

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER



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**History of Chinese Immigration to Port Townsend**

*The anti-Chinese movement certainly touched Port Townsend, Washington, on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, but it had a different outcome there. The community decided at one point in early 1886 to attempt to remove its Chinese population, particularly as many were arriving from towns on Puget Sound from which they had been expelled. But whites tried to proceed against the Chinese in a more lawful fashion, by boycotting their businesses and firing them from jobs in white-owned businesses. These methods did not work, however, in part because white employers and consumers came to realize how much they depended on Chinese labor for the smooth running of their town economy. Moreover, contrary to the perception that Chinese sojourners sent all their earnings home, white leaders in Port Townsend came to understand that the Chinese had invested*

*(Continued on page 2)*

**THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT RECORDS**



**Chinese on a wharf in Port Townsend**  
(Special Collections, UW, Social Issues Files Cb, neg. 5074)

*by Trish Hackett Nicola, CG*

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was passed in order to limit the number of Chinese entering the United States and prevent the Chinese already in the U.S. from becoming naturalized citizens. When the Act was renewed ten years later it required the Chinese to register and obtain a certificate of residency or identity as proof of their right to be in the United States.<sup>1</sup> By the time the law was repealed in 1943, thousands and thousands of case files with valuable genealogical information had been created.

In 1869 a U.S. treaty with China opened the door to Chinese immigration. The U. S. needed cheap labor for the mining and the railroad industry and the Chinese were willing to provide it. Immigration peaked in 1873, when 23,000 Chinese entered the country, mostly in California. There was an economic depression after the completion of the building of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1869. Anti-Chinese riots occurred. Soon anti-immigration laws were passed to limit the number of Chinese coming into the country. These laws were also fueled on racial and cultural fears. It was difficult for Chinese to assimilate into the American culture. They would never look Anglo-Saxon. Many U.S. laborers, although recent immigrants themselves, resented the Chinese being here and taking jobs away from "white" workers.<sup>2</sup> In 1880 the U.S. modified its immigration treaty with China to limit the immigration of laborers. Teachers, students, merchants and Chinese travelers were not affected. In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed. It excluded laborers and Chinese employed in mining. The Chinese already living in the U. S. could no longer obtain their U.S. citizenship and if they left the country of China there were required to obtain certificates to re-enter.<sup>3</sup>

When the Chinese Exclusion Act was extended in 1892, all Chinese residents were required to register and obtain a certificate of residence. Those who did not have the proper paper work or witnesses could be deported or imprisoned. In 1943 Congress repealed the Exclusion Act and gave foreign-born Chinese the right to become naturalized.<sup>4</sup> As the laws became more restrictive and enforcement became tighter, the size of the Chinese Exclusion Act files increased. In the earlier files the name of the person was recorded in traditional Chinese order—last name first, then the age,

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 1)

a considerable amount of money in the town itself. To expel the Chinese, then, was to create significant economic problems for the community. Port Townsend never went about integrating the Chinese socially into the community, and over time the population of Asian immigrants there dwindled as a result. (The town was also the site of considerable smuggling of Chinese into the United States from Canada after the 1882 exclusion.) But at least some white people in Port Townsend recognized the economic contributions that the Chinese made, and this recognition likely prevented in Port Townsend an expression of the kind of unrestrained hostility that had been unleashed elsewhere.

(Daniel Liestman, "The Various Celestials among Our Town": Euro-American Response to Port Townsend's Chinese Colony, *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 85 (July 1994):93-104



**Smuggling Chinese** into the United States as viewed by a *West Shore* weekly magazine artist. Not all entered the United States by water, however. Many came across the border into eastern Washington. (Special Collections, UW, Social Issues Files Cb, neg. 11309)

## RESEARCHING IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS IN THE JCGS LIBRARY

by Bev Brice

It is essential to start your research into your immigrant ancestors by learning all you can about your family in this country before jumping to immigration records. Especially helpful are the 1900, 1910 and 1920 censuses. Here are some of the resources in the JCGS Library that may help you.

- Huguenot:** Huguenot Emigration to America
- New England:** Great Migration Begins/Great Migration  
Genealogical Dictionary of New England
- New England and Virginia (from England):** Complete Book of immigrants in Bondage  
Complete Group of Immigrants 1607-1776 (CD)
- New Netherlands:** New Netherlands Vital Records 1600s (CD)
- Germany and Switzerland:** Germans & Swiss Settlers in America 1700-1800  
Germans to America 1850-1874 (CD)  
Germans to America 1875-1888 (CD)
- Italy:** Italians to America 1800-1893 (CD)

### Researching in Other Countries

- Europe Western (CD):** Vital Records Index (LDS Church)
- Canada:** In Search of Your Canadian Roots
- France:** Alsace—Lorraine
- Germany:** Clues for Germans from Russia  
Germanic Genealogy  
In Search of Your German Roots  
How to Read German Church Records...A Guide to spelling and pronouncing  
German Names: German English Genealogical Dictionary  
Reiseatlas (2004 German Atlas)
- Great Britain:** (CD) 1851 British Census, Devon, Norfolk, Warwickshire only  
In Search of Your British and Irish Roots  
Britain Ordinance Survey Map  
Bermuda Settlers of the 17th Century  
The Quiet Adventurers in North America  
A Genealogical Gazetteer of England  
Welsh Family History A Guide to Research
- Scotland:** Irish and Scotch Irish Ancestral Research  
Scottish Roots  
A Genealogical Atlas of Scotland
- Dutch:** Dutch Genealogical Research
- Ireland:** Irish Immigrants in North America  
(CD): Search for Missing Friends 1821-1920  
Irish Records  
A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland  
(CD): Irish Immigrants to North America  
Tracing Your Irish Ancestors
- Italy:** Finding Italian Roots
- Norway:** History of Norwegian Immigration  
Norwegians in Wisconsin

(Continued on page 8)

## THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

height, physical marks, occupation, and place of residence. The inspector usually added remarks, such as, how much English they knew, the places they had lived in the U.S. and how long they were in each place. A photograph was taken before the person left the country and this was compared to the person re-entering the country. The port, date of arrival, vessel name were included in the file. The date the returning Chinese was admitted, rejected or deported was stamped on the outside of the file. Early files may also have copies of some affidavits from local courts that were given before they left the country. Later files included a formal interrogation. Both the questions and answers were listed. The traditional name was recorded, then Chinese married name (usually completely different than the name on the case file), any aliases or a Western version of the Chinese name were also listed. There usually were many document numbers in the files -port arrival, alien registration, court case, certificate of residency, and certificate of identity. When a Chinese person is looking for his ancestor any of these numbers could be an important clue. Files usually include the name of the village and province or city and state where the person was born. Sometimes included are lists of family members with cross references to their files, return certificate applications, affidavits from witnesses, birth, marriage or death certificates, drawings or descriptions of a home or village in China.

Every file usually contains a photograph of its subject. Sometimes several photos are in the file-taken at different ages. When a family was applying for documentation to leave the United States a group photo was taken. The photos can show how Americanized the person was or his occupation. He may be wearing the traditional Chinese clothes of a laborer or the suit of a merchant. Sometimes a child can be identified as male or female by which side his shirt is buttoned, his hat or jewelry. Styles changed significantly over the years. Any person of Chinese ancestry, even someone born in the United States, who planned a trip out of the U.S., whether he was going to Canada or China, had to register to assure re-entry into the country. Most of the National Archives Regional facilities have files relating to the Chinese Exclusion Act in Record Group 85 but the majority of the records are located at Pacific Southwest (Laguna Niguel), Pacific Sierra (San Bruno), Northeast (New York City), Pacific Alaska (Seattle) and New England (Waltham, Mass.) facilities. [See Chinese Immigration and Chinese in the United States: Records in the Regional Archives of the National Archives and Records Administration...Paper 99, for complete listings.] The Seattle branch of the National Archives has four boxes—110 Chinese Exclusion Act immigration files for Chinese who entered the U.S. for the first time through Port Townsend, Washington, prior to the port of entry being moved to Seattle. Records from the Seattle District may also contain records for Port Townsend residents.

### Examples of information obtained from the files:

Mar Gee, a merchant for Wing Sing Company in Port Townsend, was 21 years old in 1913. He was the son of Mar Quong and Wong She and was born in Mon Ning Lee village, Sunning District, China. He arrived in the U. S. in 1908 as the minor son of a merchant. His witnesses were Mar Get, the manager of Wing Sing and Caucasians: August Pillep, a manufacturer of cigars; Otto A. Schanz, a grocer; and J. M. Lockhart, a real estate and insurance agent. The papers in the file included Mar Quong's nine pages of testimony in 1908 to get his son into the country. The application lists the partners in Mar Quong's firm in English and in Chinese characters, gives the dates of his return trips to China and details about his village in China—number of lanes in the village, houses in his lane, who lived next door, the number of rooms in his house, where the school was located, the name of the teacher, where the water supply was located and many other details.<sup>5</sup> File 77, concerns Ng Hong Jom, a bookkeeper in the store of Yet Wo Company, Port Townsend. His father, Ng An Ying, is the manager. The building was owned by Billy [W. J.] Fritz, who also owned a jewelry store on Water Street. A witness to the application, Mrs. A. R. Coleman, arranged to have Mrs. Rogers, give Ng Hong Jom private lessons until the new school year started. The file contains photos of Ng in 1916, 1922 and 1928.<sup>6</sup> If you have questions about the Chinese Exclusion Act records, visit, call, or email the National Archives at 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115-7999, 206-336-5115, seattle.archives@nara.gov or check out their website at [www.archives.gov/pacific-alaska/](http://www.archives.gov/pacific-alaska/).

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Approved by the National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)

-Case of MAR GEE, Merchant-

Q. We have bought cigars and tobacco from groceries from Mr. Tolson.

Q. Did you ever buy goods from those goods as a representative of the Wing Sing?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. On what boat do you expect to depart on the 5/3 "Titan", scheduled to sail May 13, 1913.

.....

MAR GEE, duly sworn, testified as follows:

Q. What are your names?

A. Mar Gee, Manager of the Wing Sing Co. of 66, 7th Washington St., Port Townsend, Wash. Mar Tak is my married name. I am of the Mar Family.

Q. How long have you been manager of the firm?

A. About four years.

Q. What is your age?

A. Fifty-three (53).

Q. How many members are there in the Wing Sing Company?

A. Eight in all.

Q. Give their names, the amount of interest each one has, and their present addresses.

A. Mar Quong in China; Howell, Manager of the store; Mar King, salesman in the store; Mar Wei, salesman in the store; and King King, working in Port Townsend; Mar Tai and Mar King, with Yick Tung & Co., 704 King St., Seattle, Wash., and Mar Soh, in China. Each has an interest of \$1,000.

Q. The partnership list signed by you on Feb. 4, 1913, contains the name of Mar Quong as having \$1,000 interest in the firm. Is that true?

A. He disposed of his interest to the company March 1, 1913. (Witness proposed book maker "Wing Sing Company" in Chinese, containing names of the eight partners as mentioned above and a notation to the effect that the interest of Mar Soh was purchased by Mar Gee.)

Q. When was that partnership book made?

A. It was prepared for the present year.

Mar Gee, Merchant for Wing Sing Co.  
Port Townsend

1. Waverly B. Lowell, compiler, Chinese Immigration and Chinese in the United States: Records in the Regional Archives of the National Archives and Records Administration, NARA, Reference Information paper 99, 1996, 1.
2. National Archives and Records Administration, Teaching with Documents; Using Primary Sources From the National Archives (Washington, DC, National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1989), 82.
3. Ibid, 84
4. Ibid, 85
5. Mar Gee Application for Pre-investigation of Status, April 21, 1913. Chinese Exclusion Act immigration case files, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group 85, National Archives—Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle) Port Townsend Case 125.
6. Ng Hong Jom, 1922. Application for Return Certificate, November 5, 1928. Chinese Exclusion Act immigration case files, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group 85, National Archives—Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle) Port Townsend Box 1, Case 77.

**WELCOME!**

**New JCGS**  
**Members**

**Barbara Stone**

**B. J. Faulkner**

**Jeanine Woodley**

**Larry McDowell**

**Stamps Honoring  
Immigration to  
America**



## DON'T MISS IT!

JCGS has a full schedule of events for the coming quarter. You can refer to the calendar in this issue for dates and times (don't forget to mark your calendars), but some of the special things coming up include our monthly meetings, discussion groups and resource corners:

**June Meeting:** Canadian Resources. Jessica Hacken from Auburn will help us identify how to trace our ancestors who spent time in Canada.

**July Meeting:** Round Table Discussion. We'd like to know how you solved a difficult research problem—your experience might benefit others. Also, if you have a brick wall, send information to Eileen Martin and the group will explore ways to help you hurdle it.

**August Meeting:** There will be no meeting this month—happy summer!

**Writing Your Family History Discussion Group:** share your knowledge and gain insights into writing your family story (whether for publication or for family members)

**Regional Research Discussion Group:** Following up on the German Research Day, we will be discussing German research this quarter. This is an opportunity to share resources that work and to get help thinking through your research problems.

**June Resource Corner:** We can't always copy information we want from the source. When you write down the information, are you doing it in a way that you and others will have all the important facts. Jesse Stewart will review the difference between Transcribing, Extracting, and Abstracting and discuss when each method should be used.

**July Resource Corner:** We have been focusing on finding immigrating ancestors with the seminar and German Research Day. Anne Steurer has had success finding both German and Irish ancestors. She will share her experiences. Bring your own successes and problems to put on the table.

**August Resource Corner:** The very piece of information you need for your research may be hiding in a journal article or in a manuscript collection somewhere. How can you tell? Two indexes are available online PERSI and NUCMUC, Bev Brice will demonstrate how they work.

**June Research Trip:** Our trip this month will be to the Seattle Public Library which houses a great collection of genealogical research materials.

**August Research Trip:** We'll head back to the National Archives with an opportunity to visit the nearby Seattle Genealogical Society library.

## GERMAN DAY

This program presents an opportunity for focusing on those Germans in your family tree. Gary Zimmerman, from the Fiske Library in Seattle, will be our speaker. Gary is an excellent presenter and always puts your research problem into historical perspective. This gives you the tools you need to find the records you seek. This is not a seminar with all the bells and whistles, just a day of a unique educational opportunity in our own back yard. Bring your own lunch and snacks to share.

**German Research Day**

**Saturday, June 2, 2007**

**Registration 8:30–9:00 AM**

**Lecture**

**9–10 AM Finding Germans in America**

**10:15–Noon: History of the German Republic**

**12:30–2:45 Using German Records (including online references)**

**Tri-Area Community Center**

**Call the Research Center to see if there is still space available.**

**\$10 donation at door requested**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS JUNE \* JULY \* AUGUST

DATE	MEETINGS AT RESEARCH CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS ABOUT MEETINGS)
June 2	German Research Day (8:30—2:45 AM) Tri-Area Community Center
June 4	Research Trip: Seattle Public Library
June 8	Executive Committee Meeting (9:30 AM all welcome!)
June 9	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group (10:00 AM)
June 15	Regional Discussion Group: Germany (10:00 AM)
June 16	Monthly Meeting: Canadian Resources (9:30 AM) Tri-Area Community Center
June 30	Research Corner: Taking Accurate Notes (10:00 AM)
July 14	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group (10:00 AM)
July 20	Regional Discussion Group: Germany (10:00 AM)
July 21	Monthly Meeting: Solving Difficult Research Problems (9:30 AM) Tri Area Center
July 26	Library Volunteer Meeting (10:00 AM)
July 28	Resource Corner: Immigration Research (10:00 AM)
Note	No Monthly Meeting In August
August 2	Library Committee Meeting (10:00 AM)
August 7	Research Trip: National Archives/Seattle Genealogical Society
August 10	Executive Committee (9:30 AM, all welcome)
August 11	Writing Your Family History Discussion Group (10:00 AM)
August 17	Regional Discussion Group: Germany (10:00 AM)
August 25	Resource Corner: Finding Journal Articles and Manuscripts (10:00 AM)
August 30	Library Volunteer Meeting (10:00 AM)

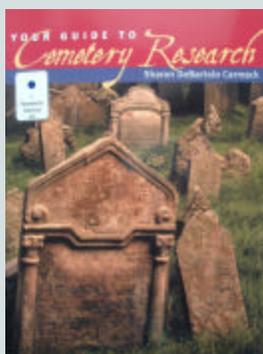
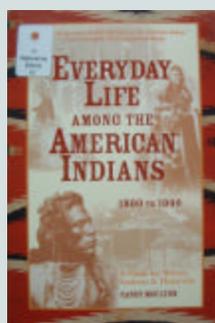
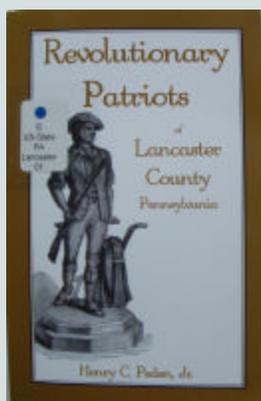
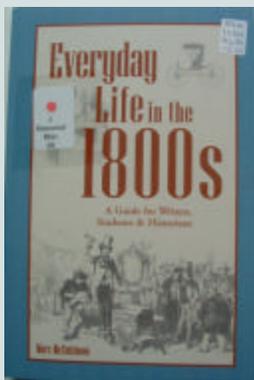
## NEW BOOKS IN THE JCGS LIBRARY

by Pam Wilson

We have added over 80 new books to the JCGS Library since the first of the year. Many thanks to: Bev Brice, Jim Richards, Barbara Larsen, Lu Person, Eileen Martin, Illma Mund, Yvonne Weir, Sherry Kimbrough, Saundra Shaw-Okerman, Marge Samuelson, Jesse Stewart, Carrie Wooten, Mary Griep, Jack and Pat Fletcher, Mary Stolaas, Lorrell Louchard, and Paul Hanaway for their generous donations to our expanding library. We continue to add new books every month so don't forget to check the library list on the Kiosk or the printed catalog on the front desk.

Some of our additions are included in Bev's article about researching your immigrant ancestors in the JCGS Library, but many other areas of research are also represented. For Virginia check out [Adventurers of Purse and Person](#) (2 volumes), [Jamestown Ancestors](#), and [Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia](#); for New Jersey see [Early Church Records of Monmouth County](#); for migration check out [Atlas of Settlement Between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys](#) and [Cherokee Trial Diaries](#) (2 volumes); for Maryland, there's [History of St. Mary's Country Maryland, Marriages & Deaths St. Mary's Country Maryland 1634-1900](#), [Maryland Marriages Evidences 1634-1718](#); for reference, try [Caring For Your Family Treasures](#), [Courthouse Research for Family Historians](#), [Everyday Life Among the American Indians](#), [Everyday Life in Early America](#), [Everyday Life in the 1800's](#), and [Medical Lexicon A Dictionary of Medical Science](#); and others such as [Early Tennessee Settlers](#), [Flames Over New England](#), [Genealogical Records in Texas](#), [Iowa Vital Records Marriages 1835-1900](#), "Kentucky Ancestors" (periodical, 18 volumes), [List of Inhabitants of Colonial New York](#) and more! Come on in to the Library and maybe you'll be lucky!

### New Books



## THE SHIPPING NEWS

Summarized from an article

by John Philip Colletta in [Family Tree Magazine](#), February 2003

Fascinating details about the events of your ancestors' immigration to America can be found in the newspapers of their ports of entry. 19th and early 20th century ports of entry usually had regular features on ships' arrivals with titles such as Harbor News, Marine Intelligence or Port Items. Often they reported more than just arrival, departure and some passenger information. If disease had broken out on the voyage or if particularly hazardous weather was encountered it was frequently reported in a lengthier article.

Your first step is to learn the name of your ancestor's vessel and the approximate date of its arrival and its port of entry. You can find US passenger arrival records dating from 1820 through the 1950's on microfilm at the National Archives and its 14 regional archives. ([www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)); the Family History Library and many other large libraries across the country. With the same basic information plus your ancestor's full original name you can also find your ancestor's name among the millions enumerated on ship manifests for the different ports. Accompanying family information may also be found with your ancestor's name on the ship's manifest. Go to [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/genealogy/immigrant\\_arrivals/passenger\\_records.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/immigrant_arrivals/passenger_records.html) for this information. Your next step is to access the newspaper article about your ancestor's arrival in port. For more on this visit the US Newspaper Program at [www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html](http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html). Here are seven ways maritime reports in newspapers can uncover interesting details concerning your ancestor's most important journey.

1. Stormy Weather—this was a dangerous trip and many crossings included severe storms, being blown off course and extensive delays that were hard on everyone.
2. Family Yarns—sometimes old news articles noted special events or unusual happenings

(Continued on page 9)



Creole departed Oct. 18, 1847; arrived Nov. 22, 1847

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

by Jesse Stewart

As we head toward summer, thoughts turn to enjoying the great outdoors instead of sitting behind a computer doing genealogy research (at least for some of us!). Remember that those picnics, weddings, reunions and other gatherings of family might be just the opportunity you need to "pick the brains" of those who might have some family lore. And, while you're on vacation or just enjoying the day, remember that generations to come might want to know about you and how you felt about a certain event. Taking pictures, keeping a journal or just jotting down some notes about your day will surely help those who come after you to know you better.

Jefferson County Genealogy Society had a good first half of our fiscal year 2008. Financially we're very strong—at the end of March, we had \$130,842 in the bank consisting of \$115,078 in our Seattle Foundation endowment funds and the balance, \$15,764 in our accounts to be used for expenses, special project purchases and a reserve fund. Year-to-date, we've taken in \$3,432 in income, or 64% of our budget, thanks to our Program Committee for a successful seminar which netted us more than \$1,000! Due to our solid financial position, JCGS will be able to continue offering Ancestry and New England Historic Genealogical Society databases (and hopefully others) to our members for free, purchase \$1,500 worth of books for our library, update our software and replace some of our furniture at the Research Center.

And, we've had great membership events already this year. The seminar was well attended and received rave reviews. Our monthly meetings, other than the seminar, have helped us further our understanding of genealogical research and/or were just plain fun. Our discussion groups and resource corners continued to be of value to our members.

All of this wouldn't be possible without the assistance of countless volunteers—our core group of volunteers at the Research Center; people who serve on our Library, Research and Program committees; those who have helped with data collection and data entry; our Officers; and many who work behind the scenes. Kudos and thanks are due to all, but I'd like to particularly thank a few who do jobs that you may not know about. Lu Person is responsible for designing and implementing the cataloging system for our Library and the on-going accession of new material. Joan Buhler picks up and distributes our mail and answers our requests for research on Jefferson County families (in addition to doing the landscaping at the Research Center!). And, Jean Redcap has been ordering our supplies for the Research Center (in addition to being a regular volunteer at the Center).

And speaking of thanks, congratulation to the 2007 Washington State Genealogical Society award recipients from Jefferson County. Vicki Davis, our Treasurer for the past few years, was recognized for her support of JCGS by stepping up when we needed someone to help handle our finances. Jim Christiansen received the award for preservation of Jefferson County records—he has been pivotal in setting up and maintaining the computer system at the Research Center that allows us to share information with the Historical Society and thus, help researchers. As important, he's spear-headed our upgrade of the software we use for maintaining our Jefferson County data, and identified some of the properties of that software which will make it easier to use and allow for more efficient data input. Way to go guys and thanks!

Finally, at the May monthly meeting, we held elections for three of our Officer positions that were up for "renewal" this year. I look forward to working with our Vice President, Eileen Martin, Corresponding Secretary, Mimi Starks and new Treasurer, Al Standish.

### 50/50 Book Purchase Program

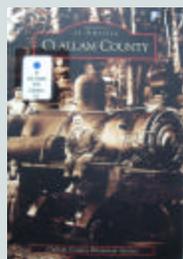
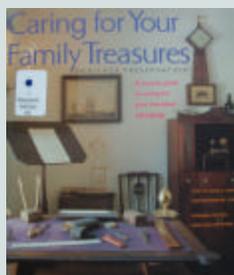
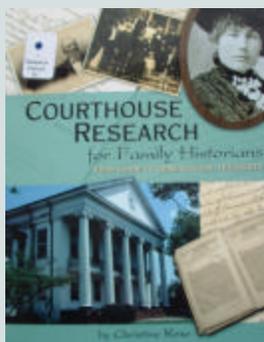
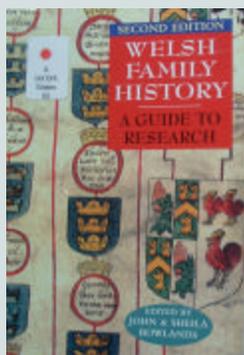
You can add a book to our library that you want to use. You pay half and the society pays the other half (postage and tax added to shared cost). You use the book for up to six weeks and then it is in the JCGS Library. Make a suggestion of a book you want and the Library staff will review it and if approved you are good to go! We have suggestions if you need ideas.

### Help Wanted!

We still need more volunteers to assist researchers at the library. It requires a commitment of four training days, held four weeks in a row, plus the willingness to work at least once a month. These volunteers need to have some research experience on their own families.

We also need someone willing to purchase supplies for the library. This is a once a quarter activity. It includes keeping an inventory of the supplies on hand. We always have Jefferson County records that need to be entered into the computer. This can be done at home or in the library. We are indexing the *Leaders* and need help in reading the old papers and finding the names. This one is way too much fun! We will also be walking cemeteries now that the weather is warming up. This generally takes one day and involves recording the information on tombstones. Contact Bev Brice at the library if you can help, and thanks in advance.

Thanks to Linda Atkins and Harriet Brunner who have started volunteering in the library since the last newsletter.

**more new books...**

## RESEARCHING IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS IN THE JCGS LIBRARY

(Continued from page 2)

An American Saga

**Poland:** Polish Roots

**Sweden:** Swedish Exodus

**Switzerland:** Swiss Colonists in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America

Swiss Surnames

**LDS Research Guides :** Denmark, England, Latin America, Norway, Sweden, Wales

**LDS Language Research Guides:** Finnish, German, Italian, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish

**"How To" Information on Immigration/Naturalization Records:**

Guide to Naturalization Records of US

Ships of Our Ancestors

They Became Americans

They Came in Ships: Guide to Arrival Records

## WHERE DID OUR PORT TOWNSEND SETTLERS COME FROM?

The first white settlers who arrived on the shore at what is now Port Townsend were mainly from the New England states, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. They were farmers, merchants, carpenters, boat builders and day laborers. The sea was the primary source of transport and many worked for the U.S. Customs service.

By the 1870's the number of those foreign born rose dramatically with the rise of Chinese immigrants and during this period many who had settled in the far west moved about as far west as they could. This group would continue to grow into the 1880s while the numbers from New England and foreign born would decrease. In 1889 the town had grown to 800 the third in importance in Western Washington Territory. By 1890 Port Townsend had a population of approximately 7,000. The hope of a railroad terminus fueled this growth as the town filled with entrepreneurs speculating on land and building the fine brick and stone buildings and Victorian homes.

The panic of 1893 played a large role in families leaving the Port Townsend area. Many of these beautiful homes and fine buildings were abandoned. The town's population dropped dramatically with a few hundred remaining. By 1900 the place of birth of the majority of people arriving was from foreign ports, mostly European with those from the far west falling off but increasing again by 1910. In 1900 almost 20 percent of Port Townsend's population was Chinese and at this time the Japanese population makes an appearance. After a fire in the area where Memorial Field is today the Chinese population began to decrease, by 1910 only 2.1 percent remained.

Source: Port Townsend, Township 30 North Range 1 West Willamette Meridian by Julia Brasfield



*The Chinn Kee family dressed in traditional embroidered clothing.  
This Port Townsend family had their portrait taken in 1912  
from the Jefferson County Images of America book  
Jefferson County Historical Society*

## THE SHIPPING NEWS (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 6)*

related to your family yarns

3. Cabin Class Passengers—were your ancestors among the lucky few who could afford to travel in cabins? Most newspapers listed the cabin class passengers.

4. Date of Departure—US port records rarely give the departure date. Newspaper articles frequently do and you can learn how long your ancestors' voyage took.

5. Travel Companions—by the turn of the 20th century the ships were bigger and steerage conditions were much improved. The mix of cultures, classes, religions and nationalities must have been a fascinating experience on the ships. Newspaper accounts can give you a hint of the passenger mix.

6. Which date of arrival?—There were a variety of ways in which the dates of arrival were calculated depending on the time of day the ship arrived, the wait time for processing or the date the captain signed the manifest.

7. Mishaps on board—many voyages included various problems and accidents on board. Newspaper accounts would be your only source for this fascinating information.

### NEWSPAPER RESOURCES ON THE WEB

US Newspaper Program-Preservation and cataloging projects in all 50 states	<a href="http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html">www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html</a>
Library of Congress: Newspaper Indexes, Archives, Morgues-links to dozens of period newspapers	<a href="http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html">lcweb.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html</a>
American Newspaper Repository-Nonprofit group dedicated to saving newspaper in their original form	<a href="http://www.gwi.net/~dnb/newsrep.html">www.gwi.net/~dnb/newsrep.html</a>
Newspaper Abstracts-searchable archive of newspapers published before 1923	<a href="http://www.newspaperabstracts.com">www.newspaperabstracts.com</a>
Immigration History Research Center-Extensive collection of ethnic newspapers	<a href="http://www.umn.edu/ihr">www.umn.edu/ihr</a>
The Olden Times-Scanned collection of 18th, 19th and early 20th century US newspapers	<a href="http://Theoldentimes.com">Theoldentimes.com</a>
National Library of Canada-newspapers on microfilm via interlibrary loan	<a href="http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/8/16/index-e.html">www.nlc-bnc.ca/8/16/index-e.html</a>
Historical Newspaper Collection-subscription of old newspapers (available FREE at the Research Center)	<a href="http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/periodicals/news">www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/periodicals/news</a>

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