



Stillaguamish Star

The Stillaguamish Valley
Genealogical Society Newsletter

November – December 2015 • Vol. 28 No. 6

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Viking Fest — The Start of a New Tradition in Arlington

The recent Viking Fest held in downtown Arlington was a great success—for the City of Arlington, the community and for our genealogy society. This was the first focused event on a specific culture, which added to the success.

Our SVGS was the only live historical display there. Our display was set up over six tables in the City Council Chambers. In addition to our display was a running slide show put on by the Arlington Pioneer Group, and a children's coloring table adjacent to our display.

In keeping with the Viking theme, we featured many items of Scandinavian culture, including wooden shoes, dolls, books, posters, and much more. The exhibit attracted visitors, who stayed as they carefully examined items and chatted about their Scandinavian heritage.

Our volunteers were able to talk with many families and individuals about their families, which was a popular topic to be sure. We were also able to point out the resources available at our library, and to help them with their search, encouraging them to start the research.

The volunteers provided many pedigree



Joanne Hoidal Wetmore, sporting a Norwegian flag t-shirt, explains the exhibit to interested attendees.
Photo courtesy Steve Baylor.


DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE!
November 3rd

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Have an item you'd like included next edition?
Send it to newsletter@stillygen.org.

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[Viking Fest, continued]

charts and family group sheets to help families start, and then explained how to start the process. The genealogists had great fun explaining beginning research. There were two volunteers for each two-hour shift, and we were busy the entire time.

Quite a few visitors expressed an interest in a beginning genealogy class. This prompted the Society to consider offering a very basic class. An excellent time to offer this class is early November—before Thanksgiving, so class members can get information from other family members while together over the holiday.

We appreciated the excellent cooperation of the City of Arlington, particularly Sarah Lopez

and Mayor Tolbert for inviting us, and making available such a wonderful space. It was also another great weather day, which certainly added to the success of this event.

If this event becomes an annual occurrence, the Society will most definitely want to participate again.



Beginning Genealogy Class Scheduled for November 17th

SHIRLEY CASE, noted educator and local genealogist, has scheduled a class for beginning genealogists on Tuesday, November 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the SVGS library.

This is intended for brand new genealogists, so they can start the search for their family — and perhaps talk with family members over the holidays to gather information.

The class will cover pedigree charts, family group sheets, easy-to-access resources, and differentiation between a primary source and a secondary resource as examples.

Shirley is a former special education teacher, school psychologist, and school administrator. Her degrees are in education from Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University and Seattle University.

She began her interest in genealogy when a teenager, but it wasn't until she joined the SVGS that she became actively engaged in genealogy. She lives in Arlington and is looking forward to meeting people wanting to learn about their family history.

Class members should bring paper, pencil and the names of their grandparents. Please email newsletter@stillygen.org if you plan to attend.



2016 NW Genealogy Conference Planning Underway

Committees have been formed and the Call for Presentations have been made. We are under way — toward our 3rd Annual Genealogy Conference. Our 2015 Conference had 315 attendees, and our 2016 projections approach 400. To manage this, we have 16 committees, with 25 volunteers. We can always use more help, now during the planning, or later during the hands-on work. To help out, contact nwgc@stillygen.org.



Ruth and Michele's Excellent Adventure: A Genealogy Cruise

SVGS President Ruth Caesar and Secretary Michele Cozad attended a genealogy cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, through the Panama Canal, to South America and back. All the while attending genealogy lectures on DNA.



Clockwise, from top right:

Shipboard classroom instruction

Angie Bush teaches DNA

Ruth goes bananas

The DNA Group on the Cruise, including Featured Speakers
Blaine Bettinger, CeCe Moore and Angie Bush

Michele overseeing the Panama Canal excursion.



Viking Fest had a Winner

As part of the festivities during Viking Fest, we held a drawing at our exhibit. When it was time to close down the display, we took the entries from the can, thoroughly mixed them up, and drew a name.

The winner (do we say “drum role” here?)



Volunteer helper Savannah Lopez draws a name from the bag, held by SVGS Vice President Steve Baylor.

was Suzi Larsen. She picked up her prize, a copy of *Stuck in the Mud*, a history of Silvana by local historian Penny Buse. We trust Suzi is enjoying the book.

By the way, this book is for sale at the SVGS library, a well-researched history, and a great read.



SVGS Guest Speaker

Excellent tips at monthly meeting

If you were fortunate to attend October's SVGS meeting, you got to hear some very good tips on how to make successful genealogy trips.

Janet Camarata presented us with a trove of good, solid tips and hints.

She went into detail about which electronic devices to bring (e.g. take a power strip if you're staying in an “affordable hotel”). Then she covered attire (take sweaters for those uber air-conditioned libraries). My favorite was a hint on how to remember all your passwords (it's a cool way of setting them up in the first place — I'll share it if you're interested).

Our meetings are always interesting. You should come!



Silvana School History Talk

Presented by Historians Loren Kraetz and Sue Walde

Stillaguamish Valley Historian, A. Loren Kraetz, along with Sue Walde presented a program featuring the history of pioneer schools around Silvana. The talk highlighted the five schoolhouses, including the first schoolhouse that opened in 1884. It was interesting to see how schools were moved, and why some were to be torn down.

We learned of pioneer students, structures built in the days of outhouses, and pot belly stoves that were tended by the teachers.

Kraetz and Walde are currently working on a book, *Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools*, slated to come out around the first of the year. Featuring all the early Arlington area schools, it will be a genealogists dream, in that students, teachers and administrators will be named, complete with pictures and dates.

Publication of the book will be announced in this newsletter. Watch for it — you may want it for your collection.



Loren Kraetz



Sue Walde

Our Mission To promote an interest in genealogy through education; to instruct members in genealogical research and preservation of their own family histories; to locate, preserve and index public and private genealogical records and make them available to members and the general public; to support other genealogical libraries throughout Washington State; and to provide current updates to members and the public regarding projects and upcoming speakers and events in our bi-monthly newsletter.



FROM THE EVERETT HERALD:

The Story of the Stolen Canoe

THE STILLAGUAMISH TRIBE of Indians welcomed Grandmother with stories, drumming and singing.

The family title doesn't refer to a person. On Monday, the tribe celebrated a reunion with a piece of its history, a 28-foot dugout canoe carved more than a century ago from a cedar tree.

"This is a big thing for us to bring home our heritage and our history," Tribal Chairman and Fisheries Manager Shawn Yanity said. "Some of these artifacts are really rare."

For 23 years the shovel-nose canoe has been in storage alongside antique cars and a horse-drawn buggy in a garage at the Stanwood Area



Tara Boser (left), Tracey Boser, Penny Buse and Gloriana Tatro share a group hug following the ceremony Monday to return "Grandmother," a tribal canoe, back to the Stillaguamish Tribe. The Stanwood Area Historical Society recently discovered that the canoe was stolen from the Tribe decades ago. Photo courtesy Kevin Clark / The Herald

History Museum. A few years ago the SAHS was considering using the canoe as a centerpiece for a display, when one member's research led them to a startling conclusion.

The canoe had been stolen off the Stillaguamish River in the 1960s. It rightfully belonged

to the Stillaguamish Tribe.

Stories vary on what happened with the canoe 50 years ago. The historical society originally was told it had been salvaged from a muddy riverbank. Then they were told it had been

stolen while left unattended on the river. Another version: a flood may have washed the canoe away before someone stumbled across it and took it home.

Eventually, the canoe ended up on display at a Camano Island home. The historical society bought it at an estate sale there in 1992. They settled it into the garage, a cool, dry place where it would remain undamaged until they decided how best to display it.

Penny Buse is the board member who researched the canoe, then told the rest of the board it likely had been stolen. They voted unanimously to return it.

"We had to give it back," Buse said. "None of the big museums would do this, but we live here and we felt it was the right thing to do."

After a short ceremony Monday afternoon, Stillaguamish Tribe members carefully fastened the canoe to a trailer using boards, ties and cushions. They plan to restore the canoe before moving it into a new administration office currently under construction in Arlington. The building is expected to open in January and the canoe will be put on display in a place of honor, said Tracey Boser, archives specialist with the tribe's cultural resources department. She and



Gloriana Tatro works to attach a tribal blanket as the caution flag for Grandmother, a tribal canoe, in preparation for its trip Monday afternoon from Stanwood to a restoration shop. Photo courtesy Kevin Clark / The Herald.

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daughter Tara Boser, the cultural resources director, worked closely with Buse and the historical society to bring the canoe home.

The canoe appears to have been made in the mid 1800s, she said, and “we believe it was in use up through the 1950s because of the repair work and some of the resins that have been used.”

Canoes are a vital piece of the Tribe’s heritage. The canoe was carved from a tree on the land and then used to fish and maneuver the rivers.

“Our culture is the trees, our culture is the land,” Yanity said. “Our culture sustains all of us. A lot of people don’t realize that there are teachings in this canoe.”

Gail Ryer, president of the Stanwood Area Historical Society, presented the Stillaguamish Tribe with a lifetime membership to the society. She and Buse hope to work with the tribe in the future to share more local history.

“I think sometimes people must think, ‘Oh, a historical society, that must be a bunch of old, dusty people going through a bunch of old, dusty papers, and sometimes they find something interesting,’” Ryer said. “Well we are, most of us, old I guess. And we do have some dusty papers. But we are vitally interested in our future as well as our past.”

That’s why it was an easy, unanimous decision to give the canoe back to the rightful owners. The tribe has a place to display it and the expertise to care for it, and the community gains more from giving and sharing than from having the canoe on display at the museum.

Buse cried “happy tears” when the tribe called her up to say thank you for her work in reconnecting them with the canoe. She wasn’t

the only one to shed a tear during the ceremony, attended by about 50 people.

“This canoe has been on a long journey,” Buse said. “We are so thrilled it’s finally going home.”



Members of the Stillaguamish Tribes load the tribal canoe, for transportation back to the tribe on Monday. Photo courtesy Kevin Clark / The Herald.

Before the canoe was carried from the garage, Yanity drummed and sang a song inspired by his family’s quest

to rediscover their culture and honor their heritage. It’s called “We are alive and strong.”

Then people shook hands and hugged and, as the canoe was loaded, began to talk about how they would remember this day as another important piece of their history.

[Reprinted from *The Everett Herald*, with permission. Article by Kari Bray: 425-339-3439; kbray@heraldnet.com.]



Chris Boser secures boards and straps to transport a tribal canoe to the Stillaguamish Tribe’s administration building. Photo courtesy Kevin Clark / The Herald.





NEW FEATURE!

★ SVGS Classified Ads ★

Here's your place to find things you've lost, lose things you've found, find a job, or discover things you totally needed, really.

POSITION AVAILABLE. Dynamic, friendly local genealogy society seeks someone to chair a special event two years from now. Training for the position starts immediately, and will be thorough, excellent, and tailored to the applicant's schedule and talents. This position will be rewarding beyond measure. However, salary will be inversely proportional to demands of the job and ability of applicant. Still, this will be a most rewarding job.

WANTED: A property to house the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society library. The place will need to be at least 2,000 sq ft, suitable for displaying and storage of over 5,000 books, large enough for meetings of 100 people, and available 24-7. If you know of any property in the Arlington area that even loosely fits, please contact Ruth Caesar, president@stillygen.

LOOKING FOR ANCESTORS. Place your personal ad here for elusive ancestors you know exist, but who don't show up where they are supposed to.

FREE STYROFOAM RECYCLE. Styrofoam IS recyclable — just not through your trash hauler. Contact Kathy at katsbow@gmail.com for pickup of your Styrofoam. It will be taken to StyroRecycle in Kent.

YOUR AD SHOWN HERE. Get exposure to over 100 genealogists and family history searchers. Do you have a service you offer? Here's your spot to showcase it. Do you have cookies for sale? Showcase them here. Have an extra car? Showcase it here — you just might sell it through our interactive classified ads. Contact newsletter@stillygen.org for rules & rates.

Your ad goes here



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, November 10 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E. Highland Dr. Arlington, WA 98223	Monthly Meeting and Presentation Join us for a Presentation by: Lisa Labovitch <i>History Specialist, Northwest History Room, Everett Public Library</i> She will discuss new materials in the NW Room, what materials have recently been digitized and are now available online. In addition, she'll share her knowledge about researching a parcel of property or an ancestor, whether or not a patron holds a library card. If there's time we'll learn a bit about how to preserve family photos and documents. This presentation is free to the public and to SVGS members alike. Come join us!
Saturday, November 14 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm Arlington Public Works Bldg 154 Cox Ave Arlington, WA 98223	Monthly meeting for 2017 Conference Planning All committees to attend.
Tuesday, November 17 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm SVGS Library 215 S French St Arlington WA 98223	Beginning Genealogy Class at the Library Join Shirley Case for a fun, informative evening A class for new genealogists so they can start the search for their family — and perhaps talk with family members over the holidays to gather information. The class will cover pedigree charts, family group sheets, easy-to-access resources, and differentiation between a primary source and a secondary resource as examples.
Tuesday, December 8 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Arlington Public Works 154 Cox Ave Arlington, WA 98223	SVGS Holiday Party Stay tuned for the announcement about the date of our popular annual HOLIDAY PARTY. The date shown is a TENTATIVE DATE. Check back at www.stillygen.org/eventListings.php?nm=41
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Arlington Public Works Bldg 154 Cox Ave – Tentatively Arlington, WA 98223	Monthly Meeting and Presentation Happy New Year! Join us for a presentation titled: Stretching Your Genealogy Dollar. January is a great month to learn how to save money on our 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. Check back soon for additional info as it becomes available.