

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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LINDESNES LIGHTHOUSE - COMING HOME

By Pam Wilson

Over 30 years ago I never dreamed I would travel to Lindesnes Lighthouse in Norway where my great - great- grandfather Olaus Blekum was lighthouse keeper. Built in 1655, the site is the oldest lighthouse station in Norway. The light originally used candles to warn ships at sea. Two coal fires, in open grates placed directly on the ground, were lit on Feb 1, 1725. In 1822 it was fitted with a coal lamp and in 1854 the current Fresnel lens was installed. The old coal fire lantern from 1822 and its foundation have been preserved and sit slightly above the new light which was built in 1915.



Today the lighthouse is a National Heritage Site, and the original lighthouse keeper cottages are still in use. The offices and museum are housed in the head lighthouse keeper's cottage (where Olaus and his family lived) and half of the second cottage is used by the keeper and half is rented to guests. There is a visitor center, gift shop and a quaint café where you can buy Norwegian Waffles served with jam.

I began my genealogy research in 1974 and bought the first edition of Family Tree Maker when it was released. I was especially interested in my family that immigrated to Seattle from Norway. Olaus and his wife Karen Petrea Nielsen Blekum had 11 children, 8 of whom survived to adulthood. Olaus Blekum was born 1840 in Kongsberg, Norway and was married to Karen Petrea Nielsen in 1863. In the 1865 Norwegian census Olaus was a constable in Kongsberg. Sent to Lindesnes in 1879 by the Coast Guard Service, he was head lighthouse keeper there until 1911. My great grandfather, Harald Oscar Blekum was born in 1865. He left Norway at the age of 14 and worked as a cabin boy, surviving 3 shipwrecks. When he returned to Norway he entered the school of navigation in Mandal, Norway. After completion of his "first class seaman" training he sailed on several different ves-

(Continued on page 3)



Happy New Year!

Remember...

*The Research Center
reopens*

Jan 2, 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

By Marge Samuelson

Another year, where do they go? This will be another exciting year for the Jefferson County Genealogical Society, we have a new president, **Paula McNeese**, (I will be vice-president), and a new treasurer, **Barb Peterson**. Thank you both for stepping up. In January I will be taking over the job of Research Center genealogy volunteers, doing the scheduling and training of new volunteers. Bev has earned a rest after so many years at this job. She will still be the Librarian at the RC, making sure the right books are ordered and the computers are up to date. Thank you Bev for being such an inspiration to all of us, and of course all your hard work. **Ray Thompson** has volunteered to do the updates, new software etc. Thank you Ray.

Visit our wonderful library and if you would like to volunteer we have many tasks that need doing.

Our Volunteers - We Have The Best....

....group of volunteers who staff the Research Center! Their efforts make it possible for JCGS to share the wonderful space at the Research Center that allows us to have our library and classes. JCGS has a written agreement with the Historical Society, calling upon us to provide two volunteers five days a week between 11:00 and 4:00. The following members put their bodies on the line for us all: **Linda Atkins, Lesa Barnes, Cathy Beatty-O'Shea, Tom Berg, Betty Bobo, Harlean Hamilton, Denise Leonard, Lorrell Louchard, Paula McNeese, Eileen Martin, Charlie Petersen, Dave Sachi, Sue Snyder, Al Standish, Jesse Stewart, Pam Stinson, Marge Samuelson, Mary Stolaas, and Pam Wilson**. It is my pleasure to work with the crew. Thank You, Bev Brice

Help Wanted! - Publicity Writer

Your Society is in need of a volunteer who enjoys writing to help create publicity notices for our events. Training will be provided. If you can help please contact Paula McNeese at 385-3453 or ponemcneese@waypt.com

Beginning Genealogy Class: An Introduction to Family History

Once again we will be offering the Beginning Genealogy Class. A great way to start learning about your family or as a refresher for those who have done some work. This five week class is designed to provide an overview of the basic steps for successful genealogical research. We will include successful use of online resources.

The class will be held on five Monday afternoons Jan 28th thru Feb 25th 2013 from 1:00 to 3:30 at the Research Center. The cost is \$30 for Genealogy Society members and \$50 for one non-member or \$60 for family groupings (one year membership included in cost). The class is limited to 18 students. **Registration will be accepted through Jan 18, 2013.**

Get your registration in before Jan. 18 to ensure a place in the class. The registration form is available at our website wajcgs.org or at the Research Center. Mail it with your check to: **JCGS, PO Box 627, Port Townsend, WA 98368**. For questions call **Eileen 385-0673** or **Bev 385-6599**.

LINDESNES LIGHTHOUSE - COMING HOME (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

sels to ports in France, Spain and the Baltic. He came to New York in 1884 and made three round trip voyages on the White Star Line's "Britannic" from New York to Liverpool. He sailed around the horn in the fall of 1884 to Seattle where he served as a harbor pilot for naval and merchant vessels on Puget Sound. Harold married Minnie (Ingeborg Thomine Tonessen) Thompson in 1891 at Port Blakely, Bainbridge Island and they had four children; their youngest daughter, Karen Petrea Blekum, was my paternal grandmother. In 1893 Harold became part owner in the Stevenson and Blekum Tug Company until 1912. Harold's oldest brother Einar also became a ship captain and immigrated to the U.S. in 1899 along with a sister Othilie, and two brothers Olaf and Bjarne. Sisters Augusta and Marie and brother Sverre remained in Norway.

I spent many hours in the Family History Library pouring over the Parish records of both Minnie and Harold's families. The internet enabled me to more easily research the parish records of Norway and I was able to locate my ancestors in 1865, 1875 and 1900. Even though I do not read or speak Norwegian I was able to spot my family names in the records and was able to trace Olaus and Karen Petrea's parents. I joined the Norway List and was able to contact someone who had a bygdebok (parish history book) for Minnie's Tonessen/Torkildsen family and have lineage back to 1719.

This year my daughter Tawny asked me if I would take a trip to Norway with her. I was very reluctant as I had not flown in over 20 years but she twisted my arm and we made reservations for August of this year. I found on the internet that the keeper cottage at Lindesnes could be rented so I contacted the keeper there and explained that I was the great great granddaughter of Olaus Blekum. He immediately offered us the rooms for free for 4 days. Our family had several letters, written by Olaus to his son Einar, from 1903-1907 which we decided to donate to the museum at the lighthouse. We also brought with us a small Blekum family leather prayer book, dated 1879, that we felt could be best cared for by the museum.



On August 10 we flew into Oslo, and spent two days exploring the city. We then drove five hours to the town of Kristiansand. From there we drove to Mandal and on August 14 we arrived at Lindesnes Lighthouse. From the minute we arrived we were treated like royalty. The cottage was fully furnished and sits on the rocks just below the lighthouse with breathtaking views of the sea and surrounding area. We were given a private tour of the lighthouse, including inside the Fresnel lens which was the original lens in place when Olaus was keeper. The current lighthouse was built in 1915 shortly after Olaus passed away.

(Continued on page 9)

DON'T MISS IT!

Monthly Meetings (Tri-Area Community Center, 10:00 AM)

January 19

Archiving Documents & Heirlooms. Bring an item you would like to preserve/archive, and Laura Reutter, an experienced museum conservator, will guide us through the best options for ensuring it is well cared for. Not only do paper and photographic heirlooms need protection – so do quilts & other fabrics, furniture, books, paintings, silver, household goods and personal items. What is the best way to ensure they last for future generations to enjoy? Laura will help us find out!

February 16

Using Tax Records. During our Brick Wall meeting in November, tax records were discussed as a way to track our ancestors and learn about them. Jesse Stewart will reprise her presentation based on late 18th and early 19th century personal property tax records, mostly from Pennsylvania. Some interesting tidbits as well as important information on one's ancestors can be gleaned from these often overlooked records.

March 16

ANNUAL SEMINAR. Mary Slawson will be our guest speaker. See the separate notice on page 12.

April 20

Exploring Your Family Photographs. Pam Wilson, JCGS's in-house photo expert, will lead us through techniques in dating photos and identifying the people in them. Many of us have photographs that were handed down in the family, but we have no idea when they might have been taken or who the people might be – right? Well, Pam will help answer these questions using our own photos. So if you have a photograph that needs dating or help in sorting out people, send a digitized copy to her at pamelalearywilson@gmail.com by Wednesday, March 20.

Resource Corners (Research Center, 9:30 AM)

January 26: Googling Your Family. Megan Cate will lead us through ways to successfully find information on our families using Google searches. We all “google”, but do we conduct searches that lead to the answers we need? Join us to learn how to search the internet effectively for our family's history.

February 23: Family Tree Maker. Member Laurie Neuenschwander will walk us through the features of Family Tree Maker software. If you use FTM, this will be a great review of some items you may have overlooked; if you are thinking of using FTM, this will be a good overview of the software; and, if you use another software program for keeping your records, you may pick up some hints that are applicable to your program as well.

March 30: Swedish Research. Diane Young has done extensive research on her Swedish ancestors – both from sources available in the US and in Sweden itself. It's always valuable to have someone with experience help you figure out what resources are available and where they may be found, so if you have Swedish ancestors, this is for you! If there is interest among our members, a discussion group on Swedish Research will be formed following this Resource Corner.

April 27: Topic to be announced.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY - APRIL

DATE	ALL MEETINGS START AT 9:30 AM AND ARE HELD AT THE RESEARCH CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
Wed. Jan. 2	Research Center reopens
Sat. Jan. 5	Wild West Discussion Group
Sat. Jan. 12	Writers Discussion Group
Fri. Jan. 18	New Netherland Discussion Group
Sat. Jan. 19	Monthly Mtg.: Archiving Documents & Heirlooms - Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Jan. 26	Resource Corner: Googling Your Family
Sat. Feb. 2	Wild West Discussion Group
Sat. Feb. 9	Writers Discussion Group
Fri. Feb. 15	New Netherland Discussion Group
Sat. Feb 16	Monthly Mtg.: Using Tax Records- Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Feb. 23	Resource Corner: Family Tree Maker
Sat. Mar. 2	Wild West Discussion Group
Sat. Mar. 9	Writers Discussion Group
Fri. Mar. 15	New Netherland Discussion Group
Sat. Mar. 16	Monthly Mtg.: ANNUAL SEMINAR - Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Mar. 30	Resource Corner: Swedish Research
Sat. Apr. 6	Wild West Discussion Group
Sat. Apr. 13	Writers Discussion Group
Fri. Apr. 19	New Netherland Discussion Group
Sat. Apr. 20	Monthly Mtg.: Exploring Your Family Photographs- Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Apr. 27	Resource Corner: Topic to be Announced

NEW NETHERLAND DISCUSSION GROUP

by Bill Conklin

Our group is small but our ancestors were big, that is, our New Netherland ancestors who colonized what was to become New York City. New Netherland was the Dutch colony whose southern border was the Delaware River, its central river the Hudson and its eastern border the Connecticut River. Our ancestors came from the Netherlands in the early-to-mid seventeenth century to find more prosperous lives and from France (Huguenots) to escape religious persecution. Together they and many other nationalities formed vibrant communities of farmers, tanners, prostitutes, wheelwrights, brewers, traders and merchants that would in years to come be the envy of the world.

Look at your family tree. Maybe you have obvious Dutch surnames such as Roosevelt, Stuyvesant, Schuyler or Van Buren, or perhaps you have ancestors with English-sounding surnames such as Bruce, Boyle, Garrison, King, Loomis, Pike and Smith that originally may have been the Dutch surnames Brusse, Buriel, Gerritsen, Konig, Luimes, Piek and Smit. When Dutch people arrived in the colonies, often their surnames were changed. This was either done on purpose to make the name easier to write and remember or by accident because the clerk didn't know how to spell the name and wrote it down phonetically.

The New Netherland Group meets on the third Friday of each month at the Research Center at 9:30 AM. We discuss our research, our frustrations, our successes, and we share as much information as we can to help each other keep our family trees healthy and growing.

I joined the group about a year ago out of curiosity. My family tree was largely seventeenth century New England ancestors, but then my eyes were opened to my New Netherland ancestors. I've been on an exciting research adventure ever since that has reintroduced me to New Netherland and New York history and introduced me to numerous Dutch and Huguenot ancestors. Please consider joining the New Netherland Group this year. There's no commitment, and you may discover a new branch in your family tree.

Other Discussion Groups

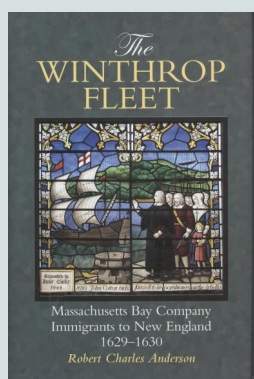
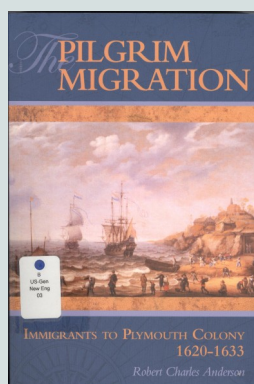
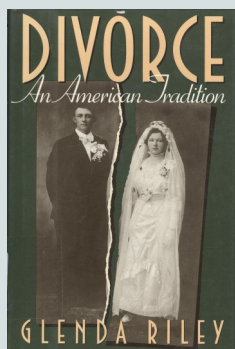
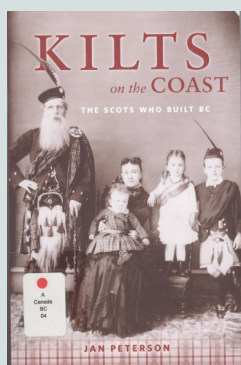
Wild West: First Saturday of the month. (Jan 5, Feb 2, March 2, April 6 – 9:30 at the Research Center)
Ann Candioto coordinates this discussion group designed for those who have families west of the Mississippi River. The group considers questions such as: Why did our ancestors move? Was non-conformist religion a common experience of these families? When did the railroad develop in different areas of the West? And we want to learn more about surveying, what was it like to be a surveyor and what was the impact on communities? You get the idea!

Writer's Group: Second Saturday of the month (Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, April 13 – 9:30 at the Research Center)
We explore the many ways to tell your family story. The discussion will help you consider what will work for you and how to go about it. The group is open to new members at all times, some come and stay while others come for a session or two and move on. Give us a try!

Afternoon Writer's Group: Time and place TBD
Phyllis Scidmore is coordinating a meeting in the afternoons. Contact her for information about the time and place of the meetings. bpscidmore@olympus.net.

New Netherland Group: Third Friday of the month (Jan 18, Feb 15, March 15, April 19 – 9:30 at the Research Center)

New Books



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Thanks to our donors for adding to our library collection. Your generosity is the fuel for growing the collection. JCGS does purchase some books during the year, but thanks to you we have added 134 books through November 2012.

Title	Author	Comments
Your Ancient Canadian Family Ties	Olivier, Reginald L	
Canadian History For Dummies	Ferguson, Will	A good way to do your homework for Canadian research
Kilts On The Coast The Scots Who Built BC	Peterson, Jan	Scots who were early settlers on Vancouver Island
Family Maps Of McDonough County, Illinois	Boyd, Gregory A	This series allows you to place your families from land holdings
Indiana Vital Statistics Marriages Index, 1850-1920, CD Disk 1: A-K; Disk 2:L-Z	Heritage Quest	Use CD at the Research Center or load a viewer to see it at home.
Gathering of the Trades People Early and Pre-history of Paintsville and Johnson County, Kentucky	Wells, J K	
Divorce An American Tradition	Riley, Glenda	Discussion of customs and laws from early days to modern times.

Remember, members can check out books for 2 weeks.

Eunice Franklin Memorial Collection

Thanks to the generosity of numerous members, we have purchased the following books which will have a bookplate indicating they are part of this collection. Thanks everyone, Eunice is smiling up there!!

The Pilgrim Migration, Robert Charles Anderson

The Winthrop Fleet, Robert Charles Anderson

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790, Edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann

From Deference to Defiance, Charlestown, MA 1629-1692, Roger Thompson

Stamford (CT) town Records vol. 1 1641-1723, Transcribed and annotated by Paul R. Finch

York Co Maine Will Abstracts 1801-1858, 2 volumes, Joseph Crook Anderson II

Marriage Returns of Lincoln Co Maine, Judith Holbrook Kelley and Clayton Rand Adams

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORY

Point Wilson Lighthouse - The Lighthouse Keepers

By Marge Samuelson

Lighthouses have been in the world a long time. Before lighthouses, fires were built at the water's edge to warn mariners of danger. The first lighthouse was built by the Egyptians. In 283 they completed the tallest lighthouse ever built, it guided ships for over 1,500 years and stood 900 feet. Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans also constructed lighthouses. (source: <http://library.thinkquest.org/>)

The lighthouse service was established in the U.S. in 1789. Of the twelve built, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse in New Jersey, built in 1764, is the only one that has survived. Most were built of wood or rubble stone. In 1852 the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment became the U.S. Lighthouse Board. The country was divided into 12 lighthouse districts. In 1866 this was increased to 16. On July 1, 1903 it was turned over to the Department of Commerce and Labor. Eventually this was called just the Department of Commerce. In 1939 this was abolished and lighthouses were turned over to the Coast Guard.

Point Wilson was named by George Vancouver in honor of his friend Capt. Geo. Wilson of the British Navy. The original Point Wilson Lighthouse was built in 1879, including a keeper's dwelling with a square tower above that held the light. On December 15, 1879, Laurence Nessel, lighthouse keeper at Admiralty head four miles away, noted in his log "Light at Point Wilson in operation for first time." The keeper's job was to warn ships when fog came up by lighting the light, ringing bells every hour or shooting cannons.

The Lighthouse service appointed **David M. Littlefield**, a Civil War veteran, as the first keeper with a salary of \$800 a year. He served until 1884, when he left the service. He remained in Port Townsend where he was a Jefferson County Sheriff, Mayor, City Councilman and Collector of Customs. (source: <http://www.historylink.org/>)

William H. Jakins served for six months in 1884. He died May 8, 1888, at age 52.

George Draper served probably as an assistant keeper in 1882 but eventually as Lighthouse Keeper until 1886. He was formerly a keeper at the Tatoosh Lighthouse.

Edmund Bailey served from 1888 to 1894 with **Edward Scannell**, who served as his assistant from 1887 to 1894. Scannell also served at Point No Point and the Admiralty Lighthouse.

Hans P. Score took over the job in 1894. He stayed until 1898, when he announced he would like to enlist in the war (Spanish American or War of the Philippines). He later served in the lighthouse service in Clallam County and at Fort Casey on Whidbey Island.

Charles A. Sheldon served for a short time in 1898 and 1899 with **Charles J. Smith** as his assistant light keeper. Smith then served with **Thomas J. Stitt** until he left in 1903 and entered the Customs Service.

Thomas J. Stitt served at Point Wilson for over thirteen years. He also served as assistant Light Keeper at Tatoosh. During his time at Point Wilson he was divorced and lived at the Lighthouse with his four children. In 1913 he transferred to Burroughs Island, near Anacortes, where he died in 1920.

In 1914 a new lighthouse was built.

W.J. Thomas served from 1914 to 1926, when he resigned. He also served as keeper at Burrows Point on Rosario Strait and West Point near Seattle.

Mort Galvin took over the job of Point Wilson Lighthouse Keeper July 20, 1926, and served until November 1, 1932. Previously he served at the Marrowstone lighthouse for about seven years. He served in the Spanish War, where he received the Dewey Metal of Honor award.

Merrill Dudley Spencer served as head keeper from 1932 to 1935. He also served as assistant keeper for five years under Mort Galvin. Previously he was stationed at Cape Meares, Oregon, near Tillamook.

Carl Lien was head keeper in 1935 with **Rudolph Toman** as his assistant. In 1939 the Coast Guard took over operation and maintenance from the Lighthouse Service. Three Coast Guard men were also stationed at the lighthouse.

"Rudy" Toman joined the Coast Guard in 1941 and when Carl Lien retired in October of 1943, Rudy took over as head lighthouse keeper. **Ted Menzoni** joined him as the assistant lighthouse keeper. Rudy retired in 1950.

By 1951 the U.S. Coast Guard had taken over the running of the lighthouse.

Today a computer at the Coast Guard Station in Port Angeles maintains the light; the Coast Guard left in 2000. The State of Washington was considering making it part of Fort Worden State Park. But, by 2007 engineers recommended that because of erosion, the building needed to be moved further back from the water, at a cost of \$3 to \$5 million dollars, and the scheduled review was delayed.

(sources: JCGS Kiosk, JCHS Archives, Port Townsend Leaders housed at the JCHS Research Center.)

Lindesnes Lighthouse- Coming Home (cont.)



Olaus Blekum



Karen Petrea Blekum



Harold Blekum



Bjarne & Olaf Blekum



Einar Blekum

During our visit the two lighthouse keepers Rolf Dybvik and Kjell Olsen helped us to locate the burial place of Sverre Blekum and his wife but we were unable to find the final resting place of Olaus and Karen Petrea. We were told that in Norway, after 50 years the headstones can be removed and the burial plots are re-used, space being an issue in a small country. I was disappointed to learn that the old headstones are ground down and reused also, so there most likely will be no trace of the monuments of my ancestors.

On our second day at the lighthouse we were showered with gifts and treated to a traditional Norwegian breakfast. We were served smoked fish, laks (smoked salmon), cheese, fruit, jam, tomatoes and fresh bread- "fyrbrod" or lighthouse bread made of seawater and seaweed. My daughter Tawny and I, the museum curator, the site director, the lighthouse keepers and a reporter from the local Spangereid Newspaper enjoyed the meal together. The reporter wrote a wonderful article which was published shortly after we returned home. An article and photo about our visit also appeared on the lighthouse webpage.

From my bedroom window each night I could see the bright beam of the Lindesnes Lighthouse, flashing every 20 seconds to warn ships of the dangerous rocks which form the coastline of Norway. The beauty and peace of the site where my great- great- grandfather kept watch over the light over 130 years ago, has changed very little.

As we drove away from the lighthouse there were tears in my eyes, it was truly like leaving home.



Jefferson County Research Newspaper Indexing

By Bev Brice

New Members

WELCOME!

Louise Walczak

*Richard & Betty
Southard*

Dominica Cranor

Victoria Hodson

Leslie DeLorenzo

Diane McDade

*Phyllis Weisen-
burger*

Barbara Wagner

Leigh Kennel

Newspapers, under several names, have been published in Jefferson County since 1871. Just think of the wealth of genealogical information contained on those pages! There has been a strong push to get newspapers scanned and posted online in recent years, but the cost of doing that is prohibitive for a county the size of ours. What to do?

First, the good news is that most of these papers have been preserved in bound volumes and the years 1889- 1992 have been microfilmed. Those from 1993 to 2011 are in bound volumes. These are all held by the Jefferson County Historical Society. As a benefit of the working agreement between the Genealogical and Historical Societies, they are available for the use of genealogical researchers at the Research Center.

At least 20 years ago JCGS volunteers started indexing this valuable collection of newspapers. The emphasis began on the obituaries but over the years has broadened to include birth, marriage (including licenses and engagements), divorce, naturalization, probate, and articles of interest. Eileen Martin, Harlean Hamilton, Lora Eccles and Marge Samuelson have led this effort. They have been assisted over the years by many hands including present day help of Barbara Larsen, Betty Bobo, and Karen McMullen.

Now I ask you, can you imagine taking on the task of indexing 141 years of newspapers? Personally I think you have to be slightly crazy, but what would we as genealogists do if this particular malady was cured? The benefit is incalculable as you might find evidence of your family's experiences that are not documented in any other source.

The obituary index was the first to take shape. It has been posted on our website, www.wajcgs.org, for several years. At the present time Lora and Barbara are working hard to review the index for accuracy. While this is back breaking labor, the end result will be of much greater value to the researcher.

What we call the "Press Index-People" is going through the final steps of review as I write and information will be posted on the website by the beginning of 2013. When you find your family in this index, you will be able to come into the Research Center to obtain a copy of the article. You will also find instructions online for requesting that we locate, copy, and send the information to you for a fee. Additional years will be added as they are completed.

What we call the "Press Index-Subject" is an index to articles of historic or genealogical interest. This can be searched by topic, time frame, or headline by a keyword. This index will not be online since the search features are more complex, but it is available for use at the Research Center.

How can we possibly thank these JCGS members for all their work? I know they do it, not for thanks, but because they have benefited from such efforts by others in the genealogical community. We owe them admiration and respect for their countless hours of work. Be sure to tell them when you see them.

BOOK REVIEW - BY SUE SNYDER

"Divorce, An American Tradition" by Professor Glenda Riley

Each of us has probably discovered a divorce in our ancestral family, possibly hidden by the divorced or deserted wife calling herself a "widow". Or, on looking through a census, we find that great grandma disappears and reappears, living on another farm, calling herself "single". If you care about divorce in America, this book is a must have. It is eye-opening and shocking to find that divorce is an American institution, and has been for more than 400 years.

By 1600, the Puritans were more lax in their divorce laws than the English. It became a civil matter, as with the Dutch, in their allowing many reasons for divorce such as adultery, desertion, "total neglect of duty", impotence or consanguinity (having the same ancestor). A Puritan émigré, my 9th great grandfather was apparently divorced from his wife and sent back to England. He seemingly accomplished all of the above reasons for divorce.

Before the Revolutionary War, the British became alarmed at the colonist's divorce rate. They ordered several colonies to tighten their laws, and even rescinded some divorces granted in prior years.

By the 1800s the state of Indiana became the divorce Mecca of America; men and women were getting "quickie" divorces and taking off for other places, sometimes unbeknownst to the wife or husband. By World War II divorce rates were spiking. Today it is to the point that 1 in 3 marriages are ending in divorce, and there are commonly such things as "starter marriages" - a first marriage that doesn't work.

The author, Professor Glenda Riley, explains why there is a divorce culture in America. I did not find the book an easy read, but interesting none the less. It answered some of the questions I have come across in my family's genealogy.

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**Jefferson County,
Washington
Genealogical
Society**

PO Box 627
Port Townsend
Washington
98368-0627
360-385-9495

**Research Center
Location & Hours**

13692 Airport Cutoff Road
Hour: 11 to 4
Tuesday—Saturday
\$4.00 admission for
non-members
\$2.00 children

We're on the Web!
<http://www.wajcgs.org>

Meetings:

**3rd Saturday
9:30 AM**

**Tri-Area
Community
Center**

**Chimacum,
Washington**

**Visitors
Welcome**

JCGS Annual Seminar

Our Annual Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013, with Mary Slawson.

Mary will present three varied topics during the day, so there will be something for everyone!

Are you interested in interviewing your parents, aunts, uncles, or other family members to collect their reminiscences of your family? To begin the day, Mary will discuss how to conduct an effective oral history interview.

The second topic will be understanding the state you are working in – what records are available, where are they located, the history of the state and how might that might have impacted your ancestors.

To cap off the day, Mary will take us on a social history exercise. Knowing the customs and practices of your ancestors' homelands at any particular time is critical to finding the records you need. Through her examples you will learn what to consider as you travel back to the times of your ancestors.

Mark your calendars now! You can find a registration form under the Special Events tab at our website (<http://wajcgs.org/>). Cost is \$25 for members, before March 1 and \$35 thereafter. Cost for non-members is \$35.