



## President's Message

I think winter is over but then again I'm not sure it ever arrived. With early spring upon us there is the sound of lawnmowers in the air including mine. Dan Royal has his committee reading the Hawthorne Cemetery which is a sure sign of spring.

Having not been involved with our SVGS board for several years, I've not witnessed the inner workings of our board until recently. What a fun bunch to work with! All of our board members are dedicated to making our society function properly and I look forward to our meetings. In addition I've attended several committee meetings and found all to be efficient and moving forward. Barbara Johnson has the seminar committee making great strides with good help from her committee members along with her timely reminders and requests for input. Nothing is done in a vacuum. All of her committee chairs are filled but she is looking for volunteers to fill her committees. Keep September 19 open and plan to enjoy an informative seminar.

Our board has several issues to discuss at a retreat planned for March. These are issues that are too time consuming to take up at a regular board meeting. Having never been to a retreat it will be fun to actually chair such an open discussion and receive input from our various board members on the long

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range planning issues of our society. This will require some serious homework on my part to stay ahead of them. Hazel has graciously made arrangements for the retreat.

If you have any comments about either our board meetings or general meetings please contact me. We are always open to suggestions. Remember you are invited to attend our board meetings and observe how your board functions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Oh, yes, please be sure your 2015 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.

## CONDOLENCES

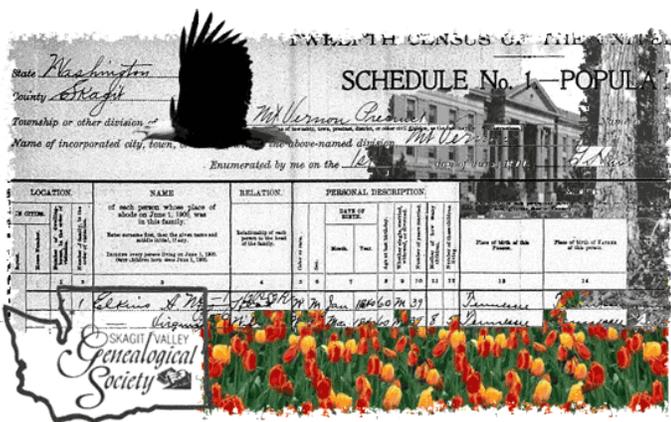
Condolences to our secretary, Muriel Neely, on the passing of her younger brother Daniel in Alaska on February 19, 2015

We would also like to extend our condolences to the family of one of our members James William "Jim" Mulkins who passed away January 29th, 2015 after a short bout with cancer.

## IGRS launches "Early Irish Birth Index"

By Dick Eastman

The following announcement was written by the folks at the Irish Genealogical Research Society: IGRS launches 'Early Irish Birth Index' on its website: <http://www.IrishAncestors.ie> The Irish Genealogical Research Society - 'The Great Granddaddy of Irish Family History Societies' - has launched another new and innovative database to add to those already found on its website, [www.irishancestors.ie](http://www.irishancestors.ie).



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**Ways & Means:** OPEN

**Publicity:** OPEN

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**Refreshments:** OPEN

**Raffles/Door Prizes:**

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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

## 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



### SVGS Member,

If you have been to our website, you can see that it has alot of useful tabs. I am looking for some people who would like to learn how to create pages and posts on the site. If you have an interest or if you know someone who would like to learn a little about wordpress. Let me know at george-wayjr@gmail.com.

Thank you.

### Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave  
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



## Whidbey Island Genealogical Society

**March 10, 2015.** We will have Laura Sparr as our speaker; the subject will be preparing and using research loogs. She is one of the most knowledgeable and enjoyable of our speakers.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO YOUR FAMILY HISTORY will be presented on Wednesdays March 11th, 18th, and 25th at 6:30 PM at the Oak Harbor Senior Center. The classes will be hosted and presented by Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers (WIGS) and members of the Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island. Basic genealogy research principles and strategies needed to find the pieces of your family history puzzle will be introduced with a focus on sources for basic family history documents, how and where to find them, including the use of digital resources. There's no fee for these classes, but pre-registration is required by Friday, March 6th. Call the Oak Harbor Senior Center at 360-279-4580 or sign-up in person at 51 SE Jerome St. Classes will be limited to 15 people.

**April 25, 2015** Genealogy Society of South Whidbey sponsoring a special seminar featuring Bill Dollarhide on from 8 AM to 3:30 PM, at Dancing Fish Farmhouse, 1953 Newman Road, Freeland, WA 98249. Registration fee \$50 till 20 Mar, late registration fee \$55. Lunch \$12. Topics: Using Deeds to Trace the Trails of Your Ancestors, New York Census & Substitutes, Dollarhide's Five rules, and You Know About Census Records, But What About Census Substitutes? Questions: email patj1717@gmail.com.

### *New Seminar Coming*

*The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society will hold it's seminar later this year on September 19, 2015 at the Mount Vernon Senior Center in Mount Vernon, WA. The theme will be "It's All About Life". For further details, stay tuned to our website at skagitvalleygenealogy.org. Registration will begin late May, early June.*



### SVGS Members,

We have a new BLOG on our website. If you are interested in participating in our blog go to [skagitvalleygenealogy.org/BLOG](http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org/BLOG) to see how you can register and log in.

Thank you.

SVGS Webmaster  
George E. Ridgeway Jr.

## Some humor for you to enjoy

- 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
- Definition of mythology: genealogy without documentation.
- 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.



## TENNESSEE LAWS

[http://www.allstatescarhire.com/american\\_laws/tennessee.htm](http://www.allstatescarhire.com/american_laws/tennessee.htm)

1. "It is against the law in Dyersburg for a woman to call a man for a date."
2. It is illegal for frogs to croak after 11 pm.
3. It is illegal for a woman to drive herself in Memphis. A man must walk or run in front of the vehicle, waving red flag in order to warn approach-

## MURPHY'S LAW

You finally find the wedding record for your ggggrandfather only to discover the married Mary SMITH whose father was John SMITH and mother was Mary JONES.

You finally found the information you needed to solve the family mystery you have been working on for 2 years and your elderly aunt says "could have told you that!"

## For Those of You Born 1930-1969

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter and bacon. We drank Kool-Aide made with real white sugar and we weren't overweight. WHY? Because we were always playing outside. We'd leave home in the morning and play all day long as we were back home before supper.

## **5 Little-Used Records for Genealogical Research**

[Michael J. Leclerc's Genealogy News](#)

### **1. Consulate Records**

Many of us have ancestors who spent at least some time abroad. Perhaps they were seamen, sailing from port to port to deliver goods to foreign ports and bring others back to America. Perhaps they were serving as missionaries in far-off lands. Whatever the reason, you may find information about them, including records of birth, marriage, and death, in the records of the State Department. These records are housed at the National Archives. In order to find this information, you will need to know the date and place where your ancestor was. With that, you can discover the consulate or embassy that served that location.

### **2. Local Censuses**

We often use federal and state censuses as part of our research. But how about local censuses? In Massachusetts, for example, the cities and towns (except for Boston) are required to “annually in January or February visit or communicate with the residents of each building in their respective cities and towns and, after diligent inquiry, shall make true lists containing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name, date of birth, occupation, veteran status, nationality, if not a citizen of the United States, and residence on January 1 of the preceding year and the current year, of each person three years of age or older residing in their respective cities and towns.” Accessing those records at town hall could provide a gold mine of information.

### **3. Fraternal/Benefit Organizations**

These can be a rich source of information, even more so when dealing with immigrants. In the days prior to the widespread availability of insurance, many organizations were founded as mutual aid/mutual benefit societies to provide assistance in time of need. Many of these were founded by immigrant groups (such as the Irish and the Catholic Order for Foresters), and their records may provide information on the immigrant’s origins. The same can be true of other groups, such as the masons, who recorded the lodge where incoming members first joined, and other lodges he had been a member of. This valuable information can help you track the movements of your ancestors.

Check out our redesigned web page at [skagitvalleygenealogy.org](http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org)

### **4. Ear or Cattle Marks**

In many times and places, livestock was allowed to wander in communal areas. This mandated that people be able to identify their own livestock from that of others. Marks were made in different ways. Sometimes a pattern of cuts would be made in the ear. Other times, brands were used in the animal’s hide. This allowed owners to cull their livestock from a communal herd. The marks were proprietary, and were often passed from father to son. They could also be sold as part of a person’s estate.

### **5. Dog Licenses**

Dogs have been the pets of humans for centuries. By the nineteenth century, licensing was often required in populated areas. How can dog licenses help you genealogically? Think of them as a specialized form of tax list. Dog licenses can provide evidence of where a person lived. They might even provide you with an exact address, which is especially helpful in areas where city directories were sparse. And, of course, you can learn more about the family pet as well.

### **Do you have Adoptions or non family events in your family history**

There is an article in the Mocavo newsletter regarding this brick wall for many. It is written by Michael J. Leclerc. It addresses the DNA testing into research the last few years and how it is helping adoptees find there family roots.

Adoptees often have a difficult time determining their origins. Laws prohibit access to information on birth parents, leaving adoptees and their descendants with many questions. DNA testing companies, however, are offering a way around these laws. Combining with online family trees, many adoptees are able to find their birth family. The *Washington Times* recently ran a story on this subject.

Whether the adoption was today, or two hundred years ago, DNA can help you identify the birth lineage of your ancestors. If you have this type of problem, start mapping out a plan for testing to combine with traditional resources to identify your true ancestors. And realize that you may never know the true circumstances behind the non-paternal event, so do not judge your ancestors so hastily.

## Skagit Valley Genealogical Society 2015 Programs



**March 21st You Found It ...Now Flaunt It:** Presented by Teresa Schulze. Tessa has been scrapbooking for 20 years and family research for 15. She will demonstrate techniques in digital scrapbooking to showcase your important documents and photos.

**April 11th An Overview of Scandinavian Research:** presented by Jill Morelli, professional genealogist and professional architect from Seattle. She is a sole proprietor of Cascade Research Services devoted to genealogical research.

May 9th

June 13th

July: **No meeting**

August: **No meeting**

September 12th

October 10th

November 7th **Year-end meeting. Brick Walls**

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society meets on the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM at the Burlington Senior Center, 1011 Greenleaf Avenue, Burlington, WA.

For more information check out [www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org](http://www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org)

**<https://rootstech.org/about/videos/>**

The link above is to the RootsTech 2014 Conference in Salt Lake City. Scroll down through the various session/video selections, click on the ones you wish to view. I thought perhaps some of you would be interested in these educational sessions. -- Margie Wilson

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 - 2013**

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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