



# Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Volume 23 Number 1

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January-February 2010

## President's Message

Well, it is a new year. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'm sure everyone had a fun time with your family and loved ones. Now, is the time to put whatever knowledge you discovered over the holidays to work.

It is good to remember that the internet is only a tool to use for your research. It provides almost everything needed to complete a family history, if you know where to look. To use it to its full potential you need other researchers to help with ideas and brick walls that you may have. Not everything is on the internet, yet. Also, paper trails and electronic backups are good to have in case of computer crashes, which do happen.

Remember to visit the Burlington Library. We have had many books donated this past year and our genealogical section has grown.

I also want to thank our committee members who make everything work. The Society is moving along on our projects and hopefully will soon be publishing the Lyman Cemetery book. The history book is coming along fine. There are lots of history and pictures to sort thru.

If anyone has questions or ideas that you would like to see or learn, about, email the Society or call one of your board members. We would love more input. We are also looking for volunteers to help us with ongoing and upcoming projects, you are always welcome to help. It does not matter what the deed, help is usually needed and rewarding knowing we are helping others and making the Society run more smoothly and keep it growing.

See you at the next meeting, Tuesday, in the craft room at the Burlington Senior Center, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Discussion: Brick walls.

Dottie Chandler, president

## GPS in Cemeteries

Try adding degrees of latitude and longitude when describing the location of a cemetery and obscure burial sites. Lat/Lon allows pinpointing locations within mere feet. It is especially helpful in finding an accurate location of grave sites in rural areas, many of which are unmarked, overgrown, abandoned, and may only contain one or two graves.

A handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) device can be purchased at a reasonable price. Pawn shops are a good source. They're simple and easy to use. Just turn them on at the site you want to record, and within a minute or so the degrees of lat/lon are displayed. Try it. Future generations will appreciate it.

## SVGS Programs

This society meeting will be held at 7:00 pm in the craft room at the Burlington Community & Senior Center, 1011 Greenleaf Street, Burlington. Visitors are welcome. **\*\*Note change in location. Future meetings in the Dining Room.**

**January 26, —Attacking Brickwalls.** Bring your brick wall and see if anyone can help you to climb it or go around it.

**February 23—Margie Wilson "Pennsylvania Quakers - The Welsh Tract".** The Welsh Quakers, also called Cyrmic Quakers, which refers to their Celtic roots, were independent minded, the "best planters in the land," well educated, and well organized. The story of this persecuted non-conformist religious sect and their journey to America to establish their own colony so that they could live and practice their beliefs freely is at the heart of our American history and character. This is the story of one of Margie's ancestors. See photo below.

**March 23, 2010—To be announced.** Barbara is working on something special for this meeting.



Drawn by C.P. Tholey.

FIRST MEETING HOUSE OF FRIENDS AT CHESTER.

Drawn by C. G. S. Plakke.

## IN MEMORIUM

As promised in the September newsletter you will find the obituaries of four of our departed members on pages 2 & 3. Each will have \$25 donated toward a library fund for the purchase of new library materials. Watch for these library purchases.

- Arnold Stewart—Lifetime Member—May 29, 2009
- Joan Martin Udd—Librarian & Board Member— Aug 6, 2009
- Vera Stuber – Lifetime Member— Aug 31, 2009
- John Royston Fisher—Lifetime Member— Sep 8, 2009



**SVGS Board of Directors 2009**

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**Fund Raiser for Special Projects:** OPEN

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**John "Jack" Royston Fisher**

John Royston Fisher was born on August 26, 1917 in the Eagle Rock section of Los Angeles, California, an only child of Arthur "Jack" Fisher and Harriet Edith Prucha. He passed away at his home in Anacortes on September 8, 2009 with his family in attendance.



John attended the University of California at Davis, majoring in entomology. His college education was interrupted by World War II when he served with the Army Air Corps. He spent a year raising vegetable crops hydroponically on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic to feed the pilots of the U.S. Army Air Corps flying in Africa. Following the war he returned to UC Berkley to finish his degree. He then worked for 21 years for the Dow Chemical Company doing agricultural experimental work in the western states.

While stationed on the east coast he met and married Mary Constance Leeds in 1943 and together they had four children, Brian Keith Fisher, Diane Colleen Fisher, Lynn Kerry Fisher and Albert Royston Fisher. John and Mary divorced in 1958.

In 1959 he married Shirlee Dolores Weyer in Spokane, WA., and they celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary in March of 2009.

In May 1984 they left for a sojourn of the world making many friends in numerous countries. Upon their return they settled in Anacortes. In 1988 they became extremely active members of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. John spent many years as an active board member serving in multiple capacities, i.e., president three terms, vice president, garage sale coordinator, Program Chair, Coordinator of the Funeral Home project, & Project Chair. As project chairperson he organized and coordinated the reading of ten (10) of the 15 major cemeteries in Skagit County. He is survived by his wife Shirlee, his four children and their families.

SVGS Unpublished Memorials

**Arnold Kendrick Stewart**



Arnold K. Stewart, was born October 24, 1918 in Marine City, Michigan. He passed away peacefully on May 29, 2009 following complications of a severe stroke in February of 2008. His loving family was at his side in his home in LaConner. He was 90 years of age.

Arnold Stewart was an active member of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society since 1993. Arnold has in the past spent many years as a board member of this society. He was extremely active on the publication committee, both as a previous chairperson and as a

current member. He spent many hours assisting with the photocopying of all early funeral home records in Skagit County. He has spent much of his time and effort in getting society publications printed and assembled, including comb binding, and readying them for sale by the society. In this capacity he has shown adeptness in the extraction and proofing of final copies of our census and cemetery series. For his dedication and support of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society, Arnold was nominated for and received a Life Membership of this society in 1996. He is survived by his wife Mary,

**Vera Naomi Harpst Stuber**

Vera Harpst Stuber, age 86, passed away August 31, 2009, in Kirkland, WA., where she resided at the Allancare Adult Care Home for the past 2½ years.

She was born March 3, 1923 in Richview, Illinois to Henry O. Harpst and Mary Everett Young, the youngest of three children. Vera moved to Skagit County in 1937 and was a graduate of Union High School in Sedro Woolley in 1940. She married Burl Stuber on September 14, 1941 in Renton and their early homes were in Sedro Woolley and Anacortes where they lived for 46 years .



Vera graduated from Western Washington University in 1971 and was a substitute teacher in Anacortes and LaConner for 10 years. She was involved with the Red Cross and served as a Girl Scout leader for 10 years. Vera enjoyed sewing, crafts, art, spinning, knitting and weaving as well as camping with her husband.

Vera was a past president and lifetime member of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. In 1991 she published a family history book about her ancestors, the Rogers family who first arrived in the US with the Pilgrims on the Mayflower, with many of that family settling in Skagit County. Her interest in family history expanded to an interest in local history as well, and she was a driving force behind the project to get all of the local cemetery records in print.

She was preceded in death by her husband Burl, her parents, brother Lester Harpst and sister Virginia Jakle.

She is survived by daughters Dona K. Eberle (Ray) of Spokane and Laurie M. Pfeiffer (Kent) of Kirkland; son Lee H. Stuber (Linda) of Anacortes; eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

**Joan Ardeth Martin Udd**



Joan Martin Udd passed away on August 6, 2009. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, obtaining her higher education at the University of Idaho in Moscow. She obtained her graduate work in Librarianship at the University of Washington. She retired after spending 29 years as an elementary librarian with the Issaquah School District. She joined SVGS in 1996 and became society librarian in 2000. She distinguished herself in support of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society through her untiring efforts as society librarian. She made an outstanding effort in selection and preservation of the SVGS library collection by cataloging the holdings of the society, located at the Burlington Public Library. The society holdings list has subsequently been placed on the Internet.

With her committee she greatly increased the library's holdings through purchase and acceptance of donations, cataloging and making them available to library patrons. She worked tirelessly over the past year with the supervision and arrangement of the society collection in the move to the newly constructed Burlington Public Library by organizing the files for ease in researching in the library. She has developed a schedule for volunteers serving at the library. Joan has been an active member and participant at SVGS Board meetings.

Once she discovered her Canadian relatives, a new treasure of family was opened to her, enabling exposure to huge family ties. For a person pursuing her roots, this was immense.

She followed a number of interests: Sweet Adeline's, Harmonaires, Civil Air Patrol, Artists interest, travel and Tai Chi.

She was preceded in death by a daughter Cidney Badenhausen and her parents, Donavin and Jeannette Martin.

She is survived by her husband Al, daughter Nancy of Bellingham; sisters, Mary of California, Cathy of New Hampshire; stepsons Randy Udd of Arizona and Erik Udd of California.

**Upcoming Classes**

Four classes (sessions) on **Researching Your Family History** have been scheduled for Mondays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Anacortes Senior Center, 1701 22nd St, Anacortes. March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29  
 1 – March 8: skills to do research, starting a research notebook, Family group sheets and biographical outline of ancestor, reference tools and materials,  
 2– March 15: Records, information on, where to locate, clues records give us, and research strategies,  
 3- March 22: census indexes and census images, research notes and logs –  
 4– March 29: documenting information, citation of sources, evaluating sources and records, and interpreting the information you found.

Education~ *Shirley Christenson*

**Ancestry Magazine Ends Publication:**

For 25 years, *Ancestry* magazine has been a valuable, timely resource for family history professionals, hobbyists, and novices alike. For a variety of reasons, the time has come for us to discontinue publication. Over the last few years, we have found that with the expanded accessibility of terrific family history content published online at Ancestry.com we can reach a larger and broader audience than the limited distribution of a print publication.

The March/April 2010 issue will be the final issue of *Ancestry* magazine. Subscribers to *Ancestry* magazine with current subscriptions that will not be completed by the mailing of the March/April 2010 magazine will receive prorated refunds. Subscribers will find a letter enclosed with their final issue informing them of these details. We are also no longer selling new magazine subscriptions nor renewing those that have expired. Single copies of past issues, including the upcoming March/April issue, will be available for purchase in our online store. See details at: <http://www.ancestrymagazine.com/2010/01/from-the-editors/ancestry-magazine-discontinues-publication/>

The Ancestry Staff

**Articles Contained in Published Magazines**

Submitted by Sharon Johnson

**Internet Genealogy, Oct/Nov 2009**

Indian Census Records and Name Rolls; Help, My Ancestors are Hiding (using online databases); Online Forums: Let Your Fingers Do the Walking (message boards, etc); US Census: More than Meets the Eye (using Ancestry databases); Understanding County Boundaries through Time (online resources); The Peninsula Roll Call (British ancestors in Napoleonic Wars); Old Photos on the Net (genealogical and historical images); Fancy Footnote Pages for Your Ancestors; Searching for Ancestors in the Netherlands; Newsworthy Genealogy: British Newspaper Archives; Fast, Frugal Fixes for Your Old Photographs (concerning five different software programs); Irish Genealogy: Getting Started Online; A "Cuil" Search Engine.

**Family Chronicle, Nov/Dec 2009**

19<sup>th</sup> Century Photos: How to Spot a Copy; Judging History: the Truth is Out There (questions concerning information found; Five Reasons I Love Genealogy; African-American Research Before the Civil War; The Tax Man Cometh: Tax Records in Genealogy; Did Your Ancestors Fib About Their Age?; Has Your Family History Been Published? Tracing Michael Gillen" A Case Study (an Irish immigrant); "Anchoring" Family History Through DNA; Writing Your Family History: Five Myths Busted!; Seeking that Elusive Maiden Name.



**You Can Date a Letter**

**By the Stamp on the Envelope:**

Mar 3, 1863.....	3¢
Mar 3, 1883.....	2¢
Jul 1, 1885.....	2¢
Nov 3, 1917.....	3¢
Jul 1, 1919.....	2¢
Jul 6, 1932.....	3¢
Aug 1, 1958.....	4¢
Jan 7, 1963.....	5¢
May 16, 1971.....	8¢
Mar 1974 .....	10¢
Sep 14, 1975 .....	10¢
Dec 13, 1975.....	13¢
May 29, 1978.....	15¢
Mar 22, 1981.....	18¢
Nov 1, 1981.....	20¢
Oct 1, 1983 "Zip +4"	
Feb 17, 1985.....	22¢
Apr 3, 1988.....	25¢
Feb 3, 1991.....	29¢
Jan 1, 1995.....	32¢
Jan 10, 1999.....	33¢
Jan 7, 2001.....	34¢
Jun 30, 2002.....	37¢
Jan 8, 2006.....	39¢
May 14, 2007.....	41¢
May 12, 2008.....	42¢
May 11, 2009.....	44¢

Source:

[http://www.akdart.com/ postrate.html](http://www.akdart.com/postrate.html)

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter accepts business card size advertisements. 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 the editor...

**Library Report for SVGS Newsletter Jan. 2010**

Your SVGS Library recently acquired an excellent new addition to its collection. "Alpine on the Lake: A History of the People of Lake Cavanaugh and Alpine Village," researched and compiled by Allan Ray Wenzel, attracted me immediately to pick up and peruse. Turning past its attractively designed hard cover, the reader finds 124 pages filled with the early Lake Cavanaugh and Alpine Village history. Highlights of the book include black and white photographs of gravestones, the lake area, homes, logging operations, carefully selected illustrations of early census records, annual reports (1896), and maps. In addition, brief biographical sketches of notable pioneers complete with the author's commentary on researching that particular individual and when known, where the person moved to in later years.

Allan Ray Wenzel, is a professional historian who enjoys spending his summers at Lake Cavanaugh. His long list of memberships in a host of historical societies, such as Sons of the American Revolution, Order of the First Families of Maryland, Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, etc., clearly reflects his passion for American History.

Mr. Wenzel paid attention to ensuring the reader's pleasure by including tales of the times from the early Cavanaugh school students to the old Alpine Village Post Office. Contributing to the folk lore and history for this book, Mr. Wenzel collaborated with Ray Jordan, who spent his later years collecting stories from "old timers" of Skagit County and writing them for future generations to enjoy.

If your family has links to the Lake Cavanaugh/Alpine Village area or if you are keen on Skagit County's early history this treasure of a book is a must read for you. I will bring the book to the January SVGS meeting and pass it around so members can take a sneak preview peek at it. You'll surely want to schedule in some time to read it at the SVGS Library at the Burlington Public Library. A pleasurable reading journey awaits you.

"Alpine on the Lake: A History of the People of Lake Cavanaugh and Alpine Village, by Allan Ray Wenzel, copyright 2009, published by Classic Day Publishing, Seattle, WA,

ISBN: 978-1-59849-079-4, \$25.00.

SVGS Librarian ~ *Margie Wilson*.

**FGS Society Hall is Moving!**

Society Hall has been the most comprehensive directory of genealogical and historical societies on the web for a number of years. It has been generously hosted by Ancestry.com at its FamilyHistory.com website. FGS member societies enjoy a listing for their organization and can use it to publish and maintain extensive contact information, member benefits, publication information, and event listings.

FGS is working with Ancestry.com to move the directory information to the FGS website. We will be making the changeover in late January or early February. Member societies will receive a notice from FGS with access information so that they can review and update their information. Look for more information about the new directory in coming issues of the *Voice* and in your society's email.

**Note:** SVGS member, Rita Schulze, has been our contact person with the Federation for several years and has done an excellent job of keeping all of us informed of activities with that organization.

***PBS lines up family history series  
"Faces of America"***

Mekeisha Madden Toby / Detroit News Television Writer

When "Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates Jr." premieres on PBS in February, viewers also will get to see former champion figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi shed tears when she learns about the grandfather she never really knew. Meanwhile, novelist Louise Erdrich is shown cheering out loud when she is told one of her ancestors was one of the founders of Detroit.

"What this special proves is that white people, Latino people and Asian people are just as ignorant about their ancestors as black people," Gates told reporters at a Television Critics Association lunch. "The difference was, this time we were able to go back further," Gates said.

Olympic gold medalist Yamaguchi said she is happy Gates approached her about doing the special. "As so many things were revealed, I learned so much about my family," said Yamaguchi, who ended up meeting a whole set of cousins in Japan she didn't know existed. "It was a huge honor. It was truly a gift." "Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates Jr." is just one of the big-ticket series PBS programmers have in store. January 14, 2010

Read more: <http://detnews.com/article/20100114/ENT10/1140329/PBS-lines-up-family-history-series--Faces-#ixzz0cuIYW20p>

**Notes from the genealogist desk:**

Did you know you can get a copy of the actual death certificate of people who died in Washington State from the Everett Family History Center. If your relatives died between 1900 and 1955 it is well worth the trip. There are some very nice people there to help you.

You don't need to Soundex your names as everything is on the computer.

In doing research for others I have used this resource frequently and paid 10¢ for each record that I printed out.

Take the Everett-Mall exit. Stay to the right which will take you back over the freeway going south. The Family History Center is on the Left. Enter the driveway and go around to right side. The door is marked. Family Library is right there.

Who knows, perhaps your certificate is just waiting to be copied

Everett Washington  
9509 19th Ave SE

Everett, Snohomish, Washington, United States

Phone: 425-337-0457

Hours: T, W, Th 11am-5 PM; W & Th 5 PM-8pm; Sat 9am-3pm

Closed: All Federal holidays,

Attention: Closed same as Everett School District during hazardous weather.

*Diane Partington* nonie.dl@Verizon.net

**FAMILY SEARCH INDEXING !**

Help create free public access to the U.S. census indexes and other records!

Volunteer, **Register to volunteer.** Start Indexing, **For those already registered.**

The key life events of billions of people are being preserved and shared through the efforts of people like you. Using our online indexing system, volunteers from around the world are able to quickly and easily transcribe the records—all from the convenience of their homes. The indexes are then posted for FREE at familysearch.org.

Millions of rolls of microfilm provide census, vital, probate, and church records from over 100 countries for indexing projects. Governments, churches, societies, and commercial companies are also working to make more records available.

YOU CAN HELP by volunteering to index one of the current U.S. census projects or the upcoming England and Wales census projects.

[http://www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset\\_indexing.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset_indexing.asp)

**A Simple Process**

We gather genealogical and historical records from around the world and convert them into digital images which are stored in our online system.

You download the images to your computer and transcribe the highlighted information used to create a searchable online index.

Everyone gets free access to the indexes at familysearch.org.

This article requested by Barbara Johnson.

**Upcoming Events**

**Mar 10—Jefferson County Genealogical Society** sponsors seminar with Carter L. Wilson III, professional researcher and lecturer specializing in U S Military records from the American Revolution to present, *Military Records Through the Eyes of a Genealogist*. He will also discuss *Our Vanishing Records*—do you know how many documents are missing from the National Archives? Neither do they! Tri-Area Community Center in Chimacum, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Registrations before March 13 is \$25; after or on day of event \$30. Space is limited so sign up early. Bring your own lunch. Mail to: JCGS, P O Box 627, Port Townsend, 98368 or from website <http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wajcgs> or call 360-385-9495 for information.

**Apr 10—Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island** with Dr. Stephen Morse, creator of the One Step Search Method which has unlocked information for thousands of genealogists in many databases on numerous websites. His topics will include: *A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools; A Hodge Podge of Lesser Known Gems; From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted to Know but were afraid to ask; and Phonetic Matching: an alternative to Soundex with fewer false hits*. Visit his website at <http://www.stevemorse.org> Useless Bay Country Club from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Further information available at society website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wagsswi>

**Feb 8 - Whatcom Genealogical Society** - Donna Potter Phillips of Spokane will discuss - *Examining Your Genealogical Skills*. Bring your pencils, pens or wax tablets as this program involves a test. Sometimes we genealogists have to sit back and enjoy knowing what we already know. Donna brings a Really-Fun, Discussion -Promoting 50-Question Genealogy Quiz and promises the meeting will be an enjoyable learning session...and that you will be glad to know all the things you already know about genealogy. 7:00 pm, St Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 2117 Walnut St, Bellingham.



# Survey for SVGS Programs

As your new Vice-president, I want to find out what types of programs you would like to see at our monthly meetings. Please fill out this survey and e-mail it back to me at [Raptorwoman@gmail.com](mailto:Raptorwoman@gmail.com) or snail mail it to: Barbara Johnson, 22628 Mosier Road, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284. If you would like to call me, my phone number is: 360-856-0870. I will also have hard copies at the next few meetings if you would prefer to fill out the survey then. Thank you for your responses. Barb Johnson

## Types of programs I would like to see:

### Internet Resources:

Yes/No/Maybe

Genealogy programs (such as Legacy, Family Tree Maker, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Search sites: (such as ancestry.com, footnote, world vital records) \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Basic Genealogy:

Evidence/citations how to \_\_\_\_\_

Family Group Sheets, how to do \_\_\_\_\_

Organization tips \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Library Resources:

How to use and "what's in them":

Fiske \_\_\_\_\_

Heritage Quest \_\_\_\_\_

Seattle Public Library \_\_\_\_\_

Seattle Genealogy Society \_\_\_\_\_

Other Genealogy Societies (suggestions) \_\_\_\_\_

NARA \_\_\_\_\_

Family History Library/Centers \_\_\_\_\_

Other Libraries (suggestions) \_\_\_\_\_

Other program ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to present a program on \_\_\_\_\_

(Name, if offering to do a program) \_\_\_\_\_

Our genealogy society meetings are a chance to network with others and to learn more about genealogy "how to". So please let me know what YOU would like to learn.



P O Box 715  
Conway, Washington 98238-0715

*It is That Time Again.  
If ~~It is That Time Again.~~ Please  
If you haven't ... Please  
Pay Your Dues for 2010*

### **"Who Do You Think You Are?"**

Of interest to genealogists is the introduction of "*Who Do You Think You Are?*". The show premieres Friday, March 5 (8-9 p.m. ET) on NBC and gives viewers an up-close and personal look inside the family history of some of today's most beloved and iconic celebrities. Among the celebrities featured are Matthew Broderick, Lisa Kudrow, Spike Lee, Sarah Jessica Parker, Susan Sarandon, Brooke Shields and Emmitt Smith. Ancestry.com is NBC's official partner on the series. "*Who Do You Think You Are?*" is an adaptation of the hit BBC television documentary series created and executive-produced by Alex Graham. The program will air every Friday night at 8 to 9 PM (Eastern time), until "Friday Night Lights" returns on April 30.

*Posted by Dick Eastman on January 14, 2010*

### ***The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers): the Limerick Papers***

Detailed records of an Irish religious group dating back to the 18th century have been made available for public viewing on the Internet. The Religious Society of Friends, better known as the Quakers, was founded in 1652 and records of Limerick and Clare members and their activities can now be accessed on Limerick City Council's website.

During the famine, the group helped to set up soup kitchens across the country and organised the distribution of seeds for other food crops. About €14m -- in today's money -- was raised for the country mainly from Quakers living abroad during the famine.

Limerick city archivist, Jacqui Hayes said Quakers were well known for their charity work and innovation.

Among the records online are the Quakers' relief committee minutes books, which record their decisions in relation to relief in Clare and Limerick during the famine.

You can find the Limerick Papers of the Society of Friends at <http://www.limerickcity.ie/Archives/ReligiousSocietyofFriendsQuakersLimerick/>