



Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)

Finding ancestors since 1971 . . .

President's Letter

March 2023

March is definitely coming in like a lion,

genealogy-wise! Here's your chance to join fellow researchers and experience **RootsTech** on the big

screen in the WAGS Library Research Room. Here is the schedule:



Thursday, March 2

12:30 p.m. *What's New at FamilySearch in 2023?*

2:00 p.m. *What's New at Ancestry in 2023?*

Friday, March 3

2:00 p.m. *Ten Powerful Ways to Visualize and Analyze Genealogy in Google Earth*

3:30 p.m. *Walk Where They Walked! Reunions Aren't Just for the Living*

OR Ways to Engage our Family History Readers

Saturday, March 4

12:30 p.m. *Are You Related to Royalty?*

2:00 p.m. *Shared DNA Matches—The Only DNA Tool You Will Ever Need*

What a smorgasbord! The presentations will start right on time, so arrive early. And please RSVP so we can set up the room: email wagslibrarian@gmail.com or Library@wags-web.org.

March Meeting for Members and Guests

Get Organized to Write Your Family Stories

Yes, we did get our genealogy pretty well organized at our February meeting. But this month we're refocusing the lens just a little to look at getting things sorted out in preparation for the task of **writing** all the interesting things we've been discovering. What changes should we be making in our space, our time, our ideas and research results so that we can awaken our inner wordsmiths? We met Floridian **Annette Lyttle** last October, when she gave us another great writing program—we knew we had to have her back!



Annette Burke Lyttle

Monday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.
Get Organized to Write Your Family Stories

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

Topic: WAGS March General Meeting - Zoom Link
Time: Mar 13, 2023 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89002250805?pwd=eDFpdU0xMjd5WVU5bVhtRUVtekRaQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 0225 0805

Passcode: March

Some business at the March meeting . . .

We have some official business to take care of after we enjoy our speaker. Actually, it's a coveted opportunity to give back to the organization. Of course, I'm referring to choosing a member representative for the Nominating Committee. It's the shortest duration WAGS volunteer job we have—to be part of the 3-member committee and help find candidates for our officer elections in June. Think about it, and then put your name in the hat for this opportunity!

What's Happening in April?

We thought we'd have more of an old-fashioned meeting—remember when we all got together in the same room and visited? Our topic: **What I Learned at RootsTech**. Come and report on what you saw at the WAGS Library, or what you watched at your own computer, and any results you got from putting your new education into practice. It will be an in-person-only meeting—we'd love to hear any feedback between now and then: Library@wags-web.org.



March is membership renewal time!

Time to check your WAGS membership status. Go to Members Only on the website, log in, then click on Membership Account to see your expiration date. Then click Renew for payment instructions. If you'd like to pay by check, send to WAGS, 127 South Mission Street, Annex Building, Wenatchee 98801-3039.





How are we doing on our strategic plans?

Back in the summer, the board discussed our goals for the coming year. Here is what we came up with:

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

The **Library** plan is looking good. We have acquired some good NCW books, and even a new plat map from 1953. We continue to organize and focus our holdings.

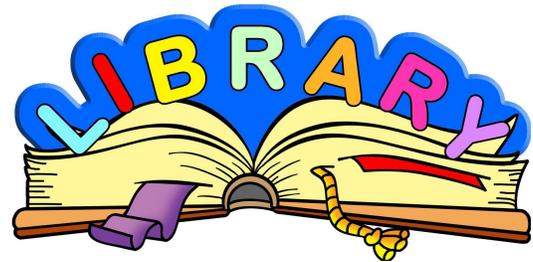
Programs: Last fall, we said, “We don't want to have our person-to-person experience become a memory. How can we create participation where everyone will benefit?” We are hopeful we'll see some/many of you at our RootsTech screenings on March 2-4. And we're eager to see you in person at the April meeting.

We haven't been able to focus on the **General** (#3 above) emphasis yet, altho we continue to work on the website and on ordering protocols. Stay tuned.

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

March at the WAGS Library

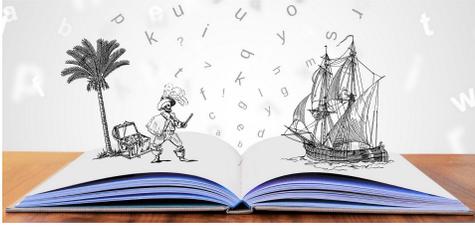
The library is back to being a busy place this year. Last week we had three librarian volunteers, a couple member patrons, and several phone calls taking advantage of our library hours. Our funeral home record collection helped a patron in Alabama solve a mystery on where her family members were buried, and helped a medical examiner's office find next-of-kin information. Patrons were using MyHeritage and Ancestry on our computers to find data they needed. When we closed at 4 pm, we felt like we'd had a successful day of family research. I hope you'll come in and use our resources—or volunteer to help someone else with their research!



In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you on our RootsTech afternoons!

We remember . . . Lynda Pheasant

We were sad to get word of the passing of long-time WAGS member Lynda Pheasant, on February 9. She held many offices and committee assignments at WAGS, and was very active in our writers' group. We'll marvel at and be inspired by her energy and creativity far into the future.



Everyone's got stories . . .

Share stories about your research, or something interesting that you've found.

Helping a friend: I'm pretty much done with my family, but now I have an opportunity to help a pal of mine learn more about her ancestors—England and Germany. It's been interesting to get back into the swing of research—all my old bad habits are there waiting for me, and I find myself having to look up something again (and again?) because I didn't write it all down. Been there? In my former research, I didn't use MyHeritage—now I'm using it a lot and I'm very impressed. They make it so easy to find and view the English census records.

Susan Rumble

“Correcting” Great Uncle Carl: My Gundersen immigrants came from Norway, one at a time. The oldest son, Karl Georg Gundersen, crossed the ocean from Norway to Canada, boarded a train and continued to Chicago. He wasn't here very long before his brothers followed. First, Ragnvald, then Johannes and then David. I dug and dug until I was sure my research was thorough enough to tell the stories of these men. I wrote and I deduced, but Great Uncle Carl still raised questions.

He arrived in 1905 but wasn't in the 1910 census. I knew he was in Chicago because I found a marriage to Ovidea in November of 1910. I discovered several birth records for his children over the next decade, each spelling his name with an O – Gunderson. I discovered his WWI draft registration, but again in 1920, his family skipped the census completely. The back of Uncle Carl's naturalization card said he was denied citizenship. What was going on?

He'd died at just 52 years old in 1937, so I ordered his death certificate to see if it carried any clues. Sure enough – he died in the House of Corrections Hospital. My mind raced – was he in jail? Did he do something that denied him citizenship? His wife was in the 1930 census with the four children. She was listed as the head of the house, living in a new location, so my questions just got bigger. I decided I needed to know the rest of the story. Why was he incarcerated? What had he done?

Life got in my way and those questions hung in the background through the summer, fall and into the holidays. As the year began, we started planning for the 2023 Gundersen Family Reunion. I got serious about finding his court records in Chicago and getting copies of his naturalization petition. I found an email and wrote a note.

A wonderful person called me from the National Archives in Chicago and told me she hadn't found any evidence of foul play or any criminal records for Carl. Carl's naturalization petition was initially denied, but a second petition was approved – and

because his naturalization was in Circuit Court, she told me how to order those petitions, so I would have the reasons. Going above and beyond, she ran a quick newspaper search and discovered that Carl had the same address as his wife when he was hit by a street car two months before he died. He was taken to the Dept. of Corrections Hospital after the accident because it was the closest hospital – not because he was an inmate.

This week, the naturalization petitions arrived. The initial petition was denied because one of his witnesses couldn't prove citizenship – no fault of Carl's. For a few months, I was sure we had a scandal in the family – but now I'm happy to assume that Uncle Carl was a good guy.

But don't count me out yet – I have an Italian side to that Chicago family with some Mafia ties and some more naturalization petitions that were denied. I'll report back when I get the final information on those!

Diane Gundersen

Duplicate photos . . .

We have many duplicate pictures of **Blewett Pass** being paved back in the 1920s. Come into the Library Tuesday or Saturday afternoons, 1 to 4 pm, to make some or all of them your very own.

Welcome

New member . . .

A special WAGS welcome goes to **Victoria Lichtenberg** of Willow, Alaska. We wish you productive research at WAGS!

Spring is just around the corner,
Susan Rumble,
WAGS President

