



Volume 17 Number 1
 President: Laura Pemberton-Sparr
 Newsletter Editor: Dan Royal
 PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715
 Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs>
 Email: genealogy2@verizon.net
 SVGS Library Collection:
 900 E. Fairhaven
 Burlington, Washington 98233

President's Message

Since a six year is a year of partnership (2004; 2 + 4 = 6) I want to bring two wonderful examples to your attention. Our own new history book committee brings a variety of people and organizations together to work on "Skagit County, Washington and Its People; 150 Years of Rich History & Heritage". This wonderful committee has made great strides regarding its project and is actually ready to proceed full-throttle. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter. Good work, Hazel Rasar and Dan Royal (co-chairmen), you have assembled a great group and accomplished an unbelievable amount in your four meeting history.

Another group that has come together is a King County Snapshots website. You can find it at: <http://content.lib.washington.edu/imsl/kcsnapshots/index.html>. The participating organizations are · Black Heritage Society · Eastside Heritage Center · Maple Valley Historical Society · Museum of History & Industry · Northwest Railway Museum · Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society · Rainier Valley Historical Society · Renton Historical Museum · Shoreline Historical Museum · University of Washington Libraries · White River Valley Museum · Wing Luke Asian Museum. Take a look at their site, but more importantly, contact them and let them know how excited we are that they are doing a joint project.

Another example of cooperation is the information on the web about the Washington Territory, done as a joint project between the Washington State Archives and the Washington State Library at <http://www.statelib.wa.gov/>.

Let's continue these fine beginnings and add our blessings to other partnerships, as well as the compassion that is another aspect of this year. Put yourself in the shoes of another and see how what you are about to say or do might make them feel. I love you all and am so glad to count each of you among my friends. Let's have a marvelous year!!!

Let's start it off by saying thank-you to all of our volunteers and reminding you that we are searching for an education chairperson (only organize events, not necessarily teach classes or do the driving for research trips); a fund-raising chairperson (we need extra money to publish our new history book project & to possibly one day have our own library); a

seminar chairman to plan a seminar in early summer or early fall (don't worry, the WA State Genealogical Society has published a wonderful guide to this very thing), so that we can bring our message of knowledge to even more people in our community.

Happy Ancestor Hunting!

Laura

Local News From Skagit county Skagit County Celebrates 120 Years

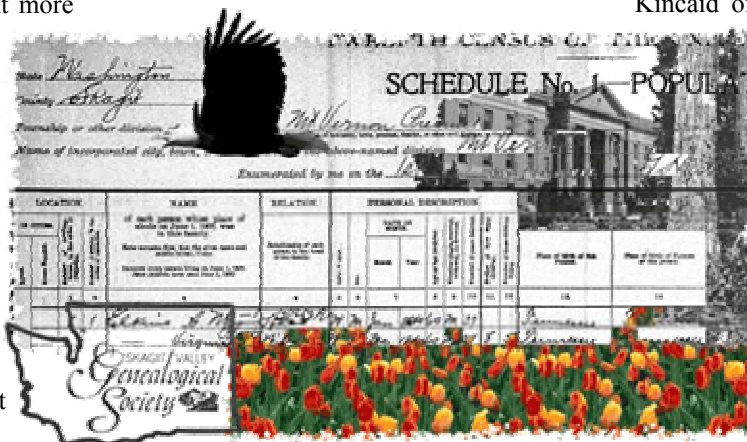
Skagit County turned 120 years this past 28 November 2003. It was an amazing achievement and maneuvering at the time, as officials in Whatcom County did not want the lower section of their county—which we were a part of at the time—to secede. But a large group of folks had been trying to do this for 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.

Excerpted from the 1906 Illustrated History of Skagit and Snohomish County is the measures to create the new county of Skagit.

“AN ACT TO CREATE AND ORGANIZE THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT”

Section 1. Be it enacted by the legislative assembly of the territory of Washington: That all that portion of the county of Whatcom, in the Territory of Washington, lying and situated south of the dividing line between townships 36 and 37 (commencing at mid-channel of the Rosario straits and running eastward to the summit of the Cascade range of mountains), to the dividing line between said county of Whatcom and the counties of Island and Snohomish be, and the same is hereby organized into a separate county, to be known as the county of Skagit: Provided, That so much of Lummi and Eliza Islands as lie south of the dividing line between said townships 36 and 37 shall belong to Whatcom



SVGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004

PRESIDENT: *Laura Pemberton Sparr*

1-425-231-6945
laurasparr@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: *John Hayes*

360-424-4608
rosie@valleyint.com

SECRETARY: *Iona Raney*

360-757-8099
iona1@juno.com

TREASURER: *Jane Russell*

360-428-2939
russellmv@aol.com

PAST PRESIDENT: *John Fisher*

360-293-4986
jrf@fidalgo.net

ARCHIVIST: *Lorraine Rothenbuhler*

360-856-1874
raine@cnw.com

EDUCATION: OPEN

GENEALOGIST: *Diane Partington*

360-336-5832
nonie.dl@verizon.net

LIBRARIAN: *Joan Udd*

360-757-7907
jnaudd@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP: *Donna Hinds*

360-724-3882
hinds6@aol.com

NEWSLETTER/WEBMASTER: *Dan Royal*

360-826-6141
dmoroyal@earthlink.net

PROJECTS: *John Fisher*

(see above past president)

PUBLICATIONS: *Hazel Rasar*

360-424-6528
h.rasar2@verizon.net

PUBLICITY: *Edna Bainter*

360-428-5020
bainter@ncia.com

WAYS & MEANS: *Sharon Johnson*

360-445-5483
johnson@sos.net

Special Committees

TELEPHONE: *Yvonda Anderson*

360-757-0052
vondavid@fidalgo.net

January — May 2004

Attention !!

Calendar of Events

General Meetings:

27 January Margarie Kott will speak on
“Researching My Husbands Family”

24 February “I’ve got to get Organized” from John
Fisher, Hazel Rasar, & Laura Sparr

23 March “Genealogical Breakthrough” from John Hayes;
“Auto Biographies” from John Fisher and a Book Report by
Sharon Johnson

27 April “In-depth Introduction to My Resource & Research
Centre” by Laura Sparr

25 May “Genealogical Research on the Internet” by Hazel
Rasar

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*

See page 6

Comb Binding .. For members

- The society owns a comb binding machine. If you call
John Fisher at 360-293-4986 he will make arrangements
to bind your pages into a book for you. Cost is: \$1.00
per book to cover supplies.

Volunteers Needed

Education Chairperson Board Position

Your help is needed to fill this empty seat on the
governing board of your society. Please help us out. Also,
remember that our board meetings are open to all members,
so come join us the first Tuesday of each month at
Washington Federal in Burlington at 10 a.m.

Fund Raiser Chairperson Board Position

We are looking for a volunteer (s) for fund raising and/or
grant writing, particularly in relation to the new history book
project.

County.

Continued on page 3

Section 2. That H.P. Downs, F.E. Gilkey and H.A. March are hereby appointed a board of commissioners to call a special election for county officers for said Skagit County, and to appoint the necessary judges and inspectors thereof. Said election shall be held on the second Tuesday in January, A.D. 1884, and notice thereof shall be published in one or more newspapers within the present limits of Whatcom county, for at least four consecutive weeks. Said election shall be conducted and returns thereof made as is now provided by law: Provided, That the returns shall be made to the commissioners aforesaid, who shall canvass the returns and declare the result, and issue certificates of election to the persons so elected to the several county offices of said Skagit county within ten days after the date of said election.

Section 3. That the justices of the peace and constables, school and road district officers, who are now elected as such in the precincts of Whatcom county hereby set apart as Skagit county, be, and the same are hereby declared justices of the peace and constables, school and road district officers of Skagit county.

Section 4. That the district court, now established and holding terms at La Conner for the territory embraced within the present limits of Whatcom county, shall continue at La Conner as the district court for Skagit county; and the county of Whatcom is hereby annexed to said Skagit county for judicial and legislative purposes and all laws at present applicable to the county of Whatcom, relative to the powers and jurisdiction or otherwise of said district court, shall continue in full force and effect the same as if said county had not been divided and the title of said county changed as herein provided.

Section 5. That the county seat of said Skagit county is hereby temporarily located at LaConner, at which place it shall remain until located permanently elsewhere in said county, by vote of the qualified electors thereof; for which purpose a vote shall be taken at the next general election in 1884, and the officers of election shall receive said vote and canvass the same and announce the result in like manner as the result of the vote for county officers, and the place receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be declared the permanent county seat of the said county of Skagit: Provided, That until such permanent location of the county seat, the board of county commissioners shall erect no public buildings, but shall rent or lease such rooms for county offices as may be necessary for the public service.

Section 6. That all taxes levied and assessed by the board of county commissioners of the county of Whatcom for the year 1883, upon persons or property within the boundaries of the county of Skagit, shall be collected and paid into the treasury of said Whatcom county for the joint use of the county of Whatcom and Skagit as herein after provided.

Section 7. That the county auditors of Whatcom and Skagit counties are hereby constituted a board of appraisers and adjusters of the real and other property of the county of Whatcom, and for this purpose shall meet at Whatcom on the first Monday of February, 1884. They shall appraise the value of the court-house, safes and real estate of the county, and ascertain the balance in the county treasure, over and

above the outstanding warrants upon said treasury at that date, and shall award to the county of Whatcom one-half and to the county of Skagit one-half of such property and funds so appraised and ascertained: Provided, That if both auditors can not agree upon the appraised valuation of such property they shall elect a citizen from an adjoining county as arbitrator to adjust the difference between them. Then the auditor of Whatcom county shall draw a warrant on the treasury of said county in favor of the said county of Skagit for the amount so agreed upon as its proportion of the property: Provided further, That all taxes remaining unpaid upon property within the boundaries of Skagit county, at the date of settlement herein provided for, shall be turned over to the auditor of Skagit county to be collected by the proper officer of said county as now provided by law.

Section 8. The several county officers, to be elected at the special election provided for in this act, shall qualify by taking the oath of office within ten days after the date of their certificate of election so issued and shall give bond for the faithful performance of their duties, subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners of said Skagit county, as is now provided by law, and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified at the next general election.

Section 9. The board of county commissioners to be elected under the provisions of this act shall hold their first quarterly meeting on the first Monday in February, A.D. 1884, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The said board shall have power to fill all vacancies occurring in said board, or in any county office of said county of Skagit, by reason of failure to qualify or otherwise, in the manner provided by the general laws of the territory: Provided, That the board of county commissioners and other officers of Whatcom county shall continue to exercise and perform their respective duties, for both Whatcom and Skagit county, the same as if not divided, until their successors for Skagit county shall have been elected and qualified as herein provided: Provided further, That the board of county commissioners of Whatcom county shall have power to fill all vacancies by reason of the resignation or withdrawal of any officer of said county residing within the precincts or boundary of Skagit county hereby set apart.

Section 10. The auditor of Skagit county shall have access to the records of Whatcom county for the purpose of transcribing and indexing such portions of the records of property as belong to Skagit county without cost, and his certificate of the correctness thereof shall have the same force and effect as if made by the auditor of Whatcom county.

Section 11. The counties of Whatcom and Skagit shall continue in their relation to the counties of Snohomish, Island and San Juan in the matter of legislative districts until otherwise provided by law.

Section 12. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with the

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The New Year of 2004 has arrived. All society dues were payable by January 1. If your dues have not been paid by the end of February you will be removed from the society mailing list.

Coming Events

20 Mar 2004 - Vancouver, WA

Clark County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar with Dr. John Philip Colletta. Visit their website at www.ccgswa.org for detailed information.

10 Apr 2004 - Yakima, WA

Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Spring Seminar with Patty McGinty. More details will be available on the society's website at www.rootsweb.com/~wayvgs as the date gets closer.

Society News

Two Society members pass away within the year

Mary Grady Stender of La Conner passed away December 10, 2003 in a care center in Anacortes. She was born in Kansas in 1922. Mary had lived in the Pacific Northwest since about 1940. She and Gene Stender were married in February 1997. Gene passed away in January of 2003. Both had been members of SVGS for a number of years, attending many meetings and taking part in one of our group trips to Salt Lake City to do research in the Family History Library there.

Shirlee and John Fisher

Website

Dan Royal, webmaster for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society has created a new homepage for the societies website. The logo is printed on page one. You can access the website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs>

Genealogy Classes coming to Burlington Senior Center

Classes will begin on Thursday, 22 January, 2004. The first series will consist of six sessions from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. A second series of two sessions for the computer will follow. All Series one classes will be taught by Laura Sparr

Series 1 — \$30

Jan 22 Session #1— Introduction to Family History (Genealogical & Home Sources) Some tools we use

Jan 29 Session #2 — Primary Sources

Feb 5 Session #3 — Secondary Sources

Feb 12 Session #4 — Using Census Records

Feb 19 Session #5 — Organizing Material & Keeping Records

Feb 26 Session #6 -- Evaluating Evidence & Sharing Research

Series 2 — \$10

Mar 4 Session #1 — Using the Computer for Genealogy

Mar 11 Session #2 — Using the Internet for Genealogy Research

Cemetery Readings

Projects chair John Fisher reported Fir-Conway Lutheran Cemetery is computerized, and the committee awaits receipt of photocopies of the church's records. Hamilton Cemetery has been read and is not yet completed, then Lyman will be read in the near future. Fern Hill Cemetery and Hawthorne

Lawne Cemetery will also be read.

SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON AND ITS PEOPLE!

150 Years of Rich History & Heritage

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society has determined that we need to do something to honor our Skagit County citizens. With that in mind, a committee has been formed to develop a questionnaire to obtain information on families of Skagit County. Those members are: Hazel Rasar, Daniel Royal, Laura Sparr, Thomas Robinson, Darlene Libbey, Lorraine Rothenbuhler, Deanna Ammons, James Mowrer and Arnold Stewart. We hope to publish something similar in nature to the "1906 History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties".

Any assistance will be appreciated. If you are interested in working with this committee, or know someone who might be interested, let us know. Contact information at this time will be via mail at the society address or by email to SVGS at: genealogy2@verizon.net or to any committee member.

The attached flyer will be distributed to inform the public of our project. Anyone knowing of pioneers from the Skagit County area, please contact one of our committee members so that we can send them a questionnaire. In addition, we will be looking for Skagit County residents to assist in this project for the purpose of obtaining photographs and information relevant to the history of the Skagit County.

Welcome New Members

The Society is excited to welcome new and returning members to the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.

Jeannette Elaine [Grinde] Mowrer

Larry George Mowrer

JoAn Duckworth

Message from Joan the Librarian

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

A recent newspaper article tells of a new genealogy database added to the Burlington Public Library. The Heritage Quest database is available the following web site:

<http://www.burlington.lib.wa.us>

Go to the Library Resources drop-down menu and click on Online Databases, then select Heritage Quest. If you have a Burlington library card you may access this from your home but one can always use one of the four free public Internet workstations at the library. This is a marvelous gift, from the library, for genealogists, so please tell the director, Christine Perkins, how much you appreciate this and by all means use the database.

The Monday library volunteers have been doing a good job the past few months. The schedule coming up is as follows: January 12 - Joyce Wiemerslage, (Library not open on Jan. 19) January 26 - Diane Partington, February 2 - Betty Hogerwerf, February 9 - John & Shirlee Fisher, February 16 - Diane Partington, (Library not open on February 23); March 1 - Donna Hinds, March 8 - Lois Theodoratus and March 15 - Lorraine Rothenbuhler. Thank you to all the members who volunteer at our library.

The SVGS library has two new acquisitions: *Virtual Roots 2.0* written by Thomas Jay Kemp of the Godfrey Library in Middletown, CT. This is a compilation of

Skagit County Families Remembered

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society wishes to remember for posterity in a special edited obituary section the recently deceased who came to Skagit County at least 30-50 years ago. Where we can find their family (paternal or maternal) in any source- such as census reports; from the 1885 Washington Territory Skagit Co. Census to the recently released 1930 U.S. Census for Skagit Co.; 1906 History of Skagit & Snohomish County book; - we will add in the last paragraph. This will also help us with our special ongoing book project on Skagit People. Ye Editor

Nellie Louise Warfield Neumayer, resident of Sedro Woolley passed away 2 September 2003 at 87 years of age. She was born 9 November 1915 in Hamilton, WA., the daughter of Jake and Edna (Thompson) Warfield. Nellie graduated at Sedro Woolley H.S., during WWII worked as a riveter before joining the US Army Air Corp in 1943 as a teletype operator. She retired from the US Air Force in 1966 as a Tech Sgt. She retired as a secretary in Reno, NV in 1997 and moved back to Sedro Woolley. She is interred at Sedro Woolley Union Cemetery.



Nellie's families in Skagit County show up on the maternal side of her family with her mother Edna Thompson 5 months old to William M. and Mary Thompson in the 1887 U.S. Census for Skagit Co., her father is listed as a Physician. (W.M. Thompson first shows in the 1885 Census). Her father Jacob Warfield is 2 years of age in the 1892 Skagit Co. Census; his father is listed as Silas H. Warfield 26 IL. Farmer (mother Nellie MS)-he is first found in the 1889 census for Skagit County.

Agda E. Bergquist passed away 12 September 2003 at the age of 97. She was born 9 May 1906 in Percinval, Saskatchewan, Canada the daughter of Hans and Emily (Anderson) Hanson. The family moved to Skagit County in 1910 on property that would become the Hoogdal Community. She was united in marriage to John Bergquist in Sedro Woolley 5 January 1924 where they built a house in 1926. She spent her whole life living in that family home. Agda is interred at Sedro Woolley Union Cemetery. Two daughters survive her.

James Therrien passed away 2 September 2003 at the age of 90. He was born in Clear Lake, WA., 17 November 1912 to Joseph and Mary Therrien where he has been a resident all his life. He served in WWII in the European theater and was employed in millwork until he retired.

Glen Blanton passed away in his sleep 28 September 2003. He was born 28 September 1913 in Lyman, WA., to John and Maggie (Crawford) Blanton. Glen spent his early life as a logger before going into the Forest Service. He married Mona Lumbert of Sedro Woolley on 2 November 1935 and they had three daughters. Mona preceded him in death July of 1989. He is survived by three daughters.

Huntly S. Gordon, Sr. passed away at his home in Shelter Bay, LaConner, WA., 2 October 2003 at the age of 92. Born 9 April 1911 in Van Horn (near Concrete) to William and Mabel Gordon. He graduated from Mount Vernon H.S. In 1929 and Washington State University in 1933. Huntly married Ann Parker of Seattle in 1936 and returned to Mount Vernon where he joined his fathers business, Gordon Insurance. He was a veteran of World War II and an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. His wife of 67 years, a daughter and two sons survive him.

His parents and a sister Josephine are found in the 1910 U.S. Census for Skagit County. William J.S. Gordon age 39 born in Africa, mother Mabel N. age 29 born in WA., along with Josephine A. age 2 born in WA. They preceded him in death.

George E. Boynton, Jr. passed away 4 October 2003 in Mount Vernon at the age of 83. He was born 24 May 1920 to Dr. George, Sr. and Elise Boynton who have preceded him in death along with his brother Richard and wife Betty.

After serving in WW II in the South Pacific he graduated with a Master's degree in Educational Psychology and taught middle school until he retired; he and his wife Betty joined the Shelter Bay Community in LaConner. George is interred at Fir-Conway Lutheran Cemetery.

George Sr., age 37 IL. Physician along with wife Elise can be found in the 1920 U.S. Census for Skagit Co. They can also be found with children in the 1930.

Eileen T. Peterson, life time Skagit County resident, passed away at her home 7 October 2003. She was born 8 June 1914 to parents Nels E. Tenneson and Mamie Holt Tenneson. She lived on the family farm on Cook Road in Burlington and graduated in 1932 from Burlington H.S. She married Oscar S. Peterson November of 1935 and was considered a good horsewoman and farmer along with her husband. Surviving are a daughter and three sons. Preceding her in death were her parents and husband. She is interred at Bow Cemetery. *Her father Nels Tenneson age 55 born in Norway according to the U.S. Census for Skagit Co., 1930.*

Victor L. Neff, killed in a traffic accident 12 October 2003 was born on the Edison Flats 21 July 1921 to Benjamin F. and Elfrida (Shassey) Neff, he graduated at Burlington H.S. He served throughout Europe during WWII and was honorably discharged in 1945. He met and married Genevieve Flint and had three children together. He later married Judy Heckendorn and became a father to her two children. *Victor can be found with his family in the 1930 U.S. Census for Skagit Co. His father Benjamin age 52 born Iowa.*

Iris Jeannett Larson, 87, passed away in Mount Vernon 23 October 2003. She was born in Milltown on 12 August 1916 to Elmer and Benetia Swanson. Iris graduated from Mount Vernon H.S. in 1934. She married Clarence J. Larson of Stanwood around 1942. She is survived by one son. Iris will be interred at Milltown Lutheran Cemetery. *Her family can be found in the 1920 U.S. Census for Skagit Co., Milltown Precinct; father Elmer age 30 born SWED., works as laborer in Saw Mill; mother Benetia, 26, born WA., at home with one child.*

well-organized web sites of interest to genealogists. A CD is also on the back cover of the book.

The Saxon Story: Early Pioneers on the South Fork by Marie Hamel Royer. Many photographs of the early pioneers who settled in the South Fork Valley of the Nooksack River in Whatcom County and endpaper maps as well as an extensive index make this history of the North neighboring community of Saxon a welcome addition to our collection. Other additions have been contributed by our society members. *The 1850 Census of Illinois, Hancock County*, sponsored by the Tri-City Gen.Soc. Kennewick, Pasco, Richland, WA is well indexed, 298p. Donated by Laura Sparr.

Times & Lives of the Coffelts by Joan Wikman Coffelt. This soft cover volume has a copyright of 1995.

The Swedish County Victorian Home: Including the pioneer Jones, Forbes and Anderson Families by John J. Ruhlman. This little 36 page spiral bound book is well indexed and has many photographs. The last two books were donated by John Ruhlman. Thanks to you both.

The traveling library has been well used recently and new additions have been received there also. CD's include: *Cemetery Records of Whatcom County; Passenger & Immigration Lists Index 1500 – 1900; Scotch Irish Settlers in America; Scandinavians in US Federal Census – 1 8 7 0*.

The library committee, Linda Ream, Darlene Libby and Joyce Weimerslage, will be taking on the shared responsibility for the traveling library. To all who check out items from the traveling library please be sure to write down the date returned in the check out book when the item is returned. Thanks

Questions or concerns regarding any of the above articles or any aspect of the library program please talk to me by phone or email is fine.

Your SVGS Librarian – Joan

Genealogical Resources

Ordering forms from the National Archive Website

Thanks to Joy Fisher who posted the following information about ordering forms from the National Archive Website... <http://www.nara.gov>. For those of you unaware of the National Archive Source... They have military records, and land records and much more that you can order (at a price)... but to order you have to use **THEIR form** ... These forms can be ordered online... and that's what the following email is about. Looks like NARA is making some changes in their ordering system. First off, Form NATF 84 for ordering land entry records has been revamped. Orders submitted on the old Form 84's are being returned along with a blank new form NATF 84 and you are told to fill out the new form and re-submit it. I just ordered some Forms on-line.

http://www.archives.gov/global_pages/inquire.form.html

I would suggest that if you have any Form 84's lying around that you destroy them and order a fresh batch.

Second, you can now order military pension records on-line: <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start>



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 - 2003

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