



Volume 19 Number 2  
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## CALLED TO FIND THE ANCESTORS!

**We are the chosen.** In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth, without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do.

Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family; you would be proud of us." How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we had never known before.  
*(Unknown author)*

### From Ye Editors Desk

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

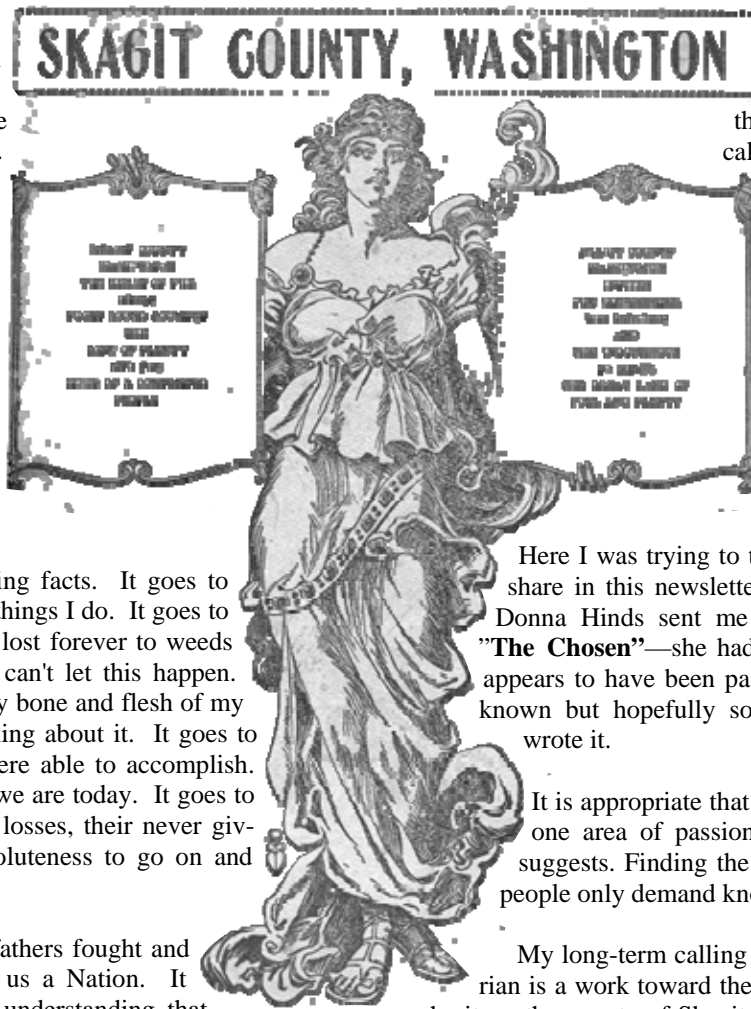
Here I was trying to think of something as clever to share in this newsletter when SVGS Board Member Donna Hinds sent me the below sentiment titled—**"The Chosen"**—she had received from a friend which appears to have been passed around. The author is unknown but hopefully someday we will find out who wrote it.

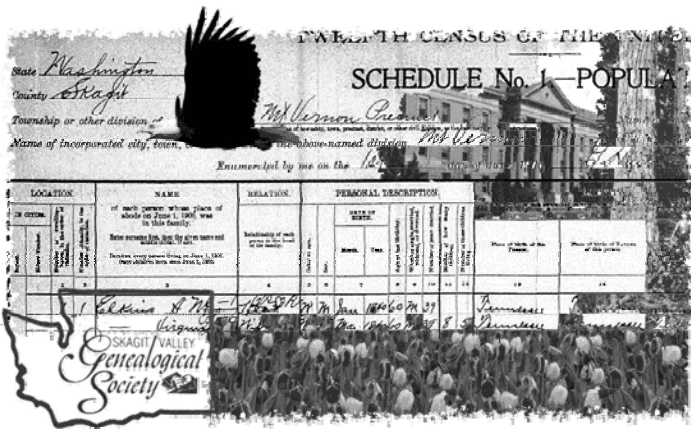
It is appropriate that we all seem to feel a calling in one area of passion or another as "The Chosen" suggests. Finding the help from source material and people only demand knowing where to go.

It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought and some died to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us.

My long-term calling as a Genealogist/Family Historian is a work toward the sharing of the rich history and heritage the county of Skagit has to offer with any person—especially **"The Chosen"**—searching their ancestry and trying

*Continued on page 6*





**SVGS Board of Directors 2006**

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- Fund Raiser for Special Projects: **Maureen Royal**  
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- Special History Projects: **Hazel Rasar**  
*co-chairs* **Dan Royal**
- Heritage Historian: **Dr. Tom Robinson**  
antrim@wavecable.com

**Calendar of Events**

*Upcoming 2006*

**General Meeting:**

Start time 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church  
1511 E. Broadway; across from S.V. Hospital

**28 March 2006**—SVGS Member Sharon Johnson will be sharing "Using Land Records"

**25 April 2006**—Marge Reid, Sno-Isle member, on "Using Directories"

**23 May 2006**—Sarah Thorsen Little - "Resources of the University of Washington - Suzzalo Library"

**27 June 2006**—possibly George Ridgeway rescheduled.

**Welcome New Members**

- Barbara Johnson Sedro Woolley, WA
- Mary Ellen Jones Bellingham, WA
- Carl Detwiler Mount Vernon, WA



Sharon A. Suhr  
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Home Classes & Workshops • Photo-safe Albums & Supplies  
Group Presentations • Business Opportunities

**The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter is now accepting 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 to be posted in the newsletter again , I certainly wouldn't be opposed to it. *Ye Editor***

**Comb Binding ... For members**

- The society owns a comb binding machine. If you call Arnold Stewart at 360-466-3288 he will make arrangements to bind your pages into a book for you. Cost is: \$1.00 per book to cover supplies.

## Society News

### NOTICE

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SVGS BYLAWS

"Make all financial records of the fiscal year available for audit no later than 15 (fifteen) days following the close of the fiscal year. The Audit Committee shall make its written report to the Board of Directors no later than 45 (forty-five) days following the receipt of the financial records."

By-laws change to Article III Section E (Membership); currently states:

The fiscal year shall run from June 1 to May 31.

The proposal will change the Fiscal Year to January 1 through December 31.

This will change Article IV Section C Number 1 (Meetings) to; The regular meeting in October shall be known as the Annual Meeting:

The above will also change Article V Section D Number 3: All officers shall take office at the January Board Meeting.

Article III Section C, Number 1- (Dues)

Proposed change in membership dues, increasing individual dues to \$12.00 from \$10.00, family Membership to \$15.00 from \$12.00 and associate membership to \$12.00 from \$10.00 effective in January 2007.

#### Publication Committee

Regrettably Candace Soine has resigned as publication chair. If anyone is interested in helping with this committee, please let someone on the board know. The publication committee is a very work oriented group and everyone gets along great. They usually meet about twice a year, dependent on the works in progress. Please volunteer. We need you!

## Genealogy News

#### Irish-American Heritage Month, 2006

The following is a Proclamation by the President of the United States of America:

The histories of Ireland and the United States are deeply intertwined. For generations, the sons and daughters of Ireland have come to America with a spirit of determination and optimism that has strengthened our Nation's character and enriched our history. During Irish-American Heritage Month, we celebrate Irish Americans and the significant contributions they have made to our Nation.

During the Great Potato Famine of the 19th century, approximately 1 million Irish came to America. And over the last 150 years, millions more have come from Ireland to the United

States. In this country, Irish Americans have ably served in their communities, in the government, and in the Armed Forces. They have achieved great success in all walks of life. Actress Grace Kelly entertained us and influenced our culture; industrialist Henry Ford transformed factory production and transportation; and President Ronald Reagan dedicated himself to the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy, helping to change our country and the world.

This month, we recognize the proud history and many accomplishments of Irish Americans. Our Nation is grateful for the role they have played in defending and renewing the ideals that we cherish. Their hard work, firm values, and strong faith have made our Nation a better place.

NOW, THEREFORE I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2006 as **Irish-American Heritage Month**. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

#### Bureau of Land Management Database Back

The Bureau of Land Management (a part of the US Department of the Interior) has once again made their database of land patent records available on their website. The site was shut down last April due to a lawsuit involving the security of information about the Indian Trust Fund.

The database provides access to images of over two million Federal land record titles issued between 1820 and 1908.. To search the database visit <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

#### The Washington State Genealogist

The first issue of WSGS's research journal, *The Washington State Genealogist*, is scheduled for publication about March 31st. The issue will include stories of families who migrated to Washington, individuals who impacted the expanding railroad system, and extracts from newspapers, church records and oyster claims. If the first issue is well received, and researchers are willing to share interesting or unusual records and stories, the WSGS Board may continue the journal on a semiannual or quarterly basis.

#### WSGS Historian Position

A volunteer is needed to fill the Historian position on the WSGS Board. The Board is considering expanding the Historian's duties to go beyond attending Board meetings and the traditional "keeper of the scrapbooks" activities, to include (1) "Take or arrange for photographs of newly appointed or elected Board members, Board and Annual meetings, and WSGS conferences" which would help with Newsletter articles, Outstanding Volunteer Awards, as well as the scrapbook/historical files; and (2) "Annually write a comprehensive historical report of WSGS activities and make copies available for distribution at the WSGS Conference and Annual Meeting." [It seems strange that a genealogical society whose members depend

upon written historical documentation does not produce a comprehensive document as a source for future research.

If you are up to supporting WSGS in an interesting job, please contact **WSGS President, Stephen Eric Baylor** at [s.baylor@verizon.net](mailto:s.baylor@verizon.net) or 360-435-4469.

### Internet Genealogy

Download a **FREE Preview Issue!** "*Internet Genealogy*" is a new magazine from the publishers of "Family Chronicle" and "History Magazine." The first issue will be on newsstands at the end of February and will carry a cover date of April/May 2006. For a limited time, you can download a FREE preview issue of "Internet Genealogy." You can also take advantage of a limited time introductory subscription offer of \$20 (U.S.) or \$23 (Cdn) for one year. Visit [http://internet-genealogy.com/IG\\_subSANC.htm](http://internet-genealogy.com/IG_subSANC.htm)

*Editor's comment: This preview is 24 pages. Future copies will include at least 56 pages. What I have reviewed looks interesting.*

### Family History Center Microfilm Rental Fees Increase

The following is an excerpt from an announcement to all Family History Center Directors from the Family History Support department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: The microfilm circulation loan fees will be changed effective 15 January 2006.

Loan fees for microfilm will change from \$3.25 to \$5.50.

Microfiche fees will remain at 15¢ per fiche.

All renewals, including films ordered at the \$3.25 fee, will be renewed at the new rate of \$5.50.

This fee change, the first since February 1997, is needed to keep pace with increasing costs. Continue to use the current Microfilm and Microfiche Order Card (35068) and Microfilm and Microfiche Order Sheet (31895)

Please note that the new fees still include return postage.

### Heritage Creations Filing for Bankruptcy

2/5/2006 Written by Leland K. Meitzler, Heritage Creations  
This is a blog I never expected to ever write, but circumstances have dictated that I do so today. Put in simple terms – I'm broke and am in the process of filing for Chapter 7 personal bankruptcy.

As most of you folks know, I bought back Heritage Quest Magazine, and much of the Heritage Quest retail operations from ProQuest three years ago. It was offered to me by ProQuest as a "silver lining" to the fact that Patty and I were both being laid off, after 10 years with AGLL, Sierra, and ProQuest. Although I knew that the operation was losing a lot of money, I thought that I could turn it around and make it profitable. I didn't want to see Heritage Quest Magazine go away. Having founded the magazine 17 years previously, my life was wrapped up in its publication. So I set off on the journey that ultimately cost us everything we owned.

On a slightly brighter note, I'm quite sure that Heritage Quest Magazine and Genealogy Bulletin will find a new home, and the subscribers will get what they paid for. The subscriber-base of these two publications is substantial. This will have to be done with the blessing of the courts and ProQuest, who ac-

ording to contract, gets all this back if I default. How long that may take I have no idea.

I will continue to blog, although my personal blogs may be a little thin for a few weeks.. My commercial websites will be coming down shortly. Maybe I'll go back to research – which I love. I also plan to continue to operate a "Christmas Tour" to Salt Lake City – as I have for over 20 years.

Please don't think too poorly of me, although I don't blame you if you do. I feel I gave it my best – and that wasn't good enough.

**Filed under:** *Public Records in Crisis, Heritage Creations Excerpted from his Genealogy Blog website. For the complete article visit <http://genealogyblog.Com/public-records-in-crisis/heritage-creations-filing-for-chapter-7-bankruptcy-1528>*

## Local News from Skagit County

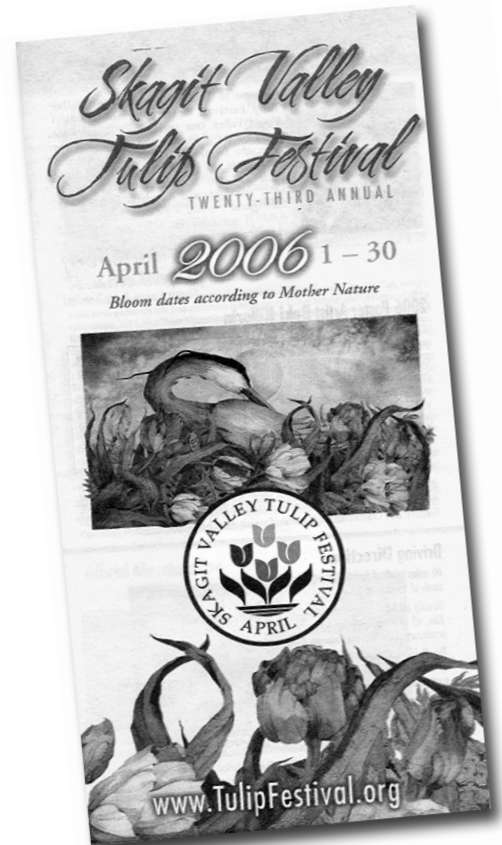
### Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

The 23rd Annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival is here once again from April 1—30th. The 2006 Festival Poster is titled "Spring Preening" by artist Beki Killorin making use of the tulip and the Great Blue Heron.

### Books For Sale at the County Museum

Besides last years reprinting of several classic books in paperback from the Skagit County Historical Society Series—such as: Skagit

Memories, Skagit Settlers and Chechacoos All. The museum is also carrying the reprinting of "My Best Loved Stories" by Mollie Dowdle. Also included in their catalog and as the official source for books by elder Vi Hilbert are: "Haboo, Our Stories, Ways of the Lushootseed People, and Writings About Vi Hilbert from her friends."



## COMING EVENTS

**March 25, 2006 Vancouver, WA** Clark County Gen Society Spring Seminar with Peri Muhich on "Seattle's Mercer Girls" followed by speaker Sharon DeBartolo Carmack talking on "Researching Your Female Ancestor" & "Writing About Your Female Ancestor"; to close the day CCGS member Karen Steeley will present "A Look at the History of Women's Fashion." Sharon will be signing her books through out the day and after the seminar. Registration postmarked before Mar 17 \$40 for CCGS members & \$45 for non-members- - Includes lunch; after Mar 17 \$45 for CCGS members & \$50 for non-members. No lunch. For registration information call the CCGS Library at 360-750-5688 or email [ccgs\\_programs@hotmail.com](mailto:ccgs_programs@hotmail.com)

**March 25, 2006 Seattle** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SGS Spring Seminar - "**40 Acres and a Mule - Land and Property Research in the United States**" with Bill Utterback, CG. All-day event to be held at Magnolia Lutheran Church, 2414 31st Ave West in Seattle. Includes lunch and book sale. Watch for the *SGS Newsletter* with registration form and more details. **Mar 26** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., "**Platting Metes and Bounds for Genealogy**" - location to be announced. Mr. Utterback will conduct a separate, hands-on workshop on how to translate a "metes and bounds" description into a visual image of the land owned by your ancestor. More info at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~waseags>

**March 26, 2006, - Seattle WA** Jewish Gen Society—Mercer Island- Museum of History and Industry; 12:30-4:30 pm; \$20.00 per person. An exciting program entitled "**DNA, Genetic Health and Genealogy**" will examine these issues and more!

**Apr 1, 2006— Yakima, WA** Spring Seminar featuring Margie as speaker. Subject **Five Step Research** at YVGS library. Fee \$20 Registration form on website. 8:30 am

**Apr 15, 2006- Cloverdale, B.C.** – Judith Argent is a library technician in the rapidly expanding Genealogy Department of the Cloverdale Branch of the Surrey Public Library. She assists researchers, lectures, and is the co-editor of "**Canadian Genealogical Resources: A guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library**" and the compiler of the guide: "**Planning a Genealogical Trip to the Vancouver Area**". Judith will have copies of both publications available

**May 13, 2006. Langley** Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island Spring Seminar. Speaker: Christine Rose This a **date change** from April 8, 2006. 8:00 am—4:30 pm **Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case; 'olving' The Problem in 25 Hours or Less!; Transcribing and Abstracting: The technique and Legalese; Avoid the Crooked**

### **April 7-8, 2006 - Olympia, WA**

**Washington State Genealogical Society Annual Conference and Business Meeting will be held at the Olympia High School. Host society is the Olympia Genealogical Society. Watch for more details or check the WSGS website [www.rootsweb.com/~wasgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasgs)**

"**Invading the British Isles**", hosted by the Olympia Genealogical Society, April 7-8, 2006 at Olympia High School Performing Arts Center.

Breakfast and lunch included with \$40 registration fee prior to April 1. \$50 after that date.

Featured speaker: John M. Kitzmiller II AG, FSG, FRSAI, FSA (Scot) plus numerous local speakers.

Visit the Washington State Genealogical Society website at [www.rootsweb.com/~wasgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasgs) or the Olympia Genealogical Website at [www.rootsweb.com/~waogs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~waogs) or contact Richard Johnson at 360-456-0567 or [rjonasenus@earthlink.net](mailto:rjonasenus@earthlink.net) **Your WSGS Board of Directors look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to attend the WSGS General Meeting at 12 noon on Saturday.**

Does your society have publications, raffle or other miscellaneous items to sell? Contact Richard (above) to reserve a society table. Can't use the whole space? Why not share with another society from your region? **TABLE IS FREE!!**

**Path! Genealogical Problem Solving.** Registration Fee: \$45.00 includes lunch. Door prizes visit [www.rootsweb.com/~wagsswi](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wagsswi) for registration form.

### **Jun 2-4, 2006 DoubleTree Inn, San Jose, California**

Chapman Family Association, 6th annual reunion— for further information visit [www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html](http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html) or [LCODDING@aol.com](mailto:LCODDING@aol.com) or 3109 Touchmark Dr., Edmond, OK 73033.

**June 7-10, 2006 NGS Conference in the States** to be held in Chicago, Illinois—National Genealogical Society

**June 9-11, 2006 Kennedy Co. Wagon Train of 1862** descendants would like to invite all descendants of the Wagon Train to their Reunion in Baker City, OR and at the Oregon Trail Interpretative Center. If you think your family may have been on this train but aren't sure, contact us and we will help you determine if they were or not. Reconstructed Roster Surname List is available. If you know they were: **WE WANT YOU!!!!!!** Best Western Sun Ridge Inn, 1 Sunridge Lane, Baker City, Oregon. For more information please contact: Ella Jane (Jayne) Allison McCarley [jaymccarley1@comcast.net](mailto:jaymccarley1@comcast.net)

**July 12-16—Portland, Oregon** Plan ahead: Germans From Russia National Convention For further information, visit their website [www.grhs.org](http://www.grhs.org)

*Thank you Hazel Rasar, newsletter editor for W.S. Gen Soc.*

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to figure out what the life and times were like during the years of their living family member in Skagit County Washington. I'm especially proud of my ancestry in Skagit County Washington to the early years when we were still part of Whatcom County and not yet reached statehood here in Washington Territory. My direct line of Boyd's came here to live in Birdsvie in 1882. Their in-laws the Savage family had been in the valley close to a decade already.

It was the Savage family letters of encouragement—one lonely sister to another—that brought the Boyd family out here from the open plains of the mid-west in the state of Nebraska to the green, lush area of the Skagit where the old growth trees still towered all over valley giving one a feeling of claustrophobia—as my great-great grandmother Olive Boyd related it.

While the Boyd and Savage family can be found in the classic **"Skagit Memories"** from the **Skagit County Historical Society's Series** of historical books started in the early 1970's. These two families are just a few of the hundreds then thousands of people starting a new life for themselves here in our beautiful valley or as L.A. Boyd and many others called it, "Gods Country". There are still untold stories from these early families to the most recent times to share. I know for fact the **Skagit Valley Genealogical Society** are not the only group and individuals looking to create helpful works .

The wealth of informative, helpful museums, historical associations, our own genealogical society, books and source material for **"The Chosen"** is so great and continues to build on those started by the Historical Society and elsewhere. It is just a great time to be a Skagit County descendant. **Let me share some sources to explain why and state that this is not an ultimate list by any means.**

The official county museum, **Skagit County Historical Museum** can be found in LaConner and houses not only early county artifacts contributed by early families but includes an archives that can be used by appointment. The user friendly **Anacortes Museum** in Anacortes currently has a display on the various ethnic groups that have immigrated to Skagit County from early history to present. **Sedro Woolley Museum** in Sedro Woolley houses displays and archives history of the surrounding Sedro Woolley area including north and east communities.

Historical Associations include **Clear Lake Historical Assoc.** passionately headed by Deanna Ammons, as well as the recently founded **Big Lake Historical Association**. Even the **National Park Service North Cascade Complex** in Marblemount archiving the geological history of Skagit County is headed by Jesse G. Kennedy Ph.D., a man who is always excited to help anyone with questions.

Besides the great wealth of material from the **Skagit County Historical Society Series**, several of which were reprinted last year in paperback and easily more assessable, other sources for historical record which were also used as source material for

the above mentioned Historical Series, include the early classics such as **"Sebring's Skagit County Illustrated"** published originally December 1902 then reprinted in 1983 by Washington State Genealogical & Historical Review. The reprint will probably be the only copy you would find and has a great many photos and histories of the early towns of Skagit along with some selected biographies. The majority of reprinted pictures though are found to be dark and murky, but if you can get a look at an original copy they are very breathtaking and in larger format.

The next historical book of significant value of course is our often mentioned (in this publication so I won't repeat myself) **"An Illustrated History of Skagit & Snohomish Counties"**, published by Interstate Publishing Company in 1906, republished by the **Skagit Valley Genealogical Society** with full index, which was not include in the original. Any early history of Skagit Native American works of real importance are by Chief Martin Sampson titled **"Indians of Skagit County"** plus the work of June McCormick Collins **"Valley of the Sprits The Upper Skagit Indians of Western Washington"**.

Books with individual and family biographies as well as fun stories from around the county include: **"Ray's Writin's, Yarns of the Skagit Country"** by Ray Jordan a collection of his newspaper columns as well as **"My Best Loved Stories"** by Mollie Dowdle; **"Memories of Clear Lake"** by Charles R. Hyatt published by **Clear Lake Historical Assoc.**—hard to find **"Skagit Schoolma'am A Pioneer Teacher in the San Juans"** by Elizabeth Duncan. **"So They Called The Town Concrete"** by late Concrete Herald publisher Charles Dwelley, first printed in 1980, reprinted by the **Concrete Heritage Museum Assoc.** two years ago. The Museum has been lovingly restored by board members and volunteers and has a great wealth of information for up-river families.

Many other authors contributed the same kinds of histories and stories in all the local county newspapers, including my own Boyd and Savage family Mabel Royal-Steen, C. Holmes and Katy Savage Pulsipher, respectively. Catherine McIntyre McClintock, Fred Slipper, Nan Hough, Wally Funk of Anacortes newspaper fame, to name a few. The other important works coming from Charles Dwelley longtime publisher of the **Concrete Herald**, Historian Dick Fallis who owned and operated the **Puget Sound Mail** in LaConner during the 1970's. A great period of growth in Skagit County.

**"Hamilton 100 Years"** by Carol Bates published in 1991 from the **Hamilton Pioneer Museum** to commemorate the 100 history of the town of Hamilton. **"Amid Fields of Alyssum: A Year At Northern State"** compiled by Dick Fallis and published by his Skagit- Advocate Publishing. Extremely important history on logging and sawmills is a work titled **"Logging Railroads in Skagit County"** by Dennis Blake Thompson of Sedro Woolley. A great book recording WWI veterans of Skagit & Whatcom Counties is **"With The Colors"** compiled and published by Louis Jacobin in 1921. Works by JoAnne Roe concerning the history of the North Cascade Highway **"The North Cascadians"** as well as Paul C. Pitzers **"Building the Skagit"** tells how the Dams came about.

*Continued from page 6*

Recent works from the **Skagit Valley Herald**, “**The Skagit Collection Vols. I & II**” share beautiful photos with captions on glossy paper. “**Stories of the Skagit Anthology I & II**” from the **Skagit Valley Writers League**. “**Scandinavians of the Skagit Area**” publish a great list and biographies of Scandinavian families from the Solidaritet Lodge #396 Mount Vernon.

Lest we forget the **Family History Center** in Mount Vernon and the LDS Church’s great wealth of Microfilm and help in tracking down ancestry is indispensable.

The use of modern day technology gives us access on the internet to find or contribute to our family stories and histories in Skagit County. Starting with SVGS own website which includes an **Obituary Name Index File** as well as sources from their many publications that are listed and for sell, including **County Census** and **Funeral Home Records**. Hundreds of people are contributing to websites such as Noel V. Bourasaw’s “**Skagit River Journal**” which includes updated histories of towns, events and pioneer families in Skagit County. “**Skagit River History**” produced by Larry Kunzler and his sons have transcribed massive amounts of works from early Skagit County Newspapers, indexed and easily searched at both websites. My own modest “**The Stump Ranch**” (on hiatus) is working toward capturing life in the small communities centered around Birdsvie.

Paid for websites such as **Ancestry.com** and **Genealogy.com** will give you help a wealth of

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County  
Census  
taken  
from 1882  
through  
1930. Free  
and very  
searchable  
is the **Wash-  
ington Secre-  
tary of State**  
website which  
includes digital  
archives. The  
**State Archives**



housed  
and **Center for Pacific**

**Northwest Studies** in Bellingham holds a huge amount of source material on early Skagit County. Including the early **Oral Histories** on microfilm produced by the Skagit County Historical Society in the 1970’s from pioneer descendants.

These websites can easily be found using a **Search Engine** such as **GOOGLE**. The books mentioned above—a great deal and more—can be searched for and found at a website called **ADDALL.COM** in their used and out of print search section. Just type in the search term “**SKAGIT**” and it will turn up everything available from all bookstores across America and other countries if you like. This can also be done at the auction website **E-BAY**. Also some titles can be found at **Easton Books** in Mount Vernon, a long time family owned used book store.

Not to forget **Skagit County’s Pioneer Association**. This association being the first and earliest, has been recording a **Memorialist** (List) yearly of pioneer and early Skagit County families and descendants who have passed away during the previous year at the **Annual Pioneer Picnic** in August—last year marked the 101st Picnic. Early county historian John Conrad and his successor Dick Fallis have aggressively and faithfully kept record of these passing’s.

The **Skagit Valley Genealogical Society** with its newly elected Heritage Historian Thomas Robinson and myself hope to continue in the same vain with the help of the SVGS indexing of obituaries, faithfully kept and filed by Barbara Ricketts and Norma Keefe-Hills. A yearly publication will be a supplement to the Special History Book Project. The first magazine size publication should be out late summer and titled “**Skagit County Washington and Its People! 2005**”. *Title tentative.*

It has been my pleasure to be a part of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society’s Special History Book Project title, “**Skagit County Washington and Its People! 150 Years of Rich History & Heritage**” We’ve had so many submissions from folks submitting their ancestry and relations from a 100 years past and earlier to recent times. I know the book committee is looking forward publish these family biographies to add to the above mentioned sources available to you—“**The Chosen**”. Even with what has been contributed to our Society it doesn’t seem to come close to capturing all the men, women and children who contributed to the growth and well being of Skagit County. I guarantee there are more years of working together as a community of historians, genealogists, societies, museums and enthusiasts to get close to sharing it all.

*The **Special History Projects Book Committee** would like to officially thank everyone who submitted family biographies and stories for the publication.*

*The lovely image on page one is from a Mount Vernon Herald Special Edition published in 1921. The plates she woman holds read: “Skagit County Washington the heart of the great Puget Sound Country The zone of Plenty and the Home of a contented people. Skagit County Washington invites the Homeseeker the Rancher and the Industrious to share the great land of Full and Plenty.”*

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 - 2006**

APPLICANTS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

AREA CODE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Member \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \$ 12 \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION \$10 \_\_\_\_\_



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