



Volume 38 Number 5
President: Margie Wilson
Newsletter: Dottie Chandler
PO BOX 192 BURLINGTON, WA 98233
Web site: skagitvalleygenealogy.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For me fall is a time of reflection on the past year, appreciation of the Board and thankfulness to know there are so many SVGS members.

SVGS wants to help you be more successful in discovering your ancestors. Here are some all too often overlooked opportunities you may wish to try in earnest in 2024.

Renew your habit of attending SVGS monthly meetings. The pandemic times really did a number on all of us as we isolated for so long. I know that for me it has been hard to re-emerge and socialize again. In addition to the social benefits of being with fellow researchers there is a powerful benefit in personally conversing with others, sharing not only questions but also what we do know about genealogy. Sharing is an essential part of genealogy. It inspires, educates, and motivates.

Drop in on a 2nd Tuesday of the month genealogy discussion group at the Burlington Library. These sessions are an even more in-depth and individualized opportunity to get assistance with your research. Or come to simply recharge your inspiration and regain your passion for researching again. The discussion group varies in topics each month and that keeps the conversation simulating and refreshing.

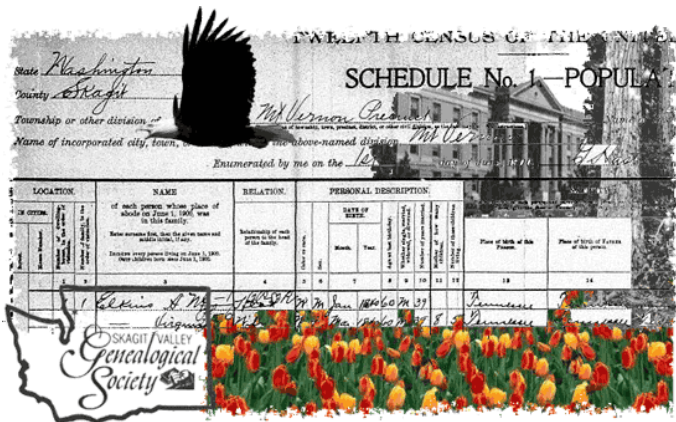
Another opportunity that will benefit your research is a visit to the SVGS Genealogy Book Collection which is at the Burlington Public Library. On the First Tuesday of the month from 10am-Noon a very knowledgeable genealogy volunteer is eager and available to help you with wherever you are with your research – be it just getting started to more complex brick walls. This is free and a chance to get targeted help with your research.

If you are a remote member, remember, all your SVGS' board members are just a Zoom call away. We would love the opportunity to get to know you better and what you are working on. Send an email and Let us all make 2024 a year for reaching out. Let us collectively be creative and explore new ways for SVGS to get to know you and better serve you. Let us keep sharing together the Joy of Genealogy

Happy Holidays to You & Your Family,

Margie Wilson, President





SVGS Board of Directors 2020

- President:** Margie Wilson
rootsproject@frontier.com
- Vice President:** Pat Hoyrup
pathoyrup@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Rene Vance
rene.a.vance.rav@gmail.com
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- Past President:** John Hayes
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- Archivist:** Dan Royal
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- Genealogist:** Sylvia Ammons
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- Projects :** Dan Royal/Dottie Chandler/Sylvia Ammons
- Publications:** Dan Royal
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- Communications:** Barbara Johnson
gorhamgen@gmail.com

Special Committees

- Nominating:** OPEN
- Audit/Budget:**
- Bylaws/Standing Rules:** John Hayes
rosie@valleyint.com
- Refreshments:**
- Raffles/Door Prizes:**
- 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

ATTENTION: All SVGS Members
Your Review of Changes to the By-laws is Needed

The SVGS Board of Directors recently made several minor changes to the society's by-laws. All changes to the society's by-laws are required to be sent to current SVGS members for their review and approval. Please look for the SVGS By-laws attached in the email sent by Communications Chair, Barb Johnson (email: gorhamgen@gmail.com) that is accompanied by this Fall 2023 newsletter.

The changes to the by-laws will be voted on by the membership at the November 11 Annual Meeting. Thank you for your participation as a member Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. If you have any questions please contact: genealogy0715@gmail.com

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 are \$20.00 for single membership and \$25.00 for family

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STATEMENT 2023

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:

I would like to wish everyone safe holidays. Remember this is the best time to achieve information of the family, traditions from old and enjoy your family. Gives thanks because we never know when it will be gone. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. If you do not celebrate any of these enjoy the winter season.

Dottie Chandler



Community Education Partners present

SVGS Annual Meeting & Board Elections

PLUS...
**Let's Tackle
Your
Research
BRICK
WALLS!**

**The Brick Walls Questions & Answers Session
Facilitated by genealogist, Barb Johnson**

**Saturday
November
18**

1:00pm - 3:00pm

The Zoom link will be emailed to SVGS members and by request to guests on Friday afternoon Nov. 17

Email: rootsproject1@gmail.com with full name and email address to attend as a guest via ZOOM.

**For More Information:
skagitvalleygenealogy.org**

**This will be a Hybrid Meeting so join us either
via Zoom or at the Burlington Public Library
conference room, 820 E. Washington Ave.**

From hand-carved wooden nutcrackers to scrumptious stollen, there are many German Christmas traditions which have been around for centuries. But do you know the meanings behind them all?

1. Stockings are filled on 6th December

Children in Germany receive their stockings on Saint Nicholas Day, 6th December (they are opened the following morning on 7th December). Known as the Feast of Saint Nicholas, this age-old tradition is observed in many European countries, regardless of religious denomination.

2. Krampus Night (Krampus Nacht)

According to tradition, Krampus Nacht occurs the night before the celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas – a night when people dress up as the devil Krampus and walk through the streets. Krampus is a horned figure who, during the festive season, scares children who have misbehaved.

3. Adventskalender (advent calendars)

While advent calendars are sold in most countries, the tradition originated from Germany. First used by German Lutherans in the 19th and 20th centuries, many families began to mark the days leading up to Christmas by burning a candle or marking walls or doors with a line of chalk. The tradition has of course changed slightly, with retailers now selling chocolate advent calendars, covetable beauty advent calendars, and sustainable fill-your-own advent calendars.

4. Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve (Heiliger Abend) is a jam-packed day of celebrations for Germans. Traditionally, many households will spend the day decorating the tree, preparing food for the family and sprucing up the home. As soon as the night draws in, households will gather around the tree.

5. Christmas trees

The modern Christmas tree (weihnachtsbaum) originated from Germany. In the 16th century, German Christians brought decorated trees into their home to celebrate the holiday, with many families building Christmas pyramids of wood and decorating them with evergreens if wood was scarce. The 16th-century Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, was the first person to add lights to his tree. He saw the moon glistening through the woods during a walk and wanted his family to experience it at home.

6. The tree is decorated last

Traditionally, the tree is only put up in Germany on 24th December. While this now varies from family to family, many of the older generation still deck the halls on the morning of Christmas Eve. The rest of the home is decorated beforehand, but it's just the tree which is saved until last.

7. Placing an Advent wreath on the table

Advent wreaths, known as an Adventskranz, is a tradition which the German Lutherans in the 16th century kick-started. Typically, the wreath consists of four candles in a bed of pine cones, berries, dried flowers and various festive ornaments. Most households will bring out the wreath at the beginning of December, lighting one candle each Sunday throughout the month.

Other traditions are: Stollen-fruit bread which is made of nuts, spices, candied fruit and powdered sugar. Feuerzangenbowle– a popular Christmas drink is a fiery beverage made with wine, rum and sometimes fruit juice. Lebkuchen, also known as Pfefferkuchen-is a delicious honey-sweetened German cake with a tasty sugary top. Dating back to the 14th century. Traditional carols, and Christmas angels. Dec 25th is known as “Erster Feiertag”.

These are some of the traditions by Lisa Joyner.

Christmas in Norway is based on Christian traditions, with elements of old pagan traditions and Jewish Hannukah. And new traditions are added every year.

Before Christmas we decorate the house with wreaths, angels, gnomes, hearts, stars, and maybe a nativity scene or a gingerbread house. More and more people also decorate their houses on the outside with lights and wreaths.

Christmas Eve is the main event in Norwegian Christmas celebration.

The most popular Christmas Eve dinner is the *ribbe* (pork ribs or pork belly, bone in), but *lutefisk* (cod cured in lye), *pinnekjøtt* (dry-cured ribs of lamb), boiled cod, ham roast and turkey are also common dishes. Most [fish restaurants](#) and [restaurants with Norwegian food](#) have Christmas specialities on the menu in November and December. Many Norwegians like to have a *juleøl* ("Christmas beer") with the food - a malty beer that is available from November.

The *risengrynsgrøt* (hot rice pudding) is an old, traditional dish; this is what the barn gnome eats! In the countryside, many people put a bowl outside for the barn gnome. If there is pudding left, we can make it into *riskrem*; cold rice pudding mixed with whipped cream, a common Christmas dessert served with a red sauce

A drink we often serve during Advent and Christmas is *gløgg*; a warm, spicy drink similar to German *Glühwein*. It can be made with red wine, but the non-alcoholic version is often preferred. You can [taste it in most Christmas markets in Oslo](#). And if you would like a snack with the *gløgg*, try a *pepperkake*! A *pepperkake* is a Norwegian relative of the gingerbread cookie, and tons of them are sold, made and consumed during the Christmas season. Many parents bake them with their children, and the most patient ones also make a *pepperkake* house. The house is first used as a decoration, and then demolished and eaten at the end of the holidays.

Traditional Christmas candy such as burnt almonds and glazed apples are set out to enjoy. Christmas is high season for snacks and candy. Enourmous amounts of marzipan is sold before Christmas .

Excerpts from Visit OSLO webpage.

HANUKKAH

The eight-day Festival of Lights is a time of celebration and cheer. While many families have their own personal spins on the holiday (like celebrating a blended [Chrismukkah](#)), there are also classic

Lighting the Hanukkah candles

To commemorate the oil that miraculously lasted for eight days, modern-day Jewish families recite blessings and light candles on each of the eight nights of Hanukkah. [Candles](#) are placed in a menorah (sometimes a *hanukkiah*), with the number of lights increasing each night. This is the most important tradition of Hanukkah!. As the menorah candles are lit each night, there are three special blessings. Two are said for each of the eight nights, while one is said only for the first night.

Walk into a Jewish kitchen during Hanukkah and you're likely to inhale the delicious aroma of latkes, aka potato-and-onion pancakes fried in oil. If you're especially lucky, *sufganiyot*, or jelly-filled doughnuts, will also be on offer. These decadent Jewish delicacies—along with other fried foods and [Hanukkah desserts](#)—symbolize the miracle of the oil.

A [dreidel](#) is a four-sided spinning top used in games of chance during Hanukkah.



2023 Year-End Review

SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS...

CANADA ONLINE

SAT. JANUARY 14, 2023

with **DAVE OBBE**

Join us for an educational program by a true expert on Canadian research. Dave OBBE, together with his wife, explore the many online resources available to assist your Canadian roots.

12:45PM-2:00PM - HYBRID MEETING

Burlington Public Library
820 E. Washington Avenue

Attend via Zoom or in-person. The meeting starts at 12:45pm (please arrive a bit early). Not a member of the genealogy society? It's not a problem! Please e-mail genealogy0715@gmail.com by Jan 12 to receive the Zoom link or join us in person for the essential skill building lecture.

Everyone is welcome! Come join us.

www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org
www.burlingtonwa.gov/library

Burlington Public Library

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL GENEALOGY PROGRAM:

The Hub of the Wheel: How Tracing a Brother with No Children Connected Ten Siblings.

Mary Kircher Rodd
October Genealogist

LEARNING BY EXPLORING A CASE STUDY
A family from Oregon investigated in a 2020 publication will be presented and discussed. We will learn how research can be done. The challenge is to find the origins in County records, indexes.

0000 Saturday
11 February
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 the essential skill building lecture.

skagitvalleygenealogy.org | burlingtonwa.gov/library
360.755.0790 | Email: genealogy0715@gmail.com

Burlington Public Library

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL GENEALOGY PROGRAM:

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

Donna Fottor-Phillips
2023 Genealogist

Learn how to find your family history today. This session will also explore various online resources and how to use them effectively.

0000 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 the essential skill building lecture.

skagitvalleygenealogy.org | burlingtonwa.gov/library
360.755.0790 | genealogy0715@gmail.com

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL GENEALOGY PROGRAM

OUT OF THIS WORLD GENEALOGY:

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

0000 Saturday
APRIL 8
Time 1:00-3:00PM

George Ridgeway
George is an experienced genealogist researcher. A former 2000 presenter with a variety of research skills, he will be presenting on how to use Google Earth Pro and Zoom for your family research.

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 the essential skill building lecture.

Burlington Public Library

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL GENEALOGY PROGRAM:

AN INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH GENEALOGY

Lily Rogash 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).

0000 Saturday
May 13
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 the essential skill building lecture.

An Introduction to Ukrainian & Russian Family Research
with guest genealogist & author Vera Ivanova-Miller
author of the research guide: "Ukrainian Genealogy At-A-Glance"

Sat. JUNE 10
1:00p.m.

Burlington Public Library
Conference Room
820 E. Washington Avenue

Hybrid Meeting
Attend in-person or via Zoom.
If you are not a member of SVGS email: genealogy0715@gmail.com by June 8 to request the Zoom link.

Sat., September 9
The In's and Out's of FamilySearch.org
~ Donna Snider

Sat., October 14
Travel to Find Your Roots: My Second Trip to Ireland
~ Mike Hurley

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Genealogy Research Help

1st Tuesdays, 10am - Noon

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS) is resuming **FREE** family history research assistance by a genealogist/volunteer on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 10:00am to Noon.

No appointment necessary.

If you would like to schedule a different time for a free one-on-one family research consultation contact: genealogy0715@gmail.com.

To find out more about SVGS and its educational programs, meetings and resources visit:
www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org

BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
burlingtonwa.gov/library

SVGS Genealogy Interest Group

2nd Tuesdays, 11am-1pm

Burlington Public Library Conference Room

Topics Vary Depending on Group's Interests
plus, research in small groups.

Come join us!

Adult educational programming made possible by the Friends of the Burlington Library. Thank you for your support.



SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2024

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