



President's Message

The holiday season is fast upon us. The holidays remind me of holiday traditions of my grandparents. Remember those special baked desserts full of-ago-long lost symbolism that we enjoyed. Or an archaic tradition from the Old Country your grandmother showed you that seemed magical to you as a young child. But, now many of these traditions passed down from generation to generation are fading due to our fast paced modern world.

Your family research is a treasure trove of fascinating stories. Your ancestors' experienced struggles, successes, happiness and sadness. As family and friends gather this holiday season why not transform those pedigree charts with their stark BMD dates and your brick wall questions into meaningful family storytelling. Take the time to ask your relatives questions about the stories they remember – and cherish from their childhood. You might uncover a new clue just by hearing a story from a different family member's perspective.

Family storytelling brings family and friends closer to feeling a sense of pride in our ancestors' unique life journeys. Our ancestors' stories give each of us a deeper appreciation for who we have become due to their dreams and efforts. Celebrate and share those precious family stories this holiday season. And perhaps in so doing, you will create your own new holiday traditions to pass along to future generations.

Enjoy your gatherings with family and friends,

~ Margie Wilson, president

Volume 33 Number 4
 President: Margie Wilson
 Newsletter: Dottie Chandler
 PO BOX 192 BURLINGTON, WA 98233
 Web site: skagitvalleygenealogy.org

Reminder: No December SVGS meeting.

The next SVGS meeting will be held on Sat., January 11, 2020, Burlington Library, 1-3pm. The guest speaker is Evelyn Roehl who will speak on:

“Germanic Immigration to North America in the 1800s.” This Germanic immigration presentation will include immigrants from what is now Germany as well as Prussia, Austria, Switzerland and Luxembourg. We will look forward to seeing you in 2020 for more educational programming.

FREE

To Creative Grandma or Grandpa

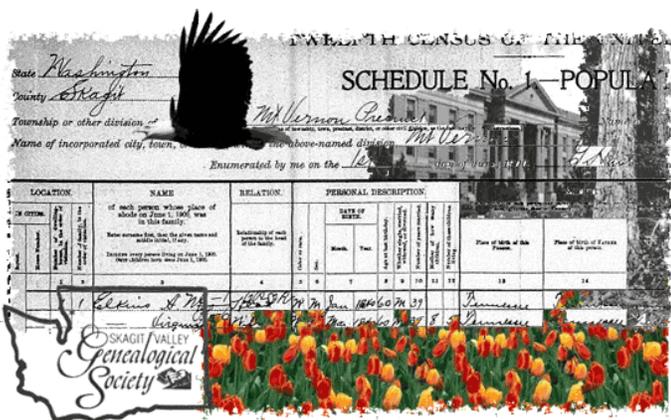
A fully operational
Overhead Projector

Plus, 2 boxes of
transparency sheets



SVGS no longer uses this piece of equipment. **Ideas for Reuse:** Invite your grandkids to draw (felt marker pens) on the transparency sheets holiday scenes of snowmen, Santa, or grandpa and grandma, etc. They will be delighted to see their drawing projected super big onto the wall. Or, you could teach the grandchildren how to create shadow shows with their hands. You remember, making flying birds, etc. with your hands in front of the light source to project on the wall. Do you remember how fun that was! Plus, don't forget the instant cool factor as most young children probably have never seen an overhead projector before! The ideas are only limited by their “very cool” grandma and grandpa's memories and imagination. To arrange pick up (just in time for Christmas) email: rootsproject@frontier.com.

Ho, ho, ho.



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SVGS Members,

We have a new BLOG on our website. If you are interested in participating in our blog go to skagitvalleygenealogy.org/BLOG to see how you can register and log in. Thank you.

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Communications: Barbara Johnson

Sunshine:

Nominating: **OPEN**

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Bylaws/Standing Rules: John Hayes
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Refreshments: Rotating with volunteers

Raffles/Door Prizes: Carol Nersten

Seminar: Board Members

SOCIETY EMAIL: genealogy0715@gmail.com

Check out our redesigned web page at skagitvalleygenealogy.org

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*

SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGICAL QUIRKS

Learn about all those quirky errors in spelling, handwriting, transcription and on and on, that crop up in censuses, vital records, and databases. Once you are aware of them you can learn to think creatively to defeat them.

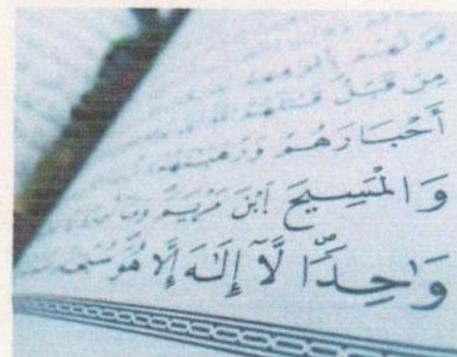
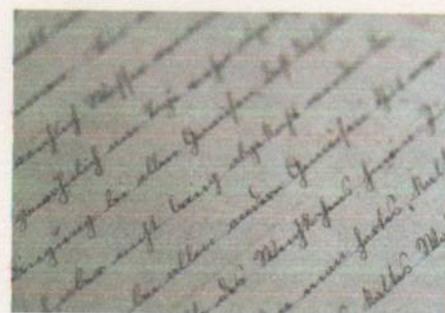
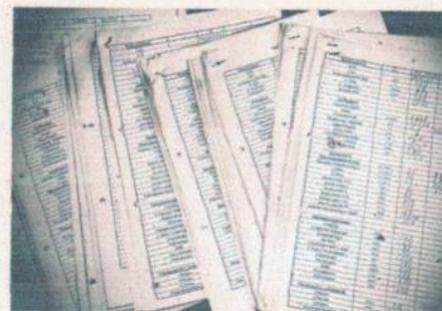
SAT., NOVEMBER 9, 2019
1 PM TO 3 PM
BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

820 E. WASHINGTON AVE.

PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST

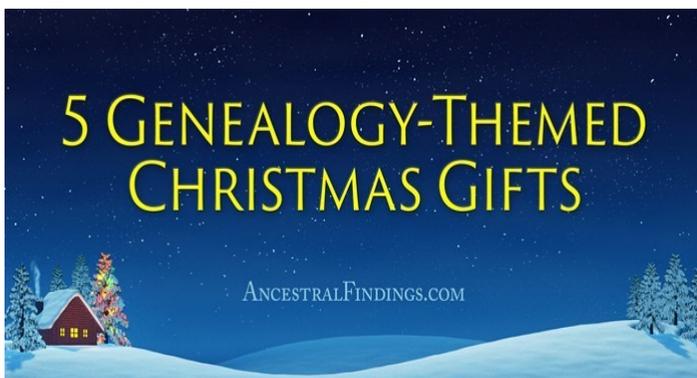
EVELYN MARIE ROEHL

IS THE GUEST PRESENTER



**FOR DETAILS: WWW.SKAGITVALLEYGENEALOGY.ORG
GENEALOGYO715@GMAIL.COM | (360) 757-6224
OR BURLINGTONWA.GOV/LIBRARY | (360) 755-0760**





Are you looking for genealogy-themed Christmas gifts to give this year? Here are five that won't cost much money to make, but that your relatives will adore.

1. A Family Tree Chart with Photos

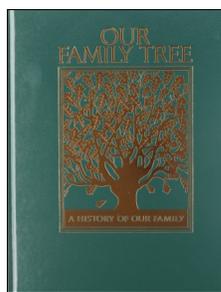
There are all kinds of family tree charts you can use for free located online. Use a type that has room to put a person's name, birth and death dates (marriage dates are nice, too, if there's space), and a photo. Using photos, you may only be able to go back three or four generations. However, if you are creative and can tape two or four family tree charts together in a configuration that makes them look like one, you can go back farther in time.

2. An Ancestor Photo Cube



You can get a plastic photo cube at most craft stores. Use it as an any-time decoration or put a hook in it and use it as a Christmas tree ornament. The cube has six sides. Put a photo of each set of your grandparents on opposite sides. The other four sides can be used for photos of your great-grandparents since you have four sets of those. If you don't have photos of one or more sets of great-grandparents, use photos of great-great-grandparents, or siblings of your grandparents and/or great-grandparents. Be sure to label each photo on the cube.

3. A Family History Book



You can buy books where you can add your family history details on a person-by-person basis. Paste in a photo if you have one, and write down all the statistics and personal details and stories you know about that person. Use one branch of your family and give copies of the book to each person with a connection to that branch.

4. The Gift of Research

Put together a family history of a line that isn't yours. This could be the line from the other side of a cousin's family tree, for example, or the genealogy of an aunt or uncle who is only related to you by marriage. They will love it, and love you for doing this special thing for them.

5. A Family History Video

Put a photo montage together of one particular branch of your family, starting with the oldest photos you have, up to the present generation. Use photo editing or montage software to space how many seconds you want each photo to show in your video. Put a meaningful song behind it all, and time the photos so the last one shows just as the song is ending. Burn it to DVD, put it in a jewel case with a nice homemade cover that indicates what it is, and give it to all members of the family with a link to that line.



Walking in Their Footsteps

Lynn and I have always wanted to visit Norway where both our ancestors lived. This year was finally the time to do it. We did not have family connections but knew from our genealogy studies where we wanted to go. His family came from Aure and Kristiansund Norway. Mine were from Liabo and Halså Norway. We learned that they were within travel distance of each other. Prior to leaving I was able to connect with a 3rd cousin from Lillehammer and she agreed to meet me in Aure. This trip was a dream of a lifetime and hopefully I would be able to walk on the land of my ancestors.

We arrived in Aure on August 6th and entered the town (Kommune) through a tunnel. The first thing we saw was a church and a cemetery. We, of course, stopped and discovered many Torsets residing there! We talked with a woman who was caring for a gravesite and asked where the Guesthouse was and she pointed to a building on the hill. We did not disturb her work, but left to check into our room. At check-in we talked to the receptionist and asked about where the Torset farm was located. She said it was down the road a bit, so we took off to find it. Heading east a short distance from the Guesthouse we crossed a bridge and right away I noticed the TORSET name engraved on a stone in the bridge. (I had once seen this brick on the Internet at someone's Geo cash hike.) We stopped and took pictures and then went on. Finding the farm was not easy as there were no signs and we did not have any references so we returned to the cemetery to search headstones. The woman we talked to earlier had left but we met the pastor and he agreed to meet with us on Thursday. This meeting was later canceled as the Vicar was arriving and therefore we were unable to obtain any church records.

On the evening of the 7th we met up with my 3rd cousin, Gunn Iren and had dinner with her and her husband. The following day we were heading to Liabo. This time it was my ancestor's home to see. We followed Gunn Iren and she took us to her 1st (and my 3rd) cousin's home. I was so excited to meet Kari as she too has the "Olson" curly hair! Her daughter Kristin came out and she too had curly hair, and we were all wearing it in the same style! Kari said her son has curly hair too but he was not home that day. Kari had coffee, tea and lefsa for us while we visited. Then Kari informed me that I met her sister at the church graveyard the day before. She said her sister knew I was the one coming to visit because of my hair! After leaving their home, Gunn Iren took us to meet her aunt Dordi. She did not speak English so Gunn was able to translate. Aunt Dordi also had my curly hair, but wore it the way my grandmother and Aunt Arlene used to wear theirs. We had a wonderful visit, and just as we were leaving she gave me a hand drawn family tree written in Norwegian! This tree shows my Great grandfather's siblings, parents and grandparents – all of which I did not know prior to joining Skagit Genealogy. My great grandfather and his brothers and sister who went to America are branches that say "To Amerika." We drove on to Liabo to meet up with Ralph Sandvig who lives in the home of my Olson ancestors. He spoke a little English and was able to share some information. It was really nice to walk on the land where my great-grandfather grew up and look at the view over the fjord and the small town. We did not have time to find the church and cemetery this trip but I plan to return and make more connections again 2021. We returned to our Guesthouse to research the Torsets some more. The following day we drove over the Torset Bridge and stopped and talked with some people that lived near there. One lady pointed out the Torset farm on the hill and we headed over there. We met an elderly man whose name was Paul Torset. He did not speak English but we were able to communicate that we also were Torsets. In the meantime the receptionist at the Guesthouse had found more information on Lynn's grandfather's family and told us where to go on the Northwest side. The Torset farm was located on the far side of the bridge. No one was home but as we were leaving a car pulled up the driveway. A young lady said that this was the Torset farm. She took my phone number and said she would talk with her mother and get back to us. That evening we were looking through a book they had at the Guesthouse and there was an article in Norwegian written by Ivar Torset and a picture of another bridge named Torsetsundbro. This bridge was a one-way bridge over the Torset sound in the Northwest section. That night Aashild called and said that Lynn's great-grandmother, Gjertrud Larsdatter Torset grew up on their farm. She married John Iversen Maele who lived 4 km down the road. They had a son Lars Johnsen Torset born in 1886. We left the Guesthouse that morning and drove over the one-way Torsetsundbro and took pictures of the Torset farm. We drove further down the road but did not find the place where Lars grew up. We now have connections so in the future we can make the trip and meet with more relatives.

It was wonderful to walk the streets in the towns and on the land where our ancestors once lived.

Submitted by Carol Torset

SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Programs for Winter/Spring 2019

Meetings: 2nd Saturdays, 1-3pm Burlington Public Library | 820 E. Washington Ave. | Burlington
skagitvalleygenealogy.org | genealogy0715@gmail.com |

The public is always welcome to attend SVGS monthly educational programs. We welcome you to join us!

Sat., Nov. 9 ANNUAL MEETING & GENEALOGICAL QUIRKS – Evelyn Roehl

We have all encountered those quirky mistakes found in censuses and vital records due to misreading handwriting, false assumptions being made by recorders, etc. A myriad of recording and transcription errors create brick wall challenges for researchers. Evelyn Roehl will help us recognize and sort through these quirks and help us be alert to finding solutions that lead us to the correct information regarding our ancestors. Ms. Roehl's 4page presentation handout alone is reason to attend. Her materials are chock-full of detailed and helpful resources to help you be a brick-wall buster and a better researcher.

December No SVGS Meeting This Month – Enjoy the holidays!

Sat., Jan. 11 GERMANIC IMMIGRATION IN THE 1800S – Evelyn Roehl

Learn about the large immigration of Germanic people from Europe, including Luxembourgers, Swiss and Austrians, to North America in the 1800s. What inspired this large migration at that time in history? What countries did these immigrants come from in Europe and where did they typically tend to settle once in North America? Knowing the historical background and the many political and socio-economic influences on our ancestors will help researchers as their search for their Germanic roots. Evelyn Roehl is a professional genealogist specializing in Germanic and Scandinavian research.

Sat., Feb. 8 TOPIC PENDING - YOUR SUGGESTIONS WELCOME!

Sat., Mar. 14 EXPLORING UNITED KINGDOM CENSUSES -- Robbie Johnson

How are censuses in the United Kingdom different from US censuses? What years were UK censuses conducted? Explore what valuable information these censuses contain to help researchers discover more about their UK ancestors. Robbie Johnson is a professional genealogist that lives in Sedro-Woolley. SVGS is excited to feature this new presenter in its 2020 line up of new and interesting guest speakers.

Sat., Apr. 11 TOPIC PENDING - YOUR SUGGESTIONS WELCOME!

Sat., May 9 TOPIC PENDING – Winona Laird

Year-end Recognition

The SVGS board extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to our community partner and to the staff of the

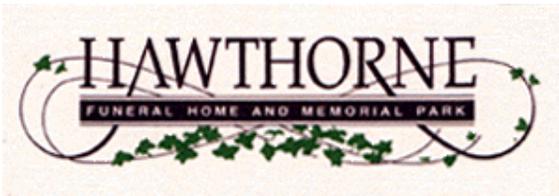


for their assistance in 2019. Meeting at the library has made it possible for more family researchers to discover their family history.

Thank you for your support.

* * *

The SVGS board and cemetery recording volunteers extend their thanks and appreciation to the staff of



for their gracious assistance with our cemetery recording project. You made our volunteer experience even more rewarding.

* * *



Thank you for your donation of shelving for SVGS new storage unit.

* * *

Thank you to

ABBY MINI-STORAGE

for helping with SVGS' move into our larger storage unit.

* * *

Annual Dues Reminder SVGS Annual Dues Are: \$15/individual or \$20/family

Did you enjoy SVGS' monthly educational programs and learning from expert genealogists such as Dave Obee, Mary Roddy, Dr. Janice Lovelace, Evelyn Roehl and other guest speakers this past year?

Did you know that it is your annual dues that help make it possible for SVGS to provide these professional quality speakers for you to learn from at our meetings? Your annual dues pay for a myriad of day-to-day expenses that keep SVGS operating such as:

Office supplies – necessary to maintain SVGS' collection of over 2000+ books and support other SVGS projects such as recording Hawthorne Cemetery grave-stones for publication;

A larger storage unit – needed to expand space for archiving SVGS' 30+ years of local records and therefore better assist family historians with their research;

Postage – So SVGS can reach out to those members who live out-of-state, may not have a computer, or do not have access to electronic communication. Mailings keep members involved with enjoying genealogy and informed about society news.

The list goes on as to the many ways your dues make SVGS possible. Please renew your dues between now and March 2020 so SVGS can continue to offer a fun, educational, and engaging experience for all of our members in 2020.

Thank you for your support

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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 - 2019

APPLICANTS NAME

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

AREA CODE ()

TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

New Member

Renewal

Previous Member

FAMILY \$ 20

INDIVIDUAL \$15



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