



## President's Message

Well, my term as President is coming to an end. Over the past four years as your President, I have made many new friends and learned a lot. I would like to Thank everyone for their support and helping me during my terms in office. We have had our ups and downs like most societies or clubs. We have accomplished a few things with more to be finished.

I would like to thank Muriel Neely for stepping up again to be secretary and for George Ridgeway for being my successor.

We are planning a seminar on February 16th so save that date.

Our society was given the Heritage Award by the Skagit County Historical Society. We are very pleased and thankful to be recognized for all the club has done and is doing.

The special history project which is the book that has been in the works is nearing printing. It will be called "Skagit County, Washington and its People". If anyone is interested in preordering please let us know by email or contacting Dan Royal. There will be two volumes.

Our Society would like to congratulate our Education Chairman, Eric Stroschein on being elect as 2013-2014 President of the Puget Sound Association of Professional Genealogists (PSAPG).

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Thankful Thanksgiving, enjoy it because life is sometimes to short. Also, have a very Merry Christmas and God Bless.

*Dottie Chandler*, President

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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

Christine Cooper

Membership Chairperson

Hello,

I have written an editorial in the current issue of the WSGS Newsletter detailing the threat to access of our vital records.

To recap: The WA State Board of Health is asking the Public Records Committee to close birth records for 125 years and marriage, divorce & death for 50 years. There will a meeting on December 5, 2012 at 10am at the State Archives in Olympia to make this request. The meeting is open to the public.

\*

\*\*T\*\*he PRC has the authority to restrict access to the records without legislative oversight.\*

To try and stop this train wreck, we need to send letters to our legislators, newspapers, and members of the PRC. I'm attaching four files explaining how to write a letter to a public official, facts about identity theft and open public records, a sample letter, and a list of public officials with email addresses. We also need to get a contingent of people to "storm the gates" and attend the meeting to let your voice be heard.

Help keep Washington's vital records accessible to the public.

Sincerely,

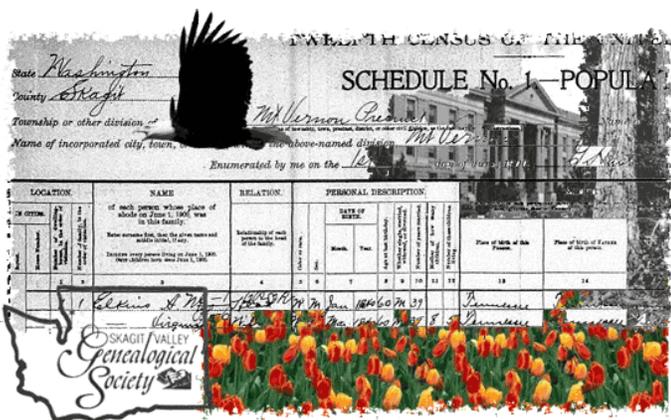
Sue Ericksen  
WSGS President

**Upcoming Live Webinars - Free:** Go to <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/Webinars.asp> to read the synopsis and register for new free webinars by Legacy Family Tree. Always try to register ahead of time and run the test of your system to ensure you can participate.

November and early December webinars, all starting at 11:00 AM Pacific Time on Wednesdays (except as noted), include:

- Wednesday, November 14, 11:00 AM PST: *Genealogy for Novices - Where Do We Begin?* by Linda Geiger
- **Friday**, November 16, 11:00 AM PST: *10 Ideas for Great Gifts Using Your Family Photos* by Thomas MacEntee
- Wednesday, November 28, 11:00 AM PST: *The Big 4 U.S. Record Sources* by Mary Hill
- Wednesday, December 5, 11:00 AM PST: *Researching Your Irish Ancestors: Beyond the Basics* by Judith Eccles

Check out our redesigned web page at  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasvgs/>



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**Ways & Means:** OPEN

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### Special Committees

#### Communications:

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[svsggenealogy@mail.com](mailto:svsggenealogy@mail.com)

**Sunshine:** Portia Stacey  
360-826-4838 portiastacey@msn.com

**Nominating:** Shirley Christenson

**Audit/Budget:** Sharon Johnson  
360-445-5483 johnson@sos.net

**Bylaws/Standing Rules:** Joe LeBlonde  
360-293-7447 leblojf@frontier.com

**Refreshments:** OPEN

**Raffles/Door Prizes:** Sharon Johnson

**Special History Projects:** Dan Royal

**SOCIETY EMAIL:** genealogy0715@gmail.com

### Comb Binding ...

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

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

## Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Upcoming Programs 2012 - 2013

### "Genealogy Insider"

#### NGS To Provide Genealogy Education to Facebook Gamers

Online social game company Funium and the National Genealogical Society (NGS) will work together so players of Funium's Facebook game [Family Village](#) can explore their family trees using a number of NGS resources and research aids.

NGS created a [landing page on its website especially for Family Village players](#). It'll feature a step-by-step genealogy guide with instructional videos, and grants players free access to materials typically reserved for NGS members.

Funium officially opened Family Village to all Facebook users Aug. 21. Players foster their own personalized virtual community by building businesses and houses, immigrating family members, and assigning jobs. Family Village encourages players to build a documented family tree and matches that data with real-world documents, such as including newspaper articles, census records the users' relatives.

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

#### **Burlington Public Library**

820 E Washington Ave  
Burlington, WA 98233  
Phone (360) 755-0760  
Email:  
[blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us](mailto:blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us)  
Hours: Monday – Thursday  
11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday – Closed

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

Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian



November 17: Update on Family Search-Barbara Allen. Learn about the exciting changes to this great website [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) **Note: Meeting is at the Burlington Library, 1-3 pm. on Saturday, 820 East Washington Avenue.**

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

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

March 26: Genealogy Software for Beginners- Which one should you use?  
We'll present a brief overview of Family Tree Maker, PAF, Legacy software programs.

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

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

June 25: Stuart/Stewart Clan History-James Stuart-Stevenson, The Baron of Kilbride. James and his wife, a MacKenzie, have a fascinating tale to tell about his family history. It will inspire us to pursue our own family stories.

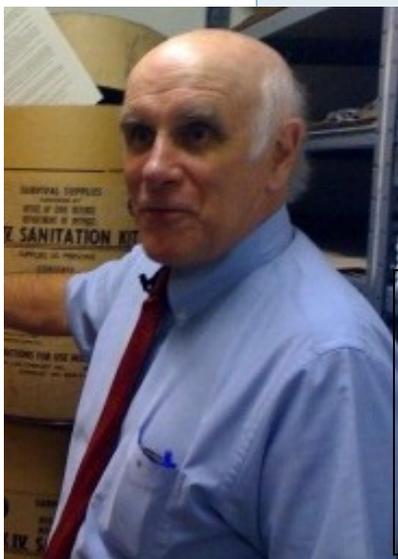
Winter Seminar

# Methodology Matters

February 16, 2013

## 8 A.M. Registration Burlington Community Cen- ter

Burlington, WA



### Keynote: Genealogists, Access Denied

Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield is a nationally renowned expert in his field, with more than 20 years of experience in archives, history and records management, including service as State Coordinator for the National Historic Publications and Records Commission.

**Eight classes to choose from by some of the best genealogical instructors in Washington State. Mary Kozy, Steven Morrison, Jim Johnson, and Eric Stroschein**

**\$40 SVGS Member Registration , \$45 after 31 January 2013**

**\$45 Registration plus New SVGS membership thru 31 December 2013**

**\$50 Non-member Registration, \$55 after January 15, 2013**

**\$12 Lunch or Bring your own lunch**

**Printed Syllabus \$5 - Syllabus free on CD with Registration**

**Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to Skagit Valley Genealogical Society or SVGS**

**Mail to: Karen Stroschein, 604 North Waugh Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273**

**Questions: Call Karen at 360 770 9508 Walk-ins welcome.**

**Registration available by PayPal at [Http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasvgs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasvgs)**

## Library Report for the Newsletter Some Things to Be Thankful For

Like you, I don't just suddenly find things in my life to be thankful for just because of a date on the calendar. Thanksgiving is a daily gift. Thanksgiving is an opportunity to reflect on all those small, yet good things that we take for granted everyday. If you were to ask me, as the SVGS Librarian, what I am thankful for, my list would be lengthy indeed. Here's my top 6 on a very partial list:

#1. At the top of my list, I am very thankful for a crackerjack team of dedicated library volunteers. Rain, snow or sleet on a Monday between 11-1, our enthusiastic volunteers are stationed at the genealogy section eager to help visitors to the SVGS collection.

#2. I am thankful for the SVGS board for all of their support of the genealogy library and associated projects. It is the SVGS board that makes the society's wheels go-round and all the spokes (committees) working in unison.

#3. My many thanks to the generous book donors that have helped our small collection grow and become more and more vital and useful a resource in the community.

#4. Without the community partnership between SVGS and the Burlington Public Library our genealogy collection would not enjoy such a bright, uplifting, spacious, modern and congenial space for researchers to work in. Every time I come into the Burlington Library I appreciate the friendly, helpful and professional staff that greets me.

#5. I am thankful for the SVGS members. The members create an environment of fellowship. The members create a milieu of learning, exploration and contributing of ideas and energy. The SVGS members are the spark plugs of SVGS.

#6. Lastly, I am thankful for books. Yes, books. I grew up around towering bookcases full of books and even as a kid I loved books. I appreciated the new worlds they opened up to me as a reader. Books are not dead in my world. They are just waiting patiently on the shelves to be discovered by a curious mind. Perhaps, for you its e-books now? No matter, it's the exploration of ideas that matters not the format they are delivered in.

That's my very short list. I invite you to visit the SVGS Genealogy Library some rainy autumn afternoon. Poke around the shelves, pick out a volume you've never opened before and allow your curiosity to explore its pages. Better yet, make a point to visit on a Monday afternoon between 11-1pm and chat with the genealogy library volunteer on duty. Ask questions or simply report your latest research break through to him/her as a fellow researcher. The more you explore these many resources and opportunities that we all take for granted everyday the deeper will be your appreciation of what it means to belong to SVGS.

Best wishes for the Thanksgiving holiday,  
Margie Wilson  
SVGS Librarian

You and a guest are cordially invited to  
enjoy some holiday cheer,  
homemade cookies/desserts from  
"the Old Country"  
& socialize with fellow genealogists.



Skagit Valley  
Genealogical Society

2012

Holiday Social

Saturday, December 1

1:30 - 3:30pm

Burlington Public Library

Conference Room

820 Washington Street



~ & ~

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR  
FAMILY'S OWN HOLIDAY TRADITIONS  
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORIES.  
BRING A HOLIDAY DESSERT OR COOKIES  
TO SHARE .... OLD FAMILY RECIPES ENCOURAGED!

Questions? Wish to bring something?  
wilsongm@frontier.com • 360/757-6224

Come make merry with SVGS!

Barb's Travelogues

Date: Mon, 17 Sep 2012

We both managed to sleep a few hours on the flight to Heathrow in spite of tiny seats and a full flight.

Going through security checks every time we turned around was real fun. They are security conscious over here. Customs in Ireland was tedious. There were only two "Gardars" and they were sloooooow questioning Asians. Once they added a third window and beckon us Caucasians through it was a breeze. But talk about profiling.

We are in a cute little B&B in Dun Laoghaire ("dun leery") and are about to crash.

Tomorrow we sleep in then head out later for strolls about town. And, of course, a tour of Guinness!



Irish see from Dun Laoghaire



Trinity College from Guinness Bar

21 September 2012

It's been a few days since I last bored you with details. We've been busy delighting in our visit to a beautiful island with some of the nicest folk we've ever encountered.

On Wednesday, we took the train from Dublin to Belfast--very fast and smooth. It was quite crowded and I wound up sitting next to a woman who works for BBC news. She filled me in on the scenery and political history of The Troubles. I learned quite a bit.

Upon arrival in Belfast we took a cab to our B&B and quickly checked in prior to our trip to the Titanic Museum. Cabs are very inexpensive, especially the ValuCabs which are super clean with great drivers. Our B&B is much roomier here (except for the shower which is about 2'x2'--I've seen bigger coffins) but no lovely view of a cathedral as we had in Dublin. We are close to Queen's University so it's a bit noisy in the evenings. Remember your college days?

The Titanic, as most of you probably know, was built in Belfast. The museum is near the Harland and Wolff shipbuilders of today. The displays are quite hi-tech and interactive (great interpretation NPS folk: take note) with a ride "through the shipyard" that puts Disney to shame.

Yesterday we drove up the Antrim Coast on the Coastal Causeway. The journey was as beautiful as in any travelogue except we were in it! The roads are indeed narrow with no shoulder. If one isn't careful, one's side view mirror doubles as a hedge trimmer. Roger did very well driving on the left. Both of us are getting the hang of it...pretty much.

Our destination was four-fold: First stop was Carrickfergus Castle, a Norman castle. The second stop was..ahem...Bushmills' Distillery. We chose not to sample any as we both felt it would be unwise to sip, then drive. It was stressful enough just driving! Our third stop was Dunlacy, a castle from the 1500s that is in ruins. The kitchen fell into the North Sea on a "dark and stormy night". The last stop was the Giant's Causeway, a columnar basalt area that is right on the North Sea. For those of us from Washington, columnar basalt is nothing new. However the Irish have a different take:

The story behind the Causeway: Two giants, one in Scotland, the other in Ireland were in a tussle for supremacy. There was a bridge between them that presented problems. The Irish giant, by the trick of having his wife dress him as a baby; thus scaring the Scottish giant, won the tussle. After that he destroyed the bridge leaving only one end in Ireland, the other in Scotland.

If you have heard tales of the storms on the Irish Sea, believe them. We were in a driving rain with the wind nearly blowing us over. We were glad to return to the warmth of the visitor center.

## Magazine Report by Sharon Johnson

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

NGS Magazine July / September 2012

Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting Early Century Compiled Genealogies (*These trace family generations and are primarily found in New England and the Midwest. Points to ponder..Female lineages were left largely untreated. Depending on the publication date, there could be more children. Information is usually not verified against original records. A good article with many ideas.*); Estate Laws and Their Effect on Families (*Estate files may contain information not found in a will*); Researching Nineteenth-century African American Women (*Ideas for searching, lists online resources, and many research notes*); Compiled Military Service Records Part III: the record of events (*The fifth article in the series on researching what's available on the Civil War*); Online State Resources for Genealogy: Beyond Ancestry and Family Search (*state and county archives, state and county government agencies, historical societies, university and public libraries*); Case Study on George Teeling (*the step by step process*); Education Breaks Down Brick Walls (*educate ourselves with seminars, workshops, societies, books & articles*); Understanding and Using Naturalization Records (*understanding the process by which an alien becomes an American citizen*); Hawaiian Genealogy: Stateside and Island Resources (*history and records*); Starting and Maintaining a Pioneer Descendants Program (*a project and how to for genealogy societies*) Browsers and Plug-ins; Cluster Genealogy, Prosopography, and Yearbooks (*prosopography is the study of groups linked by family, economic, social, or political relationships to discern general traits of some sort.*) Forgetting Your Census (*folly of only following*

Internet Genealogy August / September 2012

On the Move with "MyHeritage Mobile" (*app that allows you to work on the go, share your research and family photos*); Ancestry on the Go: Ancestry.com Mobile (*app for Ancestry*); World Memory Project Includes

InteHolocaust Records [www.worldmemoryproject.org](http://www.worldmemoryproject.org) ; 50 + Websites for Genealogy Research (*lists includes Museums-digital archives, Library collections, Governmental collections, Commercial sites, Personal site/blog*); Hidden Database Gems: Slavery, Abolition, and Social Justice & Virginia Company Archives (*records through the Adam Matthew Group database....HOWEVER, it is only available through a library that subscribes to it*) 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Arthur Toepel: Defender of Liberty (*WWII USAF Bombardier*); Sharing the War Years of a Prairie Man (*wartime experiences in the Canadian Army*); PeoplePlotr Review: A New look at Your Genealogy (*a graphical method of sharing family trees as well as dates, facts, names and other types of history*); Unlocking Vital Records of the Keystone State (*Pennsylvania death records older than 50 yrs, births older than 105 yrs.*) 20 Groups You Should Follow on Twitter! (*Libraries, Archives, Websites, Subscription Services*); Rooting Out Scots Ancestors Online (*among several is [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)*); It's Your Library: Use It, Or Lose It! (*To put this in a nutshell.....Funding is being cut to libraries do to lack of visitors as we can access much without leaving our homes. Government does not have unlimited money and many competing demands from taxpayers. Material we use online would not be available if not for the efforts of librarians and archivists. Much more could be in digital form but that takes money ....article by Dave Obee who's spoken to SVGS in the past.*)

## Be Careful with Scanned Documents!

Mind your Ps and Qs – and your 3s, 5s, and 8s! Swirly and fancy manuscript threes, written with a flourish, can look like fives or eights. This can make it tricky to transcribe old documents. It also means that digital sources based on text scanning can have mistakes, such as listing a date of "1863" as "1868". So, sometimes it's worth trying a keyword search without a date parameter, so that an erroneous date doesn't exclude the information you need.

By David A. Norris, Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy author

## NOTICE

The Stillaguamish Genealogy Library, located at 215 French Avenue South, will be closed the entire week of Thanksgiving including the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and from December 22nd through January 2nd.

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 - 2011**

APPLICANTS NAME

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

AREA CODE ( )

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

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

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

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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

FAMILY \$ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL \$15 \_\_\_\_\_



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**Post Office Box 715**  
**Conway, WA. 98238-0715**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**