

VOLUME 38, NO 1, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 34, ARLINGTON WA 98223

360.435.4838
www.stillygen.org

6111 188TH PL NE, ARLINGTON WA 98223

A large, stylized graphic in a golden-yellow color. The text "Happy New Year!" is written in a bubbly, cursive font, with the exclamation mark being particularly large. Below this, the year "2026" is written in a simpler, rounded sans-serif font. The entire graphic is decorated with several small, four-pointed starburst shapes and dots of varying sizes, some in a lighter shade of yellow and others in a light grey, scattered around the main text.

Happy
New
Year!
2026

Upcoming SVGS Events:

**Tuesday January 13th
1PM**

Teresa Townsell will present: Writing A Family History Book Using A.I.

Have you ever wanted to use A.I. in your genealogy work? Is it finally time to turn your family research into a book your relatives can enjoy? Are you waiting until your research feels “finished” – or unsure where to begin with A.I.? This process meets you where you are.

All you need is an Ancestry.com account and basic WORD skills (or the Apple equivalent).

Teresa will teach you a simple, step-by-step process to write your family history book using A.I.

(ChatGPT)—a process that’s easier, faster, and a lot more fun than you might imagine!



Teresa Townsell

You’ll leave with:

- A clear understanding of how to collaborate with A.I. for writing and organizing your history.
- A structure and outline you can use as a template for your own family history book.
- Confidence to start writing and finally share your story—as soon as you get home!

**Tuesday February 10th
1PM**

What’s Been Done: Using Someone Else’s Genealogy Research

Many of us as genealogists have inherited research from a relative and we are not always sure whether the content is reliable? What’s the best way to incorporate the research of others into your own research without leading to dead ends, roadblocks and unnecessary detours? Here’s a road map on the best way to handle “outside research” and benefit from it as you combine the content with your own research.

(This will be a “virtual” presentation.)



Thomas MacEntee

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.

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.



Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

"The World at Your Fingertips from the Stillaguamish Valley"

If you have a sharp eye for detail, we could use your insight as we review and refresh the Society's website. A fresh perspective helps us ensure that our online presence stays accurate, welcoming, and easy to use.

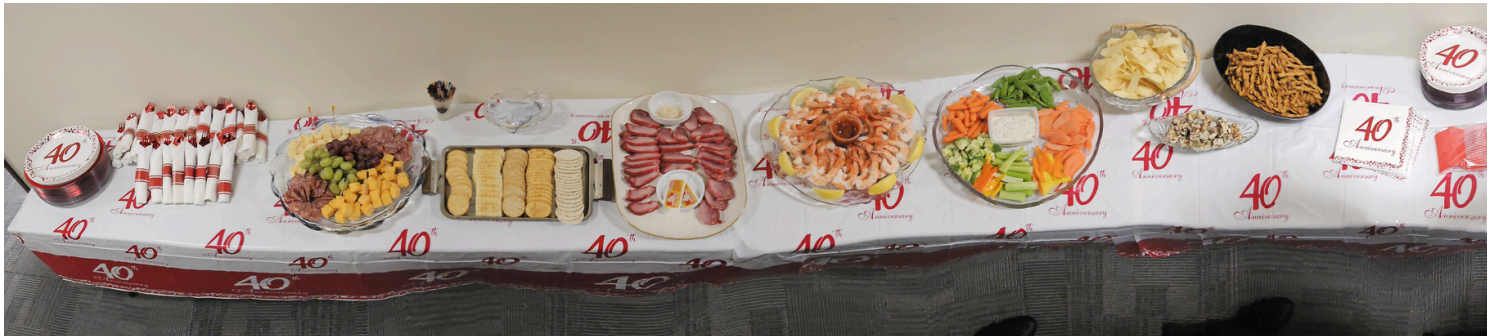
Do you speak or read another language? Your translation skills could be invaluable to members working with foreign records. Even a small amount of language knowledge can make a big difference when deciphering documents from the past.

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 with your thoughts...
or call the society at (360)435-4838.



In November The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society Celebrated it's 40th Anniversary 1985-2025



Many members joined our party and a good time was had by all.



Books recently added to our library.



Below is a list of just some of the fifty-four books recently added to our library. You can see a complete list of all books that have been added this year by going to library catalogue online and selecting “Subject” “new library item 2025”.

Additions to our Washington State section are:

Saddlebags to Scanners – the First 100 years of Medicine in Washington State
A Particular Friend, Penn’s Cove
Spokane Story
Cemetery Records Thurston County 3 Vol.
Walla Walla Portrait of a Western Town

Additions to our Snohomish County section are:

Pilchuck Valley Reflections

Additions to our New England States are:

Bellingham Vital Records (MA)
The Town of Bellingham Massachusetts
Franklin Town Records (MA)
History of the Town of Smithfield Rhode Island
North Burial Ground, Providence, Rhode Island
Providence, Smithfield, and Cumberland Rhode Island Vital Records

There are new books in our Norwegian section, Northwest Tribes section, as well as various States, (Illinois, Tennessee, Nebraska, Missouri) as well as Civil War and Revolutionary War books.

New offerings at SVGS

January marks the beginning of a new year and an opportunity for you to grow in your genealogical research. SVGS will be sharing a different American Ancestors video the 4th Saturday of each month at 11:00AM starting on January 24th. Each month will feature a different topic so be sure to watch for announcements concerning monthly topics.

January 24th the topic will be writing your family history

“Ten Steps to Writing & Publishing Your Family History”

Writing and publishing your genealogy is a fantastic way to preserve your family history for future generations and to share it with others. Join American Ancestors Vice President of Publishing, Sharon Inglis, as she discusses her top tips for writing and publishing your family history.

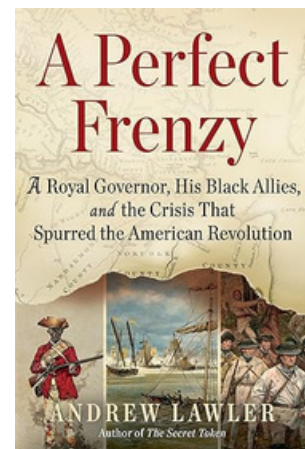


Sharon Buzzell Inglis

February 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.



Holiday Potluck



Our holiday potluck was amazing!
The turnout was the best we've
seen in a long while...
Great food, great times and
great memories.



Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!
Newsletter submissions for the **March/April** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **February 25th**.



Find us on Facebook:

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



Check out our Blog:

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



Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society
PO Box 34
Arlington, WA 98223

The Stillaguamish Star

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026