



Stillaguamish Star

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society
Newsletter

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Eric Stroschein Makes a Presentation to Arlington City Council Members on Behalf of Our Genealogical Society

In October 2013, SVGS member Michele Heiderer submitted a grant request to the City of Arlington for funds to assist the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society with expenses to host the Washington State Genealogy Conference in August 2014. The grant request was successful and with the promise of funds from the city came a laundry list of specific accountability requirements to ensure the funds were spent legitimately.

Larry Taylor, SVGS Treasurer, gathered up all receipts and submitted them in mid-October to the City for reimbursement consideration.

On October 13, 2014 SVGS member Eric Stroschein made a presentation to the Arlington City Council to present them with information regarding the success of the conference and to solicit funds for the 2015 Northwest Genealogy Conference hosted by Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society in Arlington on August 13, 14, and 15, 2015. SVGS members, Ruth Caesar, Karen Stroschein and Larry Taylor were there in support.

Most notable in the presentation were the results realized by local businesses when conference attendees visited our restaurants and filled our hotels and motels.

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Raising Hands With Grieving Hearts

By Karen Stroschein



On October 25th I attended the Raising Hands gala hosted by The Tulalip Tribes along with our society president Ruth Caesar. This event is intended to be a celebration and recognition of organizations which have been awarded grants by the Tulalip Tribes. At Tulalip it is traditional to raise hands to applaud and give thanks to those who have given to the tribal communities.

Several organizations that work in the areas of health, education, social services, the environment, art and culture, and public service were in attendance but there was not much celebrating going on. There had been talk of cancelling the event in light of the Marysville School shooting the day before but the decision was made to proceed.

The mood was solemn as you can imagine. The scheduled presentations did not take place because those scheduled to appear were tribal members directly affected by the tragedy. Death within the tribes is a time for families and friends to gather privately to grieve. Protecting and supporting those families is the tribes' foremost priority and was understood by all who were in attendance. I for one was not in the mood to celebrate but I wanted to attend to show my support to a grieving community.

The theme for this year's Raising Hands celebration ironically was Stick Together. Saturday night that theme was brought to life as a community came together to honor and be honored, to comfort and be comforted.

Glen Cobin, Tulalip board treasurer, delivered a moving speech. I was brought close to tears when he asked for prayers for his tribal community, and the greater Marysville community. It was evident to me this is a man who believes in family and community and that both of his are in pain, yet here he was keeping a commitment to honor us and raise his hands to us while his heart was grieving. I raise my hands to him.

Ruth and I were seated at the table with the mayor of Marysville Jon Nehring and his lovely wife Mari Anne, and two other couples. The mayor and his wife were incredibly gracious as they made it a point to personally introduce themselves to us. The mayor's speech was off the cuff. He spoke of coming together as a community to support each other and focus on moving through this tragedy. Made me wish he were my mayor.

The gala was beautifully organized. The tribe members who handled all the details and the guests kept the focus on honoring us. They exhibited a strength of character I have come to believe is synonymous with Snohomish County. There was warmth in the room like a blanket of love that covered us all. I will not forget the honor bestowed on me by the Tulalip tribe that night, the act of raising hands was made all the more poignant because it was done with grieving hearts. I raise my hands to the Tulalip tribal community. Stick Together!





The City of Arlington's Welcome Center Blending History with Art

If you live in the area, you've probably driven past this beautiful wooden structure located on the grounds in front of the Stillaguamish Valley Pioneers Museum at 20722 67th Ave NE many times. Have you ever gotten out of your car to visit and touch the structure? If not, you have been missing out on seeing something very special.

The structure, known as the Welcome Center, was a project started by a handful of Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society members. Steve Heiderer designed the structure, got approval by the City Building Department, oversaw and helped with the construction. Dick Prouty performed the structural engineering and ensured it met building codes. Shirley Prouty served as project manager. Michele Heiderer and Shirley Prouty secured grants for the project.

The structure was built with reclaimed old growth lumber saved from old buildings that were being demolished. The carved figures on the structure were carved by Jewel James of the Lummi Tribe.





The City of Arlington's Welcome Center Blending History with Art - Continued

The topographical map located in the center of the structure was a labor of love by Bruce Morrison of Twisp. The map was made of planks of old growth red cedar that were discovered in a river. Bruce had them brought up and dried them specifically for the project. It took several months for the logs to dry out before he could cut them into proper size and to form them into the large planks that became the map.

Using plot maps from the SVGS library, Michele Heiderer plotted all the original historical sites on to a pattern which was then used by Bruce to carve out the map.

The artist, Rose Jones of Wenatchee took over after the map was carved. She designed all the tiny icons that she painted onto the map after she painted the



water/rivers and tributaries, green areas for forests, other areas for flat lands where dairies were located and much more.

The structure is called the Welcome Center because the map invites people in to see what the entire Stilly Valley looked like in 1910.

The whole project was created by people with many talents. Loren Kraetz provided historical information along with the Stillaguamish Tribe who helped with research tracking where their early ancestors migrated as the seasons changed.

The sign to the left shows those who generously donated funds to complete this project. Michele and Steve Heiderer donated the signs in memory of their parents.

We are all proud of everyone who contributed their time and energy over approximately 3 years to see this project through completion in 2010.



Ancestry Library Edition is now available for your use in our society library. SVGS spent \$1,200 for an annual membership to give you access to this Ancestry.com database which provides you access to billions of historical documents, millions of historical photos, plus local narratives, oral histories, indexes and other resources in over 30,000 databases that span from the 1500s to the 2000s. The library edition gives you access to information worldwide, not just the United States.

Pat Manning is thrilled to be able to research her German relatives using the Ancestry Library Edition. This saves her \$299 a year which is the cost of purchasing access to Ancestry World Explorer version at her home. Pat says she likes the flexibility of using the society computers or

hooking up her own laptop at the library to access the database.

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society library is located at 215 South French Avenue, Arlington, WA. The library hours are Tuesday: 12:00 – 4:00; Thursday 10:00 – 4:00; and Saturday 10:00 – 2:00.



Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

The World at Your Fingertips from the Stillaguamish Valley

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Obituary - How to order:

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Events

Search Surname:

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Actions	Surname	Given Name	Age	Town	Birth Date	Death Date
	Erickson	Thelma	93	Arlington	7-Aug-2014	17-Aug-2014
	Bessford	Skyler Stephen	19	Marysville	12-Oct-2014	25-Oct-2014



Meet Betty Wakem. She has been busy updating our www.stillygen.org website death index database with recent obituaries from this area. Michele Cozad is also updating the death index and has been working feverishly to input an index of available obituaries from the mid 1890s to present. Anyone can access our society website to see if an obituary for a relative or friend is available because of their efforts. Ordering obituaries is very easy. It just takes a couple mouse clicks to access our Web Contact Form that can be filled out and e-mailed to our staff from the website.



Boston University Metropolitan College Center for Professional Education

Flynn Clarke Completes Certificate Program in Genealogical Research

Congratulations to SVGS member, Flynn Clarke for completing Boston University's Online Certificate in Genealogical Research. The 15-week online course consisted of five modules: Foundations of Genealogical Research, Problem-Solving Techniques and Technology, Evidence Evaluation and Documentation, Forensic Genealogical Research, and Professional Genealogy. Although Flynn had the flexibility to complete the course work on her own schedule, she spent 36 – 43 hours per week (twice that was advertised) in order to meet specific inflexible weekly assignment deadlines, participating in online discussions, and reading four textbooks.



For years, Flynn has been our society's go-to person for photo identification and dating. Her ultimate goal is to start her own genealogy business. She'd like to limit her business to specific areas like photo identification and dating, transcribing documents and analyzing them by applying the principles of forensic linguistics to the text, and to do some marketing for genealogical societies around the country.

Flynn is kind enough to continue the photo identification and dating tasks for our society members on a volunteer basis. She asks that you bring your photos and documents to the SVGS library and she will take a look at them for free, or for a donation to our genealogical society. Feel free to contact her through our library or send her an e-mail at info@stillygen.org. We will make sure she gets your messages and she will set up a time for you to meet with her at the SVGS library.



Steve Baylor Teaches Finding Your Roots – An Arlington Community Education Class for the Beginning Historian

Steve Baylor was busy every Monday evening in October teaching nine beginning genealogists how to organize family history records from personal knowledge and relatives, how to set research goals, how to determine where documentation can be found and how to locate records of significance. They also learned how to evaluate proof, learned how to build a family database, and learned where to turn for further educational opportunities. They

couldn't have had a better instructor. Steve Baylor is the Library Director at SVGS and is a past president of our society. He also serves on the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board and is a volunteer indexer with the Washington State Archives.



Seeking Contributing Writers

SVGS member Trisha Broughton, is the Editing and Finance Manager for the Mountain Loop Express on-line newspaper that has a special column dedicated to

genealogy called “Before Our Time.” She is seeking contributing writers from our genealogy community who are willing to help populate this column with articles about their experiences with genealogy research, historical information and discoveries they are willing to share. Please contact her at trisha@mountainloopexpress.com if you are interested in having your articles published. Below is an article written by SVGS member, Leilani Lucrisia, published in the October 14, 2014 edition of Mountain Loop Express:

Before Our Time – A Hidden Gem

by Leilani Lucrisia, Contributing Writer



One day while surfing the internet, I happened upon a website – Find A Grave. Quite frankly, I was initially wary of clicking on the link. The logo was a tad odd, leading me to believe the website may be a fake. It also gave me an option to open up an account. I thought for sure that I would fall into a trap and get a virus if I clicked on it. But my curiosity got the best of me, and I couldn’t resist. Little did I know how one brave click would change my life and the lives of many others.

Find A Grave was created in 1995 by Jim Tipton who had a hobby of visiting graves of famous people. Over time, others who shared his enthusiasm populated the site with more gravesites of famous people. This led to others adding information with memorials and photos of those who were not famous. When I first viewed the site just a few short years ago it contained under twenty million grave records; today, it has over 121 million.

If you haven’t used this website to look for clues while researching your family genealogy, you may be overlooking a hidden gem. Every day, people like you and me are walking through cemeteries, taking pictures of headstones and entering the information into the Find A Grave website. Others are contacting cemetery offices in an effort to obtain name lists of those buried in the cemetery, which in turn are entered into the Find A Grave site. I also noticed the Veterans Administration has downloaded data on deceased veterans. Genealogy societies are even making it their mission to enter information on those buried in local cemeteries.

FIND A GRAVE



Searching the site is easy. You can search by name or by location. You may get lucky and find a relative you’ve been looking for and perhaps find others you weren’t aware of. Those who enter information on a deceased person create memorial pages for each person and are very respectful. Also, the name of the individual who created the memorial page is in clear view of anyone looking at the page and is known on the site as the “contributor”. Anyone viewing the memorial page can click on the contributor’s name and send that person an e-mail.



I have personally created over 3,000 memorial pages; of those most are buried in the Arlington Cemetery located in Arlington, Washington. This is a rather small number, compared to others who have created over 100,000 – but it keeps me busy. The top contributor has created an amazing 142,411 memorial pages.

Relatives of those I have entered into the site contact me on a routine basis, asking if I am a relative. Some ask me to add information to the memorial page while others ask me to transfer the responsibility of maintaining the page of their relative to them. Some even cry with relief or excitement when they find a relative. Many share their stories with me. One family member contacted me saying they always wondered what happened to their grandfather. He deserted his wife and 13 children and they never knew where he went until I created his memorial page. Some of those who have contacted me keep in touch periodically and have become friends.

I have also used the site to help my 89 year old uncle overseas. He is unable to travel and one day told me he wished he could visit the gravesites of his father, mother, brothers and wife. With the magic of the Find A Grave website, he was able to look at memorial pages that someone was kind enough to create for each of his family members. Seeing a picture of their headstones was so satisfying.

I encourage you to visit the [Find A Grave website](http://FindAGrave.com) which contains a wealth of information not necessarily found anywhere else. If you feel like giving back to the genealogy community, you might want to consider visiting your local cemetery and create memorial pages of your own. At a minimum, you should ensure your own deceased relatives are found on the site so the information will be available for future generations. Happy hunting.

Conference Bags and Folios for Sale

We have bags and folios left over from the conference so we decided to offer anyone who didn't attend the conference the opportunity to purchase them. If you did attend the conference and want to purchase another bag and folio, you are also welcome to do so.

The typical lap top computer fits into the light weight bag very comfortably. Many of us have been walking around using them for day to day tasks, carrying our computers to and fro and filling them full of our genealogy research papers. They are just great.

We are offering the conference bag and folio as a set for the great price of \$15.00. If you are interested in making a purchase, leave your name and phone number on the message machine at the SVGS library at 360-435-4838, send an e-mail to info@stillgen.org or send us a check for \$15.00 to Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223.





EVENTS CALENDAR



Jill Morelli

November 11, 2014
Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Presentation and Meeting
Location:

Arlington Free Methodist Church
730 East Highland Drive
Arlington, WA

November Presentation and General Meeting

Presentation is free of charge and is open to Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society members and to the general public.

Ostfriesen Genealogy: An Introduction to a Little Known Area of Germany

This session will be an overview of a unique area of Germany contiguous with the Dutch border. Learn about their mid-1800s mass migration and how they maintain their culture and traditions even today.

Our speaker for November will be Jill Morelli. Jill began her genealogical research over 30 years ago when she discovered that she didn't know her grandmother's name. Having all four of her grandparents die before she reached the age of 7 also left her without those conversations that naturally occur between grandchild and grandparent. She vowed to find out more and has been researching ever since. She has always approached her research as a process that required careful analysis and synthesis of information before coming to conclusions.

December
Tuesday, Noon – 3:00 pm

Arlington Free Methodist Church
730 East Highland Drive
Arlington, WA



We're Having A Potluck!

We will be having a holiday potluck get together instead of our usual monthly meeting and presentation.

We are a talkative bunch and like to eat so we are starting earlier than usual at **noon**.

Bring your favorite entrée, side dish or dessert to share.

SVGS members and the general public are invited to attend.





EVENTS CALENDAR



Eric Stroschein

January 13, 2015
Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Presentation and Meeting
Location:

Arlington Free Methodist Church
730 East Highland Drive
Arlington, WA

January 2015 Presentation and General Meeting

Presentation is free of charge and is open to Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society members and to the general public.

Five Easy Steps to Documentation

If you find yourself asking “Why should I document sources?” or “How do I document sources?” this class is for you. Documentation is an action. Documenting where you got your information is important even if you think no one is going to see the research but you. Taking the time now to document where you got your information will save you time later in your research. If you are like me you work on one line and set it aside to work on another. Without documenting (writing down) what you searched for and where you found it (or didn’t find it) you inevitably will look at some of the same sources again wasting time.