

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy Society

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The Stillaguamish Star

Annual Reports 2011 - 2012

President's Report - Ruth Caesar

For the past year I've had the privilege of representing the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society as President. I've been out in the community speaking with people in an effort to generate interest in our Society. I'm pleased to tell you this effort has been very successful. Over the last year our membership has nearly doubled. Many of you brought your friends and relatives to our society and they have joined us too; for your enthusiasm I am truly grateful. The time invested by our Publicity Chair, Shirley Case, has contributed greatly to our ever growing membership and visibility. Shirley has diligently contacted the newspapers and gotten the word out about our goings on.

Much has changed this year for our library. When I became your President last year, our Society had just opened the door on the possibility of moving to our new, French Avenue location. We were able to finalize that contract in December and get moved into our beautiful new home earlier this year. Our new library has become a notable addition in the community and represents us well. I'd like to offer my thanks again to Michele & Steve Heiderer and all of you who worked so hard preparing the library for our Grand Opening.

The Grand Opening party was a great success in March. Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert sent us a lovely floral arrangement and was able to drop by to see our new facility. The Mayor said she sees us as a wonderful asset to the community and she will do all she can to help our society.

Our Education Chair, Steve Baylor has been able to provide our society with a wonderful array of speakers this season. Our April speaker, Penny Buse, donated many signed copies of her book "Stuck In The Mud" which were sold after her

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presentation raising money for our society. An honorary lifetime membership has been given to Penny for her contribution to our society.

Our increased membership has already caused us to seek an alternate location for our larger gatherings. We are pleased that the Free Methodist Church will allow us to hold the upcoming June meeting and presentation of Steamboats on the Yukon at their facility. They're quite near our library and have rooms large enough to handle our ever expanding attendance. Hopefully, this will be our "regular" alternate location in the future.

We are currently in negotiation with familysearch.org and expect to become an Affiliate Library in the next few months. This will allow our members to borrow microform materials through the Family Search system for a small fee via the Internet, and view them in OUR library. There is no cost to our society for participating in this program and it will give our members easier access to materials.

Volunteering is so personally rewarding I would like to again thank all of you for allowing me to do what I can to better our society. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer contact our Library Director, Michele Heiderer at kellen2000@seanet.com.

Plans are in the works for a summer barbecue /potluck at the library and I hope you will be able to join us for some summer fun.

Sincerely,
Ruth Caesar

Vice President's Report - Helen B Elison

As Vice President it is my job to support the President and to sit in for her at our meetings when she is unable to. So far she has been there for every meeting and I have not been called on to do anything.

Treasurer's Report – Patricia Manning

It has been a very eventful year for the SVGS. Our income has increased in some areas and decreased in others. The move to the French Street house and the publicity generated by that move has helped us in many ways. Membership is up as well as publication sales but regular donations are down as well as Ways & Means contributions. The sales generated by the rummage sales and bake sales are less this year. The move to French street will be beneficial in that our monthly rent will be considerably less than the downtown location, saving utility bills as well.

We have used nearly all of the Tulalip Grant and the Stillaguamish Grant. The Annual Financial Statements will be available at the annual meeting on May 8, 2012.

Education Committee Report – Stephen Baylor

We have been very busy over the past year when it comes to education. We had two programs over the summer months of 2011 featuring personal genealogical research. Michele Heiderer gave a talk on using Ancestry to search for documentation. A July meeting that was supposed to be about genetic genealogy evolved into a brick wall session following technical problems. We did not meet in August since everyone was busy at our yard sale.

The fall 2011 lineup of programs focused on United States research concerning the Grange movement, federal census prior to 1850, and federal land records. Speakers included Dick Prouty, Dave Thaler, and Eric Stroschein.

Due to the library move there was no January program. February 2012 saw the first presentation in our new facility. Loren Kraetz and Sue Walde gave us a program on the Schools of Arlington to a packed house of 45 people. It became obvious we needed a larger facility for our monthly meetings. In March we combined with the Pioneer Association for a program by local photographer, Jerry Magelssen on barns of the area. More than 70 people were in attendance. We held our April program in our new library and again packed the house with about 40 people. We are looking forward to holding our June program at the Arlington Free Methodist Church. The meeting room is on the ground floor, can hold up to 100 people and has a kitchen facility nearby. If all works well we may hold many of our future programs there.

In addition to monthly programs, society members have been actively working on their research in study groups and classes. These include the Rug Rats, the Legacy users group, and a class on beginning genealogy. The reference room of our new library is an ideal education area that can accommodate classes up to about fifteen people. We now have a wall mounted screen in place and a new projector for PowerPoint presentations.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of assisting our growing membership with their family history research. There is an open invitation to anyone interested in joining the education committee in lining up classes, arranging field trips, and assisting in hosting featured speakers each month. Please let me know if you would like to help.

Library Director's Report - Michele Heiderer

This past year has seen many changes to the library, all for the best! Our small-town library book collection continues to grow and includes many rare and unusual books, some of which can only be found in larger well-endowed libraries. The DSL connection on the new computers has made searching for ancestors on our various prepaid web sites a successful venture in many cases. The librarians take great pride in helping first time library visitors find their ancestors on the Internet.

The move to the new location last January was done on a Saturday and, as predicted, the snow started falling just as the last of more than 300 boxes of books and a dozen truckloads of furniture were delivered. A heartfelt 'thank you' to the Kiwanis for making this move so successful.

Redecorating the new location was a challenge. At first, a lot of old fashioned house cleaning was involved. Then there was the matter of disguising flowery blue wallpaper and painted walls to make the library look like a library and not a flower patch. The problem was solved when I took a big chance and wall papered the meeting room's wall with 1964 Arlington Times newspaper pages, a trick I copied from a decorating magazine. Multiple coats (by many helpers) of paint and primer successfully covered the other wallpapered and painted walls. Donations of artwork from Shirley and Dean Case, Leilani Lucrisia and Pat Manning as well as by framing and hanging our collection of antique photos and maps, give a professional look to the entire library.

SVGS has several new librarians on staff and a member available for consultation to help date and identify old photos (Flynn Clark won't call herself an expert but I would!). Mary Buzzell will offer Legacy classes later this summer and I plan on giving a series of classes on how to use the Internet to find your ancestors. Combined with beginning genealogy classes, our library location is drawing new members and visitors every day that we are open.

Concerns of losing visibility from the Olympic Avenue location have not come true; just the opposite has happened. Much of the growth in the number of visitors to the library is due in part to Shirley Case's consistent effort to publicize SVGS. SVGS will soon become a Family History Library affiliate. Members and visitors will be able to borrow microfilm from the huge Family History Library in Salt Lake City by ordering and paying for these materials from their home computers; films will be sent to SVGS. Copies from the microfilms will be done by digital camera. No more driving to Lake Stevens, Mt. Vernon or Everett to visit a FHL; more about this in the coming weeks.

Publicity Report - Shirley Case

As this is the first year of an individual chair for publicity it has been great fun to develop positive relationships with groups such as newspapers, city government, schools, senior center, business associations, our community and our own members. The beginning genealogy class was a large success and Steve Baylor may offer it again this fall. It really helps keeping our name and purpose in front of the public. The presentations have been outstanding; we are very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable group guiding us. The other classes have been a success also and we are looking forward to the Legacy classes being offered again.

Our members are our best publicity and I believe it shows in our increased membership and sense of enthusiasm brought by all. We outgrew our meeting place in less than a month and I am making arrangements with a local church to use a larger room there for the presentations. We will know next week if that is approved.

As the chair I have short term publicity notices for specific events and longer term plans to get us in more publications. For the specific events notices are placed in three local papers and sometimes I include the Stanwood paper also. I use the local television channel also and we have used the newsletter from the city. There is free public broadcast radio from Everett we can use. We are also on "Arlington Times" calendar and the Chamber of Commerce website calendar. Our president is still doing the invites by email for our members, which I really appreciate it.

I have arranged for one to two speakers at five community events this past year. Just two weeks ago Ruth Caesar spoke at the Downtown Arlington Business Association at 8:00 in the morning. There have been presentations at Kiwanis, the Senior Center twice and DABA. This is the group that does much of the planning of events in downtown Arlington and I am a member to keep us informed. We also had a booth at the Senior Center Health Fair and have been invited to have a table at the Farmer's market or street fair in July. Ruth Caesar, Dick and Shirley Prouty, Michele Heiderer and myself have attended a non-profit networking group that provides support and information for nonprofits like us.

The longer term goals of being in publications such as the phone book and local maps takes a bit more leg work and sometimes they want money to include us. This is a project that will need continued work. Also if there is someone with some photo software skills so the pictures can be published like the Open House was we would generate more publicity easily.

If you have suggestions for further publicity please contact me at home at 435-2460 and let me know since I am new to this organization and to publicity. Remember you are our best promoters and we help each other.

Publications Committee Report - Helen B. Eliason and Joanne Wetmore

This past year the publications committee has had five of our books reprinted. They are the obit books and the Arlington Centennial Pictorial History. We have also been working on our "Stillaguamish Valley Unincorporated School" book. It is close to being finished but because of the large find of information it was decided that another volume is needed. The second book will cover the schools inside Arlington. It will be a while before that one is ready to go to the printers. As time permits we are also working on the next obit book -1940 to 1942. If anyone has an idea for a book we should do in the future please let the committee know.

Membership Report - Joanne Hoidal Wetmore

Year 2011 has been an exciting year within the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy, moving the library to a new location, open house, and a growing membership. The membership list for May 2011 was approximately 87 ~ for this report our membership has grown to 161, it has been a great year for SVGS.

Within the membership we have some very talented people and the eagerness to help. Keeping the membership list current and correct is still a challenge but as I said before "that makes everything interesting". It has truly been a good and exciting year.

Forefather's Photo Identification

Photos you've been unable to date and identify can be analyzed and pinned down to a span of a few years. Contact Flynn for an appointment by e-mail at nonhelema@netzero.net or leave a message at the SVGS library, 360-435-4838.

Volunteers Needed

If you can help man the SVGS information table at the upcoming Farmer's Market in Arlington, please contact Michele Heiderer at kellen2000@seanet.com or by phone at (360) 435-2720

Events Calendar

May 2012 Calendar

May 8, Tuesday, 1:00pm, SVGS Library – **ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING**

*May 16, Wednesday, 11:00am, SVGS Library – **BOARD MEETING**

May 20, Sunday, 1:30pm- 5:00, SVGS Library-**FOREFATHER'S PHOTO ID**

Dating of your old photographs by Flynn Clarke

June 2012 Calendar

June 12, Tuesday, 1:00pm, **GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATION:**

Steamboats on the Yukon River – Pat Manning,

Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E. Highland Drive Arlington

*June 20, Wednesday, 10:00am, SVGS Library – **BOARD MEETING**

July 2012 Calendar

July 10, Tuesday, 1:00pm, **GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATION:**

Exploring familysearch.org – Steve Baylor

Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E. Highland Drive Arlington

*July 14, Noon – 3:00pm, SVGS Library, **SUMMER PICNIC**

*July 18, Wednesday, 11:00am, SVGS Library – **BOARD MEETING**

August 2012 Calendar

* Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm, SVGS Library, **LEGACY CLASSES** with Mary Buzzell

August 14, Tuesday, 1:00pm, **GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATION:**

Find A Grave Program and Arlington Cemetery – Larry Taylor

Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E. Highland Drive Arlington

September 2012 Calendar

* Wednesdays 1:00-3:00pm **WEBSITE CLASSES** with Michele Heiderer

September 11, 2012, Tuesday, 1:00pm, – **GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATION:**

A History of Silvana Schools – Loren Kraetz & Sue Walde

Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E. Highland Drive Arlington

October Calendar

* Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm, SVGS Library,

Beginning Genealogy Classes with Steve Baylor

October 9, 2012, Tuesday, 1:00pm, **GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATION:**

DNA Genetic Genealogy – Leilani Wallace

Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E. Highland Drive Arlington

November Calendar

November 13, 2012, Tuesday, 10:00am, **GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATION:**

Civil War Pensions and Other Records – Eric Stroschein

Arlington Free Methodist Church 730 E. Highland Drive, Arlington

***Date or event tentative – more information to follow**

General Meeting Location Change

Arlington Free Methodist Church, 730 East Highland Drive, has kindly allowed us to use their facilities for our monthly general meetings and presentations. The church is only a few blocks away from the SVGS Library.

This will allow us to accommodate more attendees and there are plenty of parking spaces available.

Rug Rats

Genealogy Support Group. Informal discussions, open subjects, idea exploring, members helping members.

Thursdays, 10:00 – Noon
SVGS Library
May 10, 2012
May 17, 2012
May 24, 2012
May 31, 2012
June 7, 2012
June 14, 2012

Other Upcoming Events

Yard Sale
Information Table at
Farmer's Market

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your SVGS membership. We hope you will find the membership renewal form below a convenient way to keep your membership up to date. Just clip it, fill it out, and mail to our P.O. Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223.

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society and Library Mail to: P.O. Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223					
Name			Name		
Address					
Home Phone (Include Area Code)			Cell Phone (Include Area Code)		
E-mail					
Please Check One:					
☐ New Membership	☐ Renew	☐ Annual Individual - \$15	☐ Annual Family - \$20	☐ Lifetime \$250	☐ Newsletter by Mail Add \$5
Would you consider including an additional, tax deductible, donation to the society? We are a 501C3 corporation.					
I would like to donate the following amount:					
☐ \$10	☐ \$20	☐ \$50	☐ \$100	☐ Other Amount:	