

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Immigration Research</i>	2
<i>New JC Databases</i>	2
<i>Center Closings</i>	2
<i>Library Catalog</i>	3
<i>Resource Corners</i>	4
<i>Trips</i>	4
<i>Seminar in Silverdale</i>	4
<i>Calendar</i>	5
<i>First Census Takers</i>	6
<i>Birth Certificates</i>	7
<i>PT Housing Authority</i>	8
<i>Measuring in 1780s</i>	10

Highlights

- Annual JCGS Seminar
- Immigration Research
- Problems for First Census Takers
- Port Townsend Housing Authority
- Measuring in the 1780s

ANNUAL JCGS SEMINAR—MARCH 19TH FAMILY HISTORY: A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH AND WRITING

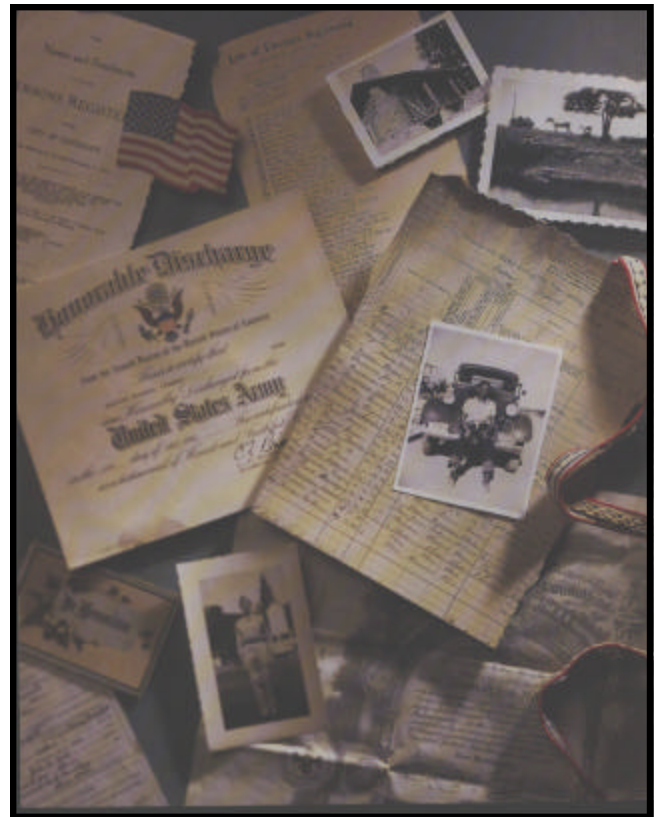
This year we are pleased to have Lorraine McConaghy, PhD, historian from the Museum of History and Industry and Instructor of Genealogy at the University of Washington as our speaker at the Jefferson County Genealogical Society's Annual Seminar.

Ms McConaghy is not only an extremely well qualified and an entertaining speaker, her topic is also one we will all enjoy. Researching and then following up by writing one's own family history is surely the goal of most genealogists. However, regardless of how much we want to accomplish this task, it is a substantial undertaking. Getting the right help from a professional is invaluable.

The seminar will be held at the Tri-Area Community Center in Chimum, located just past the Chimum Public School complex. Registration will be at 8:30 AM and the program will last until 3:00 PM with a midday break. Please bring food to share for a potluck lunch.

As always there will be a fascinating and very useful exhibit of books and other genealogical materials for sale at the seminar.

The cost is \$25 if you register before March 1st and \$30 thereafter. You may mail your check to JCGS, PO Box 627, Port Townsend, WA 98368-0627. Be sure to mark it "For Seminar".



**Don't miss this highpoint of the
Jefferson County Genealogical Society's year!**

IMMIGRATION RESEARCH



Ellis Island, New York

by Bev Brice

A new member joined the society wanting to do research on immigrants in the late 1880s and early 1900s from Germany and Italy. In helping him get started, I was pleased to see the variety of resources we had available to help.

One of the first steps is finding out everything you can in the US. Ancestry helped with that in looking at the census information. If you are lucky, there may be other records as well. The next stop was "They Became Americans" and "Guide to Naturalization Records of the US" to understand the Naturalization laws relevant for the time period required.

These laws changed constantly, so you need to know what might be available for your situation and where to look for it. Ancestry plays an important part again as they have a large collection of Immigration Records. Some are indexes that will point you to other reference works, and some provide extractions of information from original sources. There are other valuable on-line sites such as Ellis Island to cover if appropriate. Once you know the name of the ship, you might even find a picture on line or from the "They Came in Ships" and "Ships of Our Ancestors".

When all that is accomplished, and you know where in Germany or Italy your family lived, the next step is to begin educating yourself on how to research in Europe. We have a growing and credible collection of "How To" information in the "Foreign Research" section of the library. Germany is well represented with "Germanic Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration" and "The German Research Companion". We have a new book on researching your Italian family, "Finding Your Italian Roots". In addition there are very helpful reference on working in Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain, Canada, Switzerland, and Norway.

The last part of the research you can do from Jefferson County utilizes the wonderful records filmed by the Family History Library. Many of the original records you will want to consult can be viewed on microfilm at our local Family History Branch Library in Chimacum. When you have completed all of this research, it is time to buy your tickets for an on-site visit!

"When you have completed all of this research, it is time to buy your tickets for an on-site visit!"

THE LIBRARY CATALOG

When you came into the Research Center to use a book or to check it out, you probably didn't notice how the books were placed in order on the shelves and had clear labels so you knew where to put them back. You could search by title or author on the computer for the book you wanted. This has taken hours and hours of volunteer time to accomplish. Two years ago we did not have a system in place. The importance of being organized is perhaps better appreciated when you realize that we have twice as many items in the catalogue as we had in September 2003 when we moved into the Research Center.



Our angels in this department are Lu Person and Jesse Steward. Remember to say thanks when you next see them.

NEWJEFFERSON COUNTY DATABASES

Our volunteers have been busy completing indexes for the following sets of records;

- St. Paul Episcopal Church 1913-1943 Marriages and Burials
- Superior Court Civil Files 1890-1913

An Index to Birth and Marriage Announcements in the Jefferson County Newspaper will be completed within the next month. Look at the index on the Website, and if you see a name you are researching, you can request a copy of the information. This project is on-going and will eventually cover the newspapers from 1800s to present. Those through 1930 will be posted on line.

A big thanks to the following volunteers for working on these projects: Tom Berg, Pam Wilson, Joan Buhler, Jean Redcap, Pat Rudolph, Barbara and Wayne Howell, Eileen Martin, Harlean Hamilton, Dorothy Hermanson, Phil Kohl, and Yvonne Weir.

RESEARCH CENTER CLOSINGS

Whenever you see that winter has really arrived and there is snow or ice about, call the Research Center to see if it is open before you come. We had two days in January that were closed all day due to snow, and one Saturday where we closed early due to freezing rain. With our steep drive entering right out onto the highway, we don't want to take a chance.

If it is during the normal hours of operation, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, call the Center at 385-9495. If there is no answer, you know that we are closed. If you are coming to a discussion group at 10:00 and aren't sure about not getting an answer on the phone, call Bev or Marge at home for an



“The importance of being organized is perhaps better appreciated when you realize that we have twice as many items in the catalogue as we had in September 2003 when we moved into the Research Center.”

Psst! Your Dues are Due

Joyce Anderson

Ruth Andrews

Linda Atkins

Carol Brown

Susan Bye

Margaret Carr

Pam Clise

Dick Conway

Carol Costello

Jane Coverstone

Morie Dean

Roberta Enders

Marilyn Hack

George Hanson

Linda Hell

Jane Hill

Wayne Howell

Jean Jackson

Larry Jones

James Kirschner

Philip Kohl

Anita Lockhart

Rebecca Lopeman

Cheryl McClanahan

Larry McKeehan

Judy Meyers

Carla Michaels

(Continued on page 7)

RESOURCE CORNERS/DISCUSSION GROUPS

Resource Corners are classes on research methods without formal presentations.

March: We all use computer genealogy programs, but are we making the most of them? Bring your stories about what worked well, and your questions for others to solve. The seminar topic will get us thinking about writing our family stories.

April: We can look at what you have done or are planning to do to write up the stories you have collected for your family history. Hopefully this will help to keep the momentum going!

May: We will address the question of what you need to know to get started working in a state that is new to you. What do you need to know? Where do you look for the important information? This can help with research trip planning as well as help with your on-going research questions

Discussion Groups are meetings for informal sharing of research problems and successes. The Southern Group covers everything south of the Mason/Dixon Line. Researching the states covers information on working in a particular state. If you are researching the state listed come and share the fun.

TRIPS TRIPS TRIPS

Over the last two years, we have had a lot of fun and success on our monthly research trips. We have decided that we will reduce our scheduled trips to every other month. I hope you can join us for one our adventures.

We encourage anyone to plan his or her own trip to a local research center in between our formally scheduled trips, if you wish. Others may want to go as well, so use our mailing list or word-of-mouth to get a group together.

PUGET SOUND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR IN SILVERDALE

Gary Zimmer from the Fiske Genealogical Foundation will be the speaker at a seminar held at the Silverdale Community Center by the Puget Sound Genealogical Society on April 23rd.

The topic for the seminar will be the Civil War both from the aspect of the North and the South. Courthouse records including probate, end of life, deeds and tax records will be the focus of the discussion. For non-members the cost will be \$30 before April 6th and \$35 after that date. For persons who purchase tickets before April 6th there are free door prize tickets. After April 6th you can purchase a door prize ticket for \$1.00. The door prize will be a HP Photosmart 7450 Photo Printer. Sack lunches are available for \$5.75. For more information contact Sandie Morrison at morri-son@nwinet.com. Marge Samuelson will be going if you want to share a ride.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH APRIL MAY

Friday, March 4th 10:00 AM	Library Committee Meeting	Research Center
Tuesday, March 8th 10:00 AM	Researching in the States: Illinois	Research Center
Friday, March 18th 10:00 AM	Southern Discussion Group	Research Center
Saturday, March 19th 8:30 registration, Program 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM	Annual Jefferson County Genealogical Society Seminar	Tri-Area Community Center, Chimacum
Thursday, March 24th 10:00 AM	Library Volunteer Meeting	Research Center
Friday, March 25th 10:00 AM	Resource Corner: "Making Your Genealogy Program Work for You"	Research Center
Wednesday April 6th	Fiske Genealogy Society. Lecture from 10-12 with the afternoon to scour the books	Seattle
Friday, April 8th 9:30 AM	Executive Committee Meeting	Research Center
Tuesday, April 12th 10:00 AM	Researching in the States: Ohio	Research Center
Friday, April 15th 10:00 AM	Southern Discussion Group	Research Center
Saturday, April 16th 9:30 AM	Monthly Meeting—Pam Wilson on care and history of old photographs (1839-1900). Bring an old photo and find out when it was taken.	Tri-Area Community Center, Chimacum
Thursday, April 28th 10:00 AM	Library Volunteers' Meeting	Research Center
Friday, April 29th 10:00 AM	Resource Corner: "Writing Your Family History"	Research Center
Tuesday, May 10th 10:00 AM	Researching in the States: Kentucky	Research Center
Friday, May 20th 10:00 AM	Southern Discussion Group	Research Center
Saturday, May 21 9:30 AM	Monthly Meeting—Susan Wilson on researching military records at the Seattle branch of the National Archives	Tri-Area Community Center, Chimacum
Thursday, May 26th 10:00 AM	Library Volunteer Meeting	Research Center
Friday, May 27th 10:00 AM	Resource Corner "How to Start Researching in a New State"	Research Center
Monday, June 6th	Tacoma Public Library	Tacoma
Monday, August 1st	Seattle Public Library	
Tuesday, October 4th	National Archives and Seattle Genealogy Society	Seattle
Wednesday, December 7th	Heritage Quest and Tacoma Public Library	Tacoma

FIRST CENSUS TAKERS HAD THEIR PROBLEMS

Contributed by Steve Edgerton, February 4, 2004
(with original spelling and punctuation)



“Sir: I beg to report that I have been dogbit, goose-pecked, cowkicked, briar-scratched, shot at, and called every ‘fowel’ that can be tho’t of. I have worked 12 days and made \$2. I have had enough and I beg to resign my position as a census taker for Crittenden Township.” So wrote Roger Waite to a marshal of census enumerators for the State of Vermont on August 24, 1790—the year of the first national census of the United States. Research does not reveal whether or not the disheartened and disgusted Waite’s

resignation was accepted or denied. What is revealed is that the pay for enumerators was very low, even for that day. Government records that the highest rate paid under any condition was \$1.00 for the count of 50 person and that was for enumerators in outlying districts where the inhabitants were “widely dispersed.” In cities and towns the rate was \$1.00 for every 300 persons counted. Out of these amounts, the census takers were obliged to furnish their own schedules “properly ruled” and to take care of any other expenses incurred. In some instances the cost of the schedules was more than the fees collected.

Many had never been enumerated before and were naturally suspicious of strangers coming around asking questions. Others, remembering the biblical reference to the head count for purposes of taxation at the time of the birth of Christ, often displayed a downright unfriendly attitude. Then still other citizens, recalling the plagues that befell the children of Israel following the enumeration made by King David, also refused to cooperate.

So when the enumerators persisted with their questioning, they were often lucky to get by with just a dog bite. In a sparsely settled area in Pennsylvania, there is one instance of an enumerator being killed.

There were various other reasons on the part of the population for the reluctance to answer questions, but in a 1909 publication issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, it is written that the most potent factor was the widespread belief that the census was connected with taxes.

At the end of this first census in 1790, the total population count was a fraction under 4 million. Some authorities of that time, however, were a bit dubious of that figure. Because of the low pay they believed that to make ends meet, some of the enumerators in the “more remote and sparsely settled sections” of the country may have included “some persons not in existence.” One reasonable ground for such suspicion stemmed from what was described as the “absurd and ludicrous combination of the names and surnames” listed on the census taker schedules and turned in to the marshals. Officers of the Bureau of Census believed that such names as “Joseph Came, Peter Went, John Sat, Joseph Grackbone, Ruth Shaves, Web Ashbean, Comfort Clock, Sarah Goosehorn, Moses Rainwater, Mercy Cheese, Unity Tallowback, Lookinbill Barnthistle, Sussannsh Beersticker, Constance Cathole and hundreds of other equally absurd, were spurious

Sir: I beg to report that I have been dogbit, goose-pecked, cowkicked, briar-scratched, shot at, and called every ‘fowel’ that can be tho’t of. I have worked 12 days and made \$2. I have had enough and I beg to resign my position as a census taker for Crittenden Township.”

(Continued on page 7)

Psst! Your Dues Are Due (cont)

Thelma Mikler

Cheryl Miller

Karen Niemi

Carol O'Dell

Peter Olsen

Pat Olson

Bob Parsons

Eleanor Peters

Kathy Pool

Ruth Purcell

Judith Raiguel

Jim Richard

Lucile Rudolph

Jane Samples

Betty Jo Sargent

Wenonah Sharpe

Mary Sinclair

Helen Smith

Richard Southard

Anne Steurer

Marilyn Stevenson

Tim Thomas Sr.

Doris Thurston

Gerane White

Jeannine Woodley

Stephen Worthington

Frances Wright

Vicki Young

THE FIRST CENSUS TAKERS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)

and not the names of real citizens. The old Bureau of Census publications goes on to say that in 1790, there were 27,337 surnames in the United States with English and Scotch names, or derivations of these names, being preponderant. This year, two centuries later, the cost of counting the heads of some 222 million citizens will be much more. And as in the days of old, some members of the population may resent what they may consider an invasion of privacy and set their dogs on the enumerator. But as sociologists in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture point out, taking the census is necessary for the continued good welfare of the nation."

The article above first appeared in the "Kentucky Farmer" and was written by Nevyle Shackford who is with the Department of Public Information, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

ORDER BIRTH CERTIFICATES A.S.A.P.

From the Indiana Genealogical Society

<http://www.indgensoc.org/>.

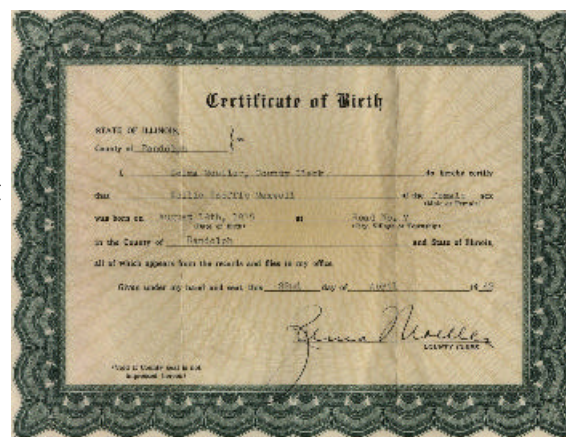
New Federal law will limit access to birth certificates.

The 108th Congress returned for a special session on December 6, 2004, to smooth opposition to Senate Bill 2845 (S.2845), the "National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004." On December 7, the House voted 336 -75 for the bill, and on December 8, the Senate approved it 89-2.

The bill was signed into law by the President on December 17, without the exception for non-certified copies and certificates over 100 years old that the National Genealogical Society and Federation of Genealogical Societies had suggested.

The bill requires federal agencies to establish standards for all 50 states for the issuing of driver's licenses and birth certificates within the next 18 months. How this will effect local statutes regarding vital records access is unclear.

The Indiana Genealogical Society will stay involved and issue any updated information.



THE PORT TOWNSEND HOUSING AUTHORITY

by Marge Samuelson

Fort Worden has been a part of Port Townsend since the early 1900's. Thousands of soldiers have been stationed there through the years. In the 1940s with the Second World War continuing, the need for housing for soldiers and their families brought some changes to the historic buildings and some new additions. The government, to help ease the housing shortage in Port Townsend, came up with several solutions.

In September 1943 the U.S. Government leased three local properties to convert to apartments to relieve Port Townsend's housing shortage. The Bishop Block was remodel-

ed into 14 apartments and the Hasting's Building into 12 at a cost of \$28,000. H.J. Carroll purchased the old Payne property at Lawrence and Taylor and leased it to the government for seven years; the government was to convert the building into five apartment units at a cost of about \$11,000.

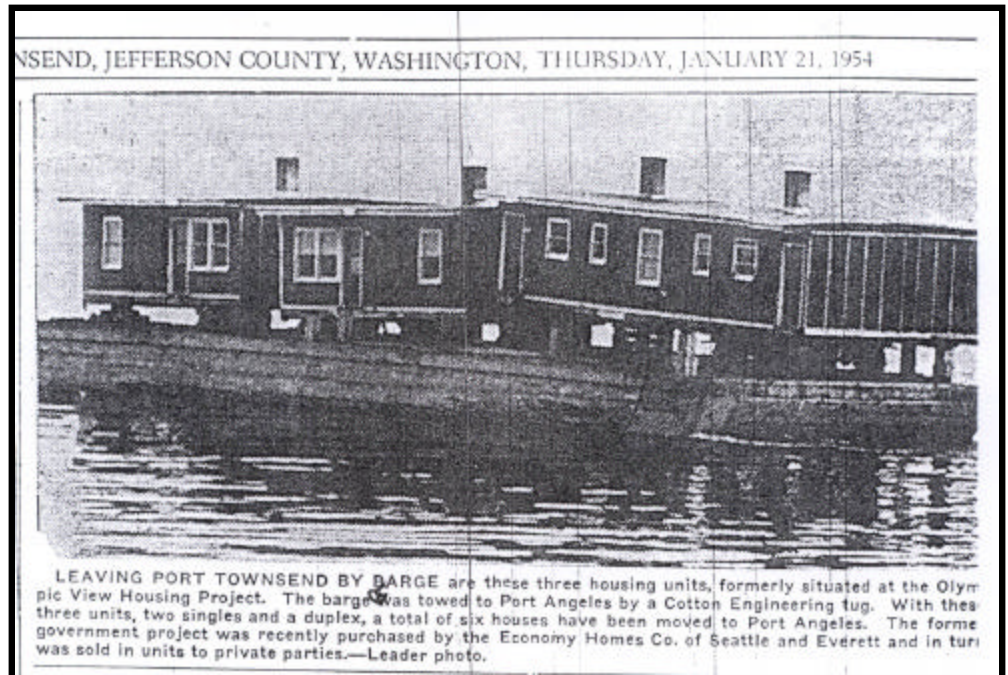
In June 1943, the Port Townsend Housing Authority chose an area near the present Port Townsend Golf Course for a 60 unit housing project. The name chosen for the project was "Olympic View". The project included a dozen units, eleven for housing and a community building. The community building was to house a clinic and an assembly hall. Two of the eleven housing buildings contained seven dwellings each; one had six under a single roof; while eight accommodated five families each for a total of 60. Twelve of the dwellings had three bedrooms, 22 had two and 18 had one. There were 8 classified as having no bedrooms. The description of the housing was as follows: "a long living room in each unit, with a kitchen in one corner, the bath and entrance sharing opposite sides of the center of the unit and the bedrooms the remainder of the unit space". The cost for the project was estimated at \$200,000. The buildings were put out for bids. So what became of this project?

In November 1953 they were sold to Economy Homes Co. of Seattle and Everett and in turn sold in units to private parties. In the December 17, 1953, *Port Townsend Leader*, an ad appeared;

"Federal Housing Project Homes (Only 6 units left with Hardwood Floors, Limited Number of Units with Fir Floors) 2 Bedroom Units size 21 x 26 feet with HW floors \$495, with Fir Floors \$445, other combinations available at comparable prices. Ideal for cottages, cabins, motels farms, field offices, etc."

Some of the units were moved by barge from Port Townsend and other were removed from the site and sold to local residents.

In the Jefferson County Research Center, records from the Housing Authority await indexing and archival storage. Information from these gives data on families who were provided housing in a time of war. Thanks to Harlean Hamilton, JCGS volunteer, who spent many hours recording articles from the *Port Townsend Leader* on the military in Port Townsend and Jefferson County, these records are now available in the JCGS library.



Officers

President	Lesla Barnes	grebmot@olypen.com	379-2577
Vice President	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103
Treasurer	Marge Samuelson	msam@olympus.net	385-4297
Recording Secretary	Eunice Franklin	efranklin@cablespeed.com	379-8392
Corresponding Secretary	Mimi Starks	mkstarks@olypen.com	385-2223

Contact Persons

Exec. Committee	Lesla Barnes	grebmot@olypen.com	379-2577
Information Tech.	Phil Kohl	pkohl@olympus.net	385-7467
Members' Books	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103
Library Vol. Coord.	Bev Brice	kaboom@olympus.net	385-3296
Librarian	Bev Brice	bb@olympus.net	385-6599
Newsletter	Karen Driscoll	plumwild@olypen.com	732-4426
Researcher	Joan Buhler	jaybee@macaid.com	385-0849
Cemeteries	Eileen Martin	eileenm@olypen.com	385-0673
Obituaries	Lora Eccles	lora@cablespeed.com	385-7743
Surname List	Tom Berg	grebmot@olypen.com	379-2577
Program	Carrie Wooten		732-4218
Trip Coordinator	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103
Membership	Tom Berg	grebmot@olypen.com	379-2577

Dues

Membership Dues

\$15 Single/\$20 Couple

Research Center Location

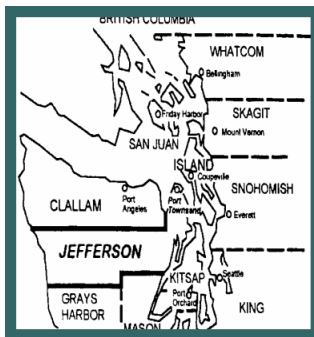
13692 Airport Cutoff Road

Hours: 11 to 4 Tuesday–Saturday

Phone (360) 385-9495

\$4.00 admission for non-members

\$2.00 children



Surname List

Tom Berg is maintaining
a list of surnames being
researched by
members of our society.

Send your updates to

P.O. Box 627

Port Townsend, WA 98368-0627

**Treasurer's Report—Respectfully submitted by Marge Samuelson, February 21, 2005.
November 18, 2004—February 21, 2005 Checks #971-986**

Beginning Balance	\$7,940.78	6 months CD	\$579.02
Income (Includes \$3,748 Seattle Foundation Income)	\$1,272.11	1 year CD	\$569.07
Expenses	\$2,312.37	1 year CD	\$772.77
Adjustment	-.37	6 months CD	\$778.43
Income less expense	-\$1,040.63	Checking	\$6,900.15
		Seattle Foundation	\$92,476.42
		Net Worth	\$102,075.86

**Jefferson County
Genealogical
Society**

PO Box 627
Port Townsend
Washington
98368-0627

Phone: 360-385-9495

We're on the Web!
[http://www.rootsweb.com/
~wajcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wajcgs)

Meetings:
*3rd Saturday of each
month
9:30 AM
Tri-Area
Community Center
Chimacum,
Washington*



Measuring in the 1780s America

“Officially, each state had adopted the system of lengths...[and] weights that Elizabeth had imposed on sixteenth-century England...In reality, barely a single unit was the same from one state to the next...A Virginia tobacco grower like Thomas Jefferson measured his crop in hogsheads, well aware that a Virginia hogshead was larger than a New York hogshead but smaller than one from Maryland, and that a tobacco hogshead from any state was a different size from a brewer’s hogshead.



A Boston brewer might also refer to his hogshead of beer as a pipe, butt, or puncheon, knowing that each of them contained 2 cooms, 4 kilderkins, 8 rundlets, or 64 gallons. But a Baltimore brewer who used the same measure somehow ended up with only 63 gallons of beer in his Maryland hogshead, while the number of gallons in a Pennsylvania brewer’s hogshead actually changed depending on where the beer was sold, because the law required innkeepers to sell beer inside the inn by the wine gallon, which was smaller than the beer gallon that had to be used by selling beer outside the inn. And the confusion over liquid measurements was nothing compared to the labyrinth of quarts, gallons, and bushels used for measuring corn or flour. Because of flaws in English legislation, each of them could be one of eight different sizes...”

Andro Linklater, “Measuring America, How an Untamed Wilderness Shaped the United States and Fulfilled the Promise of Democracy” (New York: Walker Publishing Company, Inc., 2002), 67-8.