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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.

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*

You can help the Society by buying your favorite genealogical item of interest from our website through an affiliate program with the publishers. Simply click on the links to the magazine or website of your choice, pay for whatever you are interested in and the society will receive a small commission for you doing so.

A simple way to help contribute to Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and their ongoing works.













Here's to more anniversaries to come!

For a group that is celebrating its' 20th birthday, Skagit Valley Genealogical Society is having a good year. New president Hazel Rasar, has been able to involve more people on the board and with the committee chairs. As a result, there are more people involved than ever before.

For example: Dale Hastin, new chair of the Publications Committee this year, has grown her com- 2007 Edition mittee group which means that the society will be seeing new cemetery books before long. Included in Printed July 2007 this Summer Journal is the Alder Creek Cary Ranch Cemetery—not so large mind you, but important upriver pioneer family members were buried here none-the-less.

Joan Udd, our society librarian; has been working extremely hard this past year organizing our society's collection of books at the new Burlington Library (located off of Washington Street). The new library had its Grand Opening, Saturday June 16th and is a great addition to the City of Burlington as well as a great resource center for everyone. We held a very successful "NO SALE-GARAGE SALE" at the beginning of the year & brought in some much needed additional donations to the society. Dur- Hazel Rasar ing this same time, our Board of Directors had a successful Retreat in February to brain-storm & bring new ideas to our membership as well as resolve some old problems.

Finding Context & Stories for your Family History

With our very first Summer Journal now under our belt, we're trying something new. I thought I would go for a theme throughout the issue. I don't know if it works but will wait for input from you, the reader, to let me know your thoughts on our presentation style. I was also a little self indulgent by asking Tom Robinson to come up with an essay showing the connection between our kinfolk 100 hundred years ago in the small hamlet of Prairie. His essay, "Some Prairie Neighbors", was exactly what I was looking for.

"The Importance of Historical Context" by Wendy Elliott shares with the family historian that "one must take that final step and place individuals and families in context of time and place to understand their actions...historical times offer an approach to problem solving and their use can suggest sources not otherwise considered." With "Using Timelines in your Research" by Donna Przecha we give examples to do just that. "Genealogy Junky" by Linda J. Shepard is one of the better essays I've seen, explaining why we get bit by the genealogy bug in the first place.

I thought I would share with you all a fun little story, written by my late great grandmother, Mabel (Boyd) Royal-Steen. These are the type of stories that if you were blessed with a boxful—like myself really do add to the context of your family history. Making use of them, you are then outside the perimeter of only staring at names and dates, which genealogists in the past have been accused of being interested only. The new Family Historian triumphs with being the real deal and blessing your family—now and in the future—with helping others see your mutual ancestors: life and your own in a new light.

I am also sharing a poem by Dick Fallis, the long time Historian/Memorialist for the Skagit County Pioneer Association. Poetry being one of his many talents contributing to the promotion of Skagit County history. Dick has officially retired from the position of Historian this year and he will be honored by the SCPA at this years Annual Pioneer Picnic August 2nd. Your editor on this journal has been voted by the SCPA board to replace Dick as Historian. It is my honor to do so. I hope I can live up to the high standards set by Dick Fallis and (before him) John Conrad.

Tom and I will be looking for feedback on this **Summer Journal** and how we might improve it. Do you want theme issues? I would definitely like to see suggestions and submitted items from SVGS membership, so I am giving a deadline for next years Summer issue as the end of May 2008. I will remind everyone of this in our regular newsletter.

Dan Royal—Editor

Summer Journal

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society P.O. Box 715 Conway, WA 98238

President

Tom Robinson Heritage Historian

Dan Royal Editor

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society 20 Years Old!

Officially, the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society turned 20 years old, on January 1, 2007. A small group of people decided to form a "new society" in the genealogical community in 1987.

The roots of the society go much farther back, however. Many of the original members were part of a study group lead by Marjory Johnson. Her interest in the hobby began in the early 1950s.

Frances **Byford** believed that the study groups actually started about 1978. There were two groups, one met in the afternoons and the other in the evenings. The afternoon group met at the Mount Vernon City Library. Susan Bos attended the evening group which also met at the library, and this group later moved Marjory's home.

The groups offered one-on-one instruction and opportunity to share a hobby. At

that time, attendance was small, normally six to eight people. There was sharing of problems, successes, and car-pooling to Seattle libraries, archives and other places of research. It was also during this time period that the Church of the Latter Days Saints opened the Family History Center in Mount Vernon, providing access to the many resources of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Marjory also conducted classes at the Senior Center. She spread her love and knowledge of genealogy to many people in Skagit County.

Sharon Johnson and Colleen Thulen joined the group in the early 1980s. At this time there was only one group which met at the Mount Vernon City Library in the afternoon on the first Wednesday of each month. These small group meetings continued until the death of Marjory Johnson.

This small group wondered what they would do without their leader, but a member of the group for about 2 years, Betty Fellion stepped forward to fill the void. She was small in stature, gentle in voice, quiet, and not one you would expect to take over. But she was a champion, saw a need and filled it.

On November 5, 1986, a meeting was held at the Knotty Pine

Restaurant in Mount Vernon. Six members decided to place an article in the newspaper to see if anyone else was interested in forming an area genealogical society. Dolores "Dee" Ackerman and Zelda Stout of the Whatcom Genealogical Society attended this meeting to assist in giving helpful information on what to do towards "Society" formation. Charter members listed in the minutes

of that meeting were: Dee Ackerman, Edna Bainter, Dottie Burr, Betty Fellion, Ann Flath, Sharon Johnson, Gen McMullen, John Marian, Carol Oglesbee, Hazel Pilkinton, Colleen Thulen, Nola VanWieringen, Lois Wold and Mary Jo Wolden.

In January 1987, the first officers were chosen and the bylaws and charter of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society were drawn. Officers were: Betty Fellion, President: Marion, Vice-President; Carol Oglesbee, Secretary; and Colleen Thulen, Treasurer. Betty was an encouraging guide for the new organization, and despite health problems she was able to complete her presidential term in May 1988. Member-

ship had increased to 52, by the time of Betty's death that summer. Both Marjory and Betty left genealogical books to the group, thus planting the seeds for our ever expanding library. Our society library is presently situated at the Burlington Public Library at 900 Fairhaven Ave., Burlington.

During the following years our membership continued to grow and flourish. Every two years we have managed to find people who have volunteered to fill the positions for the different offices and the positions necessary to maintain a Board of Directors for the Society. Our current membership is in excess of 150 very enthusiastic people. Many are just beginning to do their search for ancestors and others have a great deal of experience. We encourage our experienced members to assist the beginners in getting started in the correct methods of research and documentation of their ancestral families.

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, No. 1

January-March 1990

A publication of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society of Skagit County, Washington. Officers include: Vera Stuber, President (757-1602): Claudia Ebsworth, Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Johnson, Treasurer. Address mail to P.O. Box 715, Conway, W6 99238. The Society, a non-profit organization, is open to all persons interested in genealogical and historical research, preservation, and publication.

1990 PROGRAMS

The meetings will be held at Skagit Valley College in the Library, room S-51, the Media Room. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting begins at 7 pm and the speakers begin at 8 pm.
23 Jan - WAYNE KITE will speak about his research and efforts to write the history of his ancestor, locally famous in Oklahoma and in Texas for robbing banks during the Dustbowl Era.

Texas for routing
Dustboxl Era.

27 Feb - PETER HEFFELFINGER will
lecture on the elements of a good oral
history, an area in which he did
extensive work in Skagit County. He
is currently affiliated with the

Anacortes Museum. 27 Mar - MEG PETERSON will present 2/ Mar - MEG PETERSON will present
the best method of researching photo,
newspaper, and obituary archives of
the Skagit County Museum where she
currently works as the curator.
24 Apr - FRANCIS BYFORD, a member of our Society, will speak on research in Germany. Since she has been there of our Society, will be as been there you will learn first-hand how it is done.

22 May - ANNUAL ELECTIONS for the office of President, Second Vice of (President, Dairy Pairy Vice)

Second Vice Third Vice President, (membership) office of research p). Third vice President (membership), and Recording Secretary. The budget for 1990-1991 will be presented for a vote. June SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC, an opportunity to meet the families and friends of the Society. This year's them will be: Showing Off The Family June - SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC, an opportunity to meet the families and friends of the Society. This year's theme will be: Showing Off The Family Scrapbook. Time and place for picnic to be announced later. -- Peyton Kane SURNAME CARDS AND GENERATION CHARTS

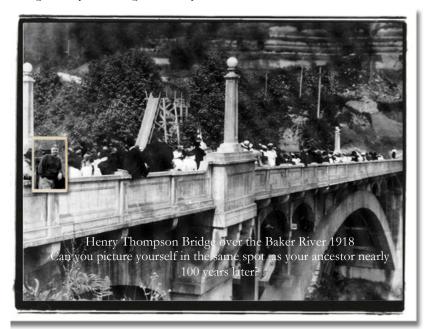
All SVGS members are requested to turn in their surname complete and turn in their surmane cards and a five generation pedigree chart (8 1/2 x 11" size) for the complete and chart (8 1/2 x 11" size) for the family names they are researching. Each member is assigned an identification number so other persons researching in this area may see the surnames in the file and can contact you for possible family history exchange. Some members have even discovered cousins within our Society! Please turn in cards to Julie (466-4079) or Janet Armbrust (428-0319).

DUES ARE DUE - NOW!

A new membership list is included with A new membership list is a shows the member-this newsletter, and shows the member-total to be 69. Colleen Thulen, is our total to be 69. Colleen Thulen, is our membership vice-president. Please check your listing and let Colleen know if corrections are necessary.

Dues are now due for all members for the year of 1990. Remember, it will make Colleen's task a bit easier if we get those dues paid right away. Mail your check for dues today, or remember to pay dues at our regular meeting on January 23. Our mailing address is: Skagit Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 715, Conway, WA 98238.

ALL MEMBERS' DUES ARE DUE JAN. 1990
MEMBERSHIP IN SVGS IS OPEN TO ALL.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS ARE \$ 8.00;
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP, SAME ADDRESS, \$10.



The Importance of Historical Context

By Wendy Bebout Elliot, CG, FGS President Permission to reprint by the author

Life was different a few decades ago. But have you ever tried to explain this to your children or grandchildren? Do they understand or even appreciate the changes? Most of us joke about the old story of trudging uphill "both ways" in two-foot snow drifts to get to school. We smile at the reluctance of an individual who experienced the Great Depression to throw away items no longer needed. Yet these scenarios represent tiny aspects of the past to which today's generation cannot relate. We take for granted changes from our not-too-distant past because we witnessed them. But do we consider differences in time and place as we perform our genealogical endeavors?

Most genealogists, whether by avocation or profession, enthusiastically and passionately conduct research to discover names, dates and places. We use this information to identify individuals and connect them with the right families. Although we realize the necessity of gathering general background information, we may forget to place these individuals and families into their own historical and geographical context.

As an instructor of budding historians and beginning genealogists, one of my goals is to teach them to understand appropriate context. This is one of the most important aspects to research. Genealogists who move beyond the novice stage know to check reference works to find parent counties and boundary change dates. Most conduct general searches when their objective does not appear in the expected locality records. And some use a variety of primary and secondary resources for locating information about their research objectives. These approaches are commendable and often required for success. However, one must also take that final step and place individuals and families in context of time and place to understand their actions and movements.

Historical timelines clarify circumstances and provide a framework for our research. For example, if sons and/or fathers disappear from the records during wars, research in military

records is suggested. When a government opens a newly acquired territory or signs a new treaty with Native Americans, settlers already established on that frontier may file preemption land claims. Timelines offer an approach to problem-solving and their use can suggest sources not otherwise considered.

Timelines work best when targeted to the appropriate place of research. An historical list of dates, places, and events for one territory or nation rarely reflects local situations or another. The best historical timeline focuses on the particular regions and periods of the search in progress.

Is striving for context boring? Hardly. Research for historical background often provides as much excitement as a typical genealogical pursuit. In addition, the endeavor contributes to a far better understanding of the era and places in which our ancestors lived. Often, one's exploration of history suggests actual records or more references to research. So adding context to our genealogical pursuits makes good sense – indeed, it is

imperative that we do so. Just as most of us want our descendants to be aware of our backgrounds, we need to be aware of the events which affected our ancestors' lives.

So the next time you try to explain changes in your own lifetime to the younger generation, step back. Reflect upon whether or not you have used context when looking back further in time to the generations that you research.

The Past Is Past

By Dick Fallis—Skagit County Historian

We study history not just for the sake of the past, but so that we can discover and preserve for future generations those things that mark us as a special people.

The past is past, and might well be forgotten, except that it contains the words to the song of who we are, words we need to learn for the future time when it be comes our turn to sing the song.

The past is past, and well may be forgotten,

Except that it contains the words to the song of who we are, and whose those people were who came and sang the song before us.

We need to listen and learn the words And even more, to learn the meaning of the song Before we are of the few

The past is past, and well may be forgotten,

Except that it contains the words to the song of who we are, and who those people were who came and sang the song before us.

We need to listen carefully, and learn the words, and even more to learn the meaning of the song, before we are of the few that are left, and we are obliged to sing the song.

SOME PRAIRIE NEIGHBORS

By Tom Robinson

Genealogy and family history are mainly about connections by descent or marriage among relatives. Genealogists typically look back in time to earlier generations of a particular family or sideways in time to family relationships with one, usually the present, generation. As family historians, which is what genealogists tracing lines of descent all but inevitably become, they discover how their subjects fitted into the places and times in which they lived. The ancestors become more than names with dates attached. In the process of finding their historical contexts, family historians find themselves studying families unrelated by blood or marriage to the ancestors. Those unrelated families commonly are those of friends and neighbors, people with a common connection over time to a particular place. As a result, family history becomes multi-family history, the history of a community rooted in intertwined family genealogies.

This short essay concerns one very ordinary example of a

multi-family history based in Skagit County - specifically, a history of people with a connection to the defunct hamlet of Prairie and to nearby Warner's Prairie. Such a family history might concern only one generation of neighbors. In this essay the emphasis is upon the first generation of them, but it also concerns the ties among succeeding generations. The author, for example, is in the fourth generafigure in this multifamily history. He

for example, is in the fourth generation of those who figure in this multi-

and Dan Royal, another contemporary with a tie to Prairie families, have never lived there; Ed Hoyt, the third and only other contemporary with a Prairie connection to be mentioned here, now lives at Warner's Prairie, though he long lived elsewhere. The bond for them is not a common place of residence, but a common history related to a place.

Sometimes such intergenerational multi-family histories are useful to social historians because they reveal the foundations of local power structures, but in this case the history of Prairie families is of interest to Ed, Dan, and the author simply because all three of them are interested in their family histories. They find their individual family histories all the more interesting because of their intersections with those of the other two. Such

multi-family histories, it should be noted, are not less interesting because they are not histories of the great and powerful, the high and mighty. In fact, they are a most useful means to the understanding of the stories of individuals not among the county's elite and of communities composed only of its common folk. Placed in historical context, these ordinary people often turn out not to have been so ordinary.

Dan Royal of Birdsview, a descendant of numerous pioneers of the upriver Skagit River area, is connected to Prairie through Annie Laurie (Boyd) Hoyt, the older sister of his great grandmother, Mabel (Boyd) Royal. Annie was the wife of Joe Hoyt, one of the two central figures of this short history. Ed Hoyt now lives a few miles from Prairie at Warner's Prairie, where upon retirement he built a house very close to the site of the house of Captain John M. Warner. Warner had been the first white settler of the upper Samish River area beyond the claim of "Blanket Bill" Jarman, who was in fact the first white settler in the Skagit County area. The author, through his mother, is descended from Ed McMackin, one of the first settlers of Prai-

rie, and of his son, Ray, who as an adult farmed on Warner's Prairie.

Prairie, the name of which now survives as the name of a county fire station, was the center of a rural community located between the hills along the Samish River and Thunder Creek. It preceded in time Highway 9, which now crosses the Samish at what once was the site of Prairie's gas station and store. The Prairie settlement could not long have predated the establishment of its post office in 1884.

Eventually, the hamlet – it was never anything like a town – would contain what were the basic essentials of such small communities – namely, a small general merchandise store, a "hotel" (really more a boarding house) and a saloon, a grade school (the forerunner of the present Samish School located south of Prairie), a small Protestant church, and of course a few houses. Bordering the river was a limited amount of land suitable for farming which was cleared and farmed by such men as Ed McMackin. Since the surrounding hills were covered with trees, it was natural that the hamlet of Prairie contained loggers and mill workers who served the local shingle mill. Without its mill Prairie scarcely would have ranked even as a hamlet.

At first Prairie could be reached only by a primitive road – in large part the work of Captain Warner – which began at Edison on the Samish Flats and continued along the present Prairie Road and then the Upper Samish Road, the latter of which now reaches the Samish River where it is crossed by Highway 9. In 1890, however, a major railroad line – the Seattle, Lake Shore, and Eastern, which soon was acquired by the Northern Pacific – was built right through Prairie, in effect linking it to distant markets. As a result, a shingle mill (one of many in the eastern part of the county) became feasible.

It is very unlikely that if the railroad had not reached Prairie that Joe Hoyt and his wife would have settled there. Following upon at least one other mill, probably a very small one producing for a small local market, in 1895 Joe opened a substantial shingle mill at Prairie and (logging his own timberland) began to ship by rail shingles to distant, even Eastern markets. Though twice his mills were destroyed by fire – not an unusual fate for lumber and shingle mills – both times he rebuilt, continuing to operate his shingle business until he was bankrupted by the Great Depression, not longer before his death in 1932.

Joe Hoyt had been born in 1863 at Millville, a town then (and now) similar to the Prairie in which Joe would live, which is located in what became the Canadian province of New Brunswick. His Hoyt ancestors had been among the earliest of the Puritans to migrate (in 1628) to Massachusetts Bay colony. As Noel Bourasaw reports in his article on Joe in his on-line Journal of Skagit River History and Folklore, a later ancestor was a New England Tory during the American Revolution, fought in the Revolutionary War on the British side, and after the war received (like other exiled Tory soldiers) a New Brunswick land grant.

Ed McMackin's family history was most unlike Joe's. While Joe's background was English, Tory, and Baptist, Ed's background was Irish, definitely not pro-English, and Roman Catholic. (The first Roman Catholic baptism in the Sedro-

Woolley area was performed at "the McMackin ranch," though possibly that was the ranch of a cousin, John, whose wife was a Catholic convert.) These differences seem not to have disturbed the relations between Ed and Joe. Typically, among neighbors such differences usually were put aside, except perhaps on Sundays. An important similarity between the two men was that both of them were from New Brunswick. Ed was born in 1847 in a backwoods Irish settlement - now all that remains is a crumbling cemetery - located near the city of Sussex. In 1876 he went West to San Francisco, and two years later moved up to the small, but growing city of Seattle. In 1880 in Seattle he was married to a young woman from back home in New Brunswick, Johanna Ryan. He worked in Seattle, on Whidbey Island, and at Whatcom (the future Bellingham), but in 1883 he began "improving" his future Prairie claim. In 1884 he was joined there by his wife and their infant son, Ray. Ed was a farmer, and there is no indication that he ever worked for Joe, who after all was almost twenty years his junior. After Joe's arrival, however, the two men were close neighbors, They served together, for example, on the school board of the Prairie School, the forerunner of the Samish School. Somewhere around 1914 Ed and Johanna, however, moved to Seattle, ending their close relationship with the Hoyts. Ed died in Seattle in 1928, ten years after Johanna.

Ed McMackin's friendship with Joe Hoyt seems to have been inherited by his two sons, Ray and the younger Tom, who were both loggers and farmers. Apparently, at about the time of Ray's marriage to Della Urfer of Saxon in 1906, he and Tom jointly bought the farm (on both sides of the Prairie Road) which they would continue to farm for the rest of their lives. In 1907 Joe bought what formerly had been Captain Warner's ranch, which lay beside Tom's farm and across from Ray's. In 1909 Joe leased from the brothers the mouth of Dry Creek, which empties into the Samish River, and for some years operated there a small satellite of his Prairie mill.

Joe never lived at Warner's Prairie, but he grazed there the horses which he used to pull logs to his mill and also grew hay to feed them. Like just about every other farmer the county, he also grew oats, as did the McMackins. As was customary among small farmers, the Hoyts and the McMackins shared harvest labor and harvest implements. Jointly, they owned a huge steam engine of the kind once used to power threshing machines. As a small boy, the author played on that mysterious piece of machinery, a rusting hulk entwined by blackberry vines, wondering what a railroad engine was doing behind his grandfather's barn. Many years later Ed Hoyt explained to him what it really had been. The tradition of sharing continued until the time of Ray's death in 1952 and Tom's two years later, Joe's place long having been taken by that of one of his son's (and Ed Hoyt's father), Bob. It is still alive, but the place of oats and hay has been taken by information - arguably, a sign of the times.



Using Timelines in Your Research

by Donna Przecha Excerpt from Cyndis List © Copyright 1996-2007, MyFamily.com, Inc.

"Timelines can be an interesting supplement to your genealogy research. A timeline is a chronological listing of historical events, a sort of "history in a nutshell" as it generally is limited to one line or very short entries. A timeline can be general and cover the history of the entire world or a small area such as one county or it can be for a specific subject, such as art, music, literature or war. A timeline can also take many forms — it can be in written form, either as a book or wall chart; it can be a list of events; or a database that can be used by itself or in conjunction with a genealogy program.

In school we usually study the large events and important people in world history. In genealogy, we are looking at individuals who usually had no influence at all on history but were deeply affected by it. A timeline can help you put the two types of study together. You may not know why your ancestors emigrated when they did, but a timeline may remind you that they left after a war had swept through their part of the world. We tend to compartmentalize study because we simply cannot comprehend everything at once. We study U.S. history and then we study Russian history or we study music but don't relate it to art which was happening at the same time.

It is sometimes startling to realize what events were happening simultaneously. In 1778 George Washington defeated the British at Monmouth, NJ, while Beethoven was being presented as an infant prodigy (at six, although he was really eight) and James Cook was discovering Hawaii. In 1642, the English Civil War began, Rembrandt painted

The Night Watch, Galileo died, Isaac Newton was born, Tasman discovered New Zealand and Montreal, Canada was

Timeline Example for Skagit County L.A. Boyd Family

1882

Georgian Lillian Boyd born [January?] Neligh Antelope Co, Nebraska 5) SALE OF SAME LAND 9/11/82

Know all men by these presents: That We, Olive C. Boyd and L.A. Boyd, wife and husband of the County of Antelope, and State of Nebraska for and in consideration of the sum of 1800 dollars in hand paid, do hereby grant...unto Frank Fischer of the County of Antelope...the following described real estate situated in Antelope County...to wit: the SW quarter of Section 2, Town 25, Range 7 West and we do hereby covenant..that said premises..are free from incumbrance except a mortgage of \$500. to the Corbin Banking Company...11th day of Sept 1882. Notarized in Neligh by N.D.Jackson. Recorded Sept 12, 1882byR.Wilson.

4) Preemption filing expires 15 Sep 1885. Must publish intention to prove for land. Dec $23\ 1882$

8) Preemption proof. Land Off. at Olympia, cash series, R. and R. No. 8603 (filing # at Nat.Arch.) for Lewis A. Boyd, Birdsview, Skagit, WA. Affidavit, 31 May, 1884, signed by Boyd. Followed by 2 testimonies and Boyd's testimony.

A. Boyd first settled on this claim Dec 1882, improvements were slashing, clearing & building a house; built a house, 4 acres slashed, 2 acres cleared & planted. Value of improvements, \$400. Began residing there Feb. 1883, has been continuous residence, he has been farming it. -Daniel Rose B. Boyd married, 10 children. About 40 yrs old. Native. -same -Minkler C. 42 years old. Built a house, slashed & cleared about 3 acres, fenced & cultivated them. Raised 2 crops of general garden produce, potatoes.

Skagit County turned 120 years this past 28 November 2003. It was an amazing achievement and maneuvering at the time, as officials in Whatcom County did not want the lower section of their county —which we were a part of at the time- to secede. But a large group of folks had been trying to do this for some time and started with a bill to set Skagit County free from Whatcom County on 24 October 1883, but was voted down 8-4. Whatcom representatives were sure they had nothing to worry about and went home.

Whatcom arrogance was their undoing though when two men from Skagit; James Power of LaConner and Orrin Kincaid of Mount Vernon reintroduced the bill in November and without the powerful representatives from Whatcom to help vote it down the bill passed. SVGS Newsletter January 2004

1884

1 April

1886

Norman Lewis Boyd born Birdsview Skagit Co., Washington Territory [more likely born in Sterling] 1885

1885 Census, Skagit County W.T. (Wash. Terr.) Pub. Whatcom Gen. Soc. 1986; Bellingham, WA

p. 11 BOYD, LA 43, carpenter, married, NY; Olive 31, md, IL; Archy 14, NE; James 13, NE; Annie, 11, NE; Jane, 10, NE; Maggie, 8, NE; Grace, 7, NE; Mary, 6, NE; Gertrude, 4, NE; Lilly, 3, NE; Norman, 10m, WT. [Lewis appears to have lied about age]

Thomas Jarvis Boyd born December Mt. Vernon [Nookachamp Creek, Barney Lake] Skagit Co., Washington Territory 1887

Received from Skagit Co Auditor, Mt Vernon:

1) Warranty Deed, Skagit Railway & Lumber Co to Lewis Boyd, for \$800.in gold coin, in Skagit Co, Territory of WA, South half of NE quarter of Section 10, Twnshp 34 North, Range 4 East, 80 acres. 12 Nov. 1887, Skagit R. & L. Co. in Tacoma, Byron Barlow, pres. Witnesses JA Wintermute, Jas. W. Morgan. (p.728) [This is Mt Vernon]

founded. While the American Revolution was occurring, Haydn and Mozart were writing music and Beethoven was beginning to compose. Also, Gibbon was writing Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire and Voltaire, Hume, Adam Smith, R. B. Sheridan, Schiller, Stendhal and Washington Irving were all writing and the Montgolfier brothers ascended in a balloon in France.

Timelines Online

If you put "timeline" "history" into your favorite Internet search engine you will see there are several timelines on the Web relating to various areas and subjects. Since the timelines from the Web are basically text items, you could also edit these and customize to include events that were significant to your family. For example, if your families were early settlers in Illinois, you might be interested in a timeline of the history of Illinois giving the dates of early settlement, wars that affected the area, statehood, important elections, etc.

Weaving Your Family into a Timeline

You can also create your own timelines by hand, but when a timeline feature is incorporated into a genealogy program, you can display timeline events in with the events in your ancestors' lives. While one timeline database may be fairly general, being able to select from different timeline databases allows you to choose a set of events that may have been of more interest to your family. You also want to be able to turn off a timeline as all those extra events can be quite annoying when you are simply working on your database. You may be able to incorporate a timeline into some of your reports also."

Timelines can make genealogy

more interesting and meaningful. If you have an opportunity, try using them.

Fourth of July

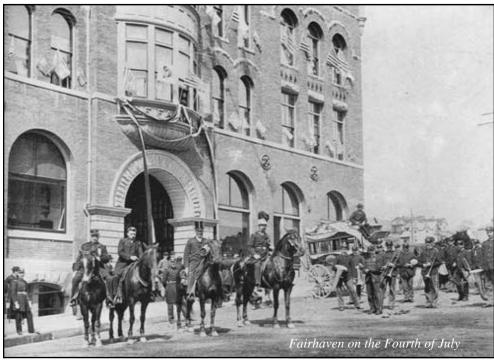
By Mabel (Boyd) Royal-Steen

I remember in 1897 [1898] when we lived at Prairie, Joe Hoyt had a shingle mill there and I lived with my sister and brother-in-law [Maud & John Johnson], who worked for Joe at the time. I was a young child then but I can plainly remember our trip to Fairhaven. Some neighbors and my folks planned to go to Fairhaven and spend the Fourth of July. What a wonderful day that was then. The joy it brought to us children! The thought is simply thrilling yet.

We made our preparations two days ahead of time and were ready for an early start on July 3, for it was considered a long trip with a team and wagon. The wagon was brought close to the house to be handy and that afternoon some other children and myself were playing in it. Of course, I had to get up

in the spring seat and jump up and down. As it had been raining, the seat was slippery and all at once my feet flew out and down I went, head first, hitting the bridge of my nose on the dashboard. Considerable wailing and much bloodshed ensured for I received quite a gash, but worst of all, the children told me they bet I wouldn't be able to go. However, I said I was all right and next morning we were all ready bright and early for our big trip. Bird and Nell were hitched to the wagon and we piled in. Some sat on the spring seat, some sat on a seat made by putting a 12-inch board across the wagon bed. We surely had fun and not a thing along the road escaped our eyes.

The road was extremely rough and muddy and the heavy wagon jolted from one side to the other. It rained quite a bit,



too, but the older folks had umbrellas, and we children didn't mind a bit, even though we did get most of the drip from their umbrellas. At last we arrived at Fairhaven and I didn't think a town could be so big. Mount Vernon being the largest I'd ever seen at that time. It rained the morning of the 4th, but after a while it cleared up and we went to the place where they were celebrating. If I live forever, I shall never see anything quite so wonderful as that celebration.

There was a big Ferris wheel all decorated with flags and bunting and people going around and around in the air; a merrygo-round with beautiful horses, with bright eyes and flowing manes. We had candy, paper fans that folded and all sorts of treats. There was a man with a music box that stood on legs. He called it a tubaphone. It was similar to an old Edison phono-

graph but instead of a horn it had a hollow rubber tube that branched off like the handle of a sling shot, and the large part was fastened on the reproducer. The branched part, with little buttons at the end, he put in his ears. Then he would start it going and it sounded through the tube like phonograph without a horn, no volume at all. Everyone thought that was a wonderful invention and wondered what they'd get up next. He charged ten cents for each person and he played two songs. I remember one song he played was "My Boyhood Happy Days Down On the Farm."

Well, we had better weather on the way home and I think both old and young enjoyed that Fourth. I know I did, even though I had to go with a court plaster on my nose and still carry the scar from that fall in the wagon.



Genealogy Junky

by Linda Jean Shepherd, Ph.D.

"I'm a genealogical junky. It's mystifying, since my family never interested me. I was a scientist immersed in the physical world until the spirits of my ancestors demanded I find them. While other family members are delighted when I share what I've discovered, I'm the only addict in the family. I revel as the name of each new ancestor finds a resonance and place in my body. Knowing them, I feel different inside.

What lures homebodies like me on journeys across the globe in search of gravestones, wills, and church records? What is it about genealogy that makes normal people become obsessed, compelled to discover our ancestors' names? Addiction to genealogy is such a common affliction that online stores sell t-shirts proclaiming "Genealogy Addict." Helpful websites list the symptoms:

You would rather read census schedules than a good book. Your idea of a great vacation is visiting cemeteries and histori-

You have traced every one of your ancestral lines back to Adam and Eve, have it documented, and still don't want to quit.

I knew I was hooked when I found myself tracing the genealogy of the Maine Coon cat we inherited.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has tapped into the mysterious force that causes genealogical addiction and woven it into the fabric of its theology. They consider genealogical data collection a religious duty. In China, people compete to update genealogies burned by the Red Guard during the Cultural Revolution. Genealogy was so important to the Maori of New Zealand that they symbolically inscribed it in the form of moko (tattoos) on their bodies with an albatross's wing bone.

As I discover more about my forbears' lives, I better understand the emotional and psychological patterns that have been passed down to me alongside my DNA.

I've always been haunted by a sense of deprivation, which contrasts sharply with my comfortable material circumstances. I even thought I had no family left, other than my brother. That feeling of deprivation makes more sense, now that I know something about my ancestors' cumulative poverty and struggles: Irish potato famine immigrants; a great-grandmother who lost four children due to undernourishment; and an emaciated, half-

blind uncle who was killed robbing a bank.

Now that I'm aware of the origin of certain beliefs and behaviors, I can release old dysfunctional patterns and make new choices. And as I heal my sense of deprivation, I imagine the healing passing to my relatives along the lines of time.

Through genealogy, I've discovered an abundance of family, including a second cousin, an only child of an only child, who believed she had no blood relatives left in the world. When I reunited her with two flesh-and-blood second cousins and a history of our family, she thanked me for "the best, most important gift" she'd ever received.

Genealogy creates webs of connection. The more I discover about my ancestors, the more of humanity I include in my family and the less justification I have for prejudice and intolerance. With each new name, the connections multiply--through time and space--linking me to bygone families as well as present-day cousins across the globe. Every family is woven into the tapestry of humankind, and understanding it gives me a larger perspective. Any vista of time can be reinterpreted when seen from another perspective. New visions of past, present, and future events create alternative routes to explore, expand, and heal.

I have the sense that what I learn in my life reverberates through time and impacts the souls of my ancestors as well as the descendents of our bloodline. Beneath all the cataloging of names and dates, there is something numinous about reweaving this web of family.

Some people derive a deep sense of interconnectedness with the universe through the revelations of quantum physics; I find it through my ancestors. Experiencing synchronicities and help from ancestors opens me to questioning the nature of reality. Where do my ancestors reside? Are the spiritual realms in other dimensions? What is the nature of time? What's the purpose of life? At a deep level, my addiction to genealogy is an expression of my innate desire for connection--to myself, to family, to humanity, to spiritual realms, and to the Creation.

I'm proud to be a genealogy junky, and I savor the delicious rush from each new discovery. Fortunately, I still have many more ancestral lines to trace before reaching Adam and Eve. "

Linda Jean Shepherd, Ph.D., is the author of Lifting the Veil: The Feminine Face of Science. This article first published in Ancestry Weekly Journal 4 April 2007



WORRIED OVER CEMETERY WASHOUT-Whittling while he contemplates erosion action of Alder Creek on the old Cary Cemetery east of Hamilton in Skagit County is Garfield Green, Rt. 3, Sedro Woolley. Several years ago he found bones in the creek to the left of the big cedar tree which he believes will

Upper Skagit Creek Nearing Cemetery

By JACK CARVER Of The Bellingham Herald of Hamilton where Alder Creek flows into the main river, a few residents and one in particular, died in 1907." have a problem: What to do about an old cemetery on the verge of being washed away?

Garfield Green, a light-haired old timer who was born and reared in the area, is the man most worried about the problem although he lives a mile or two away, on the corner of Highway 19 (the main east-west artery) and the Pinelli Road.

"Something should be done to preserve the place," he said the away, leaning toward the creek. other day. "Three years ago I picked up some bones that were washing in the creek and I un- grave of Nancy Qualls, who died

had borrowed a skull and it was some time before we relocated Way up the Skagit River, east it. Since there are no relatives around, I can say they were those of old George Qualls who

Alder Creek, it seems, was diverted to its present meandering course about 30 years ago, washing close to the cemetery in which the bodies of some eight to ten people are still buried. The Skagit River is about 200 feet from Cary Cemetery, named for homesteaders close-by.

Green, on a visit to the spot, pointed out a large cedar tree with part of its roots washed

"When that goes, maybe in a couple of years, it will take the derstand some kids hereabouts in 1884, and which is surrounded by a small picket fence, and the others," he predicted.

At high water the creek does

be washed away, removing with it the picket-lined grave of Mrs. Nancy Qualls (center), who died in 1884. He's hoping for county action to preserve the small and abandoned cemetery, located on the Cape Horn Road .- Herald photo.

ALDER CREEK CARY RANCH CEMETERY

This cemetery is located on Cape Horn Road east of Hamilton, Washington at Alder Creek. Stones ready by Betty Hoffman and Court House information obtained by John R. Fisher. Submitted for publication in newsletter by E. Dale Hastin, Publications Chair.

Location Born Blk 1-Spc 1 Qualls, Nancy Adaline 1827 13 Jul 1884

Inscription, Age 57 Yrs 8 Mos 9 Days [Mother of Matilda Cary]

Skagit County Courthouse Records indidcate there were two other graves at Alder Creek Cemetery—location unknown due to being washed out by Creek and Skagit River.

GONE ARE:

[Cary, Matilda Jane] [22 Mar 1858] [30 Dec 1915] [wife of Jesse Cary] [Father: Jasper N. Qualls of Tenn.] [Mother was Nancy A. (Presswood) of N.C.; later moved to Hamilton Cemetery]

[Qualls, Female Infant] [28 Dec 1801, born Hamilton] [Father: Wirdey Quall] [Mother: Mattie Hutton]

Nature has claimed the spot for its own

By Mollie Dowdle, Skagit Valley Herald Feb. 11, 1978

In a neglected, forsaken cemetery, not far from the Skagit River above Hamilton, lie the remains of Nancy Adeline Qualls, one of the earliest pioneers in the upper valley. Nature has claimed the spot for its own again and I can't plow through the tangles to visit Nancy anymore. Standing like a silent sentinel over the burying spot is a huge cedar tree with sweeping low branches reaching out like gentle arms to caress the earth. Snow berries have pushed their persistent sturdy growth and then consecrated it with white berries. Many years ago, someone planted an old-fashioned rambling rose in the grave yard, and its prickly long branches have dropped to the soil and sprouted to new life in a mad riot over Nancy and her silent neighbors.

I remember when Nancy's grave had been protected from the elements with a steep roof of long hand split cedar shakes, but time claimed its own and now these lay scattered over the sunken spot. Nancy is one with the wind, rain and snow along the Skagit. The remains of a low ornate picket fence has withstood time, separated this pioneer woman from other graves. Someone cared. Someone cared very much. Was it a husband or a child? We will never know.

I can't reach the grave marker, but it is there, a four inch slab of straight grained cedar, curved into a half circle at the top. Faintly seen is Nancy's simple epitaph, printed in black letters — Nancy Adeline Qualls — age 58 years, died 1883.

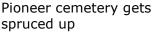
Nancy and her young husband, Jasper, and their children left Arkansas over a century ago and traveled west with a wagon train.

It took a long time, and we can only imagine the hardships they endured. Our valley was a land of promise, one of fertile soil, fish, wild life and opportunities. They reached LaConner from their long journey and loaded their scant belongings into a canoe and continued on up the Skagit River. Just above Hamilton they staked out homestead rights on 160 acres of virgin timber and hurried to erect a log cabin because winter was drawing near.

Nancy bore more children until there were four sons and three daughters. A larger house replaced the one room log cabin and Jasper finally cleared away enough timber from his doorstep for adequate soil to feed his family. There is no remembrance of how long the Qualls lived [here] before the death of Nancy. But we know she was laid to a corner of their homestead. As others of the family died, they were laid alongside of her. The Carys were relatives and some of them were put there. It became known, until this day, as Cary Cemetery. There are memories of loggers killed in the woods and buried there. An old timer handed down a pathetic story of death in the wilderness, far up the Skagit River, on the Sauk. A young homesteader lost his wife and first baby in childbirth. There was no available material for a coffin, so he chipped one from the trunk. of a tree. Placing the baby in the mother's arms, he brought them by canoe to the Cary Cemetery for a Christian burial. From such. pioneers have come the roots of civilization along the Skagit. There was no church, so we can only imagine how these services were carried out. We only know the pioneers managed.

The cemetery expanded with open arms to all without a price. Ten? Twenty? Thirty? No one knows. Those who would are gone. The information I have is from a woman whose ancestor was an early Qualls woman who had kept a journal of remembrances. The bodies in the pioneer cemetery had been buried near Alder Creek at a time when the water didn't wash and cut dangerously. But the time came when the water changed its course and caskets began to float down stream into the river. Once, I picked up the bleached arm and leg bones of an adult, and called the sheriff, who took care of them.

Nancy Adeline Qualls is the only grave with a marker; the others are known only to God. Feeble attempts were made a time or two to grasp the spot from the elements but none were successful. The nettles, snow berries and all manner of sturdy brush gained a foothold over the seven graves and I gave up trying to visit Nancy. Recently I went up to the cemetery and this is what I found. Someone had dumped a pile of liquor bottles over what could be graves. Alder Creek has been rocked, so there will be no more washing graves away. Huge alder trees grow along the creek bank and lean heavily over the cemetery. One day the State Fishery Department stopped, looked over the site and decided it would be an ideal spot for some phase of their work, but were soon told it was a burying spot of old pioneers. Few people know it is there. But those of us who do all feel alike: wouldn't it be great to see it restored so future generations can visit Nancy and others who lie in peace along the Skagit?



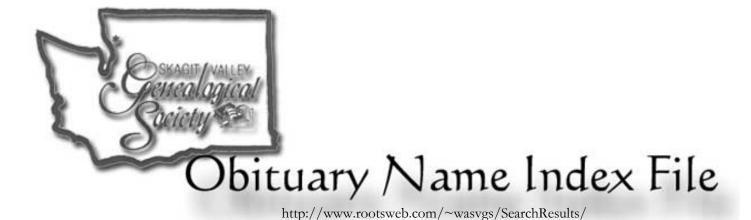
By Noel Johnson, associate editor, Skagit Valley Herald, July 1985

In a neglected, brush tangled cemetery at Alder Creek on Cape Horn Road between Hamilton and Birdsview stands a time-

worn cedar tombstone: "Nancy Adeline Qualls, died July 13, 1884, age 57." For 101 years almost to the day, the four inch slab of straight grained cedar has withstood the ravages of wind, rain and sun to mark the final resting place of this pioneer woman.

Tuesday, a maintenance crew from the Skagit County Public Works Department, armed with brush cutters and muscle, cut away the tangle of brush, vines and small trees which had overgrown the grave of Nancy and her silent neighbors, and made the pioneer cemetery at least accessible again. A number of years ago a group of young people from the nearby communities had cleaned up the area and restored the markers the best they could. But time and undergrowth wait for no man, alive or at rest. The county effort to clear away the ancient cemetery is a triumph of persistence for Molly Dowdle herself a pioneer resident of the area. More than 20 years ago Mrs. Dowdle, a long time correspondent, wrote an article in the Skagit Valley Herald telling about coming across the old burying.





Some Background: The obituaries have been collected since 1987 when our society was organized. An initial contest gave us a few early obits but none that were consistent. When Dee Ackerman of the Whatcom County Gen Society passed away she had been collecting obits from the Courier Times and the Skagit Argus for many years and some of her files covered the years from 1980-1986, but we have no way of knowing if this is a complete collection as these are both weekly papers and the majority of obits are published in the Skagit Valley Herald. Then a few years ago, Barbara Harris and her nephew Kenneth Klaus donated some papers from the 70's but I am not sure how many or if they are a complete collection of years. We have no way of knowing for certain on this. Mollie Sackman, John and Shirlee Fisher and others in the society have been in charge of clipping obituaries from local papers since the society was formed. Barbara Ricketts and Norma Keefe-Hills are presently doing that job. The clippings were filed and the Obituary Name Index File was put together in Excel format by Hazel Rasar. Barbara and Norma continue this work.

It is regrettable that the majority of newspapers in Skagit County, Washington State do not allow access to the archives of their publications. Therefore, Skagit Valley Genealogical Society has collected and filed as many obituaries as possible. We accept no accuracy for the content of the newspaper articles or the obituaries.

Obituaries of Skagit County come from multiple sources. This information has been extracted from available weekly newspapers in the smaller communities as well as from the daily editions of the Skagit Valley Herald. Due to name spell-

ings, some obvious errors in dates, etc, and/or typographical errors the Society is not responsible for any errors found in this database. Not all information is available in all obituaries, as some articles may contain only a death or funeral notice. Many of our collection have been donated previous to the organization of the society, and most of these notices do not contain either the newspaper or the date of publication. They have been included here to make the pertinent information available. In some instances, newspaper articles relating to the deaths of individuals have been preserved.

Please note: This current file goes through December 2006 contains over 27,000 names. The file will be up-dated regularly. Also! Depending on how fast your computer is and if you are using the 'ol phone lines or the faster DSL, cable modem, etc. The file could take a while to download, please be patient. If you are having any problems, please contact the webmaster, who would be glad to look up a name for you.

Copies of these notices may be obtained by writing to our society and we will photocopy whatever is available for the cost of \$8.00 (full obit) \$3.00 death notice, also \$1.00 for additional pages such as newspaper articles. Please include SASE. Remit to: Skagit Valley Genealogical Society; att'n Genealogist, P.O. Box 715, Conway, WA 98238-0715. Or e-mail our genealogist, Diane Partington @ nonie.dl@verizon.net.

The Obituary Name Index File and all information herein contained is copyrighted to the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and copyright laws are strictly enforced. A lot of volunteer time and effort have gone into this work, we hope that is respected. If you have obituaries that you do not find in our files here, we would welcome copies to add and thank you in advance for the donation to the societies work.



Publications for Sale

Order Form - Please indicate quantity and title

	Pioneer Book of Skagit County, Washington An alphabetical listing of over 4000 Skagit County Pioneers whose deaths were recorded between 1926 and 1955. Includes date, town and state where death occurred, plus additional information on some individuals. 78 pages \$9.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Death Records An Index copied from the county ledger that is the only record of deaths from 1891 thru 1908, Alphabetically sorted by name of deceased, by father of deceased and by mother of deceased. 36 pages \$8.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Index to Funeral Home Records 1908 - 1994 More than 44,000 names, alphabetically indexed, of all available funeral home records in the County. Each person is listed with, as available, year of death, age at death, birthplace, mortuary reference and cemetery where buried. 280 pages \$30.00 [Microfiche \$8.00]		
NEW_	Skagit County, Washington, Index to Funeral Home Records Vol. 2 1994 - 2003 More than 8300 names, all phabetically indexed, of all available funeral home records in the County. Each person is listed with, as available, year of death, age at death, funeral home and cemetery where buried, if available 120 pages \$15.00		
NEW_	Skagit County, Washington, Library Holdings of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society located at Burlington City Lirbrary current as of October 2004. This includes a breakdown and identification of every category of books, journals and private family publications located in the SVGS collection. 58 pages \$5.00 280 pages \$30.00 [Microfiche \$8.00]		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 1 - Union Cemetery, Sedro Woolley, Washington 1889-1992 an annotated Index of Burials, tombstone Inscriptions, Sexton Records, Cemetery Map, Section & Plat numbers with obituary and family information where available, including information on unmarked gravesites. 325 pages \$30.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 2- Green Hills Memorial Cemetery, Burlington, Washington 1900 - 1993 A listing of burials which includes a complete alphabetical index and information on unmarked gravesites, and a map of the cemetery. 175 pages \$20.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 3 - Grand View Cemetery, Anacortes, Washington 1897-1999 A record of burials which includes a complete alphabetical index and information on unmarked gravesites, and a map of the cemetery. 220 pages \$25.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 4 - Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, LaConner, Washington 1875-1999 a listing of burials which includes a complete alphabetical index, and index of veterans and information on unmarked gravesites, and a map of the cemetery. 100 pages \$15.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 5 - Mount Vernon Cemetery 1890-2000 A listing of burials which includes a complete alphabetical index, an index of veterans and information on unmarked gravesites, and a map (including sections) of the cemetery. 305 pages \$30.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 6 - Forest Park Cemetery, Concrete, Washington 1908-2002 A listing of burials which includes a complete alphabetical index, and index of veterans and information on unmarked gravesites, and a map of the cemetery. 46 pages \$10.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 7 - Bay View Cemetery, Bay View, Washington 1892-2002 A listing of burials which includes a complete alphabetical index, an index of veterans and information on unmarked gravesites, and a map of the cemetery. 53 pages \$10.00		
	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 8 - Bow Cemetery, Bow, Washington 1883-June 2003 A listing of burials which includes a complete alphabetical index, an index of veterans, information on unmarked gravesites,		

and a map of the cemetery, including sections. 112 pages \$15.00

Septen	C	ap of the cemetery. 47 pages	\$10.00	eterans and information on un-	
NEW_	1888 – 2003 A listing of bu	•	Volume 10 - Edens Cemetery, Gete alphabetical index, an index sections. 37 pages \$5.00	,	
NEW_	Skagit County, Washington, Cemetery Records Volume 11- Fern Hill Cemetery, Fidalgo Island, Washington 1893-2003 A listing of burial which includes a complete alphabetical index, an index of veterans, informati On unmarked gravesites, and a map of the cemetery. 131 pages \$15.00				
NEW_	A listing of burial v		e 12- Fir-Conway, Lutheran Chur nabetical index, an index of vetera ery. 82 pages \$12.00		
	Every Name Index for the 1	906 History of Skagit and Sno	homish Counties, Washington. 1	50 pages \$18.00	
	1885 Territorial Census, Sk	agit County, Washington 55	5 pages \$10.00		
	1887 Teritorial Census, Ska	git County, Washington	74 pages \$10.00		
	1889 Territorial Census, Fin	rst State Census, Skagit Count	y, Washington 150 pages \$20	.00	
	1892 Washington State Cen	sus for Skagit County, Washir	ngton 170 pages \$20.00		
	1910 Federal Census, Index	for Skagit County, Washingto	on 262 pages \$20.00		
	1910 Federal Census for Skagit County, Washington (selected information), includes alphabetical index. [In 3 ring presentation binder] 974 pages \$75.00				
	Generation to Generation Recipe Book Recipes included represent the heritage of only a few of our members. Man have been passed from generation to generation, from mother to daughter, and even in some instances, form mother to son and grandson. 87 pages \$5.00				
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2007

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ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE							
AREA CODE () TELEPHONE NUMBER	_ E-MAIL ADDRESS						
New Member	Renewal	Previous Member					
FAMILY \$ 15	INDIVIDUAL \$12	INSTITUTION \$12					



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