

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



IN THE BEGINNING

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By Eileen Martin

The beginning of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society can be traced to a simple ad placed by Rose VanNoy in the Port Townsend *Leader* requesting that those who had an interest in starting a genealogy group come to a meeting at the Jefferson County Library on September 15th, 1983. The following enthusiastic genealogists came to the first meeting: Michael D. Ajax, Gladys Margaret Beveridge, Harold and Gladys Brown, Helen D. Burns, Nancy Cuddeback, Dorothy Hermanson, Frieda Imislund, Jean Jackson, Eileen Martin, Cheryl J. Miller, Illma Mund, Barbara Pleas, Jean Quackenbush, Cynthia Rowe, Violet Thompson, Rosamond VanNoy and Wilma Wright.



JCGS logo designed by Ed Mund in 1983

Suddenly the Genealogical Society was born. At the first official meeting officers were elected and the group decided to hold monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:30 PM. The officers were: President—Rosamond VanNoy, Vice President—Mike Ajax and Secretary/Treasurer—Cynthia Rowe. Dues were set at \$5.00 per year and committees were formed. The group discussed how to obtain Jefferson County records and shared surnames and areas of genealogical interest.

In early 1984 the Society was given permission to use a small area of the upstairs room at the Jefferson County Historical Society to shelve its collection of reference books and to hold monthly meetings. This was the beginning of a very valuable partnership between the Genealogical Society and the Historical Society that continues to this day. Members volunteered to be at the library Wednesdays through Fridays to help people with their genealogical research. A newsletter was soon started and Ed Mund designed the society logo. Jean Quackenbush organized research trips to the National Archives and the Seattle and Tacoma Public Libraries. Most meetings had guest speakers.

Illma Mund took a very active interest in helping the Historical Society's librarian with encapsulating newspapers and sewing in accession numbers on the clothing items in the museum. Dorothy Hermanson, Iona Cole and other volunteers took on the project of extracting obituary, birth and marriage records from the newspaper starting with 1889 editions.

The biggest project members took on in 1984 was indexing all the cemeteries in Eastern Jefferson County. Many hours were spent at the funeral homes in the area

**Research Center
Will Be Closed**

Dec. 18—Jan. 1

The Research Center will be closed for two weeks from December 18th thru January 1st.

We will get together for our annual cleaning day on December 28th (starting at 10:00 AM) so come on by if you want to join the fun



JCGS LIBRARY COLLECTION: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

by Bev Brice

The Library began with the donation of *The Handy Book for Genealogists* in 1983. Located on the 3rd floor of the Old City Hall in a corner of the Historical Society's library, we quickly grew from one shelf of books to five. Members shared what they had and by 1995 we were out of space. When the Historical Society moved to the Research Center in 2003 we moved along with them. By that time, we had about 750 items in the catalog. With the additional shelf space available in the Research Center the donations started rolling in. As of the end of October 2007, we have 1,716 items in the JCGS library catalog. These include books, CDs and periodicals as well as audio tapes.

Our collection is broader than some genealogy libraries. Items that relate to the "how to" of genealogical research and that contain records that will assist researchers are the norm. Histories from various areas are often part of a genealogical collection. In addition to these, we include social history references that will help us understand how our family members lived and why they made the choices they did in their lives. Not only does this allow us to look at family history rather than just genealogy, it also assists the research process.

As a Society we have worked long and hard to make Jefferson County information available regarding families who lived here. We are justly proud of what we have to offer. The records that we have indexed and saved from the landfill are invaluable. The number of Jefferson County books on the shelves is, however, a minor part of our total holdings. This reflects the interest of our members as most of us are researching other areas.

So what do we have— a very strong collection of genealogy reference materials. These books will help you know how to approach a research problem, and give you the facts you need to proceed. Know the name of a city but not the county? *The Township Atlas* is what you need. Looking for probate records for a county? *The Handy Book* will tell you the location. Need to understand how court records are organized in a new state you are researching? *The Red Book* gives a good description of records state by state. Stuck with needing a census in the 1890s when the federal one was lost? *State Census Records* explains what would be available in the area you are researching. Know which battles your ancestor fought in the Civil War? Come look at the books of civil war maps. If your family was born in Italy or another European country, how do you start to find them? We have Research Guides for the British Isles, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Poland, Norway, Sweden and a collection on the Germans who came to America from Russia. Researching in the various states, you might find just what you need. Look at the website to see if we have references for your particular state and country.

And what about the social history category? We have a series of *Everyday Life in America* which looks at what people ate, their houses, their occupations, their dress, etc. We have books like *The Puritan Way of Death* or *Albion's Seed* which talks about 4 groups who came to America from Britain and how they differ. We also have books specific to the Scots Irish and the German cultures in America. *The Children's Blizzard* was an experience shared by anyone living in the upper Midwest in 1888. *Westwarding Women* is a glimpse of women's lives from 1800-1915.

And what about the future? While more and more records can be found online, at recent planning sessions for the Society, you made it very clear that you like books and having a library as a home base for the Society. I am sure our library will continue as an integral part of JCGS, even as it changes with the times.

WELCOME *New JCGS* *Members*

Wayne M. Davison

Jodie Ditch

Frank John Anderson

Sandi Lopeman

Cathi Vannice

Judith Crandall Crowson

Elizabeth M. Pomeroy
Harvey

Bruce Pearson

Jon Kirshbaum

Karl F. and Linda C.
Bach

Joann Alstrup

Carol A. Baker

Connie Baumberger

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IN THE BEGINNING... (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

recording names of persons buried in the local cemeteries. Members divided into groups and walked each cemetery and recorded the information on every tombstone. Another early project, headed up by Louella Sexsmith, was to record early voters' registration information. Another group transcribed all the Jefferson County territorial censuses. The 1889 territorial census was a special project completed for the Washington State centennial celebration of 1989. In those days all the work was done by hand without the convenience of computers. Membership grew and meetings were switched to Saturday mornings. The genealogy library grew with donated and purchased books and members staffed it seven days a week. The Society purchased the United States part of the International Genealogical Index from the LDS Church. The group gained new members when they hosted annual genealogy seminars and had a booth at the County Fair.

The mutual help relationship with the Historical Society grew as Genealogy Society members helped the Historical Society librarian change the display cases upstairs in the library which told the history of Jefferson County. All the Genealogical Society members who assisted the librarian over the years gained valuable knowledge about Jefferson County. They helped researchers who came to the library whether they were looking for genealogical information or for County history. The early years of our Society were a particularly precious learning and sharing time for all the founding members. They started as strangers and grew to form lasting friendships through the fascinating hobby of genealogy.

So what has happened between 1983 and today? First, if you take a look at the JCGS scrapbook you'll see that lots of food has been consumed by the group—picnics, Christmas parties, teas and other events got the membership together. Participating in the County Fair helped us introduce the public to genealogy and gave opportunities for fun as members often dressed up to represent the times depicted in our booth. There was much laughing and camaraderie in the early days—(things never change, thank goodness!)

Coming into the computer age, we have entered all the data that had been extracted over the years, and recently added much more, into our database. We now can supply researchers with information on Jefferson County births, marriages, divorces, deaths and burials, naturalizations, real estate transactions, court cases and more from both civil and church records. Having this information at our fingertips ranks us among the best local resource in the nation.

Phil Kohl developed our website in 1998 and maintained it over the years until recently when Landon Kimbrough picked up the torch and helped us expand our website into one that can provide both members and researchers of Jefferson County families with important information.

2002 found us the recipient of a \$75,000 endowment fund, granted to us by an anonymous donor. The fund provides us income each year which has allowed the Society to expand its offerings to members and grow its library significantly. It's taken us into a new age where we, while watching our pennies, can focus on offering our members benefits rather than constant fund raising.

In 2003, JCGS moved with the Historical Society archives to our current location at the Research Center. For those who were with us before the relocation, you'll remember the cold, dark and cramped space we had at the museum. What a delightful place we now have to spend our time and share with each other! And speaking of the Research Center—it was an anonymous donation of \$200,000 provided through our Society that enabled the Historical Society to pay for the building. What a pat on our back that someone thought that much of us to help so generously!

JCGS has always been, and will always be, a group which fosters sharing among its members. Our commitment to educational programs is on-going. Monthly membership meetings, Resource Corners, Discussion Groups and our Beginning Genealogy Class are all opportunities for members to learn from each other. But by just being together, knowledge and the secrets of the genealogy game rub off on all of us. We hope everyone will take advantage of the wealth of information other members have.

For the future—we're looking at an expansion of the Research Center by the Historical Society which is ex-

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DON'T MISS IT!

JCGS has a full schedule of events for the coming quarter. You can refer to the calendar in this issue for dates and times (don't forget to mark your calendars). Some of the special things coming up include our monthly meetings, discussion groups and resource corners which warrant a little extra explanation.

December Meeting: Holiday Open House at the Research Center—bring a goodie and share some of your family traditions.

January Meeting: "Postcards, letters and Diaries". Bring your treasured postcards, letters, diaries and other writings of your ancestors to share with other members.

February Meeting: Real Robles, owner of Kosec Funeral Home will provide insights for genealogists into the value of records from funeral homes, tombstone markers and cemeteries.

Writing Your Family History Discussion Group: share your knowledge and gain insights into writing your family story (whether for publication or for family members).

Regional Research Discussion Group: Many of us have relatives that live in Canada, so the focus of the discussion group will be Canadian research. Come prepared to share the records you have used, general references of interest and other insights regarding researching in Canada.

December Resource Corner: The Research Center will be closed, so there is no Resource Corner this month.

January Resource Corner: Lesa Barnes has agreed to share her research odyssey involving the Harris family. She has used land, tax, court and other records in her exhaustive search for this family. An excellent example of how to leave no stones unturned. In addition to seeing her use of records, Lesa will share with us how she has organized and analyzed the large amount of data she has collected.

February Resource Corner: We'll share information on how to best search on-line library catalogs to find just the record we need. Jesse Stewart will lead us through finding what holdings at local libraries might help us as well as locating the microfilms that are available through the vast catalog of the Family History Library. Time permitting, we'll talk about searching the internet.

December Research Trip: A visit to the Seattle Public Library and it's wealth of genealogical resources.

February Research Trip: We'll go to the Fiske Genealogical Library for the lecture (topic unknown at this time) and a day of searching through its excellent collection.



Fiske Genealogical Library

SUGGESTIONS NEEDED

We have the money budgeted to buy another subscription to a genealogical website for the JCGS computers! We need your ideas. Currently we subscribe to *Ancestry*, *New England Historic Genealogical Society*, *Newspaper Archives* and *World Vital Records*.

What else would you like us to subscribe to?

More New Members

Larry Costello

Gloria Doyle

Roger Gray

Margie Huetter

ElizaBeth Mosely

Hazel A. Murphy

Libby Reid

Barbara Richardson

Joan Sanford

Rae Watkins

Margaret Williams

Theodore Carlat

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER * JANUARY * FEBRUARY

Date	MEETINGS AT RESEARCH CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS ABOUT MEETINGS)
3 December	Research Trip: Seattle Public Library
7 December	Program Committee Meeting 9:30 AM
8 December	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group 10:00 AM
15 December	Monthly Meeting—Christmas Party Open House Research Center
18 December—1 January	Research Center Closed
4 January	Program Committee Meeting 9:30 AM
11 January	Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 AM
12 January	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group 10:00 AM
18 January	Regional Research Discussion Group: Researching in Canada 10:00 AM
19 January	Monthly Meeting—Postcards, Letters and Diaries Tri-Area Community Center 9:30 AM
26 January	Resource Corner: Difficult Research—Putting Families Together 10:00 AM
1 February	Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 AM
2 February	Library Volunteer Training Day
6 February	Research Trip: Fiske Genealogical Library
7 February	Library Committee Meeting 10:00 AM
9 February	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group 10:00 AM
15 February	Regional Research Discussion Group: Researching in Canada 10:00 AM
16 February	Monthly Meeting—Funeral Homes, Cemeteries and Tombstones Tri-Area Community Center 9:30 AM
23 February	Resource Corner: Searching On-Line Library Catalogs 10:00 AM
29 February	Program Committee Meeting 9:30 AM

NEW BOOKS IN THE JCGS LIBRARY

Since August we have 42 new references in the JCGS Library to help you with your research. The books were purchased with JCGS funds or donated by the following members: Pat Stromberg, Bev Brice, Eileen Martin, Sue Hall, Harlean Hamilton, Marge Samuelson, Joyce Blankenship and Don Yantz. Thank you one and all for your generosity.

Take a look at the list below and then visit the Research Center:

United States Research

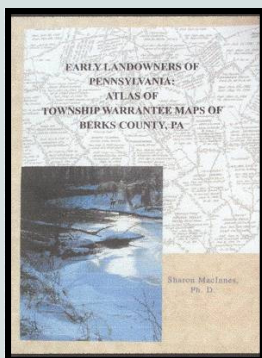
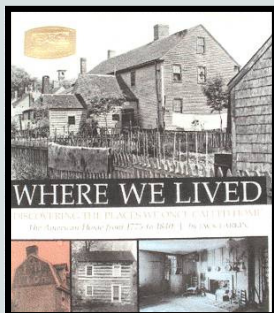
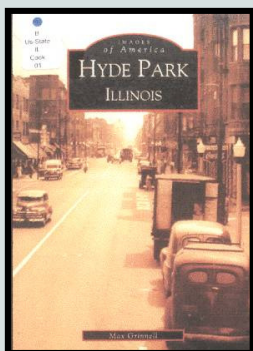
- **Alabama:** *Index Alabama Wills 1808-1870* (FTM CD)
- **New England** additions include the latest volume of *Great Migration* (volume 5, families M-P), *Local & Family Histories: New England, 1600's-1900's* (FTM CD)
- **New Jersey** early land records are complete with the two volumes for East New Jersey 1737-1747 and 1763-1766. The bad news is that only about one-fourth of early land records were recorded in New Jersey, but it's worth taking a look.
- **Pennsylvania** families can be found in the following: *Abstracts of Lancaster Co. Deeds 1770-1789*, *County and Family Histories: PA 1740-1900* (FTM CD), *Early Landowners of PA Atlas of Berks Co.*, and *Land Records-Bucks and Lancaster Counties PA 1682-1825* (FTM CD)
- **Virginia** researchers will be happy to see the final volume of *Adventurers of Purse and Person*. In addition we have purchased Volumes 4 and 5 of *Cavaliers and Pioneers*. Both of these authors provide abstracts of deeds and other early records. Also take a look at *Genealogical Records: Virginia Land, Marriage, Probate Records 1639-1850* (FTM CD).
- **Tennessee:** *Tennessee Settlers & Their Descendants*
- **Mid-Atlantic** region coverage is strengthened further by *Mid-Atlantic Genealogies 1340-1940* (FTM CD) and *The History of Western Maryland* (PDF CD). Unfortunately the last one cannot be searched for a surname.
- **Mid-West** research can be done in the following references: *Marriages Index IL, IN, KY, OH, TN 1720-1926* (FTM CD), *Finding Your Chicago Ancestors*, and *Images of America Hyde Park, Illinois*.
- **Nevada:** This "how to" book is a good one, *Nevada Guide to Genealogical Records*.

German Research

- Working on German families? Henry Z. Jones is the expert on New York Ger-

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New Library



Books

WANTED

Members with some research experience willing to volunteer in the Genealogical Society Library at the Research Center at least 2 days a month.

You are asked to come once a week for four weeks to receive training in the operations of the library. Besides the satisfaction of assisting fellow researchers you have a chance to learn Jefferson County history and take advantage of the library resources for your own research.

Contact Bev at bb@olympus.net or 360-385-6599

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

by Jesse Stewart

As we head into a new year, I'm delighted to remind everyone that this is officially JCGS' **25th** year of operation! Some of the original members and many others who joined in the early years are still affiliated with our Society — that sure says something about our group!

As a relative newcomer to JCGS, I've benefited from all the hard work and creativity that's come before me. We have an incredible collection of data on Jefferson County residents, and when you combine our material with the resources of the Historical Society, I think we offer researchers more than I've found in other societies anywhere. Way to go Eileen Martin, Lora Eccles and members of the Research Committee past and present!

In this newsletter, we're hearing from some people who have been among the "movers and shakers" of JCGS for a long time. Eileen Martin who reminisced about the start of our Society was there right at the beginning. Marge Samuelson, a long time member, has a unique insight into our group and our valuable relationship with the Jefferson County Historical Society. As an employee of JCHS and a volunteer at JCGS she's seen both sides and has been a pivotal factor in our partnership. Her article on page 9 illustrates how, within a year of its beginning, JCGS had established its strong relationship with JCHS—providing volunteers to "man" the research center in exchange for library and meeting space. A great relationship that continues to this day.

And, although our library collection is not as expansive as we'd like it to be, it's growing dramatically and will continue to expand through donations, the 50/50 program and purchases by the Society. Our ability to offer members free use of Ancestry, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Newspaper Archives and World Vital Records subscription websites is a significant benefit of membership. Bev Brice has really made our library a place to go for researching!

Opportunities for continued learning and getting assistance from others are unsurpassed in our Society. Discussion groups, monthly meetings and Resource Corners allow members to grow in their genealogical knowledge and skills. Our Program Committee, previously chaired by Carrie Wooten, but now headed by Eileen Martin, continues to find exceptional speakers and topics, and Bev Brice has identified creative subjects (and great leaders) for our Resource Corners. We're looking forward to having additional learning opportunities through group class-taking, such as what a few of us did with the Transcribing course at Lesa Barnes' suggestion. Finally, we hope that you find the newsletter informative.

I encourage you all to take advantage of the great things JCGS has to offer! And, consider helping out JCGS by volunteering at the Research Center or doing other "jobs" such as ordering supplies, data entry, indexing the *Leader* or walking cemeteries to update our listings.

JCGS has been able to become what it is and continue to grow partly due to a healthy treasury. The Seattle Foundation recently provided an annual distribution of \$3,779 to be applied to our special projects budget. Funds deposited in the Seattle Foundation in our behalf total \$122,764.18 and money distributed among our various bank accounts totals \$16,180.74. We transferred our Reserve Fund to a short term CD to garner more interest for the Society. The Beginning Genealogy Class produced revenue of \$630 and the cost of setting up our workstation in the back of the Research Center was substantially below estimate, due in no small part to Tom Berg's cabinetry skills (great job, Tom!). Due to our solid financial position, JCGS will be able to continue offering subscription websites (such as Ancestry.com and NEHGS) to our members for free. In 2007, we were able to purchase \$1500 worth of books for our library and make a major update to the computer software used for our Jefferson County records.

It's impossible to thank everyone who has made JCGS what it is— there are so many who have contributed over the years.

THANKS to all of those who have spent countless hours creating a great Society!

And, a personal thanks to the Executive Committee of JCGS who have been supportive of me in my efforts as your President—Eileen Martin, Eunice Franklin, Mimi Starks, Al Standish, Bev Brice, Lora Eccles, Tom Berg, Marge Samuelson and Harlean Hamilton have helped me and JCGS immensely!

NEW BOOKS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)

mans and we have all of his books: *The Palatine Families of New York* (2 volumes), *More Palatine Families* (1 volume), *Even More Palatine Families* (3 volumes)

- *East Prussians From Russia* completes a set of books on Germans from Russia

English Research

- *Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers* is a complete listing of parishes in England

Military Record Research

- *Military Records Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865* (FTM CD)
- *Military Records Massachusetts Civil War Soldiers & Sailors 1861-1865* (FTM CD)
- *Military Records US Soldiers 1784-1811* (FTM CD)
- *United Empire Loyalists* (2 volumes in one)

Immigration Record Research

- *Passenger Immigration Lists: Boston 1821-1850* (CD)

Genealogies on Jefferson County Families

- *Moving West III The Genealogy Legend from Baptiste Lajoie (Lashua) to Anita June Lashua* by Don Yantz
- *The Alphabet of My Life*, autobiography by Joyce Blankenship

These are good examples of creative ways to write a family history as well as interesting for those with local families.

Reference

- Finding people in contemporary times can be harder than finding people from the Mayflower. These “how to” books should help: *How to Locate Anyone who has been in the Military* and *Locating Lost Family Members & Friends*. We all need help in getting through “brick walls” and these references are highly recommended: *The Family Tree Problem Solver* and *The Genealogist’s Question & Answer Book*

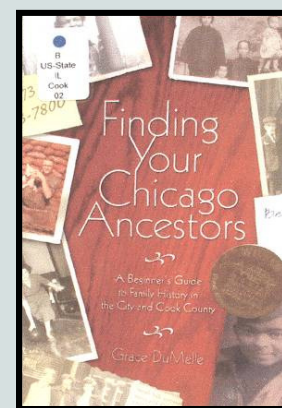
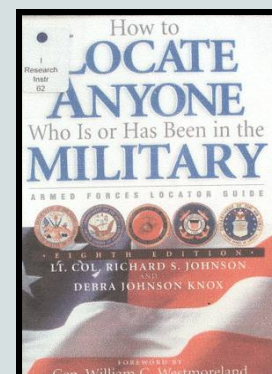
US General

- When you write family history you need a background on the kinds of houses people lived in. This book has excellent pictures and text—*Where We Lived*.

IN THE BEGINNING... (CONT.)

(Continued from page 3)

pected to give us more “public” space. While the main objective of the expansion is to house the Historical Society’s collection and provide conservator space, we’ll be a big beneficiary as we should have even more “elbow room” with a meeting space and more. What a great opportunity for us. There will be more looking to the future during our 25th year—keep on the look out for it.



More new library books

WORKING TOGETHER

by Marge Samuelson

One of the first library volunteers for JCGS was long time member Illma Munn. She has many stories to tell of those early days alone on the third floor of the museum. Illma and many other volunteers have put in countless hours to make JCGS a strong organization while also supporting the Historical Society. After 25 years that working relationship has resulted in both societies growing and giving back to the community an amazing knowledge of the history of Jefferson County.

The Minutes from the Jefferson County Historical Society show the process by which JCGS attained space in the JCHS Library.

JCHS Minutes November 11, 1983— “Jefferson County Genealogical Society Re-Organizing—It is the request of Rose VanNoy to establish their public research library within ours. It was decided that we should establish some guidelines and have a written agreement as to who is handling what”.

JCHS Minutes December 14, 1983— “Illene [sic] Martin, standing in for the president of the Genealogical Society, presented a written proposal to the Historical Society concerning a plan for cooperation between the two groups. The Board voted to approve the proposal and Jim Hermanson was asked to review the proposal and make detailed recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.”

JCHS Minutes January 11, 1984— “Mr. Hermanson reported that the proposed agreement submitted to the board by the Genealogical Society had been reviewed. Trustee Simpson had added the stated purposes of both organizations. The proposed agreement as amended was recommended for approval. The board voted unanimously to approve the agreement subject to review of the instrument by attorney Wilcox with regard to materials not being removed from the museum premises and provisions concerning the terms of termination should that eventuality ever occur.”

JCGS Minutes February 8, 1984— “The President signed the Historical Society’s agreement with the Genealogical Society.”

Officers

President	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103
Vice President	Eileen Martin	eileenm@olypen.com	385-0673
Treasurer	Al Standish	kastandish@waypoint.com	437-7789
Recording Secretary	Eunice Franklin	rfranklin@cablespeed.com	379-8392
Corresponding Secretary	Mimi Starks	mkstarks@olypen.com	385-2223

Contact Persons

Executive Committee	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103
Members’ Books	Pam Wilson	kc7pme@tscnet.com	697-3822
Library Vol. Coordinator	Bev Brice	bb@olympus.net	385-6599
Librarian	Bev Brice	bb@olympus.net	385-6599
Newsletter Editor	Karen Driscoll	plumwild@olypen.com	732-4426
Researcher	Joan Buhler	jaybee@macaid.com	385-0849
Cemeteries	Eileen Martin	eileenm@olypen.com	385-0673
Research & Obituaries	Lora Eccles	lora@cablespeed.com	344-4860
Programs	Eileen Martin	eileenm@olypen.com	385-0673
Trip Coordinator	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103
Membership	Tom Berg	grebmot@olypen.com	379-2577

JEFFERSON COUNTY

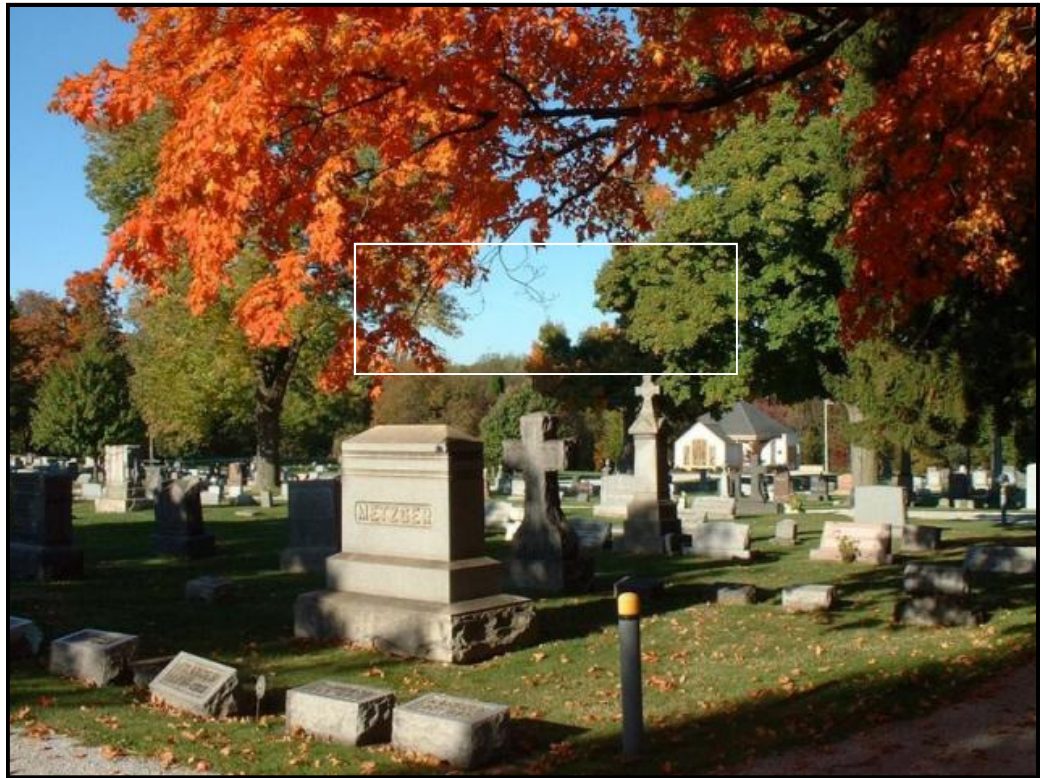
**Research Center
Location & Hours**

13692 Airport Cutoff Road

Hours: 11 to 4
Tuesday – Saturday

\$4.00 admission for
non-members
\$2.00 children

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



ANNUAL SEMINAR—MARCH 8, 2008

Meetings:

**3rd Saturday
of every month
9:30 AM**

**Tri-Area
Community
Center**

**Chimacum
Washington**

**Visitors
Welcome**

Elizabeth Shown Mills CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA, the author of such genealogical standards as *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* and *Professional Genealogy: A manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers and Librarians* as well as the historical novel, *Isle of Canes*, and over 500 journal and magazine articles related to family history will be our speaker. Cited by her colleagues as "...the person who has had the most impact on family history in the post-'Roots' era", Ms Mills' accomplishments in and contribution to the field of genealogy are too numerous to mention.

Ms Mills will help us find those elusive ancestors using common records and advanced techniques. We'll learn how to build a case when no record states the answer and tips for identifying the women in our lives.

The Seminar will be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Oscar Erickson Building with registration beginning at 8:30 AM. Space is limited so get your registration in early. Registrations forms will be available on the JCGS website and at the Resource Center.

