



The Stillaguamish Star

The Official Newsletter of The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

March/April 2022, Vol 34 No 2

Newsletter@stillygen.org

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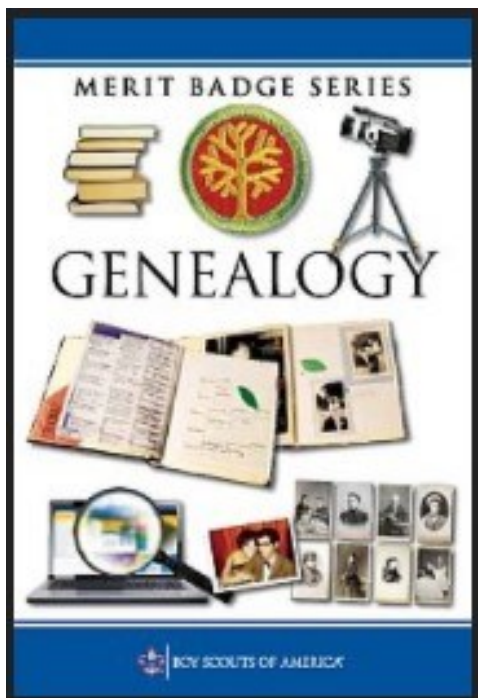
www.stillygen.org

Did you know there's a "Genealogy" Badge in the Scouts? I was reminded of this fact when a very bright young lady by the name of Maggie came into our Library with her mother Claudia on January 29th. Claudia has worked on her genealogy for many years and shortly before the Covid mandated closures, she had attended a presentation at our Library. Now her daughter Maggie, is working toward completing the requirements for her genealogy badge.



To that end, they came to the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society to tour a genealogy library. I showed them the resources in our library,

explained that not all things are on the internet, and that many times it's easier to retrieve data from books than the online digital information. Our many City Directories are a prime example of this.



Most genealogists are well aware that many items online are not well indexed and often times the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) just isn't up to the task. I explained to Maggie that the "old fashioned" way still works. Even though it may seem time consuming to use "books", it is very gratifying to discover the data you are researching. I believe that learning all the research options which are available is something we need to share with the younger generation.

As we all know, it will still be many years before all genealogical records are digitized and fully accessible to the public. Also keep in mind that, many records now available for free may end up behind pay walls in the digital future.

I'm hoping to see them visiting our library again in the future. And it would be so nice to see Maggie's Genealogy badge that she worked so hard to attain.

Ruth Caesar

Communicating With A DNA Match

By Sue Mc Neil

Each of the DNA testing companies have their own communication tools to reach out to people on your match list. This is a wonderful way to exchange information and collaborate. However, you should expect a low rate of response for several reasons:

- They may never see your message if they do not log in to the site and did not set their user profile to receive an email when they receive a message.
- They are only interested in their ethnicity results.
- They are only interested in a particular branch of their family.
- The tester is now deceased.

If their DNA is managed by someone else, send the manager a message. Make sure you identify which tester you match; they may manage multiple DNA kits.

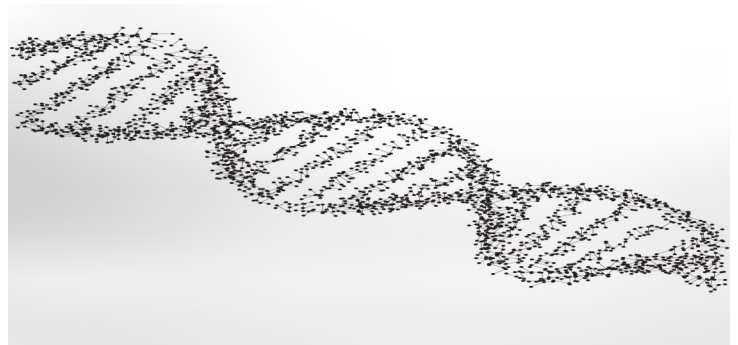
There are things you can do to increase your chances of someone responding:

- Add a picture of yourself to your user profile to make it more personable.
- Keep the initial message brief – do NOT overwhelm them; mention only a couple of names/dates/places in the beginning and tell them which branch of your family you think they belong to.
- Include your personal email for direct communication.
- Give them an easy out and ask them to please respond even if they do not want to pursue communication, so you at least you know they received it.
- Thank them for their time

If adoption is involved or some other circumstance where you may be a surprise to the family, capture any available information before reaching out.

Take screen shots of the match's profile information, their family tree if available and shared DNA matches. The first contact is the most important, so tread lightly. Hopefully, they will greet you with open arms, but you never know how someone will respond. They may make their tree private or block you. For tips and emotional support join the DNA Detectives Facebook Group

started by CeCe Moore. Leah Larkin, the DNA Geek, has shared a template for a first contact letter at this link: <https://thednageek.com/letter-to-a-birth-parent/>.





Miller County Historical Society Museum

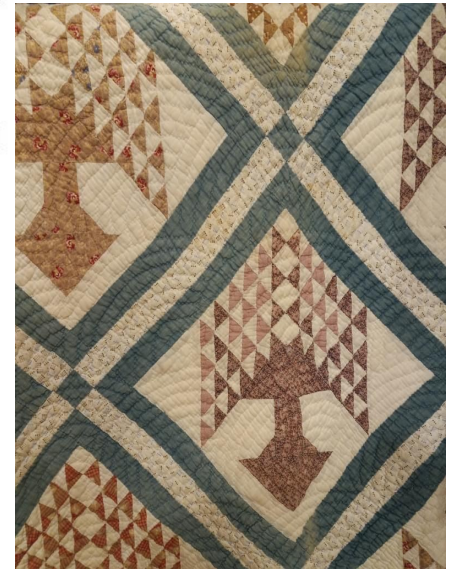
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This article from the Miller County Historical Society has been shared by SVGS member Marta Estes

Tree of Life quilt made by Francis Jane Williams Pemberton
Fannie Williams was born in Kentucky in 1845. James Lewis Pemberton was born in Illinois in 1845. When the two families came to Missouri they settled next to each other in Miller County. Fannie's courtship with James Lewis Pemberton had to be in secret because Fannie's father, John Williams, was a strong supporter of the Southern cause whereas James was an advocate for the North. The story is told that as James was leaving to join the Union army he tried to kiss Fannie, but she slapped him away! Years later Fannie told her granddaughter: "I sent your grandfather to war with his cheeks burning. Never let a man hold your hand until you are engaged. Never let him kiss you until you are married."

Fannie's two older brothers died fighting for the Confederacy, one at the Battle of Champion Hill in 1863 and the other at the Battle of Franklin in 1864. A third brother, John Riley Williams, enlisted in the Union Army with James Lewis Pemberton. John died of disease just a few weeks before the war ended. Fannie married James Lewis Pemberton in 1866 when he returned from the Civil War. Even though the families had taken opposite sides during the war, the union of James Pemberton and Frances Williams created a strong bond between the two families which has lasted until today.



The Tree of Life quilt was made in 1885, near the time this family photo was taken. James and Fannie Pemberton are seated in the middle of their children. For much more on the family - <http://www.millercountymuseum.org/archives/121001.html>



Marta Estes Grandpa
Wade Alexander Pemberton, (youngest boy, third from left in photo) was named after his confederate uncle, Wade Alexander Williams, who was killed at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

Visitors to SVGS in January

By Ruth Caesar

While working my shift as librarian on January 8th, it was my pleasure to meet a very lovely young woman by the name of Sarah Smith and her father Prentice. Upon entering our facility, Prentice, very proudly, let me know that his daughter has been working on the family genealogy for quite some time and she's gotten all the way back into the 1200's. I immediately sensed that Sarah would fit in well as a member of our society. After all, there are so many things our members could share to help her with issues that arise as she proceeds with her research.

As we toured the building, we stopped in our oversized records storage area, (where the file boxes are). I explained that many years ago our volunteers had copied funeral card information so SVGS could make it available to the public. And that we are currently in the process of entering those cards to our website so visitors from anywhere can directly access that information.

As we discussed these cards, I asked Sarah if she had any "local" ancestors, she said yes, she did. So, I inquired what surnames might be in her tree from our area. Low and behold, I was able to pull out a few "goodies" for her to enjoy. The cards were of aunts and uncles as I recall, but Sarah seemed happy to acquire those tidbits of information all the same.

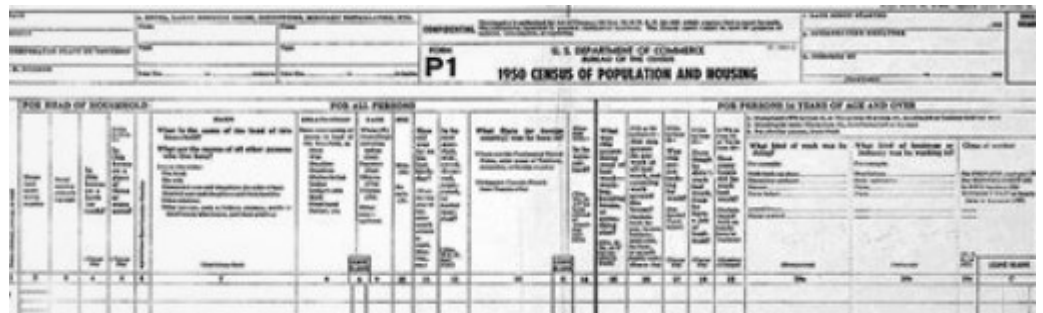
As Sarah left, I gave her our brochure pointing out our hours and I told her how to become a member of our society using the "online join" option. I let her know that I hoped we would see her drop in again soon. As my day progressed, I was reviewing the emails in our SVGS inbox and guess what I saw? Sarah had gone to our website and joined us as a "lifetime" member. I was thrilled! She's such a wonderful new mem-

Are you anxiously awaiting the release of the 1950 census?

A suggestion from Michele Heiderer....

Here's a link to an article that goes into great depth (if you are a techy type) about how it's being digitized and indexed. If you prefer the simpler info, read the first few paragraphs.

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter: <https://www.eogn.com/page-18080/12206074>



Stilly Doe

By Flynn Kennedy

While doing research for a patron, an unexpected genealogical find sent me down a rabbit hole. Suddenly I found myself on the Unidentified Remains webpage of the Snohomish County Sheriff.

Without expecting to see any mention of the Stillaguamish Valley, I perused the webpage and noticed a reference to Stilly Doe. The Sheriff's Office gave this name to unidentified human remains found 42 years ago in the Stillaguamish River. I was stunned. I didn't know any cases existed that involved unidentified remains in the Arlington, Washington area.



Do you recognize him? The first drawing, (on left), is from 1980, and the second one, (found on the following page), is an updated version, completed last year after additional DNA testing took place.

The following is paraphrased from the Snohomish County website:

On July 23, 1980, the decomposed remains of an adult white male were found in the Stillaguamish River 1/2 mile northwest of the Interstate 5 bridge over the river. The decedent was 30 - 60 years old and had graying hair. He was about 5'6" tall, and weighed approximately 150 pounds. He was wearing a red shirt, undergarments, suit-jacket style suitcoat, unmatched pants,

socks, black leather Oxford-type or "Winthrop Shoes" arch-support style shoes. He was also wearing a size 40 brown leather belt having a belt buckle with the initials "GRN" on it. The cause of death appears to be either natural or drowning and the manner of death is undetermined.

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Opportunity Knocks

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society, like so many organizations and businesses at this time, finds itself in search of people willing to fill a few very important positions for our society.

The following positions are currently open:

(Please note: this is just an overview of duties and more details are available in SVGS Bylaws)

- Vice President of the Library: This individual is the Director of our Library. They help guide our book retention policy and oversee the scheduling of our Librarians, among other duties.
- Publicity Chair: This individual Chairs the Publicity Committee and works with outside entities to get our Society recognition in an effort to make our existence and events known to the public.
- Education Chair: This individual is responsible for securing monthly speakers to present lectures of interest to our membership. Currently, these presentations are being provided via Zoom and Presenters are not required to be in person.
- Newsletter Editor: This individual compiles stories provided by members, (and others), which pertain to genealogy and items of heritage interests for publication in our newsletter. The Bi-monthly newsletter is produced by this person in their preferred format which can then be printed for mailing as well as sent by email in a digital format.

If you are interested in helping fill any of these positions please contact:

SVGS President, Ruth Caesar at info@stillygen.org

Reminder

*You can send us your newsletter submissions
anytime at your convenience, just email them to:*

newsletter@stillygen.org

*The deadline for the
May/June 2022 edition is April 27th*

EVENTS

The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS) holds it's General Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month which may include a presentation via Zoom. The Society is located at 6111 188th Place NE, Arlington, WA. Phone 360-435-4838. The library is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can also participate in our special interest group which meets on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. This groups helps each other to solve research issues and share information. For more information: www.stillygen.org

SVGS General Meeting, March 8, 2022. Speaker, Bob Taylor will present via Zoom on the topic: Introduction to the Family History Guide. Visitors are always welcome to view the Zoom presentation at our library.

SVGS General Meeting, April 12, 2022. TBD

SVGS Annual Meeting, May 10, 2022. Will there be a Potluck at Noon? Followed by the Election of Officers- The Potluck is yet to be determined; please contact: info@stillygen.org to let us know your thoughts.

RootsTech Connect Virtual Conference, March 3-5, 2022. **Registration is free.**
For more information: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021>

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, May 24-28, 2022, Sacramento, CA.
For more information: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

SCGS Jamboree and Genetic Genealogy Conference, August 19-27, 2022. Registration opens March 4th.
For more information: <https://genealogyjamboree.com/speakers/>

The Whatcom Genealogical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m., except January, July and August at Pioneer Pavilion, 2007 Cherry ST , Ferndale, WA.

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society meets 2nd Saturday of each month except July, August, and December at 12:45 p.m. at the Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Avenue, Burlington.
For more information: www.skagitvalleygenealogy.com

The Seattle Genealogical Society is located at the Good Shepherd Center in Suite 302 at 4649 Sunnyside Avenue N., Seattle, WA in the Wallingford area. Phone 206-522-8658. Their Society recently moved to this new location and is open on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Sno-Isle Genealogical Society is open by appointment on Tuesday and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday. They are located in the vintage Humble House at 19827 Poplar Way, Lynnwood, WA. Phone 425-775-6267.

For a list of genealogy events both live and virtual go to <https://conferencekeeper.org/> This free website provides a huge number of events all in one place.

The stories we didn't know or War is Hell!

By Phil Bartlow

As genealogists, many of us are not only interested in collecting and researching previous generations of family members, but also the story behind their lives. Where they lived, how they lived, why they did what they did and the experiences they had.

How many of you had a grandfather or father that served in the American Armed Forces during World War II? How many of them refused to talk about their experiences? As best they could, they wanted to forget the atrocities they had seen, and the things they had done in order to survive. Most of that generation is now gone and their stories have disappeared with them.

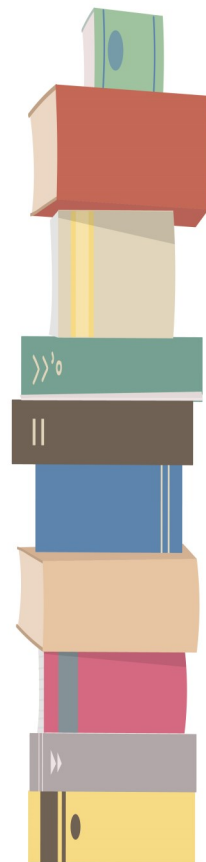
If you're curious and want help filling in the gap about those wartime experiences, there is a book series called **The Things Our Fathers Saw**, written by Matthew A. Rozell. Mr. Rozell was a high school history teacher in Glen Falls, New York. He had the desire to capture the stories from the people who had lived them. He eventually created a survey which his students used while interviewing family members. This motivated his students to want to learn more, leading to videotaping interviews, inviting veterans into classrooms, etc. Over a number of years, nearly 200 stories from Glen Falls veterans were collected and those first-hand recollections are the basis of the books.

Each book concentrates on a different arena of the War, such as **The War in the Air**, **Voices of the Pacific Theater**, **D-Day and Beyond** and others. They can be found at matthewrozellbooks.com and are available on Amazon.

I highly recommend these books. Reading the actual words of the veterans is fascinating and sometimes upsetting. Their honest emotion and frustration will open your eyes to the fact that War is Hell and that we owe our veterans an unfathomable debt which we could never repay.

I want to thank my daughter-in-law Dawn for finding these books, the perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-a-gift-for person on your gift list.

Book Review



"Designed by rawpixel.com / Freepik"



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