SPECIAL ALERT!!

From: Sue Ericksen, Washington State Genealogical Society
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 9:34 AM
Subject: Access to WA Vital Records at risk of being closed!

The WA State Board of Health is asking the Public Records Committee (PRC) to close birth records for 125 years and marriage, divorce & death for 50 years. There will a meeting on December 5, 2012 at 10 am at the State Archives in Olympia to make this request. The meeting is open to the public.

The PRC has the authority to restrict access to the records without legislative oversight.

To try and stop this train wreck, we need to send letters to our legislators, newspapers, and members of the PRC. We also need to get a contingent of people to "storm the gates" and attend the meeting to let your voice be heard.

Help keep Washington's vital records accessible to the public.

Sincerely,

Sue Ericksen
WSGS President

Editor’s Note: as of the printing of this newsletter WSGS had not posted any additional information on their website. Keep checking back to their site for more information.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasgs/>

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The fall General Membership meeting was held on September 29, 2012, at the SGS Library. The high point of the meeting was presentation of the results of the Financial Review Committee’s work by Chair Bonnie Larson. The other two members of the committee were Bob Lynch and Nancy Hevly. I hope all of you who know any of them will thank them for their work.

The Financial Review Committee works independently of the SGS Board and presents its final report to the membership. The SGS Board was given a courtesy preview, but is not allowed to make changes in the report. This is one way the membership maintains oversight of the Board and the organization.

In their report, SGS Financial Review (financial year ending 31 May 2012), the Committee found no evidence of fraud and described the financial practices as conservative (thrifty) with our revenues and
reserves. They also found that SGS has a history of non-financial volunteers 1.) keeping our books without fully understanding bookkeeping/financial principles, and 2.) lacking information essential to using Quicken, the bookkeeping software.

It is highly unlikely that SGS will ever be audited; but, if we are, we are at risk. Therefore, we need your help. First of all, we need someone to reconcile our accounts. If any of you have that kind of expertise, I hope you will volunteer to help. Another serious need is a volunteer who understands Quicken and can teach it to other volunteers. Other findings of the Committee pointed out policies and procedures which the SGS Board will need to address in the next few months. Already we are working on these other items and will make progress before the next Review.

The complete report by the Financial Review Committee is on CD. If you would like a copy, please ask for one from the Desk Volunteer on duty. Any positive suggestions, feedback, or help regarding the results of the financial review would be sincerely appreciated. Send your comments to me at sgspresident@gmail.com.

Linda
SGS President

BOARD ACTIVITIES

This is what has been happening at SGS in the last few months.

• We’re all still basking in the glow of a very successful Fall Seminar. When you see Cary Bright, please thank her for pulling it all together.

• We’ve recently introduced some new classes, for example, the series on religious information. Please thank Ida McCormick, Director of Education, for these classes.

• The mission of the “President’s Blog” has changed because it was not checked by many people. In the near future, the title will change and it will be used for SGS Library updates. Stay tuned!

• We are actively implementing security measures including key control. The Board has instituted measures to prevent unauthorized issuance of keys by having a single point of contact. We are delighted to announce that Sally Gene Mahoney, a Lifetime member, has agreed to be one of the Key Trustees.

• Our Library Director, Amber Case, has held very successful Library Work Days. Hint: a Library Work Day is a great way to volunteer.

• Question: How many feet of shelving do we have in the gray metal stacks? One of our volunteers, Patrick Stewart-Fowler, measured our stack shelving and found that we have over half a mile of shelving! That does not include the Family History shelves, shelves in the Publication Room, or the shelves around the Library Director’s desk. The idea of reorganizing all those materials has been debated for quite a while, and now it’s going to happen. Paul Case, a student at North Seattle Community College, needed a project to plan and carry out for his Project Management class, and we are the lucky recipients of his work. This project should be finished by the end of the year, so watch the ends of the rows to find what is where next year.

• Director of Operations, Christine Schomaker, continues to implement the recommendations of the Disaster Recovery Plan.

• We have made significant progress in bringing the Members Only part of our website on-line. Thanks to Ginny Sommarstrom and Michelle Khuon

OK, make a New Year’s Resolution today to volunteer to make your Society even better!
CIVIL WAR READ-IN: WASHINGTON

In 2013, hundreds of researchers will fan out across Washington State, visiting archives, museums and libraries to read our history, 1857-1871. We invite you to attend training and to join the Read-In. Participants will read newspapers, manuscripts, and documents of all kinds. Discover previously unknown local activities relating to the Civil War, and report them to make a permanent record.

During the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we in Washington know little of our own experience of the war. The war is not only of significance in the battlefield states, but also here in the far northwest, where settlers argued through the issues that tore the United States apart. As the Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) prepares to launch a major exhibition, “Civil War Pathways,” in February 2014, we seek your help in learning more about Washington Territory during the antebellum, wartime and early Reconstruction periods.

- Attend a training, January through May 2013
- Take a Read-In assignment, in newspapers or documents
- Spend a month of spare time, reading and gathering evidence
- Document your reading in the project templates
- Email your results to the Project

The output will be a searchable database which will be available to all researchers from the WSHS website.

Interested? Have questions? Contact Lorraine McConaghy at Lorraine.mcconaghy@wshs.wa.gov

LIBRARY WORK DAY

On 7 October 2012, a group of dedicated volunteers converged on the SGS Library to work on the collection under the direction of Amber Case, SGS Library Director. Activities included cataloging the historic books and recording their condition. This was an identified need in the on-going effort to have a viable emergency preparedness plan. Caught in the act of volunteering, Pat Younie and Sharyl Swope are seen (right) entering data concerning these important materials into our database. Also accomplished was the identification of duplicate journals which were separated out for free distribution to members. Amber has plans to arrange the library materials in a more logical sequence. She pointed out that “our library is a great resource that sometimes is more difficult than it should be to find the materials. A rearrangement of some of the materials will give the active items room to grow while still providing space for the more stable portion of the collection.” Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted.
The seminar was organized by Chair Cary Bright and Tom Hamilton, Pat Younie, Emily Phillips, Valerie Bunn, Kay Wilson, Nancy Parks, James Ryan, Barb Dougherty, Mary Roddy, Kerri Keil, Bruce Finlayson, and Barbara McHargue. Thanks everyone!

**HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE**

How fun was this!

On Sunday, October 28, SGS held their annual All Hallows Eve Open House from noon to 4:00. It seemed appropriate to note the 320th anniversary of the infamous Salem Witch Trials of 1692. Jean A. Roth presented a fascinating program on the persecution of witches as a social phenomenon—especially in Colonial America’s Puritan communities. Attending the presentation were representative descendants of a trial judge, three victims and the local firebrand (Cotton Mather)! Evil triumphs when good people do nothing, a lesson for us all today. Others came to utilize the resources in the library. SGS volunteers were on hand to help using the library resources and make those elusive ancestral connections.

Don’t forget to Mark your Calendar for the SGS Spring Seminar on May 18, 2013 with Judy G. Russell, JD, CG
Happy Holidays to you and all your family!

Remember the library and offices of SGS will be closed for the holidays from 21 December through 1 January. Have a happy holiday and a healthy and safe New Year. May you receive the gift of being able to spend time with your family and friends.
SGS WINTER QUARTER CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2012, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2013

Events are held at the Seattle Genealogical Society Library unless stated otherwise. SGS classes are free to SGS members and are $5 for nonmembers. Call SGS at 206-522-8658 for information about program cancellations or Library closures during snow conditions. This listing is subject to change or additions; for up-to-date info: <http://www.seattlegenealogicalsociety.com>.

DECEMBER 2012

1  Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP.
   “Holiday Traditions of our Canadian Ancestors” Led by David Robert
3  Monday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, BEGINNERS WORKSHOP: "How to Get Started in Genealogy"
6  Thursday, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, SGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
15  Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, SGS BRICK WALL PANEL
15  Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, RELIGIOUS RECORDS SERIES: "Birth, Marriage, Death, Etc.
   "What are the differences in record keeping by different kinds of churches? What totally unexpected types of
   information are found in church record books? What religious records are not church/congregation/
   meeting records?" Presenter: Ida Skarson McCormick

January 2013

1  Tuesday, New Year’s Day: HOLIDAY CLOSURE
2  Wednesday, SGS LIBRARY RE-OPENS.
5  Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP.
   “Pacific Northwest Libraries & Collections” led by David Robert
5  Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, CLASS: “TESTING THE PAPER TRAIL.”
   Documentation is very important in genealogical research. "Paper trail" today includes online images of
   original records. The class will illustrate documentation along the paper trail of a paternal line, including
   an "exhaustive search," as well as using Y-DNA testing as further support for a paternal line paper trail.
   Presenter: Ed Godfrey
8  Tuesday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, BEGINNERS WORKSHOP: "How to Get Started in Genealogy"
19  Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, IRISH INTEREST GROUP,
   Video: “Blood of the Irish” (2 hrs.); winner of the 2010 Irish Film and Television Academy Award for best
   documentary series on the quest to find the very origins of the Irish people. The film combines cutting
   edge DNA studies, the latest archaeology and superb visuals to attempt to answer the question: "Who
   were the first people to settle in Ireland and where did they come from?" Led by Jean A. Roth
19  Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP,
   "Exploring Resources for German Genealogy on the Internet.” There are many websites of interest to
   German Researchers. We’ll go online and look for new research possibilities. Bring your favorite sites to
   share. Led by Jean A. Roth
22  Tuesday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, SGS BRICK WALL PANEL
24  Thursday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, SGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
26  Saturday, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, DNA INTEREST GROUP at North Seattle Alliance Church, 2150 N. 122nd
   St., Seattle, WA. Led by Cary Bright and Herb McDaniel.
26  Saturday, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOCUS GROUP:
   DVD: Pennsylvania Cable Network interview of the author of the Pennsylvania Weather Book. Discussion:
   The folklore, Ground Hogs Day, major floods and storms of Pennsylvania. How did weather affect our
27  Sunday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, LIBRARY WORK DAY.
   Help organize and inventory library materials. Email Michelle Khuon: <sgsvolunteers@gmail.com> if you
   can volunteer for two hours.
February 2013

2 Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP,
   “Using Canadian Genealogy Websites” led by David Robert.
2 Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, BEGINNERS WORKSHOP: “How to Get Started in Genealogy”
5 Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, WORKSHOP:
   “Analysis Box, Hands-on Approach to Analyzing Records.” Find the story recorded in every document and ferret out the clues for continued research. Test your skills during this analysis challenge. Advance registration required – call SGS at 206-522-8658 to reserve a seat. Led by Karen V. Sipe.
16 Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, IRISH INTEREST GROUP,
   “Using Historic and Modern Maps in Irish Research.” Changing village names and moving boundaries can make the search for your ancestors’ place of origin in Ireland difficult. We'll explore types of maps, and how to access and interpret them. Led by Jean A. Roth
16 Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP,
   “Using Historic and Modern Maps in German Research.” Changing village names and moving boundaries can make the search for your ancestors’ origin in Germanic countries difficult. We'll explore types of maps and how to access and interpret them. Led by Jean A. Roth
22 Friday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, SGS BRICK WALL PANEL
23 Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. VIRGINIA FOCUS GROUP. Led by Betty Ravenholt
23 Saturday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, TECH TOPIC:
   “Using the Chronicling America Historic Newspaper Website.” More than 5.2 million images of historic American newspapers are available online for free through the Library of Congress. Learn how to navigate the site and some search techniques to find your ancestors within the context of their communities and times. Presenter: Dawn Bingaman
28 Thursday, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, SGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: CARY BRIGHT

Our Volunteer of the Quarter is Cary Bright. If you attended the Fall Seminar, I am sure you saw her as she was the chair of that event. Cary joined SGS in 2001 shortly after she started doing her family history research. Her father, an only child, was left with all the things her grandparents had owned and passed these albums and photos to her. Cary describes herself as a “memory keeper,” a natural fit with genealogy.

In the past, Cary served as SGS Secretary and Director of Education and has been on the Seminar Committee since 2008. She is also a member of the Annie Pulliam DAR Chapter.

Cary described her journey as a continued desire to focus on “genealogical learning.” She subscribes to about 15 genealogy blogs and listens to a webinar at least weekly. Her areas of research include: Eastern Washington, Missouri, Minnesota, Germans from Russia and Norway.

Born in California and a self-described California Girl at heart, Cary has lived in the Seattle area since she was 3 years old. She has been married for 34 years to a wonderful husband who travels a lot for business, so she has lots of time for those blogs and webinars. She downsized recently and is enjoying the freedom of a 1000 SF home. Cary and her husband have two adult children and a 9 year old grandpuppy, Harley. In her professional life, Cary retired from maternity nursing after 27 years this past July.

SGS and the entire genealogy community is proud to have Cary be a part of our organization and are pleased to be able to honor her as our Volunteer of the Quarter.
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 our 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 understand 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>.