



Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)

Finding ancestors since 1971 . . .

President's Letter December 2024



An early Christmas present . . .

We have some **good news from the museum!** Their remodeling schedule is undergoing some changes, and they have told us we probably won't have to move until the end of 2025. The museum is planning their budget for 2025 without a move, and so we will do likewise. That gives us a **half-year more time** for locating a space and downsizing.

We're still looking for possible locations. If you can think of a place that may be available to a worthy non-profit at a lower-than-average price, contact Kari at library@wags-web.org, or be bold and do the asking! Here are **five questions** for which we'll need answers:

1. When is the office property or storage space available?
2. How large is the space?
3. What's included in the space (heat, power, internet, furniture, bookcases)?
4. What is the cost of the space?
5. How long is the contract?

No program in December . . .

Enjoy your busy Christmastime, but come back on **January 13** to hear genetic genealogist Kate Penney Howard present **“Breaking Down Brick Walls with DNA.”**

Important bits and pieces . . .

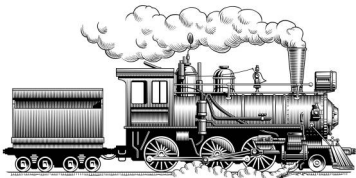
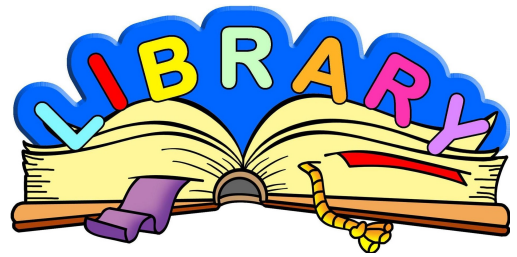
It's the end of an era—our **dues have risen themselves** from \$25 to \$30 per year for an individual WAGS membership, and from \$30 to \$35 per year for a family membership, as a result of our vote at the November 11 meeting.

AND, our **MyHeritage password** has changed. Find the new one on our website under **Members Only** and then drop down to **Discount Codes and Passwords**.

From the WAGS Library . . .

WAGS Library hours are 1:00 to 4:00, Tuesdays and Saturdays. Stop by and take a look around while we're still here!

On Tuesday, **December 10** from 10:00 to 4:00, we're having a **librarian work day**. Work as long or as little as your schedule allows. It's a great way to learn a little more about your library! Please RSVP to Library@wags-web.org to let us know you'll be there.



Follow-up on the Liberty Bell's visit to Wenatchee . . .

I was indexing the 1915 Old News from the Wenatchee World, and what should I see but a snippet from June 18:

President Hughes of the Wenatchee Commercial Club has endorsed the suggestion of D. D. Olds that Liberty Bell Day in Wenatchee be a holiday and that a big celebration be arranged. The Liberty Bell, on its journey from Philadelphia to San Francisco, will make a brief stop in Wenatchee July 13. The Liberty Bell, an historic relic, is a great attraction, but Olds' suggestion carries with it other features to make a big holiday celebration.

Oddly, no more is mentioned of this great celebration, either leading up to or on July 13, 1915.

And a fascinating World War I story . . .

WAGS has a new friend! When Tamara H. saw the notice for our November 11 program with Jill Morelli speaking on WWI, she knew she had to attend, and she graciously shared her grandfather's WWI story . . .

Tamara's grandpa, Anthony Baker, was born in Birmingham, England in 1882. He emigrated to Canada in 1905 and settled in Drumheller, Alberta, where he married Clara Fletcher in 1913.

He worked as a "turner," fashioning metal parts for use in machinery, an important skill for the world's first mechanized war, which began in late July, 1914. But despite the beginning of the conflict, Canada was experiencing serious unemployment in its armament firms. Meanwhile, Britain was ramping up its munitions manufacturing to fever pitch. In late 1914 and 1915, nearly 1,700 Canadian mechanics were recruited to work in British munitions factories.



Anthony Baker

Anthony took his wife and infant son, and joined 37 others from Alberta on the journey to England. They arrived mid-August 1915. Anthony worked in the Woolwich Arsenal, just east of London across the Thames River.

The arsenal was bombed in a German Zeppelin raid on the night of October 13, 1915. Anthony lost an arm in that attack, and returned to Canada in February of 1916. The Bakers then lived in Grand Forks B.C. and Anthony delivered the mail from 1923 to 1943. He passed away September 24, 1965.

As Tamara was researching the details of her grandfather's story, she connected with WWI historian Steve Clifford (aka Jakealoo) of Victoria, B.C. He knew some about the Zeppelin bombings but was not as familiar with Canadian mechanics going to England. He collaborated with author Ian Castle, who has written a book about the Zeppelin raids. They were able to pinpoint the day, time and place of the bombing that injured Anthony Baker.

Steve Clifford's website is [Doing Our Bit: Military and Family History Research](#). There you'll find the articles "[British Munitions Workers Recruited From Canada in 1915](#)" and "[Remembering Anthony Baker, Woolwich Arsenal Mechanic](#)" among many others dealing with the two World Wars.

Ian Castle wrote the book *Zeppelin Onslaught* and can be found at [Zeppelin Raids, Gothas and 'Giants'](#) website.

Thanks again, Tamara, for sharing with us!



A time to give . . .

Once again we're excited to participate in the Community Foundation's **Give NCW Campaign** as WAGS' main fundraiser of the year. This annual event gives the community an opportunity to donate to one or many nonprofit organizations from **Thanksgiving Day to December 31**. WAGS is one of 86 organizations participating this year. Here are the particulars,

We're inviting you to donate to WAGS by participating in Give NCW, the yearly fundraising campaign of the Community Foundation of North Central Washington, supporting local nonprofits. **You'll be able to donate to WAGS from Thanksgiving Day to December 31. [Here's your link.](#)**

But can't I just donate directly to WAGS? Yes, you can, but if WAGS receives donations of \$1,000 or more *through Give NCW*, we will be eligible for a share of the "Give to All" funds. So we hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to support us! The minimum donation is just \$10, and 100% of your designated donation directly supports WAGS. **Make your check out to Community Foundation of NCW, with WAGS on the memo line;** get it to the WAGS Library by December 30, and we'll be happy to deliver it to CFNCW for you. OR, give online [here](#). Thanks in advance for your participation!

December board meeting

The WAGS board will meet virtually on **Wednesday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m.**

Topic: WAGS Board Zoom Meeting

Time: Dec 11, 2024 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88120514746?pwd=awOGLWzW7TCUYI9PR9GPWntgPglqqi.1>

Meeting ID: 881 2051 4746 Passcode: December



WAGS Library hours . . .

Tuesday and Saturday afternoons, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Located in the Museum Annex Building, corner of Mission and Yakima.

Contact WAGS at Info@wags-web.org or Library@wags-web.org.

FamilySearch Center hours . . .

Tuesday 1-4 pm; 7-9 pm

Wednesday 1-4 pm; 7-9 pm (Hank's night)

Thursday 1-4 pm



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 667 10th Street NE, East Wenatchee
(entrance is located on the west side of the building)



Rootstech

March 6-8, 2025

Live at Salt Lake City and via Zoom

See more information at

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/home>

Wishing you a Christmas full of wonder,
savoring your family ties, past and present
Susan Rumble, WAGS President
and your WAGS Board

