

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS) President Ruth Caesar

This June, several SVGS members attended the *NSDAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C.

Being in the U.S. Capitol and seeing history come alive was a memorable experience — one that helped us feel truly connected to the Spirit of America 250.

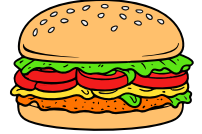
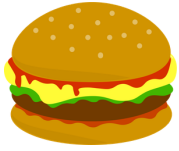
***(National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution)**

More of our DC experience continue on page 4

Upcoming SVGS Events:

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Tuesday July 14th
Noon

**Mark your calendar for NOON so you don't miss the
BBQ on July 14, 2026 at the SVGS library.**

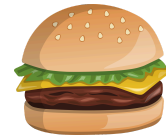
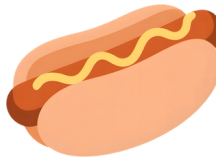
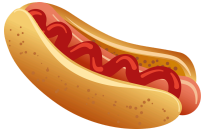


Come join us for our annual July Summer Potluck on
Tuesday, July 14th at 12 PM.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be supplied.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

This is a great time of fun and fellowship with
other members and guests.



Tuesday August 11th
1PM

The Case DNA Solved:

Please join us for an “in person” presentation by retired Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office Detective, Jim Scharf. Throughout his tenure, Jim was known for his relentless pursuit of justice, particularly within the Cold Case Unit. His innovative approach, notably the use of genetic genealogy, led to groundbreaking convictions such as the Tanya Van Cuylenborg and Jay Cook case, marking a historic moment in forensic science.



Jim Scharf

Jim’s collaboration with Parabon Nanolabs and CeCe Moore not only brought closure to families but also set a precedent for genetic genealogy in criminal investigations worldwide. His story offers a unique perspective on the evolution of investigative techniques and the impact of perseverance in solving complex cases.

Join us as Jim talks about the experiences that made genetic and legal history.

Jim's Bio:

Jim Scharf’s dedication to law enforcement spanned more than four decades, beginning in the late 1970s and culminating with his retirement in 2022. His career journey reflects a deep commitment to public safety, as he served in various roles ranging from Custody Officer to Deputy Sheriff, including specialized units focused on crimes against children and major homicides.

Monthly Special Interest Groups at SVGS



The first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM join a group at the library discussing New England focused research.

The third Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM join a group at the library discussing DNA research at all skill levels.



The fourth Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM join a group discussing how to write your family history using AI resources.



July 23rd,
Bring your questions! Bring your narratives or laptop for help or feedback.

This class will be presented by Teresa Townsell and be interactive.

The *last* Saturday of each month from 11:00 AM to Noon please join us for American Ancestors Webinar Day.



July 25th, the topic will be-
English Immigration to the American Colonies

Whether your ancestors arrived at Jamestown, on the Mayflower, or came over in the years following, the majority of us with colonial ancestry hope to trace our family trees back to England. In this online lecture, Senior Genealogist Rhonda R. McClure will highlight key records and resources available to help you in your search-including published genealogies, compilations, indexes, websites and more.

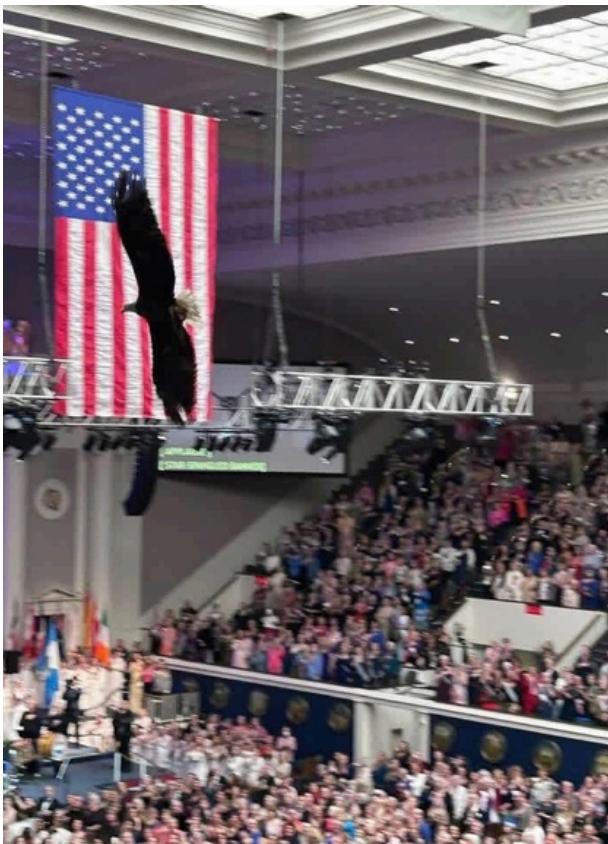
US Treasury Department

The Treasury Department was across the street from the Hotel Washington where our society members stayed.



The festive lighting cast a warm, patriotic glow as pedestrians passed by, wrapping the area in a welcoming 4th of July charm. Its beauty transformed the walkway into a brief, bright celebration.

Fly like an Eagle



At the opening night ceremony in DAR's Constitution Hall, during the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, an eagle burst into view and soared over the spectators, its powerful wings stirring the air as it glided toward its handler waiting on the stage. A wave of gasps rippled through the hall as everyone took in the magnificent spectacle.



The DAR Library in Washington, D.C.



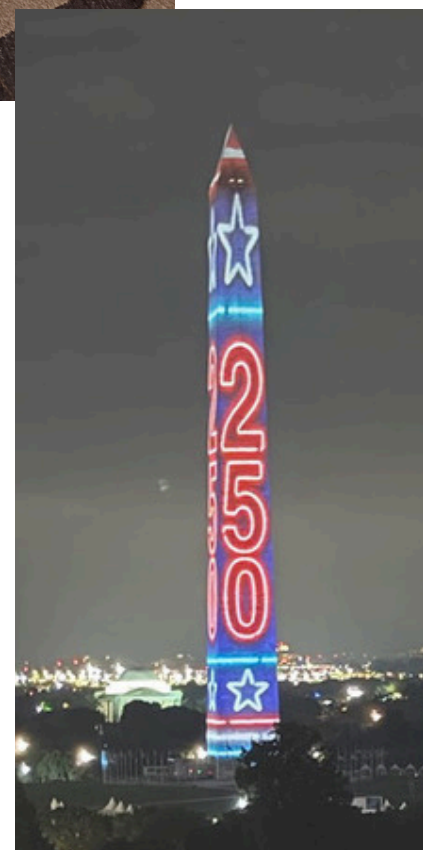
Now that's a LIBRARY! There's no way to look at this space without being struck by the sheer beauty of the architecture and the vast collection of genealogical resources available to visitors. We were thrilled to visit the facility before it closes for renovation.





Diana, Shelby and Ruth took the time to visit the National Archives to view the original Declaration of Independence. A truly moving experience....

The Washington Monument at night from our hotel rooftop observation deck.



**DAR's
Closing Night
Ceremony
Confetti Drop**



**Our Patriotism
was on full display
on National
Defense Night.**

**Below from L to R
SVGS/DAR Members who attended:
Diana Larson - Tara Rodi - Shelby Nelson - Ruth Caesar - LeAnne Koliha**



THE "ORIGINAL" STILLAGUAMISH STAR

LETTER FROM WILL SANGER, ARLINGTON PIONEER

Relates Some Real Early History

Blanchard, Iowa, April 22, 1935.
The Times, Arlington, Wash.

Dear Sirs: Enclosed find 10 cents in coin, for which please send me a late copy of your paper.

Owing to a serious illness, I am unable to do anything but sit around the house, and as I was 73 this month it is but natural that I live much in the past; and the most delightful time of all that past was just about the beginnings of Arlington (I was there). The railroad station agent and his wife, Tom Moran, wife and brother-in-law, were the only citizens of Arlington to get there before me. I published the first newspaper in Arlington (The Stillaguamish Star) which twinkled for about five months and then winked out, the town company having hired George Morrill to move The Times from Haller City to Arlington, with the understanding that I was

to be associate editor. I was also the first postmaster of Arlington, and my daughter (now Mrs. F. A. Stafford of Conway, Iowa) was the first child born in the town. She was born in a little four-room house built for me just at the foot of the south bluff by William Ogle, an old Union soldier.

In April, 1891, I took up a 40-acre pre-emption claim on the "big burn" two and three-quarters miles southeast of town, still holding my job on The Times, and when I proved up on the claim moved to Snohomish and in partnership with W. B. Shay published "The Republican." Later I purchased The Daily Sun, which I sold to Ed. Warner in August, 1892, and he changed the name to The Tribune. I left Snohomish in 1893 and went to Wallace, Idaho, (my family having gone back to

(Continued on Last Page)

LETTER FROM SANGER, ARLINGTON PIONEER

(Continued from Page One)

Iowa in the fall of '92) and remained in Wallace until the silver crash when with some 2000 others I took "my foot in my hand" and walked out, finally getting a temporary job in Dayton, Wash., from which place, as soon as I got money enough, I came back to Iowa.

And here I am after 42 years, yearning to see the Puget Sound country again, but knowing that I never will.

A few years ago I had a letter from Governor Louis F. Hart, an old Snohomish friend, giving me the whereabouts and whereabouts of the old Snohomish "gang"—Old Ferg (E. C. Ferguson) long since dead; Judge John Denney, Judge George Headlee, Sam Vestal, Billy Whitfield, John Frame, Clayte Packard, George Head, and many others. That is the last I have heard of any of them, except that a few weeks ago I saw an article by Frame (now Judge Frame, Juneau, Alaska) advocating the Townsend Old Age plan.

Wants News of Old Friends

I am wondering if any of the old-timers I knew in Arlington are still living—John and Newt Jones, Ira G. Preston, W. A. Handley; these are among the possibilities, though most of the old timers have gone to their reward a long time ago. George Morrill of The Times, I understand, joined in the Klondyke rush of '98 and struck it rich, but have heard nothing further of him.

For 14 years I published a paper in this town (The Herald), selling out in 1931, since which time I have been a gentleman of (altogether too much) leisure.

If there are any old-timers left who remember me, I would be glad indeed to hear from them.

Very truly,

WILL M. SANGER,
Box 11, Blanchard, Iowa.

A Real Pioneer Family



SHOWING FAMILY OF WILL M. SANGER
Arlington's First Editor

This photo can be found in the Arlington Times, August 29, 1940 edition.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MICHELE HEIDERER FOR SHARING THESE ITEMS WITH US. WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL TO THOSE OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTE.

New in our library.

We recently were given boxes of books from Leland Meitzler, the owner of Family Tree Publishing. Family Tree Publishing produces William Dollarhide's books, so it is not surprising that many of his books were included. Rather than give you the complete list of 200 books I am going to list just a few of them. Remember, you can always log into the library catalogue on our website and sort books by date of acquisition, allowing you to see all the books that have been added in 2026.

There were 2 boxes of books that went into the world section.
They included:

American Scots-Irish Research
Discovering Irish Origins
Irish American Ancestors
Map Guide to Swiss Parish Registers - Fribourg
Map Guide to Swiss Parish Registers - Zurich
Map Guide to Swiss Parish Registers - Bern I
Map Guide to Swiss Parish Registers - Bern II
Emigrants From France (Haute Rihn Department)



There were numerous research books including:
Roots for Kids
Searching Military Records
Social Networking for Genealogist
Finding Anyone, Anywhere, Anywhen

There are additions to the States collections:
Spokane County Cemetery Guide
Mecklenburg Place Name Indexes
A History of Shenandoah County Virginia
Pennsylvania Census & Substitute Name Lists
Minnesota Census & Substitute Name Lists
Montana Census & Substitute Name Lists
Virginia Census & Substitute Name Lists
Texas Census & Substitute Name Lists
Vermont Census & Substitute Name Lists
U.S. Territories Census & Substitute Name Lists



Tennessee Census & Substitute Name Lists
Kentucky Name Lists

We have also received 5 boxes from the South Whidbey Family History Center which are waiting to be added to our catalogue.



Our Patriots Remembered

Many Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society members, in the course of their research, have discovered ancestors who played small and large parts in American History. Below you will see the first installment of this series. If you would like to see your Patriot listed in our next installment please email info@stillygen.org

NAME	RANK	SERVICE RENDERED	LOCATION
<i>Ancestors of Bill Allen</i>			
Barnabas Allen	Private	Berkshire County, MA Militia	Fort Ticonderoga
Martin Way	Private	Berkshire County, MA Militia	Fort Ticonderoga
Ebenezer Spring	Private	Berkshire County, MA Militia	Fort Ticonderoga
Samuel Sedgewick		Provided supplies to Continental Army	
Johannes DeLaMater	Private	Ulster County, NY Militia Paymaster for Continental Army Hospital	
Ryneer VanTyne	Private	Somerset County, NJ Militia	Valley Forge Battle of Monmouth
Benjamin Jacquith		Lunenburg, MA Juror, Titheman, Surveyor Signed Oath of Allegiance	
John Wood	Private	Lunenburg, MA Militia	Lexington, 1775
Samuel Hart	Private	Hunterdon County, NJ Militia	

Ancestor of Phil Bartlow

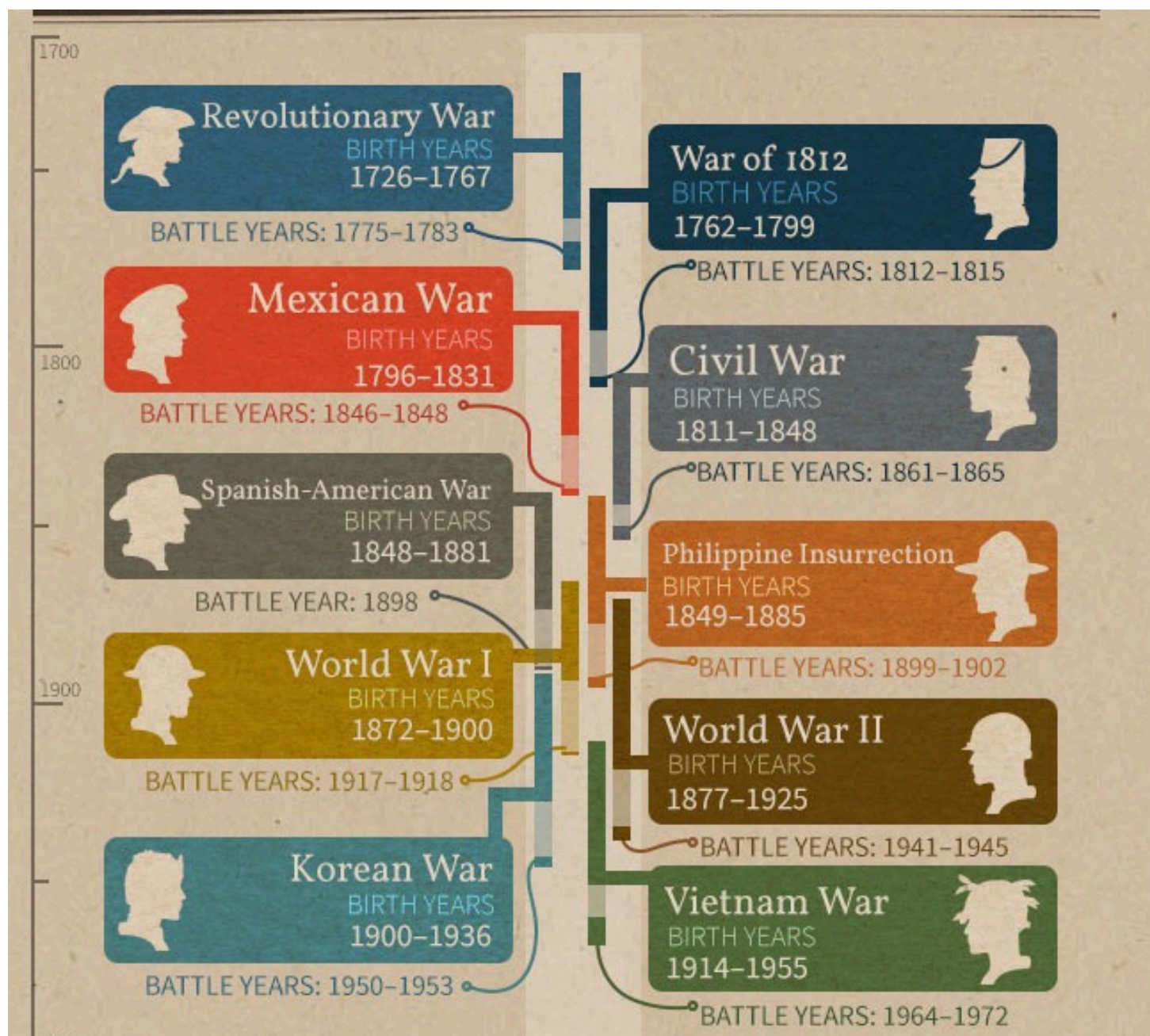
Lemuel Walter	Private	2nd Reg, Connecticut "Line"	Fort Ticonderoga
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Ancestors of Lisa Winslow Bartlow

Nathaniel Kingsley		MA Civil Patriotic Service Magistrate	
Eliab Robinson	Private	VT	Lexington, 1775
Johan Heinrich Ermantaudt		VA Sold a cow to the Patriots	

BIRTH YEARS *of* VETERANS

This is another way of searching for military records that many people might not be aware of. These are guidelines of the ages that possible volunteers/draftees could be, i.e. too old or too young to serve. Another good item to check if you are not sure that someone served in the military.



Meet our Genealogists

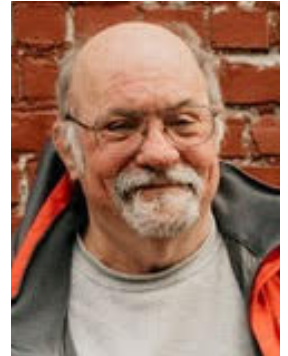
LeAnne Koliha – Genealogist Co-ordinator-

In researching my own family roots, I have spent much time working with both German and Alsatian/French records. I can also read Dutch. I have completed a 7 week course in Genealogical Principals from Boston University and over 30 hours of genealogical research training through DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). I volunteer as a DAR Washington State application reviewer. I am also a member of DAC (Daughters of American Colonists) and am the registrar for my local chapter, in charge of helping prospective members complete their application and find the required documents to prove their family tree. My background makes me ideal for someone looking for help in joining a lineage society.



Bill Allen- Genealogist -

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, CA. Received a BFA in Photography from the University of New Mexico in 1979. Received a BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from the Ohio State University, 1987 and 1990. Retired from Innovasea Systems, Inc. (previously HydroAcoustic Technology, Inc.) as Chief Engineer in May, 2026. Became interested in genealogy in 2010 after the death of my father. Accepted into the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) in 2012, and served as the chapter genealogist for the Mt. Vernon, WA chapter of the SAR, 2014 – 2015. Began volunteering as a librarian for the Stilliguamish Valley Genealogical Society in 2025.



Maureen MacDonald – Genealogist -

I hold a certificate in Genealogical Research from the University of Washington and have over 40 years of continuing education in genealogy and have taught classes and presented lectures in Salt Lake City for 20 years. I have done research in: Washington, Idaho, Wisconsin, Michigan, Maine, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Kansas, North Dakota, Arizona, Illinois, Montana, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Louisiana and all the New England states. I have researched British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick and British Isle records. I have worked with Quaker, LDS and Catholic church records, as well as Mayflower and King's Daughters (original female immigrants from France to New France) records. I am experienced in researching both Revolutionary and Civil War records.



Shelby Nelson- Genealogist-

As an educator for 22 years with a Master's in Secondary Education, I bring a strong foundation in research and critical thinking to my work as a genealogist. I have 15 years of experience researching my own family tree, as well as helping others discover and document their family histories. I am very experienced accessing records in US states and have experience in accessing and reading Czech vital records. I have completed extensive genealogical training, and rigorous instruction in the Genealogical Proof Standard through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), where accurate documentation, evidence analysis, and source citations are fundamental in lineage research. For the past two years, I have served as my DAR chapter's Lineage Research Chair and Registrar, assisting prospective members in documenting and proving Revolutionary War lineage. I am also on the State DAR Application Review Team and currently serve as State Chair of Specialty Research, leading research in the contributions of underrepresented and minority groups during the Revolutionary War. I enjoy solving challenging genealogical puzzles, finding obscure or overlooked records, using sound research methodology to break down brick walls, and helping others connect with their family history.



Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!
Newsletter submissions for the **Sept/Oct** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **August 25th**.



Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stillygen/>



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JULY/AUGUST 2026