

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

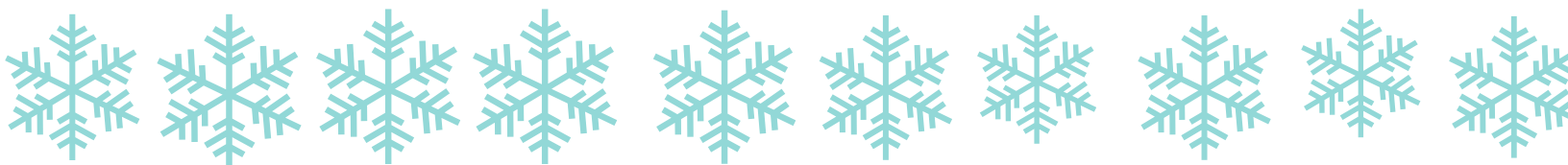
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Arlington in 1916 with six feet of snow. (Courtesy of the Pioneer Museum)





From the Editor

As the new editor of our newsletter, I would like to tell you a bit about myself and how I came to be a member of our Genealogy Society. My family moved to a dairy farm on Kackman Road in 1972 where my husband and his two brothers started Butterbrook Farm.

I started teaching in Arlington School District a few years later. When I retired from the school district I joined the Society. The first members I met were Michele Heiderer, Ruth Caesar, Kay Crabtree, Joanne Wetmore, Helen Eliason and Mary Buzzell. This is a great group that helped me learn about the Society and genealogy.

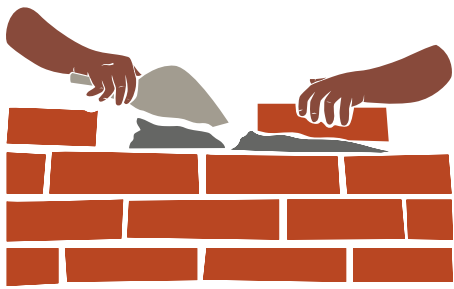
When I was a child living near the small eastern Washington town of Chewelah, we had only one family of relatives and one aunt we called Florence, but her name was really Cynthia. I became curious about other family. I already had a keen interest in history, which by the way, was almost destroyed by the most boring Washington State history teacher ever. At age 12 or so, I started writing to my mother's second cousin, Cynthia Harlow, in Redondo Beach, California. Cynthia would answer with long letters filled with information and lots of phonetic spelling. The letters were filled in the margins, along the edges, and many postscripts. I have saved some of her letters all these years. Cynthia finished fourth grade, sold real estate, but never married. I never got to meet her in person, but from her I received the family photo albums and a long term interest in genealogy.

My daughter is named Cynthia; it has been a Harlow family name for at least 200 years. This newsletter needs your family stories and research results for it to be successful. We all learn from these case studies, so please share with us.

While we are home for the duration of these historic pandemic times, I hope you will find time to share some of your research and family photos. You can send to the Society address at: newsletter@stillygen.org or my personal email at shirleycase21@gmail.com.

Please share your articles before February 26, 2021

-Shirley Case



Brick and stone walls

Michele Heiderer

Have you ever driven down Olympic Avenue in downtown Arlington and noticed that nearly all of the buildings are made of cement block or brick? After repeated fires in the downtown area and in surrounding homes, the Arlington City Council passed Ordinance No. 95 on June 14, 1909, requiring that all new buildings in the retail area to be built of 'brick and stone, brick and terra cotta, concrete or iron construction [and] no building, addition or enlargement of corrugated iron or wood, or of wood covered with iron, or other material, shall be built, erected or placed within the fire limits' (basically the retail area of Olympic Avenue today).

The new ordinance also set out the rules for rebuilding any existing wood structure within this area that was later damaged 'by the elements, decay, or by other causes'. A structure could be repaired if the damage was less than 35% of the building. But if more than 35%, the structure was to be removed and rebuilt to the new code.

As you walk along Olympic Avenue, you will see just a few wood buildings left, all in the four-hundred block of North Olympic. They are:

410 North Olympic, built in 1901, now occupied by Hallmark Homes Real Estate.

421 North Olympic, built in 1904 (the Arlington Hotel); today the rooms are rented to long-term tenants.

426 North Olympic, built in 1901 (the Arlington Times); now occupied by a Re/Max real estate office.

431 North Olympic, built in 1904, now occupied by the Ava Rose Boutique.

While researching this story, I wondered who provided the bricks and cement blocks that replaced the old wood buildings in downtown Arlington, buildings that included doctor's offices, hotels, grocery stores, shoe stores, a hardware store and other businesses in the early 1900s. I could not find any business in Arlington that might have manufactured bricks or cement blocks, and I could locate none in Marysville. But in the 1910 Everett City Directory I found four brick manufacturers in Everett and one in Snohomish:

The 1910 city directory lists 17 men who were bricklayers living in Everett but none living in Arlington or surrounding areas.

Twenty years earlier in the summer of 1890, freight was being brought to Arlington from Everett by rail, so perhaps by 1909, the railroad was also bringing bricks and cement blocks to our town.

The next time you are in Arlington, walk the historical retail area of Olympic Avenue and look at the brick exteriors...every single building has its own pattern of brickwork. And please help support the local shop and restaurant owners! Have lunch and afterwards browse the clothing, decorative home accessory, and antique/collectible stores. The business owners will appreciate it!

Sources:

'Ordinance No. 95,' Arlington Times, pp 1 and 2, June 19, 1909, svg.stparchive.com, accessed January 3, 2021
Everett City Directory, R. L. Polk, 1910, page 690; ancestry.com, accessed January 3, 2021
'Arlington-Thumbnail History', Janet Oakley, historylink.org, accessed January 3, 2021.



Why You Should Consider Taking A DNA Test

Sue McNeil

Many of you have worked on your genealogy for years. You expanded your family tree over time and (hopefully) have the sources to prove your work. What can you possibly gain by taking a DNA test? There are many reasons to test:

- Research Validation – verify whether your DNA results back up your paper trail.
- Living Family Connections – receive a list of DNA matches. These are other testers that share parts of your DNA, indicating a shared common ancestor...and possibly own that elusive family bible or pictures.
- Unknown parentage – identify biological family of an adopted person, foundling, etc.
- Ethnicity Estimates – satisfy your curiosity about your family origins (am I Swedish, Native American, Jewish, etc.).
- Medical Tendencies – find out what diseases you are predisposed to developing based on genetic markers found in your DNA.
- Genealogy Proof Standard – meet the genealogical proof standards more thoroughly with DNA evidence supporting your traditional research.
- Help Others – provide relatives (known and unknown; present and future generations) with your genetic clues.

What would you give to have your great-grandmother's DNA? A DNA test does NOT replace your traditional genealogical research; it complements it. While a DNA test can estimate your relationship to one of your DNA matches, it cannot prove an exact relationship. You still need genealogy and analysis to draw a sound conclusion. Before taking a DNA test, make sure you are prepared to accept the results. Sometimes people receive unexpected matches or do not see expected matches. This could simply mean someone has not tested. It can also mean identifying something you may not welcome, such as realizing you are not related to part of your family biologically. Once you know, you cannot unknown. If you are asking someone else to take a DNA test, it is particularly important to point out the risk. Ask before they test whether they want to be made aware of DNA surprises. DNA tests can be eye opening and fascinating! They are another tool to help you prove or disprove your family connections. Instead of the paper record trail, it is the genetic trail your ancestors left for you to follow. So, when you are ready, take a test and enrich your family history.

Happy exploring!



The Arlington Times.



Looking south on Olympic Avenue at Second Street in downtown Arlington. Peterson's Clothes Shop is on the corner in the Moran Building. The building advertised as "HOTEL" is the Vancouver Hotel, now the home of the American Legion. Photo by Ellis # 1810.

Want Something Fun To Read?

Sue Walde

Try our recently digitized Arlington Times newspapers (1895-1924).

Although our project is not finished, you may access the newspapers online. Our goal is to link the newspaper archive to our website at www.stillygen.org

But until then, simply:

1. Go to <https://archiveinabox.com>
2. Click on: Newspapers+Periodicals
3. Click on the yellow button: SmallTownPapers Archive
4. Scroll down by state to Washington [Remember this screen!]
5. Continue scrolling down and click: Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society – Arlington

Now here's where your fun begins! There are two ways to explore.

Click Browse to see editions listed by year between 1895 through 1924. Click Search and enter a search word(s). Try entering the name of a community or surname.

Want newspapers more recent than

1924? Remember the screen that listed the newspapers from Washington?

To search for other editions of The Arlington Times, go back to the Washington screen and click on:

Stillaguamish Valley Pioneers –
Arlington
Arlington Times – Marysville

Explore and enjoy the journey through old-time Arlington!



Special thanks to our vendor, SmallTownPapers, for digitizing our newspaper archive!

Thanks also to the following volunteers who helped through this essential phase:

Sue Walde, Michele Heiderer, Susanne Brown, Sue McNeil, Ruth Caesar and Karen Looney.

Our digitization project is a work-in-progress. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at queries@stillygen.org

Bygone Days and Looking Forward

Ringin in 2021 hasn't been quite as it has in years gone by, has it? Many of us have had some trying times to get through as we move into this New Year. But know we have made it and look for things to get better. As genealogists we look to the past to find our family stories. Don't forget to write YOUR stories for your descendants! You know how you'd love to find a message from the past from one of your ancestors...you can leave that gift to those family historians who follow you.

As I look back at 2020 I recognize the tireless efforts so many of our members have invested to keep our society leaning forward. This has been a truly challenging year for the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society (SVGS). With our library closed since March we've begun a new era of communication. Our Thursday Morning Group (the Rug Rats) are now having weekly meetings every Thursday at 10AM via Zoom.

To help ward off the feeling of isolation this group even met on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve as well as New Year's Eve. These meetings allow members to interact and have a sense of community as well as often picking up new genealogical nuggets of information to add to their research bag of tricks. All society members are invited to attend the fun informal meetings. Just email info@stillygen.org to request information on how to join SVGS Zoom meetings.

Society meetings and presentations were also able to begin again online by way of Zoom; however, we did experience some glitches. Thankfully, those presenters have kindly offered to provide those classes for us again over the next couple of months. We hope you will be able to attend our 2021 presentations. See our events at www.stillygen.org.

Lastly, let me tell you how grateful I am that many of you have chosen to become Lifetime Members and others have made donations to SVGS.

Every little bit of additional funding is so appreciated at this time. You are probably aware that we had very limited results with grant funding in 2020 as we are not viewed to be in the greatest need.

In addition, I would like to thank the SVGS Board for picking up all the loose ends which so easily might slip through the cracks. It is very difficult to track all the things the society does without our "normal" in person contact.

We all miss sitting together and having a conversation to work through the issues that arise but for now this is our reality. We all hope to see a brighter future looking forward.

Ruth Caesar
President, SVGS

Let's Get Together, On ZOOM

Phil Bartlow

Have you been missing your genealogy friends since the library has been closed?

Why not join us at RugRats every Thursday morning? We meet each week via ZOOM. It's easy to join and you don't need any special equipment or computer skills.

You never know what the discussion topics might be. Could be the success in finding a new cousin, a new connection to a Mayflower passenger, DNA matches, a report on an interesting webinar, or just catching up on what's new.

Just email Karen at info@stillygen.org and she will add you to the email list. Weekly, you will receive an email with an invitation to join the meeting. Then, before 10:00 am on Thursday, click on the link provided and follow the instructions and you will be "at" the meeting. You don't need a camera or microphone or even be on a computer to join us. There is a phone number you can call and join that way. (Unfortunately, at this time, you do have to be a member of SVGS to receive the weekly emails. Check the SVGS website at www.stillygen.org for membership information.)

Come join us and stay connected.



Send us your submissions!

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

Newsletter submissions for the **Mar/Apr** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **Friday, February 19th**.



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



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HOME OF THE NORTHWEST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

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