



Volume 19 Number 4
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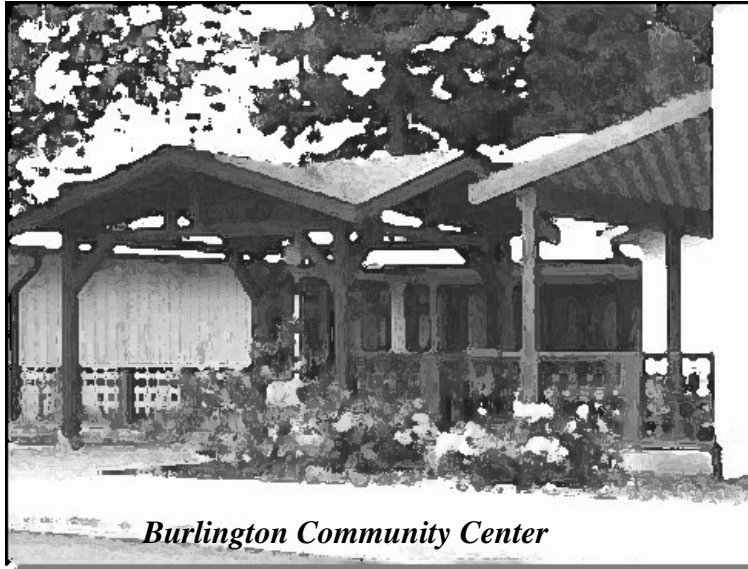
October is family history month.

We are sponsoring a family history fair, and I hope you all attend. In addition to that I want to take time to thank all of the people that do things for our society - especially the ones we do not hear from very often, but that work behind the scenes; we are very grateful for each and every one of you. We do still have several openings, in case you would like to get further involved; we need a publicity chairperson, a refreshment chairperson, an education chairperson, and a candidate (or candidates) for president for next year.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Really unfortunate news has come my way. The federal government has determined that the archives will only be open one Saturday a month and will not have extended hours on the first two Tuesdays any longer, due to budget cuts. Congress is in session now. We need to send letters or e-mails to our congressman and senators, to say that we do not like the budget cuts and think our facilities should have more access AND to say that we do not think other budget items should be attached to the National Archives and Records Administration's budget. Speak out clearly and loudly, as only the squeaky wheel gets the grease these days. You can also send an e-mail via the website at www.regulations.gov, or send a letter to Regulations Comments Desk (POL) Room 4400, 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, Maryland. Sending an e-mail to Patty Murray might be the fastest, however, and should possibly be productive in this election year. As a side note, there are now 7 Internet computers available at the archives, all with access to both **Ancestry.com** and **Heritage Quest**. Come visit.

Hugs and smiles, Laura



Burlington Community Center

Heritage Societies Reported to be Growing

Warning: This article contains personal opinions from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.

I often hear reports that genealogy societies are shrinking. The numbers of members reportedly are falling annually; and therefore, budgets also are constantly shrinking. Attendance at some of the long-established national conferences also is declining.

The reasons given vary although "competition from the Internet" seems to be the most common explanation offered.

It was with pleasant surprise that I read this week that heritage societies are doing the opposite: they are growing comfortably.

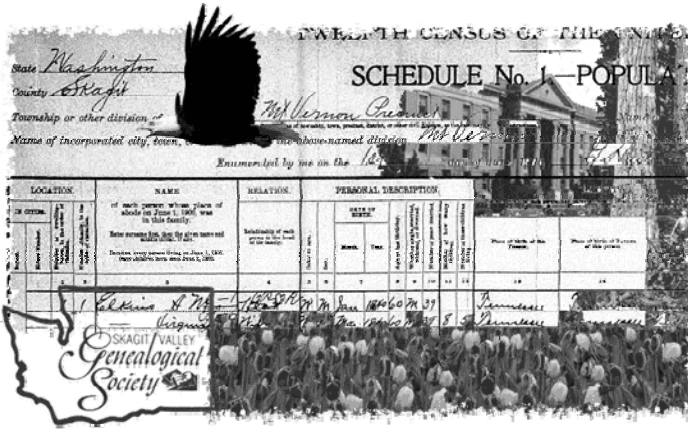
First of all, perhaps a bit of definition is in order. A genealogy society typically covers a geographic area. It may serve people who live in a particular county or state, or it may serve those who have ancestry from a particular area. Many do both. For instance, the New Hampshire Genealogical Society holds seminars and other events within the state for people who can travel to attend these in-person meetings. The topics typically are a blend of New Hampshire-related ancestry and a wide variety of other topics. The same society also publishes journals and books about various topics related to New Hampshire ancestry, of interest to local members as well as to those who live afar but have New Hampshire roots.

In contrast, heritage societies (or lineage societies) usually are focused on serving the descendants of those who participated in

Continued on page 5

General Meetings now held at the Burlington Senior Center.

POTLUCK THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, STARTS AT 6:00 PM, MEETING AT 7:00 PM
 All meetings will now be held at the **Burlington Community Center**, 1011 Greenleaf Ave., Burlington



Calendar of Events

Upcoming 2006

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.

SVGS Board of Directors 2006

- President: **Laura Pemberton Sparr**
1-425-231-6945 centre4randr@hotmail.com
- Vice President: **Hazel Rasar**
360-424-6528 hazalarasar@msn.com
- Secretary: **Rita M. Schulze**
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- Raffles/Door Prizes: **Sharon Johnson**
- Ways & Means: **Maureen Royal**
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- Publicity: **OPEN**

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- Telephone: **Yvonda Anderson**
360-757-0052 vondavid@fidalgo.net
- Fund Raiser for
Special Projects: **Maureen Royal**
360-826-6141 dmoroyal@earthlink.net
- Special History Projects: **Hazel Rasar**
co-chairs **Dan Royal**
- Heritage Historian: **Dr. Tom Robinson**
antrim@wavecable.com

September 26: **Dale Hastin**, member, RAILROAD RESEARCH

October 24: **Evelyn Roehl, APG** (Association of Professional Genealogists - Puget Sound Chapter from King County) FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS ON SHIP PASSENGER LISTS

November 28 - **George Ridgeway**, member, USING INTERNET SEARCH ENGINES

Welcome New Members

Donald & Sharon Mobley Othello, WA

Barbara M. Dalby Salt Lake City, UT

Michael & Susan Perault LaConner, WA

Christine R. Cooper Mt. Vernon, WA

Margaret Wilson Burlington, WA

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter is now accepting 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 to be posted in the newsletter again , I certainly wouldn't be opposed to it.
Ye Editor

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.

COMING EVENTS

30 Sept 2006 - Tacoma, WA

The Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, WA will be holding its annual SummerQuest Seminar, "Digging in Dead Man's Land" on Sept 30, 2006 at the Elks Lodge in Tacoma, WA. Sessions will focus on Death Records, Cemetery Research, Obituaries, and Wills and Probate. For more information, go to their website listed above or directly to their seminar page at http://www.hqrl.com/SQ06_cover_page.htm, or call the library at 253-863-1806.

7 Oct 2006 - Spokane, WA

Eastern Washington Genealogical Society will have Michael John Neill, of Moline, IL, as their Fall Workshop key speaker in Spokane, WA. Mr. Neill said this will be his first visit to the state of Washington. A national speaker, he writes a column for Ancestry Daily News, administers a RootsWeb message board, as well as being a co-writer for several mid-west states in the famous "Red Book". More information will be forthcoming. Program chairman, Pat Mielbrecht, can be reached at pas-tout@direcway.com

7 Oct 2006 - Yakima, WA

Yakima Valley Genealogical Society will have their Fall Workshop. Watch for further information on their website.

21 Oct 2006 - Tacoma, WA

Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society will hold their Annual Fall Seminar, featuring Lloyd Bockstruck of the Dallas Texas Public Library Genealogy Section. Topics will be: Lesser Used Genealogical Records; Probate and Land Records Research; Finding Substitutes for Birth & Death Records; Bridging the Atlantic: Finding Ancestral Homes of Immigrants. Location: Tacoma Elks Lodge. Check their website for further information.

21 Oct 2006 - Seattle, WA

Seattle County Genealogical Society will hold a Fall Seminar, "Leaving Your Legacy: Preserving and Sharing Your Family History," at the Sand Point Education Center, 6208 60th Avenue NE, Seattle, from 8:15 a.m to 4:30 p.m. Detailed information and a printable registration form are at our website:<http://www.rootsweb.com/~waseags/program.html>

11 Nov 2006 - Bellevue, WA

The Family History Expo 2006, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, will be held on October 21, 2006 in the Church's Bellevue Stake Center located at 14536 Main Street, Bellevue, Washington. We have produced this Family History Expo for the past several years. About 30 classes will be taught throughout the day on a wide variety of genealogical subjects. Classes will be available for the beginners as well as intermediate and advanced genealogists. Instructors come from our Church, the Eastside Genealogical Society, the African American Genealogical Society, the Hispanic Community, University of Washington and other individuals. And finally, this Expo is free to the public. For more information,

contact the event chairman, Mark Hoover, at markhoover64@hotmail.com

18 Nov 2006 - Richland, WA

Tri-City Genealogical Society and the Kennewick Stake of the LDS Church are co-sponsoring a **Family History Fair and Conference, Families, Trees and Pedigrees** on Saturday, November 18th from 8:45am to 4pm. The conference will take place at the LDS Church at 895 Gage Blvd, Richland, WA. The Theme will be "Capturing Your Past with the Tools of Today." The keynote speaker will be Tim Cross, from the Family History Department of the LDS Church, who will be describing the new FamilySearch.org that the LDS Church is revamping, updating and improving. Donna Potter Phillips will be our featured speaker, presenting 3 classes, and there will be 22 other classes from beginning genealogy to computers, the internet and other present-day technologies. Check their website for further information.

16-26 Jan 2007 - Salt Lake City, UT

The Fiske Genealogical Library will host a trip to Salt Lake City for 10 days. Call the Fiske Library, 206-328-2716 or Betty Kay Anderson, 360-898-2537, for more information and reservations.

13-14 April 2007 - Wenatchee, WA

The Washington State Genealogical Society will hold their 2007 Annual Conference and Business Meeting at the Wenatchee Center Hotel & Conference Center, hosted by the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society. The theme will be, "**Climbing Your Family Tree.**" More information will forthcoming, but you should think about getting your reservations at the hotel now as there are other activities going on that weekend in Wenatchee. The hotel telephone number is 1-800-663-1144 and tell them you are with the Washington State Genealogy group. The rate of one night (1 or 2 people) is \$93.00 plus taxes. We have 40 rooms reserved and can get more, if needed and they are available. Details will be posted as they become available, but be sure to mark your calendars now, so you don't miss the date!

Society News*Nominations for
President and Secretary*

The following people have been nominated by the Nominating Committee to stand for election at the upcoming September 2006 General Meeting for the upcoming new term:

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society President:

Rita Schulze & Dale Hastin
(sharing Co-Presidency—tentative)

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Secretary:

Barbara Johnson

Genealogical News

KYBYS

Dear Friends and Family,

We just wanted to update you on some things that have been happening at <http://www.kybys.com>>www.kybys.com

Don't forget about posting your family reunion.

We are closing in on 260,000 records. Come by and browse. If we don't have what you need, we may be able to help you find it. **KYBYS** has launched a sister site.

At KYBYS where we archive historical data. Some of our collections include year books. Stuffed between the pages, we have found photos, report cards, diplomas, letters and more. Although not everyone values these items, plenty of people would be delighted to find traces of their ancestors. So we developed Find My Family Photo.com to give people a place where they can claim these long lost treasures and reunite mementos of the past with the present generation.

New information will be added to both sites daily, so please come back often.

Thank You for your support,

Kathy

Visit us at <<http://www.kybys.com>>www.kybys.com

www.findmyfamilyphoto.com

New Journal Covers Washington Territory and State

Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) recently published and distributed the first issue of its new publication, "Washington State Genealogist," to its members.

This new annual journal is designed to provide researchers with a statewide outlet for family history stories and extracts from newspapers, private records and public records from Washington territorial and state sources. The first issue contains 36 pages of family stories and research information and is fully indexed.

Family historians who wish to contribute articles for the next journal, or nonmembers who wish to purchase a copy should contact the editor, Bob Witherspoon, (rgwspoon@aol.com) for details, or write to WSGS Journal Editor, PO Box 1422, Olympia, WA 98507-1422.

WSGS membership application forms can be downloaded from the WSGS website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasgs/>

RootsWeb Review, 23 August 2006, Vol. 9, No. 34

Exchange Newsletter(s) Shared

On Cramming all Those Bryan Men into Just Seven Names...

Over a period of some fifty years, nearly a hundred male Bryans spanning four generations lived in close proximity in successive areas of Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky. Most shared one of but seven names. Cultural tradition does not adequately explain why, nor can the phenomenon be attributed to parental ignorance or lack of imagination. I submit, there can be but one reason.

There was a conspiracy - a deliberate, conscious, intentional, purposeful, and mercilessly diabolical plan whose sole, specific and only objective was to confound descendants and hopelessly confuse historians and genealogists as to the relationships of late 18th - early 19th century men of my Bryan branch, worse, it was conceived as a practical joke.

And what an incredibly successful joke it has been! The ghostly guffaws of those who were in on it may still be heard. I have personally detected distant horselaughs and muffled titters when absorbed in efforts to correlate mismatched court records, deeds, dates, historical events, family tradition and the opinions of prior researchers. I am absolutely certain that for years, bemused Bryans have been chortling at my torment and delighting in my frustration.

It must have happened thus: Old Morgan Bryan arrived in North Carolina's Forks of the Yadkin River in late Autumn, 1747. With him were his wife, five of their seven sons, their surviving daughter and family and an orphaned granddaughter. Married sons Joseph and Morgan Jr. tarried for a time in the Shenandoah Valley before rejoining the clan in the early 1750's. Soon the other boys were marrying and establishing themselves in "the Bryan Settlement." Little cousins were arriving. At length, the patriarch summoned his sons to the Mansion House.

"Boys," the old man said, "the Bryans that come along ten score after we've cleared the trees and burned the stumps and furrowed the ground won't really appreciate what we've done for 'em. "Some will even mock us and jest about our primitive ways." he said, "but we're a-goin' to get their attention...we're a-goin' to have the last laugh!" And he laid out his plan and its rules.

- 1) Each of the seven must name a son for himself and one for each grandfather; the next six sons must be named for a fraternal uncle. (Only written applications for waiver will be considered).
- 2) All seven brothers must raise their children within a 50-mile radius.
- 3) As third generation sons marry, each must obey the above two rules.

"The idea," Old Morgan explained, "is to get as many Bryan boys as possible with the same first name into the same

neighborhood at the same time."

"Awesome!" shouted Joseph Bryan, "Generations of our descendants will go bonkers trying to sort everybody out!"

"Not only that, our own County Clerks will go nuts!" chuckled Samuel.

"Court Recorders, too!" laughed Morgan Jr.

"And tax assessors!" snickered John.

"And our creditors!" sniggled James.

"And our wives!" giggled William.

"And we'll save a bundle on monogrammed shirts!" Thomas offered. Tommy was a little strange.

"Done!" roared Old Morgan. "Fetch the jug!"

The conspirators spilled out of the cabin tears streaming, howling with glee and holding their sides as they headed for the barn to consecrate the agreement.

By John K. Bryan, Society Member of The Boone Society, Inc., first published in The Compass Newsletter January 2006 and given permission to John and Shirlee Fisher, SVGS members to reproduce.

Proposal to Improve Access to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Records

Genealogists often seek records from the federal government. It seems humorous, but many of these requests currently go to the Department of Homeland Security. Technically, the requests in question are routed to one agency within the Department, the office of "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services" or USCIS.

USCIS processes requests for historical records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) program. In order to obtain information about more recent ancestors' immigration and citizenship records, the only method today is to file a request under the Freedom of Information Act. (NOTE: This does not apply to nineteenth and early twentieth century records, only to more recent documents.)

The present process is slow for the genealogists and expensive to the taxpayers. The agency has received an average of 10,000 combined search and records requests per year over the last 4 years. The backlog is increasing. Now the office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has proposed changing the procedure to simplify the process, speeding up the response to inquiries and reducing taxpayers' expenses.

The new proposal would establish a Genealogy Program within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to process requests for historical records of deceased individuals.

removing genealogy research from the huge and growing volume of requests under the Freedom of Information Act should improve service to historical researchers, genealogists, and other members of the public.

Continued from page 1

one event or lived in one area in past years. Examples of heritage societies include the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an organization with membership open to any woman who can trace her ancestry to at least one Revolutionary Patriot. The Sons of the American Revolution is a somewhat similar society for men. The Mayflower Society is for descendants of the original passengers on that ship in 1620. The National Society of Daughters of the British Empire in U.S.A. is for women residing in the U.S. who are of British or British Commonwealth heritage by birth, naturalization, or proven ancestry. There are many, many other heritage organizations. See <http://www.cyndislist.com/soc-lineage.htm> for a list.

Jacqueline L. Urgo of the Knight Ridder Newspapers has written an article that ignores genealogy societies but paints a glowing picture of heritage societies' membership. She writes that the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, and other heritage societies are growing in membership, primarily because they are shedding their old images as elitist organizations and are now appealing to mainstream Americans.

Urgo reports that the Mayflower Society – which has been around since 1897 and invites people to join who can trace their lineage back to the Pilgrims – saw its membership decline for many years but now has seen an increase in membership every year for the last eight. In short, the organization's membership has grown as the popularity of the Internet has exploded. Membership has grown from 26,600 in 1997 to a peak of about 30,000 today.

The New Jersey and Pennsylvania chapters of that organization for years had experienced declines but now have now seen increases in the last two years.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) reports increases of as much as 10 percent annually in various states over the last five years, with a total membership of 170,000 members worldwide at the end of 2005. In New York City, DAR chapters have formed that cater exclusively to working women. In Florida, chapters have sprung up everywhere from college campuses to retirement communities. One chapter has seen membership increase from 35 members five years ago to more than 125 this year.

What is the reason for this increase in membership? Again, the stated reasons vary widely. However, the most-often mentioned reason for growth is publicity on the Internet, exactly the same reason most often given for the decline of genealogy societies! The article quotes Alice Teal, editor of the national Mayflower Society Quarterly, as saying that the Mayflower Society's New Jersey chapter has grown "exponentially with the growth of the Internet."

So, why do heritage societies achieve growth from the same service that reportedly is the cause of genealogy societies' shrinkage? My crystal ball probably isn't any clearer than anyone else's. However, I suspect that the Internet is NOT the

Continued on page 7



SKAGIT COUNTY HERITAGE FAIR

Sponsored by

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Saturday, October 21, 2006

**BURLINGTON COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER
1011 Greenleaf Avenue, Burlington, Washington**

**Do you have family history information that you need/desire to have assistance in organizing or computerizing? Bring your material and let us help you !!
Spend the day or come and go as you please!**



**Sessions 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Continuous sessions all day
Genealogical assistance Drop-ins welcome**

The following information tables will be available all day with Society members to assist you with your Family History

Table 1 – Beginning Genealogy – Family group sheets and pedigree charts (what they are and how to use them) Get started the right way, using the right forms. Beginner’s packet available on request.

Table 2 – Learn what resources are available and how to use them –Let us introduce you to the location of these resources

Table 3 – Getting Organized – how to organize your material so you can find it and know what you have accumulated.

Table 4 – Computer Programs – see a genealogy program in action and how to put your information into the computer using a genealogical program. View the many different reports available on the computer using your information.

Table 5 – Internet Genealogical research – Learn the best sites on the Internet for both beginners and advanced users. Learn how to use them to your advantage.

Table 6 – Compiling and writing your Family History – Learn how to gather information, write your Family’s history and develop a memorable book for publishing and distribution to your family and friends

Table 7 – Scanning and Digital Cameras – Ways to utilize a digital camera in your research and download to your computer. Scan documents and photos into your computer. Bring your photos, birth records, marriage & death records. We can scan them and put them on a CD to view on your computer or just to preserve them for future generations. \$1.00 for singles - (special rate for multiples)

Table 8 – Scrap booking for genealogical documents and photographs. Lots of examples to view with layout ideas

Table 9 – Planning for a research trip.... Are you planning to visit courthouses, libraries, cemeteries in other locations? Let us show you what you need to prepare..... before you leave home

Table 10 – Documentation – Ways to record your source material

Table 11 – Genealogy for Kids ... getting children started on genealogy both for family research and school projects

We will also have several tables with display items

COOKIES & COFFEE GENEALOGY FORMS NEW & USED BOOK SALES

Queries for newsletter accepted

Call 360-424-6528 ext. 4 for further information

cause of any society's decline. I believe that this is simply a convenient scapegoat, used by people who do not take the time or energy to look harder for the real causes.

The article by Jacqueline L. Uργο focuses on two explanations for the growth of heritage organizations:

Publicity generated on the Internet at very low costs to the organizations.

A shift in focus by the societies. Many of these organizations are now recruiting typical Americans: working class people, those who live in mobile homes, farmers' wives, senior citizens, college students, and those of every race and creed.

Perhaps the genealogy societies and others who are seeing shrinkage in membership numbers should study the successes of other organizations and make similar adjustments.

You can read Jacqueline L. Uργο's interesting article at <http://www.kansascity.com/mlid/kansascity/news/nation/13489185.htm>

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

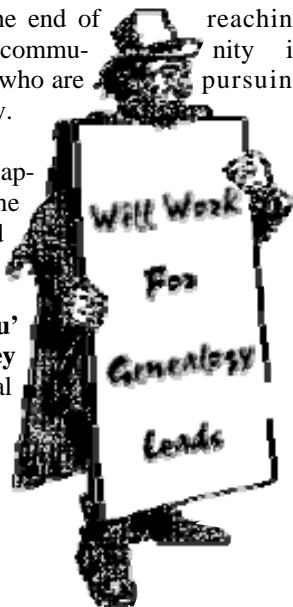
Ye Editors Note:

It is my personal opinion that **Skagit Valley Genealogical Society** is not in decline. Since becoming a society member and being an active board member I have seen nothing but steady numbers in the membership with gradual and heartening growth.

The SVGS Board of Directors does encourage the general membership to become more active in the volunteer work of the society and to share ideas with the end of reaching more people in the genealogical community in our county and outside of the area who are pursuing their own ancestry in Skagit County.

There is no amount of thanks and appreciation enough to share in the incredible amount of work and time put in by volunteers. We do want to periodically and publicly say to our volunteers—'thank-you' for helping make **Skagit Valley Genealogical Society** a very special and caring group.

Dan Royal



I am sure you are all like me and have spent hundreds of hours gathering information. It would be a shame to see it lost in the next generation. Hope it does some good. Copy or Cut!

Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or Executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you **DO NOT** dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. [If you know whom within your family or friends are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: "I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to" and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known] In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials.

[List of organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom; include local chapters, with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available as well as state/national contact information and addresses]

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

This was submitted by June Layton, member of Lewis County Genealogical Society, Newsletter May-June 2002.

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 - 2006

APPLICANTS NAME _____

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE _____

AREA CODE () _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Previous Member _____

FAMILY \$ 12 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$10 _____

INSTITUTION \$10 _____



SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MAILING ADDRESS
Post Office Box 715
Conway, WA. 98238-0715

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**BOOK SALE AT THE
SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING!**