FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear SGS Members,

I thank each of you who so generously gave to our end of year donation drive. Your annual contributions help SGS continue to present quality programs, provide library resources, and operate the SGS Library 30 hours/6 days per week for your use in following your genealogical muse. The major sources of income for SGS are membership dues, member donations, and the Spring and Fall Seminars. Your SGS Board continues to be very frugal in spending these monies, and so we are, financially, in the black. But, as ”man cannot live on bread alone”, SGS cannot live on money alone.

Officers & Directors:
We desperately need committed members like you to fill our volunteer positions. Ninety years ago SGS started out as a little hobby club. It is now a small non-profit corporation that operates very much like a small business – except there are no paid staff; all the work of the business is done by volunteers. There are federal, state, and city legal requirements which have to be met every year in order for us to continue as a non-profit society, including that SGS have an elected Board.

Presently, we are in need of a candidate for President and certainly other positions are greatly made better by having more than one candidate for any one position. All positions and candidates will be posted in the Library.

Contact Amandalei Bennett, chair of the Nominating Committee (amanda.bennett53@gmail.com) for additional information.

Chairs & Members for Committees:
Another immediate and serious need is for volunteers willing to serve as chair or as members of the Seminar Committee. We are currently working on the Spring Seminar, featuring Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist. It takes time and effort to plan, organize and put on the Seminars which, hopefully, run smoothly and “effortlessly.” The Seminar Committee meets all year long, primarily working on who will present what topics and where the seminar will be held. We’ve been doing this long enough that a lot of the preparations are well traveled ruts in the planning road, but not all of them. It takes time to come to meetings (usually about 60 to 90 minutes/meeting), write letters, contact speakers, etc. The current Seminar Committee is short-handed and exhausted. Last fall’s seminar fell almost entirely on the shoulders of Cary Bright, which was not a kind thing to do to her. At this time, my prediction is that we will either successfully recruit a lot more volunteers for the Seminar Committee soon, or we won’t have a Spring Seminar in 2014. If there is no seminar, there is no income from the seminar. And that’s the beginning of the end for an active, vibrant SGS because our current dues and donations alone will not keep us going nor the doors to the SGS Library open.

We need you to seriously consider giving more back to SGS – giving more of your time. Many of our committees are active all year long, but within the committees there are a lot of volunteer jobs that need occur less frequently. For example, the Seminar Committee needs people who can help set up before and clean up after the seminars. This is a lot of work in a day or two, but it doesn’t entail a lot of committee meetings. There are also jobs within committees that can be done from the comfort of your home via an internet connection and email. Following are some of
the critical committees, positions, and tasks that could use your time and support:
Financial Review Committee - Space Planning Committee - Materials Review Committee - Archives Committee - Seminar Committee - Program Committee - Long-Range Planning Committee - Publicity Committee - Elections Committee - Nominating Committee - Disaster Preparedness Committee - Computer Committee - Queries Committee - Sunshine Committee - Key Trustees - Library Trustees - EBay Sales - Seattle 1890 Census Substitute Project - Webmaster - Publications Layout - Editors for Bulletin and Newsletter - Printer Operators - Editorial Board for Publications.

Volunteers keep this 680 member organization going - the four Officers, six Directors, and Past President of the Board can’t keep it going all by themselves and it is, quite frankly, unreasonable to expect them to do so. If we have more members volunteering, we can expect to have a greater public impact and garner more members. The reverse is also true. You and other committed members will determine the future of SGS. It’s your choice.

Please sign up today to volunteer by emailing Michelle Khoun, Director of Volunteers, at sgsvolunteers@gmail.com

Thank you!

**Linda Fitzgerald**
SGS President
sgspresident@gmail.com

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**BOARD ACTIVITIES**

The Board took a brief hiatus during the holidays to enjoy time with their families and friends but has been very active in the past few months.

The SGS Board recently has been dealing with a couple of issues, one fun, the other operationally important, but, perhaps would not be classified as “fun”. The fun one is trying to decide what to do to celebrate the SGS 90th anniversary. As a group, we certainly have some creative ways to spend money!

The 90th Anniversary celebration will begin effective June 1, 2013 and run through May 31, 2014. October 2013 marks the actual SGS anniversary date. The activities selected by the Board are as follows:

- **Bring in a “Super Star” featured speaker for the Fall 2013 or Spring 2014 Seminar.**
- **Complete the digitization of several SGS data sets and make them available to members; including the Seattle 1890 Census Substitute, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) military registration cards, cemetery records held by SGS, and the SGS Bulletins up through 2002 This will be accomplished in partnership with Seattle Public Library.**
- **If possible through SGS’s Drupal designed web platform, establish a Virtual Surname Wall on the SGS web site.**
- **Purchase one or more additional database subscriptions, as budget allows, that will be accessible from an SGS Library computer. Potential database subscriptions include GenealogyBank, Fold3, NewspaperArchives, HistoricMaps, and/or a webinar series.**

The Board also prioritized tasks associated with the Financial Review Report. Some of the easiest items in the report have been addressed, and now it’s time to tackle some of the harder ones which will continue to be addressed by the new board in June.

The SGS General Membership Meeting will be on March 23 in the conference room at the North East Branch of the Seattle Public Library. Please attend to find out what all has been happening at SGS, how your current board is spending your money, and vote on the Elections Committee nominees. Janet Oakley’s presentation on the CCC will bring back memories for those of us old enough to remember what those letters mean. (see opposite page) Your ballots for new board members will be mailed in early April. Please vote and return your ballots as soon as possible.
Did your ancestor serve in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the depression? If so, there may be records of their service at this time of great desperation. Attend a presentation by Janet Oakley, writer and historian based in Northwest Washington, who grew up hearing stories about the CCC.

During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide jobs for millions of out-of-work men. But in doing so, he also saved an environment damaged by World War I activities and gave the country new trees, beautiful parks and recreational areas. Thousands of desperate young men from the East Coast came to Washington state to work in the woods alongside local boys to build bridges, roads and park buildings. During this conversation, historian Janet Oakley will talk about the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in Washington and explore the impact they had on our state’s natural resources and on the men who worked to preserve them.

Oakley currently lives in Bellingham.

This presentation is in conjunction with the SGS Membership meeting. Write in candidates will be accepted.

For those of you who get the newsletter by mail, you might want to check out the color edition online:
http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/
2013 MASTER CALENDAR
Unless otherwise noted, all activities are at the SGS Library
6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle; phone: 206-522-8658.

MARCH

2 Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP  (Led by David Roberts.)

9 Saturday, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, IRISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 8200 18th Ave.NE (Lower level Social Hall), Seattle. Registration fee of $35 includes a box lunch. Space is limited so you are encouraged to register online at: www.irishclub.org; by email at: Genealogy@IrishClub.org, or by telephone at: 206-782-2629. For the Conference schedule, speakers, and lunch choices go to www.irishclub.org where you will also find a “clickable” listing of all Irish Week activities. Presented by Seattle’s Irish Heritage Club, Seattle Genealogical and Eastside Genealogical Societies, and others.

9 Saturday, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm, SGS LIBRARY WORK DAY
Donate a couple of hours of your time to help us inventory recently donated materials, price surplus books for sale, and organize newly acquired books and other materials. Refreshments provided for volunteers. Contact Michelle Khuon, Director of Volunteers, if you can help out: sgsvolunteers@sgs.com.

12 Tuesday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, HERITAGE CRAFT TUESDAYS CLASS - Heritage Spoon. Using a small vintage spoon you will be creating a beautiful heritage display. You will need a small teaspoon and headshot for this project. Presented by Cary Bright. Limited to 10 participants. Email: brightgenealogy@gmail.com to attend and receive a supply list.

12 Tuesday, 3:00 – 5:00 pm; UMBRELLA WRITERS’ GROUPS ORGANIZING SESSION. Come find out the results of the Writers’ Interest Survey and participate in selecting and organizing the group you would like to join. This is an exciting kick-off to an expansion in the number of writing groups sponsored by SGS!

14 Thursday, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, BRICK WALL GENEALOGY at NARA.
Bring a brown bag lunch and your challenging research problems to this FREE program at the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA), 6125 Sand Point Way NE (across the street from SGS Library), Seattle, 98115. Info at http://www.archives.gov/seattle or: 206-336-5112.

16 Saturday, 9:00 am - 3:45 pm, WHAT’S YOUR STORY? all day symposium sponsored by South King County Genealogical Society and Puget Sound Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. First Baptist Church of Kent, 11420 SE 248th St., Kent, WA. Doors open at 8:00 am. email skcgs.seminar@gmail.com to RSVP. $40 for members of either organization, $45 for non-members. BYOSL!
For more info: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~waskcgs/

16 Saturday, IRISH & GERMAN INTEREST GROUPS are not meeting this month due to Irish Week activities.

16 & 17 Saturday & Sunday, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm, IRISH BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS during the Irish Festival at the Seattle Center, in the Armory (the former Food Circus building where the monorail ends/begins), on the mezzanine level. The class is FREE. Presenter: Jean Roth.

16 & 17 Saturday: Noon – 6:00 pm & Sunday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, IRISH FESTIVAL at Seattle Center. While you’re at the festival, stop by the SGS booth on the main floor to say “HI”. For more about this FREE event go to the Irish Heritage Club’s web site at http://www.irishclub.org.

23 Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3::30 pm, SGS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM: “Tree Army: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Washington State, 1933-1944”; presented by writer and historian Janet
Oakley and made possible by Humanities Washington. Location: Seattle Public Library – Northeast Branch (Wedgwood), 6801 35th Avenue NE, Seattle. The SGS General Membership Meeting will follow the program.

28 Thursday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, SGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

30 Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP.
This group meets quarterly at North Seattle Alliance Church in the Fellowship Hall at 2150 North 122nd St., Seattle (just north of Northwest Hospital). email sgsdnasig@gmail.com to be added to the emailing list. Co-Chairs: Cary Bright and Herb McDaniel.

31 Sunday, EASTER SUNDAY – LIBRARY CLOSED.

APRIL

6 Saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP. (Led by David Roberts.)

6 Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, RELIGIOUS RECORDS SERIES: “Family Bible Puzzlers”.
How can we date a Bible? Why is that important? What can we do to resolve conflicting family information between Bibles or between Bibles and other evidence? How can we use a family Bible to determine the family faith? Why and how should we transcribe a Bible record? Presenter: Ida Skarson McCormick.

11 Thursday, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, BRICK WALL GENEALOGY at NARA.
Bring a brown bag lunch and your challenging research problems to this FREE program at the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA), 6125 Sand Point Way NE (across the street from SGS Library), Seattle, 98115. Info.at http://www.archives.gov/seattle or: 206-336-5112.

13 Saturday, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm, THE MASTER GENEALOGIST (TMG) SEATTLE USER’S GROUP.
This group meets monthly at a Seattle Public Library Branch. This month the meeting is at SPL’s Lake City Library Branch at 12501 28th Ave. NE, Seattle; there is free underground parking. Led by Ed Godfrey

20 Saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, IRISH INTEREST GROUP. (Led by Jean Roth.)
“A Review of Some New Irish Web Sites to Use for Research”

20 Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP. (Led by Jean Roth.)
"Using Google Translation for German to English and English to German"

25 Thursday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

30 Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, SGS UMBRELLA WRITERS’ GROUPS MEETING.
The location TBD. This is a meeting for all SGS writers’ groups and other interested SGS members.

MAY

4 Saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP. (Led by David Robert.)

4 Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOCUS GROUP: “Military Records and the Battle of Gettysburg”. This is the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. We will watch a DVD about Gettysburg from the Pennsylvania Cable Network and discuss sources for military records. Led by Karen Portzer.

9 Thursday, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, BRICK WALL GENEALOGY at NARA.
bring a brown bag lunch and your challenging research problems to this free program at the national archives & records administration (nara), 6125 sand point way ne (across the street from sgs library), seattle, 98115. info at http://www.archives.gov/seattle or 206-336-5112.

11 saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, religious records series: “tracing migrations, emigration, and immigration”. what happens when the person’s name changes? what clues can religious records give us about migration, emigration, and immigration? what kinds of religious records are involved? presenter: ida skarson mccormick.

11 saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm; irish & german interest groups: "open discussion, sharing, and problem solving". these two groups are meeting together one week earlier than usual due to the spring seminar on saturday may 18. this is the last meeting of both the groups until september 2013. led by jim ryan and jim meyer.

11 saturday, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm, the master genealogist (tmg) seattle user’s group. this group meets monthly at a seattle public library branch. this month the meeting is at the spl’s lake city library branch at 12501 28th ave. ne, seattle; there is free underground parking. led by ed godfrey.

13 monday, 7:00pm-9:00pm, meredith hoffman of boston, a linguistics specialist, will present 2 lectures on names at the jewish genealogical society of washington state, in the stroum jewish community center on mercer island. there is a fee for nonmembers.

18 saturday & 19 sunday, sgs library closed due to sgs spring seminar and sunday workshop.

18 saturday, sgs spring seminar: featured speaker – judy russell, the legal genealogist. location to be announced.

19 sunday, sgs advanced workshop with judy russell, the legal genealogist. time and location to be announced.

21 tuesday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, heritage craft tuesdays class: canvas tote bag & research kit. learn how to transfer paper designs onto fabric with a popsicle stick. we will also make a variety of tools you would need for a successful research trip. (block for film drawer, magnet for the film draw, name tag and stick id tag) presented by cary bright. limited to 10 participants. email: brightgenealogy@gmail.com to attend and receive a supply list.

23 thursday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, sgs board of directors meeting.

25, saturday, 26 sunday and 27 monday, sgs library closed for memorial day holiday.

30 saturday, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, dna special interest group. this group meets quarterly at north seattle alliance church in the fellowship hall. the church is located at 2150 north 122nd st., seattle (just north of northwest hospital). please email sgsdnasig@gmail.com to be added to the emailing list for meeting reminders. co-chairs: cary bright and herb mcDaniel.

results of the writing survey

thanks to everyone who responded to the writer’s group survey! forty-one of you responded. the overwhelming answer (30 of 37 responses) to the question of what is the most important factor when choosing a writing group was "type of writing", and most respondents chose multiple types of writing. sgs anticipates setting up several writers groups of 5-8 participants each in march and holding additional large umbrella group programs, probably on a quarterly basis throughout the year. we all know we should write our stories! join a group to “jump start” your writing. contact the office for more info. see further info in the summer sgs bulletin.
USING THE CHRONICLING AMERICA HISTORIC NEWSPAPER WEBSITE

On 23 February 2013, Dawn Bingaman gave a presentation to an overflow crowd at the SGS Library on the many aspects of the Chronicling America (CA) website. This online free collection of historic newspapers available through the Library of Congress is an every growing collection of the record of the goings-on in towns and cities across America. Some tips that this author captured included:

• CA is not actively collecting newspapers if there is another source with that newspaper holding the on-line collection. So if you don’t see your newspapers, it doesn’t mean it hasn’t been digitized, but rather it might be in another entity’s collection.

• YouTube has a great collection of 11 online videos about how to use the collection. While it is not as entertaining as Dawn’s, it might answer some of your basic questions about the site. You can access these videos by going to YouTube and searching for Ohio History, the author of the videos. http://www.youtube.com/ohiohistory.

• A very cool website showing the spread of newspapers in America, based on the CA collection is available at http://www.stanford.edu/group/ruralwest/cgi-bin/drupal/visualizations/us_newspapers Click on “view the map.”

Everyone’s Irish on March 17th!

March 16-17 Irish Festival: 10 am - 6 pm at Seattle Center. Volunteer to help at the SGS booth at the festival. Promote SGS and help people begin to explore their Irish heritage.

...or learn more about the Irish by attending the SGS SIG. Contact Jean Roth if you have any questions.
Mark the Date!

SGS Spring Seminar: May 18, 2013

**JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG**

Judy G. Russell will join us as the keynote speaker for the Spring Seminar. Already the planning committee is working hard to make this a memorable event.

Judy has a bachelor’s degree in political science and journalism from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. She’s worked as a newspaper reporter, trade association writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, law editor and, for more than 20 years, an adjunct member of the faculty at Rutgers Law School. A Colorado native her roots grow deep in the American south on her mother’s side and entirely in Germany on her father’s side. She is a certified genealogist and has recently been named a member of the Board of Trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

As a genealogist with a law degree, she wishes to help folks understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to as we place our families in the context of the time.

Judy is looking forward to her visit with us and her “ton of cousins” she has in Washington. Her grandmother’s brother settled in the area; his son was born in Portland and his grandchildren are still in the Tacoma area. And..... Seattle is one of her favorite cities!

Check out her blog at http://legalgenealogist.com.