

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Northwest Genealogy Conference

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Online registration is now open for the 2018 Northwest Genealogy Conference (NwGC). The conference is August 15-18 and will once again be held at Byrnes Performing Arts Center in Arlington, Washington.

Keynote speakers include CeCe Moore, Peggy Lauritzen and Beth Foulk along with our free day beginning class speaker Amie Bowser-Tennant. As usual the conference will offer classes on many different topics to help you in your family history research as well as a variety of fun activities. For more information on the speakers lined up, please see page 3.

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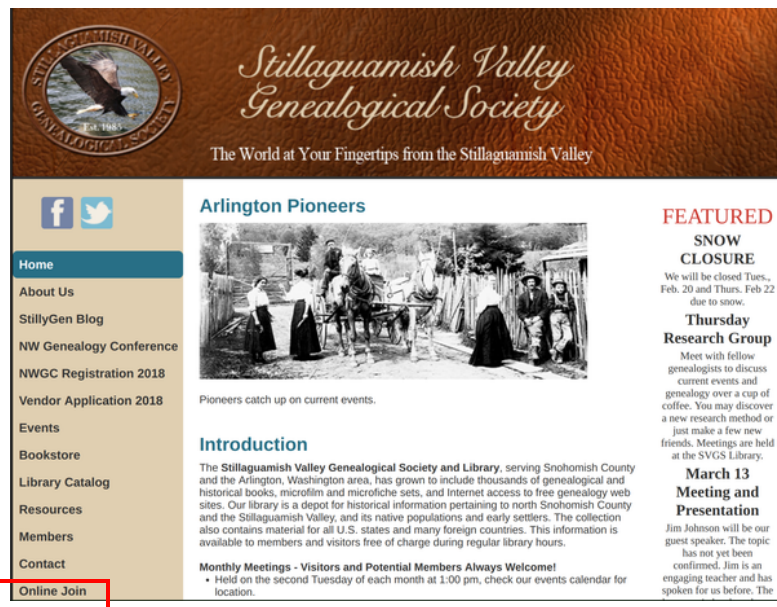
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Help Wanted:

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

Join Us Online!



TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND SPREAD THE WORD!

You can now become a new member of SVGS online by going to www.stillygen.org and clicking on ONLINE JOIN. We are now able to accept PayPal for a year or a lifetime. Don't miss the great advantage of membership.

Sign up before March 15th and get an EARLY BIRD MEMBERS DISCOUNT for the 2018 Northwest Genealogy Conference.

This is the "Don't Miss" Genealogy event in the Northwest. Space is limited, so sign up now!
Checks and cash are welcomed too!

Upcoming SVGS Events:

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1PM

Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society Meeting,
Legacy Family Tree Webinar
Topic TBD

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1PM

Librarian training on Loscho
Historic Maps software
contact Pam Liebelt with questions
publicity@stillygen.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1PM

Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society Meeting,
Speaker Fred Cruger on Loscho
Historic Maps Software

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 12PM

Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society Annual
Meeting, Election of Officers and
Potluck

It's Time!

Time to sign up for the 2018 Conference. Remember we have limited seating at the banquet, so register and secure your spot at a table. First come first served.

Time to visit the Vender Portal if you would like a table, we have limited tables, so first come first served.

Time to check out the classes so you will be prepared before Day 1.

Time to secure travel and hotel accommodations.

I have been on the ball and our door prizes are coming in like crazy.

See you in a few months, time will fly by.

- Anne

More Upcoming Events:

From the Education Chair:

Our fellow genealogical societies are busy planning upcoming seminars which are always great learning opportunities coupled with a time for fellowship with like minded folks...

Don't miss out on the following events:

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Clallam County Society

Speaker: Janet O'Connor Camarata
(previous NWGC speaker)

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Olympia Genealogical Society

Speaker: Lisa Alzo
(speaker at NWGC 2018)

&

Eastern Washington Genealogical Society
on Washington State Digital Archives

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Yakima Society

Speaker Tom Jones

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 27 & 28

Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical
Society Spring Seminar
Speaker Mark Lowe

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Seattle Genealogical Society

Speaker Josh Taylor
(a previous NWGC keynoter)

SATURDAY, MAY 26

The Clark County Society in Vancouver
Speaker David Allen Lambert from
NEGS. (The WSGS annual meeting and award
presentation will be during lunch.)

Registration for many of these seminars is now
open - check their websites for further
information.

NORTHWEST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

NwGC 2018 will kick off with a free day beginning class on Wednesday taught by Amie Bowser-Tennant. Amie comes to us from Ohio where she has been passionate about genealogy and family history for the last 18 years. She is a genealogy speaker, writer and is a contributor to Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Follow her helpful tips in genealogy and family history research at: www.TheGenealogyReporter.com.

Our Thursday Keynote speaker, CeCe Moore, is an independent professional genetic genealogist and media consultant. She is considered an innovator in the use of DNA for genealogy and unknown parentage research. She has been the genetic genealogy expert and scriptwriter for the PBS Television documentary series Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. since 2013. Founder of The DNA Detectives, co-founder of the Institute for Genetic Genealogy and, as a leading educator in her field, she is an instructor for a number of courses and conferences throughout North America.

Peggy Lauritzen, AG will be our keynote speaker on Friday. Peggy has been involved in genealogy her whole life. She frequently speaks at genealogical societies, workshops, seminars, webinars and is an instructor at Ancestry Academy. Her area of expertise is the mid-South and she has recently completed several Legacy QuickGuides on Appalachia, which are available on: www.legacyfamilytree.com and www.amazon.com.

Our keynote speaker for Saturday, Beth Foulk, discovered her love of genealogy from her father and has enjoyed the pursuit of family history and stories for decades. For more than seven years she has shared this passion through her presentations at genealogy conferences. Her focus is Early American History. She is a member of the Genealogy Speakers Guild and the Association of Professional Genealogists. Beth's website is called Genealogy Decoded.

You can find more detailed information on our keynote speakers as well as our many other speakers and register for the conference at www.stillygen.org. In addition to our many keynote lectures and classes, there will also be some fun social activities available at the conference. Stay tuned to future newsletters, our blog and the Northwest Genealogy Facebook page for more details.

From the Library Stacks

By Pam Liebelt

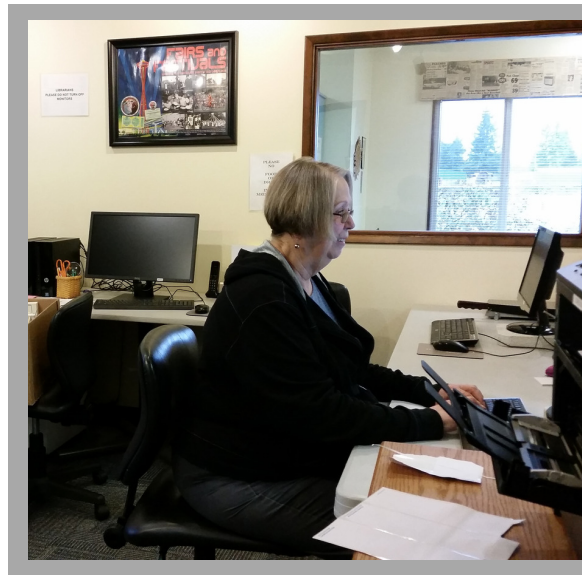
Did you know that we have much more than books at the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society Library? We have a media room with four computers for our patrons to use with access to many different databases. You can access ancestry.com, findmypast.com, family tree webinars, Americanancestors.org and fold3 from our library for free. From these websites you can access many different record types from different geographical locations as well as instructional videos on many topics of genealogical interest.



Come in and see what you can find. Our library is also a Family Search affiliate library, which at one time enabled us to receive films that you rented from the Family History Library in Utah. Even though they no longer rent films, we still benefit from having access to some digital images that you cannot view from home. If you are searching familysearch.org at home and get a notice that you can only view a desired image from a family history center or affiliate library, in most cases you are able to view it from our library.



One last thing, we here at Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society want to provide a library that meets the needs of our members. If you are not using the library currently, I hope you will contact me at publicity@stillygen.org and let me know what would make it more attractive to you.



We want to recognize Michele & Steve Heiderer for building new matching bookcases for the Washington State Room in our library.
THANK YOU!!

FREE ACCESS TO SWEDISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES

One of our members, Jennifer Strickland has brought it to our attention that as of February 1, 2018, the Swedish National Archives is allowing free online access to researchers. We are not sure how long this access will remain free but have had news that it may be free for the next year. If you have Swedish ancestors, you will want to check out what records are available on this site.

You can access it at: <https://riksarkivet.se/start> and we have included 3 easy steps to help you navigate the website. The first step changes the language to English, the second and third steps allow you to access the records. We hope this information will help you in your family history search.

Thank you to Jennifer for bringing this to our attention!

Fun Facts

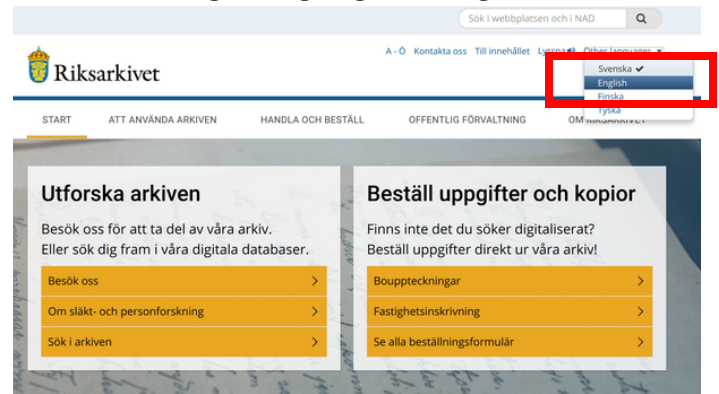
One of my first volunteer tasks at SVGS was to enter The Arlington Times 1895 and on Obit Book data into our website (you can find this info under Resources and then Death Index) - a lot of cause of death had me stumped... here are some old time illnesses:

Ague - Malaria
Bright's Disease - Kidney disease
Bone Shave - Sciatica
Consumption - Tuberculosis
Dropsy - Swelling caused by kidney or heart disease
Lockjaw - Tetanus
Qunisy - Tonsillitis
Strangery - Rupture
Phthisis - Chronic wasting
Scirrhus - Cancerous tumor

In the next issue of The Stillaguamish Star we'll look at Old Time Occupations.

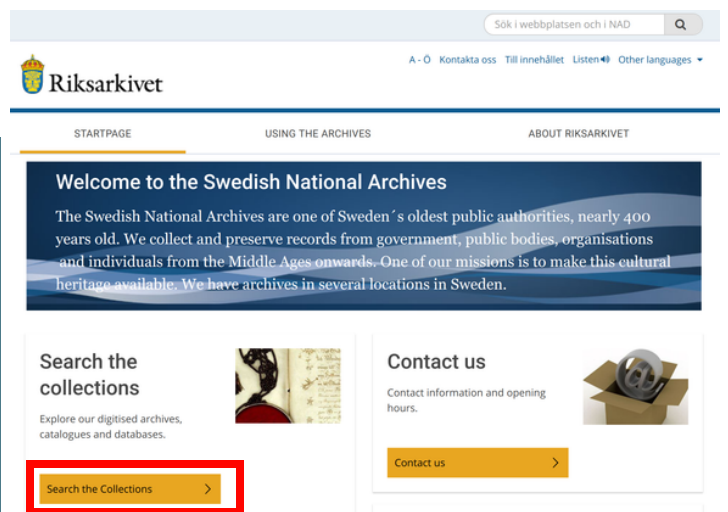
Contributed by Michele Cozad,
SVGS Secretary

STEP 1: change language to English

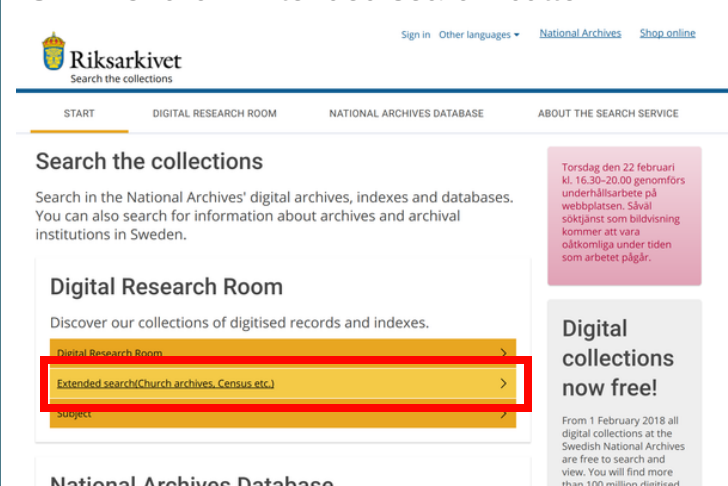


Välkommen till Riksarkivet

STEP 2: click 'Search the Collections' button



STEP 3: click 'Extended search' button

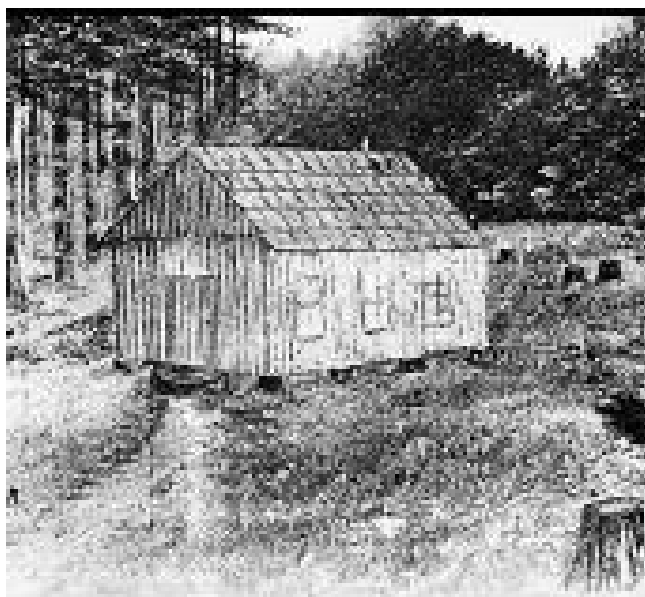


RootsTech 2018

Rootstech is the largest genealogy conference in the world and is held in Salt Lake City each February. This year our own Vice President, Shirley Case is there to take in the event. She arrived as we were preparing our newsletter and sent us some tidbits from her experience there. Upon arrival, she met some nice people, also attending the conference that gave her a lift to her hotel. She said it was pretty easy getting through registration and sent us a couple of photos from the event. The first photo is where she was waiting for a class to start and the second is of Kathy Meade from ArkivDigital, who will be a speaker at our Northwest Genealogy Conference this year.



ARLINGTON'S LITTLE SCHOOLHOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE



Kent Prairie School - sketch drawn by Mae Morris Murphy, a former pupil of Arlington's first schoolhouse. Image courtesy of Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum.

In 1884, Arlington's first school district, No. 16, was formed. The district was comprised of roughly 600 square miles of wilderness. Despite the remote and untamed country, construction of its first schoolhouse was a difficult, yet impressive engineering feat for the era.

At first, the school district was too poor to afford a schoolhouse. Class was held in a settler's cabin. The first teacher was John Condit who was paid \$45 a month. It was rumored that Mrs. Condit did most of the teaching. School was held for only three months, which was typical then.

Two years after the school district was formed, the settlers passed a school bond that raised \$200. Arlington's first schoolhouse was built at Kent Prairie, a block north of today's Kent Prairie Elementary School. The lumber for its flooring was milled on Camano Island at Utsalady. The native Indians paddled the lumber in canoes up the Stillaguamish River. Then a span of mules dragged it from the river's edge inland over a mile to the construction site. The schoolhouse was said to be 16x20 feet - just 320 square feet.

Although small in size, Arlington's little schoolhouse on the prairie was rightfully the pride of the community!

The above snip-it is one of many stories you may read in SVGS's upcoming book, "Early Schools in the Stillaguamish Valley." The Publication Committee is working on final edits and anticipates publication in a few short months.

AN ANCIENT TALE

By Bill Grant, Education Chair

While doing research on Ancestry.com, I found that my 7th Great Grandfather Joseph Nickerson (1647-1725/31) married a Native American princess. Her name was Ruhamah Jones (1650-1735) of the Wampanoag Tribe. She was a beautiful she-devil who lived near Muddy Cove in East Harwich on Cape Cod. All took to the woods when she went on the warpath, and tried desperately not to offend her, because she had a habit of jumping up and down on their fresh laundry or pulling up everything in their garden.

One fine Sabbath day she got into an argument with her sisters-in-law and a pitched battle resulted, in 1678, when the Court was inclined to take a very dim view of disturbances on the Sabbath. Anyone else would probably have been whipped, but this lady was only fined and given the promise of a whipping if she did not watch her step. Before she could have been whipped, someone would have to fetch her, and nobody was anxious to draw that assignment. Thirty-two years later she was still going strong.

One day she got into a quarrel with Mr. Edward Bangs, a prominent resident of the North Parish,

and in no time at all his barn was a cinder. Though no one had actually seen her set the fire, she was arrested along with her son and bound over for trial. This was not her only fall from grace since the family brawl. Five years before she had peddled a little firewater to the Indians.

When the trial for arson was held, the son was acquitted upon payment of fees amounting to eight pounds. The mother did not bother to show up at all and poor Joseph must have been the most patient and downtrodden of all Cape Code males, and had to forfeit fifty pounds of bail money. But again, nobody cared to fetch her.

Ruhamah lived to a ripe old age. Fortunately, for local gardeners, she was confined to her chair during her later years and died sitting and had been in that position for so long that it was decided by the town to bury her that way. She was buried in the old burying ground on the hill in Chatham south of Ryders Cove where her husband and most of the early Nickersons of Chatham are buried.

When this ancient troublemaker died, the local constable probably had his best night's sleep in a year.

Bob Dunn has informed us that he needs to step aside as our newsletter editor. We at Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society want to thank him for all of his time and effort in editing past issues of our newsletter. We would also like to thank Leah Liebelt for picking up where Bob left off on this issue and offering her services as our interim editor.

*Gratefully,
the SVGS Board*

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 20th



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