FROM PRINT TO DIGITAL

This is the LAST issue of the SGS Newsletter that will be printed and sent to members as part of a regular membership. In April 2010, our members voted to require a $6.00 fee to receive paper copies of the Newsletter by mail. The SGS Newsletter will be available as a PDF file on our website for everyone to read. Members will be advised via the SGS Listserv when each digital Newsletter is available. So…if you want to keep receiving this Newsletter in print form, be sure to check “Mailed Newsletter” and include the extra $6.00 with your renewal. Thank you.
“BLOOD OF THE IRISH”  
Who are the Irish and Where do they come from?  
The Irish Interest Group will feature a special showing of the 2-hour program “Blood of the Irish” on Saturday, June 18 at the SGS Library at 1:00 PM. Winner of the 2010 Irish Film and Television Award for best documentary series, this program has received rave reviews and was featured at Seattle’s Irish Film Festival this March during Irish Week at the Seattle Center. Broadcaster Diarmuid Gavin travels to the heart of Africa and beyond in a quest to find the very origins of the Irish people. Who are the Irish and whose blood flows in our veins? “Blood of the Irish” explores the most fundamental questions about the Irish population; who were the first people to settle in Ireland and where did they come from? Why are the oldest Irish human remains less than 10,000 years old when just 60 miles away in Britain human traces go back 700,000 years? Did the first Irish arrive overland on an ice bridge or on a small fragile boat blown ashore by the winds of chance? The series combines cutting edge DNA studies, the latest archaeology and superb visuals to bring this enthralling topic to the screen for the first time.

SGS PROJECTS THAT NEED VOLUNTEERS!  
• Recreating the Seattle population in 1890—Chuck Richards has agreed to spearhead this project (since it was his idea). He needs help identifying, indexing, and transcribing records that will help define who was living in Seattle in 1890. More information will be available at the SGS Annual Meeting.
• SGS Mentoring Program—Dorene Tully <sgsmentor@gmail.com> is willing to match volunteer mentors with members needing assistance, but needs volunteers and requestors.
• Open House helpers will be needed to work with visitors on July 9th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Please contact <sgsvolunteers@gmail.com> to volunteer for any of these projects.

SGS DONATIONS 2011  
A special thank you to the following individuals who made monetary donations these past few months. Without these donations, SGS would not be able to continue operating our library and programs. Thank You!

Cook, Harold & Susan
Hollingsworth, Tina
Jack, Myrtle

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES  
For nearly a thousand years, clansmen, chiefs and competitors came from all over Scotland and banded together to compete against one another in what is often defined as one of the most rigorous forms of competitions in the world – the Scottish Highland Games. The bagpipes are calling again this year and we hope that SGS members will want to hear them close up this summer. The Seattle Genealogical Society will once again sponsor a large information booth on Scottish, Scots-Irish, and Irish genealogy at the 65th Anniversary Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering. It will be in Enumclaw at the Expo Center (formerly the King County Fairgrounds). We need volunteers for two hour sessions on Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31. The Games are fun and feature a number of activities for the peoples of the Celtic nations. There are pipe bands, musical performers, dancers, athletics, clan tents, animals, food stands and vendors for shopping as well as informative workshops. We have been participating for years and bring a number of reference books from our Library to answer basic questions on genealogy and finding surnames.

This is excellent publicity for SGS as thousands of people attend the Games and we proudly carry our banner during the opening ceremonies each day. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Jean A. Roth at (206) 782-2629 or e-mail at <jeanaroth@juno.com>

NEW COPIER AT SGS  
SGS is now the proud owner of a new copier, a Brother MFC-8480DN, thanks to the generosity of two of our members. The lid is hinged and the platen is 11 in. x 14 in., allowing you to make copies from large books and legal-sized pages. It does copy, as advertised. The BIG news is that you can scan anything you can put on the copier to a flash drive (aka jump drive, USB drive, “stick”) rather than make a paper copy. If you want to save multiple pages, you can put them all into one multi-page PDF file. So, stick a flash drive in your pocket when you’re heading for SGS and you won’t need to pay us anything for copies! If you don’t have a flash drive, ask at the desk. We picked up a few 1 GB drives at Fry’s and will be selling them for $8.00 plus tax while they last.

The USER’S GUIDE is in the rack on the right side of the stand supporting the copier.

This copier does not make black streaks down the page, but we will just have to learn to do without them!
ELECTION RESULTS
Thank you to the 243 members who submitted their properly completed ballots and signature slips. You elected the following officers, directors and nominating committee members:

President: Ginny Sommarstrom
Vice President: Jean A. Roth
Secretary: Linda Dougherty
Treasurer: Dick Morrill
Director of Education: Cary Lynn Bright
Director of Library: Amber Brock
Director of Membership: Linda Fitzgerald
Director of Operations: Christine Schomaker
Director of Publications: Annette Dwyer
Director of Volunteers: Michelle Khuon
Nominating Committee:
Anna Chavelle, chair
Karen DesVoigne
Jamie Shaffer
Judy Tomassene
Patricia Frickel

Special thanks to Linda Dougherty and Michelle Khuon for volunteering to fill the positions for which we had no nominees on the ballot. The Board agreed to waive the 12-month membership requirement and appointed Linda and Michelle to their positions at the May board meeting.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD
This quarter has been incredibly busy for your SGS Board. Between elections, Spring seminar, membership renewals, developing a totally revamped website, purchasing and installing new printing and copying equipment, honoring our great volunteers, and regular Board meetings, we’ve all been running our legs off!

In the mid-February to mid-May period, we...
- adopted new job descriptions for the Library Trustees and the new Archives Committee
- approved printer purchase and maintenance contracts with Copiers Northwest
- established SGS accounts with MissionFish and Ebay to take advantage of special pricing for non-profits
- passed an ADA (Americans with Disability Act) policy
- worked on selling Organizational Memberships to retirement homes
- discussed new library catalogue software and approved
- reviewed the status of the 2007-8 procedural audit recommendations
- approved a new Seminar Scholarship Policy and application form
- accepted a number of used digital printers from NYK Business Systems Americas, Inc. to either use or sell
- held another successful Open House
- accepted the resignation of Director of Membership Jean Morton due to her moving out of Seattle

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER
Dawn Bingaman was bitten by the genealogy bug when she was just a little girl, and her interest has never wavered. She did not know either of her grandfathers, but her grandmother and her father instilled in her a sense of history. “In 1975, just before the Bicentennial, I became a Girl Scout and we had to earn genealogy badges,” she explains. “My grandmother gave me a box of family documents from her own mother. Inside were many old documents, including letters from World War I, photographs and news clippings.” Dawn worked on a 5-generation pedigree chart in order to earn her Girl Scout badge, but she kept going because she wanted to know the stories behind the lives of the people in the box.

This interest brought her to SGS in the 1980s. Since then, in addition to her full-time job in the information systems and technology field, Dawn has volunteered countless hours as chair of the Computer Interest Group, and as a member of the Website Committee. “Dawn knows web design and is very easy to understand when she is talking about our designs,” says Website Committee member Annette Dwyer. Dawn is one of the tech experts the society calls when they have trouble with computers, or when they must decide the fate of donated assets, books, etc. “I’m a sounding board on tech directions,” says Dawn. “I help SGS decide which direction it might take” with tech issues.

It is Dawn’s goal to become a full-time professional genealogist. To this end, she has taken classes at the Salt Lake Institute and at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Birmingham, Alabama. Regarding her work for SGS, she says she volunteers because she loves helping people. “I’ve received a lot of help in my life and I like to pass it on,” she says. “It’s great when you can teach people and they are able to go out and help someone else.” SGS is grateful for Dawn’s expertise, good cheer and can-do attitude.
KEEPING UP WITH SGS
Communication with our members is very important to the SGS Board. Since this Newsletter is only published quarterly, we’ve developed other means to keep you informed of SGS activities:
- WA-SGS-MEMBERS listerv—email list used to communicate monthly calendar, mid-month updates, and occasional special announcements
- SGS Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Seattle-Genealogical-Society/113737955341411> (or search for Seattle Genealogical Society on Facebook); weekly calendar reminders and photos of events
- SGS President’s Blog: <http://seagensociety.blogspot.com/> More in-depth announcements and discussions of what’s happening at SGS.

PRINTERS FOR SALE
SGS recently received a donation of three color laser printers. We are not able to use these at this time, and we want to sell them as soon as possible. The model numbers for these printers are:
  a. HP Color Laser Jet 5550dtn
  b. HP Laser Jet 5000DN
  c. HP LaserJet 4200n
All three can be seen at the SGS Library. If you are interested, please contact Linda Fitzgerald at <SGSOperations@gmail.com> or leave a message at the SGS desk. We are interested in moving these printers to their next home as soon as possible, so we are very willing to negotiate on the price.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Needed - Volunteers interested in serving on a new Program Committee. Come join a group of talented individuals to create and design educational programs for SGS. Must love family history research and want to share great ideas for future programs and presentations. Any and all skills are appreciated. This group plans to meet three times a year. This is a great opportunity to suggest programs you think other members will enjoy. Please contact Cary Bright at <sgseducation@gmail.com> to join this committee.

HAS YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGED?
Please let SGS know if your name, address, phone or e-mail has changed so we can keep our records current. You can e-mail this information to <sgsmembership@gmail.com>, mail or call in the information to SGS at 206-522-8658. Thank you.

HQRL IS MOVING!
FANTASTIC NEWS! The Heritage Quest Research Library has found a beautiful new facility to house our collection and bookstore. HQRL will close effective Saturday, May 21, to begin the move to the new location at 1007 Main Street. The new space is more than twice the size of the old and includes a large classroom for educational offerings. The new facility features our bookstore in the front with floor to ceiling windows facing Main Street. The Library portion features wider aisles, better lighting, and more space for our ever expanding collection. There is space for displaying sales materials and member-owned genealogical artifacts. One wall will be dedicated to framed photographs owned by the library and by members.

We will be open in the new location on Friday June 3. For more information on the grand opening go to <www.hqrl.com>.

LAPTOPS NEEDED
SGS is seeking donations of “gently used” laptop PCs for use in our programs and classes. We can use laptops running operating systems from Windows XP or later (eg, Vista, Windows 7). Battery life is not important. If you have an older model laptop you aren’t using, please drop it off at SGS during our regular hours. We’ll be happy to provide you with a donation form so that you can receive a tax deduction for your generosity.

GiveBIG TO SGS THROUGH THE SEATTLE FOUNDATION
We’re excited that SGS will be part of one of the biggest days of giving in King County history on June 23 with The Seattle Foundation’s GiveBIG. Learn more by “liking” @The Seattle Foundation on Facebook. If you donate through GiveBIG on June 23, you could be randomly selected for a Golden Ticket that gives SGS an extra $1,000 from @The Seattle Foundation & other sponsors? Every donation, no matter how small or large, is eligible for this “prize.”

SGS Library Closed
FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY WEEKEND
Saturday 2 - Monday 4 July
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
Saturday 3 - Monday 5 September
41st Annual Germans from Russia Heritage Society International Convention

The 41st Annual Convention of Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) will be held at The Davenport Hotel & Tower in Spokane, WA July 20-July 24, 2011. The library and bookstore will be open on Wed. July 20th, and a city tour that day as well as a dinner cruise that evening on nearby Lake Coeur d’Alene is planned. Opening Ceremonies begin Thursday morning followed by a variety of workshops on genealogy, history, cultural cooking and programs relating to today’s technology in using DNA. Visit our website at <http://www.grhs.org> and click on the Convention page for more information or call the GRHS headquarters at (701) 223-6167. Special rates are available for convention attendees if you mention “Germans from Russia”. Hotel reservation number is (800) 899-1482.

Who are the Germans from Russia?
We are a unique group! Our ancestors left Germany back in the late 1700-early 1800’s to settle along the Volga River and in South Russia, along the Black Sea where free land was being offered by the government to those looking for land and political freedoms.

The annual GRHS convention is an exciting time for all Germans from Russia to come together in one location to learn more about their history, their German customs and heritage. They have the opportunity to do genealogical research in our library, take in interesting topics in the workshops and share good food while enjoying the company of new-found relatives and new and old friends. We hope to see you there!

SPL LIBRARY OFFERS HISTORIC COLLECTION
(From the Seattle Times/PI Sunday, May 8, 2011 and the SPL website)
The Seattle City Directory Collection is now available on the Seattle Public Library website, featuring directories from 1867 to 1928. Directories are not available for every year and there are missing issues. The original city directories are located in the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Seattle Room and in the History, Travel & Maps Department, both located on the 9th and 10th levels of the Central Library in downtown Seattle.

A helpful tool for researching family history, the Seattle City Directory collection contains several early Seattle, Puget Sound, Washington State, and Pacific Coast directories beginning in 1867. These directories provide a great deal of information for genealogists, local history researchers, and history enthusiasts, including: historical information about Seattle and the surrounding area; addresses & occupations of residents; business listings; advertisements; and information about schools, churches, & social organizations. While most of these directories are from the late nineteenth century, SPL has also included the 1928 Seattle House and Street Directory - the earliest reverse directory for Seattle that lists households and businesses by address. The directories are full-text searchable, with results highlighted on the pages where they appear, and are also navigable by section and page.

Go to <www.spl.org> and select “Library Collection” from the top menu, then select “Special Collections” from the menu on the left side of the page to find a link to the Seattle City Directory Collection.

DESK VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Desk Volunteer Training will be offered again on October 3, 2011. If you are interested in becoming a desk volunteer please send your name and contact information to <sgsmembership@gmail.com>.

WHO NEEDS A MENTOR?
Do you have boxes of handwritten notes from Aunt Katherine and no idea how to turn them into neat family group sheets? <Ancestry.com> a mystery? We have a mentor for that.

The good news; you’ve discovered that missing branch of your family settled in Australia. The bad news; Australian censuses are private documents, destroyed after compilation. Need help finding other documents? We have a mentor for that.

If you are interested in finding a mentor, please contact Dorene Tully at <sgsmentor@gmail.com>.

YOU TOO CAN BECOME AN SGS DESK VOLUNTEER
SGS always needs more trained desk volunteers to staff our front desk and help patrons with their research. If you’ve thought about helping SGS in this way, please sign up for our annual training session. The 2011 event is scheduled for October 3rd, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This training program will teach you the basics of becoming a library desk volunteer and help you get started by pairing you with an experienced volunteer. Please sign up in advance by sending your name and contact information to <sgsmembership@gmail.com>. Thank you.
Calendar of Events

All events held at the Seattle Genealogical Society Library, unless stated otherwise.

JUNE 2011

4 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP SGS Library
“New Brunswick Research”.
Chair: Dave Robert

Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PROGRAM MEETING SGS Library
“Finding Family Treasures - Antiquing for the Genealogist” “Do you love to browse in Antique stores? Look for unique items that relate to your heritage. From coins with your ancestor’s picture and stamps... to postcards, silver spoons, rare books, and commemorative china.
Speaker: Jean A. Roth

5 Sunday, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. SGS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Aljoya-Thornton Place
Installation of the SGS Board for 2011-2012 and the presentation of the Annual Report for 2010-2011. Your feedback is important to the future of SGS. Please honor us by attending this important meeting. (See article for more information)
450 NE 100th Street
Seattle, WA 98125

11 Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ALL DAY BARNRAISING Amazon, Van Vorst Bldg
Come and watch the Barnraising of the new SGS website. For more information see article in Newsletter.

12 Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. FOR THE SGS WEBSITE Seattle
Come and watch the Barnraising of the new SGS website. For more information see article in Newsletter.

13 Monday 7 p.m. JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Seattle Center’s
Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State Program
Some tips for doing genealogy research in cemeteries, including cemetery etiquette and how to read a tombstone and method for photographing headstones.
$5.00 for non-JGSWS members.

14 Tuesday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. HERITAGE CRAFT TUESDAYS SGS Library
This class features how to transfer photographs to fabric to create quilts or wall hangings. Limited to 10 attendees. <Email clbright@comcast.net> for a supply list.
Presented by Cary Bright

15 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
“What’s Next” Lou Daly will lead a discussion on what happens to your collection. $3.00 use fee. June is our last meeting of the season.
1644 43rd Ave E
Seattle (Madison Pk)

15 Wednesday 6:30 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES SGS Library
“An Introduction to <Mocavo.com>” This new genealogy search engine introduced in March 2011 is proving to be a popular internet search tool for searching billions of names in tens of thousands of free sources.
Presented by Jean Roth

18 Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PROGRAM MEETING SGS Library
Award-winning documentary video “Blood of the Irish”. Tracing the origins of the Irish Race through the ages including a DNA study. Winner of the Irish “Oscar” for best documentary in 2010. (See article for more information)

23 Thursday 7am to midnight SEATTLE Give BIG DAY
Donations made to SGS at this website will be proportionally matched. Look for more information and the link the week of the event. <http://www.seattlefoundation.org>

25 Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES SGS Library
“Newspaper Research and Digital Newspapers for Genealogists” Presented by Ginny Sommarstrom
Before you ask for a lookup from someone in the local area, check online for those historic newspapers. You’ll be amazed at how many are available for free...and at how much you can learn from them.
Calendar of Events, continued

JULY 2011

2-4 Saturday - Monday  Closed for July 4 Holiday

9 Saturday  SKAGIT VALLEY SCOTTISH GAMES  Mount Vernon
The SGS Irish Group will be represented at the Irish Heritage Club Booth.
For more information at <http://www.celticarts.org/index.php?page_id=32>

9 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. NATIONAL ARCHIVES PACIFIC NARA ALASKA REGION CLASSES 6125 Sand Pt.Way NE Upstairs conference rm.
An overview of the types of documents held and how the public can access the information.
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. “OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES”
Come learn how to find over ninety six billion original documents.

9 Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. SGS COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE SGS Library
Bring your friends and family for a free day to research and get help.

13 Wednesday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. BRICK WALL SESSION SGS Library
Bring your family history research problems and we’ll try to collectively find ways to solve them.

16 Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PROGRAM MEETING SGS Library
“Navigating GOOGLE EARTH” - Using satellite technology to pinpoint ancestral locations and view them anywhere in the world.
Speaker: Joe Flint

21-23 Wed – Sun  CONVENTION OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA HERITAGE SOC. Spokane, WA
With a variety of workshops on genealogy, history, cultural cooking and programs relating to today’s technology in using DNA.
Visit < http://www.grhs.org> for more information or call (701)223-6167

23 Saturday 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOCUS GROUP SGS Library
Chair: Karen Portzer
SGS Library

23 Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PROGRAM MEETING SGS Library
“Write Your Ancestors’ Life Stories” Learn to research and write about the timelines and events in your ancestors’ lives.
Speaker: Becky Logan

30 Saturday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. DNA INTEREST GROUP Aljoya -Thornton Place
Topic this month will cover results from the latest test offerings by FTDNA including yDNA at 111 markers, walk through the y, and Autosomal DNA with their new Illumina chip. A member will discuss extensive DNA testing on 7 close relatives of her family. To get on the member list, email us at: <sgsdnasig@gmail.com> Co-Chairs: Cary Bright and Herb McDaniel.

30-31 Saturday and Sunday  PNW SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES Enumclaw, WA
SGS will have an information booth at the games staffed by SGS volunteers.
Contact Jean A. Roth at jeanaroth@juno.com if you want to help at this fun event.

AUGUST

10 Wednesday 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES SGS Library
“A Roundup of Resources “ We’ll review popular tools you can use for your family history research. Bring your own favorites to share in this open forum.

13 Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PROGRAM MEETING SGS Library
“New Technology in Tombstones” Personalizing family monuments with creative lazer art and new styles, trends in locating graves by GPS in large cemeteries, and Speaker: David Quiring
President of Seattle’s
Calendar of Events, continued

AUGUST Continued

Quiring Monuments

the new “Talking Tombstone” which features an affordable chip added to the monument which can be read by smartphones. It can contain biographical or family history of the individual. Family members can even add messages that can be read for several generations.

27 Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PROGRAM MEETING SGS Library

“Family Search - What to Do With What’s New” This ever-popular LDS search engine has been in transition with changes daily and even hourly sometimes leading to frustration for researchers looking for favorite sections that seem to disappear.

Julie Monson is a volunteer from the Bellevue Family History Center and the Genealogy Center of the Northwest African American Museum.

AN OLD FASHION BARNRAISING AT SGS AND A NEW WEBSITE

Have you ever been to an old fashioned barn raising? We are updating our website with the help of the local Drupal Group. Drupal is a CMS (Contact Management System) program that writes code for the web. The local Drupal Group meets regularly and is available to help create websites using the Drupal program. Our Website Committee is working with the Drupal Group. Goals are to create a website that is clean, clear and user-friendly. Navigation will be simple and the text will be easily read on any computer. The SGS website will be easy to find and easier to use.

All SGS members are invited to attend the “barn raising” and see the reborn SGS website come to life in front of your eyes. The “barn raising” will be on Saturday June 11, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday June 12, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Amazon, in the VanVorst Building, 426 Terry Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109. Please sign up for tickets (so we know how many people to plan for) at <http://drupal-barn-raising.eventbrite.com/>.

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments and help host this event. Please contact <sgsvolunteers@gmail.com> if you can help. We will need people early for setup on Saturday and Sunday, June 11 & 12, and late in the day for clean-up.

For more details about the barnraising, please check out this link: <http://groups.drupal.org/node/144134>.