



Stillaguamish Star

The Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society Newsletter

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SVGS STARTS THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW HOME

DURING THESE LAST DAYS OF DECEMBER, President Ruth Caesar has signed a new lease on a new home for the SVGS library. The Society is taking over the center portion of the “Oso Building” at the Arlington Airport. It’s a much larger space than the house on French Avenue, with seven rooms that include an office, media room, gathering places and two rooms dedicated to housing our library collection.

The setting is unique — the building sits on property shared with large earthmoving equipment, and other industrial apparatus owned by the City. There is plenty of parking, and although located in this industrial area, it’s also a beautiful setting. From inside, the view to the south is of tranquil evergreens and luscious green lawns; the view to the north is a gravel parking lot and industrial buildings.

The building was vacant for many years prior to SVGS taking over, so there are many opportunities to help cleanup/fixup. All rooms need painting, gutters need replacing, the walkways and roof need a good cleaning.

Steve Baylor, Larry Taylor, and Ruth have already started the fix-ups prior to moving in. Larry is patching holes, and Ruth is washing windows, most likely as you read this.

If you have talent in fixing up, please give it a thought and come on down. Everyone is welcome to come down and help. ❖

Countdown to the
**2016 Northwest
Genealogy Conference**
7 months, 17 days

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Have an item you’d like included in the next edition? Send it to Newsletter@StillyGen.org.

[Due to the fact that there were no classified ads this month, that feature is not shown this issue.]

If It didn't Bring you Joy,
Just Leave it Behind.

Let's Ring in the New Year
With Good Things in Mind.

Let Every Bad Memory Go
That Brought Heartache and Pain.

And let's Turn a New Leaf
With the Smell of New Rain.

Let's Forget Past Mistakes
Making Amends for This Year.

Sending You These Greetings
To Bring You Hope and Cheer.

Happy New Year!



2016 NW Genealogy Conference Speakers Selected

CONFERENCE CHAIR KATHY STUHRENBERG has signed on three dynamic speakers for the 2016 Northwest Genealogy Conference. These keynote speakers are Claudia Breland, and Lisa Louise Cooke, and Blaine Bettinger, PhD.



Claudia Breland



Lisa Louise Cooke



Blaine Bettinger

Many more speakers are in the process of coming aboard, to be finalized this month. By the time registration begins in February, we will have all speakers lined up. Watch the website www.StillyGen.org for news of these upcoming speakers.

In other Conference news, the committees are in full swing preparing for another excellent conference. The print materials have all been designed, the website is current in anticipation of early attendee signups (which starts mid-February), and the vendor selection & catering teams have started lining up their prospective choices. ❖

Lisa Labovitch, *History Specialist*

Spoke at SVGS Monthly Meeting in November

Lisa Labovitch gave a very interesting talk at the SVGS monthly meeting. She is new to the Everett Public Library, where earlier this summer she was hired as one of two history specialists. She works with longtime historian David Dilgard in the library's Northwest History Room.

At our meeting, she discussed new materials in the NW Room, what materials have recently been digitized and are available on-



line. In addition, she shared her knowledge about researching a parcel of property or an ancestor, whether or not a patron holds a library card. We also learned a bit about how to preserve family photos and documents.

Most libraries the size of Everett's have small local history sections. Here, visitors find full-time history experts to help with research, along with physical and digital resources — books, photographs, maps, podcasts and local biographies.

This was one of a series of interesting talks at the SVGS Monthly Meetings. Speaker wrangler Flynn Clarke Kennedy does a marvelous job in selecting just the right topics, and just the right people to speak. Please join us next month for another germane topic. ❖

December's Silent Auction a Big Success

Joanne Wetmore held a Silent Auction at the SVGS December Potluck, which turned out to be a lot of fun. There were donations of artwork, scarves, books and other interesting items. Everything went for over the suggested price, and the Society made "right around" \$257.00. A great way to raise funds for Genealogy.



Marietta Roth, SVGS Founder

From an interview in *The Everett Herald*

by Rikki King

BRYANT — When Marietta Roth needed a caregiver, she didn't have to ask for help. It was all around her.

Over the past dozen years, Marietta has taken in three women, all of whom needed a quiet place to start over.

Her rules are absolute. No cussing or drinking and, at 87, she will paint walls and collect kindling for the fire as she pleases. She's owned acreage in the Bryant area, north of Arlington, since 1963.

Marietta had back surgery in October. She spent five weeks in the hospital, after which she required around-the-clock care.

Her roommates had it covered, a chance to care for the woman who had cared for them in their times of need.

Marietta was raised on her grandfather's farm near Bozeman, Montana. In her family, once you could walk, you could work. When she was old enough to ride a horse for the mile-long trek to retrieve the cows, "Boy, that was a big day for me," she said.

The family lost the farm when she was 13.

"We had to move to town. Yuck," she said.

She babysat and cleaned houses, and at 16 took a job at Woolworth's in Bozeman.

She turned 18 her junior year of high school, married two weeks later and quit classes. She later left the marriage, moving with her first son to be closer to family and finding a job at another Woolworth's in Seattle.

She remarried and had two more sons. When that marriage ended, she decided she wanted her boys to grow up in the country like she did. It was the best decision she ever made for them, she said.

Around the time she bought the land along Highway 9, she was being courted by Bob Roth, a farmer, plumber and electrician from North Dakota.

"In those days I didn't talk much," she said. "He talked all the time."

They were married for 48 years until his death. Two years into the marriage, Bob asked if she'd like to quit working.

"Bob, he let me be me," she said. "You don't always get that in a husband."

She devoted her free time to her boys. They got involved with 4-H and the Future Farmers of America, and so did Marietta. They started with dogs, then cows and sheep. One year, they had 150 chickens.

When the boys were grown, she started mentoring young women in 4-H and home economics. She went back to school and earned her high school diploma.

Deanna Espinoza, 52, was 9 when she met Marietta, who taught her to sew, cook and bake bread. When Espinoza was in high school, Marietta drove her to the fair in Puyallup, where she gave her first public speech. The topic? How to freeze broccoli.

Espinoza grew up, got married and then hit hard times. When she needed a place to stay more than three years ago, Marietta offered her a room.

A year later, Espinoza's friend, Ann Merwin, was living in her car. Merwin asked if she could keep some stuff at Marietta's place. She, too, became a roommate. When Espinoza was having trouble with her vision and walking, Merwin, 58, helped her get by. [Cont'd on pg 3]



Marietta Roth quilts as she visits. Photo courtesy Andy Bronson / The Herald.



Deanna Espinoza looks on while Marietta quilts. Photo courtesy Andy Bronson / The Herald.

Kay Crabtree has been with Marietta the longest, more than a dozen years.

“We have a little village going here,” Espinoza said.

The women like taking back-road drives with Marietta. She tells them stories about the people and places she’s known. They went to Mount St. Helens together this summer and they attend Bryant Community Church.

Espinoza cooks and cleans, and Merwin tends to Marietta’s needs and does the driving. A man who also has been through hard times lives in a mobile home on the property. He fixes their cars and works in the yard.

Marietta makes quilts. She’s given 520 so far to charities. She founded the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society. She ran the food program at the Silvana Fair for more than a decade.

She used to be more involved. It’s hard letting go, she said.

Until her recent surgery, she mowed, pruned trees and weeded. She kept painting the outbuildings on her property until one of her sons took away her taller ladders. She kept painting, though she couldn’t reach the top boards.

Doctors have told Marietta to take it easy. On Monday, Espinoza caught her pushing the wheelbarrow in the yard, picking up willow branches.

Marietta hopes to move around without her walker again. Her three sons, David, Michael and Robert, are living in Othello, in Eastern Washington. She has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

One of the grandsons has been saving money. The plan is for him to make a down payment on the Bryant house in a few years.

He and his wife told Marietta she can stay, and they’ll take care of her. She also could move to Othello, with her sons.

From her chair, working on her quilts, she likes watching people walk their dogs on the Centennial Trail. From there she also can see the leaves piling up outside and the twigs that need sorted for kindling.

□ Rikki King: 425-339-3449;
rking@heraldnet.com.



Members Helping Members with DNA; or, SVGS Members Have Many Talents

THIS JUST IN FROM AN SVGS MEMBER: At the last genealogy conference, the speakers made the point that we should probably use all three major DNA testing services in order to overcome gaps in our research and/or to prove relationships.

Since my mother-in-law is 101 and my own mother is 96, I decided I should do it now with 23and me. So I sent for the kits.

Leilani Lucrisia had presented at one of our monthly meetings about 23andme and her experience with it. At that time she offered to help me analyze my results when they were available.

So we met, and when we opened the results Leilani realized they had changed their testing to include medical history. She was also surprised to see the total change in format from what she had received two years ago. We ended up exploring the results of my medical together.

My results were that I carry no genetic abnormalities. We also found the smallest of details: my ring finger is longer than my index finger, I am not lactose intolerant, and I am unlikely to consume much caffeine.

If you have results of a DNA test and would like help understanding it, come on down to the library – you just might be surprised at the excellent help you can get!





“The Circus is Coming!”

BY PHIL BARTLOW

You hear it from afar. The faint sound of music. You know it's starting. Yell for your friends and head to Main Street. You see them coming. The elephants! Followed by the horse-drawn circus wagons! And then the band! You follow the parade, marching to the empty lot that has been transformed with the large Big Top, ready for the show. You smell the roasted peanuts and view all the animals.

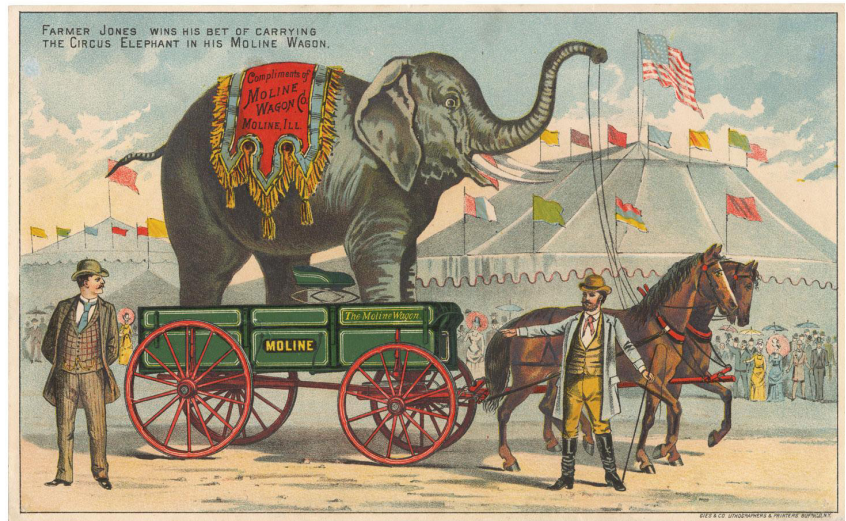
Sounds exciting for a boy who may not want to be a farmer all his life. So he becomes one of the many who run off and join the circus. Doesn't every family have a story about someone who did this?

If so, your genealogy quest just became a real challenge. The constant movement of Circuses during the summer months and the high turnover of entertainers and workers made the job of the census taker near impossible.

But all is not lost. There are a few sources that may be of help:

The CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY website (www.circushistory.org/index.htm) has multiple useful links. Their message board (www.circushistory.org/query.htm) is one of the most interesting. Questions are asked and answers attempted by a vast array of researchers.

The CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM (www.circusworldbaraboo.org/) in Baraboo, Wis-



consin has a Library and Research Center that documents the history of the American circus from 1793 to the present. Their collection contains photos, posters and information on 2800 American Circuses and a file of more than 300,000 names of performers and circus employees – primarily regarding the Ringling Bros. Circuses. They also have numerous Route Books, giving the names and jobs of workers, along with the daily route that the circus would take. These can be extremely detailed with information about the weather, accidents and injuries, as well as attendance at the performances. Inquires can be made by mail, email or phone (866-693-1500).

The MILNER LIBRARY, Special Collections, in Bloomington, Illinois and the JOHN and MABEL RINGLING MUSEUM in Florida, both offer extensive Circus records. There are also scattered collections in Universities around the country.

So, if you're looking for someone who "joined the circus", maybe it's time to peek under the big-top and see what you can find.





NGS Launches Its Newest Course in Genetic Genealogy: Autosomal DNA Course [A National Genealogical Society Press Release]

ARLINGTON, VA, 9 DECEMBER, 2015—The National Genealogical Society (NGS) proudly announces the release of its newest Continuing Genealogical Studies course, Genetic Genealogy: Autosomal DNA.

Autosomal DNA comprises twenty-two of the twenty-three pairs of chromosomes, excluding the one pair of sex chromosomes. These matched pairs of chromosomes are called autosomes and contain a comprehensive record of a person's genetic ancestry. Genetic Genealogy: Autosomal DNA is a seven-module, cloud-based course that focuses primarily on concepts and techniques for genetic genealogy. It also introduces the concepts covering the analysis of the data, no matter how the data is accessed or which tools are used to analyze the data.

The course was developed by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, a nationally recognized lecturer, educator, and full-time researcher experienced in using DNA analysis and traditional techniques for genealogical research. Her DNA research focuses on client projects and on research into her own family project that includes Y DNA, mtDNA, X DNA, and autosomal DNA studies. Her traditional genealogical research focuses on Texas, the Southwest, and the Southern U.S.

Genetic Genealogy: Autosomal DNA is available for \$60.00 for members and \$85.00 for nonmembers. For further information or to purchase the course, visit NGS Continuing Genealogical Studies.

NGS courses are cloud-based courses that offer you the convenience of completing a genealogy course at your own pace, at any location, at any time. The Continuing Genealogical Studies courses help you expand your knowledge of specific subjects, including:

- Genetic Genealogy, the Basics
- Introduction to Civil War Research
- Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors

NGS American Genealogical Studies offers a comprehensive program of courses structured to help you develop essential research skills. These include:

- The Basics
- Guide to Documentation and Source Citation
- Beyond the Basics

FOUNDED IN 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogical education, exemplary standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, and guidance in research. It also offers many opportunities to interact with other genealogists. ❖



SVGS Welcomes two new lifetime members:

Joni Smith
Wendy Anthony

We are happy to have you among the membership, and we look forward to seeing you often at our events, meetings and get-togethers.



The Odd Story of the Stolen Headstone

As told by Larry Taylor
and Shirley Case

[Editor's note: this is a combined story. Shirley Case and Larry Taylor both came into contact, at different times and places, with Jim Shipman, who held the key to the mystery of the "misplaced" headstone.]



Larry's Story:

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO Shirley Case gave me one of Jim Shipman's files. It concerned a certain Charles H. Warner's headstone. It seemed a youth named Mitch, who in 1965 had taken a piece of a headstone from the Pioneer Cemetery in Arlington, when he was ten years old. I could not find an address for Mitch, so I set it aside and did other things.

The path from Mitch to me took a few turns. First Mitch met with Beth, manager at Marysville Cemetery. Beth suggested he contact me. Mitch and I emailed, exchanging lots of information. Eventually we spoke on the phone, resulting in my newly acquired possession of that piece of headstone.

After speaking with Mitch, now 61 and a general contractor in Marysville, I stopped by the Arlington Cemetery to see what in the world we would have to do to place a headstone at the Pioneer cemetery.

A little background before I get to the point: Back to Mr. Jim Shipman, former owner of Shipman-Schafer Funeral Home in Marysville. He was on the Stillaguamish Senior Citizen Board for a number of years at the same time I was. I got to know him there and found we had a mutual interest in genealogy,

and his particular area of passion was identifying and putting headstones on Civil War veterans buried in our state.

Jim told me about this man in Marysville, who as a youngster, took a piece of a headstone from the Pioneer Cemetery several decades earlier. This kid had been visiting his grandparents' home near the cemetery. He found the broken headstone nearby and asked his father if he could have it. Since it had previously been moved by vandals, there was no way to ascertain where it belonged. So they put it in the trunk of the family car. It made its way to his parents' garden where it stayed for decades. Eventually the "kid" got a call from his parents to remove it. And that is what brought Mitch to see Beth at the Marysville cemetery.

Shirley's Story:

WHEN JIM GOT CANCER, he came to one of our genealogy meetings to find me, about four months before he died. He had not been away from his home alone in three months or more. I helped him to his car, as he was tired.

Before we went to the car Jim had a file folder, and he wanted me to find the man in Marysville and do what I could to get this headstone where it belonged.

I set it aside until Larry Taylor spoke about his work with photographing and identifying the names of people for Find A Grave. Then I approached Larry and asked him if he could help with this contact. Larry was gracious and said he would do so when he could. All of this was before our first genealogy conference and the Oso slide.

I am thrilled to know the veteran may be identified and a possible headstone created. Mr. Shipman would be happy also.

Huge thanks to Larry Taylor. He is making a difference for many, and I am so glad he is a part of our genealogy society — on so many levels. ❖



PBS Series Finds These 2 Very Unlikely Bills Are Related

By DAVID BAUDER, AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK — Dec 16, 2015, 1:59 PM ET

THE PBS SERIES “FINDING YOUR ROOTS” has discovered that political television’s polar opposite Bills — Maher and O’Reilly — are distant cousins.

The revelation shocks the two men as it seems to tickle the show’s host, Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. The series, which had been put on hold following revelations that actor Ben Affleck sought to quash news that he had a slave-owning ancestor, begins its third season Jan. 5. The Maher-O’Reilly episode airs a week later.

The pugnacious Fox News Channel host is shown with the series-prepared book of his ancestry in front of him and is told he has a familial tie to another well-known personality.

He turns a page to see a picture of Maher, the liberal host of HBO’s “Real Time.”

“Oh, geez,” he said. “You’re going to have to put him on 24-hour medical watch. This ruins his career. This destroys him.”

Maher is more measured when he sees the O’Reilly picture in his book.

“It just shows you what a great place America is,” he said. “Because we’re about as opposite as you can possibly get.”

The family ties go back — way back — and were discovered through DNA testing as opposed to a paper trail of a family tree.

Separate autosomal DNA testing, which tracks descendants of both sexes, also indicates the men share an ancestor. This testing measures ties that date back about 500 years; the two tests could have spotted the same common ancestor found through the Y chro-

mosome or perhaps they had more than one, she said.

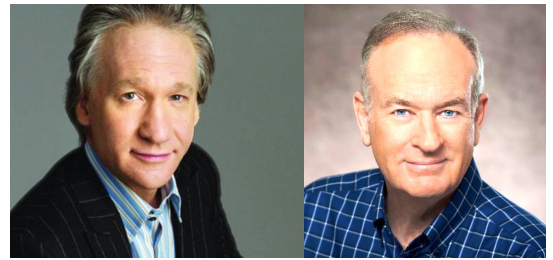
“We’re all connected if you go back far enough,” Moore said. “These two are a little bit more recent than most of us.”

Through testing of their Y chromosomes, which are passed through male family lines, both men share a common male ancestor from Kingdom of Breifne in Ireland, which was in place from the 13th through the 17th centuries, said CeCe Moore, the show’s DNA consultant.

Once the tie was discovered, “putting them in the same show became irresistible,” Gates said. Journalist Soledad O’Brien, who discovered a distant connection to late-night talk show host Stephen Colbert, is also featured on the Jan. 12 episode.

The paper trail for both men uncovered interesting descendants. A Maher ancestor was a prominent New York union boss while the first O’Reilly to come to the U.S. escaped the Irish potato famine at age 16 to come to New York and open a saloon.

Maya Rudolph, Shonda Rhimes, Jimmy Kimmel, Sen. John McCain, Dustin Hoffman and Sean “Puffy” Combs are among the personalities whose backgrounds are traced in the upcoming “Finding Your Roots” season. The Affleck revelations, which forced a more rigorous and independent system on producers, did not scare away any potential subjects, Gates said. ♦





A Sneak Preview

The “Before” Pictures of the New SVGS Library



Above: Ruth Caesar and Larry Taylor already at work. Look for the “after” pictures in the next newsletter.



Clockwise from top left: Tree-lined 188th Pl NE; Approaching the “Oso Building”; Front of building and parking; Exterior of sunroom; Large meeting room; Kitchen; Surprise sink off sunroom; Office for board business; View from office; Sunroom interior.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E Highland Dr Arlington, WA 98223	Monthly Meeting and Presentation <i>Happy New Year!</i> Join us for a presentation entitled: Stretching Your Genealogy Dollar. January is a great month to learn how to save money on your genealogical research. We'll learn about the power of Sno-Isle Library's reciprocal agreements, beginner's tips for using social media, and other hints for making the most of the dollars we've earmarked to search for our ancestors.	
Every Thursday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon SVGS Library 215 S French Avenue Arlington, WA 98223	Thursday Research Group Meet with fellow genealogists to discuss current events and genealogy over a cup of coffee. You may discover a new research method or just make a few new friends. Meetings are held at the SVGS Library, for now at 215 S French Ave.	
Tuesday, February 9 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E Highland Dr Arlington, WA 98223	Monthly Meeting and Presentation (Arlington Community Education) Join us for a Presentation by former SVGS Volunteer Laura Spaar about the great State of Tennessee. We'll learn about resources for researching Tennessee ancestors. Laura will share insights from her recent trip to the TN State Archives, as well as tips and hints for finding ancestors who were born in present-day Tennessee counties when those counties were a part of other states such as North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, or Alabama.	
Throughout January 6111 188th Pl NE Arlington, WA 98223	Got building or remodeling skills ... or know someone else who does? Come help fix up our new digs at 6111 188th Pl NE in Arlington, near the Airport. Contact info@stillygen.org for details.	
Sometime in January or February 215 S French Ave to 6111 188th Pl NE Arlington, WA 98223	Got Muscles? Help us Move! We have 6,000 books to move. Your help will mean a lot! Contact info@stillygen.org .	