



## 25th Anniversary Party

On June 23, 2012 SVGS celebrated 25 years existence since its founding on January 1, 1987. Our humble beginnings began with only a few charter members. There are five surviving founders who were invited to join us. The society also took this opportunity to honor our Lifetime members.

## Charter Members

The following people are credited with the starting of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and we acknowledge and thank them for their foresight and ingenuity in starting this organization 25 years ago. Today, Genealogy is the second most researched material on the Internet. Only four of them are still living and we honor them today.

Dolores "Dee" Ackerman, Edna Bainter, Susan Bos, Dottie Burr Cross, Betty Fellion, Ann Flath, Sharon Johnson, John Marian, Virginia McMullen, Carol Oglesbee, Hazel Pilkinton, Colleen Thulen, Nola VanWiergen, Lois Wold, and Mary Jo Wolden

## Lifetime Members

Shirlee Fisher, Sharon Johnson, Hazel Rasar and Laura Sparr

Sharon Johnson, was honored with the presentation of a Charter Member certificate and lapel button indicating the number of years of society membership. Sharon has been a continuous member since the society beginnings serving on the board of directors in a multitude of positions for over 25 years. Having recently been granted a Lifetime membership in the society by the Board of Directors, Sharon was also honored with a Lifetime Membership certificate. Hazel Rasar, presented with a Lifetime Membership in 2002 by the Society Board of Directors, was honored with a Lifetime Membership certificate. Hazel has been a member of SVGS for over 20 years serving 2 separate terms as president plus several other positions on the board of directors. A special 25th Anniversary logo was designed by society member Daniel Royal and his graphic designer friend Philip Johnson from Concrete.

Volume 25 Number 4  
President: Dottie Chandler  
Newsletter pro-tem Dottie Chandler  
PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715  
Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs>

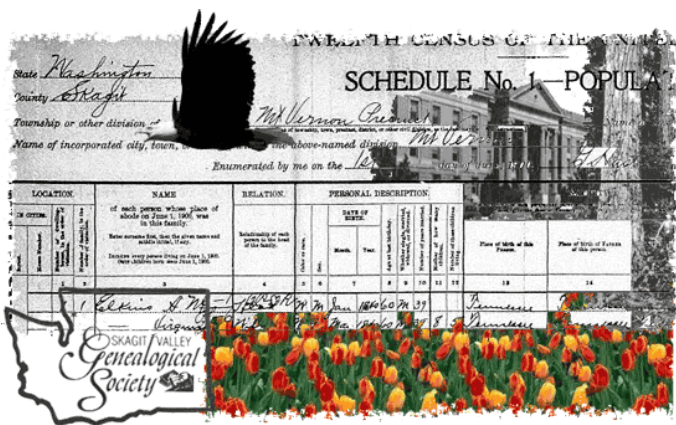


Hazel Rasar and Sharon Johnson with their certificates.



Our new logo which was designed by Philip Johnson of Concrete. Thank you.

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



**President:** Dottie Chandler  
360-757-0966 dotcom10@frontier.com

**Vice President:** Barbara Johnson  
360-856-0870 raptorwoman@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Muriel Neely

**Treasurer:** Lois LeBlonde  
360-293-7447 leblojf@frontier.com

**Past President:** Hazel Rasar  
hrasar@gmail.com

**Archival Historian:** Dan Royal  
360-826-6141 dmoroyal@earthlink.net

**Education:** Eric Stroschein  
360-770-9509 eric@generationsdetective.com

**Genealogist:** Diane Partington  
360-336-5832 nonie.dl@comcast.net

**Librarian:** Margie Wilson  
360-798-1681 wilsongm@frontier.com

**Membership:** Christine Cooper  
360-202-9451 cooper2chris@yahoo.com

**Newsletter:** Dottie Chandler Pro-temp

**Webmaster:** George Ridgeway  
360-424-4427 4george30@comcast.net

**Projects :** OPEN

**Publications:** OPEN

**Ways & Means:** OPEN

**Publicity:** Margie Wilson  
360-798-3882 wilsongm@frontier.com

### Special Committees

**Communications:** Hazel Rasar  
[svgsogenealogy@mail.com](mailto:svgsogenealogy@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

**Obituary Index:** Nancy Bonafede

**Special History Projects:** Dan Royal

**SOCIETY EMAIL:** [genealogy0715@gmail.com](mailto: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*

**PROPOSED CHANGE OR ADDITION: (Bylaws – Standing Rules)** This proposal is for both categories:

\_\_Add a **MEMBER-AT-LARGE** as a standing committee to allow discussion and voting privileges at Board Meetings of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

\_\_Bylaws: In Article VIII, Section A, #2 Add **MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

In Article VIII, Section C [specific duties]: Add #12 **MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Act as a liaison between the general membership of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and the SVGS Board of Directors

\_\_Standing Rules: Under the section Standing Committees:

Add a job description:

- 1) Participates as an acting member of the SVGS Board of Directors with all associated voting privileges
- 2) To act as a liaison between the members of SVGSW and the Board of Directors
- 3) Listen to and interact with the membership and communicate their issues/concerns, needs and interests to the Board of Directors
- 4) Advise the Board of Directors on issues that reflect the best interest of the membership at large and SVGS
- 5) Provide assistance to members of SVGS as necessary
- 6) Communicate, inform and educate the membership regarding projects, committees and overall opportunities to volunteer within the organization.

### **Bylaws & Standing Rules Change Form**

**Revised January 2012**

**Submit to Bylaws/Standing Rules Chair for submission to the Board of Directors**

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.

## Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Upcoming Programs **2011- 2012**

Sept 25 - Clark McAbee—Skagit County Historical Museum.

Oct 23 - Brick walls and election of officers

Nov 17 - Barbara Allen— updated family search.org

We meet from 7:00-9:00 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at Burlington Senior Center, 1011 Greenleaf Avenue, Burlington, Washington, during the months of September, October, March, April, May and June;

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, from 1:00-3:00pm at the Burlington Library, 820 East Washington Avenue, Burlington, Washington during the months of November, January and February, except in November and then it will be the 3rd Saturday.

### **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





## Everyone is Descended from Millions, make that Billions, of Ancestors

This latest claim about Obama's possible ancestry is similar to the claim that some people have royal ancestry. Indeed, most of us do have multiple kings and queens in our family trees, although proving the connections may be a bit of a challenge.

Here is a quote from Steve Olson, published in Atlantic Magazine in 2002:

"The idea that virtually anyone with a European ancestor descends from English royalty seems bizarre, but it accords perfectly with some recent research done by Joseph Chang, a statistician at Yale University. The mathematics of our ancestry is exceedingly complex, because the number of our ancestors increases exponentially, not linearly. These numbers are manageable in the first few generations—two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents—but they quickly spiral out of control. Go back forty generations, or about a thousand years, and each of us theoretically has more than a trillion direct ancestors—a figure that far exceeds the total number of human beings who have ever lived."

Here is another quote from the same article:

"Whenever a reliable family tree was available, almost anyone of European ancestry turned out to be descended from English royalty—even such unlikely people as Hermann Göring and Daniel Boone. Humphrys began to think that such descent was the rule rather than the exception in the Western world, even if relatively few people had the documents to demonstrate it."

You can read the full article at <http://goo.gl/IU1B9>.

In short, I would suggest that we not pay attention to these stories that "some famous person is descended from some other famous person" or that "one famous person is distantly related to some other famous person." There's nothing unusual about that. In fact, we **ALL** are related to and descended from famous people. The challenge is to find **YOUR** connections to others.

## President's Message

I hope everyone had a great summer either researching, traveling, reunions or just relaxing. It is starting to feel like fall again and I noticed the leaves are changing colors. Time to get back into the swing of doing our genealogy and we have had some things going on this summer.

We had our 25th anniversary in June and a seminar in August. I would like to thank all of you who came out and **ALL** of the people who helped to put this programs together. I know it takes a lot of work and it is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the August seminar but heard it was a success.

So, now we are onward and upward for new projects and trying to finish the old ones.

*Dottie Chandler, President*

## Registration and Program Schedule information for the 2012 Pacific Northwest History Conference

### "From Civil War to Civil Rights"

and associated workshops on Friday and Saturday, October 19-20, 2012 at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma are now available at:

<http://www.washingtonhistory.org/heritageServices/conferences.aspx>.

There are special registration rates for Washington State Historical Society Members and for enrolled students. \*Registration deadline is October 15, 2012.\*

There are two concurrent pre-conference workshops: "Researching Civil War History in the Northwest" with Dr. Lorraine McConaghy and "Researching Civil Rights History in the Northwest" with Dr. Trevor Griffey on Friday morning, October 19, 2012.

The program features notable regional historians presenting on Northwest

Civil War and Civil Rights History topics beginning on Friday afternoon

October 19, 2012. The plenary speaker on Saturday, October 20, 2012 will

be Dr. David Blight, noted author and historian. He is Class of 1954

Professor of American History at Yale University and Director of the Gilder

Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale.

\* Dr. Blight is the author of \*Race and Reunion: The Civil War in

American Memory\* and \*American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era

Please join us for this important conference!

Shanna Stevenson

Coordinator, Washington Women's History Consortium

Washington State Historical Society

Washington Women's History Consortium

211 21st Avenue SW

Olympia, WA 98501

T: 360.586.0171\*\*\*\*

[shanna.stevenson@wshts.wa.gov](mailto:shanna.stevenson@wshts.wa.gov)

[www.washingtonwomenshistory.org](http://www.washingtonwomenshistory.org)

[www.washingtonhistory.org](http://www.washingtonhistory.org)

## Search Tips: What Are 'Old Style' v. 'New Style' Dates?

Occasionally in your family history research you will see that a date is called "Old Style" or "New Style." What does that mean?

Let me give an example of an "Old Style" date and explain what is going on. This appeared in a newspaper article I found that really struck me—an obituary for Hannah Lyman, published in the *Hampshire Gazette* (Northampton, Massachusetts), 21 March 1832, page 3.

**In this town, March 20, Widow Hannah Lyman, relict of Mr. Abner Lyman, aged 88 years and 6 months—the oldest person in the town. She was a daughter of Mr. Ezra Clark, and was born Sept. 15, 1743, Old Style. She remembered distinctly the great earthquake of Nov. 18, 1755. She thus described it to us. It was between 4 and 5 in the morning, and the moon shone brightly. She and the rest of the family were suddenly awaked from sleep by a noise like that of the trampling of many horses; the house trembled and the pewter rattled on the shelves. They all sprang out of bed, and the affrighted children clung to their parents. "I cannot help you dear children," said the good mother, "we must look to God for help."**

First of all, what a great story this obituary tells. Hannah Lyman experienced the earthquake of 1755 and it so affected her that she retold the story all her life. If you've ever experienced an earthquake, it really gets your attention. The noise, the shaking—all so frightening—you try to orient yourself to what's happening—what it means.

This was the famous Cape Ann earthquake of 1755. According to Wikipedia this was "the largest earthquake in the history of Massachusetts." Cape Ann and Boston felt the brunt of the earthquake's aftermath; however hundreds of homes and buildings throughout the state of Massachusetts were also damaged. Northampton, Massachusetts, is 142 miles from Cape Ann, Massachusetts.

Hannah remembered the exact date of the earthquake: 18 November 1755. She was the oldest person in Northampton, Massachusetts, in early 1832—and she vividly remembered the terrifying earthquake that happened way back when she was 12 years old—almost 77 years ago. There was no quick Internet where she could quickly look it up. It stuck in her mind, just like her date of birth.

But look at how her date of birth is reported in her obituary: "Sept. 15, 1743, Old Style."

Old Style?

Yes, that was a common clarification added to dates around the time of the adoption of the "Gregorian" calendar that we still use today. The American colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, shifting the start of the year from March 1st to January 1st.

It became standard when referring to dates before 1752 to distinguish between Old Style (O.S.) and New Style (N.S.).

For example, Thomas Jefferson was also born in 1743, like Hannah, and he asked that the date of birth on his gravestone be clearly indicated by including the designation O.S.



Picture courtesy Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas\\_Jefferson's\\_Grave\\_Site.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas_Jefferson's_Grave_Site.jpg)

I am struck that an obituary published in 1832 can give us such memorable information about our ancestors. Hannah experienced the Cape Ann earthquake, witnessed the American Revolution—and even had to deal with the hassle of the world changing the calendar itself!

She lived through interesting days—and we never would have known about some of her experiences if they had not been recorded in the old newspapers.

So keep an eye out for the Old Style and New Style date designation when you are doing your family history research—it may help you accurately calculate the birth and death dates of your ancestors.

Think this was from the LaConner Newspaper Thursday, August 12, 1971

### Indians Were Here For Ages; Munks Bot Claim in 1859

Skagit County had its humble beginning from travelers and residents, as far as the whites were concerned, from Port Townsend and Port Angeles on the Peninsula, and from Coupeville and Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. But, we must remember that the tribes of the Athapascans were scattered all over the region, long before the advent of the white traveler, and they left possessions in many places, as evidences by the findings of graves and other items, in such places as the mound near the old Maloy place on the McLean Road, Dead Man's Island near Snee-oosh Beach, Fish Town, and the Upper Skagit, many near LaConner as well as other places in the state, and the recent findings at Ozette, south of Neah Bay on the Washington coast. They came to Fidalgo Island first and after hunting and exploring the island, the first two settlers, Robert Davis and Charles Beale, squatted in Skagit County. They located on what now is the Munks property and the place adjacent to it to the north of the property, on Fidalgo Bay. In December, 1859, William Munks bought the rights to the property for \$60.00 and a silver watch. Thus William Munks became the first permanent resident of Skagit County, and his descendants Leonard and Donald Munks still reside on the old homestead.

During the Civil War days, Michael Sullivan and Samuel Calhoun, became the first settlers on the mainland of Skagit County, in the flats just north of what is now LaConner. In the fall of 1864, Alonzo Lowe and his friend started a trading post where Snohomish is now located. In the spring of 1867, Alonzo Lowe started the Swinomish trading post on Fidalgo Island, it was located just above hightide water line about directly across from what now is the Waterfront Cafe in LaConner

### Search Tips: Irish Genealogy Records 1849-1911 Now Online

This Irish genealogy research tip is important.

Genealogists need to know that Irish deaths and marriages were routinely published in the pages of the *Irish American Weekly* (New York City, New York). This fact makes the historical Irish newspaper a great genealogical resource to find Irish obituaries and marriages that occurred in Ireland—or around the world—from 1849 to 1911.

On August 25, 2012 SVGS held a very successful one day seminar, hosted by Skagit Village Retirement Community (formerly Creekside Retirement). The Skagit Village provided us with an extremely luscious lunch menu and lots of fruit and veggies for breaks. This facility was extremely pleasant to work with and had someone available most of the time to assist with any questions or problems. A first for our society was online registration using PayPal. It worked after working out a few quirks! With 32 registered participants we had the pleasure of presenting educational programs by Eric Stroschein, Claudia Breland, Stephen Baylor and Teresa Schulze. All of the programs were evaluated enthusiastically as well as the organization of the entire event. Everything just went smoothly. Heritage Quest Research Library was available with many books to sell and attendees took advantage of this opportunity to purchase good quality genealogy reference books. Appreciation is expressed by the society board to the committee, consisting of Hazel Rasar, Eric Stroschein, Diane Partington and Rita Schulze for a job well done. Plans for a future event will soon be underway. We welcome several new members and hope to see them at some of our future membership meetings.

**\*\*As a note Online Membership will be available by PayPal for the upcoming year of 2013. Dues are \$15 for single and \$20 for family.**



Three out of four of our speakers. Eric Stroschein, Stephen Baylor and Claudia Breland. Not pictured was Teresa Schulze.





## Magazine Report by Sharon Johnson

NGS Magazine April / June 2012

Stop, Thief! A Plagiarism Primer (*understanding the difference between copyright and plagiarism. Plagiarism is a matter of ethics, a moral offense. Copyright is a matter of law. This is a great article giving many examples of what "is and what isn't". A must read article*); The 1940 Federal Census (*an explanation of the various questions on the form*); The Threshing Engine: Newspapers Breathe Life into a Photo (*How information found in newspapers puts meat on the "bones". Also included is a section on finding newspapers*); Compiled Military Service Records Part II: The records outside the CMSR jacket. (*a continuation of the previous issue of NGS Mag. These records must be pursued separately from the CMSR.. Also includes a list of states and units whose Union CMSR's have been microfilmed. Also a list of states and units whose Union CMSR's have not been micro-filmed*); Confederate Pension Applications (*a resource for African-Americans who fought for the Confederacy*); Targeted Research Plans (*rather than "hit & miss" research, this shows how to make a targeted research plan*); An Overview of Immigration Records (*a discussion of the various ports and where to find passenger lists*); A Review of Personal Historian 2 (*from the makers of Roots Magic*); Genealogy in Your Pocket (*features to consider when evaluating mobile apps*); Autograph Books: A Neglected Resource

Internet Genealogy June / July 2012

Canadian Census: Hollywood Style (*finding stars with Canadian roots and name changes on the census*); Passenger Lists: A Valuable Resource (*concerns <www.genealogybank.com> passenger lists found in their newspaper archives*); Scanning the Reviews: Scanners for Genealogy (*looking at the latest scanners and their benefit*); Top Online Immigration Resources (*sites to learn about record types and access them*); Find-TheBest.com (*finding the software that best suits your personal needs*); Save Every Step: Lifeline to Family History (*review of an online tool for sharing family life stories....can register for a free account*); Muskoka Genealogy: Tracing Family Roots (*concerns researching Muskoka, Ontario*); Millers, Muellers and Moulins in the Family (*resources if your family owned a mill*); There's an App for That: Family History Writing (*review of the app How to Write Your Family History for iPhone and iPad*); Gramps: First Look and Review (*also known as the Genealogical Research and Analysis Management Programming System*); Public Libraries:

A Genealogist's Treasure (*many have their resources listed online so you can see their genealogical resources*); Mocavo: A Genealogist's Search Engine

(<http://www.mocavo.com> focuses exclusively on providing search results for online and database-driven genealogical content); HistoryGeo.com: Historic Maps (*subscription service you can register for free and can some access to a few maps*).

If anyone is interested in these articles they are available at the Burlington Library in the Genealogy section.

### September SVGS Library Report for the Newsletter

The cataloging/labeling of the SVGS Library collection is chugging along thanks to the steadfast efforts of Portia Stacey and Georgia Lang. The Reference, Immigration, Military, New England and United States sections have been completed. Only the International, Family Histories and Washington State sections remain.

If you haven't visited the collection recently you will discover quite a few new books have been added, especially to the Virginia section. This is thanks to Ms. Billie Gilmore graciously contributing more of her personal genealogy library to SVGS this past summer.

Thanks to our partnership with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteers Program) we have a new SVGS Library volunteer – Denise Powell. Welcome, Denise, and thank you for joining the library volunteers' team.

Bob Witherspoon was very helpful in procuring several Polish genealogy books for SVGS. Dolores Herrmann, a Whatcom Gen. Society member, donated the books. These Polish books and periodicals will be available on the shelves by late-October.

**Annual Book Bonanza!** Duplicate books, magazines and CDs from the SVGS Library will be available for purchase by donation at the October Annual Meeting. Come bargain, make offers and go home happily laden down with some genealogy gems!

~ Margie Wilson, SVGS Librarian

Dear GeneTree Customer,  
You may have recently heard the exciting news that GeneTree has been acquired by AncestryDNA™ (<http://corporate.ancestry.com/press/press-releases/2012/05/ancestry.com-dna-launches/>). As we redirect our efforts to the integration with AncestryDNA it will be necessary to discontinue the GeneTree.com website. However, as a valued GeneTree customer, you will be able to access GeneTree.com through the rest of this year, until January 1, 2013. Following this date, access to your account will no longer be available through the GeneTree site, so we recommend that you download your DNA results and pedigree data while the site is still available.  
If you'd like to learn more about how to download and continue using your information and family tree outside of GeneTree, see [click here](#) To help answer some frequently asked questions, please visit our [FAQs](#). We greatly appreciate you being a part of GeneTree and hope that you continue with your genetic genealogy and family history research.  
Sincerely, The GeneTree Team

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 \_\_\_\_\_



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**