage for the woman her surname may not be her maiden name, but instead the name of an earlier husband. Similar information may be found in published or unpublished church records in books and journals or filmed by the LDS library.

**Divorce documents:** divorces have been sought and granted for many years. Divorce may be the reason one's great-grandparents seem to have vanished from census.

**Tombstones:** these may include her maiden name or her parents' names. Check nearby plots as they belong to her relatives.

**Death certificates:** mostly exist for just the past 100 years.

**Obituaries:** these may include her parent's names and surviving brothers.

**Birth and death certificates of her children:** Many states cite the mother's maiden name rather than her married name on her children's certificates.

**Court Records:** for many years married women could not make wills, but many unmarried, divorced, and widowed women could and did file wills. Also, they might be named in the wills filed by their fathers or husbands. Men who died intestate had their property divided by court letters of administration.

**Pension records:** NARA has pension records for soldiers from 1775 to 1916. A woman could file for a military pension if her husband or unmarried son died of war-related injuries. There are also cases where destitute daughters filed for a father's pension. A widow had to prove her marriage to the deceased veteran, mothers had to prove the mother-child relationship, and daughters, the father-child relationship.

**Naturalizations:** married women were listed on their husband's naturalization records until 1922. After that they filed separately. Children, 16 and under, were on their father's applications.

**Social Security applications:** these included the names of the parents of the applicants.

**County histories:** these often include biographies of county men, which will name family members and inlaws.

**Newspapers:** women may show up in the local newspapers where they lived on pages featuring recipes, sewing, and gardening articles, along with ladies' club news and gossip columns. Many older local newspapers included reports of visiting relatives and friend, as well as social events like wedding and baby showers, weddings and anniversary celebrations, and the sadder news of divorces, desertions, and bankruptcies.

**Family genealogy of the husband's lineage:** usually names the women who have married into the husband's family and frequently includes her parents' names as well.

**Land records:** although women rarely owned land in former times, they may have been named in deeds filed at county courthouses. Depending on the time period and state laws, when a man bought or sold land, the record can include the name of his wife, and it might also include her release of dower. A woman's dower is her right to a third of her husband's real property after his death, and she had to grant him the right to sell it. In Washington State, and probably other states as well, the county official with whom land transactions were recorded was required to ask the wife, privately and separately, if she agree to the sale. The official record of the sale would include the information that this was done.

## Officers for 2012

President . . . . . Warren Fisk  
 VP Family Line Research . . . Gretchen Campbell  
 VP Programs . . . . . Unfilled  
 VP Education & Development . . . . . Unfilled  
 Recording Secretary. . . . . Sandra D. Johnson  
 Corresponding Secretary . . . . . Elaine Workman  
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 Records Preservation Chair. . . . . Janet Baccus  
 Webmaster. . . . . Jane Irish Nelson

*All officers can be reached through their email  
 address listed on the TPCGS web site at  
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