



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

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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

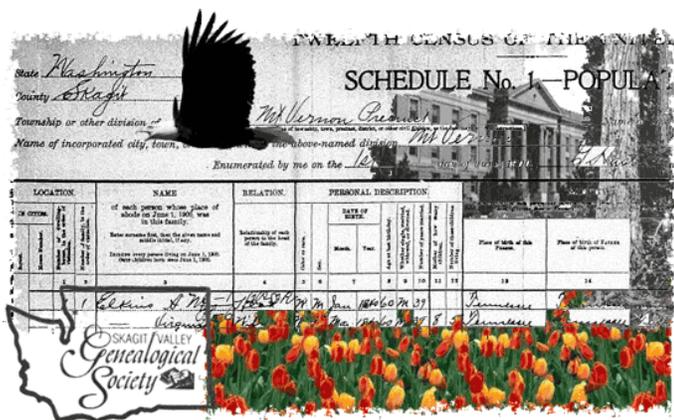
Inspired to find your Irish story? We're opening all our records from Ireland, March 11-17. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day learning about your Irish ancestors. Ancestry.com

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





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Ways & Means: OPEN

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Audit/Budget: OPEN

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Refreshments: OPEN

Raffles/Door Prizes: Sharon Johnson
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SOCIETY EMAIL: genealogy0715@gmail.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.
 a 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.

FREE!
& the public is welcome

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

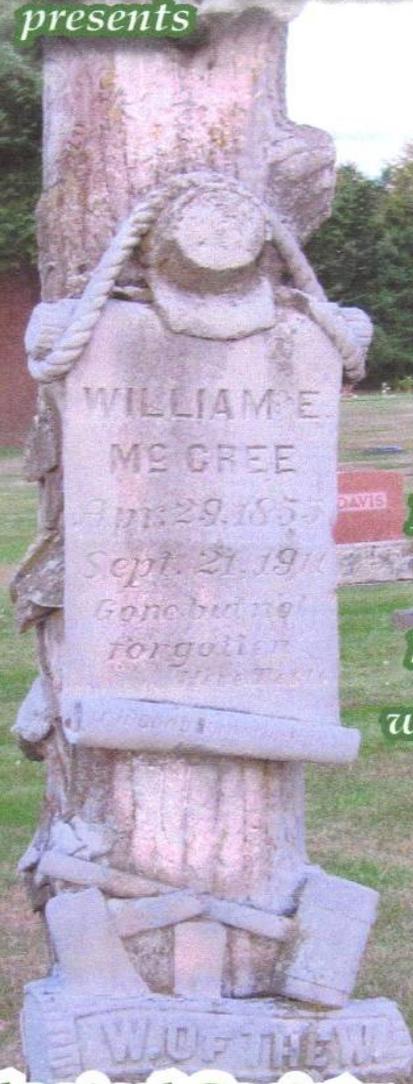
Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

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.



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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Conway, WA. 98238-0715

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED