

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



Family Tree Webinars

Be sure to check out Family Tree Webinars at www.familytreewebinars.com for plenty of genealogy and tech webinars to help with your research. There are several upcoming live webinars but also many available in the library. Some of their videos are free, but others require an annual membership.

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Upcoming Events

Please note: All SVGS meetings are currently virtual at this time. For further details on upcoming meetings please visit www.stillygen.org.

THURSDAYS (weekly) 10AM
SVGS Thursday Research Group

SEPTEMBER 8, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
"Influenza: The Twentieth Century's
Deadliest Pandemic"
Michael Strauss

SEPTEMBER 12, 12:45PM
Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Meeting & Program
"Old Hands: Reading Historic Handwriting"
Robbie Johnson
www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org

OCTOBER 13, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
"From Pilgrims to Pioneers: Researching
Your New England Ancestors"
Kathleen Kaldis

OCTOBER 15, 22 & 29
Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Fall Workshop Series
"Defining Moments in History"
Mary Kircher-Roddy, Janice Lovelace,
and Dave Obee
www.skagitvalleygenealogy.org

NOVEMBER 10, 1PM
SVGS Monthly Meeting
"Unlocking Notation Codes on Alien
Passenger Lists"
Liz Gomoll

FROM THE EDITOR



The month of August has been very busy for my little family. We closed on our house, moved in and have been unpacking and organizing. Our internet wasn't installed until a couple days ago, which is why the newsletter is a little later than usual.

It is such a joy to be in our new house! I could sense a positive lift in everyone's moods almost immediately after we moved in. It has been fun (for me anyway!) to organize our new home and start arranging things how we want. There are a lot of responsibilities that come with owning your own home, but so far I'm finding that the positives outweigh the negatives.

Now that we are all moved in, we will be starting a new adventure which many parents are dealing with right now. I not only will be continuing to work a full time job from home but am also taking on the role of homeschool mom. I'm very excited for this new season, but unfortunately it means that I won't have as much time to focus on editing the Stilly Star. We are looking for a new Editor for the newsletter and you can find more details on page 10.

Any submissions for the next issue of the newsletter should be sent by
Sunday, October 25th.

Please send any newsletter submissions or questions for the Editor to
newsletter@stillygen.org.

- Leah

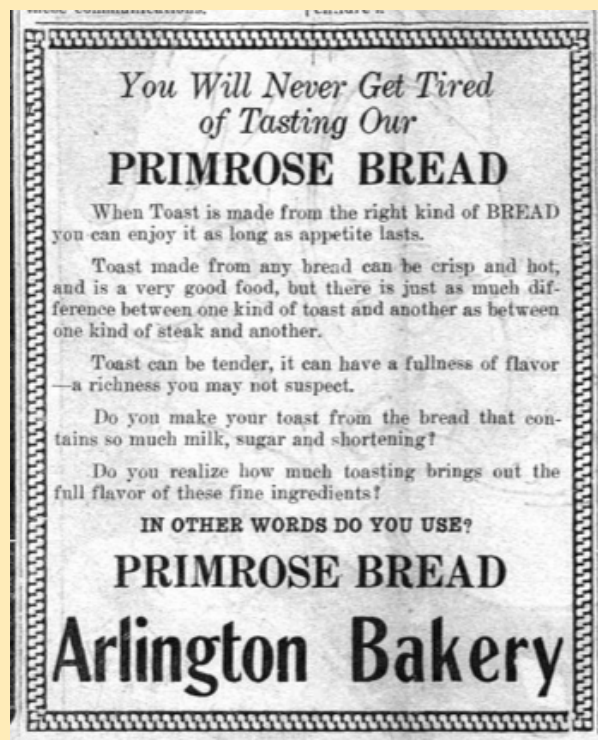
Virtual Nordic Genealogy Conference

One of our members, Diane Erickson, forwarded information about an upcoming virtual conference which may interest those who are of Nordic ancestry.

The National Nordic Museum located in Ballard is putting on a virtual conference centered on Nordic Genealogy research September 26th & 27th. Registration is open with 3 tier options.

Find out more information at www.nordicmuseum.org/genealogyconference

Michele asks "What is this bread?" She can't find any other information on it. If you know anything about it, please email her at kellen2000@seanet.com



A New Cousin

Karen Looney

Recently I checked my new DNA cousins on 23andMe. I had a person showing up as a 3rd cousin. I did a little research and found out we shared relatives in my father's paternal line. The surnames he used though, only showed up in my mother's line. I don't believe my research is without error, but thought it odd that I couldn't find any possibilities in my searches. Much of my father's line was given to me by my Uncle Carl almost thirty years ago. I had always been happy with his work and had not found any glaring differences.

I finally wrote to this new cousin and told him I hoped we could figure this out. He told me that his Great- Grandmother was Laura Wade. I didn't have a Laura Wade. He had given me access to his Ancestry tree. When I looked up the path from his Great Grandmother, there was my great grandfather James R B Wade! Again, I did not have a Laura Wade as his daughter. I looked back at my Uncle's work and he did not have Laura Wade.

Laura Wade, my Great Aunt, was born in 1882. She married on 6 January 1900 to William Spencer. She never showed in the census with her family. As I was adding her to my genealogy, I noticed that in 1920 she and her family were living next door to her brother Joseph Wade's family and her father was listed as the last person in her brother's household just above the listing for her Spencer family. So she was almost listed with her family!

It was exciting to make these corrections to my file and meet a new cousin.

Search The Arlington Times 24/7

Sue Walde



Want to search The Arlington Times in your pajamas?

As SVGS currently works on digitizing the oldest Arlington Times newspapers, there are two online sources where some editions are currently available. You may access them from the comfort of your home 24/7.

First visit the Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum's website:

1. Bring up the Pioneer Museum's website: www.stillymuseum.org
2. Click on Links.
3. Click on Browse our old Arlington Newspaper Archives.
4. Select Browse to see which editions are archived or find an individual edition.
5. Or select Search and enter a word(s).

A second source is ArchiveInABox featured by Small Town Papers: <http://arl.stparchive.com/>

Currently, SmallTownPapers has 26 years of The Arlington Times newspapers ranging from 1951 to 2010. Unfortunately, some editions are missing editions.

Between the two websites, many of The Arlington Times newspapers are digitally accessible.

Use your computer's Snipping Tool to copy and paste articles.

If you have family from the Arlington area, try entering your family name in the Search box. It is a quick search. You may be amazed by the stories about the Stillaguamish Valley and what your kin was up to!

My Friend, Janice Taylor

Michele Heiderer

Janice Marie Bagley (Bense) Taylor, founding member of SVGS, passed away in Everett, WA on Saturday evening, August 19th. She was 78. When I first met Jan at Marietta Roth's genealogy classes at the Arlington Public Library in September of 1985, I had no idea that our new friendship would last 35 wonderful years. With previous experience in creating genealogy societies while living in Southern California, she knew who to contact at the Federation of Genealogical Societies to ask for guidance on how to form our society. They sent us sample by-laws and standing rules that we personalized and that still guide our society today. Jan was also instrumental in helping our brand new society register as a non-profit organization with the IRS and the State of Washington.

Jan put us in touch with genealogical book publishers (several of whom regularly donated new books for our tiny library) and other genealogy libraries who sent us their duplicates. She helped us set up our new library collection. She eventually provided budgeting information from other societies so that we could see how they raised money to pay rent, buy supplies, pay for speakers, and so on. She was the main organizer in setting up one-day seminars that SVGS held regularly throughout the later 1980s and they became the model for seminars we held in the 1990s.

Jan Bense, as most of us knew her back then, separated from her husband in 1989, moved to California, and eventually married her high school sweetheart, Bob Taylor. Jan and Bob later moved to Indiana to be near her daughter, Stacey, her new husband, Anthony,



Janice (Bense) Taylor, founding member of SVGS

and the grandchildren who came along a few years later. After Bob passed away in 2014, Jan moved back to Arlington. By August of 2019, dementia started to take its toll and Jan was moved to a nursing home, then last May she was moved to an adult family home in Everett. I visited her as often as I could and became her legal guardian in July. I donated her genealogy book collection to SVGS earlier this year when it became clear that she would never be able to go back to her apartment and live on her own. Most of the books pertain to genealogy in Great Britain and Ireland and will be cataloged into our collection when we are able to safely re-open the library.

As was their wish, I am making arrangements for Jan and Bob to be buried at Tahoma National Cemetery. She is survived by her daughter Stacey and her husband Anthony Rosner, her son Gary Bense, and four grandchildren, Julieanne, Anthony, Liana, and Azreal.

The Arlington Times.

Sue Walde

Coming Soon: The Oldest of The Arlington Times!

- In 1910, P. L. Wallis was fined \$10. It was an impounding fee for seven of his cows wandering into the town of Arlington. Not much got past eagle-eyed Pound Master Britton!
- In 1918 during the influenza pandemic, if the schoolteacher rang the school bell at 4:00 p.m. - it was deemed safe to send children to school the next day.
- In 1921, Seymour's Variety Store (at the northeast corner of 4th Street & Railroad Avenue, today Olympic Avenue), offered a 10-quart kettle for 75 cents. Two bars of soap cost 7 cents.

All these tidbits of local history and much more will be easily available thanks to a grant awarded by Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission.

Excellent progress is being made on this project, to be completed by June 1, 2021. The bulk of the \$8,255 grant money is to digitize our oldest, local historic newspapers - the Haller City Times (1895-1897) and The Arlington Times (1887-1924).

Currently 9 microfilm reels of newspapers are being digitized by SmallTownPapers. Once digitized, the newspapers will be linked from our SVGS website and posted on ArchiveInABox (see SmallTownPaper's www.archiveinabox.com). Patrons will be able to access the newspapers via the SVGS website free of charge.

If you have computer skills and would like to help with various tasks of this project from the safety of your home, please contact us at info@stillygen.org.

How Are We Related Again?

Phil Bartlow

Searching the internet a few weeks ago, I found my maternal Great-Grandmother, Alfild, listed in a family tree. Since the tree owner is unknown to me, I sent a message asking how she might be related to Alfild. Here is the response I received: Hello. Sometimes I get far afield in practicing my research. Alfild is the mother-in-law of the niece of the wife of the uncle of the wife of the brother-in-law of the great-aunt of the husband of my sister-in-law. I hope it gets you some information to go on.

Any volunteers to fill in the blanks?

SARA "SALTEE" GURLEY

Shirley Case

My husband's great grandmother, Sara "Saltee" Francis Gurley, was reported to be the first woman to have a car accident in Seattle in 1920. Sara is pictured as the nearest person to the camera. The young girl or woman looks much like any unhappy teen of today. The picture was taken in Seattle and the exact address is unknown.



Sara was born in Waco, Texas on February 19, 1859 and lived until Nov 12, 1949. Sara's father was a colonel in the Civil War on the side of the south. The family moved to Seattle just prior to Washington becoming a state in 1889 so are considered pioneers. The family opened a bicycle shop which then became sporting goods known as Piper and Taft Sporting Goods Store. One of the employees was Eddie Bauer of the outdoor clothing line.

The age on the picture of her as a young girl is not known. It is apparent she was quite young, probably close to age four. While in Texas the family was quite wealthy then lost most of their money, moving to Seattle after that.

The Story Behind The Library Numbering System

Michele Heiderer

Many years ago, around 1990 or 1991, the library lost its happy home upstairs in the building that now houses Sassafras Antiques catty-corner from City Hall. We soon found a new home in Jensen Business Park just west of the empty Haggen building. At that time, members were regularly complaining that they could not find anything in the library because of how the books were cataloged. The books were being cataloged by Marilou Nyblud, who was our president at that time, using the Dewey Decimal System, which was how we thought books should be cataloged. I don't recall the specific three digit numbers being used but I'll give examples of how the library's collection was organized so that you can see why a better system was needed. For instance, all town histories (no matter where the town was located) were given the number 971 followed by the author's initials. All census records (no matter what area or time period they covered) were given the number 972 followed by the author's initials. All land or property records (from anywhere or any time period) were given the number 973 followed by the author's initials. All biographies were given the number 974 followed by the author's initials. All genealogies were given the number 975 followed by the author's initials, etc., etc.

It became very difficult to find anything as our library grew. If a member or visitor came in to look at everything we had on Indiana, the person had to go through every section of the library to find what he or she was looking for. There was nothing but complaints about how the book collection was organized! There were no computers back then and going

through the card catalog manually wasn't much easier than just looking through the bookshelves. We all thought that Marilou was doing what she should be doing to catalog our library even though we knew it wasn't an efficient system.

After we settled into the Jensen Business Park, another member and I sat there talking about how to reorganize the book collection so that if someone wanted to do research in Indiana, it wasn't a chore to find what he or she needed. Her name was Beverly Dorfner; she was a retired Sno-Isle librarian's assistant and an active SVGS member. She and I approached the board, then the full membership, and offered to come up with a more user-friendly numbering system. After everyone gave their approval, she and I starting regularly driving down to Seattle Public Library and meeting with Darlene Hamilton, one of the librarians on the floor that houses their huge genealogy collection. Darlene was wonderful to work with; she kept emphasizing that we needed to figure out the main focus of our little library and then come up with our own numbering system that made it easy to find whatever someone was looking for. (Darlene was a friend to many budding genealogy societies over the years, and finally retired from Seattle Public Library last year. Sadly, Bev passed away in 2008 and I still miss her.) She and Bev both agreed that small, specialized libraries often created their own numbering system to fit the needs of their collections and those who patronized it. That gave Bev and me the permission we needed to do away with the messy Dewey Decimal System!

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Bev and I eventually came up with the system still in place in our library today (with some minor modifications over the years). The main emphasis became focusing on 'location' as opposed to 'topic'. By that I mean that we decided it was a priority to make everything that our library owned on Indiana, for instance, to be found in one location. That way someone coming in to use the library would not have to go from one section to another to locate and use what the library held on Indiana.

We first focused on the greater Stillaguamish Valley books and records and put them into one section of the library, then sorted that material by topic (funeral records, obituaries, Arlington history, pioneers, etc.). As the collection grew, we later created what is now the Snohomish County Room where everything pertaining to any location in Snohomish County can be found in that room. This collection now includes all reference materials, maps, stories, photos, obituaries, school yearbooks, the Stillaguamish Tribe, etc. that pertains to any location in Snohomish County. The main focus of the collection is, of course, on the historical areas, towns and cities along the north and south forks of the Stillaguamish River, but material and books pertaining to other areas of Snohomish County (such as Everett and Marysville) will be found in this room.

This collection also holds a huge number of obituaries from the Everett Herald and an equally large collection of cemetery records from around Snohomish County. SVGS inherited this collection (none of which is online) when its compiler, Clara Matthias, passed away in 1997. She left instructions in her will that our humble library was to be the

recipient of her many years of hard work creating this collection. Clara was 94 when she passed away.

We then created the Washington State collection. Today, the first section in the Washington State Room contains books pertaining to Washington territory and Washington state. The next section contains books pertaining to the various Native Americans tribes who lived throughout Washington excluding Snohomish County. The rest of this collection is alphabetical by county. So everything pertaining to Washington State, regardless of location but excluding Snohomish County, is in this room.

Everything pertaining to the rest of the U.S. states is in the recently expanded United States Room. The books are alphabetical by state; so everything pertaining to Indiana will be found here in one location. The Foreign Countries section, found near the back entrance of the library, is set up alphabetically by the name of the country.

The General Reference section, located in the long hallway, is the only section of the library divided by topic. The topics have been modified over the years to reflect how genealogy has changed. For instance, when the General Reference section was first created, no one had heard of the words 'internet genealogy' or 'DNA'!

If a genealogy, family history, or anything like that pertains mainly to a family, its ancestors and descendants who predominately lived in a single U.S. State (or foreign country), then it is cataloged in that state (or foreign country), not in the Genealogies section. So if we receive a book about a family who lived in Indiana for

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generations, it will be cataloged and placed with the rest of the books on Indiana in the United States Room. But if the genealogy or family history covers a family who lived in more than one U.S. state (or migrated from another country, then settled in more than one predominate U.S. state), it is catalogued in the Genealogy Section.

There is one minor exception to where books are actually shelved. If the book or other materials (such as the Plat Maps for Snohomish, Skagit and other counties) is oversized (meaning that it won't fit on our standard book shelves) it is housed in the oversized bookcase in the hallway near the media room. Each oversized item has a corresponding 3-ring notebook cataloged and sitting on a shelf within the appropriate state or Washington county with a label on it and a cover sheet describing the contents and stating where the over-sized bookcase is located. For instance, the 1910 Snohomish County Plat Maps are 20" x 24" and are in a box too large to sit on the shelves in the Snohomish County Room. There is a 3-ring notebook in the General Snohomish County section in the Snohomish County Room that directs the researcher to the oversized bookcase to find that set of map.

Over the decades, a huge amount of miscellaneous material was donated to SVGS, too important to throw away but usually consisting of just a few pages and not large enough to be cataloged as a book. For every General Reference section, for every U.S. State, for every City in Snohomish County, for every section of the Stillaguamish Valley section, for every county in Washington, and for every Foreign Country, the first book

(labeled #1) in each section of the library is a collection of this miscellaneous material. This material varies from one #1 notebook to another but may include small maps, land deeds, short biographies, historical notes, local museum brochures, photographs, etc. pertaining to that section of the library. You never know what interesting items can be found in these #1 notebooks!

I hope this explains and clarifies how the library's numbering system was created. The goal that Bev and I had so many years ago was to help our librarian patrons find the books they wanted quickly and with as little confusion as possible.

Newsletter Editor Needed

An Editor for the Stillaguamish Star newsletter is needed starting in October. The newsletter is issued via email every 2 months. Articles and tidbits are submitted by members via email before the stated deadline and the Editor is responsible for assembling them into the next issue, reviewing, and editing for grammatical errors and typos.

The newsletter is currently edited using an online web-based program (Canva.com) so the only system requirement is to have access to internet and email. Most prior issues of the newsletter are saved on this platform and can be copied for formatting purposes or simply viewed for reference.

The current Editor (Leah Liebelt O'Neal) is available for training purposes and as a temporary resource if needed. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity, please email newsletter@stillygen.org. Thanks!

Send us your submissions!

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

Newsletter submissions for the **Nov/Dec** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **Sunday, October 25th**.



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<https://www.facebook.com/Northwest-Genealogy-Conference-109884296091070/>



Check out our Blog:

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



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HOME OF THE NORTHWEST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020