



TPCGS NEWSLETTER

December 2019

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Meetings and Events Schedule

TPCGS monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month September through May. Meetings are normally held at Bates Technical College, South Campus, 2291 S. 78th Street, Tacoma, *Building E*. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm with a brief business meeting. After a short break, the main presentation begins followed by an educational session. *Guests are always welcome!*

January 14, 2020 – Webinar on Beginning Genealogy with feedback from our more advanced members. Our speaker had to bow out for this date, so we're bringing in an excellent webinar for this. We hope you'll join us. This will be helpful for new and experienced genealogists!

February 11, 2020 – Cyndi Ingle, creator of Cyndi's List, www.cyndislist.com, will be sharing her knowledge, expertise and humor with us.

March 10, 2010 – Carol Jean Gaffney, Daughters of the Revolution

April 14, 2010 – Jill Morelli, Scandinavian Research

April 24-25, 2020 – TPCGS 2020 Spring Seminar



We are pleased to announce that our speaker will be *The Legal Genealogist* Judy G. Russell, a genealogist with a law degree who writes and lectures on topics ranging from using court records in family history to understanding DNA testing. On the faculty of numerous genealogy institutes, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists[®], from which she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist[®] and Certified Genealogical LecturerSM. Her award-winning blog is at <http://www.legalgenealogist.com>.

May 12, 2020 – Claudia Breland, Social Media

June 9, 2020 – Janice, Using DNA as a Research Tool

Outgoing President's Column, by D Becker:

I've enjoyed serving as the President of our Society, but it is time to give others the chance to lead our group. There are a few thoughts and ideas that have been reinforced during my tenure: Genealogy is NOT a solitary effort. We need to work with, consult with, and help one another in our research. We need to talk with people face-to-face to get the most out of these discussions. And we need to support our local organizations to facilitate much of our learning. While webinars and online learning is all the rage, we don't all learn the same way. Organizations like ours provide hands-on learning opportunities and discussions that we don't get using electronics for communication. National, regional and local conferences and workshops are another way of face-to-face learning and communication, but the costs – in both dollars and time – are very limiting factors.

If you want to get the most out of our organization, you must take an active part. It might mean making suggestions regarding speakers or topics, offering a ride to meetings to another member, or even bringing cookies occasionally. Contributing to our newsletter and writing articles for the *Researcher* can let others know of your interests and expertise.

Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society needs each of us to do our part. Our Society, and each of us as individuals, will benefit.

NEWS THEN, HISTORY NOW

Courtesy of HistoryLink.org

Cheer for the Home Team

Forty-five years ago this week, on December 5, 1974, the Seattle Seahawks got their start -- a half-century after the Anacortes Sea Hawks first took the name -- when a group of Seattle businessmen led by the Nordstrom family was awarded an NFL franchise. Construction had already begun on the Kingdome -- a new multipurpose stadium that would be shared with the city's nascent baseball team -- but discontent between citizens and public officials over building costs and proposed locations delayed its opening until 1976, just in time for the Seahawk's debut season.

The team got off to a slow start, winning only two of 14 games that first year. It finally had a winning season two years later, but the following year the Seahawks broke an NFL record, ending up with negative yardage after playing the worst game in league history. The team eventually made it to the playoffs for the first time in 1983, and although it never seemed to achieve those final victories, loyal fans kept hoping that each new season would be better than the last.

In the 1990s there was talk of the Seahawks flying the coop, but a narrow margin of voters approved funding for a new stadium, thanks to a campaign spearheaded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, who followed through on his pledge to purchase and revitalize the football franchise. The new stadium opened in 2002, and the Seahawks played their first Super Bowl in 2006. They lost that game, but eight years later won Super Bowl XLVIII in a rout, beating the Denver Broncos 43-8. Upon their return home, the players were greeted with one of the largest celebration gatherings in city history.

TPCGS BOARD POSITIONS

Some TPCGS Board positions are changing as of January 1, 2020. Below is the list of Board Members, reflecting whether they are outgoing or incoming, if applicable. We'd like you to get to know your Board, so we've included short bios. We hope after reading these, you'll want to talk to us about your interests and areas of research and how they might correspond with ours.

TPCGS BOARD MEMBERS

<i>President</i>	<i>D Becker (outgoing), Liz Osborn (incoming)</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Warren Fisk (outgoing), D Becker (incoming)</i>
<i>Vice President – Research</i>	<i>Gretchen Campbell</i>
<i>Vice President – Programs</i>	<i>Liz Osborn (outgoing), vacant (let us know your interest)</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Sandra Johnson (outgoing), Lorraine Graeber (incoming)</i>
<i>Policies & Procedures</i>	<i>Judith Line (incoming)</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Valerie Hubbard</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Karen Englund</i>
<i>Library Liaison</i>	<i>Patricia Gwin</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Kari Overson</i>
<i>Researcher Editor</i>	<i>By Committee (see below)</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Jane Irish Nelson</i>

TPCGS COMMITTEES

<i>Researcher Editor Committee</i>	<i>Jean Findlay, Jane Irish Nelson, Valerie Hubbard, Sandra Johnson, and Diane Bertram</i>
<i>Records Preservation Committee</i>	<i>Lorraine Graeber, Janet Baccus, Valerie Hubbard, and Patricia Gwin</i>
<i>Seminar Committee</i>	<i>Warren Fisk, Jane Irish Nelson (co-chairs)</i>
<i>Projects Committee</i>	<i>Warren Fisk (chair)</i>

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

TPCGS Board Member Bios:

Liz Osborn, President (incoming)

Liz Osborn has been a member of the TPCGS for 5 years. Her interest in Genealogy began about 15 years ago. Not because she had a burning desire to find out about her ancestors, but her sister-in-law was constantly suggesting that she get interested. One day she went to the Family History Center with her, searched for her grandfather and was rewarded with some information regarding him, she was hooked. She has been researching ever since. Her great grandfather

came to the US from Prussia, but there are no records of his arrival. She thinks, perhaps he swam over.

She is currently researching the Domke (Dahmke, Domken) originating in Prussia, Curran originating in Ireland, Gehm and Jung in the Palitinate area of Germany.

As a retired person she is never bored, and genealogy keeps her at the library, her computer, genealogy meetings and seminars. She has been known to declare that Genealogy is her drug of choice.

D Becker, President (outgoing), and Past President (incoming)

I'm a fourth-generation Pierce County native. I don't remember when I got interested in genealogy, but do remember asking my grandparents about their predecessors – and the mischief my parents got into as children! My serious research began over 40 years ago, before our son was born.

Unlike many family researchers, I don't chase ancestors, but rather wildfires, during the summer months. I've been to all but two states west of the Great Plains in my roles of Radio Operator and Incident Communication Manager. And from September through the first weekend in February, I follow the Seattle Seahawks – losing my voice most weekends as a result.

I have a second cousin who is my research buddy. We are stuck on where, exactly, one set of great grandparents were born. Neither “James Cavanaugh of Ireland” nor “Lachlan MacLean of Scotland” is very specific!

Gretchen Collins Campbell, Vice President Research

I graduated from Washington State University in Hospitality Management and drove across the state to a job at the University of Washington in Food Services. I worked in food service management for over 30 years. When I retired and moved to Tacoma, I began to study my family history. My first big find was locating my great, great grandparents in Michigan. All I knew was that their names were John and Margaret Miller and they had twin sons born in 1845 with one named William. The index for Michigan gave about 29 possibilities. On about 25th roll of 1850 census film, I found them. From that moment I was hooked on genealogy!!

I joined TPCGS in 1990 and my first office was Sunshine Chairman which involved sending cards to members who were ill or who had suffered a death in their family. Next, I was the Recording Secretary for a few years. Then I served as President for one term. My next office was Vice President for Research; duties I have done for the last bunch of years. Mostly what I do is get obituaries for people who live far from Tacoma – a never ending job!

Valerie Hubbard, Treasurer

When she retired and moved from Texas, Valerie joined the Society to do something with her mother. She is the current Treasurer for the Society and enjoys listening to her mother talk about the relatives that she has found. Valerie has not done any research “so far.”

Jane Irish Nelson (Webmaster and Researcher Editor committee member)

Jane became interested in genealogy as a child but did not truly begin any research until reaching her early 20s. She deeply regrets the many opportunities she missed for obtaining stories from her grandparents and other older relatives. In addition to family history she also enjoys knitting and reading, and is an avid sports fan, particularly of the Seattle Mariners.

Lorraine Graeber (Records Preservation Committee member)

Lorraine’s genealogy interest started when a letter from the late 40’s, in German along with a picture, was found in her mother-in-law’s writing tablet after her death. Translation of the letter by a neighbor revealed the writer was her mother-in-law’s cousin expressing an interest in coming to America. That visit was finally realized in 2000, followed by another visit in 2002. Many letters followed with the cousin providing several documents on the German heritage, together with lots of written and verbal information on the grandparents’ lives. That genealogy interest has, of course, been expanded to several other lines.

Patricia Gwin, Library Liaison

When I was little my grandmother told me about her Californio ancestors (Valencia, Castro, Espinosa). When we visited her in Aptos, California, she took us to the grave of her great grandfather, Don Rafael Castro, and told me how he had received a land grant from the King of Spain for his rancho along Monterey Bay. That was the beginning of my interest in genealogy over seventy years ago. I pursued some research during college and marriage but didn't work seriously on my tree until I retired here in Tacoma in 2012. I hope eventually to discover a relative who has the land grant paper my grandmother was so sure of and get a copy. I am also researching my New England roots (Woodis, Blackmer, Putnam, Fuller) and Scottish roots via Prince Edward Island (Matheson, Millar, MacNeill, Crombie).

Kari Overson, Newsletter Editor

I spent 26 years working as an investigator for the government and the last year as a private investigator, so it may be obvious I love to conduct research and to solve puzzles. I first got interested in genealogy in about 1993 when I was in Washington DC and asked my aunt if she needed anything at the National Archives for her genealogy research. She asked me to look up census records for her parents and the older kids. I found a census record which revealed a child that we did not know about and who unfortunately lived only a few months but happened to be listed in the census. That piqued my interest and began my genealogical journey. I’ve been hooked since! I am researching the surnames of Burton, Randall, Dillon, Keener, Vaughn, Ling, Poykko (Finland) and Karjalainen (Finland).

Book Reviews

By: Jane Irish Nelson

The Search for My Abandoned Grandmother: A genealogical journey uncovers secret love stories and family mysteries

by Mary Ames Mitchell

Excellent. Part family history, part biography, part memoir, this reads like a detective story, as the author strives to uncover the clues to her grandmother's past. That grandmother, Eileen Maud, died when the author's mother, Betty May, was only eight years old. And since Betty May had no recollection of ever knowing where her mother was buried, author Mary Ames Mitchell was determined to discover the answer, despite the fact that she lived in California, and her grandmother had died in the UK. The story alternates between Mary's research and travels, and excerpts from her grandfather's journals and biography (which sometimes disagree slightly). Like any mystery story, this keeps the reader engrossed, hoping for a happy resolution. And I had the extra surprise of finding that I am very distantly related to the author's grandfather. Highly recommended!

Fiddling with Fate

by Kathleen Ernst

This is the tenth book in this series — my favorite, perhaps because of the genealogical content. There are two timelines involved: the more contemporary one, set in 1984, which tells the story Chloe's research into both the fiddling tradition of the Hardanger region of Norway, and also into her own family history. Little does she suspect the danger she may be facing when she sets out on her journey. Other chapters introduce readers to Chloe's strong female ancestors, beginning with her five-times-great-grandmother, Gudrun, and the challenges they face just to survive in a harsh environment. Highly recommended.

The Sinclair Betrayal: A Jayne Sinclair Genealogical Mystery

by M.J. Lee

This time it's personal. Jayne Sinclair's beloved stepfather is recovering from pneumonia when he tells her it's time she learned the truth about her father, who had abandoned the family when Jayne was very young — so young she really doesn't remember him. Turns out, he is still alive, and he wants to see Jayne, since he needs her genealogical skills to learn just what happened to his mother during the Second World War. The story alternates between Jayne's researches in the present, and her grandparents' lives during the war, from the time they met up through their deaths. Personally I found the historical sections much more interesting and engrossing than the contemporary ones. I was also fascinated by the way the author combined a fictional story with historical events. Recommended.

Proposed increase in Fees for records from US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

The Records Preservation & Access Committee (Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society, International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies), brought to our attention a Proposed Rule, dated November 14, 2019, which if implemented, would increase fees to access records from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The fee increases range: 21% overall; 492% for A-Files, Visa Files, Registry Files and some C-Files; 269% for Alien Registration Files and some C-Files. Also, costs for the index search fee would be required for some records, amounting to a 481% increase from current costs. See the committee's full letter to USCIS here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/mfavk8dlv2frdyz/Letter%20to%20USCIS.pdf?dl=0>



Courtesy of Pinterest (author unknown)

Browsing Periodicals

by Patricia Gwin; Library Liaison

Browsings beginning May 2019

American Spirit, DAR, Vol. 153, #4, July-August 2019

- Visions of America: Front Porches
- The Bigelow House Museum, Olympia, WA
- Following in Lafayette's Footsteps
- The People's Painter - Charles Willson Peale
- The Old Dartmouth Purchase
- The Year Without a Summer (1816)
- Joseph Plumb and his Diary of the Revolution

The Apple Orchard, Chelan Valley Genealogical Society, August 2019

- Scottish Tax Rolls Online
- Off the Grid
- Irish Church Records

The Bulletin - Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Vol. 69, #1, September 2019

- Kidnapped! Twin Sisters, Blanche and Bertha Fry
- Abducted! The Story of Willhelmina (Tjaden) Tannler
- The Life Story of Josie B. Darden and John Beaufort Doggett, Part 2
- Why Gueriot? How an Unusual Middle Name Unlocked a Family History
- What's in a Name? The Search for Narcisse DesMarais/Demarest
- Book Reviews - *Our troops are in General Almost Naked*, *"Smooth Tongued and Deceitful"*, and *"She Snuffs, Drinks, and Smokes"* all by Joseph Lee Boyle

Family Tree Quarterly, Cobb County, GA, Gen. Soc., Vol. 29, #1, 2019

- An Introduction to the Mortality Schedule, A Population Component of the U.S. Census
- That Which Remains: the Most Valuable Thing Genealogists Do

Family Tree Quarterly, Cobb County, GA, Gen. Soc., Vol. 29, #2, 2019

- In Memorium: Mary Hancock
- Looking Back Over 40 Years: A short History of the CCGS Part 1, 1979-1990
- There at the Beginning: A Profile of Betty Hames: One of CCGS's Founders
- Carolyn Crawford and the Georgia Room: A Profile and a Brief History
- Our Exchange and Repository Organizations
- Way Back Yonder: Some Twentieth-Century Memories of Ernest Keheley, age 83, a Cobb County Native
- In Memory of Mimi Jo Butler

Fiske Genealogical Foundation, Seattle, WA, Vol. 26, #4, Summer 2019

- Untapped Treasures at Fiske
- New Treasurer Appointed at Fiske
- Summer Picnic June 26
- Love and Law in Ohio County, Kentucky - 1835
- Our Enterprising and Amazingly Mobile Ancestors

Kansas Kin, Riley County Genealogical Society, Vol. 57, #1, May 2019

- Family Heirloom Series: Childhood Memories of a Special Rug
- Working with Old Photos in Family History Research: Establishing Provenance
- The GRANDMA Database of Mennonite Ancestry
- The Oregon Trail Through Pottawatomie County, Kansas
- The John McCoy and Mary Jane Morrison Family of the Elbow Community, Blue Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas
- A Stone for John and Mary Jane McCoy
- One Hundred Years Ago: Clippings Celebrating Returning Soldiers - Manhattan Nationalist

Tri-City Genealogical Society, Vol. 59, #2, July 2019

- From Rome (Missouri) to the Tri-Cities
- General Helps for Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestors
- White Bluffs Pioneers Gather for Remembrance
- Multi-Generational Pardini Family