



President's Message

Finally summer feels like it is just around the corner as our cool wet spring reluctantly releases its grip. Our very educational seminar is past us and your board is moving ahead. They are currently working with a couple of different groups that have requested some genealogy classes. More details will be provided later.

V.P. Margie Wilson has arranged for "A Salem Witch Trial Re-Enactment by Actual Descendants" for our June 10 meeting. This original presentation by Tessa and Rita Schulze is based on a true story of their ancestors who were accused of witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts. Their readings are taken directly from the witch trial records they have researched and discovered. This should be a fascinating presentation.

As you may recall we have no meetings in July and August so you can concentrate on family reunions, trips and further your genealogy research over the summer.

On September 9 our own Education Chair Barbara Johnson will present one of her favorite subjects "DNA and Genealogy. Having your DNA checked is easy and you'll find it adds more background information on where your family originated. Barbara will explain some of the mysteries of DNA.

Enjoy our June meeting and have a safe summer. Good luck with your research!

John Hayes

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Volume 31 Number 3
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WELCOME TO FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS!

What is Community Rewards?

It is the latest addition to the Fred Meyer Rewards Program where you can earn donations for your favorite nonprofit just by shopping with your Rewards Card. Fred Meyer will donate \$2.5 million to nonprofits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington in 2014 through this new program. Here's how it works: Link your Rewards Card to your favorite nonprofit at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. Whenever you use your Rewards card when shopping at Freddy's, you'll be helping the nonprofit linked to your Rewards Card to earn a donation from Fred Meyer. At the end of each quarter, Fred Meyer will make a donation to participating nonprofits based on the accumulated spending of the Rewards customers linked to each nonprofit. Fred Meyer will donate \$625,000 each quarter via Community Rewards! Do I still get Rewards Points, Fuel Points and Rebates? YES! Rewards Customers still get the Rewards Points, Fuel Points and Rebates.

So please go to these sites and help us out. It is appreciated.

OXYMORONS< ENIGMAS & THEORIES ABOUT GENEALOGY

Oxymoron: "I love history, but I dislike genealogy." Don't you want to tell these people that genealogy is family history?

Enima: How so many published trees record people who died before they were born.

Murphy's Law of Genealogy: Your ancestor's maiden name will be recorded on the one record page that is missing.



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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*

SVGS Library Notes – Spring/Summer 2017

NEW ADDITIONS:

There are a couple of local history books being added to the SVGS collection this month. First: A brand new hardcover book by local authors, Patricia Hanstad Pleas, Janet K. Utgard and Andrea Millward Xaver. All three ladies are descendants of Skagit County pioneers. The title is, *Images of America: Fir Island and Conway*. The Images of America book series are published by Arcadia Publishing and include local histories from towns across the U.S.A. I enjoy these books as they feature historic photographs of the towns and the pioneer families. You can find this new book in the Skagit section (top shelf of the lower bank of shelves below the sign-in sheet at the library). The book shelf # is: SKAGIT .0136. I hope you will come by and browse through the book and learn a bit more about Skagit County's early beginnings. This 2017 published book is now available at the Skagit County Historical Museum, The Tattered Page Bookstore in Mount Vernon and I've also seen it on www.smile.amazon.com.*

Second: Another history/biographical book by author, Chris C. Siegel, will be added to the SVGS collection. The book was published in 1948. The title of this volume is: *Early History of Ferndale and Ten Mile Townships – Whatcom County, Washington*. In the back of the book is included a list of Ferndale township homesteaders from 1871 to 1889. This is a small paperback book (110 pages) with brief biographies and historic photographs. This small paperback is a quick read and fine excuse to come in and visit the SVGS library collection at the Burlington Public Library (820 E. Washington Ave.) on a rainy day and read it cover to cover.

GENEALOGY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE UPDATES:

A reminder for the summer months that due to the Fourth of July and Labor Day holidays falling on the first weekend of the month a genealogy volunteer will **not** be available on those two specific first Saturdays of the month. Otherwise, we hope to see you and help you with your genealogy questions on Saturdays, June 3, August 5 and October 5 between 11:00am to 1:00pm. The regular first Saturday genealogy volunteer schedule continues through the rest of the year.

As always, if you would like to learn more about becoming an SVGS Library Volunteer please contact me. I will be glad to give you an orientation to the library collection and you can shadow other library volunteers for a while until you feel confident to go solo staffing the library volunteer time.

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT SVGS:

*The benefit of purchasing books from smile.amazon.com is that you can designate SVGS to receive money back quarterly from your purchases. Nothing is deducted or added to your purchase price – smile.amazon.com just “gives back” to non-profits via that program. I encourage you to link your regular Amazon.com account to smile.amazon.com and designate Skagit Valley Genealogical Society as the non-profit you wish to support through your online purchases through smile.amazon.com. Imagine, at the end of the year how all those combined purchases can really add up and help our society in so many ways.

Enjoy your summer of family history researching. I hope you also find some opportunities for “genealogy tourism” to seminars, conferences, visiting libraries, archives, and historical museums – both locally, in the US or – whoo hoo – in the village and/or country of your ancestors!! May you make many great discoveries!

~ Margie Wilson, SVGS Librarian

Genealogy's often misspelled words

Genealogy—No, it is not spelled “geneology” nor is it spelled in the manner I often see: “geneaology.” That last word looks to me as if someone thought, “Just throw all the letters in there and hope that something sticks.” For some reason, many newspaper reporters and their editors do not know how to spell this word, Don't they have spell checkers?

Cemetery— The letter “a” does not appear anywhere in the word “cemetery.” You can remember the spelling by an old saying, “We go to the cemetery with “E's.” (ease)

Ancestor— This simple word is often spelled “ancester,” “ansester,” “ancestor.”

History— More than once have I seen someone refer to their “family history” or “family histry.”

Descent— Perhaps not as common, but I have seen this spelled as “decent”, which sounds almost the same.

Descendant— it often appears as descendent, descendent and many others.

Progenitor— I can never remember how to spell this word. I simply try to avoid it when I am writing.

This is an article from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter-Plus Edition from April 6th, 2013

Genealogy Humor

Hillary, an amateur genealogical researcher, discovered that her great-great uncle, Remus Rodham, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows.



On the back of the picture is this inscription: “Remus Rodham; horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889.” In Hillary's Family History, her staff of professional image consultants cropped Remus's picture, scanned it, enlarged the image, and edited it with image processing software so that all that's seen is a head shot.

The accompanying biographical sketch is as follows:

“Remus Rodham was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.”

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 1st Saturday from 11:00—1:00**



Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Monthly Meetings 2nd Saturdays, 1-3pm

Burlington Senior Center | 1011 Greenleaf Ave. | Burlington, WA | skagitvalleygenealogy.org | genealogy0715@gmail.com

---- 2017 Schedule----

- Sat. June 10** – **“Connecting the Past to Present: Bringing Our Ancestors to Life”**
 -- Tessa and Rita Schulze
 This is an original presentation by SVGS members, Tessa and Rita Schulze. This living history drama tells the true story of their ancestors who were accused and tried for witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts. The plays dialog is taken directly from the witch trial records that they researched and discovered. Tessa and Rita researched, wrote the script for the play and even sewed their period costumes!. This will be a fascinating and unique family history program!

---- July-August -- No meetings -- See you in September! ----

- Sat. Sept. 9** – **“DNA and Genealogy”** – Barbara Johnson
 Back by popular request is SVGS Education Chair, Barbara Johnson for another educational program on DNA! Barbara retired from the Seattle Science Center as a scientist and program instructor. A popular trend in the genealogy community is DNA testing. Which test is the best choice? How do DNA tests help you with your family history research? What are the different types of tests to choose from? Barbara will clarify these and many other questions so you can make an informed decision and add a DNA test in your research tool-kit.

Note Topic Change:

- Sat. Oct. 14** -- **"Researching Your Native American Ancestors"** -- Dr. Janice --C. Lovelace
 Also back by request and on a new in-depth topic is Dr. Lovelace. Many of us have heard family stories such as, "your great-grandmother was an Indian princess." How does a family researcher begin to discover if it is true? What federal, state and tribal records are available? Dr. Lovelace will help you unravel this puzzle with this Introduction to Native American Research.

- Sat. Nov. 11** -- **Annual Meeting and Honoring Our Military Ancestors on Veteran's Day**
 Do you have an ancestor who served in the military? (Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War or other war.) Please share with us your ancestor's story to honor him or her for Veteran's Day. Several short (<10 minute) presentations by several SVGS members would be interesting to hear and learn from. If you would like to give a presentation about your relative or ancestor please contact Margie Wilson (rootsproject@frontier.com/757-6224) to sign up. Please contact her by October 31 so she can add you to the schedule.

---- December – No meeting -- See you on January 13, 2018 ----

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.

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.

Connecting Past to Present Bringing the Family History to Life

The family was gathered in the living room, with lively chatter and laughter. The Christmas tree twinkled its merry comment as I slipped away.

In the backroom, my mother, Rita, helped transform me into a colonial puritan girl. I gathered my chart, and made my entrance.

This scene had really began years ago, when we had discovered that one of the family's ancestors was Mary Bradbury, one of the convicted witches of the famous Salem witch trials. Over the years I have gathered transcripts and copies of the pages of the old records pertaining to Mary's trial. Mary's story is a compelling glimpse of history and heritage.

My mother and I have sought to tell the family stories at family gatherings to give them a sense of their roots. Games and activities, including a photo booth, have been part of our Christmas celebration for several years. When I mentioned that I wanted to tell Mary's story in the form of a play, the idea evolved into a full production with colonial costumes for the photo booth. We scoured the shelves of thrift stores for costume parts and yards of fabric from old curtains, sheets and couch covers. We set about sewing and planning.

On Christmas day I stood amidst the colonial Christmas decorations of fruit, pineapple and swags of greenery with my chart in hand. We showed the lineage to Mary through many generations. As mom handed out the costumes the excitement and chatter rose.

We had been nervous about how the family would react to getting into costumes, but there was more excitement than trepidation as they put their costumes on, transforming into colonial ladies and gentlemen. Once gathered in the living room I handed out the scripts, and handed the magistrate his gavel. The trial began.

The Magistrate calls Mary Bradbury to the stand. "Mary Bradbury, you are charged with certain detestable arts called witchcraft, wickedly, maliciously, and feloniously practiced in the town of Andover in the county of..."

Mary Bradbury was seventy years old at the time of her trial, and in poor health. Rita, playing the matriarch of a large and well respected family, pleads her innocence, "I am a servant of Jesus Christ and have given myself to him as my only lord and savior, and am diligent in his service, in utter contempt and defiance of the devil..."

The testimony that follows gives insight into the deep superstitions of the times. Through the course of the play it becomes obvious that the evidence against Mary was solely based on the 'visions' of the accusers. At the time of the trials, there was an argument whether such evidence, called spectral evidence, should be allowed. Anyone could make such claims, and there was no way to refute the claims.

Indeed, Mary's accusers were from families that had long standing grudges against the Bradburys. A cameo of Mary and Thomas Bradbury brings to light the deep grudge the Carr family held against them, starting with Mary's refusal of George Carr's marriage proposal. Later, she had refused permission for her daughter, Jane, to marry John Carr, because she was too young to marry. John had become depressed, and then became ill and died. James Carr had also lost in love to one of Mary's sons as they had courted the same woman. Certainly the family's prosperity and connections to other prominent colonial families had given rise to envy and jealousy. The witch trials, reliant on spectral evidence, provided the atmosphere for old hatreds and grudges to churn to the surface as accusations fueled by the deep superstitions of the times.

The trial ends with Mary's conviction. The narrator tells how Mary, although convicted, was spared hanging. Her family and friends freed Mary and they fled to safety.

After the play was finished and the pictures taken, the family lingered for snacks and conversation. My mom and I were gratified by the number of conversations the play had spawned as they came to a greater understanding of their personal connection to history and the meaning imparted to the present. I was gratified that this was one family story that would not be forgotten on a page in my file.

Submitted by Tessa Schulze

Genealogy Humor

“It is New Year’s Eve 1852 and (ancestor’s name redacted to protect the not-so-innocent) sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his pen into the inkwell and begins to write his New Year’s resolutions:

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document.
2. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.
3. I resolve to always alternate my kids’ and wife’s first and middle names when the census taker comes and to call my children by odd names which he is unable to spell correctly.
4. My age is no one’s business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
5. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church—either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
6. I resolve to move to a new town, new county or a new state at least once every ten years—just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions. I also resolve that I shall be absent on the night of the census, or is unable to be absent on census night, I shall endeavor to be enumerated twice.
7. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
8. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
9. When the tax collector comes to my door, I’ll loan him my pen which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
10. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die I will marry another Mary.
11. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?
12. I resolve to not clutter up good farm pastures with headstones that will just get broken or fade with time anyway.
13. I resolve to come from Ireland (where there are no records or if there are, they can only be examined by visiting the exact village, pleading with the local clergyman who is hostile to anyone not of his belief—you and/or require you to hand over a fee equal to or exceeding your yearly income for one hour’s research which may not find anything.
14. I resolve that not only shall I not die in my country of birth, but neither shall my children (yea verily) unto

the sixth generation.

15. I resolve that I and most of my family shall die suddenly just before death certification is established, in a parish where easy access to the records ceases the previous year.

16. I resolve that when I die, my children/wife are instructed to give the wrong details for my death certificate.

Best Genealogy Search Websites of 2017

As per Purch reviews by Renee Shipley

1. Ancestry-Pros/It has billions of records dating back to the turn of the millennium and including one of the most extensive collections of immigrations records. Cons/Subscription to access Ancestry’s services cost more than its competitors charge.
2. MyHeritage-Pros/MyHeritage strongly encourages getting your whole family involved with genealogy by offering kids games and easy family sharing. Cons/It doesn’t have Native American resources available.
3. FamilySearch-Pros/This genealogy website is free for anyone to use. Cons/ It does not provide DNA testing services.
4. Archives-Pros/ This family history search has a wide range of document types, including newspapers dating back to the 1700s. Cons/ Records only cover the US and UK—not even Canada or Australia are represented on Archives
5. Findmypast: Pros/has all of the crucial records we looked for in its database. Cons/ this site doesn’t offer much support outside of research articles or a FAQs section
6. OneGreatFamily-Pros/this site consistently evaluates sources for accuracy to avoid duplicates and incorrect reports. Cons/Material in the database depends on what members contribute. Any extra information has to come from an external link on the website.
7. Genealogy Bank -Pros/This is an excellent genealogy search engine for finding newspaper articles. Cons/The information focuses only on the United States
8. MyTrees-Pros/ It has distinct features like a professional genealogist directory data converter, family tree maker and learning center. Cons/Some sources that MyTrees taps into require you to subscribe to their databases, in addition to your MyTrees subscription, in order to access them
9. The Genealogical Research Library- Pros/Materials in this database are categorized geographically so it is easy to begin research into the places significant to your family history. Cons/The Genealogical Research Library is all about solo research so it doesn’t have extra features like family tree builders, DNA test or a community.

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 - 2017

APPLICANTS NAME

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

AREA CODE ()

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

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New Member _____

Renewal _____

Previous Member _____

FAMILY \$ 20 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15 _____



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