



Volume 38 Number 2

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Message of Spring: Never Give Up!

One cold, clear, Skagit Valley morning, I peered over the top of my laptop computer screen to look out the window to my garden. My eyes needed a break from scanning, research dooms-scrolling (?) through a Ancestry's webpage that seemed to be too happily declaring: "You have 119,358 results" for John Wilson. Thankfully, Ancestry refrained from posting a smiley face above the long list of results to open. Looking through the window, there in the winter sunshine, was a tiny green blade of a tulip leaf piercing its way through the icy soil. "What sheer tenacity," I thought.

Tenacity + Time + Research Skill are what all family researchers need – like that steadfast tulip leaf, fighting against all odds – to discover their ancestors. Once a researcher taps into their inner spirit of (stubborn) tenacity, yet another dash down the nearest research rabbit hole will quickly follow. And the ancestor chase is on! It is the pursuit of the chase that drives us further, and further, in our research journey. In the pursue itself is the joy, if not always the reward of finding who you are looking for. Like that tulip leaf, heeding the force of Nature, in the long, hard haul of family research, over time, using your developing research skills and knowledge, and never giving up, you too will be successful. Promise! Exciting news for SVGS members - March is a genealogy bonanza month. The annual **RootsTech.org** global educational conference is back. RootsTech.org is an online educational MUST experience. This is your opportunity to take advantage of the 100s of free webinar classes running the full spectrum of genealogy topics, for beginner to professional skill levels. Be sure to register and check out a few of the classes to advance your researching skills. You will be so glad you did!

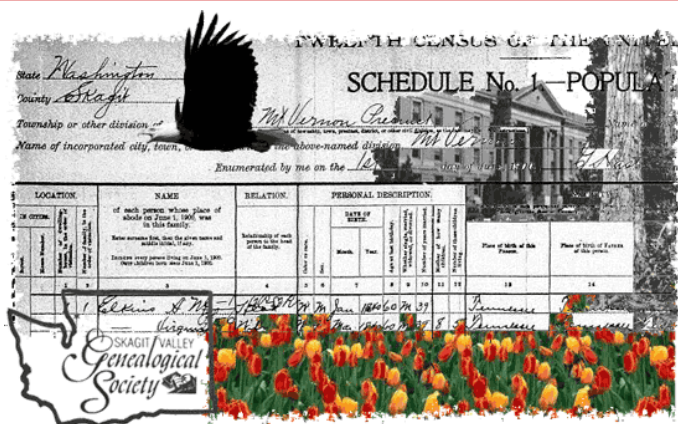
SVGS is taking another step towards "normal." SVGS is inviting local area members to a start-up genealogy discussion group. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7, at the Burlington Library Gentry Room, 10AM-Noon. (See the flier in this newsletter for details.) Come join in exploring genealogy topics as determined by SVGS members' interests. In exploring diverse interests and learning together we will improve our skills as well as enjoy new friends with shared interests. Come join us!

Every SVGS monthly membership meeting I come away with some new approach, resource, or methodology to explore. I hope that you too will find renewed inspiration through SVGS' monthly educational programming and sharing your interests with your fellow genealogy members. See you on 2nd Saturdays for more genealogy camaraderie and learning to enjoy together.

Keep on researching,

Margie Wilson, SVGS president

"Every man is a quotation from all his ancestors" – *Ralph Waldo Emerson.*



SVGS Board of Directors 2020

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
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Publications:

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Publicity:

Special Committees

Nominating: **OPEN**

Audit/Budget:

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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



Genealogy Discussion Group

Tuesday, March 7

Let's Talk About:

**What Are Your Family Research
Areas of Interest?**

First Tuesday of the Month

10:00am to Noon

Burlington Library Gentry Room

*An informal discussion group exploring
various aspects of family research interests together.
The discussion topic will be determined by those present
and their interests, needs and/or questions.
If this is popular we'll keep meeting regularly.
Come join us, share your ideas & questions!*

*ALSO FREE . . . between 10am–Noon on 1st Tuesdays
is One–On–One–Research Help. A volunteer
in the library's genealogy section can assist you.*

BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

820 E. Washington Ave.



**BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Questions? genealogy0715@gmail.com
skagitvalleygenealogy.org
burlingtonwa.gov/library 360.755.0760



**Burlington
Public Library**

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL **GENEALOGY PROGRAM:**

**FIND YOUR
FAMILY HISTORY TODAY:
& LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR GENEALOGISTS IN 2023**



**Saturday
March 11
Time
1:00-3:00PM**

Burlington Public Library
820 E. Washington Ave.

Attend either in-person or via Zoom.

If you are **not** a member of SVGS email: **genealogy0715@gmail.com** to request the Zoom link or join us in-person for this essential skill building lecture.



Donna Potter-Phillips

Donna is a genealogist with decades of research experience.

She is an popular lecturer and serves on the Washington State Genealogical Society board

Donna's presentation is your opportunity to learn best practices to get started correctly with your family research. This session will also explore websites and lesser known resources to help keep your research skills sharp and effective.

skagitvalleygenealogy.org | burlingtonwa.gov/library
360.755.0760 | genealogy0715@gmail.com

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL GENEALOGY PROGRAM

OUT OF THIS WORLD GENEALOGY:

Tips for Using Google Earth Pro and
Zoom for Your Family Research



Saturday
APRIL 8
Time
1:00-3:00PM

About our guest speaker:

GEORGE RIDGEWAY

George is an experienced genealogy researcher, a former SVGS president and currently serves as the webmaster for SVGS. He is kept busy by society members seeking his tech help -- from setting up Zoom meetings, conducting hybrid-meetings to analyzing tough computer technology issues. George will share tips for using two of his favorite online tools for family research.

If you are *not* an SVGS member email:
genealogy0715@gmail.com to request the Zoom
link or come join us in-person.

Burlington Public Library
820 E. Washington Ave.



**Burlington
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ALPINE, THE DESERTED VILLAGE

By Elizan M. Wallace

Shade of Oliver Goldsmith, where have I found thee! Not in far English romance, but in Skagit County at the end of a runaway road, up hill and down dale: -there, on the shores of Lake Cavanaugh lies Alpine. Lake Cavanaugh is fourteen miles northeast of McMurray and can be reached only by wagon road. It is one of the most beautiful and picturesque lakes of our Northwest, three miles long and a mile wide. It is a nursling of the hills and is guarded closely by their wooded slopes. Many years ago an effort was made to establish a pleasure resort at this place. A number of families filed on the land bordering the lake, building their homes at the water's edge. Some erected very comfortable two-story houses of split cedar. The most pretentious of these was designed for a hotel but was built and school held within. A post office was also established and mail arrived three times a week, being carried in by the way of the McMurray road.

After a time the homesteads were proved up and the owners, seeming to find the loneliness growing oppressive, returned one by one to outer civilization. Many things were left behind rather than pay the expense and take the trouble of hauling them over the long, uneven road. In the upper story of the Hotel Cavanaugh are beds, decaying carpets, half detached from the floors, clothing, old furniture—habitations now of scurrying wood rats. Below the rickety stairs are kitchen utensils and heavy dishes which the summer camper may use at pleasure,—if he choose.

Tumble down stoves tables and bedsteads add to the internal desolation of this delapidated building. Upon the edge of the lake, a good boat and two dugouts are lying. Tacked on the hotel door is a cordial invitation to all comers to make free use of the boat, mildly requesting that oars and oarlocks be returned to the house after use. The old schoolhouse, with its once used register still within, still stands, so deserted one can scarcely imagine it ever rang with merry children's voices or echoed the teacher's bell. In the old post office, until very recently, the old post office stamp remained, its impress bearing the legend, "Alpine, August 7, 1886, Washington," probably the date of the last receipt of mail.

This is Alpine, the deserted village.

In the gardens Japanese Wineberry bushes bear fruit beside their country cousins, the salmon berries, Luscious cherries and plumb drop from the burdened limbs to tangled grass in the midst of alder growth and young firs, while wild blackberry vines peep curiously in at broken windows. Quail and pheasants whirl away through the trees, startled from their feeding places.

There is something mutely pathetic about it all. The empty houses, haunted by ghosts of bygone memories and lying so drearily in the solemn silence of the hills: the tangle of wild vines overgrowing the door steps undisturbed by straying feet: the half open doors, swinging like soldiers' empty sleeves: the orchards and gardens springing up with wild growth, Nature's perpetual protest against the incursion of her domain: the old well with curb caving in—age without a staff—all are monuments of unfulfilled human ambition.

This is an excerpt from the book *An Illustrated History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties, their people, their commerce and their resources.* Part 1

Looking for ancestors int the early 1900'S? have you tried looking in the Skagit County Directory , it has their names and occupations. Also look in the Polk Directory which has Skagit County Tax List. They have residents and businesses.

Example of a business for 1911-1912: Burlington Co-operative Union \$2450.00. The \$2,450 in 1912 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$75,563.56 today, an increase of \$73,113.56 over 111 years. The dollar had an average inflation rate of 3.14% per year between 1912 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 2,984.23%.

Skagit County Post Offices

| <u>OFFICE</u> | <u>ESTABLISHED</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Anacortes | March 13, 1879 |
| Blanchard* | July 20, 1886 |
| Bow | December 27, 1901 |
| Burlington | October 3, 1891 |
| Clearlake | June 10, 1891 |
| Concrete | February 12, 1907 |
| Conway | July 10, 1893 |
| Edison | June 10, 1878 |
| Hamilton | October 9, 1884 |
| LaConner* | February 21, 1866 |
| Lyman | August 2, 1880 |
| Marblemount | July 30, 1890 |
| Mount Vernon | June 29, 1877 |
| Rockport | August 3, 1901 |
| Sedro-Woolley * | July 7, 1899 |
| Urban | May 20, 1895 |

Blanchard name changed to Fravel on September 9, 1903 and restored to Blanchard on December 12, 1913

LaConner called Swinomish until renamed LaConner March 29, 1870

Sedro-Woolley represents incorporation of Sedro (established December 7, 1885) and Woolley (established May 5, 1890).

Excerpt from Chechacos All, the Pioneers of Skagit.

Hopefully, this cold weather has had it's run and we can move on to warmer weather. Happy Spring everyone and don't forget to spring forward on March 12th.



SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2023

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