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Happy New Year!

Remember...

The Research Center re-opens

Tues. Jan 6

UNVEILING AN HISTORICAL MARKER

by Louella Ormsby Sexsmith

On August 3rd of this year, my daughter Suzanne, her daughter Hannah and I got to unveil an historical marker. The marker is on a trail on the bank of the Winooski River a few feet from the Ethan Allen Homestead north of Burlington, Vermont.

So how did I come by this honor? It combined a war between France and England, a Presidential Order from Thomas Jefferson and the effect it had on the Lake Champlain region of Vermont and New York, a militia unit from Rutland, Vermont, a bunch of smugglers, a good supply of liquor, a ferry converted to a smuggling boat called the Black Snake, my fourth great-grandfather Jonathan Ormsby and a punt gun.

France and England were often at war but in this one they were impressing American seaman and interfering with American trade. So President Jefferson tried to stop these practices by placing an embargo on trade with both countries (economic sanctions?). Lake Champlain lies between New York and Vermont but the northern-most part lies in Quebec, Canada. It was via this trade route that went to the St. Lawrence River that this area of Vermont and New York made much of their money,. With the war, potash and lumber were in great demand, especially by England, and Vermont had a lot of this to trade. So they did.

Naturally the government tried to stop this smuggling but they had little success with shore-based militia. One of the effects, though, was that smugglers were increasingly arming themselves.

In May 1808 a unit of militia from Rutland was ordered to the Lake Champlain area temporarily in the Revenue Service of the US, to assist in chasing smugglers. In late July the militiamen were ordered by Treasury Secretary Gallatin to use a boat to intercept the Black Snake on its return voyage from Quebec. The boat was called the Fly. They caught up to the Black Snake on the Onion (now the Winooski) River. And there things got ugly. Most of the smugglers, some by later testimony well liquored up, and militiamen went on shore leaving a few men on both boats. A couple of shots were fired and 20 year old Ellis Drake

(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

By Bill Conklin

A lot happens in the course of a year at JCGS. You see some of this activity at our monthly meetings, special-interest, discussion-group meetings, and Resource Corner meetings, but our activities run much deeper. This is my list of JCGS's 2014 accomplishments, which took hundreds of hours of volunteer time to accomplish.

The board rewrote our bylaws, our financial policies, and our membership application, investigated and authorized the purchase of directors' and officers' liability insurance, developed a board-member handbook, and started filling it with new job descriptions for every officer, committee head, and committee.

The Education Committee arranged speakers for nine membership meetings, one annual seminar, ten Resource Corners, and thirty-four special-interest, discussion-group meetings. Committee members Diane Young and Bev Brice plus Jesse Stewart updated the beginner's genealogy class and created a new class on how to use Microsoft Word. For more reliable presentations, we purchased a new projector.

The Research Committee has photographed half of Jefferson County's cemetery headstones and listed their availability on our website and completed the updating of the 23,000 names in the obituary files, removing duplicates and correcting the pages where an obituary is filed.

Library Committee member Mary Stolaas single handedly catalogued almost our entire 2,500 book collection using new library software.

The Writers Group compiled a book of twenty-four, family-history stories that were written by our members. This book is available to everyone on our website.

Our financial strength continues to be strong (see the Treasurer's Report below). We received an anonymous \$45,000 donation through the Seattle Foundation, which has been added to our endowment. In addition, we received \$1,651 from you during the one-day GiveBIG fund raising campaign. These donations help keep our annual dues low and give us additional funds to purchase genealogical databases.

I thank you the members and all the volunteers for your financial contributions, but especially your donations of time. Without your dedication and generosity, we wouldn't be thirty-years strong. WELL DONE!

TREASURERS REPORT

As of November 30, 2014, we had \$18,811 in cash and our endowment held by the Seattle Foundation was worth \$169,103.

The Society's total assets, including furniture, equipment and books, stands at \$233,638.

UNVEILING AN HISTORICAL MARKER—CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

who was at the tiller of the Fly, was shot in the forehead and killed. The officer in charge of the militia/revenue men was trying not to engage in a firefight but just wanted to take the Black Snake. Even with the death of Drake he ordered his men not to fire.

Watching all this was 49 year old Jonathan Ormsby who was a Captain in the militia but who did not have any authority in the situation. However, he was, by witnesses' accounts, upset that no smuggler was being detained. He was apparently making his concern quite obvious. While he was walking on the bank with the Lieutenant in charge and 22 year old Private Asa Marsh Jr. two of the smuggler crew came up the bank with a loaded Punt gun. I had never heard of a Punt gun but it was nasty. It had a 1 ½ in. bore 9 foot long barrel and was loaded with a couple of handfuls of black powder, 15 1 in. round balls and as much buckshot as could be poured into the barrel. It took two men to handle this gun. So the upshot, so to speak, of the whole thing was that they aimed the gun by placing it in the fork of a tree 15 ft. away from the 3 men on the bank. The Lieutenant was wounded by buckshot and ball. Private Asa Marsh Jr. was hit by buckshot and 5 balls and died almost instantly. Jonathan was hit by 4 balls and was able to say something to the effect that he was dead. And so he was, on August 3, 1808.

About this time President Jefferson said Vermont was in the state of insurrection. The deaths seem to have shocked both the Jefferson's administration as well as Vermonters. The embargo was lifted by the next President and in 1812 England and America were at war again. Eventually one of the smugglers was hung (oddly not the one who pulled the trigger, but the one who helped aim the gun), a state penitentiary was built to house the smugglers who were caught and tried. Jonathan's younger brother, Jacob and his family moved onto the farm with Jonathan's widow and children. In 1814 Jonathan's mother, eldest daughter and her husband and his two sons moved to Ohio.

In 2014 Gary Shattuck, a retired Federal Assistant Prosecutor, published a book "*Insurrection, Corruption & Murder in Early Vermont, Life on the Wild Northern Frontier*". This in turn renewed interest in the Black Snake Affair. Ellis Drake and Asa Marsh Jr. were recognized as the first men to die in the Revenue Service, now Customs and Border Patrol. I had known for years about how Jonathan died and some of the circumstances but Mr. Shattuck delved into material that I had not.

When we heard about the Historical Marker ceremony we decided to drive over from New Hampshire and attend it. They in turn found out we were coming (from my brother) and included us in the ceremony. The Border Patrol held a ceremony honoring Ellis Drake and Asa Marsh, Jr. and placed their names on a black ribbon (I guess you would call it) onto the unit guidon and they announced that their names were also placed on the roll of honor of those killed in the line of duty. It was a wonderful and moving ceremony. Then a nice young border patrolman escorted us to the historical marker and we three did the unveiling.

It was an honor in remembrance of my ancestor. But also left me with a question, Jonathan was killed not because he was armed and going to arrest anyone but because he stepped aggressively into the situation. So was he right or wrong?

New Members

WELCOME!

Galen L. Clark

Virginia M. Clark

Sandy Gillespie

Jim Lawrence

Barbara J. Hahn

*Beverly Jean
Jackson*

DON'T MISS IT!

General Meetings: Held on the third Saturday of each month at the Tri-Area Community Center at 9:30am. There is a social and coffee half hour before the program begins at 10am and is concluded at 11:30am. These meetings and programs are open to members and nonmembers alike and feature a speaker on a variety of topics related to genealogy and history.

January 17, 2015: **Using the New Family Search** with Ray Madsen. Mr. Madsen was one of the founders of Family Search, back when it was only available on discs, and worked in the organization for many years. He last spoke to us in April of 2012, but as we know, Family Search has grown like a mushroom since then and looks different. Ray has retired as a Certified Genealogist from the organization, and no longer speaks officially for them. However, it is among his personal interests (besides fishing) and he plans on a practical program to help us find sources and easily save them.

February 21, 2015: **Genealogy and the Law** with Sara Scribner of the Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society. Sara was a librarian for 40+ years and is an experienced genealogist; in July she took a week-long institute training at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh with Judy Russell and Rick Sayre. She has their support in presenting some of their concepts including: how knowing the law makes us better genealogists, the richness of court records, and even circumstantial evidence!

March 21, 2015: **Annual All-day Seminar.** This year's speaker will be Jill Morelli speaking in three sessions: **Push and Pull: Emigration Decision-making in 19th Century Europe; Death and Dying: How Healthcare Changed During the Civil War; and Researching a House: Yours or One in Your Family History.** Please see the flyer and link on page 10 of this issue for more details and registration. Heritage Quest booksellers will be with us again with their treasure trove of genealogy books. Please bring a lunch for yourself. There is a fee for this event.

April 18, 2015: **Tracing Footsteps** is the title of the new book by our own Pam Clise. It is a history of the people and circumstances that made Jefferson County, starting with the Native people, on through the exploration period and the first European and east coast Americans to settle in this wonderful place. She has the biographical, geographical and historical stories that made us what we are now and will share them with us.

Resources Corners: On the fourth Saturday of the month, 9:30am, these smaller groups meet in the main room at the Research Center and hear a program, or participate in a discussion of more specialized topics.

January 24, 2015: **Using Roots Magic Software** with Bev Brice. Bev will talk about the virtues of using a genealogical software program to store your information easily, make charts and connections, write articles or even books, and in general enjoy your research more. Her own favorite is RootsMagic and she will take us through some of the specifics and advantages of this particular program.

February 28, 2015: **Using Family Tree Maker Software** with Laurie Neuenschwander. Laurie will be doing for FTM what Bev did last month for Roots Magic. Each is an excellent program with some differences – if you haven't chosen, this is a chance to compare, or if you are already a FTM user, a chance to upgrade your skills.

March 28, 2015: **Using Evernote Software** with Lesa Barnes and Bill Conklin. Evernote is a cloud-based software useful in taking notes and storing information from almost any source. Some of us have used it, many of us are curious, and this is a chance to understand it better.

April 25, 2015 : **Using your FlipPal** with Bev Brice. If you bought a new FlipPal portable scanner at this or last year's Seminar and are a little buffaloed when it comes to actually using it – come on down and hear Bev, who says it is actually fun and easy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY - APRIL 2015

DATE	ALL MEETINGS START AT 9:30 AM AND ARE HELD AT THE RESEARCH CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
Sat. Jan. 3	Canadians Discussion Group
Tue. Jan 6	Research Center reopens
Sat. Jan 10	Writers Discussion Group
Sat. Jan. 17	Monthly Mtg.: <i>"Using the New Family Search"</i> - Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Jan. 24	Resource Corner: <i>"Using Roots Magic Software"</i>
Mon. Jan. 26—Feb. 23	Beginning Genealogy Class: Mondays 1—3:30 PM, Research Center
Sat. Feb. 7	Canadians Discussion Group
Sat. Feb 14	Writers Discussion Group
Sat. Feb 21	Monthly Mtg.: <i>Genealogy and the Law</i> —Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Feb. 28	Resource Corner: <i>"Using Family Tree Maker Software"</i>
Sat. Mar. 14	Writers Discussion Group
Sat. Mar . 21	Annual Seminar: Jill Morelli —Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Mar. 28	Resource Corner: <i>"Using Evernote Software"</i>
Sat. Apr. 11	Writers Discussion Group
Sat . Apr. 18	Monthly Mtg.: <i>"Tracing Footsteps"</i> - Tri Area Community Center
Sat. Apr. 25	Resource Corner: <i>"Using Your FlipPal"</i>

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORY



Maple Avenue in the snow.
JCHS Photo Collection.

By Marge Samuelson 'Big Snow' of 1916

The Weather in January began to cool early in the month. Six inches of snow fell in Quilcene, the deepest of the year, turning the landscape white. In Port Townsend the ground was thoroughly soaked after a hard rain and the snow melted almost as soon as it fell, gradually turning to rain.

The cold snap continued until January 21st when the mercury began moving upwards but it didn't last long. By January 28th snow began falling and by Feb 3 a heavy snow hit the county and left a whopping 33 inches of the fluffy white stuff in Port Townsend and 53 inches at Lake Leland. The County came to a standstill.

There were no communications by telephone or telegraph and train service to Port Angeles and Quilcene was at a standstill. Out of town visitors were trapped in town with no way to get home. Out came the shovels and every available man began digging out. People climbed on their roofs to shovel the heavy snow off in fear of it collapsing. A few buildings did collapse, a warehouse, an iron shed, and part of the downtown Chinese Laundry. Worst of all the Sturrock Apartment building in the 700 block on Madison collapsed, luckily no one was hurt. A group of fathers headed by William Brinsmead decided it was important that their children get to school and shoveled the six or seven blocks to get to the Lincoln school only to find no classes were in session. They wouldn't resume until February 7th.

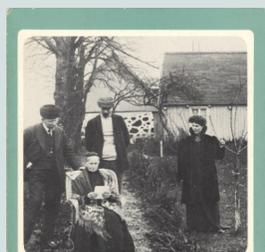
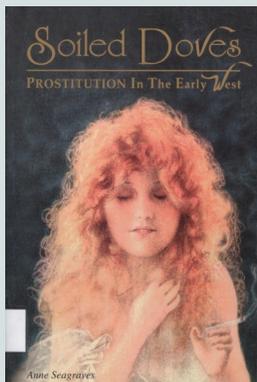
On February 15th a blockage at the Snow Creek outflow was plugged and city water was stopped. Peter Norby, donned his skis and headed out to the Snow Creek headworks, near the head of Discovery Bay and successfully removed a mat of leaves and other debris. People were feeding the birds to keep them alive, children were encouraged to bring bread to school for them. The quail in the area, almost impossible to feed birds which cannot stand cold, quickly began to die. Elk and deer in the Olympics suffered terribly from the deep snow as did almost all the animals in the area.

The citizens of Port Townsend found some fun as noted by this Port Townsend Leader article, of January 28th; *"A large proportion of the population of the city turned out last night to enjoy the sport of coasting, made possible by the recent snow, Jefferson Street grade was the favorite spot, the long hill with a well lighted track, being particularly adapted for the fun. The wild yells emanating from bob loads of enthusiasts could be distinctly heard in the down town section last night, giving an evidence of the enjoyment running riot on the hill. According to the latest available reports, the latest cold snap has not produced any skating to date, the ponds being filled with snow."*

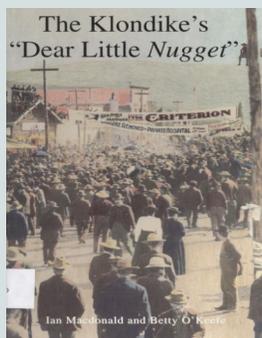
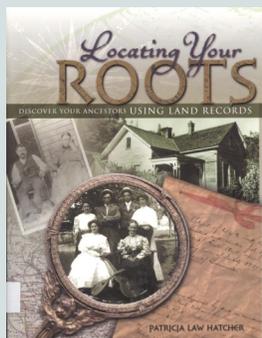
A snow road was broken between Port Townsend and Chimacum for sleighs to use. By February 8th crews were out repairing telephone/telegraph lines out in the country. As the snow melted the possibility of flooding began to worry those near a river or creek, but there was no damage from flooding. The snow continued off and on until early March when a final storm dropped five inches at Chimacum and a drifting in the 5th Ward of Port Townsend, and then Spring appeared.

Sources: Port Townsend Leader, Jan/Feb 1916

New Books



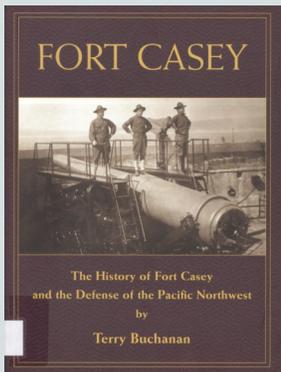
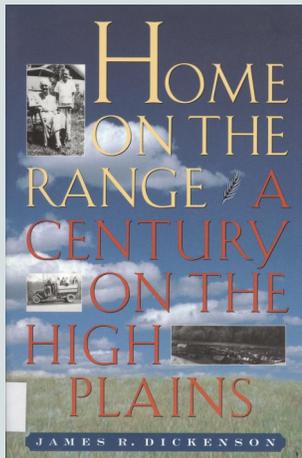
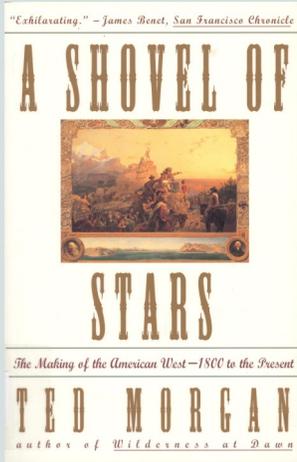
**Letters from
the Promised Land
Swedes in
America, 1840-1914**
H. Arnold Barton, editor



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

CATALOG NO.	TITLE
306.74 SEAG	Soiled Doves
325 BART	Letters from the Promised Land
338.4 WELL	Daylight in the Swamp
398 DORS	Bloodstoppers & Bearwalkers
808 NAUB	Dear Diary
808 NAUB	From Memories to Manuscript
902.02 GRUN	Timetables of History
R 929 RYSK	Finding Your Mexican Ancestors
R 929.1 HATC	Locating your Roots
929.2 CRAW	Early Ancestors of the Crawfords in America
941.4 OUIM	Finding Your Irish Ancestors
943 HANS	Finding Your German Ancestors
970.4979 GORS	Shadows of Our Ancestors
971.01 DOUV	Daily Life in Early Canada
971.4 DURA	Place Royale and its Surroundings
971.9 MACD	The Klondike's "Dear Little Nugget"
971.9 MURP	Gold Rush Women
973.7 BOAT	Civil War Dictionary
973.74 ZIMM	This Wicked Rebellion
974 OBRI	Pioneer Irish in New England
974.4 POPE	Pioneers of Massachusetts
974.402 WINS	History of the Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, with Genealogical Registers.
974.6 DAVI	Early Families of Wallingford, Connecticut
974.701 QUIC	History of the Town of Ellisburg

New Books



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY (CONT.)

CATALOG NO.	TITLE
975.4 HASS	History of the Early Settlement & Indian Wars of Western Virginia
975.6 MEYE	Highland Scots of North Carolina, 1732-1776
975.6 BLAC	Western North Carolina : its Mountains and its People to 1880
975.601 RAMS	Carolina Cradle: Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier
977.6 PEAV	Gold Rush Widows of Little Falls
977.801 COSB	Cosby Remembers (Andrew Co. Missouri)
978 DARY	Santa Fe Trail
978 BROW	Gentle Tamers
978 MORG	A Shovel of Stars : Making of the American West
978.1 DICK	Home on the Range : A Century on the High Plains
978.1 SHOR	Peopling the Plains
979.2 HAFE	Recollections of a Handcart Pioneer of 1860
979.7 BUCH	Fort Casey

Beginning Genealogy Class

JCGS will again offer its Beginning Genealogy Class **starting on Monday, January 26th, 2015**. The class will run for five weeks on Monday afternoons from 1-3:30PM through February 24th at the Jefferson County Historical Society Research Center, 13692 Airport Cutoff Road, about five miles south of Port Townsend.

This class is ideal for those new to family history research, and is a great refresher for those who have been studying their families for a while. An overview of the basic steps for successful genealogical research will be provided, including the use of censuses, vital records, and other resources such as land, probate, military and immigration records.

Attention will be paid to online research, but participants don't need to use a computer to take the class as all types of resources will be discussed.

The cost is \$30 for JCGS members and \$50 for non-members (a one-year membership is included in the cost). The class will be limited to 18 students, so sign up early to ensure a space is available! To register, complete the Registration Form 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. If you have questions, email them to JCGSWash@gmail.com.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

These small groups are formed out of member ideas and interest in more detailed exchanges on more specific subjects. They wax and wane with the involvement of the group. We have had New Netherlands, DNA, Family Tree Maker, Wild West, and the most enduring, Writers Group.

There are some times available, meetings are usually held in the lunch room in the mornings. Do you have an idea? Please talk to a member of the Education Committee.

Writers Group meets on the second Saturday of the month. Some members write regularly and read short pieces or excerpts, others just listen. This is not a critique group – we accept each other's work as is and welcome all forms: memoir, fiction, genealogies, Haiku and hearsay.

DNA Group meets as announced, roughly three times a year, to bring newly interested people the basics, and follow the rapid changes in this fast growing branch of Genealogy. Watch the Newsletter and the Listserv.

Canadians will meet January 3rd and February 7th, 2015, from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Research Center lunchroom. Ellen Stanley will moderate an open discussion of research, story sharing, and frustrations on our Canadian ancestors and immigrants. **See details on page 12.**



Annual Spring Genealogy Seminar Speaker: Jill Morelli

Saturday, March 21, 2015

9:30 am to early afternoon

Doors open at 9:00 am for Registration and shopping at Heritage Quest.

Topics:

Session 1: The “Push” and the “Pull”:

Emigration Decision-Making in 19th Century Europe

Session 2: Death and Dying:

How Health Care Changed during the Civil War

Session 3: Conducting Your Own House History

An architect by vocation, Jill brings a unique perspective about the resources available to research your own house or the houses of your ancestors.



- ★ Coffee and light morning refreshments provided. Bring your own lunch.
- ★ Location: Tri-Area Community Center, 10 West Valley Road, Chimacum.
- ★ New Books for sale from Heritage Quest. The traveling bookstore will be offering its array of specialty books, maps and charts.

\$30 per person
register by March 7th
to make sure handouts are available
\$35 at the door
(but only if there is room)

Registration Forms are available at the Research Center and at

wajcgs.org

BOOK REVIEWS—HISTORY OF FASHION

By Sue Snyder

I leafed through 3 books, finding them side by side in our library, labeled “*Reference Fashion, numbers 1, 2, & 3*”. They almost need to be read together. The books were fascinating, with lots and lots of pictures, old fashioned advertisements, and witty, well written information. In fact, the book “*Through the Looking Glass*” has accompanied a BBC documentary. I learned about clothing rationing in England; how many coupons were needed for men and women’s apparel, including fabrics, shoes and coats, even baby clothes. Hand-me-downs were couponless as well as overalls and “braces”. If one worked in a munitions factory, was a land-girl, or in the military, clothing wasn’t a problem. There were articles about the advent of European and American fashion such as Coco Chanel, or Carnaby Street.

Another of the books, “*History of Dress from 1860 to Today*” could be helpful in dating pictures, for example. If one is writing about family living during the civil war and how men and women dressed, one could get an idea of the social history of the time. Think about the historical novels we have read and the attention paid to dress. How about Scarlett O’Hara’s barbecue dress, her wedding dress, her hoops, or lacing up her tight corsets? Even the Little House series of books, Jane Eyre, Little Women, they all spent much time writing about clothes; men, women and children’s. Often the clothing was sewn at home by hand. There was a very great effort to be fashionable, passing around patterns or maybe “Godey’s Ladies Book”. Even pioneer ladies attempted to keep up to date.

The Third Book, “*An Illustrated History of Hair Styles, 1830-1930,*” almost completely consists of photos of various groups, men, women and children. Starting with the antebellum years, it continued on through the civil war, ending with the great depression of the 30’s. There are pictures of hair styles like the Civil War “rats and mice” and pages showing how to create them. Included are Marcells, Bobs, and Buster Browns (a favorite with children of the 30’s). I liked the chapters on exact cutting and waving directions for all of these styles. For men, there were pages and pages of beards, mustaches, haircuts, and sideburns. I think women, especially, sacrificed for a trip to the beauty parlor during hard times.

These are all good reads with great pictures and lots of fun.

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**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**

NEW DISCUSSION GROUPS

Oh Canadians!

I know most of us probably can't think of much else until the holidays are past, but those of you with Canadian ancestors, or folks who migrated by way of Canada, might want to mark your calendars now for JANUARY 3, 2015 - the first Saturday in January when there will be a special interest discussion group, led by Ellen Stanley, to share info, stories, questions and experiences of researching Canadians. The group will meet in the lunchroom at the Research Center from 9:30 to 11:00. There will also be a second, follow-up, meeting of this group on February 7. Ellen has some good research links available that she learned at a Heritage Quest class, with Jim Johnson, on Canadian research. He has given her permission to share the material. This is a chance to share your interest in this area - eh?

Jewish Ancestry?

SHALOM! Some of our members are researching Jewish lines and finding it challenging. Would you like to have a discussion group of one or two meetings to share frustrations and triumphs? Please email our Education Committee Chair at anncandioto@cablespeed.com if such a discussion would interest you. Suggestions on resources would also be welcome.