

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Labor Day?

by LeAnne Koliha



Labor Day traditionally marks the end of Summer and the beginning of the new school year. The actual beginnings of the Labor Day holiday is in dispute. One theory is that the Secretary of the Central Labor Union of New York, Matthey Maguire, proposed the national holiday in September 1882 after the success of the public parade of the various labor organizations held on September 5th of that year which the Central Labor Union had organized. The alternative theory is that the holiday was the idea of Peter J. McGuire, the vice president of the American Federation of Labor who had seen parades in Toronto celebrating labor. According to Peter, he made the proposal to The Central Labor Union in May of 1882. In 1887, Oregon became the first state to make Labor Day an official public holiday. By 1894 when Congress passed a bill making the Labor Day a federal holiday, 30 states were already celebrating it.

Upcoming SVGS Events:

Tuesday September 5, 10AM-12PM
SVGS Library New England Research
Group

Meet other SVGS members doing
New England research.

Tuesday, September 12, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
Presenter- **Maureen MacDonald**
**Researching New England Town Records:
A Case Study**

Hear how she used town records to prove which of
two men with the same name was her ancestor.
She will also demonstrate how to
locate town records.

Thursdays in September and October
10AM - 12PM

Join us **in person**- as we share our problems
and successes in our genealogical journeys.

Thursdays in September and October
10AM - 12PM

Join us **on Zoom**- as we share our problems
and successes as we research our family tree.
Email info@stillygen.org to request a link.

Tuesday, October 10, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
Presenter- **Mary Roddy**

Recreating Your Ancestor's World
Learn how to combine maps, city
directories, census records, and
more to visualize your ancestor's world.
Understanding their environment will help
you understand them

New at SVGS
Thursday, Oct 19, 1 PM -3:00PM
DNA Focus Group
will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday
of each month

See stillygen.org_events page for updated info.

More Upcoming Events:

September 23 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Dallas Fall Seminar

**The Twentieth Century Wars:
Military Records and Research**
featuring Michael Strauss.

This will be a hybrid (in-person and virtual)
event. Recording will be available to
registered participants following the event.

For more information, visit
www.DallasGenealogy.org

Thursday Oct 19, 8:30AM PT
A Guide to Overseas Genealogy

Crossing the pond is easier than you think!
Genealogist Jacquie Schattner reviews the
history of immigrant travel into the U.S. and how
to find genealogical records in most European
countries. Learn about five areas of overseas
genealogy: emigration, voyage details,
immigration, naturalization, and genealogical
resources, both American and European.

This will be a hybrid (in-person and virtual)
event provided by Elmhurst Public Library,
Elmhurst, IL

For details and registration go to:
<https://elmhurstpubliclibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=45442>

February 28, 2024 - March 2, 2024
RootsTech 2024

Salt Palace Convention Center,
Salt Lake City, Utah
Attend the largest global genealogy
conference to learn more about your family
history, interact with new technology or
share your innovative ideas with the world.

For more information, visit the
[RootsTech website.](https://www.ancestry.com/RootsTech)

OCTOBER AT THE LIBRARY

Bring family and friends and join us for coffee and cookies as we celebrate Family History Month each Saturday at the library.

Saturday, October 7th will be an introduction to the library. Even if you are a regular user of the library there is always something new to discover.

Saturday, October 14th will focus on preserving your family history. Bring 10 photos and your thumb drive and use our scanner to digitize them. We will provide instruction for those who need help using our scanner.

Saturday, October 21st will focus on sharing your history with your children. Help your child or grandchild complete a family tree.

Saturday, October 28th will focus on our online resources.



Witch Trials

by LeAnne Koliha

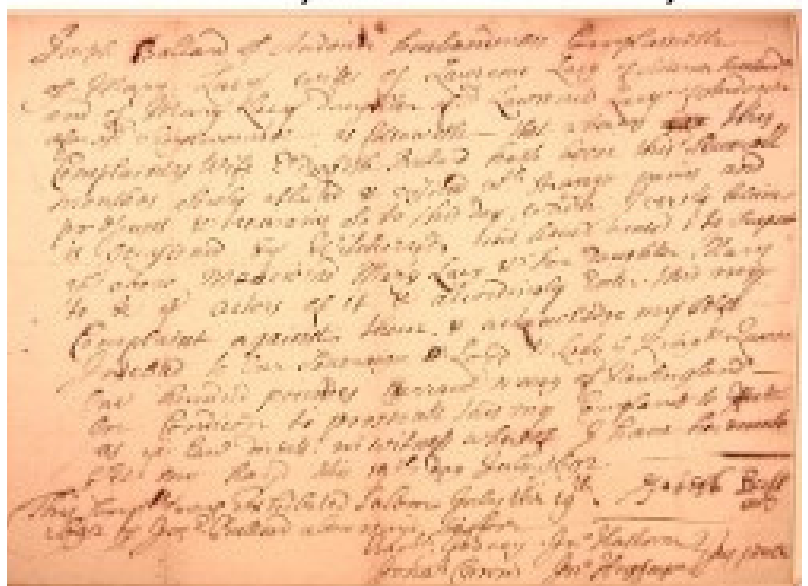
Between June 1692-May 1693 the Massachusetts Bay Colony lived through a series of investigations and persecutions known as the Salem Witch Trials, but Salem was not the only place where trials occurred. For so many of us with early New England families the Witch Trials were more than a moment in history, it is our family's story. The following is my connection.

My great (x7) grandfather, Joseph Ballard was a resident of Andover, MA. In 1692 his wife, Elizabeth was ill with a severe fever. In spite of "medical" treatment, she remained ill, and Joseph decided that witches must be the cause of her illness. His brother John had been involved in the arresting of witches in Salem, so he travelled to Salem to request that witchcraft victims be sent to Andover to identify witches there. With their help he was able to identify 2 witches, Mary Lacy and her daughter also named Mary. He testified against them on 19 July 1692, and they were arrested the next day.

His complaint is as follows:

"Joseph Ballard of Andover, husbandman complainth of Mary Lacy wife of Lawrence Lacy of Andover husbandman and of Mary Lacy daughter of Lawrence Lacy of Andover afor?? singlewoman as followth that whereas This Complainers Wife Elizabeth Ballard has been this severall months sorely afflicted & [illegible] wth Strange pains and [illegible] & remaining So to this day which I verily believe is occasioned by Witchcraft and have come to suspect ye above [illegible] Mary Lacy & her daughter Mary to be ye actors of it accordingly enter this my

Complaint against them & acknowledge my [illegible] Indebted to Our Soveraign Lord & Lady ye King and Queen one hundred [illegible] currant money of New England – On Conviction to prosecute this my Complaint to Effect as ye law directs. [illegible] witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand this 19 th day of July 1692
Joseph Ballard"



During the trials that followed, he also testified against an additional “witch” that the investigation had uncovered as follows:

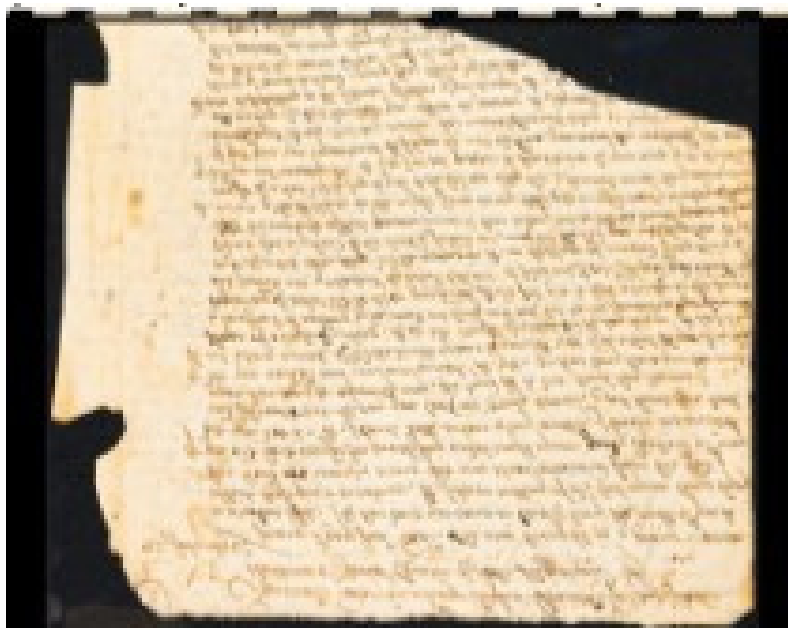
“The testimony of Joseph Ballard of Andover aged about 47 years saith that my brother John Ballard told me that Samuel Wardel told him that I had reported that he had bewitch my wife those words [illegible] spoken before I had any knoling of my wife being afflicted by witchcraft after I meting with said Samul [illegible] at the [illegible] I told him that I doubted that [illegible] guilty of hurting my wife for I had no such thoughts nor had spoken any such words of him or anyother person and therefore I doe not know but your are guilty further ye [illegible] witchcraft Owned to the [illegible] What he had spoke it [illegible] to my Brother

Mary Lacy Jr.'s (between 15 and 18 years old) trial on 21 July 1692 begins as follows:

“Mary Lacy Jun r [] She was brought in & Mary in absoem fit Q. how dare you come in here & bring the divill with you to afflict these pore creatures. A. I know nothing of it, but upon lacys laying her hand or warring arms she was then recovered from her fit. Q. you are here accused for practising witchcraft upon goody Ballard w ch way doud you do it. A. I canot tell, where is my mother made me a witch and I knew it not. Q. can you look on Mary warren & not hurt her look at her now in a friendly way, she tried so to doo struck her downe Q, do you ackn. now you are a witch A. yes. Q. how long have you been a witch A. not above a week. Q did the divill appear to you A. yes Q in what shape A. in the shape of [illegible] Q. where A. in the House....”

Mary Jr not only accused her mother of being a witch, but she also named her grandmother, Ann Foster, as a witch as well. Eventually 50 people were accused as witches, many were arrested, and some were hung. Mary Jr. was released on bond, Mary Sr. was convicted but eventually released, Ann was convicted and died while in jail.

For our family, Elizabeth died, and Joseph remarried. His son, Jeremiah, married Mary Dane whose father Rev. Francis Dane had preached against the use of spectral evidence and the existence of witches.



In January 1697 the General Court of Massachusetts declared a day of fasting and contemplation for the tragedy of the trials and Samuel Sewall, one of the judges, publicly acknowledged his guilt for his involvement in the trials.

In 1706 Ann Putman Jr. apologized for her role as an accuser. However, the last of the 11 convicted witches were not exonerated until 2001.

Source of witchcraft documents

Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA, Digital Collections

<https://congregationallibrary.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/salem-witchcraft-trials-examination-documents-1692/113523?item=113529> accessed August 3, 2023.

News from the library

Now that summer is over its time to head back to the library and catch up on your family research projects. In addition to coming in for individual research; don't forget our group meetings. The New England Research group meets the first Tuesday morning of each month, Thursday morning is a time for working on brick walls with other researchers, and starting in October the DNA group will meet the 3rd Thursday afternoon each month. In addition to these in person groups, there is a Zoom group that meets every Thursday morning. If you have any questions ask a librarian for details or email us at info@stillygen.org

October is family history month, and the library will be hosting an open house each Saturday of the month. Look for details in upcoming emails.

Recent additions to our library

History of Enfield, Ct Vol 1-Vol 3

Vital Records of New Haven, CT Vol 1- Vol 2

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register

Index of Persons in 4 volumes

The Provincial Councillors of Pennsylvania 1733-1766

Mother Bedford and the American Revolution

Stout and Allied Families

Vol 1 1986

Vol 1 1970

Descendants of Nicolas Potter of Lynn Massachusetts

Saddles East

Rose Family Bulletin Mar 1970, June 1970, September 1970

Pennsylvania Genealogist and Historian

February 1989, May 1989, August 1989

Panacea (St Joseph School of Nursing Bellingham, WA)

Genealogical Maps & Guide to Norwegian Parish Registers

The Beginner's Guide to Norwegian Genealogical Research

Indiana Source Book Vol 1-6

Norwegian for Travellers

How to Find Your Own Roots



Two Chief's Speeches

by Donna Potter Phillips



Some things have never changed throughout history; this is a sad-story truth. Two speeches, by two First Nations chiefs, separated by 3000 miles, reflect the same sentiment. (Seattle on the top.) In 1871, Chief Sweetgrass, a Cree, responded to Lt. Gov. Archibald regarding a treaty: "Great Father, I shake hands with you and big you welcome. We heard out lands were sold and we did not like it; we don't want to sell our lands; it is our property and no one has the right to sell them. We want you to stop the Americans from coming to trade in our lands and bringing firewater."

Everybody conveniently forgot a 1763 Royal Proclamation: "Lands which not having been ceded to or purchased by us, are still reserved for the Indians."

In 1854, Chief Seattle, Duwamish tribe, spoke these words (the full speech printed out on four pages): "The great, and I presume, good, White Chief sends us word that he wishes to buy our land but is willing to allow us enough to live comfortably. This indeed appears just, even generous, for the Red Man no longer has rights that he need respect and the offer may be wise, also, as we are no longer in need of extensive country."

Chief Seattle's words continue: "Your God is not our God! Your God loves white people and hates mine! He folds his strong protecting arms lovingly about the paleface and leads him by the hand.... but he has forsaken his red children, if they are really his. Our God, the Great Spirit, seems also to have forsaken us. Your God makes your people wax stronger every day; soon they will fill the land. Our people are ebbing away like a rapidly receding tide that will never return. The white man's God cannot love our people or he would protect them."

How can we not be moved to better empathy and understanding by these words??



Send us your submissions!

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

Newsletter submissions for the **November/December** issue should be sent to **newsletter@stillygen.org** by **October 25th**.



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



Check out our Blog:

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



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