



President's Message

Conference time is getting closer and hopefully you have registered to join us on May 16 & 17. I really have to give kudos to those members who have worked hard to make this event a success. Diane Partington has gone above and beyond in dealing with registrations and door prizes. Dan and Maureen Royal are working to get the dining room & kitchen facilities set up and ready to go so that everyone attending will be able to find the location of coffee, snacks and lunches. Sue Perrault has been busy in contacting vendors and setting up that area. Bob Witherspoon, WSGS Treasurer, has worked in conjunction with Yale Gifford to keep track of all the expenses related to the conference. Diane has been communicating the registrations with them. Laura Sparr, as the WSGS Conference Liaison, has been attempting to keep us all on track.

There will be some commercial vendors at the conference and societies within Region One, of which we are a part, will be either selling their publications or presenting with a display. At last count our door prizes were numbering over 50 and we are still receiving them on a daily basis.

Overall, we have had an extremely busy past six months and I believe that all of us will be happy see the culmination of the conference. I sincerely hope that I will see most of you there.

Consider this a special notice to all members, we will not be having a general meeting this month because of the conference, and that said, we will have a general meeting in June with a book sale. Joan and her library committee have been sorting through books that have been donated to the society and those that are duplicates to what we have in the library will be available for purchase in June.

Plan now for activities in July and August. Our society will not have any scheduled meetings during those months. Hopefully some of you will be traveling to do some research by following your ancestors footsteps by visiting some of their early places of residence. Whether visiting town halls, court-houses or cemeteries, I wish you success in your ventures.

Looking forward to September when we will again resume society activities.

Hazel

The new location for **USGenWeb's Washington** is:
www.WAGenWeb.org
 The new location for **Pierce County, Washington USGenWeb** is: www.WaGenWeb.org/pierce

Volume 21 Number 3

President: Hazel Razar

Newsletter Editor: Dan Royal

PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs>

Standing Rules Have Been Updated

The Board has revised the Society's Standing Rules. If you would like a copy, please e-mail Barbara Johnson at raptor-woman@gmail.com and I will send you an electronic copy. I will have hard copies available at the General Membership Meeting if you do not have e-mail.

Americans Lack Family History Knowledge

A survey conducted a few months ago by The Generations Network reports that few Americans know very much about their family trees. Among other facts, the survey discovered that:

- One-third of Americans cannot name any of their great-grandparents
- Half of Americans know the name of only one or none of their great-grandparents.
- Six out of ten Americans do not know both of their grandmothers' maiden names
- Twenty-two percent of Americans don't know what either of their grandfathers do or did for a living.
- Although America is known as a nation of immigrants, 27 percent don't know where their family lived before they came to America.

Is this a problem or an opportunity?

Commissioned by Ancestry.com and conducted by zOmnibus Survey, the survey does make some positive statements. For one, the survey reports that 83 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds are interested in learning their family history. Following closely are the 35- to 54-year-olds at 77 percent and Americans aged 55+ at 73 percent.

It strikes me that there are millions of Americans who have at least a casual interest in their family trees but have no idea how to get started. I am particularly impressed that younger Americans reportedly are more likely to be interested in their ancestry than are senior citizens. That is the reverse of what I would have expected.

This is an opportunity for commercial companies and non-profit societies alike. A potential marketplace exists. The biggest difficulty is in identifying that audience and reaching them. Traditional advertising methods are prohibitively expensive. What we need is "grass roots" advertising. That's where you come in.

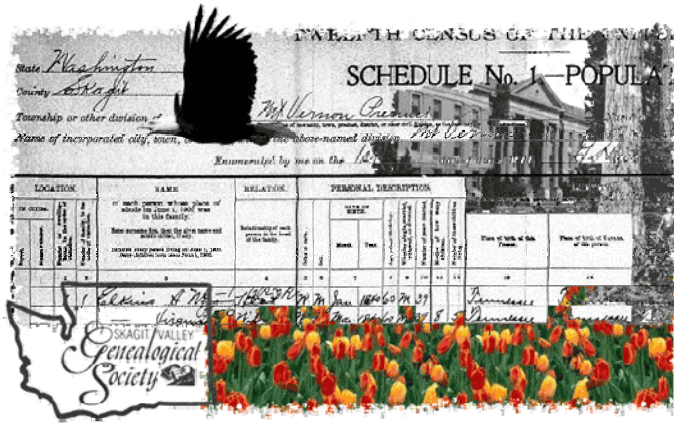
In your casual conversations with non-genealogists, you might ask a few questions:

Where does your family come from?

What did your grandparents do for a living? How about your great-grandparents?

Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?

Can you remember any family stories that were told to you as a



SVGS Board of Directors 2008

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Please Take Note: As of September 2008—Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter will be posted electronically. The newsletter will be uploaded to our website as a **.pdf file** (Adobe Acrobat) and those who have e-mail will receive a notice that the new newsletter is available to print. Those wishing to still receive a paper Newsletter such as the one you hold in your hand need to contact your Newsletter Editor or Membership Chairperson for your preference.

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- Special History** Hazel Rasar
- Projects:** *co-chairs* Dan Royal

SOCIETY EMAIL: genealogy715@gmail.com

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.

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*

Calendar of Events

Upcoming 2008

General Meeting:

Start time 7:00 p.m.

*All meetings will be held at the **Burlington Community Center**, 1011 Greenleaf Ave., Burlington No change in date or time.*

May—General Meeting is canceled this month due to the Washington State Genealogical Society Conference and Annual Meeting hosted by Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.

June 24— Brickwalls and Book Fair

July & August—NO MEETINGS

September—Board member Dale Hastin

Welcome New Member(s)

Harvey & Evelyn Anderson Mount Vernon, WA

Marjorie A. Hart Mount Vernon, WA

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.

Joan Udd—SVGS Librarian



Continued from page 1

child? Do you believe those stories are accurate?

Did your family have any memorable holiday or other traditions that were passed down from previous generations?

Of course, when the other person says, "I don't know," you should be ready to step in with a few suggestions of good books for beginners, the address and meeting dates of a local genealogy society, and perhaps a few web sites of genealogy interest. Hey, send them to THIS web site!

If you and every other genealogist in this country can start "spreading the word," we can greatly increase the percentage of Americans who do know about their roots.

You can read more about the survey at <http://tgn.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=115>.

Posted by Dick Eastman on March 24, 2008 | [Permalink](#)

Genealogical News

Footnote and the National Archives held a press conference this morning in Washington, D.C. to unveil a new interactive online Vietnam War Memorial. This Footnote project features the largest photo of The Wall on the Internet (at full size, the photo on Footnote is about 460 feet wide). The project has been several months in the making and provides an interactive experience for finding names on The Wall as well as service record and casualty report information for each soldier listed. Viewers may also upload photos and create tributes connected to any name on The Wall.

Please take a moment to view a short video about how one veteran found a fallen friend on The Wall and add your own tribute today. The video is on YouTube at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scwMAGCLdks>

or on the Footnote site at

<http://www.footnote.com/thewall>

"Harvest Your Family Tree" 2008 Seminar"

What: Genealogical Seminar & Marketplace

Presenter: The Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

Where: Kelowna, BC Canada

When: Friday, September 26 - Sunday, September 28, 2008

Venue: Okanagan College Campus
1000 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC Canada

Detail: 9 Acclaimed Speakers, 24 concurrent lectures
Keynote Address, Dinner, Lectures, Marketplace, Walking Tour

Registration Information: www.rootsweb.com/~bckdgs

CamWood Obituary Index

I've just uploaded the latest update for the CamWood Obituary Index to

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasnohom/camwoodintro.htm>

The data file now contains over 8600 lines, and includes obituaries from the early 1900s to the present. The project covers Camano Island (in Island County), Stanwood area (in Snohomish County) and the extreme south-western part of Skagit County.

Remember, the CamWood Genealogical Workshop folks do not charge for copies of obituaries, but will STRONGLY encourage donations to the Stanwood Area Historical Society.

Regards,

Marge (who has made it through yet another winter - GO MARINERS!)

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 - 2008

APPLICANTS NAME

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

AREA CODE ()

TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

New Member

Renewal

Previous Member

FAMILY \$ 15

INDIVIDUAL \$12

INSTITUTION \$12



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