

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

Archaeology, Genealogy and A Privy

On June 13th Meghan Caves will share an interesting presentation with us. Megan has nearly completed her Master's Degree in anthropology and is pursuing her Doctorate in historical archaeology at the University of Idaho. She has worked as an archaeologist in the Pacific Northwest since 2018 and is currently an archaeological technician at the Umatilla National Forest out of the Pomeroy Ranger District in Southeastern Washington. Meghan will share information with us about her thesis research which weaves together multiple stories of indigenous and Euro-American families who surrounded and interacted with an archaeological deposit originally excavated and analyzed in 2008 from Arlington, Washington.



Meghan Caves

Meghan's reanalysis of the archaeological assemblage employs a biographical approach, which looks at how the 'lifetimes' of artifacts discarded in the privy are connected to the lives of the Teager, Hurd, Lovelace, and Weimer families who owned and occupied the site between 1890 and 1940. In order to construct nuanced and compelling biographies of the site, she employed extensive archival and genealogical research with the help of SVGS in 2021. Her talk will discuss how genealogical methods were used in her research, how this kind of historical information is more broadly useful to archaeologists, and explore the ethical implications of using publicly available genealogical information for archaeological research.

Don't miss this presentation at 1PM June 13th at the SVGS Library.
Click on the link below for further details:
Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society - Events (stillygen.org)

Upcoming SVGS Events:

Monday May 1, 10AM

SVGs Library Yard Clean-up

We will be doing yard maintenance, weather permitting. If you would like to help in the yard, please bring your favorite gardening tools. Lunch will be provided and we will work into the afternoon. You are welcome to come for the whole day or just a couple of hours. You can email info@stillygen.org if you have any questions.

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 12PM

SVGs Annual Membership Meeting & Election of Officers

Potluck Lunch with election of President, Vice President of the Library and Secretary to follow. *We are also looking for volunteers to help with other tasks for the society such as co-chairing membership. If you have any questions, email info@stillygen.org with them and they will be answered.*

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1PM

SVGs Monthly Meeting Archaeology, Genealogy and a Privy a presentation by Meghan Caves

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 12PM

SVGs BBQ

burgers, hot dogs & buns will be provided.

Bring a friend.

Watch for more info in our next newsletter.

More Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 13

*Clallam County Genealogical Society
(Local society meetings)*

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Hybrid

The program at the Clallam County Genealogical Society meeting is TBA with Judy Russell. Meetings are open to the public. The in-person meeting will be at the CCCGS Research Center at 403 East 8th St., Port Angeles. To receive the Zoom codes for the meeting, please call or email the Society about a week prior to the meeting. Phone: 360-417-5000, email: clallamresearcher@gmail.com or askus@clallamcogs.org.

**Wednesday, May 31 through Saturday,
June 3**

*NGS Family History Conference
(Conferences & Seminars)*

Richmond, Virginia

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) is sponsoring its Family History Conference from May 21 - June 9 in Richmond, Virginia. The theme is "Deep Roots of a Nation." For more information, visit the **NGS website**.

Recently at SVGS... volunteers did some Spring Cleaning

What a team!



From left to right: Flynn Kennedy, LeAnne Koliha, Ruth Caesar, Bonnie McCausland and George Mattson. Not pictured Robin Gaynor

This team of SVGS members were invaluable in getting the job done this year. A very long list of chores was provided and every person took on a task or multiple tasks and before long the work was done. Flynn cleaned the Media and Scanning rooms, LeAnne vacuumed the whole library, Ruth washed the inside windows and blinds, and Bonnie did the Breakroom and Bathroom cleaning.

A special acknowledgement goes to Robin Gaynor who dusted (even with dust allergies) then washed the outside handrail. And George Mattson who took on the outside windows....now that was a project!

Annual Reports

President

Ruth Caesar



In fiscal year 2022-2023 the Society returned to mostly "normal" operations. The library has been back open on our regular days of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Thursday mornings are especially busy with a new Research Group meeting In-Person (see more below) and the former Rugs Rats Group continuing to meet by Zoom in the same time slot. Both groups are open to all members and guests and I encourage you to attend to see if either group might be helpful in your genealogical journey.

Here are a couple of highlights for FY2022-23 that you may not be aware of: Earlier this year we were honored to welcome members of the Marysville Genealogy Group to join SVGS and our "In-Person" Thursday Research group which meets from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. This is a group of individuals who do personal family research while at our library and share research ideas and their "Eureka moments" with fellow genealogists.

The SVGS Library was the location of the wedding of SVGS past treasurer, Larry Taylor and his bride Mimi Anderson of Denmark. That event was so out of the ordinary for a genealogy library it should be recorded in our history.

In March, we had a very interesting presentation about repairing damaged books. Since that time, the library has been able to have about 20 worn books of great genealogical and historical value professionally repaired, enabling them to continue to be available to members and library guests. I have also just learned that some past librarian assistance provided by SVGS, to an individual has been used in her Master's Thesis. This is another example of the expert research work done by our volunteer genealogists and I thank them for all their hard work. See the front page for more information.

As a society, we will continue to have significant challenges in FY2023-24 and it is critical that we successfully meet these challenges.

- In the area of volunteer support, positions need to be filled by knowledgeable and committed individuals, for board, committee and librarian positions.
- 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 FY2023-24 we should 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 donation to SVGS at PO Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223.

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VP of the Library

Kay Crabtree

With the help of all of our librarians I would say we have had a great year here at the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society.

Recent years in numbers

New acquisitions:

2020 - 13

2021 - 111

2022 - 154

2023 to date 29 with several donations waiting to be added.

If you haven't been in for a while come by and see what is new.

The SVGS current catalog count as of April 13th 2023 is 6,947.

We are open and busy here at the library.

Based on zip codes 49% of the visitors to the library are from the Arlington area, 38% come from Marysville, 12% come from other Snohomish County zip codes and 1% come from various King County zip codes.

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 have also added several new librarians to our staff, and we could not operate such a wonderful facility without the willingness, dedication and support of all our librarians.

A special thank you to all who turned out to help in our indoor spring cleaning in April and our outdoor cleaning in May.

Thank you for all you do!

Treasurer

Karen Looney

During 2022-2023 we received a \$10,000 grant from the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians. We qualified for this grant in the category of "non-tribal bona fide nonprofit and charitable organizations in the State of Washington." Ruth Caesar, along with Lisa and Phil Bartlow, worked on this grant request process which allowed us to be successful in applying and qualifying for this grant.

Annual Reports

continued

Publicity Chair

Diana Keehn

I agreed to fill the vacant Publicity Chair position in October of 2022. Since I am fairly new at SVGS I greatly appreciated any help and all suggestions from our members. My first assignment was to represent SVGS at the Raising Hands Gala given by the Tulalip Tribes for the nonprofit organizations with President Ruth Caesar.

My primary responsibility is to advertise our SVGS meetings and events to the general public. This has been challenging due to the changing ways the public gets information. Gone are the days when the local newspaper was the primary source for local news and advertising events.

I have posted our meetings and events on Facebook (if you follow SVGS please remember to “like” and share the postings to your friends). We currently have 582 followers! Our meetings and events are also being posted on the Washington State Genealogical Society’s Blog. (You can sign up for their weekly blog for free on their website) In addition any presentation that we have that is also available via Zoom is posted on ConferenceKeeper.org which has attracted several attendees from out of state. Arlington City will be posting our monthly meetings on their website along with the need for volunteers to fill positions at the society.

We are still looking for a member that can attend the monthly evening DABA (Downtown Arlington Business Association) meetings.

Sue McNeil has been diligent in keeping our website updated with our upcoming meetings and events. She has also been sending out reminder emails to members prior to these events. Karen Looney and Susanne Brown have been emailing weekly reminders for the Thursday morning research group that meets via Zoom.

Ruth, the woman who has been wearing many hats, keeps members up to date with upcoming events publishing the Stillaquamish Star newsletter. The librarians have been great at showing patrons the wonderful resources at the library, encouraging new memberships and letting them know of our upcoming meetings and events.

After a frustrated library patron was directed to the society’s previous location in downtown Arlington I contacted Google to update our location. Our current location was also updated on Yelp for searching genealogy libraries or libraries in Snohomish County and our address was added to the Waze navigation app.

The best publicity for SVGS continues to be performed by our members letting others know about the benefits of the society and sharing their passion for family history.



Publications Chair

Sue Walde

The following SVGS books are currently available for sale as of April 15, 2023:

Title

- Arlington Centennial Pictorial Book, 1903-2003
- Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools
- Arlington Cemetery Book
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1895-1915
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1916-1920
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1921-1925
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1931-1935
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1936-1939
- Harwood Cemetery
- Loyal Heights (Bryant Cemetery) Obituaries

Promotional Slideshow

An updated slideshow promoting SVGS's book, Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools and SVGS was shown to the residents of Olympic Place Retirement and Assisted Living by President Ruth Caesar.

Ways & Means Committee

Chairperson Needed

There is a small group of dedicated members who strive to keep our doors open and operations running smoothly known as The Ways & Means Committee. They seek out and apply for grants. These grants supplement our income from membership dues and donations. SVGS has been very fortunate in the past to receive grants from our neighbors The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians and The Tulalip Tribes.

We are hopeful that in the future our members can help us out by donating through our website or at our monthly meetings. With all of your help we can continue to offer our great resources to our community and keep the doors open!

Education Chair

Chairperson Needed

A few notes from Ruth Caesar

We did not have an Education Chairperson this last year. A number of people stepped up to find and arrange speakers. I would like to thank them for all their help in this important task of providing educational presentations for our membership.

Listing of presentations for FY 2022-2023:

June	No meeting
August	"Deep State" by Sue McNeil
September	"Was Your Ancestor Truly Gone" by Pam Vestal
October	"Using U.S. Church Records" by Sunny Jane Morton
November	"Voting Records" by Pam Vestal
January	"The Waterfront Mills of Everett" by Neil Anderson
February	"Difficult Women" by Janet Camarata
March	"Custom Bookbinding" by David Richardson
April	"DNA Match Confusion" by Sue McNeil

Membership Chair

Michele Grant

I was appointed to this position after the resignation of our long time membership chair Joanne Wetmore. I had co-chaired with her for many years and I now hope to find a new co-chair who can assist me with this position. I'm hoping to have "brainstorming" sessions with other SVGS members to determine the best way we can go about increasing our membership. We have a lot to offer - a great up-to-date website. Many knowledgeable librarian volunteers who help patrons research their roots. If you have any ideas on how we can increase membership I would love to hear from you.

Our current membership numbers are:

- Individual Memberships-47
- Lifetime Memberships-65
- Society Memberships-46
- Total Memberships-181

Your Genealogy society needs you!

Positions on our Board are open and you might just be a good fit.

Email us at info@stillygen.org or call us (360)435-4838

Annual Reports

President

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At our upcoming Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Potluck, we are very excited to be able to once again meet in person. This year we will vote on these Executive offices; President, Vice President of the Library and Secretary.

I wish to offer a sincere Thank You to all Board Members, SVGS Committee Chairs and those of you who are volunteer librarians. Without you, our society would be greatly diminished. SVGS is also genuinely grateful to those who provide funding grants to help us continue to accomplish our mission – The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish County and the City of Arlington have been some of our generous benefactors.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

May will see the addition of two new assistant librarians. Glenn Orr and Sharon Posey are long time members who are now going to be volunteering their time to the library on Saturdays.

Do you read a foreign language? Know someone who does? The library is looking to compile a list of people who can help translate foreign documents. Please email LeAnne Koliha at leanne_koliha@yahoo.com to be included on our resource list.

Did you know that there is a group of people who meet Thursday mornings in the library for research and conversation? If you are hitting a brick wall and need some new ideas of where to look for that missing ancestor or are missing the companionship of hanging out with other genealogists considered joining us Thursday mornings 10-12.

Want to help but work from home? The Wellers' Funeral Home Cards can now be added to our death index. This can be done on your computer from home. Questions email LeAnne

If you have a library card you have a great resource for researching your family. Your library card allows you to obtain a reciprocal card for other libraries in the state. Those cards give you access to digital materials that the library has (think local newspapers).

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 23st**.



Find us on Facebook:

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



Check out our Blog:

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



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MAY/JUNE 2023