



THE SEARCHER

WIGS NEWSLETTER –Winter 2016 - Vol. XXII No. 4

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.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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 Secretary: Nedra Weber
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear WIGS members,
 Sitting down to write the President's Message, I realize that this will be my last one. Thinking back over the year as President of WIGS I would like to start the message by sending you all my best wishes for good health and a very prosperous and peaceful year 2017.

Since it is the end of the year, it is often helpful to reflect on accomplishments made during the past year and things to look forward to or that need to be done in the near future.

The year 2016 was a busy one with many changes and I thank you for supporting and keeping an open mind to make it all a reality. Changes were made to our logo and we became new owners of a banner, welcome sign and sandwich board to show off our new "look". Hours and hours were spent on updating our Bylaws and Standing Rules (thank you, Joyce Boster) as well as printing, collating and distribution to the membership. In addition, the new member packet was updated as well to support logo changes and new member information.

Janis and Bob Keough inherited our WIGS Library, sorted through a large inventory of

not only books but other publications and duplicated materials. They then came up with an organized system for us all to easily use. We've also enjoyed Bob's "book reports" at each meeting and have found that there is renewed interest in utilizing what we have available in our library for our group.

Our Treasurer, Janis Keough, has done an amazing job at organizing our account and keeping up to date on various transactions. Although she will not be filling the Treasurer's position in 2017, she will have left it in excellent working order.

Ruth Hancock continues to find wonderful speakers for our general meetings and I would also like to thank Joyce for organizing and printing flyers for each of these speakers. In addition, thanks to Janis and Bob for distribution of the flyers at various locations on Whidbey. It takes time to stop at all the locations and your efforts are appreciated.

Those of us who were able to take a trip recently to the Seattle Public Library are still talking about the wonderful time we had and hope to do something similar for next year. Thanks, Margie Kott for organizing the day and Barbara Green for transportation needs.

Our entire Board of Directors has been a joy to work with, always coming up with new ideas and keeping the membership in mind while doing their best to support our program. I thank everyone for the hours you spend on the committee meetings and at home with extra work that is sometimes thrown at you, especially to John Richter who provides us with his informative and entertaining newsletter which we look forward to reading each quarter.

One more project in the works is our new website which we hope to have ready in January or February of 2017. In addition, and after the website is up and running, we have touched on the idea of having a Facebook page as well.

Again, thanks to everyone for a wonderful year of friendship and hard work. Enjoy the holidays!

Jackie Vannice, President

What's Happening Elsewhere

RootsTech 2017:

The 2017 edition of this popular conference happens **8-11 February 2017** in Salt Lake City, Utah. Check out their website at:

<https://www.rootstech.org/rootstech-2017?cid=hp-rt-5464>

Madge Maril, associate editor of Family Tree Magazine, here with some exciting news: If you're a fan of HGTV's Property Brothers, you'll be happy to hear that FamilySearch announced today that the two brothers, Jonathan and Drew Scott, will keynote the 2017 RootsTech conference.

If you are thinking about going you may want to consider sharing a room at a local hotel to help keep costs in line.

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy Society Tuesday, January 10, 2017

US Vital Records (birth, marriage, death)
Available in Ancestry and Familysearch (Monthly Meeting)

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Stillaguamish Room at 154 Cox Ave, Haller Park

Plan to join us as Stanwood Sno-Isle Librarian, Rob Branigin, fills us in on various vital records that can be found on the Ancestry and Familysearch websites. There is no admission charge. This free event is open to the public.

Genealogical Society of South Whidbey
GSSWI MEETS IN Freeland at Trinity Lutheran Church in their Chapel and Community Building.

Monday January 9th: Monthly Program, 12:45 p.m.

Speaker: Mary Kay Roddy
Program: Family Search Usage - A New Presentation!

Mary Roddy has been a genealogist since 2000. She earned a certificate from the Genealogy and Family History program at the University of Washington in 2005. She has served the Seattle Genealogical Society in multiple board positions and on the seminar and education committees. Mary Kay lectures frequently on various genealogical topics at various locations in the Seattle area.

FamilySearch.org has millions of images on its website, many of which are unindexed and not searchable. But if you know how to get into the catalog and browse around, you can find images of birth and death certificates, naturalization papers, deeds, wills, estate inventories and more. Plus, FamilySearch is adding more and more such images every month. To take advantage of the ever-increasing bounty, it's important to know where to find these types of records.

Monday February 13th: Monthly Program, 12:45 p.m.

Speaker: Janet Camarata
Program: Mapping an Ancestor

Geography is a discipline closely related to genealogy and an untapped resource for learning more about our ancestors. Using geography and maps in research provides visual clues to help answer questions about where, how far, and what is nearby.

Learn about the George E. Curry family of Ohio and Kansas and how maps focused

the research, located property, identified lost place names, solved a family mystery and identified jurisdictions to write for records.

Monday March 13th: Monthly Program, 12:45 p.m.

Speakers: Jill Morelli
Program: Too Many Marys: Finding Your Irish Ancestors

To find your Irish ancestor you must know the County and Townland of the ancestor's birth. A common problem is the existence of too many individuals in a geographic area with the same or similar names. How does one identify the correct ancestral individual?

Jill will give us the information necessary to properly identify our Irish ancestors.

We will use the FAN Club approach to finding Mary Coyne who married Daniel H. Doherty in Montana.

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Online Resource
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At [GenealogyInTime Magazine](#), we have a passion for genealogy and a determination to make it better. When you subscribe to our weekly Newsletter (FREE) you will get:

1. Ideas and Inspiration. We are always coming up with new and creative ways to help people find their ancestors. It is who we are and what we are about.
2. New Record Updates Every week we publish the most complete list available on the internet of new genealogy record sets from around the world.
3. Unique Guides and Checklists. Be the first to hear about our latest guides and checklists to help you find your ancestors.
4. Feature Announcements. Get notified when new tools and features are added to our website.

5. Brief and to the Point. We tell you what you need to know when you need to know it. We don't waste your time.

6. Popular (and free). Thousands of people read our Newsletter every week.

7. An Independent Voice. We are not like other genealogy websites. We are different. Give us a try

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/newsletter-subscribe.html>

Extracted from GenealogyInTime Magazine

Samples of some of the articles:

US – FamilySearch.org has released a new collection of Tennessee birth records. The some 215,000 indexed records in this collection consist of birth records from the state spanning the years from 1908 to 1912. For those who have a detailed knowledge of Tennessee birth records, this collection is from the Enumerator Record Series from the Tennessee Division of Vital Records.

It should be noted that not all Tennessee birth records were captured in this series. Below is a sample birth record. This collection can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Historic Tennessee Birth Records]

Tennessee 1908 birth record

In this series of Tennessee birth records, each school district was responsible for completing and sending all the births in their district on an annual basis to the state. For example, in this record shown, the person was born on 10 October 1908 but this particular record of the birth was not created until the next year on 7 July 1909. As well, not all districts were diligent in sending in their records. Image Source: FamilySearch.org

US – FamilySearch.org has created a new indexed collection of delayed birth records from Iowa. The some 540,000 records in this collection span the years from 1850 to 1939. One nice thing about Iowa birth records is that the birth certificates from the later years in this collection list the parent's place of birth and their age at the time of the birth of their child.

These can be powerful clues to help trace the previous generation.

The earlier birth certificates in the collection (see example below) provide an abstract of supporting documents to support the date of birth of the child. These supporting documents can also provide valuable clues. These records can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Historic Iowa Delayed Birth Records]

Iowa state birth record

A delayed birth record is an official record of birth that is generally filed more than one year after a person was born. In the case of US frontier states, the records were sometimes filed for births that occurred before official birth records were collected in the region. Image Source: FamilySearch.org

US – FamilySearch.org has created a new indexed record collection of Iowa death records that span the years from 1921 to 1940. The some 520,000 records in this collection come from the State Historical Society of Iowa. In addition to the usual information found on a death record, these records list the names of the parents of the deceased as well as the address of the deceased. A cause of death is also listed. The records can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Iowa Death Records]

US – FamilySearch.org has released a big new collection of cemetery records from the Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois. These records list over 1.9 million cemetery records under the jurisdiction of the archdiocese and span the years from 1864 to 1989. The majority of the collection is comprised of burial index cards, as shown below. The collection can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Archdiocese of Chicago Cemetery Records]
Chicago burial index card

A typical cemetery burial index card in this collection list the first name, last name, location of the plot in the cemetery, date of burial, the home address and the age of the deceased. Image Source: FamilySearch.org

US – FindMyPast has put online an intriguing collection of US naval records from World War

II. These records pertain to Naval Group China, the US Naval intelligence unit that operated in China during the years from 1942 to 1945. The records are mainly muster roll reports collected approximately every two weeks. They list the name, rank, rates of pay, branch of service and duty location. Since the same person is likely to be listed on multiple muster rolls, you can use these reports to track the location of your naval ancestor in China over the course of the war. Access is by subscription. [US World War II Naval Records]

US – FamilySearch.org has indexed an additional 213,000 records from the New Jersey state census of 1865. This is a good census to check even if you don't think you had ancestors living in New Jersey. As we pointed out in our article Ellis Island Immigration Facts, many immigrants who landed at Ellis Island ended up living in nearby New Jersey for a while before ultimately migrating somewhere else in America. They may have been captured in this census. These census records can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [New Jersey 1865 State Census]

I just noticed a very detailed article in GenealogyInTime that addresses issues with GOGGLE ancestry searches. The information is too detailed for inclusion, so for those who use GOOGLE you may want to read the article.

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**WW II OVERSEAS AMERICAN
MILITARY CEMETERIES**

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When I sent out an overview of the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery & Memorial last month, Dave Flomerflet commented on the number of MIA's listed. This got me to thinking – how many are actually listed for the conflict. So using the American Battle Monuments Commission website (abmc.gov) I prepared the following listing.

The cemetery and country is listed first, number of burials second and number of MIA's last.

Ardennes American Cemetery, Belgium	5321	463
Brittany American Cemetery, France	4409	500
East Coast Memorial, Battery Park, NYC	0	4611
Cambridge American Cemetery, United Kingdom	3812	5127
Florence American Cemetery, Italy	4402	1409
Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium	7992	450
Lorraine American Cemetery, France	10489	444
Luxembourg American Cemetery Luxembourg	5076	371
Manila American Cemetery, Philippines	17191	36286
Netherlands American Cemetery, Netherlands	8301	1722
Normandy American Cemetery, France	9387	1557
North Africa American Cemetery, Tunisia	2841	3724
Rhone American Cemetery, France	860	294
Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Italy	7861	3095
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco	0	431

One important thing to keep in mind is that the burials represent only those KIA who are buried overseas. The Superintendent of the Sicily-Rome Cemetery told me that only 30% of those KIA from the Italian area of operations are buried in Italy. The remains of the others were returned to the US for burial at the wishes of the families. Some in local cemeteries, some in Post cemeteries, some in State maintained cemeteries, others in National Military cemeteries.

The most heart rendering of those who died are the MIAs. Note the number MIAs listed for NYC, Cambridge, Manila, Tunisia, and Sicily-Rome. Army Air Forces, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Seamen are all represented. AAF airman (U S Air Force was created in 1947) make up the bulk of MIAs in Europe while Navy & Marines are the largest number in the Pacific.

Just a little aside, the number of burials in Sicily-Rome will increase. I've identified 3 graves so far that are not listed in the records available to me.

LETTERS FROM THE PAST

Jackie Vannice submitted the following letter from her GG Uncle Franklin Schneideh.

Born in Wapelle Co, Iowa January 31 , 1855, Family moved to Faribault County, Minnesota in June of that same year where father bought 200 acres of Government land at \$1.25 per acre. There was no Homestead law until Lincoln 's administration •.

Provisions were high and had to be freighted something like 150 miles. Flour was \$20.00 per barrel 300 lbs. which came in Barrels. All shugar and dried fruit all came in Barel's at that time.

Now this first winter was the worst that I hav ever known and some may count what I say with regards as to what I say of the severity of that winter of 56 and 57 which Began with a Blizard in early November and continud all most without Seasing until near the first of April and snow was said to be 6 ft•• deep.

Now as I have stated before we had to hawl our Supplies from Keekuck Iowa. One of my elder half Brothers had gawn back on his second trip for winter supplies and was on his way home and had left the Iowa Settlement which ment about 65 miles from home an was camped in a grove the only timber til he would reach home which was about 40 miles when a storm came in the night and continued for weks •• There was too other men with loads of suplies and a man who joined them at the last town A Stranger and they took him in now as the storm continued they new even if it stoped

Storming they could not move from that camp on account of the deepe snow. So after severel weeks they thought to abandon the camp and try to get back to Forist City on foot a distance of about 15 miles and this Bum which they had taken in was the only one to tell the story, He lost both ears and the end of his nose and part of his fingers. at in April we found the remains of Poor Brother Dave but never any trace of the suplies or the team and wagon .

Then in February 1858 Father Past away. Sister Elizabeth was Born 3 months after fathers Death which left mother with 5 children the eldest , Lorenzo 12 years and 2 step sons at home part time. Then the Civel war Brok out in 61 These 2 half Brother inlisted and in 62 the Indian M asacre broke out. At our town was a large Double log Building called the Elkorn Tavern, Quite a large building. Made of hewed logs and the men built a sort of stockade of logs all around as a sort of protection and all the people was supposed to go there in case the indians were reported to be coming our way • • They brought the word that they only were about 20 milds away and we Bundled beding and som provisions and went to Blueearth City and Staid over night when report came they was no closter so We went home this being a poor place for protection and the nexxt night a neighbor came at midnight and said the Indians were coming our way so we packed Beding and such things as we could Turned the cows and hogs loose and with five or sixx neighbors wend South into Iowa Stoped a fiew days at Coon Grove and as we run short on provisians went to Forist City Camped there a few days and went back home found most of what little crops we had destroyed but no Indians had ben there only all the loose stock of our own and our neighbors and prowlers took such things as they wanted which left us in rather hard Sircumstances but we lived through the winter. Mother mad

mockasins for us kids of grainesack to ware through the winter when Spring came we went Barefoot and wate hed for Ratle Snakes which were numerous.

When I was 15 years of Age I went with one of my Brothers to Boon Co. Iowa and in the autumn of 1873 went with some people to Nebraska Wintered at Niobrara City in the Spring went to what was afterwards called Holt County at the mouth of the Eagle about 20 milds north of whare Oneil now is to Brake Prairry on clames which these people had taken and they were afraid of Indians so they hiared a bunch of young fellows that didnt have Sence engught to be afraid and I hapened to be one of them, had no Serious trouble with Indians. Went down to Niabraria to Selibrate the 4th July in about the last week of that month the first year of the grasshoper Scorge. I was working in the harvest field about 2 milds east of whare town of Niabraria is now and about the middle or late in afternoon the sun failed to shine and when we looked up the sun was darkened like a heavy thunder cloud and the nexxt morning my brother and his wife and baby started back to Iowa with ox team and the Hoppers got in the oxens noses and started to bleede them so bad we had to mak baskets of screene wire and put over their noses and they seemed to go right along with us all the way to Coon Co. Iowa and they destroyed all most every thing that could be eaten they were a Serious pest for several years.

This was in 1874 then in 1876 Sentenial of July got caught in a cloud burst that night and whare the old C.N.W. crossed the Desmoins river at that time at Moingane the tracks crossing the river fowlowd hunny Creek for something like 2 milds,

Just after crossing the River there was a Bridge and a Widow and her daughter liver near this Bridge and the girl watching the storm out of the wind ow could see by the ligtitning that the bridge was gawn So she took a lantern and crost the River Bridge

on hands and kneese and fased that storm three forths of a mild and got there to the depot just in time to save the Midnight Exxxpress that was Kate Shelly. With other Substantial rewards she had a life time Free Pass any whare she wanted to go on the C.N.W.

Then in March 1877 I went to Minnasota brought my mother and my Sister to Iowa and after that mother was my housekeeper until I was maried in 1887. Then she went to live with my Sister Mrs •• Leonard. Then came the Blizard Jan 12-88 in which many liver wer lost and mirackuluss eskapes some of which I might tell but for lack of Space. One case I will mention of too wimmen that spent the day and night in an abandond Sot house which had no Roof got out the next morning and walked a half mile to a house whare they were warmed and fed.

Could tell a lot of like experiances if you fust come and see me. But now I have gotten away ahead of my story. Back to Nbraske again. 1880 Settled at or near what is now Stuart. Started the first Blacksmith shop in Stuart after many years went to Gordon was there about three years went to Misoura was there 2 years came back to Gordon wiser and poorer than when I left. 2 years later my Sickened wife past away . Later went to Clinton was there about 2 years sold out the old Shop and quit Blacksmithne Business and have made my home Since with my children Who have allways been kind to me and made me welcome. Will here ask God to Bless my Dear ol Motherinlaw and my own Dear Mother for helping me to raise my too little girls who is now the Comfert of my Old Age.

PARADIGMS

Twenty cents

BURGLARIZE

What a crook sees through

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