



President's Message



I am very proud to be your newly elected President of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. This is an especially exciting time to be president, as we have just celebrated our 25th anniversary in the valley. Before I share my vision for the societies future, I want to commend Dottie Chandler's expert and patient leadership of SVGS during the last 4 years. All of our board meetings

were interesting and some times down right challenging. Dottie's persistence in hearing everyone's opinion before the Board made decisions, was appreciated by all.

With the Board's help and the membership support, I plan to continue those projects we already have in the works. The nature and texture of genealogy in my opinion is changing to the point we often do not recognize the changes. The electronic explosion in the last few years has dramatically changed how we get and evaluate genealogy information. That is not to say that the old tried and true methods of census records, birth and death certificates, bible entries are not worthwhile. It just means that we will try to pursue other methods to document verifiable family information. The Internet is already being used with Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Heritage Quest, Fold3 and Archives.gov to name just a few.

Educational training will be paramount for our societies continued survival. Opportunities for the membership as well as for the general public are needed. At the same time we need to increase our membership. We need to look at old outdated equipment to be replaced with purposeful and functional alternatives.

Finally, I want us to have a place where every member feels comfortable and welcomed to share their accomplishments and frustrations with other people who understand. A place where new faces will find people happy and eager to guide them with their pursuit of past family members. A place where accurate genealogy research is encouraged.

George E. Ridgeway Jr.
New SVGS President
Old SVGS Webmaster

Access to Vital Records Report

Hello, I'm glad to report that all of your letter writing efforts have paid

Off. Thank you!

I have learned that we have achieved a measure of Success. The State Archivist and the Department of Health (DOH) met last Friday. The DOH has agreed to The State Archives request and will be settling a 10 year Battle over the transfer of original birth & death records To the Archives for safe storage and accessibility. Also, the DOH will not be pursuing a legislative effort To limit access to vital records in the upcoming session of the State Legislature.

DOH still believes that access should have greater regulation and in all likelihood

Will begin the effort again at some future time.

The genealogical community must keep informed about any future threat.

WSGS is a member of the Washington Coalition for Open Government and

One of our members serves on their Sunshine Committee.

We will try to

Keep WSGS members informed of any future action by DOH or any other

Group who attempts to limit access to records that we find valuable to

Our family research. (submitted 12/5/2012 by email).

Sincerely,

Sue Ericksen, President

WSGS

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

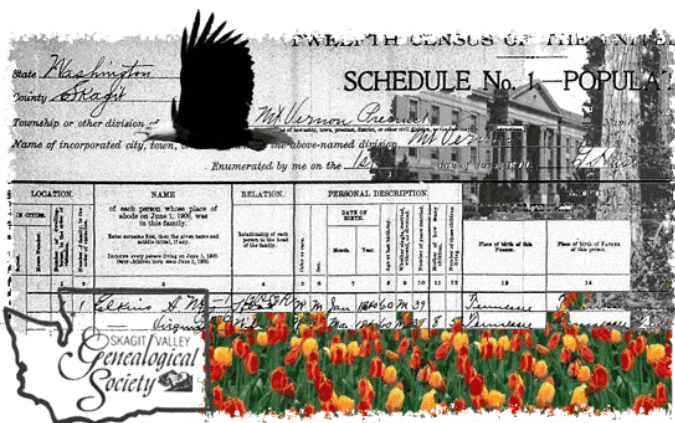
Just a friendly reminder that dues are now due for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. In the event you may have already paid, it is possible that they were sent in and just haven't reached me yet. Our year goes from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st. Dues this year have raised to \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for family membership.

Christine Cooper

Membership Chairperson

Check out our redesigned web page at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasvgs/>



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Refreshments: OPEN

Raffles/Door Prizes: Sharon Johnson

Special History Projects: Dan Royal

SOCIETY EMAIL: genealogy0715@gmail.com

Comb Binding ...

For members, The society owns a comb binding machine. If you call Dan Royal @ 360-826-6141 he will make arrangements to bind your pages into a book for you. Cost is: \$1.00 per book to cover supplies.

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter accepts business card size advertisement. The cost will be \$10.00 per issue and the editor can help put one together for you if you don't have something ready. If anyone would like queries or surnames to be posted in the newsletter, please send to... *Ye Editor*

Winter Seminar

Methodology Matters

February 16, 2013

8 A.M. Registration**Burlington Community****Center**

Burlington, WA

This seminar has been canceled to some unforeseen reasons and we will be trying to re-schedule at a later date.

Your membership dues purchases subscriptions to "Internet Genealogy" and the "NGS Magazine" of the National Genealogical Society. They have a lot of information on a variety of topics that can be helpful to our individual research. The publications are located in our genealogy section of the Burlington Library. The list of articles (sometimes with commentary) are listed in the SVGS newsletter. Find something of interest? Go to the library, find the magazine, locate the article and photocopy it. Less expensive than subscribing to the magazine

Your advice is needed. If you have suggestions of program topics for next year. Or if you just can't wait to present a program yourself, please contact Barb Johnson at raptorwoman.com or 360-856-0870. She will happily take your ideas to heart.

Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave

Burlington, WA 98233

Phone (360) 755-0760

Email:

blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us

Hours: Monday – Thursday

11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – Closed

SVGS Library Collection

located here. SVGS Volunteers available on Mondays from 11:00—1:00 to assist with questions.

Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian



Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Upcoming Programs

2012 - 2013

January 26: Brick Walls/Genealogy Challenges. We all have them and they can be overcome. We'll try to break down those walls with suggestions from our experienced members. **Note: Meeting is at the Burlington Library, 1-3 pm. on Saturday, 820 East Washington Avenue**

February 23: The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda-Sunnie Empe. Susan will review her recent book about a Skagit Valley pioneer. **Note: Meeting is at the Burlington Library, 1-3 pm. on Saturday, 820 East Washington Avenue**

March 26: Genealogy Software for Beginners- Which one should you use?

We'll present a brief overview of Family Tree Maker, PAF, Legacy software programs.

April 23: Skagit County Family History Book-Hazel Rasar, Dan Royal. Come learn about our Society's soon-to-be-released publication.

May 28: Speed Dating for Genealogists- another way to break down Brick Walls: A group of "expert" genealogists will give you their help in a four- minutes-per-table exercise. You'll need to have your brick wall question short and focused. We'll do our best to give you a short, focused answer.

June 25: Stuart/Stewart Clan History-James Stuart-Stevenson, The Baron of Kilbride. James and his wife, a MacKenzie, have a fascinating tale to tell about his family history.

I was reading a newsletter from another society and found some interesting articles on the Library of Congress -Civil War. So I decided to check it out. Here is some information and a few articles that I have supplied from the website. Go to this website <http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/civil-war-in-america/Pages/default.aspx>. They have articles that you can actually find on the web page along with maps and other information. I did not go thru all of them, but will be going to look again.

The Civil War in America

November 12, 2012 – June 1, 2013



The Civil War in America assembles more than 200 unique items, many of which have never been seen by the public, to commemorate the sesquicentennial of this nation's greatest military and political upheaval. Drawing from hundreds of thousands of items from across many collections of the Library of Congress, the materials included in this exhibition attest to the valor, sacrifices, emotions, and accomplishments of those in both the North and South whose lives were affected by the bitter conflict of 1861–1865.

Women at War



It has been estimated that some 400 women concealed their identities and donned uniforms, serving as soldiers on both sides of the conflict during the Civil War. In addition to the usual cursory medical examinations and ill-fitting uniforms, Frances Clayton's slim build and angular features made it possible for her to pass as a man and accompany her husband to the front. They fought together until his death at the Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River), December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863. After she left the army, Clayton's stor

The Draft Riots

On July 11, 1863, draft officers began drawing names in heavily Democratic New York City, where sentiment against abolition and conscription ran high and racial tensions had reached a boiling point. From July 13 to 17, 1863, New York erupted into four of the bloodiest days of mob violence in United States history. The uprising began with thousands of people foregoing work to demonstrate outside the draft office on Third Avenue. A stone hurled through an office window and the discharge of a pistol turned the demonstration into a riot. Surging into the draft office, the rioters smashed everything, then proceeded to the headquarters of the *New York Times* and the *New York Tribune*, and moved on to loot and burn the four-story Colored Orphan Asylum. Hundreds were injured and 105 killed.

Voices of the Civil War," Library of Congress Blog Site

A complementary blog site to *The Civil War in America* exhibition can be accessed at blogs.loc.gov/civil-war-voices. Posts will be authored by forty individuals featured in the exhibition and are excerpts from their diaries, letters home, and published memoirs—all eyewitness accounts. These personal observations and declarations, from such well-known historical figures as Robert E. Lee and Clara Barton to those lesser known, will carry the narrative of the exhibition and represent both sides of the conflict in a modern social media format.

Genealogy Library Report for January 2013

2013 promises to be a very exciting year for SVGS members. There are some new volunteer opportunities on the horizon that I will be more at liberty to explain in detail in February. I will be sending out an announcement this winter regarding an orientation session that explains these opportunities to develop your research skills and then share your skills with other researchers.

Eric Stroschein, our education chair, is developing an educational opportunity for SVGS members to participate in a series of genealogy research skill building courses. The National Genealogical Society (NGS) is offering this series of genealogy courses. The first course, which can be taken online, covers Basic Genealogy Research Skills. The second course level advances the participant to the intermediate genealogy research skill level.

After those SVGS members, who are interested in taking this training, have completed the educational program, they will be brimming with knowledge and eager to apply it and share their knowledge with others.

If you have an interest in taking these genealogy classes and would also like to put your knowledge to work as a volunteer to help others with their family history research, please let me know so I can create a list of interested participants. More details will be forthcoming, and I'm sure you have questions, so feel free to contact me. But, for now it's a head's up to the members that some fun educational and volunteer opportunities are forthcoming in the year ahead and we look forward to you being

Top 100 Genealogy Websites of 2013

By Kimberly Powell,
GenealogyInTime online magazine has put out their second annual top 100 list of genealogy websites from around the world. An extensive collection of genealogy websites was compiled by the magazine's editors, with the final 100 selected and ranked based entirely on each site's Alexa rating, a measure of a site's popularity based on global Internet traffic.

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top%20100%20genealogy%20websites%202013%20page1.html>

NOTICE

Whatcom is changing its meetings to daytime on the last Wednesday of the month, starting on January 23rd at 1:30 PM. We will meet at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center, 315 Halleck St, Bellingham [a block northwest of the corner of Cornwall and Ohio St].

We Bid Farewell to FamilySearch.org's NewFamilySearch and Welcome Family Tree

Amy Tanner Thiriot has written an in-depth guide describing recent changes made to www.FamilySearch.org. She writes: "The Church genealogical database NewFamilySearch (NFS) has been frustrating for so many people, particularly those who do actual genealogical research and care about accuracy. NFS allowed people with no particular skill to upload sketchy aggregated online family trees (usually culled from Ancestral File, Ancestry, and RootsWeb) and have their data look as valid as the correct information.

"Family Search recently released a replacement for NFS. It is called Family Tree. So far, I'm impressed. It has solved some of the worst of the problems with NFS and whereas it was hardly worth correcting NFS, I've found it worthwhile to go in and start correcting the record in Family Tree."

You can read Amy Tanner Thiriot's full article at <http://goo.gl/QeeMG>.

From Dick Eastman's Blog

[75 Best State Websites Now Available Online](#)

Posted by Beth

In selecting the 75 best state websites, which originally appeared in the December 2012 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*, we looked especially for databases (at least one per state) where you can search for your ancestors' names. Some sites also have digital images of original records, and several of the sites regularly add new searchable documents.

[Click below to view and access the list of top 75 state websites online.](#)

<http://familytreemagazine.com/article/top-75-state-websites-of-2012>

See Example: Washington

[Washington State Digital Archives](#)

This terrific site already has more than 36 million searchable records online. Among them are birth, marriage, death, census, cemetery and naturalization records.

[Washington State Library](#)

To find your ancestor mentioned in Washington newspapers published between 1852 and 1889, click on Digital Collections and then on Historical Newspaper in Washington and use the Personal Name Search. Click on Genealogy for an overview of resources at the library. Take advantage of the free obituary lookup service, too.

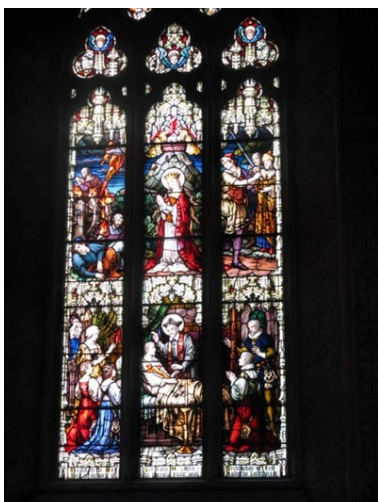
Today, with much better weather, we drove through Counties Armagh and Monaghan where I have ancestors from before the Famine Times. The countryside is green rolling hills (40 shades of green, indeed) with lots of sheep grazing peacefully. One surprise, many of the sheep have red or blue backs. Turns out the farmer paints his herd one color to distinguish it from his neighbor's herd as the sheep often meander between hedgerows.

There are two St. Patrick's Cathedrals in Armagh; one Catholic the other Protestant. As in much of Northern Ireland, there is dissension between the two groups, although the animosity has been greatly reduced. We visited the Catholic cathedral as my ancestors were Roman Catholic. I'm sure we'll become jaded after seeing more cathedrals, but this one is stunning. It makes the US National Cathedral look unworthy in comparison. And the US National Cathedral is grand.

After lunch in Armagh, we drove through the countryside enjoying the scenery. We stopped in a small town (population 240) called Middletown. We happened into Lennon's, one of several watering holes in this tiny town. The bartender gave us samples of Jamesons and Bushmills--two of the best Irish Whiskey (for those of you who are not whiskey drinkers--Bob and Steve ignore this). My, the Bushmills is smooth. It isn't my drink of choice. I still prefer a pint o' Guinness but it's not bad.

We headed south to County Monaghan which is in the Republic of Ireland. The only hint that we were in another country was a sign: "Welcome to County Monaghan". Apparently the animosity between the two countries has been greatly reduced!

We returned to Belfast to drop off our rental "motorcar" and promptly got lost. Our GPS passed to the Great Beyond and failed us completely. We stopped at a local shopping mall and got superb directions from a store manager. Every where we have gone in both countries, the local Irish people have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome. They kept telling us that there are crabby Irishmen, but I really think that's a bunch of Blarney. We can't say enough good things about the wonderful folks we encountered on the Emerald Isle.



St. Patrick's (Catholic) Cathedral in Armagh

Typical row house in Armagh, County Armagh

Tomorrow we sail to Scotland, just as my ancestors did in 1840...well, maybe not just quite the same.

con't on next page

24 September 2012

On Saturday, we sailed on a lovely ferry from Belfast to Cairnryan. Stena Lines has several ferries that cross the Irish Sea; ours went to the northwest coast of Scotland where we boarded a bus to Ayr, then a train to Glasgow where we hired a taxi to our hotel.

Whilst (a UK term) on the ferry, we sat next to a lovely couple from Northern Ireland. He was definitely Protestant and gave me an earful about Irish and Scots-Irish history. But he was very helpful in pointing out various landmarks as we sailed. The Stena Line ferries are not at all like Washington State Ferries or BC ferries. They are much larger (10 decks) but not as large as an aircraft carrier. They are also far more luxurious than our local ferries (and aircraft carriers): swivel chairs with tables, large screen TVs, several restaurants; all that's missing is a Grand Ballroom! Not quite the way my ancestors sailed into Glasgow.

Calendar of Society Meetings in WSGS Region One

WSGS Region One Representative: Stephen Eric Baylor, s.baylor@comcast.net

January - February 2013

(Please send calendar corrections or updates to Bob Witherspoon, 360-734-9835, rgwspoon@aol.com)

Saturday, January 26, 2013 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society - SkVGS - 1-3 PM: Program: **Brick Walls/Genealogy Challenges**. We all have them and they can be overcome. We'll try to break down those walls with suggestions from our experienced members. Meeting is at the Burlington Library, 820 East Washington Avenue, Burlington.

Monday, February 4, 2013 - Camwood Genealogical Group - CwGG - Meets first Mondays at 1 PM at Stanwood Historical Society Museum, 27108 102nd Ave NW, Stanwood, WA

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society - SIGS - Business meeting and program at 1:00 pm at Alderwood Manor Heritage Association, 19921 Poplar Way, in Lynnwood's Heritage Park. Program: **Immigration and Naturalization** by **Carol Buswell**. Guests are always welcome.

Thursdays in February - Comeford Genealogical Group - CfGG - Meets Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:30 AM at the Ken Baxter Community Center, 514 Delta Ave., Marysville, WA, in Comeford Park. The group meets informally to assist one another in genealogical research. See <http://comefordgroup.wordpress.com/category/class-times-schedule/>

Monday, February 11, 2013 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island - GSSWI - Education classes at 11:45 AM. **Beginning class:** Before this class please read pages 71-80 in the Desmond Walls Allen book. Topic: *The importance of history in your ancestors' lives!* Gleaning info from relatives interviews for historical events; Timelines; Maps; Read history books of areas ancestors lived in; Look at religious/church records or practices; and What you can find in old newspapers. Handouts: American Wars and Engagements before 1900, Military Wars and Campaigns after 1900, Military Timelines Chart—Milner Family History—1754-1945—Prepared by R. Ann (Ingram) Wright, Blank Time Line for My Ancestor. **Intermediate class:** *When marketing becomes fun and educational.* Did your family attend? **Program** at 1:00 PM: **Speaker: Nancy Adelson; Program: Jewish Genealogy for Non-Jewish Researchers.** Nancy is a Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State Founding Member, President, Program Chair and past Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Records Chair. She researched over 4000 family members and, while raising her three daughters and working two jobs, she wrote and self-published a book about her father, "A New York City Boy". She has presented at local and International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) conferences. Nancy has earned numerous awards, including the WSGS Award for Outstanding Efforts in the Preservation of Important Washington State Genealogical Records, JGSWS Outstanding Community Service Award, and numerous Gold and Silver President's Volunteer Service Awards. Nancy has also been a Professor of Real Estate and Business at North Seattle Community College for over 20 years. This program, previously scheduled for September, is not to be missed. Meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hwy 525 & Woodard Road, Freeland.

Monday, February 11, 2013 - Whatcom Genealogical Society - WGS - Program and meeting time and location to be announced.

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 - Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society - StVGS - 1 P.M.: Program: **"Arlington Cemetery Database."** Former city employee, Lynne Bridges, shares information about the database she compiled for the Arlington city cemetery. Meeting at the Arlington Free Methodist Church, 730 East Highland Drive, Arlington.

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 - Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers - WIGS - Meeting at 2720 Heller Rd, the fire station #25, just north of Crosby Road in Oak Harbor. Program: 1 PM until about 3. Topic to be announced. There will be information for all levels of searchers, refreshments and raffles. All are welcome. Contact Ruth Hancock 675 -4086 at randr.hancock@frontier.com for more information; also, Gordon Garnhart garnhart@whidbey.net

Saturday, February 23, 2013 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society - SkVGS - 1-3 PM: Program: Program: Sunnie Empie: The Legacy of Ida Lillbroanda: Finnish Immigrant to America 1893. Meeting is at the Burlington Library, 820 East Washington Avenue, Burlington.

This Newsletter is published by the Members of SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY and is distributed free of charge to members. A non-profit organization, membership is open to all persons interested in historical research, preservation and publications of genealogical interest.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2013

APPLICANTS NAME

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

AREA CODE ()

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Previous Member _____

FAMILY \$ 20 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15 _____



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