



Seattle Genealogical Society  
May - June 2015

# newsletter



SGS SPRING SEMINAR REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

WHO'S YOUR DADDY? RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY  
IN THE MID-SOUTH STATES

C. Lynn Andersen, AG®

Register online at <http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/content/seminars>

*SGS asked Lynn to provide an article for the newsletter and she graciously obliged. Thanks, Lynn! And remember, even if you do not have ancestors who stopped over in Mid-South states on their trek west, the methodologies Lynn will explain for burned county records, etc. will be ones that transfer to other counties and regions. See you at the seminar!*

## Overcoming Missing Records

by C. Lynn Andersen, AG®

My quest for my roots started with attending a beginner's genealogy class at my local family history center. Following my instructor's suggestion, I interviewed my parents and discovered Dad had his mother's Bible. When told my aunt also had a box of family records, I made the biggest mistake a researcher can make -- I chose not to look at the box of records. Being a very green researcher, I thought, "What could deeds and other such papers tell me?" To complicate things I promptly forgot all about the box.

For the next six or seven years I looked for Solomon Lewis's parents to no avail. Solomon was my second great grandfather. Not only did Solomon's birth occur at a time records were not recorded in

continued on the next page....

Although it feels like spring, if there is bad weather anywhere in the Puget Sound region, please call the Library to verify whether it is open. (206) 522-8658.

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Continued from the previous page.

Kentucky, so did his death. He also lived in two different counties in Kentucky that suffered record losses due to fire and/or disaster.

What can you do if the records where your family lived were lost or never created? The following strategies may be helpful:

- Determine the extent of the record loss. It might not be as bad as you fear.
- Look for records that offer similar information but were kept by a different jurisdiction. Perhaps on a district, state or national level.
- Consider boundary line changes in the counties of your state.
- Check for local histories. They often contain biographical information on their residence and even transcriptions of local records.
- Search land records; they often list relationships. When land records are destroyed, owners often have their deeds rerecorded.
- Contact local historical societies. They have experts in the records of their communities.
- Sometimes records are found in the personal possession of family members.

Call it serendipity or call it divine intervention, I finally did find Solomon's parents. The story of how Solomon's parents were found along with more about the strategies listed above will be explored at this year's Spring Seminar on May 9th.

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## TOM JONES IS COMING!



Well, maybe not THAT Tom Jones--but in the genealogy world, Dr. Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA is a "rock star."

Tom Jones will be our SGS Fall Seminar speaker, so mark 17 October on your calendar. Tom is currently the co-editor of the *National Genealogical Quarterly* (see issues in the SGS library), considered the premier publication in the field of genealogy. It provides proof arguments which serve as examples of methodologies applicable to the problems which plague every genealogist--even if you do not have an ancestor noted in the article. He wrote *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, a textbook explaining the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) in detail. It contains worksheets that can help you improve the work you do within all five elements of the standards. He is a sought-after speaker and regularly teaches week-long classes on methodology and writing at the Salt

Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Genealogy Research in Pittsburg (GRIP), and the Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) in Samford, Alabama.

We are fortunate to have him speak to us on four topics on Saturday and he will teach two advanced sessions on Sunday (details yet to be confirmed) Due to the expected high demand for these latter classes, it is anticipated that they will be restricted to members only. Stay tuned for all the details for this "you do not want to miss" SGS Fall Seminar with the consummate educator and mentor -- Tom Jones.

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## ALERT! SGS NEWSLETTER GOES DIGITAL IN FALL 2015

In an effort to use SGS resources in the most efficient manner, this is the last edition of the *SGS newsletter* to be printed in hard copy and sent to the membership. But don't worry, SGS will still publish the newsletter and make it available on the website. The eNews, SGS's twice-a-month email of most current events and happenings, will announce the publication and posting of the newsletter and direct you to the location for the latest issue.

We recognize however, that this might be a hardship for some members. If this presents a problem for you (e.g. you do not have access to a computer), please contact the office by mail or phone to let us know. If you have a computer but are not getting the eNews now, please call the office and give us your email address. We will add it to the database. The eNews is published two times a month. Make sure the eNews is not being routed to your spam folder. At any time, from any computer with internet access, you can access the SGS webpage to access the newsletter. You do not have to be a member to receive the eNews.

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## BOARD ACTIVITIES: FEBRUARY & MARCH

- SGS received a \$3000 unrestricted grant from 4Culture. Thanks!
  - Dan Harmon, SGS Librarian, announced that the processing of the 137-box donation of items from Linda Wokal is now completed.
  - Research queries are now being coordinated by Janice Lovelace, Vice President.
  - Membership meeting will be held on 28 March with Jill Morelli presenting on "House Histories-Wherever You Live!"
  - SGS received a generous bequest from Ron Cross. Ron was an active member and volunteer for SGS and transcribed many useful documents for the Library.
  - The front desk and the shelves by the door have been removed, opening up the area for larger attendance at classes and for casual seating. Stop by and see the significant improvement.
  - The Board reviewed the operational calendar, set up to make sure that as officers transition the details of operations are not forgotten.
  - The Board authorized the purchase of a computer, two printers, and new tables.
  - Fran Lewis, working with Michelle Khuon, will draft a proposal for a computer network for the SGS Library.
  - SGS is working with the landlord to modify the lease and how we pay the property taxes. As a non-profit, SGS is eligible for a waiver of some of the tax but the landlord is not. By modifying the lease SGS can receive the tax relief.
  - The slate of officers for the coming year will be presented at the March membership meeting.
  - SGS Treasurer reported that we are in good financial health.
  - There will be a facilitated board retreat on 2 May with the incoming and outgoing directors. The focus will be on membership and long-range planning.
  - The Washington State Genealogical Society has requested nominees for the Volunteers of the Year Award. In the Team category, SGS submitted the nomination for the Library Team composed of Dan Harmon, Annie Wright, Dona Bubelis, Charlotte Wixon and Kathi McGinnis. Congratulations!
  - SGS Past President Linda Fitzgerald, met with the *Seattle Times* about advertising opportunities.
  - The Northwest African American Museum has reached out to SGS to partner on materials for their library and the use of their space.
  - The Board continues to work on the Policies and Procedures manual, working through a large number of position descriptions and roles and responsibilities.
- Approved Board minutes can be found on the SGS website by clicking on the "members" tab.

## 2015 FAMILY HISTORY WRITING CONTEST

We have our winners!

In February, SGS announced its first Family History Writing Contest. This contest encouraged the writing of family stories and memoirs by providing a forum for publication with monetary prizes. SGS received 13 submissions ranging in length from 253 words to over 5000 words. Some described a deeply personal journey of discovery and others were of ancestors long gone. One was even about the family receiving their first television set!



It was anticipated that we might have some very good submissions that we would like to publish but that wouldn't place in the contest. In addition to our three winners, there are seven other submissions that will be published either in the upcoming *SGS Bulletin* or in a future issue.

The winners are:

1st place (\$100): Lisa Oberg "Fire and Ice: Disaster in Minneapolis"

2nd place (\$50): Karen Battesani: "A Soldier's Stories of World War II as Told to his Daughter"

3rd place (\$25): Delorse Lovelady: "Growing Up Stories: Crosley"

Each of the top three winners also receives a free one-year membership or renewal in SGS for the 2015-2016 year and a certificate announcing their achievement.

Each of the submissions was unique and approached its topic in very different ways. Each was a pleasure to read. Authors whose work will be published, in addition to the three winners, include:

Karen Portzer: "Hiram Revels - First African American Senator or First Native American Senator?"

Kathryn Nass Ciskowski: "Theaters of Operation: The Connective Power of Film"

Ruth Oskolkoff: "The Seal Pup of Turnagain Arm"

Carolyn Schott: "Letter to the Governor"

Stuart Webber: "Are We Penobscot?"

Maureen Wlodaroski: "History & Mystery: The Search for M.C.S. Young"

Thanks to all who submitted.

SGS encourages everyone to start writing your family history and sponsors several on-going writers groups. New writer's groups are forming all the time. If you would like to join the next group, contact Jean Roth, SGS Education Director at [jeanaroth@juno.com](mailto:jeanaroth@juno.com) and she can assist. Watch for the publication of the winning and the other meritorious articles in the next edition of the *SGS Bulletin*, published and mailed to the membership at the end of June.

Start / continue writing--SGS is considering making this an annual event!

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## SGS SPRING QUARTER CALENDAR: MAY 2015 - JUNE 2015

Unless stated otherwise, events are held at the Seattle Genealogical Society Library. SGS classes are free to SGS members. 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, access the SGS website at <http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/>

### May 2015

- 2 Saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP; David Robert, leader.  
Bring your Canadian brick walls for some expert help.
- 5 GiveBIG DAY. Make a donation to SGS online on this day and SGS receives a percentage of matching funds from the Seattle Foundation. <http://www.seattlefoundation.org>
- 9 Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, **SGS SPRING SEMINAR**; C. Lynn Andersen, "Who's Your Daddy? Researching your Family History in the Mid-South States," Greenwood Senior Center – 525 N. 85th Street , Seattle  
Learn strategies to tear down your brick walls, wherever you are researching, and find the record sets which may help! For those of you with ancestors from Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, record sets which aid your work will be covered extensively.
- 10 Mother's Day, SGS closed.
- 13 Wednesday, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; Diane Hettrick and Lou Daly, leaders; Fiske Genealogical Library, 1644 43rd Ave. East, Seattle, Pioneer Hall in Madison Park, \$3 Library use fee.
- 16 Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, IRISH INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader.  
General open session on Irish research ideas.
- 16 Saturday, 1:00 am - 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader.  
General open session on German research ideas.
- 17 Sunday, 11:30 am - 4:00 pm, GERMAN-RUSSIAN WORKSHOP: Ethnic Series; Jean A. Roth (Volga Germans) & Carolyn Shott (Black Sea & Ukrainian Germans), leaders. Bring your own lunch.
- 23- 25 Memorial Weekend, SGS closed.

### June 2015

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

- 1 Monday, 10:00 - 7:00, VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY, a day the library is open for research and congeniality to only the volunteers who have donated 75 hours or more to the organization. Lunch and dinner will be provided. This is an invitation only event.
- 6 Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP; David Robert, leader.
- 6 Saturday, 1:00 pm, **SGS ANNUAL MEETING**; Marilyn Rose, President.

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June 2015, continued

- 9 Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, GENEALOGY & THE LAW; Cary Lynn Bright, leader.  
Are you missing out on telling some of the story about your ancestors? If they lived in the U.S., they followed the federal and state laws for the time period in which they lived. These historical laws tell part of the story about marriage, taxes, and much more. Come learn how to find these historical laws and apply them to your ancestors' life stories.
- 21 Father's Day, SGS closed.
- 27 Saturday, 1:00 am - 3:00 pm, DNA INTEREST GROUP; Cary Bright, leader  
This meeting will review new discoveries in DNA testing and focus on learning to analyze your Autosomal DNA Testing Results. SGS Library (change in venue due to a scheduling conflict, .For questions or to be added to our email list- contact [sgsdnasig@gmail.com](mailto:sgsdnasig@gmail.com)

Save the Dates...

- 25-26 July Scottish Highland Games - Enumclaw  
SGS will have a booth and offer genealogical help. We need volunteers for both days. Please contact Jean Roth at [jeanaroth@juno.com](mailto:jeanaroth@juno.com) or (206) 782-2629
- 17 October Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00, SGS FALL SEMINAR; TOM W. JONES, CG, CGL "The Family History Detective: Finding Solutions to Your Toughest Research Problems."

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## Judy Eccles Wright Speaks at SGS on Irish Naming Practices

On 25 April, Judy Eccles Wright, AG, spoke at the SGS Library on the naming practices of the Irish. Judy is an accredited genealogist with a specialty in Irish and Scottish research and an active writer. She agreed to speak at SGS as she was visiting the area. Judy is a graduate of Brigham Young University, and a former Certified Genealogical Record Specialist. Photo (right) is of a few attendees who stayed after the presentation to discuss her talk. Conversation was made easier because of the new layout of the furniture in the library. Thanks to Jean Roth, who realized that when the opportunity arises to have a noted speaker visiting Seattle, SGS should take advantage of the situation and bring the expert to the attention of SGS members. Thanks, Judy and Jean.



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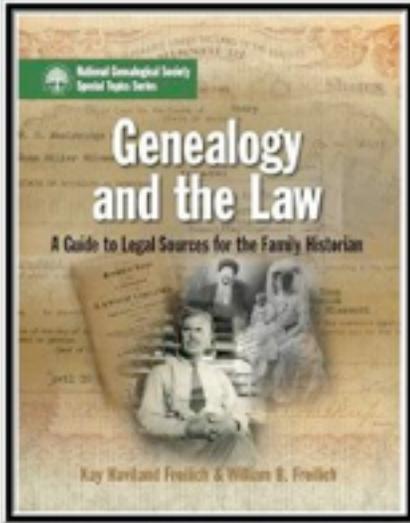
## GIVEBIG!

Mark your calendar for 5 May! On that day, The Seattle Foundation will roll out the 2015 "GiveBIG" campaign. The Foundation will augment any contribution to the Society. We have many unmet needs that welcome your support, including projects such as the Pulliam Obituary Collection. This is a way to leverage your contribution to SGS. If you want to know more go to:

<https://givebig.wordpress.com/>.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE LAW LIBRARY A GENEALOGICAL RESOURCE?

Cary Lynn Bright



A visit to your local law school library should be put on your list of to-do items. Seattleites are lucky to have access to the University of Washington Marion Gould Gallagher Law Library. It took only a few minutes before I held a North Carolina Statute Book from 1817 in my hands. The cover was no longer original, but the pages were thick and rough on my fingers. My ancestors lived the laws this book contained. Once you find a law, it usually raises questions that the wonderful staff at the reference desk at the Gallagher Law Library can answer, particularly how to decipher the code references.

I visited on a Sunday when the campus had free parking. The Gallagher Law Library is located next to the Burke Museum on the University of Washington campus with easy parking between the two buildings (if you arrive early).

Upon entering the building, take the elevators down one floor to L1. The library entrance is just ahead and well-marked. Inquire at the circulation desk just inside the entrance for a user's card. With the completion of a short form, the user's card enables you to use Wi-Fi in the building with your newly assigned UW NET ID and to check out non-reference books. The reference desk is open select hours so plan your visit around their open hours. Both desk attendants pointed me to the areas I needed to search using the call number system. I spent about 45 minutes reviewing some of these resources on my list at the spacious tables provided. Lighting is excellent and the library was quiet. I needed to make a copy of two pages in two books. The copy center has a scanner that allow you to send the copies by email or put on your own USB drive -- all for free and very user friendly.

All state statue materials are located in the compact stacks on L2. These large bookcases "accordion" to maximize shelving capacity but are easily moved electronically with the push button controls on each bookcase.

I located where I thought North Carolina would be alphabetically, went back a few rows to move the cases further back, and then went back to "my" shelf and pushed the arrow to move them all to the right. Voila! The North Carolina books were there, and much to my surprise a third of them qualified for our rare books. A wonderful collection of history at my fingertips!

I also could have also used Lexis Nexus Academic, a database of articles from major newspapers worldwide, law reviews and journals, federal and state cases and statutes, federal regulations, tax materials and patents. So make time to experience this wonderful resource.

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Cary Lynn Bright, a long time member and volunteer of SGS, is taking an online course, "Genealogy & the Law," based on the book *Genealogy and the Law: A Guide to Legal Sources for the Family Historian*, by Kay Haviland Freilich and William B. Freilich. On Tuesday, 9 June, at 10:30 am in the SGS Library, Cary will present "Genealogy & the Law," sharing with you how knowing the law can improve, and maybe even solve, some of those genealogical mysteries in your own family.

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## REPOSITORIES IN SEATTLE YOU MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT OF!



Genealogists visit many locales to obtain information about their families. In the Puget Sound area there are a few “regulars”-- Seattle Public Library, Puget Sound Archives and the SGS Library to name a few. But, here are two repositories you may not have thought of:

**Seattle Public Schools:** Want to know if your ancestor was as good , or as bad, as they purported to be? Here is the place to go. Request their grades. Learn about any honors they received or sports they played. All possible in the Seattle Public Schools Archives located at 2445 3rd Ave South. Archivist Aaren Purcell (206.252.0797) asks visitors to call in advance to make an appointment.

**Seattle Municipal Archives:** Yes, the City has its own archives and it is the repository of the City’s original charter. Other items of interest include utility pictures by address or intersection. Thus, that road work that was conducted in front of your house in 1936 may have generated photos of your house in the background. The archivists are also scanning a significant amount of materials, so check out their website at <http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/>. Archives are located at City Hall, 600 4th Ave. in downtown Seattle. Archivists will help find your materials in advance of your arrival if you call at 206.233.7807 a day or two ahead of your visit. You can also reach them at [archives@seattle.gov](mailto:archives@seattle.gov). We have a number of rich resources in our area; some are hidden in plain view!

Photo: Bruce Lee’s grade sheet from the Seattle Public Schools Archives.