



## President's Message

A big "Thank You" goes to Barb Johnson and George Ridgeway for leading our genealogy classes during the month of October. I had the privilege of attending this series of classes and I always learned something new.

Our seminar committee is deep into their planning for our seminar on April 22, 2017. Yes, save the date for our "O Canada! Children of a Common Mother" seminar. This theme was selected in honor of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation. For speakers it will feature Canadian and U.S. genealogists: Dave Obee and Mary Kathryn Kozy. On line registration begins on January 2, 2017.

At our annual meeting on November 12 we will be electing a president and secretary. As noted in our last newsletter Secretary Muriel Neely is retiring after many years as secretary. It is time for someone to volunteer to carry the ball and keep our society functioning properly. We will also be approving the 2017 budget. No ballot will be needed as we have no proposed bylaw revisions to consider and at this point no one has been nominated for secretary or president. These details will be ironed out at our meeting.

Our November meeting will start with V.P. Margie Wilson leading the education program titled "Brick Walls" which will include a "Used Book Bonanza".

Volume 30 Number 5  
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Bring your genealogy related brick wall questions and ask our experts. It should be an informative day. Be sure to check out the books that Margie has made available to us for a small donation. So turnout and enjoy the afternoon with us.

There is no meeting in December so you will have more time with your families over the holidays. Have fun!

*John Hayes*  
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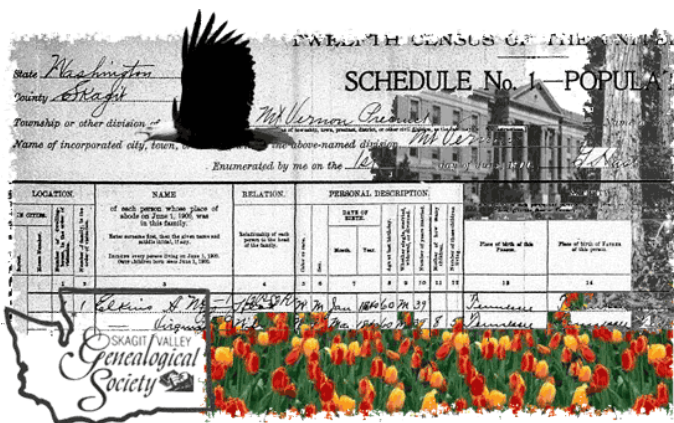
***Christmas is coming, do you have pages of genealogy ready to put together for family members? Comb binding is a good way to make it a book.***

### ***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.***

## 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.



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### Special Committees

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**Education:** **OPEN**

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Check out our redesigned web page at  
[skagitvalleygenealogy.org](http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org)

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**  
**Monthly Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays, 1-3pm**  
Burlington Senior Center | 1011 Greenleaf St. | Burlington  
skagitvalleygenealogy.org | genealogy0715@gmail.com

----- **2016** -----

**Sat. Nov. 12 -- Annual Meeting / Brick Wall Solutions / Used Book Bonanza**  
***No meeting in December***

----- **2017** -----

**Sat., Jan. 14 -- "The Norwegian/Swedish Oral History Project of the 1970s"**  
Professional genealogist, Linda Duffield will discuss this little known project that captured the stories of many Scandinavian immigrants.

**Sat. Feb. 11-- (Pending confirmation) "Lost Cities of the Skagit"**  
Mari Densmore of the Skagit County Historical Society will discuss the many early settlements in the county that no longer exist.

**Sat. Mar 11-- "How Healthy is Your Family Tree?"**  
Janice C. Lovelace, PhD returns to discuss the physical and mental illnesses of our ancestors; the terminology and treatments.

**Sat. April 8-- "Topic To Be Announced"**  
Donna Potter-Phillips, guest speaker from Spokane.

**Sat. April 22--"O Canada: Children of a Common Mother"** - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada; immigration to Canada and Across the Border to the USA.  
Featuring: Dave Obee and Mary Kathryn Kozy. For details & to register visit: skagitvalleygenealogy.org.

**Sat. May13 --"Topic To Be Announced"** - Guest speaker, Bill Langworthy

**Sat. June 10--"Topic and Guest Speaker To Be Announced"**  
***July-August – no meetings-- See you in September!***

Saturday, November 12 starting at 11am **there will be a Veterans' Day Parade in downtown Burlington (Fairhaven Ave).** Also, the VFW Hall is open to the public that day to display their museum collection.





### Days Gone By

"The special book upon the shelf  
Was made with many hands.  
Our ancestors who posed back then,  
All came from different lands.

Their pictures were all tucked away,  
And rarely did we see,  
The importance of these treasures-  
The start of you and me.

The history of our families,  
Now here in black and white.  
Preserved with special care and time,  
Each page is done just right.

When time permits, we take it down,  
And think of days long past. Our  
hopes, our dreams, our heritage,  
All safe and made to last."

Author: Unknown



### A Wonderful Story By Judith Dicks

Several years ago, my son befriended an elderly lady, Cora Battelle, and became very close to her. When she passed away he was helping her stepdaughter clean out Cora's home of all her lifelong possessions and prepare the home for sale. To his absolute horror all of Cora's personal possessions were thrown in the trash pile, including photos, mementos, and everything including Cora's genealogy and some very old photos and records.

Although my son had agreed to hail everything to the dump for this stepdaughter, he was so heartsick over the whole matter, he just could not do it. He brought Cora's thing by my home and said he just didn't have the heart to throw her whole life away. What should he do? I told him to put it in our garage and then he could pick and choose later and maybe find someone who could really appreciate what this wonderful lady had left, since she had no descendants.

A short time later, we were looking through Cora's things and found her genealogy and records and pictures. Lo and behold, one of the surnames (SUTHERLAND) was one of our surnames and from the same general area. We haven't tied anything together yet, but we are working on it.

Maybe in the eyes of some we were wrong for not doing as he had been told to do and take everything to the dump. But, you know what? I am very proud of my son for his kindness and compassion for this lady and for realizing that, had he thrown everything away, there would have been no memories left that Cora had built during her lifetime, at least materially. Can you imagine having your genealogy thrown in the dump?







**GENE TOONS** by Wendell Washer



Hot on the trail.



**Crabby Road**

12-20-11



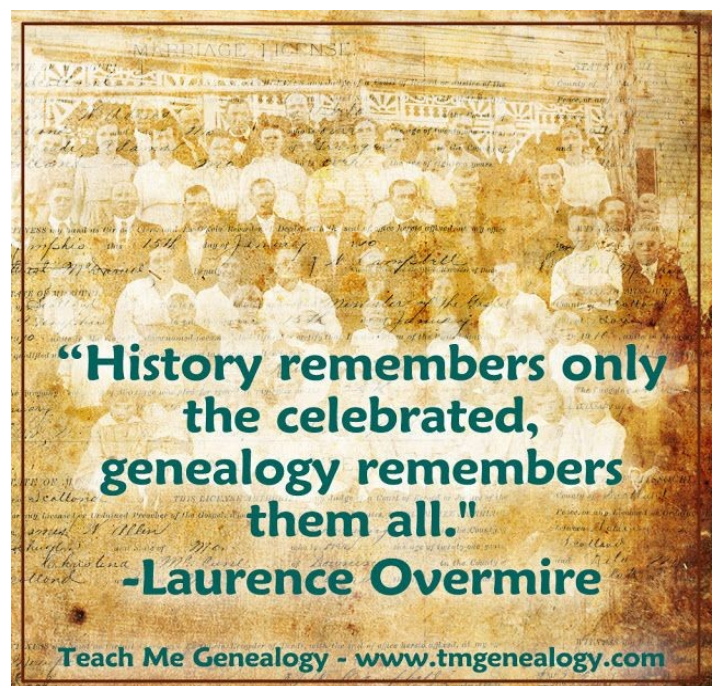
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# Genealogy Trivia:

If you figure there's 25 years between each generation,  
500 years ago there were  
1,048,576 people involved  
in creating YOU!  
YOU are special!

Teach Me Genealogy - [www.tmgenealogy.com](http://www.tmgenealogy.com)





This was sent to me by Barbara Johnson about her visit back east.

My trip to the National Archives in Washington, DC

My 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather, Charles Smalley, served in the Civil War on the Union side. His enlistment papers give his birth year at 1836. But...several other records record his birth year anywhere from 1836 to 1839; always with the same month and day, November 20. Hmmm? How do I determine his actual birth year?

I noticed that he had applied for a pension and the file number was on the record at NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) in Seattle. Last October I had the opportunity to visit my son and his family in Manassa, Virginia. Well, of course, I had to take advantage of that and visit NARA in DC! After going through the process of being allowed in, I requested Charles Smalley's pension file. A couple of hours later, I went upstairs to the desk to pick up the file. It was a large manila envelope over 1 inch thick! The first paper I looked at was a hand written letter from 1870 stating that the family bible recorded his birth year as 1837!

Wow! Not only did I have a year of birth, I was holding a letter my ancestor had written. What a thrill!

I took over 150 photos of the items. It was fantastic! I didn't have the same luck at the Library of Congress but that was such a gorgeous Reading Room that I didn't mind. Plus I got to see the grandkids

Don't peek at the answer to the question on page 7. The answer to the question is 1869. We have different years of his birth. He was 106 years old when he died. This is William A. Brown born in Barker



Diane Partington from our society says that if anyone is looking for funeral or burial records from someone who died in Skagit County she can retrieve those records from 1908-1994.

If you are needing help with your genealogy give her a call. Her phone number is in our newsletter on page 2 under genealogist.

Internet Genealogy has an article on websites in the October/November 2016 magazine. Here is a list of the websites, but if you would like to learn more the magazine gives a detailed description of each site. The magazine can be found in our library.

RootsMooc— <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/resources/rootsMOOC.html>. This is an online course.

Umbra Search—[www.umbrasearch.org](http://www.umbrasearch.org)

Whaling Crew List Database – [www.whalingmuseum.org/online\\_exhibits/crewlist](http://www.whalingmuseum.org/online_exhibits/crewlist) This includes 127,531 records which spans 1809-1927

1950 Census Enumeration Maps <http://catalog.archives.gov/id/821491>

Staten Island Newspapers—<http://sites.google.com/a/nypl.org/staten-island-papers>

Are you interested in ancestors who lived in North Dakota?

Here are some websites:

Marriage license, 1870-1944,  
<http://library.ndsu.edu/db/marriage/>

Probate Records, 1876-1944,  
<http://library.ndsu.edu/db/probate/>

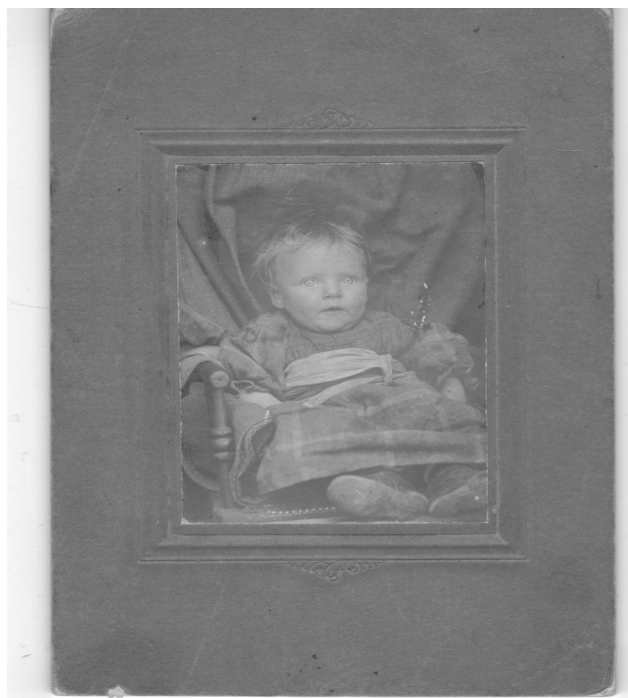
Divorce and Civil Cases, 1870-1942,  
<http://library.ndsu.edu/db/cassdivorce/>

Norway Heritage, [www.norwayheritage.com/](http://www.norwayheritage.com/)

German Roots,  
[www.germanroots.com/emigration-database/](http://www.germanroots.com/emigration-database/)

Do you have an ancestor who was a convict transported to Van Diemen's Land in the 19th century? Tasmania, Australia has a remarkable family history and heritage archive that can be freely accessed on the Tasmania Government site, [www.licn.tas.gov.au](http://www.licn.tas.gov.au).

Can you guess the year of this photo?



Answer on page 6

## Good Advice for Genealogists

- Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.
- Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Look into it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear.
- The kind of ancestors you have is not as important as the kindness of their descendants.
- If you are the last living link between your grandparents and your grandchildren—don't break the chain.
- If you don't want your descendants to put a twisted spin on your life story, write it yourself!
- If you're the family photographer (and not showing up in photos), your family historian descendants will become upset with you.
- To get your family tree done the fastest, run for political office. Your opponents will have it completed way before the election, and then you can resign if you really didn't wish to run in the first place.
- Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.
- Your children may not thank you, but if you preserve the family genealogy your great great great great descendants will remember you as super-great!
- If someone's picture looks like they don't belong in the family tree, well, maybe they don't.
- Some think it's best to grow a family tree one leaf at a time—but as with the spring, you may find that many buds can be produced at the same time.
- Don't take life seriously. Every genealogist knows nobody gets out alive.
- If at first you don't succeed, search, search again. That is why we call it re-search.

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.

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



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