



Volume 39 Number 1

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What is the next new trend for genealogical societies?

Dear SVGS Member,

Recently I have been asking myself, "After the past few years of learning new technology – first Zoom, then hybrid-meetings – what does the future have in store for SVGS?" I am surely not prepared for whatever it may be. Did I hear you say, "AI?" Yet another steep learning curve ahead? Oh, dear!

There is much worry by all genealogical societies around this question. I have stayed awake pondering that question many a night. Perhaps the answer is low-tech, or better still, no-tech. ***Offer society members opportunities for human connection.***

The internet offers us artificial intelligence with those quick fixes to our questions and zillions of websites to occupy our time. But it is those times when we meet, share, ask questions, laugh, and commiserate over brick walls that are the essential reason for genealogical societies to exist. I am proud that SVGS readily supplies those touchpoints of human connection for its membership. Those moments when members feel that sense of excitement when helping another researcher are what genealogical societies offer. This purpose is what keeps genealogical societies unafraid of the future.

Thank you for your own contributions to SVGS connectivity by renewing your dues, showing up on Zoom or in-person at meetings, sending in queries, volunteering, serving on the board, bringing in cookies, all those seemingly little things that add up to one big and special intangible thing, meaningful connection.

So, my New Year's challenge for you is to connect more with SVGS in 2024. It will make all the difference to you as an SVGS member and to the joy of your family research activities. *Come join us!*

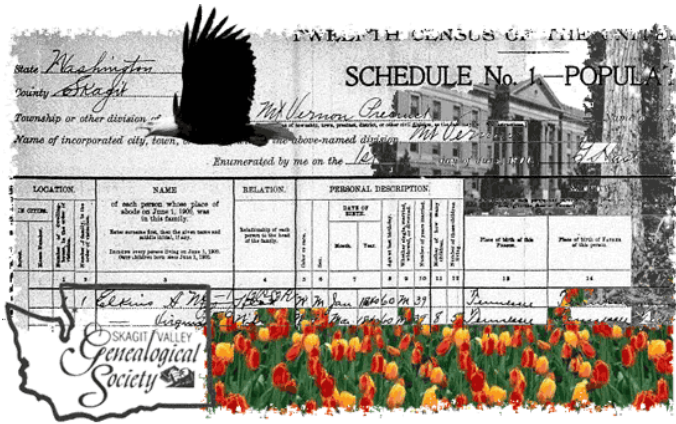
Happy New Year 2024,
Margie Wilson, SVGS president

Y DNA and mtDNA have strict inheritance patterns that limit their use.

[Y DNA testing](#) is only available for genetic males, and looks only at paternal lineage: a man's father and his father and his father, etc. [mtDNA testing](#) (which everyone can do) looks exclusively at the lineage of your mother, her mother, and her mother, etc. A lot of relatives who don't fall on those lineages—such as your mother's father's mother's people—are untouched by your YDNA and mtDNA tests.

DNA can never provide a definitive relationship.

Even with the amount of DNA shared by biological parents and full siblings, there is always more than one possibility as to how you're related to someone.



SVGS Board of Directors 2020

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

**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.



What was the UK called before 1922?

The Kingdom of Great Britain came into being on 1 May 1707, as a result of the political union of the Kingdom of England (which included Wales) and the Kingdom of Scotland under the Treaty of Union.

When was Great Britain founded as a country?

The Treaty of Union led to a united kingdom of all of Great Britain. On 1 May 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was formed, the result of the Acts of Union 1707. In the 18th century, cabinet government developed under Robert Walpole, in practice the first prime minister (1721–1742).

When did England stop being called Grea

The formal political union of Great Britain and Ireland as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland occurred in **1801**. The name "United Kingdom" was retained after most of Ireland gained independence in 1922, and the full name became the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Difference Between the United Kingdom, Great Britain and England

The United Kingdom is used to describe the political unit consisting of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Great Britain is the geographical term referring to the island simply known as Britain.
England is one of the countries that make up the British Isles.

The United Kingdom is a polity that encompasses the entire region of the British Isles with the exception of the Republic of Ireland .

England is one of the countries that is located in the southernmost part of the British Isle .

The term 'Britain' is derived from the Roman word 'Britannia'. The word was extensively used by writers of classical antiquity to describe the British Isles following its conquest by the [Roman Empire](#) in 87 AD.

England is derived from the Old English name '*Englaland*' which means land of the Angles. The Angles were a Germanic tribe who settled in large numbers following the withdrawal of Roman forces in 410 AD

Finally, for the sake of clarity, the three terms can be summarised as follows:

The United Kingdom: A sovereign state that includes England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Great Britain: An island situated off the North-West Coast of Europe

England: A country within the United Kingdom

Excerpts from 2023, BYJU'S.

PASSING

We would also give condolences to our member Donna Stones family for her passing.

The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day, but love and memory shall never pass away.

Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave
Burlington, WA 98233
Phone (360) 755-0760
Email:
blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us





**Burlington
Public Library**



Dave Obee

Dave is an author, editor, journalist and an expert on Canadian and Eastern European genealogy. Dave has researched using newspapers for over 50 years. His program draws upon his first-hand experience in leading a major digitization project.

A Fresh Look at Old Newspapers

MEETING DATE CHANGE:

**SAT., JANUARY 6
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
820 E. WASHINGTON AVE.**

360.755.0760 | BURLINGTONWA.GOV/LIBRARY

BREAKING NEWS: Newspaper research no longer means sitting at a microfilm reader winding through an endless string of news stories, thanks to the many **digitization projects** that have placed millions of newspaper pages on the Internet. **But what are the pitfalls?**

This presentation takes you through the digitization process. **It is designed to help you achieve the best results from your family research.**

Weather permitting, **Dave will give this presentation in person.** Bring your questions about newspaper research or challenges with Canadian research.

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in-person or via Zoom. SVGS Members and all curious family researchers are welcome. If you are not an SVGS member then contact: rootsproject1@gmail.com with your full name to receive the Zoom link prior to the meeting. ***Come join us as SVGS kicks off its 2024 educational programming!***

skagitvalleygenealogy.org | genealogy0715@gmail.com

Genealogy Programs ~ Winter 2024 at the Burlington Public Library

SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

monthly educational
genealogy programs

DROP IN OR ZOOM

Enjoy SVGS' monthly meetings
in-person at the Burlington Library
or via Zoom. For the Zoom link,
email genealogy0715@gmail.com

FREE GENEALOGY HELP 1ST TUESDAYS

10am-Noon

Family research assistance
in the Genealogy section of the
Burlington Library

Plus...

GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP 2ND TUESDAYS

11am - 1pm

Library conference room
Everyone welcome.
No family research experience
necessary.

Come join us!

CALENDAR:

For 2nd Saturdays | 1-3pm

SAT., JANUARY 6

A Fresh Look at Old Newspapers

*Dave Obee, Canadian
genealogist, author and
newspaper editor, in-person!*

SAT., FEBRUARY 10

A Look at the Weather's Impact on Our Ancestors

*Program by SVGS members:
Rene Vance, Karen Strelow
& Robin Engel*

SAT., MARCH 9

Deep Searching Historical Records in Familysearch.org

*Celia McNay, genealogist and
Familysearch.org records
specialist.*



Burlington
Public Library

For more info:
skagitvalleygenealogy.org
or burlingtonwa.gov/library
820 E. Washington Ave.

When did Germany become a country?

The first unification of Germany occurred in **1871** after Prussia's victory in the Franco-Prussian War. In this unification, most of the German-speaking states of Europe united under the crown of Prussia to form the German Empire. The second unification occurred in 1990 after the end of the Cold War.

What was Germany called before it became a country?

What was Germany called before it was called Germany? Germany was a conglomeration of many kingdoms and empires but was often referred to as **Germania, the Holy Roman Empire, and the Franks**. It was also previously known as Prussia.

The **German Empire** (German: *Deutsches Kaiserreich*), also referred to as **Imperial Germany**, the **Second Reich**, or simply **Germany**, was the period of the German Reich from the unification of Germany in 1871 until the November Revolution in 1918, when the German Reich changed its form of government from a monarchy to a republic.

The empire was founded on 18 January 1871, when the south German states, except for Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, joined the North German Confederation and the new constitution came into force on 16 April, changing the name of the federal state to the German Empire and introducing the title of German Emperor for Wilhelm I, King of Prussia from the House of Hohenzollern.

^[25] Berlin remained its capital, and Otto von Bismarck, Minister President of Prussia, became Chancellor, the head of government. As these events occurred, the Prussian-led North German Confederation and its southern German allies, such as Baden, Bavaria, Württemberg, and Hesse, were still engaged in the Franco-Prussian War. The German Empire consisted of 25 states, each with its own nobility, four constituent kingdoms, six grand duchies, five duchies (six before 1876), seven principalities, three free Hanseatic cities, and one imperial territory. While Prussia was one of four kingdoms in the realm, it contained about two-thirds of the Empire's population and territory, and Prussian dominance was also constitutionally established, since the King of Prussia was also the German Emperor .

The German Confederation had been created by an act of the Congress of Vienna on 8 June 1815 as a result of the Napoleonic Wars, after being alluded to in Article 6 of the 1814 Treaty of Paris. The German Confederation ended as a result of the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 between the constituent Confederation entities of the Austrian Empire and its allies on one side and Prussia and its allies on the other. The war resulted in the partial replacement of the Confederation in 1867 by a North German Confederation, comprising the 22 states north of the river Main. The patriotic fervor generated by the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 overwhelmed the remaining opposition to a unified Germany (aside from Austria) in the four states south of the Main, and during November 1870, they joined the North German Confederation by treaty.

West Germany, or the Federal Republic of Germany, was officially established in May 1949. East Germany, or the German Democratic Republic, was established in October 1949. Under their occupying governments, the two Germanys followed very different paths.

Why did East and West Germany split?

Having experienced great losses as a result of German invasions in the First and Second World Wars, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin preferred that a defeated Germany be dismembered and divided so that it could not rise to its former strength to threaten European peace and security again.

Why did Russia give up East Germany?

The economic burden of the occupation and the desire to improve relations with the West also played a role in the decision to withdraw. Ultimately, the Soviet Union completed its withdrawal from East Germany in 1994, marking the end of the Cold War era.

The Berlin Wall fell on 9 November 1989

Nov. 9 marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. There will be no lack of commemoration — but there will also be very little celebration. Today the country is once again divided along East-West lines, and growing more so. The Berlin Wall was almost 12 feet tall (as high as two adults standing on top of each other) and **9 inches** thick. It was made of concrete and wire fencing.

Norway

<u>State established prior unification</u>	872
<u>Old Kingdom of Norway (Peak extent)</u>	1263
<u>Kalmar Union</u>	1397
<u>Re-established state</u>	25 February 1814
<u>Constitution</u>	17 May 1814
<u>Union between Sweden and Norway</u>	4 November 1814
<u>Dissolution of the union between Norway and Sweden</u>	7 June 1905

In 1349, the [Black Death](#) killed between 50% and 60% of Norway's population and led to a period of social and economic decline.¹ Although the death rate was comparable with the rest of Europe, economic recovery took much longer because of the small, scattered population. Even before the plague, the population was only about 500,000. After the plague, many farms lay idle while the population slowly increased. However, the few surviving farms' tenants found their bargaining positions with their landlords greatly strengthened.

Norway is considered to be one of the most developed democracies and [states of justice](#) in the world. Since 2010, Norway has been classified as the world's most democratic country by the [Democracy Index](#). According to the [Constitution of Norway](#), which was adopted on 17 May 1814 and was inspired by the [United States Declaration of Independence](#) and [French Revolution](#), Norway is a unitary [constitutional monarchy](#) with a [parliamentary system](#) of government, wherein the [King of Norway](#) is the [head of state](#) and the [prime minister](#) is the [head of government](#). Power is separated among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, as defined by the Constitution, which serves as the country's supreme legal document.

Dependencies of Norway

There are three [Antarctic](#) and [Subantarctic](#) dependencies: [Bouvet Island](#), [Peter I Island](#), and [Queen Maud Land](#). On most maps, there was an unclaimed area between Queen Maud Land and the [South Pole](#) until 12 June 2015 when Norway formally annexed that area.

Excerpts from Wikipedia

Websites for some countries

. [National Archives of Norway/Digitalarkivet](#): This free site's historical records make it one of the most useful Norwegian genealogy resources. You'll need to register with the site for free, which gets you advanced functionalities. If a page comes up in Norwegian, look for a button for English in the menu bar at the top.

Norway-Heritage: Hands Across the Sea

This website has especially helpful information for understanding Norwegian names—given names, patronymics, farm names and more. Click on Those Norwegian Names, under Recommended Reading on the left. You'll also find articles on ships' voyages, nautical disasters, and searching for passenger lists. Searchable indexes include a growing database of pre-1875 Norwegian emigrants; lists of emigrant ships, agents and shipping lines; and emigrant ship arrivals reported in newspapers around the world (1870–1894). A gallery shows you documents, ports, ships, pioneers, and more images to help you picture your Norwegian ancestors' lives. Got research questions? Check out the forum for questions about migrants (especially to America). If you're not careful, the interesting and useful material here may distract you from your research.

German research:

[Mevers Gazetteer \(FREE\)](#), [Archion](#) (\$), [Matricula \(FREE\)](#), [Kartenmeister \(FREE\)](#), [CompGen \(FREE\)](#) and [Volksbund](#)

2024 Membership Renewal Statement

Dear SVGS Member,

Don't miss out on the helpful benefits of being an active SVGS member in 2024. Members receive monthly meeting Zoom links, speaker's notes/handouts, a weekly genealogy news digest sent to your email inbox on upcoming genealogy presentations, skill-building research tips and resources, webinars, workshops, genealogy seminars, and other helpful genealogy news. Plus, members receive the SVGS quarterly, digital newsletter. **Your dues make SVGS' monthly educational programs by genealogy experts possible.** Your membership dues will keep you in the loop as to upcoming presentations and help make them happen!

If you have been helped in your family history research by SVGS' programs and/or volunteers, then renewing your dues is the perfect way to "pay it forward" so that SVGS may continue to help other researchers learn valuable skills and break through research challenges. **If you have already renewed your dues – Thank you!** If not, please use the mail in form below – **or pay online:** www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org/membership today! Detach below the dotted line and return the bottom portion with your check.

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- **Mail your completed form with your check before your dues expire on the 2nd Saturday in March 2023 to:**
 - **Skagit Valley Genealogical Society**
 - **P.O. Box 192,**
 - **Burlington, WA 98233-0192**

• NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____
_____ AD-
DRESS: _____
_____ CITY/STATE/
ZIP _____ PHONE: _____

- _____ RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____ \$20 INDIVIDUAL _____ \$25 FAMILY (at Same Address)
- Your contact information is not shared or published. It is solely used for official SVGS communications.
- **YOU CAN ALSO RENEW ONLINE WITH PAYPAL OR CREDIT CARD IN THE MEMBERSHIP TAB on SVGS' WEBSITE:**
 - www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org/membership
- Please tell us a bit about your family research interests:
- I am researching in: (list the US states or countries): _____
- Genealogy topics I'd like to learn about are: _____
- I consider myself to be at the research skill level of a: _____ Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced _____ Not Sure
- Your feedback for SVGS: _____
would like to get more involved with SkVGS. Please: _____ Call me _____ Email me _____ Sorry, not at this time.

**SKAGIT VALLEY
Genealogical Society
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Address Correction Requested