



President's Message

Last year at this time I was writing my first president's message. Yes, I was wondering how our society worked together to make it all happen but I was confident it would. I learned that Hazel Rasar was the big push in the background to hold the pieces together for our society in recent years. Seems like she knows everybody so her network of contacts is not only local but state-wide and beyond. Of course, she has had plenty of help from our active board members who are a very dedicated group of genealogists. Hazel has retired from active participation now but her advice and insight this past year have been invaluable to me. I thank her for this!

As it turned out 2015 was a busy year with many of us, especially our seminar leader Barbara Johnson and her committee, preparing for and holding our very successful September seminar. The board held a retreat last spring and I was able to learn more about our society's issues and the personalities and strengths of our board members. Over this past year our board approved the purchase of a projector screen, sound system, projector and laptop computer to update our society's equipment. Yes, 2015 has been a good year and we look forward to 2016.

Last year I mentioned that my goal was to keep education at the forefront to keep our society growing. Education through a series of classes and/or a seminar are critical to maintain and increase our membership. Our board will be considering our options very soon regarding classes and/or a seminar this New Year.

Volume 30 Number 1
 President: John Hayes
 Newsletter: Dottie Chandler
 PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715
 Web site: skagitvalleygenealogy.org

Education is not limited to classes or a seminar. Our library volunteers and our Genealogist Diane Partington work with the public to educate and assist them in their genealogy research. Our monthly membership meeting programs provide another opportunity for educating our members and non-members alike. All phases of our society's educational program are important for enhancing our mutual interest in genealogy. Let's keep it fun and grow.

So 2016, here we come!

John Hayes

President
rosie@valleyint.com
 360-424-4608

Needed New Volunteers

Our genealogists is looking for new volunteers to train to help with research requests when she is gone. If interested please give Diane Partington a call at 360-336-5832 or send her an email at nonie.dl@comcast.net

PROGRAM for January

Overview of Family Search and what the Family History Center in Mount Vernon has to offer

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Just a friendly reminder that dues are now due for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. In the event you may have already paid, it is possible that they were sent in and just haven't reached me yet. Our year goes from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st. Dues this year have raised to \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for family membership.

Christine Cooper
 Membership Chairperson



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OPEN

Audit/Budget: OPEN

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Refreshments: OPEN

Raffles/Door Prizes:

SOCIETY EMAIL: genealogy0715@gmail.com

Your advice is needed. If you have suggestions of program topics for next year. Or if you just can't wait to present a program yourself, please contact Carol Torset at torset@comcast.net or 360-856-2410. She will happily take your ideas to heart.

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter accepts business card size advertisement. The cost will be \$10.00 per issue and the editor can help put one together for you if you don't have something ready.

If anyone would like queries or surnames to be posted in

Access Restrictions to Social

The Social Security Death Master File, maintained by the US Social Security Administration (SSA), is a database of death records collected from a variety of sources used by the SSA to administer their programs. This includes death information collected from family members, funeral homes, financial institutions, postal authorities, States and other Federal agencies. The Social Security Death Master File is **not a comprehensive record of all deaths in the United States**—just a record of those deaths reported to the Social Security Administration. By Kimberly Powell, Genealogy Expert.



SVGS Members,

We have a new BLOG on our website. If you are interested in participating in our blog go to skagit-valleygenealogy.Org/BLOG to see how you can register and log in.

Thank you.

SVGS Webmaster George E. Ridgeway Jr.

Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave
Burlington, WA 98233
Phone (360) 755-0760
Email:
blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us
Hours: Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday – Closed

SVGS Library Collection

located here. SVGS Volunteers available on Mondays from 11:00—1:00 to assist with questions.

Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian



A long time ago in newspapers far,
far away....

Find: Looking Back on the Original *Star Wars*

When *Star Wars* (later retitled *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*) was released in the United States on May 25, 1977, it was an immediate sensation. Show after show sold out, with many viewers returning to see the film more than once. It received near-universal praise from film critics as well and went on to break all kinds of records for box-office earnings, attendance, and length of run. It surpassed *Jaws* as the top-grossing film of all time and retained that title until 1982, when it was overtaken by *ET*, though it still remains one of the most financially successful films.



Excerpt from Newspapers.com

Genealogy Quiz

1. You have the names of three siblings born between 1884 and 1887 and need to know the names of their parents. Which census would be the best one to start with?

- ☐ 1880
- ☐ 1890
- ☐ 1900
- ☐ 1910

2. IGI stands for...

- ☐ International Genealogical Index
- ☐ Index of German Immigrants
- ☐ Itemized Guardianship Inventories
- ☐ Irish Geographical Index

3. The best place to start your genealogical research is...

- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Grandma
- ☐ National Archives
- ☐ Mormon Library

4. It's been said that "genealogy of place" is vital to doing research. This means that the most important thing to do when you find out the name of the town an ancestor was from is to...

- ☐ learn the important people in a town's history
- ☐ determine where the town is located and how boundaries have changed over time
- ☐ go to the town itself to research your family's history
- ☐ learn where the cemeteries are located in the town

5. An ancestor died intestate. This means...

- ☐ he left no will
- ☐ he was traveling out of state when he died
- ☐ he died in a state prison
- ☐ his body was never found
- ☐ great aunt
- ☐ half-sister
- ☐ second cousin
- ☐ first cousin once removed

6. Your grandfather's sister's daughter is your...

- ☐ great aunt
- ☐ half-sister
- ☐ second cousin
- ☐ first cousin once removed

7. The standard way to write May 8th, 1904 is...

- ☐ 5/8/04
- ☐ 5/8/1904
- ☐ 8 May 1904
- ☐ May VIII 1904

8. You do not know your grandmother's maiden name. She was married several times. The surname you will use for her on a pedigree chart is...

- ☐ the surname of her first husband
- ☐ the surname of your grandfather
- ☐ the surname she had when she died
- ☐ none of the above

9. You found several records that give your ancestor's birthdate. Rank the sources for reliability.

- ☐ 1834 baptismal record
- ☐ 1850 census
- ☐ 1902 death record
- ☐ 1974 family history book

10. Finding the original meaning of your surname will help you in researching your ancestors.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

Answers to Genealogy Quiz

1. 1900

The siblings were not born in 1880, so that census would do no good and by 1910, they were probably not living with their parents. The 1890 census was 99% destroyed and for all practical purposes, does not exist. Learning what is available on each census is a basic bit of knowledge for [genealogists](#).

2. International Genealogical Index

The IGI is the world's largest genealogical database with births and marriages of over 300 million people worldwide. What makes it so valuable is that it is derived from primary sources. Information from the birth/marriage records of many U.S. counties and European churches has been extracted to the IGI. It also contains unverified information sent in by individuals, but you can easily tell which is extracted and which is submitted. This information is available free of charge at any LDS Family History Center as well as many public libraries. The Mormons (Latter Day Saints) are interested in [genealogy](#) for religious reasons but you don't have to be Mormon to take advantage of their work. They have amassed an incredible collection of records from all over the world. These records are on one and a half million rolls of microfilm and are housed in a giant library in Salt Lake City. If you can't get to Salt Lake, they maintain branch libraries known as Family History Centers where you can rent the microfilms for a few dollars each. I can't imagine doing genealogy without using this resource.

3. Grandma

Grandma and the rest of your older relatives should be where you start. The biggest regret family historians voice is that they didn't ask questions when they could. Since you always start from what you know and work back from there, you'll take what you learn from Grandma to make family group sheets and pedigree charts. Next, you'll probably want to write to the county courthouses to get vital records (birth, marriage, death) of all the people on your pedigree chart. The National Archives, home of the census and important immigration and military information, is probably your next stop. Then you'll want to explore all the goodies at the Mormon library and on the Internet.

4. Determine where the town is located and how boundaries have changed over time

Whether you are searching in Elk Garden, Virginia or Vörsstetten, Germany, knowing the location is vital to being able to do your research. And not only do you need to know where a place is *now*, you need to know where it was when your ancestors were there. Since for the US, the county is the keeper of many of the records, knowing how county boundaries have changed tells you where to look for the records of your ancestors. Other parts of the world have their own "genealogy of place." German records, for example are mostly kept at the local level. Kingdoms, duchies, and states all changed boundaries over time. Having names and dates without places is useless and does not tell you anything about the lives of your ancestors. Whenever I see a "genealogy" on the Internet with just names and dates, I click the Back button. The people listed may be related but I have no way of knowing.

5. Died without a will

Before you spend your time and money climbing your [family tree](#), learn the terms used by genealogists so that you can communicate with others. Find a book at your local library or a [site on the Internet](#) that discusses the principles of genealogy and these basics concept

Standard forms and conventions
Primary vs. secondary evidence
Documenting sources
Record groups: census, vital, military, church, probate, land, immigration
How to construct a query

6. First cousin once removed

Relationships are what families are made of, so be sure you know the terms used to define a family. And don't think a fifth cousin is too distant to care about -- you'll want to know all the branches of your family and you'll meet many of them online.

7. 8 May 1904

Always use a 4-digit year -- the year 2000 problem is nothing new to genealogists! Put the day before the month, as they do in most countries. Spelling out the month helps avoid confusion.

There are conventions and standards used by genealogist. Learn how names, dates, and places -- the basic building blocks of genealogy -- are written before you start entering the information on charts or in your computer.

8. None of the above

Always use a woman's maiden name. If you don't know a person's name, don't substitute another one.

Some other name and place conventions are: Do not use titles such as Mrs., Dr., Jr., III, or Esq. in a person's name. They are relative terms and not part of their name.

Write US places as city, county, state. Since the county is vital to doing US genealogy, don't leave it out. Look it up if you don't know it. There are standard conventions for other countries as well.

9. 1 - 2 - 3- 4

The baptismal record, recorded at the time the event occurred in the most reliable. In general, the closer the record to the event, the more reliable. Another consideration is who supplied the information. The census information was probably given by a parent but could have been given by a neighbor or a child. Keep in mind that if it had been the 1840 census instead of the 1850, no names other than for the head of household are given and other family members are just "hash marks" under sex/age range columns. Information on a [death record](#) is usually filled in by someone who was not present at the birth and so birth information is second-hand information. Unless the family history book includes sources, the information in it can be considered merely clues for you to research. Same for undocumented information you find on the Internet.

10. False

Surnames were used long before they were commonly recorded. You will probably not be able to trace back to when surnames were first used. (There are some exceptions, for example the early Dutch in America.) So how your ancestors got the name will not help you find them.

Before this century, spelling was not important, most people could not write, and foreign names were mangled or contorted. Over the many years since your ancestors first started using a surname, it could have changed in ways you could not know. For these reasons, saying something like, "Our Elliotts have always spelled it with two L's and two T's" may mean you'll miss some important clues.

And don't forget that the surname you have is not the surname of all your ancestors. It is, in fact, your least reliable line, but often the one pursued most vigorously by men (yes, men) who are newcomers to genealogy.

This Newsletter is published by the Members of SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY and is distributed free of charge to members. A non-profit organization, membership is open to all persons interested in historical research, preservation and publications of genealogical interest.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2016

APPLICANTS NAME _____

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE _____

AREA CODE ()

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Previous Member _____

FAMILY \$ 20 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15 _____



SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MAILING ADDRESS
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Conway, WA. 98238-0715

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



President's Message

Here we are in late February as I write this and winter has stayed in the foothills for another year. Thank you! It is time to get out and see what our society has to offer. Let's start by attending our membership meetings and enjoying our excellent programs.

Our March 12 program titled "The Silent Stones Speak: An Introduction to Gravestone Icons" will be featuring our own Margie Wilson. She will discuss late 19th to 20th Century cemetery art using photographs from Burlington's Green Hills Memorial Cemetery and her travels in Europe. The program is free and open to the public so bring a friend. You don't have to be a genealogist to be intrigued by the variety of headstones at our local cemeteries and wonder what they mean.

Our recently retired V.P. Carol Torset and our new V.P. Margie Wilson have great programs lined up for the remainder of the year. On April 9 the program titled "An Introduction to Eastern European Family History" will be presented by the well-known genealogist Dave Obee. He will give us some insight into the boundary changes and unfamiliar languages to help make research in countries such as Ukraine and Poland less difficult.

Our society's board has several issues to discuss at a retreat planned for late February. These are subjects that are too time consuming to take up at a regular board meeting. Two items of importance is our future seminar and beginning classes. Stand by for a date and place. Diane Partington has graciously offered to host this

gathering and we thank her this.

Oh, yes, please be sure your 2016 society dues are paid. We'd like to keep you in the loop and informed about our activities and to help you overcome those pesky brick walls.

John Hayes

President
rosie@valleyint.com
 360-424-4608

LATEST NEWS

Coming Soon: Free Irish Collections

Inspired to find your Irish story? We're opening all our records from Ireland, March 11-17. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day learning about your Irish ancestors. Ancestry.com

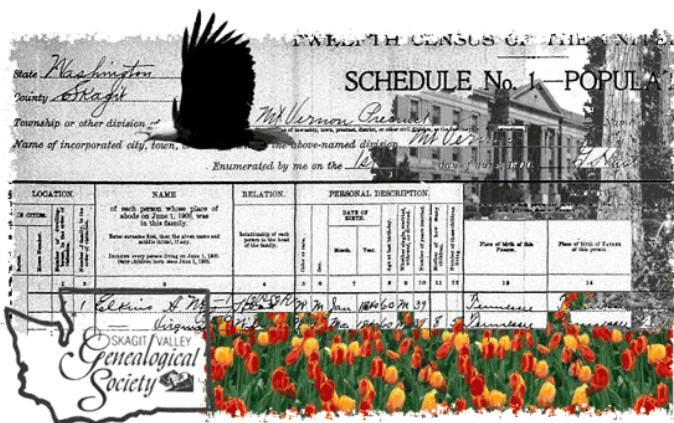
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Christine Cooper



Try looking at a website called
 WikiTree at wikitree.com



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Projects :

OPEN

Ways & Means:

OPEN

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Nominating:

OPEN

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SOCIETY EMAIL: genealogy0715@gmail.com

Membership: Christine Cooper
360-202-9451 cooper2chris@yahoo.com

Check out our redesigned web page at
skagitvalleygenealogy.org

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter accepts business card size advertisement. The cost will be \$10.00 per issue and the editor can help put one together for you if you don't have something ready.

If anyone would like queries or surnames to be posted in the newsletter, please send to... *Ye Editor*

Finding your Roots: Season 3

Tuesday nights at 8 pm

Hosted and written by Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., season three of Finding your Roots is filled with emotional moments that enrich our national discussion on race, ethnicity and identity. Gates traces the ancestral trails of 28 new guest including Mia Farrow, Bill Maher, Gloria Steinem, Bill O'Reilly, Julianne Moore, Sean Combs, Maya Rudolph, Richard Branson, Soledad O'Brien, Senator John McCain, Azar Nafisi and Norman Lear.



SVGS Members,

We have a new BLOG on our website. If you are interested in participating in our blog go to skagit-valleygenealogy.Org/BLOG to see how you can register and log in.

Thank you.

SVGS Webmaster George E. Ridgeway Jr.

Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave
Burlington, WA 98233
Phone (360) 755-0760
Email:
blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us
Hours: Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday – Closed

SVGS Library Collection

located here. SVGS Volunteers available on Mondays from 11:00—1:00 to assist with questions.

Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian



NOW: Search Free Irish Catholic Parish Registers on Findmypast!

Posted by [Diane](#) Haddad from Family Tree Magazine

[Findmypast](#) has released its new collection of 10 million indexed Irish Catholic parish registers, which will be free to search online—forever.

To celebrate, the site is [making all of its Irish records free to search and view](#) until March 7.

(You guys: I couldn't wait until the bottom of this post to tell you about our [Irish Genealogy MEGA Collection on sale in ShopFamilyTree.com](#). Webinars, video classes, printed guides, Cheat Sheet. [Here it is!](#))

Click the [Start Searching](#) button to begin your search on Findmypast. On the search form, use the Record Set field to choose a particular collection (I typed *Catholic* to [pull up](#) a list of the parish records collections I could select from).

You'll be prompted to start a free basic [registration](#) before you can [view](#) records that match your search.

Note that if you didn't specify a category or collection of records, a nonIrish record might appear in your results, and when you [click](#) it you'll be prompted to subscribe. You can just hit the back button to return to your results.

[Take a look at the tips for searching the Catholic parish registers on the Findmypast blog.](#)

I was most interested in searching the Irish Catholic parish registers collection, which come from the [National Library of Ireland](#) include baptisms and marriages from a majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland up to 1880.

I searched for James Butler (the brother of my third-great-grandmother), born in 1835 plus or minus two years in an unknown [location](#). I was looking for a James with parents David and Mary, so I narrowed my search to the Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms collection.

All Irish records FREE this week!

Discover your Irish heritage free 1st-7th March

[Start searching](#)

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Monthly Meetings Program Calendar 2016

Meetings: 2nd Saturdays, 1-3pm | Burlington Senior Center | 1011 Greenleaf St. | Burlington
 skagitvalleygenealogy.org | genealogy0715@gmail.com

- Sat., March 12 -- **"The Silent Stones Speak" Exploring Gravestones & Icons**
 Learn about your ancestors' through studying their gravestone symbols.
 Examples used will be from the Green Hills Memorial Cemetery of late
 19th, early 20th century styles) - Margie Wilson
- Sat., April 9 -- *Note: Program Scheduling Change:*
- "An Introduction to Eastern European Family History"** -- Boundary
 changes and unfamiliar languages can make research in countries such
 as Ukraine and Poland difficult, but there are ways to get past the
 hurdles. Using geographic tools will make it easier for you to discover
 which records might be available, and where they are held. -- Dave Obee
- Sat., May 14 -- **"How to Research People and Property Using the
 National Register of Historic Places"**
 (House History Research Methods) -- Martha Collins
- Sat. June 11 -- **"Trails West!"** -- The Great Western Migration Along the Oregon Trail
 and other Trails West -- Mary Roddy
- July-August – no meetings***
- Sat., Sept. 10 -- To Be Determined
- Sat., Oct. 8 -- **"Tell Us Your Ancestor's Story"** -- SVGS members tell the stories
 of their ancestors and research
- Sat. Nov. 12 -- **Annual Meeting / Brick Walls / Book Sale**

No meeting in December





**The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society's
Genealogy Library Volunteers'**

**Available Time to Assist You
Will Change to the**

**1st Saturday
of the Month***

from

11:00 AM - 1:00PM

BEGINNING SATURDAY, MARCH 5

***Except holiday weekends such as 4th of July, Labor Day, etc.**

For more information contact:

Margie Wilson, SVGS Library Chair

(360) 757-6224 / rootsproject@frontier.com

or visit skagitvalleygenealogy.org

SVGS Email: svgsgenealogy@gmail.com

***Thank you for your patience as we make this scheduling transition
in hopes of better serving you in the future.***

Family Tree Maker to be Continued and With More Options Than Ever Before

blog.eogn.com/2016/02/02/family-tree-maker-to-be-continued-and-with-more-options-than-everbefore/
Dick Eastman

The above headline should be published in a very large font. Ancestry, Inc., the publisher of Family Tree Maker genealogy software, today announced that the program will not be “retired” after all. Instead, Ancestry, Inc. has sold the program to another company that plans to maintain it and develop it further. In addition, Ancestry, Inc. also plans to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. This should be a delightful announcement for the many users of RootsMagic.

The following was written by Kendall Hulet of Ancestry, Inc.:

New Family Tree Maker Options

Since our Family Tree Maker announcement last December, we have continued to actively explore ways to develop and support Family Tree Maker and ensure you have choices to preserve your work in ways that matter to you.

Today, I am pleased to announce two options for desktop software that will work with Ancestry.

Software MacKiev

Software MacKiev, with whom we have a long-standing relationship, is acquiring the Family Tree Maker software line as publisher for both Mac and Windows versions. Software MacKiev has been the developer of Family Tree Maker for Mac for more than six years and is thrilled at the opportunity to publish future versions of Family Tree Maker for Mac and Windows.

This new agreement means you will receive software updates and new versions from Software MacKiev, and have the ability to purchase new versions of Family Tree Maker from Software MacKiev as they are released. You will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches, and be able to save your tree on Ancestry with Family Tree Maker moving forward.

RootsMagic

We have made an agreement with RootsMagic, a leading genealogy desktop software program publisher, to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. With this new relationship, RootsMagic can serve as your desktop family tree software, while having access to Ancestry hints, Ancestry searches, and the ability to save your tree on Ancestry.

We have heard your concerns and are working to provide the solutions you requested. These new agreements will make it possible to preserve your work on Ancestry and Family Tree Maker and enable future features and benefits to help you discover your family history. Be assured that Ancestry, in cooperation with Software MacKiev and RootsMagic, will continue to support you as you discover your family history.

We ask for your patience as we work diligently through all the details to make these solutions available. Be sure to check back on our blog as we share more information about Family Tree Maker in the next few months.

For more information on Software MacKiev and RootsMagic, click below:

- Software MacKiev: <http://www.mackiev.com/>
- RootsMagic: <http://www.rootsmagic.com/>



**Skagit Valley
Genealogical Society**
presents

The Silent Stones Speak!

An introduction to
burial traditions &
decoding gravestone
icons.

Sat., March 12
1:00 - 3:00pm

FREE!
&
the
public
is
welcome

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Burlington Senior Center

1011 Greenleaf • Burlington (Use East Entrance)

skagitvalleygenealogy.org • genealogy0715@gmail.com

A slide show presentation by Margie Wilson of SVGS & the Burlington Historical Society
using the Green Hills Memorial Cemetery for examples of 19th century gravestone art.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2016

APPLICANTS NAME

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

AREA CODE ()

TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

New Member

Renewal

Previous Member

FAMILY \$ 20

INDIVIDUAL \$15



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



President's Message

Spring is in the air and planning is under way. Our seminar committee is working towards a seminar next April. They'll have the details wrapped up soon but for right now circle April 22, 2017 in "pencil" on your new calendar. Also our board is finalizing the details for a beginning genealogy (four session) class this October on Saturdays. Do you have friends who might be interested? More details later.

We had a well-attended and very informative presentation at our April 9 meeting on researching eastern European family history. The language barrier is a big stumbling block and boundary changes and the war ravaged areas make genealogy research difficult in this part of the world. Dave Obee spoke of his methods of research to have successes and his perseverance paid off.

To keep our interest, V.P. Margie Wilson has arranged for Martha Collins to speak at our May 14 meeting. She will explain "How to Research People and Property using the National Register of Historic Places". House History research methods will be presented.

I'm looking forward to the June 11 presentation by Mary Roddy. Her subject is "Trails West!" involving the Great Western Migration along the Oregon Trail and other Trails West. Before the transcontinental railroad was completed Easterners and Mid-Westerners began to settle the West. How did they get there and what was their journey like? Her presentation covers overland and water routes with descriptions of the journey and using clues to discover how and when your ancestors traveled. Those of us with ancestors traveling to our state before 1900s should find this to be most interesting.

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Newsletter: Dottie Chandler
PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715
Web site: skagitvalleygenealogy.org

Now to just find time to continue my genealogy research using the hints and suggestions presented by our speakers. Warm weather and my other activities find me straying away from my genealogy endeavors. But as Dave Obee showed us, perseverance pays off. Good luck!

John Hayes

President
rosie@valleyint.com
360-424-4608

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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In the American Civil War, soldiers were required to have at least four opposing front teeth, so they could open a gunpowder pouch. Some draftees had their front teeth pulled so they could avoid service. In our day they just jumped the border to



Newsletter:
v3 360-757-0966

Dottie Chandler
dotcom10@frontier.com

Webmaster:
360-424-4427

George Ridgeway
4george30@comcast.net

Projects :

OPEN

Ways & Means:

OPEN

President: John Hayes
360-424-4608 rosie@valleyint.com

Publicity: Margie Wilson

Vice President: Margie Wilson
360-798-1681 wilsongm@frontier.com

Member at Large: Lynn Torset
torset@comcast.net

Special Committees

Secretary: Muriel Neely

Communications: Bonnie Monroe
360-856-9002 gypsycombtasel@gmail.com
Nominating:

OPEN

Treasurer: Candace Soine
360-755-9071 rainshadowdals@gmail.com

Audit/Budget: **OPEN**

Past President: George Ridgeway
360-424-4427 4george30@comcast.net

Bylaws/Standing Rules: Joe LeBlonde
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The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter accepts business card size advertisement. The cost will be \$10.00 per issue and the editor can help put one together for you if you don't have something ready.

If anyone would like queries or surnames to be posted in the newsletter, please send to... *Ye Editor*

Finding your Roots: Season 3

Tuesday nights at 8 pm

Hosted and written by Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., season three of Finding your Roots is filled with emotional moments that enrich our national discussion on race, ethnicity and identity. Gates traces the ancestral trails of 28 new guest including Mia Farrow, Bill Maher, Gloria Steinem, Bill O'Reilly, Julianne Moore, Sean Combs, Maya Rudolph, Richard Branson, Soledad O'Brien, Senator John McCain, Azar Nafisi and Norman Lear.



SVGS Members,

We have a new BLOG on our website. If you are interested in participating in our blog go to skagit-valleygenealogy.Org/BLOG to see how you can register and log in.

Thank you.

SVGS Webmaster George E. Ridgeway Jr.

Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave
Burlington, WA 98233
Phone (360) 755-0760
Email:
blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us
Hours: Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday – Closed

SVGS Library Collection

located here. SVGS Volunteers available on Mondays from 11:00—1:00 to assist with questions.

Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian



Genealogist's Disease

WARNING: Genealogy Pox
(Very contagious to adults)

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls, hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in eyes.

NO KNOWN CURE

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is- the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it!

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Monthly Meetings Program Calendar 2016

Meetings: 2nd Saturdays, 1-3pm | Burlington Senior Center | 1011 Greenleaf St. | Burlington
 skagitvalleygenealogy.org | genealogy0715@gmail.com

Sat., May 14	--	"How to Research People and Property Using the National Register of Historic Places" (House History Research Methods) -- Martha Collins
Sat. June 11	--	"Trails West!" The Great Western Migration Along the Oregon Trail and other Trails West, Including Overland and Water Routes Leading West -- Mary Kircher Roddy
July-August – no meetings		
Sat., Sept. 10	--	"Beyond Online: Courthouse Records" An introduction to what to look for and where to find inform about your ancestors in court records -- Janice C. Lovelace
Sat., Oct. 8	--	"Tell Us Your Ancestor's Story" Betty Tartas and several SVGS members, share the fascinating stories of their ancestors and research.
Sat. Nov. 12	--	Annual Meeting / Brick Walls / Book Bonanza Sale

Seattle Genealogical Society News

<http://wasgs.org/blog/2016/04/16/seattle-genealogical-society-news-5/>

ANNE JENNER TO BE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE SCANDINAVIAN SIG

We're delighted to have Anne Jenner, Pacific Northwest Curator, University of Washington Special Collections, as our speaker at the May meeting of the Scandinavian Special Interest Group, on Sunday, May 15, from 1:30-3:30pm, at the Seattle Genealogical Society, 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle.

Anne served as the head of the library at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Swedish-American Historical Society. Anne will discuss resources of interest to those researching their Scandinavian roots,

To get your family tree done the fastest, run for political office. Your opponents will have it completed way before the election, and then you can resign if you really didn't wish to run in the first

If your family members won't talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about something very interesting.

Definition of mythology: genealogy without documentation.

Genealogy is all about chasing your own tale.

Famous quote that applies (all too often) to questionable genealogy: "Get your facts first, then you

You know you're hopelessly hooked on genealogy if you say "Honey, I'll just be a few minutes on the computer," and then find yourself awestruck by the

OUR ROOTS GO DEEP

Officially the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society is now six years old (1993). The roots of the society actually go back much further. Many of the original members were part of a study group led by Margory Johnson. Her interest in the hobby began in the early 1950's.

Francis Byford believes the study group started around 1978. There was an afternoon and evening group. The afternoon group met at the Mount Vernon City Library. Susan Bos attended the evening group which also met at the library. This group later moved to Margory's home.

The groups offered one-to-one instruction and an opportunity to share a hobby. The attendance was small, normally 6 to 8 people. There was sharing of problems, successes, and car-pooling to Seattle libraries, archives and other places of research. Margory also conducted classes at the senior center. She spread her love and knowledge of genealogy to many in Skagit County.

Sharon Johnson and Colleen Thulen joined the group in the early 1980's. At this time there was only one group which met in the afternoon on the first Wednesday of each month at the library. These continued into 1986 until the death of Margory Johnson.

As we wondered what we should do without our leader, a new one stepped forward. Betty Fellion had been with the study group about two years. She was small in stature, meek in voice, quiet, and not who'd you expect to take over. But she saw the need and filled it.

At the November 5, 1986 meeting at the Knotty Pine Restaurant, six members decided to place an article in the newspaper to see who else was interested in forming an area genealogical society. Dee Ackerman and Zelda Stout of the Whatcom Genealogical Society in Bellingham attended giving us helpful information on what to do towards "society" formation. Charter members listed in the min-

Dee Ackerman, Edna Baiter, Dottie Burr, Betty Fellion, Ann Flath, Sharon Johnson, Gen McMullen, John Marian, Carol Oglesbee, Hazel Pilkinton, Colleen Thulen, Nola Van Wieringen, Lois Wold and Mary Jo Wolden

In January 1987 the first officers were chosen: Betty Fellion, President; John Marian, Vice President; Carol Oglesbee, Secretary and Colleen Thulen, Treasurer.

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow. Wouldn't Margory and Betty be pleased with today's membership of over 120?

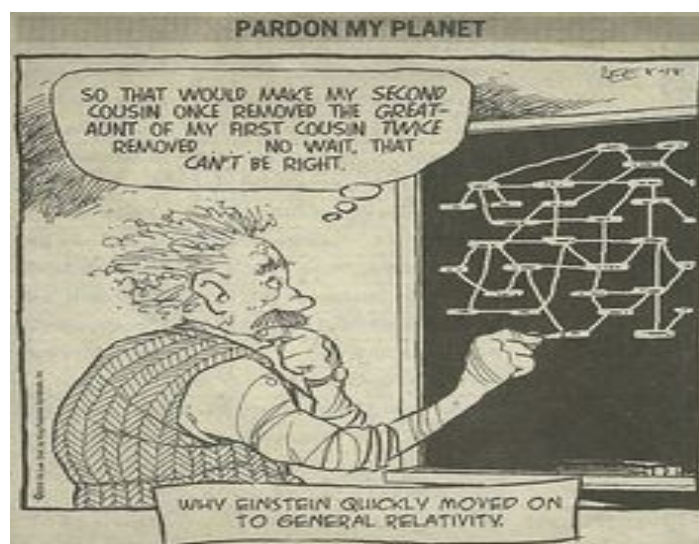
Murphy's Law of Genealogy

The tombstone you want to find is always located in the extreme opposite corner of the cemetery to where you started your search.

Twisted Twigs
on Grarled
Branches



Next year is Canada's 150th birthday, so in September we have the display case at the Burlington Library. We would like to acknowledge our friends, family and neighbors by do a display on Canada. If anyone would like to help or loan some items to be put on display for a month please help and contact Dottie Chandler at dotcom10@frontier.com. Also ideas are welcome.



Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
presents

HOUSE HISTORY:

"How to Find People & Property
USING THE National Historic Register"

GUEST SPEAKER: MARTHA COLLINS

SATURDAY, MAY 14

1:00 - 3:00 pm

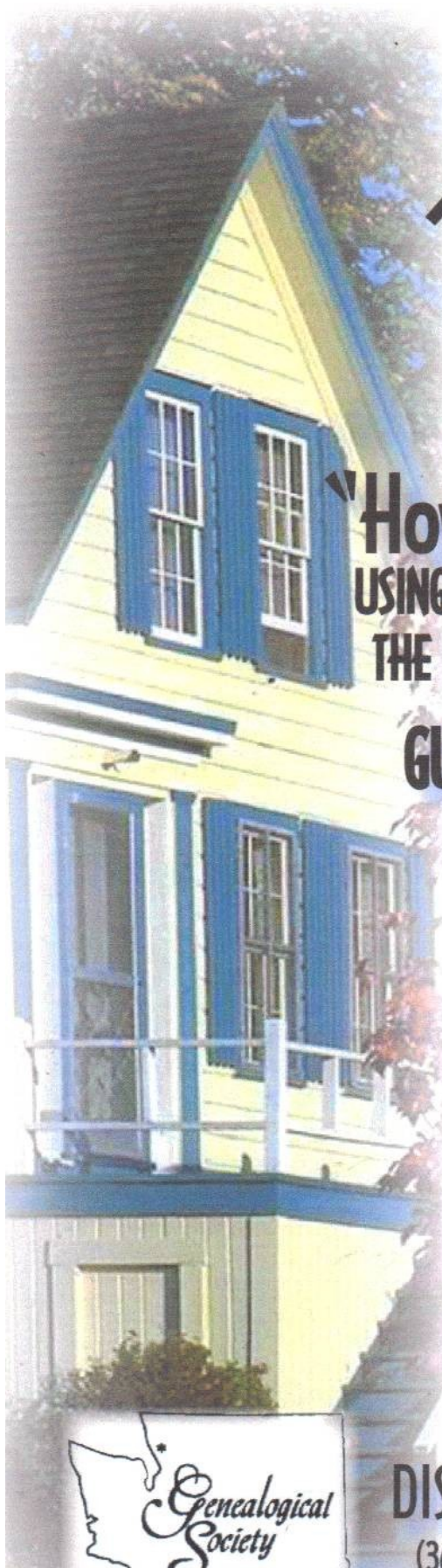
Burlington Senior Center

1011 Greenleaf Ave. • Burlington
(Enter on East Side of Building)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DISCOVER YOUR ANCESTRY! • SVGS CAN HELP

(360) 757-6224 • aenealoav0715@gmail.com • skagitvallevenealoav.org



SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

TRAILS WEST

**"Crossing the Continent 1840 - 1869
Overland & Water Routes"**

Special Guest Speaker / Genealogist

MARY KIRCHER-RODDY

SAT., JUNE 11

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Burlington Senior Center

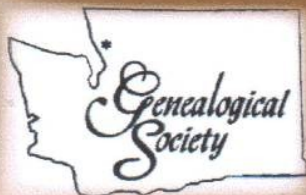
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2016

APPLICANTS NAME _____

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE _____

AREA CODE () _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Previous Member _____

FAMILY \$ 20 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15 _____



SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MAILING ADDRESS
Post Office Box 715
Conway, WA. 98238-0715

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



President's Message

The good news from the Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) Conference in Tacoma in June was that our very own Margie Wilson was selected for the prestigious President's Award. It was her inspirational talent and leadership skills making the ROOTS project a success that gave her the edge in the selection process plus serving as our librarian, publicity chair and more recently as our vice president. These are just the tip of the iceberg! In addition both George Ridgeway and Barbara Johnson were selected for the WSGS Outstanding Volunteer Awards. It is fun to work with dedicated members like these.

We are looking forward to our educational programs this fall. Starting off we have Janice Lovelace presenting an introduction to "Beyond Online: Courthouse Records" on September 10. She will give us insight into what to look for and where to find information about our ancestors in court records. On October 8 we will have an opportunity to talk about our ancestors in a program titled "Tell Us Your Ancestor's Story". Betty Tartas, Pat Pulver Fitzgerald and some of our members will tell unique and fascinating stories about their favorite ancestors. After our two main speakers our members will have about three minutes each to speak.

Would you or a friend like to improve or learn basic genealogy skills? Our society is offering a beginners genealogy class over four sessions on October 1, 8, 15 & 22 at the Burlington Public Library from 10 to noon. Invite your friends, neighbors, etc. to check into our fun hobby.

Volume 30 Number 4
President: John Hayes
Newsletter: Dottie Chandler
PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715
Web site: skagitvalleygenealogy.org

We need **YOU!** Secretary Muriel Neely is retiring at the end of this year (end of her second plus terms). So we will need someone to serve as our secretary for the next two years. Our society can't function without officers so give it some consideration. The president's term is up at the end of this year also so you have your choice of either position. Contact an officer or board member if you would like to learn more. Their contact information is on the second page of this newsletter.

John Hayes
President
rosie@valleyint.com
360-424-4608

Book Report on Internet Genealogy ~Aug/Sept 2016

Net Notes—A look at websites and related news.

New York City Marriage Records Indexes 1908-1929. Reclaim the records, www.reclaimtherecords.org, has been working to make vital records from NY and NJ available and accessible to researchers. As a result the index to the NY City Clerk's office marriage records (the application, affidavit and license) for 1908-1929 are online via Internet Archive-where they are free to access. This include : Manhattan, Bronx, Staten Island, Brooklyn and Queens. T
<http://archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex>.

This issue had many interesting articles such as: Tippling and Temperance in the Family, Researching Northern Ireland, and The International Classification of Diseases. There of course were many other articles.

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2016

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An introduction to what to look for and where to find
 inform about your ancestors in court records - Janice C. Lovelace, PhD

Sat., Sept. 24 "Kick Start Your Family Tree"

Free class to get you started in researching your family tree.
 Mount Vernon City Library, Snoqualmie St., 1-3pm, Info: 770-0762

Sat. Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 "Beginners' Genealogy Workshop"

Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington, 10am - Noon
 Pre-registration by deadline Sept. 26. \$50 for the 4-class series (after 9/26
 \$60 for all 4-classe) Drop-ins welcome at \$15/session. Info: 770-0762

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No meeting in December

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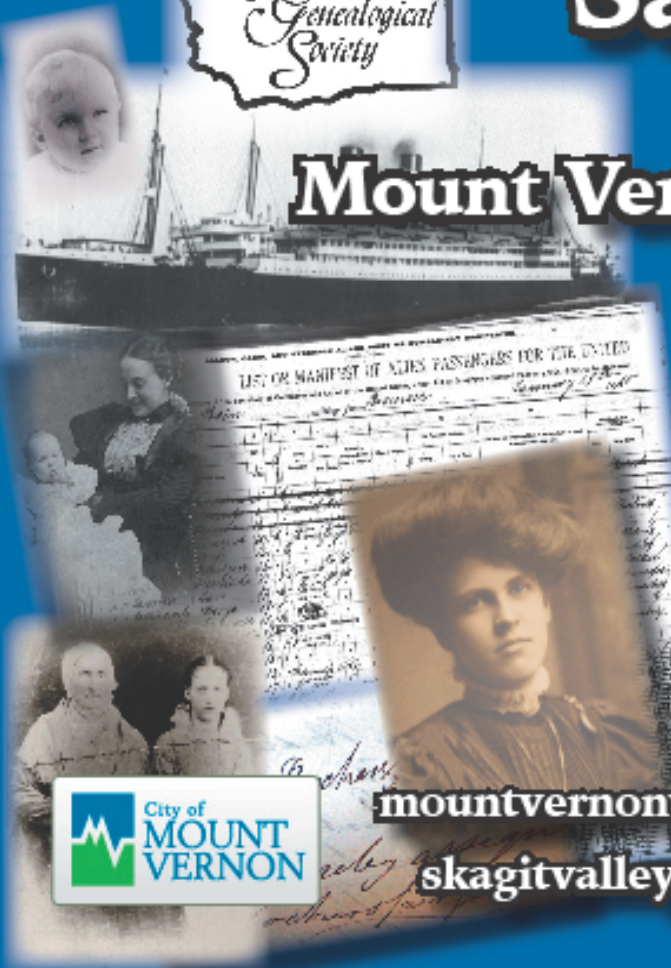
A free community education program in celebration of
Mount Vernon City Library
100 Years of Service

Kick Start Your Family Tree!

Sat., Sept. 24
1:00-3:00 pm
Mount Vernon City Library
315 Snoqualmie St.

presented by genealogists
Barbara Johnson &
George Ridgeway
of Skagit Valley
Genealogical Society

mountvernonwa.gov/library | 336-6209
skagitvalleygenealogy.org | 770-0762



Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Beginners

GENEALOGY

Workshop

AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE OF 4 CLASSES

SATURDAYS • 10AM to Noon
OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, & 22

Burlington Public Library

820 E. Washington Ave • Burlington

\$50 for 4 weeks if registered by Sept. 26
After Sept. 26: \$60 for 4 weeks or \$15/class.
Drop-in's are welcome!

Register by September 26

Mail-in the registration form on the back side of this flyer
or download a form from SVGS' website:

skagitvalleygenealogy.org

genealogy0715@gmail.com | (360) 770-0762

The use of the Burlington Public Library facilities or meeting rooms by any group or organization in no way constitutes endorsement of the policies or beliefs of that organization by the library or the City of Burlington.



**See Other Side
for Mail-in
Registration.**

JOIN US FOR ANCESTRY DAY IN WASHINGTON STATE

Join experts from Ancestry, Washington State Archives, Washington State Library, Legacy Washington, and the Washington State Historical Society for this great event. Registration for Ancestry Day presentations on Saturday is \$35.00, and you can purchase a box lunch and attend the guest lunch speaker for \$15.00. AncestryDNA® kits will also be available for purchase.

Saturday, Sept. 24, will feature a full day of classes, including:

Ancestry 101: New and Review
Getting the most from Ancestry.com
Using AncestryDNA to further your family history research
Ancestry FAQ's
Sharing your family story

Friday, Sept. 23, will feature several presentations f rom area experts, including*:

Tracy Rebstock, Washington State Archives
Mary Kathryn Kozy, Professional Genealogist
Lynette Miller, Head of Collections at the Research Center of the
Washington State Historical Society
Karen Wallace Steely, Professional Genealogist
Kathryn Devine, Washington State Library

Door prizes on Saturday include AncestryDNA kits, memberships to Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com, and many items of value.

***There is a separate charge for the Friday presentations**

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New Member

Renewal

Previous Member

FAMILY \$ 20

INDIVIDUAL \$15



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President's Message

A big "Thank You" goes to Barb Johnson and George Ridgeway for leading our genealogy classes during the month of October. I had the privilege of attending this series of classes and I always learned something new.

Our seminar committee is deep into their planning for our seminar on April 22, 2017. Yes, save the date for our "O Canada! Children of a Common Mother" seminar. This theme was selected in honor of Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation. For speakers it will feature Canadian and U.S. genealogists: Dave Obee and Mary Kathryn Kozy. On line registration begins on January 2, 2017.

At our annual meeting on November 12 we will be electing a president and secretary. As noted in our last newsletter Secretary Muriel Neely is retiring after many years as secretary. It is time for someone to volunteer to carry the ball and keep our society functioning properly. We will also be approving the 2017 budget. No ballot will be needed as we have no proposed bylaw revisions to consider and at this point no one has been nominated for secretary or president. These details will be ironed out at our meeting.

Our November meeting will start with V.P. Margie Wilson leading the education program titled "Brick Walls" which will include a "Used Book Bonanza".

Volume 30 Number 5
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Newsletter: Dottie Chandler
PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715
Web site: skagitvalleygenealogy.org

Bring your genealogy related brick wall questions and ask our experts. It should be an informative day. Be sure to check out the books that Margie has made available to us for a small donation. So turnout and enjoy the afternoon with us.

There is no meeting in December so you will have more time with your families over the holidays. Have fun!

John Hayes
President
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360-424-4608

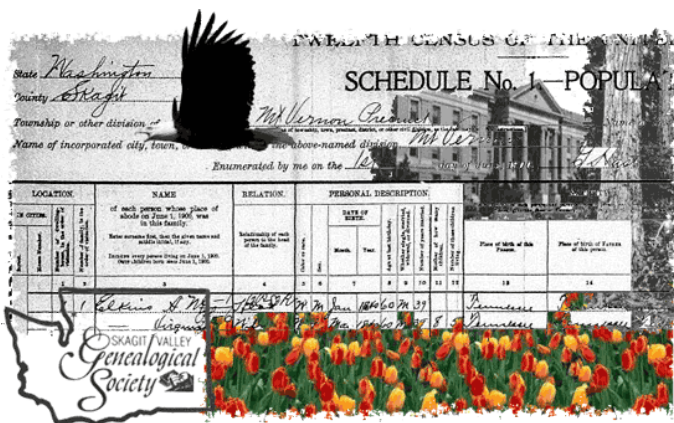
Christmas is coming, do you have pages of genealogy ready to put together for family members? Comb binding is a good way to make it a book.

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.

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Saturday, November 12 starting at 11am **there will be a Veterans' Day Parade in downtown Burlington (Fairhaven Ave).** Also, the VFW Hall is open to the public that day to display their museum collection.



Days Gone By

"The special book upon the shelf
Was made with many hands.
Our ancestors who posed back then,
All came from different lands.

Their pictures were all tucked away,
And rarely did we see,
The importance of these treasures-
The start of you and me.

The history of our families,
Now here in black and white.
Preserved with special care and time,
Each page is done just right.

When time permits, we take it down,
And think of days long past. Our
hopes, our dreams, our heritage,
All safe and made to last."

Author: Unknown



A Wonderful Story By Judith Dicks

Several years ago, my son befriended an elderly lady, Cora Battelle, and became very close to her. When she passed away he was helping her step-daughter clean out Cora's home of all her lifelong possessions and prepare the home for sale. To his absolute horror all of Cora's personal possessions were thrown in the trash pile, including photos, mementos, and everything including Cora's genealogy and some very old photos and records.

Although my son had agreed to hail everything to the dump for this stepdaughter, he was so heartsick over the whole matter, he just could not do it. He brought Cora's thing by my home and said he just didn't have the heart to throw her whole life away. What should he do? I told him to put it in our garage and then he could pick and choose later and maybe find someone who could really appreciate what this wonderful lady had left, since she had no descendants.

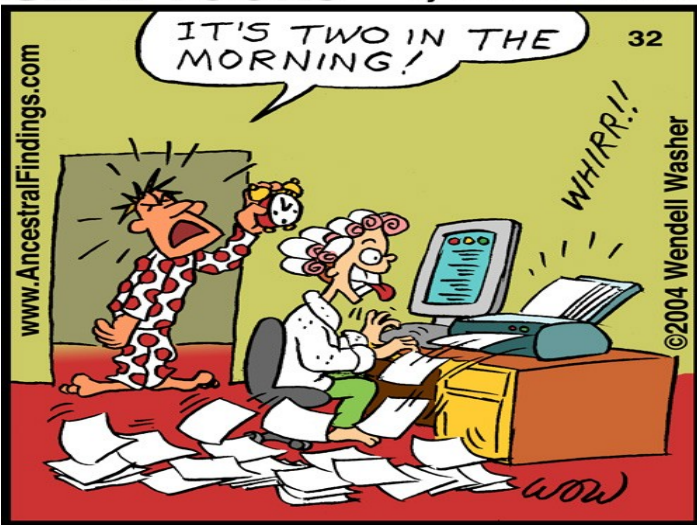
A short time later, we were looking through Cora's things and found her genealogy and records and pictures. Lo and behold, one of the surnames (SUTHERLAND) was one of our surnames and from the same general area. We haven't tied anything together yet, but we are working on it.

Maybe in the eyes of some we were wrong for not doing as he had been told to do and take everything to the dump. But, you know what? I am very proud of my son for his kindness and compassion for this lady and for realizing that, had he thrown everything away, there would have been no memories left that Cora had built during her lifetime, at least materially. Can you imagine having your genealogy thrown in the dump?





GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Hot on the trail.



Crabby Road

12-20-11



Genealogy Trivia:

If you figure there's 25 years between each generation, 500 years ago there were 1,048,576 people involved in creating YOU! YOU are special!

Teach Me Genealogy - www.tmgenealogy.com

"History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all."

-Laurence Overmire

Teach Me Genealogy - www.tmgenealogy.com

This was sent to me by Barbara Johnson about her visit back east.

My trip to the National Archives in Washington, DC

My 3rd great grandfather, Charles Smalley, served in the Civil War on the Union side. His enlistment papers give his birth year at 1836. But...several other records record his birth year anywhere from 1836 to 1839; always with the same month and day, November 20. Hmmm? How do I determine his actual birth year?

I noticed that he had applied for a pension and the file number was on the record at NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) in Seattle. Last October I had the opportunity to visit my son and his family in Manassa, Virginia. Well, of course, I had to take advantage of that and visit NARA in DC! After going through the process of being allowed in, I requested Charles Smalley's pension file. A couple of hours later, I went upstairs to the desk to pick up the file. It was a large manila envelope over 1 inch thick! The first paper I looked at was a hand written letter from 1870 stating that the family bible recorded his birth year as 1837!

Wow! Not only did I have a year of birth, I was holding a letter my ancestor had written. What a thrill!

I took over 150 photos of the items. It was fantastic! I didn't have the same luck at the Library of Congress but that was such a gorgeous Reading Room that I didn't mind. Plus I got to see the grandkids

Don't peek at the answer to the question on page 7. The answer to the question is 1869. We have different years of his birth. He was 106 years old when he died. This is William A. Brown born in Barker



Diane Partington from our society says that if anyone is looking for funeral or burial records from someone who died in Skagit County she can retrieve those records from 1908-1994.

If you are needing help with your genealogy give her a call. Her phone number is in our newsletter on page 2 under genealogist.

Internet Genealogy has an article on websites in the October/November 2016 magazine. Here is a list of the websites, but if you would like to learn more the magazine gives a detailed description of each site. The magazine can be found in our library.

RootsMooc— <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/resources/rootsMOOC.html>. This is an online course.

Umbra Search—www.umbrasearch.org

Whaling Crew List Database – www.whalingmuseum.org/online_exhibits/crewlist
This includes 127,531 records which spans 1809-1927

1950 Census Enumeration Maps <http://catalog.archives.gov/id/821491>

Staten Island Newspapers—<http://sites.google.com/a/nypl.org/staten-island-papers>

Are you interested in ancestors who lived in North Dakota?

Here are some websites:

Marriage license, 1870-1944,
<http://library.ndsu.edu/db/marriage/>

Probate Records, 1876-1944,
<http://library.ndsu.edu/db/probate/>

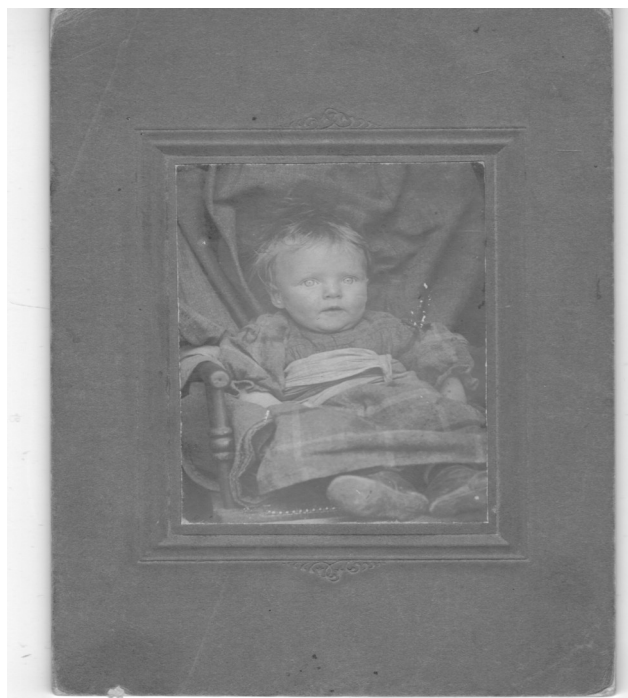
Divorce and Civil Cases, 1870-1942,
<http://library.ndsu.edu/db/cassdivorce/>

Norway Heritage, www.norwayheritage.com/

German Roots,
www.germanroots.com/emigration-database/

Do you have an ancestor who was a convict transported to Van Diemen's Land in the 19th century? Tasmania, Australia has a remarkable family history and heritage archive that can be freely accessed on the Tasmania Government site, www.licn.tas.gov.au.

Can you guess the year of this photo?



Answer on page 6

Good Advice for Genealogists

- Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.
- Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Look into it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear.
- The kind of ancestors you have is not as important as the kindness of their descendants.
- If you are the last living link between your grandparents and your grandchildren—don't break the chain.
- If you don't want your descendants to put a twisted spin on your life story, write it yourself!
- If you're the family photographer (and not showing up in photos), your family historian descendants will become upset with you.
- To get your family tree done the fastest, run for political office. Your opponents will have it completed way before the election, and then you can resign if you really didn't wish to run in the first place.
- Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.
- Your children may not thank you, but if you preserve the family genealogy your great great great great descendants will remember you as super-great!
- If someone's picture looks like they don't belong in the family tree, well, maybe they don't.
- Some think it's best to grow a family tree one leaf at a time—but as with the spring, you may find that many buds can be produced at the same time.
- Don't take life seriously. Every genealogist knows nobody gets out alive.
- If at first you don't succeed, search, search again. That is why we call it re-search.

This Newsletter is published by the Members of SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY and is distributed free of charge to members. A non-profit organization, membership is open to all persons interested in historical research, preservation and publications of genealogical interest.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2016

APPLICANTS NAME

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

AREA CODE ()

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Previous Member _____

FAMILY \$ 20 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15 _____



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED