VOLUME 38, NO 6, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

The Stillaguamish Star

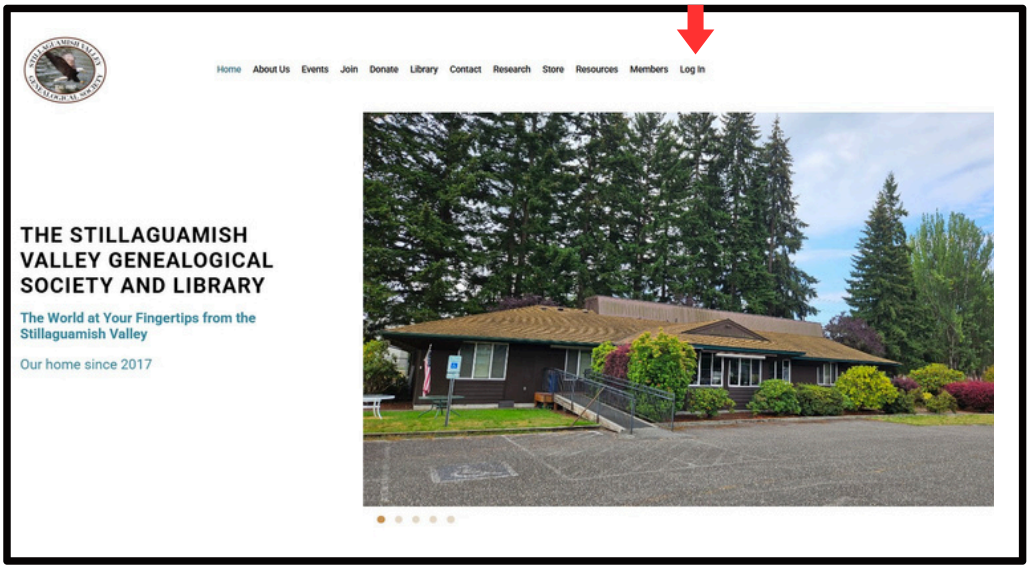
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

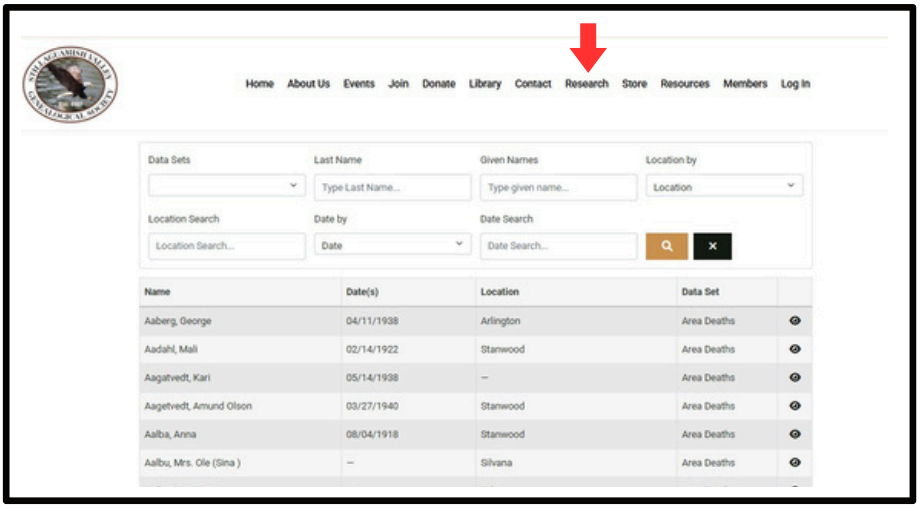
PO BOX 34, ARLINGTON WA 98223 360.435.4838 www.stillygen.org 6111 188TH PL NE, ARLINGTON WA 98223

The Society's New Website is UP!
A Better Experience on Any Device

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society website now uses responsive design. Our pages automatically adjust to provide an optimal viewing experience on computers, tablets, and smartphones, making it easier to access genealogy resources, indexes, and society information wherever your research takes you.

To log in just tap the Log In tab and enter your existing user name then click on "forgot my password" and follow the prompts.





If your family has ties to the area, or if you know someone researching local ancestors, be sure to visit our Death Index under the Resources tab. A growing number of records have been digitized and are available through a simple surname search.

Upcoming SVGS Events:

Tuesday November 10th
1PM

George Washington Speaks....

Please join us for this wonderful live presentation as we welcome.... His Excellency George Washington, who is: “First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”



Vern Frykholm

Vern Frykholm began portraying Washington in February, 2012, and has given over 600 portrayals to more than 25,000 people. He has talked to students at public, private and home schools; service clubs; libraries; business and church groups; and regional and national conferences.

WATCH party2.0

Thursday November 12th
11AM

If you missed the “Make AI Your Personal Genealogy Assistant” presentation on October 22nd by Lisa Louise Cooke you have another opportunity to see her. Join us at the library for a morning cup of coffee and watch the replay.

HOLIDAY party

Please join us on December 8 at noon for a special luncheon provided by SVGS. This year, members won't need to bring a thing, just come and enjoy good food and good company. We hope this helps simplify the busy holiday season.
While donations are not required, they are always appreciated and help offset the cost of the luncheon and other society expenses.
Any contribution you choose to make will be gratefully received.

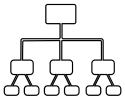
Watch for an email with final details as arrangements are completed.

Monthly Special Interest Groups at SVGS



The first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM join a group at the library discussing New England focused research.

The first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM join a group to teach you how to Build Your Family Tree, not Brick Walls.
(This will be a hybrid class)



Join Maureen MacDonald as she teaches us how to become more effective researchers. Too often, we look at our resources without fully understanding all the information they contain. Maureen will guide us through familiar sources, beginning with census records, and help us discover details we may have been overlooking.
Whether you are new to research or have been doing it for years, this class is for you.



The third Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM join a group at the library discussing DNA research at all skill levels.

The *last* Saturday of each month from 11:00 AM to Noon please join us for American Ancestors Webinar Day.

November 28th, the topic will be- "Best Published Resources for Colonial New England Research"



When it comes to Colonial New England research, there is a gold mine of published resources to explore. As a group, early New Englanders are perhaps some of the most studied people on the planet! In this online lecture, Robert Battle, editor of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, will discuss essential published resources for colonial research in the region.



Coming in January you can join a group discussing how to write your family history using AI resources.
Bring your questions! Bring your narratives or laptop for help or feedback.
This class will be presented by Teresa Townsell and be interactive.

New!! classes tentatively begin in January.

HAPPY VETERANS DAY

Thank-you Vets

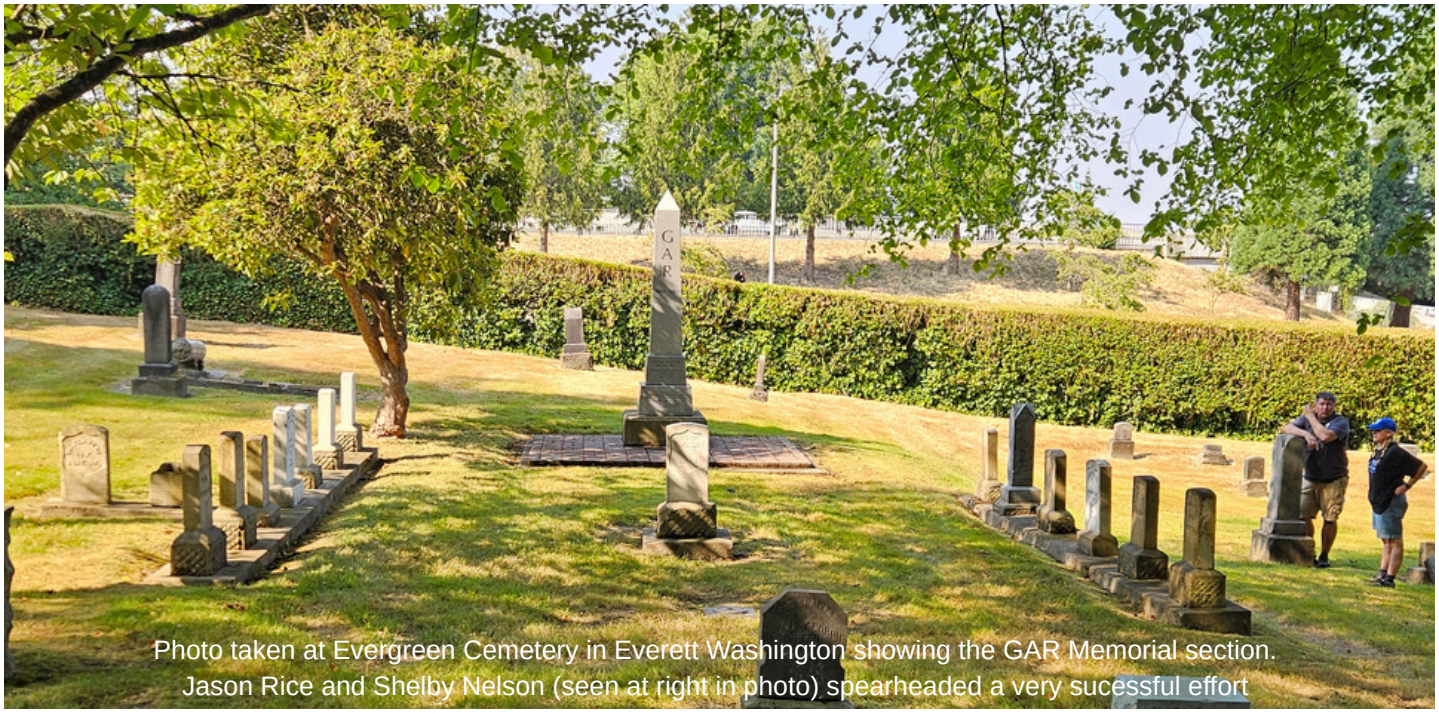


Photo taken at Evergreen Cemetery in Everett Washington showing the GAR Memorial section.
Jason Rice and Shelby Nelson (seen at right in photo) spearheaded a very sucessful effort

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a national organization founded in 1866 for honorably discharged veterans who served in the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service during the American Civil War. Organized into thousands of local posts across the United States, the GAR promoted fellowship among veterans, supported pensions and soldiers' homes, and played a major role in establishing Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day.

For genealogists, GAR records are an invaluable resource. Membership applications, post records, meeting minutes, burial records, and obituary notices can provide details about a veteran's military service, residence, age, family connections, and community involvement. These records often help bridge gaps left by missing census, military, or local government records. Many GAR posts also maintained information on veterans' widows and dependents, offering additional clues for family historians.

Today, GAR records preserved in archives, libraries, historical societies, and online indexes continue to help researchers document Civil War ancestors and better understand the lives of veterans after the war. As a result, the GAR remains one of the most significant genealogical resources for families with Union Civil War connections.

[garrecords.org], [avsops.com]

UPDATE

The Great Swedish Adventure



The Cast of Season 14 of Allt för Sverige
The Great Swedish Adventure

Shared by-
Pastor Chad Blood
Arlington, Washington

There will be a showing of Episode 1 at the Olympic Theater in Arlington on Nov. 3rd at 7PM.
Below you will find additional viewing options including the online information about the debut airing .

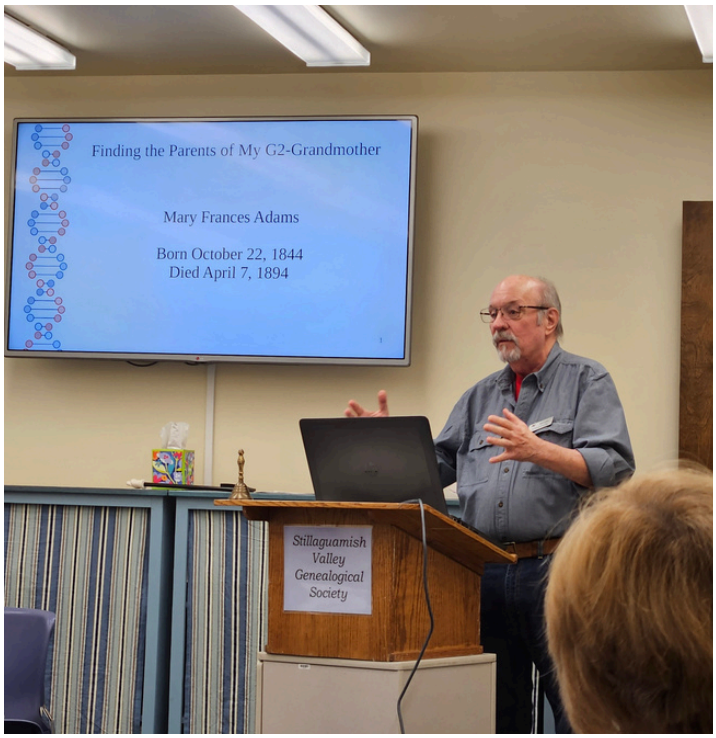




Premieres November 2 on SVT!
Watch here:
https://www.svtplay.se/allt-for-sverige
https://www.svtplay.se/
United States can watch it here:
https://youtube.com/@alltforsverige-season14...
Do you want to apply for the show?
https://www.greatswedishadventure.com

Special thanks to Pastor Chad for sharing his "Great Swedish Adventure" with us. These are truly the stories that bring our genealogical heritage to life.

From Brick Walls...



Genealogist Bill Allen

On October 13, genealogist team members LeAnne Koliha, Shelby Nelson, and Bill Allen shared their personal experiences overcoming genealogy “brick walls.” Their presentations provided members with valuable research strategies and insights that can be applied to their own family history projects. Attendees came away inspired and reminded that, with time, patience, and perseverance, even the most challenging research problems can be solved.

....to Artificial Intelligence



On October 22, the Washington State Genealogical Society hosted a Zoom presentation titled “Make AI Your Personal Assistant”, presented by acclaimed professional genealogist Lisa Louise Cooke. To enjoy the program together, SVGS opened the library after hours for a special watch party. Attendees were treated to pizzas generously donated by Arlington's Pizza Factory.

Those attending the watch party (clockwise in the photo) were Diana Keehn, Debbi Mock, Patti Boehner, Robin Gaynor, Rhonda Murphy, LeeRoy Kind, Tara Rodi, Flynn Kennedy, Diana Larson, Linda Davis, Shelby Nelson, Teresa Townsell, Cheryl Clifton, Susan Shelby, and Ruth Caesar (not shown). A special thank-you to Patti Boehner for arranging the pizza donation.

AN OLD TRADITION IS REMEMBERED AND A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION BEGINS .....



Many years ago, when I first became a member of SVGS, I remember that around Christmastime our founder, Marietta Roth, would display a small Christmas tree she affectionately called her "Family Tree." As I recall, it was decorated with photographs of relatives representing many branches of her family. It was a simple but meaningful reminder of the connections that genealogy helps us discover and preserve.

Recently, our treasurer, Cheryl Clifton, generously offered to donate a Christmas tree for this year's holiday season. Inspired by Marietta's tradition, I thought it would be wonderful to revive the idea and create an SVGS Family Tree once again.

We invite members who would like to participate to submit one or two family photographs for display. Please email copies of your photos, along with the names of the family members pictured, to info@stillygen.org with Attn: Cheryl in the subject line. Cheryl and I will prepare and print the photos for our Family Tree display.

We hope this special project will celebrate not only the holiday season, but also the families whose stories bring us together through genealogy.

SVGS President, Ruth Caesar



A Season of Gratitude and Family

As Thanksgiving and Christmas draw near, many of us find ourselves reflecting on the blessings of family, friendship, and cherished traditions. For genealogists, this season carries a special meaning. It reminds us not only of the loved ones gathered around us today, but also of the generations whose lives, sacrifices, and dreams helped shape our own.

Every family story we preserve, every photograph we identify, and every ancestor we discover adds another branch to the tree of memories that connects us across time. Through our research, we come to know those who celebrated holidays before us, gathered around their own family tables, and created traditions that continue to echo through the years.

This is a season for gratitude. We are thankful for the opportunity to uncover and preserve the stories of our ancestors, for the relatives who share their memories and photographs with us, and for the friendships we have formed through our shared love of genealogy.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and look forward to Christmas, may we take time to honor the generations who came before us, appreciate those who enrich our lives today, and create memories that future family historians will treasure. May your homes be filled with laughter, your hearts with gratitude, and your holiday season with peace, joy, and the warmth of family.

From all of us at SVGS, we wish you a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a happy holiday season.
"The roots of our family trees remind us where we came from, while the traditions we share today help shape the stories that will be remembered tomorrow." 🌲🍂🎄



For the full story you can follow this link: https://arlingtonwa.gov/920/Main-Street-Walking-Tour to read the City of Arlington's history and Walking Tour pages

Walking Tour of Arlington's Historic Main Street: Arlington celebrated 100 years as a city in 2003; now we celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

In 2003, the City worked with Sarah Arney to create a Walking Tour brochure to celebrate the 100th birthday of Arlington City. Sarah was a well-known journalist and photographer, editor of the Arlington Time until 1995, later a writer for the Stanwood Camano News, and a founding member and long-time president of the Arlington Arts Council. Sarah was an expert at batik, a wax-resist dyeing technique used to create patterns on fabric, a world traveler, and had a goal to bring art to Arlington. Sadly, Sarah passed away on June 7, 2023.

In March of 2026, Sarah Lopez, the City's Community Engagement Director, partnered with Michele Heider, Research Librarian - Stillaguamish Valley Museum, to update the 2003 brochure to honor America's 250th birthday. Michelle walked Olympic Avenue from Maple Avenue and Olympic on the south to Division Street and Olympic on the north, making note of every building, address, and occupant. This information became the basis for updating the brochure. While Sarah Arney had to search the Arlington Times page by page and had to rely on people's memories, Michele had the additional luxury of the internet: searchable newspapers on multiple websites, family trees and other history on ancestry.com, Washington state's digital archives, and collections of gravesites and obituaries. Michele also had help from A. Loren Kraetz and Sue Thorsen Walde, both members of the Stillaguamish Valley Museum and descendants of early Stillaguamish Valley settlers.

While the brochure and this story cover 30 buildings and their history, Michele's research has documented 144 addresses that exist or once existed along this stretch of Olympic Avenue. And that number doesn't take into account how many businesses actually occupied all those 144 locations since the 1890s! Addresses were not assigned to buildings along Olympic Avenue until the early 1930s and some were changed every so often. To make it easier to follow this story, the addresses given are today's addresses

.

For more information on buildings or businesses covering any time period, contact the museum at info@stillymuseum.org or 360-435-7289.

This story and the updated brochure are for those who live in the Stillaguamish Valley and for those who visit our area; and in memory of Sarah Arney

All information contained on this page comes directly from the City of Arlington's webpage

Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us! Newsletter submissions for the **Jan/Feb 2027** issue should be sent to **newsletter@stillygen.org** by **Dec 26th**.

Find us on Facebook:

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

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society
PO Box 34
Arlington, WA 98223