



Volume 16 Number 4
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President's Message

Wow! This society does a great job with publications (thanks especially to the hard work of Hazel Rasar, John Fisher, and the rest of the publications committee and cemetery readers. Please congratulate yourselves and say thank you to all of those involved in the diligent work; the people and the products are remarkable.

We now, in addition, have a new project, which is the brainchild of Hazel Rasar. She will co-chair the committee with Dan Royal. Although the special project does not have a specific name as yet, and will probably take five or so years for the finished product to emerge, the committee has already had two meetings at which they have tried to define the scope of the project. To make a very short synopsis, we will be collecting information from current residents about the history of their family in Skagit County and compiling a book with that information. It is also possible that information about the county itself - the banks, transportation, topography, etc. and publishing that as well. Should you like to serve on this committee, or just have idea to share, please contact Hazel or Dan. What a wonderful addition to the history of the area this compilation of information will make. Thanks, Hazel, for a great idea and the follow-through of same.

As for genealogy; It's time to focus. Pick one area of your genealogical research in which you believe yourself to be stuck, re-read every document regarding that family, prepare lists of books and microfilm you have already searched (if you have not already done so), make lists of census to see, of things to request by mail (such as vital records and obituaries), search the internet for cemetery records, do a thorough look at other types of records that might be useful. Let me know your results; better yet, come by the office and I'll try to give you some helpful suggestions.

Have a great fall and a spectacular winter. We have no general meeting in December so use that evening to accomplish even more on your search, then return in January to share what you found - we're going to start sharing at every meeting.

Hugs and smiles,

Laura

Liberty Bell Has Been Moved

The Liberty Bell has been moved to a new home 1,000 feet to the new Liberty Bell Center 9 October 2003. The 2,080-pound bell was delivered to Philadelphia in 1752 and hung in the Pennsylvania State House, later Independence Hall, and starting in 1753 was there before being moved to the Liberty Bell Pavilion in 1976 .

The cost of the new Liberty Bell Center cost \$12.6 million with primary funding coming from the City of Philadelphia and other sources.

Nov. - Dec. 2003
Attention !!
Calendar of Events
General Meeting:

25 November Laura Sparr President SVGS on Passenger Lists.

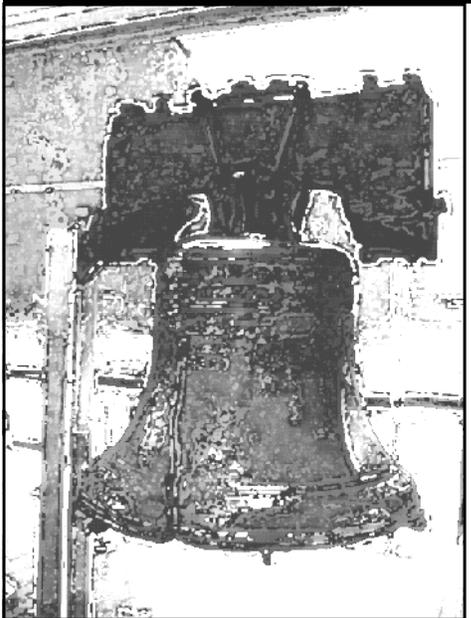
No Meeting for December

27 January Margarie Kott will speak on "Researching My Husbands Family"

24 February "I've got to get Organized" From Laura Sparr, John Fisher, Hazel Rasar

23 March "Genealogical Breakthrough" From John Hayes; "Auto Biographies" from John Fisher and a Book Report by Sharon Johnson

27 April "Genealogical Research on the Internet" from Hazel Rasar



Message from your Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Along with a new search engine for our obituary name index; Dan hopes to have a new look for the website done by the new year. Stay tuned.

SVGS Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/wasvgs>

Visit our website and give some feedback on what you see.

Do you have a family or personal website you would like to have listed with a link on our website, let us know. If you would like to have a website, our webmaster *Dan Royal* will be glad to assist you in setting one up.

Publications:

Publication committee has been very active over the past few months. Mount Vernon Cemetery, Bay View Cemetery and Bow Cemetery have all been completed and are now ready for purchase. See attached flyer insert.

The Fir-Conway Lutheran Cemetery and the Guemes Island cemeteries are both in the proof reading stages and should be available around the first of the year. At a recent meeting it was determined, at the request of local mortuaries, that the Funeral Home Index book needs to be updated. John Fisher of the Projects committee will be checking with local mortuaries to make arrangements for obtaining copies of funeral records since 1994.

Obituary Database:

More than 18,535 obits from 19 different area newspapers are in this database. Earlier obituaries are less consistently entered, dating from perhaps 1907. Hazel stated that obits are not accessible in local newspapers, but an index of obituaries in our files will be online. The obituaries and news articles will be available at a small fee if requested. The group is also collecting obits from the year 2000 to present for later processing.

Programs:

John Hayes on programs reported no change. He reported on the survey conducted at the last meeting. There were 20 surveys completed and turned in. The most requested program was using Internet for genealogical purposes, indicated by 12 of the 20 respondents. Eighteen of the respondents had a computer. This was a more than 50% response from those present

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Centre for Resource & Research

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Laura Pemberton Sparr continues to have open hours at her Source Library for Genealogy, located in the Prime West Complex at 2203 Highway 99 South, Suite #10, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

Open 9:00 am to 9:00 pm Wednesdays & Thursdays. She will be offering Genealogy Classes, Workshops and individual instruction at the Centre. She can be contacted by cell phone at 425-231-6945 or leave a message at 360-424-5783.

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Education:

We are still in need of someone to coordinate our classes and special events. If you are interested, contact any board member or come and visit us at our monthly board meeting.

If you are interested in being a mentor for new members of our society, please let Donna Hinds in membership know so we can put your name on the list.

Telephone Committee:

A **BIG THANK YOU** to Yvonda Anderson for volunteering to chair the telephone committee. Hopefully, many of you will be hearing from this committee again in the near future.

Projects:

John Fisher, projects, reported no change in projects. Although our earlier reports indicated John Fisher would read the cemetery at Northern State hospital, conditions have changed. Terms of the privacy of information act forbid the publication of names of those persons in that cemetery. John will remove from the Skagit County Cemetery book in the library collection, the list of names of persons in this cemetery. There was also mention of some 200 people who were buried in one lot at Hawthorne Lawne Memorial Park Cemetery without their identities. The officials at Hawthorne have been appropriately advised of information we received from Washington State. John suggested that inquiries about people who died at Northern State, be forwarded to the Olympia office of the Department of Social and Health Services, (DSHS) which interpreted the legal ramifications of the privacy act. The group concurred that John could handle this matter without formal action. If you have questions on this subject, contact John Fisher at 360-293-4986.

Traveling Library:

Traveling librarian Shirlee Fisher reported members are beginning to understand and use the traveling library more easily. Look over the selections and make use of them. They are a great resource for your research.

Library:

Darlene Libbey representing Joan Udd, librarian, had no report.

Genealogist:

Diane Partington, Genealogist, has been responding to inquiries. Anyone with information on pioneer Orren Kincaid contact Diane at 336-5832.

Membership: Donna Hinds was absent at the October meeting but reports that we currently have 130 members.

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Comb Binding .. For members

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- **The society owns a comb binding machine. If you call John Fisher at 360-293-4986 he will make arrangements to bind your pages into a book for you. Cost is: \$1.00 per book to cover supplies.**

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Society News

New Pioneer Book Project Moving Forward

This project is being undertaken by the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society to collect information and plan for future publication of a Genealogical and Historical book for Skagit County. It is planned to request submissions of family stories, photographs and genealogical information from anyone with roots and/or connection to Skagit County. Submissions will be accepted without cost, as cost of the publication will be determined at the time of publication. However, those submitting information will have an opportunity to reserve a copy of the book.

Dan Royal and Hazel Rasar are co-chairing this project. This committee consisting of Hazel Rasar, Dan Royal, Jim Mowrer, Laura Sparr, Darlene Libby, Thomas Robinson, John Ruhlman, Deanna Ammons, Patricia Doran and Dick Fallis have had two very successful meetings. This committee is currently in the process of developing a flyer and questionnaire to be used in producing biographical entries for a future publication. Anyone interested in assisting with this project may contact either Hazel or Dan.

Look for more information in future newsletters.

Genealogy Classes coming to Senior Center in January 2004

The Burlington Senior Center has asked for a genealogy class soon. A schedule of 22 January, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon was proposed. There will be six classes, plus the two computer classes, all on Thursdays. Hazel Rasar inquired if we can get advertising other than in our newsletter. Several ideas were presented, for instance, computer interest group at senior center, family history centers, historical and museum organizations and libraries, Mount Vernon, Burlington, La Conner and Sedro Woolley senior centers and our web site. Decision on implementing an advertising program was deferred until the next meeting.

Welcome New Members to the Society

The Society is excited to welcome new and returning members to the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.

- Linda Owens—Kennewick, Wa.
- Eda Olney—Burlington, Wa.
- Betty Maurice—Kelowna, BC, Canada
- Patricia Doran—Conway, Wa.
- Billie Gilmore—Mt. Vernon, Wa.
- Blanche Lorraine (Bakewell) Cochrane, —
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The New Year of 2004 is rapidly approaching. All society dues are payable by January 1. If your dues have not been paid by the end of February you will be removed from the society mailing list.

Genealogical Resources

Researching In The Northwest Part of Washington State

There is available at the following location a data of Naturalization papers for 34, 000 persons in the 7 Northwest counties served by the Northwest Region. These records cover the time period 1890-1980.

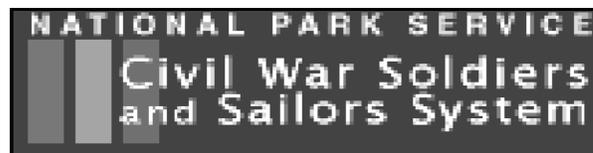
A data base of Territorial Case Files— both civil and criminal— for the time period 1854-1874. Included in the information are names of all people mentioned in the papers so preserved. This includes not only the plaintiff and defendant but jury members and other persons involved in the case and the trial thereof. Along with, in some cases, personal letters of the individuals named.

Call ahead to make an appointment to use the Archives as they, at times, have classes and tour groups. 360-650-7930

**Washington State Archives-Northwest Region
Western Washington University— Bellingham, Wa.**

James Copher, Client Services Supervisor

Candace Wellman, Friday Volunteer



Names & Records of Union and Confederate Troops during the Civil War. It lists the persons rank, regiment, gives a list of the people in the regiment.

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm>

Sedro-Woolley Museum

Has a new website which can be found at...

<http://www.sedrowoolleymuseum.homestead.com/>

Volunteers Needed

Education Chairperson Board Position

Your help is needed to fill this empty seat on the governing board of your society. Please help us out. Also, remember that our board meetings are open to all members, so come join us the first Tuesday of each month at Washington Federal in Burlington at 10 a.m.

Fund Raiser Chairperson Board Position

We are looking for a volunteer (s) for fund raising and/or grant writing, particularly in relation to the new history book project.

Coming Events

20 Mar 2004 - Vancouver, WA

Clark County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar with Dr. John Philip Colletta. Visit their website (above) for detailed information.

10 Apr 2004 - Yakima, WA

Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Spring Seminar with Patty McGinty. More details will be available on the society's website as the date gets closer.



Local News From Skagit county

Skagit County Fall Flood

According to the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) 29 October, costs totaling more than \$11 million in damages for this Fall Season flooding of the Skagit River.

The majority of the damage occurred east of Sedro Woolley at the communities of Hamilton, Cape Horn, Rockport and Marblemount. With the river cresting in Concrete at 33.3 feet and 29.2 feet in Mt. Vernon. Gov. Gary Locke walked through the Mt. Vernon area 23 October to assess the damage for himself.

The community of Hamilton has always been one of the hardest hit areas in the county. If you happen to be driving east or west on Hiway 20 during one of our infamous floods-past the "Welcome to Hamilton" sign, you'll notice a lot of RV's, campers, cars parked by the Baptist Church.

The reason I mention the church is their consistency to be at hand for the community of Hamilton and should be commended for it.

Obituaries

Besides posting obituaries, memories for current and/or past members; I will now be posting descendants of pioneer or early families to Skagit county starting with this issue. I believe this will also help us with our current book project -posted elsewhere in the newsletter. I would ask everyone to help keep a watchful eye for me when looking at obituaries in the local newspapers and be kind enough to let me know when you see someone from early families in the county. This will also give me an excuse to call family members up about our ongoing project and get their OK for posting an edited obit. Ye Editor

Gladys Pape Miller

Printed in full with permission from Charlene Bronson with editing from Dan Royal

Gladys Ellis Pape Miller passed away in Mount Vernon, WA on Monday, July 14, 2003. She was born in Concrete, WA on April 23, 1908, the daughter of James L. Pape and Grace Boyd Pape- both early Skagit county families.

She was a lifetime member of the Presbyterian Church, baptized in the old log Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete.

She grew up and attended schools in the Hamilton area. In 1928 she married Charles Robert Reece in Sedro-Woolley, they had one child, a daughter, Charlene. For a few years they lived and were employed in Seattle. In 1936 they moved back to Skagit Valley and made their home at Van Horn. She was employed with the Superior Portland Cement Co. and she was a telephone operator for Skagit Telephone and Telegraph (owned locally by Stowe and Judy). Charles left the area, but Gladys was employed as a telephone operator for many years maintaining her home and raising her daughter in Concrete.

In 1948 Gladys married Magnus F. Miller- Magnus was the grandson of Magnus Miller, founder of the town of Baker; later to become the town of Concrete. He was recalled into the Navy for the Korean War. They spent two years in San Francisco where Gladys worked at the jewelry counter on the Navy Base at Treasure Island. When they returned to Concrete she worked for a short time at the telephone office and began getting involved in civic affairs.

She helped organize the Rural Fire Dept., served as president of The Upper Skagit Garden Club and later as district director of Chuckanut Garden Clubs and on the Washington State Federation Garden Board.



She was active in and a lifetime member of the Skagit Historical Society at the time the museum was built in the La Conner Water Tank. She was a member of the Charles Carroll Chapter of DAR in Sedro -Woolley.

In 1968 the cement plant, (then Lone Star Cement) closed in Concrete and the Miller's moved to Seattle where Mr. Miller was general foreman at the Duwamish plant.

Gladys became active in the Mary Morris Chapter and was elected regent and a member of the Rainier Chapter, DAR. She and Magnus formed a block watch on Gatewood Hill in the 37th SW block. For nine years Gladys served as state historian of The Mayflower Society. She was a life member of the Mayflower Descendants, an eleventh generation descendant of Richard Warren. She attended Hillcrest Presbyterian Church in West Seattle.

She moved to Mount Vernon in 1999 to be close to family after Magnus passed away.

She is survived by her daughter, Charlene LaFleur-Bronson and a granddaughter Kathleen and her husband David..., all of Mount Vernon, numerous nieces and nephews, especially James H. Pape and close friends here, and her neighbors in the West Seattle neighborhood.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grace (Boyd) Pape; Nov. 1950 and James Pape; Sept. 1954. Husband, Magnus F. Miller; sisters: Hazel O'Hara and Corrine Robinson; brothers: Carl, Ralph, James and Eugene Pape; also her first husband, Charles Reece.

We celebrated her 95th Birthday this year. By her request there will be no funeral services. She will be inurned in Forest Park Cemetery in Concrete in a private family ceremony.

Within the past year we've lost two Boyd family descendants-Norman Johnson and Lewis W. Boyd - now we've lost a third. Reaching 95 years of age is no small thing, especially staying healthy physically and mentally; but Gladys seemed to pull it off up until recently- as Norm Johnson did at 94. I only met these Boyd cousins within the last few years -sad to say- but I could see that Gladys was a woman of fierce independence and spoke her own mind, who enjoyed her own home until close to the end.

Gladys maybe patterned her life after her mentors-Kate Glover & Nell Wheelock early feminist in the Skagit Valley (no small feat up this way the first half of the 20th Century) whom Gladys shared remembrances at the Stump Ranch website.

Like Norm, Gladys attended the funeral of their grandfather Alex Boyd after he passed February of 1918. The picture on page 4 shows Gladys during the memorial Easter Sunday 1918 at the home of her Aunt and Uncle, Annie and Joe Hoyt in Prairie, Wa. Gladys is the girl to the far left, her mother Grace is the woman in the upper right corner. The L. A. Boyd family came to Skagit county October 1882, many descendants are still in the area. Including Ye Editor

CORRECTION:

Last issue we posted an obituary for **Richard J. Hunter Hastings**, a former member of SVGS. This was actually a cousin of Richard Hastings-former member- who is very much alive and well. Apologies for the confusion. *Ye Editor*

CHRISTMAS IS COMING !!

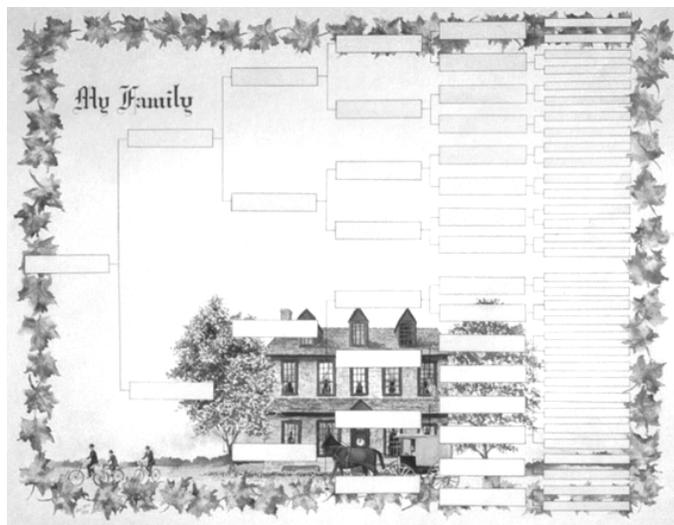
This is a great opportunity to give your loved ones a lasting memorial of their ancestors.

Ready to put your family information on with clear Avery labels or have them done in beautiful hand scripted calligraphy print.

These beautiful, full colored charts are still available from our society for a reasonable price of \$15.00 each.

There are six different designs to choose from.

- 1. Family pedigree chart surrounded by colorful roses;
- 2. Family pedigree chart embedded over a map of western Europe in the year 1497;
- 3. Family pedigree chart surrounded by a border of Ivy with a small cottage in the lower corner
- 4. Family pedigree chart with a background of a sailing ship leaving the homeland
- 5. Family pedigree chart with an immigrant family viewing the Statue of Liberty and covered by the American Flag.
- 6. Family pedigree chart described below.



The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter is now accepting 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 to be posted in the newsletter again , I certainly wouldn't be opposed to it. *Ye Editor*



The Stump Ranch

family and community history of the upper skagit valley



<http://www.stumpranchonline.com>

Computer causing problems? Need help with your computer? Industry certified repair technician. Several years Experience. Call DJ at 336-5832 or e-mail me at DJMV@Yahoo.com

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 Iona Raney

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