

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

Honoring Society Founder Marietta Roth



Our beloved founder Marietta Roth recently celebrated her 90th Birthday! We all gathered around on April 10th for cake and coffee and to offer a big Thank You to our mentor and friend. As we all know, SVGS would not be where we are today if it were not for Marietta's love of family history.

How did this all begin? She was born a cattle rancher's daughter in the Gallatin Valley in Montana. It was there that she set goals and worked hard to obtain them. In 1970 her Uncle Leonard Colbern piqued her interest in genealogy and she began a simple "Family Tree". That lead her into teaching and she shared her love of family at Adult Education Nights with other like-minded genealogists. In 1985 the group decided to call themselves "The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy Society". From humble beginnings this dedicated group gathered books, volunteers and found a home in Arlington. Today the like-minded group has more than 250 members.

Marietta is not only a treasure to us at SVGS but has been actively involved with 4-H, Daughters of the American Colonists and keeps a garden! You can usually find Marietta with a needle project in hand making lovely Scandinavian designed pillows during our monthly meetings which she very rarely ever misses.

Thank you – we are truly blessed!

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Help Wanted:

Librarians needed for Saturday coverage, shifts are 3 hours each. No experience necessary, training provided. If interested, please contact Pam Liebelt at publicity@stillygen.org

ARLINGTON CEMETERY

PHOTOS UPDATED

Our local findagrave.com volunteer advises SVGS that over 400 photos have been added to this site. All internments through September 2017 can now be found - check it out!

In a little over 4 months the Northwest Genealogy Conference will be here. We are busy getting things ready.

Did you know we have to start working on the next years conference before we've hardly begun the current year's? It's a lot of work but we really enjoy being able to host the conference for you.

If you haven't registered there's no time like now!!

Upcoming Events:

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 12PM

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical
Society Annual Meeting
Election of Officers and Potluck

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1PM

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Meeting
Burlington Senior Citizen Center
Speaker: Mary Kircher-Roddy
Topic: Censational Census Strategies

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 9AM

Seattle Genealogical Society
2018 Spring Seminar
Speaker: Josh Taylor
(a previous NwGC keynoter)

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 8AM

Clark County Genealogical Society
2018 Spring Seminar
Speaker: David Allen Lambert from
NEHGS. (The WSGS annual meeting and
award presentation will be during lunch.)

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1PM

Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society Meeting
Speaker: Michelle Goodrum
Topic: Digging for Land Records in
Indexes and Deeds

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 4PM

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical
Society BBQ
Burgers and hot dogs provided, bring a
side to share. Guests welcome!

JULY 14-15

Skagit Celtic Games - 12th Annual
www.celticarts.org

Hitting the Road!

The NwGC2018 Conference Team is hitting the road to publicize this years event. On April 7th the Olympia Society hosted Lisa Alzo (who will be speaking at this year's conference on Eastern European Research and other topics) SVGS was represented by Bill Grant and Michele Cozad. The Gift Certificate was won by Nicole Thode who entered a raffle. She was very excited and looking forward to a road trip! She is displaying the Gift Certificate in front of the announcement that Olympia will host Blaine Bettinger next year.

On April 14th Ruth Caesar and Pam Liebelt had a very memorable 7 hour trip to Yakima who hosted Tom Jones whose topic was "A Whole Day Dedicated to Finding Missing Ancestors". The Gift Certificate winner at this event was Christine Maltby. She was thrilled to be a return patron to the conference.

Watch for a workshop Yakima will host next October (let's support our local societies!).



President's Annual Report

Ruth Caesar

Our Fiscal Year 2018 (June 2017-May 2018) was a year of growth, challenges and opportunities. First I need to offer a big thank you to all of those who volunteer as librarians, committee chairs, conference patrons and members of our community who promote us, give us grants and have made it possible for us to continue to serve our ever growing community. Without this support we would not be here – that's for sure!

We've had several changes on our Board this year but have been so fortunate to have some very capable people step up and fill these positions. Our VP of the Library (and Education Chair) Steve Baylor tendered his resignation to focus on his family. Pam Liebelt (a wiz at Library operations and current Sno-Isle Library employee during the days) was a perfect fit.

Bill Grant (a retired teacher and longtime genealogist) assumed the Education Chair. The Treasurer, Ways & Means Committee Chair and Tombstone Project Chair, Larry Taylor, also tendered his resignation to focus on his writing which left these positions open. They were filled by Anne Grimm as Treasurer, and Michele Cozad as the interim chair of the Tombstone Project and Ways & Means Committee Chair. There are volunteer opportunities for anyone and we have a lot of fun in spite of meeting deadlines!

This year we also held our 4th annual Northwest Genealogy Conference and had almost 400 people attend during the four day event. We're excited about the upcoming conference which will feature nationally known DNA specialist CeCe Moore. Beth Foulk and Peggy Lauritzen will also be returning along with a host of other speakers. This is the largest genealogy conference

in the Northwest and we work very hard to make it a fun event. In addition to the educational opportunity we have a lot of other activities – Dress as your Ancestor, a Cousin Board, Door Prizes, free snacks and drinks. There will be something for everyone!

The future looks great and we have plans for growth but we need everyone's help to make this happen. I ask you to support SVGS by coming to our monthly meetings at the library, attend the conference and bring a friend!

Remember our BBQ on July 10th - See you there!



Vice President's Annual Report

Shirley Case

The vice president's duties are limited and consists mainly of being a support for the president or to run a meeting. This past year the president has not missed a meeting so there has been even less to do as official duties. The most I have accomplished is to be a sounding board, offer my opinion at times, be a librarian and member of the conference committee.

Our membership has continued to grow and activities continue to increase so it is an exciting place to be for anyone interested in their family history and to a great extent the history of this area.

I highly recommend this position to anyone interested in genealogy and our society. You will benefit from the many opportunities that are presented to you to learn and to be a positive support for others.

Vice President of the Library's Annual Report

Pam Liebelt

This has been a year of change and library growth. In May, Steve Baylor was re-elected as Vice President of the Library. He provided leadership and encouragement to the volunteers that work to keep our great library running. Unfortunately, Steve had personal commitments that required him to step down from this role in the fall. With the approval of the board, I took on the role of Vice President of the Library and with the help of Flynn Kennedy and the other librarians we have been able to pick up where Steve left off.

During 2017 we had 644 new items added to our catalog and so far in 2018 we have had 101 items added with many more donations in the wings waiting to be entered. The increased quantity of materials caused a shortage of shelf space in both our Washington State room and our foreign country area. Michele and Steve Heiderer volunteered to make new book shelves for us which allowed us room to put away the new books.

Over the past few months we have had a library committee meeting and a librarian training on the Loscho mapping software. We have also had several new librarians join our staff and we feel very blessed with the staff we have working with us. There are many projects we hope to tackle in the upcoming months to continue to work toward our mission to promote an interest in genealogy through education, provide genealogical resources and promote preservation of records.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Anne Grimm

The Conference has been very good to the Society. Along with a few grants we are able to once again put on the Northwest Genealogy Conference for the 5th year. We didn't get as much in grants for this year, but with what has been accumulating we should be fine. Each year the pot fills just enough to allow for the next conference. With the help from donations at this time our needs have been met. Thank you all for your support.

The Treasurer's report is available for review in library office.

Northwest Genealogy Conference Committee Annual Report

Lisa & Phil Bartlow

Once again, the committee began their efforts on the 2018 conference long before the 2017 event had even begun. Board approval to proceed and theme selection was accomplished in May and ideas regarding Keynote speakers were being discussed. During the fall, work began on the design of our printed material, putting out the call for speakers and sorting the responses, as well as grant writing for funding. Huge thanks to Kathy Bowman, Pam Liebelt, Kathy Stuehrenberg, Ruth Caesar, Michelle Cozad for heading up these efforts.

(continued on page 6)

Because of the success of our previous events, we had an abundance of presentation proposals. It was a challenge, but the result is a wide range of speakers from different parts of the country and a good variety of topics.

Erica Madsen has again been our point person for setting up the NwGC web pages and registration portals. The vital tasks of advertising and publicity are being handled by Pam Liebelt. Committee members are traveling to spring events around the state to promote the conference as well. Michelle Cozad is the lead for the catering team and mailing projects. Joanne Wetmore is organizing the Society's sales table and Anne Grimm is our gatherer of door prizes as well as coordinating the vendors. Sue McNeil is handling the production of the syllabus and Shirley Case is responsible for scheduling our many volunteers during the days of the event.

We are grateful for all of the hard work and many hours the volunteers put in to make the NwGC such an outstanding event.

Publicity Chair Annual Report

Pam Liebelt

As Publicity Chairperson, I am responsible for advertising our SVGS meetings and events to the general public. This is accomplished through local newspapers, both in print and online, the Arlington City newsletter and TV21. We also advertise through our newsletter, blog, Facebook and on our website.

I am extremely grateful that Sue McNeil has offered to help me accomplish the duties of this position. For the past few months, she has made sure our announcements get into the papers. Publicizing our society events also involves promoting the

Northwest Genealogy Conference, the biggest event our society is involved with each year. Marketing this event requires top rate graphics for our print materials and advertising, which have been provided by Kathy Bowman.

I have learned much in this position and appreciate having the opportunity to work with great people. In the upcoming year we hope to explore more venues in which to get our presence known in the community and I would love to hear your ideas on how we can accomplish this goal.

Tombstone Project Annual Report Michele Cozad

This project exists to preserve history by placing tombstones on unmarked graves and graves with temporary markers throughout the community. With placement of markers we honor those buried there and we increase knowledge for families and the community in a lasting way.

Our project to set up an outside display at the Arlington Pioneer Cemetery was accomplished! SVGS secured a grant from Snohomish County's Community Heritage Program to pay for the kiosk. We thank all of those who volunteered to make this happen. Stop by this historical site at the end of Gifford Street and visit. Our next task is to install a new headstone for the one known grave at this site who is Civil War Veteran Cpl. John Grant. The current stone was deteriorated and barely readable. We obtained a new white granite stone from the Veterans Administration and will install that in conjunction with Memorial Day events.

Long term objectives are to mark all of the unmarked graves in our valley and place historical markers at long forgotten cemeteries.

Education Chair Annual Report

Bill Grant

In October 2017 I was recommended by President Ruth Caesar to assume the position of Education Chair. My 30 year background in genealogy and education coupled with my love of learning and serving others made this a good fit for me too! I have been a long time active member of NEHGS, the Rhode Island Genealogical Society, President of the International Nickerson Family Association and have volunteered at the LDS Family History Center in Idaho.

We are very fortunate to have a conference room and our monthly meetings draw about 40 attendees per month. Looking back over our presentations I can report that in June we had Jim Johnson present “Are you a Melungeon Descendant?”, our annual BBQ was in July and of course the Northwest Genealogy Conference in August. In September Rob Branigin of the Sno-Isle Library presented online resources found at your local library. Our speaker in October was Jill Morelli who offered “An Overview of Scandinavian Research – Part 1” which was followed in November with Part 2. December was our annual Holiday Potluck and in January Mary Kathryn Kozy presented, to an overflowing audience of over 60 people, “I’ve had my DNA tested – Now What?” In February Laura Sparr presented “The Ins and Outs of Colonial Research”. In March I lead a discussion, “Chasing Women – Finding your Female Ancestors” – which created wonderful exchanges of information among our members and attendees. Someone once told me “The best source of information is each other” and that

proved to be true! Lastly in April we hosted Fred Cruger of the Granite Falls Historical Society on the Snohomish County Mapping Program.

Our speakers are so entertaining and informative and I look forward to continuing to offer educational information over the next year. If you have suggestions on who you would like for a speaker at a monthly meeting feel free to let me know. Please email suggestions to info@stillygen.org

Ways and Means Committee Annual Report

Michele Cozad

This committee is really a group of dedicated SVGS volunteers who all have the same common goal – keeping our doors open. We want our society to be a fun place to gather and develop friendships with other like minded people.

It is great to have income from membership dues but it is not enough to pay our expenses. Our main income is from the Northwest Genealogy Conference but that alone does not cover our rent and keep our day-to-day operations running smoothly.

We rely and depend on grants. We’ve been very fortunate to have generous neighbors and owe the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, The Tulalip Tribes, The City of Arlington and Snohomish County a big heart filled THANK YOU for recognizing our value to this valley and supporting our mission.

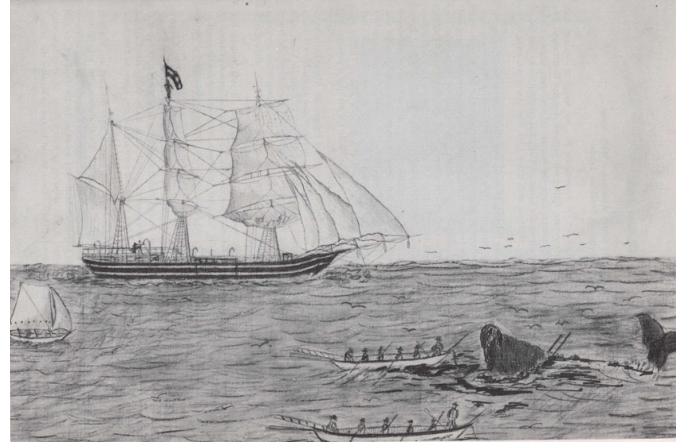
Sunk By A Whale

The Loss of the Whale Ship 'Essex'

Bill Grant

Part 1 of 2

This is the true story that Herman Melville based his epic novel; "Moby Dick". My cousin, Thomas Nickerson (1805-1883), was 14 years old when he signed on as cabin boy on the whale ship "Essex". It left Nantucket Harbor on August 12, 1819 and headed around the horn of South America for the rich whaling grounds of the South Pacific. (The Atlantic had been fished out from many years of whaling.) On November 20, 1820, she was in the Pacific, just below the equator. The nearest land was the Marquesas Islands, more than a thousand miles to the southwest. The "Essex" carried twenty men. They had left Nantucket a year and three months before, and they still had many casks to fill with whale oil. (Previously and during this period of time, sperm whale oil was a major product for illumination and lubrication. In some places it was used as currency.) Early that day, when the first light appeared, the lookouts climbed to the mastheads. Shortly after Captain George Pollard heard "Thar she blows". It was a pod of sperm whales. Mr. Chase! Mr. Joy! (First and second Mate) Lower the boats! Chase's boat was the first to encounter a whale and he flung the harpoon. As the whale sounded, its flukes lashed out, knocking a hole in the side of the whaleboat. He cut the whale loose and headed back to the ship for repairs. They were repairing the hole when Chase noticed something lying quietly in the sea. It was a huge whale, about eighty-five feet long, weighing eighty tons. Its small eyes seemed to be watching them. It spouted, sank, rose again and swam directly toward the ship. The first hit was a glancing blow. Its head half out of the water, its flukes whipping up a trail of foam, the whale charged the ship again. With a crashing, tearing sound it smashed the bow. Then it dived, passed under the ship, swam off,



Picture from 'The Loss of the Ship Essex' by Thomas Nickerson

and disappeared into the ocean. The deck slanted as the hull filled with water; the ship could not last long. Her masts tilted, her sails drooped and she toppled over. Only ten minutes before they had been aboard a sturdy vessel, going about the business of whaling. Yet there lay the ship on its side, and a thousand miles of open sea between them and land. The captain's boat glided up, followed by the second mate's.

"My God, Mr. Chase, what has happened?" "We have been stove by a whale," said Chase.

The men chopped off the masts and the ship righted herself. Cutting holes in the deck they salvaged as many provisions as they could. They stayed with the ship for two days, strengthening their boats and rigging masts and sails. When the ship began to break up they decided to set off. But where should they go? But the point at which Melville's novel ends, the sinking of the ship, was merely the starting point for the story of the Essex disaster. (see next issue for part 2)

Further Reading: "In the Heart of the Sea" Nathaniel Philbrick, "The loss of the ship Essex sunk by a Whale" Thomas Nickerson, "Shipwreck of the Whaleship Essex" Owen Chase

Malstrom Awards



*Phil Bartlow, Ruth Caesar, Dick Prouty,
Shirley Prouty, Lisa Bartlow,
Pam Liebelt, Pete Poeschel,
Loren and Pat Kraetz and Joni Smith*

On March 17th , the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (Loscho) hosted their annual Malstrom Awards at the new Marysville Historical Society Museum. The meeting included a luncheon, a presentation about the importance of digitizing and making available newspapers and other historically valuable documents by Paul Jefko, founder of SmallTownPapers and their newest project ArchiveInABox.

Last but not least were the Malstrom Award presentations. This year's winners were the Marysville Historical Society for their wonderful new museum and Dr. Margaret Robe Summitt and the Mukilteo group for producing the guidebook "Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery: Honoring Our History" that maps the gravestones in the cemetery. Our society was well represented at the luncheon with 10 of our members present. It was a wonderful event.

RootsTech 2018

Shirley Case

March, 2018 was my first trip to the RootsTech Conference, the granddaddy of all genealogy conferences. It was an exciting event at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City and the experience certainly met my expectations and more. The format for the conference was similar to our Northwest Conference, except it is huge, with thousands in attendance. There was a well-known speaker in the morning, then sessions throughout the day on specific subjects. The famous genealogist Henry Louis Gates was the speaker that was the highlight of the conference. His presentation was informative, with a warm human touch, different from his television persona. The other featured speakers also had inspiring topics.

(continued on page 11)

Fun Facts : Old Time Occupation Names

Amanuensis – Secretary
Boniface – Innkeeper
Brewster – Beer Maker
Chandler – Candlemaker
Cohen – Pastor
Gaoler – Jailer
Hacker – Hoe maker
Lavender – Washer woman
Peruker – Wig maker
Thatcher - Roofer

From the Library Stacks

Pam Liebelt

We have had some great training happen over the past couple of months in our library. One of our members, Jennifer Strickland, shared her knowledge of DNA with some of our members in a three part series of lessons. We wanted this to be an interactive series and thus had to keep the class size small. There was much more interest than we had room for and we are hoping to provide another series later in the year.

In March, our librarians benefited from the expertise of Fred Cruger from the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (Loscho) who demonstrated the Loscho Snohomish County Mapping Software. This powerful software is a great tool for researching family in the Snohomish County. We have a notebook in the Snohomish Room that contains the software along with instructions for its use. You can take it into the media room and use it on our computers. The call number in our catalog for the software is: WA-Snoh-1100-037 and it is entitled Snohomish County Historic Maps Overlay Project.



Jennifer Strickland sharing about DNA

Lastly, in February, Laura Sparr spoke at our February meeting and presented 'The Ins and Outs of Colonial Research'. As part of her syllabus, she provided us with a bibliography. Flynn Kennedy kindly looked up the books on her syllabus and found that we had many of them in our library.



Fred Cruger from Loscho demonstrating map software

Following is the list of what we had from her bibliography along with our library call numbers:

R-100-007 Greenwood, Val D., Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy

R-120-002 Meyerink, Kory L, Editor, Printed Sources-Guide to Published Genealogical Records

R-600-002 Hone, E Wade, Land and Property Research in the United States

R-100-004 Eichholz, Alice PhD, CG & Dollarhide, William, Redbook, American State, County and Town Sources

R-100-002 Everton Publishers Inc., The Handybook For Genealogists, 10th Edition

R-120-004 Filby, P William, Bibliography of American County Histories

R-100-006 Bremer, Ronald A., Compendium of Historical Sources: The How and Why of American Genealogy

R-100-003 Luebking, Sandra (Hargreaves) & Szucs, Loretto (Dennis), The Source, A Guidebook of American Genealogy, 1997

RootsTech Continued...

A pleasant surprise was the Expo Hall with hundreds and hundreds of exhibitors, holding interesting and informative short sessions. The exhibitors were helpful with research, and my favorite was a Swedish genealogy firm, ArkivDigital, that has church records and other historical records from Sweden. The researcher from the Kansas site found my Swedish great-grandfather in the archives. According to my family lore, he had killed a man in a bar fight in Sweden and left his family to come to North America to escape the law. The records confirmed he had left his wife and two young children. His wife later came to America, leaving her eight-year-old daughter and twelve-year-old son in Sweden.

ArkivDigital will be presenting at our conference in August, and if you have an interest in Swedish ancestry research, I recommend that you visit with the presenter. Subscription to their web site requires a monthly or yearly payment.

For those interested in attending this conference, be prepared to walk as much as five miles a day. You will be dodging walkers, scooters, and the most dangerous of all, the people dragging small suitcases behind them. I found all the people to be helpful and friendly, starting at SeaTac with other passengers going to the conference. Standing in the registration line, you will meet more interesting people. I met a couple that gave me a ride to my hotel from the conference center. The hotel costs are the most expensive part of the trip.

I was fortunate to meet several of the speakers we will have or have had at our August conference: Daniel Earl, Joshua Taylor, Michael Strauss, Peggy Lauritzen and Diahann Southard.

I heartily recommend attending the RootsTech conference at least once for the experience, but I decided that I like our own conference much better.

Uncle George

The Smith Family was proud of their family traditions. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower and included Senators and Wall Street wizards.

Now they decided to compile a family history, a legacy to leave their family. They hired a well-known author.

Only one problem arose - how to handle pesky Uncle George who was executed in the electric chair.

The author said he could handle that chapter of history tactfully.

The book was published. It said that Uncle George "occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, was attached to his position by the strongest of ties and his death came as a real shock".

Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!
Newsletter submissions for the July/August issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by June 22nd.



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<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

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MAY/JUNE 2018