SEATTLE 1890 PROJECT

The Seattle 1890 Project is off and running. The project committee (Chuck Richards, chair; Jackie Lawson, Lynn Magnuson, Sue Melville, Mary Roddy, Jan Walker) spent time evaluating the accuracy of the Washington State Archives transcription of the 1889 Washington Territorial Census for Seattle and determined that there were more errors in the transcription than the committee was comfortable with. The committee members created packets of scanned census pages and the comparable transcribed pages and written instructions for making corrections. Through SGS e-letters and requests at the fall seminar, we have a team of SGS members working from home to proof sets of 5 census pages. By the time you read this, we will have held two training sessions for volunteer proofreaders and (hopefully) completed corrections on several Seattle precincts. Kate Johnston is coordinating packet distribution and Sue Melville is making corrections to the master file. Kudos to All!

The 1889 Territorial Census transcription will serve as the foundation of the entire project, which seeks to identify and place geographically all residents of Seattle (today’s city limits) in 1890. The 1889 Census is a good foundation, since it lists EVERY resident of Seattle in summer 1889, but it doesn’t locate them geographically (other than precinct). The Committee is looking at other 1890 resources to add to the census, such as the Seattle City Directory, church and school records, etc. If you’d like to get involved in this project, please contact Chuck Richards at <sgs1890@gmail.com>.

BLUE BIRD OF GENEALOGY

The migrating BLUE BIRD OF GENEALOGY will arrive once again at SGS on December 28, 2011. This event is an opportunity for SGS members to take a break from hibernating and come in to help clean the SGS library. The time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, 28 Dec. The work: dusting, vacuuming, and other assorted cleaning chores. Cleaning supplies will be provided free of charge! The pay is great: coffee and goodies, a sparkling clean SGS library. A holiday deal you cannot afford to pass up! To reserve your spot, please send an email to Christine Schomaker at <SGSOperations@gmail.com>.

SPRING SEMINAR

SAVE THE DATE for our annual SPRING SEMINAR—Saturday, May 19th, 2012—with “Genealogy Guy” GEORGE G. MORGAN. Attendees at our fall seminar selected the following topics:

- Bring ‘Em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile
- Advanced Genealogical Research Methodologies for the Internet
- Genealogy Orienteering: Using Maps to Find the Right Place
- Sidestep Genealogy

You’ll be hearing much more about George and his topics in the coming months. If you’d like to join the Seminar Committee and help plan this important event, please email Michelle at <sgsvolunteers@gmail.com>.

HAVE MAC or PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE?

Familiar with Adobe Creative Suite or willing to learn? Our publications team is looking for people to help with the layout of the SGS Bulletin and our quarterly Newsletters.

HELP OUR BOOK PROCESSING TEAM!

We have HUNDREDS of books waiting to be sold, but we need someone to help prepare and post eBay listings, respond to questions, and coordinate packaging and mailing sold items. This could be a major revenue producer for SGS, but items don’t list themselves! Training will be provided.

If you are able to help with any of our projects or events, please contact Michelle at <SGSVolunteers@gmail.com>. Thank you!
BOARD BUSINESS

September and October have been particularly busy months for your SGS board. Most of the board participated in the October 3rd Desk Volunteer Training Day, as well as the Library Work Day on Sept. 25th, the Open House on Oct. 16th and at the fall seminar on Oct. 22nd. Whew!

We reluctantly accepted Cary Bright’s resignation as Director of Education at our October meeting due to her impending move to Snohomish. Even someone with Cary’s energy can’t be expected to commute in from that far away to host the almost weekly programs at SGS. We deeply appreciate all of Cary’s work on the fall seminar and this year’s educational programming. Many of our members have enjoyed the new “Technology Thursday” and “Genealogy 101” programs Cary developed this year. She leaves our programming in good shape through mid-March, as well as our spring seminar well organized.

Thanks to our Library Trustees, the Board was able to approve a new Deed of Gift so that we will be on firm legal ground in our handling of donated books and archival material. Speaking of which, our Archives Committee has been meeting weekly to organize archival materials currently sitting in boxes and file drawers at the library. Our Material Review Committee is meeting monthly to evaluate donated books. As provided in our newly approved Library Disposal Policy, we have established a new “Members’ Book sales” area where books determined to be surplus and available for sale by the Material Review Committee are available for sale to members for a minimum of thirty days. New additions will be announced through our bi-monthly e-letters and on our website. The Library Trustees are also working on disaster planning for the library.

Board members have also been reviewing the Society’s capital equipment needs. Our extremely successful spring seminar last year provided us with an unexpected surplus of income over expenses for a change. Director of Operations Christine Schomaker has been shopping the UW Surplus Store for some replacement chairs. Director of Volunteers Michelle Khoun is researching LCD projectors so that we can replace our older one (which is not compatible with most laptops used today). Director of Library Amber Brock has researched additional online databases, but the prices for institutional subscriptions are totally outrageous. We will continue to explore the purchase of single subscriptions to fold3 and various online newspaper sites. Update: our new LCD projector has arrived.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GETTING MORE INVOLVED AT SGS?

If you’ve been a member of SGS for very long, you’ve probably received a call to serve on the board. Each year we elect a Nominating Committee during our Spring balloting, a group that is charged with putting together a complete slate of officers, directors, and nominating committee candidates for the coming year. For as long as any of the current board members can remember, this has entailed attempting to call all “eligible” SGS members each year. Any current SGS member who has been a member for at least one year is eligible to run for elective office. Candidates for president should have served on the board or a major committee and been a member for at least five years. Calling every eligible member of SGS each year is a large commitment of time for minimal return. Please consider making the Nominating Committee’s job easier by volunteering to run for a position on the board.

This year we already know that at least the positions of President and Director of Publications will need new candidates, as both Ginny and Annette have served three consecutive years in these positions, respectively. We will also need a new Director of Education due to Cary’s recent resignation. Undoubtedly there will be other vacancies.

If you’ve thought about running for an SGS office, how about “shadowing” one of our board members? All members are welcome to attend any SGS board meeting and see what we do. Individual board members are more than happy to show members what their job entails. Our secretary, Linda Dougherty, has monthly reports from each board member available to share with interested members, so you can see the amount of work that is entailed in each position. This year’s nominating committee chair, Anna Chavelle, has current job descriptions for all positions. Please contact her at <sgsnominate@gmail.com> if you have an interest in serving SGS as a board member or as a member of next year’s nominating committee. Thank you.

FALL SEMINAR A SUCCESS!

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made our fall seminar such a success this year. All of our speakers received positive reviews and provided useful information on military records to the attendees. Our featured speaker, Eric Stroschein, received rave reviews and introduced us all to some interesting records. Hopefully everyone left with some new knowledge and was energized to check out some new military records.
On 3 Oct 2011 the 3rd annual SGS Desk Volunteer Training Day was held. This training was for both new and seasoned desk volunteers and focused on “What’s New at SGS.” There were 31 SGS members in attendance, including 7 Board members.

After being welcomed and thanked by SGS President Ginny Sommarstrom, Michelle Khuon, Director of Volunteers, talked about upcoming events and volunteer needs. Then Library Trustee Pat Younie presented our new Deed of Gift, which replaces the old Donation Form that SGS has used for many years. The Library Trustees and Board spent over 6 months developing this new form in concert with an attorney so that it provides SGS with the legal authority and protection we need. A very important new feature of this form is that BOTH spouses (or domestic partners) need to sign when giving items to SGS. The form and instructions are available on our website at <http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Deed_of_Gift-2011_0.pdf> so that they can be downloaded and prepared in advance of bringing donated materials to SGS.

Director of Library Amber Brock spoke about our new ResourceMate library catalog software and offered to provide training in its use. She included a handout in the packet that demonstrates how to use this new software to look up books in our collection. Once our catalog has been totally cleaned, we will be able to add Library of Congress subject categories and more keywords for searching our books. ResourceMate’s Patron Search module will be available on the Ancestry computer and the desk computer.

Director of Membership Linda Fitzgerald explained new procedures for handling new and renewed Membership processing by desk volunteers. From now on, no money (cash or checks) will be put in the Membership Shoebox, but will go directly to the Treasurer. Treasurer Dick Morrill explained that he needs the Daily Activity Report completely filled out, including the Activity section, and why (this information is included in our IRS form 990 annual report of non-profit operations).

Director of Operations Christine Schomaker talked about our new Open flag and answered operational questions from the Desk Volunteers. The group disbanded after a wonderful lunch provided by Pat Younie. All in all it was a great training day and we’re really pleased so many of our wonderful desk volunteers attended. If you would like to become a desk volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Howie, Desk Volunteer Coordinator, at <sgsdeskvol@gmail.com>. Thanks to Elizabeth, we have an up-to-date training packet available that will help all volunteers provide consistent service to our library visitors.

Volunteer of the Quarter

If you’ve done any research in the SGS library anytime in the past 15 years, chances are good you’ve encountered the smiling face of Charlotte Wixon. Charlotte, modest as always (“There are people more deserving than me for a volunteer profile”), has been a steadfast presence as a desk volunteer, training new volunteers and helping people negotiate Ancestry.com and find their way around the library.

Charlotte became interested in genealogy about 35 years ago, when she began interviewing her mother and grandmother in Kansas and making notes about family history. She had planned to be a history teacher, but life had other plans for her, and after retiring from a career at Sears, Roebuck 15 years ago, she began to research her family in earnest. She attends seminars and classes at SGS, and has been to Salt Lake City four times. Currently she is researching a great-great-grandfather from Illinois, trying to make a connection to the Revolutionary War. She also researches family members who lived in Ohio. Charlotte traveled to the Midwest this past summer for the first time to pursue her research, looking at land records from the early 1880s.

“Volunteering at SGS is such an enjoyable experience,” says Charlotte. “I always learn from other people. When you get a person who comes in off the street and you can help them find something, it’s wonderful.” If you are an SGS regular or someone coming in off the street for the first time, and you happen to be visiting the library on a Thursday, stop by the front desk and say “thank you” to Charlotte for 15 years of service to SGS. Says Charlotte: “Thursday is a day of the week I look forward to.”
THANK YOU SGS DONORS

Please join in thanking these generous members who have made donations to SGS since June 1st. These include donations received with membership renewals as well as donors through the Seattle Foundation’s GiveBIG day. Without these generous donations, we would have to raise our dues and fees, something we have tried not to do in these difficult economic times.

Ashmore, Tim
Berg, Therese
Bingaman, Dawn
Brock, Amber
Burnett, Joan & Toby
Chavelle, Anna
Connell, Katherine
Davis, Daphne
Davis, William & Mary
Dougherty, Linda
Dunn, Braxton & Klara
Dwyer, John
Fitzsimmons, Mollie
Gaston, Christine
Hamilton, Tom & Kathi
Howie, Elizabeth
Jellison, Nancy & Clinton
Johnston, Kathryn
Keil, Kerri
Reiley, Kidd
JoAnne, King
Kunsch, Sherry
Landry, Evelyn
Larson, Bonnie
Lehman, Rosemary & Jon
Lundgren, Cheryl
Madsen, Claire
Martin, Janice
Martin, Nancy
McClure, Elaine
McGuire, Marilyn
McMillan, Laura
Melville, Susan
Morrill, Richard & Joanne
Morris, Barbara
Newton, Laurie
Parker, Susan
Peak, Edna
Porter, Karen
Provancha, Laura
Pulliam, Christine
Purdum, Phyllis
Ravenholt, Betty
Jean Roth
Ryan, Robert
Schomaker, Christine & Eric
Schunke, Marilyn
Shaffer, Jamie
Shiveley, Catherine
Smith, Linda
Sommarstrom, Ginny
Sullivan, Col. Joseph & Betty
Swope, Sharyl
Tommassene, Judy
Tully, Dorene
Whaley, Colleen
Wilson, William & Patricia
Yates, Roberta

SAVE THE DATE!

IRISH GENEALOGY SEMINAR

Sunday, March 11, 2012  Nordic Heritage Museum
Seattle’s IRISH HERITAGE CLUB along with the help of the Irish Interest Groups of the Seattle Genealogical Society and the Eastside Genealogical Society is bringing two speakers from the Belfast, Northern Ireland’s ULSTER HERITAGE FOUNDATION for a full day seminar and workshop on Irish Genealogy.

Topics to be covered include:

• Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research
• Eighteenth Century Emigration from Ireland to America and the Sources for Its Study
• Researching the Farming Community in 18th & 19th Century

Seminar Cost: $45 per person includes the seminar and box lunch by Classic Catering. A registration form with schedule, box lunch selection and payment options will be coming soon on the Irish Heritage Club’s Website at <http://www.irishclub.org>.

KING COUNTY COURT RECORDS INDEX HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Thanks to Marilynn Van Hise and her dedicated group of volunteers, SGS’s 11-year project to compile our index to King County Court Records based on the Chicago Title Company’s card file has been completed. The final database contains over 1.7 million records from multiple courts. Divorces, name changes, powers of attorney, wills, probate and many other cases that may have an effect on titles to real estate are included in the database. The period covered runs from 1851 to 1980. It is an incredible database and we are deeply indebted to Marilynn and her team for their tremendous contribution to preserving and organizing these records for all to use. Currently the database is only available at SGS. Ask the desk volunteer for the King County Court Records CD and happy searching!
Calendar of Events
All events held at the Seattle Genealogical Society Library, unless stated otherwise.

December 2011

1 Thursday, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAYS
“Tips to Keep Track of your Home Library” Amber Brock, our extraordinary Director of Library and Librarian at the UW will walk us thru ways to keep our books organized, cataloged and accessible.

3 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP Chair: David Robert
Topic to be announced.

5 Monday, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. BEGINNER BASICS Presented by Cary Bright
“Marriage Records 101”. Do you know the difference between banns, bonds, registrations and licenses? We will review what to look for, and where you might find marriage records for your family research.

11 Sunday, 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES Presented by Mary Roddy
“Timelines” Are you using this tool to examine your family data? Timelines a different perspective on our information and makes you see gaps in your research that actually mean something!

14 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
Contact Lou Daly <loudaly@nwlink.com> or Diane K. Hettrick at <dhettrick@earthlink.net> Topic to be determined. E-mail Diane to receive notices of meetings.

15 Thursday, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAYS Presented by Cary Bright
“Advanced Googling”. With the holidays and snow in the future, learn how you can pass the time researching away. We will discuss advanced search techniques to get the most out of your online search time.

(The Irish and German Interest Groups will not meet in December)

22 Thursday – Monday 2 January SGS LIBRARY CLOSED
The SGS Library will be closed for the holidays beginning Thursday, December 22nd thru Monday, January 2nd.

January 2012

3 Tuesday, 10 a.m. SGS LIBRARY RE-OPENS

7 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP Chair: David Robert
Topic to be determined. Check the SGS website for updates.

8 Sunday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. GENEALOGY CONFERENCES AND COURSES Panel
Have you thought about expanding your genealogy knowledge by attending a large regional or national conference or an intensive course of study? Members who have attended these events will be presenting a brief overview of their experiences and answer your questions. Panel includes those who have attended NGS and FGS National Conferences, UW Genealogy Certificate Program, NGHR Courses, Sanford Program and a Certified Genealogist.
January Continued

11 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP  Fiske Library
   Contact Lou Daly <loulaly@nwlink.com> or  1644 43rd Ave E
   Diane K. Hettrick at <dhettrick@earthlink.net> Topic to be determined.  Seattle (Madison Pk)

12 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  TECHNOLOGY THURSDAYS  Presented by Cary Bright
   “How to find indexes to online books”. Learn where you can find the
   index to a book and check for your family without every going
to the library. Oh, the things you can do online!

13/14 Friday/Saturday  POST HOLIDAY PARTY & 24-HOUR LOCK-IN
   6 p.m. Friday/6 p.m. on Saturday  Come work on all your preparations for the 1940
census release in April. We will have a program at 7 p.m. on “Preparing for the 1940 Census,”
then open hours to access the Seattle Directories and computers for your families’ addresses
and Enumeration Districts from the 1930’s and 1940. We will be open until the last person goes
home and again from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Saturday for this all important prep work!
   You only have 79 more days to wait…

14 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ONLINE  NARA
   “The National Archives Online”. Come learn how to find over 96 million
original documents.
   Saturday, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  NARA
   An overview of the types of documents held and how the public can access the
information. To register, call 206-336-5115, or e-mail: seattle.archives@nara.gov, or
in person during normal business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday-Friday.

17 Tuesday, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.  BEGINNER BASICS  Presented by Mary Roddy
   “Wills 101” Mary Roddy will present information about wills and where you can
find them. You may be missing all kinds of information if you just stop at the
Will Book abstract. What can you learn from a will?

21 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  IRISH INTEREST GROUP  Chair: Jean Roth
   Irish genealogical research: An overview Tips and Tricks for doing Irish research.
Beginners and experienced researchers will learn something useful.

21 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  GERMAN INTEREST GROUP  Chair: Jean Roth
   German genealogical research: An overview Tips and Tricks for doing Irish research.
Beginners and experienced researchers will learn something useful.

24 Tuesday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  BRICK WALL PANEL
   Hear how our panelists have solved their brick walls and bring yours to share.
These popular sessions have opened doors for many researchers as they receive
personal research assistance and suggestions to break through those pesky “brick walls.”

26 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  TECHNOLOGY THURSDAY
   “Show and Tell of New Technology Gifts” Come share what new gadget you received
for the holidays.

28 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  DNA INTEREST GROUP
   Location to be determined. Program to be announced. To get on the member list
for meeting notification, email us at: <sgsdnasig@gmail>
Seattle Genealogical Society Newsletter

Calendar of Events, continued

January  Continued

28 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOCUS GROUP Co-Chairs: Karen Portzer & Ann Gillespie
“Getting to know Pennsylvania” We will be looking at the big picture of the culture, history and geography of the state. Program will include a slide show of Pennsylvania.

29 Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. SGS LIBRARY WORK DAY Join in helping SGS catch up on a variety of Library tasks including reviewing and organizing resource files and shelves; preparing donated books and materials for shelving and duplicates for sale on SGS’s EBay page; and re-organizing storage and clearing out unused/broken items. Expertise is not needed, just many willing hands! Light refreshments will be provided for everyone. This is a great way to meet and get to know other SGS members. Please contact Michelle Khuon, Director of Volunteers, at <sgsvolunteers@gmail.com> if you are able to help for all or part of the day, or if you have any questions.

30 Monday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. BEGINNER BASICS WORKSHOP For the beginning family researcher; learn the basic skills of researching your family. This all-day workshop will cover finding records, recording records and analyzing what you find. Class is for SGS Members and is limited to 10. Please register by sending an email to <sgseducation@gmail.com> or calling SGS at (206) 522-8658.

February 2012

1 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. CREATING A FAMILY STORY WHEN YOU CAN’T FIND THE FAMILY Presenter: Mary Roddy We will help you create a story about that elusive family member you just can’t locate many details for. Find out how to use history for his/her story.

4 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP Chair David Robert topic to be announced. Check the SGS website for updates.

8 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library Contact Lou Daly <loudaly@nwlink.com> or Diane K. Hettrick at <dhettrick@earthlink.net> Topic to be determined. 1644 43rd Ave E Seattle (Madison Pk)

9 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAYS “Scanning Documents Revisited” We will scan a few documents and show you how to store them. It will be a demonstration class that will enable you to gain skills to use on your own system. Multiple scanners will be demonstrated.

11 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. SGS LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE Invite your family, friends and neighbors to come learn all about the many resources available at the SGS Library to assist them in their research and to get those new to genealogy on the path to learning about their family’s history. Volunteers needed!

15 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. BEGINNER BASICS “Land Records 101”. Learn how land records add depth to your research. Presented by Lynn Magnuson An overview of various types of land records and how to interpret descriptions used in the Public Land Survey System will be discussed.

18 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. IRISH INTEREST GROUP Chair: Jean Roth Irish Census Records and census substitutes. We will talk about where to find them or not and how to read them.
ANNUAL DUES (June 1 to May 31)
SINGLE - $35
DUAL - $45

Life and Dual-Life memberships also are available. Inquire at SGS office.

Calendar of Events, continued

February Continued

18 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  GERMAN INTEREST GROUP  Chair: Jean Roth
So you have “Prussian” Ancestors. What does this mean? Where is/was Prussia?
How to find your Prussians.

23 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  TECHNOLOGY THURSDAYS
“Pictures + Info + Paper = Book: Shortcuts to creating albums”  We will
review planning and page design for paper and digital scrapbooks, and
creating digital books. Bring an example of something you have written or
designed to share your family history and we can inspire each other!

Presented by Terry Fitzgerald, Emily Phillips and Cary Bright

25 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  ETHNIC HERITAGE SERIES  Presented by Jean Roth
“Finding Family History Records from the 1500 – 1600’s”.  Jean Roth will review
accessing records for Central Europe, Great Britain, Scandinavia and Colonial America
in the 16th and 17th centuries. She will review records available online and at the
SGS Library, and the tools you may need when you find them.

28 Tuesday, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.  INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES  Presenter: Lynn Magnuson
“Re-analyzing your Data”. Learn how to take the data you already have and use
it to find new areas of research, as well as how to analyze new research in the
context of your current files.

Not receiving our twice monthly e-letter? Sign up at <http://www.littleurl.net/611241>