



Summer Journal 2011  
 President: Dottie Chandler  
 Newsletter pro-tem Dan Royal  
 PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715  
 Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgvs>

## President's Message

Well, summer is finally here. My garden is going crazy. Pumpkins are taking over the yard and garden and the tomatoes are trimmed back so the blossoms can get sun and nutrients.

Societies are like plants, you need new starts and seeds to grow. Feed them with knowledge and friendship and they will grow bigger and better. Let them interact as a group and good things will happen. This is why we need more volunteers to help fertilize the older volunteers (nothing wrong with you, though) with new ideas. Step up and volunteer to help the society grow.

Got a new internet site that you'd like to share? Write up a brief description and send to the society email [genealogy0715@gmail.com](mailto:genealogy0715@gmail.com). Have you read a good book or magazine article on genealogy or history? Do you have a research success that you would like to share and can't make it to the meeting? Write it down and email it to us, so we can put in the newsletter or share at a meeting.

Remember we are in serious need of a treasurer. This is very important to keep the society alive and going.

Have a great summer exploring more research or enjoying your families.

*Dottie Chandler*

## Note from the Editor

Is anyone as excited as I am about the release of the 1940 U.S. Census this upcoming April 2012? We are talking about the 'Greatest Generation' growing up during a terrible Depression and coming of age right before the beginning of WWII, many of whom will never return home to their families. On page three, we are simply printing the content on the official website, but not everyone may have seen this important news yet.

Copyright issues for family historians and genealogists can sometimes be pretty daunting so we hope the articles presented here—with the permission of the authors—starting on page eleven will be helpful.

## Skagit Legacy Users Group (Slug)s

June 17, 2011

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society held its first Legacy users support group (SLUG) meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington Community Center. Nine people of varied background and experience showed up for the 2 hour meeting. Some general topics were covered to give attendees a flavor of what to expect in future meetings. Topics from the Table of Contents of the Legacy Users Guide will be explored. A majority decided to hold the meetings on a regular basis to allow newcomers the time to learn the basics. The next meeting will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to Noon at the Burlington Community Center at 1011 Greenleaf Avenue in Burlington. You are encouraged to bring your questions, your Legacy Family Tree user guide (optional) and a laptop if you have one, again (optional). There is no charge for this group. Feel free to come and learn legacy with the rest of us Slugs. We are all learners. No one is an expert. Future meeting times and places will be posted on the web page at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasgvgs>.

*George E. Ridgeway Jr.*

*Web Master*

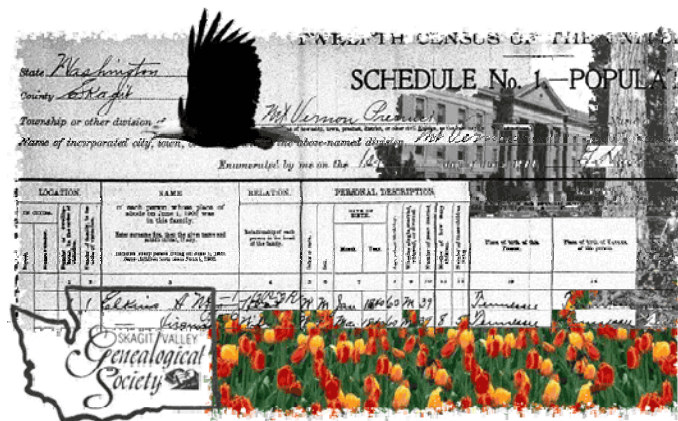
## FamilySearch Records Update: Milestone 600 Free Historic Collections Now Online

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Collections—600 to Be Exact!

Latest Additions Reach New Milestone in Free Online Historic Record Collections

The latest additions to FamilySearch's online collection of free historic record collections pushes it to 600! That's right 600 free original source record collections online from all over the world. The tally of insomniacs will cer



## SVGS Board of Directors 2011

<b>President:</b>	Dottie Chandler 360-757-0966 dotcom10@frontier.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Barbara Johnson 360-856-0870 raptorwoman@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	OPEN
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Portia Stacey 360-826-4838 portiaStacey@msn.com
<b>Past President:</b>	Hazel Rasar hrasar@gmail.com
<b>Archivist:</b>	Dan Royal 360-826-6141 dmoroyal@earthlink.net
<b>Education:</b>	Shirley Christenson 360-757-7772 shirleyc@wavecable.com
<b>Genealogist:</b>	Diane Partington 360-336-5832 nonie.dl@comcast.net
<b>Librarian:</b>	Margie Wilson 360-798-1681 wilsongm@frontier.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Christine Cooper 360-724-3882 cooper2chris@yahoo.com

## Newsletter

OPEN

## Webmaster:

360-424-4427

George Ridgeway

4george30@comcast.net

## Projects :

OPEN

## Publications:

360-766-4030

Sylvia Ammons

sylvammns@hotmail.com

## Ways &amp; Means:

OPEN

## Publicity:

360-424-4427

George Ridgeway

4george30@comcast.net

## Special Committees

## Telephone/Email Communication:

svgstree@hotmail.com

## FGS Delegate:

360-856-2826

Rita M. Schulze

## Nominating:

OPEN

## Audit/Budget:

360-445-5483

Sharon Johnson

johnson@sos.net

## Bylaws/Standing Rules: OPEN

## Refreshments:

OPEN

## Raffles/Door Prizes:

Sharon Johnson

## Obituary Index:

Nancy Bonafede

Dottie Chandler

Sylvia Ammons

Donna Stone

## Special History

## Projects:

Dan Royal

## SOCIETY EMAIL:

genealogy0715@gmail.com

**Comb Binding ...**

For members, The society owns a comb binding machine. If you call Dan Royal @ 360-826-6141 he will make arrangements to bind your pages into a book for you. Cost is: \$1.00 per book to cover supplies.

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter accepts business card size advertisement. The cost will be \$10.00 per issue and the editor can help put one together for you if you don't have something ready.

If anyone would like queries or surnames to be posted in the newsletter, please send to... *Ye Editor*

# 1940 U.S. FEDERAL CENSUS

## *Countdown to 2012*



On 01 April 2012, the 1940 Census will be released from the 72-year privacy mandate and family historians will flood to National Archives in search of ancestors. BUT there will not be an index available and so researchers will be required to know the Enumeration District in the city or town where their ancestors lived. The official date for the 1940 Census was April 1st, but since that day will fall on a Sunday in 2012, it is unclear whether researchers will have weekend access to film at the National Archives or will instead need to wait until Monday to satisfy their genealogical curiosity.

(No — this isn't an April Fools joke, you can check your calendar)

<http://www.1940census.net/index.php>

## *Questions Asked on the 1940 Census*

The questions recorded on the 1940 census schedules are similar to the questions found on earlier census schedules. As the enumerators went door-to-door they recorded the location of the household and provided additional household data, such as the names for each member of the household and their relationships to the head of the household. Enumerators also recorded a personal description for each member of the household which included their age and sex; information about each individual's education; their birthplace and naturalization status; and a unique question asking about their residence on April 1, 1935.

In addition, all individuals over the age of 14 were asked questions about their employment and 5% of the population, those on lines 14 & 29, were asked fifteen supplementary questions. This sample survey included questions about their parents birthplace; earliest language spoken in the household; questions relating to veterans; social security; occupation; and a final section specifically for women, which recorded marital status and number of children born.

### **Location:**

- Street, avenue, road, etc.
- House number (in cities and towns).

**Household Data:**

- Number of household in order of visitation.
- Home owned (O) or rented (R).
- Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented.
- Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No).

**Name:**

- Name of each person whose *usual place of residence* on April 1, 1940, was in this household. Be sure to include:
  - Persons temporarily absent from household. Write "Ab" after names of such persons.
  - Children under 1 year of age. Write "Infant" if child has not been given a first name.
  - Enter X after name of person furnishing information.

**Relation:**

- Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grandson, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, hired hand, etc...

**Personal Description:**

- Sex - Male (M), Female (F).
- Color or race.
- Age at last birthday.
- Marital status - Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D).

**Education:**

- Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940? (Yes or No)
- Highest grade of school completed.

**Place of Birth:**

- If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which

birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from Northern Ireland.

**Citizenship:**

- Citizenship of the foreign born.

**Residence, April 1, 1935:**

IN WHAT PLACE DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON April 1, 1935? For a person who, on April 1, 1935, was living in the same house as at present, enter in Col. 17 "Same house," and for one living in a different house but in the same city or town, enter "Same place," leaving Cols. 18, 19, and 20 blank, in both instances. For a person who lived in a different place, enter city or town, county, and State, as directed in the Instructions. (Enter actual place of residence, which may differ from mail address.)

- City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other places.
- County.
- State (or Territory or foreign country).
- On a farm? (Yes or No).

**Persons 14 Years Old and Over - Employment Status:**

- Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency Gov't. work during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No).
- If not, was he at work on, or assigned to, public EMERGENCY WORK (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No).

If neither at work nor assigned to public emergency work. ("No" in Cols. 21 and 22).

- Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No).
- If not seeking work, did he HAVE A JOB, business, etc.? (Yes or No).

For persons answering "No" to question 21, 22, 23 and 24.

- Indicate whether engaged in home housework (H), in school (S), unable to work (U), or other (Ot).

If at private or nonemergency Govt. work. "Yes" in col. 21.

- Number of hours worked during week of March 24-30, 1940.

If seeking work or assigned to public emergency work. ("Yes" in Col. 22 or 23).

- Duration of unemployment up to March 30, 1940 - in weeks.

### **Occupation, Industry and Class of Worker:**

For a person *at work, assigned to public emergency work, or with a job* ("Yes" in Col. 21, 22, or 24), enter *present* occupation, industry, and class of worker. For a person seeking work ("Yes" in Col. 23): a) if he has previous work experience, enter *last* occupation, industry, and class of worker; or b) if he does not have previous work experience, enter "New worker" in Col. 28, and leave Cols. 29 and 30 blank.

- Occupation: Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as *frame spinner, salesman, laborer, rivet heater, music teacher*.
- Industry: Industry or business, as *cotton mill, retail grocery, farm, shipyard, public school*.
- Class of Worker.
- Number of weeks worked in 1939 (Equivalent full-time weeks).

### **Income in 1939 (12 months ended December 31, 1939):**

- Amount of money wages or salary received (including commissions).
- Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary? (Yes or No).
- Number of Farm Schedule.

### **Supplementary Questions 35-50:**

For persons enumerated on lines 14 and 29 [about a 5% sample of the population]

- Name.

For Persons of All Ages:

### **Place of Birth of Father and Mother**

If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish: Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland.

- Father.
- Mother.

### **Mother Tongue (or Native Language):**

- Language spoken in home in earliest childhood.

### **Veterans:**

Is this person a veteran of the United States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under-18-year-old child of a veteran?

- If so, enter "Yes."
- If child, is veteran-father dead? (Yes or No)
- War or military service.

### **Social Security:**

- Does this person have a Federal Social Security Number? (Yes or No)
- Were deductions for Federal Old-Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement made from this person's wages or salary in 1939? (Yes or No)
- If so, were deductions made from (1) all, (2) one-half or more, (3) part, but less than half, of wages or salary?

### **Usual Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker:**

Enter that occupation which the person regards as his usual occupation and at which he is physically able to work. If the person is unable to determine this, enter that occupation at which he has worked longest during the past 10 years and at which he is physically able to work. Enter also usual industry and usual class of

worker. For a person without previous work experience, enter "None" in column 45 and leave columns 46 and 47 blank.

- Usual occupation.
- Usual industry.
- Usual class of worker.

**For all women who are or have been married:**

- Has this woman been married more than once? (Yes or No)
- Age at first marriage.
- Number of children ever born (do not include stillbirths).

***Symbols and Explanatory Notes***

Census takers were given specific instructions and codes to use when entering data on the census schedules. Below you will find a list of instructions for some of the census questions.

To see a chart to help decipher the symbols used on the 1940 census please click [here](#).

- **Column 5: Value of Home, If Owned.**
  - Where owner's household occupies only a part of a structure, estimate value of portion occupied by owner's household. Thus the value of the unit occupied by the owner of a two-family house might be approximately one-half the total value of the structure.
- **Column 11: Age at Last Birthday.**
  - Enter age of children born on or after April 1, 1939, as follows. Born in: (see chart)
- **Column 21: Was This Person at Work?**
  - Enter "Yes" for persons at work for pay or profit in private or nonemergency Government work. Include unpaid family workers - that is, related members of the family working without money wages or salary on work (other than housework or incidental chores) which contributed to the family income.

- **Column 24: Did This Person Have A Job?**

- Enter "Yes" for a person (not seeking work) who had a job, business, or professional enterprise, but did not work during week of March 24-30 for any of the following reasons: Vacation; temporary illness; industrial dispute; layoff not exceeding 4 weeks with instructions to return to work at a specific date; layoff due to temporarily bad weather conditions.

## Census Questions

The following questions were those included on the Population Schedule for the 1940 Census.

The header of each Population Schedule reads "Department of Commerce — Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940" and includes fields for State, County, Incorporated place, Township or other division or county, Ward of city, Block Nos., Unincorporated place, Institution, Supervisor District Number (S.D. No.), Enumeration District Number (E.D. No.), date of actual enumeration, name of enumerator, and sheet number.

LOCATION: Street, avenue, road, etc.

LOCATION: House number (in cities and towns)

HOUSEHOLD DATA: Number of household in order of visitation

HOUSEHOLD DATA: Home owned (O) or rented (R)

HOUSEHOLD DATA: Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented

HOUSEHOLD DATA: Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No)

NAME: Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household.

RELATION: Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grandson, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, hired hand, etc.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Sex — Male (M), Female (F)

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Color or race

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Age at last birthday

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Marital status — Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D)

EDUCATION: Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940 (Yes or No)

EDUCATION: Highest grade of school completed

PLACE OF BIRTH: If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from North-



ern Ireland.

CITIZENSHIP: Citizenship of the foreign born  
RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: City, town, or village having  
2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other  
places

RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: County

RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: State (or Territory or for-  
eign country

RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1935: On a farm? (Yes or No)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Was this person AT WORK for pay or  
profit in private or nonemergency Govt. work dur-  
ing week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: If not, was he at work on, or assigned to,  
public EMERGENCY WORK (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.)  
during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or  
No)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: If not seeking work, did he HAVE A JOB,  
business, etc.? (Yes or No)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Indicate whether engaged in home  
housework (H) in school (S), unable to work (U), or  
other (O)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Number of hours worked during week of  
March 24-30, 1940

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Duration of unemployement up to March  
30, 1940 - in weeks

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Occupation: Trade, profession, or particu-  
lar kind of work

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Industry: Industry of business

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Class of worker

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: Number of weeks worked in 1939  
(Equivalent full-time weeks)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: INCOME IN 1939: Amount of money  
wages or salary received (including commissions)

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER — EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS: INCOME IN 1939: Did this person receive  
income of \$50 or more from sources other than  
money wages or salary? (Yes or No)

Number of Farm Schedule

Each 1940 Population Schedule has 40 numbered  
lines (numbered along both the left and right edges  
of the form). There is a list of **SUPPLEMENTARY  
QUESTIONS**, which would be asked of those indi-  
viduals recorded usually on Lines 14 and 29  
(although other lines were also designated for such  
use and was presumably to ensure a random sam-  
pling).

**The Supplementary Questions were as fol-  
lows:**

NAME

PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER: FATHER

PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER: MOTHER

MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE): Language  
spoken in home in earliest childhood

VETERANS: Is this person a veteran of the United  
States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under-  
18-year-old child of a veteran? If so, enter "Yes"

VETERANS: If child, is veteran-father dead (Yes or No)

VETERANS: War or military service

SOCIAL SECURITY: Does this person have a Federal  
Social Security Number? (Yes or No)

SOCIAL SECURITY: Were deductions for Federal Old-  
Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement made from  
this person's wages or salary in 1939? (Yes or No)

SOCIAL SECURITY: If so, were deductions made from  
(1) all, (2) one-half or more, (3) part, but less than  
half, of wages or salary?

USUAL OCCUPATION

USUAL INDUSTRY

Usual class of worker

FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED:

Has this woman been married more than once?  
(Yes or No)

FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED:

Age at first marriage?

FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED:

Number of children ever born (Do not include still-  
births)



***Continued from page 1***

tainly expand as the numbers of family history researchers enjoy the latest updates. This week there are new international records from ArgentinaBrazilCanadaColombiaFranceItalyJamaicaMexicoPeruPolandand Spain. Now take a seat while the list of updates for the U.S. Collections are noted—CaliforniaDistrict of ColumbiaIllinoisIndianaKentuckyLouisianaMassachusettsMinnesotaMississippiNew YorkPennsylvaniaTexasWashington StateWisconsinand the Virgin Islands. Whew! See the table below for details. You can search all of the record collections now for free at FamilySearch.org.

If you are enjoying the steady stream of free records added weeklyplease consider "giving back" as a FamilySearch volunteer. You can start and stop volunteering at any time. Find out more at indexing.familysearch.org.

***Collection Records***

Images  
Comment

**ArgentinaCatholic Church Records**

360671

347

Added images and index to existing collection.

**BrazilCatholic Church Records**

0

147511

Added browsable images to existing collection.

**CanadaQuebec Notarial Records1800-1900**

0

19974

Added browsable images to existing collection.

**ColombiaCatholic Church Records**

41672

0

Added index records to existing collection.

**FranceCoutancesCatholic Diocese1802-1907**

133771

0

Added index records to existing collection.

**FranceProtestant Church Records1612-1906**

45305

14155

Added images and index to existing collection.

**ItalyCivil Registration1806-1940**

47588

37439

Added index records and images for Castellammare di StabiaCataniaTeramoand Trieste to existing collection.

**JamaicaCivil Birth Registration**

275358

308905

Added images and index to existing collection.

**Mexico Census1930**

1063750

0

Added the state of Oaxaca.

**MexicoChiapasCatholic Church Records1558-1978**

0

218722

Added browsable images to existing collection.

**MexicoNayaritCatholic Church Records1596-1967**

0

47203

Added browsable images to existing collection.

**MexicoSan Luis PotosíCatholic Church Records1586-1970**

0

51249

New browsable image collection.

**PeruCatholic Church Records**

0

592054

New browsable image collection.

**PolandRoman Catholic Church Books1600-1950**

0

216211

Added browsable images to existing collection.

**SpainCádizPassports1810-1866**

0

8573

New browsable image collection.

**U.S.CaliforniaCounty Marriages1850-1952**

123230

0

Added RiversideSacramentoSan BernardinoSan Francis-



coSanta BarbaraShastaSierraSolanoStanislausand Sutter  
Counties to existing collection.

U.S.CaliforniaSan Mateo County Records1856-1967

0

17569

Added browsable images to existing collection.

U.S.District of Columbia Marriages1811-1950

377681

127190

New index collectionfirst part.

U.S.Illinois County Marriages1810-1934

323712

0

Added AdamsAlexanderBondBooneBrownCham-  
paignChristianClarkand Clay Counties to existing collec-  
tion.

U.S.IndianaMarriages1811-1959

114658

0

Added Elkhart County to existing collection.

U.S.KentuckyDeath Records1911-1955

1384241

0

New index collection.

U.S.Louisiana Confederate Pensions1898-1950

0

1469

Added browsable images to existing collection.

U.S.MassachusettsBoston Passenger Lists1820-1891

0

80509

New browsable image collection.

U.S.MassachusettsSpringfield Vital Records1638-1887

68176

0

New index collection.

U.S.MinnesotaCounty Marriages1860-1949

156395

88640

New collection. Counties published: AnokaBlue  
EarthBrownCarverCottonwoodDodgeFillmoreFreebor-  
nand Goodhue.

U.S.MississippiTippah County Records1836-1923

0

55910

New browsable image collection.

U.S.New York State Census1892

1051915

5175

Added MadisonWarrenGreeneAlbanyHamiltonOntario-  
BroomeHerkimerCayugaOswegoOnondagaEssexLewisan  
d Queens Counties to existing collection.

U.S.New YorkNorthern Arrival Manifests1902-1956

0

850465

New browsable image collection.

U.S.PennsylvaniaPhiladelphia Case Files of Chinese Im-  
migrants1900-1923

0

60096

New browsable image collection.

U.S.PennsylvaniaPhiladelphia Passenger Lists1800-1882

0

58940

New browsable image collection.

U.S.TexasEastland County Records1868-1949

38070

Added browsable images to existing collection.

U.S.Washington State County RecordsKingKitsap and  
Pierce Counties1854-1950

0

15653

Added browsable images to existing collection.

U.S.WisconsinProbate Estate Files1848-1933

0

2184

Added browsable images to existing collection.

Virgin Islands USChurch Records

0

5363

New browsable image collection.

# Nordic Heritage Day

A Celebration of Scandinavian Genealogical & Cultural Roots  
presented by

*Skagit Valley  
Genealogical Society*

**Saturday, October 29**

**11am-4pm**

**Burlington Library**

820 E. Washington

## GENEALOGY

Researching Your Swedish Roots ~ Sharon Johnson

The Finn Settlement of Skagit County ~ Bruce Matson

"Ask a Genealogist"/Computer Look-ups ~ SVGS Members

## CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

Norwegian Folk Tunes ~ Einar Tapio, accordionist

Scandinavian Baking Traditions ~ Linda Olie of Nordic Pantry

Norwegian Artifacts ~ Tordis Maland Busskohl

Scandinavian Folk Dancers, Rosemaling, Handicraft displays, etc.



[www.rootsweb.com/ancestry.com/~wasvgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/ancestry.com/~wasvgs)

genealogy0715@gmail.com + (360) 798-1681 or (360) 757-0966

## **Copyright for Genealogists**

Some portions of your family research are protected by copyright law and some are not. Learn more about the copyright laws of various countries as they relate to publishing your genealogy in books, gedcom files or on the Web.

Mike Goad covers the portions of U.S. copyright law which most apply to genealogists, with examples that constitute both copyright infringement and "fair use."

### **Copyright Fundamentals for Genealogy**

by Mike Goad

**This article is available for free distribution and reprint as a public service from the author.**

Since genealogical research inevitably involves copying of information, questions involving copyright often crop up. When an answer is given, it may be less than satisfactory. Sometimes the answer is wrong, sometimes there is little or no explanation, and sometimes the answer isn't an answer, but a policy statement. In other instances, the answer is right, but it isn't what the questioner wanted to hear.

While copyright can be very complex and confusing, the parts of copyright law that usually apply to genealogy are really pretty basic. There are a few fundamentals that can help deal with just about any genealogy copyright situation.

#### ***Copyright means copy right***

Literally, the term copyright means the right to make copies of some product. By law, the right belongs to its creator. In copyright law, the product that's copyrighted is referred to as a "work" and the creator of the work is its author. From that, we can say:

Making a copy of a work or a portion of a work is its author's copy right.

In the U.S., the right to make a copy of a protected work is a constitutional, exclusive right of the work's author, *except* that some limited copying is allowed by provisions of the copyright law. (see fair use)

#### ***Is it copyrighted?***

If it's created today by the original expression of the author and it can be viewed or copied, then it is protected under copyright. The law says:

Copyright protection subsists... in original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, now known or later developed, from which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device.

For works created before today, there are a few basic durations and conditions for determining copyright status:

- If an original work of authorship was created after 1977, it's copyrighted and it's going to be for a very long time. The earliest that any work created after that will lose its copyright will be about 2049 – that's assuming that the author died right after he authored the work.
- If it was created before 1923, there is no copyright on it any more, so long as it was published. If it wasn't published, it may still be protected by copyright.
- Works published before March 1, 1989 without proper copyright notice are almost always in the public domain because, under the law that existed before that, a proper copyright notice was required for copyright protection.
- Works published from 1923 to 1963 had to be renewed after an initial copyright term for protection to continue. The U.S. Copyright Office estimates that over 90% of works eligible for renewal were never renewed.

For other situations there are many good copyright duration references online (including one on my web site).

#### ***Only original expression protected***

All that's protected under copyright is the author's original expression. The protected material must have been independently created by the author with at least some minimal amount of creativity. Anything in a work that isn't the author's original expression isn't protected by his copyright.

***Facts can't be original expression***

No one can claim originality in a fact. At best, a person may discover a fact. If he discovers it and documents it, he has not created it. He has only reported it. There is no originality.

Census takers, for instance, don't create the data that result from their work. They write down the facts that they discover. Census data, therefore, can't be copyrighted because it's not original.

Since facts can't be original expression, the copyright of any work doesn't extend to the facts contained within it. This is a very important fundamental concept in genealogy, since genealogy so very much involves the pursuit, discovery, and collection of facts.

While copyright doesn't extend to facts, the facts may be expressed in an original fashion. When this occurs, the original expression used to convey the facts is protected, but the underlying facts are not.

***Pre-existing material not protected***

Any pre-existing material in a work that's not the original expression of the author isn't protected by the author's copyright. Facts, which exist before the work is created, can't be protected by copyright, as previously discussed. Other examples of pre-existing material that might be used in a work include the work of others, public domain material, and U.S. government material.

The copyright status of already existing material doesn't change when used in a new work. If an author uses material from the work of someone else, the copyright for the material still belongs to the original author. If something from the public domain is used, its copyright status is that it's still in the public domain, available for anyone to use.

U.S. government developed material, by law, cannot be copyrighted. However, material created by non-government authors and used by the government is usually covered by the author's copyright. In either case, though, use in a new work does not change the copyright status for U.S. government materials.

***Compilations***

A compilation is a collection of pre-existing material. It can be a collection of short stories, poems, or other narrative material. In genealogy, compilations are usually some kind of collection of facts or factual material.

Many genealogy compilations aren't sufficiently original to be protected by copyright. Since facts can't be copyrighted, to be eligible for copyright protection, a factual compilation must have some amount of originality in either the selection of the facts, the arrangement of the facts or both. And, then, the only part of the compilation that's protected will be that which has originality.

Example:

Joe records the names, dates and inscriptions of all of the headstones in the Farnham East Cemetery. He arranges them in three tables. The first is alphabetical by last name, the second chronological by date of death, and the third arranged by the relationship of the location of the headstone to a large oak tree in the middle of the cemetery. As well, in the third, he only includes the headstones of people who died in even numbered years.

Of the three tables, the first two used all of the names and dates and arranged them in standard formats, alphabetical and chronological. If "all" of an available quantity of facts is used, there is no originality of selection. If a standard format is used for the arrangement and ordering of facts, then there is no originality of arrangement.

Only in the third table is the selection and arrangement of the material original enough to be protected by copyright. Defining and describing the location of a headstone by relationship to something else applies originality in the arrangement of the facts. Selecting only those that died in even numbered years is a nonstandard way to select the information that will be included.

However, the copyright protection for the compilation of facts in the third table applies only to the selection and the arrangement of the facts. To copy the selection and arrangement of the facts would be to infringe upon the right of copy belonging to the author. However, the facts that are included in the compilation aren't protected and may be used by anyone.

***Industrious collection and sweat of the brow***

It's natural that someone who works very hard at researching, collecting, and arranging facts into a compilation would want to protect their efforts.

And they can.

So long as they don't make it available to others, so long as they don't publish it.

But that's the only way that it can be protected. Once it's made available to others, such a work will have little or no copyright protection in most instances.

Under copyright, the effort and work put into a project means nothing. Copyright only protects an author's "original expression."

In the past, lower courts have made "sweat of the brow" and "industrious collection" rulings, where the work and effort that went into the research, collecting and arranging counted in the copyright protection of a work. However, such rulings were invariably overturned by higher courts. The Supreme Court has reaffirmed and further defined the requirement for the author's original expression in a word being all that's protected.

### ***Fair use (and some application of what we've read so far)***

The constitutional purpose of copyright is to further the progress of science and the useful arts, which today is understood to mean scholarly growth. Since building upon the advances of others is often necessary for further advancement in most endeavors, this purpose is in apparent direct conflict to the rights of authors to control or even prevent the copying of their original expression.

The principle of fair use, which allows limited copying without consent, limits the conflict. Its limits intentionally ill-defined, fair use is very applicable to scholarship and research, important aspects of genealogy. Four factors are considered:

- Purpose of the use, including non-profit educational use
- Nature of the copyrighted work
- Amount of copying
- Effect of the copying on the potential market for, or value of, the original work

Examples:

Joe is doing research at the Mid America Library in Independence, Missouri. He finds transcripts of four 18<sup>th</sup> century wills on pages 21, 23, and 87 of a book of deeds and wills from Virginia that is copyrighted 1979. He makes a copy of each of the pages that has the information he needs. He subsequently posts the text of each of the four wills online.

He also finds a little narrative family history book that was published in 1955 on the family of his great, great, great, granduncle. He copies the entire book and publishes it online.

In a third book, copyrighted in 1934, he finds several pages narrating the life of one his wife's ancestors. He copies the pages and posts small, significant portions from them online.

Which of the three examples was fair use?

Only the third.

In the first one, there is no potential for copyright infringement. While the book is copyrighted 1979, at best the copyright applies to the selection and arrangement of the information. If the book is sequenced the same as the original will book or covered time period and all of the documents available are included, then there is no originality.

A true transcript of a will is no more than a text copy of an existing document. While knowledge and interpretation may be needed to be able to read the old handwriting, there is no creative expression involved... and therefore no copyright involved.

In the second example, the book had no copyright date. It was published in 1955 without proper copyright notice. Therefore, the book is in the public domain and Joe can do anything with it he wants to.

If, however, the book included a proper copyright notice, it might still have been under copyright protection if the author had renewed the copyright. In that case, copying the book would probably not have been a fair use and posting the entire work online definitely would not have been.

Joe copied several pages out of a book, in the third example, that were applicable to his research. Assuming the book is still under copyright:

- copying the pages for personal research is a good example of fair use.
- Using small significant portions of the narrative from them in his online web page would also likely be fair use.
- Posting the entire narrative from the pages he copied would not be fair use and would be copyright infringement.



- Posting the factual information from the narrative would not be fair use because there is no copyright issue. Factual information abstracted from an author's original expression is not protected by copyright.

### ***In conclusion***

I could go on and on writing about copyright issues that apply to genealogy. For example:

- A pedigree, descendant chart, GEDCOM, or any other standard genealogy form or format that contains nothing but facts is not copyright protected. There is no originality of selection or arrangement and facts can't be copyrighted.
- Plagiarism and copyright are not the same. Plagiarism is the failure to properly document the source of the information or material that you use and is considered by many to be unethical.
- When material you submitted is used by a commercial company in their product, you retain the copyright for any of the material that is a product of your original expression.

Copyright infringement and piracy of copyrighted material are common on the internet. The online genealogy community is less exposed to it than other interests. An understanding of some of the concepts associated with copyright can be useful in both online and offline genealogy research. 7/29/2003

Additional copyright information, in more depth and detail, may be found on the author's web site at <http://www.pddoc.com/copyright>

Genealogist Natalie Cottrill compiled this handy table with the assistance of Dennis Karjala, Professor of Law.

Please use this table as a guide only. It is not to be construed as legal advice. The author, Natalie Cottrill, <http://www.progenealogists.com> is not a lawyer and assumes no legal responsibility for the use or misuse of the information above.

**Compiled June 1999 with the assistance of: Dennis S. Karjala, Professor of Law  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona 85287-7906  
602-965-4010 602-965-2427 (fax)**

## **Copyright Table— page 17**

### **Who Owns Genealogy? Cousins and Copyright**

by Gary B. Hoffman

The practice of genealogy — researching and publishing information about someone's ancestors — falls under the purview of **intellectual property** laws. Computers attached to CD-ROM readers and communications networks make it easy to compile information from disparate locations and then convey it to any point on the globe. Who owns a compiled genealogy? The one who compiled it? The one who possesses a copy? The one whose ancestors are the subject of the compilation? Anyone? No one?

This article does not purport to answer every question about copyright and related doctrines. Nor can it even plumb the depths of all the legal issues involved with the practice of genealogy. Rather, it should be taken as a launching pad for further discussions in intellectual property. It should definitely not be construed as legal advice. First, I'll define several terms related to copyrights, and then, I'll talk about how copyrights relate to you and your genealogy work.

### **Copyright Basics**

#### **What is Copyright?**

A copyright is an exclusive right to reproduce a "work of authorship," to prepare derivative works, to distribute copies of the work, to perform the work, and to publicly display the work. A work of authorship must be "original" and must be fixed in a "tangible medium of expression" in order to be protected. As subject matter, genealogy generally falls into the "literary works" category of works of authorship.

Written	Publishing Information	Copyright Details	Entity Author	Individual Author
before 1964	Published with a copyright notice	Copyright NOT renewed 28 years later	Free Use NOW (Public Domain)	Free Use NOW (Public Domain)
before 1964	Published with a copyright notice	Copyright Renewed 28 years later	Free Use 96 years <b>after</b> original publication date	Free Use 96 years <b>after</b> original publication date
1964 - 1978	Published with a copyright notice	Copyright Renewal NOT required	Free Use 96 years <b>after</b> original publication date	Free Use 96 years <b>after</b> original publication date
1978 to Present	Formal Publishing and copyright NOT required	Copyright NOT required at all	Free Use 96 years <b>after</b> date of creation	Free Use 71 years <b>after</b> the DEATH of the author
before 1978	NOT Published or registered for Copyright	NOT registered for Copyright	Free Use 121 years <b>after</b> date of creation	Free Use 71 years <b>after</b> the DEATH of the author
before 1989	Published, BUT WITHOUT a copyright notice	NO Copyright notice at creation	Free Use NOW	Free Use NOW
Reprinted Works	2nd Publication, Original Copyright expired	Original Copyright Expired	Free Use NOW - Reprint is not protected from copying	Free Use NOW - Reprint is not protected from copying
Reprinted Works	2nd Publication Original was NOT Copyrighted	Original was NOT Copyrighted	Free Use 121 years <b>after</b> date of creation	Free Use 71 years <b>after</b> the DEATH of the author
Federal Court Records			Free Use NOW	Free Use NOW
State Court Records			Free Use NOW	Free Use NOW
Records Abstraction		Abstraction Style is Protected	Facts are Free Use NOW	Facts are Free Use NOW
Web Pages		Design is Protected	Facts are Free Use NOW	Facts are Free Use NOW
Compilations of Information such as Telephone books		Design is Protected	Facts are Free Use NOW	Facts are Free Use NOW



## U.S. Law

In the U.S., copyright laws derive from the U.S. Constitution which gave Congress the power "to promote science ... by securing for limited times to authors ... the exclusive right to their ... writings." (Art. 1, sec. 8) Federal legislation preempts state laws on the subject of copyright. Copyright statutes are found in Title 17 of the United States Code, whose last major revision was called the Copyright Act of 1976.

## Definitions

As used in the intellectual property context, "original" means both

1. originating with the author, not derived from another source, and
2. novel or new, not previously known or expressed.

In copyright law, the first definition is paramount; an author's work need not be different than another's, only that it is independently created by him or her. As Justice O'Connor has stated, "The sine qua non of copyright is originality. ... Originality requires independent creation and a modicum of creativity." (Feist) The common explanation is that anyone can pen (and claim a copyright in) an exact copy of Ode to a Grecian Urn as long as they had never seen or heard Keats' poem.

A "tangible medium of expression" can be any method of recording "now known or later developed, from which [the work] can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device." Spoken words are not tangible unless recorded. Ideas are never tangible and do not receive protection, but their expressions do.

## When Copyright Arises

Under current U.S. copyright law, a copyright arises when a work is fixed in a tangible medium of expression. That is, it automatically comes into being when it is recorded in any fashion. The immediate owner of a copyright is the author, or authors in the case of joint authorship. Works created by employees of the U.S. Government and most state and local governments are not protected by copyright. Copyrights in "works made for hire," that is, works created by employees as a part of their employment, are owned by the employer.

## Transferring Copyrights

A copyright may be transferred to another, as is commonly done when authors assign their rights in a work to a publisher in order to get the work published. A major part of the publishing and movie business concerns itself with buying, selling, and tracking copyrights.

## Ownership of Copyright

Ownership of the copyright is distinct from the ownership of any material object in which the work is embedded. Mere possession of a book, for example, or a CD-ROM, does not give the possessor absolute right to do anything they please with the contents of the book or CD-ROM.

## Public Domain

A work that is not copyrightable or whose copyright has expired or lapsed is considered "in the public domain." There are no restrictions on what can be done with works in the public domain.

## Term of Copyright

Newly created works are protected during the author's lifetime and an additional fifty years thereafter. (Congress is considering a provision to add 20 years to this limit.) Works created before 1978 are governed by the law then in effect, generally for a total term of 75 years. In general, any work published before 1922 is now in the public domain.

## Not Copyrightable

Certain expressions cannot receive copyright protection, either because they are not original (such as ideas, facts, events, news of the day, concepts, principles, Laws of Nature, or discoveries), or the domain of patent law (devices, procedures, processes, method of operation) or trademark law (names, titles, logos). If a concept can only be described in a limited number of ways, its expression is said to "merge" with the concept and is also not copyrightable. Also not copyrightable are blank forms, plain calendars, and lists or tables taken from public documents or other common sources.

## Compilations

A compilation, that is, a collection of works, is itself a work that receives copyright protection whether or not the works it contains are copyrightable. The originality involved in compiling (selecting, arranging, explaining, etc.) the compilation qualifies it for its own copyright. Until 1991, compilers could assert a right in a compilation of public domain facts based on their considerable effort to compile them into a new work. But the Supreme Court threw out this "sweat of the brow" theory in its decision *Feist Publications v. Rural Telephone Service*, (499 U.S. 340). Since then, database owners have been forced to use other techniques to protect their market, including license agreements and moral suasion.

## Fair Use

"Fair use" allows non-infringing copying of a copyrighted work for such purposes as comment, criticism, news reporting, teaching, scholarship or research. In determining whether such use is fair, courts consider

1. whether the purpose is commercial or non-commercial,
2. the nature of the work,
3. the amount used in relation to the whole work, and
4. the effect of the use on the market or value of the work.

In general, copying a small amount of a work is considered fair unless it is the heart of the work.

### **You, Genealogy, and Copyright**

The copyright laws affect both the research and the publication of your genealogy, either a narrative family history or a simple pedigree family line. First, though, consider that the basic facts about your ancestor's life (such as name, birth date and place, marriage partner, date and place, and death date and place) do not receive copyright protection, no matter their source. Whether you went to the county courthouse, rented a microfilm of the relevant records, or found the data in a commercial CD-ROM, the basic facts of a person's life may be freely copied; they are in the public domain.

But adding any kind of narration to these basic facts gives rise to a copyright in the creative portion of the work. The more narrative, the stronger the copyright. If you are the author, you should take care to mark your work to give the proper notice. If it is a large or major work, consider registering it and depositing a copy in the Library of Congress.

On the other hand, if you find narrative material in a good family source, you should take care not to violate the rights of the author. Remember the idea of "Fair Use," mentioned above, before using more than a sentence or two, seek out the author and get permission. Do not assume that just because you have a copy of a story, you can copy it again or incorporate it into your family's history. If the author is dead, genealogists — of all researchers — are unable to use the excuse that they couldn't locate the heirs to seek copyright clearance!

Simple pedigree charts are not copyrightable, despite their markings, even when filled in with facts. But add a "modicum of creativity" and you can claim copyright protection in a pedigree chart. The same goes for computerized pedigree data, either in disk form or in a GEDCOM file.

Computerized family trees submitted to a compilation such as Ancestral File, GENSOURCE, the World Family Tree Project, or a GenWeb site are subject to the same

laws of copyright as are printed genealogies. By submitting your data to one of these compilations, you implicitly agree to allow your information to be published. But if you include someone else's creative work along with yours, both you and the compiler may be liable for infringement. Genealogy.com warns contributors to its World Family Tree project about these issues in its WFT Instruction Guide, under "Your Rights as a Contributor to the World Family Tree."

### **Copyright Formalities**

Although basic copyright protection is automatic, additional steps are required by law to either avoid fines or to receive punitive damages in an infringement suit. None of these is any longer a condition for copyright protection.

### **Marking**

Marking a work with the word "Copyright," abbreviation "Copr," or the symbol © (the "C" in circle) plus the date and the author's name is permitted by law to provide legal notice of a copyright claim. In an infringement action, an infringer cannot reduce damages by claiming "innocent infringement" if the work was clearly marked.

### **Registering**

The copyright law permits registration of the copyright at any time during its duration. Registration is required before bringing an infringement action at law. Registration involves filling a brief form, paying a small fee, and sending two copies of the work to the Register of Copyrights. For more details about this, visit The United States Copyright Office.

### **Depositing**

Depositing two copies "of the best edition" of a work with the Library of Congress within three months of publication is a mandatory requirement of the copyright law. The copies sent to the Register of Copyrights for registration purposes fulfill this requirement.

Genealogy is a literary work under today's copyright laws. And everyone involved in research and preparation of a genealogy should be aware of copyright, as they use others' work for source material and generate their

#### **About the Author**

Gary Hoffman has been involved in genealogy research for over 30 years. He is former president of the Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego and is CGSSD's Webmaster. Currently a computer manager at the University of California's San Diego campus, he recently received a law degree and passed the California bar exam. His articles on technical and legal issues relating to gene-

alogy have appeared in several online publications and newsletters and he is a regular speaker at national genealogy conferences.

E-mail: ghoffman@ucsd.edu

Copyright 1997 by Gary B. Hoffman. All Rights Reserved. Any republication of this article requires the express consent of the author.

## SVGS Library Expansion Update



The SVGS Library recently received a donation by Charles F. Schilter of his wife A. Norene Schilter's genealogy book collection. Ms. Floie Vane also donated some books from her private collection to the library. The challenge upon receiving these wonderful books is to find

more shelving so the library can grow.

Ms. Megan Smolenyak, a genealogist and consultant for Ancestry.com and the author of, "Who Do You Think You Are?" learned of our library's need to expand and contributed \$500 towards the library expansion project. This gift from Ms. Smolenyak acted as a seed catalyst to encourage others in the Skagit Valley genealogy community to step forward and contribute their support as well. Ms. Smolenyak's gift was indeed an inspiration to several SVGS members.

I wish to thank the following individual donors for their generous contributions and support of the SVGS Library Expansion Project: Megan Smolenyak, Bonnie Winge, Shirley Christenson, Barbara Johnson, Bill McCord, Nancy Bonafede, the SVGS Board of Directors. I wish to also thank the Burlington Library Board of Directors and staff for their continued support by housing our genealogy collection at no cost to the society and for their in-kind donation of excess library shelving so we can complete the project.

I am anticipating that the newly configured library area will be ready for unveiling by October 2011, just in celebration of "Family History Month." Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 29 when SVGS will host a special "Heritage Day / Open House" focusing on Scandinavian genealogy and culture. During that event a tour of the new library arrangement will be conducted to acquaint you with where the newly added books are located.

I ask your patience as we go through this project's reconfiguration process. We hope the shelving can be set up as soon as possible (I am hoping by the end of August) so access to the genealogy library isn't disrupted. Once the shelving is installed the SVGS Library volunteer team will move into action to label and shelf the books.

Look for more updates on the library project in the SVGS Fall newsletter. Thank you for your support of our growing SVGS Genealogy Library. I am sure you will be pleased with the new books and the roomier floor plan of the SVGS Genealogy Library.

Margie Wilson

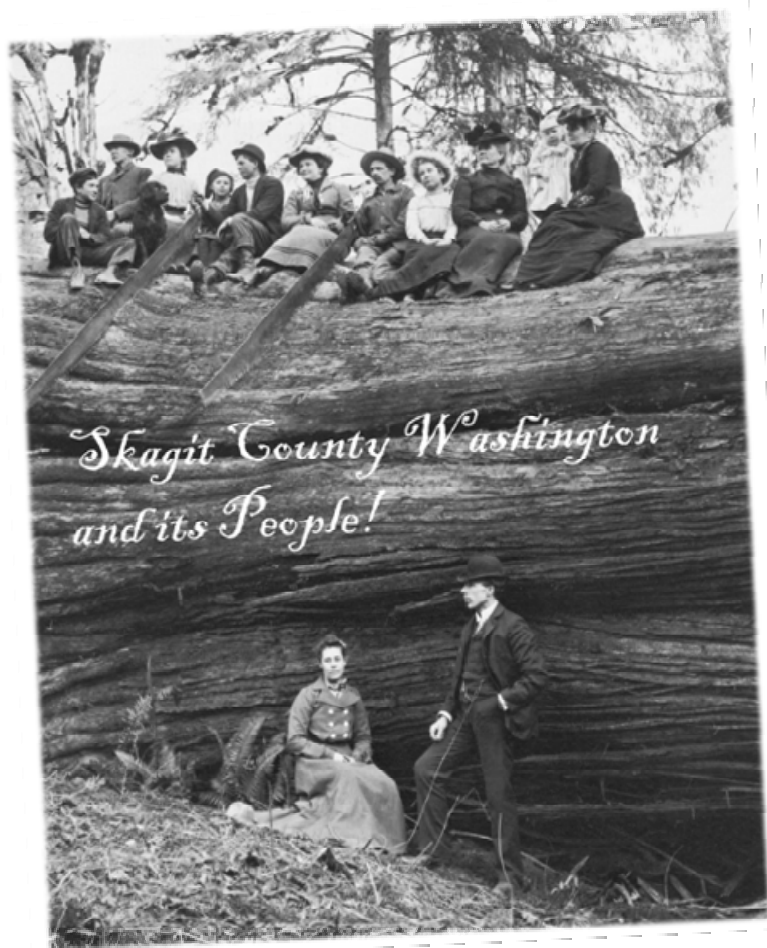
SVGS Librarian

### Burlington Public Library

820 E Washington Ave  
Burlington, WA 98233  
Phone (360) 755-0760  
Email:  
blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us  
Hours: Monday – Thursday  
11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday – Closed

**SVGS Library Collection  
located here. SVGS Volunteers  
11:00—1:00 to assist with questions  
Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian**





*Update on our Special History Project  
by Dan Royal*

As I mentioned last year our Special History Project has turned into a ten year project. The current process is putting each family biography into the book layout, with an appropriate amount of submitted photos.

Look for pre-order forms for the book sometime in 2013.

In the meantime, I have randomly selected a couple of family stories for this issues Summer Journal. Enjoy!

## **McKinley Loop**

*Submitted by Arlene Nelson  
LaConner, Washington 98257*

**MCKINLEY LOOP**, the son of **HERMAN LOOP** and **BERTHA TONER**, was born October 26, 1900 in Edison, Skagit County, Washington. He was the seventh of nine children. His siblings were: **MARION E. LOOP**; **JOSIE A. LOOP**; **RUBY J. LOOP**; **HERMAN HAZEL LOOP**; **EVA B. LOOP**; **CLARA I. LOOP**; **JAMES W. LOOP**; and **FRANCIS W. LOOP**.

He was known by the name of Kenny to all his friends and family throughout most of his adult life.

He is listed on the 1910 Federal Census for the Samish Precinct in Skagit County with his parents and eight siblings. He is listed as Thomas M. at 9 years of age.

He is listed on the 1920 Federal Census for the North Allen Precinct in Skagit County with his parents and two siblings. They are Wesley age 18 [probably James] and Francis age 15. He is listed as Kenneth [probable nickname] at age 19 years.

He married **FRANKIE EMILY WATKINSON** December 10, 1921 in Mount Vernon, Skagit County. She was the daughter of **MELBOURNE WATKINSON** and **ADA GILKEY**. She was born June 1, 1902 in Bow, Skagit County, Washington, and died May 4, 1987 in Bow, Skagit County. Her siblings are: **MELVIN EUGENOUS WATKINSON** married **PEARL ETHEL GEESMAN**, **CORA MAY WATKINSON**, **ARTHUR THURMAN WATKINSON** married **ELIZABETH GERTRUDE UNGER**, **NELLIE FRANCES WATKINSON** married **WALTER HANSEN**, **IOLA FLORENCE WATKINSON**, **ALICE ANNA WATKINSON** married **CHARLES GORDON PENLEY**, **LENORA EDNA WATKINSON** married **DONALD MILLER**, **MYRTLE LENNIE WATKINSON** married **VALENTINE SINCLAIR**, **BLANCHE DELPHA WATKINSON** married **JACK LEROY TURNER**, **REBA MAE WATKINSON** married **RANDOLPH 'PINK' STREETER**, **ROBERT ALLEN WATKINSON** married **VERNA MARIE OLSON JOHNSON**, and **WOODROW WATKINSON**.

He is listed on the 1930 Federal Census for the North Allen Precinct in Skagit County with a wife Frankie, age 27, two daughters: **WANDA M. LOOP** age 7 and **PATRICIA YVONNE LOOP** age 5.

For 3 or 4 years he was a janitor at the Skagit County Courthouse. He was a retired public employee having worked under **JOY BUSH** for the Skagit County Road Department. McKinley was a lifelong resident of Skagit County, living in the Allen district for the better part of his life. During World War II he was a volunteer fireman in both Allen and Burlington. When he retired as a member of the Burlington Fire Department, he was the oldest surviving fireman in Skagit County.

He was a member of BPOE (Elks Club) Lodge #1604.



An avid hunter, he enjoyed spending nearly every birthday for 70 years at Deer Camp, which he started with his father in 1922. He will be remembered as a "people person" who loved his family and friends.

McKinley died September 6, 1998 in Bow, Skagit County, Washington. His wife Frankie preceded him in death in 1987. Both are buried at the Bow Cemetery in Bow.

Obituary: Skagit Valley Herald

September 9, 1998

McKinley Loop, 97, a lifelong Skagit County resident, died Sunday, September 6, 1998 at the Skagit Valley Convalescent Center.

He was born October 26, 1900 in Edison, a son of Skagit County pioneers Herman and Bertha (Toner) Loop. On December 10, 1921 he married Frankie Watkinson in Mount Vernon, and they celebrated 65 years together before her death in 1987.

McKinley had lived in Allen for the past 60 years before moving to the convalescent center in 1995. Kenny, as he was known to all his friends, was a retired county employee, and a retired member of the Burlington Fire Department. He was the oldest surviving fireman in Skagit County.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Wanda and Melvin Peterson and Patricia and Norman Dahl, all of Bow; eleven grandchildren and their spouses, Marvin & Carolyn Peterson of Maryland, Diane & Warren Bingham of Bow, Wayne & Larry Wilhonen of Bow, Ron & Sue Dahl of Ferndale, Debbie & Vic Randall of Ferndale, Darla Hendrickson of Bow and Darcee & Harold Burdick of Bellingham. 32 great grandchildren and 16 great great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife Frankie; his parents; 4 brothers, Pete, Hazel, Marion and Frances; 4 sisters, Josie, Ruby, Inez and Eva and numerous nieces & nephews.

Graveside services will be at Bow Cemetery.

More About MCKINLEY LOOP:

Burial: 1998, Bow Cemetery, Bow, Skagit County, Washington<sup>1</sup>

## ***George Amos McRae II & wife Mary Agnes (McNally)***

*Submitted by Donna McRae Stone  
Burlington, WA 98233*

**GEORGE AMOS McRAE II**, son of **GEORGE AMOS McRAE I**, was born May 10, 1857 in Olde Towne, Penobscot County, Maine. His mother is unknown, except for the last name of Green. From Maine the family returned to New Brunswick, Canada where his parents had lived previously. Following the death of his first wife, George's father married a second time. With his wife **ELIZA SMITH** and family, they traveled west and south arriving in Skagit County in 1889. George's known siblings are: **CHARLES BERNARD McRAE**, **HENRY V. McRAE**, **MARTHA McRAE** married **HENRY ADALOR SWEENEY** in 1894, **HUGH McRAE**, **REBECCA McRAE** married **EMERY CHARLES RATCHFORD** in 1896, and **ALEXANDER JOHN McRAE** married **ELIZA RUMPLE**.

As a young bachelor, George Amos II came south to the United States and worked his way across the country, arriving in Washington Territory in 1885, to an area



George Amos McRae II (b May 10, 1857) and wife Mary Agnes McNally McRae (b Jun 24, 1865) at home on farm near Sedro-Woolley, Skagit County, Washington State c 1915.



which would later be known as Sedro Woolley, Skagit County. He took a pre-emption claim on 380 acres of homestead land in 1885, much of which was timberland. He constructed a one-room shack to live in and gradually cleared land, raising cattle, horses, pigs, hay, potatoes and bees. He planted a large orchard and always had a large garden. Neither George nor his father is found in the 1892 census for Skagit County.

George married **MARY AGNES MCNALLY** June 28, 1893 in Sedro Woolley, Skagit County. She is the daughter of **ANDREW MCNALLY** and **MARTHA MCCOMB/MCCONE**, immigrating to the United States in 1891. Mary, a red head, was born June 24, 1865 in a family of ten children in Carrickfergus, County Antrim, Ireland near Belfast, Ireland. Her brother Thomas had come earlier in 1890. She came to the town of Woolley to work as a cook and domestic for the P.A. Woolley family. Mary died April 23, 1929 in Sedro Woolley.

George and Mary had four children. They were: **GEORGE AMOS III MCRAE** was born May 10, 1894 in Sedro Woolley; he married **JESSIE EUNICE MCKEE** March 2, 1930 in Sedro Woolley, and died April 19, 1966 in Sedro Woolley. Both George III and his wife Jessie are buried at Union Cemetery, Sedro Woolley, Skagit County, Washington; **EVA RUSSELL MCRAE** was born June 27, 1895 in Sedro Woolley and died December 4, 1991 in Tucson, Pima County, Arizona; **IDA CROCKER MCRAE** was born May 18, 1897 in Sedro Woolley and died September 5, 1972 in Mount Vernon; **EDWIN TAYLOR MCRAE** was born January 12, 1902 in Sedro Woolley. He married **NOLA IRENE MCKEE**, 1936, Honolulu, Oahu Island, Hawaii, and died October 8, 1970, Sedro Woolley, Skagit County.

In 1899 George McRae donated 2 acres of his homestead land for a community school. Thus, the McRae School District #72 was formed. The men of the area constructed a one-room school on the site, which was located on what is now known as F&S Grade Road, Ratchford Road and Collins Road area, also known as the McRae District. In a few years they constructed a much larger, two-room school, which served the McRae District until 1943, when the district was consolidated into the Sedro Woolley School District. The original one-room school had been used for many years as a rainy-day play area, and was then moved into Sedro Woolley, where it still serves as the Riding and Rodeo Club meeting hall at the Sedro Woolley rodeo grounds. The two room school and property were purchased by **ED SMALLWOOD** and his wife **VIVIAN SMALLWOOD** and they transformed the school into their home, where they raised their family of six children.

Due to their growing family of four children, George and Mary built a larger, two-story home, which burned to the ground in 1906. They then built a two story, five bedroom home for a total of \$300.00, which still stands today. An old wino happened along in need of a place to live. He stayed with the family and completely plastered the interior of the entire home for room-and-board and a small amount of money--just enough to keep him plastered also! A small shake and lumber mill was located on the eastern edge of the McRae homestead property, so they were able to cut their own lumber and shakes for the new home.

George and Mary's four children attended the McRae School for 8 years and all went on to graduate from Sedro Woolley High School except son George. Being the oldest boy in the family, he was needed at home on the farm after he completed the 8th grade.

His occupation was that of Farmer, however, he was educated by a lifetime of hard work and experiences in all areas in order to be self-sufficient, i.e.: logging, building, planting and harvesting of crop and animal husbandry (caring for and raising all types of animals). As a pioneer farmer, he had to be his own veterinarian, horticulturist, scientist, construction engineer and expert in all fields.

He was a Diking District Commissioner and Rural Telephone Board Member. He was also a member of the Skagit Grange, which was a farming organization.

George Amos McRae II died of a heart attack while working near the barn on his farm on May 28, 1920. Mary continued to live on the farm until her death on April 23, 1928.

George died May 28, 1920 in Sedro Woolley. Both George and Mary are buried in the Union Cemetery in Sedro Woolley.

DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS!

# Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

## Spring/Fall Evening Schedule

(March to June, Sept. & Oct.)

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays • 7PM - 9PM**

**Burlington Senior/Community Center**

1011 Greenleaf • Burlington

## Winter Day-Time Schedule

(Nov., Jan., & Feb.)

**4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays • 1PM - 3PM**

**Burlington Library**

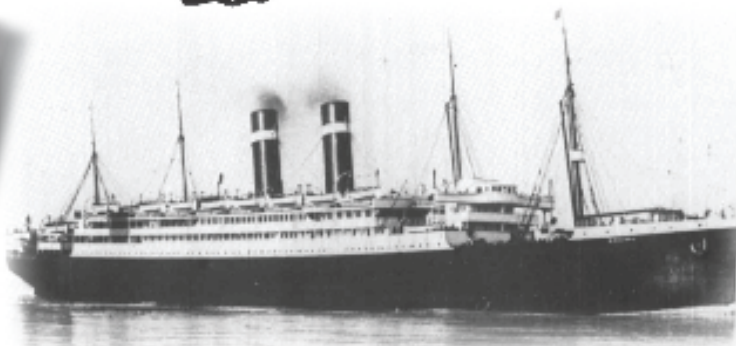
820 E. Washington • Burlington

*Enjoy informative/educational programs and help with  
your research "brick walls"*

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasvgs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasvgs)

Email: [genealogy0715@gmail.com](mailto:genealogy0715@gmail.com)

\* Note: No meetings in July, August and December.





<b><i>Skagit Valley Genealogy Society Publications</i></b>	
<b>The Pioneer Book, 1926-1955</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>Death Record 1891-1908</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Index to Funeral Homes Records, 1908-1994</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>(also available on microfiche)</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Index to Funeral Homes Records, Vol 2 1994-2003</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Every Name Index for the 1906 History of Skagit and Snohomish Counties, Washington</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>
<b>Recipe Book: Generation to Generation</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b><i>Cemetery Records for Skagit County</i></b>	
<b>Volume 1 Sedro Woolley, Union Cemetery 1889-1992</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Volume 2 Burlington, Green Hills Memorial 1900-1993</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Volume 3 Anacortes, Grandview 1897-1999</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Volume 4 LaConner, Pleasant Ridge 1875-1999</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Volume 5 Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon 1890-2000</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Volume 6 Concrete, Forest Park 1908-2002</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Volume 7 Bay View, Bay View 1892-2002</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Volume 8 Bow, Bow 1883-2003</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Volume 9 Clear Lake, Clear Lake 1893-2003</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Volume 10 Guemes Island, Edens 1888-2003</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Volume 11 Fidalgo Island, Fern Hill 1893-2003</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Volume 12 Fir-Conway Lutheran Church 1872-2003</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>
<b><i>Census Records for Skagit County</i></b>	
<b>1885 Territorial Census</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>1887 Territorial Census</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>1889 Territorial &amp; First State Census</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>1892 Federal Census</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>1910 Federal Census Index</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Pioneer Certificates available on request</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Postage &amp; Handling: \$3.00 first item - plus \$2.00 for each additional item unless otherwise indicated.</b>	
<b>NAME _____</b>	
<b>STREET _____</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP _____</b>	
<b>Postage &amp; Handling _____</b>	
<b>Total Enclosed _____</b>	

Send with check or money order to SVGS, PO Box 715, Conway, WA 98238-0715

This Newsletter is published by the Members of SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY and is distributed free of charge to members. A non-profit organization, membership is open to all persons interested in historical research, preservation and publications of genealogical interest.

---

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2011**

---

APPLICANTS NAME

---

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE

---

AREA CODE ( )

TELEPHONE NUMBER

---

E-MAIL ADDRESS

---

New Member

---

Renewal

---

Previous Member

---

FAMILY \$ 20

---

INDIVIDUAL \$15

---

INSTITUTION \$15

---



**SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**Post Office Box 715**  
**Conway, WA. 98238-0715**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**