



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Spring 2016 - Vol. XXII No. 1

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WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

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

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

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OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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- President: Jackie Vannice
- Vice-Pres.: Barbara Green
- Secretary: Joyce Boster
- Treasurer: Janis Keough
- Auditor: Carolyn Bakker
- Historian: Cathy Mann-Fisher
- Library Custodian: Bob Keough
- Membership: Laurie Livingston
- Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
- Programs: Ruth Hancock
- Education & trips: Margie Kott
- The Searcher: John Richter
- Refreshments: Margaret Peterson
- Sound: David Flomerfelt
- Ways & Means: Grace LaFountain
- Webmaster: Sam Wheeler

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

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- Message from the President 1
- WIGS Coming Attractions.....2
- What’s Happening Elsewhere.....2
- Family Tree Maker Update.....3
- Online Vietnam War Indexes & Records4
- Island County Cemeteries5
- Why Genealogy is Important6
- Genealogy Hint.....7
- Free Irish Search.....7
- State Digital Archives7

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Ahh, Spring! Doesn't it want to make you get outside and do something? The mild weather makes it a great time for a road trip and for cemetery exploration. Do any of you participate in a "Decoration Day" ritual? I learned that the purpose of "Decoration Day" was twofold: to clean and beautify the cemetery and for families to gather together to remember those who had passed on a sort of family reunion on the cemetery grounds. What genealogist wouldn't love that!?

Having grown up in the Skagit/Island county area, I remember for many years right before the Memorial Day weekend, my mother and I would load up the trunk of the car with hard bristled brushes, soap, rags, grass clippers, a small brush, mason jars wrapped in foil, and buckets of flowers from our garden. We would then head out for the day to visit our deceased relatives, spending time with them and cleaning their headstones of moss, weeds and other debris which had accumulated over time. Mom would tell me stories of having spent time with each person as we cleaned their markers and I remembered

wishing I could have had that opportunity myself.

Now that my mother has been gone for almost 14 years, I remember our time together as if it was just yesterday and I cherish the memories of our yearly ritual. Since spring is here, I'll be loading up the car with my cleaning supplies and flowers in hopes that my relatives will enjoy the personal visit. Hopefully, I'll be able to include my cousins to experience the day with me as well!

Happy Decoration Day! Happy Memorial Day!

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WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS
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April 12, 2016 Gary Wallin, owner and director of Wallin Funeral Home & Cremation, LLC will talk to us about death certificates and obtaining information from funeral homes and cemeteries. He has been a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer for 46 years. He also served as Emergency Medical Services Director for Whidbey General Hospital and Wallin Ambulance Services for 30 years.

May 10, 2016 Jean Roth will be our speaker discussing things to consider when Traveling for Research. Jean is a retired Certified Travel Consultant and has been an active genealogist since 1977 with German, Irish and English ancestry experience.

Jun 14, 2016 Teru Lunsten Will be our presenter. The topic for the day will be: Writing a family history.

Reminder to the membership there will be no meetings in July & August – traveling research time.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE
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March 12, 2016 Skagit Valley Genealogy Society, Burlington Senior Center, 1011 Greenleaf, Burlington, WA

Margie Wilson of SVGS will present "An introduction to burial traditions & decoding gravestone icons." She will be using the Green Hills Memorial Cemetery for examples of 19th century gravestone art. Time is 1- 3 PM. This presentation is free to the public.

Olympia Genealogy Society at Capitol Event Center, 6005 Tyee Drive SW, Tumwater, WA.

April 9, 2016 The Power of Your DNA presented by CeCe Moore an independent professional genetic genealogist. This is a day long seminar, 8:30 AM registration to the farewell address at 3:25 PM. There will be a 1 hour lunch break (Box lunch available \$12.50 – must be ordered by 3/25/2016) Fee: \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members. Late registration fee \$5 (after 25 Mar 2016). See www.wagsg.org for full details including registration.

Genealogical Society of South Whidby GSSWI meets in Freeland at Trinity Lutheran Church in their Chapel & Community Building

Monday March 14th: Speaker: Janet Camarata Program: Beginning Irish Research Hunting for an elusive Irish ancestor can feel like an impossible task. Janet's program outlines an approach to make it easier, including strategies for tracking down Irish ancestors with common names.

The program will highlight differences between research in the US and in Ireland, record types available for Irish research here and abroad and the availability of records, both online and off-line.

Monday April 11th: Speaker: Karen Sipe Program: DNA and Genealogy DNA is becoming more and more important as a tool for genealogical research. Unfortunately, it is a very complex subject! Karen Sipe, our April speaker, is highly qualified in the application of DNA analysis as it applies to Genealogy. She will attempt to demystify the use of DNA research in

Genealogy. This is an important subject and the program is not to be missed. Come and be enlightened.

Monday May 9th: Speaker: Jill Morelli

Program: Top 10 Tech Tools

Jill Morelli writes and lectures extensively in the Puget Sound (WA) area on subjects related to genealogy and her German and Scandinavian heritage. She is presently researching 19th century migration decision-making and insanity in the late 1800s. She blogs at

<http://genealogycertification.wordpress.com> about methodology and problem solving for the "on-the-clock" genealogist.

Jill says that she is not a technophile but she has located tools that she considers essential to research. Perhaps they might assist your efforts as well

All above programs are scheduled for 1:15 PM.

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society and Library,

Tuesday, May 10 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Hadley Hall, Arlington Boys and Girls Club, 18513 – 59th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223

Join us for a presentation about Supplemental Census Records by Winona Laird. Ms. Laird has written a book entitled, Have You Ever Lived in a Mining Town, about her grandmother's life. This will be a great opportunity for our members to benefit from her fifty years of genealogical research experience.

Members of the public as well as members of the Society are welcome to attend. This presentation is free to the public.

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Cruising with Legacy Family Tree 2016

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Southbound Alaskan Cruise and Optional Pre-Cruise Tour Package. This year you have two choices:

Option 1: Come on the 7 day Legacy Family Tree Genealogy Cruise **2-9 Sep 2016**

Option 2: Go on a 6 day pre-cruise tour **27 Aug – 2 Sep 2016** then join the 7 day Legacy Cruise Check this link for full details including seminars during the cruise portion of the trip

http://legacyfamilytree.com/CruiseInfo_2016.asp

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Family Tree Maker update

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Those of you wondering what you'll do with your family tree now that Ancestry.com has discontinued Family Tree Maker genealogy software will probably welcome these two new options for storing your computerized family tree data and records:

Ancestry.com announced in December it has sold Family Tree Maker software to a company called Software MacKiev (which has been the developer of Family Tree Maker for Mac for six years). Family Tree Maker owners will receive updates and be able to purchase new versions from Software MacKiev, and they'll continue to be able to save their trees to Ancestry.com, use hints and search Ancestry.com from within the software. (The announcement doesn't specifically mention syncing, though.)

Update: Here's how Ancestry.com responded to my question about syncing: "Family Tree Maker will continue to have syncing capability with Ancestry trees, however this feature may evolve as Software MacKiev updates the software.

"It will use different underlying technology than our current TreeSync but it effectively provides the same basic functionality of allowing the user to keep data in their online tree and data in their desktop tree consistent."

- Ancestry.com also announced a new agreement with RootsMagic to connect the Ancestry.com website to RootsMagic genealogy software by the end of 2016. That means you'll be able to use RootsMagic as your desktop software while using your Ancestry Member Tree as your online version. RootsMagic does say its software will sync with Ancestry trees, as well as directly import Family Tree Maker files (no need to export a GEDCOM first). Read more details and a Q&A on the RootsMagic website.

"We have heard your concerns and are working to provide the solutions you requested," states the announcement from Ancestry.com. "These new agreements will make it possible to preserve your work on Ancestry and Family Tree Maker and enable future features and benefits to help you discover your family history."

For more information on Software MacKiev and RootsMagic see
Software MacKiev <http://www.mackiev.com/>
RootsMagic: <http://www.rootsmagic.com/>
Source: Diane Haddad genealogyinsider 2 Feb 2016

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**Online Vietnam War Indexes & Records
A Genealogy Guide**

Vietnam War Indexes and Records on the Internet

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- National Archives (NARA) Vietnam War Databases

Vietnam War - Access to Archival Databases (AAD) includes Vietnam War casualties, wounded, prisoners of war, missing in action, and more items

Lists of American Casualties from the Korean and Vietnam Wars State-level lists of casualties from the Korean conflict (1951-1957) and from the Vietnam conflict (1956-1998)

- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall...
Interactive Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Fold3 (free) you can search for names and view images from the wall; you can also leave tributes

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Website includes a searchable database of names on the wall

- Vietnam War and Related Databases at Ancestry (these require a subscription payment)...

Vietnam War Military Casualties, 1956-1998 more than 100,000 listings

Vietnam War, Casualties Returned Alive, 1962-1979

Vietnam War, Awards and Decorations of Honor, 1965-1972

U.S. Army Personnel and Dependent Casualties, 1961-1981 85% of the records in this database are related to the Vietnam Conflict

Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010 The BIRLS (Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem) Death File contains birth and death dates, and other information, for more than 14 million veterans who received benefits from the VA while they were alive.

- Vietnam War Casualties, MIA and POWs
POW-MIA database - Korean War/Vietnam War at Rootsweb

United States Casualties of the Vietnam War, 1956-1998 from FamilySearch; includes Vietnam War dead, missing and prisoners of war

Vietnam War POW/MIA List from the Department of Defense

Vietnam-Era Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Database from the Library of Congress
Names of Vietnam War Merchant Marine Killed

- Vietnam War Indexes by State
Arkansas Vietnam War Project: Killed in Action

Colorado Vietnam War Casualties June-December 1966 and January-December 1968

Indiana Vietnam War Deaths
Michigan Military Personnel Who Died in the Vietnam War

Missouri: St. Louis City and St. Louis County Vietnam War Dead

Also see: St. Louis Genealogy Resources
General Databases with Vietnam Records

- Veterans Affairs Burial Search for 120 National Cemeteries (USA)
- Medals and Awards
U.S. Army Medal of Honor Recipients (Civil War to the present)

National Purple Heart Hall of Honor (not complete)

- Virginia Military Dead Database ongoing project
- West Virginia Veterans Memorial Database (for 20th Century Wars)

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ISLAND COUNTY CEMETERIES
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The following is a list of cemeteries in Island County. Listed by name, number of burials with memorials on Find a Grave and physical address. Anyone wanting GPS locations any other contact the editor.

BAYVIEW CEMETERY 1883 Langley, WA

BUSH POINT CEMETERY aka Farmer Cemetery
13 Freeland, WA

CAMANO ISLAND LUTHERAN CEMETERY
aka Camano Lutheran Church Cemetery
921

CAMANO ISLAND PIONEER CEMETERY
aka Camano Pioneer Cemetery
83

CAMP CASEY CONFERENCE CENTER
2 Coupeville, WA

COVE at SARATOGA BEACH 3

DOUBLE BLUFF CEMETERY 6
Freeland, WA

FIRCREST CEMETERY 374
Oak Harbor Street Oak Harbor, WA

LANGLEY WOODMAN CEMETERY
1319 Langley, WA Note 1

LONG POINT NATIVE AMERICAN CEMETERY 40
Coupeville, WA

MAPLE LEAF CEMETERY 4553
16TH Ave & Auvill Rd. Oak Harbor, WA
Note 2

PIONEER BURIAL PARK aka Davis, Morse and O'Brien Cemetery 91
355 Oak Harbor Street, Oak Harbor, WA Note 3

SAINT AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH COLUMBARIUM 1
Camano Island, WA

SAINT AUGUSTINE'S in the WOODS CHURCH COLUMBARIUM 48
5217 Honeymoon Bay Road Freeland, WA

SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CEMETERY
515 S. Brighton Beach Road Clinton, WA

SAINT STEPHENS EPISCOPAL CHURCH COLUMBARIUM 2
535 SE Regatta Dr. Oak Harbor, WA 98277

SUNNYSIDE CEMETERY 2318
Cemetery Road Coupeville, WA Note 4

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COLUMBARIUM 7
18341 Hwy-525 Freeland, WA

The Genealogy Society of South Whidbey Island has excellent aides for Whidbey Island cemeteries. One of the most useful are cemetery layouts with plot/section legends. Also you can enter a surname and it will list everyone with that surname and the cemetery where they are buried.

Go to www.gsswi.org/cemetery/cemetries.php

Note 1. For list of those buried here see: www.files.usgwarchives.net/wa/island/cemeteries/langleyb.txt

www.files.usgwarchives.net/wa/island/cemeteries/langleyc.txt

Note 2. For a list of those buried here see: www.mapleleafcemetery.com

Note 3. For a list of those buried here see: www.files.usgwarchives.net/wa/island/cemerties/pioneer.txt

These are two separate files so you need to visit both sites to get the complete records.

Note 4. For list of those buried here see: sunnysidecemetery.org Also, you can call to schedule a tour. See website for details.

Use findagrave.com and billiongraves.con as additional sources. Many of the usgwarchives listings are not up to date, mainly because after Find a Grave stared these lists were not updated.

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WHY GENEALOGY IS IMPORTANT

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. Some people have very specific reasons for tracing their family tree. Others jump into family history research without giving it much thought.

Knowing why people research their ancestors can be a source of inspiration and support for genealogists. This can be particularly important when the inevitable roadblocks and brick walls become a factor.

What motivates the broader genealogy community is also helpful in understanding the future direction of ancestral research.

Genealogy can certainly mean different things to different people. However, there are some common threads that all people share when looking towards the past. The first part of the article discusses the many practical reasons why people get involved with genealogy. Often, these practical aspects are caused by a specific trigger. The second part of the article focuses on the philosophical aspects of human curiosity and how it motivates people to research their family tree. -

The Practical Side of Genealogy

Below are some of the main practical triggers as to why people search for their ancestors:

- Validate Family Stories – To determine if family stories about their ancestors are true.
- Famous People – To find out if they are related to someone famous.
- Historical Event – To gain a better understanding of an ancestor’s involvement in a famous historical event.
- Trace Medical Conditions –To assess the risk of getting certain medical conditions that tend to run in families.
- Trace a Family Inheritance –To determine genealogical proof of a family connection for potential heirs.
- Trace Land Ownership - To settle questions of land ownership by providing proof of descent.

- Trace a Family Portrait - To see why someone bears a strong resemblance to an ancestor in an old family portrait.
- Find Birth Parents – To determine the birth parents of an adopted child. Alternatively, to find children given up for adoption.
- Proof of Paternity – To determine the biological father of a child.
- Religious Tenet –To satisfy the tenets of the religion. The most notable example is the Mormon Church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).
- Community History – To document a community history by understanding the families that founded and influenced the community.
- Historic Studies – To provide insight into history through the scholarly study of a famous family, such as a royal family.
- Heritage Societies –To provide proof of lineage to qualify for a heritage society.
- Preserve a Close Relative's Legacy - To learn more about a parent, grandparent or sibling after their death.
- Preserving Family Traditions – To preserve knowledge of ancestors who contributed to family traditions, such as a family recipe book.
- Preserve Family Culture – To allow families that have migrated to another country the opportunity to preserve some of the culture of their old country.
- Resolving Family Trees in Bibles - To understand the names written into an old family bible.
- Understand Family Letters/Diaries - To gain context around an intimate glimpse into an ancestor's experiences and feelings.
- Understand a Namesake - To learn more about the person you were named after.
- Settle Ownership of a Heirloom - To help resolve disputes over the origin of a family heirloom.
- Reconnect with Family – To find and reconnect with living relatives.

And finally:

- Family Legacy – To fulfill a desire to pass on a legacy to future generations.
- The Philosophical Side of Genealogy
- Genealogy is not a new activity and it is not isolated to any one culture. It bridges across all cultures and all eras. At its root, genealogy satisfies basic human curiosity. These needs can be summed up in three fundamental questions:
 - • The Past – Where do I come from?
 - The Present – Why am I here?
 - The Future – What is going to happen to me?
- Interestingly enough, the three fundamental questions that underpin genealogy are also the three questions that form the basis of all the major religions of the world.
- People have a basic desire to know where they came from and how they got to where they are today. Thus, in some ways there is a philosophical connection between genealogy and religion.
- Another way to look at the issue is to take a family tree and flip it on its head. In other words, invert the timeline of a family tree and look at it from the perspective of one of your ancestors. From their point of view, you would represent the future. Such a simple exercise produces a profound truth: you are the final end product of the many generations that came before you.
- Chances are many of your ancestors had to overcome considerable personal hardship in their lives. The knowledge that your ancestors had great inner strength can be a powerful motivator for anyone trying to understand their place in the world. If it were not for them, you would not be here today reading these words.

Source: *Genealogy In Time (Online Newsletter) 27 Feb 2016*

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Free Irish Search
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Findmypast.com has released its new collection of 10 million indexed Irish Catholic parish registers, which will be free to search online—forever.

To celebrate, the site is making all of its Irish records free to search and view until March 7.

Click the Start Searching button to begin your search on Findmypast. On the search form, use the Record Set field to choose a particular collection (I typed Catholic to pull up a list of the parish records collections I could select from).

You'll be prompted to start a free basic registration before you can view records that match your search.

Note that if you didn't specify a category or collection of records, a non-Irish record might appear in your results, and when you click it you'll be prompted to subscribe. You can just hit the back button to return to your results.

Source:
<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com>

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GENEALOGY HINT
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The TRUTH.....” It’s for the courts, and in church. NEVER bring it up at family reunions ... it will only cause trouble.”
 A Red Green quote.

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STATE DIGITAL ARCHIVES
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While exploring Cindi’s List one of the recent link additions was one that takes you to Digital State Archives. A quick review revealed all states have online digital archives, claiming that Washington has the best, Pennsylvania, one of the lowest. Use the following link, happy researching:
<http://www.digitalstatearchives.com/>

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