

# POCATELLO FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

[HTTP://WWW.PRFHC.ORG/](http://www.prfhc.org/)



## Internet websites:

History of the Welsh Independent churches translations can be found at:

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/Indchapels.html>

Prince William County Virginia information [www.pwcabooks.com](http://www.pwcabooks.com)

Family History Puzzler site: Make your own family history puzzle.

<http://www.kraisoft.com/puzzle-games/jigsaw/>

## The Silversmith

Some time ago a few ladies met to study the scriptures. While reading the third chapter of Malachi, they came upon a remarkable expression in the third verse. "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." (Malachi 3:3).

One of the ladies decided to visit a silversmith and report to the others on what he said about the subject. She went accordingly and without telling him the reason for her visit, begged the silversmith to tell her about the process of refining silver. After he had fully described it to her, she asked, "Sir, do you sit while the work of refining is going on?"

"Oh, yes ma'am," replied the silversmith, "I must sit and watch the furnace constantly, for if the time necessary for refining is exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver will be injured."

The lady at once saw the beauty and comfort of the expression; "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." God sees it necessary to put His children into the furnace; but His eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and His wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for us.

Our trials do not come at random, and He will not let us be tested beyond what we can endure. Before she left, the lady asked one final question, "How do you know when the process is complete?"

"That's quite simple," replied the silversmith. "When I can see my own image in the silver, the refining process is finished."

--Author Unknown

## Printable Maps:

<http://nationalatlas.gov/printable/reference.html#list>

## Brick Wall Research -

Maybe you have published this link before, but here is a handout about brick wall research from BYU that is excellent. -- Damaris Fish, Central Point Oregon



**FamilySearch Wiki** - <http://www.familysearchwiki.org/> This wiki, still in beta testing, brings you research help from the experts at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. You will soon be able to contribute, also.

## Research Recommendations: *USGS GNIS*

by Michael J. Leclerc

How's that for alphabet soup? If you are looking for a particular place in the United States and its associated territories (even Antarctica!), the Geographic Names Information Service (GNIS) from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the place for you to go. They can even help you with foreign names as well. Since 1890, the U.S. Board on Geographic names has maintained uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. The board oversees the GNIS.

The USGS website has an area dedicated to the U.S. Board on geographic names (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>). There are both [basic](#) and [advanced](#) search levels for searching the GNIS database. You can search by feature name (such as the name of a town, river, mountain, etc.), state, or county. The advanced search allows you to locate USGS topographical maps on which the particular place is located.

A search on "Salem" produced more than 2000 hits for airports, basins, bays, cemeteries, churches, populated places (i.e., cities and towns), and many more. The results list the feature name, class, county, latitude, longitude, elevation, and USGS topo map name as well as the ID number and entry date. Clicking on the feature name brings you to a detail report giving you additional information about the location. There are also links from here to the USGS National Map, Google Map, Yahoo! Local Maps, and other online services to show you exactly where that place is.

If you are looking for foreign names, you will be directed to the [GEOnet Names Server](#) (GNS). Note that the GNS is the official repository of standard spellings of foreign place names for the Federal Government. That means you will find the American English version of a place name, not necessarily the spelling it would have in its native language.

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**Researching Women** - When searching for women, look for them with married names in addition to maiden names. Maiden names often only lasted for the first twenty to twenty-five years of a woman's life. Few documents besides birth and marriage would list a woman's maiden name otherwise. Look for married names for property transfers, obituaries, church records, etc. when searching for women's records. "Tid-Bit Research Strategies- Finding Women on WorldVitalRecords.com", WorldVitalRecords-

**Sibling Success** I often pursue what you call a "sideways" search. I call it an "end-run," but it's the same idea. Often, tracking siblings of an ancestor will result in some further information on a family, and sometimes another descendant will have a record or a family story that includes the information I am trying to find.

**The Great File Purge** - When you're having trouble figuring out what papers to keep and what to toss, ask yourself these questions:



1. Could this item be a historical document in the future?
2. Will a future genealogist find this document valuable to our family history?
3. Would it be hard to get another copy of this document if I should need it again after throwing away my copy?
4. Is the information in this document up-to-date?

If you answer yes to these questions, keep the paper. Consider tossing it if you come up with all no's. If you don't need the paper, but others might, think about donating it to a repository. ---Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, Family Tree Magazine Newsletter, 1/31/08