



THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Fall 2019 - Vol. XXV No.3

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WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

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

WIGS meets third Tuesday of each month, September through June at 1:00 PM the Oak Harbor Lutheran Church at 1253 NW 2nd Ave., Oak Harbor, WA. Across from the high school.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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- President: Margie Kott
- Vice-Pres Joyce Boster
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Barbara Green
- Auditor: vacant
- Historian: Jeanan Richter
- Library Custodian: Vacant
- Membership: Judy Wagner
- Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
- Programs/Publicity: Bobby O’Neal
- Education & trips: Vacant
- The Searcher: John Richter
- Refreshments: Vacant
- Sound: David Flomerfelt
- Ways & Means: Vacant
- Webmaster: Vacant

Welcome back from a long summer break. Beginning September 17th we will be meeting at the Lutheran Church across the street from the Oak Harbor High School Stadium on NW 2nd Ave. It is a very nice place. Please also mark your calendars that we will now meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month instead of the 2nd Tuesday. We were fortunate for the last 20 years to be able to hold our meetings at the Heller Road Fire Station.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

This year WIGS became 45 years old. With some of our members physically unable and some passed on, we are in need of help to keep WIGS going. Please consider helping. Wouldn't it be great to be able to say Happy 50th Birthday WIGS?

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WIGS records needed a protective place so the Board purchased an archival box to put them in. This summer I went through the records and put them in chronological order from 1974 to the present. I enjoyed reading and reminiscing "back in the day." There are some WIGS records missing. If you have any records In your collection of papers at your house, would you please look through them and give me a call? They might be what is needed. I

would love to have them and or make copies of them.

We are sorry to say good-bye to an Island gal, Jackie Vannice. She is moving from the Island but will be near family members. She has had many jobs with WIGS such as Webmaster, Librarian, past President (a tremendous help to this President) and helped to update our By-Laws. Thank you, Jackie. We will miss you, but we wish you and your husband well.

Looking forward to seeing you at our new WIGS location September 17th at 1:00 pm.

Margie Kott

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WIGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

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17 Sep 2019 Jessica Aws, Librarian and Teen Contact for Sno-Isle Library in Oak Harbor, will share information about genealogy resources and show historic photographs from collections at Sno-Isle Libraries. She has a background in Anthropology, History, and Archaeology in addition to her library experience.

15 Oct 2019 Mary Katherine Kozy will present From Matches in a List to Family: Case Studies in DNA As more and more people decide to DNA test, the bigger our match lists become! With millions of people in the test pool amongst the four major companies, we have many more matches to deal with. What does one DO with them all? How can we organize them? What are the best practices for sorting them out? This

lecture will focus somewhat on the use of various tools at the DNA testing companies, but will also include several case studies involving using atDNA and Y-DNA to determine relationships with matches. Come learn some tips and techniques for taking those matches and turning them into family.

19 Nov 2019 TBA

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WHATS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

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Skagit Valley Genealogy Society
Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington, WA 1-3 PM

14 Sep 2019 DNA PAINTER A new tool for Genealogy and DNA.

Have you found a DNA match but you cannot figure out how you are related? DNA Painter is a free tool that may help you solve the mystery. Join Skagit Valley Genealogy Society at their monthly meeting and learn the process step-by-step.

If you are thinking about attending this session I recommend you visit www.dnapainter.com and view the 1 hour UTube video to get an idea of the topic so you are not totally in the dark.

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GENEALOGY CONFERENCES

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Conferences are a great way to learn more about the ins and outs of

genealogy. They are a fun way to visit different places, meet new people and learn.

There are a number of options.

a. Visit a conference at a large city, 3-5 days of intense learning and networking. Conference offerings may range from one presentation per session to choices of presentations each session period. Also if the conference is near where you are researching you add in time for personal research..

b. Take a genealogy cruise. There are a number each year. The fun of this option is you get your room and board included in the price of the cruise. You may have fewer options but they may have just what interests you. Again if the cruise departs/arrives at a port near where you are researching the travel costs are paid.

c. Webinars. These online presentations vary. The costs are from free to paid subscriptions. Some allow interaction between the presenter and the viewer (not many). Frequently they have handouts which are valuable in the future for referencing the information. Check out Cindi's List using the following link-

<https://www.cyndislist.com/education/online-courses-and-webinars/>.

There are pages of links for webinars, many free.

I like the Family Tree Webinars

(<https://familytreewebinars.com/index.php>).

They have live presentations weekly, many are free the first few weeks then the presentations are available in a library. The current subscription price is \$49.95/yr. Currently there are 984 classes of genealogy education, 1261 hours of instruction, 4417 pages of instruction handouts and on demand 24/7.

A benefit of the recorded webinars is you can go back and review parts of the presentation, just like on Netflix.

Consider how you might use these webinars

- You wake up at night and cannot go back to sleep.
- Get together with friends and watch. Book club anyone?.
- Refresh your knowledge of a research tools.

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GOOGLE PHOTOS
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This article isn't about genealogy but it is about a new software tool that will be valuable for genealogists and for millions of others.

From an article by Chris Smith in the BGR.com web site:

“Google Photos is easily one of the best apps you could have installed on your phone, especially if it's an Android device, and especially a specific type of Android that comes

with unlimited storage. Even if you prefer a different cloud or storage device for your photos, you should still consider getting the Google Photos app on your Android or iPhone right now, because the service is about to get a super convenient feature.

“That’s optical character recognition (OCR), a feature that allows Google to read the text in photos and turn it into text that you can search for, and even copy and paste into documents. That’s a handy feature to have on a phone, especially if you find yourself taking lots of photos of things that contain plenty of text that you’d want to be able to access later.”

Yes, take a picture of a sign or of a page in a book or of a document and Google Photos will automatically convert printed words inside the picture into computer-readable text.

Similar software that is to be installed in your computer has been available for years but at rather high prices. Now Google Photos will do the same thing for free and with no software installed in your computer. It works on Windows, Macintosh, Chromebook, Linux, Android, iPad, iPhone, and other operating systems because all the software runs in the cloud.

You can read the details in Chris Smith’s article at: <https://tinyurl.com/eogn190823>.

Recommend you use this link to get much more detail if this topic interests you.. John Dick Eastman · August 23, 2019

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**NGS and FGS ANNOUNCE
INTENT TO MERGE**
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August 21, 2019 – Washington, D.C.

In a historic move, the boards of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) announced today their intent to merge.

The two organizations, both non-profit leaders in the dynamic genealogy industry, will form one consolidated group that will continue to operate as the National Genealogical Society. Both boards approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) earlier this week, and jointly announced the news at the Opening Session of the FGS Family History Conference in Washington, D.C. this morning.

Leaders of both organizations believe this merger will serve the genealogy community by improving support of both individual members and societies in the pursuit of genealogical excellence.

The organizational structure of NGS will be modified to increase functions that support genealogical societies and family organizations.

NGS classroom
NGS Annual Conference

Digitization projects of genealogical importance such as the War of 1812 pensions will continue.

The two organizations will continue to operate independently while all details of the merger are completed, no later than October 1, 2020.

Faye Stallings, President of FGS, said: “We are excited about this opportunity to combine with a premier organization that has been in operation since 1903. This will allow for improved and expanded services to help support societies.”

Ben Spratling, President of the NGS, commented, “We look forward to continuing the strong legacy of FGS as a ‘gathering point’ for family historians and societies all across the nation.”

According to FamilySearch, “this significant, historical move will consolidate these two great, influential organizations in the genealogy industry, into one with greater capacity to serve the genealogy community. You can read more about it in their press release published in concert with the opening session of the FGS Conference today in Washington, D.C.”

David Rencher, FamilySearch CGO, said “this is a significant move forward for both organizations. FGS has wanted to better serve individuals, and NGS has been seeking ways to better serve societies. Combining their efforts is a win/win for all genealogists at the local, state and international levels. FamilySearch is thrilled with the leadership of both organizations coming together to better serve all genealogists and family historians.”

About FGS: FGS was founded in 1976 and empowers the genealogical and family history community, especially its societies and organizations, by advocating for the preservation of records and providing resources that enable genealogical organizations to succeed in pursuing their missions.

FGS launched the Preserve the Pensions project in 2010 and raised more than \$3 million to digitize and make freely available the pension files from the War of 1812. Fundraising was completed for that project in 2016 and the digitization continues.

FGS was also the driving force behind the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors project alongside the National Parks Service.

Lisa Cooke 22 Aug 2019

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BROTHER COPS

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It had to be more than just chance that Dave Stull and Eric Reynolds became cops.

Looking back now Eric reckons, it's the DNA.

He might be on to something.

The two men, who both live in Florida but had until recently never met, learned through 23andMe that they were just brothers in blue, but half-brothers too.

Their story has, as Eric likes to say, "blown up." Getting attention from the Miami Herald, the New York Post, and Fox News, as well as a host of other publications.

With more and more people using 23andMe, we are increasingly hearing from customers like Eric and Dave who have discovered newfound relatives, siblings, or birth parents. But their story, with sort of parallel lives that only now have intersected, struck a chord.

Dave, a sergeant with the Orange County Sheriff's Department who was adopted as an infant, said he tested in part because he never had much information about his biological family, or family medical history. He tested after both of his adoptive parents had passed away, mostly to see if he had any hidden health issues.

"I wanted to see if I was gonna go bald," he joked.

He's not likely to go bald, but right away his 23andMe showed him something else entirely. After opting into DNA Relatives, Dave clicked over to see his results and at the top of the list was Eric, a predicted half-brother.

Dave, left, and Eric after meeting for the first time in person at Dave's home.

Dave, who for all his 50 years had been an only child, sent Eric a message:

"Good morning, my name is David Stull. According to 23andMe, we are half-brothers."

Eric, a police officer at the Boynton Police Department, didn't know what to make the message at first. He had a lot of questions, and he Googled Dave. Just looking at the picture, he knew it wasn't a fluke. The brothers figured out that they shared the same father, who had been unaware of Dave's birth. When Eric contacted his dad, he told him he had a "brand new bouncing baby boy."

And now he had a big brother.

When Eric had the first test with 23andMe three years ago, it was less to find relatives and more to look at his ancestry and traits and suss out more about where his gung ho personality came from. He is the kind of guy who runs toward danger not away from it, and in 2013 received an award for his part in a part in the chase of a bank robbery suspect. He wondered if that was buried in his ancestry somewhere.

While genetics may explain why these two brothers both chose to work in law enforcement, they also both had family connections that nurtured that interest. For Eric, it was his mom, who served as a homicide detective in Miami.

For Dave, it all tracks back to when he was 4 years old when a cousin he looked up to was a police officer. His cousin gave him some department patches, a blue hat, and handcuffs. Ever since then he knew he wanted to be a cop, he said.

As the two try to make up for lost time, they are also planning a big family gathering. They'll be coming together for Eric's retirement and give a chance for Dave to meet his birth father in person as well as another half brother and half-sister.

Meanwhile, the two brother cops continue to marvel at the different coincidences in their lives.

"We're still learning so much about each other," Eric said at a press conference given by the Boynton Police Department about their discovery. "It's amazing."

August 23, 2019 By 23andMe under 23andMe Customer Stories

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CYNDI'S LIST
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Cyndi's List has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 20 years. Cyndi's List is **free** for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

What exactly is Cyndi's List?

A categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.

A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.

A free jumping-off point for you to use in your online research.

A "card catalog" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.

Your genealogical research portal onto the Internet.

<https://www.cyndislist.com/>

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**EXPLORING THE LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES**
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NO genealogist's trip to our nation's Capitol should be complete without—at the very least—tours of both the National Archives and Library of Congress. Both tours are free, fun, interesting, and inspiring!

Library of Congress

On a one-hour walking tour of the historic Jefferson Building (the main LOC building) you'll learn about the Library collections and history while admiring the stunning architecture of this beautiful building. You'll see Thomas Jefferson's original library (the basis for the library of Congress), and the Gutenberg Bible as well as other permanent and temporary exhibits. You can take a free tour on a first-come, first-served basis (Mon-Sat) if you haven't scheduled your tour in advance. The Library of Congress is the world's largest library. With more than 167 million items, the collections, in some 470 languages include more than 38 million books and other print materials, 3.6 million recordings, 14 million photographs, 5.5 million maps, 8.1 million pieces of sheet music and 70 million manuscripts.

Researching in the Library of Congress
The LOC is a research library, and members of the public use books only on the premises. The Library reference staff can help you identify and materials in general and specialized reading rooms. You'll need a Reader Identification Card, but that is free and all you have to do is complete a registration card and present a valid driver's license, state-issued identification card, or passport. Researchers must be at least 16 years Of age.

You can prepare for your visit by researching in the Library of Congress Online Catalog (www.loc.gov). Know what you're looking for and you'll have an especially productive visit.

National Archives

Reservations and Tours

Reservations are not required to visit the National Archives Museum. However, advance reservations are highly recommended during the height of the tourist season (March through Labor Day) and during holiday seasons such as the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Reservations allow visitors to avoid lengthy waits to enter the building.

Timed Entry Reservations

Self-guided timed-Entry reservations are offered every 15 minutes beginning at 10:30 a.m. and continue until 90 minutes before closing, daily. Individuals may reserve up to 20 spaces.

Groups may reserve up to 100 spaces for a Timed Entry (note - since only 55 spaces are available for each interval,

any order of more than 50 spaces may cross multiple intervals).

The service charge for online reservations is \$1.00 per person; admission to all of the National Archives Museum exhibits is free.

Timed-Entry reservation holders use the Museum's general public entrance near the corner of 9th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW.

Guided Tours

Once a day, Monday through Friday, at 9:45 a.m. we offer a one-hour docent-led guided tour of the National Archives Museum. The tour includes the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom (home to the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and the Public Vaults permanent, interactive exhibit gallery.

Individuals and groups may reserve up to 15 spaces for the Guided Tour.

The service charge for online reservations is \$1.00 per person; admission to all of the National Archives Museum exhibits is free.

Guided Tour reservation holders use the Special Events entrance enter near the corner of 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW.

All visitors will go through security screening upon entry.

There are NO REFUNDS on any ticket orders. When the Archives is unexpectedly closed due to special events, national security concerns, or for other reasons, it will NOT be able to refund any money. In these cases, attempts will be made to re-book your tickets to another date. An unexpected

closure of the National Archives is the
ONLY time tours may be re-booked.