



Stillaguamish Star

The Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society Newsletter

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Kathy Bowman
Newsletter Editor

PO Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223
6111 188th Pl NE, Arlington

www.StillyGen.org
(360) 435-4838

Please address all correspondence to Newsletter@StillyGen.org

SVGS does it again!



The Hardworking Folks Who Made It Happen

Northwest Genealogy Conference Better Than Ever!

REGISTRATION for the Northwest Genealogy Conference met last year's count, but my-oh-my, how the reviews surpassed everyone's wildest dreams. All the behind-the-scenes hard work paid off. The whole conference went so smoothly there were nothing but positive comments.

Keynote Speakers Blaine Bettinger, Lisa Louise Cooke, Claudia Breland and Beth Foulk really delivered. Fill in that great starting lineup with the plenary speakers Janet O'Connor Camarata, Daniel Earl, Jay Fonkert, Michelle Goodrum, Dayna Jacobs, Jim Johnson, Janice Lovelace, Donna Potter Phillips, Mary Kircher Roddy, Jane Neff Rollins, Michael Strauss, and you have a phenomenal event. And did they ever deliver!

Registering was smooth, easy and quick. The Scavenger Hunt on Free Day Wednesday was a hoot, culminating in a drawing Saturday. The prize being one year free to ancestry.com! During the breaks, the Exhibitors had many interesting things to see and even to buy.

The classes were organized well, and the speakers were absolutely excellent. So much to learn in so little time!

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On Free Day Wednesday, continuing the theme of Free, participants in the Conference adjourned to Skookums for a free taco bar and conviviality.

Thursday evening, the local Arlington merchants hosted "A Night on the Town" where they stayed open late just to accommodate the attendees. We had a great time exploring the town and took part in another scavenger hunt.

Friday, Dress-Up Day was another success. I'm telling you that next year there will be a lot more people in period costume. Even the downtown merchants will get involved in that one. There might even be some costumes available in the antique stores right now. Certainly at next year's conference.

Lunches were served quickly and the AHS cafeteria was once again an excellent facility. The beautiful facility itself got nice reviews. With a look in another direction, to our descendants, there were recycling and compost "Waste Warriors" helping to reduce the amount going to landfills.

And the banquet — held at the Gleneagle Country Club. A beautiful setting, a well-prepared





meal, and a riveting talk by Blaine Bettinger made for a lovely evening.

Then Saturday, last day. More excellent classes. You just can't get better than this. Then drawings, and finally a good-bye to all. What a blast. If you missed it this year, registrations are open now for 2017. ... I've signed up already. How 'bout you?





Volunteers made everything run so smoothly

The volunteers for the genealogy conference are the most reliable, friendly and wonderful people. I speak from experience of three years.

It is such a pleasure to call and email our members to ask them to work during the conference to fill more than 88 volunteer places, as they are willing volunteers and commit when contacted to do so.



Some of the things volunteers do: directing parking, assist at the registration desk, greet people as they enter, be room monitors for each session, do clean-up, set-up, assist at the help desk and the sales table. And they do all this in such a friendly manner.

For the room monitors, I was able to give each person a session of their choice for the over 34 sessions or presentations. It was the person's first or second choice. Kay Crabtree volunteered for a session almost every time slot as did LeeRoy Kind. Bruce Erickson attended several sessions to cover places that were opened.

There were many other volunteers also. Another good example of how our volunteers make the process go smoothly is Bob Overstreet. When Bob was asked what sessions he would like to attend, he replied by email with two choices for every session. This made it very easy to accommodate his choices and have a room monitor in each classroom.

Our greeters, Anne Grimm, Joni Smith and Dee Saunders were the perfect smiling faces.

While I did not assign people to our Society table it was staffed usually by Mary Buzzell, Steve Baylor, Joanne Wetmore, Helen Eliason, Larry Taylor and/or Michele Cozad. I might have missed a few folks and for that I am sorry. This table was busy and the Society sold a lot of items.

The help desk is a center for activity throughout the conference for the volunteers and the speakers. Kathy, Ruth and Lisa were quite busy throughout the whole conference.

We were asked who provided the staffing for parking registration and each person was surprised to learn those were our volunteers and were not paid to be there. The parking crew is now experienced and provided a friendly greeting to everyone arriving. It was a great way to start the day and the conference.

Thank you to each and every member that volunteered to make the conference such a huge success.

—Shirley Case, NwGC Volunteer Coordinator

What happens in the greenroom

Phil Bartlow and Shirley Case were the volunteers assigned to the green room to be with the speakers. We



were able to assist the speakers as they prepared to speak in their sessions.

The speakers are very interesting to listen to, as they talk with each other about their own research and the topics they were presenting.

Phil and Shirley also provide the transportation to and from the hotels to the conference.

Snacks and drinks are provided to the speakers, along with a quiet place where they will not be disturbed with questions from anyone, including Phil and Shirley.

Nearly every speaker was very impressed with the highly organized conference. Some of them said this was the best organized conference they had attended. Each presenter was able to leave their valuables in the green room so they could be free to concentrate. This is very high praise from experienced presenters. The speakers also very much liked the gift bags and the buttons with their picture on it. Sometimes it is the smaller details that mean a lot to others.

A surprise for me was every speaker attended the three featured speaker sessions if they were not presenting, and also went to some of the other sessions throughout the day.

The green room is also a great place to be a volunteer even though it takes up the whole day each time.

—Shirley Case



Let's Hear from the Volunteers

Had a great time at the Northwest Genealogy Conference last weekend, takes a lot to put on a 4-day conference but it was so worth it.

Dress-Up Day — Dress your ethnicity or as an ancestor. Check out the costumes at stores this Halloween so you will be prepared for next summer's conference. I portrayed my 16th Great Grandmother Lady Constance Touchet de Whitney, born in 1443 in Heleigh Castle, Staffordshire, England.

A great Banquet, meet-and-greet at Skookum Brewery, and a fun downtown Arlington scavenger hunt were some added events we offered.

Yes, we are having our 4th annual conference next August, so Save The Date, August 16–19th, 2017. Save a bunch of money too by registering before Feb 15th at www.nwgc.org. Already have GREAT speakers and vendors lined up.

—Anne Grimm, of *Fine English Ancestry*

The SVGS sale table did very well during the 2016 conference, and many of our older books sold quite well at reduced prices. We still have a number of newer publications for sale. Overall, we did great.

I do want to thank all those who put in so much time helping at the sale and registration tables. We have the most helpful volunteer group that I know of. "Thank You" again everyone.

I attended the "Free Beginning Genealogy Class" ~ came home and looked at all my family history in the notebooks, and thought to myself "I still have so much more to do."

Hearing all the great comments about our conference from people made me proud to be a part of the planning, plus it says much about those who really spearheaded it all.

In the membership department we did quite well there also, I believe around 12 new members.

—Joanne Hoidal Wetmore, of a *Norwegian Arlington Pioneer Family*

As for the fabulous Conference, words fail me. It was wonderful—great speakers, fun events, interesting subjects and all-in-all a great four days.

—Pat Manning, Proud Granddaughter of a *Klondike Gold-Rusher*





Notes from the Conference Speakers:

I am writing in response to your request for feedback on the NwGC. If I had to rate it, I would give the conference a 10 out of 10!

From this speaker's perspective:

Volunteers/staffing – outstanding. The volunteers in each classroom promptly introduced themselves. The 5 minute warning was helpful.

Every volunteer should get a big pat on the back. It takes many hands to run a conference and you certainly have plenty of enthusiastic volunteers!

The photographer taking pictures of the speakers when they arrived was also a very nice touch!

A/V – I don't know his name but he was awesome. He knew exactly what to do when there was a problem and was most helpful with the lighting in the auditorium. His assistance really helped the sessions run smoothly!

Syllabus – High quality and well done. I liked having a printed copy AND a copy on the flash drive.

Green Room – Words can't express how much I appreciated having this available. It provided the opportunity to relax and catch my breath a few times. I also needed to go over a presentation in a quiet place. Thank you to Shirley for manning the green room and guarding our stuff for three days.

The food was most appreciated for that occasional pick me up. A good investment. (It appears the snacks for the attendees were also well received!)

The high school facility is very nice and just the right size to accommodate an event of this size. Several of the speakers commented that they like the size and format of this conference.

Hotel – Best Western was a great choice for the speakers. Comfy, convenient and it included a hot breakfast!

I'm glad you are going to put the NwGC on again in 2017. I would love to be invited back to speak!

Hope you are getting settled into your new home.

—Michele Goodrum, Speaker at 2016 NwGC



Thank you for inviting me to speak at the NWGC. I had an enjoyable experience in Arlington and want to commend you on hosting a fine conference. I really can't think of any way you could improve upon it! It seems to me you thought through every detail and included many things I would not have even thought of. I was most impressed!

The tech support was especially good. They really responded quickly when I needed help. The tech setup was good and it was easy to connect.

I liked the format of the sessions, with some general sessions alternating with individual classes. I also liked having plenty of time between classes to set up.

I would consider coming again, although I would have to weigh the expense of travel.

Thanks very much,

—Dayna Jacobs, AG
King City, California



More Notes from the Conference Speakers:



Wanted to send a great big THANK YOU for a job extraordinarily well done. Even down to the teeny details (a tire pressure gauge in the speakers' goodie bag, wow). The snacks and water and juice were super. (Besides all that you all provided, the WSGS table went through three huge Costco bags of candy!!) Your cadre of volunteers couldn't have been better. I could go on and on but just wanted to formally say THANK YOU for letting me be a part of such a great event.

—Donna Potter Phillips

As I shared with other speakers and organizers, I was very impressed with the way the conference was organized and run. First class all the way. Allow me to highlight a few observations to underline my point.

- Logistics for the speakers were handled down to the last detail—flights, hotel rooms, shuttles, volunteer pick ups. It made getting around very easy.
- The speakers' lounge or green room was terrific. Not only was it stocked with lots of snacks and beverages, but it was monitored throughout the conference so we could comfortably leave our laptops and purses there. What a treat to not have to lug everything all day long.
- The promotional materials—website, registration, brochures, syllabus book—were first class. It was clear that they were professionally done, and reflected well on the organization.
- I like the concept of the free day from a marketing perspective. I think it is a great way to establish good will among your prospective audience members and to encourage greater participation in the main conference.



I could go on, but I think you get the idea. I was very impressed.

In closing, I want to add that this was my very first time to hear Lisa Louise Cooke. I was seriously impressed with her knowledge, teaching skills, delivery, visual aids, and overall presentation. She was terrific. You hit a home run with her.

All the best.

—Beth Foulk

And from a Vendor: The NW Genealogy Conference!



Sheila Thayer

What a wonderful week of research and friend-making at the 2016 Northwest Genealogy Conference in Arlington, put on by the Stillaquamish Valley Genealogical Society.

I love the knowledge and fellowship to be found at genealogy conferences. I talked to so many people and was able to offer suggestions for a few brick wall problems.

If you weren't able to attend this year's conference they already have a 'Save The Date' out for next year. Be sure to mark out August 16th-19th 2017 on your calendar!

—The Genealogy Dames



DOOR PRIZES at the Conference

Anne Grimm did an outstanding job of putting together the gifts for the door prizes and drawings throughout the Conference. She single-handedly went out and secured all these prizes. Our thanks to Anne, and to the donors who gave so generously.

Here's a rundown on the gifts, where they came from, and their value. If you missed the conference this year, this is yet another reason to come in 2017.

1. **Silpada earrings (\$49.00) – Karen Fuentes**
2. **Quilt (\$175.00) – Anne Grimm**
3. **One-night stay & \$25.00 dining credit – Tulalip Casino, Sunny Moyer**
4. **2 3-month subscriptions (\$120.00) – ArkivDigital, Kerstin Gustavsson**
5. **2 Annual World Explorer Memberships; 1 Annual Newspapers.com subscription; 1 annual fold3 subscription; 1 AncestryAcademy.com subscription; 1 Ancestry DNA kit – Ancestry.com, Lorilee Wagner (\$1017.75)
See breakdown, below.**
6. **Jamestowne Ancestors 1607-1699 (\$22.00) &
Dictionary of Americanized French Canadian Names (\$22.00) – Books –
Genealogical.com – Erica L Collins**
7. **3 Small Family Tree Posters with 150 relatives (\$180.00). – Susan Sullivan**
8. **2 Annual Subscriptions to GenealogyBank.com (\$69.95 x 2= \$139.90) Lyndel**
9. **Annual Subscription (\$29.95) – Roots Magic, Bruce Grimm**
10. **Annual Premium subscription (\$39.95) to GenealogyGemPods – Lisa L Cooke**
11. **Family Photo Detective – Book (\$25.00) Family Tree Magazine – Diane Haddad**
12. **Gift Basket, 2-day stay, dinner cert (\$200.00) Angel of the Winds – Jennifer Harvey**
13. **Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com (\$25.00) – Book – Anne Grimm**
14. **Research & Writing Gr 5-9 (\$24.00) – Book – Anne Grimm**
15. **Growler with a fill (\$25.00) – Skookum Brewery**
16. **Evidentia Software – X 2 (\$60.00) – Elizabeth Swanay-O'Neal**
17. **Y-DNA 37 Kit (\$170.00), Family Finder Kit (\$100.00) Family Tree DNA – Diana Marietta**
18. **Gift Basket (\$35.00) – Vintage Restoration**
19. **Gift Basket (\$35.00) – New Beginnings Family Thrift**
20. **Family Chartmasters – gift certificate (\$25.00)**
21. **Grandma's Gap ebooks – gift certificate (\$112.00)**
22. **Tote Bag of goodies – Genealogy Dames**
23. **3 My Heritage annual subscriptions (\$480.00)**



*Gift Bag Prize provided by
Downtown Arlington Business
Association for drawing at
Scavenger Hunt.*



Fourteen books were purchased by SVGS from Heritage Quest Bookstore at the NW Genealogy Conference

- * 10,000 Vital Records of Eastern New York 1777–1834.
Fred Q. Bowman
- * 10,000 Vital Records of Western New York 1809–1850.
Fred Q. Bowman
- * Evidence Explained, Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, 3rd Ed. *Elizabeth Shown Mills*
- * The Family Tree Historical Maps Book Europe, A Country-by-Country Atlas of European History 1700's–1900's.
Allison Dolan
- * The Family Tree Polish, Czech & Slovak Genealogy Guide. *Lisa A. Alzo*
- * Finding Your Canadian Ancestors, A Beginner's Guide. *Sherry Irvine & Dave Obee*
- * French-Canadian Sources, A Guide for Genealogists. *Patricia K. Geyh et al.*
- * A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors. *Franklin C. Smith & Emily A. Croom*
- * Genealogy Gems, Ultimate Research Strategies from Season One of the Genealogy Gems Podcast.
Lisa Louise Cooke
- * Genealogy Offline: A Beginner's Guide to Family History Records That Are Not Online.
Claudia C. Breland
- * German Census Records 1816–1916, The When, Where, and How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource.
Roger P. Minert
- * Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States. *Christina K. Schaefer*
- * Searching for Your Ancestors in Historic Newspapers. *Claudia C. Breland*
- * Trace Your German Roots Online, A Complete Guide to German Genealogy Websites. *James M. Beidler*
- * Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com, How to find Your Family on the #1 Genealogy Website.
Nancy Hendrickson



MORE ABOUT BOOKS:

Just in Time for Christmas!

SVGS's upcoming book *Early Schools in the Stillaguamish Valley* is anticipated to be released just before Christmas 2016.

As it was not ready in time for the NW Conference, it will certainly be worth the wait.

The book covers over 20 rural school districts in the Arlington area. Pupils, teachers, board members, bus drivers — it lists them all, and tells the stories. Some went to war, some gained fame, some stayed and became our ancestors.





NOTES FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR 100 YEARS LATER

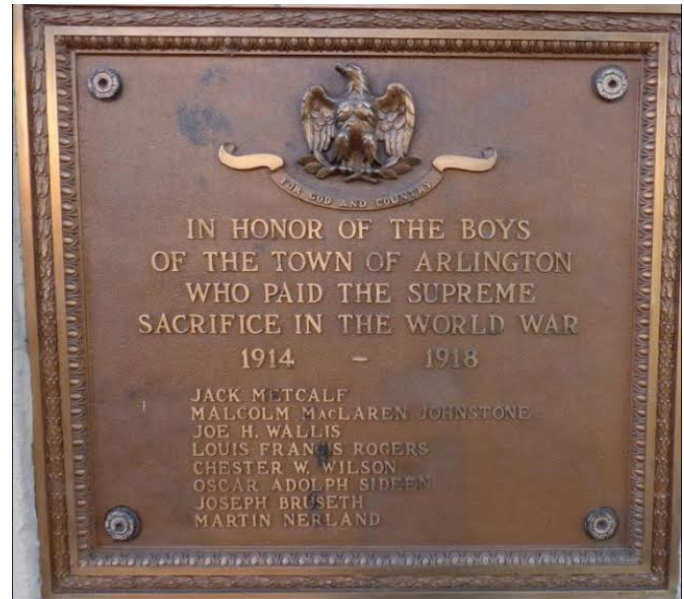
The United States of America declared war on the German Empire on April 6, 1917.

As a genealogical society, we have vast and intimate knowledge of local soldiers who went off to World War I. We have personal stories handed down — about our own fathers and grandfathers who went. We know who came back, and who didn't.

Among the members of SVGS, there are those who honor the veterans by placing markers on the graves. We have members who dedicate themselves to compiling books about the soldiers. We have members who care to gather the information and pass it on to the next generations.

And so now it's time to combine forces, thoughts and efforts. It's time to turn our attention to those men and women of World War I. In so doing, let's take a look at how the war affected our country, and our own lives, even today.

Lastly, let's not forget the World War I soldiers. Let's commemorate their sacrifices on April 6, 2017. ... And let's not forget to read *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque.



Did you know? A look of the StillyGen.org website.

This is a new feature in the Stillaguamish Star.
We will be exploring the stillygen.org website, highlighting a different feature each edition.

This month, we will look at the StillyGen.org "Surname Board."

So here's how it works:

1. Log onto www.stillygen.org
2. Sign on as a **Member** —If you need your login info, contact membership@stillygen.org. The Membership Chair will help you through that process.
3. Now that you've logged on, click **Members**, then **Profile**.
4. There will be a couple of boxes that show up. Go to the last box and find the tab that says "**Surname**."
5. Click on the **Plus Sign** on the picture of the piece of paper.
6. Enter the information about the family you are trying to find.
7. Now go back to the **Home Page**.
8. Click on **Resources**.
9. Scroll down to the **Surname Tab**. You will see your family name on the chart.

When others go to this page, they can contact you through the email function. ... And that is how you find your Cousins through the StillyGen.org website.

Happy Hunting!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon SVGS Library 6111 188th Pl NE, Arlington, WA	Thursday Research Group Meeet 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 at 6111 188th Pl NE, Arlington.
Centennial Trail History Day September 10, 2016 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Several Places along the Trail See Snohomish County Open Up website for details	WANT TO LEARN MORE FUN FACTS ABOUT SNOHOMISH COUNTY HERITAGE? Then grab your walking shoes, hop on a bike - or put the kids in the stroller and make your way down the Centennial Trail, September 10th from 11 a.m. – 3p.m. to learn local history along the former tribal route and early-century transportation corridor. The Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission and local heritage organizations will offer activities for kids, hands-on interactive exhibits, and a chance to touch historic artifacts at six different sites along the 30 miles of historic rail line, and at Legion Park in Arlington. The event is free.
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm 154 W. Cox Avenue Arlington, WA 98223	BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND — Winona Laird! Join us for our monthly meeting and presentation about the Supplemental Census Records by Winona Laird. Ms. Laird has written a book entitled, <i>Have You Ever Lived in a Mining Town?</i>, about her grandmother's life. This will be a great opportunity for our members to benefit from her fifty years of genealogical research experience. In addition, she has been an accounting and tax preparation professional for forty years. Members of the public as well as members of the Society are welcome to attend. This presentation is free to the public.
Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016 Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016 Downtown Arlington	VIKING FEST & PUB CRAWL Come down to enjoy our Second Annual Living History Viking Fest! You are invited to come down and witness the conquering of Historic Downtown Arlington by hordes of fierce Vikings. ~ See the SVGS display in the Council Chambers ~
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2016 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Location TBA Arlington, WA 98223	Monthly Meeting Janette Goames of the Washington State Archives, Northwest Regional Branch in Bellingham will share resources available to the family historian. Members of the public as well as members of the Society are welcome to attend. This presentation is free to the public.

NwGC Special Acknowledgments and Thanks

We wish to acknowledge the special effort and work done behind the scenes by **Flynn Clarke Kennedy** and **Erica Madsen**. Flynn for her excellent expertise in selecting the speakers for this year's conference. It has been acknowledged throughout the Conference that the speakers were top caliber. We thank Flynn for her work in this area.

Next, Erica Madsen's timely, professional, and expert work on the website made the Conference possible. Without her expertise, we wouldn't have had the great attendance. The ease of registering can all be attributed to Erica's web management.

Without speakers and without attendance, there would be no Conference! Thank you Erica and Flynn.

Kathy **Stuhrenberg**'s complete understanding of how a conference runs was the contributing factor in making this year's event so remarkable — as evidenced by the glowing reports about the efficiency in the way the Conference ran.

Special thanks also go to the driving force that pushed us along, all the way through. **Ruth Caesar**, SVGS President, kept the momentum going. She was instrumental in the success of 2016 Conference, by sheer dint of her driving energy.

And finally, we wish to thank **Phil and Lisa Bartlow** for stepping up to guide us through to the 2017 Conference. Thank you Phil and Lisa!



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Home of the Northwest Genealogy Conference

Special
NORTHWEST GENEALOGY
CONFERENCE Edition

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