

VOLUME 37 NO 4, JULY/AUGUST 2025

# The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 34, ARLINGTON WA 98223

360.435.4838  
[www.stillygen.org](http://www.stillygen.org)

6111 188TH PL NE, ARLINGTON WA 98223

*Happy*  
*4th of July!*



# Upcoming SVGS Events:

**Mark your calendar for NOON so you don't miss the BBQ on July 8, 2025 at the SVGS library.**

Come join us for our annual July Summer Potluck on Tuesday, July 8th 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.

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**Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup>**

**1PM**

**Sons of the American Revolution and Revolutionary Era Genealogy**

*Speaker: Jason Rice*

Founded in 1889, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) stands as a prominent non-profit, non-political organization deeply committed to the core tenets of volunteerism, a comprehensive understanding of American History, and fervent Patriotism. Since its inception, the SAR has cultivated an extensive international network, currently encompassing over 550 chapters strategically located throughout North America and Europe. The SAR boasts a substantial membership exceeding 35,000 individuals, each of whom has meticulously documented their lineage, demonstrating a direct ancestral connection to the Patriots who played pivotal roles in the American Revolutionary War. These esteemed ancestors encompass a wide spectrum of individuals who either rendered military service in the Continental Army or



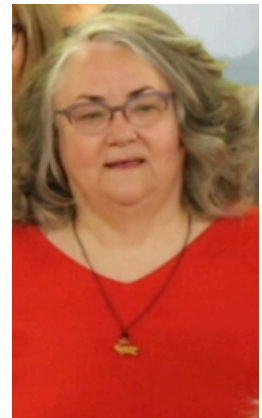
**Jason Rice**

Navy, or who actively contributed to the cause of American independence through various forms of support, including political activism, financial contributions, and the provision of essential resources. The SAR serves as a vital link to the nation's foundational history, fostering a profound appreciation for the sacrifices and ideals of the Revolutionary War era among its members and the broader public. Through its diverse programs and initiatives, the organization actively promotes historical education, civic engagement, and a deep-seated sense of national pride.

**The speaker portion of the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society monthly meeting will be in person only at the SVGS Library.**

**Our business meeting and board meeting will follow the presentation at 2 PM.**

# GETTING TO KNOW LESLIE BOCK



Leslie has been a Society member since 2023 and in May was elected to our Executive Board.  
As Vice President of the Library she is also our Head Librarian.  
We thought you might like to know a bit about her.

Q.) How long have you been researching your family history?

I started to play with genealogy about 17 years ago. Got more serious about 10 years ago. Then realized my technique was all over the place. So when I no longer worked I went on-line and found Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy and now here I am, volunteering at the Society.

Q.) Which country and state (or province) records have you researched?

I have only researched the United States, Colorado, Iowa and Nebraska

Q.) Did you encounter a brick wall while researching your grandmother?

If so, how did you break through it? Yes, a very frustrating wall. I have not cracked it either. I cannot find my Great-Grandmother's Birthdate. It seems that I will have to go down the path of getting everybody's birth certificate to get to my Great-Grandmother's. Till then nobody will give me that info.

Q.) What is the most valuable tip or technique that has helped you with your research?

Never give up. Turn over ALL the rocks.

Q.) Are you retired or are you still working?

Retired after 28 yrs working at the Snohomish library. Retired in 2018

Q.) Who is your favorite ancestor?

My Grandmother Keller's family the Irish Dugan's her Father and Grandfather Daniel and David Dugan.

# Family Search Library

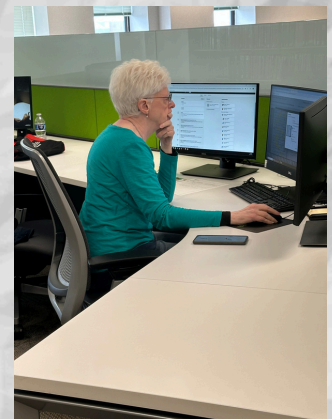
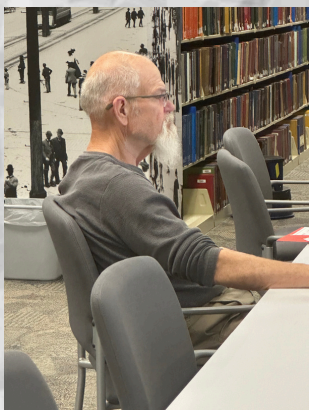
## What a Trip!



In May some of our society members went to Salt Lake City.

Those on this trip were:

Brent Beard, Leilani Lucrisia, Bob & Leslie Bock, Laura Mogk, Phil & Lisa Bartlow, Wendy Anthony, Susan Shelby, LeAnne Koliha, Maureen MacDonald, Ruth Caesar, Flynn Kennedy and Gerri and Bill Gilpin

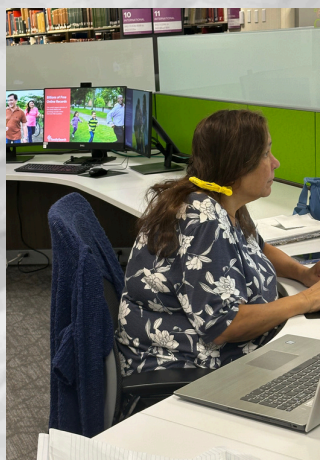


Lots of research done and family history uncovered.  
Turns out that we are all related.

Continued from page 4



Pictured above from left to right: Flynn Kennedy, Susan Shelby, Bob Bock, Leslie Bock, Maureen MacDonald, Lisa Bartlow, Lelani Lucrisia, Brent Beard, Ruth Caesar and Phil Bartlow.



# Meet our Genealogist's

## **Flynn Kennedy** – *Head Genealogist*

I hold a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and have 14 years of experience working with people to find their family history. I have experience researching Civil War soldiers using the Society's War of the Rebellion, 70 Volume Collection, which covers both Union and Confederate Troops, as well as photo dating, and finding solutions to your brick walls. I have experience in researching information from the following states: Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Tennessee. I have also completed projects about the people and the history of Snohomish County and Washington State. I can help you decipher 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century handwritten documents.



## **LeAnne Koliha** – *Genealogist*

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.



## **Maureen MacDonald** – *Genealogist*

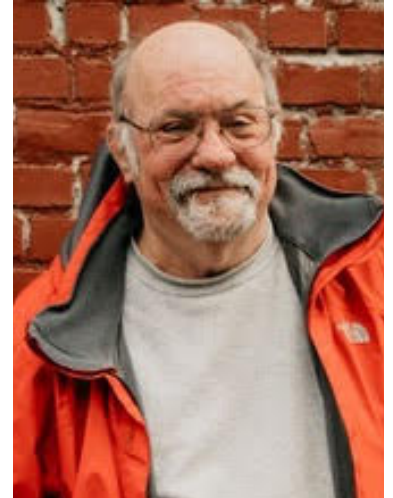
I hold a certificate in Genealogical Research from the University of Washington and have over 18 years of continuing education in genealogy. I have done research in: Washington, Idaho, Wisconsin, Michigan, Maine, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Kansas, North Dakota, Arizona, Georgia and all the New England states. I have researched Canadian 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.



# Meet our new librarian Bill Allen

Bill has been a member of the society since 2021 and recently has volunteered to become a librarian.

His regular library shift is on Thursday afternoons from 1-4 PM.



Q.) How long have you been researching your family history?  
16 years (2009).

Q.) Which country and state (or province) records have you researched?  
In the US: MA, VT, CT, NY, PA, VA, MD, IL, IN, OH, MO, KS, NM, CO, NH, TX, WA, OR, CA, NV, PA. In England: Wales, Scotland, Norfolk.

Q.) Did you encounter a brick wall while researching your grandmother? If so, how did you break through it?

No, other than my paternal grandmother's divorce in 1948. Had to jump through some hoops to get info on that.

Q.) What is the most valuable tip or technique that has helped you with your research?

Hmmm, patience and perseverance.

Q.) Are you retired or are you still working?

Both - semi-retired and working part-time.

Q.) Who is your favorite ancestor?

My 2nd great grand-aunt. Henrietta Minerva Allen. Not a direct ancestor, but my g2-grandfather's sister and one hell of a woman. All of my previous family historians ignored her in their research, but she went to college 1862 - 1866, became a teacher, had 3 children and buried 3 husbands. Died in 1932 at the age of 83.



Are you researching a possible Civil War Veteran in your family tree? Were they buried in Washington State? If so, you are in luck. There is a free website you need to check out. <https://civilwarvets.com>

Brian Houk, a SVGS member, does research for the website on veterans primarily buried in Snohomish County while other volunteers cover other parts of the state. The website provides documents connecting the veterans to their parents, siblings, spouses, and children, as well as documents proving or disproving veterans' status.



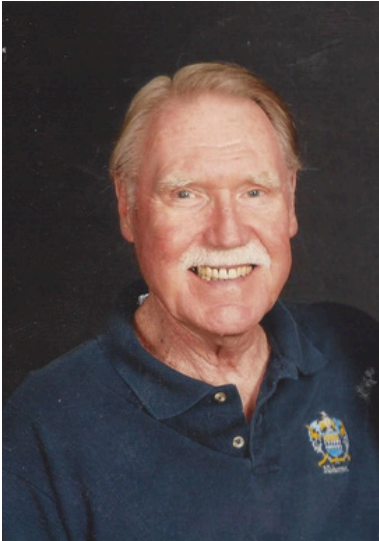
## **Witches, Rakes, and Rogues**

True Stories of Scam, Scandal, Murder, and Mayhem in Boston 1630-1775

D. Brenton Simons

The title says it all. This is a look at the not so puritanical Puritans in early Boston. Scams included counterfeiting as well as blackmail. Men committed bigamy and women had children with men other than their husband. Simons names and provides details as well as the background behind the stories. However, some of the “crimes” detailed in this book are not all behaviors that we would consider crimes. There were “witches” and women and children who were possessed long before the Salem trials in 1692. Ann Hopkins, wife of the second governor of Connecticut was diagnosed with “distempered melancholy” and was returned to her brother’s house in Boston. While no one was able to find a cure for her, the cause was universally believed that her “giving herself wholly to reading and writing and had written many books” and that if she had “attended her household affairs and such things as belong to women” this would not have happened. You may not find your ancestors named in this book, but it brings to light a side of Puritan life we do not often see.

# In Memory of Bill Grant



*Bill was a part of SVGS for more than 9 years. He served as Education Chair for several years. With his wife, Michele, he was a volunteer librarian and could be counted on to be in the library Saturday afternoons. He had deep roots in New England and Nova Scotia and was a great resource for people looking to research those areas. He was a member of the monthly New England Research Group where his knowledge was especially appreciated. His cheerful smile will be missed by all who knew him.*

John William “Bill” Grant passed away on May 27<sup>th</sup> at his home in Sisco Heights in his sleep with his loving wife Michele (Cozad) Grant at his side.

Bill was born Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1938 in Rochester, New York. He was the son of William Anthony Grant and Irene (MacNaughton) Grant. He excelled and lettered in football, basketball and baseball at Irondequoit HS. . Bill moved as a teen to California. After college he married Heather Dawn Thompson and welcomed their first child William Douglas Grant followed by Julie Dawn (Athmann). His career took him to the Midwest and then to Washington where he worked at Crane Aerospace (ELDEC). Switching careers to Real Estate he became a broker with Century 21 where he taught educational classes then on to Olympia where he was the Director of Education for the state of Washington. He received his MBA from Citi University and was the regional director for Coldwell Banker.

Bill is survived by his spouse Michele, son Bill (Karen) and daughter Julie (Brad Athmann). He also leaves 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Two step-children James Cozad (Tammy), Lisa James(Smokey), special step-grandsons David James (Cheri) and Brian (Bubba) James and 5 step-children.

Bill was an expert genealogist and counted Benjamin Franklin and 5 other signers of the Declaration of Independence among his “Family Tree”. He attended Sisco Heights Community Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society. A private memorial service will be held by the family.

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# 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](mailto:newsletter@stillygen.org) by **August 25th**.



**Find us on Facebook:**

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



**Check out our Blog:**

<https://stillygen.wordpress.com/>

**This year SVGS is celebrating it's 40<sup>th</sup> year of operation.  
Should we have a party?**

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