A non-profit organization founded in Mount Vernon, WA in January, 1987. Meetings are open to all persons interested in research and preservation of genealogical records.

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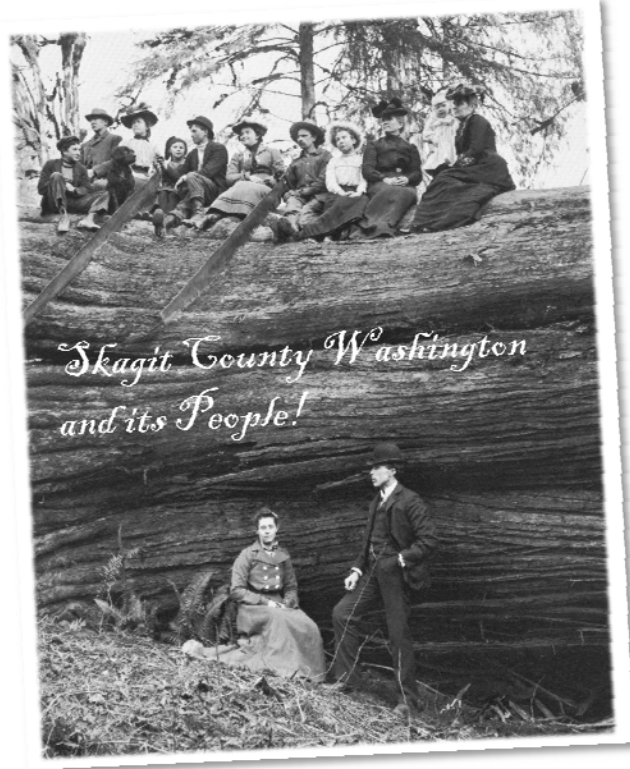360-856-4822 Listhoo@hotmail.com

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Library: Society collection is non-circulating.

The society's library holdings are currently housed in the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Ave. Books, magazines and journals are available for public use. A volunteer member of the society is available to assist in the library each Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Library hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Sunday. Phone number: 360-755-0760. New books are purchased frequently and donations from private collections are welcome. Titles of library holdings are listed on our website.

Editorial *by Hazel Rasar*
Past President & current Newsletter Editor, pro tem

This issue of the Summer Journal has been assembled with a goal of sharing stories of our ancestors. We have also included other information of interest relating to genealogical research.

I have included information from several websites that may be of interest to some of you. Kory Meyerink, one of our presenters a few years ago when SVGS hosted the Washington State Genealogical Society, has recently posted a listing of the 50 most popular websites for 2010; Kimberly Powell has a great article on genealogical sources and how to record them and WPA Records. The meanings of surnames and where to find further information relating to your surnames.

I am especially pleased that some of you have chosen to share your stories.

Through the leadership of Dottie Chandler and your Board of Directors for SVGS the society has had some great events. Many of these events occurred because you and other members have graciously offered your time and energy to help. We look forward to more events and activities in the future with the assistance of our membership. I would personally like to invite each of you to get involved. Share your abilities in support of society activities, volunteer to help us fill some of the vacancies we have on the board. Share, commit and volunteer.

Visit our society library. Margie Wilson and her committee have done a wonderful job in organizing our society holdings. We have had many donations and a few new books. Enjoy! There is a lot of information waiting to be discovered. Don't forget that we have a microfilm reader/printer available and "Library Loans" are a great way to utilize resources in other repositories.

Under the guidance of Shirley Christenson there have been several offerings in education and as a result we have acquired a few new members. We should each welcome them and help to guide them in search of their ancestors.

We have an immense amount of truly wonderful and knowledgeable people in the society. If any of you are having difficulty with those brick walls or need advice on where to research, just ask!

Enjoy the summer months and we hope to see each of you in September when our fall and winter programs resume.

Where is the 'Special History Project' book and why is it taking so long? *By Dan Royal*

A perfectly legitimate question since the project was started in the fall of 2003 by Hazel Rasar and Dan Royal with a wonderful committee of volunteers and county historians lending their advice and submitted stories. The project is on-going and not forgotten, it just turned into something bigger and longer than we imagined.

Our book, **"Skagit County Washington and Its People"** was originally conceived as a follow up book to the famous **"Illustrated History of Skagit & Snohomish Counties"** published 1906 by Interstate Publishing Company. That book gave a pretty detailed history of those two counties from the time they became incorporated plus for an added bonus, paid biographies from families around the county from folks who could afford to pay it.

The difference with this book is that we didn't want people to have to pay to have their family biographies put into a book and we did receive those submissions. Boy! did we receive submissions, around 400 individuals and families?

The process of editing and proofing biographies – which couldn't have been done without Hazel - has taken up to this year and they are turned over to me to begin the layout process; in other words, to put those stories and photos in book form.

I don't want say it is a ten year project, but it could turn out to be, but hopefully it will be finished sooner. Be patient, it will be worth it and please feel free to contact Hazel and me for updates anytime you are curious.

50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites for 2010

Kory L. Meyerink, MLS, AG, FUGA

These rankings were determined in the first quarter of 2010. They are are based on the popularity of websites as measured by four major ranking companies, and is explained in an article published in the Digital Genealogist, edited by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens. The 2009 and 2008 rankings are given, in that order, in parenthesis after the website description. Sites new to the list for 2010 are so identified.

Rank   Website   Coverage/Content

1. Ancestry.com **$** - Ancestry.com is the leading genealogical data site, with some articles, instruction, and reference help. (1>1)

2. FamilyLink.com – (New) One of the most popular FaceBook applications helps people identify and network with their family. (80>72)

3. MyHeritage.com - Focuses on genealogy community building and networking. (3>3)

4. FamilySearch.org - This major data website sponsored by the LDS Church includes the IGI, census records, the library's catalog and more, with instruction and reference help. (5>5)

5. Genealogy.com **$** - This is major data site, with instruction and reference help. (2>4)

6. RootsWeb.com - Rootsweb is a major data site, with free instruction and reference help. (4>2)

7. FindAGrave.com - A database of more than 45 million cemetery inscriptions and photos. (7>7)

8. USGWArchives.net – (New) A large collection of free data, arranged by state and searchable across the entire collection. (not ranked)

9. OneGreatFamily.com **$** - Primarily a family trees sharing and collaboration website. (11>9)

10. GenealogyToday.com - Includes instruction, reference articles, and some unique data collections. (12>11)

11. AncestorHunt.com - A site consisting of collected genealogy links. (11>12)

12. SearchForAncestors.com - Interactive directory of free genealogy websites and data. (19>21)

13. AccessGenealogy.com - Includes references to helpful articles, especially for Native American information, and some data. (14>13)

14. CyndisList.com - A huge subject catalog of genealogy webpage links. (17>15)

15. EllisIsland.org - Database of 24 million New York passenger arrivals that is free to search. Actual passenger list images can be printed or purchased. (20>14)

16. Interment.net - Transcribed and indexed cemetery inscriptions. (16>16)

17. WorldVitalRecords.com **$** - The data collection provided by Family Link, with over a billion records, as well as instruction and reference help. (13>10)

18. USGennet.org - Historical and genealogical web hosting service. (15>17)

19. GenealogyBank.com **$** - Database with index and images of newspapers and early books. (31>41)

20. FamilyTreeDNA.com - DNA testing service focused upon family history test types. (26>27)

21. GeneBase.com - A DNA ancestry cataloguing project (24>24)

22. CensusFinder.com - Links to free census records. (29>40)

23. DeathIndexes.com - Lists of links to United States death records, by state. (25>31)

24. Linkpendium.com – Nine million genealogy links organized by state/county and surname. (24>35)

25. Genealogytrails.com - Four year old site with free data contributed by volunteers (35>NR)

26. JewishGen.org - Jewish, reference, instruction, coordination, and databases. (32>28)

27. GenealogyBuff.com – (New) A free genealogy search site with hundreds of data sources. (134.NR)

28. FamilyTreeMaker.com - Homepage for Ancestry.com's genealogical software. (21>20)

29. KindredKonnections.com $ - Grassroots created data site with compiled family Trees, and some extracted records. (22>19)

30. FamilyTiez.com – (New) A site where families can establish their own pages to share news, photos, events and genealogy with each other. (not ranked)

31. Geni.com - Web 2.0 and focuses on genealogy community building and networking. (8>18)

32. HeritageQuestOnline.com $ - Census, PERSI (the periodical index), books. (39>39)

33. MyFamily.com - Hosts family websites for sharing photos, genealogy, and more. (5>5)

34. DistantCousin.com - An online archive of genealogy records and images of historical documents. (23>22)

35. TribalPages.com - Family trees hosting and charting program. (28>25)

36. PoliticalGraveyard.com - Comprehensive source of U.S. political biography that tells where many dead politicians are buried. (33>34)

37. Footnote.com $ - In conjunction with the U.S. National Archives, Footnote offers data, original records images, and more. (9>8)

38. FamilyHistory101.com - Less than three years old and full of instruction and guidance for genealogists (47>107)

39. CousinConnect.com - A large free queries website. (27>23)

40. GenoPro.com - Genealogy software that produces genograms (37>53)

41. Archives.com $ – (New) A major new subscription data site, launched in July 2009 and already with more than a billion names. (not ranked)

42. GenWed.com - Online marriage records, where to order, some indexes, and more. (43>42)

43. Dar.org - Site of the largest lineage society; includes their library catalog and 32 million name index. (49>67)

44. ThePeerage.com – (New) A genealogical survey of the peerage of Britain as well as the royal families of Europe. (53>58)

45. Genealogy.org – (New) A listing of 400+ registered websites, ranked weekly by hits. (69>56)

46. AncientFaces.com - Share genealogy research, community pages, family photos & records more for free. (48>38)

47. ObitLinksPage.com - State-by-state directory of obituaries and obituary resources. (not ranked)

48. SurnameWeb.org – (New) A collection of surname website links; online since 1996. (62>26)

49. US-Census.org - Census abstracts (U.S. GenWeb Census Project) (45>37)

50. Genuki.org.uk - Large collection of genealogical information pages for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. (34>32)

Dropping out of the top 50 (with their new ranking):

52. Census-Online (Down from 38)	53. GenealogyLinks.net (Down from 50)
56. USGenWeb.com (Down from 30)	58. Geneanet.org (Down from 42)
60. Daddezio.com (Down from 41)	71. GenCircles.com (Down from 36)
92. ObitCentral.com (Down from 29)	187. FindMyPast.com $ (Down from 46)

Cite Your Genealogy Sources
A Guide to Documenting Your Genealogy Research

By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

Create worthwhile genealogies with these tips on documenting your research and formats for citations, including source citations for electronic genealogy sources and maps.

http://genealogy.about.com/od/citing/a/sources.htm

While assembling the pieces of your family tree puzzle, it is important to remember that citing your genealogy sources correctly and completely is what gives your research credibility. Learn how to correctly site a variety of common genealogy sources -- in this guide to genealogy documentation. -- includes examples.

You've been researching your family for a while and have managed to correctly assemble many pieces of the puzzle. You've entered the names and dates found in census records, land records, military records, etc. But can you say exactly where you found great, great-grandma's birth date? Was it on her tombstone? In a book at the library? In the 1860 census on Ancestry.com?

When researching your family it is very important that you keep track of every piece of information. This is important both as a means of verifying or "proving" your data and also as a way for you or other researchers to go back to that source when future research leads to information which conflicts with your original assumption. In genealogy research, any statement of fact, whether it is a birth date or an ancestor's surname, must carry its own individual source.

Source citations in genealogy serve to:
> ➢ Let others know on which records you based your facts (did the birth date you have for your great-grandmother come from a published family history, a tombstone or a birth certificate?)
> ➢ Assist others in evaluating your research (if you were lucky enough to find a complete family tree for your grandfather on the Internet, wouldn't you want to know where the information came from?)
> ➢ Provide a reference in cases where a newly found fact appears to conflict with previous assumptions
> ➢ Help you to easily go back to a previously used source when you realize you may have missed information or you have found new details which may lead to more information from that source.

In other words, properly citing your sources leaves a big audit trail for others to follow, letting them know what documents you looked at, so they can judge your family tree connections and assumptions for themselves. In conjunction with research logs, proper source documentation also makes it much easier to pick up where you left off with your genealogy research after time spent focusing on other things.

Types of Genealogy Sources – When evaluating and documenting the sources used to establish your family tree connections, it is important to understand the different types of sources.
> ➢ **Primary vs. Secondary Sources -** Referring to *quality* of the record, **primary sources** are records created at or near the time of an event by a person who had reasonably close knowledge of the event. **Secondary Sources,** by contrast, are records created a significant amount of time after an event occurred or by a person who was not present at the event. While both types of sources are important in genealogy research, primary evidence usually carries more weight than secondary evidence.
> ➢ **Original vs. Derivative Sources -** Referring to the *provenance* of the record, **original sources** are records that contribute written, oral or visual information not derived – copied, abstracted, transcribed, or summarized – from another written or oral record. **Derivative sources** are, by their definition, records which have   been derived - copied, abstracted, transcribed, or summarized – from previously existing sources. Original evidence usually carries more weight than derivative evidence.

Two rules for Great Source Citations:

*Rule One – Follow the Formula***:** While there is no scientific formula for citing every type of source, a good rule of thumb is to work from general to specific:
> ➢ Author – the one who authored the book, provided the interview, or wrote the letter
> ➢ Title – if it is an article, then the title of the article, followed by the title of the periodical
> ➢ Publication Details
>> 1. Place of publication, name of publisher and date of publication, written in parentheses (Place: Publisher, Date)
>> 2. Volume, issue and page numbers for periodicals

3. Series and roll or item number for microfilm
    a. Where You Found It – repository name and location, Web site name and URL, cemetery name and location, etc.
    b. Specific Details – page number, entry number and date, date you viewed a Web site, etc.

Rule Two: Cite What You See – Whenever in your genealogical research you use a derivative source instead of the real thing, you must take care to cite the index, database or book that you used, and NOT the actual source from which the derivative source was created. This is because derivative sources are several steps removed from the original, opening up the door for errors, including:
- Handwriting interpretation errors
- Microfilm viewing errors (out of focus, back side bleeding through, etc)
- Transcription errors (skipping lines, transposing numbers, etc)
- Typing errors, etc.

Even if a fellow researcher tells you that they found such and such a date in a marriage record, you should cite the researcher as the source of information (noting as well where they found the information). You can only accurately cite the marriage record if you have viewed it yourself.

Article (Journal or Periodical)
Citations for periodicals should include the month/year or season, rather than issue number where possible.

Willis H. White, "Using Uncommon Sources to Illuminate Family History: a Long Island Tuthill Example." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly 91 (March 2003), 15-18.*

Bible Record
Citations for information found in a family bible should always include the information on publication and its provenance (names and dates for people who have owned the bible)

1. Family data, Dempsey Owens Family Bible, The Holy Bible (American Bible Society, New York 1853); original owned in 2001 by William L. Owens (put mailing address here). The Dempsey Owens Family Bible passed from Dempsey to his son James Turner Owens, to his son Dempsey Raymond Owens, to his son William L. Owens.

Birth & Death Certificates
When citing a birth or death record, record:
1) type of record and name(s) of the individual(s),
2) the file or certificate number (or book and page)
3) name and location of the office in which it is filed (or the repository in which the copy was found - e.g. archives).

Examples:

1. Certified transcription of birth certificate for Ernest Rene Ollivon, Act no. 7145 (1989), Maison Maire, Crespières, Yvelines, France.

2. Henrietta Crisp, birth certificate [long form] no. 124-83-001153 (1983), North Carolina Division of Health Services - Vital Records Branch, Raleigh.

3. Elmer Koth entry, Gladwin County Deaths, Liber 2: 312, no 96, County Clerk's Office, Gladwin, Michigan.

From an online index:
4. Ohio Death Certificate Index 1913-1937, The Ohio Historical Society, online <http://www.ohiohistory.org/dindex/search.cfm>, Death certificate entry for Eveline Powell downloaded 12 March 2001.

From a FHL microfilm:
5. Yvonne Lemarie entry, Crespières naissances, mariages, déecs 1893-1899, microfilm no. 2067622 Item 6, frame 58, Family History Library [FHL], Salt Lake City, Utah.

Book
Published sources, including books, should list author (or compiler or editor) first, followed by the title, publisher, publication place and date, and page numbers. List multiple authors in the same order as shown on the title page unless there are more than three authors, in which case, include only the first author followed by *et al*. Citations for one volume of a multivolume work should include the number of the volume used.

Margaret M. Hoffman, compiler, *The Granville District of North Carolina, 1748-1763*, 5 volumes (Weldon, North Carolina: Roanoke News Company, 1986), 1:25, no.238.
*The number in this example, indicates a specific numbered entry on the page.

Census Record

While it is tempting to abbreviate many items in a census citation, especially state name and county designations, it is best to spell out all words in the first citation to a particular census. Abbreviations which seem standard to you (e.g. Co. for county), may not be recognized by all researchers.

1920 U.S. census, population schedule, Brookline, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, Enumeration District [ED] 174, sheet 8, dwelling 110, family 172, Frederick A. Kerry household; National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 721; digital image, Ancestry.com, http://www.ancestry.com (accessed 28 July 2004).

Family Group Sheet

When you use data which has been received from others, you should always document the data as you receive it and not use the original sources cited by the other researcher. You haven't personally checked these resources, therefore they are not your source.

1. Jane Doe, "William M. Crisp - Lucy Cherry family group sheet," supplied 2 February 2001 by Doe (put mailing address here).

Interview

Be sure to document who you interviewed and when, as well as who is in possession of the interview records (transcripts, tape recordings, etc.)

1. Interview with Charles Bishop Koth (interviewees address here), by Kimberly Thomas Powell, 7 August 1999. Transcript held in 2001 by Powell (put mailing address here). [You can include an annotation or personal comment here.]

Letter

It is much more accurate to quote a specific letter as a source, rather than just citing the individual who wrote the letter as your source.

1. Letter from Patrick Owens (put mailing address here) to Kimberly Thomas   Powell, 9 January 1998; held in 2001 by Powell (put mailing address here). [You can include an annotation or personal comment here.]

Marriage License or Certificate

Marriage records follow the same general format as birth and death records.

1. Marriage license and certificate for Dempsey Owens and Lydia Ann Everett, Edgecombe County Marriage Book 2:36, County Clerk's Office, Tarboro, North Carolina.

2. George Frederick Powell and Rosina Jane Powell, Bristol Marriage Register 1:157, Bristol Register Office, Bristol, Glouchestershire, England.

Newspaper Clipping (Marriage Announcement, Obituary, etc.)

Be sure to include the name of the newspaper, the place and date of publication, the page and column number.

1. Henry Charles Koth - Mary Elizabeth Ihly marriage announcement, Southern Baptist newspaper, Charleston, South Carolina, 16 June, 1860, page 8, column 1.

Web Site

This general citation format applies to information received from Internet databases as well as online transcriptions and indexes (i.e. if you find a cemetery transcription on the Internet, you would enter it as a Web site source. You would not include the cemetery as your source unless you had visited personally).

1. Wuerttemberg Emigration Index, Ancestry.com, online <http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddbs/3141a.htm>,   Koth   data downloaded 12 January 2000.

   Kimberly Powell is a professional genealogist, Web developer, and proud mother of three children. **Experience:** Kimberly's interest in genealogy began over 20 years ago with a school project and has developed into a passion. She is a proud member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, and several local genealogical societies. She has been writing about genealogy for About.com since 2000, and her work has also appeared in several genealogy magazines. She is the author of *"Everything Family Tree, 2nd Edition"* by Adams Media (2006), and currently serves as Webmaster for the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. **Education:** Kimberly maintains ongoing professional genealogy training through online classes, seminars, self-study, and genealogical conferences.
   Reprinted here with permission of the author **Words From Kimberly Powell:** I'm proud to provide you with the guidance you need to break down your genealogy 'brick walls' through how-to articles, free genealogy lessons, the latest news and product reviews and an extensive list of excellent online genealogical resources. I absolutely love genealogy and hope to share that passion with you. .

SVGS Holds First Open House

The Skagit Valley Genealogy Society held their 1st Open House at the Burlington Public Library on March 27th. It was a great success! Not only were members in attendance, we were pleased to see 34 guests from Skagit and Island Counties attend as well.

The Open House began with a short introduction on how to get started in a genealogy search. In addition, stations were set up around the room, each with a different function. These stations included everything from providing assistance with internet searching and the different programs available, to breaking down those 'brick walls' we all encounter when searching for our heritage. An assistant of the Public Library guided us through a website known as Heritage Quest which is designed specifically for genealogy research. Many of the first time visitors to the Burlington Public Library were impressed with the size of the genealogy section, which consists of over 1400 books plus numerous magazines, pamphlets and more.

Some members brought in personal family memorabilia to share with everyone. Many of the items such as quilts and even a musical instrument called the fife dated back to the civil war days.

Refreshments were provided and door prizes were awarded. Our winners walked away with a variety of books, gift certificates and other fun items.

Due to the numerous positive comments from members and guests, we've decided to plan another event later this year. We'll keep you informed of when and where.

I would like to extend a personal THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our 1st Open House a success and a special THANK YOU to the Burlington Public Library for allowing us to meet at the library and take advantage of all they have to offer. As a result, many people are on their way to a new discovery of their family heritage.

<div align="right">President: Dottie Chandler</div>

Fund Raising Opportunity

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society is pleased to announce that we have worked on a special offer with **Footnote.com**, the premier history website featuring **over 66 million records**. During the months of June and July you can go to the following URL: http://go.footnote.com/Skagit%20Valley%20Genealogical%20Society_society/?xid=787, and, as a member of our society ,receive a 50% discount off of an annual Footnote membership. It is now only **$39.95** for SVGS members. Please take advantage of this limited time offer. Already as member, Footnote will extend your subscription during this period.

This is a wonderful fund raising opportunity ***through the month of July, Footnote.com will donate 20% of total sales back to your society***. That is **$7.99** for every one of our members that signs up!!!

Charlie Bell
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WHY BE A GENEALOGIST?

Tom Robinson
Member Skagit Valley Genealogy Society (for summer journal)

Genealogy is nothing new. People were doing genealogies even before they had invented mythologies, which in fact are full of genealogical information about gods and heroes. They were doing them before they wrote histories, which of course are full of the genealogies of kings and queens and all other holders of inherited titles. Whole societies long have been organized genealogically on the basis of tribes and clans, each of them supposedly descended from a particular real or imagined common ancestor. In other words, genealogy was around long before modern genealogy, the entirely democratic study of the ancestry of ordinary as well as of famous people.

Modern genealogists do not carry the burden of having to justify the ways of the gods, kings or society to humankind. They construct genealogies – mostly of course, of their own families and of those of their spouses or other relatives – to satisfy their curiosity and for their own enjoyment, but they do it as well as a means both to serve and to educate their families, including members of it yet unborn.

Modern genealogy is commonly and rightly perceived as a hobby, a kind of study which is undertaken for pleasure rather than for profit. The distinctive pleasure of the genealogist is that feeling of delight which comes from making a discovery about an ancestor in the course of genealogical research. It can arise both from chance discoveries and from discoveries resulting from lengthy and structured investigation. Finding a great grandmother about whom nothing at all was known is like solving a difficult puzzle. Discovering where she was born, for example, not only might reveal much about her life history, but also about those of many other ancestors related to her. Finding missing dates of births and deaths of ancestors can show what historic events they experienced as well as those which they could not have experienced. In regard to nineteenth-century Ireland, for example, it matters a great deal whether or not an Irish ancestor lived in the time of the potato famine. If such an ancestor emigrated in the late 1840's or early 1850's, the likely cause of emigration is apparent. From small facts can grow big discoveries.

As the example of the potato famine shows, part of the pleasure of genealogical research into family history comes from the inseparability of the lives of ancestors from the histories of the regions and countries which they inhabited or from which they emigrated. Undoubtedly, knowledge of those regional and national histories does deepen the understanding of family histories, but then knowledge of the experiences of family members illuminates the histories of those regions and countries. Learning about other times and places through the ancestors can make vibrant the histories which in schoolbooks once seemed remote and uninteresting.

Genealogical research by no means is merely a kind of amusement, enjoyable though it might be. It has a social function. It does not necessarily serve the family as an abstract social institution, but genealogists do serve the families to which by birth, adoption or marriage they happen to belong. For example, they restore or at least preserve the memory of members of past generations of their families. Some of those members may be worthy of honoring: they might well serve as models for young members of the family at present and also for those of the distant future. Others of them may have been scoundrels, who at least have the merit of keeping family history from becoming dull. Genealogists, for another example, also perform the service of integrating newborn children into their families, not so much for the sake of the children as for the sake of the adults. Most people think of genealogy as a top-down procedure, advancing from the oldest down to the newest, but much of the genealogical work of the past appears to have been the work of grandmas and aunties more concerned with giving babies a limb on the family tree than with the worthies nearer to its top.

A possible and desirable result of genealogical research can be the strengthening of family ties. After all, families, when functioning at least reasonably well, are confederations of mutual aid and support. When families shrink to being little more than nuclear families which are marooned in single generations, they are diminished not just in size but also in social usefulness.

List of Articles Found in Publications:

Listing of Articles found in the following magazines and journals, generously contributed by Sharon Johnson. These publications can be found in the collection at the society library at the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Street, Burlington, WA, 98233

Family Chronicle, Mar/Apr 2010
The Last Sons of the Civil War; Researchin' in a Recession; Canada 150: A Nation's Stories; Natural Disaster and Genealogy; Chancery Court Records; Protect Those Precious Papers (12 ways to protect and preserve old documents); April Fools: Genealogy Style (misinformation, wrong ancestors); Finding and Using English and Welsh BMDs; Brooklyn Historical Society (an extensive archive in NY); Collateral Relative Research Yields Dividends; I Am My Family: Memories, Facts and Fictions; Remembrance: Holocaust Memorial Books; City Directories: An Overlooked Resource (how it leads to further research); 22 Rips for German Research;

NGS Magazine,   Jan/Mar 2010
The Twittering genealogist, Part 2; Writing for the Family History Writing Contest; Documenting death in the Civil War with Union War Department records; Following the trails of Daniel Boone and other western travelers; Myron E. Foster, Postmaster, A case study in using original records; Immigration alternatives; Killed off too early: William and Sarah Mason; Review of Kith & Kin Pro 3; Preserving your digital legacy: Backing up your data; Mistakes and why we all make them.

Internet Genealogy, Feb/Mar 2010
The Irish Roots Café Genealogy Podcast; Scottish Archives Online; Are You Information Literate? (understanding your resources); Whalers, Sailors and Immigrants: Ships in Genealogy; The Best Canadian Genealogy Blogs; Roots Television: Genealogy's Best Kept Secret; Top 10 Sites for French-Canadian Research; Family Tree Maker 2010: New and Improved; A Rich Pictorial Resource for WW II;
RootsMagic 4: the Next Generation; Sign of the Times: Using Timelines in Genealogy; If These Walls Could Speak (German Hauserchronik similar to city directories, but also contains genealogical details of residents); "Tweet" Your Family History: Using Twitter for Genealogy; England and Wales Criminal Registers.

Internet Genealogy, April/May 2010
Copyright and Your Family Tree; African American Funeral Programs Online; Instant Gratification and Finding Obits Online; Getting More From Google; Save Your Memories: Arcalife (store and share family stories); Living Genealogy: A New kind of Website; California Dreamin': Researching the golden State; Dial it UP! Genealogy on Your Smart Phone; OGS Scanning Project (Ontario Can); Kith and Kin: An Old Favorite Returns; Protraits From the Past: Finding Ancestral Images; Mapping Genealogy: Ancestral Atlas; Cloudy With a Chance of…Genealogy (cloud computing); Researching Firefighters in the Family; Cozi Up to Your Genealogy (free online organizer for families).

Internet Genealogy,   June/July, 2010
130 Best Genealogy Websites (as suggested by contributing authors, 12 pages); Civil War Unit Histories; Browsing For Clues (how to browse a database when a "specific" search fails); Family Tree Builder 4: A Review; Buryed in Woollen (not a place, but the English Acts of 1667 & 1678 requiring burial in sheep's wool); Consular Post Records and Your Genealogy; More Than Just The Census: Findmypast (info on the UK research site); City Life: European Church Indexes; Long Distance Research: Genlighten (new online lookup service); Ahoy! The American Merchant Marine at War Website; Going Colonial Online (virtual world of colonial Williamsburg.

Family Chronicle, May/June 2010
New and Improved: Family Tree Builder; Identifying subjects in Old Photos (hair and clothing); Hudson's Bay Company and Your Ancestors (company records); On the Trail of the Music Man (case study of searching for a g. g. grandfather); The New York Historical Society (records of the museum and research center); Cause of Death: Using Coroner's Records; A Job By Any Other Name: Archaic and Obsolete Occupations; Flames Over the Courthouse (concerning research in "burned counties"); Google 2010: The Hits Just Keep on Comin'! (latest innovations that can benefit your research); Uncovering More Than Artifacts: Roy Wilcox and Isle Royale; Indirect Lineage (researching siblings).

Research Experience of My Paternal SINRUD Family
by Douglas Sinrud Jr.   *Submitted May, 23 2010*

I was always told by my mother Frances Alberta **Thompson** Sinrud that our family, the Douglas H Sinrud family, was the only Sinrud's in the world. Well that is a pretty broad statement but as it turned out, she was close to being correct.

 I decided after some tragic events in my life, to move back to Washington, subsequently the Skagit Valley. It was there I met Carleen Ann **Weymouth** Dalan Anderson & we were married May of 1997. Being away from family, my two sons live in Montana, I got to thinking about my mom's statement.

One day while we were shopping at Costco, I saw this "Generations Millennium Family Tree" software & purchased it. That software was the beginning of my quest to satisfy my curiosity and when installing the software, I was introduced to MyFamily.com & Ancestry.com as well as a host of other web sources.

After finding a works on the **Weymouth's** with several generations of family listed, a research compiled by one of Carlee's cousin's and digging out some books of my grandfather's, **A. R. Thompson**, of research into his maternal **Johnson** family, I made the entries for two separate trees, and was hooked.

After trying out Family Search, Cyndi's List, and a few other sites, I decided to sign up to Ancestry.com and found and fell in love with the census records, which I still use today. I found very little at the aforementioned sites, but felt I struck gold with the last.

I now have multiple trees which include, Carlee's Weymouth line; **Hyde**, her maternal line; **Scoles**, her ½ brothers paternal line; **Wilson**, her maternal grandfathers line; **Dalan**, her 1st husbands line which includes a large part of her children's paternal history, all in Skagit County, back to its beginnings almost and then my maternal Thompson & paternal Sinrud history as well as a slew of others. As you can see I love my hobby & it does fit our full time RV lifestyle.

One project that is still unfinished is my Sinrud family & I am now in the midst of working in it. Over the years, I have collected reams of paper, sometimes the same multiplied as I refresh & get into a line again. Because of our lifestyle, I have all of my paperwork, books and other research materials with us and have started to scan what I have hard copy to my desk top.

The Sinrud name is, as aforementioned an uncommon name. My start came with a small amount of materials my mom had. In that small amount included a report a cousin had written as a class project while she was in high school. Most of the family were and still are interested in our maternal families, so I chose to seek all I could of my paternal origins. One of the first things I did was to use Ancestry.com and the census records. From those records I started my paper trail. I found my family in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin in a small town called Pigeon Falls. Once I had this information, I went to Roots Web and through some searching ended up connected with the Wisconsin State Historical Society. I contacted a person in the "district" I was interested in, at this time Ashland County, and asked for any information pertaining to Sinrud's. She e-mailed a list of things, told me what it cost & subsequently sent them to me.

There was a wealth of materials, including my great-grandfather's delayed application for naturalization. In this application was the explanation as to where he, **A.P. or Anton Sinrud**, my great grandfather had come from, when (1866) via Quebec, his father's name, **Peder Pedersen**, what ship they arrived on and when. It turned he had thought his father had taken care of his naturalization for him as well as did his brother L. P. or Lauritz. I came to a conclusion that the P. for both sons stood for Pedersen and the application stated the name was changed by their father because there were too many Peder Pedersen's in the area. I also might add here that I received copies of the land purchase in which Peder purchased 40 acres of land in Trempealeau County, with the legal description, from the West Wisconsin Railroad Company, August of 1873 and when he as Peder & wife Pernille Pedersen sold it to their oldest son L.P. in 1877 as Lauritz P. Sinrud; confirming a surname change. I also received news clippings as well as pages from a history of the area regarding the deaths of five children ages 5 to 10 belonging to L.P. in January of 1888 from a diphtheria epidemic as well as an article about L.P. and a neighbor donating land for a school that was the beginning of the Sunshine School District. That school district still exists today.

Once I found the information on the family source, I went to the Norwegian Digital Archives & found this family in Romedal Parish, Hedmark County as tenants on the "**Sinderudstranden**" farm & it was then I discovered why Peder chose our new "**Sinrud**" name and also discovered the names of three of Anton's siblings. After diligent research, I had found where the farm was and in subsequent years a cousin on a visit to Norway took my directions and found the farm. He then went to nearby Hamar, which has a great research center and with help found church records of this family and came back with copies for me.

My next step was to fill in the family tree blanks and I used the census records exclusively to do this, finding each member as long as they lived in the "head" household starting with the 1870 census records. The two girls were a little harder to track, although the 1880 census showed one daughter Lisa and her husband Ole **Paulsrud**, heads of household having Pernille and Anton, as mother-in-law and brother-in-law living in the same household, a clue regarding one of the status of sibling Lisa.

I should say at this time that my great grandfather left Pigeon Falls around 1890 for Ashland, Wisconsin. His 1st born, my grandfather Peter was born 1884 in Pigeon Falls. He left Ashland in 1905 to bring some draft horses to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, he liked what he saw, went back to Wisconsin and married his girl friend, brought her back and lived out his life in Idaho. All of his siblings remained in Wisconsin and I and my siblings never heard of our other Sinrud relatives until many years later. Then, from my father's two living sisters, they knew a few of their cousins.

Anyway to carry on with my story, Carlee and I are full time RV'ers and in 2005 we traveled east and spent some time at Whitehall, the county seat of Trempealeau County, which is about 10 miles from Pigeon Falls. We camped in a city park, within walking distance of the court house.

The first thing we did was finding the cemeteries in and around Pigeon Falls. The first one we came to was at a large Lutheran Church. This cemetery had a couple of large painted boards which showed all the plots and had the names of the interred listed with the plots. As I was looking at the boards, a gentleman came up and asked if he could help me find someone. Well, to my and his surprise, when I told him I was looking for Sinrud's, he told me he was very familiar with the name. In fact, he and his wife were living in the home that was at one time the home of L.P. Sinrud. He was the grounds keeper and a member of the church and offered to arrange for us to see the church archives and allowed me to make copies of anything I found related to the family.

The next thing I did was visit the court house. At the court house, I was able to 1st; get copies of all land purchases, 2nd burial records and 3rd any marriage records. It was here I learned the burial place of the five L.P. children as well as obtain copies of the original marriage licenses of the two female siblings which were pristine and dated 1869 and 1869. These licenses had the signatures of both sets of parents on them and gave me further information to work with.

My next hurtle was to find the burial place of Peder & Pernille Pedersen SINRUD. I went to the library in Whitehall & started reading microfilm of old news papers. I struck pay dirt with Pernille; finding a death notice that stated she was buried in the old Pigeon Town Cemetery. Pernille died in 1896, Peder died in 1878, this date found later from the L.P. side of the family. I went looking for and found the old Pigeon Cemetery; you would not know what it was unless a local told you. Most all of the markers are gone. There is not any sign marking the grounds as a cemetery and it is hidden for the most part by a country store gas station combo. This is the burial place I have been looking for and was the first cemetery in the area. Since the children and Pernille have been identified as being buried here, I have deduced that Peder was also buried here.

To finish off this story, in finding there were other Sinrud's, Carlee & I took a trip around the country in 2008 and met the other Sinrud's living in Virginia. This Sinrud and his son, are the last of the L. P. line, there being only one male in each generation to date. In the A.P. line my father is the only male to have male sons. Between my two brothers and myself we have 5 male sons & 5 grandsons, my having four of them.

In my other researches, I have used Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (ROAGK), Find a Grave (of which I am a member of and am a volunteer), queries listed in RootsWeb and Ancestry.com, and have posted a couple GEDCOM files to Ancestry. I use the town search portion of RootsWeb to gain county connections concerning a specific family and their history if any and this brings me to volunteers on a local basis.

Family trees posted on these sites is a great way to find other folks that are interested in the same family you are and sometimes help you to expand your research. I have found distant relatives and have actually met one researcher from England with which we have exchanged information on maternal Thompson line for several years and share family as close as Lincoln County, WA.

I am a member of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society; Wisconsin Historical Society in Ashland; Wisconsin Historical Society of Clermont County; Ohio Genealogical Society; Indians Genealogical Society; Will County, Illinois Historical Society, and the Monmouth County, New Jersey Genealogical Society.

I submit this letter with the hopes it meets your approval. I will back in the Skagit Valley for only a short time this year and will not make any meetings this year as I believe there is no July meeting. I am sponsoring the first ever SINRUD family reunion near Spokane the last week end of August. The location is for one of my aunts who is not capable of much travel anymore, she is 88 and her sister is 87 but very active; the last of that generation in the Sinrud family tree.

The WPA Era and its Impact on Genealogical Research

This article about the WPA Era was written by Bryan L. Mulcahy, the Reference Librarian at the Fort Myers-Lee County Library.

The year 1929 was one of the most tragic in American history. The infamous stock market crash coupled with the Great Depression that followed had a terrible impact on many Americans. Herbert Hoover and his successor, Franklin D. Roosevelt formulated many relief programs to attempt to stem the tide of misery and poverty throughout the country. The efforts were met with some success and many failures.

One of the most successful ventures was establishment of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA was the largest project among the many programs developed during the New Deal. For genealogists, one aspect of the WPA has been especially important. The Historical Records Survey under the WPA created many inventories and records which have benefited the entire genealogical research community. Some of the highlights of what was created include:

- Burial listing in cemeteries
- Federal and state census indexes
- Indexes to naturalization records
- Indexes to Newspapers
- Inventories of records found in county courthouses
- Descriptions of manuscripts found in various libraries
- Place-name guides
- Inventories of church records including the range of years and content covered by a church's christening records, and the names of those buried in church cemeteries

Under the auspices of the WPA, workers went to archives, historical societies, public and university libraries and compiled inventories of manuscript collections. They went to courthouses, town halls, offices in large cities, and vital statistics offices and inventoried records. Besides compiling indexes, they also transcribed some of the records they found. The impact on genealogical research in today's era has been profound. Most researchers have used many of these items at some point in the research process.Sadly, not everything compiled has survived. Decisions were made by various entities and governmental officials concerning certain records and indexes. Those that were considered of "no value" were destroyed. However, the majority of materials created or indexed during the WPA era survived and the entire genealogical community is grateful for the benefits they have provided.5/8/2010

Bryan L. Mulcahy
Reference Librarian
Fort Myers-Lee County Library

Series Title: Cage 351

Federal Writers Project of Washington (State) Records, 1933-1941

Volume: 1.5 linear feet

Description: Records of the Federal Writers Project of Washington were acquired by the Washington State University Libraries prior to 1970. The Federal Writers Project, Washington (State), compiled a quantity of material under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration and used this material to create a volume entitled "Washington, A Guide to the Evergreen State" (Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1941), a part of the American Guide Series. The material was collected and written between 1933 and 1941.

The records of the Federal Writers Project of Washington is limited to drafts of researched essays on Clallam, Snohomish, Pierce, Skagit, Lewis, and Whitman counties. The material from Snohomish County (about 400 items) includes a general history of the area, a description of the towns and cities of the county, place names and their origins, tours of the area, geography (including a discussion of natural resources), agriculture, forests, fisheries, and women's history.

The material from Skagit County (about 75 items) includes a general history and description of the area, description of agricultural resources, a discussion of women in Skagit County, word origin and place names, a description of towns and cities, topography and geography, folklore and folkways, points of interest, and the archaeology of the area.

The RASAR Family in Skagit County, Washington

By Hazel Walters Rasar, wife of a grandson of Peter Rasar

Peter "Pete" **RASAR** was born in Carter County, Tennessee in 1853, the family migrating from Carter County to Blount County around the time of the Civil War. Peter's father, Daniel Rasar served the Union Army during the Civil War[1], and his mother Sarah **Peters** Rasar was left at home to raise their family of nine children. Peter came to Washington State between 1882 and 1884. He returned to Tennessee at the time of his father's death, returning to settle permanently in the Skagit Valley.

From family stories and letters[2] written by Peter back to family in Tennessee, it is believed Peter traveled across country by train to Seattle and then by boat/steamer to LaConner. From LaConner he traveled to Edison and Samish Island settling in Whatcom County, what was to become Skagit County. Pete settled on the Samish flats near Edison, returning only twice to his native Tennessee.

He returned to Tennessee to wed his first wife, Allie Kerr[3]. They had two children. Peter returned to Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee when Allie became ill and where she subsequently passed away. William and Carl were toddlers when their mother died in 1896. William died at an early age in 1909 from Diphtheria.

Peter Rasar with sons: William Arthur and Carl Raymond from his first wife, Allie Kerr Rasar. Taken in TN circa 1898

Peter married his second wife[4] Docia Elizabeth **Blevens** Anderson in 1898 in Tennessee. Peter and Docia had four more children, all born in the Edison area of Skagit County. Sons Daniel and Robert, and daughters May (**Hanstead**) and Jessie (**Dowen**).

In 1900 Peter purchased farmland[5] in the Samish flats. Over many years, the property was cleared, and Peter built a small sawmill on his property, with a train stop for the Interurban railroad[6]. Many of the neighbors and farmers in the area, helping each other to clear land and prepare it for farming, utilized this venture. Peter ventured forth with raising a small herd of cattle, and raising crops on the land once it had been cleared. He was an active member of the Skagit County Dairymen's Association known as (Darigold[7].)

Peter carried a family knowledge of the lumber industry, as his father Daniel Rasar who was a blacksmith, was also in partnership in many grist and sawmills in the Montvale to Alleghany vicinities in eastern Tennessee.

Back: Daniel, May & Docia
Front: Peter, Jessie & Robert

R > L Dan Rasar, Unknown, May Rasar, Robert Rasar, Carl Rasar and Peter Rasar standing before the mill and showing piles of lumber produced at the RASAR SAWMILL near Edison, WA. The sawmill was located on property along the old Interurban rail line between Burlington and Bellingham where Chuckanut Drive intersects with the current Sunset Road. [8]

Residents of the Bow/Edison area brought in their own trees to have the mill cut it for use in building their homes.[3]

With the exception of William Arthur[9] the Rasar children grew to adulthood, married and raised families in Skagit County. The last survivor of this generation, May passed away in 1999 at the age of 95 years.

Peter's children:

• Carl Raymond Rasar[10] married Anna Marie Petersen of Iowa. They had three children; Raymond Arthur, Alice Marine and Doris Jean. All are deceased. Carl was the grandfather of seven children, all have married and have descendants living in the Skagit Valley.

• Daniel Romeo Rasar[11] married Goldie **Adema** of Michigan. They had five children, all of whom are alive and living in Washington State. All have married and have descendants. With the exception of one daughter, Lois Luella, all of his children have maintained residence in Washington State. Daniel's son Dan Rasar donated the property for Rasar State Park.

• Robert Nicholas Rasar[12] married Myrtle **Long** of Tennessee. They had five children. Robert Keith, and Ernest LeRoy are deceased, and there are 2 sons and 1 daughter living. All except Robert Keith have descendants living in Washington State and surrounding areas.

• May Eliza Rasar[13] married (1) Harold **Gower** and (2) Ernest "Tony" **Hanstead**. She had two children. A son Robert 'Bob" Gower is deceased and there is 1 living daughter. Both children have descendants.

• Jessie Adair Rasar[14] married Frank **Dowen** of Michigan and was the mother of two sons, Ronald and Claude, both of whom are deceased. Each of the children married and had families. Many of their descendants are still living in Skagit County. Peter's nephew, Raymond Lewis Rasar, and cousin John Carl Rasor also emigrated from eastern Tennessee and settled in other areas of Washington State. Raymond Rasar and his family eventually settled in Skagit County while John Rasor settled in south eastern Washington near the Oregon border. A niece Eliza **Boring Holder** also emigrated to Skagit County and was married to Lon **Harrison**, living in the Lyman/ Hamilton area.

Sources:
1. *Papers of his father, Daniel Razor (Rasor), from the Civil War era, where he was a member of the Union forces.*
2. *Personal knowledge and contact with family members.*
3. *Marriage record listed idn the Tennesee Marriage Records from 1790-2002. Online via Ancestry.com & verified with Tennessee State Archives, copy in possession of her great granddaughter.*
4. *Marriage record listed idn the Tennesee Marriage Records from 1790-2002. Online via Ancestry.com & verified with Tennessee State Archives with a photocopy of record and marriage certificate in possession of Daniel Rasar.*
5. *Skagit County Auditor's Office, photocopy of land purchase*
6. *Records on file with the Whatcom County Historical Museum, Bellingham, Whatcom County, Washington.*
7. *Membership files of "Darigold" corporation and membership cards in possession of family members.*
8. *Photograph of the Rasar Family Saw Mill, persons identified by May Rasar Hanstead in 1992.*
9. *William Arthur Rasar, photocopy of death certificate and family story by sister May Rasar Hanstead in 1992.*
10. *Carl Raymond Rasar, information obtained from personal contact, photocopies of birth, death & funeral records.*
11. *Daniel Romeo Rasar, information obtained from son Daniel, personal contact, photocopies of birth, death & funeral records.*
12. *Robert Nicholas Rasar, personal contact, photocopies of birth, death & funeral records.*
13. *May Eliza Rasar, personal contact, photocopies of birth, death & funeral records.*
14. *Jessie Adair Rasar, personal contact, photocopies of birth, death & funeral records.*

Rasar State Park
Birdsview, Skagit County, Washington

Dan **Rasar** is a longtime Skagit County resident and grandson of Skagit County pioneers, Peter and Docia Rasar. He currently lives on Samish Island, Skagit County, Washington. He grew up in the Bow-Edison area, graduating from Burlington Edison High School and Western Washington University. He was a school teacher and an entrepreneur, owning many Shakey's Pizza franchises from Auburn to Fairbanks, Alaska. Dan says "Everybody that chomped on a Shakey's Pizza from the late 60s until 1985 helped build the park." According to state policy the people who donate property are given first priority in naming the new enterprise. Dan chose to name the park for his pioneer grandfather, Peter Rasar, on behalf of the Rasar families in Skagit County. As our Skagit County pioneer, Peter is the earliest known member of this family to emigrate to Washington State.

Daniel Rasar purchased the property along the Skagit River about 42 years ago. His original intent was to parcel the property, sell a portion of it, build a home and retire in this remote area of Skagit County, along the wild and scenic Skagit River. The property is located along the north shore of the Skagit River approximately 20 miles east of I-5.

At some point in time, Dan determined that this spot along the river would make an ideal setting for a park, to preserve the natural beauty and forested landscape. Looking around the breathtaking scenery on the site, Dan commented "*We want to share it with the public, this is the right thing to do."*

This bookmark was given to Rasar family members to commemorate-ate the opening of RASAR STATE PARK.

In 1984, Dan Rasar donated the parcel of land [128 acres] to the Washington State Parks Department. Several legislators, and dignitaries of the State Facilities and Financing Committee for the Governor, and Parks Assistant Regional 2 Supervisor, Jim **Collins** visited the area and determined that the land would indeed make an ideal park, indicating that the property would be given a high priority for funding

However, this was an extremely slow process and it took almost 10 years before the funding became available to develop the site. In 1991 money was approved by the state Parks and Recreation Commission to begin development of the park, with construction to begin in 1993. However, the park was not completed and available for public use until 1997.

Dedication Day July 12, 1997

Rasar State Park was dedicated on July 12, 1997 with hundreds of people gathered to enjoy Bluegrass music, a stroll along

the Skagit River bottom. The park was the first new state park to open in Western Washington in over 15 years.

Construction actually began in 1995. The park is on two levels with the upper level housing restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds, roads and campsites. The lower portion has been left largely undisturbed to provide pristine hiking opportunities.

The ceremonies concluded with the releasing of a rehabilitated raptor Eagle by Help Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

The park is open year-round for camping and day use, and offers playground equipment for kids. There are second-growth trees and ample opportunities for nature study. The boulders and wood used in the buildings at the park were milled on-site from materials located

Dan Rasar was the keynote speaker, talking about his vision for the park.

within the park itself. In the development of the park, colored rocks removed from the rivers bed and from within the property and lumber taken from many of the trees felled during clearing were used in the raising of buildings on the park site. All trails within the park were developed by the Job Conservation Corps.

Camping

The park has 18 standard sites, 20 utility sites with electricity and water, eight walk-in sites and three primitive hiker/biker sites, as well as two Adirondack (three-sided) sleeping shelters available to walk-in campers. All campsites are first-come, first-served. There are three ADA-accessible restrooms (two with showers). **Rasar State Park** has picnic sites, a kitchen shelter that can be reserved, 17 standard campsites and 22 utility campsites. The park also has 10 walk-in tent sites and three hiker-biker sites. There is also a trailer dumping station, a shop, garage and seasonal ranger.

Speaking in her native tongue, Vi Hilbert of the Upper Skagit Tribe thanked the Rasar family for their generosity in returning the area to the people. Vi Hilbert, an international language historian and lecturer, told stories of when her grandfather had a longhouse along the river in that area.

Nature Hiking Trails

One trail, about an eighth of a mile long, is paved and designed especially to accommodate physically challenged campers. Braille-like speed bumps are embedded in the trail. The trails add up to about three miles, but the 4,000 feet of trail along the

16

Skagit River make up in quality what the trails lack in quantity.

Much of the physical labor in getting the park ready for campers was done by teens from the Indian Ridge Youth Camp in Arlington. Doug Villager, a forest crew supervisor for the state Department of Natural Resources, led a crew of five young men from Washington Conservation Job Corps. Most of the chores they performed were for esthetics.

The park has been developed in three (3) plateaus with trails equipped with hand rails and wheelchair accessible from the third plateau to the second plateau. The third plateau allows access to the river bank, but is not being developed due to flooding in the area when the river is high. The second plateau is called the hayfield and neighboring farmers are allowed to use the property to make hay with a guarantee that they would keep the hayfield/pasture mowed during high use times of the park.

Across the highway from the park are two short trails you can sample, as well as nicely spaced camping sites with tables and restrooms available. The Sauk Springs Trail is a short loop that passes the biggest cedar tree I've ever seen, and the Skagit View Trail (another short loop) is wheelchair accessible.

Trail detail

From the day-use area, a paved trail descends to a hayfield and a display describing how loggers and farmers settled the Skagit River valley. Some portions of the farm still work today to preserve the valley's farming legacy.

The well-kept trail wanders through a rain forest like setting of ferns and moss, cottonwoods, cedars, alders and Douglas firs. The paved path ends at the riverbank with a trail heading in both directions along the river. The trails eventually loop back through the forest to the parking lot.

Trail data

Skagit River Trail and loops, about three miles round trip, minimal elevation gain. The park is currently on a first come, first served basis, but plans are to eventually place the park on the State Park Reservation Service. It is estimated that the park will have 200,000-400,000 visits per year. The park has been placed on the Washington State Parks Website for reservations.

The 40 adjacent acres (north of Cape Horn road) were acquired in 1990 from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. With the acquisition of the property across the highway for camping and hiking the park now comprises a total of 169-acres with 4,000 feet of freshwater shoreline on the Skagit River. Wildlife observation opportunities, especially for eagle watching, are excellent, particularly in early fall and early winter.

Sources:
1.Personal knowledge and research of Hazel Walters Rasar for the family at the time of the dedication.
2.Washington State Parks, website   http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Rasar

MUSEUMS AS A GENEALOGICAL SOURCE
Submitted by SVGS member & museum volunteer, Portia N. Stacey

Have you thought of visiting a local Museum as a source to further your quest for family history?

Here in Skagit County we are very fortunate to have the Skagit County Historical Museum available as a genealogical reference source. Within it's walls you can find all types of local history in artifacts, books, archived newspapers, pictures, maps, transcribed oral histories and diaries of some of the earliest pioneers of our area. There are records of businesses, clubs, churches as well as collections of articles on the "CCC", "WPA" and other organizations. In the Museum Store there are many wonderful books of the history of the
area, many of them published by the Skagit County Historical Society. Do take the time to tour the Museum,
and enjoy the displays and exhibits - and don't miss the view of the Skagit Valley from the East Wing.

If you do plan on visiting any Museum and want to do "research" be sure to call ahead and make an appointment, and let them know what type of articles / or who you are researching. Some research fees may apply. It is best to also inquire what the hours and days of availability are - as with the "Budget Cuts" that are in place country-wide, they may be different than what might be currently posted somewhere.

Skagit County Historical Museum
P.O. Box 818
501 S. Fourth St.
LaConner, WA 98257
Contact Mari Densmore – Librarian for an appointment 360-466-3365

John Lyle Wallace Obituary -

LaConner Citizen Dies Suddenly:

The Death Angel has again entered our community, this time claiming for its victim one of the old pioneer residents of LaConner, Mr. J. Lyle Wallace, who passed away last Sunday night about midnight, surrounded by his family.

The deceased had been afflicted with Bright's Disease for the past five or six years, and at one time his life was despaired of, but owing to his rugged constitution and great will power he rallied and got considerable better and able to do quite a little work, although the past two years he had been quite delicate, especially so this fall and winter. He was taken suddenly ill Sunday night about 10 o'clock and Dr. J.L. Jackson was summoned, but medical aid was of no avail, he passing away just eight minutes after the doctor arrived, heart failure being the immediate cause of his death.

The subject of this sketch was born near Princeton, Illinois December 8, 1843, thus being aged 59 years and 13 days at the time of his demise. He served his country faithfully and well for three years during the war of the rebellion, and was with Gen. W.T. Sherman in his ever memorable march from Atlanta to the Sea, which fact he took special pride in.

He came west in 1857*, locating at LaConner and first worked for Samuel and ThomasCalhoun, afterwards working for various other ranchers until he moved to town. He was married to Mrs. Lottie White at this place February 20, 1882, Justice of the Peace J.F. Dwelley officiating. Lyle was adjutant of Larabee Post No. 18, G.A.R. ever since it was organized here some twenty years ago, with the exception of one term when he served as post commander. His death removes another comrade of the aforesaid post, the members are gradually answering the summons of the last role call. But Lyle was prepared to go, having made his peace with God.

The deceased was a good, upright citizen and held the respect of all the people of this vicinity, who unite with the members of the bereaved family in mourning his departure.

*The funeral services were held Tuesday at 1 pm. At the family home, Rev. H. Ferguson preaching the funeral sermon. The services were in charge of Larabee Post, of which deceased **was** a devoted an active member. The remains were laid to rest in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.*

He leaves a wife, two sons George and Ray Wallace, besides four step-children and a cousin, J.S. Wallace of the Beaver Marsh to mourn his death in this vicinity.

"Skagit Memories -Stories of the settlement years as written by the pioneers themselves:
- Skagit County Historical Society Series No. 6 – Charles M. Dwelley, Editor

"Man of Many Endeavors – Diaries of J. Lyle Wallace - pages 98-102 – Author's Note on pg. 99

James ? [John] Lyle Wallace was born near Princeton, Ill in 1843. He came West in 1857* with the Cornelius family, locating in LaConner. He married Charlotte White, widow of Robert White in LaConner on Feb 20, 1882. They had two sons, Ray and George. The "Chrissie" mentioned in the diaries was a daughter of Mrs. Wallace by her first marriage. The family made their home in LaConner for some 30 years in a house on Third Street near Benton, which still stands. Wallace was faithful member of the G.A.R., doing much of the planning and organizing of the LaConner unit. He apparently was the "odd job" man for the town, caretaker of both the Methodist and Baptist churches, gravedigger at the cemetery, custodian at the school, in addition to a myriad other duties. J. Lyle Wallace died Dec. 21, 1902, and Mrs. Wallace on May 10, 1909,

* See Notes: I believe the previous statements that John Lyle Wallace came out here in *"1857"* must be in error, and the correct date should be *"1875"* for the following reasons:

1- John Lyle Wallace was born 08 Dec. 1843 near Princeton, IL.

2- The 1850 USF Census shows him at age 6, living with his parents and siblings in Dover, Bureau, IL.

3- The 1860 USF Census shows him at age 16, living with his parents and siblings in Washington, Washington, IA.

4- He enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 21 Aug 1862 at age 18. He served with Iowa Company A, 25th Infantry Regiment, and was mustered out on 06 Jun 1865 at age 22 at Washington D.C.

5- There were no settlements in the vicinity of LaConner (Skagit/Whatcom County)in 1857, Samuel Calhoun did not arrive to build his cabin until 1863, and thearea really did not have much in the way of permanent settlement until 1870.

6- J. Lyle Wallace's earliest diary at the Skagit County Historical Museum is for the year 1878, and it does appear he is well acquainted with the early settlers.

7- J. Lyle Wallace's first appearance in a USF Washington Territorial Census is in the year 1880 – age 36, where he is a boarder at the John W. Palmer Residence.

8- In his 1882 testimony in Mary Wallace's divorce case, he mentions that he had resided in LaConner about seven years (1882 – 7 = 1875) and that the Harvey and Mary Wallace family were here when he arrived. - They arrived in 1870.

9- John Lyle Wallace was 1st. cousin once removed to Harvey K. Wallace, John Scott Wallace and Sarah L. Wallace, siblings who arrived in Skagit/Whatcom County in 1870 and 1871, along with their Mother, Rebecca (Moore) Wallace. Harvey K., John Scott and Sarah L. Wallace all took out their adjacent Land. Patents on the Beaver Marsh in 1872, 1873 and 1879 respectively.

In my genealogical research, and in the reading of his diaries, I have found no connection between John Lyle Wallace and the Cornelius/Wallace/Rudene family - other than his mentioning of them with his visits to the Pleasant Ridge area, or working as a laborer on their farms..

DEATHS OF SOME OF THE EARLY PIONEERS OF SKAGIT COUNTY

As recorded in the various diaries of J. Lyle Wallace – who was the grave digger and caretaker at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery among his many duties in early Skagit county history - complied from the available diaries at the Skagit County Historical Museum. Transcribed as written.

   Note: it appears that not every year is complete – as many of the diaries are missing some pages, and these are not all of the deaths / burials for the given years - ONLY the ones mentioned in his diaries.

Information in RED is from the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery – Vol. 4
Published by the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society 2001
– the Letter and Numerical indicates the gravesite at PRC.

- Portia N. Stacey April 2010
Member, Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Diary E18-65 – 1885

Feb. 24, 1885   - Mrs. BOWMAN of Bay View died suddenly of Heart Disease at the Planter's Hotel, La Conner at 4 PM. – Feb. 26 remains sent to Olympia on Steamer Washington for burial.

Mar. 11, 1885   - Mrs. Harris PECK died of Heart Disease at her home at 3 AM, being delivered of a child but a short time previous. March 12, Funeral Sermon at Jenning's School House at 1 PM by Rev. Davis and burial at Pleasant Ridge afterwards.
    - Susan PECK – age 32 Years – Native of New Brunswick, CAN - F-008-01-01B
    Cemetery Record shows Date of Death as 05 Mar 1885

Mar. 27, 1885   - Miss May BRADLEY died in Seattle of Consumption. Mar. 30 Remains came to LaConner on Steamer Washington, and was buried near Whitney's PM. Short Service at the Cemetery by Rev. Brooks.

Apr. 06, 1885   - Mr. PHINNEYdied at McGlinn's Hotel. Apr. 07, buried on Pleasant Ridge. – N/R

Apr. 22, 1885   - Mr. ALLEN's child died at McGlinn's Hotel of Water on the Brain. – N/R

May 06, 1885   - Mr. Ed SLOSSON's baby died about 6 PM of a bad swelling in the throat. May 08 short Funeral Service by Rev. Davis AM at the Baptist Church, buried on Pleasant Ridge PM. – N/R

June 19, 1885   - Albert BREWSTER killed by the falling of a tree on his claim near Avon W.T., June 21, buried on Pleasant Ridge short service at the Ridge School House.
        - Albert H. BREWSTER – 25 Years – C-050-01-01

June 19, 1885 - Mr. KAVANAUGH of Fidalgo Island died 11:20 PM and June 21, was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery PM.
   - James KAVANAUGH – 53 Years, 3 mos. Born Wexford Co. IRE – E-005-08-05

June 04, 1885 - J.S. CONNER died at Oakland, California of Consumption and was buried there.
   - Remains brought from CA 28 May 1892 and re-buried at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery

Aug 09, 1885 - Jno. STROBEL died at his home in La Conner of Consumption. Aug 11 buried at Padilla PM. Short Service by the Good Templers at the cemetery.

Sep 26, 1885 - Mr. JARVIS died in the morning of Consumption and was buried on Pleasant Ridge Monday, September 28.   - George H. JARVIS – 25 Years 10 Mos 13 Days – E-004-0101

Oct 29, 1885 - Miss Alice FOSTER died at her home near Padilla of Consumption and was buried Nov. 01. Short Funeral Sermon by Rev. Brooks at the cemetery. – N/R

Nov 05, 1885 - Mr. McCRAVEN's Boy shot and killed himself instantly near Mr. Whitney's while out hunting and was buried Nov 6, PM - N/R

Nov 11, 1885 - Robert FRETWELL capsized in a boat in the Bay between Hat Island and Marche's Point and died soon after being rescued and was buried near Bay View Nov. 12.

Nov 20, 1885 - Mrs. John E. DAVIS died suddenly of Heart disease at her Brother's in San Francisco. Remains came on Steamship Mexico to Seattle, thence to La Conner on Steamer Munro Dec 8 for burial. Remained in State in the Baptist Church till Sunday Dec 12 and was buried on Pleasant Ridge PM. Funeral Sermon by Reverend Burkhead (Episcopal) at the Baptist Church 10:20 AM. – N/R

DIARY E-18-66 – 1886

Jan 26, 1886 - Young Mr. UMBERGER shot and killed himself suddenly and accidentally on Skagit River above Avon in McRae's Camp, and was buried near Avon January 28.

Mar 19, 1886 - Tommy BESSNER of Skagit River died at his home 12:20 PM. of inflammation of the Bowels and was buried on Pleasant Ridge   May 21.
   - Thomas BESSNER – Born 17 Feb 1866 – age 20 – E-006-06-05

Jul 22, 1886 - Little Roy BALL died 2 PM after a lingering illness of 5 weeks with Brain Fever and was buried on Pleasant Ridge at 4 PM July 24. Funeral Service at the Methodist Church at 2 PM by Rev. Banks.   - Richard L. BALL – 1 Yr Old. – F007-01-05

Aug 15, 1886 - Mr. BERNER died at his home in La Conner 9:30 PM of Inflammation of the Lungs and was buried on Pleasant Ridge. AM Funeral Service at the Baptist Church by Rev. Brown of Skagit River. – N/R

Aug 21, 1886 - Mr. WELLS Baby died at 8 AM of Brain Fever and was buried on Pleasant Ridge Sept 1st. PM. Short Funeral Service at the house by Rev. Moore.
   - Probably Clare WELLS – No dates shown - F-007-04-02

Sep 12, 1886 - Mr. Harry BOTCHER died at Bay View at 10 AM and was buried at Padilla Cemetery Sept. 14.

Oct 10, 1886 - Albert LEAMER died at his home near Stanwood of Heart Disease and was buried there Oct. 12. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Moore of La Conner. - Albert LEAMER – age 35 Years 2 Mos 14 Days – Reburied at PRC at later date F-042-02-04A

Nov 07, 1886 - Fred EYRE's Baby died of Membraneous Croup 2:45 AM and was buried on Pleasant Ridge Nov 8, at Noon.   - Frederick James EYRE Age 1 Mo 25 Days - F-007-05-05A

Dec 06, 1886   - John CHILBERG's Baby buried on Pleasant Ridge, it having died in Seattle a few
                days previous.   - Charles CHILBERG" – Born 19 May 1885 – J-019-04-04

DIARY E-18-67 – 1887

May 08, 1887   - Mrs. DODGE died at her home in LaConner 4 AM of a long and lingering illness
                and buried on Pleasant Ridge. May 9th - 3 PM funeral service at the house by Rev.
                Moore and a short Service at the grave. - Mary Alice DODGE – Age 44 – G011-07-03

May 22, 1887   - Mrs. PURDY died at Mrs. Lindsay's AM of Typhoid Pneumonia and was buried at
                Padilla Cemetery. May 23, 4:30 PM funeral Sermon at the Methodist Church at
                1 PM and short burial Service at the grave by Rev. Moore.

July 11, 1887   -Frank BENN died 6:20 AM at McGlinn's Hotel from the effect of a knife wound inflicted
                on the Fourth through left lung, and was buried on Pleasant Ridge July 12.   Funeral
                procession leaving 2 PM and burial at 3.
                   - Francis BENN Age 39Yrs 5 Mo 15 Days Native of Ontario, CAN – E-004-03-02A

Aug 25, 1887   - Mr. PERRY's Baby died on Pleasant Ridge at home 10 AM of Water on the Brain
                 and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Aug. 26. Funeral Service by the
                 Rev. Moore – N/R

Aug 25, 1887   - Also Isaac CHILBERG's Baby same day 4 PM of Spinal Meningitis. Funeral
                Service Aug 26 by the same Rev. Moore.
                   - Arthur CHILBERG – Age 2 Mos 23 Days – G090-04-02A

Sep 04, 1887   - Mr. FUNK died at the Planter's Hotel 7:30AM of Typhoid Fever and was buried on
                Pleasant Ridge Sep 5th. AM
                   - E.W. FUNK–Age 24 Yrs 3 Mos 23 Days Native of Harrison Co. IN – C-052-08-03

Sep 29, 1887   - John PETH's Brother run over by a water wagon AM and died at 9 the same evening
                 Having received Internal Injuries of the heart and lungs. Buried on Pleasant Ridge
                 Sept. 30. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Moore. – N/R

Oct 29, 1887   - Mrs. Isaac CHILBERG died at her home on Pleasant Ridge of Malignant Disease of the
                Stomach and Liver and was buried Oct 30 PM in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short funeral
                Sermon at the School House by Elder Massey 3 PM and burial Service at the Cemetery by
                Rev. Moore.   - Christina L. CHILBERG – Born 29 Aug 1854 – G-010-04-03B

Nov 29, 1887   - Grand Ma WALLACE died at John Wallace's between 2 and 3 AM of Old Age.
                 Nov 30 Funeral Service at Pleasant Ridge School House at 2PM by Revs. Pullman
                and Moore burial immediately after in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.
                   - Rebecca (Moore) WALLACE – Age 96 Native of PA – D-001-03-01

DIARY E-18-68 – 1888

Feb 18, 1888   - Jo. BREWSTER's Baby died at 2 AM of Brain Fever and buried at Pleasant Ridge
                Cemetery February 20 PM. Short Funeral Discourse at the Methodist Church at 1 PM by
                Rev. Moore.   - Etta BREWSTER – Born 10 Jun 1886 – G011-08-05

Mar 23, 1888   - George GACHES's Child died in the evening of Brain Fever and Whooping Cough
                and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery PM. Funeral Service at the Methodist
                Church at 1 PM by Rev. Moore   - John GACHES – Age 2 Yrs 23 Days – G011-03-02

Apr 30, 1888   - Mr. LYNCH of Skagit died at Mrs. Prices in La Conner in AM. Buried on Pleasant
                Ridge May 1. – N/R

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May 02,1888   - Hal BRADLEY died at Seattle of Consumption and was buried at Padilla May 5.
Funeral Service by Rev. Moore

May 31,1888   - Peter BESSNER killed by falling from a wagon near Edison and remains brought to
La Conner June 1st. and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery June 2nd. Short Prayer
read by McGlinn at the Cemetery. - Peter BESSNER – Born 03 Aug 1862 – E-006-06-03

Jun 27, 1888   - Mrs. Charley CONRAD died in Childbirth and buried June 29 on Pleasant Ridge.
Funeral Sermon by Rev. Moore at the Schoolhouse.
- Sophia CONRAD – Born 11 Oct 1857 – G-010-05-02

Jun 29, 1888   - Robert MOORE's little girl (Ella) died of Diphtheria and was buried June 30 in
Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short burial Service by Rev. Moore at cemetery.
- Eleanor MOORE – Born 1877 – G-010-07-03A

Jul 03, 1888   - Robert MOORE's little boy died of Diphtheria in the evening and was buried in
Pleasant Ridge Cemetery July 5. Funeral Service by Rev. Moore.
- Melvin MOORE – Born 1878 – G 010-07-03B

Jul 12, 1888   - Another boy (Georgie) of Robert MOORE died of Diphtheria and was buried July 12
PM in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. - George MOORE – Born 1880 – G010-07-03C

Jul 23, 1888   - Ed SLOSSON's Baby died 1:30 PM of Lung Complaint and was buried in Pleasant
Ridge Cemetery July 24th. – N/R

Aug 24, 1888   - Harris PECK's little girl died of Diphtheria and was buried Aug 25 in Pleasant Ridge
Cemetery. Rev. Pulliam conducting ceremony. -
- Probably Florence PECK–no dates but buried next to Mother– F-008-01-01C

Sep 01, 1888   - Dr. MADISON's little Child died and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery
September 2nd. – N/R

Sep 12, 1888   - George GACHES's Baby died and was buried September 13 in Pleasant Ridge
Cemetery.   - Hugh Victor GACHES – Age 1 Yr 4 Mos 7 days – G-011-03-03

Oct 14, 1888   - Young HORSEY died of Typhoid Fever 7:30 PM and was buried in Pleasant Ridge
Cemetery October 15. 4:30 PM Funeral Sermon at the Methodist Church by Rev. White
2 PM. - Pleasant Sidney HORSEY – Age 18 Yrs 11 Mos 12 Days – G-012-03-05

Oct 17, 1888   - Hiriam WELL's Child died at 4 AM of Congestion of the Bowels and buried in
Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Oct 18 at 12 Noon. Short Funeral Service at the grave by
Rev. Pulliam.   - Roscoe WELLS – 4 Yrs Old – E-006-01-05

Nov 21, 1888   - Frank GALLISHER's Baby died 2 AM of Blood Poison and buried in Pleasant
Ridge Cemetery Nov 22 11:30 AM
- Probably "Baby GALLISHER" – No Name / No Dates – E-043-01-01

DIARY E-18-69 – 1889

Apr 17, 1889   - Mrs. Robert GINNETT's Baby died at 2 AM of Membranous Croup. Buried April
19 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Funeral Surmon at the Baptist Church at
3 PM by Rev. Pulliam. – N/R

Apr 29, 1889   - David BYRNES's child died at noon of Membranous Croup. Buried Apr 30 in
Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.- Joseph Anslum BYRNES – Born 16 Sep 1887 – G-011-01-01

May 14, 1889   - Mrs. FRANCIS died AM in Childbirth and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery May 15. Funeral Service at the Baptist Church by Rev. White 2:30 PM
      - Fanny FRANCIS – Born 21 Jan 1864 Fraisbridge, ENG - G-012-05-01

Jul 19, 1889   - Mrs. John Peck's Sister (Miss CRANDALL died at John Peck's at noon and was Buried July 21 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Prayer at the grave by Rev. Pullam
      - Sereph C. CRANDALL – Born 19 Oct 1832 Salisbury, NB, CAN – F-008-03-01

Sep 12, 1889   - Mrs. HUGHS died of Paralysis at Roy Carter's 2 AM and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Sept. 13. Short service at the house and Prayer at the Cemetery by Rev. Gray.
      - Lydia A.(Nichols) Janney / HUGHES – Age 61 Yrs 5 Mo 14 Days – F-009-05-01

Oct 08, 1889   - Fred EYRE's Baby died at 4:30 AM of Pneumonia and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Oct. 9.   - Jane Olive EYRE – Born 1889 – F-007-05-04

Dec 09, 1889   - Mrs. Harry SUMMERS died.
      - Sarah H. SUMMERS– Born 21 Mar 1849 Melksham, ENG – D-001-02-02

Dec 25, 1889   - Dr. WILLIAMS buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery PM, having died at Coos Bay, OR of Typhoid Fever. Remains came on Steamer Idaho
      - Dr. A.C. WILLIAMS – Born 1861 – F-007-01-01

DIARY E-18-70 – 1890

Jan 28, 1890   - Mrs. TANSEY's Baby died and buried Jan 29th in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Service by Rev. Gray. - Jessie A. TANSEY – Born 1889 – B-066-05-01

Feb 01, 1890   - Capt. PERRY died at Mt. Vernon in the morning and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery the following day (Feb. 2) by the Masonic Order. Short Ceremony at the Cemetery. – N/R

Feb. 04, 1890   - Mrs. Walter GINNETT died in the morning of Typhoid Pneumonia and was buried the following day in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short burial service at the graveside by Rev. White. – N/R

Feb. 21, 1890   - John UNKHARDT died at his Mother's place of Pneumonia and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Feb. 22. Funeral Service by Rev. Gray. – N/R

Mar 01, 1890   - Mrs. Charley MILLER died at Stanwood and buried Mar 03 at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.   - Susan M. MILLER – Age 41 Yrs 4 Mos 22 Days – F-008-07-01

Mar 04, 1890   - Dr. BALCOM died at Mt. Vernon and buried Mar 08 on the River

Mar 29, 1890   - Mrs. George GACHES's Baby died 8 PM and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Mar 30. Funeral Sermon at the Methodist Church at 1 PM by Rev. White.
      - Benjamin Harrison GACHES – Age 1 Yr 24 Days – G-011-03-04

May 06, 1890   - Isaac ANDERSON killed by a falling tree on Fidalgo Island and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Mar 07. Short Funeral Sermon by Rev. Gray in the Pleasant Ridge Church and Prayer at the Grave. – N/R

May 23, 1890   - Mary TURNER died at 7:30 PM of Consumption at her Mother's home and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery May 24. Short Service at the Grave by Rev. Gray.
      - Mary TURNER – Age 20 Yrs – J-019-02-05

May 25, 1890   - Miss DRAKE died 11 AM at Mr. Dwelley's of Nervous Prostration and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. May 27th. PM under the auspices of the Order of Good Templars. - Zena DRAKE– Age 22 Yrs – G010-01-01

Sep 24, 1890   - Pat MALOY's Baby died at Mr. Dwelley's 7:30 PM of Meningites of the Brain and
                Buried Sep 26 PM in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Service at the house by
                Rev. Baxter. - Francis MALOY – Age 4 Mos – G-010-01-04

Oct 10, 1890   - Fred EYRE's Baby died at Mr. Callahan's of Bronchites and was buried in Pleasant
                Ridge Cemetery Oct. 11 AM - Eleanor Pearl EYRE– Born 10 Aug 1890 – F-007-05-05B

Nov 27, 1890   - Mr. GOOD's Son buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery He having died at Lynden
                of Abscess of the Liver. - Henry GOOD– Born 1868 - Age 22 – H-013-04-05

Nov 29, 1890   - Mr. BROWN of Anacortes buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery he having died
                suddenly of Heart Disease at Anacortes. Short Funeral Service at the Cemetery.
                – N/R

DIARY E-18-1– 1892

May 24, 1892   - Mr. HAYTON's Daughter on Skagit River died of Consumption at her home 9 PM
                and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery May 26, 2 PM. Short Funeral Service
                by Rev. Coombs at the Ridge Church. Benediction at the Grave by Rev. Olander.
                - Minta B. HAYTON – Born 1871 – G-012-01-04

May 28, 1892   - J.S. CONNER's Remains reached LaConner from California in the morning, and
                was Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Herbert Conner read a Short Burial Service
                at the Cemetery. - John S. CONNER – died in CA 04 Jun 1885 – Reburied in PRC

Jun 01, 1892   - Mrs. John SEIGFRED died at her home in LaConner of Cancer and was buried in
                Pleasant Ridge Cemetery June 2.
                - Mary C. SEIGFRED (Wife of John W.) Age 47 Yrs 5 Mos 19 Days - J-019-01-03
                   Note: in the PRC Book the Surname is spelled Sigfred

Sep 04, 1892   - Young Mr. HAYTON died at his Father's on Skagit River of Consumption at 11 AM and
                was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Sep 5 – 3PM. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Coombs at
                2 PM - Richard F. HAYTON – Born 1867 – G012-01-03

Sep 22, 1892   - George Hall's Baby died at 7 AM of Cholora Morbus. Buried in Pleasant Ridge
                Cemetery Sep 23. Short Funeral Sermon at the Baptist Church by Rev. Coombs and
                Service and Prayer at the Cemetery. - N/R

DIARY E-18-71– 1893

Jan 11, 1893   - Blacksmith NELSON's Baby died in the morning of Spinal Meningitis and was
                buried Jan 12 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. – N/R

Jan 14, 1893   - Peter KUYLE at Mr. Christianson's 5 AM. Buried Jan 15. Funeral Sermon by Rev.
                Olander in Pleasant Ridge Methodist Church 1:30 PM. Burial after Service in
                Cemetery. – N/R

Feb 11, 1893   - George ALVERSON's Baby died at 6 AM and Buried Feb 12 in Pleasant Ridge
                Cemetery. Short Funeral Sermon at the house by Rev. Gray. Burial about 2:30 PM
                - Paul ALVERSON – Born 22 Jul 1891   - I-017-01-01

Feb 21, 1893   - Maynard HURD's Baby died 10 PM of Heart failure and was buried in Pleasant
                Ridge Cemetery Feb 25 at noon. – N/R

Apr 21, 1893   - John CRANDALL's (son) Baby died in the morning. Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Apr 22. Rev. K.H. Gray officiating. - Note: according to Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Records this was a daughter   - Mildred. CRANDALL – F-008-06-01

Jul 10, 1893   - Mr. HARWOOD died at his home on the Samish. Buried the 12th. in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Ceremony at the Grave. – N/R

Oct 18, 1893   - Rev. WESTLUND's Baby died of Diarrhea and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Oct 19 3 PM. Short Funeral Sermon at the Swedish Lutheran Church and a short Burial Service at the grave by their Minister. – N/R

Nov 08, 1893   - The cook (a young man) fell off the Steamer Anna M. Pence and was drowned. Coroners Jury rendering verdict of accidental Drowning. Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Nov 10. Short Burial Service at the Grave by the Swedish Lutheran Minister of Pleasant Ridge. – N/R

Nov 18, 1893   - Mr. MALONE (a Swede) died at C. Eddy's Lodging House of injuries by a fall received on the Steamer Utsalady and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery by Friends Nov. 19. – N/R

DIARY E-18-72– 1894

Jan 22, 1894   - Minnie WELLS died PM and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Jan 25. Funeral Service at the Catholic Church conducted by Father Powers 10 AM
    - Minnie WELLS (Wife of Edwin Wells) – Born 01 Sep 1868 – F-007-03-02

Jan 24, 1894   - Edgar GARRETT died at his home 3 AM of Intestinal Trouble and Bronchitis. Remains taken to Coupeville for Burial on the 25th for Steamer Skagit Chief.

Mar 04, 1894   - Lemuel B. MOORE member of "Larrabie" Post No. 12 G.A.R. died at his home in LaConner of Pleura Pneumonia after an illness of one week and was buried under the auspices of :Larrabie" Post March 6, in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Olander in the M.E. Church in LaConner 1:30 PM and Burial immediately after.
    - L.B. MOORE - Veteran Co. K 44th. ILL. INF - H-015-02-03

Mar 16, 1894   - Mr. STEAVENS died at the home of J. Gaches in the evening of Hernia. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Olander of the M.E. Church at the Baptist Church March 18 at 11 AM and Burial at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery under Auspices of the Free Masons.
    - William A. STEAVENS– Born 20 Jun 1824 – G-012-05-04

Mar 19, 1894   - Frank FLAGG died of Consumption at the home of his Parents and was buried March 21 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Davis of LaConner at Pleasant Ridge Church 3:45 PM and Short Service at the Grave.
    - Frank B. FLAGG – Born 29 Jan 1869 – I-017-05-02

May 17, 1894   - Old Mrs. BREWSTERr died suddenly of Hearth Disease at the home of her Daughter Mrs. Byrnes at 11 AM and was buried May 20 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery; Funeral Sermon by Rev. Baker at the Baptist Church at 11 AM and Prayer and Benediction at the Grave.   - Useba Jane BREWSTER – Born 1822 – G-011-08-01

Dec 04, 1894   - Rachel TURNER died at Mt. Vernon in the morning and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery at 2 PM Dec. 6. Short Service at the Grave by Rev. Baker of LaConner.
    - Rachel TURNER – Age 30 Years- J-019-02-04

DIARY E-18-73 – 1895

Mar 14, 1895   - Mr. BRILEY (Mrs. Edward's Father) died at Mrs. Edwards' home 3:30 PM of Paralysis and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery PM. Short Funeral Service at the house by Rev. Baker. – N/R

Jun 07, 1895   - Mr. KIPLINGER died at his home in LaConner at 1 PM after a long illness and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery June 9. Funeral Service at the Catholic Church 10:30 AM in LaConner by Father Power and Short Service at the grave. – N/R

Jun 20, 1895   - George BRANN killed in his Logging Camp on Whidby Island by a log folling on him. Remains brought to LaConner Jun 21 and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery 2 PM Short Funeral Service there by Rev. Baker of LaConner. – N/R

Jul 23, 1895   - Mrs. PARKER died at her home in LaConner PM. Probably Cancer of the Stomach and was buried July 24, in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Curry of the Methodist Church and Short Burial Service at the Cemetery.
      - Mary PARKER – (Wife of A.W. Parker) – Born 12 May 1841 – H-015-05-03

Aug 22, 1895   - Mrs. BROOKS died at Mrs. Schenkogel's 5 AM of Dropsy and other complications and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Aug 23. Short Funeral Surmon at the Baptist Church by Rev. Baker and Prayer and Benedictin at the Grave. – N/R

DIARY E-18-74 – 1896

Feb 13, 1896   - Mrs. STEAVENS died in the evening at the home of Mrs. James Gaches of Phemnonia. Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Feb 15 3:30 PM. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Abbott at the Baptist Church in LaConner.
      - Elizabeth STEAVENS– Born 14 Feb 1826 – G-012-05-05

Mar 27, 1896   - Mr. WIN of George Brann's Logging Camp drowned by falling from a boom of logs and Remains buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Mar 28 – 2:30 PM. Funeral Service by Rev. Abbott of the Baptist Church 12:30. Burial Service and Prayer by Deacon Francis at the Grave. – N/R

Apr 12, 1896   - Mrs. Wm. WELLSdied at her home in Mt. Vernon of Pneumonia and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Apr. 13. 1:15 PM. Short Funeral Service and Benediction at the Grave by Rev. Brooks of Mt. Vernon.   - Ella J. WELLS – Age 31 Years – F-007-04-01

Apr 23, 1896   - Mrs. CONNER arrived in town on Steamer Fair Haven with her son Louis's Remains, He having died in Phoenix Arizona of Consumption. Funeral Service in the Catholic Church in LaConner Apr 24th. 11 AM conducted by Rev. Father Powers. Burial in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery PM.
      - Louisa A. CONNER – Died 14 Apr 1896 – Age 20 – K-024-06-02

May 05, 1896   - Mrs. JOERGERSON died suddenly at her home in early morning of Convulsions after Confinement, and Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery May 7. Funeral Service conducted by Rev. Father Power at the Catholic Church at 9 AM.
      - Alice W. JOERGERSON (Wife of Sophus Joergerson) Born 19 Nov 1857 - J-020-08-01

May 06, 1896   - Peter KIRTER died at the home of his sister Mrs. Kegenveter at 2 AM of injuries received by a fallen tree. Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery May 7. AM. Short Prayer at the Grave by Rev. Father Power of the Catholic Church. – N/R

May 28, 1896   - Milas GALLIGHER's son died at his home in LaConner 7:30 AM of Cancer of the stomach. Funeral Services in the Baptist Church conducted by Rev. Abbott May 29 at 5 PM and Remains shipped on Steamer Fairhaven to Olympia for burial.

Sep 12, 1896 - Paddy O'HARE died at his home 2 PM from injuries received by a runaway horse and was Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Sep 15. Funeral Service at the Catholic Church by Rev. Father Power and Short Service at the Grave.
  - Patrick O'HARA - K-023-08-03

Oct. 09, 1896 - Jo BREWSTER's Baby died at 10 PM and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Oct 11. Short Service at the House by Rev. Massey of the Methodist Church.
  - Horace BREWSTER – Born 1896 – G-011-08-04

Nov 21, 1896 - Old Mrs. HAYTON died at the Home on Skagit River at 11:30 PM and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Nov 24. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Abbott of LaConner in the Pleasant Ridge Methodist Church. - Sarah Elizabeth HAYTON – Born 1833 – G-012-02-03

Nov 29, 1896 - Mrs. John MORROW's infant Babe died AM and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Nov 30. Short Service and Benediction at the Grave by Rev. Abbott.
  - MORROW Infant Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Morrow – J-021-08-01

DIARY E-18-75– 1897 & 1898

Jan 07, 1897 - Mrs. WIGGINS's Baby died of Spinal Meningitis and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Jan 8. Short Funeral Service at the Grave by Rev. Massey of the M.E. Church - Wilfred Hugh WIGGINS – Born 1896 – 4 Mos. – H-013-06-04

May 16, 1897 - Mr. RANDALL's Child died at Mrs. Scheurkogel's PM and Buried the 17th. in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Funeral Sermon at the house by Rev. Abbott.
  - Alice May RANDALL – Born 29 Sep 1895 – I-016-06-01

Oct. 13, 1897 - Mrs. SCHRICKER died in Seattle 5AM and Remains brought to LaConner and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery on the 14th. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Chamberlain of the M.E. Church at the Episcopal Church.
  - Josephine I. SCHRICKER (Wife of W.E. Schricker) – Born 1862 – K-022-04-05

Dec 01, 1897 - Mrs. Sam GINNETT's Infant Babe died at 5 AM and buried PM in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Burial Service at the Grave by Rev. Chamberlain. – N/R

Dec 14, 1897 - Old Mr.Charley MILLER died at his home on Whidby Island and Remains brought to LaConner and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemtery Dec. 16th. Short Funeral Sermon at the Ridge Church by Rev. Chamberlain.
  - C. H. MILLER – Born 10 Apr 1832 – F-008-07-05

Jan 12, 1898 - Mr. GLOVER Died at Bay View and buried in Bay View Cemetery Jan 13th.

Feb 12, 1898 - Mr. TORPEY buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery he having died in Tacoma Hospital Funeral Sermon at the Catholic Church and Short Service at the Grave.
  - Alfred A. TORPEY – Died 10 Feb 1898 – Age 65 – J-021-07-01

Feb 16, 1898 - Will MALLOY buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery he having died at Skagway, Alaska. Funeral Service at the Catholic Church in LaConner 2 PM. – N/R

Feb 17, 1898 - Mrs. Anthony BARRETT died in Seattle and Remains brought to LaConner the 18th. and placed in the Catholic Church to await Burial. Funeral Service 10:30AM by Father Metts. Burial in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery PM.
  - Ellen B. BARRETT – Born 07 Mar 1850 – J-030-04-04

May 02, 1898 - Mrs. DENIS died at her home near Edison and buried May 4th. in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Service at the Catholic Church conducted by Rev. Father Mets. - N/R

June 11, 1898   - Mr. LABADA died at Tacoma and Remains brought to LaConner June 12, and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery June 14th. Funeral Services conducted by Rev. Chamberlin. – N/R

July 17, 1898   - Professor BEALS of Seattle killed in Seattle by falling through a hatch on the Steamship Arizona. Remains brought to LaConner July 19th. Funeral Service at the Baptist Church July 20, 10AM conducted by Rev. Delipin, burial in Pleasant Ridge   - N/R

Aug 14, 1898   - Funeral Service of Martin CONNER concluded in the Catholic Church 10:30 AM by Rev. Father Metz. Remains buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery PM.
  - Martin E. CONNER – Died 06 Aug 1898 – Age 18 – K-024-06-03

Oct 16, 1898   - Vick BESSNER (Mrs. Pete KIPLINGER) died at her home in B.C. Funeral in the Catholic Church in LaConner Oct 19, 10AM by Rev. Father Metz. Burial in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery afterwards. – N/R

DIARY E-18-76– 1899 & 1900

Jan 21, 1899   - Mrs. LUCE's Babe died at 11 AM and was buried Jan 22 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Service at the house and at the Grave by Rev. Chamberlin. – N/R

Jan 22, 1899   - Young Mrs. GLADWIN died at her home at 1 AM and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery about 3:30 PM same day. Services at the home 2:30 PM by Rev. Delefine.
  - Rosealie L. GLADWINn (Wife of W.D. Gladwin)– Born 18 Dec 1873 – C-053-01-05

Feb 10, 1899   - Old Mrs. FLAGG died of Consumption at her home and Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Feb 12. Funeral Service by Rev. Chamberlin at the Ridge.
  - Mary Elizabeth FLAGG (Wife of Benjamin Flagg) Born 02 Dec 1831 – I-017-05-03

Apr 02, 1899   - Mrs. HENDERSON died at her home 8:40 AM and buried April 3 PM in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Service at the house by Rev. Father Mets of the Catholic Church.
  - Rachel L. HENDERSON (Wife of A.W. Henderson) Born 27 Feb 1853 – C-049-01-01

Apr 11, 1899   - Mrs. Rudene's Father (William WALLACE) died at her home and was buried April 13 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Chamberlin in Pleasant Ridge Methodist Church.   - William WALLACE– Born 1814 – Age 85 Years – D-002-01-03

Apr 14, 1899   - Dick PETH's Baby died and was buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Apr 16. Short Burial Service at the Grave by the Bay View Minister. – N/R

Jun 25, 1899   - Mr. CLEAVES died suddenly at his home 11 PM and buried June 27th. AM in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Burial Service at the House and Cemetery by Rev. Ames of the M.E. Church.   - Joseph H. CLEAVES – Age 76 Yrs 11 Mos 9 Days - C-049-08-03

Aug 18, 1899   - Little Irene HANSTED died at her home at 9:30 PM of disease contracted from Measles. Funeral Service at the M.E. Church 9 AM Aug 20 conducted by Rev. Ames. Remains taken to the Samish for burial – age 8 years.

Oct 05, 1899   - Mr. WELLS died at his home in LaConner 9 PM of Bright's Disease. Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Oct 7 – 3PM Short Funeral Discourse at the house by
  - Juda Wells – 69 Years – E-006-04-01

Oct 22, 1899   - Mrs. WILKE died at her home at 4 AM of Consumption and was buried Oct 23. Funeral Sermon at the House by Rev. Abbott of Whatcom 2:30 PM and burial in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery afterwards.   - Minnie WILKE – Born 08 Aug 1859 in IL – I-031-03-03A

Nov 06, 1899   - Bert LINSTROM died suddenly at Ole Lee's at 5 PM and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Service conducted at the grave by Rev. Nelson of Pleasant Ridge. - N/R

Nov 09, 1899   - Martin LAHS died at O'Laughlins in the Morning and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Nov 10. – N/R

Nov 11, 1899   - Rev. McEVER's youngest Boy shot and killed accidentally by one of his brothers PM while out hunting near the Swimomish Slough Bridge and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Nov 14, PM. Funeral Service conducted in the M.E. Church by the presiding Elder and the Methodist Ministers of Anacortes, Avon and Mt. Vernon.   - N/R

Nov 13, 1899   - Henry Nelson's Baby died at 9 AM and Buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Nov 14 PM. Funeral Service conducted by Rev. Nelson (Swedish Lutheran) Minister of Pleasant Ridge. – N/R

Dec 27, 1899   - Lena WELLS died at her home at 9 AM of sore throat trouble and Membranous Croup and Buried Dec 29 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral Service conducted by Rev. McEvers. - Lena WELLS – Born 27 Nov 1888 – Age 11 Years – F-007-04-03

Dec 29, 1899   - Leona CARTER died at her home at 7 AM of Diphtheria and buried Dec 30 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery at noon., Short Service at the House and Prayer and Benediction at the Grave by Rev. Fergerson of Baptist Church.
    - Leona May CARTER (Daughter of F.L. & G.E. Carter) Born 04 Jul 1889
     Age 10 Yrs 5 Mo 25 Days - F-009-05-02

Jan 05, 1900   - Nathan WHITE's little Boy died of Diphtheria in the morning and was buried PM in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery without ceremony.   – N/R

Feb 02, 1900   - Mrs. GINNITT's Baby died AM of Membrane Croupous and buried next in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral service conducted by Rev. McEvans of the M.E. Church. - N/R

Feb 20, 1900   - Richard and Willie BRESLICH died at their home of Sore Throat and were buried Feb 21 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.
    - Richard BRESLICH – Born 1884 – J-021-06-05A
    - William BRESLICH – Born 1892 – J-021-06-05B

Mar 16, 1900   - Mr. CURRIER died at his home at 9:30 PM from injuries received by being run over by a loaded wagon. Buried Mar 17 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Funeral met at the house at 2 PM. Funeral Sermon at Pleasant Ridge Church afterwards by Rev. McEvers. Funeral under auspices of the Free Masons.
    - Oliver C. CURRIER – Born 1841 – C-053-08-02

Mar 20, 1900   - Old Mrs. FULK died at her Son's 4AM and buried Mar 21 in Bay View Cemetery. Funeral conducted by Rev. Ferguson of the Baptist Church.

May 03, 1900   - Mr. Wm. JOHNSON died at his home three miles north of LaConner from effects of being gored by a mad bull, and was buried May 5 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery under auspices of Order of United Workmen. Funeral Sermon by Rev. Nelson, Swedish Lutheran Minister of Pleasant Ridge. – N/R

May 05, 1900   - Arthur MILLER died at 9 PM at his home of Sore Throat and buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery May 6 5:30 PM. Short Service and Prayer at the Greave by Rev. Ferguson.
    - Arthur MILLER – Born 03 Jul 1888 – Age 11 – I-032-03-01A

May 10, 1900   - Al MILLER's Baby died about noon of Sore Throat and was buried May 11 in
　　　　　　　　Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Service and Prayer at the Grave by Rev. Ferguson
　　　　　　　　　- Dewey MILLER – Born 11 Aug 1898 – Age 1 – I-032-03-01B
　　　　　　　　　　Note: PRC Records shows a Death Date of 10 May 1901 ?

May 11, 1900   - Mr. & Mrs. ANDERSON's little Boy died in the morning of Stomach Trouble, and
　　　　　　　　was buried May 13 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Short Service at the Home by Rev.
　　　　　　　　McEvers   - Walter E. ANDERSON – Born 03 May 1894 – C-052-02-04

Last Name Meanings & Origins

http://genealogy.about.com/od/surnames/a/surname_meaning.htm

Excerpted from multiple articles by Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

How to Trace the Origin of Your Surname

With a few exceptions, hereditary surnames, the last names passed down through the males of a family, didn't exist until about 1000 years ago. While it may be hard to believe in today's hustle and bustle, surnames just weren't necessary before that. In a world that was much less crowded than it is today -- a world where most folks never ventured more than a few miles from their place of birth and every man knew his neighbors -- first, or given names, were the only designations necessary. Even kings got by with a single name.

During the middle ages, as families got bigger and villages got a bit more crowded, individual names became inadequate to distinguish friends and neighbors from one another. One John might be called "John son of William" to distinguish him from his neighbor "John the smith" and his friend "John of the dale." These secondary names, weren't quite yet the surnames as we know them today, however, because they weren't passed down from father to son. "John son of William," for example, might have a son known as "Robert the fletcher (arrow maker)."

True surnames, hereditary names used to distinguish one person from another, first came into use in Europe about 1000 A.D., beginning in southern areas and gradually spreading northward. In many countries the use of hereditary surnames began with the nobility who often called themselves after their ancestral seats. Many of the gentry, however, did not adopt surnames until the 14th century, and it was not until about 1500 A.D. that most surnames became inherited and no longer transformed with a change in a person's appearance, job, or place of residence.

Surnames, for the most part, drew their meanings from the lives of men in the Middle Ages, and their origins can be divided into four main categories:

I Patronymic Surnames

Patronymics, last names derived from a father's name, were widely used in forming surnames, especially in the Scandinavian countries. Occasionally, the name of the mother contributed to the surname, referred to as a matronymic surname. Such names were formed by adding a prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or "daughter of." English and Scandinavian names ending in "son" are patronymic surnames, as are many names prefixed with the Gaelic "Mac," the Norman "Fitz," the Irish "O," and the Welsh "ap."

Examples: The son of John (JOHNSON), son of Donald (MACDONALD), son of Patrick (FITZPATRICK), son of Brien (O'BRIEN), son of Howell (ap HOWELL).

II Place Names or Local Names

One of the most common ways to differentiate one man from his neighbor was to describe him terms of his geographic surroundings or location (similar to describing a friend as the "one who lives down the street"). Such local names denoted some of the earliest instances of surnames in France, and were quickly introduced into England by the Norman nobility who chose names based on the locations of their ancestral estates. If a person or family migrated from one place to another, they were often identified by the place they came from. If they lived near a stream, cliff, forest, hill, or other geographic feature, this might be used to describe them. Some last names can still be traced back to their exact place of origin, such as a particular

city or county, while others have origins lost in obscurity (ATWOOD lived near a wood, but we don't know which one). Compass directions were another common geographic identification in the Middle Ages (EASTMAN, WESTWOOD). Most geographic-based surnames are easy to spot, though the evolution of language has made others less obvious, i.e. DUNLOP (muddy hill).

Examples: BROOKS lived along a brook; CHURCHILL lived near a church on a hill; NEVILLE came from Neville-Seine-Maritime, France or Neuville (New Town), a common place name in France; PARRIS came from -- you guessed it -- Paris, France.

III Descriptive Names (Nicknames)

Another class of surnames, are those derived from a physical or other characteristic of first bearer, and make up an estimated 10% of all surname or family names. These descriptive surnames are thought to have originally evolved as nicknames during the Middle Ages when men created nicknames or pet names for his neighbors and friends based on personality or physical appearance. Thus, "Michael the strong" became Michael STRONG and "black-haired Peter" became Peter BLACK. Sources for such nicknames included: an unusual size or shape of the body, bald heads, facial hair, physical deformities, distinctive facial features, skin or hair coloring, and even emotional disposition.

Examples: BROADHEAD, a person with a large head; BAINES (bones), a thin man; GOODMAN, a generous individual; ARMSTRONG, strong in the arm

IV Occupational Names

The last class of surnames to develop reflect the occupation or status of the first bearer. These occupational last names, derived from the specialty crafts and trades of the medieval period, are fairly self-explanatory. A MILLER was essential for grinding flour from grain, a WAINWRIGHT was a wagon builder, and BISHOP was in the employ of a Bishop. Different surnames often developed from the same occupation based on the language of the country of origin (MÜLLER, for example, is German for Miller).

Examples: ALDERMAN, an official clerk of the court; TAYLOR, one that makes or repairs garments; CARTER, a maker/driver of carts; OUTLAW, an outlaw or criminal

Despite these basic surname classifications, many last names or surnames of today seem to defy explanation. The majority of these are probably corruptions of the original surnames -- variations that have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Surname spelling and pronunciation has evolved over many centuries, often making it hard for current generations to determine the origin and evolution of their surnames. Such family name derivations, resulting from a variety of factors, tend to confound both genealogists and etymologists.

It is fairly common for different branches of the same family to carry different last names, as the majority of English and American surnames have, in their history, appeared in more than a dozen variant spellings. Therefore, when researching the origin of your surname, it is important to work your way back through the generations in order to determine the original family name, as the surname that you carry now may have an entirely different meaning than the surname of your distant ancestor. It is also important to remember that some surnames, though their origins may appear obvious, aren't what they seem. BANKER, for example, is not an occupational surname, instead meaning "dweller on a hillside."

Find the Meaning of Your Last Name
http://genealogy.about.com/od/surname_meaning/a/surname-meanings.htm

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of your last name or where your family surname came from? What your ancestors did, how they looked or where they lived? Surnames -- our last names -- tell a story about our family, one handed down for hundreds of years. By tracing the possible origin of your surname, you can learn more about the medieval ancestors who first bore the surname and, ultimately, handed it down to you.

To learn more about your surname meaning and ethnic origin, just browse the Surname Meanings and Origins Glossary for your last name. The glossary includes surname meanings and origins, plus research links, common surname spelling variations, and surname search tips for last names of English, Irish, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Canadian, Polish and Jewish origin, including the 100 most popular U.S. surnames.

English Surnames - Meanings & Origins
http://genealogy.about.com/od/surname_meaning/a/english.htm

   English surnames as we know them today -- family names passed down intact from father to son to grandson -- began in England as early as the eleventh century. Such hereditary names were not universally prevalent and settled, however, prior to the era of the Reformation in sixteenth century England. It is conjectured that the introduction of parish registers in 1538 was a great influence in this, as a person entered under one surname at baptism would not be likely to be married under another name, and buried under a third. Some areas of England came later to the use of surnames, however. It was not until the late seventeenth century that many families in Yorkshire and Halifax took permanent surnames.

Scottish Surnames – Meanings & Origins
http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa_scottish_surnames.htm

   The term *Scotch-Irish* is uniquely American. Some historian and genealogists prefer the term Ulster Scots, which more accurately reflect this group. The term *Scotch-Irish* is ambiguous because it does not mean people of mixed Scottish and Irish ancestry as the name seems to imply, but refers to the descendants of the Presbyterians from lowland Scotland who settled in Ulster — northernmost province of Ireland in the 17th century — and subsequently emigrated from there to America.

   Most of us know there are Highland Scots and Lowland Scots. That distinction becomes most important in genealogy. Determine when your Scottish families emigrated as it is the migration patterns that will lead you to proper identification. Genealogy cannot be understood without the study of history. And to track down your Scottish forebears you have to determine whether they were Highland or Lowland Scots, because they belonged to different peoples.

- Highland Scots spoke Gaelic and wore kilts: with bloodlines of the Picts and Vikings.
- Lowland Scots are an ethnic group with many bloodlines: Gaels, Britons, Romans, Scots (who were Celtics from Ireland), Norse, Normans, Flemish and English.

Irish Surnames – Meanings & Origins

   In the 17th century many native Irish families were rooted out and replaced by settlers from England and Scotland. Three-quarters of the leading families in Ireland today still bear names which show that they were derived from England or Scotland.

   Ireland was one of the first countries to adopt hereditary surnames, many of which were devised during the reign of Brian Boru, the High King of Ireland, who fell defending Ireland from the Vikings at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014AD. Many of these names began as patronyms to define a son from his father or grandson from his grandfather. Thus, the reason for the common prefixes found on Irish surnames. Mac, sometimes written Mc, is the Gaelic word for "son" and was attached to the father's name or trade. O is a word all by itself, signifying "grandson" when attached to a grandfather's name or trade. The apostrophe that usually follows the O actually comes from a misunderstanding by English-speaking clerks in Elizabethan time, who interpreted it as a form of the word "of." Another common Irish prefix, Fritz, derives from the French word fils, also meaning "son."

German Surnames - Meanings & Origins
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/german_surnames.htm

   With roots in the Germanic middle ages, German surnames have been around since the 1100s. They are often very easy to identify, if you either know a little German, or know which clues to look for. Names that contain the vowel clusters ue and oe indicate umlauts (Schroeder -> Schröder), providing a clue to German origins. Names with the vowel cluster ei (Klein) are also mostly German. Beginning consonant clusters such as Kn (Knopf), Pf (Pfizer), Str (Stroh), Neu (Neumann), or Sch (Schneider) indicate possible German origins, as do endings such as -mann (Baumann), -stein (Frankenstein), -berg (Goldberg), -burg (Steinburg), -bruck (Zurbrück), -heim (Ostheim), -rich (Heinrich), -lich (Heimlich), -thal (Rosenthal), and -dorf (Dusseldorf).

   A variation on locality names, farm names are names which came from the family farm. The thing which makes them different, however, is that when a person moved onto a farm, he would change his name to that of the farm (a name which usually came from the farm's original owner). A man might also change his

surname to his wife's maiden name if she inherited a farm. This practice obviously results in a dilemma for genealogists, with such possibilities as children in one family being born under different surnames.

After immigrating to America, many Germans changed ("Americanized") their surname to make it easier for others to pronounce or merely to feel more a part of their new home. Many surnames, especially occupational and descriptive surnames, were changed to the English equivalent of the German.

French Surnames - Meanings & Origins
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/french_surnames.htm

Coming from the medieval French word 'surnom' translating as "above-or-over name," surnames or descriptive names trace their use back to 11th century France, when it first became necessary to add a second name to distinguish between individuals with the same given name. The custom of using surnames did not become common for several centuries, however.   The most common category of French last names are based on a parent's name. French language prefixes and suffixes are sometimes found attached to a given name to form a patronymic surname (Jean de Gaulle - John son of Gaulle). The majority of French patronymic and matronymic surnames have no identifying prefix, however, being direct derivations of the parent's given name (August Landry - August son of Landri).

While not in common use as in Italy or Sweden, some French surnames are formed by the addition of various prefixes and suffixes. A variety of French suffixes including -eau, -elet, -elin, -elle, and -elot, mean "little son of" and can be found attached to a given name to form a patronym. Prefixes of French surnames also have specific origins. The prefixes "de," "des," "du," and "le" each translate as "of" and may be found used in patronymic and geographical French surnames. Some French-Norman patronymic surnames will have the prefix "fritz," from the Old French for "son of" (Fitzgerald - son of Gerald).

In some areas of France, a second surname may have been adopted in order to distinguish between different branches of the same family, especially when the families remained in the same town for generations. These alias surnames can often be found preceded by the word "dit." Sometimes an individual even adopted the dit name as the family name, and dropped the original surname. This practice was most common in France among soldiers and sailors.

Spanish Surname - Meanings & Origins
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/spanish_names.htm

With roots in the middle ages, Spanish surnames have been around since the 12th century. Hispanic surnames can be especially important to genealogists because children are commonly given two surnames, one from each parent. The middle name (1st surname) comes from the father's name (apellido paterno), and the last name (2nd surname) is the mother's maiden name (apellido materno). Sometimes, these two surnames may be found separated by *y* (meaning "and"), although this is no longer as common as it once was. Recent changes to laws in Spain mean that you may also find the two surnames reversed - first the mother's surname, and then the father's surname.

 Hispanic surnames are often formed by adding an -es, -as, -is, or -os (common to Portuguese surnames) or an -ez, -az, -is, or -oz (common to Castilian or Spanish surnames) to the end of the father's name. (Leon Alvarez - Leon son of Alvaro).

Polish Surnames – Meanings & Origins

Surnames can often be identified through the use certain endings including -icz, -wicz, -owicz, -ewicz, and -ycz which usually mean "son of." As a rule, Polish surnames which include a suffix with -k- (-czak, -czyk, -iak, -ak, -ik, and -yk) also mean something like "little" or "son of." More commonly found in eastern Poland, the suffixes -yc and -ic also mean "son of." There are also cases of patronymic surnames where the ending has been dropped and only the original root word remains. (Pawel Adamicz - Paul son of Adam.)

Geographical Surnames (Place Names) are the most common type of Polish surname, being derived from the location of the homestead from which the first bearer and his family lived. While you might think that such surnames could lead you to your ancestral village, that isn't often the case with Polish surnames because so many places in Poland had the same name, changed names or disappeared in the centuries too small to be found on a gazetteer or map. Surnames ending in -owski usually derive from place names ending in -y, -ow, -owo, -owa, and so on. (Cyrek Gryzbowski - Cyrek from the town of Gryzbow).

Italian Surname - Meanings & Origins
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/italian_surname.htm

Tracing their origin back to the 1400s when it became necessary to add a second name to distinguish between individuals with the same given name, Italian surnames are especially easy to recognize because most end in a vowel and many of them have been derived from descriptive nicknames. If you think your family name may have come from Italy, then tracing its history can yield important clues to your Italian heritage and ancestral village.

While Italian surnames come from a variety of sources, each Italian region has adopted some types more than others with different spelling variations. For example, the common Italian surnames Risso and Russo both have the same meaning, but one is more prevalent in northern Italy, while the other traces its roots to the south. Italian surnames ending in -o usually come from southern Italy, whereas in northern Italy they can often be found ending with a -i.

Many Italian surnames are basically variations on a root name, made different by the addition of various prefixes and suffixes. Especially common are endings with vowels enclosing double consonants (e.g. -etti, -illo). The Italian preference for diminutives and pet names is the root behind many of the suffixes, as seen by the large number of Italian last names ending in -ini, -ino, -etti, -etto, -ello, and -illo, all of which mean "little." Other commonly added suffixes include -one meaning "big," -accio, meaning either "big" or "bad," and -ucci meaning "descendant of." Common prefixes of Italian surnames also have specific origins. The prefix "di" (meaning "of" or "from") is often attached to a given name. di Benedetto, for example, is the Italian equivalent of Benson (meaning "son of Ben") and di Giovanni is the Italian equivalent of Johnson (son of John). The prefix "di," along with the similar prefix "da" may also be associated with a place of origin (i.e the da Vinci surname referred to someone who originated from Vinci). The prefixes "la" and "lo" (meaning "the") often derived from nicknames (e.g. Giovanni la Fabro was John the smith), but also might be found attached to family names where it meant "of the family of" (e.g. the Greco family might become known as "lo Greco.")

In some areas of Italy, a second surname may have been adopted in order to distinguish between different branches of the same family, especially when the families remained in the same town for generations. These alias surnames can often be found preceded by the word detto, vulgo, or dit.

Nicknames in Your Family Tree

How many times have you run across a family in the census which looks like yours, but the names aren't quite right? Or you find what appears to be your great-grandpa's marriage license, except that it says he's married to someone named Martha, instead of your great-grandma Patsy? Our ancestors' seemingly changing names often leave us puzzled and frustrated, when in fact such apparent name changes are often just a result of the recording of an individual's nickname or middle name in the official records. Many of us are known by different names to our family, friends, and business associates - and it was no different for our ancestors.

Nicknames can sometimes be difficult to catch, however. "Kim" as a nickname for "Kimberly" is fairly straightforward, but "Polly" as a nickname for "Mary" and "Peggy" as a nickname for "Margaret" have tripped up many genealogists. Sometimes nicknames were formed by adding a "y" or "ey" to the end of a name or part of a name - i.e. "Johnny" for "John" or "Penny" for "Penelope." Other times the name was shortened in some manner - i.e. "Kate" for "Katherine." But sometimes it is just a matter of knowing which nicknames were commonly used in a particular time and place. That's why it is important, as a genealogist, to familiarize yourself with commonly used nicknames and their corresponding given names.

Do not forget, however, that what appears to be a nickname isn't always - many nicknames became so popular that they later came to be bestowed as given names.

Kimberly Powell is a professional genealogist, Web developer, and proud mother of three children.
Experience: *Kimberly's interest in genealogy began over 20 years ago with a school project and has developed into a passion. She is a proud member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, and several local genealogical societies. She has been writing about genealogy for About.com since 2000, and her work has also appeared in several genealogy magazines. She is the author of "Everything Family Tree, 2nd Edition" by Adams Media (2006), and currently serves as Webmaster for the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.*
Education: *Kimberly maintains ongoing professional genealogy training through online classes, seminars, self-study, and genealogical conferences.*

AN EARLY WHATCOM / SKAGIT PIONEERING WOMAN
Mary (Leamer) Stacey / Wallace
1839 - 1920

In mid November of 1869, the widow Mary (Leamer) Stacey marries Harvey K. Wallace in Davenport, Scott Co., Iowa, and the family including two of her boys Edgar E. Stacey (age 7), and Alfred J. Stacey (age 3) prepare to leave for Washington Territory. They reached Portland, Oregon by Christmas day, and took a boat to bring them to Puget Sound and the Skagit Flats, arriving here just after New Year's of 1870. The family is found in the 1870 Swinomish Precinct, Whatcom Co., Washington Territory Census, LaConner P.O. - as dwelling #10 / family #9 out of a total of 19 dwelling entries in the sparsely settled community.

Harvey proceeds to take up a homestead at once, and on 30 June 1871, he, John Cornelius and John S. Conner travel to the Land Office in Olympia to file their Land Patents – they being among the first of the pioneers to do so. Harvey's Land Patent #3848 was for 159.75 acres of land in Sec. 29, Twp. 34N, Rge 3E. of the Willamette Meridian, Washington Territory. - this is located at the current NWC of Chilberg Road and Best Roads, LaConner, Skagit Co. Washington. His Land Patent was approved 02 September 1872.

The year 1871 brought Mary's widowed Mother, Eliza (Campbell) Leamer (who in her capacity of nurse / midwife later delivered many of the children in the Valley), Mary's brothers Albert Leamer (age 19), David Milton (age 17) and sister Ida (age 14), along with Harvey's widowed Mother, Rebecca (Moore) Wallace, his sister Sarah Wallace, and his brother, John Scott Wallace's family to the Skagit area from Iowa. The Leamer's took their Land Patents on the Pleasant Ridge area, and Sarah Wallace and John Scott Wallace took their Land Patents on the Beaver Marsh area adjacent to Harvey's land.

In the following years Harvey and Mary had five Wallace children, (Everett, Gertrude, Lola Belle, Ray and William Clark), Mary's Brother Albert married Martha Hancock in 1875, Mary's sister Ida married Edgar A. Sisson in 1876. In November of 1877 Harvey and Mary sold their Land Patent to Olaf and Perry Polson, and left within a month with the Wallace children for San Francisco where Harvey wanted to do "something other than farming". Edgar E. Stacey (age 16), and Alfred J. Stacey (age 11) stayed with their Aunt and Uncle Edgar and Ida Sisson and worked in diking and as farm hands for the various farmers in the area.

Mary and the Wallace children returned from California in 1880 to reside again in the LaConner area, where Mary takes up housekeeping to support herself and her children.

In 1883, Mary's son Fred Leroy Stacey / Carter (whom she had given up for adoption in 1868 shortly after her first husband died), came to LaConner to visit. He later returned to LaConner in 1887, and along with a partner bought and operated the "Puget Sound Mail" the local newspaper. Mary's son Edgar E. Stacey married Mary Scharfenberg in 1887 and they had four children. Fred Leroy Stacey / Carter had married Georgia Hughes back in Iowa, they had three children, and in 1892, her son Alfred J. Stacey married Susan Belle Horsey and they had seven children. Through the marriages of the various family members there are ties to many of the Whatcom / Skagit County Pioneer Families. Namely: Carter, Derr, Dunlap, Gunther, Hancock, Horsey, Leamer, Leatherwood, Moore, Scharfenberg, Singer, Sisson, Stockton, Wallace, White, Wiles, Wilson and Wright to name a few. Mary lived in various communities over the years, always to be near one of more of her children. Mary died in Burlington, Skagit Co, Washington on 04 February 1920, and she is buried at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, LaConner, Skagit Co., Washington.

Submitted by Portia Stacey

Make Visiting Genealogy Libraries Part of Your Summer Vacation

Many years ago when I was planning a backpack trip across Europe, a friend gave me a suggestion that made my travels all the more interesting. He suggested that since there are so many things to see and do while visiting so many diverse countries that I focus on a theme for my travels. You could choose to look for interesting architecture, art, regional foods, folkdances, traditions, etc. Since I was working for the U.S. Postal Service at the time I decided to seek out and photograph local post offices I'd find along the way. What a delight it was to discover these grand historic buildings with their ornate columns and stonework as I traveled through Europe. It gave me a fresh and unique perspective that made the trip even more memorable.

Well, I have a theme suggestion for you as your travels take you near and far this summer – pay a visit to local genealogy libraries. Genealogy is a fascinating interest the world over. Even if your ancestors never set foot in the town you are visiting, it is always worthwhile to see what other genealogy library collections contain for resource materials. Who knows, you just might find a book, historic map, microfilm or free computer access that helps you take the next step in your research?

Since you may have to budget your visitation time at the library to accommodate restless family members it is efficient to know how most genealogy collections are arranged in most libraries throughout the USA. We have all heard of the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme, but do you know what numbers indicate genealogy research materials? Our own Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Library, which is housed at the Burlington Public Library, is still small enough that it does not use the Dewey Decimal System but instead uses a color code system for various categories of books. So, to acquaint you with the numbering you will typically find in larger public libraries, I found an excellent reference in, "The German Research Companion" (text abstract taken from author Frank Fugua, *The Mission Oaks Newsletter*, Winter 1997*) to help guide you in your library visits.

Dewey Decimal Numbers 929 (from 929.0 to 929.9) indicates books/resource materials pertaining to the broad category of Genealogy. Here is the list of numbers and subjects within the 929 categories*:

929.0 ……………	Genealogy, name, insignias (general)
929.1 ……………	Genealogy
929.2 ………….	Family Histories
929.3 …………	Genealogical Sources (+European countries 929.34)
929.4 …………	Personal Names
929.5…………	Cemetery Records
929.6 …………	Heraldry
929.7……………….	Royal Houses, Knighthood
929.8……………….	Awards, Orders, Decorations
929.9……………….	Forms of Insignia and Identification

If your genealogy library research involves research in Europe, here are the Dewey Decimal Code Numbers for specific country research:

COUNTRY	GENEALOGY	HISTORY
Europe, general	929.34	940
Germany	929.343	943
Austria	929.3436	943.6
Czech Republic	929.3437	943.7
Poland	929.3438	943.8
France	929.344	944
Russia	928.347	947
Scandinavia	929.348	948
Norway	929.3481	948.1
Sweden	929.3485	948.5

Denmark	929.349	948.9
Other European	929.34	949
Switzerland	929.349	949.4

For your research in the United States you should also know the Dewey Decimal Code for the state you are researching in. Since it would take up too much space to list all 50 states and their codes, which range from 974 to 979, here are a few key states.

California……………………………..979.4
Connecticut……………………… 974.6
Delaware………………………… 975.1
Illinois…………………………… 977.3
Massachusetts…………………… 974.4
Missouri……………………………977.8
New York…………………………974.7
Oregon……………………………979.5
Pennsylvania………………………974.8
Washington………………………. 979.7

So, I hope you enjoy your travels this summer and stopping by new genealogy libraries that you visit along the way. If you find some great ideas for improving our own SVGS Genealogy Library, please let me know. Also, are you wondering what to do with your out-of-town guests on a rainy summer day? Why not take them for a visit to SVGS's Genealogy Library – your guest may discover some genealogy gem for his or her own family research.

To borrow a line from Rick Steves – *"Happy travels"…. and, while you're there… happy genealogy research!"*
~ *Margie Wilson, SVGS Librarian*

Skagit County Pioneer Association
Invites you to join us for our
106th Annual Pioneer Picnic
Thursday, August 5, 2009
Pioneer Park • La Conner, WA
Family of the Year:
The Ovenell Family
Family Contributing to the Pioneer Spirit:
Kevin and Patricia Paul
Our Annual Salmon Barbecue Luncheon served by La Conner Civic Garden Club
Park Open by 10 AM • Served by 11:15 AM • Cost: $10
Opening Ceremonies & Annual Meeting begin by 1 PM
Honoring our Skagit pioneers,
past & present!

MY RESEARCH IN EAST GERMANY ON MY FATHER'S SIDE

My name is Nancy Mehner Ruhlman   (I am John Ruhlman's wife) and I have a wonderful story about my genealogical research in East Germany. John started researching our genealogy as a young 20-something and received a copy of my great grandfather's birth certificate from my Dad's cousin. It was in German but we could see that he was born in Burkhardtsdorf, east Germany. A few years ago we went there and marched up the "rathouse (courthouse) steps" just as it was closing (noon on Friday). We had no time to wait until the following Monday so the mayor (who couldn't speak English) took his coat back off, invited us into his office, and called his 19-year-old son to come and interpret for us. We made great friends (later returned twice and stayed with the mayor, and even attended the son, Martin's, wedding three years ago). Martin did some research for us in several surrounding local churches and found births, weddings and deaths of many of my ancestors:

I found out that my great grandfather, Carl Ernst Mehner, was the oldest of 16 children of whom only five lived to adulthood (all born in Burkhardtsdorf). He was born Aug. 16, 1845. He was a a tailor in Bernsdorf, just outside (east) of Chemnitz. He was the son of Christian Gottlieb Mehner, a mason, and Christiane Wilhelmine Arnold. He married Amalia Therese Otto on July 2, 1871 in St. Johannes Church, Chemnitz, and the two of them came to America in 1880 (he was 35) with their 3 sons, Paul, 8, Herman, 7 and Albert, 3 (my grandfather). They first went to Mount Vernon, Ohio for about 10 years where he received his Certificate of Citizenship as "Ernest Mehner" on Aug. 22, 1887. They moved to the Bremerton, WA area in 1891 and worked the land for 10 years until 190l when Karl Ernst and his son, Paul, established "Mehner and Son Naval Outfitters" in Bremerton in 1901. My grandfather, Albert (Paul's brother) became a biology professor at Central Washington State College (now University). Paul became the Bremerton postmaster and later mayor of Bremerton in 1912-1914. He also was city clerk in 1902 and signed the letter from the City Council inviting the US Navy Department to build a naval base in Bremerton. My father, Robert D. Mehner, was born in Bremerton in 1918 and I was born in Bremerton in 1941.

Martin, the mayor's son, found out that, after just a few generations in Burkhardtsdorf, the Mehners came from a town just 20 miles away, Grossolbersdorf (big Albert's town). There, at the local Lutheran Church, I was able to trace the Mehners back to 1533 (13 generations back from my granddaughter, Ellie, 15, who lives in Seattle). I did this with the help of 2 people: a dear 90 year old man from Grossobersdorf who could read the "old German" (writing used before 1941) named Gottfried Werner and Martin Schreiter (the young son of the above mayor) who translated the " old German" into modern German and then into English for us. Church records were destroyed in the early 1500s because of wars in Germany so we could not go any further back.

The reason Mr. Werner was so willing to spend his time searching church records for me is another interesting story. I was able to find Mr. Werner's long-lost family in America for him. He was so grateful that he kept doing more and more research on my family in his town. He and his son have been coming to family reunions in New Jersey ever since (until his death). John and I were able to attend Gottfried Werner's funeral because we were back in Germany on a subsequent visit when he died. Now his son and wife, Karl and Hanni Werner, will be visiting us for a week in August after they go to their "long-lost" family reunion in New Jersey again this year. We have been able to combine travel, genealogical and historical research, as well as making new friends all in one fun and interesting retirement

Skagit Valley Genealogy Society Publications

_____	The Pioneer Book, 1926-1955	$9.00
_____	Death Record 1891-1908	$8.00
_____	Index to Funeral Homes Records, 1908-1994	$30.00
	(also available on microfiche)	$8.00
_____	Index to Funeral Homes Records, Vol 2 1994-2003	$15.00
_____	Every Name Index for the 1906 History of Skagit and	$18.00
	Snohomish Counties, Washington	
_____	Recipe Book: Generation to Generation	$5.00

Cemetery Records for Skagit County

_____	Volume 1 Sedro Woolley, Union Cemetery 1889-1992	$30.00
_____	Volume 2 Burlington, Green Hills Memorial 1900-1993	$20.00
_____	Volume 3 Anacortes, Grandview 1897-1999	$25.00
_____	Volume 4 LaConner, Pleasant Ridge 1875-1999	$15.00
_____	Volume 5 Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon 1890-2000	$30.00
_____	Volume 6 Concrete, Forest Park 1908-2002	$10.00
_____	Volume 7 Bay View, Bay View 1892-2002	$10.00
_____	Volume 8 Bow, Bow 1883-2003	$15.00
_____	Volume 9 Clear Lake, Clear Lake 1893-2003	$10.00
_____	Volume 10 Guemes Island, Edens 1888-2003	$5.00
_____	Volume 11 Fidalgo Island, Fern Hill 1893-2003	$15.00
_____	Volume 12 Fir-Conway Lutheran Church 1872-2003	$12.00

Census Records for Skagit County

_____	1885 Territorial Census	$10.00
_____	1887 Territorial Census	$10.00
_____	1889 Territorial & First State Census	$20.00
_____	1892 Federal Census	$20.00
_____	1910 Federal Census Index	$20.00
_____	**Pioneer Certificates** available on request	$5.00

Postage & Handling: $3.00 first item - plus $2.00 for each additional item unless otherwise indicated.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Postage & Handling _____

Total Enclosed _____