



Volume 23 Number 2
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Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

May - June 2010

President's Message

I think spring is here! So are you cleaning out and sorting stuff? Now is the time to try organizing.

We had an open house in March at the Burlington Public Library. Many volunteers came to help out. We only had 3 weeks to plan and carry it out. It is amazing what happens when we put our heads together.

SUCCESS!

We have some good programs coming up in the next few months. Come to our meetings and check it out. Other discussions for classes, programs and/or seminars are in the works. If anyone has suggestions let one of the officers know so we can improve our meetings and programs.

Dottie Chandler, President

The Skagit Valley Genealogy Society held their 1st Open House at the Burlington Public Library on March 27th. It was a great success! Not only were members in attendance, we were pleased to see 34 guests from Skagit and Island Counties attend as well.

The Open House began with a short introduction on how to get started in a genealogy search. In addition, stations were set up around the room, each with a different function. These stations included everything from providing assistance with internet searching and the different programs available, to breaking down those 'brick walls' we all encounter when searching for our heritage. An assistant of the Public Library guided us through a website known as Heritage Quest which is designed specifically for genealogy research. Many of the first time visitors to the Burlington Public Library were impressed with the size of the genealogy section, which consists of over 1400 books plus numerous magazines, pamphlets and more.

Some members brought in personal family memorabilia to share with everyone. Many of the items such as quilts and even a musical instrument called the fife dated back to the civil war days.

Refreshments were provided and door prizes were awarded. Our winners walked away with a variety of books, gift certificates and other fun items.

Due to the numerous positive comments from members and guests, we've decided to plan another event later this year. We'll keep you informed of when and where.



Barbara Johnson - one of our official greeters heritage. *Dottie*

I would like to extend a personal THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our 1st Open House a success and a special THANK YOU to the Burlington Public Library for allowing us to meet at the library and take advantage of all they have to offer. As a result, many people are on their way to a new discovery of their family heritage. *Dottie*

SVGS Upcoming Programs

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 us tips on "*Preparing and 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 Thaler 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 Ronhaar of Title and Land Company will give us "*Clues to Reading Land Descriptions*". Do you know the difference between grantor and grantee? Bill will help us with those terms and more.

October 26: Panel Discussion by members: "How To Organize All Those Years of Information". Do you have different piles of info on your desk? Is your filing system lacking order? What about your computer data? Is it a mish mash of information on your ancestors? Come to our Annual Meeting and hear from several folks about how to organize your genealogy information, both paper records and computer records.

Obituaries can contain a gold mine of information. They typically include the date of death, burial information, age, birthplace, and sometimes the cause of death, as well as names of other family members (often including maiden and married names of women). For immigrants, the town of origin in the old country can sometimes be found in obituaries, as well as other immigration details. Detailed obituaries may include personal and business information.
Via The Weekly Discovery, Ancestry.com April 12, 2010



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Openings for Board Positions

We are currently in need of persons to fill the following positions on the Board of Directors which meet once a month EXCEPT July and August.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Gather, compose and produce a bi-monthly newsletter with information relevant to members of the genealogical community.

Mail and/or submit to webmaster for posting on the society website

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.

Three Ways to Recharge Your Genealogy Research

Posted by Diane Haddad—Family Tree Magazine Online

Seeing results can motivate you to work harder at everything from getting in shape to learning a new skill. Maybe that's why my genealogy efforts tend to flag when I haven't made any new discoveries recently.

So as I was browsing my *Family Tree Magazines* for our "Best of 2008" installment, Sharon DeBartolo Carmack's "Recharge Your Research" article from the July 2008 edition jumped out at me.

Don't let dead ends drain your genealogical batteries. Jump-start your ancestor hunt.

By Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, 7/1/2008

In a perfect world, your genealogical research would take after the Energizer bunny — you'd cheerfully march along, adding generations and making new discoveries with every beat of the drum. Your reality, however, probably isn't a never-ending parade of pedigree progress. More likely, you have at least one family line that, instead of marching on and on like that motorized rabbit, smacks into a wall and gets stuck there until the batteries die.

We're talking about the dreaded genealogical "brick wall," of course — one of those seemingly unsolvable research problems even the Energizer bunny couldn't outlast. The good news is you're not truly at a brick wall until you've looked at every possible record your ancestor could've created (and then some). That's not the case with most family history sleuths who get stuck: They're simply in a rut and don't know what to do next. Maybe your ancestral obstacle isn't really a brick wall — perhaps your genealogical batteries just need a jump-start. Try these 12 proven methods to recharge your research, and you'll keep going and going and going.

Here are three of her techniques for injecting new energy into your genealogy search:

Write a report. After writing dozens of family histories and a zillion research reports, I firmly believe there's no better way to see the holes and faulty logic in your research than by stringing together those facts into sentences. As you start writing—both to tell the ancestor's life story and explain why you think your Miles Johnson in Allamakee County, Iowa, is the same Miles Johnson in Whiteside County, Ill.—you'll surprise yourself by how much you know (or how much you don't).

Think of it as writing yourself a report on your research. This is often why professional genealogists can solve some sticky research problems. As they explain their thought processes and theories to a client, they're also analyzing their research. When you start writing a report, you'll realize, "Gee, I missed checking the such-and-such record" or "That Wallace surname is cropping up a lot in the ancestor's records." Savvy professionals write reports as they're researching, because it helps them sort what they're gathering and keeps them on the right track.

Consult county and local histories. You've looked at county and local histories for places your ancestor lived, but have you gone back for a second look after doing more

-extensive ancestor research? On your first pass through these histories, you might've been skimming for a mention of your forebear. This time, look at what was happening when your family lived in the area.

Sarah Collins' son Rodalphus, died in Tyringham, Mass., March 2, 1783, at age 13. His death record didn't reveal the cause. When I looked at a local history, I discovered the town suffered several smallpox epidemics after infected soldiers brought the disease there in 1777. The community was still battling the disease in 1785. Even though the book didn't mention Rodalphus Collins, it helped me understand what might've taken his life. This made me take a closer look at other family members in the area who died during that time.

Read a state or county guide. Maybe ancestral answers lie in some place-specific record you didn't know to check. How to learn the secrets of your kin's locale? *Family Tree Magazine* published State Research Guides for each state from 2005 to 2009. You can buy a compilation CD or download individual state guides from ShopFamilyTree.com. Another helpful reference is *The Family Tree Resource Book for Genealogists* (Family Tree Books), which provides county-by-county records information for the United States.

Look for locality-specific guidebooks, too, such as *Virginia Genealogy: Sources & Resources* by Carol McGinnis (Genealogical Publishing Co.) and *Chicago and Cook County: A Guide to Research* by Loretto Denis Szucs (Ancestry).



Seattle Genealogical Society Spring Seminar

Elissa Scalise Powell will make four presentations at the Seattle Seminar on May 22, 2010. Ms. Powell is a widely known, national genealogical speaker who will teach and entertain you with new information. So come join us at the Swedish Cultural Center in Seattle with its comfortable auditorium venue.

Local Company Seeks Home Historians

Whether houses are older or were more recently built, every home has a story to tell.

A Northwest Washington company is seeking qualified individuals with experience and interest in acquiring home histories.

If you meet the above qualifications, and have an interest in historical preservation and historical research, please let us know. We'd like to work with you.

Please send your resume or details on your experience in the field to sonicdanny@yahoo.com
Dan Hiestanad 360-920-5473

dhiestand@homehistorybook.com

www.homehistorybook.com (under construction)

Newly Discovered Website

You might want to try following this site. It is different, but similar to the "Find a Grave" website.

www.familynotices.org, is a non-commercial & privately-owned site.

The list owner had this to say— "Following the death of a close family member, I was surprised at the charges levied by the local newspaper for posting just a small obituary. The same applies to birth, engagement, marriages notices et al.

It made me think through the whole 'public notices' thing and I created **FamilyNotices.org** which is an on-line repository for all such, with no fees or charges to view, search or post.

Unlike a newspaper this has the advantage of being world-wide, free and doesn't get thrown away! Please feel free to help yourself and post anything which is relevant and appropriate - and it doesn't have to be current.

Details of 'Auntie Millie born in 1896' is just as relevant as a modern-day wedding notice.

Nigel Tilbury - "

Posted by Bette Topp, member of EWGS, Spokane

Family Genealogy Bookstore

Another online Family genealogy bookstore is born and they are pretty good in the way they market their products. Beside the fact that they have very high quality products, they have a perfect bound soft cover and a hardback format of the rarest books available to researchers, their books are cheap compared to other online bookstores but what makes them unique is that they send you with each book order the searchable pdf format on a CD of the book that you order and the CD also contains their catalog. Their Web address is: www.ancestralbooks.com

LIBRARY NEWS TO NOTE: I will be moving to Seattle for a couple of years to finish the remodel of a 1907 house. I'm discovering that houses have a history worth preserving as well. I intend to stay active with SVGS and attend board and society monthly meetings regularly. But, I realize it is reassuring to know that a quick question about the SVGS library is only a local call away. To my delight, SVGS member Nancy Bonafede has volunteered to be SVGS' "go-to" person while I'm in Seattle. Please make a note of Nancy's contact information so you can send her your questions or if you would like to volunteer at the library on Mondays between 11am-1pm:

Nancy Bonafede cell ph.# 360-202-3237
nbonafede@comcast.net

I remain committed to the stewardship of SVGS' library collection. The volunteers have been a joy to work with and the partnership with the Burlington Library a tremendous support. I'm hoping the next couple of years will go swiftly so I can return to the Skagit Valley and be even more involved in the genealogy community. *Keep on researching!*

~ Margie Wilson

SVGS Librarian

Contact: Cell ph.# 360-798-1681

Email: wilsongm@verizon.net

We Need Your Help

The following jobs need someone to help:

Newsletter Editor: Need someone who is competent with spelling and composition who can elicit helpful information to share with our membership. Help is available.

Door Prizes: this spot requires only that you be available to supply items (most are donated) 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 a volunteer for the April meeting. Try it, you might like it. Currently no refreshments are planned for the April meeting.

Who Do You Think They Are?

Many of us are inspired by the television series “*Who Do You Think You Are?*” I recently found this on the Ancestry website and thought now would be a great time to share with all of my genealogy friends. It gives us something to think about as we search for those elusive names on our family tree. *Editor/Hazel*

Maybe the most personal thing any of us owns is our name. But when we started asking around for tales of people who went through life with names other than those they had been given, we opened a whole closet full of folks who weren't who they –or others – always thought they were.

Sometimes a name change is a **choice**;

Sometimes it's an **accident**;

Sometimes there is a bit of **subterfuge**.

Patricia Duffy Terho's family history includes one of those now infamous “my name was changed by immigration officials” stories. Her grandmother Bridget Walsh, left Ireland for the United States in April 1899. That's when her name was changed by an American immigration official at the Port of Galway, Ireland, who told her, “I'm changing your name to Delia. There are too many Bridgets in the United States already!” Meanwhile, as officials transcribed the sound of the family name phonetically; Bridget's surname went from Walsh to Welch on the ship's manifest. Her certificate of landing, dated 5 May 1899 at the Port of Boston, identifies her as Delia Welch. “All of her brothers were given the surname of ‘Welch’ at that time—same official. Her youngest sister, who had not moved to the United States at the same time because she was still a child, came about ten years later, ... She's the only one who retained the Walsh last name,” Patricia says. Her grandmother often retold this story to others. She said she readily accepted the name change if it meant she could come to the United States. Today, Patricia is simply glad she heard the story from her uncle. “I could have wasted hours and hours researching Delia Welch and not ever have known that I really wanted Bridget Walsh”.

Parents (or perhaps the children themselves) have thought better of a name that may have seemed good at the time. Jo Sapp of Columbia, Missouri, reports that Earl and Dora Barnhill's 10th son, born in October 1908, appears as Halley's Comet Barnhill in the 1910 census for Hopkins County, Texas. Jo wonders if maybe the name was a bit of a joke for the census taker, but H.C. ended up known in his adult life as T.G. (Trevor Gordon Barnhill —chosen by himself) until he died in 1964.

Your man Friday? Not in Some Countries

What happens if you try to name your son “Friday” in Italy, 4Real in New Zealand or Metallica in Sweden? You risk running afoul of the law.

Italy is one of a number of countries with laws on the books intended to prevent parents from giving children names that might subject them to shame or ridicule. In Italy, the name Friday—which a couple tried to give their newborn son—conjured up demeaning images of Robinson Crusoe's manservant. Plus, that day of the week is also associated with bad luck. Scandinavian countries have some of the strictest laws governing first names. Kristi Larsen went to jail because she wanted to give her son (“Gesher,” the Hebrew word for bridge; was not found on a list of approved names for Norwegian tots. Norway's law reaches back to the 1800s and protects children from names that would look or sound strange. Under Swedish law, tax authorities can nix a name they think could become troublesome for a child or first names that “have the character of a surname”.

In Denmark, names must pass muster with the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs and the Ministry of Family and Consumer Affairs. France had special laws on the books until 1993; Germany still does; names must reflect the child's gender and not expose him/her to ridicule. Quebec has just recently relaxed its own government involvement in the name game, while Venezuela is considering regulations to curb names such as Hitler, Nixon, or YUSNAVY.

Chinese authorities took a slightly different tack: the parents of young @ will have to choose a different name because the @ symbol simply doesn't appear in the Chinese language and little 4Real? Though the government put the kibosh on using a name with a digit in it, the parents insist they'll call him 4Real anyway; meanwhile, if the state won't reconsider, they'll simply register their son's official name as “Superman”.

There are numerous stories throughout history of name changes, mispronunciation, etc. It is for the genealogists, those of us who research, to discover the true naming of our ancestors.

Excerpted via Ancestry Magazine Mar-Apr 2008, pgs 56-61 (Many more stories available in this issue—can be located online)

Don't waste time searching for records that don't exist—these cheat sheets list available records and time periods. Here's a list of the cheat sheets currently available in this category. Check back often as they continue to add new ones.

Naturalization Laws Timeline

What laws might have affected your ancestors when they immigrated to America? Knowing the restrictions and guidelines in place will help you identify records to consult.

Records Checklist

Think you've hit a brick wall? Don't assume you're stuck yet—use this rundown of record types to guide you to other records you haven't checked.

War Service Reference Guide

From the American Revolution to the Vietnam War, most families have members who served in the military. View a timeline of US conflicts, plus the birth date chart which serves as a quick guide to telling which major war your ancestor likely served in.

Where to Look for 1880 DDD Supplemental Census Records

This state-by-state listing helps you find the 1880 supplemental schedules of “defective, dependent and delinquent classes” for your ancestor's state.

Vital Records Chart

See at a glance the years that each US state began keeping state-level birth, marriage and death records. (Note that many counties began recording these events earlier.)

Here are some tried-and-true tips for researching ancestors in orphanages:

Search census records. You may see an orphanage resident referred to as “inmate” in the census. The name of the institution is usually written at the top of the schedule that lists the residents. Typically, the census taker didn't talk to each child. Instead, he'd transcribe names from the home's records (which is why residents may be listed in alphabetical order). If your orphan ancestor was around during the 1880 census, he or she may have been listed in the special schedule of “**Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes.**” You can download a PDF guide to finding these records from FamilyTreeMagazine.com.

Run a Google search on the name of the institution, if known. Learn which entity has authority over the home—visit the institution's website and find out how to request records related to your ancestor. If you find the state home where your ancestor lived has been shut down, chances are any surviving records were sent to the state archives. For an orphanage run by a religious group, search online for denominational archives. You also may find historical records of homes affiliated with churches or other private organizations at state and local historical societies, local libraries, or on Family History Library microfilm.

Follow request instructions. Orphanage records may be considered sensitive and more-recent records may be restricted. Include with your request copies of your ancestor's death certificate and your driver's license. Also, if known, provide a name, parents' names, and the years you believe they lived there.

Keep looking. Further online research may yield GenWeb pages with photos and alumni stories, a panoramic photo on the Library of Congress website, a Flickr image of a historical marker at the home and more. Possibly the home's school had a yearbook.

Explore orphan trains. If you think your ancestor was on one of the trains that transported orphaned children from Eastern cities to adoptive families in the West, try these sites listed on Genealinks.

Related resources from *Family Tree Magazine*

Orphan Train Ancestors (free online article)

Research toolkit for adopted ancestors (free online article)

Early Adopters article on researching adopted ancestors from the February 2007 *Family Tree Magazine* (available in ShopFamilyTree.com as a digital edition; or Family Tree Magazine Plus members can access the article online)

Education Report

Shirley reports that she has recently completed a series of four classes held at the Anacortes Senior Center. She had 20 students.

Way to go!

She would like to form a committee to do some brainstorming regarding educational activities, i.e., future classes perhaps in other areas of the county, special interest groups, resource classes, sessions before or after meetings, etc.

Mentors? Available to give assistance to new members and/or those just beginning to do research.

Computer genealogy ... how-to and where to look for Internet resources.

Her goal is to make this a permanent committee and would like to have society members assisting her with this.

Contact her if interested. Contact info can be found on page 2.

Flash Drives, Thumb Sticks – Whatever you Call Them

Here is an e-mail discussion on Flash or Thumb drives that I received recently from a friend who is a retired IBM research scientist/University Science Professor. The first part of the discussion is from a friend of his – also a retired IBM research scientist, who writes – “I am frequently asked about Flash or Thumb drives. I always answer that they are great, BUT --- Here is a pretty good Q&A on the topic that came across my desk this morning.

Question: I have a flash disk that has been working well for quite some time. Just yesterday it refused to work. The computer recognized it but when I tried opening it I got the message that the disk needs formatting. I tried using it on another computer but the same message appeared. I also tried autoplay but nothing happened. The data on the disk is very important and I need to recover it. Please advise.

Answer: I really have no answer for you. I honestly believe that your data is gone. For anyone who uses a USB flash drive, there are two extremely important lessons to learn here, one of which applies to everyone – flash drive user or not.

#1 - Flash Drives Wear Out

Apparently many people still don't realize this, but flash memory wears out the more you write to it. How quickly it wears out will depend on the specific flash drive. Like anything, there is a wide range of quality in currently available flash memory based drives. You can make a rough correlation with the cost of the device but even that tends to change over time. Depending on usage and quality we could be talking as short as months or as long as several years. I've seen extreme cases of misuse lasting as little as a few weeks, or in one case, just a few hours!

Flash memory wears out the more you write to it. As you've seen, when they fail, they can fail catastrophically. Just one bad bit or sector in the wrong place can render the device unrecoverable to anything short of a complete reformat. Not only will a reformat lose all your data, but it may not work, and the device will fail again, and probably very soon.

#2 - Never Keep Important Data in Only One Place

I want to empathize that, because it applies to much more than just flash drives. **Never, ever,** keep anything that is important in only one place; be it a flash drive, a hard drive or a web service. As you can see, if that “one place” goes away, so does your important data. **Forever!** Critical data on a single flash drive? You're asking for trouble. Family photos on a single hard disk? Plan on losing them all someday. The obvious solution, of course, is to backup. Naturally, a lot of people get intimidated by that, because backing up seems big and complicated and scary. It doesn't have to be but even if it is, get over it or risk losing everything you've stored. Backing up can be as simple as making a periodic copy of your data on another device. In this case specifically, having had a backup could have saved your

data. As it is ... I think you're out of luck.

[End of original e-mail.]

The discussion goes on to talk about the importance of keeping the backup file – whatever it is on – in a separate place from the computer. At home if the computer is at work – at work or in the workshop or another separate building if the computer is in the house and so on, and my friend adds “We think of data loss as **component** failure, but the reality is that reliable components have been trashed by car accidents, fires and overturned double espresso lattes – with or without whipped cream.

I have slightly edited the e-mail for length but have not changed the information in any way. Remember that these fellows spent a large part of their lives working in IBM Research Labs. They know what they're talking about!

Written & shared by Penny Haering via Cariboo Notes, newsletter of the B.C. Genealogical Society, Quesnel Branch, Spring 2010

Trade In Those Outdated Electronics

If you recently purchased an electronic gizmo or received one as a gift, then an older [cellphone](#), computer, camera or game console may be collecting dust at your house.

Instead of tossing it, trade it in for cash, a gift card or a charitable donation—all while helping the environment by keeping it out of a landfill.

At [Wirefly.com](#), you can trade unwanted working electronics for cash delivered to a PayPal account or a charity. A similar program—with free shipping—offers gift cards via [TigerDirect.com](#).

Some retailers also have electronics trade-in programs that provide store gift cards. They include Costco, Best Buy and Sears. Most operate the same way. You select the trade-in item from a menu, fill out the fields on its condition and accessories, and get an instant trade-in value.

Love Who Do You Think You Are?



Can't get enough of the series, *Who Do You Think You Are?* Now you can also get the book, *Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History*. Written by researcher and genealogist Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (you may have seen her on the show helping Emmitt Smith understand his DNA results), *Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History* helps readers quickly uncover details about their ancestors and includes celebrity stories from the show. Who couldn't use more ideas, tips, and inspiration? *NEW in our library!*



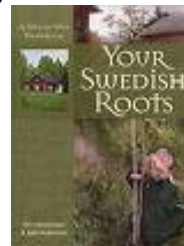
P O Box 715
Conway, Washington 98238-0715

Here are some of the April additions the SVGS Genealogy Library Collection:

- “Your Swedish Roots: A Step-by-Step Handbook,” by Per Clemensson & Kjell Andersson
- “Who Do You Think You Are? The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family Tree,” by Megan Smolenyak
- “Whatcom Memories: A Photo Album,” by Whatcom County Historical Society
- “Polish Roots,” by Rosemary A. Chorzempa
- “Cemeteries of Island County, Washington,” by Ralph L. Seefield
- and NGS States Series for: Oregon, Arkansas and Maryland.

Swedish heritage researchers will be delighted that, a helpful resource book is now included to our collection. “Your Swedish Roots: A Step-by-Step Handbook,” by Per Clemensson and Kjell Andersson, is comprehensive in its offerings for researchers. Subjects include:

- Emigration to America,
 - How to find the place of origin in Sweden of your ancestors,
 - Swedish spelling – particularly of surnames,
 - Swedish dictionary of useful research terms
 - Where to find resources in Sweden,
 - How to prepare for a genealogy research trip to Sweden,
- And, examples of analyzing one’s family history research step-by-step, and much more.



A Swedish archivist and an historian are co-authors of this comprehensive research guide. Both authors pay attention to supply not only images of old church records for us to see their layout, but also to provide English translations, and helpful hints for researchers. When examining a record an analysis of the information to be found in the record is offered then followed by ‘where do we go from here?’ – to lead the reader on to their next logical research strategy. The archivist’s expertise is evident in the methodical approach to finding and analyzing resources.

Each Swedish province is described with an accompanying illustration of the landscape and/or historic landmarks. This well-researched background material makes for a fascinating study of Swedish culture and tradition.

Even the appendices aren’t “dry” but full of key information such as: Church Records Destroyed by Fire – listed by the Swedish Regional Archives where the records were kept and the year they were destroyed – that information along could prove to be pure research gold and avoiding of research brick walls.

REMINDER: ALL books, periodicals and file materials in the SVGS Genealogy Library are for **reference use only** when visiting the Burlington Library. These materials are not part of the Burlington Library book circulation system. The books are extremely valuable to all SVGS members. If you find any of these library materials have walked their way to your home, please return them at your earliest convenience so others may benefit from them.