

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Complementary of SVGS, we are hosting a tour of the Pioneer Museum for all members in lieu of our monthly meeting. And your immediate family is welcome too for a fun time!

Where: Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum
20722 67th Ave NE, Arlington, WA

When: Tuesday, November 9th at 1:00 p.m.

Please arrive 10 minutes early

How: By Sunday, November 7th, please tell us the number of people in your party by emailing
info@stillygen.org.

Special Accommodations Needed? Please advise if you cannot climb stairs and your contact information (cell phone #, etc.).

Board Members: Following the museum tour, please join us for our 3:00 p.m. board meeting either in person at SVGS or via Zoom.

Please wear your masks!

A Holiday Message from SVGS President Ruth Caesar



Greetings to all of you! Although we are approaching the darkest time of the year, it remains the brightest time as we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends.

Recently the Pioneer Museum Board extended a generous offer to SVGS to move into their facility. This would bring benefits to both groups, although it would present many challenges to be resolved. One of the benefits for SVGS is a permanent location. SVGS would provide many more volunteers to help visitors see this treasure right in our community. The museum has the physical articles from the past, and the SVGS has many of the stories of the past pioneers. So please join us on Tuesday, November 9th for a tour of the museum. Please see the front page of this newsletter for details or go to the SVGS website event page.

While the pandemic has brought much pain and misery to many, it has had the benefit of bringing genealogical research to our homes for little or no cost. I hope you are taking advantage of the experts and our fellow genealogists online.

Our library remains open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 to 4 for you to visit and use the materials, get help from the librarians and use online resources. We do need more librarians, so please consider volunteering for a few hours once or twice a month. You will benefit by gaining knowledge while having the pleasure of helping others find their family history.

Former Society Locations

When we first started what became SVGS, we did not yet have a permanent home and held our monthly meetings the Arlington Public Library. Member Donna Husby owned Arlington Fabric, at that time located in the business space just to the left of the liquor store on West Avenue. She kept a box under her counter where we could leave messages for each other and mail that came to her shop for SVGS (we used her shop address until we rented P.O. 34). Remember, that was long before cell phones and the internet!

Our first tiny permanent home.....



1) Our first small library (consisting of perhaps 2 dozen books!) was in the business office of the dairy owned by Rhonda and Joe Marty. The dairy closed many years ago and today is the home of Garden Treasures on Highway 530. Rhonda was president of SVGS and her husband kindly lent us his business office space for our book collection. The space was the front room of the current Garden Treasures gift shop. After a year or so, we moved to the second location.....



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2) Rhonda worked with Mayor John Larson to let SVGS use the front room of the Airport Fire Station for our library. We held our meetings in the fire station's activity room where the firemen played pool and relaxed when not out fighting fires in Arlington. The pool table took up much of the room though, so we all sat around the pool table during our meetings which (as I recall) were on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8p.m. Librarians often became creeped out being there alone on other Wednesday evenings prior to 8 p.m. and so we often closed the library a bit early. After being there several years, the City decided to staff the fire station full time, so we had to vacate and we moved to the third location....



3) We leased an upstairs room above today's Sassafras Vintage & Gifts store (it was an upholstery shop back then). The library overlooked the alley behind the store and the tall windows let in so much daylight that we really didn't need to turn on the ceiling lights. The stairs leading up to the second floor were accessed from Olympic Avenue. Sadly, we lost a lot of our older members who were unable to handle the stairs. After 4 or 5 years there, the owners of the building began renovating each area as it was vacated. They kindly gave us several months to find another location. We moved to our fourth location.....

4) Jensen Business Park (just west of the old Hagggen building) was newly built and had many vacancies, so we approached the owners of the business complex. They leased us a space for something like \$1 a year (or maybe \$1 a month) which was about all we could afford in those days! The library consisted of one large meeting room with two microfilm readers and a growing collection of films. We stay there for 4 or 5 years until new owners of the complex said that our rent was going to go up to \$1000 a month, an amount that we had absolutely no ability to pay. They gave us several months to find another location. We moved to our fifth location.....

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5) I knew the owners, Jim and Rae Nelson, of the building where Donaldson Electric was located. Jim Donaldson, the owner of the electrical company, was their son-in-law. Jim and Rae were my neighbors so I approached them and asked if they would consider renting their empty space to us but we could only pay \$250 a month in rent, plus utilities. Since the space had been empty for many months, they quickly agreed to our terms (and they were very supportive of our policy of preserving local history). Being at street level on Olympic Avenue brought SVGS to the public's attention like we had never had before! We had many visitors who came into the library just to see who we were. It was a great location for our library. Five or maybe six ? years later, Jim and then Rae passed away and the building was inherited by their daughter, Carla. She and Jim planned to remodel the interior of each space after remodeling the exterior, so when it came time to remodel our space, we had to move out. The rent was to be increased beyond what we could pay anyway, so they gave us several months to find a new home.

Then we moved to our sixth location.....





215 S. French Location

6) The 'little yellow house' at 215 S. French Avenue became our next home. We negotiated a rent of \$250 with the school district. Unfortunately, the house was only large enough for the library so we held our monthly meetings at the Free Methodist Church. We soon discovered that we really missed having our meetings in the library! Eventually we had to leave that location too as the School District had other plans for the little yellow house. Finally, we moved to our current location....

7) President Ruth Caesar and the new board negotiated a month-by-month lease on the current location, one that is large enough to hold meetings and the library collection. This location is at the bustling business and manufacturing park at the Arlington Municipal Airport. Even if we were able to purchase this location, the FAA fees to lease the land run around \$19,000 a year, so it is not feasible to purchase this location. We pay rent of around \$1400 a month on a month-to month lease with the City. Should someone make a viable offer to buy this property, the City could certainly choose to accept their offer and SVGS would have to move once again.

Known Matches in Combination with Shared Matches

A Very Powerful DNA Tool

By Sue McNeil

There may be hundreds, thousands or even tens of thousands of people on your DNA match list. Each match implies they share an ancestral couple with you somewhere on your pedigree chart. But how are they related? The concept of using known matches to help identify unknown matches is critical to understanding and breaking down your match list into more manageable chunks.

Do you see anyone on your match list that you recognize? If yes, how are they related? Next look at their shared matches. These are people that share DNA with you, and they share DNA with the match you are reviewing. These shared matches are likely related to you and your known match through the same ancestral lines.

[Important Note: Using known matches to group your matches assumes you do not have cousins marrying cousins in your family tree. If you do, it is much more difficult to sort your matches into groups due to multiple relationships.]

Examples:

- Your 1st cousin, Sally Anderson, is on your DNA list and you know she is the daughter of your mother's brother. You and Sally are descendants of your maternal grandparents. Without knowing anything else about your shared matches with Sally, you now know they are related on your maternal side.
- Your known 2nd cousin match, Fred Brown, on your father's side, shares one set of paternal great-grandparents with you. Shared matches with you and Fred are also related somehow to this same set of great-grandparents. You can focus on that part of your family, instead of looking at the entire tree for your connection.
- Your great-great grandfather, John Smith, was married twice. Your known match, Cindy, is a descendant of John and his 2nd wife and you are a descendant of John and his 1st wife. You share a great-great-grandfather but not a great-great-grandmother. Instead of being a full 3rd cousin, you are a half 3rd cousin, and you will share approximately half of the expected amount of DNA. Shared matches between you and Cindy are also related to your great-great-grandfather Smith.

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The goal is to place as many of your matches as you can into related groups. Each time a match's exact relationship is identified, they become a known match. At Ancestry they provide 24 colored dots to assign to your matches that can mean anything you want. Labelling a different color dot for each of your grandparent couples, four great-grandparent couples and eight great-great-grandparent couples (using 16 of the 24 colors) is extremely valuable. Choose a known match and assign the color dot to them that represents the closest ancestral couple you share. Then assign all their shared matches with the same color dot. Without knowing anything else about these shared matches, they are now part of a genetic group for that ancestral couple. Repeat this process for every known match. You will probably have many matches with multiple dots assigned to them. This process very quickly and easily starts to divide your match list into genetic groups that can be used for filtering, sorting and focusing on a subset of matches pertaining to the family line you are currently researching.

If your testing company does not provide a way to group your matches, you can manually group them by listing known matches with their shared matches in a spreadsheet. The Leeds Method uses a spreadsheet to assign DNA matches sharing 90-400 cMs to groups. This method also works well if you do not have any known matches. You can read more about this method here: <https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/>



Donations to SVGS are very much appreciated at this time. Every donation whether of your time, money or materials are greatly valued. Your financial contribution can be made directly to SVGS by sending a check to PO Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223 or via our website at www.stillygen.org and clicking the donate tab.

A past holiday celebration at SVGS...



*Pam Liebelt and
Lisa Bartlow*

the Christmas Potluck in 2019



Pat Kraetz



Marietta Colbern Roth, SVGS Founder

Donations to the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

Want an easy way to donate to SVGS? If you use Amazon or Amazon Prime, they will do the donation for you with their money. We received \$132.61 in August 2021 for the Mar-Jun quarter proceeding August 2021. Remember, this is not your money. It is coming from Amazon. They donate .5% for eligible purchases.

Log into either Amazon or Amazon Prime, whichever one you use.

Up in the upper right quadrant of your screen there should be a block that says "Hello, Your Name Accounts List". Hover over that and pull down the menu.

Under "Your Lists" click on "Amazon Smile Charity Lists".

Click "Get Started"

Type in Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society. Click the Select button to the right of the name.

Click the box next to "Yes, I understand that I must always start at smile.amazon.com to support Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society."

Then click "Start shopping".

You don't have to buy anything at this time. You can log out.

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Send us your submissions!

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Newsletter submissions for the **Jan/Feb** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **December 10th**



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