



**Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)**  
*Finding ancestors since 1971 . . .*

**President's Letter**  
**November 2022**



I've got a lot to be thankful for, and it's not even November yet (as of this writing)! I so appreciate all the people who put in time and effort to make our **GladSong concert** a first class event:

- |                 |                 |                |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Robin Aamodt    | Barbara Congdon | Kris McGregor  | Lisa Vollrath |
| Shirley Acheson | Diane Gundersen | Hazel Thornton | Cynthia Ward  |
| Phyllis Barnett | Hank LuBean     |                |               |



**Our November meeting . . .**

***“Get Acquainted with John Kendrick Chapter, NSDAR”***

Let's get to know more about our local Wenatchee area chapter of the **Daughters of the American Revolution**. We often consult the NEHGS, which is pretty much New England, but the American Revolution was fought in many states (and Canada), so their information will perhaps be of interest to more of us.

Vice Regent **Brenda Brady** will be here in person to give us the history of the DAR and the Kendrick Chapter in particular. You'll be amazed at the variety of projects they have going in our area! Did you know we have a Children of the American Revolution here in this area for the younger generation? We'll also learn about the DAR's process for applications, and the genealogy information you'd need to become a member.

**WAGS November General Meeting**

***“Get Acquainted with John Kendrick Chapter, NSDAR”***

**Monday, November 14 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom and**

**in person at the Douglas PUD Auditorium, 1151 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee**

**Zoom information:**

Topic: WAGS November General Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2022 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

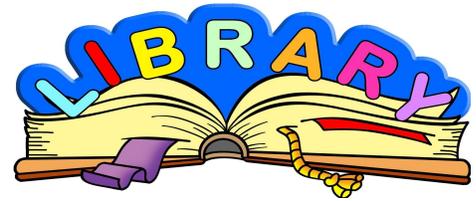
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85925904726?pwd=RIRvYkZCcTNySVo0OUZkenImSEFiQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 2590 4726 Passcode: November

### ***From the WAGS Library . . .***

The holiday season is approaching with busy family events in November and December. Don't forget, while you're enjoying all the holiday hubbub, if you need a quiet place to work on your family research and add in the new births, weddings and deaths from the year, the library is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 to offer you our space, wifi and resources!



Help us welcome our newest librarian: **Brian Welhoelter** sent a note and volunteered to help us out!



### **Here's a freebie you won't want to miss . . .**

FamilySearch.org offers a **FREE 20-minute online research strategy consultation** with expert researchers from the FH Library in Salt Lake City on Geographical Areas, DNA, Immigration, and Navigating FamilySearch. Their goal: "We aim to empower you to identify good next steps to take in your research journey." Read more:

1. On any Person page at FamilySearch.org, click the "?" icon on the right.
2. At the bottom of the "Help" box, click on "Community."
3. Click on "Free Research Consultation" under Quick Links.
4. Select an area of interest. Click on various links to get more information.

Our own **Helen Cromar** has used this service for her Austrian connections. She says she was "elated with the results and how remarkably it moved my research forward." Helen would be happy to answer any questions, or assist you in signing up for this excellent FamilySearch offer. Just Reply to this email, or email [info@wags-web.org](mailto:info@wags-web.org) and we'll put you in touch.

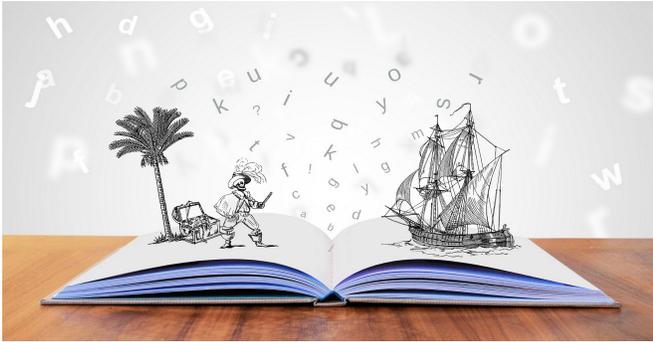
### ***Classes, anyone?***

We're looking ahead to the new year, and we'd like to offer classes and interest groups. Are you ready to meet in person again? What would you like to see? A writer's group, German (or other country) interest group, a beginner's class, multi-topic research class, DNA interest group, computer program interest group? The possibilities are legion. Let us know your preferences by Replying to this email, or email [info@wags-web.org](mailto:info@wags-web.org).



### **November board meeting**

The WAGS board will meet virtually on Wednesday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m. The Zoom info will be posted on the Events Calendar and Latest News and Events on our website.



### ***Everybody's got stories!***

*Soon to be your favorite column in this newsletter, we're sure of it! It's a place to share the interesting things you've run into as you do your research, or trips you've taken, or things that defy categorizing . . . Things that only another genealogist would appreciate!*

### ***You never know where a cousin will pop up!*** (Hazel Thornton)

When I first moved to Wenatchee in January 2020, I made a project of going through my tree and working on looking for pictures for family members from the increasing number of school annuals that were coming online. Not long after that, my real estate agent gave me a recommendation for a hairdresser that turned out to be a nice young lady that worked in the salon across the street from the WAGS Library. Anyway, one day late in the year 2021, I was still working on my tree and I remembered my dad had told me he had distant relatives all over the state.

When I got to the Merrill name in my tree, I found they lived in Wenatchee and I found a picture of him and then noticed his daughter's name was Karlie. Well, my hairdresser was named Karlie, but she was married and I didn't know her maiden name. I thought, just maybe, I should check on this further. So, I looked for her Facebook page and it showed her wedding pictures, etc. and on further inspection, sure enough, she listed her maiden name as Merrill. So, I texted her and she called me back. I asked her if I could ask a few personal questions and she agreed. By the time I got my answers, I said "Karlie, guess what? We are third cousins!" Of course, she was shocked, not having paid any attention to family tree stuff. Her father was my dad's second cousin. So, I gave her some tree charts which in turn she gave to her grandparents who promptly called me and invited me over (on the same day we got the two foot-plus of snow last January). We had a great visit; they actually had met my grandmother and my aunt and I had met one of their relatives.

Be nice to everyone—you never know when you are going to run into a relative.

*According to Ancestry.com,*

*Your **first cousin** shares grandparents with you, counting back two generations to shared ancestors.*

*Your **second cousin** counts back three generations to shared great-grandparents.*

*Your **third cousin** counts back four generations to shared great-great-grandparents.*

**Who knew? A WAGS connection to “The Unsinkable Molly Brown!”** (Lisa Vollrath)

*Backstory: Margaret Tobin was born in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1867. She married J. J. Brown in 1886 and had two children, Lawrence and Helen. They also raised three of their nieces, Grace, Florence and Helen. Molly was on the ill-fated Titanic in 1912, and escaped on Lifeboat No. 6. Her story was made into a Broadway musical in 1960, with a film adaptation following in 1964. Molly and her husband, J.J., bought a fantastic Victorian home in Denver. When the Depression came, Molly had to sell it, and it became a boarding house, and was nearly ruined. In 1970, Historic Denver, Inc. was formed, and major restoration efforts were begun. Now the Molly Brown House Museum is a huge attraction, hosting 45,000 visitors per year. (See the Wikipedia article on Molly Brown.)*



*The Molly Brown House  
in Denver*

My husband Scott's great-grandaunt was Margaret (Tobin) Brown, a Titanic survivor. We were fortunate to inherit family scrapbooks and photo albums, some made by Molly's niece Helen (Scott's grandaunt).

Young Helen created a wonderful scrapbook with mainly news clippings and letters dating back to the late 1890s. It contained a lot of Titanic articles, letters and memorabilia. Another included many photographs. One of them was taken of Molly Brown and her daughter Helen on camels in Egypt. That trip ended with Molly boarding the Titanic and Helen remaining in France.

Scott and I worked closely with the Molly Brown House Museum, sharing information and images freely while keeping the physical items in our possession. At our house in Plain, we kept the scrapbooks in a large cardboard box stored inside a plastic bin. After I learned about the importance of preserving with acid-free products, we upgraded our storage. We got a fire-proof safe that was large enough to store all of Scott's family heirlooms. But a few wildfire scares later, we realized it might not be enough.

We decided it was time to place these items with the Molly Brown House Museum, giving the items a safer place, and giving the museum easier access to the information. The scrapbooks have now come “home”—to the house where they were created so many years ago by niece Helen.

The museum was excited to receive the items and went right to work restoring the crumbling, faded pages. They held an exhibit this summer that we unfortunately couldn't attend. It's a relief now, knowing that these items are well cared for and safe from a possible wildfire!

**Note on Germans from Russia** (Linda Morse's article in the October newsletter)

An alert reader notes that there is also the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) at <https://ahsgr.org/>, in addition to the Germans from Russia Historical Society (<https://grhs.org>).

# Welcome

We have three new members this month: **Sue Sheldon** from Shelton, Washington; **Geoff Smith** of Beaverton, Oregon; and **Renee Courville** of Charlo, Montana. Welcome to WAGS—wishing you successful research.

### ***Once again, NO dues increase!***

The headline says it all. Due to our new computer procedures, you may renew your membership at any time.

Our fall fundraiser at the GladSong concert brought us \$637--thank you for your generosity! We'd like to close the books on that fundraiser—please hold your fire for the GiveNCW campaign which will be starting Thanksgiving Day and running through December 31. We'll get you more information as TG draws closer.

### **FamilySearch Center hours:**

Tuesdays 1-4 pm; 7-9 pm

Wednesday 1-4pm; 7-9 pm (Hank's night, and Spanish-speaking available)

Thursday 1-4 pm

667 10th Street, NE in East Wenatchee (*entrance on west side of the building*)



### ***RootsTech***

March 2-4, 2023

Live at Salt Lake City and via Zoom

See more information at

<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/event/rootstech-2023>

Wishing you a lovely Thanksgiving as you savor your family ties . . .

Susan Rumble  
WAGS President



### **Answer to the A.Z. Wells Challenge**

Wenatchee pioneer A.Z. Wells had an Uncle **Zachary**, and that is what the Z stands for.