

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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To everyone who attended, everyone who
presented and everyone who volunteered their
time to make the 2018 Northwest Genealogy
Conference a success:

Thank You!



FROM THE EDITOR

If you have been involved with the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society for long, you will have noticed that things in our newsletter have been a little different the last few issues. I thought it was probably time for me to officially say hello!

Hello, my name is Leah Liebelt and I grew up in the Arlington and Marysville area but currently reside in Nashville, TN. I am Pam Liebelt's only daughter and am so proud to call her Mom! I have many interests which include traveling, photography, crafting and my cats. I'm proud of the fact that my name comes from my great-grandma Leah Liebelt. My dad's ancestors were German immigrants who settled mostly in South Dakota. Much research has been done on both sides of my dad's family and we have a lot more information about them than Mom's family. I've always strongly identified with my dad's family and their German heritage. This probably came from hearing so many Liebelt family stories, visiting their South Dakota hometowns multiple times and having such a unique last name. With each trip to South Dakota, Mom would always drag us to the local cemeteries in the sweltering summer heat, looking for relatives' tombstones. As a child I thought this activity was weird and a bit morbid. It wasn't until I was a young adult walking through a small cemetery in Missouri searching with Mom for her ancestors, that my perspective changed and I really understood why she did it.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into this group and being so friendly when I visited back in July! I know my mom really enjoys participating with the society and it is because of all the good people there who have a passion like she does. If you have any questions or submissions for future issues, please email me at newsletter@stillygen.org.

- Leah

Upcoming SVGS Events:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
Researching Your Irish Roots

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
Karin Coppennoll

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
Jennie Hise, Topic: Mayflower

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 12PM
SVGS Holiday Potluck

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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

More Upcoming Events:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 9AM
Unlock the Past Land Conference
Seattle Public Library
<https://www.utpinseattle.com/>

SEPTEMBER 7-14
Unlock the Past Genealogy Cruise to
Alaska from Seattle
<https://bit.ly/2yEjHbd>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1PM
Google Tools for Genealogists
Burlington Public Library
<http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org/>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Eastside Genealogical Society
Finding Family History in Your Picture
Mysteries featuring
Maureen Taylor - the Photo Detective
Bellevue, WA
<https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.com/>

SEPTEMBER 15-16
Northwest Viking Fest
Twin Rivers Park, Arlington WA
<https://bit.ly/2BCSMhz>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Puget Sound Genealogical Society
A Day of Discovery
with Lisa Louise Cooke
Bremerton, WA
<http://www.pusogensoc.org/>

Humble Area Genealogical Society
2nd Annual E-Conference
<http://www.humblegen.org/conference>

SEPTEMBER 28-30
Harvest Your Family Tree Genealogical
Conference and Marketplace
Kelowna, BC
www.kdgs.ca

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Community Airport Day
Arlington WA Airport
<https://bit.ly/2NI1Xol>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5
Autumn Quest 2018 (conference)
Emerald Queen Ballroom &
Conference Center, Fife WA
<https://hqrl.com/>

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.

Community Events

Help needed at the SVGS booth at Northwest Viking Fest, Sept 15 & 16 and Community Airport Day, Sept 29 (11:30-2pm slot).

Call the SVGS Library at 360-435-4838 or email info@stillygen.org to sign up.



Northwest Genealogy Conference 2018

Northwest Genealogy Conference 2018 is done and in the books and the volunteers are trying to recuperate from all of the hours of work and activity. While tiring for the volunteers, the conference is also exhilarating. It is great fun to be around so many people who love family history. Our speakers were knowledgeable and many genealogical tips were gained. Along with all of the education to be had there was also much fun as well. Dress up day was a hit and so were the many door prizes that Anne Grimm was able to obtain for our conference.

Lisa and Phil Bartlow, conference co-chairs, and Ruth Caesar, SVGS president, provided the great leadership needed to make NwGC 2018 a success. Thanks to all the volunteers that worked so hard to make NwGC 2018 successful and a big thank you to all the attendees for supporting this great event. If you weren't able to join us this year, be sure to mark your calendar to join us August 14-17, 2019.

Hope to see you then!



Even though we just finished NwGC 2018, not a week will be wasted. The grant writing process has already been started for NwGC 2019 and we have 2 of our key speakers confirmed. Thomas MacEntee, who is a genealogy professional, as well as a blogger, educator, author and social media connector and Michael Strauss, a NwGC favorite will both be speaking next year. Remember to watch our newsletters, blog and Facebook pages for further announcements.





Every year the conference gets better for me. I really enjoy all the different things I do to help it be a success. It's fun to see the faces that return year after year and I have finally been able to put names with those faces. It's also nice to interact with the returning speakers and new ones and to get to know them. I try to sneak off to some classes and I have not yet been to one that I have not gleaned some information and ideas from.

Onto 2019, start preparing now like we are, plan your vacation for the 3rd week in August, and find a friend that you can plan to come with. AND begin to figure out your costume !! We had the best costume turn out this year, it was really good to see all who participated.

- Anne Grimm

On my way home from the Northwest Genealogy Conference I stopped in Roslyn. I hadn't been there in 20+ years, since the heyday of Northern Exposure (my all-time favorite TV show). While there, the Roslyn Museum was open and OF COURSE in I went.....

Low and behold there was Lorraine Barr from Davis, California, who (with hubby) had taken a nice tourist road trip up to NWGC. She'd stopped in Roslyn where Larry, the delightful docent on duty, was showing her exactly where her people were buried in the Roslyn City Cemetery.

How cool is that? This is just one example of people coming from far and wide to enjoy NWGC.

- Donna Potter Phillips



Clean Up!

After the conference is over, there is still much work to be done – we have to haul all of our stuff back to the society library and ultimately put it away. This year we were blessed with a little extra help from some of our NwGC speakers and the Washington State Genealogical Society's President and Vice President. We were happy to share our wonderful library with these honored guests.



Michael Strauss



Katherine Willson



*Donna Potter Phillips,
Judy Muhn*



Michael Strauss, Daniel Earl



Virginia Majewski

Thank you to our NwGC Vendors!

Washington State Genealogy Society, Donna Potter Phillips
BGRG & Northwest African American Musuem, Horace Foxall



Origami Owl, Molli Allen
Family Ancestrees, Sue Sullivan
Scrollo, Lori Lee Sauber
Forever Creative Memories, Melodi Hall
FTDNA, Jim Brewster
Arkiv Digital, Kathy Meade
SOS, Katherine Devine
Bio-Monte Travel, Antonio Baiamonte



Heritage Quest Research Library, Joyce Frey
Washington State Archives, Janette Gnomes
Daughters of the American Revolution, Teri Lynn Scott
Sons of the American Revolution, Carlos Malone



NwGC 2019

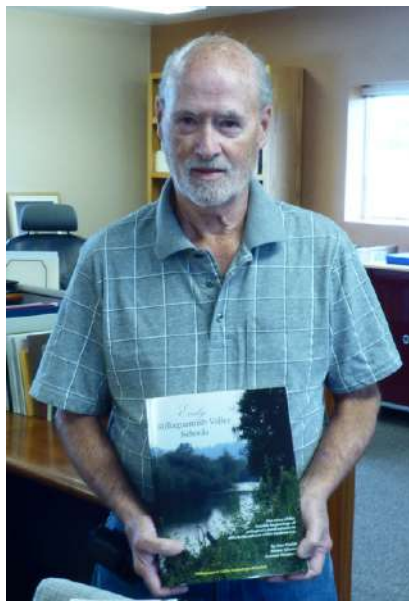
Ruth, Lisa, Michele and I were grant writing today, preparing for the 2019 conference. I left the room to get some papers, came back and this is what I saw. I just had to snap a picture! As you can see by all the boxes in the back of the room we don't even have time to fully unpack from this year's conference and we have to begin on next years.

We still have a few more days to work on it and the deadline is August 31st. Dedication or what?!

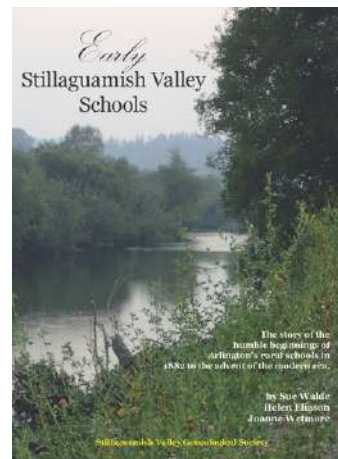
- Anne Grimm



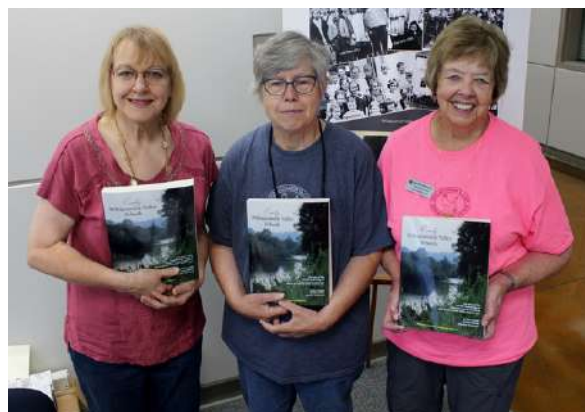
HOT OFF THE PRINTING PRESS!



Meet Ivan Paddock, the first customer to purchase SVGS's recently published book, *Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools*. This eager customer happily met us at Gorham Printing in Centralia, Washington to buy seven copies of the book, hot off the printing press.



Authors Sue Walde, Helen Eliason and Joanne Wetmore are proud to present this book about Arlington's rural schools, against a backdrop of local history from the territorial era up through the 1940-1941 school year. Read about schools such as Trafton, Oso, Silvana and others including the forgotten schools of Bungalow and Verda Heights.



Colossal appreciation goes to Kathy van Aalst Bowman who masterfully spent the past three years editing and typesetting all 368 pages of the book! Also, very special appreciation goes to Jody van Aalst who meticulously proofread countless versions of the book and skillfully managed the index with over 5,000 names!



Free Exchange

*If you previously purchased a book with the same title, *Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools*, this release is the new replacement book. Simply bring in your old copy for your free exchange.*

Your book is available, priced at \$30 (\$27 for SVGS members) at SVGS's library or online through www.stillygen.org. Jam-packed with over 150 photos, you may find your ancestors! A free designer bookmark is included.

Attic Treasure

Michele Cozad

While cleaning out my late sisters attic my son found a treasure! An old weathered photo of a couple on their Wedding Day. "Do you know who these people are?" he asked. The treasure was a badly damaged photo which was taken in 1910 in Campofelice de Rochella Sicily of my Grandmother Nunzia Cappalonga and Grandfather Filippo Vaccaro. (I had the photo completely restored). I was able (with SVGS help) to reconstruct and verify a family story.

Filippo immigrated in 1900 and was directed to go back to the "old country" to take a wife - sight unseen. The "Family" had found the perfect wife in the village. She was 17 and neither one spoke English. They had 4 children and



my dad was the second. They were happily married until her death in 1947. Filippo passed in 1958.

Also found in the attic was a photo of "The Vesta Italian Band from California, Pennsylvania" the band was comprised of Italian coal miners. This photo was taken in the 1930's. Filippo is in the top row on the far right holding the tuba. I contacted the local historical/genealogical society there and needless to say they were thrilled to have this previously unseen photo of "The Italian Band" to share with their community.





The Aftermath

Bill Grant

In my last article an eighty ton sperm whale sank the whaleship Essex under the command of Captain George Pollard. This inspired the classic American novel "Moby Dick". Less than two years later a second whaler, the Two Brothers, also captained by Pollard struck a coral reef and sank 600 miles northwest of Hawaii. The sinking of the Two Brothers was relatively uneventful compared to the Essex.

I don't know why, but my cousin Thomas Nickerson had signed on again with Captain Pollard. He described the Captain as being in a daze as they abandoned ship for the second time. "He reluctantly got into the rescue boat as they were about to leave the ship", he wrote. Fortunately, the Two Brothers was sailing with a fellow whaling ship, the Martha, which had taken shelter during the storm. They all survived.

Pollard gave up whaling, though he was only in his mid-30s, and returned to Nantucket, MA, where he became a night watchman—a position of considerably lower status in the whaling town than captain.

The Two Brothers was like other New England whaling ships of the time, in that its crew sailed thousands of miles from home hunting whales to harvest their blubber. They boiled the fat into oil used to light lamps in cities from New York to London and to power early industry.

ANCESTRAL VILLAGES

Michele Cozad

We all know the importance of locating the village of our ancestor. This is how I found a jackpot! I had my ancestry DNA done and got a close match to a cousin in New York. We shared the Family Tree and he advised me that I was spelling my paternal great grandmother's name wrong. Not only that but I had the village wrong too! When I was finally corrected, I googled the ancestral village of Valledolmo in Sicily. On the left side was a link titled "Family Trees of Valledolmo". I clicked on the link and there was the surname.

Voila! - the genealogical chart was already done by volunteers who transcribed civil records. I was able to find my ancestors back to 1735 when everyone just went by first names - my 10x great grandpa is Vincenzo and his wife is Vincenza ... check out those ancestral villages and see if you can be so lucky!



Do you have a great family story?

We are collecting family stories, recent or historic, to share in the November/December issue of the Stillaguamish Star.

Bonus points if they are stories related to the holidays!

If you would like to share your story with us, please email newsletter@stillygen.org by Oct 19th.





A DNA Surprise

Shirley Case

My friend Debbie was raised by her parents as an only child all her life. A few years ago she and I were talking about genealogy and DNA testing, and she decided to do a test. As a result of that test, an unknown sibling, a brother, contacted her by phone. Two days later, Debbie met this brother, James, in Snohomish, as she lives in Marysville and he lives in Sultan. They shared photos and stories and found there is a strong family resemblance.

With adoptive records being opened in Colorado, Debbie and her brother were able to discover and obtain birth certificates for other siblings. Debbie discovered she was a middle child, with older and younger siblings of whom she had no knowledge. Her mother apparently chose to raise her, but not others. Some of the siblings knew they had a sister, but not her name or location.

Debbie used Ancestry to find her father, whom she had never known. Later in his life, he had been required to do a DNA test by court order as a result of a paternity suit, so she was able to find him. Now in her fifties, she went to California to meet her father for what she thought was the first time and meet her sisters and brother. Debbie's father was raised by his grandfather, and he didn't know until he was in sixth grade that he wasn't with his father. His father had been married several times as well as he had. So the family dynamics were quite complicated.

As a result of DNA and the open birth records in Colorado, Debbie found two sisters, a brother, her father and is aware of one other unknown sister. Debbie's relationship with her mother is strained, so she cannot get permission to open any other adoption records because her mother will not share information. While talking with her Dad she learned he had looked for her most of his life. He had met Debbie in Laramie, Wyoming, when Debbie was about five. He was afraid to stay, as he thought Debbie's mother would stab him.

Debbie's grandmother would not let Debbie's mother keep her first child, James, when he was born. There were no adoption papers, as James was adopted through a lawyer with no paperwork completed. His original birth certificate listed a date of birth, but no father's name. Debbie has also found what could be her mother's sister in Bellingham, Washington, and has found that one brother, John has died.

Now Debbie has a total of seven newly found relatives, one deceased brother, and has a relationship with her father. This search all started with one DNA test.

All DNA genealogists will tell you to be ready for a surprise in the records and Debbie can certainly attest to that. Debbie is happy to know her siblings and her father.

Tombstone Project: Veteran Cpl. John Grant

On August 1st, members of the SVGS Tombstone Project met a long awaited milestone with the installation of a new white granite stone and base to mark the grave of Civil War Veteran Cpl. John Grant at the Arlington Pioneer Cemetery (end of 5th and Gifford). He had originally been laid to rest there in 1899. Over the century the old stone became unreadable but not forgotten by our members.



Tami Sherill, Michele Cozad, Bill Cayford, Larry Taylor

We obtained a grant for a new stone from the Veterans Administration and working together with the City of Arlington and Pacific Coast Memorials, we had the old stone removed (and destroyed according to VA protocol) and the new one installed. A community dedication is planned for Veterans Day. The Grant stone can be seen - the only one at the Pioneer Cemetery.

Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!
Newsletter submissions for the **November/December** issue should
be sent to newsletter@stillygen.org by **October 19th**.



Find us on Facebook:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Northwest-Genealogy-Conference-109884296091070/>



Check out our Blog:

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



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HOME OF THE NORTHWEST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

The Stillaguamish Star

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018