



Volume 38 Number 3

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharing Some Recent Discoveries

I am in student mode. I am currently reading history and the social history of the times my ancestors lived in. It is fascinating. I am also seeking out fresh online resources to explore. Some of these, which I will share with you, may not have yielded dates and records. Instead, I am gaining deeper insight in the challenges my ancestors faced. The courage and resilience of my ancestors has deepened my appreciation of their humble lives.

With the hope that I may spark a new path or exploration for your own research, below I are some “new to me” resources:

The **Internet Archive** (archive.org) is a fascinating and ever-growing collection of digitized books, audio recordings, and digitized documents. Today, I found the 1921 Polk's City Directory for Skagit County. I was able to browse through and download for free the digitized book. How cool is that! I invite you visit <https://archive.org>. Plug in your genealogy search words or a locale you are researching and see what you can find.

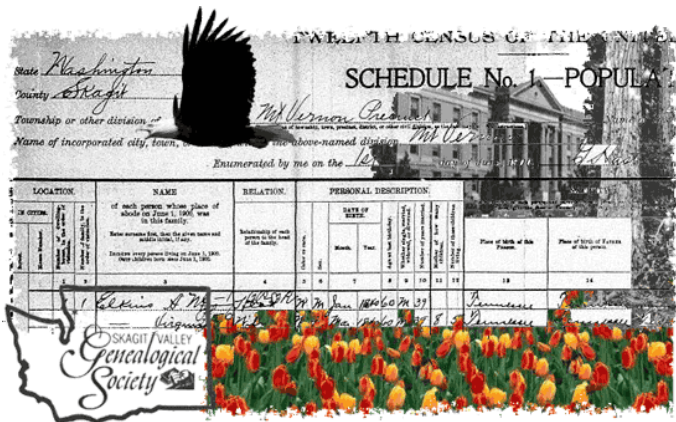
The Dunbrody Famine Ship and Irish Emigrant Experience website: <https://www.dunbrody.com>. If you have Irish ancestors who immigrated to North America during the Great Famine you might find this site of interest. You can search for free the database of ship manifests for several ports of entry during the 1840s-1850s. You might want to also explore the information about the history of the famine ships. But, to download a record, you must pay a hefty 50 euros. Still, perhaps worth a look for clues.

Following my successful discovery of interesting new Irish/Ireland history sources, last week I also honored the other side of my family tree and became a member of CompGen.de - “Germany's Largest Association for Family Research.” On CompGen.de are numerous YouTube instructional videos focusing on various regions in Germany. Got Saarland ancestors or from Hesse? No problem. There is a video for that. Their video library is extensive. The videos have closed captions (cc) that can be easily translated from German to English using www.Translate.Google. These videos feature German genealogy experts, in their own country, talking about their own country, region, and records. The knowledge shared is direct from the source.

Also, for German family research a key website is: www.genealogienetz.de. With genealogy.net (English translation of the site name) I feel like I found a research genie - “Do you have a Germany genealogy research question? Your wish is my command.” This is one of the best sources of ortsfamilienbuecher (city family books) on the internet. Also visit the website for the St. Louis County Library (What?!) for [Ortssip-penbuecher / Familienbuecher held by the History and Genealogy Department | St. Louis County Library \(scl.org\)](http://Ortssip-penbuecher/Familienbuecher%20held%20by%20the%20History%20and%20Genealogy%20Department%20|%20St.%20Louis%20County%20Library%20(scl.org))

In sum, be a student again. Read and study the history of the times of your ancestors' lives. Diverge from the path of least resistance (i.e., searching only on Ancestry). Seek out sites you have never heard of, and what they have to offer or specialize in. See what new opportunities for your family research you can discover. Good luck on your journey.

Margie Wilson, Genealogy Student



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- 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

**New This Spring with SVGS
1921 Polk's City Directory for Skagit County Now Available**

If you have ancestors or relatives who lived in Skagit County in 1921 you can now look them up either on SVGS' website: www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org/communities or by visiting "The Internet Archive" website: archive.org and searching on the keywords: Polk's Directories.

The addition of this link to this directory on archive.org is a great new resource for local researchers. Several libraries in Skagit County do have hardbound copies of incomplete sets of Polk Directories. But a digitized version is so easy to access. Give it a browse through. It is interesting to also see the old advertisements and businesses that were in our communities at the time. Thank you, George Ridgeway, for posting that for all of us to enjoy.

1st Tuesdays Genealogy One-on-One Research Assistance

SVGS has a new genealogy volunteer, Eric Pena. You will find Eric, who is a knowledgeable and friendly genealogist, stationed in the SVGS genealogy section at the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Ave., on first Tuesdays of the month between 10:00AM to Noon. Eric will give you an orientation to the society's genealogy book collection and he is available to work one-on-one with you on your research questions. You do not need an appointment but if you would like to schedule in advance a time to meet with Eric email: genealogy0715@gmail.com. No sense staying stuck in your research or if you just need some guidance as to how to get started, stop on by the library on 1st Tuesdays.

2nd Tuesdays – Genealogy Interest Group

The Genealogy Interest Group is off to an auspicious start with 14 participants thus far. Come join this informal group as we explore a variety of genealogy research topics. The group directs the discussion and the conversation is educational, supportive and a great deal of fun. The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:00AM to 1:00PM at the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Ave. Bring a brown bag lunch since we keep the discussion and research activities going through the lunch hour. If you have a laptop, bring that with an extension cord. As the meetings progress, we will reserve time for a brief tutorial on some topic, followed by discussion and then teaming up with our laptops opened into small research groups depending on the research focus. So, there is lots of sharing, questions, possible solutions, and enjoying genealogy together. Questions? Genealogy0715@gmail.com or 360-757-6224.

Seeking Volunteers to Co-Staff a Tent at the Skagit Valley Highland Games

The Skagit Valley Highland Games will be held at Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon on Saturday July 8 and July 9. For the first time SVGS will be participating with a tent/booth at the Highland Games. If you would like to co-staff the SVGS booth along side an SVGS board member, who can field questions about the society while you distribute brochures and fliers, we need you! SVGS board member, Barb Johnson, knows the details about the tent/booth so if you'd like to help out with a 2-hour shift and then be free to enjoy the many exciting events at this Celtic Festival, please contact Barb for more details and to sign up: Barb's email is: gorhamgen@gmail.com.

The Exciting Future of SVGS' Digitized Newspaper Obituaries

Your Skagit Valley Genealogical Society started collecting newspaper obituary clippings back in the late 1980s. This time intensive task was maintained by SVGS volunteers for decades until the advent of the online obituary website: legacy.com in the early 2000s. Now researchers can search for current and past obituaries dating back to the early 2000s via that website. So, the newspaper clipping efforts stopped at that time. But SVGS still kept these paper clippings on card-files in metal cabinet boxes in a storage unit.

Like everything, storage rent has gone up over the years. SVGS is always considering ways to trim expenses so our members' annual dues cover our annual budget. Inflation makes that a challenge.

In the summer of 2020 SVGS was contacted by Dr. Joseph Price of Brigham Young University. He presented an exciting opportunity to our genealogical society. Dr. Price offered for his team of students to volunteer, and at no cost to SVGS, to organize and catalog digitized images of SVGS newspaper obituary collection.

Newly elected SVGS vice-president, Pat Hoyrup, quickly organized both SVGS members and Mount Vernon LDS Church volunteers to take digital photographs of each individual newspaper clipping, one-by-one. This project took about four full weeks to complete. Once collected the digitized images were uploaded to the cloud for Dr. Price's team of students to begin their work in the digitization process.

The exciting news for 2023 is that your SVGS board has research the best long-term storage, best practices, safety, and upgradability of these valuable records. The outcome was determined that the best permanent custodian for these priceless research records would be the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Therefore, Dr. Price, on SVGS' behalf, is contacting the FamilySearch Library to initiate the process of SVGS donating these digitized obituaries for future free access via familysearch.org. Family historians will soon be able to find, browse and download these records that are so rich in family information.

There were many volunteers that helped make this project a success. Special thanks and appreciation for initiating and completing the numerous details of the project go to Dr. Joseph Price and his team of students. SVGS volunteers included: Pat Hoyrup, Pattv Gowler, Rene Vance, Barbara Johnson, George Ridgeway, Karen Stre-

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SVGS will keep you posted as to when these digitized obituaries will be freely available on Familysearch.org and how to access them. Meanwhile, please thank your SVGS board, and especially Pat Hoyrup for a very big job, very well done.

Cont. from page 3



Calling all genealogists and genealogical societies!

Please join us in our new project.

Washington Pioneer Pursuit

Help us document family histories for every person who lived in Washington Territory on or before Statehood was declared on November 11, 1889. Genealogists and genealogical societies are challenged to research and document three generations of Pioneer family lineages. Prizes will be awarded to the individual and society submitting the most entries.

The Washington Pioneer Pursuit is a project of the Washington State Genealogical Society. The contest runs Nov. 1, 2022 – Oct. 31, 2023. See contest rules, submission form and resource information on the WSGS website at www.wasgs.org/PioneerPursuit. For more information, email WAPioneerPursuit@gmail.com.

All photos courtesy of State Library Photograph Collection, 1851-1990,
Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>

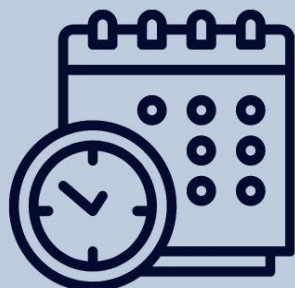




**Burlington
Public Library**

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL **GENEALOGY PROGRAM:**

AN INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH GENEALOGY



Saturday
May 13
Time
1:00-3:00PM

Burlington Public Library
820 E. Washington Ave.



Lily Bogash Kohn

SVGS' educational speaker for May is a professional genealogist who lives in the Seattle area.

She is a popular lecturer and is a current member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. (apg.org).

Lily's presentation will introduce us to the unique challenges and opportunities encountered when researching the many aspects of Jewish heritage and culture.

Key resources will also help you get started in your search.

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.

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



**Burlington
Public Library**



Vera Ivanova-Miller

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL
**GENEALOGY
PROGRAM:**

**An Introduction to
Ukrainian & Russian
Family Research**



**Saturday
JUNE 10
Time
1:00-3:00PM**

Burlington Public Library
820 E. Washington Ave.

Genealogist, Author, Speaker

Vera Ivanova Miller is the author of "Genealogy At-a-Glance: Russian Genealogy Research" and also "Ukrainian Genealogy At-a-Glance." Vera has been researching her Russian and Ukrainian ancestors since 2011.

Thanks to her experience as a newspaper reporter, Vera developed skills needed for genealogy. Vera volunteers her time to find the birth families of Russian and Ukrainian adoptees.

She also volunteers to photograph gravestones for Eastern European populations for FindAGrave.com.

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 insightful skill building lecture.

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

DATE/TIME OF INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

SVGS' Genealogy Interest group will be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday starting on June 13th from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. .

The genealogy discussion group meetings will be held at the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Ave, Nurlington. Bring a brown bag lunch if you want since we keep the discussion and research activities going through the unch hour. If you have a lap-top, bring that with an extension cord. As the eemeetins progress, we will rserve time for a brief tutorial on some topic, followed by discussion and then t4eaming up with our laptops opened into small reserch groups depending on the reerch focus. SO, there is lots of sharing, questions, possible solutions, and enjoying genealogy together. Questions? genealogy0715@gmail.com or 360-757-

Skagit Valley Genealogy Society

Family Search R Us



If you haven't noticed, there are two new links on the Skagit Valley Website. One highlighting interest group meetings at the local library and the other a forum where topics can be brought up with discussions about genealogy. Take a look.

Steps for starting your family tree

Start your research as soon as possible, don't wait because time slips away and before you know it your relatives have passed and to get the information you need will be harder to find.

Keep a research log. If you don't you will end up doing the same thing over and over, then when you review it, you will realize you had already done that.

Get organized! I now scan all physical records that I obtain and then keep the hard copies in a filing cabinet. I have at least one folder for each name that I research and I file the names alphabetically. I label the files within the sub-folders in the same format. This is an example of a file name format I use: *18650919_mcgowan_edward_bir*. The number at the start of the file name is the date of the event in YYYYMMDD format. By putting the year first your files will be in chronological order. The name of the person is next. For marriage records, I always use the name of the groom as the file name. I realize that this is a bit sexist, but it keeps the records consistent. The same for census records, I use the head of the household name for the file name. The type of event is next, so "bir" = birth. I use "bap" for baptism, "mar" for marriage etc.

Back of your work. It is important to back up your work because you can lose it all to a power surge,, fire, theft, etc. Use an external drive or you can us ICloud or some other form.

Use source citations for all your facts. This is an example for a marriage record: *Marriages (PR) England. High Easter, Essex. 05 October 1872. LODGE, Abraham and REEVE, Eliza. Page 100. Entry No. 200. http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk : accessed 28 March 2016.* I make sure that source citations contain this information in this order: Type of record, Place, Date of event, Names/s of individual/s, reference, Where the record was accessed, Date the record was accessed. With this method you, and future generations, can easily see where a fact came from.

Don't Use other people's trees as sources. Many of those trees are not correct because people had since it on ancestry or other resource and they did not do the reserch to make sure they had the correct person. Even if you thought your ancestors name was not common you would be surprised.

Don't use an online tree as your only tree. If you have it on Ancestry or another and you decide to cancel your subscription, you can still see it but can not access the records that are attached to it. So it is suggested that you use another software that is on your computer, such as Legacy, Family Tree Maker or another one. That way you always have access to it.

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