

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Happy
holidays

To all of our readers, we want to wish you a happy holiday season with much joy and love to you and yours! To those who struggle during this season for one reason or another, please know that you are in our thoughts and hearts.

- The SVGS Board

Upcoming SVGS Events:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1PM

SVGS Monthly Meeting

Jennie Hise, Topic: Mayflower

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 12PM

SVGS Holiday Potluck

SAVE THE DATE!

**Northwest Genealogy
Conference 2019**

**Open Windows to the Past
August 15-18 - Arlington,
WA**

**Keynote Speakers: Angie
Bush, Thomas MacEntee,
and Michael Strauss**

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FROM THE EDITOR



Can you believe we are already nearing the end of 2018? As an adult, these last couple months of the year always seem to fly by so quickly too. This was not the case when I was a child though. Oh no, it felt like Christmas and the happy traditions surrounding it would never come!

Even though I am thousands of miles from my parents, I still greatly look forward to the holiday season. It is a time that I associate with loving on family and friends, sharing good food, and cozy evenings. I truly hope that this issue of the newsletter brings you joy and that you all have a wonderful holiday season filled with much laughter, warmth and love!

Please note that SVGS will be closed December 23 - January 1, and the next issue of the newsletter will be sent out by January 7th. If you have any submissions for the newsletter or questions for the editor, please email newsletter@stillygen.org.

- Leah

More Upcoming Events:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 9:30AM

Jefferson County Genealogy

presents a seminar with special guest

CeCe Moore

Tickets are \$75

Fort Walden State Park, Port Townsend

<https://wajcgs.org/>

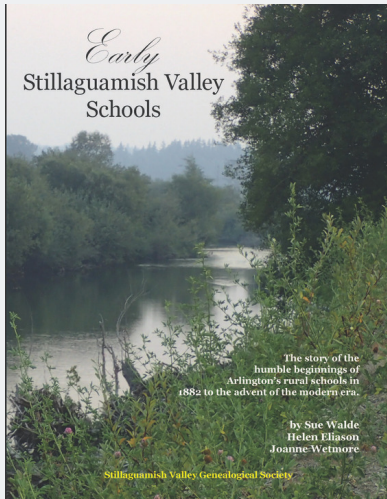
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1PM

Brick Wall Troubleshooting & Skagit Valley

Genealogical Society Annual Meeting

Burlington Public Library

<http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org/>



Are you trying to find a special gift for a special person who seemingly has everything?

If your special person has a love of local history or enjoys learning more about the rural areas of Arlington, then search no further. SVGS's new book, *Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools*, is a fascinating read that bestows bragging rights.

Your special someone will enjoy reading and bragging about the answers to:

- Which school district operated, but never offered a day of school?
- Where the heck was Verda Heights? It's not on Google Maps!
- Sadly, where did a school teacher and three pupils drown?
- Where was the forgotten country school of Bungalow? Forgotten even by Arlington School District!
- Where were five country schoolhouses built - all within a half-mile radius?
- Which country schoolhouse burned to the ground as children were calmly, but quickly ushered out of the building by quick-thinking teachers?
- Which rural school district operated two country schools simultaneously?
- Where was the 8th Wonder of the World that school children depended upon?
- Where did children climb over log jams, cross a swinging bridge, or row boats to get to school?
- Where were school children afraid they'd be eaten alive?

The book is available at the SVGS Library for \$27 to SVGS members and \$30 regular price. It is also available at Arlington Pharmacy at the regular price.

Now you can cross the person who has everything off your Christmas shopping list!



Early Stillaguamish Schools includes more than 150 photos like the one above.

Farewell, Dear Friend



Everyone at SVGS was deeply saddened to hear about the recent passing of our fellow member Kathy Bowman. She was the creative force behind our graphic art designs for the society and the Northwest Genealogy Conference. She also served as our Newsletter Editor and spent the last 3 years editing and typesetting all 368 pages of the society's recently released book, 'Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools'. Kathy's dedication was recognized as an "Outstanding Volunteer" in 2016 when she received a Washington State Genealogical Society award for her exceptional and consistent support of SVGS. Kathy was the NwGC Assistant Conference Chair in 2016 and was also a valued supporter of the SVGS Tombstone Project and a Find A Grave volunteer. Her efforts as a "Waste Warrior" left her mark by setting up and reminding all of us to be kind to the Earth and Recycle! Kathy was gracious and kind and always willing to help anyone who needed it. Her smile and upbeat demeanor will always be remembered as she was a friend to all who knew her and will be sorely missed...

- The SVGS Board

According to Kathy's wishes for a private memorial, her husband shares:

On October 10, a beautiful, early autumn afternoon, Ray accompanied by his now best friend, Lloyd Townsend, and Our Saviors Lutheran Church staff member, Kimberly Wuest, journeyed up the Centennial Trail to a spot overlooking Pilchuck Creek, about a mile and a half east of where Kathy and her sisters swam as youngsters. There, Kimberly conducted a meaningful goodbye to Kathy in God's name, and Ray carried out the first of his late wife's wishes.

Donations in lieu of flowers have been posted at Our Saviors Lutheran Church or at Community Foundation of Snohomish County.

- Ray Bowman

When I first met Kathy at a meeting to discuss photographing burials in Evergreen Cemetery in Everett, I recall her quiet, humble spirit and enthusiasm for helping with this important historical mission. Documenting and cataloging records for the cemetery and later for View Crest Abbey (VCA), evolved into meeting regularly when we first began photographing the cemetery with our friend Rev. Larry Taylor. We added our photos to Find A Grave. Kathy, Larry and I spent many hours and days (actually months and a few years), viewing cemetery lot books, and photographing burials. Upon noticing the many markers missing and deteriorating, an idea formed to save records, document burials, and replace older graves with no markers. The Tombstone Project was born! Larry, Kathy and I were

excited to think about preserving history in this way. We also began listing burials of our many Veterans with missing markers, in hopes of some day having markers placed on their graves.

Kathy was always energetic and organized in her research work. When we designed a system to catalog VCA records from a card file, we made our main list and created back up and check lists for accuracy. When VCA records at Evergreen were finished, we all went to VCA and began to transcribe burials easily seen through the hallways of VCA. And then began the task of documenting the not so easily seen burials in community vaults. I often remember the looks between Kathy, Larry and myself, when crawling through tight spaces, working in dim light, and feeling the cold atmosphere, as there was no heat. But, we continued on happily, with our usually full smiles, as we knew this was an important project. Kathy always lightened up the room, even in dim light!

Kathy was passionate about her work. She helped the genealogy society tirelessly in her duties and brought great talents to the organization. Kathy's creative talents were many and she will be dearly missed. TLK Files (Tender Loving Kare for Tami, Larry, Kathy), will live on forever and our research together will be blessed by preserving historical information. In her last 6 weeks of life with us, Kathy and I communicated often. She was happy, comfortable, and in no further pain. She was making arrangements for others to care for some of her projects. May you rest in sweet heavenly peace, my friend. In loving memory of Kathy, who I will think of often as I walk through cemeteries, and hear her enthusiastic laughter and see her contagious smile.

- Tami Sherrill

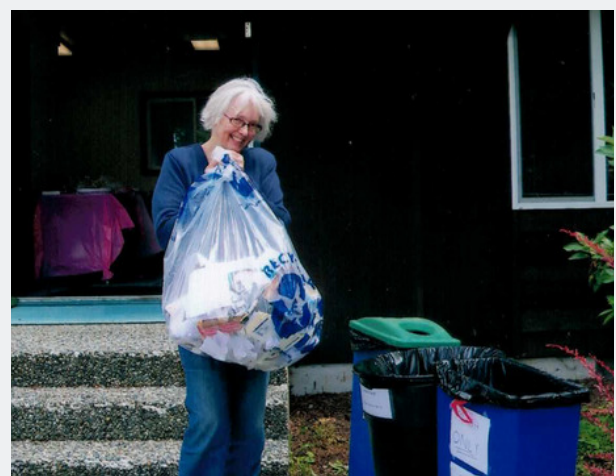
Kathy was one of the dozen or so volunteers that took pictures of headstones and placed them on Find a Grave. With her help we took over 120,000 pictures within Snohomish County.

Kathy, and Tami and I came together and completed View Crest Abbey in Everett. We created a name for Find a Grave "TLK Files" and defined it as Tender Loving Kare. You will now find 3,500 memorials for the Abbey with "TLK Files" as creator.

Kathy told me once that the seventies were starting to slow her down. I had to laugh, I've been slowing down ever since I was seventeen. That brought laughter to both of us for several minutes. You know you have a good friend when the two of you can take five minutes and laugh at life.

Kathy had many talents and capabilities that we will dearly miss. But mostly I will miss her smile and her ability to make me laugh.

- Rev. Larry Taylor



'Waste Warrior' Kathy Bowman

Kathy Bowman creatively donated her many talents to SVGS on a variety of projects. Kathy was the newsletter editor of the Stillaguamish Star for several years. Kathy professionally created banners, posters, custom post cards and syllabuses for the annual genealogy conferences. But the project that she loved the most was working on the recently published book, Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools. It quickly became her passion.

Kathy's integrity is what I cherish most about her. In the publication world, an editor silently works behind the scene and receives one brief acknowledgment at the front of the book. As is the custom with editors, Kathy steadfastly refused to accept any additional credit for her many relentless hours on the project. In addition to functioning as the editor, she also typeset, reviewed, labeled maps, edited photographs and worked with the printing company.

Kathy taught me, a co-author of the book, many lessons. Two lessons were especially important. One – get the book's story as "right" as humanly possible. Two – only the author knows when the book is finished. Kathy had spent several years working as a professional typesetter. She had seen too many books rushed to publication without the integrity that was needed to do the job right.

Kathy worked on the book project for three years. Her devotion was evident. Often, she sent me emails in the wee hours of the night. I heard stories of Kathy and her sister, Jody van Aalst (Jody was equally devoted to the project) debate the placement of a comma. I don't know which sister won the debate. The discussions were friendly yet passionate, lasting for half an hour or more over one lowly comma.

In June, Kathy received the dreaded diagnosis of cancer. Yet the book was not quite finished.

Between doctor appointments and rapidly deteriorating health, she spent precious time making final edits to the book.

Kathy's positive attitude, quiet determination to do her very best and quirky sense of humor made her a joy to work with. Kathy passed away on October 1, 2018. Like many at SVGS, I miss her professional expertise. Along with others, I deeply miss Kathy who was a dear friend.

- Sue Walde

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Society Library

We need society members willing to train as assistant librarians for the SVGS Library. No experience necessary. It is important that you love searching for ancestors and enjoy helping people. We will orient you to our library and available resources. All new people start out as assistants and work with an experienced person before becoming a librarian. Our main need is for people who are willing to work on a Saturday. You can sign up for as little as 3 hours a month. Email Pam Liebelt at info@stillygen.org if interested.

Has Your Email Address Changed?

Be sure to notify us so you can continue receiving the Stillaguamish Star and other important information.
info@stillygen.org

Education at SVGS

Part of our mission at SVGS is to promote an interest in genealogy through education and to instruct members in genealogical research and preservation of their own family histories. One of the ways that we accomplish this part of our mission is to bring top notch speakers to our monthly meetings.



In September, we had a wonderful presentation on Irish Research by Eva Doherty Gremmert. In October Mary Kircher Roddy's topic was "Bagging a Live One" in which she gave us examples from her own research on how to make connections with relatives, some of whom you may not have known existed. Both of these presentations were engaging as well as educational.

At our November 13th meeting we will hear from Jennie Hise on Mayflower research. Our Education Chair, Bill Grant, has done an excellent job engaging speakers for our benefit.



Smitty
Michele Cozad

The best holiday gift greeted me on Christmas morning in 1960 under our family tree. "What was this big heavy box?" I thought while I ripped away at the paper. There it was, in all its pink-and-green glory, a new Smith-Corona portable typewriter! I had just started taking a class called "Office Machines" at Ballard High School and my dear late mother lamented me to "learn how to type and you'll never be out of a job." I became a master of hitting the "shift" and "caps locked" keys. "Smitty" became my best friend. I wore out many ink ribbons and went through a lot of paper writing my daily diary, book reports and letters to friends and family.

Several years later, I saw a classified ad for a typist. I applied and passed the test for 65 WPM by doing an astounding 90 WPM and mistake-free. I typed away from the typist position to nearly 40 years later retiring as a business manager at an aerospace company. One day my beloved green IBM Selectric with its many "typing font balls" was removed from my office.

It was replaced with — A COMPUTER. I thought, "What a fad. This will never replace my old friend with its two-toned ribbon and happy jingle when I came to the end of a line." Alas, it did: I called my new friend Dell. But I fondly remember my first best pal "Smitty" and thank him and my parents to this day for the gift that changed my life.

Christmas Memories

Pam Liebelt

Christmas memories are some of my fondest memories growing up. My mother did not have great memories of her childhood Christmas' and because of this she made extra efforts to make sure we did.

Mom liked to craft and she made Christmas decorations and went all out on decorating our home. My sister and I usually received special items that we had added to our Christmas wish lists. Mom would start the turkey cooking in the wee hours of the morning and we would wake up to delicious smells in the house. Mom didn't bake a whole lot during the year but at Christmas time she made many different kinds of cookies.



a couple of Mom's Christmas creations



my sister, Nancy, and I on Christmas morning

I remember waking up every couple of hours during Christmas Eve because I was so excited. We weren't allowed to get out of bed until 6 am and it seemed like it would never come. We were allowed to open our stockings and play with our one unwrapped gift from Santa before our parents woke up. Once they got up, we were allowed to open our other gifts.

Sometimes Mom would be up to all hours of the night finishing Barbie doll clothes or making Raggedy Ann Dolls and she did not get much sleep Christmas Eve. For us, Christmas was a family time, after we opened our gifts in the morning and had some time to play, we would gather with extended family at our home or one of our grandparents' homes and all be together and eat turkey, stuffing, cookies and pie.

A Norwegian Christmas

Joanne Hoidal Wetmore

Christmas was a very special time for the Hoidal family, a time for men and women in a flurry with baking all the Norwegian goodies, all this going on at the farm located on the Kackman Road in Arlington. Frying the lefse (flatbread) on top of a wood burning stove, heating the krumkaka iron on the stove, along with the rosettes and deep frying the fattigmand (pastries). When Christmas day arrived the three brothers, wives, and children would all gather at the farm where my Grandma Anne Marie, Uncle Marius and Aunt Karn lived.

It was a fun time as people would stop by to have treats and coffee, all while we were getting anxious for Santa. When it was getting close for Santa to arrive, we would form two circles around the Christmas tree that was in the center of the living room, one circle with the children and the second circle was the adults. We would sing Christmas carols while

going around the tree ~ the children in one direction would sing in English and the adults going the opposite direction singing in Norwegian. Then the time came to see what Santa had left for us, so we (the children) would have to sit on the floor and wait patiently to have the present given to us. These gifts would consist of maybe a ball, coloring book with crayons, "jacks" cards, paper dolls, etc. and we would get socks filled with goodies. We also had our Christmas at home in the morning. I learned the art of making lefse, fattigmand, krumkaka and rosettes at an early age and I have passed this tradition onto my daughters and grandchildren.

Below is a picture of the Hoidal cousins with Grandma Anne Marie, who was blind but knew each one of us whenever we entered the house. She always had mints in her apron pocket, white or pink and we would each get ONE and no more, she knew when we were in line for a second try.



(front row) Kennard, Marylou, Jean, Delores Simkins, Richard
(2nd row) Alice and Karl
(3rd row) Gordon, Joanne, Marie and Grandma Anne Marie.



LOCAL SOCIETY MEMBERS & HERITAGE BARN PART OF QUILT BLOCK TRAIL

Anne and Bruce Grimm, five-year society members, were awarded a barn quilt block for their Heritage Farm Centennial Barn in the Island district near Arlington as part of the Stillaguamish Valley Barn Quilt Trail.

The trail highlights historical barns on a route through the Stillaguamish Valley from Camano Island to Concrete. It is sponsored, in part, by the Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Association through a county grant program.

Barn quilt blocks are a grassroots public arts movement started in the Upper Midwest and expanded throughout farm country to include about 7,000 barns in the U.S. and Canada. Quilt trails are created by quilt guilds, civic groups, local arts councils, 4-H clubs, school groups, and other organizations. The local driving trail,

where there are hopes to have twenty or more property owners with historic barns participating once it is fully developed, is designed to invite visitors to travel through the local countryside and learn about our farming history.

The Grimm Farm was homesteaded by Bruce's great grandfather, Thomas Jensen, in 1878 after he emigrated to the United States. A carpenter by trade, he worked his way across the country from Louisiana to Iowa until making his way to Washington Territory. His wife, Johanna Jens, was one of the first white women in the area. They had two daughters, Dora and Martha, born in the Stillaguamish Valley. Later, William G. Grimm emigrated from Germany to New York then set off for Alaska around the early Gold Rush. He

stopped in Snohomish County to pick up some farm work and never left having married Dora Jensen in 1906. W.G. Grimm was instrumental in forming dairy cooperatives in the area and was president/general manager of Snohomish County Dairymen's Association from 1918 to 1946. The farm was operated as a dairy until about 2005. Today, the land produces hay, grain and corn silage. It became a state Centennial Farm in 1989. The barn,



built in 1932, is a state Heritage Barn. Keep your eye out for these barn quilt blocks as they appear along the loop in north Snohomish County. Explore the story and history behind them. They are a link to our heritage both past and present.

Donate to SVGS via Amazon!

Are you an Amazon shopper? You can help the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society with every purchase you make on Amazon by using Amazon Smile.

Here's how:

1. You do need to be registered with Amazon.com in order to utilize Amazon Smile.
2. If you are not registered, it's very easy to sign up!
3. Login to smile.amazon.com and select a charitable organization before you begin shopping and search for Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS).

AmazonSmile remembers your selection, and every eligible purchase you make thereafter designating the SVGS will result in a donation.

4. Use www.smile.amazon.com every time you shop and a small donation will be sent to the SVGS at no additional cost to you.



Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!
Newsletter submissions for the **January/February** issue should be
sent to newsletter@stillygen.org by **December 21st**.



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HOME OF THE NORTHWEST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

The Stillaguamish Star

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018