

W.I.G.S.
Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers
P.O. Box 627, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-0627



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –WINTER 2015 - Vol. XXI No. 4

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WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

Bringing together the generations to strengthen and support the family bond!

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WIGS meets the second Tuesday of each month,
September thru June at 1:00 PM in the fire station at
2720 Heller Road, Oak Harbor, Washington.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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President: Marjorie Kott
Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
Secretary: Joyce Boster
Treasurer: Patricia Papendorf
Auditor: Carolyn Bakker
Historian: Jackie Vannice
Library Custodian: Yseldah Applegate
Membership: Laurie Livingston
Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
Programs: Ruth Hancock
Publications: John Richter
Refreshments: Margaret Peterson
Sound: David Flomerfelt
Ways & Means: Grace LaFountain
Webmaster: Sam Wheeler

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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For a quick check on what is happening with WIGS,
visit <http://www.WIGS.webplus.net>.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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As I prepare to celebrate the Christmas holidays with family, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to my special genealogy family. You have been a wonderful support to me as your president for the last four years. I couldn't have asked for a more interesting and inspiring group. I enjoyed sharing fun stories with you as well as hearing yours.

I also want to give my sincerest thanks to the priceless group of board members who were always supportive even when I stumbled through Robert's Rules.

May each of you have a wonderful year researching successfully for more family members who are lurking in the shadows of the past. (Perhaps some holiday cheer would help). And don't forget, if you ask others to turn off their cell phones, be sure to turn off yours.

Margie Kott

2016 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

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Effective 1 Jan 2016 the following will assume their positions.

President:	Jackie Vannice
Vice President:	Barbara Green
Secretary:	Joyce Boster
Treasurer:	Janis Keough
Membership:	Laurie Livingston

Programs: Ruth Hancock
The Searcher: John Richter
Ways & Means: Grace LaFountain
Historian: Cathy Mann-Fisher
Education and Trips: Margie Kott
Library: Bob Keough

WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 8, 2015. "Show and Tell"

Sharing day for all. Please bring a picture, story, heirloom or other artifact you wish to share with us. Think outside the box and perhaps you can share a unique find you have had, a brick wall broken or an artifact out of the ordinary, specifically valuable to your family. As part of sharing day bring some finger food, something that may have been a favorite with your family. Perhaps there is a good story associated with your shared food. Let's have a good day together sharing stories, memories and food.

January 12, 2016 **Laura Sparr** will be our speaker. The topic is yet to be determined. If anyone has a topic they would like to have presented please let us know at popnpup1@gmail.com. This is an excellent opportunity to hear a topic which is of interest to you.

February 9, 2016 **Bobby Sandberg** will be our speaker. Her specific topic is yet to be determined. As some of us know she is very well versed in electronic genealogy. If you are interested in a specific topic again please let us know at popnpup1@gmail.com.

WHATS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island
Programs are at 1:15 PM

January 11, 2016 The speaker, **Nancy McDaniel**, is a retired Air Force Colonel in the Medical Service Corps, will speak about her book, "**A Sound Defense - Military Historical Sites of Puget Sound**". Ms. McDaniel will identify the local military sites, talk about their history,

describe how the sites were acquired and any persons and skirmishes associated with each site.

February 8, 2016. An Apple A Day.

Maureen MacDonald is the speaker. She is a graduate of Sarah Thorson-Little's highly recommended University of Washington Genealogy class.

In this program you will learn about medicine in the early days and how it affected ancestral families in choosing a location to settle, raising their children and, possibly, moving to another location. The program might help to answer the question of why you are missing certain relatives.

March 16, 2016 2016 Spring Seminar

From 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the Useless Bay Country Club, 5725 So. Country Club Lane, Langley, WA.

Seminar Subject: "Emigration and Immigration"

Speaker: Gary Zimmerman, President, Fiske Genealogy Library

Check <http://www.gsswi.org/seminar.shtml> for more details as they become available.

ROOTS/TECH

February 3-6, 2016 RootsTech will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Innovator Summit will be held on February 3, 2016, also at the Salt Palace. [More detailed info in this newsletter.](#)

May 4-7, 2016 The National Genealogy Society (NGS) 2016 Family History Conference will find genealogists from around the country gathering in Fort Lauderdale, Florida for a four-day conference with more than 10 tracks per day and 150 lectures on a wide range of topics. Topics like DNA, Internet and Technology, Women, Jewish, African American, Courthouse Research, BCG

Skillbuilding, and much more. Registration begins December 1, 2015.
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy Society
Arlington Free Methodist Church, 730 E. Highland Dr., Arlington, WA 98223
Presentation times are 1:00 – 3:00 PM

January 12, 2016 Stretching Your Genealogy Dollar.

January is a great month to learn how to save money on our genealogical research. We'll learn about the power of Sno-Isle Library's reciprocal agreements, beginner's tips for using social media, and other hints for making the most of the dollars we've earmarked to search for our ancestors. Check back soon for additional info as it becomes available

<http://stillygen.org/eventListings.php?nm=41>

February 9, 2016 State of Tennessee

Join us for a Presentation by former SVGS Volunteer **Laura Sparr** about the great **State of Tennessee** . We'll learn about resources for researching Tennessee ancestors. Laura will share insights from her recent trip to the TN State Archives as well as tips and hints for finding ancestors who were born in present-day Tennessee counties when those counties were a part of other states such as North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, or Alabama.

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Veterans History Project
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The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. VHP's mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

Participate

Share your story if you're a veteran. Simply sit down with a friend or loved one and **record** a conversation about your military experiences for 30 minutes or longer. **Interview a veteran** in your family or community. **Collect** a veteran's historical documents. **Collaborate** with your local high schools and universities, retirement communities, veteran service organizations, churches, area businesses, and other community groups. All you need is the VHP Field Kit, an interviewer, and an interviewee. Once the interview is recorded, keep a copy for yourself and submit the original along with the required forms to VHP.

Add To Our Collection

You can contribute:

A video or audio-recorded interview of a veteran of 30 minutes or longer.

10 or more original:

Photographs, Letters , Two-dimensional artwork, Official military documents

20 pages or more of original :

Unpublished memoirs Diaries or journals

Please note that we only accept original materials, we cannot accept scans, photocopies, or reproductions of any kind.

Deceased veterans

Next of kin may donate photographs, letters, diaries and memoirs of a deceased veteran. The biographical data form and a release form on behalf of the deceased veteran muse be completed and accompany submitted materials. VHP cannot accept proxy interviews recorded for a deceased veteran.

Learn more visit online at www.loc.gov/vets and click on our frequently asked questions.

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Find Ancestors in Marriage Record Alternatives
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When your own ancestral couples walked down the aisle and said their "I Do's" in front of witnesses, friends and family, little

did they know they were becoming genealogists' best friends. For each martial union, records of all sorts were being created- and, we hope, recorded and kept. At the church level you may uncover marriage banns, marriage returns or registers and marriage certificates. At the town or county level you may find marriage intentions, bonds, licenses, returns or registers, prenuptial contracts and certificates. And, of course, if things went sour, there were divorce petitions (many of which might not have been granted). The fact is that these records can provide valuable information about your ancestors.

Marriage Record Alternatives

When you can't find a marriage record, try these other possibilities:

Newspapers: Look for wedding and anniversary announcements. Obituaries may also tell when the person was married.

Census Records: Particularly 1900 and 1910, which asked for the number of years married. The 1850, 1860 and 1880 censuses asked if married within the year, and the 1870 asked for the month of marriage within the year. The 1930 census asked for the age at first marriage.

Pension Applications: When applying for a widow's pension, women had to provide supporting documents to prove their marriage and the birth of their children. Men, too, may have given marriage information on their pensions. You may find testimonials to marriages or the actual family Bible pages, torn out and submitted to the government to prove the marriage.

Naturalization Records: Before 1922, a wife automatically became a citizen when her husband did. In post- 1906 naturalization records, you may find the date of the marriage recorded.

Court Documents: Look at all the deeds and other court records the couple created. You might find mention of when the couple married, especially if a land transaction dealt with inheritable property.

Divorce Petitions: Even if your ancestral couple wasn't granted a divorce, always look

for the petition. There are significantly larger numbers of petitions than actual divorces granted. The petition may give you the exact date of marriage or the number of years the couple was married when the petition was filed.

Home sources: Don't forget that oral history, family Bibles, diary entries, letters and other family papers may be the best and only source for a date of marriage.

Source: Tylor Moss, Online Editor, Family Tree university.

Scanning Documents

Anyone undertaking a genealogy scanning project, or just scanning a single old picture for Throwback Thursday, might have wondered what resolution is best for the particular thing about to be scanned.

In general, the higher the resolution (measured in dpi, for dots per inch), the more you can enlarge the image without getting that grainy, pixilated look. But higher-resolution files also are bigger and hog space on your computer or in your cloud storage, so you don't want to scan everything at the highest-available dpi. Instead, go with these rules of thumb:

- If you plan to post the digitized image to a **blog or website**, the standard is 72 dpi.
- If you want to **print the image at its original size**, scan at least 300 dpi.
- If you're scanning **old letters and other documents to archive**, use 300 dpi. (But notes, receipts and papers you're not intending to archive are fine at 72 dpi.)
- If you plan to **view the scanned photos on your HDTV screen**, use a minimum of 300 dpi for 4x6-inch

originals, and higher dpi for smaller originals.

- If you want to **enlarge the photo up to double in size** (for printing or on-screen zooming-in and examining), scan it at least 600 dpi.
- If you will want to **more than double the size of the original photo**, go even higher with the dpi. At 900 dpi, a 4x6-inch printed photo turns into a 16x24-inch digital image.
- If the **original photo is small**, scan at 600 dpi or higher. If you scan a 2x3-inch photo at 1200 dpi, for example, it will become a 16x24-inch digital image without losing quality.
- If the original is a **tintype or daguerreotype**, scan at 1200 dpi.
- If you **don't know how the digitized photo will be used or you're scanning it to archive for posterity**, scan at least 600 and up to 1200 dpi.

Source: Genealogy Insider Nov 2015

Tech Tip

Genealogy Apps

Check out the FamilySearch App Gallery at familyusearch.org.

As of 28 Nov there were 111 apps showing. You are able to search by category ((6) sub sets) and filter by platforms, iPhone/iPad, android etc, price, languages and FamilySearch Compatibility. Be adventurous and take a look and road test of some of the apps. You may find a gem that is of help to you. Let us know if you find one you are particularly

encouraged by at any of our monthly meetings.

A number of these apps are LDS orientated but still may be very useful for others. If you are interested, take a test run .

If you are not familiar with Family Search it's free and a very useful online genealogy site. A great second family search site. As with all these genealogy sites verify, verify, source, source and source.

ROOTS TECH

RootsTech will be held on February 3-6, 2016, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Innovator Summit will be held on February 3, 2016, also at the Salt Palace.

Why Attend?

RootsTech is the largest family history conference in the world! The upcoming sixth annual global conference "Celebrates Families Across Generations" and has seen tremendous growth and momentum across the globe. This annual event has become the largest of its kind in the world, attracting tens of thousands of participants. RootsTech is the perfect place to discover and share your family's stories and connections, regardless of knowledge or experience level.

Register Now

Be Inspired: World Class Speakers

Each day at RootsTech, the conference begins with an inspiring general session with world-famous speakers. In past years, keynote speakers have included former first lady Laura Bush and daughter Jenna Hager, entertainer Donny Osmond, blogger and author Ree Drummond, and more.

Have Fun: Enjoy Exciting Entertainment

RootsTech provides an opportunity to relax and enjoy some time to let your brain

unwind. We have big plans for the entertainment this year and are excited to make that announcement shortly. For now, anticipate a high-energy and fun act on Thursday at the annual Opening Night Social, February 4 at 6:00 pm. Additionally, there will be a closing event on Saturday, February 6 at 5:00 pm with entertainment you won't want to miss!
Learn Something: Over 200 Engaging Classes

How can Pinterest and Facebook help with family history? How can you use your smartphone or tablet to preserve and share family memories? How can DNA help you discover your family? More than 200 different classes with experts from all over the world will teach the latest tricks and techniques on how to track down ancestors and preserve your family stories.
Try It Out: Hands-on Exploration

The RootsTech Expo Hall is packed with interactive experiences to put all that learning into practice. The biggest companies in family history, including Ancestry.com, MyHeritage, and findmypast will be on hand to walk guests through exactly how to find, preserve, and share their family histories. Attendees can record stories, scan photos, and receive personal advice and training in using the latest tools.

<http://www.rootstech.org/attend/overview?lang=eng>

Yes. Similar to past years, we will stream several sessions of the conference live on our website. Once the conference is over, recordings of these sessions will be posted on our website for a limited time (generally until the next RootsTech conference).

281 sessions, 216 speakers.

First Thanksgiving?

Did the first Thanksgiving held in the New World happen in Saint Augustine, Florida on September 8, 1565? One person with significant credentials in history claims Thanksgiving started decades before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

Dr. Deagan continues, "It never ceases to astonish people the first thanksgiving meal was smoked meat and fish. Ham. Garbanzo beans. Red Wine. Olives and Olive oil. There wasn't any corn as far as we know ,no turkeys, no mashed potatoes, no pecan pie for sure!"

After Juan Ponce de Leon discovered the peninsula, named it La Florida ("Land of Flowers") and claimed it for Spain in 1513. King Philip II named Spanish Adm. Pedro Menendez de Aviles governor of Florida and commissioned him to establish a permanent settlement and gain control of the territory. Menendez landed in Florida on September 4, 1565. He named his landing spot San Agustin (St. Augustine) in honor of the saint upon whose feast day, Aug. 28, he had first sighted land near Cape Canaveral.

Menendez was accompanied by several hundred soldiers, sailors and civilians. One man in the group was a secular priest named Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, who not only was the fleet's spiritual leader, but also kept a log describing the historic passage and landing .

"On Saturday the 8th, the general landed with many banners spread, to the sounds of trumpets and salutes of artillery," according to a translation of what Father Lopez wrote. "As I had gone ashore the evening before, I took a cross and went to meet him, singing the hymn 'Te Deum Laudamus.' The general, followed by all who accompanied him, marched up to the cross, knelt and kissed it. A large number of Indians watched these proceedings and imitated all they saw done. "

Afterward, Menendez held the first Thanksgiving feast.

Dick Eastman <http://www.eogn.com>

MyHeritage and BillionGraves Team Up to Digitally Preserve the World's Cemeteries

MyHeritage, the popular online family history network, has partnered with BillionGraves to launch a global crowdsourcing initiative to preserve the world cemeteries.

BillionGraves is a free iOS and Android application that lets users easily photograph and document gravestones, providing an important source of information for people intrigued about their ancestors and family history. Using patent-pending technology, BillionGraves is the only mobile application of its kind. With the help of MyHeritage, the app will be available in 25 languages, and will support Gregorian, Hebrew and Julian dates. It records the GPS locations of gravestones to make them easy to find and volunteers can easily see which areas of any cemetery remain undocumented, to maximize efficiency and avoid duplication. The gravestone photographs are then transcribed by volunteers on the BillionGraves website, resulting in searchable digital data.

With a community of tens of millions of family history enthusiasts all around the world, MyHeritage brings a vast global volunteer base for collecting and transcribing gravestone photos using the BillionGraves application.

All records collected are made available for free on the BillionGraves and MyHeritage websites. The partnership with BillionGraves brings major benefits for families using MyHeritage to explore their past, as all users will receive free Record Matches, alerts about gravestone records that have been automatically matched to their ancestors, making it easy to make new discoveries. In addition to the photographs and GPS coordinates of the gravestones, an

index of corresponding information, such as dates of birth and death, close family relatives and epitaphs, is made available to search for free on MyHeritage's search engine for historical records, SuperSearch.

We're thrilled to embark on this global initiative with BillionGraves," said Gilad Japhet, Founder and CEO of MyHeritage. Gravestones are among the most valuable information sources for family history research, and although there are many thousands of cemeteries worldwide, most of them have never been documented, and their information is not available online. Time is chipping away at the gravestones and many are becoming unreadable over the years, so it's up to our generation to preserve them.

We're delighted to work with MyHeritage on digitizing the world's cemeteries said Hudson Gunn, President of BillionGraves. At BillionGraves we are working to provide a comprehensive family history database for records and images from the world's cemeteries but it's not something we can do alone. With MyHeritage's support in mobilizing its massive user community and working with us to launch in 25 languages, we'll be able to provide incredible value for millions of families and preserve this valuable data for generations to come.

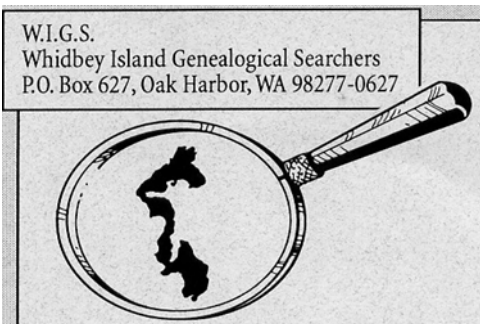
Over the coming weeks, MyHeritage users will receive documentation about the project and will be able to download the application via a special website designed for this project.

Source: Genealogy News Center

Flip-Pal

If you have a Flip-Pal visit <http://flip-pal.com/> to see what all is updated in Toolbox 4.0. Check out the system requirements, and click a link to download the software.

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