



Volume 37 Number 2

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President's Message

Recently I enjoyed an out of the blue phone call from one of SVGS' long-time members. It was a cheery and animated call that I was delighted to receive as I hadn't seen this member for over two years. Our conversation naturally turned to "how's your family research going?"

I don't know why I was surprised but the reply was, "I just can't get inspired with my genealogy." The reason I was surprised was that I (erroneously) thought I was the only one struggling with "searching on." It felt reassuring that I was not alone. Finding inspiration to scroll through the search results: "We found 13,869 John Wilson's in Brooklyn, NY" (lucky me) is discouraging at best. So, where do we find that illusive inspiration to keep plugging away at finding answers to our research questions?

Well, for those of us comfortable with engaging on the internet the educational opportunities are everywhere. RootsTech 2022 was an inspiration to me. The sheer multitude of educational opportunities was exhilarating – and a bit overwhelming at the same time. So, now is the time to follow up on those lessons and apply the tips to your own research. I am also finding YouTube.com has bountiful supply of genealogy tutorials. If you're spinning your wheels in a fruitless search, shift gears and tune into a YouTube session or explore a Familysearch.org Wiki topic. The essential element is to -- keep exploring.

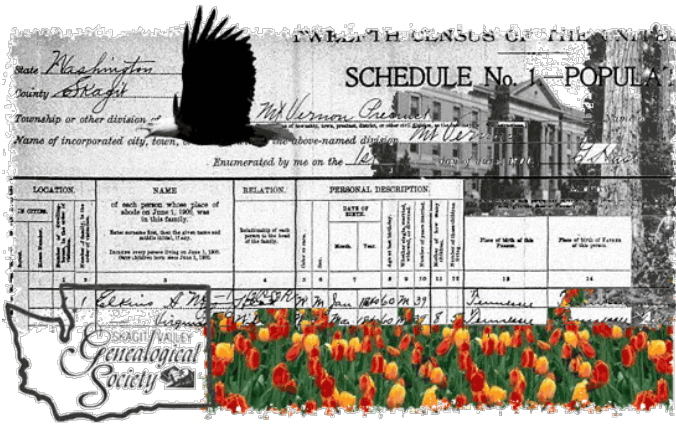
On April 1, 2022 family historians enjoyed another inspirational offering – researching one's immediate family members in the nearly released 1950 U.S. Census. How cool is that! Hopefully, that inspired many of you to pick up the baton and dig deeper and perhaps you even came across a couple of "Hey, I didn't know that" reveals about your family. The 1950 US Census found me plugging in search fields, names, dates and etc. to see what I could find.

Speaking of U.S. Census revelations, SVGS' May 14 program will delve into "Census Controversies from 1790-2020." Join us on Zoom for this fascinating behind the scenes look at these government records. What new clues about your ancestors will you discover?

My genealogy society friend's cheery call is my renewed inspiration. It reminded me that it is okay to take a break, okay to hang out on a plateau – we've all been there. So, enjoy this crazy genealogy ride you share with all of your fellow researchers in SVGS. Your genealogy is never "done." You just need to keep skill-building, applying new approaches, thinking creatively and best of all, sharing your questions or ah ha's with others. YOU and your family discoveries could very well be the very inspiration another fellow researcher is needing at just the right time. We hope you will turn to Skagit Valley Genealogical Society for not only monthly education programming and camaraderie but also as a source of much needed inspiration.

Keep on Researching and Never Give Up!

Margie Wilson, SVGS President



SVGS Board of Directors 2020

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Audit/Budget: Stephen Hutchens

Bylaws/Standing Rules: John Hayes
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



MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL SPEAKERS – 2022

May-June 2022

- May 14** Rob Lopresti: *Census Controversies 1790-2020*
- June 11** Janice Lovelace, PhD : Building a Research Plan
- July/August** No meetings
- September 10** Dr. Joe Price: *Skagit Obituary Project: How to Access the Information and Attaching 1910 Hints to Family Search for Washington State Funeral Home project.*
- October 8** Pending
- November 12** Barb Johnson *Brick Walls and Annual Meeting*
- December** No meetings

It is the First Day of the Month: Back Up Your Genealogy Files

Today is the first day of the month. That is still a good time to back up your genealogy files. Then test your backups!

Your backups aren't worth much unless you make a quick test by restoring a small file or two after the backup is completed.

Actually, you can make backups at any time. However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific schedule.

CENSUS CONTROVERSIES

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES
 SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

Precinct 15, San Jose Name of Institution,
Name of township, town, precinct, district, or other civil division, as the case may be—(See instructions.)

by me on the *18th* day of June, 1900, *John M. Hackett*
the above-named division,

No. of each individual head of family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.										NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.		
	Color or race.	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH.		Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Mother of how many children.	Number of those children living.	Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the State or Territory; if of foreign birth, give the Country only.			Year of immigration to the United States.	Number of years in the United States.		
			Month.	Year.						Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<i>M</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>1874</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>			<i>N. Mexico</i>	<i>Mexico</i>	<i>Mexico</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Presented by: Rob Lopresti

Librarian Western Washington University

Saturday May 14 12:45 p.m.

Discover Your Roots with SVGS the 2nd Saturday Genealogy Educational Program. SVGS members & the public are welcome to attend free online meetings.

If you are not a member, contact:

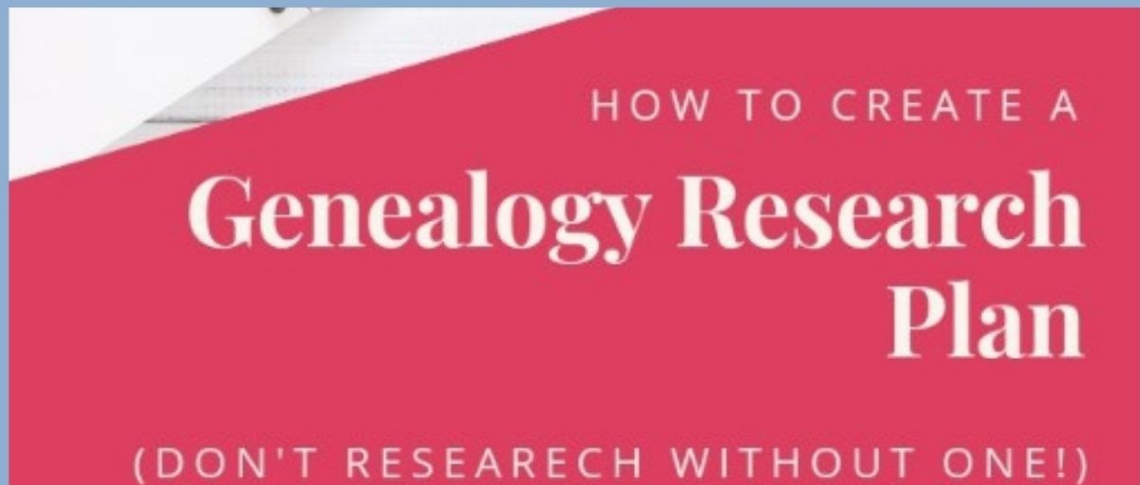
rootsproject1@gmail.com

to receive a Zoom invitation

SVGS Website www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org
 Burlington Library: www.burlingtonwa.gov/library



BUILDING A RESEARCH PLAN



Presented by: Janice Loveless

Author Writer Presenter

Saturday, 11 JUNE 2022 at 12:45 pm

Discover Your Roots with SVGS the 2nd Saturday Genealogy Educational Program. SVGS members & the public are welcome to attend free online meetings.

**To receive a ZOOM invitation, contact:
rootsproject1@gmail.com**

SVGS Website www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org
Burlington Library: www.burlingtonwa.gov/library



My First 80 years

Chapter 1

By Perry Pershing Wells

(I have edited this to a shorter version and it will be continued to the next newsletter. This was my dad's uncle who was born in 1919. He is buried at Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. He was in WWII, Korean Conflict, Cold War and Vietnam)

As I remember, a; short stories start wit, "Once upon a time"...or ..."As it was in the beginning"...I was born in a little town called "Ohio, Illinois" which caused me some agitation with people who asked for this information in later years, especially when I entered the Military Service.

Ohio, Illinois is a small town that consists primarily of a double set of railroad tracks and a grain elevator. When it was necessary for me to give information regarding my birthplace, my interrogater thought I must be some sort of "country bumpkin" who didn't even know the State where I was born. We lived on a farm about 2 miles from Ohio, Ill., then moved to a larger farm near another smll town called Malden, Ill. I was about 1 or 2 years old when we moved but I had some "fun" times at this new place as I grew up.

All of those "fun" days came to an end about the year 1930 when the Citizens Bank in Princeton, Illinois foreclosed on both of our farms when the bank called in the loan and file bankruptcy. My dad owed a loan payment of about \$20,000.00. He had \$13,000.00 in the Citizens Bank & enough assets in cattle, hogs & grain to more than cover the loan but the bank wasn't going to wait and since he had offered the first farm as collateral, he only had one Mtg. Note. The bank took both farms. These were the beginnings days of the Great Depression Era and the banks were not required to insure or guarantee any of their investors savings when they filed bankruptcy. This insurance requirements for banks to insure their despoitors saving became law a couple of years later but too late to help my father.

My father was a farmer, not a banker, and he could not understand how the bank could keep his savings and grab his farms too. He hired a couple of local lawyers, hoping to salvage something out of this mess but, ironically, the lawyers ended up owning the farms, one for each lawyer. One of the lawyers ended up serving nine years in Joliet, Illinois Penitentiary for defrauding other people out of their inheritance money and property but my father got no satisfaciom rom that because it happened after his death.

We leased another farm which was newer and more modern. Of course, I was happy with this place but my dad was not entirely satisfied. It did not have enough acreage to satisfy him and mostly because he was now reduced to a "share-cropper" status. At least, I finished elementary school and the first year of high school while we lived on the farm. My father had my higher education all planned for me. However, all this planning went down the tubes when just before starting my sophomore year, I found him dead at the edge of a corn field and I found myself a young "full time" farmer. I was 14 years old.

He left me with 84 acres of corn that had to be husked by hand. Mechanical pickers were just coming into eistance then and my father would not consider buying one of those "new-fangled" contraptions until it was capable of picking the fields clean as he put it. As the old cliché goes, I put my back into it. I had picked all but nie acres of the 84 acres when all the local farmers came in with all their wagons to help me with my corn harvest . They finished the job for me in just about 2 hours for which I was grateful. That left me with about 100 hogs, a bunch of cattle and 3 horses to take care of but the BIG job was done.

At th beginning of the next year following my fathers death, things did not gete any better for mom and me. I did all the plowing and ground preparation for the planting the next crops. I planted corn, oats, etc., but as it turned out, this became the year od our biggest drought ever. No rain for weeks. The wells started to run dry. The State of Oklahoma became known as the "Dust Bowl" and the Oklahoma farmers packed what belonging they could carry and left for California. These were "tough" times—the skies were darkened with blowing dust—but no rain.

This was also the year our Congressmen declared that this country was producing more grain than we could use for food and feed and it was too epensive to store the surplus. Therefore, all farmers were directed to "idle" a certain percentage of the land used to grow crops. My mother, with someone else's good advice, decided this was the time to call it "quit".. I don't think anyone was any happiers with that decision than me.

We sold everything but everyone was hurting so my mother was able to scrape together enough cash after everything was counted to buy about an average house in Princeton, Illinois. She had to pay cash for it because we had no credit and no visible income. It left very little for anything else— like groceries, etc. She went to work cleaning houses (day work) for \$2.00 per day. In those days we didn't have Welfare as we know it today. She tried everything she could to get some relief but was turned down because "You own your home" She even tried to enlist me in the "Triple C" Camp. It paid \$25.00 a month but I couldn't enlist for the same reason, "you own your own home". (he got different jobs and bought his own car and graduated.)

I sold my '33 Plymouth tudor and took what money I had earned and headed for Milwaukee, Wisconsin & the Milwaukee School of Engineering. I was going to learn to be a welder, read blueprints, mechanical darwing, etc, but after I paid my first years tution, bought books and supples, I was broke again. I got a job at "Maiders Restaurant—Home of World Famous Coffee". Ther I met famous people like Alan Hale, Edgar Kennedy and Mrw. Pabst of Pabst Blue ribbon Beer.

To be continued with pilot training and WWII

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STATEMENT 2022

Don't miss out on the helpful benefits of being an active SVGS member. In addition to the one-on-one research assistance you receive from experienced genealogists, active membership also entitles you to receive a \$5.00 discount on SVGS workshops and seminars and receive announcements about SVGS' educational programs and events through the SVGS quarterly newsletter, ***Your dues support SVGS' monthly educational programs by genealogy professionals and research experts across a broad spectrum of subjects.***

If you have been helped in your family history research by SVGS' programs and/or volunteers, then your annual dues are the perfect way to pay it forward so that SVGS can continue to help you and our fellow researchers learn valuable skills and break through research challenges.

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

Mail your completed form with your check before your dues expire on the 2nd Saturday in March to:

SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 192, BURLINGTON, WA 98233-0192

You may also conveniently renew your dues online with PayPal in the Membership section of SVGS' website:

www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org/membership

Detach below the dotted line and return the bottom portion with your check.

SVGS Membership Renewal Statement for 2022

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE: _____

NEW MEMBER: _____ RENEWING MEMBER: _____ INDIVIDUAL: \$20 FAMILY(at Same Address): \$25

Please tell us a bit about yourself and interests re: your family research:

I am researching in: (list the US states or countries: _____)

Genealogy topics I'd like to learn about are: _____

Your feedback for SVGS: _____

I would like to get more involved with SVGS. Please: Call me Email me Sorry, not at this time.

Thank you again for your support!

SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2022

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