Web site: http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs



President's Message

Wow, 2013 is locomoting on a fast track. We are on the verge of Spring already. Soon we will be gathering together at our yearly board retreat to brainstorm ideas for the year. Society members are welcomed to join us on March 23rd at the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm.

The Burlington Community library is forging ahead with their ROOTS project. SVGS members are encouraged to volunteer for this worthwhile program.

Washington State Genealogy Society is looking for someone on this side of the mountains to host the 2014 WSGS State conference. Eric Stroschein and committee are looking into the feasability of SVGS taking that on.

Come this April during our general membership meeting we will be launching Skagit County's History Book. Dan Royal has put a lot of time and effort into this project. Ordering and sales details will be coming soon.

With the March and April rain and winds, now is a good time to put some finishing touches on your genealogy searches before Spring flowers and sunshine comes our way.

President/Webmaster George E. Ridgeway Jr.

George E. Ridgeway Gr.

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 or 360-856-0870. She will happily take your ideas to heart.

Ellis Island Immigration Museum Archive Relocated
Posted by Diane Haddad and the staff of Family Tree Magazine

The National Park Service has moved treasures from the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York Harbor to a federal storage center due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Oct. 29, the hurricane flooded Ellis Island and water filled the basement of the Immigration Museum, which houses the Great Hall where millions of immigrants started their lives in the United States.

Fortunately, the water didn't touch the museum's archive of records and immigrant artifacts, which were located elsewhere in the building. But it did knock out the island's electricity, wreaking havoc on the museum's carefully controlled climate and causing mold to grow on the artifacts and condensation to build up on walls.

You can learn more about the move and see photos and a video in this TribecaTribOnline article.

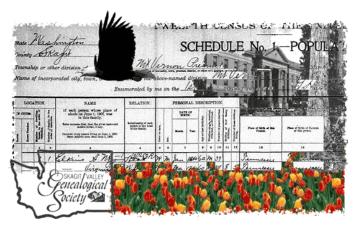
Both Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty (on nearby Liberty Island) remain closed. Park Service plans call for reopening, but a date is yet to be determined. You can get updates on the Statue of Liberty Hurricane Sandy Recovery page.

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

Your membership dues purchases subscriptions to "Internet Genealogy" and the "NGS Magazine" of the National Genealogical Society. They have a lot of information on a variety of topics that can be helpful to our individual research. The publications are located in our genealogy section of the Burlington Library. The list of articles (sometimes with commentary) are listed in the SVGS newsletter. Find something of interest? Go to the library, find the magazine, locate the article and pho-

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Just a friendly reminder that dues are now due for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. In the event you may have already paid, it is possible that they were sent in and just haven't reached me yet. Our year goes from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st. Dues this year have raised to \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for family membership.



President: George Ridgeway

360-424-4427 4george30@comcast.net

Vice President: Barbara Johnson

360-856-0870 raptorwoman@gmail.com

Secretary: Muriel Neely

Treasurer: Lois LeBlonde

360-293-7447 leblojf@frontier.com

Past President: Dottie Chandler

360-757-0966 dotcom10@frontier.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

360-757-0966 dotcom10@frontier.com

Webmaster: George Ridgeway

360-424-4427 4george30@comcast.net

Projects: OPEN

Publications: Rita Schulze Pro-temp

Ways & Means: OPEN

Publicity: Karen Stroschein

360-770-9508 karenstroschein@comcast.net

Member at Large: Rita Schultze

Special Committees

Communications:

Hazel Rasar

svgsgenealogy@gmail.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

Special History

Projects: Dan Royal

SOCIETY EMAIL: 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*

Genealogy Library Report for March 2013

Hurray! All the sections, except for the family history books, of the SVGS genealogy library collection have been numbered, and cataloged in an updated database. The 2013 SVGS Library Holdings will be uploaded to the SVGS website very shortly. Once on the website anyone can access the holdings and can search for books in the collection by title, author, etc. This way, you will know in advance if a particular book you are interested in is in our collection. This project took many hours of volunteer time and effort and I am very grateful to Portia Stacey, Georgia Lang and the other members of the library team for their reliable and cheerful assistance these past year.

Upon occasion I hear some members say, "Well I have genealogy books at home or I have subscription databases, so what value can there possibly be in our genealogy library?" I know the answer to that question. But, I would love to hear your thoughts and comments. Do you appreciate the well-organized and maintained space we enjoy at the Burlington Library? Do you frequently drop in to the library to research and browse the collection? I know it's a favorite hangout for me, and I've benefited from the library's materials. But, how about the rest of you?

Send me an email with your comments about our genealogy library. I'll compile your messages and present them to the Burlington Library and with the message, "Thank you for your community support and partnership these past 25-years. Thank you for paying the light bills, the janitorial bills and for keeping a roof over our collection all these years. Our SVGS Genealogy Library is something of value – not only to our society members but to the community. Thank you for your community partnership."

~ Margie Wilson

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Upcoming Programs 2012 - 2013



<u>April 23</u>: Skagit County Family History Book-Hazel Rasar, Dan Royal. Come learn about our Society's soon-to-be-released publication.

May 28: Speed Dating for Genealogists- another way to break down Brick Walls: A group of "expert" genealogists will give you their help in a four-minutesper-table exercise. You'll need to have your brick wall question short and focused. We'll do our best to give you a short, focused answer.

June 25: Stuart/Stewart Clan History-James Stuart-Stevenson, The Baron of Kilbride. James and his wife, a MacKenzie, have a fascinating tale to tell about his family history.

Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave Burlington, WA 98233 Phone (360) 755-0760 Email: 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 Volun-

teers available on Mondays from 11:00—1:00 to assist with questions.

Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian



Seminars/Workshops:

Saturday, April 27, 2013 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island - GSSWI - The Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island will host Karen Krugman from Michigan as its 2013 seminar speaker. Karen Krugman is the author of several books and is knowledgeable on many Genealogical topics. She is highly rated by organizations to which she has spoken. Specific location of the seminar, topics and costs will be announced later, so watch this space for further information

Magazine Report by Sharon Johnson

Internet Genealogy December / January 2013

Genealogy-On-the-Go With the iPad (The iPad is not a laptop so don't try to duplicate what you do on a laptop. There's a listing of apps and the author's top 10 iPad tricks); Saving Memories Forever (new online service to help families record, save, and share memories); Digitized Newspapers Online (Being done by state archives, academic libraries and usually free. The Online Historical Newspapers Website https://sites.google.com/site/ onlinenewspapersite where digitized papers are located, including whether free or for a fee. Free Newspaper Archives blog http://freenewspaperarchives.us/default.aspx. The Google News Archive at http://news.google.com/ newspapers has titles in alphabetical order, includes the number of issues, and the date range available. There are also subscription sites); Explore Your Roots in Croatia and Serbia (researching your ancestors from localities in today's Croatia and Serbia). A Smorgasbord of Choice: Genealogy Software News and Reviews! (Basis for choosing. Discusses the Master Genealogist v.8, RootsMagic 5, Heredis, Family tree Builder, Family Tree Maker For Mac V.2. Lists sites to find other software reviews); 2nd Edition Manual for the United States of America (a general reference app for the iPad); Gale Genealogy Connect and myGenShare (Both are subscription services. Gale Connect focuses on the "how to". Gen share is an online digital library with indexed resources); Sweet Sounding Memories (how to create a family keepsake of audio memories with VoiceQuilt www.voicequilt.com.

<u>Lord Selkirk's Settlers</u> (Concerns the mass migration of displaced Scots Highlanders to Canada. There is a list of website resources)

Internet Genealogy February / March 2013

The Historic New Orleans Collection (a museum and research site www.hnoc.org includes four different subcollections); Heading for Freedom (a new mapping approach to genealogy and the underground railroad); WWI Enemy alien Registration Records (registration of unnaturalized German immigrants living in the US during WWI. Fewer than 20,000 affidavits survive out of several hundred thousand. Lists information on the affidavit and where to find the surviving affidavits.); Five Ways to Get More from Evernote (a cloud-based, note-taking app); What Was For Dinner? (where to find collections of old menus....U of W has a collection 1884 - 2003.); NLA Newspapers: An Invaluable Australian Resource (no cost research at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper; The Genealogist as Talk Show Host (how she helped reunite a mother and son after 64 years); their lives);

Are Your British Deceased Online? (searchable database www.deceasedonline.com) has a database of 15 million records and particularly strong for London. Searching is free. Viewing a burial or cremation register scan is not....pricing is explained. Also listed are other online sources. 10 time Management Tools for Genealogists (review of some helpful programs and apps to keep your research on track) Can You Acknowledge Receipt? (researching your ancestors' hobbies can add context to their lives); Pan Am: More Than Just A Flight (genealogy resources available www.panam.org); Genealogy Conferences: Virtual or Live? (we have different lives, different pressures, different genealogical needs, and different ideas. We do what is most suitable for our needs).

Internet Genealogy October / November 2012

1940 Census: Deciphering Your Ancestors' Data in Context (coding was done by the Census Bureau and what do they mean? Why is some information in different handwriting? For miscellaneous codes see http:// stevemorse.org/census/mcodes1940.htm For occupation codes see http://stevemorse.org/census/ ocodes1940.htm); Jewel of the Midwest: A Review of the Columbus Memory Project (how to search the site www.columbusmemory.org); Old Maps Online (www.oldmapsonline.org); School Yearbooks and Newspapers (contain no basic genealogical data, more about their personalities, interests and the times they lived in as students); Researching English Ancestors in Quebec (start with Quebec Family History Society www.afhs.ca as they have databases concerning cemeteries, land records from original Crown land Grants, Seigneuries Records and Census Indexes, Surname List and Library Catalogue); Mind Maps: Free Your Mind (a graphic way of taking notes and organizing random ideas into a plan.); The Flip-Pal Mobile Scanner: Portable, Mobile Scanning (a review of the product); Name Variant Tools (Top 10 Tips for Finding Alternate Surname Spellings & Variations http://genealogy.about.com/od/name_changes/ tp/spellings.htm); 25 Sources for Death Information (grouped by The Usual Sources, Military, Manuscript Collections, Government Records, Periodicals and Books, Cemeteries, Home Sources, & Medical); Google Maps (how to visualize your ancestors' environment); Adventures with ArkivDigital (www.arkivdigital.net a subscription site and the database is for locations, not people); JustaJoy.com Family Heriloom Exchange (a business that reunites descendants with treasured family heirlooms); The Internet Archive www.archive.org (has about 3.5 million texts, plus audio records, movies and live concerts. The archive is a library ON the Internet, NOT an archive OF the Internet. Many of the items are

Skagit County, Washington & Its People! A Ten Year Book Project comes to fruition from Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

"Anders Edvin Johnson immigrated to the United States with a friend in New York City, April 1, 1889 on the S.S. Alaska. After being processed through the Castle Garden Immigrant Receiving Station, they traveled to their final destination, San Francisco. After working in California and Tacoma, in 1895 Edvin purchased a farm in the Cedardale area south of Mount Vernon. He farmed this property for 51 years." *Submitted by SVGS board member Sharon Johnson*.

The above family history quote, along with photos and genealogical data contribute to the making of historical stories of approximately 600 individuals of countless families who made up the early years and growth of Skagit County. These stories and genealogical data were submitted by descendants of sturdy pioneer's and folks telling the story of their parents and by some, their own life story.

The project started 10 years ago this fall and was spear-headed by board members and co-chairs Hazel Rasar and Dan Royal along with a sub-committee of the Publication Committee. This book project was differentiated as it was and is to be a legacy book based and modeled on the still popular "An Illustrated History of Snohomish & Skagit County" published in 1906 by Interstate Publishing Company. Our book, "Skagit County, Washington & Its People!" will be a stand apart from the more data oriented books of the society; such as the soon to be published "Hamilton Cemetery" book. It will also book end the societies 25th Anniversary celebrations started last year.

The society would like to invite SVGS members – past and present - submitters to the book and the general public to hear a 45 minute presentation as Hazel Rasar and Dan Royal share their journey to see this publication come to its completion. They will also share photos and a reading of a few of the submitted stories. Facsimile copies of the books will also be available for viewing.

Finally an order form for the two-volume set will be available with Hazel and Dan encouraging a pre-sale of the books for those who order early to receive a very substantial discount that only lasts through June 7th. The books will be ordered, paid in full at the price of \$65.00. Consideration will be given to single volume sales. Pre sale books will be distributed by August 17th at the groups "Summer Seminar" to those who bought ahead of time and made available to the general public as of that date. Additional orders will still be available from the society after June 7th at an increased price. Price for the complete set of 2 volumes will be \$75.00 after that date.

A third volume will be published in 2014 with histories written by local historians and submitters to the project with wonderful folk tales and family stories not published in the first two volumes.

Join the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23rd at the Burlington Community Center, 1011 Greenleaf Avenue, in Burlington, for pre-sale forms and to view this presentation. Order forms will also be available at the society's website.

Cemetery Books ready for Publication

After a long exhausting job the Hamilton Cemetery Book is ready for publishing. Right behind this book will be the Lyman Cemetery book. Both of these books have taken quite awhile with a lot of people involved to get these published. Many THANKS to everyone who has contributed in some way from start to finish. Also, the cemetery books will be published on CD's soon. More information

NEW VIDEO SERIES

By Amy Crow

There's always something new to learn in genealogy! Join us for our new weekly livestreams, held every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. eastern. They're fun, free and informative! Upcoming topics include marriage records and using timelines.. Can't join us at that time? You can

4 October 2012

Barbara's Travelogues continues

We left Yorkshire and the lovely pasture lands, taking the train to London. It's about 250 miles. Including two stops, the trip took 2.5 hours. Yup, you might say it was a high speed train! It was hard to see much scenery at that speed, but the trip was quite comfortable including trolley service. Trolley service: just like Harry Potter and the Hogwarts Express, except there were no magic chocolate frogs.

London is an interesting city. The Black Cabs (now of various colors) are inexpensive, fast, and very closely licensed. It takes 3 years to obtain a taxi license as the driver must know every nook and cranny of the town. We wound up using taxis more often than the tube. In fact, we only rode the tube a couple of times. We arrived in London at King[s Cross Station and immediately headed for Platform 9 3/4 (see below). We then took the tube/underground to Victoria Station. Our trip took about 40 minutes; it's normally about 10-15 but just past Victoria Station, the route was shut down due to a "person under a train". We never did find out what happened but according to the locals, this is a frequent method of suicide. Yuk.

The city is easy to walk about as it is fairly flat, but everyone is in a Major Hurry. It's crowded, noisy and folks are pushy and a bit rude. We were quite glad to leave town today.

On Tuesday, we toured Westminster Abbey which is spectacular with all the burial plaques and elaborate tombs of Kings and Queens. A very special part of our visit was to the plaque for Major Andre who was a hero to the English although we upstart Colonists hanged him as a traitor. Major Andre recruited Benedict Arnold to turn over West Point to the British during that little "dust up" in the 1770s. A dear Canadian friend, Basil Andre Robinson, was a descendant of Major Andre. It turns out that when he asked a guide where to find his plaque, he had to look it up. He then took us past several roped off areas to see the plaque. Although photography is not allowed, he discreetly turnedh is back so we could take a photo. Sadly it was quite blurry, but the moment was very special for Roger and me.

The next day, we took a hop on, hop off bus for a tour of the usual tourist sites in town. At 12:45, we had tickets to tour

Buckingham Palace. Sadly, HRH Elizabeth was not there to invite us to tea. But the Palace is lovely: 770+ rooms, 240-some bedrooms and only 78 bathrooms. Imagine cleaning house. OK, she has over 1200 staff to do the dirty work.

All I have is my Norwegian Houseboy to help.

After touring the Palace, which has so many pieces of priceless artwork by painters such as Van Dyke, Rubens, Rembrandt, and porcelain vases (say Vahzes), urns, gold and silver plated trays, goblets, etc. that it truly boggles the mind; we hopped back on a bus to head for the Tower of London to view the Crown Jewels.

If you appreciate beautiful jewelry, you will see jaw dropping pieces of art. There were scepters, crowns, orbs, swords, necklaces. Unbelievably beautiful with sapphires, diamonds, rubies, pearls. Most of them "stored" there until a Royal Event, usually a coronation. Some of the jewels are crowns of previous monarchs, so they stay on display only. The value of these jewels has to be in the billions of pounds/dollars. That's if one could place a value on them.

Once outside the Crown Jewels wing, we spotted a soldier in a traditional red jacket and bear skin helmet. He stands very still except every few minutes, he does a high step and marches back and forth. Just like one sees on the telly. We also saw several Beefeaters and a young man dressed in a period uniform that I did not recognize. I asked him what period he represented and he cheerfully answered that it was from 1668 and it was a Fusilier uniform. He and the Beefeater were quite chatty, glad to inform us about the traditions they represented.

One of the traditions is that they are Keepers of the Ravens .Ravens in the past protected the Tower soldiers from disease by eating the vermin that hung about the Tower. At one point, an observatory was built that frightened the ravens away and disease ensued. So the observatory was removed and the ravens were brought back. They are now coddled and are a very important part of the Tower tradition.

The two soldiers and I had a great chat about ravens being sacred to Native Americans, and we teased each other about that "little dust up in 1776' which they claimed we won because we had help from the French!

Today we took the train (high speed) to Salisbury where we took a bus to Stonehenge and back to the Cathedral. Those of you (and that's most of you) know I'm a science geek. I've studied a lot about Stonehenge and never dreamed I would ever be standing on Salisbury Plain gazing at the lintels and uprights of this mysterious site. Wow! It was awesome. Roger wanted to visit Salisbury Cathedral as that was the inspiration for Ken Follett's "Pillars of the Earth". It is the tallest spire in England at 140-some metres. (Note I used the English/Canadian spelling...we've gone a tad native). Speaking

spire in England at 140-some metres. (Note I used the English/Canadian spelling...we've gone a tad native). Speaking of Ken Follett, Roger was able to hear him speak in the Churchill War Rooms on Tuesday night. And, yes indeed, he now has an autographed copy of Follett's latest tome. It takes up quite a bit of room in his luggage!

We are now in Portsmouth and will be touring the Navy Yard here. This is where Eisenhower had his headquarters for Operation Overlord--the D-Day Landing. Oh yes, Navy folk, there's a very old sailing ship nearby called the HMS Victory

and we plan on touring it tomorrow. Eat your heart out, ye Stennis sailor.

Calendar of Society Meetings in WSGS Region One

WSGS Region One Representative: Stephen Eric Baylor, s.baylor@comcast.net

March - April 2013

(Please send calendar corrections or updates to Bob Witherspoon, 360-734-9835, rgwspoon@aol.com

Monday, April 1, 2013 - Camwood Genealogical Group - CwGG - Meets first Mondays at 1 PM at Stanwood Historical Society Museum, 27108 102nd Ave NW, Stanwood, WA

Wednesday, April 3, 2013 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society - SIGS - Business meeting and program at 1:00 pm at Alderwood Manor Heritage Association, 19921 Poplar Way, in Lynnwood's Heritage Park. Program: to be announced. Guests are always welcome.

Thursdays in April 2013 - Comeford Genealogical Group - CfGG - Meets Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:30 AM at the Ken Baxter Community Center, 514 Delta Ave., Marysville, WA, in Comeford Park. The group meets informally to assist one another in genealogical research. See http://comefordgroup.wordpress.com/category/class-times-schedule/

Monday, April 8, 2013 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island - GSSWI - Education classes at 11:45 AM. Beginning class: before this class please read pages 111-133 in the Desmond Walls Allen book. *Courthouses and why you want to go there*. Handouts: Probate Terms, Types of Land Surveys in the U.S., Rectangular Survey System, State Archives Referral List, Military Websites. *Intermediate class: What's your name? What should I call you?* Program at 1:00 PM: Speaker: Eric Stroschein; Program: The New Family Search. Eric Stroschein, who in November presented a program on immigrant research, is a professional forensic genealogist. His subject in this program is an examination and discussion of the new Family Search facilities and software available at the LDS site. Since there have been many questions about the new Family Search, this should be a very useful program for the GSSWI membership. Come and enhance your RCQ (Research Competence Quotient). Meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hwy 525 & Woodard Road, Freeland.

Monday, April 8, 2013 - Whatcom Genealogical Society - WGS: 2 PM: Program to be announced. Meeting at Bellingham Elks Lodge #194, lower level, 710 So. Samish Way, Bellingham. (The Elks Lodge is just <u>east</u> of the I-5 Exit 252 northbound off-ramp on South Samish Way.)

Tuesday, April 9,2013 - Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society - StVGS - 1 P.M.: Program: "Records of the Veterans Administration" Society member, Marlene Agnes, will discuss the types of records created by the Veterans Administration which are of interest by the family historian. Marlene retired from the Seattle office of the VA after many years of service. She and her husband provided the driving force for creation of the Tahoma National Cemetery in Auburn. Meeting at the Arlington Free Methodist Church, 730 East Highland Drive, Arlington.

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 - Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers - WIGS - Meeting at 2720 Heller Rd, the fire station #25, just north of Crosby Road in Oak Harbor. Program: 1 PM until about 3. Topic to be announced. There will be information for all levels of searchers, refreshments and raffles. All are welcome. Contact Ruth Hancock 675 -4086 at randr.hancock@frontier.com for more information; also, Gordon Garnhart garnhart@whidbey.net

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society - SkVGS - 7-9 PM: Program: **"Skagit County Family History Book."** Hazel Rasar, Past President of SVGS, and Dan Royal, Archivist and Historian for SkVGS, will preview the Skagit County Family History Book. The Rasar family was a pioneer family in the valley. Hazel has been researching her roots here and abroad. She has also served on the WSGS Board. Dan is president of the Skagit Valley Historical Association. He also has deep roots in the Valley. Meeting at the Burlington Community Center, 1011 Greenleaf Ave., Burlington.

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 - 2013

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE			
New Member	Renewal	Previous Member	
FAMILY \$ 20	INDIVIDUAL \$15		



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

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