



Sno-Isle Genealogical Society

## THE BEACON

February 2023

### Officers 2022-2023

President: Corey Smith

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Phylis Jorgenson

Treasurer: Jerry Rogers



OUR MEMBER WEBSITE



OUR RESEARCH WEBSITE



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BEACON PRINT VERSION

## Our Society



### *Society News*

► Welcome **Corey Smith** who was recently elected by the Board of Directors as the new **President** of Sno-Isle Genealogical Society. Corey brings a love of genealogy and experience working with non-profits to this position. Please help us in welcoming Corey.

► As you are probably aware, our long-time volunteer and President, Ron Sailer suddenly passed away in November. Ron's efforts on behalf of Sno-Isle Genealogical Society were tremendous and his passing has been felt at the Society. The [Washington State Genealogical Society](#) did a nice write up about Ron at the time of his passing.

► The Society also marks the passing of another long-time volunteer and educator, Lee Langsted. Those who are researching Swedish and German Genealogy may have met Lee at one of her weekly focus sessions. You can read more about Lee's amazing life [here](#).



*A Message from the President*

## ► Opportunities to Volunteer

SIGS is looking for volunteers to serve on the Board and to work in the library.

- The **Vice-President** serves on the board and acts in the absence of the President. The Vice-President is expected to attend Board meetings on the second Monday of each month in the evening. Currently those meetings are held online. The Vice-President must be a member in good standing of SIGS. This position will serve through June 2023.
- A **Director** serves on the Board and acts as a trustee of the organization, helping to guide SIGS on its mission. A Director must be a member in good standing. A Director is expected to attend Board meetings on the second Monday of each month in the evening. Currently those meetings are held online. A Director serves a term of one year from their appointment.
- **Docents** open Humble House and help visitors accessing information, etc. We are looking for at least one person to join the existing Thursday team (11am to 3pm). We are also looking for two or more people to help us re-open some hours on Tuesdays (based on volunteers availability - let us know when you can help).

If you are interested in participating or just want more information please send an email to [askus@snoislegenealogy.org](mailto:askus@snoislegenealogy.org).

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## *Upcoming SIGS Events*

**Join other enthusiastic genealogy friends as we talk research techniques, genealogy wins, news in genealogy, and other interesting items.**

Have you attended one of our new Genealogy events? Visit our [society homepage](#) for a list of the current events.

### **Monday Morning Workshop**

**10:00am to 11:00am Pacific**

#### [Login Information](#)

This informal event allows us to share our experience and provide assistance in furthering research.

NOTE: Click on the “Meeting Notes” on the description page to see the websites we have discussed. They may be of help in your research.

### **Saturday Beginning Genealogy Workshop**

**11:00 am to 3:00pm**

Just starting your genealogy journey? Not sure what to do with all the information you have, or don't have? Join an experienced genealogy researcher as they give you some tips

and tricks to begin your search. Call (425) 775-6267 to schedule an appointment, or visit during our open hours.

### **Brick Wall Session**

**Saturday, February 25th**

**Beginning at 10:00am**

**40 minute appointments**

Sno-Isle Genealogical Society is offering researchers another opportunity to get help with their "brick wall" problems. To make a reservation call 425-775-6267 to leave a message. Your call will be returned later to confirm your appointment. Carroll Budny is an experienced researcher who can direct your research efforts. The free 40 min. session is an "in person" appointment.

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### ***Area Happenings***

#### **Hub of the Wheel**

***Presented by: Mary Kircher Roddy***

[Skagit Valley Genealogical Society](#)

Saturday, February 11th

12:45pm to 3:00pm

Join in-person at Burlington Public Library or email [genealogy0715@gmail.com](mailto:genealogy0715@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link. Let them know you are a patron of Sno-Isle Genealogical Society.

#### **Black Miners in the Western US**

***Presented by: Janice Lovelace, PhD***

[Seattle Genealogical Society](#)

Saturday, February 11th

1:00pm to 2:30pm

Online - [Register Here](#)

#### **Difficult Women: The ways our female ancestors confound our research**

***Presented by: Janet Camarata***

[Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society](#)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

1:00pm

Online - [Register Here](#)

#### **Learn to Research Like a Pro**

***Presented by: Diane Elder and Nicole Dyer***

[Seattle Genealogical Society 2023 Spring Seminar](#)

March 10 - 11, 2023

Online - [Register by March 8th](#)

## **Finding Your Family History Today**

***Presented by: Donna Potter Phillips***

[Skagit Valley Genealogical Society](#)

Saturday, March 11th

12:45pm to 3:00pm

Join in-person at Burlington Public Library or email [genealogy0715@gmail.com](mailto:genealogy0715@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link. Let them know you are a patron of Sno-Isle Genealogical Society.

## **Underutilized Resources on FamilySearch**

[Shoreline Family History Center](#)

Saturday, March 11th

10:00am

This class will show you underutilized links to enhance your FamilySearch experience. Among the links discussed, you will learn how to access multiple hints to add sources and names to your FamilySearch tree. You will also find ways to creatively discover photos and documents, and find famous personalities (historical, celebrity, sports) to whom you may be related. The class will cover activities that do not require a FamilySearch account

[Register Here](#)

[Fiske Library Winter Education Classes](#)

Through March 15th

[Calendar of Events](#) | [National Archives](#)

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)



## About the Library

**Humble House, Heritage Park,  
19827 Poplar Way,  
Lynnwood, WA 98036**

Current Hours

Tuesday - Open by Appointment

Thursday and Saturday - 11:00am to  
3:00pm

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## ***Membership News***

**Please consider joining or renewing your membership**

**Already a member?** Have you visited our updated member site, featuring a new membership system. You can visit the <https://snoislegenealogy.org/>

In addition to supporting the Humble House Library and our programs, your membership will soon entitle you to access the exclusive Members Section of the website.

To join or renew, please go to <https://snoislegenealogy.org/>  
Then click on the "Join or Renew" button.

Follow the instructions. Record the ID and password in a secure location.  
These are for use only by you to access the Members Section.

If you prefer renewing your membership by regular mail, please print out the [membership application](#) and mail it along with your check to:

SIGS  
19827 Poplar Way  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

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### ***National Events***

#### RootsTech 2023

March 2 - 4, 2023

[Register](#)

#### West Florida Genealogical Society 2023 Spring Conference

March 4, 2023

8:45am to 4:00pm (Eastern Time)

#### I4GG Conference (Institute of Genetic Genealogy)

March 10 - 12, 2023

San Diego, CA or Livestreamed

#### We are Cousins Conference

March 22 - 24, 2023

Virtual

#### Deep Roots of a Nation

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference

May 31 - June 3, 2023

Richmond, VA

#### International German Genealogy Partnership Conference

June 9 - 11, 2023

Fort Wayne, IN

The National Genealogical Society is offering a new Certificate Course: [Advanced Skills in Genealogy](#), This self-paced course consists of 19 modules that covers all major record and

repository types, evidence analysis, methodology, DNA, and writing.

Find even more Genealogy events across the United States by visiting [ConferenceKeepers](#).

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## Genealogy Research Tools

### Where to Start

Volunteering at Humble House, we have the pleasure of talking to a number of different people in different stages of their genealogy journey. We have the veterans who have been doing this for years and can tell you where to look for a piece of paper on your ancestor. You've got the tech genealogist who know all the latest and greatest technology to help you find, source, preserve, categorize, scan, and ... your genealogy search. The genetic genealogists who use DNA and connected databases to find family, and the erstwhile dabblers who enjoy genealogy but don't have the time, resources, or inclination to visit every county courthouse, local history center, or learn every website. Then, you have the novice. Maybe they just started doing their research, they got interested after helping their child with a project, maybe they inherited genealogy from a family member, or they're just tired of knowing everything about one side of their family but nothing about the other.

At Sno-Isle Genealogical Society, we love to meet and help all genealogist, but we are finding that the novice genealogists seem more lost than in previous generations. In a world where multiple searches and resources are at your fingertips the glut of information can make it almost paralyzing to begin. What's good, what's bad, how do I know if the information is correct, the information doesn't match what my family has always said, and so on. These are just a few of the things with which people new to genealogy struggle.

When you come to our beginning genealogy session, or stop by to talk to one of the volunteers, we tell you a few things you probably already know. Don't spend money when you start, write down what you think you know, and talk to people who are still alive. Let's have a brief discussion on these items.

1.) Don't spend money to do your research (or at least, don't spend a lot).

But, Ancestry tells you they can magically find all your relatives by just typing in a name? Why wouldn't you do that. The truth is, Ancestry.com has it's place (I have a subscription) but when you are just starting out it may not be the best place to start. So, what are other resources? [FamilySearch.org](#) is a great site with free, extensive genealogy databases. If you have a [Sno-Isle Library](#) System card you also have access to Ancestry.com and MyHeritage, along with some newspaper sites and Heritage Hub. Many library systems have similar arrangements.

There is also free family software available, such as [RootsMagic](#), [Legacy Family Tree](#) or [Family Tree Builder](#), which can help you organize your family history,

2.) Write down what you think you know.

We all have family stories and family facts. Start there. Write down what you've been told, use a [pedigree chart](#) or [family group sheet](#) to help organize your relations. This will help you to find out what you have, where you think ancestors were located, and what you need. From there, you start to try to confirm or refute the stories you've been told. Great-Great Uncle Clyde was a fur trapper in Canada? Everything you find says he was a banker in Virginia? Those stories passed down for generations may be just lovely fireside fun.

### 3.) Talk to the people who are still alive.

While you can't take everything they say as the strict truth, (they saw Great-Great Uncle Clyde wearing a fur coat so of course he was a fur trapper!) they do have some information that is probably credible. Their date of birth, their parents names, where they were born, when they were married, where they worked, siblings, photos of their residences, etc. Take notes, have them write their stories (give them prompts), or video or tape record them. There are so many ways record their histories. The living are a wealth of knowledge. Once you have the information, go back to point 2.

But, there are some other items we like to share that, while complimentary to those points, aren't always transparent.

When looking at census records remember that the family may not have been the people to talk to the census taker. It could have been a neighbor or a relative who is giving them the "facts" as they know them. This is why occasionally dates and birth places can be different from what you have on other records.

Names change. I know, it's weird to think about but both surnames and given names can change. People may change them due to the political climate, to blend in better into their new neighborhoods, or simply because they got tired of everyone spelling it incorrectly so they just went with how everyone thought it was spelled. This is one of the hardest things to reconcile when researching your ancestors, but examine your evidence and create a "maybe" folder if you think it might be what you're looking for. Further on in your research you may be able to definitely decide if it is or isn't your ancestor.

Where they lived then may not be what it's called now. Country names change, District/County boundaries or names change; make sure you're looking in the right place not where you think is the right place. [HistoricMapWorks](#) and the Google Earth download are a couple resources which can help you verify boundaries and see what places used to look like.

Local historical and genealogy societies are a great resources. Societies like Sno-Isle Genealogical Society have resources at hand and local knowledge. Some of them even offer services to go to local records office to find items for you. There is usually a fee for this service, but it can be invaluable for non-digitized records. Local societies may also have websites with many resources. Sno-Isle Genealogical Society has their books uploaded to [LibraryCat](#) letting you know what is at Humble House. You may also find obituaries,

newspapers, and more.

As you can see, the huge amount of information available, and deciding what information you need, can be a daunting task. The items listed barely cover all the things you can find and the maze of internet paths you can follow. We haven't even touched Social Media and DNA!

If you, or someone you know, is feeling information overwhelm when doing genealogy research then we urge you to visit us at Humble House. We'd love to help you uncover your family story.

### **A Few Other Genealogy Resources**

[National Archives and Records Association](#) (NARA) - military records, military pension files, early naturalization records, passenger lists, and more.

[JewishGen](#) - Eastern European and Jewish name searches

[Find A Grave](#) - over 170 million memorials. Includes gravestone photos, text, and the occasional family member list.

[Afrigenes.com](#) - A great starting point for researching African-American genealogy.

[Allen County Public Library](#) - One of the largest research collections. While many of their resources are local they do have collections for African-American and First Nations people.

[National Archives](#) - Resources, records, workshops, and more.

[ResearchGuides.net](#) - links to many sites and databases relating to genealogy.

[Chronicling America](#) - Part of the Library of Congress this site features newspaper pages from 1777 to 1963.

[Ellis Island](#) - 65 million Ellis Island records to help trace your ancestors.

[David Rumsey's Map Collection](#) - Another fantastic site for historical maps.

Whew! This is only a fraction of the sites available. Happy Researching.

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**Our mailing address is:**

Sno-Isle Genealogical Society, 19827 Poplar Way, Lynnwood, WA 98036

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