



Seattle Genealogical Society

December 2010 - February 2011

newsletter

SAVE THE DATE – SGS SPRING SEMINAR

Saturday, 21 May 2011

Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick

FORENSIC GENEALOGY – CSI Meets Roots

Who? What? When? Where? Are these the words of a genealogist researching his family tree or a forensic scientist solving a mystery? Maybe both! You will arrive at this talk a genealogist; you will leave a forensic genealogist. Forensic genealogy has established itself as the modern approach to family research. Are you really using your resources to your best advantage? Are you really getting all you can from your genealogical materials?

THE DATABASE DETECTIVE

Forensic genealogy has used database mining to solve some of the most compelling mysteries of modern genealogy. It offers insight on how to use materials you may take for granted. You may know where to look for information – but come and find out how to look at it. Understanding how to mine databases is critical for genealogical success, especially since the size and number of online databases are growing so rapidly.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF DNA TALK

DNA is not as difficult to understand as you might think! Whether you are having trouble spelling DNA or you are an old hand at genetic genealogy, this talk is for you! Understanding your DNA results, connecting with long lost cousins, and gaining insight into family history through DNA has become easier than ever. Colleen Fitzpatrick is the author of *Forensic Genealogy* and *DNA & Genealogy*, two best sellers in genetic genealogy.

GENEALOGY and the SIX DEGREES of SEPARATION, How to Find Anyone in the World

What if you could find anyone, anywhere in the world? Wouldn't it make the "impossible" brick wall less daunting? If you are interested in exciting new ways of finding long lost cousins – or actually anyone, come hear this talk. It's a small world after all – studies show that on the average any two people are connected by an average of only six intermediate acquaintances. Advances in communication technology have made it easier to "reach out and touch" someone. We are closer than you think!

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD, FSPiE, is an American forensic genealogist for major military and civilian organizations. She received her BA in physics (1976) from Rice University, and her MA (1983) and PhD in nuclear physics (1983) from Duke University, and has 25 years experience working in the field of high resolution optical measurement techniques. She is a Fellow of the Society of Photoinstrumentation Engineers (SPIE) optical society. She is the group administrator for the Fitzpatrick DNA study, which she founded in 2000.

Plan on attending this interesting seminar; it may change your research practices and your success rate! More details will be available early next year.

HOLIDAY PARTY—December 3rd

This year's holiday party is scheduled for 3 to 8 pm on Friday, December 3rd. Stop by and enjoy some food, music, and conversation. We hope to have the BYUTV "Generations Project" episode that was filmed, in part, at SGS this summer to show. If that's not received in time, we have a DVD on last May's NGS Keynote Address and another DVD titled "A Celebration of Family History" created by Familysearch.org. Bring your family history-themed gifts (and gift ideas) to share; we'll have more to show you.

SGS Closures

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S
Sun., Dec. 19, 2010 — Mon., Jan. 3, 2011

Got Snow or Ice?

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

206-522-8658

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WELCOME NEW DESK VOLUNTEERS

Eleven new desk volunteers attended the all-day training session on Monday, September 27th. Pat Younie did an excellent job of organizing the training, which included presentations from our Director of Library (Mary Ann Sanguinetti), Director of Operations (Linda Fitzgerald), Director of Membership (Jean Morton), Desk Volunteer Coordinator (Jan McNair), and cameo appearances by our Director of Volunteers (Becky Kaufman) and President (Ginny Sommarstrom). All of our new desk volunteers are now paired with experienced volunteers for a few "practice" days at the desk. It's great to have so many enthusiastic new volunteers available to help our patrons trace their ancestry.

BRICK WALL PANELS

Have you noticed that SGS has been scheduling "Brick Wall Panels" every 6 to 8 weeks? Have you attended one? If not, are you at least a little curious?

These sessions are designed to share "tips and tricks" used by SGS panel members in solving their own brick walls—dead-ends in their family history research. We usually have three experienced researchers share an example from their own research of a brick wall and how they knocked it down. Then attendees share their brick walls with the group and together we brainstorm possible resources and techniques for knocking down (or maybe going around) those research obstacles.

We can't guarantee that we'll be able to answer everyone's research question, but it's amazing what you can learn about genealogical research and resources at one of these sessions.

If you have a brick wall solution you'd like to share at a future session, please contact Director of Education Jean Roth at <jeanaroth@juno.com>.

BOARD BUSINESS

After almost a year of work, the SGS Board of Directors completed revising all of the Board job descriptions and adopted them at the September Board meeting. The Board revised and adopted the Library Trustees' proposed "Acquisition Policy for Desk Volunteers" and are working on a new "Deed of Gift" form and general acquisition and disposal policies related to library materials. The Board has also developed a new Mentoring Program (see article elsewhere in this *Newsletter*) and submitted a grant proposal to 4Culture to fund a new high-capacity digital printer to replace our antiquated equipment. By the time you read this, we should know whether we're going to receive that grant.

The Board continues to work on establishing policies to guide all of the Society's business, hoping that this will help future SGS Boards perform their work more efficiently and effectively. The Society continues to look for outreach opportunities, places and events where we can publicize what SGS does. SGS will teach you how to research your family history. If you know of any such opportunities, please call and leave a message at SGS (206-522-8658) for Vice President Bonnie Larson or email her at <sgsvicepresident@gmail.com>.

At our October meeting, the Board passed a new Organizational Membership Policy. This policy institutes our first "group" membership, allowing SGS to reach out to residential and community groups. If you know of a retirement home or senior center that we should market this program to, please contact our Director of Membership, Jean Morton, at <SGSmembership@gmail.com>.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Jan McNair is a long-time member and a dedicated SGS volunteer. For the past ten years her friendliness has welcomed members and visitors to SGS where she has worked as a Desk Volunteer. She recognizes the Desk Volunteer is there to help researchers understand how to use the library's resources. Jan served five terms as Director of Volunteers. During her last term as Director of Volunteers she did double duty and filled in for the Director of Communications. Jan's last term on the Board of Directors was as Director of Communications. She has often organized the volunteers for on-site registration at our seminars. For many years she has enthusiastically assisted with SGS activities at Irish Week and the Scottish Highland Games. She has co-chaired the Pennsylvania State Focus Group for about four years. Jan currently chairs the Queries Committee and is Coordinator of Desk Volunteers where she assures there are volunteers scheduled so the library can be open for researchers. Jan's many years of research and volunteer experience is useful when she trains new desk volunteers. Jan is always willing to assist wherever her time and talents can benefit SGS and she is very much appreciated. Thank you, Jan.

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BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS FOR GENEALOGISTS

A two-session class in beginning computer skills for genealogists will be offered on successive Mondays in January: January 10th and 17th, from 1 p.m. to 4 pm at SGS. Ginny Sommarstrom and new member, Michelle Khuon, will be teaching the class. Topics to be covered include "getting to know your computer," creating, editing and saving files, file management, understanding file extensions, transporting your files using thumb drives, genealogy software options, and effective internet searching for genealogists. The classes will be "hands on" with multiple exercises taking place during each class. Class size will be limited to 12; preference given to those who could not be accommodated last year. Pre-register by calling SGS during the library's open hours at 206-522-8658. SGS members only.

OUR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Pat Younie, Ida McCormick, and Marilyn Rose are starting to work their way through the huge backlog of archival materials that have been donated to SGS over the years. All three attended a workshop on archives and archival practices in July and are now putting that new knowledge to work. They're also working with the Director of Library, Mary Alice Sanguinetti, to evaluate alternative library cataloging software programs in an effort to update and modernize our outmoded library catalog. If you have experience working with archival materials, the Trustees would love to have your help in organizing and cataloging these materials. Please contact Pat directly at gly.pjy@comcast.net if you'd like to help.

THANK YOU

To our many wonderful volunteers who help out in so many ways.

...to Linda Fitzgerald, Bernice Keller, Barbara McHargue, Karen Peterson, Christine Schomkaer, Ginny Sommarstrom and Jan Walker who helped make our Oct. 30th "Free Library Day" a great success.

...to Don Brown, Lisa Robertson, Dana Standish, and Christine Schomaker who volunteer regularly for various Library cataloging jobs.

...to Christine Schomaker, Maurna Complita, Dick Morrill and Michelle Khoun for making our Seminar Book Sale such a great success.

...to all our other great volunteers who keep SGS rolling,
THANK YOU.

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 listserv—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;
- Surplus Book Sales on Ebay: <http://shop.ebay.com/sewsewbecky/m.html> Until we manage to get a new SGS Ebay account established, this link will lead you to our items for sale on Ebay. Becky and her team of Ebay indexers are continuously posting surplus books for sale. Please bookmark this site and check it out.

FALL SEMINAR A SUCCESS!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended and/or helped with our Fall Seminar. Despite losing our featured speaker to illness just before the big day, the evaluations submitted by attendees were generally very positive. The presentations by our eight volunteer speakers were well researched and included a great deal of information about the migration routes of our ancestors. Thanks to our Material Review Committee's contribution of several boxes of newly deacquisitioned books from the SGS collection, our book sale brought in over \$700 in additional revenue. Positive comments on the venue, the Nordic Heritage Museum, resulted in our booking the same site for our Spring seminar on May 21st (See article elsewhere in this *Newsletter*).

BLUE BIRD OF GENEALOGY

We are delighted to announce that the BLUE BIRD OF GENEALOGY will fly again on December 28, 2010. This momentous occasion is an opportunity for SGS members to come in and help clean the SGS library. The time: 28 Dec 2010, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The work: dusting, vacuuming, and other assorted cleaning chores. Cleaning supplies will be provided free of charge! The pay is great: coffee and goodies galore, a sparkling clean SGS library (and undying gratitude!). This once a year special is not a deal you can afford to pass up! To reserve your spot, please send an email to SGSOperations@gmail.com.

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HELP WANTED

• Do you have teaching experience? We'd like to develop family history curriculum packets for elementary and middle school students. Can you help? If so, please contact Ginny Sommarstrom, <sgspresident@gmail.com> Most funding organizations look for how heritage non-profits are serving their communities; developing educational materials for children is a high priority to them.

• Do you have web developer skills? SGS has contracted for a new website, but we need people to help design it. The Board's #1 priority for this year is to get a new, re-designed SGS website up and running. If you're willing to help, please contact Director of Publications, Annette Dwyer, at <sgspublications@gmail.com>.

• Mentors to serve in our new SGS Mentoring Program. Contact Dorene Tully, Mentoring Coordinator, and <sgs-mentor@gmail.com> Please see article in this *Newsletter*.

• Indexers. One project we'd like to complete this year is a comprehensive index to our SGS Bulletins. Several attempts have been made to do this in the past, but they did not create indexes that are easily searched or comprehensive. Please contact SGS Director of Volunteers, Becky Kaufman, at <sgsvolunteers@gmail.com> if you're willing to help.

• People willing to help give beginning genealogy presentations to senior centers and retirement homes as part of our new Organizational Membership Program. Training provided and we'll pair you with an experienced speaker at first. Please contact Director of Volunteers Becky Kaufman at sgsvolunteers@gmail.com if you're willing to give it a try.

IT'S NOMINATING TIME

Have you been thinking about becoming more involved at SGS? Now's the time to let our Nominating Committee know of your interest in serving on the Board. Bruce Finlayson, chair, has copies of the newly-revised Board job descriptions available. Email him at <sgsnominate@gmail.com> to obtain copies of the jobs you might be interested in. SGS membership for at least a year is a prerequisite of all positions; candidates for president must have been SGS members for at least 5 years. All positions are open. One sign of a healthy organization is competition for elective positions. Wouldn't it be great if we had multiple candidates for each Board position? Please help our nominating committee by volunteering to run or nominating someone you know.

SGS Membership Special Pricing Starts December 1

Gift ideas this Holiday Season

Does your family wonder just who all the "family" is that you are doing research on?

Vow to share your research this holiday with your family. Here are suggestions on how to do that.

1. Gift of an SGS Membership - \$20 for six-month membership (December 2010 – May 2011) Start getting them interested in family history research by including your family in SGS classes and seminars. This makes a great gift for friends too. (cost: \$20)

2. Take your favorite heritage photograph to a copy center and ask for a copy, printed on glossy paper. (about \$1-2/each) Find an inexpensive frame at Michael's, Target, Dollar Store or even the Goodwill. (Use spray paint to spruce up, if need.) Label the back with information about the people in the photograph and how they are related. Present these gifts of framed photographs to family members this holiday and make it a tradition to do one yearly. (cost: \$2-4 each)

3. This year as you are continuing your holiday traditions, tell your family just how they started and get them interested in learning more. (cost: free)

4. Do you have out-of-town family? Keep connected by starting a Blog, an online diary. Blog "administrators", that would be you and anyone else you appoint, can post text and pictures for family to read and leave comments. Learn more at <<http://www.geneabloggers.com>>. Click on Blog Resources and visit the "Cheat sheets" to learn more on a Blogger pdf download. With these step-by-step directions, you can have a blog setup in minutes at <<http://www.blogger.com>> with a gmail account. (cost: free)

5. Write a short story about an earlier family member each holiday. Start small and it will grow. Put all those facts and dates into a short story. You will be amazed at how your family will look forward to their next "chapter" each year. This is a great tradition to start with the maternal family one year and the paternal family the next. (cost: your time)

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Calendar of Events

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

DECEMBER 2010

- 3 Friday, 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. SGS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE SGS Library
Drop by SGS to enjoy Food, Fun and Music plus “A Celebration of Family History”
DVD from FamilySearch will be shown. Bring your heritage-themed ornaments and gift ideas to share.
- 4 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP SGS Library
Topic to be announced later. Check the SGS website for updates.
- 7 Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. HERITAGE CRAFTS TUESDAYS SGS Library
Cary Bright will help you make a Family Heritage Box for the coffee table
that will bring your family members alive to anyone who looks in it. Limited to 12
attendees. Email clbright@comcast.net for a supply list.
- 8 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
“Do you Know How to Get What You’re Looking for?” Lou Daly will lead a
discussion on gathering information and the pitfalls of research. \$3.00 use fee. 1644 43rd Ave E
Seattle (Madison Pk)
- 11 Saturday COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP
No meeting planned until chairperson found. Can you help? If so please contact
Jean Roth at jeanaroth@juno.com.
- No meeting this month. IRISH INTEREST GROUP
- No meeting this month. GERMAN INTEREST GROUP

January 2011

- 1 Saturday CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP
No meeting due to the New Year’s holiday
- 8 Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. COMPUTER WORKSHOP SGS Library
“Saving Paper by Saving Your Records Digitally” – Tired of printing out reams of
paper in your research? Michelle Khuon will demonstrate various new ways to
“save trees” by working with files and “Primo PDF” and importing research
material efficiently from various sources.
- 8 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. NATIONAL ARCHIVES PACIFIC ALASKA REGION CLASSES
“The National Archives Online” Learn how to find over 96 billion original 6125 Sand Pt Wy NE
documents. upstairs conference rm
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. “Overview of the National Archives” An overview of the types
of documents held and how the public can access the information.
- 10 Monday, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS FOR GENEALOGISTS SGS Library
Session 1: A two-session class in beginning computer skills for genealogists. Ginny
Sommarstrom and Michelle Khuon, will be teaching the class. Topics to be covered
include getting to know your computer, creating, editing and saving files, file management,
understanding file extensions, transporting your files using thumb drives, genealogy software
options, and effective internet searching for genealogists. The classes will be “hands on” with
multiple exercises taking place during each class. Class size will be limited to 12; preference
given to those who could not be accommodated last year. Pre-register by calling SGS during
the library’s open hours at 206-522-8658. SGS members only.

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Calendar of Events, continued

- 12 Wednesday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. BRICK WALL PANEL SGS Library
Hear how our panelists have solved their brick walls and bring your's 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."
- 15 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. IRISH INTEREST GROUP SGS Library
"Irish Research at the County Level: Heritage Centers and County Websites" Chair: Jean Roth
Are you effectively using county and local government resources? We'll explore the possibilities for you to try at both free and fee-based repositories.
- 15 Saturday, 1 p.m – 3 p.m. GERMAN INTEREST GROUP SGS Library
"Problem-Solving - German Research" Open forum for Interest Group Chair: Jean Roth
Members to share problems and successes. German research has many different facets; make sure you are focused in the right spot and how to expand your search.
- 17 Monday, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS FOR GENEALOGISTS SGS Library
Session 2: preregistration required: see article on page 3.
- 19 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
"Where to Find What You're Looking For." Lou Daly will lead a discussion on 1644 43rd Ave E
sources of all kinds. \$3.00 use fee. (Note: this is the THIRD Wednesday of the Seattle (Madison Pk)
month for this month only.)
- 22 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. PENNSYLVANIA FOCUS GROUP SGS Library
"Chiseling through the Brick Walls." Discussion will include finding obscure Chair: Karen Portzer
records and techniques for thinking about your work. Emphasis will be on Pennsylvania examples, but, of course, everyone will be welcomed.
- 22 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ETHNIC WORKSHOP SGS Library
Do You Have German-Russian Ancestry? Did your family come from the Volga River
Region or the Black Sea? There are many new records, resource people, and website
resources available for this unique ethnic group. It is no longer an impossible task to do research in this area.
Speaker: Jean Roth from the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.
- 29 Saturday, 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. DNA INTEREST GROUP Aljoya Thornton Place
We will be introducing our new meeting format with a "pre" meeting for beginners (So of Northgate Mall
This month is: Beginning Genetic Genealogy - Come get acquainted with DNA by Group Health Clinic)
and learn whether you should be tested. 450 NE 100th Street
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Program for all levels to be announced. To get on the Seattle, WA 98125
member list for meeting notification, email us at <sgsdnasig@gmail.com>
- 29 Saturday, 1 p.m – 3 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES SGS Library
"Have you ever thought about using your research for joining a lineage society?"
Learn how to prepare your application from our panel of lineage society
representatives, from the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR); the Daughters
of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Mayflower Society.
- February 2011
- 5 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP SGS Library
Topic to be announced later. Check the SGS website for updates.

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Calendar of Events, continued

- 9 Wednesday, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. MAC COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Fiske Library
"How Do You Know What You've Got - Pile or File?" Lou Daly will lead a 1644 43rd Ave E
discussion on organization. \$3.00 use fee. Seattle (Madison Park)
- 12 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. ETHNIC WORKSHOP SGS Library
"Czech and Slovak Research" Speaker: Rosie Bodien of the Western Washington
Czech/Slovak Interest Group.
- 13 Sunday, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH SERIES SGS Library
"Genealogy and Medicine" Our family's medical history is an important part of
research. From genetic diseases to pandemics, folk medicine to archaic medical terms,
health and hygiene - our ancestors' death records and obituaries can reveal many
surprises. Are you missing someone in the 1920 census who was there in 1910?
Perhaps they died in the great flu epidemic of 1918. Why did so many mothers and
children die after childbirth? Drs. Reiley Kidd and Jeff Otjen, both SGS members,
will discuss how health and lack of it relates to genealogical research.
- 19 Saturday, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. IRISH INTEREST GROUP SGS Library
"An Introduction to Irish Genealogical Research" We'll look at the historical Chair: Jean Roth
problems and types of records for genealogists involved in doing research
on Irish ancestors.
- 19 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. GERMAN INTEREST GROUP SGS Library
"Early Settlement Areas of Germans in the United States and Canada" Chair: Jean Roth
Lost your Germans? Focus your search for your German ancestors in key areas of
settlement from Pennsylvania to Illinois and Texas – and even Alabama!
- 26 Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. IRISH GENEALOGY WORKSHOP St. Patrick's Catholic
Sponsored by Seattle's Irish Heritage Club with participation by the Church
Parish Hall, SGS Irish Interest Group and others. This seminar will feature a
number of sessions from rare ancient Irish genealogies to various modern
sources for Irish genealogical research. Seminar fee. Space is limited.
For information contact: Jean A. Roth at her email <jeanaroth@juno.com>.
- 26 Saturday, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. NEW LEGACY EVENT ON Northwest African
SLAVE HISTORY STORY American Museum
Participate in the culminating community event at the end of the 6 part series. 2300 S Massachusetts St
More information at: <<http://www.newlegacypugetsound.org>> Seattle, WA

Save the Date for our Spring 2011 Seminar

- 21 May 2011 with Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick, a forensic genealogist. Nordic Heritage Museum
Topics include: FORENSIC GENEALOGY – CSI Meets Roots
THE DATABASE DETECTIVE
A DIFFERENT KIND OF DNA TALK
GENEALOGY and the SIX DEGREES of SEPARATION,
How to Find Anyone in the World.

SGS Mentoring Program

Are you a genealogist who has no filing system whatsoever?

SGS will try to match you with an experienced genealogist who knows how to organize.

Do you want to learn more about England?

We will try to match you with an experienced English researcher.

The Seattle Genealogical Society has begun a Genealogy Mentoring Program. Members of our Society have graciously offered their expertise in various topics that may be of interest to you in your research, including online research, specific U.S. states, basic how-to skills, and more. Contact Dorene Tully to become a mentor, or to be mentored <sgsmentor@gmail.com>.

SGS members want to help support other members

by sharing their genealogical expertise. YES... all our members are experts at something. So dust off your skills and let us know how you can help. We plan to create a list of mentors and mentees (members in need).

This does not need to be a long term commitment, nor does it imply that the mentor does the mentee's research. It is the little push that helps move the process forward and we all need that every once in a while. It is also a great way to share your knowledge and to ask for help when you need it.

We have an easy Mentor Form to fill out that includes the following questions. Name, Contact info (email/phone), what you are an "expert" in, or what you need "expert help" with; the times you are available (days, evenings or weekends) and what your skills or needs are.

For more questions or to have a form sent to your email, contact Dorene at <SGSmentor@gmail.com>.

SEATTLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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