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# *SGS*

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# *BULLETIN*

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Spring 2015  
Volume 64 No. 2

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92 Years of Genealogical Service  
[www.seattlegenealogicalsociety.org](http://www.seattlegenealogicalsociety.org)

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## Seattle Genealogical Society Bulletin

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### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG)

Most usually meet at SGS offices at the times noted. However, the DNA and the MAC Computer SIGs meet elsewhere.  
Check the Newsletter, the bi-monthly SGS email calendar, SGS website or call SGS for current information.

Canadian SIG	First Saturday, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Chair: David Robert	<a href="mailto:SGSCanadianSIG@gmail.com">SGSCanadianSIG@gmail.com</a>
Computer SIG	vacant	<a href="mailto:SGSComputerSIG@gmail.com">SGSComputerSIG@gmail.com</a>
DNA SIG	four times per year Co-Chairs: Cary Bright & Herb McDaniel	<a href="mailto:SGSDNASIG@gmail.com">SGSDNASIG@gmail.com</a>
German SIG	Third Saturday, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Chair: Jean A. Roth	<a href="mailto:jeanaroth@juno.com">jeanaroth@juno.com</a>
Irish SIG	Third Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p. m Chair: Jean A. Roth.	<a href="mailto:jeanaroth@juno.com">jeanaroth@juno.com</a>
MAC Computer SIG	Second Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Co-Chairs: Lou Daly & Diane Hettrick	<a href="mailto:dhettrick@earthlink.net">dhettrick@earthlink.net</a>

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### AUTHORS TAKE NOTE!

Submission deadline for Winter 2015 *SGS Bulletin*:  
1 September 2015

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR



Dear SGS Members,

What a glorious issue! You are in for such a treat! This year SGS launched its first, and perhaps annual, SGS Family History Writing Contest. We received terrific submissions and selected our three winners. The judges felt that some of the other submissions were so strong that we ought to ask them if they would be willing to allow us to publish their family histories as well. I am happy to say all who were asked said "yes."

Let me introduce you to our top three winners and their winning submissions:

- Lisa Oberg: "Fire and Ice: Deadly Disaster in Minneapolis"
- Karen Brattesani: "A Soldier's Stories of WWII As Told to His Daughter"
- Delorse Lovelady: "Crosley"

We are very lucky to have such talented volunteer writers in our midst. Biographies are later in the issue.

On another note, this is my last *SGS Bulletin*. Board positions have a term limit of three years and I will be stepping down as SGS Director of Publications to work on my certification portfolio and my expanding lecturing demands. This position has allowed me to meet many fellow writers and genealogists and like most volunteer position I have held, I have received much more than I gave. My membership on the Board has also allowed me to know the leadership of our organization in a way that I, otherwise, would not.

Some of the initiatives of which I am most proud, many of which are "behind the scenes" to you, include:

- Development of Writers' Guidelines and an advertising policy for the *SGS Bulletin*
- Consistent use of release forms for articles, allowing the society to publish digitally in the future
- Three thematic issues--Civil War Veterans in Washington, Ethnic Communities of the Northwest, and the Family History Writing Contest
- Taking the newsletter digital
- Using a mailing service for *SGS Bulletin*, greatly relieving the demand on our volunteers

None of the above would have been possible without the terrific support of the Board.

I would like to introduce you to my successor, but unfortunately that person has not yet stepped forward. So, if there is anyone who would be interested in "trying on the position for size," I am a willing mentor. If you have published a family newsletter, then you have the skills to do this job. Even if you haven't and wish to learn how to self-publish, there are willing teachers. To make it easier I have published (the first?) Guidelines for Publication Directors. This document outlines, step by step, how to publish the *SGS newsletter* and the *SGS Bulletin*. Please contact Marilyn Rose at [sgspresident@gmail.com](mailto:sgspresident@gmail.com) if you are interested.

I thank each of you for your support these past three years. I hope our paths will continue to cross.

Happy hunting! And keep writing!

Jill

Jill Morelli  
Director of Publications

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear SGS Members,

A New Year begins! As SGS moves into its new fiscal year we look ahead to a time of challenges, excitement, and rewards. Each new year brings new opportunities. I hope you will volunteer and join the many people that keep your society moving ahead.

You recently received a letter from me asking for your help as we expand the SGS horizons to meet our newly identified goals. Please read it, and, more importantly, take the time to fill out the SGS Member Interest Form which is included with the letter and return it to the Society. This form can be sent to me at [SGSPresident@gmail.com](mailto:SGSPresident@gmail.com), returned by mail, or placed in the "ballot box" at SGS. The information that you provide will help us find a place for your interests, experiences and skills that will best serve you and the needs of SGS.

As you can see by the form there are many areas in which your skills and experience can make a major difference in accomplishing the identified goals for the years ahead. Please join us and volunteer to the society, even an hour or a few hours can help. If you find it difficult to get to SGS, there are some things that can easily be done from home. Let us know your needs and we will try our very best to find the perfect spot for your skills and interests. Hardly a day passes that we don't find another place where we could use additional volunteer help! SGS offers many opportunities to learn new skills or utilize some unused talents. At the Society hardly a day has passed that we haven't faced another challenge: how best to preserve and protect old and valuable resources; what to scan so that we have more space for our growing library; the repair of some of our oldest and most valuable books. Problems seem to arise on an on-going basis. If we know what you can do or where your skills and experiences can best help the Society, that will enable us to offer more services and resources to our membership.

In slightly over eight years SGS will celebrate its centennial. I hope you will join with us as we move ever closer to celebrating the century mark as a vibrant, helpful, and welcoming organization. We would like to reach out to the community to introduce genealogy to a broader audience. SGS wants to welcome community members into our organization and help them find enjoyment and satisfaction, as they learn more about their personal family history and the many characters that inhabit that history.

My email box is open and I am always glad to hear from you with your suggestions and ideas of how to make SGS a warmer and more welcoming Society.

Best Wishes, as SGS's new year begins.

*Marilyn*

Marilyn Rose,  
President, Seattle Genealogical Society

## Announcements!

Congratulations to Lisa Oberg, Karen Brattesani and Delorse Lovelady for being the winners in the first ever SGS Family History Writing Contest. See this issue for their articles and for those of selected other authors. We hope you enjoy them and we hope they inspire you to write your own family stories.

Kudos to Jill Morelli for “surviving” her presentation on Non=Populations Schedules at Jamboree! 2015 in Burbank CA organized by the South California Genealogical Society. She prepared by presenting that lecture at SGS.

Saw many SGSers and folks from the Puget Sound region at the NGS conference in St. Charles, MO. in May. Attending included Cyndi Ingle, Karen Stroshien (getting organizational hints for the Northwest Genealogy Conference 2015 in August?), Kate Johnston, Val Sanford, Rachelle Joy, Michelle Khoun, Jill Morelli, and newly designated certified genealogist, Sara Scribner.

Jill Morelli was named one of the top five social media participants at the NGS conference this year. Her NGS blogs and others are posted at <http://genealogycertification.wordpress.com>

If you have an announcement, let SGS know.

# Seattle Genealogical Society Bulletin

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## SGS FAMILY HISTORY WRITING CONTEST 2015

by Jill Morelli



It was a wild idea. Could SGS run a Family History Writing contest? We had several members in writers' groups. My first question was "What is family history writing?" And, "What other societies have writing contests that we could emulate?" I looked for guidance from the Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) which has run such a contest for years. Their contest's organizer was willing to assist us in any way to encourage family history writing. Thanks!

Each author brings her own style to her submission. Read the submissions first for the enjoyment and the joy of each author sharing a piece of her own history.

But then, read them a second time....this time to gather ideas for writing your own stories. Check out how each author organized her story -- sometimes it is a single story and sometimes it is a series of vignettes. Do they hold your interest and if so, why? Was each author careful with her facts? While there are usually fewer source citations in family history writing, each of the selected authors used citations to tell you, the reader, what could be proven and what was the story as it was told to them. Citations also "tell a story."

Our guidelines for the contest defined "family history writing" as "factual articles: family history or local history, character sketches, or memoirs....which capture a sense of a family's experience(s), the character of a locality, or reveal an individual's character and personality." Sometimes this type of writing is called creative non-fiction or family history or just our stories. The best articles help illuminate the human drama—and also illuminate the era and/or the historical or social context of the subject.

Fiction was not allowed. All submissions had to be factual, honest, and as accurate as possible. We considered these family and local history articles as historical documents that may be consulted and relied upon by future researchers. If information included was speculative or impossible to verify, then the writer had to indicate, either in the text itself or in endnotes, that this information was unproven.

There were some genres of writing that were not acceptable. Accounts of genealogical research procedures, "how-to" articles, advice, and/or general genealogical columns were not appropriate.

These articles are as they were submitted to SGS; however, SGS offered to each author the opportunity to have her article reviewed by SGS's editor and each accepted. No content was changed by these edits, but it allowed these documents to be consistently styled. (We use the *Chicago Manual of Style* as our standard.)

Take a look at these fine examples of writing and take inspiration from them. And, start writing!



## First Place Winner Lisa Oberg



Lisa Oberg officially began researching her family history at the age of 12 but really began as a little girl poring through a suitcase of old photographs at her grandmother's knee asking over and over "Who's this?" She is especially interested in her Luxembourg ancestry, the subject of a website she maintains, *FamiLux* (familux.org). She received her Master of Librarianship degree from the University of Washington (UW) in 1991 and is the Head of Public Service and the History of Science and Medicine Curator for Special Collections at the University of Washington Libraries. She serves on the advisory board for the UW's Genealogy and Family History Certificate program, a certificate she received in 1996. Lisa has given a variety of genealogy-related lectures at the UW and Seattle Genealogy Society, as well as at the Luxembourg American Cultural Society's annual Cultural Conference. She is a member of the Seattle Genealogical Society.

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### CITATION:

Lisa Oberg, "Fire and Ice: Deadly Disaster in Minneapolis," *SGS (Seattle) Bulletin*, 64:2 (Spring 2015) 7-13.

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## FamilySearch Microfilm at The Seattle Public Library

by John H. LaMont,  
SGS member and SPL representative to SGS

The Seattle Public Library is now a FamilySearch affiliate library! FamilySearch is the largest repository of free genealogical records and manages over 2.5 million reels of microfilm at the famous Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Library patrons are now able to borrow microfilm from FamilySearch and have it sent to the Central Library for review.

Use the FamilySearch.org catalog and website to identify and request microfilm, sign in or create an account, and pay for shipping (\$7.50) your selected film. You'll need to choose The Seattle Public Library as your branch (listed under T). When we receive the microfilm and check it in at the Central Library, you'll receive an e-mail confirmation from FamilySearch.org letting you know the film is ready. The film is then stored at the 9th floor desk until it is due or until you mark it to be returned (whichever comes first). Films are typically available for two months or a little longer and may be renewed for another \$7.50.

To view the film, visit the 9th floor of the Central Library. We'll hold your ID while you're using the microfilm and return it when you're done for the day. We have four high quality Scan Pro 2000 microfilm readers, which can be used to view, print (8.5x11 or 11x17), and/or save (PDF,TIF, JPEG) microfilm images. You can use the film during the Central Library's open hours (Mon-Thu: 10-8; Fri: 10-6; Sat-Sun: 12-6), but all computers are typically shut down 15 minutes before closing.



First Place Winner!

## FIRE AND ICE: Deadly Disaster in Minneapolis

by Lisa Oberg



Marlborough Hotel fire, Minneapolis. MH5.9 MP3.1M p80. Minnesota Historical Society.

*It began with a 'cigaret'. It ended with the worst fire in Minneapolis history.*

My grandfather was the eighth of nine children born to Carl Julius Oberg and Anna Christina Skoglund on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, or the UP. Like many people on the UP, Julius and Anna were immigrants to the United States, both having come from Sweden in 1885 and 1899, respectively. After marrying in 1901, they and their growing family moved up and down the UP, following Julius's work as a diamond cutter for the iron mines the Gogebic Range is known for.

As the children grew up and left home they spread out far beyond the UP, the course of their lives forever altered by the Depression and war. My grandfather described to me how the three youngest Oberg brothers – who'd fought their way through Europe and the South Pacific – made their way to Puyallup, Washington, after WWII. There they joined an older sister and her family, who'd come west to work in Puget Sound's booming shipyards. One brother had moved down to Detroit; three other siblings had stayed on the UP. But not all of his siblings were accounted for. One sister, he said, Marguerite, had died in a fire.

For years that was really all I knew about Marguerite. I didn't know how old she was when she died, where she died, or anything at all. Several years later I asked my grandfather again about his sister and he said she was married and had died in an apartment fire. Her married name was Cooper, I thought I heard, but I still didn't know when or where this had happened.

I searched in vain until access to a digitized newspaper, the *Ironwood Daily Globe*, changed everything. The *Globe* contained many references to the nine Oberg children: their perfect elementary school attendance and their participation in church duets and solos, dramatic recitals, and a variety of social happenings. One day I decided to focus my search specifically on Julius Oberg in the hopes that Marguerite's parents might have been mentioned in an obituary. Little did I know then where the results would lead me.

It did lead to the long-sought-after obituary for Marguerite; but, as I soon discovered, the fire that killed her was one of the deadliest of its time and was a tragedy of epic proportions. My understanding of the fire began with a front page news story in the *Ironwood Daily Globe* headlined "Mrs. W. Coover Perishes in Fire."<sup>1</sup> No wonder I hadn't had any success searching for Cooper.

The year 1940 had just begun. Several inches of new snow covered the ground and temperatures were the coldest they had been all winter. On the night of Tuesday, January 2nd, the Coover family was making its way homeward across the Mississippi River to Minneapolis after an evening spent visiting friends in nearby St. Paul. Sometime during the previous year the family had moved to Minneapolis after six years in St. Paul, renting rooms at the Marlborough Apartment Hotel at 301-303-305 East 15th Street. The Marlborough was a modest brick-veneered building consisting of 81 units – 56 single efficiencies and 25 apartments – and home to 114 men, women and children. Built in 1889 as an 18-unit apartment building, the Marlborough had been haphazardly divided in the 1920s.<sup>2</sup> Most of the apartments were rented furnished and many of the residents were low-income or receiving public assistance. Although stylized as a "hotel," the Marlborough housed mostly long-term tenants.



*William, Sander and Marguerite (Oberg) Coover, circa 1937. Collection of the author.*

In the pre-dawn hours of January 3rd, a fire broke out in the apartment building where Marguerite, her husband William Covert, and their two young sons, Sander, age six, and Edward, 10 months, were now living. At 5:45 a.m. an explosion rocked the building, blowing out windows and quickly engulfing the entire structure in a surge of smoke and flames. Janitor Otto Knaack told of being “knocked flat” by an explosion as he opened the boiler room door; and hotel owner Henry Janise awoke “when an electric roaster was knocked off the table by the explosion.”<sup>3</sup>

The first calls to the fire department came in at 5:53 a.m. Engine Company 6 – located seven blocks away at 13th and Yale – was the first to respond.<sup>4</sup> By 6:00 a.m. four alarms had already been raised and engines and hooks and ladders from throughout the city were racing to the scene.<sup>5</sup> Upon their arrival, firefighters immediately began raising ladders to help evacuate residents precariously perched on windowsills. Firefighters had to contend not only with the harsh winter conditions but the hysteria of residents desperate to escape the holocaust. Several people had already jumped to their deaths and, overcome by panic, one man had pushed his wife to her death.

The fire was believed to have been started by a lit cigarette – or ‘cigaret’ as the Associated Press (AP) reported – thrown down a garbage chute. Fire Prevention Chief Arthur Spottswood theorized that the discarded cigarette had ignited refuse in the chute, which had then smoldered throughout the night and created accumulated gases that had resulted in a “heat explosion.”<sup>6</sup> Residents later spoke of flames which “seemed to shoot right out of walls,” with the fire quickly engulfing the three-story wood building. Responding firefighters were thwarted in their efforts to quench the fire because of the -5°F temperature, which caused water from the fire hoses to freeze in sheets of ice on the exterior of the building. A frozen lake formed on the street, as water from fire hoses accumulated in an eerie ice-drenched scene captured in a brief clip of surviving newsreel coverage.<sup>7</sup>

Many of the Marlborough’s tenants had been awoken by the alarms, only to discover flames licking upward through the walls and stairways and trapping them in their apartments and hallways. Petrified screams woke neighbors in nearby apartment buildings. Everywhere tragedy ensued. A young child trapped in a blazing hallway screamed for fifteen minutes before being engulfed in flames. A man with third degree burns, who had escaped the building to a rear courtyard, was showered with shattered glass as windows blew out. Firefighters worked for five hours to get the blaze under control. Then began the grisly task of searching for the victims, which went well into the night. Their efforts were complicated by the collapse of sections of the roof and upper floors into the basement. Many of those who had managed to escape had run from their beds and were cast barefoot in their nightclothes into the subfreezing dawn.

The Red Cross and neighboring apartment residents quickly sprang into action, setting up relief stations, gathering blankets and clothing, and serving coffee, donuts, and sandwiches to homeless Marlborough tenants and fatigued firefighters. By late morning the overrun morgue was already swarmed, as family members began looking for their loved ones, only to learn that most of the victims had been burned beyond recognition. Positive identification would have to wait until other residents were accounted for and by a process of elimination based on where their bodies had been found. In the end, twenty-eight people were hospitalized as a result of their injuries and nineteen perished in the fire, including Marguerite and William, both just 30 years of age, and their 10-month-old son, Edward.<sup>8-10</sup>

The next day, Wednesday, January 4th, dawned bitterly cold and cloudy again as news of the fire was splashed in headlines atop morning editions across the country. That day “more than 500 persons passed through the morgue during the afternoon and evening to view the victims.” In Ironwood, Michigan, Julius Oberg received a telephone call from Hennepin County Red Cross chairman, W.R. Stephens, informing him of his daughter’s tragic fate. The *Ironwood Daily Globe* reported the “Covert family last visited relatives in Hurley, Ironwood and Wakefield on Labor Day.”<sup>11</sup>

In Muncie, Indiana – William Coover’s hometown – his uncle was stunned to learn of the family’s demise that morning when reading the *Muncie Morning Star* and seeing his great-nephew Edward Coover’s name among the fire’s victims.<sup>12</sup> As the initial news reports went out, Marguerite and William had yet to be identified, as both had suffered severe third-degree burns.

The extended Coover clan’s shock was compounded by the fact that they were unaware of the family’s recent move to Minneapolis. The story took an even more dramatic turn later that morning when it was revealed that Sander Coover had survived the fire because he had spent the night with friends. “Child, 6, Doesn’t Know He’s a Fire Orphan Now” the headline blared in the *Bismarck Tribune*. Sander “was alive only because he had been too sleepy Tuesday night to ride home across town with his parents.”<sup>13</sup>

The AP story picked up across the country describes Sander “happily” playing, unaware the trip to Muncie he would undertake the following day would be permanent. The story goes on to say “the friends with whom he was staying hadn’t the heart to tell Sander the rest of his family had been wiped out” and that he would soon be adopted by his paternal grandmother, Ida Camplen.<sup>14</sup> H.L. Scott, William’s employer at Smith Universal Studio, whom the Coovers had been visiting, escorted Sander and the remains of his father, mother, and brother to his new home in Muncie. The Red Cross was instrumental in transporting the bodies of the Coover family to Muncie and underwriting the expense of their burial.<sup>15</sup>

The story of the Marlborough Apartment Hotel fire and Sander’s miraculous escape was front page news not only in Minneapolis, Muncie, and Ironwood, but throughout the United States. A special front-page report from the *New York Times*, headlined “18 Die as Fire Ruins Minneapolis Hotel,” included a photo of the building engulfed in flames.<sup>16</sup> The nineteenth victim, Steven Brazil, had died the following day from a broken pelvis and other injuries sustained from jumping from his third-story window.<sup>17</sup> *LIFE* magazine, which chronicled American life from 1883 to 1972, featured a two-page photo spread in its January 15th issue that highlighted the devastation and the frantic efforts to control the blaze.<sup>18</sup>



Edward Coover, circa 1939. Collection of the author.

An analysis of the fire published in April of 1940 in the *Quarterly of the National Fire Prevention Association* included a detailed report of how the fire had started, spread, and spiraled out of control so quickly. When the original 18 units were divided into smaller units, fire retarding walls between each of the building’s three wings had been removed, thus enabling the fire to spread unchecked throughout the building.<sup>19</sup> The building was declared a total loss, entirely gutted above the first floor, and “all that was left standing in the wake of the disaster were the brick walls.”<sup>20</sup> The financial losses were estimated at \$55,000., nearly one million dollars today.

What began with an offhand comment about my grandfather’s sister dying in a fire – and a misremembered or misheard name – ended with a wealth of knowledge about a tragic event in my family’s history. The intense media coverage and analysis all provide insight into the catastrophe of January 3rd, 1940. But

how my grandfather, his parents, and his brothers and sisters were affected by the death of Marguerite and her family has been lost to time.

Six-year-old Sander Coovert was raised by his paternal grandmother, Ida Camplen. What did Sander know of his mother and her family? What did he know of the tragic deaths of his parents and baby brother? The answers to these questions, too, remain a mystery. In the days following the fire the *Minneapolis Times* reported many "pathetic incidents," as survivors, fire fighters, and witnesses shared their stories. For me, though, what remains the most enduring image of Minneapolis's most disastrous fire in history is the heart-wrenching description of the discovery of ten-month old Edward Coovert, found "lying in his crib, and cuddled next to him was his small puppy, also dead."<sup>21</sup>

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## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> "Mrs W. Coovert Perishes in Fire" Ironwood Daily Globe, 5 January 1940, p. 1, col. 4; digital image, Newspapers.com (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 31 March 2015).
- <sup>2</sup> Fire Underwriters Inspection Bureau. Marlborough Hotel Fire, Minneapolis. National Fire Prevention Quarterly. 1940 April; 33(4):384-387.
- <sup>3</sup> "Fireman Search All Night Among Ruins; 4 Injured Critically", Minneapolis Morning Tribune, 4 January 1940, p. 1, cols 1-5.
- <sup>4</sup> Heath, Richard. Mill City Firefighters: The First Hundred Years, 1879–1979. Minneapolis: The Extra Alarm Association of the Twin Cities, 1981.
- <sup>5</sup> Huyck, Adrian. The Adrian Huyck Notebook: Minneapolis Fire Department, 1857–1965. [Minneapolis]: The Extra Alarm Association, [1992].
- <sup>6</sup> Minneapolis Morning Tribune, 4 January 1940, p. 1, cols 1-5.
- <sup>7</sup> "Firefighters clear debris and search for bodies following Marlborough Hotel fire in Minneapolis." Newsreel video, 36 sec. 3 January 1940. (<https://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675044324> : accessed 31 March 2015).
- <sup>8</sup> State of Minnesota. Department of Health. Section of Vital Statistics, death certificate #18079 (1940), Edward Coovert; Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.
- <sup>9</sup> State of Minnesota. Department of Health. Section of Vital Statistics, death certificate #18080 (1940), Marguerite Coovert; Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.
- <sup>10</sup> State of Minnesota. Department of Health. Section of Vital Statistics, death certificate #18081 (1940), William Lee Coovert; Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.
- <sup>11</sup> Ironwood Daily Globe, 5 January 1940, p. 1, col. 4.
- <sup>12</sup> "Three of Muncie Family Wiped Out in Hotel Fire", Muncie Morning Star, 5 January 1940, p. 1, col. 3.
- <sup>13</sup> "Child, 6, Doesn't Know He's Fire Orphan Now" The Bismarck Tribune. 5 January 1940, p. 1, cols 5-6; digital images, Newspapers.com (<http://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 31 March 2015).
- <sup>14</sup> The Bismarck Tribune. 5 January 1940, p. 1, cols 5-6.
- <sup>15</sup> Disasters From July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940: Official Report of Relief Operations. Washington D.C.: The American National Red Cross, [1940].
- <sup>16</sup> "18 DIE AS FIRE RUINS MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL." New York Times, 4 January 1940, pg. 25; digital image, ProQuest.com (<http://search.proquest.com>: accessed 31 March 2015).
- <sup>17</sup> "Hotel Tragedy Stirs City War on Fire Hazard", Minneapolis Morning Tribune, 5 January 1940, p. 1, cols 3-6.
- <sup>18</sup> "19 Die in Most Disastrous Fire in History of Minneapolis" LIFE. January 15, 1940: 8(3):22-23; digital images (<http://goo.gl/0rDSeq> : accessed 31 March 2015).
- <sup>19</sup> National Fire Prevention Quarterly. 1940 April; 33(4):384-387.
- <sup>20</sup> Minneapolis Morning Tribune, 5 January 1940, p. 1, cols 3-6.
- <sup>21</sup> Minneapolis Morning Tribune, 4 January 1940, p. 1, cols 1-5.



## Second Place Winner! Karen Brattesani



Karen Brattesani began writing about her ancestors in 2008 after a successful research trip to northern Italy, where she met previously unknown relatives in Varese Ligure, a medieval town in the hills of the Liguria region. Her ancestry research has taken her to Sens, France, and south-central Pennsylvania. Karen is a recently retired market research consultant. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology research, so family history research comes naturally. When not studying or writing about her ancestors, Karen enjoys gardening, curling, knitting and stand-up paddle boarding. Karen lives in north Seattle with her husband and two aging cats.

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## Webinars: An Easily Accessed Educational Resource

by Jill Morelli



Have you ever listened to a genealogical webinar? Are you puzzled by webinars? I hope to convince you, through this article, to try your first webinar; or, if you are a regular attendee, to give you a new site.

First, what is a webinar? A webinar is an online lecture that you watch using your computer screen as a "television" and the speakers of your computer for the sound. They are a great way to enhance your learning, especially if you find that you cannot attend conferences.

Webinars can either be "live" or "archived." If you watch a webinar live, then you are listening to it as the lecture occurs. Archived sessions are stored and then made available to you anytime you wish to watch. Often the webinars which are first produced live are then archived and made available for later viewing. The basic hardware requirements are an up-to-date computer with a good amount of memory and speakers, either built-in or as attachments..

I admit to being a "webinar junkie". They are so easy to access, cover topics I wouldn't necessarily go out of my way to learn, and I can watch them instead of watching mindless reality shows on my "real" TV! Some topics I have listened to lately include ten sessions that were given at the National Genealogical Society Conference 2015 held in St. Charles, Missouri this May. Topics included five lectures on immigration and naturalization, German research, Irish methodologies for finding the ancestral home, and using DNA to solve genealogical questions. These lectures were given by the very best speakers at the conference. While there

## A Soldier's Stories of World War II as Told to his Daughter

by Karen Brattesani



*Peter Brattesani, clerk for the 3rd  
Auxiliary Surgical Group, Stourport-  
on-Severin, England, 1944*

My father, Peter Brattesani, entertained his family by telling stories about his life, including his three years as a soldier in the U.S. Army during World War II. Born in 1914 in Oakland, California, he was 28 when drafted into the service. At the end of the war, he was a first lieutenant. Having had enough of war, he turned down a promotion to captain and eagerly returned to civilian life.

Still, my dad was proud of his service to his country as head clerk for the Third Auxiliary Surgical Group. He was fond of the 1970's movie and television series *M\*A\*S\*H*, about a mobile army surgical hospital in Korea, because many of the episodes so closely matched his own experience. Similar to the show's character Radar, my dad handled personnel records and mail communication as clerk to the chief surgeon, Major Clifford Graves.<sup>1</sup> Later, as liaison officer between field hospital platoons and surgical teams, Dad delivered payroll checks to units at the front lines and deployed surgical teams where casualties were heaviest.<sup>2</sup>

War never comes at a good time. In 1942, Dad's induction into the Army came only months before he planned to marry my mother, Alice Pastorino.

### A Wedding Postponed

*Alice and I were engaged for quite a while before the war and we had planned to get married before I was drafted. I was in training in Texas for about six months and Alice came down with my sister Rose to visit me a couple of times. Alice had bought a wedding gown and we were going to get married in November, before I left Texas. But I got word from my C.O. [commanding officer] we were leaving in three days for New Jersey for overseas service, so we had to cancel the wedding. Alice thought it was bad luck to keep her wedding dress while I was away, so she returned it to the store and prepared to wait until I came home.*

### In the O.R.

*After I completed basic training at Camp Barksdale, Texas, I was sent to Brooke General Hospital<sup>3</sup> in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to be trained as a medical technician.*

*The first time I witnessed a surgical procedure, my C.O., Colonel Blatt, performed the surgery. The trainees were standing all lined up along three tiers of benches. I was standing right in the middle of the middle tier.*

*Major Clifford Graves instructed. He described the upcoming surgery as a laparotomy [an exploratory surgery of the abdomen]. The incision was to start about the breast bone and go down below the navel. I remember the incision track was marked in blue indelible pencil.*

*When Major Graves finished his explanation, Colonel Blatt began the first incision. As soon as I saw the little drops of blood along that incision line, I fainted, knocking down the person in front of me. He climbed back up on the bench, but I didn't think I could stand up again. So I tried to crawl out of the O.R. on my hands and knees. Unfortunately, half way*



out, Major Graves saw me and ordered, "Brattesani, get back up on that bench."

"Oh, no," I thought, "I'll just faint again." So I got back up on the bench and tried to keep my eyes closed and not watch. Then, I thought, if I was going to pass the test, I'd better see what was going on. I finally opened my eyes and by this time the skin was retracted and they were proceeding with the surgery. Well, this looked like the interesting part. So I watched the rest.

Afterwards, Major Graves told me, "I don't think you'll make a very good surgical technician, but you'll be a darn good administrator."

This was nearly the last time I was in an O.R. Major Graves decided to make a clerk-typist of me, which I did for six months until promoted to chief clerk. Then, I did all the administrative paperwork for the headquarters of the Third Auxiliary Surgical Group.

\*\*\*\*\*

In November, 1942, the Third Auxiliary Surgical Group was alerted to ready themselves to ship overseas in early December. They travelled by train from Fort Sam Houston to Camp Kilmer in New Jersey to meet their ship. Their transportation was no ordinary military carrier. The *Queen Mary* had been a luxury liner that transported dignitaries, British royalty, and Hollywood celebrities the decade before. During war times, the *Queen Mary* had been retrofitted to accommodate twice the number of passengers. Portholes were darkened and the exterior was painted gray, earning the ship the nickname of the "Gray Ghost."<sup>4</sup>

The *Queen Mary* was among the fastest ships to cross the Atlantic at that time and transported thousands of troops to Europe. Dad told me they had nearly a week to enjoy their surroundings in this luxury liner on their way to England. During that trip, my dad had time to think about his fiancé, Alice Pastorino, who awaited his return in Oakland, and he took up a new hobby.



*Peter thought of his fiancé while carving this name plate during his trip overseas aboard the Queen Mary.*

### Wood Carving

I got interested in carving while I was on the *Queen Mary* on the way to England. I read a magazine about people's hobbies that showed someone doing woodworking with some special carving instruments.

I had just bought my pocket knife at the PX on the ship. Everybody had a knife, mostly big ones, but I just wanted a small one. Mine had three different blades and I thought I'd try it on some wood.

I went to the cook and asked for a piece of boxwood. Little by little I cut out an "A" for Alice. But I wasn't satisfied. It was simple and very thin and didn't stand up. I wanted to work on something more elaborate. I wanted to make the whole name "Alice" that would stand up like the name plates that we had on our desks. So I started working slowly, one letter at a time, with those three small knife blades. The guys started to kid me about carving all day long. But it passed the time on board.

It took us six days to cross the Atlantic, with nothing else to do on the way. When we arrived in England, I was finished, so it must have taken me about five days to do the carving. The finished product stayed with me during the whole war and I brought it home when I returned.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was during World War II that Bob Hope first took his variety show to armed forces serving abroad. For the duration of each show, servicemen could relax and enjoy a welcome taste of home. These shows were memorable for servicemen and entertainers alike. In Bob Hope's brief memoir of his visits to England, Africa and Sicily, he recalled how frightened he was during an air raid on Bizerte, Tunisia.<sup>5</sup> His military police (MP) escort hurried the entertainers out of their hotel after their performance for my dad's company and about 7500 other troops. They left by jeep in a convoy with other military units who had just watched the show.

Bob Hope quipped to his assigned MP, "You're just talking about getting out of town. I'm dreaming of getting out of North Africa." When bullets fired overhead, the MP hollered, "Don't just stand there, Hope. Crawl in here." The MP sent Bob Hope into a sewer ditch for safety.

My dad recalled both the show and the raid that followed.

### *The Bob Hope Show Visits the Troops*

*We were stationed in North Africa from summer to the fall of 1943 on a large bay [Lac Bizerte] when Bob Hope and Frances Langford, another star of that era, were scheduled to perform for the troops.<sup>6</sup> Our unit traveled there from Ferryville around to Bizerte, the performance site on the other side of the bay. We went in our 2½-ton trucks and got there a little late, so we were at the edges of the crowd.*



*Peter Brattesani took this snapshot from atop an oil drum when Bob Hope and Frances Langford entertained the troops in Bizerte, Tunisia in August, 1943.*

*We could see the stage set up on the porch of a large mansion. The troops were standing all around it on the hillside, cordoned off with rope stretched between big 50-gallon metal oil drums with dome lids.*

*Well, I had my camera and wanted some pictures, so I gracefully climbed up on one of these drums to get above the crowd and balanced on the rim of the drum. I took some pictures of Bob Hope. Then he introduced Frances Langford.*

*I had to get some more pictures, and I couldn't just shoot over everyone's heads. So I got up on this drum again. Just as Frances Langford came out, one of the soldiers leaned against the drum and I lost my balance. My foot came down hard on the drum lid, forcing it down into the drum. It made a tremendous **boom**.*

*To the crowd, it sounded like a bomb. As I lifted my foot off to get my balance and get back in position, the lid came back up and made another big **boom**. It didn't take very many seconds for Frances Langford to fall to her knees, as did Bob Hope. Many of those watching also took the same dive. That left me standing high and dry above everybody's heads with my camera.*

*I remember Bob Hope joking, "You better keep that soldier off those drums." I was a sergeant then, and I thought the next day I'd be a buck private. But nothing happened. And I got my pictures.*

*After the show, as the convoys of trucks went back to their own stations, there was an aerial attack. Bob Hope and his entertainers were just a hundred or so feet behind us. But that night, we all jumped into the ditches together as the German Messerschmitts flew overhead.*

\*\*\*\*\*

This was not the only time my dad thought he was in trouble with the Army, probably the thing that frightened him almost as much as taking fire from the Germans. When he was promoted to officer, he wondered what he had done wrong when his C.O. stripped off his sergeant stripes.

### **An Officer**

*In [October] 1944, while we were stationed in Spa, Belgium, I was promoted to second lieutenant. The company needed a medical administrative officer because the previous one had been captured by the Germans while delivering the payroll to the front lines. Colonel Blatt requested someone for that position, but word came back that no one was available. He was told to appoint his next in line.*

*Well, there were two above me. One fellow Colonel Blatt didn't like, and the other was a heavy drinker, so he didn't want him. The next was me.*

*Colonel Blatt sent someone after me at 10 at night to bring me to the office tent, our headquarters. When I walked in, there was Colonel Blatt, Major Graves, and our head nurse.*

*The first thing Colonel Blatt said was, "Well, Brattesani, you aren't going to be a sergeant anymore."*

*He reached out and ripped the sergeant stripes from my uniform. I thought I was surely going to be a private again.*

*"Your promotion came through," he said.*

*"Sir, what promotion?" I asked. I was the one who handled all the communications in and out of the office.*

*He showed me the papers that discharged me as a sergeant and commissioned me as a second lieutenant. He'd done it behind my back and, boy, was I surprised. From then on I administered the paperwork for all the doctors and nurses in our unit.*

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1944, in the district of Liege, Belgium, US troops held the town of Malmédy. On December 17, during the Battle of the Bulge, 84 American prisoners of war were massacred there. My dad was with Third Auxiliary headquarters in Spa, Belgium, less than 10 miles northeast of Malmédy.<sup>7</sup>

The company got word on December 18 at 5 p.m. that they needed to pack up and leave. They could see American P-47 fighter planes waging an attack on German tankers to the south. They took blankets, heaters, and radios and left a lot of paperwork behind as they headed west. According to head surgeon Major Clifford Graves:

*The townspeople gathered in the streets to see the trucks pull out and it was obvious that they were expecting to see the Germans pull around the next corner. To be in a retreat of that sort is the most demoralizing experience a soldier can suffer. Darkness settled. The convoys stalled a hundred times. A gentle rain began to fall. Brattesani said: "Let's keep on going till we are home!" He spoke for many.*

My dad told the story of his own trip to relative safety along the Meuse River.

### **Bugging Out of Spa, Belgium**

*We were headquartered in Spa, Belgium, in December of 1944 when we got orders to pack up and move out. The Germans were coming with all their forces in what was to be called the Battle of the Bulge. The last things to be packed were my administrative papers and portable desk. My driver and I got those things packed up and we had an entire jeep to ourselves. There was a pile of things the unit left behind – records, extra supplies, and food. Some of the guys doused the whole pile with gasoline and I had to light it on fire as we left.*

*Whatever personal belongings wouldn't fit in our bags we had to leave. One fella had to leave his salami – he didn't have as much room as I did. I had two big salamis and a panetone [Italian sweet bread] they sent me from home to eat at Christmas, and I brought them along.*

*Just as we were about to leave, we could see German tanks coming up the road from Malmédy. I lit the fire and we were gone.*

*We headed west toward the Meuse River, where we were to meet up again with our company in a town called Liege. But we were the last to leave, with no one else around us. On the way we thought we heard fighter jets overhead. My driver stuck his head out the window and looked up to see what was there. And as he did, he turned the steering wheel just enough that we went off the road and into a ditch by a railroad track.*

*The jeep rolled onto its side and my driver flew out over the jeep and landed a few feet away. I got a sore shoulder, but we were both alright. Between the two of us we got the jeep upright and we were on our way. But one of our front wheels was wobbly, so we went only 15 mph the rest of the way.*

*When we got to the Meuse, we had a heck of a time finding our unit. The MP's were of no use. When we finally found our unit, they'd been wondering where we were. They couldn't do much of anything until we got there, because we had the whole office with us.*

*We ended up staying in a schoolhouse, actually the basement of a bombed out schoolhouse. I don't know why they picked this spot. It was on the Meuse River where two bridges had been blown up and we were right next to a third bridge that was still functioning. Well, where do you think they'd bomb next? The last bridge, of course.*

*On Christmas we heard firing on this bridge outside, but inside the school house, our unit celebrated. We even tried to sing a few hymns. We drank and ate salami and panetone. It never tasted so good.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Battle of the Bulge took a toll on my dad's company. The unusually severe winter and confusion of battle made it difficult to set up field hospitals. Companies felt isolated from each other and morale was low until spring, when U.S. forces pushed Nazi troops east.*

*When the Nazis surrendered on April 19, there was still work to do. The Third Auxiliary faced some particularly gruesome chores in cleaning up the concentration camp at Buchenwald. As the company was transferred from one place to another, the men celebrated when they had the opportunity.*

### **Luxury on the Rhine**

*Our company was relocating about every 35 days, and we got orders to be stationed at a beautiful estate vacated by the owner of a chain of German department stores. The mansion was located on the Rhine River and had lots of bedrooms to provide good facilities for the 18 or so nurses. The men slept in tents all around the grounds.*

*We all started exploring the grounds and the third in command decided he wanted to get into a boarded-up garage. Inside he found a beautiful Mercedes Roadster complete with its key, which he decided to commandeer from then on.*

*The rest of us discovered that the owner of the mansion had taken much of the stock from his stores and put it in his basement. We found a large train set, with cars about 12" long and 6" high, large enough to carry small children, and we set up the track and entertained ourselves. We spent some time wondering how we might ship them back home, but we knew we could never get clearance for that. They would never get past the duty officer.*

*We also discovered crates and crates of china plates. We were a little tired of our aluminum mess kits and this stash meant we wouldn't have to wash dishes for a long time.*

*Every night we'd eat out on the veranda about 30 yards from the banks of the Rhine River and there was a dock on the river. When we were done with dinner, we'd hold a contest. Who could make his plate land on the dock? We anted up our cigarettes and the winners would win a package or a carton at a time.*

*So we started flipping these beautiful China dishes – they were probably worth in American money at that time \$10 or \$12 apiece – down over the backyard of grass and shrubbery onto the dock. All for a few cigarettes! A few of them landed on the dock, but most of them skidded across the river before sinking. The big platters went the farthest – a platter flew just like a big Frisbee.*

*Now, of course, I cringe whenever I think of all the beautiful china we broke in the river. We got called on the carpet for that and didn't use the dishes anymore. But at the time, we didn't care. We sure had fun. And we needed fun.*

\*\*\*\*\*

When the Third Auxiliary officially disbanded on July 31, 1945, units from the Group had served in Tunisia, Algeria, Sicily, England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Many of the company were then assigned to the 896<sup>th</sup> Medical Professional Services Group before returning home. My dad's papers include personnel reassignments and letters of transmittal to return company funds to the Army's European Theater of Operations. Dad returned home in November to his relieved family and fiancé.



*Alice and Peter are married December, 2, 1945, three weeks after Dad is discharged from the army.*

### **Wedding Day**

*When the war finally ended and I got back, it was November again, but in 1945. Alice wanted to wait until June to get married, but there was just no way I was going to wait till June. I had waited long enough. We decided on December 2 for our wedding date, which gave us only three weeks to plan, new wedding dress and all.*

*We rushed around to get everything done in time, and we were still rushing the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We had an order in for a nice white runner for the floor of the church. I called the priest the morning of the wedding to check on things and the runner wasn't there. This was Sunday morning, and the runner was still at the Chinese laundry in Oakland's Chinatown.*

*I took our family friend, Al Levaggi, with me and we went down there and had to wake up the Chinese laundry man. He spoke no English and, of course, I knew absolutely nothing of Chinese. But with a few*



*Alice and Peter on the their 50th wedding anniversary in 1995, Oakland, California.*

*arm waves and pleading, he finally understood what I needed. He went in and found the runner and brought it out for us.*

*We brought it to the church and rolled it out just before the ceremony. Three years and one war after our first wedding date, we were finally married.*

My dad did not portray himself as a hero in his war stories, or even his "after-war stories." Rather, he featured his missteps and blunders, the human foibles that endeared his friends and family to him. Dad's stories show me a man who accepted his own imperfections and loved those near him, both in spite of and because of their own imperfections. He graced us with his imperfect life until his death in 1998. My mother died in 2012 at age 99.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Graves, M. D., Clifford L. *Front Line Surgeons*. San Diego, Ca: Frye & Smith Ltd., 1950. My annotations draw from this book. Major Graves wrote about the Third Auxiliary Surgical Group's experiences during their tour of duty. The stories are my dad's, in his own words, as he told them to me.

<sup>2</sup> My dad's duties in the war and dates of service are derived from my dad's personnel records and personal 201 file, in my possession.

<sup>3</sup> Now, San Antonio Military Medical Center.

<sup>4</sup> [www.queenmary.com](http://www.queenmary.com)

<sup>5</sup> Hope, Bob. *I Never Left Home*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1944.

<sup>6</sup> The date of the Bob Hope performance in Bizerte is unknown, but was scheduled for Aug 16, according to a "Restricted" Army memo titled "Subject: Booking of Bob Hope Show" dated 13 Aug 1943. Provided by the Bob Hope Legacy Collection, World Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, St. Augustine, Florida. ([www.worldgolfhalloffame.org](http://www.worldgolfhalloffame.org)).

<sup>7</sup> [www.historylearningsite.co.uk/malmedy\\_massacre.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/malmedy_massacre.htm)

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WEBINARS, continued from page 12.

are pay-to-view webinars, this article will cover the free ones and the for-pay webinars you can access for free!

Here are some of my favorite free webinar sites:

FAMILY SEARCH: All sessions are offered free. You will need to download WebX software to view lectures.

Live sessions: [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library#July](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family_History_Library#July)

Scroll down the page to "Patron Class Schedule" for the live webinars offered for the next two months. For example, August has classes on reading Spanish handwriting and accessing Polish records.

Archived sessions: [https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html?](https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html?PAGE=education_research_series_online.asp%3FActiveTab=2)

[PAGE=education\\_research\\_series\\_online.asp%3FActiveTab=2](https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html?PAGE=education_research_series_online.asp%3FActiveTab=2) This location has over 600 classes that are indexed by country/topic or educational level -- a terrific resource!

ANCESTRY.COM: <https://www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/>

Ancestry has just started Ancestry Academy, its online learning library which is available to World Explorer Plus subscribers for free. SGS has this subscription. so you can access the classes through the Society's

WEBINARS, continued on page 35



### Third Place Winner: Delorse Lovelady



Delorse Lovelady was born in France, grew up in Texas, and migrated to Seattle in 1978. Early in life she was interested in painting, drawing, writing, genealogy, and what makes people tick. Family stories of her French and Deep South ancestors fascinated her. She completed a BA in Psychology and Sociology, an MA in Human Relations, Certifications in Counseling and Expressive Art Therapy, and other programs. Her federal career was as a Contracting/Grants Officer. Currently she enjoys being a member of SGS and the Family Ink writers group, as well as Wordsmitten, a memoir writers group, and several artists associations. Her writing has appeared in her Texas hometown newspaper and the Edmonds Community College art/literary publication. She self-published two family-oriented books, and her blog at <http://heartfireart.blogspot.com/> displays her paintings and writing. Travel, nature and outdoor activities, ancestry research, and writing are some of the interests she and her spouse Saul enjoy together.

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Delorse Lovelady, "Crosley," *SGS (Seattle) Bulletin*, 64:2 (Spring 2015) 21-24.

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### High Flight

John Gillespie Mcgee, Jr.  
(1919-1941)

*"Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air....*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace.  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew —  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
- Put out my hand, and touched the face of God."*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Gillespie\\_Magee,\\_Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gillespie_Magee,_Jr.)



Crosley

by Delorse Lovelady



*Crosley advertisement, Life magazine, December 1955..  
used by permission of author*

Excitement filled the room when the large warm-brown cabinet with spindly legs arrived. The top had a curved glass square with a kind of tweedy-looking fabric below. Nervous energy radiated from our dancing feet as we three kids moved around the room to get a better view of the new ultra-modern thing the delivery men were carrying into our El Paso house that day in 1956. We could tell Mom and Dad were excited too. Mom directed it be placed in just the perfect spot, and Dad focused on making sure it was set up correctly. The delivery man plugged it into a wall socket, turned a knob to test it. Pictures glowed from the glass square called a screen, and spoken words radiated out of the fabric covering something called a speaker. Magically, he hummed to life. It was Crosley, our first television set.<sup>1</sup> I instantly knew his name, since it was emblazoned right under the glass screen, and that he was going to be fun.

Crosley was warmly welcomed into our family and this wonder box became the center of attention on particular nights and many days. He stood proudly in our small living room,

strategically placed in front of the stuffed turquoise sofa and matching chairs. He blended in with our sleek modern mid-1950's décor, with the blond wood coffee and end tables that also had straight spindly legs.

It was a marvel to be able to see stories and hear voices coming from miles and miles away through our magic machine. Crosley had thin straight metal “rabbit ears” on top of him that picked up invisible waves for good pictures and clear sound.<sup>2</sup> Sometimes his ears didn’t work as well as we would have liked and buzzing static known as “snow” would fill the screen. Dad made a fix for this by placing an extra-long rolled and crinkled piece of aluminum foil between Crosley’s rabbit ears and scrunching each end over to attach to them. Sometimes, one of us would have to get up and stand by Crosley, touching and twiddling the aluminum to get the reception to work. “Move your hand a little bit” or “Stand a little closer to Crosley,” the rest of us would say, glad that we hadn’t been chosen to do it.



*The family celebrates holidays with Crosley standing in the back with his rabbit ears pointed up.  
Collection of the author*

We watched many programs in those early days of black-and-white television.<sup>3</sup> There were the cowboy westerns, like *Wagon Train*, with Ward Bond, the tough but honest leader. There was *Sky King*, the aviator-hero flying above the clouds, and *The Lone Ranger*, saying “Hi-Yo, Silver!” while seated on his beautiful white horse, who would rear up in agreement. We loved comedies like *I Love Lucy* and *The Honeymooners*, and we all just laughed and laughed while watching the funny antics. Years later we still watched reruns of *I Love Lucy* and enjoyed the corny silliness. Who could forget the episode where she visits a winery in Italy -- and ends up in a vat stomping grapes and fighting with an Italian peasant, turning purple all the while.

Even Crosley’s daytime programs kept our interest: the *Queen for a Day* ladies’ game show and *Art Linkletter – Kids Say the Darndest Things*, which mother loved, and *Groucho Marx*. The “It’s Howdy Doody time. It’s Howdy Doody time...” anthem for my favorite kid

show sang out from Crosley every day. We kids watched *Howdy*, along with the *Captain Kangaroo* and the *Mickey Mouse Club* shows, and often, we would sing along with the songs.

Saturday nights mother tuned in to hear Perry Como croon his love melodies, and the upbeat orchestra of *The Lawrence Welk Show*, which always began as Mr. Welk waved his hands intoning “A one... and a two...” then, followed with its “du ta du ta du ta do...” tempo. I couldn’t get excited about those, but Mom loved to dance around the living room humming to the music, and encouraging us to try dancing too.

By far our favorite night was Friday night, movie night. Most often, it seemed, we watched one of the many *Tarzan* movies. We loved Tarzan and Jane, Boy and Cheetah, the chimp and the jungle. It was exotic and exciting. We were connoisseurs of the “ah a aaahhh a aaaahhhhhh,” when Tarzan called to the animals for help and the elephants would trumpet back, flapping their big ears, stomping their feet, and raising the dust. Frequently, the next few days, you could hear us practicing our own yells outside. We definitely preferred Johnny Weissmuller for Tarzan over some of the other lesser actors who didn’t have the yell exactly right. Who knew, that so many years later, around 2006, while touring Hollywood, CA, my husband and I would pass right by the Johnny Weissmuller home. That experience triggered fond memories of the mid-1950s, the *Tarzan* movies, and the television shows our family shared. It took me back in time to those movie nights with Crosley, our storyteller, and the excited anticipation of a shared tale and treats.

“Hurry up, everyone get your bath and your pj’s on,” Mom would say. “Yeah boy -- movie night tonight!” Dad would exclaim. And we three kids, -- Randy, Joyce and I -- would rush to get ready and comfortable and claim our spot in the living room in front of Crosley. Then Dad would ask, “Who wants toasted cheese?” And, of course, we all yelled, “Meeee!!” We all wanted one, a slice of pristine-white Wonder Bread with generous slices of Velveeta cheese on top, then broiled ‘til melted and lightly browned, hot and yummy. Other nights, a delicious aroma would fill the house, while

noisy metal scraping and jiggling of a pot on a gas burner with lots of snapping explosions could be heard. The treat would be popped corn, made in an oiled pot, then topped with salt and golden, greasy melted margarine, finger-licking good. We always had Hawaiian Punch to wash these treats down. They were perfect accompaniments to our family movie nights. Every once in a while, if there were good shows on, we were allowed to stay up until Crosley signed off around 11:00 p.m. The familiar fighter jet soared onto the screen, flying through the clouds with a poem that inspired me: "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth. And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds...."<sup>4</sup> Finally, the "test pattern" with an Indian-head and circles and lines finished the day, accompanied by a jarring, droning one-note sound.<sup>5</sup>

As children we were not allowed to stay up very late except for Friday movie nights and Saturdays. Bedtime was usually strictly enforced around 8 p.m., especially during the school week for eight-year-old me, and for Randy and Joyce, who were a younger four and three. However, there were a few times when one or more of us would sneak out of bed and tiptoe barefoot quietly down the hall. We'd breathlessly hunch behind the couch or chair and peek out at Crosley while our parents stayed up later to watch and listen to him. Sometimes we were discovered, and sometimes not. But, it was always worth a try.



Joyce, Randy and Delorse acting out cowboy adventures inspired by Crosley.  
Collection of the author.

Anytime we watched Crosley, we'd watch rapt with attention, our eyes glued to his glowing screen, taking in the drama, our ears picking up all the nuances of the stories. Crosley was the campfire in our home that we all gathered around. We carried his stories with us, playing out the scenes, imagining we were certain characters, having their adventures. Crosley's stories and adventures became *our* adventures. And we made up our own too.

Television became part of our daily lives. Crosley and his future incarnations were definitely going to come along with us on our life journeys. Crosley lived with us for our three years in El Paso, Texas, then moved along with us in 1959 to Iowa Park, Texas. There he lived

with us several more years, sharing his stories, until like other machines of his vintage, he was sent to a place for the aged, a thrift shop. It was sad to see this particular family member leave and to say good-bye, but we were happy to get a newer, sleeker "TV" as we now called his replacement.

The distance between our growing up days with Crosley in the late 1950's and today's electronic era in 2015 is vast, akin to light years of distance and change. Crosley brought us just one or two channels of programs and completely signed off around 11 P.M. or midnight. Today televisions offer program channel choices ranging into the 900s, twenty-four hours a day, every day. Crosley encouraged our being up close to him so we could turn the knobs to change a channel, or

adjust the brightness or contrast, or fix the snow. Today one can lounge in one's chair and click a "remote control" to do those things and much more. On a few occasions Crosley "blew a fuse," and refused to work. Dad would look inside his back at the mysterious array of large glass, bulbous vacuum-tubes, pull out the suspicious ones, and take them to the Jiffy convenience store down the street. There he would insert them into a tester to see which ones to replace with a new tube. Today there are no tubes, just complex micro components that only an expert can repair, usually at much greater expense. TVs today are more often replaced rather than repaired.

I remember Crosley, our first storyteller, our magic wonder box and all the fun and excitement he brought into our home when I was young. Crosley left a huge impression on our family. I still favor the old nostalgic black-and-white movies and comedies of that less complicated era. Who knows? Maybe Crosley's dramas encouraged us to use our own imaginations, as well as, to recount our family stories.



Endnotes for "Crosley" are found on page 56. Just look for the test pattern!

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## Kathi Ciskowski



Kathryn (Kathi) Elise Nass Ciskowski was born in Seattle in 1949 to the son (William Julius Nass) of German immigrants (Julius and Margaret Nass) and the daughter (Helen Elise Reichert) of Washington state pioneer descendants (Helen and Milton Reichert). Kathi has an English B.A. from WWU. She has lived on Orcas Island, WA for the past 30 years where she and her husband, Joe, own Island Cabinets and raised two sons.

Since completing the UW Certificate program, "Genealogy and Family History", Kathi has enjoyed sharing her research skills with friends, families and students. The research project for that course was an extended version of the article that is shared here. Kathi has written for newspapers, informational publications, and most recently for [www.HistoryLink.org](http://www.HistoryLink.org). In April, she saw her one act play, *The Certified Letter*, produced on the island.

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### CITATION

KATHRYN CISKOWSKI, "Theaters of Operation: The Connective Power of Hollywood Films Created During WW II, *SGS (Seattle) Bulletin*, 64:2 (Spring 2015) (Spring 2015) 25-29.

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## Theaters of Operation: The Connective Power of Hollywood Films Created During WW II

by Kathi Ciskowski

*In 2007, Kathi Ciskowski inherited boxes of letters from her father, grandparents, and mother written during WWII. Reading the family stories and plunging into Seattle and national history led to an interest in the Hollywood films they had watched and shared through their correspondence. With the internet making these films easily available, Kathi was able to watch many of the films too and suggests that others may be interested in following the same trail.*



Cover of DVD of "The Clock"  
DVD in possession of author

**10:30 p.m., Aug. 10, 1945, Shanghai, China.** U.S. Army Air Corps clerk, a homesick William (Bill) Nass, PFC,, is trying to focus on the movie, *The Clock*.<sup>1</sup> The female lead, Judy Garland, reminds Bill of his girlfriend, Elise, back in Seattle. There's a similarity in the face, the hair. The male star, Robert Walker, vaguely looks like Bill but in a more movie star kind of way. *The Clock* is a quintessential war love story that uses the clock at the New York City Astor Hotel as a themed reminder of the passage of time and place.

Bill is surrounded by other soldiers who are also bringing their own life experiences into this base movie theater with them. Suddenly, the film is interrupted with an announcement telling the moviegoers (somewhat prematurely as it turns out since the war did not end until August 14) that the war has ended.

Pandemonium explodes all around him, but as others are chaotically celebrating, Bill feels compelled to write home to his parents, Julius and Margaret Nass in Seattle, to describe the scene as it was unfolding. This is the first page of the letter he wrote home:

**Aug 10!!!**


10:30 pm.

Oh Thank God!!

*I still can't believe it -- and won't be able to until I hit 20th Ave. again! I was sitting in the show seeing The Clock when it hit us. They announced it. I thought the place was coming down! Chairs thrown and all. Right now I can hardly hear myself! It's all fireworks, hollering and firing guns. Lead flying all over. Tears just run down my face. I just have to write -- I won't see any sleep tonight! They're all getting drunk. I couldn't do that. That's not my way of celebrating. I just want to thank God.*

*I can't even imagine the doings in the states but I'll bet they're something! So doggone unexpected! Every one figures it would go til the end of '46! Never on Aug. 10, 1945. Oh ma and pa -- I'm going nuts! Of course it will be 6 months til I get home -- but now at least I know I will get Home! Maybe for Xmas again huh?*

*Waiting for Truman to speak in 10 minutes. ... <sup>2</sup>*

PUT THE  
CASH IN THE  
BANK  
 Aug 10:30 P.M.  10!!!  
 THIS WAS WRITTEN DURING  
THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT  
WE GOT. IT WAS FALSE. I  
WAITED FOR THE REAL THING  
BEFORE MAILING IT.  
 Oh Thank God.  
 I still can't believe it - and won't  
be able to until I hit 20th Ave. again!  
 I was sitting in the show seeing  
"The Clock" when it hit us. They  
announced it. I thought the place  
was coming down! Chairs thrown and  
all. Right now I can hardly hear  
myself! It's all fireworks, hollering  
and firing guns. Lead flying all over!  
 Tears just run down my face. I just  
have to write - I won't see any sleep  
tonite! They're all getting drunk. I  
couldn't do that. That's not my way  
of celebrating. I just want to thank God.  
 I can't even imagine the drop in  
the states but I'll bet there's someone!  
 So log gone unexpected! Every one figures  
it would be til end of '46. Never on  
Aug 10, 1945! Oh mommy & poppy -  
 for going nuts! Of course it will be  
6 months til I get home - but now at  
least I know I will get home! Maybe  
be home again high?  
 Waiting for Truman to speak in  
10 minutes.

7 p.m., Jan. 30, 2008, Eastsound, Washington.

Bill's curious eldest daughter, me, takes a disc from the Netflix folder and puts *The Clock* into the DVD player that is hooked up to a large flat screen television. Sitting by myself on a comfortable, overstuffed couch in the family room, I hold the remote control in my right hand preparing to start the film. The letter written by my father to his parents (see previous page) is now over 60 years old and is resting on my left knee. The intensity, size, and shakiness of the writing catch my attention as I press the button to begin the film. There are no interruptions and, unlike my father, I get to see how the film ends. Marriage.

As was the case with many people my age (popularly known as baby boomers), I inherited hundreds of saved letters my dad had exchanged with his parents during WW II. My father died in 1986 at age 61, my mother in 2000 at 76, and my grandparents long before. In 2007 I began the process of reading every letter I had saved and jotting down significant moments, events, and comments in order to share them with other family members in an accessible form. The process of reading these letters was indescribably powerful, intimate, educational, and actually life-changing. I was in a continual state of learning about the times, the country, the war, my family, and some of the fears and hopes that permeated their daily lives.

I was even grateful that I knew how to read cursive handwriting because, in the future, when it is no longer being taught, these letters may be almost inaccessible to our family descendants. It was another reason to take "good notes." Because these letters were from people I deeply cared for and because it took so long to read them (which I did as often as I could), I felt like I was living more in the WW II era than I was in my own time.



Bill Nass's parents: Julius, Margaret  
Photo in possession of author

These writers were not special. No one in the family was particularly unique. My father's parents (Margaret, postal worker, and Julius, baker) were worrying about their two sons in the service and their other family in Germany whom the sons might ultimately be fighting against. My father himself entered the army at 19 and was discharged at 22. He was not a war hero. He did not see any combat, but he did see planes crash on the base and experienced the death of friends.

He wrote about all of that. From the first letter in 1943, written with beautiful, legible printing, to one of the last letters, scribbled on a train while in the China-Burma-India theater during 1945, it is apparent how the emotional upheavals, physical discomforts, travels, and homesickness transformed this naive young man into an observant and articulate citizen of the world. Bill was such a good writer and writing is what seemed to sustain him through his time of service. Although books, newspapers, radio, and music had an important effect on my father, he most often in his letters mentioned attending Hollywood films. There were films produced exclusively for the military, but the Hollywood movies were shown both to the servicemen and the civilians.

Sometimes, when he wrote about attending a good Hollywood film, he would suggest that his mother might also enjoy seeing it when she passed through Seattle. It was not until I got to the letter



mentioning *The Clock*, referred to at such a significant moment in his life, that I had the “eureka” realization that now, in modern times, due to DVD rental, streaming and purchasing services, I would be able to watch some of these films too! And once I understood this, I desperately wanted to begin with *The Clock*.

My father was literally writing that letter to his parents as he was sitting in the base theater with his fellow servicemen in complete chaos around him. He sat and wrote, and the emotion of the moment, graphically demonstrated through that large and shaky handwriting, was unmistakable. Even though the movie was the least important thing at the point of writing, I wanted to see that movie and try to imagine the whole scenario. It turned out to be so easy, so comfortable, and so educational, entertaining, and poignant that my film marathon project was quickly born.

Once again I pulled out all the letters and this time scoured them to make a list of all the films he saw and where he saw them. Then I ordered and watched as many of them as I could find. I tried to visualize my dad sitting there, in a faraway location, looking to pass the time and be entertained and processing everything through his emotions, intellect, and the framework of the era. And as I viewed these films I, not surprisingly, had my own reactions, based on concepts of current political correctness, film pacing, propaganda awareness, and my knowledge of what the future brought for some of the actors (i.e. future president Ronald Reagan was a young actor in some of the films).

I recorded all of the comments Bill made when he wrote about the films and I added my thoughts too. I was pleased to find a letter that had been written by my grandmother to my father which included a movie opinion. It was about *Woman of the Year*.<sup>3</sup> My grandmother, father, and I all had something to say:

Grandma also saw it in July 1943 in the Seattle Met:

*“Saw Tracy and Hepburn in Woman of the Year. It was pretty good. I got a big kick out of the baseball game they were watching. I really laughed.”*

My father saw it in Fresno, CA, in July 1943:

*“I liked Woman of the Year. Glad you did.”*

I saw it in my house in December 2008:

*“First Hepburn/Tracy movie made. They fell in love making the picture. She was very successful. He leaves her on her big night. I wished he had been more supportive. They have to both re-commit to make it work. Comedic breakfast cooking scene.”*

As I continued to watch the various films I became captivated by the thought that, although we were all viewing in totally different places and circumstances, I was having the same visual experience as my father and grandparents had had. When my son or husband watched with me they had it too. It was hard to comprehend this phenomenon, since there were so many years separating us.

Seeing the films created during WW II, rather than those specifically about the war, is important --these are the ones that the people were actually watching, thinking about, and discussing. They were not a retrospective reflection of the times but an integral part and influence. Hollywood movies were part of the American way of life and the United States government was fully aware of the power of the film industry. In 1943, the Office of War Information was created and part of its task was to strongly encourage movie studios to make films that would help win the war. Civilians and members of the military saw many of the same movies. The pictures were advertised as entertainment, and the themes ranged from supporting the

suppression of evil people and evil regimes to the longing for love, home, comfort, and safety. Hollywood stars entertained in films and became spokespeople for war support.<sup>4</sup>

Today, with so many entertainment choices and such an emphasis on individuality and distraction, it is hard to imagine visual media ever again having the same kind of unifying impact that it did during the WW II era.

Understanding this era and these themes seems to me a way for people of my generation to get a clearer view of the forces that had shaped the lives of our parents. There was so much generational conflict over perceptions of war between the WW II generation and the Vietnam War generation. I found that really trying to watch these films through the eyes of the people who lived through WW II helped me develop a new compassion for them.

Because these films were popularly viewed, not just by my father but by many people, I took that idea a step further and asked some friends to watch a film from the list with the idea of trying to see it through the eyes of their parents (who, for the sake of this experience, we assumed had watched the film too). Here is what my dad wrote on Sept 26, 1944 about *Since You Went Away*:<sup>5</sup>

*"I can recommend another show, Since You Went Away. Really good. And bring 4 handkerchiefs- Even I cried. I dunno why. Parts seemed so much like everyone's life - you'll like it."*

And this is the comment my friend made when she watched it in May of 2009:

*"I am sure my mom would have related to the mom in every way...maybe not the financial stress, but the stress of having to manage it all. The social surroundings were similar for her, she had two children in 1944, and probably she felt very alone and abandoned even though she had family around her. She had domestic help I am sure, though maybe not with such a close relationship... She would have felt her heartstrings pulled and related to it the fear, sense of loss and uncertainty."*<sup>6</sup>



*Bill Nass and Elise Reichert taken in Seattle before their marriage, Collection of the author.*

The final film clip I watched for my movie project was Deanna Durbin in the movie, *Christmas Holiday*,<sup>7</sup> singing the song "Always".<sup>8</sup> That was the song my parents played at their wedding in 1946, two years after Bill had seen the movie while sitting in a theater in Georgia--five years before I was born and 66 years before I watched it too.

Thanks to the evolving innovations in technology I was given this opportunity to connect with family in a unique and significant way. If you have old family letters you may try looking in them for film or book or music "recommendations". If you don't, I invite you to share this list and join in a generational collaboration. Thanks, Hollywood!

Below is the list of movies that my father referenced in his letters, as well as the dates and locations where he saw them. The films in bold print are those I was able to order and view from Netflix (my source at the time). For most of the other films I found trailers or short clips available via [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or [www.tcm.com](http://www.tcm.com). There were a few films I was totally unable to find, but I was able to read descriptions of them at [www.IMDb.com](http://www.IMDb.com).

## 1943

Hit the Ice	6/21/43 (Fresno, CA)
<b>Stage Door Canteen</b>	7/7/43
Coney Island	7/7/43
<b>The More the Merrier</b>	7/10/43
<b>Woman of the Year</b>	7/10/43
Mr. Lucky	7/17/43
The Constant Nymph	7/27/43 (Ft. Logan, UT)
Dixie	8/9/43
<b>This is the Army</b>	8/23/43
Let's Face It	9/17/43
<b>For Whom the Bell Tolls</b>	10/11/43
Happy Land	12/21/43

## 1944

<b>The Miracle of Morgan's Creek</b>	1/27/44 (Hunter Field, GA)
<b>King's Row</b>	2/3/44
Desert Song	2/7/44
Private Hargrove	4/17/44
As the Angels Sing	5/14/44
White Cliffs of Dover	7/17/44
<b>Going My Way</b>	8/3/44
<b>Dragon Seed</b>	8/28/44
<b>Since You Went Away</b>	9/26/44
Christmas Holiday	9/26/44
<b>Casanova Brown</b>	10/2/44
None But the Lonely Heart	11/30/44
<b>Snow White and the Seven Dwarves</b>	11/27/44
<b>Meet Me in St. Louis</b>	12/4/44

## 1945

Music for Millions	1/30/45 (NC)
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	4/25/45 (India)
The Suspect	6/12/45
<b>The Clock</b>	8/10/45 (China)
<b>Along Came Jones</b>	9/28/45
<b>Our Vines Have Tender Grapes</b>	11/11/45

(Left soon after for home)

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## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> *The Clock*. Dir. Vincente Minnelli. MGM, 1945.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from WJ Nass to parents, Aug. 10, 1945. All letters quoted in possession of author, Kathryn Nass Ciskowski.

<sup>3</sup> *Woman of the Year*, Dir. George Stevens, MGM, 1942.

<sup>4</sup> Robert L. McLaughlin and Sally E. Parry, *We'll Always Have the Movies: American Cinema During World War II* (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2006).

<sup>5</sup> *Since You Went Away*, Dir. John Cromwell, United Artists, 1944.

<sup>6</sup> P. S. Friend who participated in movie watching project.

<sup>7</sup> *Christmas Holiday*, Dir. Robert Siodmak, Universal, 1944.

<sup>8</sup> "Always," Deanna Durbin, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9HD2fhrE3k> : accessed 31 March 2015).

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## Ruth Oskolkoff

Ruth Oskolkoff possesses a Master of Arts in Humanities and a Certificate in Poetry Writing. She is the author of a book of poetry titled *Sacramentals* and has two children's books and a non-fiction book about Taoist poetry in progress. Ruth has an interest in her varied family tree which includes Aleut, German, Jewish, Bavarian, Welsh, and Dutch ancestors.

## The Seal Pup at Turnagain Arm

by Ruth Oskolhof

In spring, the creek would rise  
behind the log house, by birch and aspen,  
where my grandmother Daria lived,  
surrounded by backwoods ponds,  
Bird Creek was too deep  
in the gully to play in.



A seal pup would come every day,  
wait for the girl to feed her  
trout, minnows, salmon,  
this began when both were young.

Nameless, she followed my grandmother  
on the long boarded sidewalk  
across the mud flats  
to where they loaded boats.

The pup followed only her  
into the tiny Alaskan village  
where there was one hall  
for dances, games, and gatherings.

She liked the young seal  
but worried it was not safe  
the dogs – wild dogs from town  
so many of them.

continued on next page

Everyone loved Daria  
she'd visit people in the hospital  
interpret if they could not speak English,  
she could always tell what was wrong,  
even with no training.

The opening to Turnagain Arm  
is small and narrow, the tide  
goes way out, comes way in,  
sometimes the tide's a big wave,  
the water in a rush.

The seal pup stopped coming one day  
left to look for mates and have young  
grew up and went far away.  
after that my grandmother lost her folks  
and she went to live with another family,  
this is the story as it was told to me.

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#### CITATION

Oskoltof, Ruth. "The Seal Pup at Turnagain Arm." *SGS (Seattle) Bulletin*, 64:2 (Spring 2015) 31-32.

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### Carolyn Schott



A native of Seattle, Washington, Carolyn Schott has more than 50 years of experience visiting ancestral towns, starting from the age of 9 months when she first visited her parents' hometowns in North Dakota. When she became old enough to plan her own travels, she started exploring her family roots in Germany, Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, and Poland. Her book, *Yes You! Yes Now! Visiting Your Ancestral Town*, is designed to equip others to do the same by learning from her experiences. She is one of the founders of the Black Sea German Research Community ([www.blackseagr.org](http://www.blackseagr.org)) and was formerly a board member of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) and editor of the GRHS Heritage Review.

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#### CITATION

CAROLYN SCHOTT, "The Letter to the Governor," *SGS (Seattle) Bulletin*, 64:2 (Spring 2015) 33-35.

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## The Letter to the Governor

by Carolyn Schott



Some family stories can be proven.

Some can't. But sometimes those stories leave a trail of clues.

My dad was the first of his siblings to go to high school, although he was the sixth of 10 children. In a farming family during the Depression, high school was unnecessary and a poor substitute for hard work. Or at least that's what my Grandpa Peter thought.

My grandfather had come to the U.S. in 1905<sup>1</sup> with little but ambition. His first two years in North Dakota he worked as a hired hand until he could afford to buy and farm land of his own. Days on the farm were long for the whole family, filled with caring for the animals and tending the fields. My grandfather's commitment to continually expand his farm business eventually resulted in his owning and farming land in four counties.<sup>2</sup>

My grandfather thought his solid German work ethic was the example his children should follow. He'd never gone to high school; why should he spend money to send his son?

But my dad, Harry, had developed a burning desire to get an education. He wanted to get off the farm and never again wear overalls or "pick" rocks to clear the fields for planting, a seemingly never-ending task for farmers in southeastern North Dakota.

### The Family Legend

Although there was financial assistance available for low-income high school students, my dad didn't qualify because my grandfather's income was too high. The family story is that young Harry came up with the audacious plan of writing to the governor of North Dakota, explaining the situation and asking that an exception be made. Not wanting anyone to know what he was doing (whether from fear of failure or because



he didn't want it known he was going against his dad's wishes), my dad snuck to the train station and popped the letter in the mail just as the train was leaving town.

My mom explained to me with pride that the governor granted the exception and gave my dad the financial assistance he needed to attend high school in the nearby town of Kulm.



### A Trail of Clues

I have no idea if the story about the letter to the governor is true, and I can't find any hard evidence to prove or disprove it. But there are lots of clues that make this story plausible. My dad did graduate from high school (Kulm High School Class of 1938), the first in his family to do so. He went on to a business college in Minneapolis, got off the farm, and spent much of his career in banking.

My uncle confirms my grandfather's aversion to higher education and remembers my dad being the inspiration for his younger siblings to graduate from high school and go on to business school. My dad's cousins remember that he boarded with them in town during the winter so he could attend school without trudging four miles through the deep Dakota winter snows. They remember my grandmother occasionally sending a chicken along with him to help pay his board.

I remember my dad's commitment to my education (my low-key, ever-tolerant dad came unglued one time when I casually offered the opinion that college might not be that important). His fierce desire to leave the farm behind was expressed in his forbidding me ever to wear overalls (though I was forbidden little else; he merely raised an eyebrow when I showed up at the dinner table with violent blue eye shadow at a too-young age).

### The Final Clue

My grandfather's farming success seems to indicate that he was savvy in both agriculture and business, so I never understood why he wouldn't see education as a good investment. And then I found a book about my grandfather's home village of Hoffnungstal ("Valley of Hope" in German), Bessarabia, Ukraine, that described the prevailing feeling there about education:

"The people of Hoffnungstal gave all of their energy to ... farming; they ... valued culture very little. When someone advised a farmer to send his son ... to the 'Werner School,' he would ... ask very sharply, 'What shall my Robert become? A teacher? No, no that will never happen. He has to work and learn how to become a farmer.'" <sup>3</sup> [Note: The Werner School was located in a neighboring town and provided high school and teacher training.]



All the clues fell into place for me. My grandfather grew up with the notion that education was useless and the only way to get ahead was to farm more land. He thought his son's idea of going to high school was a waste of time that would hurt his ability to make a good future for himself.

Although I'll never know for sure if the story about the letter to the governor is true, I often wonder if my grandfather ever recognized that his son, my dad, had inherited his ambition to succeed even though he had a different idea of how to get there

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## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Declaration of Intent. State of North Dakota, Logan County. February 2, 1920.

<sup>2</sup> Kulm, North Dakota 1892-1957. Published for the town's anniversary. Pg. 88.

<sup>3</sup> Hoffnungstal, Gnadenheim, Philippowka von der Gründung bis zur Umsiedlung 1940. Peter Krug Verlag, Bietigheim, Germany, 1983. Pg. 29-30. Translation by Carolyn Schott.

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### WEBINARS, continued from page 19

membership at our library--a great benefit to members! though the numbers of offerings now are small, expect the catalog to grow. Some webinars, especially those touting Ancestry product lines, are offered for free. Topics include manuscripts, DNA research, and homesteading.

LEGACY WEBINARS: <http://familytreewebinars.com/>

Live sessions: The free live sessions are usually offered every Wednesday at 11:00 am MDT.

Archived sessions: Live sessions are archived and remain free for one week. They are then permanently archived behind a member wall which can be accessed for a fee.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: <http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html>

Live sessions: Live sessions are free but you have to register. Two are offered per month, one on a Saturday and one on a Wednesday. The next webinar is 1 August with our own Cyndi Ingle.

Archived sessions: Access to webinars and reduced Jamboree fee makes membership in SCGS a great bargain.

Illinois State Genealogical Society: <http://www.ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=227>

Live sessions: Live webinars are offered for free on the second Tuesday of each month.

Archived sessions: Archived webinars are available to members only. Collection starts in January 2012.

MINNESOTA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: <http://www.mnsgs.org/eventListings.php?nm=38#nm38er54>

Live Sessions: Webinars are offered the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 CDT or 5:00 PDT. MSGS uses GoToWebinar software. To attend the webinar you will need to download this software to your computer.

Archived sessions: I could not find any location for archived webinars.

You can find information about webinars at <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/how-it-works.html>

When you wish to attend a live session you will usually be asked to register. By clicking on one of the classes you will be taken to a page which outlines how to register for the class. Do not be intimidated by the list of things to do prior to the webinar. After you have done them once, you will not have to do most of them again. I hope you will give webinars a try. They are a great way to increase your learning at a low cost.

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## SGS JULY-SEPTEMBER 2015 CALENDAR

Unless stated otherwise, events are held at the Seattle Genealogical Society Library. SGS classes are free to everyone.. Call SGS at 206-522-8658 for information about program cancellations or closures due to adverse weather conditions. This listing is subject to change or additions. For up-to-date information, see your SGS eNews! email or access the SGS website at <http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/>

## July 2015

- 4 & 5      Saturday & Sunday; SGS Library closed for the holiday..
- 8      Wednesday, 12:00 am - 3:00 pm, BRICK WALL PROBLEM SOLVING, Jean A. Roth, leader. Join SGS members for a problem-solving session This is an open forum format.
- 15      Wednesday, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm, ROUTES TO OUR ROUTES: EXPANSION WESTWARD FROM THE ATLANTIC," Jean A. Roth, leader. Our "Manifest Destiny" with trails, timelines and transportation. We'll discuss North American's major migration patterns and regional history.
- 18      Saturday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, BEGINNING GENEALOGY, Janice Lovelace, leader. An overview of basic genealogy techniques and resources. Advance registration requested at SGS..
- 25 & 26      Saturday & Sunday, all day, SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES, ENUMCLAW. SGS will have a booth and offer genealogical help. We need volunteers for both days for two hour sessions. You will be provided with a ticket for the games. Please contact Jean Roth at [jeanaroth@juno.com](mailto:jeanaroth@juno.com) or 206.782.2629.
- 26      Sunday, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm, INSANITY IN THE 19TH CENTURY: ONE FAMILY'S STORY," Jill Morelli, leader.  
We are told as children, "Shhh, don't talk about Aunt Jane." As genealogists, we may find that she was institutionalized and called "insane." Explore the history of institutionalization and treatment of the insane from Bedlam to the 20th century, with an in-depth look at the life of one man confined in Illinois in the 19th century. Records publicly available will be compared with those accessible through the courts.

## August 2015

The Irish and German Special Interest Groups do not meet in the summer, June through August.

- 2      Sunday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, USING FIND A GRAVE: FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH, Karen Sipe, leader. , Find A Grave is a resource for finding the final disposition of family, friends, and famous people. Find A Grave memorials may contain rich content, including pictures, biographies, and more specific information.
- 13-15      NORTHWEST GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE, Arlington, WA; <http://www.nwgc.org>
- 16      Sunday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, LOVE, COURTSHIP, SEX & MARRIAGE, Jean A. Roth, leader. Until Eve – it was a man's world. "Without women – there would be no genealogy – but their status has changed throughout history. This has had a profound effect on the records we use for research." We'll explore the surprising customs and practices of our ancestors and the place of women in society.

## August 2015, continued

- 22 Saturday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, **BREAKING THROUGH THE WALL OF SLAVERY: AN INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY**, Janice Lovelace, leader. An Ethnic Series Presentation. Many African American researchers struggle to break through the brick wall of slavery. This presentation looks at techniques to identify emancipated slaves and their prior slave-owners through the use of land, probate, census, and court records. These techniques may be applicable to your brick wall, whatever the ethnicity!
- 23 Sunday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, **BRICK WALL PROBLEMS**. Join SGS members for a problem-solving session. This is an open forum format
- 30 Sunday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, **FIRE INSURANCE MAPS: THE GOOGLE EARTH OF ITS DAY**, Jill Morelli, leader. Fire insurance maps were developed as early as 1868 to provide the newly established insurance industry a tool for analyzing their risk in destinations far from their home office. The result? Fire insurance maps, the most famous being the Sanborn maps. We will trace the history of these maps and explore their use by today's genealogist.

## September 2015

Canadian Interest Group will not meet in September due to the Labor Day Holiday.

- 12 Saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, **IRISH INTEREST GROUP**, Jean A. Roth, leader. This summer Ireland's National Library introduced free online access to Irish Catholic Parish Records. We'll review this new major research tool.
- 12 Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm, **GERMAN INTEREST GROUP**, Jean A. Roth, leader. "Oddities in German Genealogy." From strange naming patterns to bizarre church record listings – we'll hopefully clear up some of the research problems you may encounter.
- 13 Sunday, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, **PERILS AND PITFALLS OF OCR IN NEWSPAPER RESEARCH**, Mary Kircher Roddy, leader. Optical character recognition (OCR) is the mechanical or electronic conversion of images of typewritten or printed text into machine-encoded text. It is a common method of digitizing printed texts so that it can be electronically edited, searched, stored more compactly, displayed, and used in machine processes.
- 22 Sunday, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm, **BRICK WALL PROBLEMS**. Join SGS members for a problem-solving session. This is an open forum format
- 29 Tuesday, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, **HOW TO USE BASIC TECHNOLOGY IN GENEALOGY**, Michelle Khuon, leader. Have you wondered how to use things like a flash drive; capture images online to add to your family history narrative; or other technological puzzles? Bring your brown bag lunch and be prepared to ask individual questions like: "How do I ....."

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Save the Dates...

- 17 Oct Saturday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, **SGS FALL SEMINAR**, TOM W. JONES, CG, CG, "The Family History Detective: Finding Solutions to Your Toughest Research Problems."
- Early Nov 2015 Washington Family History Fair, Bellevue Stake, location and date TBD. Free.
- 7-12 Aug 2016 The 36th IAJGS International conference on Jewish Genealogy, Seattle, WA. For more information: <http://www.iajgs2016.org/>

## Necrology



### RONALD WILLIAM CROSS, 1939-2014

Long-time SGS member, Ron Cross, passed comfortably on 11 December 2014 in Shoreline, Washington, after several months of failing health. Ron was born 26 September 1939 in Seattle to George A. and Helen F. (Hagan) Cross. He attended schools in Seattle and graduated from Franklin High School in 1958.

Ron enjoyed movies and music. He was a dedicated Buddy Holly fan, traveling to the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, IA, twice to pay homage to Buddy, Ritchie Valens, and J. P. Richardson.

He is survived by his brother, Richard, of San Diego; his niece, Julie Cross, and grand niece, Amanda Ferguson, of Bothell; and his nephew, Wade Cross, and his grand nephew, Ian Cross, of Tucson, AZ.

For several years Ron drove for Columbia Funeral Home. There he learned about funeral processes of various religions, which became useful in his genealogical quests. He retired about 1995 to pursue, full time, his passion for researching his ancestry, which included Irish, Swedish, Norwegian, English and Welsh origins. He became skilled in Irish research and helped many others searching for their Irish roots. He traveled to many U.S. locations and to other countries seeking information. Ron was generous with his time and talents and willing to look for information to help other researchers.

Ron's contributions to SGS have been continuous and numerous, including copying early marriage records at the King County Courthouse and burial records at several mortuaries and cemeteries, preparing hand drawn maps of all Irish counties, and making many financial donations to SGS. Several years ago he donated \$400 to pay for data on CDs and made a bequest of \$10,000 which SGS received this spring.

Funeral service was held 19 December 2014 at Columbia Funeral Home, with burial at Hillcrest Cemetery, Kent, Washington.

Joan Gordon, SGS Member	<h3>Be the Living Leaf on Your Family Tree</h3> <p>What if you could...Hear the voice of your family member telling life stories? What if you could...Read their life stories, in their own words?</p> <h3>Preserve Your Life Stories</h3> <p>Pacific NW Life Stories <a href="http://www.pacificnwlifestories.com">www.pacificnwlifestories.com</a></p>

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members! The Seattle Genealogical Society's wants to assure all of our members that usage of the SGS membership list is restricted to the Society and its members only. It is to be used for member-to-member communications only on matters of mutual family interest. The list may not be used for genealogical, commercial, political or other solicitations of any kind. The Seattle Genealogical Society has not granted permission to anyone to make use of this list for other than the purpose stated above.

Guy Bennett	Debbie Demaree	Patricia G.E. Gauthier	Ruth Kunath
Lisa Hammon Chan	Nadine Feldman	Roy Heberling	Bettie Luke
Chris Charbonneau	Darlene Finney	Joan K. Hueneke	Pam Miles
Joe Carroll	Robert Foxcurran	Ann Hoelzl-Redford	Robert Schmidt
			Stephen Simac

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## SGS LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS,

Compiled by Annie Wright,  
Incoming SGS Library Director

AL/61-1a,b	Talladega County, Alabama Tombstone Inscriptions Of All Known Cemeteries, 1700's To 1987 : Volumes 1 and 2	Upchurch, Joseph W	1989
ASIA/CHIN/9-1	Chinese Local Histories As a Source for The Genealogist (J) vol. 3		1974
ASIA/JAPN/9-1	Major Genealogical Record Sources in Japan (J) vol. 1		1973
CAND/ON/18-4	New Carlow Cemetery (Lot 5, Concession 12) : Carlow Township Hastings County (Ontario)	Bergeron, Susan	1993
CAND/ON/18-5	Mayo Township Hastings County, Ontario : Child's Cemetery and Hermon United Church Cemetery	Bruce, Betty et al.	1982
CAND/ON/23-20	Baptismal and Marriage Records of Presbyterian Churches in Dalhousie and Lanark Townships Lanark County, Ontario	Miller, J.R. Ernest et al.	1989
CAND/ON/23-21	Presbyterian and Methodist Church Records of Pakenham : Lanark County, Ontario 1830 - 1909	Miller, J.R. Ernest	1991
CAND/ON/23-23	Early Ontario Newspaper Transcription Series, Volume 20 - The Lanark Papers; : Volume 20 - The Lanark Papers; Bathurst Courier & Ottawa Gazette, Aug 1834-Nov 1873; Bathurst Courier & Ottawa General Advertiser Nov 1837-Aug 1842, Bathurst Courier		
CAND/ON/27-4	Middlesex County Marriages And Baptisms, 1848-1858	Walker, Dan	1998
CAND/ON/34-8	County Marriage Registers of Ontario, Canada 1858-1869 Volume 30 Lanark County	Hancocks, Elizabeth	1994
CAND/ON/42-19	Renfrew County Cemeteries, McNab Township : Goshen, White Lake, Flat Rapids, Sand Point, St. Alexander's	Dick, Lois Mae Eady	1993
CAND/ON/42-20	County Marriage Registers of Ontario, Canada 1858-1869, Volume 29 Renfrew County vol. 29		1992
CAND/ON/42-21	Renfrew Mercury Newspaper Genealogical Interests, The First 29 Years 1871 - 1900 : News Items from Various Newspapers in the Ottawa Valley (Volume 1 - 1871 to 1880)	Lewis, Olga	1996
CAND/ON/42-22	Lakeside Cemetery Conc. 12, Lot 15 Bagot Twp., Renfrew County, Ontario	Miller, Marjorie	1991
CAND/ON/42-23	North Horton Cemetery, Concession 5 : Horton Township, Renfrew County, Ontario	Lewis, Olga et al.	1997
CAND/PE1-1	An Island Refuge : Loyalists And Disbanded Troops On The Island Of Saint John	Jones, Orlo et al.	1983
CAND/PE1-2	Historic Bedeque : The Loyalists At Work And Worship In Prince Edward Island : A History Of Bedeque United Church	Leard, George A.	1973
CAND/PQ/53-1	Saint-Sixte Comte-Papineau 1891-1905 : Baptêmes, Mariages, Sepultures, Publication Numero 76 (Vital Records) French	Seguin, Andre	1985

CAND/PQ/63-1	Mariages de Saint-Hyacinthe : Cathedral (1853); St. Joseph (1916); Christ-Roi (1927); La Providence (1937); St. Sacrement (1946); Sacre-Couer (1946); L'Assomption (1950)	Pontbriand, Bonoft et al.	1971
CAND/PQ/63-2	Repertoire des Mariages de Iberville, 1823-1965 : Repertoire Numero 22 French	Hamel, Frere Adrien	
CT/0-19a-d	Genealogical And Family History Of The State Of Connecticut - 4 Volumes [I, II, III & IV] : A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation	Cutter, William Richard	1911
CT/0-33	The Public Records Of The Colony Of Connecticut, Prior To The Union With New Haven Colony, May 1665 vol. 1	Trumbull, J.Hammond	1992
CT/0-34	Catalogue Of The Names Of The First Puritan Settlers Of The Colony Of Connecticut, With The Time Of Their Arrival In The Colony, And Their Standing In Society, Together With Their Place Of Residence	Hinman, R. R	1968
CT/4-2	Glimpses Of Saybrook In Colonial Days	Chesebrough, Harriet Chapman	1984
EURW/GERM/11-25	Westerwald To America : Some 18th Century German Immigrants 1st edition,	Burgert, Annette K et al.	1989
EURW/GERM/3-33	The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide : How To Trace Your Germanic Ancestry In Europe	Beidler, James	2014
EURW/GERM/5-5	Amish Mennonites In Germany : Their Congregations, The Estates Where They Lived, Their Families	Guth, Hermann.	1995
FAM/BOL-1/CR	My Family Connections : Beddall, Bollschweiler, Heebner, Overgaard, Sunley, Thompson Families	Bollschweiler, Marjorie Beddall	1990
FAM/FER-1/CR	The Ferguson-Jayne Papers, 1826-1938 : Vol. 1 2nd ed.	Briggs, Mary S.	1981
FAM/FRA-7	The Genealogy Of The Matthias Frantz Family Of Berks County, Pennsylvania	Frantz, E. Harold	1972
FAM/FRO-2	In Search Of The Mountain : Frost Family Stories, 1693-1993 : Gilbert Harold Frost, Descendants And Some Related Lines 1st ed.	Hoffman, Evelyn	1994
FAM/HEA-1a,b	The Heard Journal & Herd, Hird, Hurd, Too : a: Issues 17 & 18, b: Issue 19		1989
FAM/LEW-9/Lewis	Genealogy Of The Lewis Family In America	Lewis, W.T.	1892
FAM/RIG-1/CR	Family Memories as Recalled by Susan Wallace Rigby : and other family members of the Hays, Wallaces, and Rigbys	David Wrigby	2012
FAM/RUT-1	My Rutledge Family : From Early Maryland To 1990	Clemons, Rachel Demaree	1990
FAM/STR-8/Stricklers	Stricklers Of Pennsylvania; : A History Of The Strickler Families Who Emigrated From Switzerland And Settled Principally In Bucks, Lancaster, York, And Lebanon Counties In Pennsylvania,	Strickler, Abigail H.	1942
FAM/WAR-12	Our Ward Family and Ward Surname Newsletter	Jackson, N. Wayne	1995

GBUK/ENGL/11-1	Emigrants From England, 1773-1776 Reprint	Fothergill, Gerald	1992
IA/00-13	Portrait And Biographical Record Of Jasper, Marshall, And Grundy Counties, Iowa, Containing Biographical Sketches Of Prominent And Representative Citizens Of The Counties, Together With Biographies And : with New Index facsimile	Biographical Publishing Company	1986 (1894)
IL/15-4	Cemeteries of Mattoon, North Okaw & Humboldt Townships, Coles County, Illinois		1985
IL/16-17	Probate Court Records, Cook County, Illinois, 1872-1873	McClure, Diane K	1992
MA/11-6	A Plan Of Dedham Village, Mass., 1636-1876 : with descriptions of the grants of lots to the original owners, transcribed from the town records	Dedham Historical Society et al.	1883
MD/00-11	The Particular Assessment Lists For Baltimore And Carroll Counties, 1798	Horvath, George J.	1986
MD/00-12	St. John's & St. George's Parish Registers, 1696-1851	Peden Jr., Henry C.	1987
MD/0-70	Memoirs Of The Dead And Tomb's Remembrances. Reprint		1989 (1806)
MD/0-71	Magruder's Maryland Colonial Abstracts : Wills, Accounts, And Inventories, 1772-1777 (Five Volumes in One)	Magruder, James Mosby,	1968
MD/0-72	Maryland Militia In The Revolutionary War First Edition	Clements, Eugene / Wright, Edward	1987
MD/0-74a-f	Abstracts Of The Inventories Of The Prerogative Court Of Maryland	Skinner, V. L. Jr.	1990
MD/13-1	St. George's Parish Registers 1689-1793	Reamy, Bill et al.	1988
MD/13-22a,b	Heirs and Legatees of Harford County, Maryland : a: 1774 - 1802; b: 1802-1846	Peden, Henry C. Jr., M.A.	1988
MD/13-23	Abstracts Of The Orphans Court Proceedings 1778-1800	Peden, Henry C.	1990
MD/13-25	Harford County Wills, 1774-1800, Harford County, Maryland	Morgan, Ralph H.	1990
MD/17-6	Indexes Of Protestant Episcopal Church Registers Of Prince George's County, 1686-1885 : . Volume 2: St. Paul's Parish At Baden (Records ... As Rock Creek Parish, Records 1711-1798) (Anglican)	Brown, Helen W.	2006
MD/2-2	Quakers In The Founding Of Anne Arundel County, Maryland.	Kelly, J. Reaney.	1963
MD/2-3	Anne Arundel County Church Records Of The 17th And 18th Centuries	Wright, F. Edward	
MD/3-16	Baltimore County Marriage Licenses, 1777-1798	Smith, Dawn Beitler	1989
MD/3-17	Baltimore County, Maryland, Tax List, 1699-1706	Clark, Raymond B. Jr.	1964

MD/3-19a,b	History Of Baltimore City And County. From the earliest period to the present day including biographical sketches of the representative men : With A New Intro. And A Rearranged Index. Reprinted in Two Parts. vol. Part 1 and Part 2	Scharf, J. Thomas	1971 (1881)
MD/3-1b	Maryland Tax List 1783 Baltimore County : Photocopies of the original manuscripts	Maryland Commissioners of the Tax (BaltimoreCo.) et al.	1970
MD/3-20	Revolutionary Patriots Of Baltimore Town And Baltimore County, Maryland, 1775-1783	Peden, Henry C.	1988
MD/3-21	Abstracts Of The Baltimore County Land Commissions, 1727-1762	Baltimore County Genealogical Society.	1989
MD/3-24	St. James Parish Register, 1787-1815	Reamy, Bill. et al.	1987
MD/3-25	Index To Marriages And Deaths In The Baltimore County Advocate 1850-1864	Barnes, R.	1985
MD/3-26	Index Of Baltimore County [Maryland] Wills, 1659-1850	Carothers, Bettie S. et al.	1979
MD/3-2a,b	Baltimore Cemeteries : a: Volume I Northern Area; b: Volume II Eastern Baltimore County and a few cemeteries in the Northern Area (Volume 2) vol. 2	Baltimore County Historical Society. et al..	1985
MN/0-31	Every Name Index to Pioneer Chronicles : Stories of Minnesota Territorial Pioneers	Warren, Paula Stuart et al.	1990
MN/62-10	Ramsey County Minnesota Relief Records 1862-1868	Warren, Paula Stuart et al.	1990
MN/85-4	Every Name Index to a History of St. Charles Minnesota(1854-1954)	Warren, James R. et al.	1990
ND/11-2	A History Of Ludden And Vicinity	Folsom, F. M	1917
NE/0-30	Early Pioneers of Nebraska : With Allied Lines As Taken From Family Recognition Records vol. 1	Haring, Beth	1981
NM/0-25	The Pueblo de El Paso del Rio del Norte Census for the year of 1692 enumerated by Diego de Vargas	Diego deVargas et al.	1995
NM/24-1	Index to San Juan Baptisms 1736-1786 : from microfilm of original records in the San Juan de los Caballeros Church, San Juan, New Mexico (Church records (Rio Arriba County, New Mexico), 1726-1956) vol. FHL Film 16981	Ramirez, John A.	
NY/0-111	Historical And Statistical Gazetteer Of New York State 1860	French, J. H. (et al.	1980
NY/0-112	Coming And Becoming, Pluralism In New York State History 1st Ed.	Tripp, Wendell	1991
NY/1-11	The History Of The City Of Albany, New York : From The Discovery Of The Great River In 1524, By Verrazzano, To The Present Time	Weise, Arthur James	1884

NY/42-6	Reminiscences Of Troy, From Its Settlement In 1790 To 1807 : With Remarks On Its Commerce, Enterprise, Improvements, State Of Political Parties, And Sketches Of Individual Character : Written At The Request Of Several Gentlemen Of Troy	Woodworth, John.	2000
OH/0-77	Ohio Lands : Steubenville Land Office, 1800-1820 c. 1983	Bell, Carol Willsey.	1983
OH/16-6/OV	The 1985 History Of Coshocton County, Ohio 1St Edition	Society, Coshocton County Genealogical	1985
OH/25-10	Franklin County, Ohio Adoptions, 1852-1901	Louis, G. W. et al.	1998
OH/40-1	Birth And Death Records For Madison Township Jackson County, Ohio	Unknown	1975
OH/40-2	Birth And Death Records For Bloomfield Township Jackson County, Ohio	Unknown	1975
OH/85-2	Wayne County Tax List, 1826	Smith, Richard G.	1950
OH/85-3	Early Land Records Of Wayne County, Ohio : Including U.S. Patent Land Grants, Deed Records, Tax Lists to 1820, and Records of the Sale of School Lands by the State of Ohio	Smith, Richard G	1988
PA/0-175a,d	Chronicles Of Central Pennsylvania : Volumes I and IV	Godcharles, Frederic Antes	1944
PA/36-34	Authentic History Of Lancaster County	Mombert, J. I.	1988
R/200-116	History For Genealogists : Using Chronological Time Lines To Find And Understand Your Ancestors	Jacobson, Judy	2009
R/200-118	Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques 1	Morgan, George G et al.	2013
R/200-119	Mastering Genealogical Proof (National Genealogical Society Special Topics Series)	Jones, Thomas W.	2013
R/200-120	Genealogy Offline : Finding Family History Records That Are Not Online 2014	Breland, Claudia C.	2013
R/200-121	Sustainable Genealogy : Separating Fact From Fiction In Family Legends	Hite, Richard	2013
R/200-Per/IGM	Internet Genealogy : Researching Your Family Roots Online	Moorshead Magazines Ltd.	
R/204-4b	More What Did They Mean By That? A Dictionary of Historical and Genealogical Terms Old and New	Drake, Paul	2006
R/208-67	Index To Genealogical Periodicals. Three Volumes In One Reissue	Jacobus, Donald Lines	1978
R/209-6	Searching For Your Ancestors In Historic Newspapers	Breland, Claudia C.	2014
R/216-14	Your DNA Guide Quick Reference Cards : Getting Started, Autosomnal DNA, Mitochondrial DNA, Y Chromosome DNA		2014
R/HERL/25	Bolton's American Armory	Bolton, Charles Knowles	1964



RI/2-2a	Warwick Town Council Records, 1742-1780 : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue) vol. 1	Bamberg, Cherry Fletcher	2012
RI/2-2b	Warwick Town Council Records, 1781-1801 : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue) vol. 2	Bamberg, Cherry Fletcher	2012
RI/2-3	Early Coventry Records : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue)	Catherine Hey	2010
RI/2-4a	East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1734-1774 : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue) vol. 1	Bamberg, Cherry Fletcher	2008
RI/2-4b	East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1775-1800 : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue) vol. 2	Bamberg, Cherry Fletcher	2009
RI/4-8a	Providence Town Council Records, 1770-1788 : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue) vol. 1	Mathew, Linda L	2006
RI/4-8b	Providence Town Council Records, 1789-1801 : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue) vol. 2	Mathew, Linda L	2007
RI/4-9	Scituate Town Council Records, 1731-1786 : Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records (Rhode Island Roots Special Bonus Issue)	Mathew, Linda L	2011
SC/34-1	McLucas Cemetery, Marlboro County, SC : <a href="http://sciway3.net/proctor/marlboro/cemeteries/McLucas_cem.html">http://sciway3.net/proctor/marlboro/cemeteries/McLucas_cem.html</a> printout	Eison, Daniel W et al.	2006
SCAN/ICEL/9-1	Major Genealogical Record Sources in Iceland (D) vol. 2		1967
TN/61-1	Cemeteries of Meigs County, Tennessee		
USAM/119-101	Major Genealogical Record Sources of Indians of The United States (B) vol. 2		1968
USAM/125-7a,b	Biographical Sketches Of Loyalists Of The American Revolution, With An Historical Essay	Sabine, et al.	1864
USAM/132-PER/UDC	The Confederate Veteran Magazine : Interest of Confederate Veterans and Kindred Topics		1971
USAM/2-5	Genealogical Abstracts Revolutionary War Veterans : Scrip Act 1852	Brown, Margie G.	1990
USAM/4-1	Bibliography of Research Projects Report : Check List of Historical Records Survey Publications	Child, Sargent B. et al.	1943
USAM/93-1	History Of The Huguenot Emigration To America 2 Vols. In 1	Baird, Charles	1973
USAM/NE-101	The Winthrop Fleet : Massachusetts Bay Company Immigrants To New England, 1629-1630	Anderson, Robert Charles	2006
USAM/NE-100	Researching Your Colonial New England Ancestors	Hatcher, Patricia Law.	2012
USAM/NE-102	The Colonial Clergy And The Colonial Churches Of New England (Society Of The Descendants Of The Colonial)	Weis, Frederick Lewis	1936
USAM/NE-103	Genealogical Notes On The Founding Of New England : My Ancestors Part In That Undertaking.	Flagg, Ernest	1990

USAM/NE-106a/ CR	New England Captives Carried To Canada Between 1677 And 1760 During The French And Indian Wars : Volume 1 vol. 2	Coleman, Emma Lewis	1926/1 989
USAM/NE-106b/ CR	New England Captives Carried To Canada Between 1677 And 1760 During The French And Indian Wars : Volume 2 vol. 2	Coleman, Emma Lewis	1926/1 989
VA/0-152/CR	The Colonial Clergy Of Virginia, North Carolina, And South Carolina	Weis, Frederick Lewis	1955
WA/BUSN/171-11	On The Air The King Broadcasting Story	Chasan, Daniel Jack	1996
WA/COMM/ SNOF/175-4	The Centennial History of the Snoqualmie Community United Methodist Church (1889-1989)	Batthey, David S. et al.	2012 (1989)
WA/HIST/173-1	White River Valley History : Vignettes by John Owens	Owens, John	1982

## SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS, NOV 2014 – APR 2015

Compiled by John H. LaMont, SGS member and SPL representative to SGS

The bulk of the books in this list were received as donations from individuals or from other libraries and includes family histories (Allen, Brantley, Keller, Messer, Miller, Nichols, O'Donnell, Wheeler, Shipman, Foulke), genealogy periodicals (CT, IA, ID, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MS, MT, NM, NY, OK, OH, PA, TN, TX, WY), genealogy guidebooks (Baltimore, Shenandoah Valley), genealogy record transcriptions (PA, MD, VA, WV, NC,...), patriotic society registers/indexes (Huguenot, Daughters of Founders and Patriots), and more.

In addition to the gifts, we've purchased more guidebooks (French, Polish, Norwegian, NYC, and working with students), bibliographies (DARs Georgia and Rhode Island in the Revolution), and other publications (Virginia slave births index, 1853-1865, Indiana Sourcebook). We're continuing to review books for purchase and appreciate the suggestions we've received. We'll likely place another order for new books in the coming months, so please send us your suggestions.

You can find these books and many more on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Central Library. The collection is available during the Library's open hours, and specialized genealogy assistance is available at the following times. You can also submit questions using our Ask-A-Librarian service, which is available from our website: [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org)

### Genealogy Librarian desk hours:

- Tuesday – Saturday: 11 a.m.-noon; 1-3 p.m.
- Sunday: 1-3 p.m.

### 30 minute appointments with a Genealogy Librarian:

- Tuesday-Friday: 3 p.m. & 4 p.m.

912.4/D6857F/2015                      Dolan, Allison.

The family tree historical maps book: Europe, a country-by-country atlas of European history, 1700s-1900s. Family Tree Books, an imprint of F & W Media, Inc., 2015. [GBI]

912.73/D6857F/2014                      Dolan, Allison.

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- 929.1/M811F/2013 Morddel, Anne.  
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Rhode Island in the American Revolution: a source guide for genealogists and historians. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, [2014] [GBI]

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Branching out: genealogy for 4th-8th grade students. Lessons 1-30. Generations, c2012. [GBI]

929.1072/H717Br/2012 Holik, Jennifer.

Branching out: genealogy lessons for adults: helping you inspire the next generation. Generations, c2012. [GBI]

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Engaging the next generation: a guide for genealogy societies and libraries. Generations, c2012. [GBI]

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Items not indexed include book reviews, necrology reports, citations, members, donors and acquisitions.

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## Endnotes for *Crosely*, see



<sup>1</sup> Crosley was one of the popular brands of television sets in the mid-1950s. A typical ad for the 1956 Crosley that joined our family can be seen here: <http://www.tvhistory.tv/1956-Crosley-Ad2.jpg> Television history, TV brands and styles can be explored here: <http://www.tvhistory.tv/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> "Rabbit Ears" was the nickname for the television antenna that sat on top of the set and helped capture reception of the channels. The two metal antennas could be adjusted by moving them up or down and extending them to make them longer.

<sup>3</sup> Popular 1956 television shows can be explored here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956\\_in\\_television](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_in_television)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956%E2%80%93United\\_States\\_network\\_television\\_schedule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956%E2%80%93United_States_network_television_schedule)

<sup>4</sup> The High Flight TV sign-off originally broadcast video is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuLic17ijP8>

The background of the poem is explained here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Gillespie\\_Magee,\\_Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gillespie_Magee,_Jr.)

<sup>5</sup> Wikipedia, Indian-head test pattern, (public domain image):  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian-head\\_test\\_pattern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian-head_test_pattern)

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