



Seattle Genealogical Society
March-April 2015

newsletter



SGS SPRING SEMINAR REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

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

C. Lynn Andersen. AG®

Watch your mail for the registration flyer for the 2015 SGS Spring Seminar. The Seminar Committee headed by Betty Ravenholt has done a fabulous job in organizing this event which will feature C. Lynn Andersen, AG® (Accredited Genealogist - Mid-South States) speaking on topics related to researching in the states of Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. While you may not have ancestors from those states, you will still find this seminar full of skills transferable to your research, whether your research is primarily in New England, the Midwest, or the Far West.

Lynn will speak on the following topics:

“An Overview of Internet Resources for the Mid-South States”

“Internet Resources for Mid-South States Will and Probate Records”

“Finding and Using Land Records Online to Solve Mid-South States Research Problems”

“A Look at Colonial Land Records from the Mid-South States”

Your registration flyer and the SGS website contains full descriptions of each topic.

Lynn Andersen lives in Tooele (pronounced “Tweh lah”), Utah, about 35 miles outside of Salt Lake City. She is the former Director of the Family History Center having served for five and a half years. She also serves on the testing committee as Level 1 (application) grading chair for International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen), the accrediting body. She received her accreditation in 2006. Lynn focused on the mid-south states because her ancestors, not dissimilar to many, came through the states of Virginia and, in the late 1700’s, Kentucky. Her family remains in Kentucky while she to Ohio and then to Utah.

Among other strategies, Lynn will address resolving the “burned county” problem by seeking out records which were not held in the courthouse at the time of the catastrophe. She will illustrate



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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solutions using a wide variety of sources, including state records, recreated land records, county histories and vital record collections.

While counter-intuitive, one of the record sets which Lynn finds particularly rich in information is the record set left by those who died intestate or without a will. Sometimes, there is more paperwork in a courthouse about them than people who died with a will. Tax records and how they can be used to solve problems is another rich source she will cover in her talks.

"This won't be that hard." was Lynn's thought when she accepted an Irish New York City Orphan Train research problem at the beginning of her professional career. Thirteen years later Lynn is still working on the Irish identity problem. It took ten years and the digitization of records and placement on the internet when she noticed a New York Death Index entry. Someone who didn't appear to belong was buried in the same plot of a known family member! She traced the unknown individual and discovered the relationship that opened up the door. Using an autosomal DNA test added further evidence of kinship. She considers this the most interesting -- and challenging -- case she has ever worked on. She also recognizes that she, like all genealogists, learned along the journey. For Lynn, this problem illustrated that one must remain motivated and absolutely tenacious as a researcher, for the answer might be posted tomorrow on the internet!

Lynn has become educated through attendance at conferences, and seminars such as the one offered by SGS such as the ones offered by SGS. She urges all individuals to attend this seminar regardless of the geographic origin of their ancestors. Her lectures will present strategies for solving problems and will use sources which are not unique to the mid-south states. However, if you have ancestors from these states, even better.

Lynn traces her family history because she believes ancestors have much to teach us if we just listen. She also considers it her sacred duty to her forebears. Please come share the joy of discovery with C. Lynn Andersen on 9 May 2015 at Greenwood Senior Center, 525 N. 85th Street, starting at 9:00. a.m. Watch for the brochure in the mail. See you there!

"TIS THE SEASON"

Here are a few of the up-coming conferences and seminars you might be interested in:

Irish Genealogy Workshop: 21 March, Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; sponsored by the Irish Heritage Club and the SGS Irish Interest Group; Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 13047 Greenwood N., Seattle. Register at www.irishclub.org. Click on "Irish Week - March 21" for details.

National Genealogical Society conference: 13-16 May, "Crossroads of America," St. Charles Missouri, sponsored by NGS at <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Jamboree: 5-7 June, "Genealogy FANfare," co-sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society & International Society of Genetic Genealogy; early Bird registration continues until 30 April. More information at <http://genealogyjamboree.com/>. SGS member Jill Morelli will present "Using Non-Population Schedules for Context and Evidence"

Washington society conferences: SGS Spring Seminar on 9 May and tSGS Fall Seminar on 17 October. Listed on the Washington State Genealogical Society website at: <http://www.wasgs.org/eventListings.php?nm=76>

Ethnic Series of Classes Kick-off

Janice Lovelace is the lead speaker who will launch the ethnic series of lectures for SGS on March 8. "Is Great-Grandmother Really Native American?" will address the issues of myth vs reality and how to use records to prove the identity of those thought to be Native American. The month of March will focus on our Irish heritage, but other lectures are planned throughout the year which cover many nationalities, including Scandinavians, Ostfriesens (an area of Germany bounded by Holland and the North Sea), African Americans, and Germans from Russia.

Check out the new beginner's class starting in March as well. This is also being taught by Janice Lovelace, who, before retirement, was a faculty member at a local community college.

Lots going on and you'll want to be a part of it all!

BOARD ACTIVITIES

- The KC3I program (index of court records in King County) is gathering momentum and has resulted in some new members as well.
 - Betty Ravenholt presented the final plans for the SGS Spring Seminar on 9 May with lectures by C. Lynn Andersen (see article in this newsletter).
 - The Board discussed a monetary bequest by Ron Cross, a long time member and volunteer who passed away recently.
 - Tom W. Jones will speak at our SGS Fall Seminar, to be held 17/18 October 2015. Save the dates! There will be two Advanced Sessions open to SGS members.
 - Michelle Khuon has resigned as Interim Director of Volunteers. She will continue as webmaster and desk volunteer coordinator.
 - The procedures manual is undergoing revisions. Suggestions from the Review committee were discussed and then voted upon by the Board. A special meeting was called to focus attention on the revisions. The Board has expressed its commitment to implement these revisions over time.
 - SGS Treasurer reported that we are in good financial health.
 - There will be a Board retreat in the Spring with the incoming and outgoing directors. The focus will be on membership and long-range planning.
 - The publication schedule was changed slightly to even out delivery of the *SGS newsletter* and the *SGS Bulletin*. Members will now receive a publication from SGS every two months in addition to the email delivery.
 - The next *SGS Bulletin* will be themed for narrative family histories. Prizes will be awarded for the best narratives.
 - SGS acquired the Pulliam obituary collection, a documented set of obituaries from the *Seattle Times* and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. These records must be digitized before they can be accessed by the members or the public.
 - The \$5 fee to use the library was rescinded. Use of the library is now free to all.
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ALERT! SGS TO STOP MAILING THE SGS NEWSLETTER IN WINTER 2015

Beginning with the winter 2015 issue, SGS will publish the *SGS newsletter* ON ITS WEBSITE ONLY. Hard copies will no longer be mailed. 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.

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2015 FAMILY WRITING CONTEST

You know you should do it! What are you waiting for? Now is your chance--to write just one story of your family and submit it to SGS for possible publication in the next *SGS Bulletin*. Besides, it will be fun!

And, there are prizes!

We are looking for creative non-fiction articles--stories of your family told in a narrative style. Articles can be of any length, though stories over 4000 words are discouraged. Because of the nature of these articles there are few if any endnotes; so, don't let that impede your writing!

You can find FAQs, general information, and the contest entry form at the website. There is no fee to enter. Criteria for evaluating the entries include:

- 1) overall interest and impact
- 2) accuracy and carefulness with facts
- 3) "voice" and language, and
- 4) writing mechanics (clarity, grammar, citation, completeness).

Submit your article no later than 1 April. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places of \$100, \$50 and \$25. We look forward to reading your entry.

New Site: Norwegian Historical Data Centre

The University of Tromsø in Norway is posting historical church records and census records online. According to the Family History Library at Salt Lake City, the Norwegian Historical Data Centre is a national institution under the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Tromsø. Their aim is to computerize the Norwegian censuses for 1865, 1875, 1900 and 1910 as well as some of the parish records. To search the database go to: <http://www.rhd.uit.no/indexeng.html>

Also at the site are articles on historical and political topics and Norwegian biographies.

To access census information:

"Easy search in the censuses" > [choose your census of interest] > [county of interest] > click on box in front of "Limit your search criteria to one or more parishes" > [parish of interest] > [name of interest]

This site is under development so check back often.

GIVE BIG!

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 need 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 now go to <https://givebig.wordpress.com/>.

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SGS SPRING QUARTER CALENDAR: MARCH 2015- APRIL 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/>

March 2015

- 7 Saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP; David Robert, leader. Bring your Canadian brick walls for some expert help.
- 8 Sunday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, IS GREAT-GRANDMOTHER REALLY NATIVE AMERICAN? AN INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH. Many families have the oral history that an ancestor was Native American. How does a family researcher begin to discover if this is true? What federal, state and tribal records are available?; Janice Lovelace, leader. An ethnic series presentation.
- 11 Wednesday, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; Fiske Genealogical Library, 1644 43rd Ave. E., Seattle (Pioneer Hall), \$3 library use fee; Diane Hettrick and Lou Daly, leaders
- 14 Saturday, 12:30 pm, ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE; 5th and Jefferson to Westlake – SGS will have an antique car entry, a 1954 MG; SGS marchers are needed to walk along side the car or attend the parade to cheer them on.
- 14 Saturday, all day; IRISH WEEK FESTIVAL AT SEATTLE CENTER; SGS will host an information booth and also conduct genealogy classes. Volunteers are needed for the booth.
- 21 Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; IRISH GENEALOGY WORKSHOP; sponsored by the Irish Heritage Club and the SGS Irish Interest Group; Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 13047 Greenwood N., Seattle. Register at www.irishclub.org. Click on "Irish Week - March 21" for details. An ethnic series presentation.
- 22 Sunday, (Irish Interest Group will not meet this week.)
- 22 Sunday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP; Jean A Roth, leader. "Using German Church Records," an ethnic series presentation.
- 28 **Saturday, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm : Open Social Session & Brown Bag Lunch**
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm: SGS Membership meeting
- 29 Sunday, 1:30 - 4:00 pm, BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS; Janice Lovelace, leader. An overview of basic genealogy techniques and resources. Advance registration requested at SGS.

April 2015

- 4 Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP; David Robert, leader.
- 5 Sunday, Easter; SGS is closed.
- 8 Wednesday, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; Fiske Genealogical Library, 1644 43rd Ave. E., Seattle (Pioneer Hall), \$3 library use fee; Diane Hettrick and Lou Daly, leaders.
- 9 Thursday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, BRICK WALL SOLVING SESSION; Join SGS members for a problem-solving session. This is an open forum format.

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April 2015, continued

- 11 Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, IRISH INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader.
"Irish Internet Sources"
- 11 Saturday, 1:00 am - 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader.
"German Internet Sources".
- 15 Wednesday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY; Jean A. Roth, leader. Two parts:
"Ahnenerbe - the Nazi Genealogy Ancestral Heritage Program" and "Accessing Holocaust
Databases." From deportation records to lists of the martyred to survivor testimonies, the
Holocaust has generated a vast amount of documents and records, many of which can be
researched online.
- 26 Sunday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, OSTFRIESLAND: GERMAN OR DUTCH? YES!; Jill Morelli, leader. "Dear
Brothers and Sisters: A Letter to Ostfriesland." We will explore the influences on decision making
of a 19th century emigrant. In the process we will learn about the culture of Ostfriesland, a small
area in extreme north and west Germany, characterized by a tight-knit culture that remains visible
today. This is an ethnic series presentation.

Save the Dates...

- 9 May 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," 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.
- 9 & 10 Saturday and Sunday; SGS Library is closed.
May
- 17 May Sunday, 11:30 am - 4:00 pm, GERMAN-RUSSIAN WORKSHOP; Jean A. Roth (Volga Germans) &
Carolyn Schott (Black Sea Germans), leaders. An ethnic series presentation.
- 6 June Saturday, 1:00 pm, **SGS ANNUAL MEETING**; Marilyn Rose, President.
- 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."

Congratulations!

On Wednesday May 6, SGS member and former president, Ginny Sharp Sommarstrom, will give a free webinar for the Minnesota Genealogical Society, entitled "Researching Your Swedish Ancestry in the 21st Century," at 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm (Pacific Daylight Time). The webinar is presented using GoToWebinar. "This presentation will provide a framework for tracing Swedish-American ancestry that is based on four essential questions that must be answered. Resources for answering those questions are illustrated and discussed. With answers to those four questions in hand, we will delve into U.S. immigration, Swedish emigration, and Swedish church records. Clear step-by-step examples will help the listener find their own ancestors in these records." This is a free webinar.

To register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8237036802111806721>

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ALASKA RECORDS AT NARA-SEATTLE

Jill Morelli



Recently I had the opportunity to tour NARA-Seattle, specifically to view examples of records obtained by NARA-Seattle when the NARA-Alaska branch closed. The visit was sponsored by the Puget Sound chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (PS-APG).

The University of Alaska, the state of Alaska and NARA-Seattle each received some of the records. Seattle's allocation of records was received in August of 2014 and represents documents from as early as 1870. Most of the collection, however, is from the 1900's to present.

Charlieann Becker, Archivist, shown on the left, gave an overview of the collection and then we toured the workroom, where she had laid out numerous examples of the records sets available. These records have no index.

Here are some of the records sets which caught my attention:

1. Early in the history of Alaska and prior to mapping of the area, sketches of the coastline were made as reference documents for ships' captains. These long, narrow sketch books contain prominent features of the coastlines to aid in sailing the Alaskan waters.
2. Reindeer records: There was a program to encourage the native populations to raise reindeer. There are records of those transactions, including contracts with individuals and other formal paperwork.
3. Naturalization records. Yes, you could get naturalized in Alaska when it was a territory as naturalization was a court action. Depending on the era, these records provide a rich picture of the immigration process.
4. Villages conducted their own enumerations prior to statehood, which included information typical of a census, such as name of head of household and all family members and their ages.
5. The Henry Wellcome collection: NARA does not usually hold non-governmental individual collections unless particularly unique and the Wellcome collection certainly qualifies. Henry Wellcome collected ephemera about the state, including a vast array of photos of buildings taken at the turn of the last century.
6. Trish Nicola described some of the Chinese Exclusion Act files related to Alaska and explained the process of cataloging the records. She now has three other volunteers working on these vast files, a prodigious task, because every time an ethnic Chinese left the country or returned, documents were created of character testimonials, affidavits and copies of vital records.

While NARA- Seattle has few holdings from the Russian settlement era, there are numerous documents from the time Alaska was a territory until statehood in 1959. There are surprisingly few mining documents or records from the Klondike gold rush period.

PS-APG is the local chapter of a national organization. Their website is at <http://www.psapg.org/>

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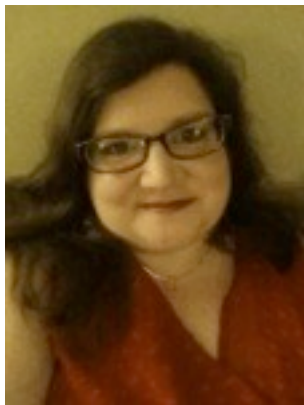
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VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: MICHELLE ANDERSON KHUON



Our Volunteer of the Quarter is Michelle Anderson Khuon, who most recently served as Director of Volunteers from 2011 to 2015 before stepping down. She continues as the Desk Volunteer Coordinator (since June 2014), a member of the Archives Committee (since 2012), and the webmaster (since June 2011) for the Society.

Michelle started researching, "as opposed to just pestering my parents for info and digging through their boxes of old photos and documents," in 1998. She was hooked when she uncovered a great-grandmother who told everyone she was born in Germany but actually was born in Alabama and another relative with a secret first husband.

She is most proud of the work of the Archives Committee in organizing, scanning, and online posting of the VFW membership cards from the Ballard VFW post. This was a collection that was hidden in a cabinet in the back closet of the library. This project went from a dusty, neglected pile to something SGS members can access online -- a terrific accomplishment. Michelle was also instrumental in the revamping of the website in 2011 and continues as webmaster. She recognizes that the nature of websites is that they are never "finished".

Michelle is a member of the Annie Pullium Chapter of the DAR, the National Genealogical Society, and the Association of Professional Genealogists. Michelle, we thank you for your many and continued contributions to our Society!