



Volume 36 Number 3

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

President's Message

These past 18 months we have all been thrown some wild curve balls. Last newsletter I mentioned the fall genealogy seminar. Unexpectedly, SVGS had to change the anticipated guest speaker. But, when one door closed a new window opened. It is with great excitement that SVGS announces it will be featuring **Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, "The Legal Genealogist"** as its fall seminar headliner. Online registration opens Sept. 11 on SVGS' website. Register early as attendance is limited to the first 100 registrations – and Judy Russell is popular! The class descriptions and registration details are on SVGS's website: skagitvalleygenealogy.org.

Ms. Russell is a nationally acclaimed speaker and this is a huge first for our small society to be able to host a seminar presentation by a guest speaker, in real-time, on the East Coast! Come join us in learning more about the fascinating and often quirky legal aspects of family research.

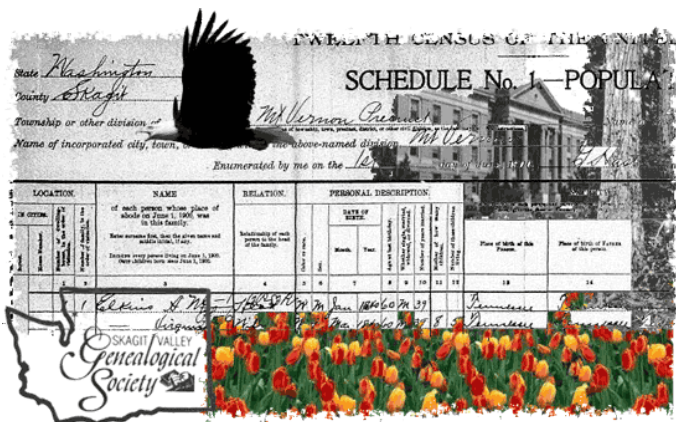
As our monthly meetings resume for the fall season, SVGS members will be learning more about research resources available in our region. On September 11 we kick-off the educational season with a virtual tour of the Pacific NW Regional Archives and explore what research materials genealogists can discover there. For the October 9th meeting the Skagit County Historical Museum's library and archives is explored in-depth. November 13 is SVGS' Annual Meeting and professional genealogist Laura Sparr-Pemberton will be answering your brick wall questions and sharing her extensive knowledge of genealogy with us. Her surprise topic is to be announced.

There is a lot going on with the society from seminar planning to digitizing records. I have found that by volunteering, be it on the SVGS board or for a "done in a day" project, I learn a great deal from my fellow researchers. Genealogy friendships add to the fun and encourage us to search on!

We will keep you posted as to when our hybrid (Zoom + In-Person) meetings at the Burlington Library will begin. The Burlington Public Library is now open M-F but not on Saturdays. For library hours visit: burlingtonwa.gov/library.

Thank you for your continued membership and support this past year. It has meant so much to all of us in the society. I am looking forward to seeing and talking to you soon as we research and explore on together.

Keep on Researching!
Margie Wilson, SVGS President



SVGS Board of Directors 2020

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

Vice President: Linda Duffield
ld1331@gmail.com

Secretary: Rene Vance

Treasurer: Stephen Hutchens

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

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

Education: Barbara Johnson pro-tem
360-770-0762 gorhamgen@gmail.com

Genealogist: Sylvia Ammons

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

Membership:
360-510-9960

Newsletter:
360-770-7214

Webmaster:
360-424-4427

Projects :
dler/Sylvia Ammons

Publications:
360-826-6141

Publicity:
360-856-9002

Bonnie Monroe

Dottie Chandler
dotcom10@frontier.com

George Ridgeway
4george30@comcast.net

Dan Royal/Dottie Chan-

Dan Royal
dmoroyal@earthlink.net

Special Committees

Nominating: **OPEN**

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

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

Refreshments:

Raffles/Door Prizes: Seminar: Board Members

SOCIETY EMAIL: genealogy0715@gmail.com

Check out our redesigned web page at
skagitvalleygenealogy.org

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.

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

SVGS Library Report for the Summer of 2021

The Burlington Public Library has re-opened on Mondays to Fridays with new hours. Visit www.burlingtonwa.gov/library for updates as hours may change. With Covid-19 Delta variant cases increasing continued caution regarding in-person gatherings remains necessary. The library has not yet opened up their conference room for reservations plus the library is not open on Saturdays at this time.

The Burlington Public Library is working steadily on upgrading its conference room technology to provide a new meeting room environment conducive to conducting hybrid-meetings. We all must be patient as finding the equipment and room modifications all take time. SVGS will keep you posted as to developments and when that first, exciting hybrid-in-person meeting will be available to us. Until that bright day we hope you will continue to join us on Zoom for our 2nd Saturday monthly programs.

Now that BPL is open the SVGS genealogy book collection is again available for browsing during the library's hours. At this time, one-on-one in-person assistance with your genealogy research remains on a by appointment basis. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a research consultation, email me at: rootsproject@frontier.com or call (360) 757-

Recent Genealogy Book Donations:

During the summer several books were donated to the SVGS Book Collection:

From County Cork to Skagit County by Michael J. Hurley, an entertaining family history with photographs documenting the Hurley family's research journey.

Donations from the Whatcom Genealogical Society include:

Names on the Face of Montana: The Story of Montana's Place Names by Roberta Carkeek Cheney;

The Genealogist's Guide to Fraktur: For Genealogists Researching German-American Families by Corinne Earnest and Beverly Repass Hoch and

Free Land for Free Men: A Story of Clackamas County (OR) by Vera Martin Lynch.

Two memorial books were purchased by SVGS in memory of founding SVGS member Sharon Johnson:

Scandinavian-American Genealogical Resources by Dr. Charles Dickson and

A Long Way Home: From Sweden to Cedar-home, a Trail of Tears and Triumph by Robert Burns.

I am still cataloging and labeling these books and several others earlier donated in 2020. But I plan on having them available for browsing on the SVGS library shelves by September 11. If you'd care to volunteer to help with the shelving please email me: rootsproject@frontier.com I would greatly appreciate your help.

Margie Wilson, SVGS Library Chair

Passages

SHARON JOHNSON, SVGS Founding Member
JOE LEBLONDE, SVGS Former Board Member
JOHNNY HURLEY, SVGS Member Mike Hurley's son

We shall always hold them in our hearts

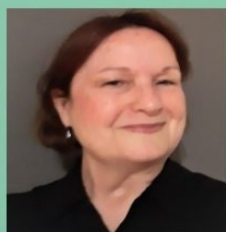


This is Sharon Jonson one of our founding society members. Our condolences to her family. She was so helpful to many society members in research. She is greatly missed. This is few words from her obituary.

Conway - Sharon Ann Johnson of Conway passed away on June 5, 2021 in Mount Vernon, WA. She was born in Everett, Washington to Algot and Margaret Olson on October 18, 1944.

The family moved to Anacortes, where Sharon attended school, and graduated high school in 1962. She attended Washington State University, graduating in 1966 with her BA in Business Administration. It was there that she met Larry, and they married in October of 1966. Their first home was in Wichita Kansas while Larry was in the Army. In 1969, they moved back to Mount Vernon, and Sharon was a bookkeeper for a men's clothing store. She was a girl scout leader in the 1970s and taught Sunday School at First Baptist Church in Mount Vernon in the 1980's and 90's, where she was also an active member for many years. Sharon hosted an annual Lutfisk dinner for the extended family, being very proud of her Swedish heritage.

In addition to being a much-loved wife, mother and grandmother, ("Grammie") Sharon's other interests included scrapbooking and genealogy. Sharon was involved with the formation of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and a lifetime member. She traveled with a small group of friends annually for over 25 years to Salt Lake City, UT for her research.



Let's Take a Tour through the Washington State Archives-Northwest Regional Branch in Bellingham Washington

Presented by Janette Gomes
Northwest Regional Branch Archivist

Did you know...there is a wonderful archival collection of birth, death and marriage records, court case files, census records, naturalizations, school and other types of registers (medical, jail) here in the Pacific NW?

**Join us on Saturday, 11 September 2021 at 12:45 p.m.
to learn more about these treasures.**



**Discover Your Roots with SVGS the 2nd Saturday
Genealogy Educational Program. SVGS Members
and the Public are welcome to attend free on line
meetings. To receive the ZOOM invitation, contact:
rootsproject1@gmail.com**

Historic Meeting of East Meets West in La Conner, WA

Perhaps not quite as historic an event as the meeting of the eastern and western lines of the transcontinental railroad but nevertheless an exciting occasion of “east meets west” for SVGS took place on July 10, 2021 in La Conner, WA.

For many years on SVGS' membership roster the name Mike Hurley would faithfully be listed. As president of the genealogy society, it concerned me that Mr. Hurley would always remain just a name on a spreadsheet. You see, Mr. Hurley lives in Virginia. “What family story links him to the Skagit Valley? Is there a way to connect SVGS' out of state members to the local members?” these were my frequent questions. It took a pandemic to find an answer.

Fast forward to April 2020. Due to the pandemic SVGS moves the monthly meetings online via Zoom. Much to all of our delight, there was Mike Hurley on screen. From a name on spreadsheet to visible human form. A long-distance member participating, in “real time” (as my engineering husband would say) at an SVGS meeting with local members. This was a first for SVGS! As president of the genealogy society to was at last an answer as to how to connect all our members!

Mr. Hurley proved to be a valuable contributor to our monthly Zoom meetings. Asking questions, presenting a program about his family research from County Cork to Skagit County and generally adding zest and enthusiasm to this new experimental meeting format called Zoom. When SVGS learned Mr. Hurley planned to visit his ancestral La Conner, WA roots, it was exciting news!

On July 10 in La Conner, WA several SVGS members welcomed the Hurley family “home” to Skagit County. After welcomes and introductions we toured the historic sites of La Conner together. The highlight of the tour was stopping at the historic Nevada Bar. This 1890s brick building still stands on the corner of Commercial and First Street. Two generations of Hurley's paused in front of their ancestor's historic property and savored the moment of connection while camera shutter's clicked.

As genealogists we appreciate how special an experience it is to walk where one's ancestors once did. No matter how near or far, east or west, it is exploring our family roots that brings us as fellow researchers memorable and unique connections. Thanks to the Hurley's for sharing their special family history with all of us. – M. Wilson



Above left to right:

The Hurley family Marlena, Julia, Alexander, his girlfriend Mary and Mike holding his recently published family history *From County Cork to Skagit County*. SVGS Greeters: Margie Wilson, Rene Vance, Barb Johnson, Karen Strelow, grand-daughter Rory and Greg Wilson.

Photo on the left:

The Hurley family in front of the historic “Nevada Bar.” Mike Hurley is on the far right in the picture. Mike Hurley's great-grandfather, also Michael Hurley, was the building's proprietor circa the 1890s. This historic property is part of the Skagit Co. Historical Museum's down-town audio tour. By the way, the Hurley's have yet another well-known La Conner pioneer ancestral line - the Tillinghast family.

Skagit Valley Genealogy Website Make-Over

If you have been to the Skagit Valley Genealogical society website recently, you may have noticed scenes across the top of the website mostly from Skagit County. They have been randomly changing for the last few years. We, the SVGS board, think it is time for a make over of those banners or headers. We are suggesting a contest where you can be involved if you so choose. The picture taking phase of the contest can begin now. The remake contest will officially begin the first of September. These images should be roughly 940 by 198 pixels. Landscape or wide angle shots will work best. On September first, the remake-contest page link will disclose the contest rules. Meanwhile, you can get your cameras out and started taking pictures.

Judy Russell aka The Legal Genealogist “and so much more”

Judy Russell has a daily blog that is free at: <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>

Judy is as the title suggests a lawyer and a genealogist supreme. She discusses law from a genealogist perspective. BUT...she does not report in a droning, legalese manner. She “spices” it up with a great sense of humor. Each blog is helpful to all of us genealogists plus she reports with her tongue firmly planted in her cheek. Where she finds some of her hilarious examples of case law is a Great Mystery to me.

Not all her examples are humorous; she does report on some of the sad stories of legal cases, as well as examples from her own family tree. But all her blog posts are great lessons in genealogy research.

Judy also does presentations (see article about our Fall Webinar series) that are amazing. I have seen her presentations online and in person. She has a very engaging manner. Her stories are riveting, humorous, sad...all with her charming style.

For someone who often finds “lawyer talk” to be soporific, I can testify under oath the Judy is not!

Do check out the flyer in this newsletter and sign up early for Judy’s presentations!

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE COMING UP

Just a friendly reminder that dues are going to be due soon for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. **Our year goes from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st.** Dues this year have raised to \$20.00 for single membership and \$25.00 for family member

September 2021 to March 2022 Education Calendar

Check your email for updates as to whether we will be meeting at the Burlington Public Library or meeting online. Look for your Zoom link in your email inbox on the Friday prior to each meeting.

-----2021-----

Sat., September 11, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Presenter: Janette Gomes, - Archivist at Northwest Regional Archives

**Let's Take a Tour through the Washington State Archives
Northwest Regional Branch in Bellingham**

Sat., October 9, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Presenter: Mari Densmore, Archivist & Jo Wolfe, Director
of the Skagit Valley Historical Museum

"I Didn't know That..." & "It's Right in Your Own Backyard"

Classes: Cyndi Ingles of Cyndi's List

14 October – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

(Entry Level Genealogy - "Guided Tour of Cyndi's List 2.0")

21 October – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

(Intermediate Level Genealogy - "Building a Digital Research Plan")

28 October – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

(Advanced Level Genealogy - Preserve Your Research)

Sat., 13 November 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Presenter: Laura Sparr Pemberton

"Our November Mystery: Where Will Laura Take Us?"

December 2021: No Meeting

-----2022-----

Sat., 8 January 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Presenter: Dave Obee (confirmed)

Sat, 12 February 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Presenter: Janice Lovelace (pending)

Sat., 12 March 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Presenter: TBD (pending)

Questions? Contact Margie Wilson, rootsproject@frontier.com, 360-757-6224. Website:

www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org

Thank you for being flexible due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. SVGS will keep you informed

SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2021

Membership is open to all persons interested in historical research, preservation and publications of genealogical interest. You may join SVGS via www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org and pay via PayPal or credit card or by completing and mailing in the form below. SVGS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. EIN #: 91-1359846. A newsletter is published by the society and is distributed free of charge to members as a benefit of membership.

**Please print to complete the membership form below and mail with your check to:
SVGS, P.O. Box 192, Burlington, WA 98233.**

FULL NAME: _____ **PHONE:** (____) _____ -- _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip Code+4

EMAIL: _____ ☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWING MY
DUES

DUES: _____ **INDIVIDUAL = \$20/yr.** _____ **FAMILY (at Same Address) = \$25/yr.**

**SKAGIT VALLEY
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 192 Burlington, WA 98233-0192**

Address Correction Requested