

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Volume 23 Number 2

President: Dottie Chandler

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March-April 2010

President's Message

Can you believe we are already into the month of March? Start planning your family reunions or trips for research now. Summer will be here before we know it.

We are coming along on the Lyman Cemetery, getting finished double and triple checking, then off to be published. I want to THANK everyone that has helped on this project. Each and everyone have had something to contribute and it helps getting a difficult job done.

We are excited to be having an Open House on March 27th at the Burlington Library. Come and check this out. It should be fun.

Remember we all have a common interest and that is our genealogy of ancestors. We can all help each other even when we don't think we know much. Just by talking can spark things in people and make one remember or find out where to look next.

Come to the meetings and listen to our speakers. We have a great line up.

See you at the meetings,

Dottie Chandler, President

We Need Your Help

The following jobs need someone to help:

Door Prizes: this spot requires only that you be available to supply items and sell tickets at general meetings.

Refreshments: Need a volunteer to supply and set up refreshments. Someone to oversee this activity for future meetings. No volunteer, no goodies at general meetings. Need volunteer for the April meeting. Try it, you might like it.

SVGS Programs

March 23: Jim Terry will be demonstrating "Legacy Family Tree" Software. He'll compare it to other programs. Come see and learn how to use this new software program.

April 27: Allan Wenzel will "show and tell" his new book "**Alpine On the Lake:** The History of the villages of **Alpine** and Lake Cavanaugh". He'll have copies available for sale. This is your chance to find out interesting information about one of the many lakes in Skagit County and one of the "lost cities".

May 25: Mary Kathryn Kozy will give tips on "Preparing an Planning for a Research Trip". If you are heading for a genealogy library (and we all do at some point), Mary will fill you in on how to plan in order to get the most out of your visit.

June 22: Dave Theler will present "Advanced Census" wherein he will reveal several tips on how to interpret all those tick marks in the 1790-1840 US Censuses.

September 28: Bill Rehear of Title and Land Company will give us clues to read land descriptions. Do you know the difference between grantor and grantee? Bill will help us with those terms and more.

We're Having An Open House

Your Board of Directors are planning for an **OPEN HOUSE** on March 27 at 1:00 pm at the Burlington Library. We would especially like to see some of our newest members come to join some of our members with longevity and experience. Let them share their knowledge with you.

This is open to the public so bring a friend or two along to enjoy the afternoon activities. There will be a demonstration by one of the librarians on how to access and use Heritage Quest and other online databases, a tour of our Genealogical Collection plus many opportunities for free discussion of your specific needs and or brickwalls.

Mark your calendar today and come join us and share a cookie or two. We look forward to seeing you in Burlington.



SVGS Board of Directors 2009

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Publications: Sylvia Ammons

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Refreshments: Diane Partington

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Raffles/Door Prizes: Joyce Liston

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Obituary Index: Nancy Bonafede

Dottie Chandler

Sylvia Ammons

Donna Stone

Fund Raiser for Special Projects: OPEN

Special History Project:

Dan Royal 360-826-6141 dmoroyal@earthlink.net

Hazel Rasar hrasar@gmail.com

Openings for Board Positions

We are currently in need of persons to fill the following positions on the Board of Directors.

PROJECTS CHAIR:

Be responsible for the coordination of records and preservation projects undertaken by members of the Society;

Instruct membership in the procedure for the collection of primary source data;

Serve as clearing house for data collection;

Advise Board of Directors of all preservation projects being conducted;

Maintain a permanent record of data preserved by the Society.

WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:

Submit plans for fund raising projects to the Board of Directors

A raffle or auction may be presented at general meetings as a fund-raising project.

“Special Interest Groups! ?”

Interest groups are specialized genealogical subject groups that are formed to discuss a specific topic. They can be called interest groups, focus groups or discussion groups.

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society would like to get one, two or more groups active —Choose your topic, i.e.; Irish, Canadian, German, Family History Writer’s Group, and State Focus Groups. Try for a computer group like: a general computer interest group, or Internet interest group to discuss interesting and informative websites. How about discussions about blogs? Start a group for those of you who do not use computers. There are any number of ways to become active and productive in your personal research.

Your board of directors are looking for ways to make genealogy fun for everyone and to help you get started or complete a project. If you are interested in something like this, contact one of your board members or join us at a general meeting and let your voice be heard.

THERE ARE MEMBERS WILLING TO HELP!

Washington State Library Budget Cuts!!!

Due to state budget cuts, the number of staff of the Washington State Library has been reduced. We remain open to the public and will continue our **Ask A Librarian** service, and will continue offering free obituary searches. However, with a smaller team of librarians our response time will be affected.

Therefore, obituary and other genealogy requests may take up to 4 weeks (instead of 2) to answer. As always, we will strive to respond to questions as quickly and accurately as possible. Thanks for your understanding.

Donations have always been appreciated! Now it is even easier to give to the State Library. Go to <http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/LibraryDonations.aspx> and click on the **Donate Now!** Button to donate online by credit card.

Visit our Obituary Requests page for more detail about the service: <http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/Obituaries.aspx>

For more information about the budget cuts, go to: <http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/StateLibraryBudget-Cuts.aspx>

Saturday Meeting ?

There has been some interest expressed about having a general membership meeting on a Saturday every other month.

Board members have expressed a desire to give this option a try. There are several ways in which this could be done.

- 1] Board meeting at 10:00 am for an hour and a half to 11:30 am. Break for lunch and have a general membership meeting at 1:00 pm.
- 2] Hold a general membership meeting at 10:00 am
- 3] Hold a general membership meeting at 1:00 pm

Where do you stand? Give us your opinion, **we’re listening!**

Call any board member. See page 2 for email addresses and phone numbers.

Researching Women Ancestors

March is **Women's History Month** making this a perfect time to take stock of the too frequently overlooked half of your heritage. It's usually easier to trace your paternal ancestry in that it follows a surname path. Your maternal side usually becomes your stumbling block.

Sorting facts from lore and what tools are at your disposal to research your maternal ancestors when you are at a dead end? Here are a few suggestions to follow:

- 1) Marriage Records:
- 2) Tombstone inscriptions, death records, and obituaries often list a woman's maiden name.
- 3) Search online resources: Bible records for your ancestor; Don't overlook online family tree databases 4) Church records may include a wife's maiden name. Check with the local Historical Society if you can't find records through the church.
- 5) Don't overlook census records for married women as there were many multi-generational households. You may find ancestor's parent(s) living with the family; or near-by. Consider neighbors as possible family members.
- 6) Look at children's given names and middle names for clues.
- 7) Since men wrote most wills, owned most of the property, paid the taxes, became naturalized, and served in the military it can be a bit trickier finding the women. However, don't rule out any of these sources as women were often mentioned in deeds (especially if land was sold and a wife approved the sale to protect her dower rights), as an heir in a parent's will, or in pension files for a husband or father's military service. There may be clues lurking in these records.
- 8) Cyndi's List has links to sites that can help you find, and understand what life was like for your female ancestors.

APRIL 10 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND WITH DR. STEPHEN MORSE, creator of the One Step Search Method which has unlocked information for thousands of genealogists in many databases on numerous websites. His topics will include: *A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools*; *A Hodge Podge of Lesser Known Gems*; *From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted to Know but were afraid to ask*; and *Phonetic Matching: an alternative to Soundex with fewer false hits*. Visit his website at <http://www.stevemorse.org> Useless Bay Country Club from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Further information available at society website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wagsswi> Sat, March 20 - is Pre-registration Deadline

APRIL 17 OLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING SEMINAR WITH JOHN P COLLETTA
Welcome To America

John Philip Colletta is a popular genealogical lecturer. Entertaining, knowledgeable and experienced, he is based in Washington, D.C., where for 20 years he conducted workshops for the National Archives and taught courses for the Smithsonian Institution. His publications include two manuals -- *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans* -- and numerous how-to articles. He has received many honors in his field, including fellowship in the Utah Genealogical Association and distinguished service awards from the Dallas Genealogical Society and the National Society, Daughters of Colonial Founders and Patriots.

* Seminar Topics: * *Passenger Arrival Records, Colonial Times to Mid-Twentieth Century* * *Naturalization Records, Colonial Times to Early Twentieth Century* * *Lesser-Used Federal Records* * *Discovering the REAL Stories of your Immigrant Ancestors*

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~waogs/seminars.htm> Mail Registration form and check by April 10th to: Alma Greenwood, Registrar; OGS Spring Seminar; 706 Dennis St SE, # 24; Tumwater WA 98501

OGS Members \$35.00; Non-Society Members \$40.00; Late Registration addt'l \$ 5.00

Lunch: Salad & Sandwich \$10.00

Finding Birth Records

By the early 1900s, most states required counties to keep track of births. Visit Where to Write for Vital Records < www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm > to learn the year your ancestral state issued this edict, contact information for the state vital-records office and instructions for requesting a copy (you may need to order older certificates from the state archives). If you're lucky, that office will maintain an online birth-records index. Even if your ancestor made his earthly debut before his state's magic date, his county may have recorded the birth—check with the county clerk's office ce. Use State and Local Government on the Internet at < www.statelocalgov.net > to find the contact information. Other sources of birth information include baptismal records and announcements in local newspapers, which often are available on microfilm at public, historical society and university libraries. For baptisms, contact the church your ancestor attended or, if it's no longer around, the religious organization's archives.

Locating Census Records

Federal, territorial and state governments have all taken censuses to learn about your ancestor and his fellow citizens. Federal censuses started in 1790 and occur every 10 years; the most recent one open to the public is the 1930 enumeration. Through 1840, federal censuses list only heads of households with tick marks for everyone else, and much of the 1890 census was lost to fire. You can search these censuses online at subscription sites Ancestry.com < www.ancestry.com > and Genealogy.com < www.genealogy.com >, or free through libraries that subscribe to Heritage Quest Online < www.heritagequestonline.com > or Ancestry Library Edition. Find federal and territorial enumerations on microfilm at large public libraries, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) < archives.gov > and its regional branches, and the Family History Library < www.familysearch.org > (FHL; see box above). States sometimes conducted their own censuses, but with more irregularity—the state genealogical or historical society probably has a list. Most State Census were conducted between Federal Census years, i.e. 1885, 1895, etc. Check with those groups, the state archives and the FHL for records. The above taken from Trace Your Family History May 2006 published by Family Tree Magazine



OPEN HOUSE

“EXPLORING YOUR ROOTS”

Special Activities for New SVGS Members

Saturday, March 27

1:00-3:00 PM

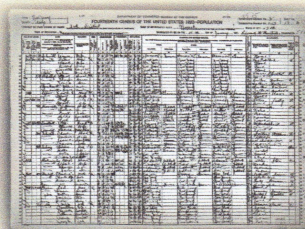
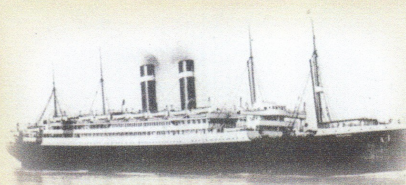
Burlington Library

820 E. Washington Street

Everyone Welcome!

SVGS members will be available to help you with....
Getting started in Genealogy/ With your Research “Brickwalls”
Answer Questions/ Give tips on researching online
Refreshments/Genealogy Library Tour/Displays
For Details: Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

www.skagitvalleygs.org



Activities

Noon: want to help? Set up tables, display door prizes, set chairs, post schedule at door and at tables.

1:00 pm Welcome by our President, Dottie Chandler

Educational videos—from www.rootstelevision.com these are free—(10 min ea)

- Research Process
- Family History Forms
- A research log
- Other selections as time and interest allow

1:30 pm Orientation Tour of the Genealogy Section & how to use Microfiche & Microfilm machine; visit the library newspaper archives with Margie Wilson, society librarian & Karen Prasse, Burlington librarian

2:00 pm Heritage Quest/ Census Records, Using PERSI & other databases with Karen Prasse, Burlington Library, Reference Librarian

1:30 pm, 2:00 pm; 2:30 pm & 3:00 pm Announce winners of Door Prizes

Open House closes to the public; members are encouraged to stay and assist with taking down tables, chairs, displays, etc.

4:00 pm We all heading home and looking forward to a relaxing evening with friends and family.

Unless of course, we have stimulated you to do some further research for your ancestors.



Sunday, March 21 - NW Washington History Detectives - Sedro-Woolley. “[Their] first meet-up is [at 2 p.m.] March 21 in Sedro-Woolley. Check out this new group at <http://www.meetup.com/NWHistory/>.

If you are interested in learning a bit more about the history of the Northwest region where we all live, consider joining this group and attending their activities.

If you are an author, or belong to a group and would like to sell your books, that is okay too. First meeting will be in Sedro Woolley from approximately 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm with a nice friendly potluck.

Bring your own dishes and cutlery and learn about the area that you are living in. Everyone is invited.

SVGS Genealogy Library Report

By Margie Wilson, SVGS Librarian

Aye, me lads and lassies, 'tis joyous news I wish to tell yee. If you are researching your Scottish roots now is the time to pay a visit to the SVGS Genealogy Library. Thanks to Hazel's Rasar's kind donation of books from her private genealogy library, our society's librarian collection now numbers over 1440 volumes. Many of these books target researching one's Scottish ancestry. Also, there are numerous new reference and Washington State books added to the shelves. Hazel's deep interest in Scottish history and research really shines out as a new addition to SVGS' collection. (See list of donated books at end of this article.)

Also, you will find books on: Blount and Carter Counties in Tennessee, how to write your family history, using the internet for research, DNA testing, etc. How fortunate we are to be able to share in Hazel's love of a "good genealogy read" and the latest new books on genealogy.

Other Library News:

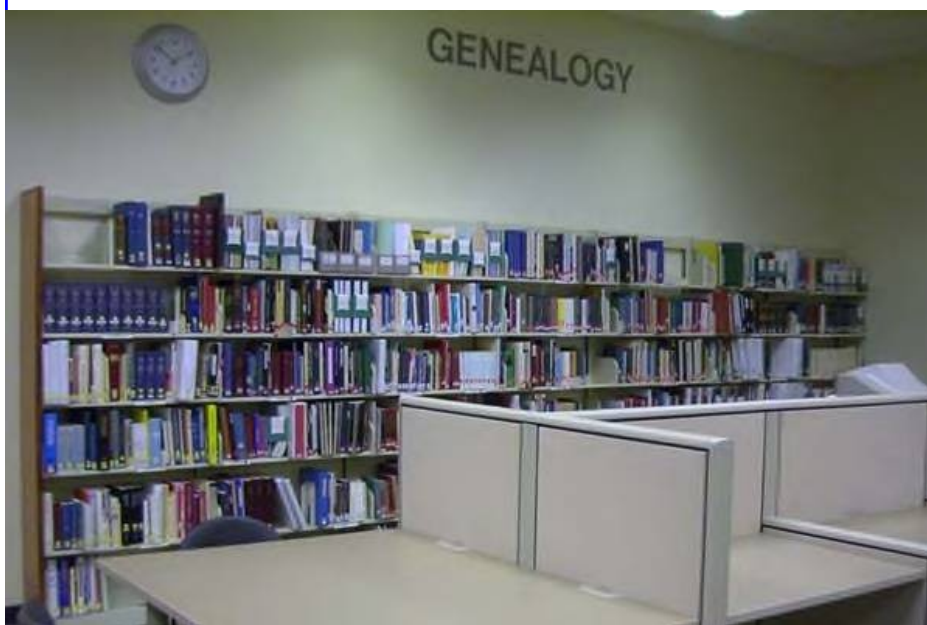
Our special thanks and appreciation go to Shirlee and John Fisher (John is now deceased) for their recent donations to the genealogy library. John contributed his excellent collection of books and magazines on Czechoslovakian/Slovak research. John also contributed numerous reference books, personal research notes, and educational materials he had acquired during his extensive research. His knowledge of genealogy and history and his willingness to share this research and resources with all of us is greatly missed.

Susan and Mike Perrault also donated several books from their private collection. Susan was the former librarian for the Heritage Quest Library and their books are crisp, recent, and valuable resources for researchers.

Attention: NEW SVGS MEMBERS: On March 27, during the SVGS' Genealogy Open House, held at the Burlington Library, orientation tours of the genealogy section will be conducted at 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. Come and learn more about what materials are available for your research, how to use the Microfiche/microfilm machine, what materials are in the file cabinet, and how the books are categorized on the shelves.

If you are a new member and would like to volunteer to staff the genealogy library on Mondays between 11am-1pm, we'd love to have you join our volunteer team! Contact Margie Wilson at 757-6224 or wilsongm@verizon.net and I will give you a brief orientation to get you started on your volunteer duties.

The updated list of SVGS' Library holdings will be updated by April 2010 and available on the society's website. The collection can be searched by clicking on the website toolbar, Edit, "Find on this page" and filling in a title or author's name or ISBN # you are searching for. The cursor will go to that line in the database. A search using "keyword" will also take you to books with similar subject titles. Give it a try and if there are problems, please let me know so we can troubleshoot and correct them.



So, lads and lassies, any road, hurry on down across the Skagit moors to our society's genealogy library and check out the new additions. The genealogy society's collection is located at the Burlington Library at 820 E. Washington Street. Happy researching!

Note: Margie generously included a listing of all new publications in the library, however, there were 4 pages and this editor could not find enough space to include them. Look for a listing on the society website at www.skagitvalleygs.org in April. There will also be a listing available at the general meeting.

A different reason to participate in the 2010 Census

By Dan Royal, Archivist for Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.

Most of you have read about or seen the commercials on television for why you should participate in the 2010 U.S. Census. We know that the Constitution of the United States mandates that every ten years a census of every living person in the U.S. be counted. These officially began in 1790 and until 1850 only enumerated the head of household with a numbering of male and females in the home. From 1850 on we have a full return of the household, in other words, anyone living in a house at the time of the census was listed and accounted for.

Numerous reasons are listed for the gathering of the census data, not the least of which if the reapportioning of the U.S. House of Representatives based on population, determining of school locations, housing, businesses, roads, etc.

If anyone reading this have been as fortunate as I have on being handed down from a great grandmother and many other family members; countless family stories and histories, poems, county history, biographies and autobiographies, you know how fortunate you are. Complications arose for me when several versions of the same family story came my way with numerous and varying dates.

What was missing in all these stories were solid dates on events, deaths or births in the family with what is referred to as prime source material? Birth certificates are your best source for birth dates but in the early days these returns didn't always get filed with the local government. Not every list these items in the family bible or that bible is long lost.

As my great grandmother was the 12th of fourteen children when she was born in Birdsvie in 1891, very little was known to me on the majority of her siblings except for a few of whom she was close to during her lifetime. This became my goal then. To track their full names, married names for the women, birth dates, death dates and their children and descendants.

The easiest place to start on her sibling's names and birth dates was the U.S. Census records which are currently available to the public up to the year 1930. (Make note the 1940 Census becomes available in two years) There was a time of course where these records were only available on microfilm in very limited places, such as: NARA's (National Archives & Records Admin.) Pacific Alaska Region in Seattle or your local LDS Family History Center where copies of these microfilms could be ordered from Salt Lake City.

Nowadays these census records can be viewed very quickly and name searched on such subscriber sites as Ancestry.com; they can also be viewed at numerous local libraries for free with your library card if the library has a subscription to Ancestry or ProQuest, for instance.

The 1900 U.S. Census turned out to be the best place to start and as close to accurate on birth dates as I could find because it included the month and year of birth, mostly you will find only the name and age at the time of enumeration of the individual you are looking for in the other census years. Obviously the U.S. Census is not the only place to track down prime source material and while there is SO much to be found now on the internet on finding lost family members, this is not the only place to look. Leg work to your county government is a must if the family member was in Skagit County for instance.

My reason for writing this encouragement for participating in this year's census is to share a little on how valuable U.S. Census data has been to me these past ten years as a genealogist, or family historian if you like. This was my great starting point to get a full accounting on the fourteen siblings of my great grandparents and now I have them and their descendants, my cousins listed on the family tree. Remember, your grandchildren and great grandchildren may be trying to find you 75 or 100 year from now, give them some help.

Also published in the Concrete Herald March 2010.

Heritage Quest Online

In *Family Tree Magazine*, Heritage Quest Online is recommended—a database service offered through many public libraries—as a free alternative for finding US census records, family and local history books, Revolutionary War service records and Freedmen's Bank records.

Not all of the census records on Heritage Quest Online are indexed, though, and the databases can be tricky to search.

Heritage Quest Online Web Guide — Watch for it and check it out at the Burlington Public Library in the [print May 2010 Family Tree Magazine](#), in the [digital version of the May 2010 Family Tree Magazine](#), [on its own as a digital download](#)



P O Box 715
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*It is That Time Again.
If **It is That Time Again.** Please
If you haven't ... Please
Pay Your Dues for 2010*

OLD UNPUBLISHED CEMETERIES

Susan Goff of the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation met with Dottie Chandler and Sylvia Ammons at the Burlington Library on March 9th. Susan was interested in obtaining information about and locations of old small unpublished cemeteries.

The Dept of Archaeology uses this information for the preservation of cemeteries so far as construction and road construction are concerned. The contractors go through this department to determine if anything of historic importance lies in the path of the project. The information is also placed on a special GIS map.

To find the needed information, Sylvia Ammons went to a useful book in the society library titled "Cemetery Inscriptions" and, an excellent file from the publications committee showing locations of small cemeteries according to Township, Range and Section. Before meeting with Susan, Sylvia Ammons went through the file adding new cemeteries (thanks to help from some society members) and updating locations. Updating the locations was done using the interactive map on the Skagit County Assessor's website to find parcel numbers and maps. In Skagit County there are: 15 bigger known cemeteries; 24 small known cemeteries; six old location UNKNOWN cemeteries. The location unknown cemeteries are: Bacon Creek, Bingham, Sam Family, Suiattle or Sauk-Suiattle, Montbourne and Washington Family.

While sharing this information with Susan, it became apparent that: (1) almost all the known cemeteries lie along the Highway 20 corridor; (2) there are no known cemeteries for the Samish River corridor clear to the Wickersham area or north to Alger from Blanket Bill Jarman's cemetery on Prairie Rd.

Susan Goff was pleased with the information that was shared and looks forward to receiving any other pertinent information that our society can provide. Isn't it gratifying to know that our society benefits not only genealogists but also the preservation of cemeteries and history?