



Seattle Genealogical Society

March - May 2012

newsletter

SGS SPRING SEMINAR

Saturday, 19 May 2012 at MOHAI

George G. Morgan

of

"The Genealogy Guys Podcast"



The Seattle Genealogical Society Spring 2012 Seminar features national speaker, George G. Morgan, of The Genealogy Guys Podcasts on Saturday, 19 May, 2012. His range of genealogical interests and speaking topics is among the most diverse in the genealogical speaking community. With the advent of electronic research

materials, he has become a recognized expert in using software programs, databases, Internet resources, online databases, Internet genealogical mailing lists and message boards, search engines, directories, subscription databases, and all the major online services around the world. He will bring his knowledge of technology and his passion for genealogy in an informative seminar. This year we will be meeting in the cushy comfort of the McEachern Auditorium at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI.) Last fall you voted for the topics that George Morgan would present and the winning topics are:

- **Bring'Em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile**

The people we're tracing participated in the life of their historical times, led complex lives, and interacted with one another. Organizing the information we collect into a biographical profile can help you begin to recognize character traits and decision patterns. This seminar presents a methodology and a structured model for taking the details you collect about your ancestor and creating a biographical profile.

- **Advanced Genealogical Research Methodologies for the Internet**

We'll examine a variety of genealogical and newspaper databases, how to use search engines to locate genealogy data across the Internet, and how to use social media to research your ancestry.

- **New Ways to Research our Roots**

This session takes the attendees from our beginnings to the future of genealogical research. It concentrates on products, services, technology, and initiatives that are advancing our research each day. Learn about new research resources available today and trends into the future with books, records, digitization, DNA, and more.

- **Sidestep Genealogy**

Brick wall research blocks are inevitable. It is then that we must use our most creative research skills, and move to other family members. Sidestep genealogy means researching these alternative individuals, their records, the places that they lived, and other resources.

George G. Morgan is president of Aha! Seminars, Inc. He also managed the development of an award-winning PC-based EDI software package. He worked for Advantis, a subsidiary of IBM. He is co-host of The Genealogy Guys© Podcast at <<http://genealogyguys.com>>, the longest running genealogy podcast in the world. They began producing The Genealogy GuysSM Videocast at <<http://genealogyguys.blip.tv>> in 2009.

George is the author of eight landmark genealogy books: *The Genealogy Forum on America Online: The Official User's Guide*; the award-winning *Your Family Reunion: How to Plan It, Organize It, and Enjoy It*. His award-winning book, *How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy*, has been a part of its highly successful "How to Do Everything" series. He has written the first and second editions of *The Official Guide to Ancestry.com*.

Seminar Brochures will be mailed out the first of March. Learn more information on the SGS website at <<http://www.seattlegenealogicalsociety.org>> where you will also be able to register online, or by mail will also be available. So save the date, Saturday, May 19 for our Spring 2012 Seminar.

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IRISH GENEALOGY SEMINAR

By the Irish Heritage Club

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday, March 11, 2012

Registration begins at 8:30 am

(Note: Daylight Savings Time Starts Today)

Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th St, Seattle

Seattle's Irish Heritage Club will host an all-day Irish Workshop as a prelude to Irish Week. Fintan Mullan, Director of The Ulster Historical Foundation, and Brian Trainor, former Director of Northern Ireland's Public Records Office, will present a full day seminar and workshop on Irish Genealogy. The Ulster Historical Foundation is a long-established genealogical research and publishing agency offering extensive knowledge on the sources available for tracing Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors in any part of Ireland. Services include online databases of over 2 million records, genealogy and history books, and personal ancestral research. Representatives of the SGS and Eastside Irish Interest groups will be available with information tables. Topics include: **Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research, Eighteenth Century Emigration from Ireland to America & Sources for Its Study, Records Relating to the Different Churches in Ireland, Researching the Farming Community in 18th & 19th Century, The Ulster Plantation: Sources for 17th Century Families.**

Seminar Cost: \$45 per person includes the seminar and a box lunch by Classic Catering Registration form with schedule, box lunch selection and payment options is on the Irish Heritage Club's Website at www.irishclub.org/Genealogy.htm or email Genealogy@IrishClub.org or call 206-223-3608.

Members Only Section of the SGS Website

Some of you have noticed that our SGS website (<http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org>) now has an option for members to log in. Right now this is just a "placeholder" for a whole new section of the website that's in development. Our wonderful Drupal volunteers are working with us to figure out how best to create the member log-ins and to keep them updated and accurate. Content to be placed behind the members only log-in includes handouts from presentations at SGS, databases (such as the King County Court Records Index) and special projects (such as the Seattle 1890 Project). If you have a database you'd like to contribute or an idea for what else we should put in the members only section, please contact Ginny Sommarstrom at sgspresident@gmail.com or Annette Dwyer at sgspublications@gmail.com.

THE SEATTLE 1890 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Seattle 1890 Census Project began last summer as an effort by S.G.S. to offer those researching early Seattle families a substitute 1890 compendium of Seattle area residents. Phase I, Seattle's portion of the 1889 Territorial census, is nearing completion, and volunteers will be honored at Volunteer Appreciation Day on April 16th.

Seattle's portion of the census was enumerated in July 1889, weeks after the devastation of the Great Seattle Fire, with some 31,000 entries for Seattle's four wards, plus the precincts of Dwamish, Fremont, Green Lake and Smiths Cove. 155 packets of approximately 200 names each were created, and these have been diligently read by a group of 13 SGS volunteers over the past several months.

Kate Johnston has been the project registrar, who has distributed packets to proofreaders. Sue Melville has been responsible for entering corrections to the original 1889 transcription.

Volunteer proofreaders for Phase I of the project have been: Dona Bubelis, Natalie Cowan, Christine Hanley, Nancy Hevly, Tina Hollingsworth, Kirsten Jensen, JoAnne King, Marilyn McGuire, Virgil Morgan, Nancy Parks, Emily Phillips, Winifred Price, Judy Tomassene, Doug Whalley, and Charlotte Wixon. Their work has been invaluable to the completion of this project.

Phase II will begin this spring and will involve transcribing the 1891 Polk City Directory for Seattle and merging the information, including locational data, with the information from the 1889 Census. The 1891 Polk Directory included information gathered through March 1891. Phase III will involve adding the 1890 Ballard Census to our database.

The Seattle 1890 Census Project committee is made up of Jackie Lawson, Lynn Magnuson, Sue Melville, Chuck Richards, Mary Roddy, Ginny Sommarstrom, and Jan Walker.

Be sure to renew your dues by
May 31, 2012

You won't want to miss all the activities we have planned for 2012 - 2013

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BOARD NEWS

After a short break for the Christmas holidays, the SGS Board has kept busy on the following projects:

- accepted the resignation of Cary Bright as Director of Education and appointed Lynn Magnuson to fill her unexpired term (through May 31, 2012)
- developing and adopting a revised Accounting Policy & Procedures that accurately reflect how we process income and expenses and keep our financial records
- developing and adopting a new Copyright Policy to protect SGS and our Bulletin article submitters and program presenters from plagiarism (thank you, Amber Brock Case)
- continuing to work through the many good recommendations of last summer's Performance Audit Committee (Karen Portzer, Bob Lynch, Charlotte Wixon). We have drafted an Operational Calendar and are working on better organizing our Policy & Procedure Manual
- completed the reporting requirements for our 2011 Sustained Operations Grant from King County 4Culture
- writing and submitting a request to 4Culture for funding for digitization of SGS documents (some of them "discovered" in our store room by our wonderful Archives Committee)
- developing and adopting a new pro-rated membership policy to avoid the "gaming" of the old pro-rated price structure
- discussing and understanding our overall SGS finances which depend heavily on revenue from seminars and donations
- discussing increasing our membership dues (if passed by the Board, members would vote on the proposal in April)
- hosting a second successful Library Work Day on January 29th (THANK YOU to all who came and helped)
- hosting a Library Open House on Saturday, February 11th (special thanks to Michelle Khoun for organizing and to Linda Fitzgerald for giving two "Getting Started" presentations)
- investigating setting up an SGS online "store"
- organizing volunteers to list more of SGS's surplus books on Ebay
- working with Anna Chavelle, chair of the Nominating Committee, to find qualified candidates for all elective offices
- probably most important of all, we've negotiated a new 5-year lease with our landlady with the rent fixed at our current level for two years. We can opt out after that if we can't come to agreement on an appropriate rental rate. And the owner is working with us to develop some new parking options for us.

SGS to Participate in GiveBIG Day

The Seattle Foundation's GIVE BIG DAY is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2nd this year. GiveBIG is a one-day, online charitable giving event coordinated by The Seattle Foundation designed to inspire people to give generously to nonprofit organizations in our community. All donations made through The Seattle Foundation's website on GiveBIG day will receive a pro-rated portion of the matching (or "stretch") funds pool.



Last year's "stretch" pool was \$500,000, which added about 18% to our donations. Many of you kindly add a donation to your membership renewal. Please consider making that donation from GiveBIG and SGS will receive even more money!

How to PUBLISH

Have you ever wanted to learn how to publish your genealogical research? Do you know how to layout your pages, what fonts to use or the design or styles you would like? Here is the chance to learn some of what happens with publications. We need a few people that are willing to learn how our Bulletin and Newsletter are published.

We need help researching articles for the Bulletin, writing, editing, proofing, layout, more proofing, printing and mailing of the Bulletin and Newsletter. We have the same equipment that professionals use to turn out a quality product. We use Adobe InDesign for our page layout and now with the new printer have the ability to print from the computer directly to the printer. No master, no plates are needed. When we print the Bulletin it comes out collated, stapled and ready to mail.

If you are interested in learning or want to help with any part of publishing the Bulletin and Newsletter please contact me, Annette Dwyer at <sgs_publications@gmail.com>

2012 is the:

- 320 anniversary of the Salem Witch Trials
- 200 anniversary of the War of 1812
- 100 anniversary of the Sinking of the Titanic

Were your ancestors a part of these historic events? Genealogy is more than names and dates.

Tell your family stories and share them with your descendants and the SGS Bulletin. Contact SGS Publications at <sgspublication@gmail.com>

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SGS DONATIONS - JULY 14, 2011 - FEBRUARY 26, 2012

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.

\$49 and Under

Clark, Laurie Kathleen

Eng, Mable Luke

Kelly, Gary W.

Mason, Ina M.

Newton Jeanne d.

Noel, Sally

Price, Juanita L.

Quinn, Bridget Murphy

St. Louis, Mary Ann

Walker, Carolyn

Cummins, Jenny F.

Halseth, Barbara

Keil, Kerri

King, JoAnne

Knudson, Steven & Karen

Koerker, Donna

Kunsch, Lois

Landry, Evelyn G.

Laqueur, Bernadette

Lawson Jacqueline

McCoy, Alice El

McMillan, Laura

Smith, Linda K.

Swope, Sharyl

Walker, Mary Jo

Younie, Patricia J.

\$100 - \$200

Baldwin, Margaret J.

Cook, Susan & Harold

Egge, Jon D.

Johnson, Sandra D.

Peterson, Ingrid

\$200 and Over

Sorden, Jim

\$50 - \$99

Burt, Darlene & Gene

SPECIAL GERMAN-RUSSIAN GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

SGS Library Sunday Mar 25, 2012 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
The SGS German Interest Group and the genealogists of the Greater Seattle Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) will be co-sponsoring a special workshop on genealogical opportunities for the special ethnic group known as "Germans from Russia." Explore resources available for researchers, especially those available since the end of the USSR and the opening of records in 1991. The SGS Library is normally closed but will be opened just for this group. We'll be able to explore a variety of websites as SGS has Wi-Fi for your lap top computer and we will show you some great sources you can use at home later. Please make a reservation with Jean A. Roth at

(206) 782-2629 or at jeanaroth@juno.com by March 21st so that we know how many plan to attend. The workshop free to SGS Members and \$5.00 for non-members.

SPECIAL NOTE: The 2012 National AHSGR Convention will be hosted by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR. The Council of Northwest Chapters and the Center of Volga German Studies from Thursday, June 14 through Sunday, June 17 at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon SGS Member and President of the Seattle AHSGR Chapter Jean A. Roth is the area liaison for information and will be a speaker. For more information visit the CVGS website at <http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu>.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

In her many years of volunteering for SGS at the front desk of the library, Bernice Keller has proved herself a most adaptable "jack of all trades." She is always willing to lend a hand, and often on short notice. Be it assisting visitors at SGS open houses, moving furniture around to set up for an educational program, joining in at library cleaning/work parties, or sorting and inventorying library materials, Bernice can be counted on to show up and lend a helping hand.



Most recently, she agreed to fill a vacancy on the three-member committee of Library Trustees. Her long term experience as a member and desk volunteer contributes much to the committee's work of setting policies for management and use of the SGS library collection.

Let's give a big "thank you" to Bernice Keller!

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NOMINATIONS FOR 2012-2013

The nominating committee for SGS this year has been actively at work to try and fill the vacant spots on the board of directors and nominating committee for the year 2012/2013. The committee consists of Anna Chavelle chair, Karen Desvoigne, Jamie Shaffer, and Judy Tomassene.

We have attempted to reach all 598 members of the society by phone or e-mail to see if we can recruit people for the vacancies on the board. The vacancies this year are president, director of education, director of publications and director of membership, as well as an entirely new nominating committee.

We have been successful in filling the nominating committee, director of publications and director of membership candidates however we are desperately in need of help to fill the position of President and Director of Education. If you would be interested in the position or know somebody who you think would be appropriate for the position please communicate to the chair at <SGS nominate@Gmail.com>. Time is of the essence since nominations must be made prior to March 24, 2012.

We have found through our phone efforts, that our organization has many seniors who can no longer participate in the running of the organization, either by advancing age or inability to drive, or poor health. Many of the younger members have full lives and not enough free time to contribute to the organization. Also a number of our members live too far away to be active in the organization. We were surprised at the willingness of a number of people to be referred to the director of volunteers for what I will call "intermittent short-term volunteer commitments". Most of the callers were very appreciative of all the work that has been done by the members of the various committees and wished that they could be of more help in some fashion.

SGS Library Closed

Saturday, 28 May – Monday, 30 May

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Please CALL the SGS Library
BEFORE you leave home
to make sure it is open.

(206) 522-8658

Dr. LORRAINE McCONAGHY TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING



We are privileged to have Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, public historian and curator at Seattle's Museum of History & Industry, speak at our March 24 Membership Meeting on the topic "The Civil War in Washington Territory." Those living in Washington Territory had their own views on the war, their families were affected by the war, and they made decisions based on their views of the war. Come and hear the surprising stories about those who lived here during the Civil War period! Join us on Saturday, March 24, 1-3pm, at the Lake City Branch of the Seattle Public Library (Meeting Room). This presentation is sponsored by Humanities Washington through their state-wide Speakers Bureau. This event is not sponsored by The Seattle Public Library.

SPL Century 21 Digital Collection

The Seattle Public Library is excited to announce the launch of its newest digital collection, the Century 21 Exposition Digital Collection <www.spl.org/century21>. This collection contains books, brochures, reports, and other textual documents from the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Seattle Room, as well as over 1500 black-and-white photographs of the fair taken by Werner Lenggenhager, documenting construction work, buildings, exhibits, crowds, and events. Together, these items tell the story of the World's Fair from planning to demolition.

The Century 21 Exposition (or Seattle World's Fair) took place in Seattle from April 21 to October 21, 1962. The first major American world's fair after World War II, it presented an optimistic vision of a future improved through science and technology, and promoted Seattle to the world as a space-age city. Exhibits focused on industry, commerce, science, and the future, but also included fine arts, food, and entertainment. Ten million people attended the fair, and it left Seattle with many lasting legacies, including the Space Needle, the Monorail, and the Seattle Center.

The launch of this digital collection is timed to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the Century 21 Exposition. This is an exciting new resource for students, researchers, and anyone interested in the origins of the Space Needle, the Monorail, or the Seattle Center!

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Calendar of Events

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

MARCH 2012

- 3 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP
Topic to be determined Chair: Dave Robert
- 6 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES Seattle Public Library
“Digital Sanborn Maps: Did you know that Sanborn Maps went Digital?” John Central Branch
LaMont, Genealogy Librarian for the Seattle Public Library, will demonstrate (downtown Seattle)
how to access and use Digital Sanborn Maps and provide information on how 4th fl Lg Computer Lab
they can be used in your family search. Please email <john.lamont@spl.org>
to register. This is a free class and attendance is limited to the first 25 registrants.
- 8 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAY
“Heritage Scrapbooking: Pictures + Info + Paper = Book: Shortcuts to creating
albums”. We will review planning and page design for paper and digital scrap-
books, 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!
(Rescheduled from January due to snow).
- 10 Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. BEGINNER BASICS
“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?
- 11 Sunday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. IRISH GENEALOGY SEMINAR Nordic Heritage Museum
With the SGS Irish Interest Group. Full day seminar with speaker’s from 3014 NW 67th St., Seattle
Belfast’s Irish Heritage Foundation. Nordic Heritage Museum Irish Heritage Club
See the Irish Heritage Club website for registration and details:
- 14 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
Contact Lou Daly <loudaly@nwlink.com> or 1644 43rd Ave E
Diane K. Hettrick at <dhettrick@earthlink.net> Topic to be determined Seattle (Madison Pk)
E-mail Diane to receive notices of meetings. \$3.00 use fee.
- 17 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. 1940 CENSUS PREP Presented by Sharyl Swope
The 1940 US Federal Census will be released on April 2nd. Prepare to search for family members in this u
indexed release as well as give insights into the rules for the census takers, how the census was prepared, and
information new to the 1940 census!
- 17-18 Saturday, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. IRISH WEEK Seattle Center
SGS will have an information booth at the Irish Week Festivities Exhibition Hall
and beginning Irish Genealogy classes. The Festival features non-stop Irish
music, singing and dancing with booths selling Irish and Celtic products,
Irish workshops, lectures, cultural displays, children’s activities, Irish Language,
and History Workshops. Admission is FREE. SGS will have an information
booth at the festival. Interested SGS members are invited to volunteer for shifts
at the SGS booth to help visitors learn about researching their ancestry and SGS.
Contact Jean Roth for more information at <jeanaroth@juno.com>

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Calendar of Events, continued

March Continued

- 18 Sunday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES Presenter: Ida McCormick
“Names Have Families, Too: Variants in surnames that are useful in research and analysis”.
- 20 Wednesday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. BRICK WALL PANEL
Hear how our panellists have broken through their brick walls and bring yours to share. These popular sessions have opened doors for many researchers as they get personal research assistance and suggestions on how to break through those pesky “brick walls.”
- 22 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAYS
“Genealogy Software” We will have breakout sessions including how to source, record an event and print a report along with all your questions. Presenters: Family Tree Maker-Terry Fitzgerald; Legacy- TBD; and other programs as volunteers become available. Contact Lynn Magnuson at <sgseducation@gmail.com> if you would be willing to demonstrate your program.
- 24 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Seattle Public Library
Lake City Branch Meet Rm
The short business meeting includes the Nominating Committee Report followed by the program. Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, MOHAI Curator, will discuss her research about “The Civil War in Washington Territory” This presentation will consider territorial attitudes toward race and slavery, agitation for northwest secession, and federal suppression of freedom of the press, as well as resignations to “go south,” from Washington Territory’s governor to many of the military officers stationed here, following their states out of the union. This presentation is sponsored by Humanities Washington through their state-wide Speakers Bureau and is open to the public.
This event is not sponsored by The Seattle Public Library.
- 25 Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. GERMAN-RUSSIAN ETHNIC WORKSHOP
“Researching the Germans from Russia” – this four hour workshop from the Jean A. Roth
genealogists of the Greater Seattle Chapter of the American Historical Society Betty Schmoll
of Germans from Russia will explore the many new opportunities and breakthroughs now available for researchers. Please register with Jean at (206) 782-2629 or <jeanaroth@juno.com>.
- 31 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. DNA INTEREST GROUP No Seattle Alliance Church
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (2150 N 122nd, Rm 210)
A special Beginning DNA presentation from, followed by “Cladograms and Their Use In DNA Result Interpretation; What is a Group Administrator?” and two presentations of DNA Test Results by your DNA Interest Group Members. (\$5/year donation suggested for the 2012 meetings to help cover the cost of the meeting room). Co-Chairs: Cary Bright and Herb McDaniel. To be added to our email list for meeting announcements contact <sgsdnasig@gmail.com>.

April 2012

- 4 Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. WHERE HAD ALL THE CHILDREN GONE?

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Calendar of Events, continued

April Continued

will present the research steps involved in finding seven orphaned children from one family. Presenter JoAnne King

7 Saturday, 10:15am - 12:15pm CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP Chair: Dave Robert

11 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
Contact Lou Daly <loudaly@nwlink.com> or 1644 43rd Ave E
Diane K. Hettrick at <dhettrick@earthlink.net> Topic to be determined Seattle (Madison Pk)
E-mail Diane to receive notices of meetings. \$3.00 use fee.

12 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAY
“Taking good Cemetery Photos”; Jan Walker will discuss cemetery photos and their importance in research.

The Irish and German Interest Groups will move to the 2nd Saturday in April and May

14 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. IRISH INTEREST GROUP Chair: Jean A. Roth
“Highlights of a Genealogical Tour of Ireland – Experience Your Irish Heritage”.

14 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. GERMAN INTEREST GROUP Chair: Jean A. Roth
“The Seven Years War and its profound effects on 18th century German emigration to America and other places in Europe”

16 Monday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

17 Tuesday, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. BEGINNER BASICS
“Putting it all Together”; learn how to combine individual records and research for a family group to create a view of your ancestors’ lives. Lynn Magnuson will discuss analysis of data and next steps in continuing your family research.

21 Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES
“Probate”; Karen Sipe will discuss probate records; what is probate, how to find probate records and why they are important.

26 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAY
“Picasa”; Terry Fitzgerald will discuss the photo software, Picasa, and how it can be used to assist and organize your family research.

28 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOCUS GROUP
“Colonial Records and How to Trace Colonial Ancestors”; Karen Portzer and Ann Gillespie will discuss Colonial records and tracing Colonial Ancestors.

29 Sunday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. SGS LIBRARY WORK DAY

MAY 2012

5 Saturday, 10:15a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP Chair: Dave Robert

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Calendar of Events, continued

May Continued

9 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
Contact Lou Daly <loudaly@nwlk.com> or 1644 43rd Ave E
Diane K. Hettrick at <dhettrick@earthlink.net> Topic to be determined Seattle (Madison Pk)
E-mail Diane to receive notices of meetings. \$3.00 use fee.

10 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAY
Topic to be announced.

Note: Because of the SGS Spring Seminar – The Irish and German Interest Groups are meeting one week early this month.

12 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. IRISH INTEREST GROUP Chair: Jean A. Roth
"Beginning Your Irish Research". Open discussion.
(postponed from January snow cancellation)

12 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. GERMAN INTEREST GROUP Chair: Jean A. Roth
"Beginning Your German Research". Open discussion.

12 Saturday, Last day to register for the SGS Spring Seminar before the late fee goes into effect.

15 Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. WRITING OBITUARIES
Nancy Hevly will discuss how to write obituaries and what we can learn from them in our family research.

19 *Saturday the SGS Library will be closed during the Spring Seminar*

19 Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. SGS SPRING 2012 SEMINAR Museum of History &
This day-long event features George G. Morgan of the Genealogy Industry (MOHAI)
Guys podcasts. Registration information at: 2700 24th Ave East
<<http://www.seattlegenealogicalsociety.com>>

22 Tuesday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. BRICK WALL PANEL
Please bring your family research brick wall problem to our expert panel and see what they can find. A fascinating way to see new research ideas in action!

24 Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. TECHNOLOGY THURSDAY
"Preparing for a Family Reunion"; Cary Bright will discuss how to prepare your family research to present at a family reunion. Whether your reunion is this year or in the future, this class will educate and inspire you to share your results with your family!

26-30 Saturday - Monday *SGS LIBRARY is closed for the MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND.*

JUNE 2012

10 Sunday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Irish and German Interest Groups will not meet in June, July or August; they will resume on 15 September, Saturday.

HELP SAVE THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX (SSDI)

There is a move afoot in Congress to restrict access to the SSDI. Genealogists doing US research located both in and outside the United States rely on the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), which is the commercial name of the Death Master File (DMF). The Death Master File is a computer database file made available by the United States Social Security Administration since 1980 as part of the Freedom of Information Act. Your help is needed to help Save the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) as an accessible resource.

Genealogists support Congress's intent to protect Americans from improper usage of their personal information, and to protect them from identity theft, but rarely, has it been documented that an individual's identity is violated by access to SSDI; rather, the violations occur due to computer breaches from government and private enterprises.

The Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) and its sponsoring organizations: Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies are leading the protest. You can help by signing the Sign the "We The People" petition at

<http://wh.gov/khE>.

The comments by Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue and his vision of genealogical access to the SSDI is condescending at best and even insulting as he refer to genealogists as "little old ladies in tennis shoes." He wants to have researchers wait 75 years for the SSDI to become available to the public and 125 for public access to birth records in every state. A bill HR 3475 Keeping IDs Safe Act of 2011 has been introduced by Congressman Sam Johnson (R-Texas), chair of the House Ways & Means Committee. If enacted, this bill would effectively end public access to the death file

Let your representatives in Washington know that you do NOT support bill H.R. 3475. Remind them that information on many deaths is easily available in newspapers and obituaries as well; the ability to easily determine who is already dead makes it easier for agencies to COMBAT fraud. To obtain your Congressional representatives addresses is go to:

U.S. Senators: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm

U.S. Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/representatives>

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CULTURE

SEATTLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
founded 1923

March - May 2012
published four times a year