

## Is Your Last Name Purcell, Pursell, etc.?



Is your last name Purcell, Pursel, Pursell, Purscell, Pursley or one of nearly 50 related spellings? Are you related to a Purcell somewhere in your family tree?

The name first appears on record in Normandy about 1035A.D. At that time a knight named Sir Hugh Purcell (and perhaps his brothers) aided William the Conqueror in his quest of Great Britain. As a thank you, the Purcell brothers were supposedly given fiefdoms in Scotland, England and Ireland.

In America, a Thomas Purcell was assigned a cattle brand on Staten Island, NY in 1697. (There is even a street there that is named after him.) The first American citizen to enter what is now the state of Colorado was likely James Purcell, a trapper and mountain man. And, John Baptist Purcell, the Archbishop of Cincinnati, OH served in the 1860's.

Are you related to one of these people? Do you know of other Purcell ancestors that led interesting lives? Then you should join the written and online dialogue available via the Purcell Family of America.

The Purcell Family of America is an historical and genealogical organization dedicated to research into the history of Purcell ancestors and descendants. The resulting information, along with contributions from members is published in a highly-professional quarterly journal. Through these journals you may learn about your ancestors and make contact with cousins. (See Solving Unsolved Mysteries in this brochure.) Find out more about yourself by better understanding your heritage. We look forward to exchanging information with you.

Why not join the Purcell Family of America? An annual family membership is just \$25 and includes a subscription to the quarterly journal and more. Please fill out and mail the attached form (or copy of it), with your check payable to: Purcell Family of America. You will be glad you did.





**Hurrell Family  
of America**

2138 Harris Avenue  
Richland, WA 99354

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# Purcell Family of America

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## SOLVING UNSOLVED MYSTERIES...

### Mystery of the Thousand Clues

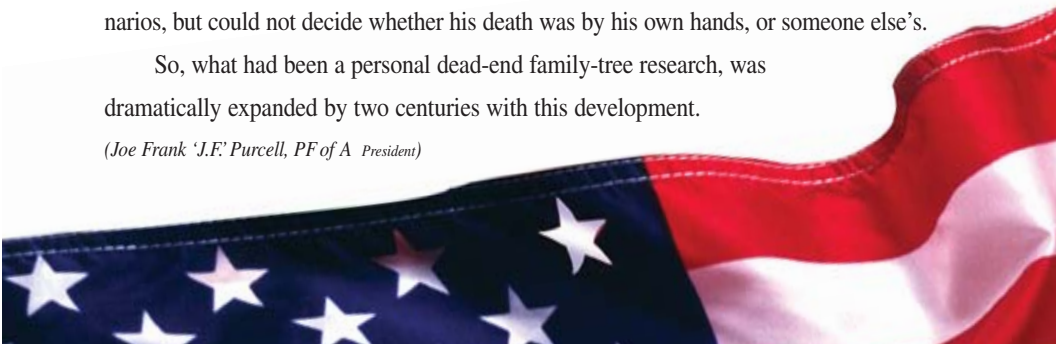
Have you ever wondered where you came from? Have you heard or been told a family story you couldn't connect? The Journal of the Purcell Family of America helped me make the connection. Below is my story.

Growing up in Montana, I recall my Uncle Jack mentioning a great Uncle who had either been murdered, or committed suicide in what was called: "The Murder of the 1000 clews (clues)!"

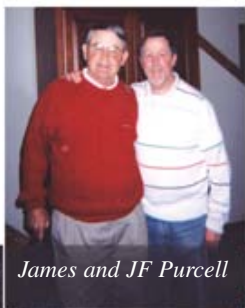
This 'story' came to light when distant cousin James Purcell of greater Chicago submitted a Chicago Sunday Tribune article from Dec. 1st, 1935, which was published in the October 1993 (and updated in the Oct. 2004) PF of A Journals. They recalled the story of the Chicago Schubert Organization composer Elias Hicks (Hick) Purcell, who was either murdered or committed suicide. The authorities had approximately 500 clues for both scenarios, but could not decide whether his death was by his own hands, or someone else's.

So, what had been a personal dead-end family-tree research, was dramatically expanded by two centuries with this development.

*(Joe Frank 'J.F.' Purcell, PF of A President)*



## Developing New Friendships...



*James and JF Purcell*

*JF and James Purcell -- As distant cousins, were brought together because of the Murder of the Thousand Clues in PFofA Journal, Oct. 1993*



*Members of PFofA gather to socialize and enjoy the great scenery at East Glacier's Main Lodge, where the June, 2003 Reunion was held.*

## Families Reunited



*Through my meeting with James Purcell, I've not only discovered my family history, but also visited a family burial site in northwestern Illinois, where our grandparents are buried. JFP*

With the PF of A quarterly Journal, plus online inquiries, it is possible to trace your heritage. And perhaps equally important is the opportunity to build new friendships.

One story, one event, one meeting...can unlock Purcell Family history for you!



## History of the Purcell Family of America



In the late 60s and early 70s Todd Yost Purcell and June Packer Purcell of Salt Lake City, UT believed a Purcell genealogy organization would benefit all Purcells in their research. During his travels, Todd gathered names and addresses of Purcells from phone books and June wrote more than 1500 letters during the first year offering an exchange of information and discussing the possible establishment of a formal Purcell organization. The Purcell Family Genealogical Society was organized in 1972 as a non-profit organization in Utah and incorporated as Purcell Family of America (PF of A) in 1978. The first journal was issued in April 1972 and is still being published more than three decades later.

Forrest Eugene Purcell and Alice Christ Purcell of Dayton, OH were recruited as the first Journal Editors and as additional membership recruiters, serving until 2000. Journal printing and mailing remained with Todd and June Purcell in Salt Lake City, UT until 1982 and then became the Editor's responsibility.



A Board of Directors oversees the Association's activities and Officers are elected every three years at the Association's Reunion.



## Purcell Family of America Provides...

A **Homepage** – All those interested in the PF of A are invited to join the Purcell Family of America Bulletin Board and visit our web site at the same time: <http://www.snowgoosegallery.com/pfa.htm> Shelby, or



Blair as he prefers, and his wife Margot Purcell, maintain this site. They can be reached at: Business Telephone: (800) 672-9089 (10am-4pm CT daily, except Sunday) E-mail: [goosebytes@snowgoosegallery.com](mailto:goosebytes@snowgoosegallery.com)



Queries can be fielded both on the online bulletin board or in the quarterly PF of A Journal.

## A Quarterly PF of A Journal

This is one of the key benefits of belonging to PF of A.

The PF of A Journal publishes family history information supplied by members. These genealogical data pertain the Purcell surname and its many variations. Family lineages or ahanentafels are published, along with family photos, general interest stories and research or website sources. Queries may be submitted by members, and may be answered by the Editor or by fellow members. Member input is always welcomed, and encouraged.

Major libraries are supplied copies of the PF of A Journal at no charge, though 'dues' are appreciated to support their publishing.

## Creates Memories via Family Reunions

Purcell Reunions or family gatherings are held approximately every three years. The first PF of A reunion was in Lawrence, KS in 1975. Recent reunions have included the following locales:

- 2006 in SW Virginia.
- 2003 – Glacier National Park, Montana
- 2000 – Dayton, Ohio
- 1998 – Carthage, Missouri
- 1995 – Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1992 – Northern Virginia

The purpose of these gatherings is to exchange Purcell-related family records, photos and memorabilia; and most importantly, to build relationships among the extended Purcell family members. Special group rates are set up to affordably bring PF of A members together.



# Purcell Memorabilia

Photos, postcards, posters, land platte maps, bottles and plates, and even a branding iron...these are but a few of the Purcell-related items that are displayed at PF of A Reunions. Memorabilia may also be exchanged between members via email, or highlighted in the PF of A Journal.

Discover new mediums for your research or share treasured possessions via your membership in the PF of A.



*Image has been mirrored, so that branding could be read*



*Copyrighted June, 1897 this photo by Frank Purcell of Billings, MT depicts an eerie non-intentional double-exposure of "Bloody Knife", a Cheyenne Indian, doing a war dance over graves of slain soldiers at Custer Battle Field at Little Big Horn, MT.*

## About Membership

**How Do I Become a Member?** There are two ways to do this:

- 1) Fill out the tear-off flap on the back of this brochure, and enclose your check for \$25. Thank you.
- 2) Go to: <http://www.snowgoosegallery.com/pfa.htm> and click on the "Join online, pay by credit card" box.

**What can I contribute?**

Your talents and financial support are always appreciated. We cannot survive without your \*contributions, both physically and fiscally.

*\*Contributions to the Association above and beyond the standard membership level are welcomed and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Contacts**

**Joe Frank 'J.F.' Purcell**, President – 2962 Moreland Ave., Oceanside, NY 11572 --

Phone: (516) 764-7068 Email: [jfpurcell@hotmail.com](mailto:jfpurcell@hotmail.com)

**Doug Purcell**, Vice President – 111 Baltusrol Ave., Eufaula, AL 36027-3608 –

Phone: (334) 687-9787 Email: [dipurcell@eufaula.rr.com](mailto:dipurcell@eufaula.rr.com)

**Mike O'Shea**, Secretary/Treasurer – 9101 Mace Arch, Norfolk, VA 23503 –

Phone: (757) 480-3962 Email: [poshea@cox.net](mailto:poshea@cox.net)

**Robert Purcell**, Editor – 2138 Harris Ave., Richland, WA 99354 –

Phone: (509) 942-1946 Email: [purcell@bossig.com](mailto:purcell@bossig.com)

**Tony Marostica**, Past-President – P.O. Box 442, Rye, CO 81069 --

Phone: (719) 676-4054 Email: [marostica@juno.com](mailto:marostica@juno.com)

**Sign Me Up!** I am interested in historical and family information about Purcell Family descendents and ancestors. Thusly, I am enclosing a check for \$25.00 to join the PF of A and begin receiving the quarterly PF of A Journal. \_\_\_\_\_

\* Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

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Name

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Address

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City

State

Zip

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Email

Home Tel

Mail to: **Purcell Family of America**  
**c/o Mike O'Shea, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**9101 Mace Arch, Norfolk, VA 23503-4503**  
**Tel: (757) 480-3962 • Email: [poshea@cox.net](mailto:poshea@cox.net)**