



## President's Message

Volume 35 Number 2

President: Margie Wilson

Newsletter: Dottie Chandler

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Web site: [skagitvalleygenealogy.org](http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org)

## 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.

There have been so many changes since SVGS' last newsletter. The virus pandemic stopped many of us in our tracks. The closure of the Burlington Public Library placed our society at a cross-roads - move in a new direction or go silent? The decision to experiment with online genealogy meetings was full of uncertainty. A steep learning curve lay ahead for everyone. The board decided to try the online meeting experiment for April and May and then evaluate the members' response. Next, a vote was taken by the online meeting participants as to how many times SVGS' should offer these online sessions. It was voted by the members participating online that twice a month would be optimal to host meetings. So, Members' Meet Ups and the Monthly Educational Program were to be offered to the members.

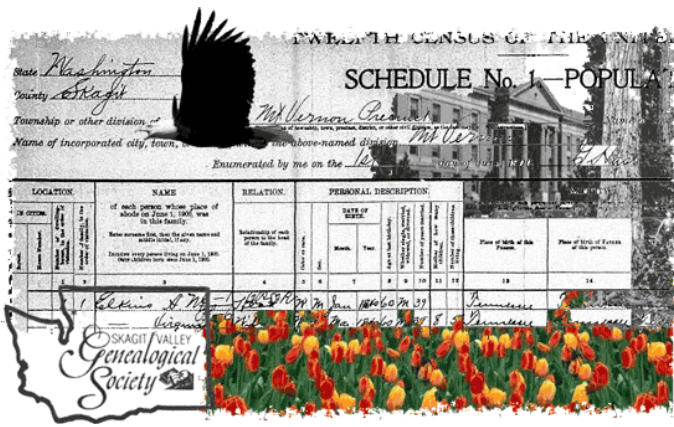
On average, 11-13 members have attended the Members' Meet Ups to enjoy informal discussions with fellow family researchers and on average of 22 members have participated in the Monthly Educational Programs. These participants represent about one-half of SVGS' total membership. One big benefit is that SVGS has been able for the very first time to connect with out-of-the-area members and welcome them into our lively research discussion group! That's been a significant benefit to our society.

So, though I can truly say that those members who have participated have received value from our online meetings what about the rest of you that don't join us? How can we improve our outreach and inclusion of you in these meetings? Please let me know your comments, ideas and nay-saying, all voices need to be heard by the board so SVGS can do its best to serve you as a member. Email: [rootsproject@frontier.com](mailto:rootsproject@frontier.com) with your suggestions. This is your genealogy society and your ideas are what propel us forward and make our activities more beneficial to you.

Traditionally, June is our last monthly meeting before we all enjoy a hiatus in July and August. Our fall programming starts up again in September with guest speaker, Robbie Johnson. Robbie's topic will be *How to Read Archaic Handwriting*. For October, George Ridgeway, SVGS' IT and website advisor, will discuss *Ancestry: Tips for Using Those Little Leaves*. SVGS won't know until closer to September if we will be offering our meeting online or if we will be able to "re-open" and meet in person at the Burlington Public Library. So, please do read the emails and newsletter information we send out so you can stay up-to-date as news develops. Thank you for your patience with all of these unknowns we face.

Thank you for not only staying-at-home, but also for staying-with-SVGS, by giving our online meetings a try. So, stay-well, stay positive and thank you for your support of SVGS. We will get through this- together!

Margie Wilson, president



**President:** Margie Wilson  
360-757-6224 rootsproject@frontier.com

**Vice President:** **OPEN**

**Secretary:** Karen Strelow  
360-724-1864 [Strelow.k.a@gmail.com](mailto:Strelow.k.a@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Candice Soine  
360-755-9071 rainshadowdals@gmail.com

**Past President:** John Hayes  
360-424-4608 rosie@valleyint.com

**Archival Historian:** Dan Royal  
360-826-6141 dmoroyal@earthlink.net

**Education:** Robbie Johnson  
360-391-8604 mrsredsky@gmail.com

**Genealogist:** Sylvia Ammons

**Librarian:** Margie Wilson

**Membership:** Bonnie Monroe  
360-510-9960

**Publications :** Dan Royal  
360-826-6141 dmoroyal@earthlink.net

### SVGS Members,

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

**Newsletter:**  
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**Webmaster:**  
360-424-4427

George Ridgeway  
4george30@comcast.net

**Projects :**  
Sylvia Ammons

**Dan Royal/Dottie Chandler/**

**Publicity:**  
360-856-9002

Roger Monroe

### Special Committees

**Communications:** Barbara Johnson

**Sunshine:**

**Nominating:** **OPEN**  
**Audit/Budget:** Candice Soine  
360-755-9071 rainshadowdals@gmail.com

**Bylaws/Standing Rules:** John Hayes  
360-424-4608 rosie@valleyint.com

**Refreshments:** Rotating with volunteers

**Raffles/Door Prizes:**

**Seminar:** Board Members

**SOCIETY EMAIL:** [genealogy0715@gmail.com](mailto:genealogy0715@gmail.com)

Check out our redesigned web page at  
[skagitvalleygenealogy.org](http://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*



# AT LAST! THE ANSWERS TO YOUR **DNA** QUESTIONS

with Barbara Johnson & jim justice

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## Members' Meet Up Online:

Sat., June 6, 12:45 pm - Collecting Your DNA Questions

## SVGS Monthly Educational Meeting:

Sat. June 20, 12:45 pm - Answers to Your DNA Questions

SVGS' educational online meetings are open to members and their guests. If you are not an SVGS member yet, but you would like to check out our online meetings, please send your name and email address to: [rootsproject1@gmail.com](mailto:rootsproject1@gmail.com) for your Zoom invitation to be emailed to you.

For more information:

**[skagitvalleygenealogy.org](http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org)**  
[rootsproject1@gmail.com](mailto:rootsproject1@gmail.com) | 360.757-6224

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## We Are Living in Historic Times

Every day I cannot help but feel a sense of awe when I contemplate the fact all of us are living in historic times. From the mundane daily tasks we engage in as we stay-at-home to the heroic or tragic life experiences thrust upon us due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

100 years ago our parents and grandparents lived through the Spanish Flu pandemic. Did your ancestors document their experiences of those frightening and uncertain times? Mine did not, but I wish they had recorded something of their experience as it would have given me insight into their character and resulting life decisions.

So, that we can learn from our ancestors' lapse in documenting their experiences, I invite you to share in SVGS' next quarterly newsletter your COVID-19 pandemic experience and how it touched you and your family.

You need not worry about your writing skills as there is no grading or judgements to be made about what you submit. You need not worry that your stay-at-home days were boring, stressful and mundane. You were blessed in that you remained safe. So, you see each individual's experience reflects back on what Life was like, the good the bad and the commonplace.

This is an effort to collect for future genealogists who may stumble upon a collection of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society newsletters stored in an archive. These researchers are curious to find out more about what one genealogy society's experiences were like during this global pandemic. Imagine that a reader 100 years from notices a familiar family name and reads your story. The reader may discover, "Why, that was my great grandparent. I now know much more about their courage, resilience, ingenuity, compassion and the daily discomforts they endured during this global crisis."

I hope you will consider submitting a small written piece about your experiences and add to this small, but potentially meaningful, collection of historic documentation of SVGS' genealogy members. Please email your COVID-19 story to our newsletter editor, Dottie Chandler:

[dotcom10@frontier.com](mailto:dotcom10@frontier.com). The deadline is Aug 25

2020 for the next edition of this newsletter. Thank you for considering this request.

If you have further interest in sharing your personal history during this pandemic the Burlington Public Library is also requesting your stories for documentation. To submit a story, photograph or artwork for the library's "Community Memories" collection visit: <http://www.burlingtonwa.gov/726/Community-Memories>.

\* \* \* \*

## Welcome New Genealogy Friends!

Through the efforts of SVGS' "IT Guy and Webmaster" George Ridgeway to keep SVGS connecting and providing educational opportunities for our members via online meetings, we are pleased to welcome several new members since starting our Zoom meet ups. Join me in welcoming: **Linda Berg, Linda Christensen** and husband **Jeff Larsen**, and **Stephen Hutchens**, plus renewing members Lynn Almvig and Barbara Balfour.

Thank you all for your support!

\* \* \* \*

## Board Opportunities

Looking ahead to November 2020 and Board elections there are several opportunities for you to get involved in. Board openings include:

**President** – Preside at meetings;

**Vice-President** – Find and schedule speakers;

**Secretary** – Record meetings;

**Education** – Plan workshops or seminars.

**Volunteer Coordinator** – New position, we need a creative "doer" to launch this position.

Serving on a genealogy society board offers you an opportunity to:

Share your professional skills so SVGS thrives and you give back to the community;

Gain research knowledge through a closer association with experienced researchers;

Share your creativity and ideas with others who enjoy family history research. Call 360-757-6224 (Margie) to find out more details about these open positions. Join us!



## PASSAGES

**March ~ April ~ May 2020**

Sadly, several of our members have lost close loved ones during the past few months. This time of social distancing has made it impossible for us to gather and to embrace our genealogy friends and offer them comfort. SVGS wishes to honor these families who have endured the loss of a loved one at this time. We share our sincere condolences with each of you and your families.

### Rest in Peace

Corlynn - Robbie Johnson's sister;  
Philip - Dan Royal's father  
Roger - Barbara Johnson's husband;  
Freida - Kris LaRue's mother-in-law;  
George - Lois Theodoratus' husband.  
Dorothy Cross—member



## Genealogy Learning Center

### Passenger Lists

Electronic records at NARA relating to immigrants to America from Germany (1850-1897), Russia (1834-1897), Ireland (1846-1851), and Italy (1855-1900). The National Archives offers the AAD database as a free public resource and it can be accessed from anywhere.

#### Search Databases

Sample below of some.

Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Russians to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1834 - 1897 - *Collection CIR*

Russians to America Passenger Data File, 1834 - 1897

Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900

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Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, created, 1977 - 1989, documenting the period 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851 - *Collection CIR*

Famine Irish Passenger Record Data File (FIPAS), 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851

List of Ships that Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851

World War II Prisoners of War Data File, 12/7/1941 - 11/19/1946

Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created, 1942 - 1947, documenting the period 12/7/1941 - 11/19/1946 - *Record Group 389*

Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Italians to the United States, created, ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1855 - 1900 - *Collection CIR*

Italians to America Passenger Data File, 1855 - 1900

Manifest Header Data File, 1834 - ca. 1900

### Castle Garden

Created by the Battery Conservancy from records at NARA, this free online searchable database contains entries for 10 million immigrants from 1830 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. Searchable by passenger name, the database provides information including age, sex, literacy, occupation, country of origin, port of embarkation, date of arrival into New York, and ship name. From 1855 - 1890, Castle Garden was America's first official immigration center.

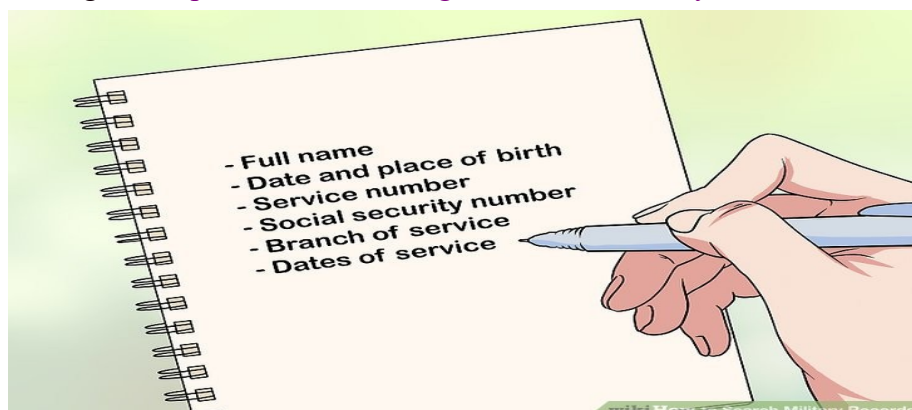
### Search by Name Ellis Island

Ellis Island has an online searchable database using records from NARA, (created by the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation), of 22.5 million arrivals to New York between 1892 - 1924. Registration is required but free, and you can view scanned images of actual passenger manifests. You can also purchase copies through the site. Over 20 million immigrants passed through the Port of New York at Ellis Island from 1892 - 1924.

[Search by Name](#)  
[About Ellis Island](#)

**Use an online site to find general information.** If you're looking for the casualties of a specific war or want to find out if a specific person served in the military, you can likely find this information online. Do an online search for military records to find applicable websites.

For instance, you could go to <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/aad.html> or [http://ww](http://www)



**Gather the veteran's personal information if you need specific records.** To access a specific veteran's records, you'll need to know their:<sup>[1]</sup>

- Full name
- Date and place of birth
- Service number
- Social security number
- Branch of service

**Request specific records through the National Personnel Records Center.** If you want to view the records for a specific military veteran, you can submit a request to the National Personnel Records Center. They will provide you with copies of the personnel records for the veteran in question.<sup>[2]</sup>

- Depending on your relation to the veteran, you can either send the request online, via fax, or by mail.

**Order the records online if you are the veteran or next of kin.** If you are a military veteran who wants your own records, or if you are related to the person whose records you want to view, you can do so online using the eVetRecs system.<sup>[4]</sup>

Go to <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>, then click on "Submit Your Request ONLINE with eVetRecs."

Fill in the required information and submit your request.

**Fill out Standard Form 180 if you are not the veteran or next of kin.** If you want records for a person that you are not related to, you'll need to fill out Standard Form 180 and submit it to the National Personnel Records Center.<sup>[5]</sup>

Drop by a VA office to pick up the form, or download a pdf from <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>.

Fill out the form, then fax it to 314-801-9195 or send it to: National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138

**Write a letter to request the records if you prefer.** If you can't or don't want to access Standard Form 180, you can write a letter requesting the records. Include your name, your relation to the veteran (if any), and the reason you are requesting the records. Provide the veteran's full name, date and place of birth, service number, social security number, branch of service, and dates of service. Fax the letter to 314-801-9195 or send it to:<sup>[6]</sup>

- National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138

**Visit the National Archives if you want to view the original record.** If you want to see an original record instead of receiving copies, you can visit the National Archives in the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. You must schedule an appointment for the specific research room in which the records are located.<sup>[7]</sup>

If the records are from before 1956, call 314-801-0850 to schedule an appointment.<sup>[8]</sup>

If the records are from after 1956, call 314-801-0775 to schedule an appointment.<sup>[9]</sup>

**Pay a fee for archival records.** Generally, you won't have to pay to access military records, especially if you are the veteran or next of kin. However, if the records you want to view are from 1956 or earlier, you will have to pay a fee to obtain copies of them.<sup>[10]</sup>

The fee for 5 pages or less is \$25. The fee for more than 5 pages is \$70.

**Expect to receive the records within 6 months.** In many cases, the National Personnel Records Center can respond to a request for separation records within 10 days. If you haven't heard back after 90 days, you can send a follow-up request. Keep in mind that some requests, such as those for archived records, can take up to 6 months to complete.<sup>[11]</sup>

This was an article from wiki. How to search military

## Interesting Facts and Myths about Ellis Island

By Dave Nielsen

Although Ellis Island is now a mere relic of the past, Ellis Island facts, figures, and myths continue to fascinate people today. This fascination is likely because Ellis Island served as the port of entry for millions of people during one of the largest migration periods in the history of the world.

If you and your parents were born in the United States, then there's a fair chance that one of your ancestors passed through Ellis Island en route to his or her new home.

In other words, not only is Ellis Island an important chapter in American history, it could be an important chapter in your own family history as well.

Learn a little bit about what your ancestor experienced with the following list of facts and myths about Ellis Island. Then see if FamilySearch can help you find his or her immigration records.

### 1. Immigration officials at Ellis Island likely changed my ancestor's name to make it sound more American.

This is a myth. Immigration officials at Ellis Island rarely wrote anything down—in terms of names, that is. They merely asked the immigrants the same questions that the immigrant had to answer for the ship's manifest before the voyage ever began. The purpose was to confirm the immigrant's identity and his or her reasons for entering the country.

So who changed the name? Very likely it was the immigrant himself or herself—to fit in better with neighbors or perhaps to help people pronounce the name more accurately. But this change would have happened later on.

### 2. Nearly everyone living in the United States of American today has an ancestor who passed through Ellis Island.

This, of course, is a myth. Ellis Island was in operation only from 1892 until 1954. So if your ancestor came before 1892 or after 1954, then he or she most certainly arrived and entered the country somewhere else.

With that said, experts estimate that somewhere between 33 and 40 percent of all Americans have an ancestor who came to the United States through the immigration offices at Ellis Island.

### 3. Standing in line at Ellis Island to enter America was a long and arduous ordeal.

This statement is partly true and partly a myth, depending on your definition of "long." Most immigrants passed through Ellis Island in 3–5 hours. When it was their turn at the clerk's desk, immigrants were asked a series of questions about their intentions. Then they were examined by a doctor. While it's true that those who failed the doctor's examination were detained and possibly sent back to Europe, the doctor's examination lasted, on average, only about six seconds.

To be con't in the next newsletter

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.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2020**

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APPLICANTS NAME

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ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

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AREA CODE ( )

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Member \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \$ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

**SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY****MAILING ADDRESS****Post Office Box 192  
Burlington WA. 98233****ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**