



Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)

Finding ancestors since 1971 . . .

President's Letter October 2022



“Wow, I haven't done that for two years!” How often have we been hearing that lately, as life begins to open up after Covid? One thing on your list, I'm sure, is attending concerts with your friends and letting the music transport and inspire you. You're in luck—WAGS happens to have just such an event! Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Museum (Ok to park in the YMCA lot across the street) for a concert by GladSong Choir. See you on the 9th!



Annette Burke Lyttle

October Membership Meeting

Turn Family History Facts into Stories You Can Share

We've all seen The Look—the eyes ascending to the ceiling with a sigh, and suddenly everyone wanders off, remembering they forgot to organize their sock drawer. How can we get our relatives and friends to share our excitement at our genealogy discoveries? Our presenter, Annette Burke Lyttle, has a two-pronged solution: consider what your facts imply (what do you suppose she means by this?), and be sure to take “small bites.” This will open out into a

four-step process that will help us share our family stories with good results and probably help us in our writing as well.

Monday, October 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Turn Family History Facts into Stories You Can Share

In person at the Douglas PUD Auditorium
1151 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee
and via Zoom:

Topic: WAGS Oct General Zoom Meeting
Time: Oct 10, 2022 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81048671116?pwd=UjBKTmpCQkFsSnFZV2taM05Ma1c5UT09>

Meeting ID: 810 4867 1116 Passcode: October

P.S.: Bring your writing efforts to the in-person meeting for display.

That's our [strategic] plan, and we're sticking to it . . .

As we are wont to do this time of year, your board has been talking about what the future might hold, and what we need to focus on to get us there. We wanted to keep it simple:



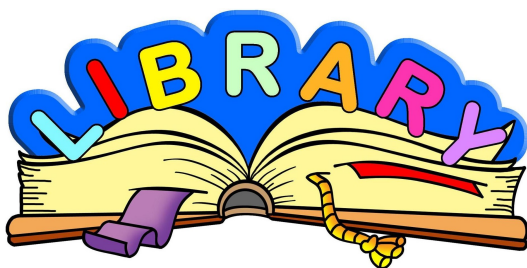
1. **Library:** Continue to acquire North Central Washington resources
2. **Programs:** Create opportunities for more member-to-member connections
3. **General:** Streamline and organize our processes so that data is easily accessible

Each of these points was followed by supporting “suggested actions” that were brought up in our discussions. These are fluid and we invite all of you to think with us on what would work best.

The **Library** plan is fairly straightforward. For **Programs**, we talked about how our society was founded as a group working together to enhance genealogy in our area. We are a community of people—not a library, not a website. Even though Zoom has been a wonderful addition to our programs, we don't want to have our person-to-person experience become a memory. How can we create participation where everyone will benefit?

The **General** emphasis is a result of our growth in technology—how do we keep track of it all?! We need to organize our technology so we can find data easily and anticipate problems, plus make it easier to train volunteers.

Again, we do need your input and volunteer power. If any of these areas are in your wheelhouse, don't be shy—come join the fray.



October at the WAGS Library

Our library committee has been busy getting things dressed up and spiffy for the October 9 tours that will bookend our GladSong concert.

Kris is continuing to put great historic photos on our Facebook page. Also, a person from Yakima came in with a whole box of photos the other day. Who would be interested in helping to sort and categorize this collection? Just Reply to this email, or use Library@wags-web.org.

We remember . . . Alex McLean

We're sad to read of the passing of long-time WAGS member Alex McLean, 1935-2022. He was a great supporter of our society, serving several times on the budget committee, and he kept a lively interest in WAGS and genealogy right to the end.

Everyone's got stories . . .

*Our own Kris McGregor was written up in the September issue of the **Pierce County Historical Association Newsletter**. They are headquartered in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. Kris appeared on page nine, in a column called What's New at PCHA?*

Kris McGregor made a special visit to our history center in Bay City from her home in Washington State to do some research on her family history, mostly on her father's side. She had early ancestors in Spring Lake Township, including surnames: Cudd, Hanson, Johnson, and Howe. Her father was Duane Hanson. He grew up in the Farm Hill neighborhood of Rock Elm township. Much to [the editor's] surprise, he attended grade school at Triple/ Tripple Hill country school which is where I grew up! My parents still live there. We love these small world coincidences. Kris visited the school and other family sites.

Linda Morse shares her unforgettable summer of tracking Germans from Russia in the Dakotas, along with a list of links to some helpful online resources.

2022 Summer Genealogy Adventures

It all began with a trip to Palouse Falls and a stop in Paha, Washington on the way home. I knew that my father's side of my family (Pflugrath and Dammel) always said that they were from Paha and I was very curious to see where the wheat fields they had farmed were located. My husband and I made a trip a few weeks later to Ritzville, the county seat of Adams County. With the help of the assessor and the folks in the public works department we were able to find my grandfather's wheat farm as well as that of two of my great grandfathers. We also did some visits to cemeteries and located two sets of great grandparents, one great great grandfather and other relatives in the Lind, Washington Cemetery, as well as the Salem Cemetery near Ralston (in the middle of wheat fields) where my dad's infant brother is buried.

On returning home I did some more researching online and found that the Adams County 1912 Washington Historical Atlas was online and I could find the section maps for family properties as well as photos of my great grandparents' homes. This led to more research and I found the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records website. The records and documents are available on this site for property that was homesteaded. With this website, I found the homestead properties of both my mother's side (Reiman/Schulz) and my father's side (Pflugrath/Jenner) located in South Dakota. My husband suggested that we drive to South Dakota in July.

All of my great grandparents and one grandmother, who immigrated to the US from what was then Russia, were of German descent. Their families immigrated to Russia (now the Ukraine) where land for farming had been offered. They were allowed to have their own schools and churches, and until 1871 the young men did not have to serve in

the Russian military. When the rules changed, many Germans immigrated to the U.S., Canada and South America and my family followed that choice and came to South Dakota.

The Germans from Russia Historical Society happened to be holding their annual conference in Aberdeen, South Dakota so off we went. The sessions were very helpful and gave me some insights into why and when my Pflugrath great grandparents immigrated to Scotland, South Dakota where my grandfather was born. After the conference, I was very excited to see if we could find the properties where the Pflugraths and the Reimans had homesteaded.

My 2nd cousin from Minnesota had traveled to South Dakota and made a connection with a lady who happened to live on the Pflugrath homestead property. She invited Don and I to visit and see the property. The papers about the history of the property go to the property owner when the property is sold. She had my great grandfathers original homestead documents, the documentation for when he gave a piece of his property for a school and for the railroad, and for the sale of the property in 1899. This visit led to an introduction to a Reimann relative. We were able to meet up with Bob Reimann who showed us where the Reimann and Schulz families had homesteaded as well as cemeteries where family members are buried. Our last stop was in Kulm, North Dakota where my mother's mother, Emma Schneider Reiman, was born.

It was so worth the drive to South and North Dakota to see the land, churches and cemeteries where both sides of my families started out in this country! I have a new appreciation for the hard work and sacrifices the families made to come to this country and start out with nothing and then to leave the Dakotas and start again in the Ritzville, Lind, Paha area in Washington and then to again make a move to the Wenatchee Valley.

Helpful resources for researching Germans from Russia:

Adams County 1912 Washington Historical Atlas

Index lists Adam & Emanuel Pflugrath

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/9693/Adams+County+1912/>

Find-a-Grave Cemeteries

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery>

Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records

<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

Germans From Russia Historical Society

<https://www.grhs.org/>

Johann Heinrich Bonekemper and Carl Bonekemper. North Dakota State University Libraries

<https://library.ndsu.edu/AS2.pub/repositories/3/resources/1311>

The Society of German Genealogy in Eastern Europe

<https://www.sggee.org/>

Black Sea German Research

<https://www.blackseagr.org/>

Odessa Digital Library

<https://www.odessa3.org/>

American History and Genealogy Project Deaths of five Pflugrath (Flookroat) children in South Dakota

<https://sdahgp.genealogyvillage.com/1880deaths.htm>

History of Germans from Russia

<http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/research-history/history-germans-russia>

Consider writing up the stories of your research or trips to ancestral haunts! You never know who you will help and inspire . . .

Happy hostages . . .

We're going to hold the answer to the **A.Z. Wells Challenge** (what does the Z stand for?) hostage in a good way. It will be revealed at the WAGS Library on the bulletin board when you come over to see our improvements on Sunday, October 9, before and after the GladSong concert. Come see our library, and learn about one of Wenatchee's city fathers.



Emogene and A. Z. Wells



Play "Stump Your Fellow WAGS Member"

The Wells Challenge was so much fun, we're going to invite all of you to submit a similar puzzle. What were you able to find that had kept you in the dark? Would others enjoy the search as much as you did? Describe the conundrum, and then maybe give just a hint or two. Reply to this email, or email info@wags-web.org.

Welcome

Two new members . . .

A special WAGS welcome goes out to Kari Strain of Cashmere, and Anthony Leibelt of Quincy. We wish you productive research at WAGS!

Looking forward to seeing you at the concert on October 9!

Susan Rumble,
WAGS President