



Volume 39 Number 3

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Genealogy: A Search for Meaning

In 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, a new SVGS member commented during one of our early Zoom only meetings, "SVGS really offers meaningful programs." This simple comment has stayed in my mind and bubbled-up from time-to-time when I reflect on "why am I a family researcher?" There are plenty of fine hobbies out there to take up. Yet, I soldier on through all the blocks and plateaus in pursuit of . . . what exactly? Perhaps it comes down to finding "meaning" in my own life through understanding the lives of my ancestors.

To paraphrase, holocaust survivor and psychologist, Viktor Frankl, he once said, "*To feel at home in the world, people need to see themselves serving some good, doing important work....*" For me, serving as president of your genealogy society or assisting a beginner with getting started with their family journey, gives me that sense of meaning and belonging to a community of like-minded individuals. Others, will find their belonging with family, church, and community service. Where do you serve for the greater good and find your meaning? If you are looking for that answer, perhaps serving in a leadership role with SVGS would answer that need for you, as it has for me? I thank you for your membership and participation in SVGS and all the meaningful exchanges and learning we share along the way. It is a gift.

SVGS' vice-president/programming chair, Pat Hoyrup, has been hitting the ball out of the park with her excellent line up of genealogy all-stars this year! Continuing Pat's stellar presentations will be SVGS member and Anacortes genealogist and educator, Dick Tolman. Mr. Tolman will offer us a deeper, clearer look into using DNA for family research and field our many questions. Then, on June 8 we will be taking a unique and fascinating look at "The Music & Instruments of Our Ancestors: How Music is Relevant to Family History," presented by professional genealogist, musician, storyteller and folklorist, Jean Hibben, PhD, CG. July and August are our meeting hiatus months but mark your calendars to come visit SVGS' booth (or better yet volunteer for a shift) at the Skagit Highland Games the weekend of July 13-14. The Games are at the fairgrounds this year.

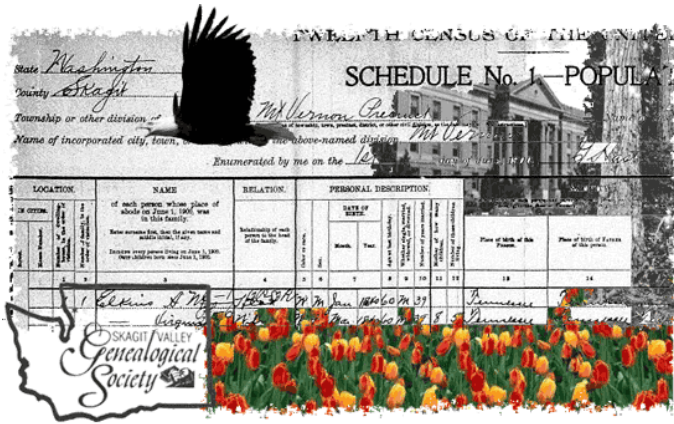
It is wisely said that one's family research is never really "done." I am thankful for that. The hot pursuit of my ancestors keeps the thrill and adventure alive in my spirit. I hope SVGS can serve you and your research needs so you also continue to feel the rewards of discovering your ancestors and a deeper sense of meaning derived from those discoveries. AND a fulfilling sense of belonging as an SVGS member.

Happy spring!

Margie Wilson, SVGS president

■ "Additional Member Benefits"

For the members who have Skagit County family - who are mentioned in the Obituary section of our Webpage - our volunteer Genealogist will pull and print a copy of the Obituary and Funeral Home Record (if available) for you - FREE OF CHARGE - just send your request with Name and Date of Death to: portianstacey@gmail.com



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
Treasurer:	Patty Gowler pattygowler@gmail.com
Past President:	John Hayes rosie@valleyint.com
Archivist:	Dan Royal dmoroyal@earthlink.net
Education:	Barbara Johnson pro-tem gorhamgen@gmail.com
Genealogist:	Portia Stacey portianstacey@gmail.com
Librarian:	Margie Wilson rootsproject@frontier.com

Membership: Alice Bowden
svgsmembership@gmail.com

Newsletter: Dottie Chandler
dotcom10@frontier.com

Webmaster: George Ridgeway
4george30@comcast.net
Alice Bowden
svgsmembership@gmail.com

Projects : Dan Royal/Dottie Chandler/
Sylvia Ammons

Publications: Dan Royal
dmoroyal@earthlink.net

Communications: Barbara Johnson
gorhamgen@gmail.com

Special Committees

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.

Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave
Burlington, WA 98233
Phone (360) 755-0760
Email:
bli-



Solving Genealogy Problems with DNA

With guest educator - R.L.Tolman, PhD

"Dick" Tolman's professional background is in the field of medicinal chemistry/DNA. He is also a genealogist with decades of research experience. Through examining a case study, Dr. Tolman will illustrate the effectiveness of using DNA to solve family research problems. Bring your questions!

Sat., MAY 11 - 1:00pm

**To attend via Zoom email: gorhamgen@gmail.com
or join us in-person in the library conference room
Refreshments | Free | Friendly | Fun Free Giveaways**

**BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
820 E. Washington Ave.**



**Burlington
Public Library**

**burlingtonwa.gov/library
360.755.0760**

**skagitvalleygenealogy.org
genealogy0715@gmail.com**



The **MUSIC & Instruments of Our Ancestors:**

Exploring the Relevance of Music to Our Family History

Sat., June 8
1:00-3:00pm

Musician and Folklorist
Jean Hibben, PhD, MA

Hybrid Meeting:

Attend via Zoom or In-Person

For the Zoom link email: genealogy0715@gmail.com

by Friday, June 7 to request the link.

Come Join Us for Refreshments & Fun Giveaways



**BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

360.755.0760 | burlingtonwa.gov/library

SVGS: www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org

genealogy0715@gmail.com

Why You Want to Create a Genealogy Research Plan?

- Help you stay focused (and off the rabbit trails!□).
- Help you organize your genealogy research.
- Help you be efficient with your research time.
- Help ensure you do not miss potential clues in the research.
- BONUS: Using a genealogy research will save you money!

Think of your genealogy research plan as a framework or strategy for your search. Your genealogy research plan is your guide and does not have to be overly complicated. You may find your answers quickly or you may still be left with your original question. That's okay. You will be clear on the records you have already searched and what information those records hold (or don't hold).

What Should Go Into Your Genealogy Research Plan?

All genealogy research plans have a few common components in them. Let's take a look at 4 of those elements.

1. Your Research Question

What is it you want to learn from your research? Are you looking for evidence your ancestor in a time and/or place? Are you attempting to solve a family history mystery? The more specific your goal, the more focused your research will be.

If you are not clear on what you are researching, I guarantee you will end up going down rabbit trails of distraction and have little to show for your research efforts. Focusing on one parent (her father), a time frame and a location brings the project into focus and increases the chances of success.

Genealogy Pro Tip: Keep your research question or goal where you can easily see it as you research. I personally, write the goal on a sticky note to put beside me each time I sit down. Physically writing the primary research question before each research session, helps me get focused quicker.

2. Types of Records to Search

Now that you have your research question and know what you want to know, what type of records do you need to research?

You may need to first research what records are available for the time period and location where your ancestor lived. The records needing to be searched include death certificate, census records, marriage records, land records, court records and will/probate records.

3. The Location of Records

Where are the records you need to research located? How are you going to access those records? Are the records online? Do you need a subscription to a genealogy database such as [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) or [FindMyPast](https://www.findmypast.com) to access them? Can you access subscription based genealogy record databases from your public library? There are free sites also, FamilySearch.org. If the records are not online, in what repository are they located? Do you need to order the record on microfilm? If you need to research on-site at a repository to research the needed records, schedule the visit on your calendar. (Don't forget to take your research plan when you go!)

4. Further Clues to Follow Up

This next part of your genealogy research plan will be completed at the end of your research session. When you are done researching for the day, take a moment to clearly note where in your plan you stopped. Write down on the plan where you need to resume the next time you sit down to research. As you research you will likely find interesting information and clues to other ancestors to follow up on. Resist doing that in the moment! Make a note of this information for later research, but stay focused on your current research plan. Yes, I know how tempting it is to follow that clue at the expense of your current plan! Resist!

Continued on page 6

Family Logic Puzzle

Five friends living in New England were comparing their family lineage last night to startling results. While tracing their family line, each discovered that their families came from three different European countries. Between the five of them, they shared their heritage among six European countries, though none of them had three identical origins. Considering their vastly different family histories – some had come to the US only a couple generations ago while some had been in the US for decades or even centuries – they found this similarity of origins very surprising. Determine the full name of each friend and their European lineages.

1. Ms. Cooper did have a German ancestor. Two of the women with English ancestry also had Spanish blood.
2. The three friends with Dutch ancestors were Kim, Ms. Chandler, and a woman who also had Italian ancestors.
3. Sara, whose last name wasn't Canning, had no Spanish or Dutch ancestors.
4. Beth didn't have any Dutch ancestors nor was her last name Canning. Janice Cummings didn't have English ancestors.
5. Ms. Cage wasn't German and her first name wasn't Sara. Allison had both English and Dutch ancestors but no Italian blood.
6. One woman had Italian, German, and Dutch ancestors. Kim wasn't English.

Solution on pg 7.

14 of My Best Genealogy Tips

1. Start Your Genealogy Research Over. Go back to the beginning and review your earlier research. Chances are you will find new clues or clues to your ancestor you did not previously recognize. Subsequent research can shed light on previously found information.
2. Understand the Genealogy Terminology., Legal terms especially can be tricky and you want to ensure you are interpreting the document's meaning correctly. Not fully understanding a record and its impact on your ancestor can lead to incorrect family relationships. **Genealogy Tip:** [Black's Law Dictionary](#) and [Bouvier's Law Dictionary](#) are both excellent resources and can be [found for free on Google Books](#).
3. Read the Description of the Genealogy Collection.
- 4.. Take Advantage of Genealogy Databases FREE Offerings Around Holidays.
5. Be Open to Name Variations for Your Ancestors.
6. Check Genealogy Databases for NEW Records.
7. Try a Wildcard Search Not sure what an ancestor's surname actually is? Or do you know part of the name? Lots of spelling variations on your ancestor's name?
8. Check the Vertical Files. Vertical files can be found at the archives and local libraries.
9. Create Time Lines for Your Ancestors
10. Perform a No Surname Search
11. Explore Google Books.
12. Explore Special Collections at Archives and Libraries.

Continued on pg 7

13. Read Local History. I encourage you when researching those brick wall ancestors to step away from your research for a bit. During that time read about the local history and learn [what social history was impacting your ancestors' lives](#).

14. Get Another Set of Eyes on Your Research. When you are stuck in your research, having another person look at your research can be so helpful. They can often see gaps in the research we just can no longer see. Having another genealogy research to do this with is incredibly helpful, but proving your research to a non-genealogy person is quite helpful as well.

At some point you may find yourself benefitting from a consult with a professional genealogist. When that happens to me, I recommend the researchers at [Legacy Tree Genealogists](#). [I love their Genealogist-on-Demand one-time consults](#). They know their stuff!

These are just a few research tips from [lusalisson.com](#) She has many videos to watch on different subjects. She explains in more details the tips.

Genealogy Humor

Genealogists never die, they just lose their census.

- My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!
- My hobby is genealogy, I raise dust bunnies as pets.
- Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: They hide... I seek!
- Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!
- Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.
- A pack rat is hard to live with, but makes a fine ancestor.

Solution to family tree logic puzzle:

- Allison Chandler, Dutch, Spanish, English
- Beth Cage, Spanish, English, Italian
- Janice Cummings, Italian, German, Dutch
- Kim Canning, German, Dutch, Spanish
- Sara Cooper, English, Italian, German

Do you have trouble finding an ancestor or a brickwalls? Come and join us and we can try to help to help you.

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.

Enjoy your summer and have fun.
Time for reunions and families and relaxation.



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.

• -----

- **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
P.O. Box 192 Burlington, WA 98233-
0192**

Address Correction Requested