

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 34, ARLINGTON WA 98223

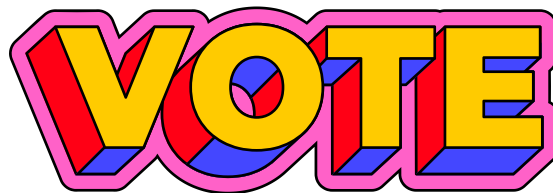
360.435.4838
www.stillygen.org

6111 188TH PL NE, ARLINGTON WA 98223

**Mark your calendar for NOON so you don't miss the
Potluck on May 13, 2025 at the SVGS library.**



**The Society's Annual Meeting, Election of Officers
and a Silent Auction will follow.**



**The following slate of candidates
has been presented for election:**

President-Ruth Caesar

Vice President of the Library-Leslie Bock

Secretary-LeAnne Koliha

Upcoming SVGS Events:

SPRING CLEANING DAY

Wednesday, May 7th 10 AM



Yes, your genealogy society library needs spring cleaning too, just like your house. Dusting, vacuuming and other tasks to choose from. Outside windows need washing too. We will supply the cleaning supplies but please bring your own gloves.

Lunch will be provided.

If you have a question please contact Ruth Caesar at (360)547-9562



Tuesday June 10th 1PM

Meet the signers of the Declaration of Independence

In an 1811 letter to Adams, Benjamin Rush recounted the signing in stark fashion, describing it as a scene of "pensive and awful silence". Rush said the delegates were called up, one after another, and then filed forward somberly to subscribe what each thought was their ensuing death warrant. Fifty-six men from each of the original 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers and two were cousins. One was an orphan. The average age of a signer was 45. Seventeen fought in the Revolution. The British captured five of them. Eleven signers had their homes and property destroyed.



Sally Buckingham

Sally Buckingham was born in 1952. She has been involved as a research genealogist since 2008 and been a serious student of American History since 1996. She is a member of several lineage societies; National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), National Society Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC), Daughters of the War of 1812, and Colonial Dames XVII. She has served as an officer in each of these groups.

Join us in June when Sally brings the signers of the Declaration of Independence to life.

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

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

200 Years of Norwegian Immigration in 2025

In October 1825, a 54-foot sloop called the *Restauration* sailed into New York Harbor. It arrived after an arduous 14-week journey from Stavanger, Norway. This small ship had set sail on July 4, 1825, carrying 52 passengers.

Over the years, most Norwegians immigrated to America for economic opportunity, but this first group, called “Sloopers” today, was made up of religious dissenters. Often called the Norwegian *Mayflower*, the *Restauration*’s arrival in New York was the first in a huge wave of Norwegian immigration to both the United States and later Canada. Within a century, more than 800,000 Norwegians followed. Among European nations, only Ireland saw more of its population immigrate to the Americas.



In 2025, the modern replica of the original *Restauration* will retrace the journey of the first Norwegian immigrants to the United States from Stavanger to New York. Photo: S.E. Klungtveit, courtesy of Restauration Friends Association (Venneforening).



The SVGS Library has many resources to help you research your Norwegian ancestry. Call to make an appointment with a librarian. (360)435-4838.

Stilly Star

Under the umbrella of Crossings 200 and its several partner organizations — including Sons of Norway — many events will take place in Norway and the United States to celebrate the bicentennial. Among them are concerts, lectures, exhibits and ceremonies. A detailed modern replica of the original *Restauration* will retrace the journey from Stavanger to New York, departing on July 4 this year but making stops in many other ports before arriving at New York on Oct. 9.

Here in the Puget Sound region, more can be learned about Nordic immigration at a Crossings 200 partner, the National Nordic Museum in Ballard. Nordic Journeys is a permanent exhibit that explores the cultural and economic reasons many emigrated from Norway. The exhibit covers those regions in the United States that Norwegians and other Scandinavians favored after reaching this country, including the Pacific Northwest.

For more information about all the events and 200 years of Norwegian immigration to the Americas, visit crossings.norwegianamerican.com. For more on the *Restauration* journey, visit restauration.no. Click the U.S. flag on the far right for English.

An Allen in the White House? Well, Almost....

by-Bill Allen

Mary was beautiful, bright and flirtatious. The governor was, well, the governor, and had also been the president of Princeton University. Even though they were both married, it was chemistry. Their romance blossomed and lasted for many years, and is chronicled in the letters between them that are today housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

In 1912, the governor ran for another elected office, the President of the United States, and won. His name was Thomas Woodrow Wilson, and his friendship with Mary Allen Hulbert Peck is the subject of much speculation and rumor even today.

When Wilson's wife died in 1914, there was intense speculation surrounding the 'affair' between Mary and Woodrow, but in the end, Mary was bundled off to Paris by Wilson's chief of staff to remove her from the picture, at least temporarily.

When it came time for the next election, it was clear that Wilson had to remarry, but to who? From his letters to Mary during that time, he was still enchanted by her. She had secured a divorce from Mr. Peck in 1913, so was definitely available. But, it was not to be. It would have been political suicide for Wilson to marry a divorcee shortly before the election, but it also would have been a terrible political move for him to run as a single man – it just wasn't done. And so, Edith Bolling Galt was selected as the least likely to offend the public. In retrospect, it was probably far better for the country. After Wilson's stroke in 1919, Edith, for all intents and purposes became President. It is doubtful that the social butterfly, Mary, would have had the strength of courage to take on this task.

Mary was left out of all this and Wilson even sent her a letter of apology for marrying Galt. But nonetheless, Wilson was totally devoted to Edith and his friendship with Mary eventually faded. Many years later, after Wilson's death, Mary and Edith met for the first time, but the beautiful Mary had faded also, and Edith found her "frumpy and plain".

Interestingly enough, after her divorce from Mr. Peck, Mary had her name legally changed back to Hulbert.

After Wilson's death in 1924, his official biographer began the arduous task of retrieving the letters Wilson had sent to Mary over the years, but she refused to give them up. She may have destroyed some of the most incriminating letters also. After several years of negotiations, she finally parted with them for a price - \$31,500 – and the caveat that the contents not be made public until 1980. That stipulation was followed, but there was nothing terribly revealing in the surviving letters once they came to light.

Mary died in 1939, living with her son, who had become a teacher at the Connecticut School for Boys. Allen had finally married around 1928 and died in 1972 without having had any children.



Mary Allen Hulbert & Woodrow Wilson, c. 1908

Most of the information for this paper came from “Love and Guilt : Woodrow Wilson and Mary Hulbert”, Frances W. Saunders, American Heritage Magazine, April/May 1979, Volume 30, Issue 3. Accessed online by the author of this paper, May 2017.

The genealogical connection was discovered in 2016 by the author.

(c) 2017, William W. Allen

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The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS) has seen another great year fly by. Many new members have taken an active interest. They are participating in our special interest groups (DNA and New England) as well as volunteering to become librarians. Some were even able to pitch in on our group work days like the recent Yard Day Clean-up on April 23rd. (See photos on page 9).

This past summer saw SVGS getting back in our old groove. We once again were able to participate at the Arlington Street Fair. The event was very enjoyable for the members who volunteered their time, allowing us a wonderful opportunity to make our presence known in the community.

The July cook-out at our library was another good day for all who attended. Arlington Mayor, Don Vanney and City Councilperson, Debora Nelson were able to come and tour our facility and join the festivities with our members.

Happily, I can report that our Weller's Funeral Cards have been loaded to our website so now the information on them can readily be accessed from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. We are grateful to the many volunteers who assisted with this project, but the completion of it was due in large part to the tenacity of LeeRoy Kind who truly buckled down to see it through.

As a reminder, the Society has many scanning devices available at our library. And our members are always able to access these devices in order to preserve their own family photo histories. Remember, if you need help with the process, you can make an appointment to have a librarian assist you. Additionally, keep in mind that two hours of free assistance is available to any SVGS Member on an annual basis.

We rely on the generosity of our members and grants from civic minded donors for day-to-day expenses (i.e.: rent and overhead). Our recent experience with providers of grant funding has made it abundantly clear that there can be no expectation of full funding of our financial needs from those outside sources. Therefore, in FY2025-26 we will need to strive for more direct internal sources of funding. I'm asking all of you to support us in any way you can; by attending our monthly presentations, volunteering when you are able, and telling your friends what a great place we offer for learning about genealogical resources, making friends and sharing ideas. Your donations mean a great deal. Remember, you can make monetary donations by going to www.stillygen.org and clicking the "Donate" tab. Or, mail a check to SVGS, PO Box 34, Arlington, WA.

This has been another busy year, we have added 4 new librarians to our group and are always looking for people who are wanting to volunteer.

New acquisitions:

For the 2024-25 year we have added 1,713 new items. We received donations from the Northwest Room of the Everett Public Library, resulting in many additions to our Snohomish County Collection. In addition, we were able to trade many of our duplicate books with Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. The digitized Arlington and Stanwood newspapers that are now available in the library, as well, as the large number of periodicals that were donated by the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society.

Reorganization of materials:

We completed the organization of the periodicals and family history sections in the Special Collections room. The Special Collection room also holds our collection of Northwest Tribal materials.

The Snohomish County Room has been rearranged with the goal of making the collection easier to access. Stillaguamish Valley communities are marked with a green label. Pioneer family histories have been put into their own section within the Snohomish County Room.

Maintenance of our books and equipment:

Thanks to the generosity of our members the books that needed repair this year was paid for by individual donations. A total of 19 books costing \$ 950.00 were repaired without cost to the society.

We once again have 4 computers, including 1 laptop. The laptop allows the New England Research group to make their meetings available via Zoom.

We are seeing a steady increase in requests for research help both online and in person. It is always a great feeling to know that you have helped someone in their search for their family history.

We continue to look for new ways to make our resources available to our members and the community. We continue to host weekly Thursday morning groups, both in the library and online, as well as monthly New England Research and DNA groups. If you would like to see an additional special interest group let us know.

Thank you for all you do!

Annual Reports

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Membership Report

Michele Grant

SVGS currently has 140 active personal plans of that number 66 are Lifetime Individual Memberships and 3 Lifetime Family Memberships. Additionally there are 45 Organizational Memberships.

Please keep in mind that it is all of our duty as members to solicit new members. You can do this by keeping a couple of SVGS brochures with you and when the opportunity arises invite people to visit our website or better yet come and see our great facility with librarians who are willing to help you get started on your family tree.

Publicity Report

Diana Keehn

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society is always looking for ways to attract more patrons and grow our membership. The best way to spread the word has been with the help of our dedicated members who share their love for family history. Our volunteers have been important for keeping everyone updated and involved.

We use social media, email newsletters, local publications and posters to promote our meetings and events. If you follow us on Facebook, don't forget to like and share our posts with your friends and any local groups that might be interested. Our Google search report showed that our Google profile had 1,076 visitors in the last six months. Most events are also shared on various websites and blogs, like the Washington State Genealogical Society's blog and ConferenceKeeper.com for virtual presentations. We had members attending local business association meetings, sending out email reminders for different interest groups and participating in local community events.

Signs provided by the City of Arlington and our sandwich boards in front of the library also help catch people's attention and have brought visitors to our library. Our library volunteers enthusiastically promote the society. They are great at showing patrons the resources available, providing research and encouraging new memberships. We're always looking for more help with publicity, so if you have any suggestions or want to get involved, let us know!

Yard Clean-up Day

April 23rd



Pictured clockwise-
Leslie & Bob Bock,
Robin Gaynor,
LeeRoy Kind,
Dick Smith,
Lisa Bartow,
Dan Caesar
& Jason Rice.

Not Picture-
Brian Watson
& Ruth Caesar



Dick Smith up a tree "pruning".



Jason removing a rhody root ball with his handy winch.



Brian grooming the bushes.



Busy yard crew members

Send us your submissions!

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



Find us on Facebook:

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



Check out our Blog:

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



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MAY/JUNE 2025