

VOLUME 38, NO 2, MARCH/APRIL 2026

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Happy



St Patrick's

Day



Upcoming SVGS Events:

.....
Tuesday March 10th
1PM

Sue McNeil will present: Ancestry Revisit -
New, Updated and Upcoming Features

There have been many small and large additions and changes to Ancestry over the past year and many more are coming. Come and join us to look over some of the latest changes at Ancestry.

Bio:

Sue has been a member of the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society for many years and a family history addict. Her research in the United States has focused on the deep south, Washington, Michigan and just starting New England, Internationally, she has focused on Canada, Sweden and Germany. Autosomal and Y DNA have been a challenging but fun addition!



Sue McNeil

Tuesday April 14th
1PM

Nate Cushman will present:
Tools and Strategies for Property Research

Bio:

Nate Cushman has worked as a Librarian with Sno-Isle Libraries for 30 years. His love for libraries began at an early age due to being a military brat and moving every 2 years. Being a shy kid, (at least until basketball season rolled around), libraries became his refuge whenever he arrived in a new town. Over his career, genealogical research has evolved from a professional requirement to a personal passion.

The speaker portion of Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society monthly meetings will be available in person only at the SVGS Library.
Our business meeting and board meeting will follow the presentation at 2 PM.



Yard Clean-Up Day
(Weather Permitting)

Wednesday
April 22nd
10AM



It's that time of the year again and the Society needs your help. Our yards need weeding and raking and some bushes may need trimming. Please bring your garden tools and garden shoes and pitch in to help beautify your library. Lunch will be provided.

Monthly Special Interest Groups at SVGS

The first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM join a group at the library discussing New England focused research.

The third Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM join a group at the library discussing DNA research at all skill levels.

The fourth Thursday of each month at 1:00 join a group discussing how to write your family history using AI resources.

New

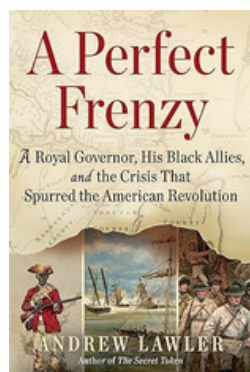
March 26th: Making an [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) timeline into "narrative ready" research notes; then uploading the timeline to A.I. with a prompt for an initial narrative.

--ChatGPT vs. CLAUDE. (Hold off signing up for a paid membership for either one. We'll go over similarities/differences of both.)

Bring your questions! Bring your narratives or laptop for help or feedback.
This class will be presented by Teresa Townsell and be interactive.

New

The last Saturday of each month from 11:00 AM to Noon please join us for American Ancestors Webinar Day.



March 28th, the topic will be the American Revolution "A Perfect Frenzy: A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis That Spurred the American Revolution" with Andrew Lawler. As the American Revolution broke out in New England in the spring of 1775, dramatic events unfolded in Virginia that proved every bit as decisive as the battles of Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill, in uniting the colonies against Britain. "A Perfect Frenzy" chronicles these stunning and widely overlooked events for the first time.

A Revolutionary Moment

By- LeAnne Koliha

Revolutionary Proclamations

In 1776, the town minutes of Rindge, New Hampshire recorded a pivotal resolution from the Continental Congress. The Congress recommended that all colonies disarm those who opposed the American cause or refused to defend the United Colonies against British forces. In response, local citizens—including my 3rd and 4th great grandfathers—pledged to defend the colonies with their lives and fortunes. The resolution stated:

“In consequence of the above Resolution of the Hon. Continental Congress, and to show our determination in joining our American Brethren in defending the lives, liberties and property of the inhabitants of the United Colonies, we the subscribers do hereby solemnly engage and promise that we will to the utmost of our power at the risk of our lives and fortunes, with Arms oppose the Hostile proceedings of the British Fleets and Armies against the United American Colonies: —”

Modern Proclamations

On January 20th in Arlington and January 21st in Granite Falls, I witnessed City Councils issue proclamations honoring the sacrifices and determination of all patriots during the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. These public recognitions serve as a reminder of the enduring importance of freedom and the legacy of those who fought to secure it.



Arlington Proclamation

Left to right
Heather Watland Council Member
Ronda Murphy DAR
Don Vanney Mayor
Ruth Caesar SVGS President



Granite Falls Proclamation

Left to Right
Ronda Murphy DAR
Matt Hartman Mayor
LeAnne Koliha SVGS Secretary
Tara Rodi DAR Regent

Let's Ask: Why Me?

This article was posted in [Let's Talk About](#) on the Washington State Genealogical Society Blog

by [Donna Phillips](#)



This darling photo is not me but surely could be. I think I was born with gills behind my ears because I do love to be around water, especially the ocean.

Why am I spotlighting me today? Because I'm really on a crusade to get all of us over-60 folks to write down your memories. One way to think about this is to imagine what do you want your great- great grandchildren to know about you??? I've kept notebooks and a simple journal for 40 years. With one spiral notebook, when my kids were teenagers, I wrote exactly what we did, went and ate every single day that year. Now maybe that drivell won't pique their beaks but my memories of Big Events surely will.

I tell them WHY I say I was born the Year of the Black Penny. I say WHY I lived in Japan as a five year old. I relate being the wife of a Navy nuclear submariner for eight years. I can tell them my memories of that 1963 day when Kennedy was shot. I can tell them I was with my mother-in-law watching the first men walk on the moon in 1969. I can tell them how my three teens plus one lived in an ash-surrounded cocoon in 1980 during Mt.St.Helens. I certainly will tell them how my sister-in-law called from Kansas City at 5:00am on that fateful 9-11 day (before we were up) to scream "turn on the TV, we're at war!"

See how simple writing YOUR stories, YOUR memories can be? Hope I've tweaked your beak a bit. Tomorrow I turn 83; how old will you be tomorrow? Isn't it time you share your life's memories???

SVGS Website to be Rebuilt

We need your help!

If you know a web designer please ask them to review our pages and provide us a quote.



We need the following items:

- All items currently on our website-stillygen.org, on the visible pages as well as the background administrative pages.
- Website must be compatible with cell phone/tablet technology
- Must accommodate membership and donation needs
- Must be able to be maintained by “non-tech” SVGS volunteers

If interested in further information please contact us at info@stillygen.org and please put Website Review in the subject line.

Books recently added to our library.



Additions to our library include several colonial era books:

Documentary History of Dunmore's War 1774

Lord Dunmore was the governor of Virginia during the Cherokee wars.

Ulster Emigration to Colonial America

Irish immigration 1718-1775

Letters of General John Forbes 1758

The Expedition against Fort DuQuesne Pennsylvania

Grossgartach, Wuerttemberg, to Pennsylvania: Some Early Colonial German Immigrants

Includes an every name index

Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown, Massachusetts 1629-1818 (2 Vol)

Families genealogies and property transfers

This is not a complete list of the recent additions to our library. As always, remember you can always search our library catalogue online for topics of interest and new additions.

Want to Make a Difference?

Try Virtual Volunteering!

Have you ever wished you could support fellow SVGS members but weren't sure how to fit volunteering into your schedule? Virtual volunteering might be the perfect fit. With just the skills you already have—and without leaving the comfort of your home—you can make a meaningful impact in our genealogy community.

Many of our members would love a little help navigating the online tools that make research easier. If you're comfortable with a particular genealogy website, consider giving someone a friendly phone call or screen-share session to walk them through it. Your experience could save them hours of frustration and open new doors in their research.

Do you speak or read another language? Your translation skills could be invaluable to members working with foreign records. Even a small amount of language knowledge can make a big difference when deciphering documents from the past.

These are just a few ways you can contribute—but we know our members have many talents. If you have other ideas for virtual volunteering, we'd love to hear them. Together, we can strengthen our community, support one another, and continue uncovering the stories that connect us.

Email us at info@stillygen.org or stop by the library with your thoughts...

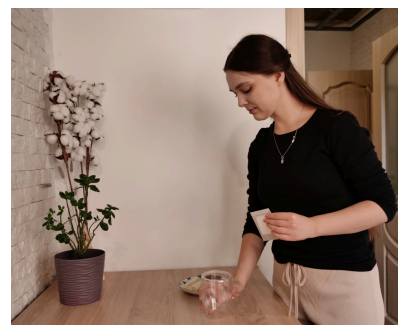
SVGS Library Spring Cleaning and Lunch

May 6th 10:00AM-3:00PM

Yes, your genealogy society library needs spring cleaning too, just like your house. Dusting, vacuuming and other tasks to choose from. We will supply the cleaning supplies but please bring your own gloves.



Lunch will be provided.



Joanne Hoidal
Age about 18

Looking Back and Remembering a Friend



Joanne Hoidal Wetmore
2025

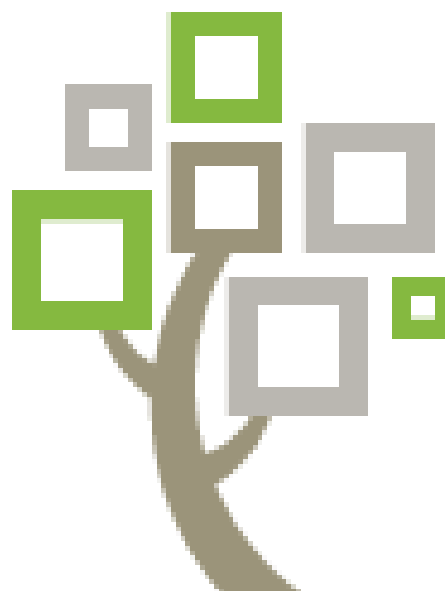
Today, I have taken a moment to look back and remember the many dear friends and long-time members we have lost, including Joanne Wetmore, who passed away in December.

Joanne was the SVGS Membership Chair when I became president in 2011. She served on our Publications Committee for many years, volunteered as a librarian, and represented us at numerous community fairs with a kind word for everyone she met.

Joanne's smile and laugh will never be forgotten by those who knew her.

Did you know...

**the Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society
is an Affiliate Library
of Family Search?**



Why is this important? When conducting a catalog search on familysearch.org, you may not be able to view all the records in your results. Due to contractual agreements with record owners, those records can only be seen at a Family History Library (FHL) or an Affiliate Library. If you click on one of those records at home, it will stop you with a pop-up box.

Now with full-text searching it is even more important to try your searches at FHL or an affiliate. At home, your search results will not even include those records only viewable at the library. You will only see them in the search results at FHL or an affiliate.

Try it out! Do a catalog search or full-text search at home and note your search criteria, filters and the number of search results you get. Then go to the library and conduct the exact same search? Did you get additional search results? In some cases, the difference can be substantial. You may be missing that critical record you have been searching for.

If you need assistance on how to use the FamilySearch Catalog or FamilySearch Full-text Search, come to the library to get help from one of our volunteer librarians.

SVGS is one of the select few independent genealogy libraries that has the honor of functioning as an Affiliate Library with the world-famous Family Search Library in Salt Lake City.

It's almost that time of year again



**The Annual Meeting and election will be held following
our NOON Potluck on May 12, 2026
at 1:00pm at the SVGS library.**

**Mark your calendar for NOON and don't miss the
SVGS Annual Meeting & Potluck and this year's
Silent Auction**

(see the following page for details)

**SVGS is calling for
nominations for the following positions:
Vice President
Treasurer**

If you have an interest in volunteering for one of these
positions, please contact the nominating committee expressing your desire to serve..
Or, email info@stillygen.org and be sure to put
Nominating Committee in the subject line

Silent Auction

Our Annual Meeting will include a silent auction and now is the time to get ready.

The proceeds from the auction will be applied to our present budget shortfall. But for this to be successful we need your help now.

We are counting on you to provide items for the auction. Do you have a favorite coffee shop? Perhaps they would be willing to donate a gift certificate? How about your hairdresser/barber? The possibilities are as varied as the places you do business. Restaurants, nurseries, bakeries, are all potential donors. They get new business and great advertisement as well as donating to a 501 (c) (3) charity.

When you get a donation, remember to give the donor a receipt and keep a copy for SVGS.

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SVGS Donation Receipt

Date_____

Dear _____

Thank you for your donation of _____ valued at
\$_____.

Your generosity is appreciated by Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society a
registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, registered in the State of Washington.

By _____

Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!

Newsletter submissions for the **May/June** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **April 25th**.



Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stillygen/>



Check out our Blog:

<https://stillygen.wordpress.com/>



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PO Box 34
Arlington, WA 98223

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