

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The days are getting longer now so it's time
to come out of hibernation and
get busy with your
genealogy "to do" list.

Do you know that SVGS has special
interest group meetings you can join?

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.

Upcoming SVGS Events:

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Thomas MacEntee will be speaking virtually at our January 14th meeting. Our business meeting will follow the presentation.

**TUESDAY, January 14th
1 PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting**

Thomas' topic will be:
After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy

Have you ever considered what will happen to your years of genealogy research once you're gone? Learn how to ensure that your hard work carries on. Through a combination of planning, common sense, and new technologies, we'll review how to create an action plan for preserving your genealogy research.

What happens when a "tech guy" with a love for history gets laid off during The Great Recession of 2008? You get Thomas MacEntee, a genealogy professional who's also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder and more.



Thomas MacEntee



Sue McNeil

**TUESDAY, February 11th
1 PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting**

The speaker portion of the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society monthly meeting will be in person only at the SVGS Library in February. Society member Sue McNeil will be speaking.

Sue's topic will be: Ancestry Pro Tools - Are They Worth It?

Ancestry Pro Tools is a monthly add-on subscription. Are they worth paying an additional \$10 per month? That depends on your needs and goals. There are tools for a tree checker, smart filters, reports, DNA matches and more.

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

Death by what?

By Phil Bartlow

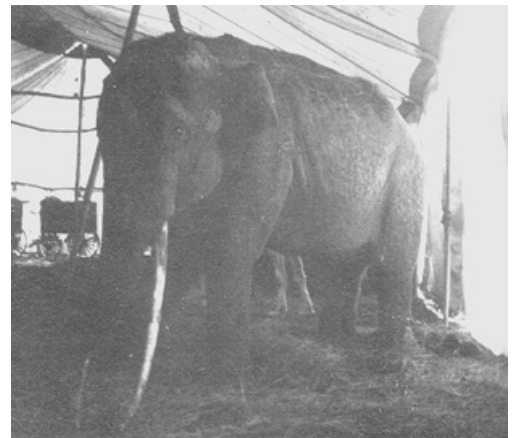
Have you ever looked at a death certificate and wondered what the numbers mean that are written in the “cause of death” area? If you have a certificate in your records, pull it out and see what that number might be. Believe it or not, one of the reasons for that number is because of the “poor, unreadable” handwriting of many of the doctors or officials that filled in this section.

More importantly, the number is an ICD (International Classification of Diseases) code, representing the actual cause of death. Besides the readability issue, the codes are used in the collection of mortality statistics and to maintain a standard of medical terminology. They are most crucial for a genealogist or family member who might be putting together a family health history.

I have a copy of a death certificate from the state of Iowa for 1909, but it doesn't have a number on it, even though ICD numbers had been in use since 1900. The death certificate is for my great-grandfather Francis William Bartlow. Fortunately, we can read what was written. The certificate states: “The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: internal injuries – sustained by being crushed by an elephant.”

That's right, an elephant! I'm guessing this could be the reason there is no ICD number on this certificate. The Polk County Coroner, Iver Newlen, may not have even tried to look that up in the ICD manual.

I highly doubt there was more than one reported case of “being crushed by an elephant” in all of 1909, throughout the whole country.



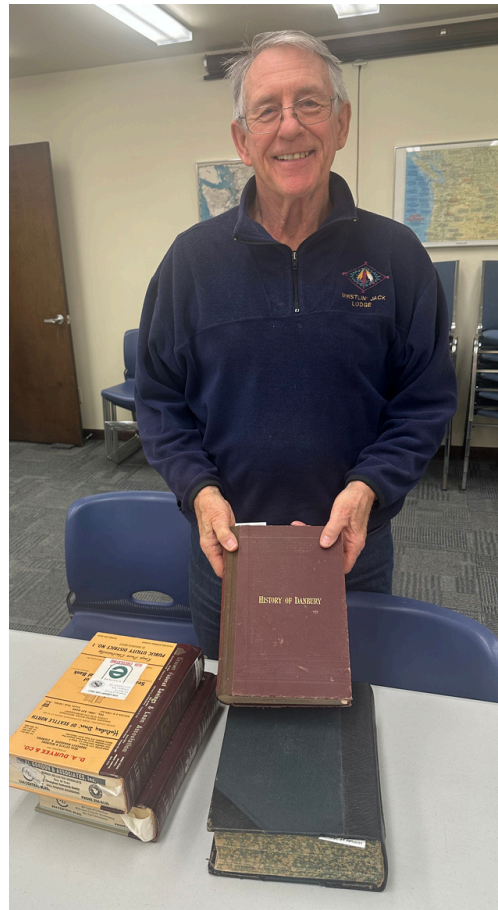
Tom Tom
Yankee Robinson Circus
Circa 1909

Adopt - A- Book

By LeAnne Koliha

The library would like to thank all the members who participated in the adopt a book program. Thanks to your generosity 19 books in need of repairs were restored by David Richardson. Your giving saved the society more than \$950.00. We ended 2024 with all of our book repairs completed. In addition to repairing our books, David also worked with individual members to restore their antique books and Bibles. While the society does not normally endorse businesses, David is an exception.

You can contact him at:
dlr32543@comcast.net.



David Richardson

RootsTech 2025

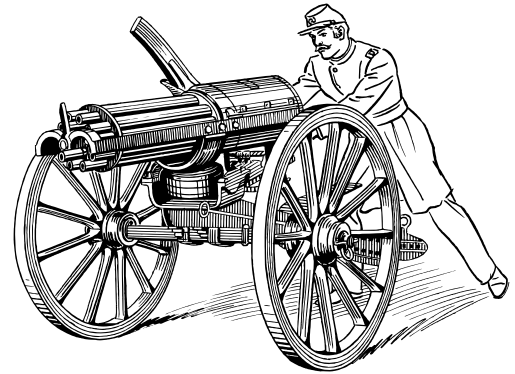
The largest family history conference of the year, will be here before you know it. In fact, registration opened on September 25, 2024. The online RootsTech conference will be available for free on RootsTech.org. The paid in-person conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 6–8, 2025.

The following link will take you to the online (not in person) free registration:
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/pass>

Spotlight on.....

War of the Rebellion Series

By LeAnne Koliha



One of the largest collections we have at the library is the War of the Rebellion. The three series that we have are: Official Records of the Union & Confederate Armies, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies, and the Atlas which is located in our oversized collection.

The army section is divided into four sections. Series I covers military operations in 53 volumes. However, many of the volumes are printed in numerous parts resulting in a total of 111 books. The volumes are chronologically arranged by campaigns and theaters. Each campaign contains Union records followed by Confederate records. Series II covers prisoners of war and political prisoners. (Vol. 8 covers the post-war trial of Cpt. Wirz, Commandant of the Andersonville Prison Camp as well as the trials of the conspirators in the Lincoln assassination plot.) Series III covers miscellaneous union correspondence about the organization and logistics of the war effort. Series IV is the miscellaneous Confederate correspondence.

The Navy section is divided into two sections. The first 3 volumes of Section I follow the activities of the cruisers on the high seas throughout the war. The remaining volumes cover Union and Confederate action on the rivers and coasts. Section II covers an assortment of materials including muster rolls and Confederate attempts to secure foreign recognition.

The Atlas covers army actions and is divided into four parts: field operations, topographical maps, military divisions and departments, and miscellaneous drawings.

The problem with this collection is that it is very difficult to use. The General Index for the Armies series lists names, places, and units but not subjects and only directs you to the series and volume. Individual book indices contain gaps and are incomplete. The General Index for the Navies, like the index for the Armies, only lists series and volume. However, each book starts with a list of the contents of the preceding volumes. The Index included in the Atlas is fairly complete but does not include grid coordinates.

Even with all the work required to use the series, if you have Civil War ancestors you need to check these books.

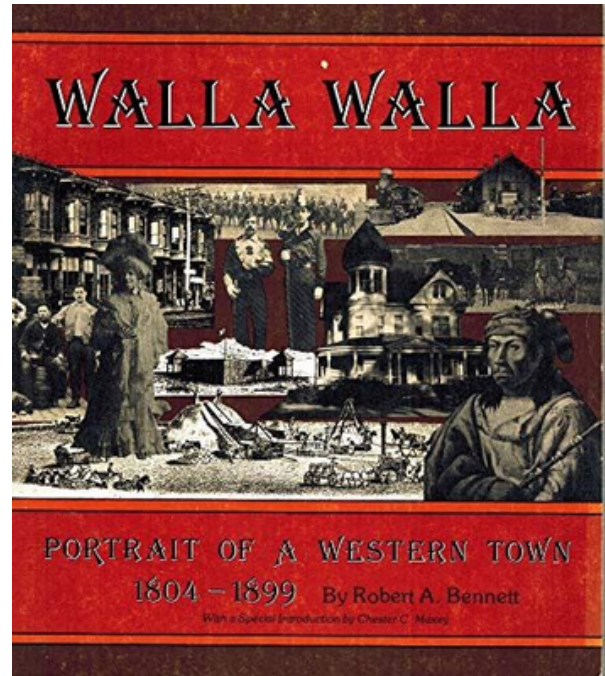
Book Talk

By Maureen MacDonald

Walla Walla, A Portrait of a Western Town 1804-1899

by Robert A Bennett

This book chronicles the development of the town and its culture in the southwestern corner of what became Washington Territory, from before statehood to the end of the century. After Lewis and Clark traveled thru the area to the Pacific Ocean, it became known as Oregon Territory, Walla Walla was already there. The narrative starts with the influence of the fur trade. Then provides early information on the local Indian tribes and their treaties, then the locating of Fort Walla Walla. The pioneers were developing farms, large wheat fields and smaller truck gardens for themselves and the local markets.



In 1861, gold was discovered enticing more settlers. Thus continues the similar growth of new communities as the settlement of the western frontier expands.

What drew me to this story was the perspective of the settlers as their area grew. Around the turn of the century, many developing areas published books celebrating their growth in time increments, 100 years, or more. Many of those books that I have read or reviewed, deal with a few prominent men, maybe women, and their government progress. This narrative deals more with the peoples settling there and their adjustments to the geography and weather and the many ethnicities choosing to settle there. They brought their many occupations enabling the area to grow into a modern community by the turn of the century.

My ancestors settled there in 1875, coming from war torn Tennessee, and stayed for the rest of their lives. Later generations migrated further west. Mostly settling around Puget Sound. The book gave me an incredible look at their daily life in Walla Walla.

YOUR LIBRARY NEEDS YOU

Do you enjoy researching your family history?

Can you log-on to a computer?

Do you like to talk to people?

If you answered yes to 2 of those questions you are just the person, the library is looking for. Our librarians volunteer for 3-hour shifts. During your shift you may be asked to help someone research on our computers. Don't worry we will train you how to use the websites that we have. You may be asked to find books or maps about a certain subject. Again, don't worry we will show you how to use the library catalogue and how the books are arranged.

What happens if you do volunteer to be a librarian?

First you will be asked if you prefer morning or afternoon shifts. Then you will be asked which day you would like to work. Working with your preferences, you will be assigned a shift with an experienced librarian who will show you how the library works, and answer questions. You may be asked to take on additional shifts but please remember, you are never alone. Your work partner is always willing to help you solve our visitors' problems.

The best part of being a volunteer is the great people you get to work with.

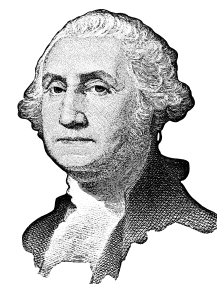
Genealogy Mysteries

If you're interested in genealogy mysteries here are a few authors you might like to investigate. Check with your local library to see what they have available.

Nathan Dylan Goodwin
Lisa Brook

M. K. Jones
Ryan Litterell
Brynn Bonner

Steve Robinson
M. J, Lee



President's Day

February 17, 2025

By Ruth Caesar

Have you discovered which US President (or President's) you are related to?

It may be easier than you think. Here's how I found that I may be related to 42 US Presidents.

If you have a Family Search account you're ready to go, if not, you can set up an account for free and just enter a few generations of your ancestors and get connected in their database. Then this wonderful resource will be within your reach.

Follow this link to: [Relative Finder.org](https://www.familysearch.org/relativefinder). Then click on: Sign in with Family Search .org.

On the left side bar, below Group Filters, click the Expand All tab to see all the possible groups that you can view.

Scroll down and click on US Presidents. That will generate a list of Presidents that you are related to, based on the Family Search database. By clicking on the Presidents name it will generate a chart showing your common ancestor. These charts have live links back into FamilySearch, where you can check the sources and verify the information's accuracy.

To the right you can see my 2nd cousin 6x removed President William Henry Harrison. He was my closest presidential relative.

It's fun to peak into this database because there may be many famous people you can find in your family tree.

If you would like one-on-one assistance digging into the Relative Finder resource I would be happy to help you myself. Just drop by the SVGS library any Thursday between 10 AM and Noon.

Ruth

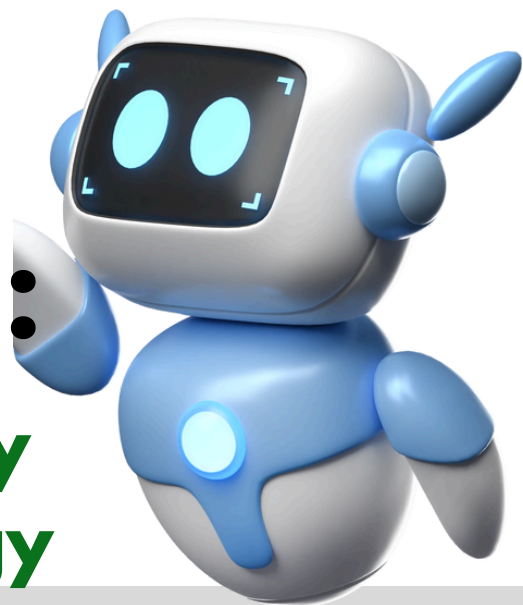
The screenshot shows the 'Relative Finder' interface on a web browser. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Groups', 'Requests', 'Contact', 'Help', and 'Contact'. Below this, a header section identifies the user as 'Ruth Sill' (1818-1977) and shows a '2nd Cousin 6 times removed' relationship to 'U.S. President William Henry Harrison'. A large family tree chart is displayed, showing a complex web of relationships between various individuals, including several US Presidents like William Henry Harrison, James Monroe, and James Madison. The chart uses icons to represent different types of relationships and includes links to view more details for each person.

YOUR 2024 DONATIONS



In 2024, member contributions were greatly appreciated as we were unable to secure any operating grant funding during FY2023-2024. Many of you opened your hearts and pocketbooks to the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society for which we are truly grateful.

Ruth Caesar
President, SVGS



AI Made Easy:

Boosting Your Genealogy Research with Technology

OGS Virtual Seminar 2025

Generative AI tools are being used more and more, in genealogy. Renowned genealogy expert (and familiar face)

Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD, will spend the day helping us learn how to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool in genealogy.

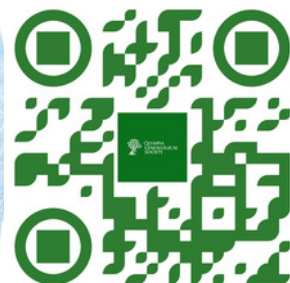
Topics will include:

- essential AI tools for genealogy
- basic AI prompts
- the ethics of AI
- using AI to help preserve family memories.

**Saturday
Feb. 1, 2025
9 am to 3 pm**

**Live online
\$35 OGS members
\$45 nonmembers**

**Details and registration
at bit.ly/OGS2025**



Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!

Newsletter submissions for the **March/April** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **February 23rd**.



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



Check out our Blog:

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



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