



TPCGS

NEWSLETTER

December 2013

Vol. VIII, No. 2

MEETINGS AND EVENTS SCHEDULE

- 6 Jan 2014 1-4 p.m. Monday TPCGS Board Meeting Fife Branch Library PCL
14 Jan 2014 Karen and David Purtee Exploring German Genealogy South Bates Campus
22 and 23 Jan 2014 10 am Tour Washington State Archives Olympia, WA
3 Feb 2014 1-4 p.m. Monday TPCGS Board Meeting Fife Branch Library PCL
11 Feb 2014 Jean Findley Early Settlers and History of Vashon Island South Bates Campus
3 Mar 2014 1-4 p.m. Monday TPCGS Board Meeting Fife Branch Library PCL
11 Mar 2014 Esther Van Noy Early Scandanavian Immigration History South Bates Campus

Message from the President

by D Becker, TPCGS President

Hello and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

I'm D Becker, your new Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society president. Since I retired last March, I have been trying to spend more time with genealogy. I promised myself that I would try to do more for TPCGS after retirement, since so many of the members have helped me over the years. President was not really where I expected to start, however!

Planning for the Spring Seminar is well underway. The Seminar brochures will be available shortly. Since this is the Society's biggest project of the year, all our members are encouraged to help, especially by inviting friends and family members to attend. Our speaker, Dick Eastman, has been providing his online newsletter since 1996, but did you know he is also an avid RV'er and ham radio operator? Traveling around the country, visiting ancestral sites, is a dream of many genealogists, and many of us probably have a lot of questions for him. Oh, by the way, if you are curious, Dick's "handle" is K1OJH.

Another, more minor, project, I am hoping you will participate in is car pooling to various archives and libraries. I envision having blank flip chart pages at our meetings; we can list places we want to visit, and contact information. Others can contact the "lister," and they can figure out the details – when, who drives, and meals.

A variation on the above project would be finding roommates for conferences. Same basic process – indicate where you are going on the flip charts, including the dates of the conference, and how to contact you. Another emphasis I would like to see, at least to start the year, is for each of us to consider "adopting" visitors to our meetings for the evening. If you see someone you're not acquainted with at one of the meetings, please ask them to sit with you. Who knows, you may meet a new cousin!

As you can tell, I have a lot of ideas; not everything will work for all of us. You may have thoughts on things we could try, or shouldn't do – please speak up! The Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society has a strong position in the genealogical community, and I want us to continue to build that reputation, but we have to have fun, too!

TPCGS members who have family and ancestors in the south western corner of our state will find helpful information in a recent article of the NEHGS newsletter.

“More Washington State Resources”

by Valerie Beaudrault, Assistant Editor

[Lower Columbia Genealogical Society, Washington](#)

Cowlitz County is located in southwestern Washington. Its county seat is Kelso. The Lower Columbia Genealogical Society has digitized a number of Cowlitz County resources from volumes in the Longview Public Library. Click the Cowlitz County Resources link in the contents list on the left side of the homepage to access the resources.

Cemetery Indexes

The online cemetery indexes are taken from two books published by the Lower Columbia Genealogical Society: *Cowlitz County, Washington, Cemetery Records Thru 1983, Volume 1* and *Cowlitz County, Washington, Cemetery Records 1983-1989, Volume 2*. The data fields are the deceased's full name and page number.

Census Transcriptions

The census records for 1871, 1883, 1885, and 1887 are drawn from *Cowlitz County, Washington Territory Auditor's Census*, published by the Lower Columbia Genealogical Society. The databases include surname indexes, transcriptions of the records, and lists of abbreviations used in the census for all years. The data fields include page number, last name, first name, age, sex, race, occupation, marital status, and birthplace. There are also two databases related to the 1910 federal census for Cowlitz County: a surname index and a compiled transcription organized by precinct/town.

Marriage Records Abstracts and Index

Researchers will find two sets of Cowlitz County marriage records databases. One set comprises abstracts of records from 1854 through 1900. The records are alphabetized by groom's surname with a companion index to the bride's names. The second set covers 1900 through 1925, with databases sorted by bride's surname and groom's surname.

Additional resources include a naturalizations index covering 1859 through 1920, two Probate Court records indexes, and a wills index.

[Longview Public Library Obituary Index](#)

The Longview Public Library has made an obituary index available on its website. The database covers 1871 through 2013. The alphabetical index can be browsed by last name or by year. Newspaper title abbreviations are provided on the obituary webpage.

From the *New England Historical Genealogical Society Newsletter* of December 18, 2013 - Vol. 16, No. 51, Whole #666

Initials After Ancestors' Names May Provide Useful Information

The following list includes initials you may come across when reading old wills or other old documents:

- a.a.s.—died in the year of his/her age (*anno aetatis suae*)
- d.s.p.—died without issue (*decessit sine prole legitima*)
- d.s.p.l.—died without legitimate issue (*decessit sine prole mascula supersite*)
- d.s.p.m.s.—died without surviving male issue (*decessit sineprole mascula supersite*)
- d.s.p.s.—died without surviving issue (*decessit sine prole supersite*)
- d.unm—died unmarried
- d.v.ps—died in the lifetime of his father (*decessit vita patris*)
- d.v.m.—died in the lifetime of his mother (*decessit vita matris*)
- et al —and others (*et alia*)
- Inst—present month (*instans*)
- liber—book or volume
- nepos—grandson
- nunc, nuncupative—will, an oral will, written by a witness
- ob— he/she died (*obit*)
- rel. or relict—widow or widower (*relicta/relictus*)
- res. or residue—widow or widower
- sic, so, or thus—exactly copied as written
- testes—witnesses
- ult—late (*ultimo*)
- ux or ve—wife (*uxor*)
- viz—namely (*videlicet*)

Spring Seminar to feature *Dick Eastman*

On January 15, 1996, Dick Eastman launched *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and announced it to 100 surprised friends and acquaintances. The weekly grew into a daily publication that gives its readers a wide range of timely genealogical news and helpful articles by Dick and his guest authors. More than 75,000 genealogists all over the world now subscribe to Dick's free daily Newsletter. See what it's all about at EOGN.com.

Taking full advantage of today's communication technology Dick can split his time between his home in suburban Boston and a vacation home in Orlando – that's when he's not travelling in his motor home between genealogical events around the country. He has been known to fly when vast expanses of saltwater would turn his RV into a leaky submarine.

Dick is a well-known speaker at genealogy conferences around the world, from *RootsTech* to *NGS, Who Do You Think You Are? Live!*, (in London!), as well as genealogy cruises.

Come meet Dick Eastman at the Tacoma Pierce-County Genealogical Society's Spring Seminar April 19, 2014, at La Quinta Inn in Tacoma.

TPCGS Board Meetings

For the next several months the TPCGS board will be meeting at the Fife Branch of the Pierce County Library on the first Monday of each month at 1-4 p.m. The address of this branch is 6622 20th St. East in Fife. To get there, head north on the I-5 freeway and take either one of the Fife exits (Port of Tacoma Road or further along to 54th Ave. E) turning to the right as you come off the freeway. Take a left onto 20th St. and keep going north on 20th St. until you reach the address, which will be on the right side of 20th St. E. past Fife High School.

Visit Washington State Archives

If you have wondered what the State Archives in Olympia might have that would help with your family history research, or if you have wanted an chance to do some research there, now you have an opportunity to do so. Dave Olsen, our VP for Education and Development, has arranged a short tour of the Washington State Archives in Olympia for TPCGS members and friends, The tour is available on either of two days, Jan. 22 or 23, 2014, whichever is most convenient, followed by an opportunity for research time. Interested participants will meet with a state librarian in the Archives lobby at 10 am on either day for a short tour, with research time to follow.

These resources are not limited just to state information; the holdings in the state archives include a wide variety of materials, including a genealogy collection, federal publications, journals, a map collection, Washington newspapers, and others.

If you want to do a little pre-tour research, the State Library has an on-line catalog at (copy and paste)
<http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/catalog.aspx>

where you can browse the extensive holdings in the state library.

Dave will announce and explain the January 22nd and January 23rd research field trips at our pre-meeting discussion on January 14th. During the refreshment period after our pre-meeting members may work out their own travel plans or car pools.

TPCGS Programs

Meetings will be at the South Bates Campus at 6:00 to 7:00 pm and 7:00 to 9:00 pm

January 14, 2014—Karen and David Purtee Exploring German Genealogy
Pre-meeting topic Group discussion on brick wall and research problems. Members can contribute their insights and experience to problems encountered and described by other members.

February 11, 2014—Jean Findley Early Settlers and the history on Vashon Island

March 11, 2014—Esther Van Noy Early Scandanavian Immigration History

From the Family Line Desk

I did find something interesting in the Washington Digital Archives while I was researching some deaths for a client from Alaska. I was researching the children of Mary Alice (Dyslin) and Arthur Hallengren who lived in Spanaway. I found one child's death date quickly but found the other, for Arthur, listed in the Other Auditors Records section and that death record was listed as DSHS. So, be sure to look there if you are searching for death records as the death certificate may be located in that section rather than under Deaths as they normally are.

I am not sure what you all did after your marriage but I can guess you probably took a short trip; an overnight somewhere and maybe had a meal or two out and then came home to your new apartment or house. Few times does an obituary spell out the trials of early married life. But in the case of Sarah Campbell who died in 1930 at age 92 it did. Sarah "was married in 1863 in Penora, Iowa to Harvey Cox and they took their ox team as a means of conveyance and drove to Idaho on their honeymoon, where the husband was slain two years later by Indians. The widow went to Portland, Ore. soon afterward where sometime later she met and married S. L. Campbell. She then moved to Seattle and in 1922 came to Tacoma." Sounds like kind of a rough beginning but Sarah seemed to pull herself together and go on with her life. This is an interesting beginning to family life and probably not one that our client knew anything about.

There is a bit of interesting information in Harriette Kirby's obituary which followed her death in December 1992. "She had lived in many places before moving to Tacoma permanently in 1979. She was the 16th of 17 children of Jacob and Christine Larson. She led a varied life as a homemaker, restaurant owner, shipyard welder, church worker, kindergarten teacher, award winning poet and mother to all who needed her." She was predeceased by 14 brothers and sisters. "Heaven is sure to be blessed with delicious barbecued ribs and home baked apple pie." What a wonderful, loving depiction of Harriette. Do hope someone is carrying on the barbecued ribs tradition.

William Benson died January 13, 1941, and the TNT obituary index indicated that his obituary was in the paper on January 1, 1942. That was a rather long gap between death and the notation in the newspaper. I looked in the paper around the time he died and then again on New Year's Day of the following year. What did I find? It was an article with a headline "Accidents Claimed 35" and stated "In a world beset by war, Tacoma had their own share of troubles during 1941, when no less than 35 persons met violent death through mishaps entirely separate from traffic causes. Jan 13, five men died from drinking anti-freeze during party in downtown hotel. They were William Benson, John Ungerman, Joseph Corkery, Bruce Triplet and John Krause." Hope our client takes heed and doesn't drink anti-freeze! Not a good way to go.

Joseph W. Quick was a highly respected attorney in Tacoma. Interestingly enough, Mr. Quick was not a graduate of any law school nor did he hold any diplomas! He arrived in the United States in 1868 and found a country torn apart by the Civil War. His first home was a log cabin in Indiana with one window and a fire-place and a mud & stick chimney. He was determined to study law for his career but he only had a common school education. He read with a law firm in Terre Haute, Indiana and was admitted to the bar in January 1889. He accomplished a great deal without the benefit of a formal education – something that would be virtually impossible today!

I received a nice note from Linda who had requested an obituary on David Nelson. She had been wondering if she would ever locate his daughter. Her name was listed in the obituary. Linda's note says "I had been wondering if I would ever locate his daughter and because of you I found a cousin. I had never met and connected with her. I was ecstatic. She was stunned when I called her." Now Linda is busy gathering her 15 years of family history together to send to her new cousin. There are rewards!

————Gretchen Campbell, Family Line Research

MORE RESOURCES IN THE TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jean Fisher, Librarian
Northwest Room, TPL

Have you ever encountered a word or phrase in a historical document that you've had a hard time identifying, much less defining? I recently came across a handwritten word on an 1848 passenger list that I could not decipher. Once I'd finally figured out what was written, I had no idea what it meant. Fortunately, the following books in the Tacoma Public Library's genealogy collection helped me find answers to both dilemmas.

So, have faith! Whether your ancestor was a *sempster* or a *snobscat*, there's no need to rise a feather if you can't read her holographic record, or understand the words in his jordebok. This bibliothecary bets you a groat you'll find some help in one of these books.

GEN 929.1 SP37R

Sperry, Kip. *Reading Early American Handwriting, 1998.*

This book explains techniques for reading early American documents, provides samples of alphabets and letter forms, and defines terms and abbreviations commonly used in documents such as wills, deeds and church records. The sample handwritten texts are arranged by level of difficulty, to build up your confidence before the hard stuff. The book also includes brief lists of common early record terms and abbreviations.

holograph: *A document written in the author's handwriting.*

GEN 427.9 L498C

Lederer, Richard M., Jr. *Colonial American English: Words and Phrases Found in Colonial Writing, now Archaic, Obscure, Obsolete, or Whose Meanings Have Changed, 1985.*

Looking for a word used by your early American ancestor? This handy glossary lists and defines more than 3,000 obscure words and phrases used in America during the Colonial period (1608-1783).

"rise a feather" *To lose one's temper easily. In 1794, Thomas Jefferson reflected: "Being so patient of the kicks and scoffs of our enemies and rising at a feather against our friends."*

GEN 418 SH31F

Shea, Jonathan D. *Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide, 1994.*

For each language included (German, Swedish, French, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Czech, Polish, Russian, Hungarian and Lithuanian), this book gives script alphabet examples and shows common handwritten records with translations to help you understand what to look for and what it means. A mini-glossary of frequently-used terms is included for each language.

jordebok: *property record (Swedish)*

GEN 929.1072 D7452T

Douglas, Althea. *Time Traveller's Handbook: A Guide to the Past, 2011.*

This book brings together for family historians a variety of "facts our ancestors once knew, took for granted, and used regularly." Douglas covers everything from the value of money, travel, work, religion and health, and describes past words and interpretations used for each.

groat: *fourpence of a shilling*

GEN 929.1 H242A

Harris, Maurine and Glen. *Ancestry's Concise Genealogical Dictionary, 1989.*

This book gives definitions for "troublesome or unfamiliar words" often found during the course of genealogical research. Also included is a helpful section on abbreviations commonly used in historical records.

bibliothecary: *librarian*

GEN 929.1 EV15A

Evans, Barbara Jean. *A to Zax: A Glossary of Terminology for Genealogists and Social Historians, 1978.*

Published here are 117 pages of word meanings collected by Evans over her many years of doing genealogical and historical research. Also included is a handy section on nicknames, as well as a section devoted to typical legal documents.

sempster: *a seamstress*

snobscat: *a shoemaker*



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) Volume 147.6 November/December 2013: Katherine "Kitty" BOWERS brings cheer to parade; 1812 victory at Lake Erie; 7 ways to support a veteran; Oklahoma City; Belmont Hall in Smyrna DE; colonial first responders; historical interpreters illuminate colonial lives; Revolutionary spy games; feminine portraits in the DAR Museum; The Creek War of 1813-1814. (HF)

Je Me Souviens (American French Genealogical Society, Woonsocket, RI) Volume 36.1 Autumn 2013: church builders Joseph and Georges-Felix HEROUX; bordered to the north by Normandy, Perche of long ago is no longer a province; case study of French-Canadian descendants in Lewiston MA; the BUTEAU families of Haiti. (929.1/J34J)

AROUND THE U.S.A.

CA Redwood Researcher (Redwood) Volume 46.2 November 2013: ARMSTRONG-RINEMAN-NEATHERY-WILSON, ancestry of Peter Taylor SCHOONOVER Jr.; births before 1900 ANDERSON, Jacob and ? to ANDERSON, Peter and Anna; ancestors of Meredith AKEY; Captain David B. AKEY; *burials 1890-1925 WOODLEY, William to WUNDERLICH, Agnes cont'd*; *BRYAN-DOWNES lineage*; CLAUSEN-HOOKER lineage; WRIGHT-TITUS lineage; WACHTER lineage. (929.1/R248R)

FL Buried Treasures (Central Florida Gen. Soc., Orlando) Volume 45.3 July-September 2013: Union soldiers buried in Orange County; Bible record of Lyman HULL and Mary Jane OVERTURF; memories of the Civil War in South Carolina by Emma Elizabeth DOWLING; last will and testament of James MOORE of Young America, IL 1869; will of Elizabeth MOORE of Monmouth, Warren County IL 1889; names in vertical files of Orlando Public Library I-L. (929.1/B916B)

KS Kansas Kin (Riley Valley Gen. Soc., Manhattan) Volume 51.4 November 2013: 1947 treasurers elected to school districts; obituary of John A. AMNELL; Charles CURTIS and his log home remembered; mourning jewelry. (929.1/K133K)

NC Burke County Journal (Morganton) Volume XXXI.4 November 2013: county road records of 1787-1799; 1802 list of taxable property in Capt. BURGIN/CAROTHERS Compy; 1803 list of taxables in Capt. COLEMAN's Company; 1819 deposition of Elizabeth LEETH for State vs. David TATE and Others; 1803 list of taxables of Capt. HOWEL's Company; 1804 return of taxes in Cpt. D. CHESTER's Comp. (929.1/J826J)

TX Stalkin' Kin in Old West Texas (San Angelo Gen. & Hist. Soc.) Volume 41.1 and 2 November 2013: May BUTLER WOOLDRIDGE of Brownwood; Birdie Beatrice EDGAR of Hunt County; Theressa Marie MCMAHAN; Wanie O'Quinn HODGES; Michael OXER and Maria Barbara SPEISS; Rev. Christopher Columbus MCDANIEL; Zachary Isbell WILLIAMS; Gordon KENLEY; journal of Phoebe PARKER HASSELL; speech by Linda WARD-LAW HAYES; letters of Charles Johannes Karl Joseph ESSER; descendants of Adam WYLIE of Scotland; 1908 First Christian Church membership; Reagan County marriage records, book 1 1930-1939; abstracted criminal court docket of Tom Green County 1937-1938; Menard County marriage records book 3 1923-1925; abstracted civil court docket of Tom Green County 1927; Runnels County marriage records book 4 1915-1916. (929.1/ST18S)

WA Bulletin (Yakima Valley Gen. Soc., Yakima) Volume 45.4 December 2013: extracted BALL Funeral Home records of Sunnyside cont'd; pioneers Constant Emily MEYSTRE and Hilda Amalia ENGDAHL; journal of Clara Ellen COOK's travel through the Rocky Mountains in 1880. (929.1/Y111Y)

WA Fort Steilacoom Volume 30.4 Winter 2013: General Silas CASEY's career ends. (HF)

WA Seattle Gen. Soc. Bulletin Volume 63.1 Winter 2013-2014: buried in GAR Cemetery Edward G. ZACHER, Henley Lafayette REANS, Gideon Stump BAILEY, John TOBIN, Elizabeth AUFERHEIDE; honoring service of John CROOMS. (929.1/SE18B)

The New Researcher's Corner

Chasing Charley With Old Tech

I have been chasing my elusive grandfather, Charley. My paternal grandfather's parents are Jons Jonsson and Cristein Engstrom, immigrants from Sweden, Norra Rorum, Skane, in 1869. Since family history was a taboo subject when I was growing up, all I knew about Grandpa Charley was that his parents were from Sweden, he was an attorney, and he spoke Swedish as well as English. I remember him speaking to me in melodic Swedish when I was pre-school age.

Chasing Charley with old tech sources led me to Who's Who in Washington State, the 1927 edition, at the Northwest Room. This gave me his birthdate, education and early career. He was a School Superintendent in Minnesota for a 2-year term after he graduated from the University of Minnesota. Then he went back to the University law school. Attorney Charley came to Seattle in 1907, practiced law there, and opened his law practice in Okanogan in 1909. He was President of the Okanogan Chamber of Commerce and served on the School Board. He served as county Prosecuting Attorney in the 1920's. From the 1963 Who's Who, he also served on the draft board during WWII, and organized bond drives. All this information came from entries in 2 references published 36 years apart.

Moving to 'modern tech' to take a look at an old source took me down to the Washington State Library in Olympia. It's a quick drive in mid-morning, and easy to find the building. That's important to someone who has an aversion to GPS and everlasting affection for printed maps. (Maps have street names on them, allowing the traveler to truly know her location at all times!) The Library website has a list of newspapers published in the state. There are also phone numbers linking you to friendly librarians who will check the papers on file for you after your laptop is locked in infinite loops from trying to navigate to the correct page. The *Okanogan Independent* is on film there.

The State Library film reading machines are a little different than the ones at the Family History Center. These machines have buttons that will move the film very fast. (We don't want to talk about that, except to say machine and film survived.) The librarians are very willing to help users learn to size and focus the pages, and adjust the speeds.

Newspapers from 100 years ago are nothing like those we read now. Local papers are written in conversational speech. Social items are mixed in with advertisements, announcements, business and government news. It's fascinating to get lost in the slower pace of another time.

I found announcements of Charley's new law practice, engagement, marriage, buying land and building a house. There were also announcements of meetings he attended, legal matters he worked on, and social organizations he joined. He wrote some editorial pieces for the paper. The mentions and articles paint a picture of an active, engaged life in a small town. I'm not chasing my grandfather anymore; I have found him, and have a genealogy far superior to bare facts.

The flavor of the *Okanogan Independent* is demonstrated in the March 1, 1911 paper. This is the birth announcement for my father. "The legal fraternity of the city received an addition Monday afternoon when a young lawyer made his appearance at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Johnson. The young man hasn't been admitted to the bar yet, but Charley says he is good at pleading."

If your ancestors came from small towns the local index books and newspapers are wonderful old tech sources. I am so glad I took the time to chase Charley and meet him there. ———-- Carol Rikerd – Charley's granddaughter

War of 1812 Pension Files Being Digitized to be Free On-Line to All

The TPCGS Board voted to donate \$100 to the War of 1812 Pension Digitization Project. The money comes from the budget category set aside for donations aimed at advancing genealogical resources. The Pension Records from the War of 1812 are among the most requested documents of the National Archives. This heavy use has made the original documents very fragile and in urgent need of digitization. In support of the enormous task of digitizing 7.2 million pages, Ancestry.com has provided a dollar-for-dollar matching grant.

Each digitized page costs \$0.45, so a donation of \$45.00 will fund 100 pages, but with Ancestry.com's matching grant, that \$45.00 will fund 200 pages. Our Society's \$100. will result in funding 444 digitized pages.

As these historical documents are digitized, they will be made available to all at no cost, and the original pension files can be retired to much less active use.

Completed images and associated indexing are posted incrementally. Genealogists, historians, teachers, patriotic societies, and history buffs all have access to the images that have been digitized right now. Images will be offered for free at *Fold3* indefinitely. The website for Fold3 is <http://www.fold3.com/>

(This information is taken from the *Preserve the Pensions* website at <http://www.preservethepension.org/>)

Time to Renew your TPCGS Membership

Is one of your New Year's Resolutions to pursue that elusive ancestor with new energy? Participation in the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogy Society is one of the routes to new discoveries. First are the monthly meetings, with speakers who always have new research idea.

We are creating 'user friendly' pre-meetings to share information and work together solving tough problems and surmount those brick walls.

The Newsletter is packed with good information on books, periodicals, and research stories. This year's seminar will feature Dick Eastman, author of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. Members get a discounted price.

The yearly Researcher will be under new management this year, with our stories that make our publication special.

You can pay your 2014 dues at the January 14 meeting and hear Karen and David Purtee's program on Exploring German Genealogy.

Officers for 2014

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

BOOK REVIEW:

Graceland

By Deborah Grabien

In this fourth volume of the JP Kincaid Chronicles, JP, a member of the musical group *Blacklight*, is asked to suggest an Early Influence for induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. His choice is session legend Bulldog Moody, who he is surprised to learn is still living. Together with Ches Kobel, a music historian, he goes to meet Bulldog, and the three form an instant connection, despite very different backgrounds. But when Ches dies unexpectedly, JP receives his notes, notes that point to questions regarding Bulldog's ancestry. As he continues to work on his speech for Bulldog's induction, JP asks a friend to look into the discrepancy, worried that it could affect the reliability of his speech.

In the end, though, as JP himself says: "One thing about history, personal history, musical history, world, family, whatever—you never know how much of what you know is real, and how much came from someone else's need to change the story. With family history, you've usually got some evidence. Things get passed down, generation to generation. There's photos. There's old letters, medical records, inherited genetics, anecdotes. . ."

While not exactly a genealogical mystery, *Graceland* is a fascinating look at the world of elite musicians and those around them. And illustrates how family history plays a part in all lives.

Review by Jane Irish Nelson