### Jefferson County

### **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

#### Volume 27, Issue 2

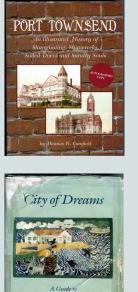
Spring/Summer, 2011



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### Social History



A Guide to PORT TOW NSEND Edited by Peter Simpson

# **Our New Website - WAJCGS.ORG**

### By Diane Young

Have you checked out the new JCGS website yet? Launched in mid-February, the new site replaces the Rootsweb site that had been used by our society for many years.

Some of the new features include the following:

- Searchable databases and indexes of Jefferson County records Journey Stories written by our members
- Library Catalog that is organized into four distinct areas (families, foreign, reference, and United States),
- What's New section to let you know what new information has been posted since your last visit
- Special Events page that includes details of special events and seminars, as well as registration information
- Discussion Groups page that describes the function of each interest group with a link to the Calendar for the meeting dates and times.

We have also carried over several features from the former site including a calendar, past newsletters, and information on researching in Jefferson County.

We have posted a temporary page to share pictures and progress of the new construction, complete with weekly pictures to keep you up to date. Check out the **Other Resources** page that might help you with your family search both in Jefferson County and beyond.

On the home page, you will see special announcements, including information about upcoming meetings, closure of the Research Center in inclement weather, and updates about the construction.

The indexes to records are the result of hours of work by JCGS volunteers. Taking advantage of our working relationship with the Historical Society, we identify records in their collection that contain references to many individuals. Working from a copy of the records, the names and appropriate information are entered into an Excel spreadsheet. From there Pam Wilson formats a database to add to the Kiosk in the library and to the website. An addition to the "in process" list is Housing Authority records during the 1946-1947 period. We chose this file because it covers a time when military personnel were briefly in Port Townsend, and it is hard for researchers to document their resi-

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

### By Jesse Stewart

Have you been by the Research Center lately? If not, you're in for a treat the next time you come stop in – the new building for the Historical Society is progressing nicely. You can follow construction on our website – thanks to Tom Berg who's taking pictures every week and Diane Young who's posting them.

During the last four months, your Society has been busy. Our annual seminar in March added about \$900 to our coffers. We also ordered all new book cases for our library at the Research Center – delivery to come after the Historical Society moves its archives into the new structure. Attendance at our monthly meetings, Resource Corners and discussion groups is strong, but we'd love to see you all there if you've missed out!

The big news for JCGS is our new website. Our Technology Advisory Committee worked with a consultant to develop the new site and get it up and running – have you visited yet? Major thanks to Diane Young, Eileen Johnston and Pam Wilson for migrating information from our old website to the new and for uploading many of our databases. If you have Jefferson County families, you will now find many indexes to records located on our "Kiosk"; more will follow over the coming months. Thanks also to Bev Brice and Dick Bennett for re-working a lot of the verbiage for the website – for bringing it up to date. Go check it out at http://wajcgs.org/.

If curiosity isn't enough to drive you to the JCGS website, then go there to find the answers to the quiz below. This idea came about as a result of a conversation at one of our Writer's Group when we were looking for an old-time definition. Did you know that a "housewife" was a small sewing case used in the military? Test your wits by matching the occupation with the right definition, and then find the answers on the "What's New" page of the JCGS website:

Approver	A person employed to "stop up" fox holes	
Chandler	A person hired to give false witness	
Earth stopper	Very early, one who drew or painted pictures for hire	
Huckster	Very early, one who bred & raised livestock	
Husbandman	Grocer or seller, quite usually of unprepared food	
Lemner or Limner	Early, a peddler of small wares, quite often for the kitchen	
Victualer	Candle maker or seller; retail dealer in provisions, groceries	

As reported by Al Standish, our Treasurer, we remain in strong financial shape. Due to the favorable conditions of the stock market in 2010, our Seattle Foundation endowment rose \$4,000, ending the year with a balance of \$104,024. Plus, we have almost \$24,000 in our savings vehicles. Dues remain a substantial component of funding used to support our internet subscriptions (such as Ancestry.com), book purchases, the JCGS website and computer systems maintenance, member programs, and operational needs.

(Continued from page 1)

dence here. Additional hands would help us continue to add access to Jefferson County records. The work can be done in the library or at home. Contact Bev <u>bb@olympus.net</u> if you are interested in helping.

Members of the Technology Committee were instrumental in working on the new website content and organization, including Bev Brice, Dick Bennett, Eileen Johnston, Jesse Stewart, Pam Wilson, and Diane Young.

We think that you will find much to help you with your research and with the activities of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society. Please take some time to explore our new site at <u>waicgs.org</u> and let us know what you think!

# BRICKWALLS

By Eileen Martin

Are you having a problem in your research? You can't figure out what records or where the records are to solve a research question on your family?

The Education Committee has decided the November 19, 2011 program will be another 'Brick Wall' meeting. It is not too early to write up your problem and give to the committee. Write up what you are searching for, what you know about the person/family and what sources you have searched.

**Phil Edin, Marge Samuelson, Al Standish, Tom Berg and Dianne Duncan** presented their brick wall for the November, 2010 meeting. This is a follow up on what they have done since then.

**Phil** was searching for more information on Barbara Loehr. He searched the Seattle City Directories (1904, 1905 and 1906) and found Barbara and her husband, John Federspeil had moved to Seattle with his family from Michigan after 1900. She filed a divorce petition in 1905 (never finalized) and a second in 1906. Divorce was granted in May 1906 with a stipulation that she not marry for 6 months. She remarried 6 weeks later in Rathdrum, Idaho to Olaf Edin. In 1918 Barbara left Olaf and moved to Lane Co. Oregon. Olaf filed for a divorce in 1919 in Idaho. Barbara married her 3<sup>rd</sup> husband William Stoddard in Springfield, Lane Co. Oregon in the fall of 1919.

**Marge Samuelson** was searching for her grandparents divorce record. Family lore says they divorced in Jefferson county, but no record has been found of them divorcing here. It was suggested that she go to the Bellingham State Archives. They had the same index as here in Port Townsend that is arranged by case number not by years or the names of the individual that are divorcing. She would have to go through 17 boxes of files, file by file. She chose not to do this for obvious reasons, and feels she has exhausted all her options in Jefferson County for their divorce. [It would be easier if divorces were filed under the surnames of individuals divorcing not by the case number.]

**Al Standish** was looking for William Howland Keen and Electra Ann Tuthill's marriage record, also when and where they died. Some of the suggestions were to look at City Directories, what religion was the family; check USGenWeb for appropriate counties for records. They might have divorced, even though it stated they were married but living in different household on the census records. Al reports that he found the family in the census records and found other family members, but they are not blood related. Al is still looking for where this family is buried. He hasn't given up and is still searching sporadically.

**Tom Berg** is looking for Sven Nicolay Berg, born about 1750, died 1783-1790. He married in 1782 to Margareth Kristine Berntsen and had a son Johan Anton Berg, who was baptized in April of 1783 in Copenhagen. It was recommended that he start with the son in Norway and identify who the FAN club names are to take to Denmark. When did Sven go to Norway? Tom has followed up on some of the suggestions. He has checked and the Family History Center doesn't have any records for the area he needs in Norway, so that is on hold for the present time.

**Dianne Duncan** was searching for the parents of her great grandmother, Magnolia Yarbrough, born August 10, 1857 on Louisiana. Many suggestions were given to her to follow up on. She will get back to that family later, as she is concentrating on a different family.

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	DON'T MISS IT!
	JCGS has a full schedule of events for the coming trimester. You can refer to the calendar in this issue for dates and times (don't forget to mark your calen- dars), but some of the special things coming up include our monthly meet- ings, discussion groups and resource corners.
<u>New Members</u>	<b>Discussion Groups:</b> Writers Group: An opportunity for those of you wanting to write your family his-
WELCOME!	tory to share insights and perspectives. This is an informal group that is open to members coming for the first time. Whether you have started writing or just
Macy Galbreath	thought about it, join us for inspiration and the motivation to keep working at it.
Patricia Miles	New England/New York Discussion Group There is such a wealth of information available for researchers in New Eng-
Marcia Swanson	land. And then they move on to New York and the researcher is brought back to reality. The benefit in getting together as researchers in these areas is pool-
Chris Hankins	ing our research experiences and tips. There is so much to learn!
Ellen Stanley	Resource Corners
	A lecture each month aimed at improving our research skills.
Marti Lewis	May:
Diana Klock	Bev will give the program canceled because of snow in February. She will share her experiences with increased use of the computer in her research and the challenges that brings. Topics will include organizing information on
John C. Carter	your computer, and using tables in Microsoft Word. This is an opportunity for participants to share their experiences as well. Can we achieve Paperless Ge-
Phyllis A Weisenburger	nealogy????? June:
	Marge will make use of a 20 minute video from the New England Historic Ge- nealogical Society to present research tips for finding those illusive female families. The lecture by David Dearborn is clear, concise, and easy to follow. It will be an excellent beginning point for discussing this common research problem. July:
	Eileen Johnston has been particularly interested in Business and Employment information as a unique approach to finding out about our families. It will be fun to look at an area that is new for most of us.
	August: Bev will take a critical look at the FAN club concept. It makes sense but is a lot of work. Is it worth it? When is it appropriate? At what point do you begin collecting information?

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY - AUGUST 2011

DATE	ALL MEETINGS START AT 9:30 AM AND ARE HELD AT THE RESEARCH CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
May 5 Thursday	Library Committee
May 7 Saturday	Roots Magic Discussion Group
May 14 Saturday	Writers Group
May 21 Saturday	General Meeting: Changes in Handwriting Over the Last Five Centuries - Eileen Johnston
May 26 Thursday	Volunteer meeting
May 27 Friday	New England/New York Discussion Group
May 28 Saturday	Resource Corner: Paperless Genealogy ????? - Bev Brice
June 4 Saturday	Roots Magic Discussion Group
June 11 Saturday	Writers Group
June 16 Thursday	Technology Committee
June 18 Saturday	General Meeting: Problem Solving Using Collateral Lines - Mary Ferm
June 24 Friday	New England/New York Discussion Group
June 25 Saturday	Resource Corner: Methods for Finding your Wife's Maiden Name, - Marge Samuelson
July 2 Saturday	Roots Magic Discussion Group
July 9 Saturday	Writers Group
July 16 Saturday	Naturalization Records - Evelyn Roehl
July 28 Thursday	Volunteer Meeting
July 29 Friday	New England/New York Discussion group
July 30 Saturday	Resource Corner: Business and Employment Records, Eileen Johnston
August 6 Saturday	Roots Magic Discussion Group
August 13 Saturday	Writers Group
August 26 Friday	New England/New York Discussion Group
August 27 Saturday	Resource Corner Does the FAN Club Really Help? Bev Brice

# Jefferson County History

By Marge Samuelson

## Finding Ancestors in local History Books

One of the resources I use for writing social history is books written about the area where my family lived. Jefferson County has many books written about local people beginning with the first families that settled the area in 1851.

**By Juan de Fuca's Strait, Pioneering Along the Northwestern Edge of the Continent** by James G. McCurdy, published in 1937 is one of the most quoted books on the history of the area. As he states in his preface to the book, "After many months spent in gathering material that pleasant task has been completed. I have but few acknowledgments to make for any borrowed matter. Aside from Lewis and Dryden's Marine History of the Northwest, Elwood Evans' History of Washington and newspaper files, I have received little assistance from any published source. My inspiration and help have come from individuals-those "living epistles" who have contributed freely from their varied experiences and well stored memories."

<u>With Pride In Heritage, History of Jefferson County</u>, published in 1966 by the Jefferson County Historical Society states in the introduction, "In assembling data for this book, we have checked official records in municipal and county offices as well as those in private possession; we have scanned scores of books, periodicals, newspapers, family records, diaries; we have teletaped personal recollections of pioneers and of their descendants; we have trod reverently among monuments in cemeteries, checking names and dates."

One of my favorites is **Port Townsend Years that are Gone** an illustrated history by Peter Simpson and James Hermanson, published in 1979, it is a lovely picture book of Port Townsend history and contains interesting captions.

For a quick read <u>City of Dreams: A Guide to Port Townsend</u> edited by Peter Simpson, published in 1986 is set up like an encyclopedia of local houses, people and general information on the area.

Two more recent books are by local newspaper writer and historian Tom Camfield; <u>Port Townsend: An</u> <u>Illustrated History of Shanghaiing, Shipwrecks, Soiled Doves and Sundry Souls</u>, published in 2000 and <u>Port Townsend The City That Whiskey Built</u>, an Illustrated History published in 2002. They are chocked full of photographs, family information, newspaper articles etc. They are a wonderful and interesting resource.

These are a few of the books, there are many others but if you want to add interest to your family stories don't forget the local county histories.

Book Review	NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY			
By Barbara Larsen	Title	Author	Comments	
	Tracing Your British Ancestry	Gerald Hamilton Ed- wards	Older book but good background	
THE FAMILY TREE PROBLEM SOLVER: PROVEN METHODS FOR SCALING THE INEVITABLE BRICK WALL	The Revolt of the Netherlands and The Netherlands in the Seventeenth Century 1609-1648	Peter Geyl	Good history of the Netherlands from the mid 1500s	
	A Brave Vessel	Hobson Woodward	Ship wreck on Bermuda of early Virginia Settlers	
By Marsha Hoffman Rising This book explores the mysteries of research. It addresses research before 1850, collateral relatives, court, and land records to be applied to your problems. The author details several other areas to search and research along with suggestions for analyzing the evidence. The margins are	Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New England	John Farmer	Standard New England work	
	The Naked Quaker	Diane Rapapart	New England Court Cases	
	Columbia County Arkansas Bio- graphical & Historical Memoirs of Columbia Co plus maps	Hearthstone Legacy Pub.	Helpful for families here	
	Kith & Kin Families in Moreland, Co- weta County, Georgia		Abstracts of records and history	
marked with handy symbols of: Reminder, Warning, Tip,	Iowa The Middle Land	Dorothy Schwieder	Good History of the state	
Notes, Important, Definitions, Idea Generator, and Case Study.	Family Maps of Bienville Parish, Lou- isiana and Family Maps of Allen Par- ish Louisiana	Gregory A Boyd	Invaluable for Louisiana research	
Marsha Hoffman Rising was an excellent lecturer as well as author. I met her when she was lecturing on the importance of collateral kin. It was astonishing to me when she put my husband's genealogy chart on the screen as an example. This book is in our library labeled "H Reference Instruct O3". It was published in 2005.	The History of Turner, Maine	Rev. W.R. French D.D.	Androscoggin County to 1886	
	Soldiers, Sailors & Patriots of the Revolutionary War Maine and supplement	Carleton E. Fisher & Sure G. Gisher	Lists names	
	Historical Sketches & Roster of the Aroostook War 1839		Lists names	
	Maine Rubicon Downeast Settlers During American Revolution	John Howard Ahlin	Area from Penobscot to St John's River	
<section-header></section-header>	Vital Records from Maine Newspa- pers 1785-1820	David C. Young & Eliza- beth Keene Young	Important substitute for vital records	
	History of Wells & Kennebunk, Maine	Edward E. Bourne H.D.	Excellent background for this area	
	Richmond County Heritage		North Carolina history of this county	
	Military History of New Hampshire	Chandler E. Potter	Lists names	
	East New Jersey Land Records 1715-1723, 1719-1727, 1727- 1736/7, 1747-1757	Richard Hutchinson	Completes collection of published volumes	

# NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY (CONT.)

Title	Author	Comments
The Story of the Walloons	William Elliot Griffis	Good history of this ethnic group
Settlers of the Beekman Patent Paine to Rogers	Frank Doherty	Latest volume in series Dutchess County New York
A History of New Lots, Brooklyn to 1887	Alter F Landesman	Originally a separate area, now part of Brooklyn
The Groff Book Vi	Clyde L Groff Walter B Groff Jane Evans Best	Lancaster PA families
History of Lehigh County	C. Roberts	Pennsylvania
Catasauqua North Catasauqua A profile of the Buroughs	Roberta Burkhardt Judy Gemmel	Lehigh County PA
Northampton Borough Diamond Jubilee 1901-1976		Northampton County, PA
Westmoreland History 1995-2000	Westmoreland County Historical Society	Contemporary history of West- moreland County PA
Gone to Texas A History of the Lone Star State	Randolph Campbell	Good general history
Virginia Genealogies and Biographies 1500-1900's CD	Genealogy Publishing CO.	Multi book Family genealogies
Journey Stories	JCGS	Those submitted last fall
Governor Robert Lucas and Ancestors	Betty P. Hall	Lucas family genelaogy
The Chronicle of Thomas Stone of Hamil- ton parish, in Colonial Virginia	William M. Stone	Genealogy of the Stone Family
Getting the most out of Roots Magic 3rd Ed	Bruce Buzbee	Not the latest manual but still use- ful
Getting It Right The Definitive Guide to Re- cording Family History Accurately	Mary Slawson	Good "how to" book well presented
Wanted: US Criminal Records Sources and Methodology	Ron Arons	How to research the skeletons in your closet
Forensic Genealogy	Colleen Fitzgerald	A new look at research. In depth on DNA
Seattle Genealogical Society Bulletin 2008- 2010	Seattle Genealogical Society	Includes library holding s of Nordic Museum in Ballard

# 50/50 Book Purchases

The JCGS budget for 2011 has set aside \$750 for the purchase of new materials for the library. These may be books, maps, CDs, or other media not yet considered. Participation in the 50/50 book purchase plan is your chance to help us spend the money in a way that will directly benefit your research. Make a request for a 50/50 purchase; you pay half and JCGS pays half of items that the Book Committee agrees would be a good addition to our Library. When it arrives, you get to keep it for 6 weeks and then it goes on the shelf. Remember, you can check out a reference from our Library for 2 weeks at any time, so you can look at the book again. Request forms are available in the Library, on our website, or contact Lorrell Louchard llouchard@hotmail.com.

# DON'T MISS IT - MONTHLY PROGRAMS

### By Barb Way

I want to start the program listing by reminding everyone that in November we will be doing our annual brick walls. The Education Committee would like those members who are planning to submit a brick wall for consideration to please submit them early so the committee will have time to review them and look into other avenues of research. You may contact any member of the committee for the forms or format for submission.

Our second trimesters topic is "Social History", we use the term social as in social studies. What was happening in the world and how did it affect our ancestors. We must remember that researching the history at the time period your ancestors were living can give you many valuable clues. Was there drought, economic disasters, or epidemics any thing that might have affected your ancestors? Something which might cause them to migrate, perhaps death of multiple members of one household, or one family being forced to move in with other members of their family, many families were broken up due to these reasons. History can explain a great deal to us if we would just take the time to research.

Our **May** meeting will have JCGS member Eileen Johnston speaking on "Changes in Handwriting Over the Last Five Centuries". Any one who has tried to read old church records will want to be there!

Eileen is a professional genealogist. Her education includes a Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate. She has been interested in genealogy for 22 years and been conducting in-depth family research for over 10 years. Eileen is a member of APG, Association of Professional Genealogist.

In **June** Mary Ferm from Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society will bring some new insight in "Problem Solving Using Collateral Lines". Perhaps an answer you have been seeking has been there all along in a collateral line. This is a program that she and two other members presented to Bainbridge Island meeting with great success. I am looking forward to learning how to use collateral families.

Mary started doing genealogy in high school in the 1960's early enough that she was able to interview her grandparents. She resumed her genealogy research 17 years ago and has been vice president of BIGS for two years, she also co-ordinates their mentor and SIG programs. Mary has taken a program on newspaper research "On the Road to PSGS" and has published an article in "New England Ancestors" in the 2009 winter issue. Her areas of particular interest are New England, Mid-Atlantic and Mid-West in the early 1800's along with Germany and Scotland.

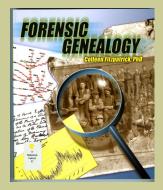
**July** will bring us Evelyn Roehl who will be speaking on "Naturalization Records". How to find the records and how to read them? The rules for naturalization have changed over time. But our immigrant ancestors were naturalized and the records are there.

Evelyn Roehl [pronounced "rail"] is the owner of Kin Hunters, a genealogy and historic research service in Seattle. She began her own family history in 1992, and three years later starting offering her research skills to others. Besides research, she compiles local resource guides and recently completed a 64-page "Quirky Genealogy" report, which includes tips from her last presentation to Jefferson County Genealogical Society.

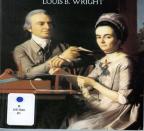
We are reminded that there is no general meeting for the month of **August**. The research center will remain open on its normal hours and other meetings will continue as they are scheduled.

The **Education Committee** meets on the 2nd Friday of each month except May at 9:30 AM at the Research Center. They will meet June 10, July 8, Aug 12 this trimester.

New Books



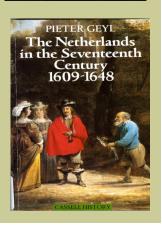
### The Cultural Life of the American Colonies







LISA WILSON



### WEBSITES AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY

#### By Bev Brice

One of the benefits of your membership is access to subscription websites free of change in the Library. You may want to look at a site to see if it is worth your while to subscribe privately. Alternatively you may find the information you seek by coming into the Library and thus saving yourself the subscription fee.

We are always open to ideas for new subscriptions, so please let us know if there is one that would benefit you.

The following are available to you:

### Ancestry

The most frequently used, the Library Edition does not include Family Trees or Newspapers. We have the US Collection and the International Collection so you have access to English and Canadian census records as well as other non United States information.. A small sampling of new items added recently include the following: England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915 England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index: 1837-1915 British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920 New York State, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1917-1973 Ireland, Lawrence Collection of photographs, 1870 - 1910 Ireland, Ordnance Survey, 1824 - 1846 Ireland, Griffith's Valuation, 1848-1864

### **Newspaper Archives**

Since we do not have the newspapers included in the individual subscription to Ancestry, we have Newspaper Archives for your use. Search the site for the geographic area of interest to you to see what papers they have and what years are included. If you find what you are looking for, then do your surname search to find references for your family. That way you can interpret a "negative" search result. Was it because they did not have the newspaper or because your family wasn't listed?

#### American Ancestors

The new name for the New England Historic Genealogical Society site. They are trying to emphasize that they have information for researchers beyond the borders of New England, and indeed they do. This site provides a wealth of information for New England, so use it for any research in these states. They have quite a lot available for New York as well, so be sure to look here.

Besides the images of records that they have posted, there are excellent instructional videos on the site as well as articles about researching in a number of different areas. So, don't stop with the surname search but be sure to take full advantage of the offerings.

Recent postings to this site include a journal essential to New England Research:

The American Genealogist (TAG) has been published quarterly since 1923, and represents an important body of scholarly genealogical research covering the breadth of the United States (with an early preference for New England). NEHGS is pleased to offer it as a fully searchable online database. The current TAG database covers volumes 9–53. Additional sets of five volumes are scheduled to be added periodically throughout 2011. Volumes 1–8, covering the years 1923–1932, are already available online under the name <u>"Families of Ancient New Haven."</u>

# JEFFERSON CO. RESEARCH

### By Bev Brice

We are a small county as far as inhabitants go and always have been so. Our records go back 160 years, not almost 400 as found on the East Coast. That means a relatively limited number of people have families that lived in Jefferson County. This fact has never stopped the intrepid members of JCGS who are dedicated to making the records they left behind accessible to those who want to research here.

We have entered 251,345 records into our "Kiosk" database providing that access to the following types of records: Birth, Marriage, Death, Court, Directories, Land, Voter Registration, Taxes, Vertical Files, Book Indexes, Mariners, Marine Hospital, Military Indexes, and Newspaper Indexes.

Within each of these categories lies a treasure trove of information. "Deaths", for example, include Civil death records, obituaries on Jefferson County Residents, Funeral Home records from 1913, Cemetery information, and Coroner Records.

In the past couple of months we have begun to post these indexes on our new website www.wajcgs.org. We will continue to add new items until all of the indexes in the Kiosk are available. What does this mean for the researcher? It will be easy for you to see what we have about your families and easy for you to request a copy of the full record without having to come to Jefferson County yourself.

The complete cemetery file has been posted so that you have the information we have collected on the 16 cemeteries in Jefferson County. The information was gathered from a walkthrough of the cemetery with a listing of headstone inscriptions along with any sexton records that we could locate. Although some of our cemeteries had previously been posted online by others not associated with JCGS, we found those records were not complete.

The Cemetery information is a good example of how our projects expand. Three of our members are currently taking photos of the headstones in Laurel Grove, the largest and oldest of the cemeteries. These will eventually be posted on the website. We are already beginning a review of the cemeteries to update the records and will post those updates as they are completed.

	Officers			
President	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103	
Vice President	Marge Samuelson	marge.samuelson@gmail.com	385-4297	
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	
	Contac	ct Persons		
Exec. Committee	Jesse Stewart	jessebirder@cablespeed.com	437-8103	
Members' Books	Pam Wilson	pamelalearywilson@gmail.com	697-3822	
Librarian	Bev Brice	bb@olympus.net	385-6599	
Newsletter Editor	Dave Sachi	sachi82@msn.com	385-5590	
Researcher	Joan Buhler	jaybee@macaid.com	385-0849	
Cemeteries	Eileen Martin	eileenm@olypen.com	385-0673	
Research and Obituaries	Lora Eccles	lora@cablespeed.com	344-4860	
Education Committee	Barb Way	pistach@cablespeed.com	379-3172	
Membership	Tom Berg	grebmot@olypen.com	643-1112	

