



President's Message

Well, I think that spring is finally here, I hope. That means it is time to start thinking about the family reunion you are going to attend or have. Pick a central location if possible or the old homestead to have it if possible. Send invitations out 2-3 months a head so they can make plans ahead to come. Then send out a postcard as a reminder about 3 weeks before the actual date of the reunion. Ask the relatives to bring pictures or any information on the family. Bring a video camera or tape recorder so you can have everyone introduce themselves and give a memory of some event that they can remember from years ago. This will usually spark other memories from other family members and it snowballs from there. With the video or tape recorder you will have it all on tape, because you will never remember all of what was said. Ask questions they you don't have answers for, because maybe someone else may have the answer. This is how we have started doing our reunions and it was amazing at what others brought up that some had forgotten. We were also able to find information from the older relatives about their childhoods and misc.

We are looking for some volunteers. Please help keep the society going. A society always needs volunteers to make it a succeed. Most of the help is only 5-10 hours a month. Ask one of the officers or board members and let us know what you would like to help with. We are still in need of a secretary besides volunteers.

Dottie Chandler
President

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 are \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for family membership.

Christine Cooper
Membership Chairperson

Volume 24 Number 2

President: Dottie Chandler

Newsletter pro-tem Dan Royal

PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs>

Openings for Board Positions

We are currently in need of persons to fill the following positions on the Board of Directors which meet once a month EXCEPT July and August.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Gather, compose and produce a bi-monthly newsletter with information relevant to members of the genealogical community.

Mail and/or submit to webmaster for posting on the society website

PROJECTS CHAIR:

Be responsible for the coordination of records and preservation projects undertaken by members of the Society;

Instruct membership in the procedure for the collection of primary source data;

Serve as clearing house for data collection;

Advise Board of Directors of all preservation projects being conducted;

Maintain a permanent record of data preserved by the Society.

WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:

Submit plans for fund raising projects to the Board of Directors

SUNSHINE PERSON:

Mail cards of condolence and be contact person for events involving members

One of my families is named McPhee. Well, that name is corrupted to McFee, McAfee, McAtee, McAffee and several other variations. The strangest one I found -- ever -- though was when Sarah Starr married Thomas Maggotty. The lesson being, don't count on a significant spelling. Think outside the box.

Submitted by our friend & Society Secretary



SVGS Board of Directors 2011

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- Vice President:** Barbara Johnson
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Special Committees

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- Audit/Budget:** Sharon Johnson
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- Bylaws/Standing Rules:** OPEN
- Refreshments:** OPEN
- Raffles/Door Prizes:** Sharon Johnson
- Obituary Index:** Nancy Bonafede
Dottie Chandler
Sylvia Ammons
Donna Stone
- Special History Projects:** Dan Royal
- SOCIETY EMAIL:** genealogy0715@gmail.com

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.

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*

Valuable Assets: Land Records

Many of us have wondered why our families had lived or relocated to a specific state or county. You may have searched high and low with no success for immigration and naturalization papers for great grandpa. You have been looking for that first marriage to no avail. You just can't seem to find what military regiment great great great grandpa fought in during the war. You have heard through family lore that your family were large land owns. These questions, stories, and notions have perplexed many a genealogist. You can possibly find your answers in land records.

There are many types of land records to search, each has different value and land records can be broken into two basic types State and Federal. State records include the volumes of deeds, purchase and sales agreement, titles, and more that are located in your local courthouses, title companies, and other state repositories. Federal land records include the treasure troves of Bounty Land Warrants and Applications, Land Entry Papers from several different acts, and Land Patents. For this article we will focus on Bounty Land records and the surprising information you can find in them.

Bounty Land Warrants and Applications have been known by many genealogists for decades to contain valuable information. Sadly they seem to be little used and overlooked by many researchers. I believe this is due to a lack of knowledge of the subject. There is a huge difference between a Bounty Land Warrant and a Bounty Land Warrant Application but both have great value. Most people go to the Bureau of Land Management website and get copies of their relatives Bounty Land Warrant and or Patent. These are easy to find and are designated with the beginning letters of MW in the accession number. MW is the designation for Military Warrant. These are valuable because they will state in what military regiment your relative fought with. This is valuable information to find the

Bounty Land Warrant Application. The military information you find on the warrant may be in contradiction to information you have but this is the information they used by the BLM and the Military to file and categorize the warrant application. Sometimes you can find other pertinent information such as relatives on a warrant.

A Bounty Land Warrant was a kin to our current G.I. Bill. The government used the promise of land as an incentive to join the military or fight in a war. The Warrant technically refers to the actual script that the soldier or Land Office received promising the land. A Patent was issued to the soldier or his assignee after a proper application was received and approved by the War Department. What you are really looking for is the application that was used to obtain the Military Warrant. Many times these contain tons of genealogically pertinent information. There was a recent discovery in a 1870s era Bounty Land Application of a diary. This diary was a Revolutionary War soldier's memories of his time with General George Washington at Valley Forge. Bounty Land Warrants were transferrable; families could apply for and receive their relative's warrants. The family would have to prove lineage to the soldier in order to receive their benefit. Sometimes they would cut pages out of the family bible, send in diaries, create family group sheets with affidavits, and they would send them to the government to prove their relationship to the soldier. These are still in the files.

The Bounty Land Warrant Applications are arranged in an organized manor at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington DC. Understanding their organization could be a book in itself but here is the quick and dirty information. There are approved and rejected applications; these applications are arranged in what is called indexed and un-indexed files. Indexed Bounty Land Applications are arranged in this order Acreage, Military Regiment, and Name. This is why the warrant information is so important. The un-indexed Bounty Land Applications are arranged by name, this can present problems with common names such as John Smith. Many times if you order an Un-indexed Bounty Land Application by name only, your pull can be sent back unfilled asking for more information. This can be a waste of half a day and if you are on a serious time schedule, it can throw in a huge monkey wrench into your research day.

Bounty Land Applications are a huge source of data on our relatives. They contain unique and critical information to your research that cannot be found anywhere else. There is always the chance that they contain little information but many times they contain information that at the very least confirms your theories or total blows your research wide open. This is what I like about them, it is like playing the lottery you can end up with little information or you can hit the mother lode. I have never been sorry that I pulled a Bounty Land Application.

Eric Stroschein

Burlington Public Library

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Burlington, WA 98233
Phone (360) 755-0760
Email:
blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us
Hours: Monday – Thursday
11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday – Closed
**SVGS Library Collection
located here. SVGS Volun-
teers available on Mondays
from 11:00—1:00 to assist with
questions.
Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian**









Coming Events

- 9 April 2011 - Olympia, WA
The Olympia Genealogical Society will hold their annual Spring Seminar, featuring speakers on "Migration By Wagons, Trains and Ships." Topics will be "Migration and Westward Expansion," "Wagons West," "Railroads and Their Role in Western Migration," and "Westward Migration Via Ships." \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. \$5 late fee after 26 March 2011. Time 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Here is a link to the society's seminar page for more information and a registration brochure. Attendance is limited to 70, so plan to register early.
- 7 May 2011 - Tacoma, WA
The Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society will host Laura G. Prescott, President of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Held at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites, 1425 East 27th St., Tacoma, WA. \$35 for members, \$50 for non-members. Time 8 am to 4 pm. Here is a link to the brochure. For more information on Laura Prescott click here. Check the society's web site for more information.
- 3-5 June 2011 - Montreal, Quebec, Canada
The Quebec Family History Society will host ROOTS 2011 - An International Conference on Family History Research. This event will be the largest English-language genealogical conference ever held in Quebec. There will be numerous well-known speakers discussing all aspects of family history research, computer demonstrations, and a book fair. All lectures and events are in English. Location will be at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For complete program details and registration form visit the QFHS website (above) or e-mail: roots2011@bell.net You may also write to: ROOTS 2011, Quebec Family History Society, P.O. Box 1026, Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada H9S 4H9 or call: 514-428-0236
- 16-17 Sep 2011 - Richland, WA
The Washington State Genealogical Society will present their 2011 Annual Seminar, sponsored by the Tri-City Genealogical Society. Featured speaker will be Patricia Walls Stamm, GC, CGL, from St. Louis, MO. In addition to a bonus session on Friday night, Patricia will present three topics on Saturday, along with many other presenters with many topics. There will be three concurrent topics of four each. More details to follow so check back often at this link: <http://www.tricitygenealogicalsociety.org/wiki/doku.php> **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW** so you won't miss this event!!
Source: Washington State Genealogical Society Website; <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasgs/wsgscal.htm>

Speakers Down the Road

Stay tuned for upgrades

<p>March 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Spar • NARA 	<p>April 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Robe Summit • Quilts and Genealogy 	<p>May 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Lopresti – WWU • Census Enumeration Districts 
<p>June 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Stroschein • Military Pensions 	<p>July 2011</p> <p>No meetings Have a fun summer.</p> 	<p>August 2011</p> <p>No meetings Have a fun summer.</p> 

Family History Research Methods

Classes for April 2011

Presented by

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and Mount Vernon Senior Activity Center

Mondays: April 4, 11, 18, 25

- 12:30 - 3:30 PM -

Mount Vernon Senior Activity Center

1401 Cleveland Street - Mount Vernon, WA

Acquire Research Skills:

- Starting a research notebook
- Introduction to reference materials, sources and tools

Review of the Research Process:

- Focusing your research objectives
- Using research notes and logs
 - Documenting your sources
 - Evaluating your research

Genealogical Sources:

- Strategies for using sources
- Federal Census indexes, images
 - Land Records introduction
- Local archives and libraries

Registration fee - \$35.00

To Register: Mail a check with your name, address, and phone number to:

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

P.o. Box 715, Conway, WA.98238-0715

For information call 360-770-0741

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 - 2011

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 _____

INSTITUTION \$15 _____



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Wanted: Newsletter Editor