



# THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Summer 2016 - Vol. XXII No. 2

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## WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

Bringing together the generations to strengthen and support the family bond!

WIGS meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June at 1:00 PM in the fire station at 2720 Heller Road, Oak Harbor, WA.

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#### OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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- President: Jackie Vannice
- Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
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- Treasurer: Janis Keough
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- Library Custodian: Bob Keough
- Membership: Laurie Livingston
- Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
- Programs: Ruth Hancock
- Education & Trips: Margie Kott
- The Searcher: John Richter
- Refreshments: Margaret Peterson
- Sound: David Flomerfelt
- Ways & Means: Grace LaFountain
- Webmaster: Sam Wheeler

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#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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For a quick check on what is happening with WIGS, visit <http://www.WIGS.webplus>.

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#### IN THIS ISSUE

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Message from the President .....	1
WIGS Coming Attractions.....	2
What's Happening Elsewhere.....	2
Charlie Darley Parkhurst .....	3
Two Monitors .....	4
Free Genealogy E-books.....	5
Golden Rules of Genealogy .....	6
Political Spin .....	7

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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"The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together." William Shakespeare

Having almost completed a 27 day RV trip across the country to Indiana and back to our beautiful island, I've had plenty of time to reflect on what I have discovered about my ancestors along the way and the lives they've led.

How fortunate we are to have the aids to search for clues as to how and where our ancestors lived not only via the internet but by meeting helpful, friendly folks along the way who were familiar with the extended families and actually knew some of them personally!

My father's maternal side is comprised largely of staunch Methodists with at least four of my ancestors becoming Methodist preachers. One of those, my 4x great grandfather, was a Methodist circuit rider minister in Nebraska in the late 1890's and early 1900's, Rev. Charles F. Heywood. In fact, his headstone bears a bronze plaque of a man on horseback.

Rev. Heywood's son Arthur chose a different profession however, becoming a business college teacher, attorney and later was elected as county attorney for Lewis and Clark County in Helena, Montana. He married, became the father of three children, and years later found himself alone and living in a very nice hotel in downtown Helena, his family having moved to Seattle without him.

Arthur, having retired from practice, worked as a jailer. One night, during a reported possible jail break by one of the inmates, Arthur was accidentally shot and killed by the sheriff. He was buried at a local cemetery and sadly, when I went

to search for his headstone, we found that he never was provided with one and no obituary could be located.

Good guy or bad guy? Not sure but I'll keep searching.

On a final note, enjoy your searches this summer as we take a break from meetings in July and August. Safe travels!

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## WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

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**Jun 14, 2016** *Teru Lunsten* will be our presenter giving us ideas of Writing a Family History.

Teru Lundsten, Personal Historian

For most of my adult life, I have written in various genres. Eventually I became a journalist and found my calling writing short profiles of many different people. The more profiles I wrote, the more curious I became about people, and writing personal histories is an outgrowth of that curiosity. I guide people through their recollections, and I truly enjoy listening to them reminisce. A member of the Association of Personal Historians since 2010, I chaired its Washington Chapter for almost five years. I also teach memoir writing classes in Anacortes.

July and August is get out and enjoy family, tell, listen and record family stories. Collect family information to enhance your research, ie: photos, Aunt Jane's journal, county court records, church records, visit family neighbors. Do something away from the computer and enjoy life.

**Sep 13, 2016** *Bobbie Sandberg* will be our presenter. She will talk on photographs; the whole range from taking the picture to storing & backing up your photographs. This presentation was request by the membership.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

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**Jun 25, 2016** Carnegie Library Centennial Celebration 12:00 – 12:45 pm  
901 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington, WA.  
Immediately following from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at Burlington Public Library a 100-Year-Old Time Capsule Opening & Centennial Celebration. 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington, WA

**Aug 17-20, 2016** Northwest Genealogical Conference sponsored by the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society. Byrnes Performing Arts Center, Arlington, WA.

On Wednesday 17 Aug from 1 – 5PM a series of 3 FREE presentations for beginners is being offered: Introduction to Genealogy, Secrets of Ten Record Groups and If I'd Only Known.

See their posting at :  
<http://stillygen.org/cpage.php?pt=50>  
for full details. Registration is now open.

**Aug 31 – Sep 3, 2016** Join fellow genealogists and family historians at the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2016 National Conference, "Time Travel: Centuries of Memories," designed to inspire you and enrich your family history. Hosted by the Federation of Genealogical Societies with local host Illinois State Genealogical Society in Springfield, IL, FGS 2016 brings you sessions with a wide array of offerings from many of the nation's leading family history experts, along with top international speakers from Scotland and Australia. Each day of the conference is full of sessions aimed at strengthening your research skills no matter what your level or area of expertise might be.

<https://www.fgsconference.org/>

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**CHARLEY DARKEY PARKHURST**

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TRUCKEE, Calif. — Western stagecoach companies were big business in the latter half of the 19th century. In addition to passengers and freight, stages hauled gold and silver bullion as well as mining company payrolls. Stage robbery was a constant danger and bandits employed many strategies to ambush a stagecoach. Thieves rarely met with much resistance from stage drivers, since they had passenger safety foremost in mind. The gang was usually after the Wells Fargo money box with its valuable contents. Passengers were seldom hurt, but they were certainly relieved of their cash, watches and jewelry. Before the completion of the transcontinental railroad over Donner Pass in 1868, the only transportation through the Sierra was by stage. Rugged teamsters held rein over six wild-eyed horses as they tore along the precipitous mountain trails. The stagecoaches were driven by skilled and fearless men who pushed themselves and their spirited horses to the limit. One of the most famous drivers was Charles Darkey Parkhurst, who had come west from New England in 1852 seeking his fortune in the Gold Rush. He spent 15 years running stages, sometimes partnering with Hank Monk, the celebrated driver from Carson City. Over the years, Pankhurst’s reputation as an expert whip grew. From 20 feet away he could slice open the end of an envelope or cut a cigar out of a man’s mouth. Parkhurst smoked cigars, chewed wads of tobacco, drank with the best of them, and exuded supreme confidence behind the reins. His judgment was sound and pleasant manners won him many friends. One afternoon as Charley drove down from Carson Pass the lead horses veered off the road and a wrenching jolt threw him from the rig. He hung on to the reins as the horses dragged him along on his stomach. Amazingly, Parkhurst managed to steer the frightened horses back onto the road and save all his grateful passengers. During the 1850s, bands of surly highwaymen stalked the roads. These outlaws

would level their shotguns at stage drivers and shout, “Throw down the gold box!” Charley Parkhurst had no patience for the crooks despite their demands and threatening gestures. The most notorious road agent was nicknamed “Sugarfoot.” When he and his gang accosted Charley’s stage, it was the last robbery the thief ever attempted. Charley cracked his whip defiantly, and when his horses bolted, he turned around and fired his revolver at the crooks. Sugarfoot was later found dead with a fatal bullet wound in his stomach. In appreciation of his bravery, Wells Fargo presented Parkhurst with a large watch and chain made of solid gold. In 1865, Parkhurst grew tired of the demanding job of driving and he opened his own stage station. He later sold the business and retired to a ranch near Soquel, Calif. The years slipped by and Charley died on Dec. 29, 1879, at the age of 67. A few days later, the Sacramento Daily Bee published his obituary. It read; “On Sunday last, there died a person known as Charley Parkhurst, aged 67, who was well-known to old residents as a stage driver. He was in early days accounted one of the most expert manipulators of the reins who ever sat on the box of a coach. It was discovered when friendly hands were preparing him for his final rest, that Charley Parkhurst was unmistakably a well-developed woman!” Once it was discovered that Charley was a woman, there were plenty of people to say they had always thought he wasn’t like other men. Even though he wore leather gloves summer and winter, many noticed that his hands were small and smooth. He slept in the stables with his beloved horses and was never known to have had a girlfriend. Charley never volunteered clues to her past. Loose fitting clothing hid her femininity and after a horse kicked her, an eye patch over one eye helped conceal her face. She weighed 175 pounds, could handle herself in a fistfight and drank whiskey like one of the boys. It turns out that Charley’s real name was Charlotte Parkhurst. Abandoned as a child, she was raised in a New Hampshire orphanage unloved and surrounded by poverty. Charlotte ran away when she was 15 years old and soon discovered that life in the working world was

easier for men. So she decided to masquerade as one for the rest of her life. The rest is history. Well, almost. There is one last thing. On November 3, 1868, Charlotte Parkhurst cast her vote in the national election, dressed as a man. She became the first woman to vote in the United States, 52 years before Congress passed the 19th amendment giving American women the right to vote!

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## TWO MONITORS

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Handling all your data and research can be a struggle. In this guest post in *Genealogy Insider*, author and co-host of the *Genealogy Guys* podcast Drew Smith explains why it's important to have dual screens in your workspace to best keep your research organized.

Before genealogists had the benefit of computers, they used a desktop or table to spread out their documents and notebooks. In the ideal workspace, they had plenty of room in which to make notes to themselves or fill out a handwritten pedigree chart or family group sheet. With a large desk, they could simultaneously view a printed copy of an original record. They could put two records side-by-side, comparing the information to see whether or not the records referred to the same person or different people.

The modern genealogist is more likely to view digital documents and record their research conclusions in desktop software or in an online family tree. But if everything is displayed on a single average-sized monitor, you'll have to switch the view back and forth between different windows, just to make comparisons between records or to record notes and conclusions.

A larger monitor may make it possible to have two different windows viewable at the same time. You can buy 27-inch PC monitors for as little as \$200, but higher-

quality monitors may cost as much as \$500 or more. If your budget allows you to do so, you can even find 32- to 34-inch Windows monitors for around \$900 to \$1,000. But for the price of a 32-inch monitor, you can easily buy two 27-inch monitors, with far more total viewing space.

Most monitors require a HDMI/DVI/VGA connection in order to access the video card of your computer, therefore you can only have two monitors without an addition video card. Your monitor will normally have only two of the three connection ports. However, I have been using a 15" portable monitor for 2 years that uses a simple USB port. Most computer stores will tell you that you cannot connect a monitor thru the USB port. AOC ([us.aoc.com](http://us.aoc.com)) has one for which they have developed a software program that you load on your computer and then their monitor is just like any other monitor. This monitor can be used in either portrait or landscape mode.

If your physical workspace provides enough room for at least two 27-inch displays, I would recommend considering that configuration. This provides room to do your writing on one display (taking notes, entering data into your software, etc.) and to do your research on the other display (viewing one or more records). You'd be surprised how much time and mental energy you save by not having to switch window views in and out. Get a second monitor that can be used in either portrait or landscape mode. Used in portrait mode it allows you to view more at one time without having to scroll up/down as much.

Besides the cost of a second monitor, is there a downside to having multiple monitors? Yes: If you try to do serious research work on one screen, you may have distractions on the second screen, such as

your email inbox or social media sites. In this case, you may find yourself less productive than if you had only a single screen! So if you don't need to do real work on the second screen for a while, use it instead to display an inspirational photo or the text of your research goal in big letters.

Source: *Genealogy Monday, May 23, 2016* with additional information by John Richter

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## MILITARY RECORDS

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To help you honor your military ancestors, we've gathered these websites where you can search for those who died serving in US wars: All sites are free access.

- **Nationwide Gravesite Locator database** from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, which catalogs burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA national cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, other military and Department of the Interior cemeteries, and private cemeteries (after 1997) when the grave is marked with a government marker.
- [www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits)
- **Arlington National Cemetery ANC Explorer**, a web-based or mobile app you can use to locate gravesites, view gravestone images and more.
- [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Find-a-Grave](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Find-a-Grave)
- **American Battle Monuments Commission database**, which includes names of more than 218,000 service members buried or memorialized overseas
- [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)
- Virtual **Vietnam Wall** and **USS Arizona Memorial** on Fold3
- [www.go.fold3.com/thewall](http://www.go.fold3.com/thewall)  
[www.go.fold3.com/arizona\\_memorial](http://www.go.fold3.com/arizona_memorial)
- **Casualties databases** on the National Archives website, covering the Korean and Vietnam wars (you also can use easier-to-search versions on FamilySearch for **Korea** or **Vietnam**)
- [www.aad.archives.gov](http://www.aad.archives.gov)
- **FamilySearch has helpful databases for tracing those who died in service**, including **Records of Headstones of Deceased Union Veterans** and **Navy Widows' Certificates 1861-1910** (these collections also will include veterans who died after their service)
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- **World War II Casualties and World War II Casualties—Navy, Marines, Coast Guard** on Access Genealogy
- [www.accessgenealogy.com/military-record](http://www.accessgenealogy.com/military-record)
- Cemetery sites such as **Find A Grave**, **Interment.net** and **Billion Graves**, where volunteers may have recorded inscriptions and/or uploaded photos.
- [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com),  
[www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net),  
[www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com)
- **National Society Sons of the American Revolution Patriot & Grave Index**, an ongoing project to index graves of those who served in the Revolutionary War (includes veterans and deaths in service)
- [www.patriot.sar.org](http://www.patriot.sar.org)
- **Pennsylvania Civil War Soldier Deaths database** (also lists injuries) on the Pennsylvania Volunteers of the Civil War website
- [www.pacivilwar.com/deaths/](http://www.pacivilwar.com/deaths/)
- **Virginia Military Dead Database** on the Library of Virginia website, an ongoing project indexing more than 1,000 sources and listing more than 54,000 Virginians who've died in service
- [www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd)

- **Honor the Fallen**, from the Military Times news site, lets you search for names of those who've died more recently, in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.
- [www.thefallen.militarytimes.com](http://www.thefallen.militarytimes.com)

Source: *Genealogy Insider*, May 24, 2016

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**FREE GENEALOGY E-BOOKS**

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Free ebooks at  
[http://ftu.familytreemagazine.com/free/?utm\\_source=familytreemagazine.com&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=ftm-vlw-hm-160418-Freemium](http://ftu.familytreemagazine.com/free/?utm_source=familytreemagazine.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm-vlw-hm-160418-Freemium)

- How to find Military Records
- Family Tree Templates to Organize and Share your Genealogy
- E-book on Surnames Origins and Family Search Tips
- 48 Ancestry.com Search Tips: Free E-boon on the Biggest Genealogy Website
- Jump into Genetic Genealogy: Use Genealogy DNA Testing to Solve Family Mysteries
- 38 Family Search Tips: Find Free Genealogy Records Online.

These e-books are tools to help you search online, they may not have any help for searching by other methods.

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**GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY**

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**1. SPELLING DUSN'T COWNT** Back in the day folks couldn't spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more important than how it's spelled. Use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.

**2. ASSUME NOTHING** Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts

as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume: - your ancestors were married - census information is accurate - vital (or other) records were correct - your ancestor's life events were recorded - ancestors had the same name as their enslaver .

**3. USE DISCRETION** Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

**4. ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER** Over time, you will compile more data and those seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so always cite your sources.

**5. MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE** It's okay to state that someone was born "btw 1901-1903," "abt. 1845," or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various documents have different dates. Which date is "correct?" They all are.

**6. IF UNSURE, SAY SO** Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.

**7. YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE** Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For family historians, the Internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

**8. JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE** The Internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles

of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

**9. PASS ALONG YOUR RESEARCH** No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along your research to the next generation's researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand ... in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.

**10. DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU** Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to tell their stories.

**11. DNA IS NOT A TRUMP CARD** DNA is just one of many possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should always be used in concert with other sources.

**12. ANYTHING YOU POST ONLINE WILL BE "BORROWED"** You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be "borrowed" or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast... the Internet. Get over it.

**13. THE INTERNET IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING** Web sites change all the time, and to find the information you need, you may need to look in new places to find old information. Take a second look at old sites you haven't visited in a while, and don't be

afraid to walk away from your favorite sites if/when you find new ones that provides better information. Seek and you may find.  
*Complements of [www.gotgenealogy.com](http://www.gotgenealogy.com)*

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**POLITICAL SPIN**

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No matter what side of the aisle you're on, this is funny. Judy Walkman, a professional genealogy researcher in southern California, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that Senator Harry Reid's great-great uncle, Remus Reid, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Both Judy and Harry Reid share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows in Montana territory:

On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription: 'Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed Senator Harry Reid for information about their great-great uncle

Believe it or not, Harry Reid's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research:

"Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory . His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.

**EYEDROPPER: Clumsy ophthalmologist**

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**The SEARCHER**