

Directors:

Programs Director

People who have held this position: Beryl Miller, Marilynn Wright, Billie Barb, Maureen MacDonald, Harriet DeWolfe, Ada Goodwin, Jerry Case.

The Director of Programs plans, schedules, and coordinates all Society programs for the ten general sessions of the Society, including reimbursement fees. The programs should provide genealogical “how-tos”, historical information, or technology relevant to family historians, in keeping with the GSSWI educational purpose. The Director is the custodian of the Society sound system. A seminar is traditionally hosted by the Society every other year and takes the place of the Society meeting that month. The seminar is planned and managed by the Seminar Committee, not the Program Director.

Planning and scheduling:

- A list of previous speakers is attached and in the file which is passed on from previous Directors. Suggestions for future speakers may be included.
- Determine what the membership would like to hear or do for the year. This could be done with discussions or a member survey. A good time to start obtaining this information is about the May meeting, though the process should be an ongoing one.
- Two special programs are traditions: A “Meet & Greet” session and a “Bring & Brag” sharing session. We often have a Meet & Greet for September: 1- the beginning of the year is a good time for a social-type program, to create a “friendly atmosphere”, and a good chance to welcome guests etc., 2 – it takes the pressure off the Dir. of Programs for finding someone for the first program; 3 – it gives the Membership people more time to collect dues and hand out applications or annual member surveys. Be sure to set a time limit for each member’s presentation though no member should be forced to speak.
- Speakers can be found by a variety of methods: program materials and suggestions from the WA Genealogical Society; by attending other seminars; by checking the upcoming programs for other societies; getting recommendations from other societies; referral through our membership; asking our speakers for recommendations.
- The speaker schedule should be filled in as soon as possible but is understood to be an ongoing work-in-progress.
- Normally the speakers are determined during the summer and the schedule is available by early August so that flyers are available for our booth at the Island County Fair, our website, the newsletter, and publicity in local newspapers.
- As the schedule for the year is developed, send an electronic file (and any updates) to the President and *all* the members of the Board – this enables the schedule to be used by the rest of the Board for their responsibilities. Send an electronic file to the GSSWI web manager for inclusion in the GSSWI Calendar on our website.
- Determine if anything needs to be printed for the meeting. The custodian of the Society printer will print out anything you need e.g. handouts requested by a speaker, but arrange it in time for the print and delivery.
- Arrange for compensation for speaker fees, ferry fees, mileage, reproduction costs, etc, within the annual program budget. This includes speakers who present programs as a part of their regular job or are members of the Society. It is their discretion to donate their fees or not. Fill out a remuneration slip for the Treasurer documenting payment of each speaker.

Coordination with speakers:

- Ensure you have a photo and brief bio for their introduction and publicity.
- Provide information about the program and speaker to the Board, especially Publications and Publicity Directors and to the Society web manager.
- Review the “Questions To Review With Speakers” form with each speaker for accuracy and to understand who will provide handouts, etc. Obtain permission to record their presentation.
- Arrange for any special equipment needed by the speaker. We have a microphone and overhead projector. The church has an overhead projector and whiteboards. We also own a projector designed to be connected to a laptop or desktop computer. Contact the Projector Custodian if a speaker wishes to use it.
- Have the Printer Custodian print handouts if requested by the speaker.
- Send a current ferry schedule and a confirmation letter (similar to those attached as examples) documenting the results of your planning discussion. A template for such a letter is included in the director’s file.
- Detailed directions to our meetings and a map are found on our GSSWI website at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wagsswi . They can be copied as necessary.
- Confirm the program commitment with the speaker AGAIN about two weeks prior to the meeting.

At the meeting:

- Set up and test the sound system before the meeting. Ask speakers to use the lapel mike even though they think everyone can hear them. We have several “older” members who would appreciate not having to “work” to hear them and their voices will be more clear on the video.
- Mel Wright and Jerry Case are familiar with the sound system.
- Note: If you have the microphone in front of the speakers, you get feedback which is annoying and disruptive. The key seems to be to place the speakers facing the wall and slightly to the rear. That way, the sound bounces off the walls to the audience but doesn't produce feedback.
- Trinity has an overhead projector and projection screen that we are able to borrow. GSSWI also owns an overhead projector that we keep for backup in Virginia Lindsey’s garage, across Woodard from the church. GSSWI also owns a backup bulb, we are not sure which overhead projector it fits.
- Meet the speaker about an hour before the meeting (or at a pre-arranged time) to ensure all equipment is available and the setup is complete.
- Loan the speaker the “Speaker” badge but retrieve it at the end of the meeting
- Photograph each speaker for the photo file, future publicity in the newsletter or newspaper, and so they will be more easily recognized when they return to our Society.
- Ensure the check is ready for the speaker (includes fees, travel expenses, and cost of handout printing if speaker assumed that responsibility).

Thank You:

Send a thank-you letter, note, or phone call to the speaker following the event.

At the end of the year

- Deliver (preferably electronically) the schedule of Programs for the year including biographical & contact information to the Director of Archives to store in GSSWI Permanent Records. Include correspondence with speakers as appropriate.

The Director is responsible for the individual pieces of the Sound System:

1. One Royal Traveler Wheeled Luggage Carrier
2. One Sennheiser Remote Lapel Microphone (Product Code 500586) with receiver, transmitter, ac adapter, connecting cables and user guide
3. One Fender Sound System, Passport Model P-80. Ser # CGPA05001083 with power cord, connecting cables and user guide
4. One each, extension cord, orange outdoor-type cord, and squid power center/strip.
5. One canvas bag for carrying cords and cables

Several examples and historical information are included in these Program Director Job Guidelines:

- Questions To Review With Speakers
- Sample form letter
- List of Past Programs
- Photo gallery of Past Speakers

Focus on our Board: Program Director: Jerry Case

As Program Director for GSSW, I make all those arbitrary choices about the presentations we get to see. Then I get to harass the presenters to commit to the programs. Once they are committed, I hound them to send me biographic descriptions and, sometimes, a picture for our program publicity.

As the day for each presentation approaches, I also get to be increasingly worried about whether the presenter will actually show up. On the day of the presentation, it is my privilege to lug the sound system (which normally lives in my garage) to Freeland and set it up in order to have something to do instead of eating lunch.

The most time-consuming part of being Program Director is locating, and making contact with, our presenters and cajoling them into actually agreeing to do a presentation. This is followed by extensive and lengthy phone calls to each presenter to settle upon appropriate subject matter and to inform each one of our lucrative fee schedule.

Once each presenter is selected and their subject matter confirmed, I get to write a formal invitation letter to each one outlining the responsibilities of both GSSW and the speaker. There is a sort of template for this but each speaker is somewhat different and the text must be varied a bit. Naturally, the honor of GSSW is at stake so I must be careful to do proper spell checking and to use correct grammar.

The Program Director also has the responsibility for maintaining records for future generations and distributing schedules to anyone concerned. He or she also maintains a list of speaker contacts, address and email information in order to be able to transfer all this data to the GSSW archivist to stuff into the proper pigeonhole.

Like other Directors, the Program Director is also encouraged to attend monthly meetings for quiet and reasoned discussion of society organizational matters which may be brought to our attention.

My very favorite part of the whole process is when I get to introduce the speaker at each meeting. This is the time reserved for forgetting the speaker's name and his or her subject.

From the 2007-2008 GSSWI Newsletter

Questions to Review with Speakers

GENERAL INFORMATION (Please review with speaker for accuracy)

Speaker's name (including any titles): _____

Date, day, time of program: _____

Title of topic: _____

Speaker's address: _____

Speaker's email address: _____

Speaker's phone number(s): _____

FEE AND EXPENSE DETERMINATION (Determine which one is correct amount)

Our standard amount of \$50, plus \$50 travel fees _____

OR

Speaker's standard or negotiated amount of _____

PLUS (if required):

Exceptional circumstances such as all day conferences or long distance travel:

Room costs _____

Meal costs _____

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Time requirements (usually 2 hours including Q&A) _____

Permission to record the presentation.

Equipment requirements

Overhead projector? _____

Screen? _____

Slide projector? _____

Other? _____

HANDOUTS

Speaker to provide? (Need 60 copies minimum)..... Yes _____ No _____

Reimbursement for copying costs requested?Yes _____ No _____

Amount if requested: _____

OR

We make copies for the speaker? Yes _____ No _____

Date materials must arrive from speaker (2 weeks prior) _____

PUBLICITY

We will need a brief description of your presentation, biography and picture for publicity purposes by (ASAP; agree upon date) _____

COMMUNICATIONS

Do you have any other questions or concerns? _____

Do you prefer to be contacted by: phone? _____

email? _____

CONFIRMATION

You should receive a confirmation letter for your records within two weeks. It will include the information that we have agreed upon today, and give directions, a map and a ferry schedule.

Current Date

Dear (name of Speaker),

The South Whidbey Genealogy Society is looking forward to your talks on Monday, (date of talk) from 1-3 P.M on (topic they will speak about). Our travel fee is \$50 for ferry/gas. You indicated that (say either 'you would bring your own handouts' or 'we will be making copies') for which we will reimburse you for your copying expenses, if you will let us know that amount when you arrive. (Remove the part 'we will reimburse you' if we make the copies).

Our society now meets in the Chapel and Community Building at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland. Good directions and a map can be found on our website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wagsswi .

We have activities taking place in a separate part of the facility between 10:30 and 1PM, so you will be able to arrive and set up in the Chapel any time within that timeframe. You indicated that you (whatever they have asked for 'won't need the overhead and screen'). We now have a lapel microphone that we will set up. We will begin with a short greeting and then move into your talk. We have recently begun to video our speakers so that we can share the talk with members who have missed it. If this is not okay, just let us know when you arrive.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the phone number or email listed below.

Sincerely,

(Your name) for the Program Committee

Your phone number and email address

2004-2005

30 Ways to Learn More About Your Family!

The Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island meets on the 2nd Monday of every month (Sep - Jun) for presentations by knowledgeable speakers on subjects of genealogical interest. Meetings start at 1:00PM in the fireside room at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Education classes on various research topics are held at 11:30AM prior to the general meeting (except September) in the classroom next to the fireside room. The class uses "First Steps in Genealogy" by Desmond Walls Allen as its textbook.

Field Trips to local genealogical repositories are held during the 4th week of the month, often but not exclusively on Monday's. Check the newsletter for specific information.

September 13, 2004

Program: A first time speaker for GSSWI, **Warren Sommer**, principal of Legacy Heritage Consultants, British Columbia, will present an *Illustrated History of Cemeteries* including the origins of cemeteries, cemetery symbolism, and how cemeteries can be used as tools in family history and local research. At the conclusion of his talk, those who are interested can join Warren for an hour's walk through the Coupeville cemetery to see some 'living' examples!

No education class in September

Field trip: National Archives in Seattle

October 11, 2004

Program: Another of our genealogical neighbors from Canada, **Brenda Smith** of Wellspring Communications, joins us for a special double-header: *The Search for Our Foremothers – A Case Study: Sarah Bowen Smith*, focusing on the search for female ancestors and *A La Carte: Using Maps in Family History* exploring how maps can aid the researcher to locate, track and record our ancestors' paths of migration.

Education class: (pages 1-29) Topics: The Why, What and How of Family History. Why do you want to know about your family, what do you want to know and how to go about finding the answers. We'll also look at the skills you'll need to be a successful genealogist and discuss where to begin your family history search.

Field Trip: Seattle Public Library

November 8, 2004

Program: Having trouble finding exactly where your ancestors had that plot of land? **Mary Peters**, a long-time volunteer at the Fiske Genealogical Foundation and a 17 year family historian, will teach us how to *Use DeedMapper To Solve Land Problems*. With this software program you can discover genealogical relationships, untangle people having the same name, find the location of a particular plot, and even create a map of landowners! You'll want to see for yourself!

Education class: (pages 30-52) Topic: How to keep all your research materials organized, including papers you collect, correspondence, web site addresses, repository information, reference information, questions that need further research, family contacts, etc.

Field Trip: Fiske Genealogical Library in Seattle

December 13, 2004

Program: *Bring and Brag and Revel!* at our Christmas party. We will share Christmas goodies and then our own genealogical successes or family show-and-tell items in our traditional every-member-round-robin.

Education class: (pages 53-70) Topic: What libraries and archives offer in the way of help in our family history research.

Field Trip: National Archives in Seattle

January 10, 2005

Program: **Margaret Summitt** returns to talk about *Writing Your Family History* by showing us how to break down our history project into manageable steps and revealing other processes and techniques that can get us moving!

Education class: (pages 71-80) Topic: History and Genealogy! Our ancestors were influenced by the social, economic, religious and political events and trends of their time. How an understanding of history helps us to better understand our families.

Field Trip: Seattle Genealogical Society Library

Over please

February 14, 2005

Program: As promised, our ever popular speaker, **Dr. Gary Zimmerman** from Fiske Genealogical Foundation, will complete his migration series with **Western Migration, Parts 2 and 3** at our February and March meetings. Last year, Gary began this series with the Eastern Seaboard, moving toward the Mississippi; this year, he will cover the South Western territories, then the push across the plains to the west coast, including such topics as the Gold Rush, the railroads and even the Oklahoma Indians! You won't want to miss this invaluable information!

Education class: to be announced

Field Trip: Suzzalo Library at the University of Washington in Seattle

March 14, 2005

Program: See February

Education class: (pages 81-110) Topic: All about census records - what kind of information is available, what are common problems encountered on census records, where to find these records, how to use the various indexes available, and how to look for additional clues about your ancestors in the census.

Field Trip: Bellevue Family History Center

April 11, 2005

Program: **Linda Blackinton**, half Samish Indian and a graduate of the University of Washington's Family History and Genealogy Certificate and Advanced Certificate Courses, will share her knowledge of the special resources, processes and/or techniques for **Researching Native American Ancestors**. As usual, you can expect to get some valuable information to apply to your research, whether or not you have any Indian ancestry...and many of us do!

Education class: (111-125) Topic: Courthouse records - birth, marriage, death records, probate records, court records, voter rolls, tax lists, military records and naturalization records.

Field Trip: either the Bellevue or Bellingham branch of the State Archives

May 9, 2005

Program: **Shirley Penne Oakes**, a highly recommended speaker from the Spokane Genealogical Society and another GSSWI first, will be here to discuss four short topics: **What Have I Missed in Vital Records?**, **What I Should Have In My Personal Library?** **Over-looked Compiled & Miscellaneous Sources** and **10 Topics in 30 Minutes**.

Education class: (pages 126-133) Topic: Ways to share your family history - e.g. through family reunions, written accounts, published accounts, internet home pages, websites, etc.

Field Trip: Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, WA

June 13, 2005

Program: **Sarah Thorsen Little**, professional genealogist and lead instructor for the Genealogy Certificate Program at the University of Washington, presents one of her special double features to end our program year. The first: **Window Shopping on the Web**, features Amazon's groundbreaking new technology feature, "Search Inside the BookTM" which allows individuals to search millions of pages within a book. Sarah will demonstrate how to locate items about your ancestors and their localities that you never dreamed existed, and until very recently, would have been extremely difficult to locate! Her second feature, "**Case Study in Genealogical Research**", is a step-by-step lecture emphasizing the primary and secondary sources utilized in tracing a family from the Oregon Trail back through Illinois and Kentucky to Virginia.

Education class: to be announced

Field Trip: Cloverdale Branch of the Surrey Public Library in Cloverdale, BC, Canada

PLEASE JOIN US! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF THESE EXCITING AND INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS THAT WILL SURELY GIVE YOU MANY NEW RESEARCH CONCEPTS AND REVITALIZE YOUR OLD ONES!

2006-2007

<p>September 11, 2006 Donna Potter-Phillips</p>	<p>1 To Internet or NOT to Internet: Beginning Your Search for Family 2 European Immigration from Europe: Why: When?, How?</p>	<p>Donna Potter-Phillips will be speaking on two separate topics. Ms. Potter-Phillips is an accomplished speaker and has a way of making it fun to learn new things about genealogy research. Some of you may remember Donna's lecture a few years ago on "Getting Organized to Leave a Legacy." If so you know she is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker.</p>
<p>October 8, 2006 Terry Beck</p>	<p>Genealogy Resources in the Sno-Isle Library System</p>	<p>According to Ralph Seefeld, the Sno-Isle Library has added the following to their premium database: <u>America's Obituaries</u> and <u>Death Notices National</u>. A large and comprehensive collection of newspaper obituaries and death notices from around the United States. It includes obituaries from the Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The obits are mostly from the last 20 years or so, but some of them are much older. In addition, there are also the following databases in their Genealogy collection: Biography/Genealogy Master Index, Biography Resource Center, HeritageQuest Online, Marguis Who's Who, and Sanborn Maps.</p>
<p>November 13, 2006 Gary Zimmerman</p>	<p>Making the Most of Google</p>	<p>Gary Zimmerman returns...his presentation will be on "How to Use Google More Effectively" (online search engine with lots of ways to obtain information and do genealogy research). Gary is the president of the Fiske Genealogical Society in Seattle and has been teaching Genealogy for over 30 years.</p>
<p>December 11, 2006 Bring and Brag Session</p>		<p>Society members are encouraged to bring some genealogy-related item and share its significance in a brief (2-3 minute) presentation. Maybe an old newspaper article, a silver/pewter heirloom, a photo of your ancestors, a family Bible, a piece of clothing from an ancestor, maybe a piece of military memorabilia, or whatever you think might be of interest to other genealogy researchers!</p>
<p>January 8, 2007 Jean Roth</p>	<p>Planning & Enjoying a Successful Heritage Discovery Trip</p>	
<p>February 12 Patty McNamee</p>	<p>NARA</p>	
<p>March 12, 2007 June Robinson</p>	<p>Using Old Newspapers to Flesh Out a Family Tree</p>	
<p>April 9, 2007 Maureen MacDonald</p>	<p>Ancestry.com and more...</p>	<p>The April program will be someone special for our Society Members. We will get the chance to hear our own Maureen MacDonald present information on Ancestry.com and more...Maureen has been researching her ancestors for many years and has learned many tricks of the trade and will be sharing some of those tips with us. You won't want to miss this presentation.</p>

May 13, 2007 Brent Trimble	Funeral Home Records	John Brent Trimble – local funeral home owner (Visser Funeral Home in Langley) will speak on “Death Records available from funeral Homes”. Mr. Trimble has been a funeral home director since 1965 so he has lots of experience in dealing with death records. Brent is also a member of the LDS church (Langley) and has been active in extracting genealogical records for the church for many years. Brent and his wife, Marge, have been living here on the island for 11 years and are starting to make retirement plans which include a move to Salt Lake city, Utah to do missionary work in the Research Library there.
June 11, 2007 Sarah Thorson Little		Sarah is a Professional Genealogist specializing in 18 th -20 th century American records, as well as Scandinavian and Washington state research. Sarah is the past president of the Seattle Genealogical Society and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

2005-2006

September 12, 2005 ???	Push and Pull: Your Immigrant Ancestor!	Choose one of your immigrant families and tell what you know about them: what made them leave their homeland and what attracted them to America? Alternately, if you have no information on an immigrant ancestor, choose a migrant ancestor’s “push and pull” across America. It’s great to spend time learning about each other.
October 10, 2005 Bobbie Sandberg	Digital Cameras in Genealogy	A self-described “computer geek”, Bobbie teaches at Skagit Valley Community College as well as the South Whidbey Island Senior Center. She will cover digital cameras with particular emphasis on the needs of genealogists, and maybe get a word or two in on scanners as well.
November 14, 2005 Gary Zimmerman	Completion of Migration Series	Gary, president of the Fiske Genealogical Foundation of Seattle and a retired university administrator who has been an active genealogist for over 40 years, will return to complete his fascinating series on western migration. Even if you have missed the earlier talks, you will enjoy this one!
December 12, 2005 Mary K. Kozy	Researching Church Records	A returning speaker, Mary works with the South King County Genealogical Society and has taught a number of classes in the community and to genealogical societies. Many times church records are the only vital records available to us; Mary has researched in both Catholic and Protestant churches, and will share the best methods for uncovering and identifying information in them.
January 9, 2006 Darrel Trudeau	Irregular Sources	Darrel Trudeau has been active in genealogy for over 15 years. As past president of the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogy Society, he began public speaking 10 years ago. The topic, “Irregular Sources” has been active and changed several times and is designed to assist any level genealogist to enhance their work. It will not only reveal some unusual and new sources, but help you get the most out of every copied document.

February 13, 2006 Jean Roth	Preparing for a Research Trip	Active in genealogy since 1976 and a 30-year veteran of the travel industry (Certified Travel Consultant, the highest degree of professional education in the travel world) Jean is uniquely qualified to cover this important subject. “The ultimate success of any family historian’s research trip is determined by the traveler’s investment of time in preparation and planning for the trip; and their investment of money in obtaining the tools and resources necessary to work effectively.”
March 13, 2006 Dr. Lorraine McConaghy		Dr. McConaghy co-teaches the Genealogical Certification Program at the University of Washington with Sarah Little and comes to us highly recommended! We look forward to one of her enlightening discussions about the history that frames our families’ lives and times.
April 8, 2006 Laura Sparr	Irish Research	Laura, a favorite speaker of our society, is the past president and current vice-president of the Washington Genealogical Society. Several years ago she went on a research trip to Ireland returning with information, experience, and many books on Irish sources – all of which she will share with us.
May 13, 2006 Spring Seminar with Christine Rose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case 2 Solving the Problem in 25 Hours or Less 3 Transcribing and Abstracting: The Technique and Legalese 4 Avoid the Crooked Path! Genealogical Problem Solving 	Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG is our speaker. She has written “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Genealogy”, “Courthouse Research for Family Historians”, “Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case”, and many others. Christine was awarded the prestigious Donald Lines Jacobus award in 1987 for two Rose family genealogies. She is a Fellow, American Society of Genealogists (an honor bestowed by peers, based on the quantity and quality of publications and limited to 50 living genealogists).
June 12, 2006 Sarah Thorsen Little	Solving a Genealogical Problem Using the Internet and a Case Study in Genealogical Research.	Our last program features a double-header from Sarah Little, the lead instructor of the Genealogical Certification Program at the U of Washington. She will show us how to focus on and power through a genealogical problem using internet resources and will follow that with one of her fascinating case studies. Always a winner, Sarah is the perfect ending to a great program year.

2007-2008 Speaker Schedule

1. September 10 – 'Meet and Greet' – **No Scheduled Speaker**

As has been done frequently in the past, the September meeting will be centered on a 'Meet and Greet' theme. Members and guests should come prepared to give a very short synopsis of their current genealogical research with any geographical or time period emphasis. Also of interest to the membership would be any research or organizational tips found to be useful in genealogical research. Time per member will be limited so please be as concise and brief as possible. Plan to attend the September meeting to share your research interests with fellow members. Annual membership fees will also be paid at the September meeting."

2. October 8 – 'Overcoming Brick Walls: A Case Study' – **Margaret Robe Summitt**



Born in Los Angeles with relatives in Oregon, Margaret grew up hearing stories of her Oregon Trail ancestors with each summer vacation to Oregon. While in college she applied her research skills to genealogy, and by the late 1980s she had caught the genealogy bug bigtime. In 1990 she married Christopher, a historian of Custer's Last Stand and the late 1800s Indian wars. They are the parents of Isabella (age 14) and George (age 11). Since moving to Everett in 1995, Margaret has been active in the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society, serving on its board of directors and editing its research quarterly, *The Sounder*. She leads a session on "brick wall breakthroughs" before each SIGS general meeting. Margaret also leads a genealogy class at the Lynnwood Senior

Center. She lectures frequently on genealogical topics to groups in the Puget Sound area.

3. November 12 – 'Scottish Migration in Context' – **Tom Laurenson**



Tom is a native Scot and, like many of them, of mixed blood. One set of grandparents was from Shetland, where his father was born. They all spoke Shetlandic a viking based language. Tom's father still uses Shetlandic and writes poetry in that dialect. His other grandparents were Gaelic speakers at a time when Gaelic was forbidden in schools and those who spoke it were often seen as figures of fun. He grew up in Nairn, a little town to the east of Inverness, where he spoke Shetlandic at home, fairly good English at school, and never really picked up the local accent. In later years, he took up teaching and moved back into the Highlands where he worked with the Argyll & Bute regional government at various levels, finishing as an Education Advisor. Tom came to the USA in 2001, and spent 5 years in the New York area. For two of those years he was part of a

team working out of Fordham University delivering technological improvements to schools in the Bronx. Last year he moved to the State of Washington where he finds the climate and social environments more to his liking.

4. December 10 – 'Workshop on Document Data Extraction' – **Laura Pemberton Sparr**



Laura, a favorite speaker of our society, is a past president and vice-president of the Washington Genealogical Society. Today's topic should present an outstanding opportunity to enhance the data collection skills of our society members. Laura will lead us through the intricacies of several document types likely to be encountered by genealogists in their researches.

5. January 14 – 'Telling Your Genealogical Story' – [Christina Baldwin](#)



Christina Baldwin is the author of *Storycatcher, Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story*, and devotes a chapter in this book to using story to heal the generations. She is a passionate voice for the profound role and impact of story in our lives, a woman very involved in the generations of her own family and in preserving their stories.

The study of genealogy is enlivened by the addition and preservation of anecdotal material. In this presentation, author Christina Baldwin will discuss how including stories in genealogical material enriches familial lineage and helps future generations make sense of their heritage and understand the multi-dimensions of their legacy. *What can you do now to add to the legacy of the compilation you are creating for your family? What is your story and how does it fit in the generational story? How do you include material that you are not sure is 'true?' Do you have the right to be interpretive?*

6. February 11 – 'The Counties of England and Wales' – [Gary Zimmerman](#)



Gary Zimmerman's work in genealogy began with a 5th grade assignment and his exploration of family history has been continuous since that time. In the early 1960's he began teaching other people how to do genealogy. Today, most of his work is through the instructional programs of the Fiske Foundation and in supervising the responses to genealogical questions asked of the Pioneer Hall organizations. Gary, is a fourth-generation resident of Seattle and the President of the Fiske Genealogical Foundation. He is retired from a professional career as a university administrator, with thirty-three years of service to Seattle University and Antioch University Seattle.

7. March 10 – 'Mapping Family Migrations' - [Lethene Parks](#)



Lethene first became interested in genealogy as a teenager and has been doing research off and on for 60 years, more intensely since her retirement 17 years ago. When possible, she likes to travel to the places where her ancestors lived in order to do on-site research but also enjoys research from home. Most of her 27-year career as a librarian was spent with the Washington State Library's Institutional Library Services program. She also worked for Pierce County Library in Tacoma and for Olympic College library in Bremerton. She is currently Education Director for the Clark County Genealogical Society and on the board of directors for the Blair Society for Genealogical Research and for the Oregon-California Trails Association. Lethene enjoys speaking to groups, writing, and teaching classes. Her other interests are reading (especially mysteries and history) and exploring migration trails. She has four children and seven grown grandchildren.

8. April 14 – **Christopher Summitt** - 'Village on the Little Big Horn'



Christopher Summitt spent 5 years with the National Park Service at Custer Battlefield National Monument as a Ranger/Historian, telling the story of the famous Battle. Since then he's spoken at Historians' Conferences, and written articles for historical publications on various controversial aspects of the Little Bighorn fight. He lives in South Everett, teaches Classical History at Corpus Christi Chapel in Edmonds, and helps his wife edit the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society's publication "The Sounder".

Custer's Last Stand is one of the most famous episodes of American history. The subject serves as a lightning rod of controversy for the differing ways of how Americans, over the years, have interpreted the "Winning of the West" and the Indian wars. With historic maps, art, and photos the program tells the story of how Lakota & Cheyenne warriors happened to camp where they did and how Custer & the 7th Cavalry found them there on the 25th of June 1876.

9. May 12 – **Bobbi Sandberg** - '*Organizing and Preserving Your Heritage*'



A descendant of Island and Skagit County's pioneers, Bobbi Sandberg has been playing with computers since her teens. A technical writer and instructor of "all things computer" she offers tips and tricks to make the most reluctant computer user comfortable with their recalcitrant machine. She has spoken to the society in the past on technological issues and is one of our most popular speakers.

Bobbi's program will deal with the following issues: What are your antiques worth? Who in your family should get each heirloom? Do your heirs know which are family keepsakes, what their stories are, and where they are? How can you protect family pictures? You too can ORGANIZE your genealogical materials with your computer. She'll cover how to find your information and keep it safe. You'll be amazed at how

much you can keep and arrange with your friendly neighborhood computer.

10. June 9 – **Sarah Thorson Little** - '*Case Study in Research Methodology*'



Sarah has been a Professional Genealogist for 30 years. She has been the lead instructor at the University of Washington Certificate Program in Genealogy & Family History since 1989, and is also an instructor in family history and computer research at North & South Seattle Community Colleges. She has specialized research expertise in NW Native Americans, Scandinavian, 19th & 20th Century U.S. and Washington research, and locating living individuals. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She has researched throughout the United States and in Europe, visiting and researching in courthouses and archives in areas where her ancestors have lived. Sarah is one of our most popular regular speakers.

South Whidbey Genealogical Society

2008-2009 Speaker Schedule

1. September 8 'Meet and Greet' – **No Scheduled Speaker**

As has been done frequently in the past, the September meeting will be centered on a 'Meet and Greet' theme. Members and guests should come prepared to give a very short synopsis of their current genealogical research with any geographical or time period emphasis. Also of interest to the membership would be any research or organizational tips found to be useful in genealogical research. Time per member will be limited so please be as concise and brief as possible. Plan to attend the September meeting to share your research interests with fellow members. Annual membership fees will also be payable at the September meeting.

2. October 13 'Greek Revival & Clock Towers, Courthouses of your Ancestors' **Karen Sipe**

Karen V. Sipe has been doing genealogical research since 1972. During this time she has traveled nationally and internationally visiting a number of court houses, archives and, of course, cemeteries. She has been teaching classes and giving lectures since about 1984. Her genealogical education has come by doing and attending local and national (NGS and FGS) conferences. To her credit Karen is past president of the Whatcom Genealogical Society and has written a number of articles for Heritage Quest including one for the NGS Newsletter. Currently she is a volunteer at NARA Seattle and with the Missouri State Archives on their transcription projects.



Court actions are both Civil and Criminal in nature. As genealogists we look mostly to civil proceedings and land transactions. Will this cause you to miss out on really good information for your family research? Karen will explore and highlight available records at the court house and beyond.

3. November 10 'Focus on Females: Finding the Women in Your Family Tree' **Laura Pemberton Sparr**



Laura Sparr, a favorite speaker of our society, is a past president and vice-president of the Washington Genealogical Society. Last December, she conducted for our society a very popular workshop on document data extraction. Laura is always an entertaining and informative speaker and her presentations are not to be missed!

Laura's discussion this year will center on the sometimes difficult problem of locating records on female members of a family tree. Since she has spoken previously on this topic at other locations, we can expect to be properly educated on the subject!

4. December 8 – 'Bring and Brag Session' – **No Scheduled Speaker**

Be prepared to display and discuss some favorite part of your genealogical artifacts, photos or other memorabilia. There will be, though, a strict time limit of two minutes per person!

This meeting will also feature a potluck luncheon in celebration of the Holiday Season so it will be a great opportunity so socialize with other members. Specific details will be published at a later date.

5. January 12 **'Setting up a Family Web Site' – Bobbi Sandberg**



A descendant of Island and Skagit County's pioneers, Bobbi Sandberg has been playing with computers since her teens. A technical writer and instructor of "all things computer" she offers tips and tricks to make the most reluctant computer user comfortable with their recalcitrant machine. She has spoken to the society in the past on technological issues and is one of our most popular speakers.

now or in the future.

This presentation will deal with the procedures, issues and mechanics of setting up a family web site. Bobbi has a lot of experience with the creation of web sites and her talk is sure to be of use to those who are interested in setting up such a web site either

6. February 9 **'Interlibrary Loan and Sno-Isle Genealogical Resources' – Terry Beck**



Terry Beck is the manager of Adult and Teen Services for the Sno-Isle Library system. She's been with Sho-Isle for almost 10 years, having relocated to the Northwest from the Chicago area. She's been a librarian for over 20 years, having worked in the Chicago Metropolitan area until her move west. BA in English from St. Xavier University in Chicago and MLIS from Dominican University. Family History is one of her interests and she's been working on her own family lines for over 40 years. Terry last spoke to us in 2006.

Terry notes that **Genealogists are super-users of the public libraries. Their use of interlibrary loan presents the library with many opportunities to track down the obsolete, out-of-print, and unknown, with sometimes very good results. Learn how to use the library and interlibrary loan to your best advantage.**

7. March 9 **'From the Scottish Highlands to North America: Links to the American Revolution and North Carolina' – Tom Laurenson**

Tom is a native Scot and, like many of them, of mixed blood. One set of grandparents was from Shetland, where his father was born.



He grew up in Nairn, a little town to the east of Inverness, where he spoke Shetlandic at home, fairly good English at school, and never really picked up the local accent. In later years, he took up teaching and moved back into the Highlands.

Tom came to the USA in 2001, and spent 5 years in the New York area. For two of those years he was part of a team working out of Fordham University delivering technological improvements to schools in the Bronx. Last year he moved to the State of Washington where he finds the climate and social environments more to his liking. Tom spoke to us last fall on the subject of Scottish Migration and his talk was much appreciated by the society members.

8. April 13 – **'Effective Use of the Census in Your Genealogical Research' - Maureen MacDonald**



Maureen MacDonald is one of our most active members and a recent graduate of Sarah Thorson-Little's University of Washington Genealogy class. The class, by the way, is reportedly both time-consuming and rewarding and is highly recommended for serious genealogists.

One of Maureen's current prime interests is in census information which she has been studying closely. During this program, she will give us the benefit of her study. Maureen is always good at answering questions, so come ready to participate!

5. May 11 'John Matthews, A Revolutionary War Pension Case Study' - Joan Peters



Joan Peters, although a relatively new member of GSSWI, has an extensive background in Revolutionary War history and is the author of multiple books on the subject. She is also active as a volunteer with the Island County Historical Society.

Joan's presentation will feature the ways to find revolutionary war service and pensions and will take a detailed look at a soldier who, while entitled to a pension, did not receive one. There will be a brief overview of pension legislation from 1776 to 1836 or so. Included will be a discussion of pensions for injury and disability, need, general service, and widows and children.

This presentation will be of special interest to DAR people who are looking for revolutionary era ancestors who fought in the war. As the Matthews case shows, a rejected pension application does not mean the applicant did not serve. He may have applied under a law that did not permit a pension for his service. He may not have served long enough. He may not have been able to prove his service with two living witnesses.

Joan encourages questions and discussion during and following her presentation!

6. June 8 'New and Underutilized Web Sites' – Sarah Thorson Little



Sarah has been a Professional Genealogist for 30 years. She has been the lead instructor at the University of Washington Certificate Program in Genealogy & Family History since 1989, and is also an instructor in family history and computer research at North & South Seattle Community Colleges. She has specialized research expertise in NW Native Americans, Scandinavian, 19th & 20th Century U.S. and Washington research, and locating living individuals. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She has researched throughout the United States and in Europe, visiting and researching in courthouses and archives in areas where her ancestors have lived. Sarah is one of our most popular regular speakers.

This year's topic allows Sarah to pass along information on useful web sites she has come across in the course of her research. Come and be a more effective researcher!