

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Doe and a yearling fawn enjoying the bounty of apples.

Photo taken by

Ruth Caesar in her orchard on October 21st, 2024.

Upcoming SVGS Events:

TUESDAY, November 12, 1PM

SVGS Monthly Meeting

1:00 pm



Sue McNeil

FamilySearch's Full-Text Search

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

Sue's topic: FamilySearch's Full-Text Search:
A Free AI Tool You Should Definitely Be Using

Come learn how to use FamilySearch's full-text searching. This new beta tool makes it easier to find your ancestors in unindexed records, in unexpected locations or timeframes, and in roles that were unindexed previously (i.e., witness, heirs, bondsman, adjoining landowner, etc.). Starting with U S land and probate, this new AI tool is rapidly expanding to include additional record types, locations and timeframes

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

RootsTech 2025

The largest family history conference of the year, will be here before you know it. In fact, registration just 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>

Important Message Regarding



Provided by- Sue McNeil

The future of 23andMe is uncertain following a major data breach, stock prices plummeting, lawsuit settlement, and resignation of the Board of Directors. If the company is sold, it is not clear what will become of your personal information and DNA sample.

If you have tested your DNA at 23andMe, should you leave things as is or should you delete your account? This is a personal decision that only you can make. There are many articles and posts online debating this very thing. Below is a link to a blog post by Roberta Estes, DNA expert and genealogist. The steps to take if you do decide to delete your account, how to download your raw DNA data and capture your DNA matches are included.

<https://dna-explained.com/2024/09/19/23andme-trouble-step-by-step-instructions-to-preserve-your-data-and-matches/>

Bottom Line: It is up to you. If you decide to move forward with deleting your 23andMe account, you can do so online under settings. This is irreversible. It is very important to know that this does NOT delete your physical DNA sample. If you want your sample destroyed, you will need to also call Customer Service at (800) 239-5230 to request it.

If you decide to keep your 23andMe account, you should strongly consider downloading your raw DNA data and capturing your DNA matches.

Let's Talk About: Germany's Rules for Death

by Donna Phillips

Quoting from website The German Way, "German Funerals: Death in Deutschland."

"The German way of death is perhaps even more regulated than the German way of life. The German propensity to regulate almost every aspect of daily life carries over into the afterlife, with Germany's funeral industry among the most regulated in the world."



"Strict German laws and regulations concerning the burial or cremation of a deceased person reduce competition and increase the costs. The German funeral industry is protected by laws, that, with few exceptions, make burial in a cemetery mandatory even if the deceased has been cremated. There is little free choice for families faced with the death of a loved one."

A typical German funeral can cost from \$5500 to \$11,000 or more! Even with cremations, a "certified" coffin is required and a plain wooden coffin can cost over \$700. A typical cremation costs upwards of \$8000.

Those Germans who choose burial over cremation usually have a limited stay in the cemetery of their

choice. Because of space limitation, most German cemeteries allow their “guests” to rest in peace only for a maximum of 10 to 30 years. “After that they must relinquish their grave to another deceased soul. Only in some historical German cemeteries will you find the graves of people who died over a century ago.”

“German restrictions don’t end with the laws that dictate where a corpse has to go. Most German cemeteries have codes and regulations that determine in great detail what may or may not appear on a loved one’s grave marker.” (Thankfully, this “rule” is changing.)

The scattering of cremated remains on land or at sea is generally verboten in Germany. When it is done, it is almost always done illegally. To scatter in a lake is out of the question for thoughts of water being contaminated by cremains.

As an American, you do not want to pass away in Germany! Getting your body, or even your cremains, shipped home is a total tangled nightmare.

So we learn from that article on The German Way website.

Book Talk By Maureen MacDonald

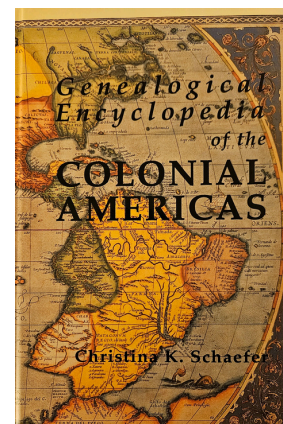
Colonial Americas, by Christina K. Schaefer

That is the short title, the full title is ‘Genealogical Encyclopedia of the Colonial “Americas’’. The title page states ‘A Complete Digest of the Records of the Western Hemisphere’. From the tip of South America to the top of Canada and everything in between. Included is a timeline of the colonial history beginning with European colonization up to the American Revolution. Then she presents the different sections starting with Latin America, the Caribbean, the 13 Colonies with

Maine and Vermont, the U.S. States, and Canada. There is a section dealing with the various religions, and a list of maps for each section.

Each section provides information on religious records, missionaries, census records, notarial records, governmental and municipal records, land records, military records, and an incredible list of suggested reading for more in-depth information. The U.S. States section provides lists for when certain records became available, the dates of statehood , colonial wars and colonial newspapers.

A book report does not do justice to all this book has to offer. I choose to have my own copy handy in my home, however our Society library has a copy you can all access when you visit!



Happy Holidays!

The SVGS Annual Holiday Potluck will be held December 10th at NOON. Please bring one of your family's favorite dishes. Due to an over abundance of the same items in past potlucks, if possible we'd like you to bring an item based on the following parameters:

**If your last name
begins with:**

A to I

J to R

S to Z

Please Bring:

Salad

Main Course

Dessert

**Another option that anyone may choose is to
bring Appetizers or Drinks**

We all have stories to tell.

How about writing a few paragraphs about your favorite or memorable Holiday story, to be shared at our December potluck? Feel free to write about Halloween,

Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Christmas, New Years or more than one.

You can send your stories to info@stillygen.org, drop them by the library when you're in the neighborhood, or bring them with you (and a dish to share) when you come to the potluck. And if for some reason you can't attend, send a story anyway and someone will read it for you.



Some of the “New” Book Titles In Our Library

Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts

Cradled in Sweden

Clark County Pioneers (WA)

Germans From Russia in The Yakima Valley Prior to 1940

Camas Funeral Homes 1912-1943

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa 1875

Dakota 1870 Territorial Census

Multnomah County, Oregon Marriages May 1873-Sep 1888

Multnomah County, Oregon Marriages 1885-1873

The Lost Villages of England

Prairie Pioneers of Illinois Vol. 1

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Index of Persons for Vol 51-148

The Great Migration Immigrants to New England 1634-1635 (completing our set) Guide to Genealogical Research

A History of Deschutes County in Oregon

The Scribbler (Adams County)

A Healing Landscape

History of Yakima Valley Vol I & II

DAR Patriots Index

American Surnames

California Spanish Place-Names

Search in Illinois

The Extant Records of Monogalia County, MN 1858-1870

Remember you can always find a complete list of the books added to our library in 2024 by going to our online library catalogue and clicking on subject and then selecting New Library item 2024. Or follow this link:

https://stillygen.org/libraryRecords.php?page=1&nr=50&le=f2_c346&scl=bta

An Interview with Sharon Posey

by Flynn Kennedy

Sharon is a relatively new volunteer librarian with SVGS and she has recently become our Hospitality Chair. We thought you might like to know a bit about her.



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

A.) In about 2002, I started researching my paternal grandmother's life after my father's death, as a tribute to him. He knew almost nothing about her background.

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

A.) I've researched United States and Canadian records in general, and, more specifically, I've researched records from Quebec, Vermont, Massachusetts, and elsewhere on the East Coast. I knew my grandmother arrived in the U.S. as a youngster from Syria and I found her on ellisland.com with an arrival date of 1907. She came with her sister-in-law and two nephews. In the 1910 U.S. Census, it showed her living with her brother and his wife in Lawrence, Massachusetts. As an adult, she worked in the mills.

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

A.) I didn't know her parents' names, so I found my grandmother's Marriage Certificate, and ordered her Social Security records. Those records showed the names of her brother and his wife in place of the names of her parents, though.

So, who were her family members? I left a message on an Ancestry message board and included all the relatives' names I knew. I stopped researching for a couple years, but then I found a reply from a second cousin. Her grandfather was my grandmother's brother!

Unfortunately, my grandmother was shunned by the Syrian community for not marrying within it. She lost contact with her family in 1916 and never saw or talked to them again. My newfound second cousin sent pictures to me of her (my second cousin) and my second cousin's father and grandfather.

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

A.) I've done lots of reading about the areas in which my ancestors lived. Reviewing maps has helped a lot. I've read books about the era they lived in, how they moved between the U.S. and Canadian borders, and what family life was like.

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

A.) I'm retired, but my vocation is Family Historian, and genealogy is my passion! It's a lot of fun.

Q.) Who is your favorite ancestor?

A.) I really don't have one specific favorite. My favorite ancestors are all the ancestors on my father's side of my family, because they're all so interesting.

“Adopt a Book”

Reminder

In August we introduced the newest library project, “Adopt a Book”. We selected books that needed repair and contacted David Richardson to determine the cost of those repairs. What we need now is for members to adopt the cost of those repairs. You choose the book and David does the work. When the repairs are complete you write a check to the society, allowing you to have the tax deduction and the society pays David.

We have already had 14 books adopted. These books are still available.

City Directories for Everett - not available online

1928/29	cost \$35
1935	cost \$35
1939	cost \$35
1971	cost \$40
1974	cost \$40



The book above is an example of a book which may need attention.

If you are interested in adopting one of the above books see LeAnne.

Missing an Ancestor? Look East or South

Shared by-Linda McCleary
AzGAB Vice President

Many times, while researching our ancestors, they just “disappear” from where they “should be” located. Is this true with your ancestor? Perhaps the young man or woman in your lineage decided to heed Horace Greeley’s quote, “Go West, young man, go West and grow up with the country.”¹ Opportunities abounded with cheap land, the lure of gold / silver / precious gems, religious freedom, or just the opportunity to start a new life. Perhaps your ancestor came to Arizona for one of these reasons?

The Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board (AzGAB) is honoring those people and their descendants who lived in the geographical area of what is now Arizona prior to statehood on 14 February 1912 with an Arizona Pioneer Descendant certificate. Certificates will be awarded to a descendant who submits evidence acceptable to AzGAB (vital records, territory or federal census, church records, brand books [livestock markings], city directory listings, etc.). Records showing relationship from the pioneer to the applicant is required for the certificate.

(<https://azgab.org/cpage.php?pt=14>).

For those ancestors / relatives who lived in Arizona from statehood until 01 April 1950, a Second Wave Certificate is available.

(<https://azgab.org/cpage.php?pt=51>).

The same chain of descendency is required.



Not sure if your ancestor “was” in Arizona on their way to California, Nevada or other points West? Please use the Arizona Pioneers Database on the AzGAB website, https://azgab.org/cstm_pioneer.php, to see if their names appear. Female names as well as male names are mentioned.

This is a meaningful way to honor your ancestors and have a preserved record of it. The approved application forms, photos and accompanying documentation are housed in the Arizona State Archives. A modest fee for the certificate is expected at the time of submission. If two certificates are requested for the same ancestor from different descendants, there is a reduced fee for the second certificate. Questions? Contact the Arizona Pioneer Descendant Administrator, Peggy Morphew at certificates@azgab.org.

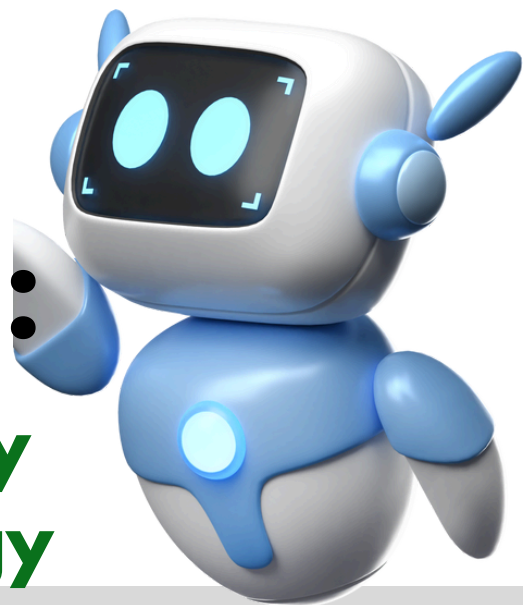
¹ The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Oxford University Press, TME. 1999. p. 351. ISBN 9780198601739. Retrieved 12 October 2023.

please
DONATE



Christmas is a time of giving, what better place to give than to the Society. Follow this link to our Donation page to make your tax deductible donation.

<https://stillygen.org/donation.php?dc=1>



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.

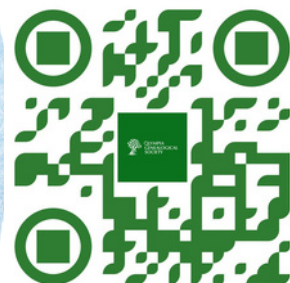
Topics will include:

- 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 **January/February** issue should be
sent to newsletter@stillygen.org by **December 26th**.



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



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