

Clark County Genealogical Society Newsletter

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April Meeting
Tuesday, 27 April 2004
7 – 9 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Parish Hall
426 E 4th Plain Blvd.
Vancouver

GENEALOGY GEE-WHIZZES
Larry Dean

For the April meeting, Larry Dean will present some interesting but little known facts from his genealogical almanac. He will share with us a variety of obscure information accumulated during his genealogical research.

For example:

How would you interpret this date: 10/4/92?

Is your grandfather's brother your Great Uncle or your Grand Uncle?

What is the soundex code for Ashcroft?

Hopefully, Larry will be able to get each person in the audience to say, "Gee whiz, I didn't know that" at least once.

CCGS Nominating Committee has completed its assignment!

The nominating committee consisted of chair Barbara Baker, Lillian Fullerton, Nancy Vartanian, Dixie Arata, and Jan Mayfield. We all worked very hard in pursuit of candidates to govern our Society for the next term. We enjoyed contacting many of our members in this effort. Most people were very cordial, with many of them thanking us for considering them. We now have a number of people who want to be involved in other volunteer jobs for the Society, as well as some who asked to be contacted in the future when they would be more able to hold an office.

The slate of officers for the term 1 July 2004 through 30 June 2005 is: Bill Duchie, President; Diana Cruz, Vice President; De Ann Wilson, Secretary; Lynne Novotny, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer; and Earlene Holmstrom, Treasurer. You will find biographical statements from the candidates on pages 4 and 5 of this Newsletter. The election will be held at our May 25th meeting. (Nominations will also be accepted from the floor under the rules outlined in our bylaws.) Please plan to attend the May meeting so we will have a quorum. The officers will be sworn in at our June 22nd meeting.

I would like to thank the members of my committee for their time and energy. Our task could not have been fulfilled without the efforts of all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Baker
Nominating Committee Chair

A Message From President Bill Duchie

Charlene and I have made a lot of progress since beginning our genealogical studies approximately nine years ago. Our success has been due, in large part, to CCGS educational programs and assistance from many Society members. I will continue taking advantage of these opportunities and make a third visit to Salt Lake this year.

An important aspect of developing our family history is preserving the life stories and memories we have of our grandparents, parents, and ourselves. These personal stories will provide our descendents with a unique, first-hand perspective of our lives – the same kind of perspective we attempt to deduce from ancestral genealogical records.

Visiting the places where we experienced significant life events has been an effective way to trigger memories. Recently Charlene and I traveled to Washington State University in Pullman. Memories flooded back as we saw college housing, classroom buildings, the ROTC drill field, the football stadium, Ferdinand's ice cream bar, etc. Among other things, we spoke of old friends, playing in the snow in sub-zero weather, worrying about my poor grades in Physics, college dances, first years of marriage and parental visits. We have quite a list to work on in the coming months.

2004 GEE CREEK FUNDRAISER

We will be at Gee Creek (north bound) on April 20. If you would like to help out, please contact Irene Page at <pageig@pacifier.com> or 360-835-7642.

MAY NEWSLETTER

Your usual editor will be traveling in April and May. Guest editor will be Pat Bauer. Please get all submissions to her by April 21.

A LITTLE NET NEWS

- Lois Kulberg has found a great new web site for Swedish genealogical research. Take a look at <www.bridgetosweden.com>.
- An interesting new version of the infamous Nigerian Scam tries to make you think you are a long-lost relative of the deceased-who-left-a-few-million-dollars by using your surname as his surname. Some web “handles” would be pretty funny used this way.

If you have changed Internet servers and/or your e-mail address and haven't notified CCGS, please send e-mails to <patbauer@pacifier.com> and to <dcruz@pacifier.com>. Pat sends out a weekly note to many of our CCGS members and notes sometimes bounce. Thank you for your help.

Genealogy Classes

BEGINNING GENEALOGY will be taught at Town Plaza on 8 consecutive Friday mornings starting 16 April. This introductory class includes instruction on how to organize and document information, Family History Centers, census records, vital records, libraries and archives, courthouse records, use of computers in genealogy, and generally organizing your family history records.

Consult the Clark College Community Education catalog (Choices) for instructions on registration or contact Community Ed. at 360-992-2939.

Class Coordinator is Burt Paynter, 891-9411; walkeriii@comcast.net

A “Computer Genealogy” class will be taught through Clark College Mature Learning starting April 30th and running on Friday afternoons through May 28th.

LIBRARY NEWS (from Bill Duchie)

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Anne Best as CCGS Library Director. This represents a very good match of Mary Anne's enthusiasm, skills, experience, and interests with Society needs and will assure continued Library growth. The transfer of responsibility will begin

immediately and thereby assure there is no loss of momentum.

Please join me in welcoming Mary Anne and thanking Elinor, Anita, Jennifer and the entire Library Committee for a job well done.

OUR AFFILIATES

We receive a small commission from several companies for selling their products with links from our web page. These companies include Ancestry, Legacy, Heritage Books, 123Inkjets, and Readerware, but the commission is received only if our members use the links from our web pages or insist that CCGS get a commission for the sale. Click on the Affiliates link on our web page to see information and find links to the various companies.

CHAT ROOM CONVENTION?

Ten regulars in the weekly Thursday evening CCGS Online Chat Room met at the CCGS library and for lunch March 12. Attending were Jerry Thompson of Texas, who was passing through Vancouver that day, Nancy Petersen and Patricia Bauer (Chat Room cohosts), Jeanne Armstead, Rosanne Simmons, Verneice Adams, Thomas Roth, Don Finel, and Sandra Hinzmann. Jennifer Petersen, who hosts the chat room on her business site, stopped by the library

long enough to say hello. A real plus for the day was when first cousins, once removed, Jerry and Jeanne, met for the first time! Jeanne is also related to Ron Adams, a Californian and a regular visitor in the chat room. Also, Jerry, Jeanne, and Ron have ties to Nancy! You can see pictures of most of our regular visitors on our web page - click on the chat room door. Needless to say, there was a lot of genealogical talk during lunch.

We have the sad occasion to offer condolences to several of our members this month and to the family and friends of another member.

*We offer our sincere sympathy to CCGS members Bob & Marge Fizzell, on the tragic death of their son Ronald L. Fizzell, 34, of Portland;
also to CCGS member Marilyn Fitze and her family on the death of her brother, Thomas Strode;
to CCGS member Bonnie Messner Chase of Cedarville, California, on the death of her father, Henry "Hank" Messner, a long-time resident of the Felida area of Vancouver;
and to the family and friends of member Fred Kluth of Portland, who died in March.*

SALT LAKE CITY PLANNING BEGINS!

The yearly research trip to SLC will be Oct. 3-10 Contact Jeanine Bailiff for any questions or if you want to sign up for the trip: jgmb@pacifier.com or 360-566-9422

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Gene Cathey
Nancy Conklin
Sandra Crow
Judi Kirkland

Bessie Lagasse
Beverly Prybylski
Brian Smith

Cheryl Smith
Don Whitbeck
Diane Woodman

And our apologies to Richard Baer for misspelling his name last month.

Bill Duchie, candidate for President

I have been a member of the Clark County Genealogical Society (CCGS) for nine years and involved in governance for four. I have been the elected President for the past two years and previously Vice President for one term.

CCGS, in its 30th year, has become one of the significant genealogical societies in the Pacific Northwest. Member vision and hard work has made this possible. Since moving to our new location on Grand Boulevard our primary focus has been:

1. Growing our holdings and making the library more user friendly.
2. A continuation of the genealogical education and information programs for members and potential members.
3. Establishment of an Endowment Fund.

Now we are challenged to determine CCGS's future direction. What must we do to insure our continued growth while meeting the genealogical needs of our members and the public? I believe development of such a vision should be the primary focus of the 2004/2005 elected officers and Board of Directors. If elected I am committed to such an effort and will actively seek broad member input.

Thanks for your support over the past three years. I look forward to another fine year working together. Have fun and good hunting.

Diana (Erickson) Cruz, candidate for Vice President

Diana's interest in genealogy and family history began about 1978 after she saw the 2 volumes of Chilton History compiled by her grandfather's cousin from Missouri. While slowly putting the pieces of the family puzzle together, her interest increased with the age of computers and the connection to the internet. After high school, Diana attend Peterson Business School and Automation Institute. She continues to learn by taking various college classes and received a Master Gardener Certificate from the first Master Gardener Class offered in Clark County. Diana has also received the Certified Educational Office Professional Certificate from the National Association of Educational Office Professionals. She retired 4 years ago after 26 years as a secretary in the Vancouver School District, retiring as well from 20 years as an Avon representative. Her life stays very busy in retirement with involvement in the Clark County Quilters (past President), Fort Vancouver Tapestry, Clark County Genealogical Society (Membership Chair), Website manager for 6 websites, and enjoying time with her husband George, sons Scott and Matt, daughter-in-law Tracey, and two grandsons, Alex and Jackson.

De Ann Wilson, candidate for Secretary

My hometown is Shelley, Idaho, which was co-founded by my great grandfather James Mitchell in the 1870's. His son John Henry was my grandfather. James was 9 years old when his nuclear family emigrated from Clackmannon, Scotland, and was 11 when the family arrived in the Salt Lake City area in September of 1852. This brief story began interest in genealogy. Now that I have retired, I have time to pursue that interest.

I lived on the family farm in Shelley until I was 7, nearly 8. My father moved the family to a farm in Ammon, which is located 6 or 7 miles northeast of Shelley. I had, I presume, a usual post-world-war II farm childhood. After high school graduation, I attended college at Idaho State University in Pocatello.

I married Gareth Wilson immediately after graduation from ISU. We moved to Twin Falls. Two sons and a daughter completed the household by 1966. In 1968, we returned to university at Montana State. Gareth completed a PhD in Microbiology and I completed a MS in Microbiology. The brief depression of 1973 brought us to Portland, Oregon. I was employed by Providence Medical Center, Laboratory Division, and Gareth was employed by the Veteran's Administration in Vancouver. We finally moved to Vancouver in the fall of 1994. I retired from Providence October 1, 2003 and quickly became a member of Clark County Genealogical Society. I have attended several general meetings and 2 of the short classes held at the CCGS Library.

Lynne Novotny, candidate for Assistant Secretary?Treasurer

I'm a native of Vancouver, WA and was named Lynne Whitney Townsend at birth. I attended Lincoln Elementary, Shumway Junior High, and the old Fort Vancouver High School. My father died when I was four years old and my sister died when I was 16. My Mother was very ill and hospitalized almost immediately after my birth, so I was raised by my Grandmother Whitney.

After working for 15 years as an executive secretary and public relations assistant, I returned to college. I graduated from Clark College, and from Portland State University with a Bachelor of Arts & Letters with teaching fields in Music K-12, instrumental and vocal, and French. Then I obtained my Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management with a specialty in Training & Development from Seattle Pacific University.

After almost losing my mind teaching elementary music for a few years, I returned to familiar territory, the "office" world, at Hewlett-Packard, with the hopes of being promoted to a Human Resources position in Training and Development. Instead, I ended up on disability and was then laid off. Now I teach Bible studies, manage our rental properties, and do my husband's secretarial work and bookkeeping for his business, Affordable Doors. We've been happily married almost 30 years. I wasn't able to have children, but raised two of his three through the teenage years.

My greatest pleasures in life are conducting Bible studies and making floral arrangements to cheer up people who are confined to their homes due to age or illness. I'm a social butterfly and love getting to know all types of people.

Earlene Holmstrom, candidate for Treasurer

I was born and grew up in Bradenton, Florida. I attended College at Louisburg Junior College in North Carolina, Cornell University, and the University of Hawaii. I spent three years in the Peace Corps in the Phillipines. I have been married for 30 years to John Holmstrom and we have two wonderful children (no grandchildren as of yet). John and I own two cute and independent Scottie dogs and we just moved to Vancouver from Portland, Oregon.

My profession is in Organization Development and I have used those skills in positions such as the Executive Director of a private school, as a private consultant to private industry, as a Program manager to a non-profit organization, and as an internal consultant to the Administrator of Bonneville Power Administration. I am now retired.

I enjoy dabbling in pastel, charcoal, and watercolor art. I love gardening, vermiculture, and composting. I am immersed in genealogy. I am rabid about bicycling with John and friends and have taken many trips here and abroad by bicycle.

I am a new resident of Vancouver and a new member to CCGS. But I have an avid interest in genealogy. When my children were young, my uncle requested that I trace the roots of my maternal grandfather shortly after my grandfather's death. I never thought of genealogy as a thing I would enjoy but I adored my grandfather. I struggled with the task while raising my family. However, once my children left the nest, I found myself getting fully absorbed in tracing not only my grandfather's roots but also that of all of my ancestors. I have always enjoyed history and here was an opportunity to not only rediscover myself through my past but to connect that past with history. I see myself as a novice but I am very familiar with research methods, tools, and software and will enjoy volunteering at an organization that helps others become involved in genealogy.

CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**P.O. Box 5249
Vancouver WA 98668-5249
<http://www.ccg-wa.org>**

**Library: 717 Grand Blvd
360-750-5688**

President: William DUCHIE

Vice President: Diana CRUZ

Secretary: Janette BIRCH

Treasurer: Joy SCHMOLDT

Past President: Sharon WODTKE

Meetings and Programs

- 5 April** Legacy Users Group, CCGS Library 10 a.m. - noon.
- 12 April** CCGS Board meeting, CCGS Library 7 – 9 p.m. All members are welcome.
- 16 Apr–4 Jun** Beginning Genealogy, Town Plaza 10 a.m. – noon.
- 17 April** Spring Seminar, Genealogy Society of South Whidbey Island, Hank Jones, Jr.
- 19 April** Irish Interest Group, CCGS Library 10 a.m. - noon.
- 20 April** Gee Creek Fundraiser #2
- 21 April** Deadline for material for the Newsletter; send to Pat Bauer, please
- 27 April** General Meeting, St. Luke's Parish Hall 7 – 9 p.m.

General Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month (except in November) at St. Luke's Parish Hall. Morning meetings will be 10 a.m. - noon in January, February, October, and November. Evening meetings will be 7 - 9 p.m. in April, May June, and September.