



President's Message

Greetings SVGS members, I am still energized by SVGS' *Pop-Up Genealogy Help Session* on December 14. Several new members and members with brick walls reached out for assistance. So we jumped at the opportunity to get-together. So, let's plan to hold some more help sessions in 2020!

At SVGS' January 11 meeting Evelyn M. Roehl kicks off the year with her program on *Germanic Immigration to North America in the 1800s*. We will explore the immigration routes of our Germanic ancestors in Canada and the USA in the mid-to-late 1800s.

On February 8, 2020 SVGS welcomes a new speaker, Robbie Johnson. Robbie is a certified, professional genealogist who lives in Sedro-Woolley. Robbie got involved right away by helping with our Pop Up Help Session. It was greatly appreciated.

Continuing with the trend of introducing new genealogy experts to our members in 2020 there is another new speaker this spring. At the March 14 meeting we will welcome Wendy F. Smith, PhD. Wendy is a skilled researcher with many academic and professional credentials. Dr. Smith will discuss *The Genealogical Proof Standard* (GPS) which is essential to accurate family history research. Dr. Smith will delve even deeper in applying the GPS as part of a 3-part monthly educational series in March, April and May.

Joining the SVGS board in 2020 are Bonnie Monroe, Membership chair and Roger Monroe, Publicity chair. Welcome and thank you for getting involved! Speaking of getting involved? What is the theme for 2020? The "Get Involved" theme launched in 2019 seems to be gaining traction, so, hey, let's keep going with a good thing. So the theme for 2020 is:

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Get Involved and Watch Your Research Evolve!

Please include renewing your SVGS dues in your New Year's Resolutions for 2020. Your membership dues make SVGS' educational programs possible. Reach out to any one of us on the board and let us know how we can help you to discover your family roots.

Happy New Year & Happy Family Discoveries!
 Margie Wilson, *president*

FREE

To Creative Grandma or Grandpa

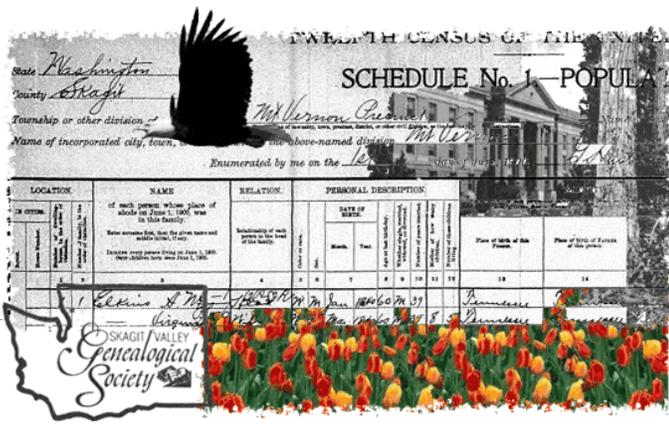
A fully operational
Overhead Projector

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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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

SVGS Members,

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

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*



Germanic Immigration

to North America in the 1800s
including Luxembourgers, Swiss & Austrians

with special guest speaker, professional genealogist

Evelyn M. Roehl

Sat., January 11, 2020 | 1-3 pm



820 E. Washington Ave.

Info: skagitvalleygenealogy.org | 360.757.6224
genealogy0715@gmail.com or burlingtonwa.gov/library
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME | FREE | COME DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS!

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 are \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for family membership.

Membership Chairperson: Bonnie Monroe

Q: WHY ARE PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC EYE SAID TO BE "IN THE LIMELIGHT"?

A: INVENTED IN 1825, LIMELIGHT WAS USED IN LIGHTHOUSES AND THEATRES BY BURNING A CYLINDER OF LIME WHICH PRODUCED A BRILLIANT LIGHT. IN THE THEATRE, A PERFORMER "IN THE LIMELIGHT" WAS THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Cemetery of the unknown ancestor.

SVGS Library News

Several more books have been added to the SVGS library collection this past quarter. In addition to 13 books from Kittie Huddleston of Anacortes another 12 books were donated by SVGS member Christine Cooper. Special thanks to Kittie and Christine for contributing their personal book collection to SVGS' library.

The next time you visit the Burlington Public Library, perhaps before or after one of SVGS' second Saturday of the month meetings, be sure to browse through the "New Books" section. You will find many of the more recent donated books.

The experiment continues regarding offering one-on-one free consultations with library volunteers. So if you would like to learn more about the genealogy collection, the genealogy databases available (free) at the Burlington Library or you need some help getting started with your research or working on a brick wall email: rootsproject@frontier.com or call: 360-757-6224 and a volunteer will be glad to assist you

One Thing You Can Do Today to Improve Your Family Research Outcomes

If you haven't done so already, check out the online newsletter by genealogist Dick Eastman. Mr. Eastman offers a free standard subscription version and a plus (for fee) edition. Mr. Eastman reports on genealogy news from around the world and it is fascinating, timely and helpful information you can use. I have found on numerous occasions his articles to be very beneficial to my research and "next things to try." To subscribe to Dick Eastman's e-newsletter visit: <https://blog.eogn.com/standard-edition/>.

Following the Genealogist's Way

Several years ago a popular self-help book called *The Artist's Way* was popular to read. The book was designed to serve as a workbook and journaling process for creative thinkers, artists, writers, etc. The purpose of the book was to help “artists” to break through all those inner barriers, psychological blocks, fears, etc. that prevent them from pursuing their creative goals. Writers’ block is a good example. One suggestion in the book is to schedule a solo “artist date” or with a fellow artist on a regular basis.

On this artist date the individual focuses on something related to their artistic or creative interest. For example, a blocked writer on his/her artist date may go to a book club or attend a poetry reading. A painter may visit an art museum or take a watercolor class. The point is for the person to find inspiration and to move closer to freeing themselves from their blocks and fears. The outcome would be renewed creativity and fulfillment.

Well, it occurred to me the other day, why not applying the concepts of *The Artist's Way* to *The Genealogist's Way*? Genealogists are sure to come up against a research block at some point. So, perhaps some of the principles of *The Artist's Way* can be applied to genealogists seeking answers to their research puzzles. Why not give it a try?

To begin, schedule a “genealogy date” with yourself or invite a fellow genealogist. Each week schedule a block of time to focus on your genealogy. Suggestions for your “Genealogy Date” could be:

Visit the SVGS genealogy book collection at the Burlington Public Library. Schedule in enough time to pull up a chair by the fireplace, find a genealogy book to study on some related aspect of history, local history, research skill-building to investigate.

Attend a genealogy society meeting. SVGS is on the 2nd Saturday of the month but other societies in neighboring counties are meeting at different times during the month. They too offer educational programs and library collections. Explore these other societies’ offerings on your own or invite a fellow researcher to join you.

Or invite a fellow researcher you’ve met at a SVGS meeting who is researching in the state, country or time period you are researching for a chat over coffee about how they are tackling their research challenges.

Perhaps brainstorm solutions to your brick wall over that second piece of pie.

Visit other community resources such as the Skagit County Historical Museum Archives, or the Sedro-Woolley Museum Archives, the Family History Library in Mount Vernon, or the National Archives in Seattle. There are many community resources for you to explore.

Invite a fellow genealogist who enjoys cemeteries to visit a local pioneer cemetery with you and admire the gravestone art together and discuss the history of the area.

The suggestions are only limited by your imagination.

Family research doesn’t have to be a solitary pursuit. Any research requires creative thinking, being resourceful, and finding new inspiration to try other approaches to solving a problem. There is a great deal to be learned by sharing what we know and sharing that we don’t know the answers with others. We all need help with our research no matter our level of experience. It is inevitable, we’ll get stuck.

If we stay solitary we miss out on creative ideas and inspiration that we can gain from people and the resources that are all around us waiting to be discovered.

SVGS is a great place to meet other researchers. But don’t limit the socializing to just once a month. At the next SVGS monthly meeting find someone who shares your research interests. Then, introduce yourself, exchange emails and arrange to get together for a genealogy date or conversation over coffee.

You will discover how delighted the person is to talk about their own family research and you will be sure to benefit from listening to others and their unique strategies for tackling tough research challenges.

It’s a new year so why not try a new approach. It is time to get out of your pajamas, log out of Ancestry.com and make a “genealogy date” with yourself and/or a friend. You may just find the inspiration you need to break through your research blocks by following the serendipitous path of *The Genealogist's Way*.

Skagit Valley Genealogy Society

Monthly Educational Genealogy Programs for Fall 2019 - Early 2020

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

- Sat., Jan. 11** **Germanic Immigration to North America in the 1800s – Evelyn M. Roehl**
 Come learn about the large immigration of Germanic people from Europe, including: Luxembourgers, Swiss and Austrians who came to North America in the 1800s. What inspired this large migration at that time in history? Knowing the historical background and the many political and socio-economic influences on our ancestors, and the typical migration routes in North America will help researchers as their search for their Germanic roots. Evelyn Roehl is a professional genealogist who specializes in Germanic and Scandinavian research.
- Sat., Feb. 8** **The Census of England, 101: The Basics, Tips & Tricks – Robbie Johnson**
 Learning how to identify your family members and their birth places in the census of England is a great way to dive into research in the United Kingdom. Understanding how to best use the census when researching your immigrant ancestors can lead you to many other records of interest. This talk will cover the history and implementation of the census of England from 1841—1911; an overview of the difference between village and parishes; tips and tricks on how to read the census; and a research case study example.
- Sat., Mar. 14** **Research Fundamentals Series, Part 1:**
An Introduction to the Genealogical Proof Standard - Wendy F. Smith, PhD.
 Wendy is a professional genealogist based in Lake Stevens, WA with an expertise in forensic genealogy. The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) will help you establish a solid foundation for your research. What is the GPS? Why is it important to understand and apply the principles of GPS? How will GPS make you a more effective family researcher? Join us for this educational program that will give your research a solid foundation. This is part 1 of a 3 part series.
- Sat., Apr. 11** **Research Fundamentals Series, Part 2:**
Applied Research 1: Evaluating Your Evidence - Wendy F. Smith, PhD
 Wendy's presentation will help you better understand this essential research principle for genealogists. What should be considered as solid evidence? Are there different types of evidence? Why is it important to evaluate your research evidence? How will evaluating your research evidence make you a more effective family researcher? This is part 2 of a 3 part series.
- Sat., May 9** **Research Fundamentals Series, Part 3:**
Applied Research 2: Conquering Citation Anxiety - Wendy F. Smith, PhD
 Wendy returns for this final program in the Research Fundamental Series. In this class Wendy will demonstrate why source citation is essential for genealogists to consistently practice. As in learning anything new we are anxious about doing it right. Wendy will guide us through the citation process so you are confident and consistent in citing your research sources.
- Sat., June 13** **Pop-Up Genealogy Help Session for All Levels - SVGS Genealogists**
 A team of experienced SVGS genealogists will work with you one-on-one or in small groups to help you make progress with your research. Bring your questions or find out how to get started with proper research methods, etc. No brick wall to thick or tall. All challenges welcome!

REMINDERS:

Summer Break – No meetings in July and August. Next meeting Sat. September 12, 2020,

Cemetery gravestone reading volunteers and proofreaders are needed to complete the Hawthorne Cemetery Project in Mount Vernon. To learn more about this interesting summer genealogy project contact: dotcom10@frontier.com

Separating Fact from Fiction in Historical Family Stories

By: Paul Duxbury and Kevin Cook

As you sit down to do a genealogy interview with your grandfather, he leans over and whispers to you, "You know, your great-great-grandmother was a Cherokee Indian Princess, don't you?" You will probably encounter this at some point in your family history research. Most people do. It can be extremely difficult to decipher fact from fiction as you are working through your research. While most of the stories you hear will have bits of truth embedded in them, it can be difficult to separate fact from fiction.

One of the first ways to decide what is and is not true is to familiarize your self with the common family history myths most genealogy researchers encounter. The first one is the story about some member of your family being an Indian princess. This myth almost always takes place in the Cherokee tribe, though you might occasionally hear of a Navajo or Apache princess. There are many reasons this myth might have evolved, but the primary one was prejudice against Native Americans. In past years, it was very difficult for most parts of American society to accept any white males marrying Native American women. Giving her the status of princess, while usually completely false, made it a bit easier to deal with. It is important to remember, though, that simply having Native American ancestry may also be a complete myth. It has become a rather popular ancestry to acknowledge in the past few years, so it is important to find some solid evidence before you jump into the belief.

Another popular myth is that three brothers immigrated to America. You rarely hear about seven brothers or two brothers and one sister. As a result, it can make tracking passenger manifests and other documentation difficult if the numbers and the genders of the immigrants are skewed. You will want to try to confirm that there were actually three brothers instead of one brother and two uncles or whatever other numbers, genders, and relationships your family immigrants may have had. The myth of having a stowaway immigrant history is also a popular one. Everyone seems to have had a great grandfather who was a stowaway on a ship. It seems to be more interesting. The truth is, though, that this was not a common practice. Even if you truly did have a stowaway in your family, they will be listed on the passenger arrival list of the ship, typically in the index or on the last page, as they were usually discovered before the ship managed to dock.

Another interesting genealogy myth is the one about having someone famous in your background. It's hard to have the name Smith without considering the possibility that you were once related to John Smith, the explorer. That, however, doesn't make it so. You will have to do some serious research, here, because it is possible that you were actually related to someone famous, but it is not likely. It is just a story people tell to make them feel as if they are legitimizing the family line. One final popular myth is that the family surname was switched at Ellis Island. No such practice ever existed. The most Ellis Island officials ever did was comparing the passenger names to the list created at the departure of the ship. In all likelihood, any names that were switched occurred because the immigrants themselves wanted the names changed to better fit with current American society at the time.

Once you've figured out the popular myths, it's time to start working the truth out of your own family stories. It is best to rely on actual documentation, or primary sources, for your major finds. However, that is not always possible. As a result, if you must rely on oral history interviews, one of the best tips is to be sure to verify the information you have gotten through two or three other people. Relatives are notorious for trying to make the family sound a bit different than it actually is, and talking to several family members can usually help you find the level of truth that you need in your research.

Sorting out fact from fiction in family myths can be very difficult sometimes, but doing it well the first time will help you get an accurate family history that will help generations to come will appreciate.

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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