



# Washington State Genealogical Society

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS - 2003

The following outstanding volunteers, nominated and honored by their local societies, were recognized at the annual meeting of Washington State Genealogical Society at Richland, Washington, on 19 September 2003.

Janet Glee Nixon Baccus	Region 2 - Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society
Maxine Zabel Bissell	Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society
Ellen Kennedy Brzoska	Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society
Clarence Durham	Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society
Lora Eccles	Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society
John Fisher	Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Virginia DeVine Fitzpatrick	Region 3 - Clallam County Genealogical Society
Carol Seaman Foss	Region 3 - Clallam County Genealogical Society
Mary Louise Powell Gorham	Region 2 - Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society
Phylis Fakler Jorgenson	Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society
Merrily Gilbert Lawson	Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society
Eileen Martin	Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society
Frank L. McLean	Washington State Genealogical Society
Nancy Rowland Parker	Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society
Lois Price	Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society
Hazel Walters Rasar	Washington State Genealogical Society
	Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Ralph Seefeld	Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island
Lee Smith	Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society
Anna Tetreau	Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society
R. Ann Ingram Wright	Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island

### 2003 - Washington State Genealogical Society

**Frank L. McLean**, of Yakima, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Frank McLean has distinguished himself in support of the Washington State Genealogical Society and to researchers everywhere with links to Washington State families through his management of the Society's Pioneer Certificate program and his technical support and continuous efforts toward providing an every-name index of the 1910 census of Washington State. He also has served as President and Vice President of the Society, and chaired the Membership and Newsletter Committees. He performed a major portion of the data entry effort required to convert the Pioneer Certificate applications into the three-volume, hardbound book set, *Washington Pioneers*. He also coordinated with the Washington State Library to ensure microfilming of the records submitted by the public to substantiate the pioneer submissions.

### 2003 - Washington State Genealogical Society

**Hazel Walters Rasar**, of Mount Vernon, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Washington State Genealogical Society. Hazel Rasar distinguished herself in support of the Washington State Genealogical Society and to the many genealogical societies active in the State through her untiring efforts when, for more than 3 years, she was Editor of the State Society's newsletter and as a valued member of the Education Committee. While on the Society's Board, she took the initiative to develop maps for Board members to study when the State Society was considering a restructure of the coverage for regional representatives. She was active in the leadership of the Society's Region One, where she helped organize staff support for the State Conference when it was held in Bellingham. As a genealogical lecturer, she has presented many interesting programs to several societies. She is an exceptionally versatile leader whose abilities and impact on the State Society's Board will be hard to match.

### 2003 - Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island

**Ralph Seefeld**, of Freeland, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Ralph Seefeld distinguished himself in support of Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island and other Washington State researchers through his untiring efforts in preserving records of Island County, Washington. With the help of other Society members, he surveyed all of the cemeteries in the county, which includes both Whidbey Island and Camano Island, a monumental and time-consuming task. The results were posted on the web and published in book form which is available to the public. He also transcribed several territorial and state censuses of Island County from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These results were posted on the Internet and submitted to the office of Washington State's Secretary of State for posting on their website. Ralph has volunteered additional time and effort to an ongoing project collecting and printing obituaries of Island County, which have been shared with the Island County Historical Society for copying. While going through the newspapers, he also collects information on births, marriages, divorces and naturalizations for future entry onto the website.

2003 - Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island

**R. Ann Ingram Wright**, of Clinton, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island. Ann Wright distinguished herself through her untiring support of Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island. From the very inception of the Society in 1994, she has chaired committees to upgrade the organization's genealogy club status to the full non-profit Society status and to develop the Society's bylaws and standing rules. Over the years she served as President, Vice President, Field Trip Director, Education Director, and currently the Society's Treasurer. Ann has volunteered countless hours for and chaired numerous fund-raising projects, from rummage sales to publishing a cookbook. She was instrumental in creating many ongoing fund raisers, such as the door prize given at the monthly meetings. She presented monthly Beginning Genealogy education programs to Society members and held an evening class for the public at a local school. She also found time to work with other members on the Cemetery Book Committee.

2003 - Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

**Hazel Walters Rasar**, of Mount Vernon, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Hazel Rasar has distinguished herself in support of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her untiring efforts to disseminate genealogical data. She has been editor of the Society's newsletter, is currently computerizing all important information from the Society's obituary files and performing data entry of transcribed information about the cemeteries in Skagit County. She is a past president of the Society, a genealogical instructor, has chaired a number of committees, and volunteers time to provide genealogical assistance at the Burlington library.

2003 - Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

**John Fisher**, of Anacortes, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. John Fisher has distinguished himself in support of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society through unselfish and untiring leadership efforts. He served as President of the Society and stepped back in to finish another term when his successor moved out of the area, vacating the position. He initiated a number of innovative ways to raise funds for the Society, volunteers his time to provide genealogical assistance with the Society's collection at the Burlington library, and has supervised and worked on many projects, including the reading of cemeteries for publication and indexing a major history of Skagit County.

2003 - Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society

**Phylis Fakler Jorgenson**, of Lynnwood, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Sno-Isle Genealogical Society. Phylis Jorgenson has distinguished herself in support of the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society through her persistent and dauntless efforts to secure an agreement between the City of Lynnwood and the Society granting the use of the Humble Cottage in Alderwood Heritage Park for the Society's Library.

### 2003 - Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society

**Merrily Gilbert Lawson**, of Bellingham, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Whatcom Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Merrily Lawson has distinguished herself in support of the Whatcom Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her untiring efforts to make genealogically significant data concerning Whatcom County families available to all family history researchers. She has been editor of the Society's quarterly journal for ten years, publishing extracts from local newspapers, government records and privately owned documents. She also organized and supervised conversion of the Society's every-name index of the 1910 census of Whatcom County to fill the requirements of the State Society project. She led the development of an every-name index for the Society's 12 volumes of county cemetery records, and assisted with the conversion of these publications, and index, into a single compact disk version.

### 2003 - Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society

**Nancy Rowland Parker**, of Bellingham, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Whatcom Genealogical Society. Nancy Parker has distinguished herself in untiring support of the Whatcom Genealogical Society as Chair of the Society's Membership Committee for more than eight years. She greets the members and visitors as they enter the meeting room, ensures they sign in and provides the preprinted name tags for the members to wear. She notifies members when dues need to be paid and publishes the membership directory. Over the years, she also has chaired the Records Committee and the Publicity Committee. Nancy also has helped with several projects, including the 1910 census index conversion and publication of the cemetery records index. She has consistently provided the type of steady administrative support needed, but often overlooked, in all organizations.

### 2003 - Region 2 - Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society

**Janet Glee Nixon Baccus**, of Puyallup, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of significant genealogical value to Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in Washington State families. Janet Baccus distinguished herself through her untiring efforts in conducting several records preservation projects of local and statewide significance. A member of the Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society since 1974, she has been its Project Chairman since 1978. She put together a family history of her maiden family name, Nixon in 1976, completed a 400+ page history of her hometown area of Roy, Pierce County, in 1995, and is working on three additional book projects. She was instrumental in compiling the Tacoma Pierce County Auditor's Census of 1892, and is coordinating volunteer efforts on a revision of the Tacoma birth and death records from 1898 to 1909. She is a charter member of Washington State Genealogical Society, serving as its beginning Secretary, and helped with data entry for the Washington Pioneers books published in 1992 by the State Society. She serves as President of the Heritage League of Pierce County which has published a four-volume history of Pierce County. She has taught genealogy classes in local colleges and universities, conducted seminars and wrote a genealogy column for several years. Janet has branched out into doing adoption searches as a certified and licensed Confidential Intermediary with the Superior Courts of Washington.

2003 - Region 2 - Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society

**Mary Louise Powell Gorham**, of Tacoma, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society. Mary Gorham has made outstanding contributions to the operation and well-being of Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society through her service as Secretary Treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Chairman for the annual seminar, and in her current position as Librarian. She initiated and has maintained the Society's mailing list for the past 20 years. She developed the "Topical Quick Reference to the Genealogy Collection of Tacoma Public Library," an ongoing database project which has been published and sold by the Society in several editions and made available for patron use in the Genealogy Collection at Tacoma Public Library. With input from Society members, Mary oversees the Society's donation of new books to this collection amounting to several thousand dollars annually.

2003 - Region 3 - Clallam County Genealogical Society

**Virginia DeVine Fitzpatrick**, of Port Angeles, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Clallam County Genealogical Society. Virginia Fitzpatrick distinguished herself in support of Clallam County Genealogical Society through her unselfish and untiring efforts to establish that Society and by serving as its president at least six times over the past twenty two years. In addition, she has worked to establish the genealogy library and to maintain it in its various moves through the years, and to support the establishment of the library in the Lincoln School Complex in Port Angeles—its last and ultimate home. She continues to work on the pioneer files and serve as query editor, as well as a supporting the Clallam County Historical Society in its collaboration with the Genealogical Society.

2003 - Region 3 - Clallam County Genealogical Society

**Carol Seaman Foss**, of Port Angeles, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Clallam County Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Carol Foss distinguished herself in support of the Clallam County Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her untiring efforts to index the 1930 census of Clallam County; her efforts initiating the indexing of Clallam County Native American tribal censuses; her work with the Port Angeles Library and members of the Society to index Clallam County obituaries which led to the consolidation of efforts in the Society library obituary project; and her diligent work on several other similar projects.

2003 - Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society

**Clarence Durham**, of Hoquiam, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Grays Harbor Genealogical Society. Clarence Durham has distinguished himself in support of the Grays Harbor Genealogical Society through his unselfish and untiring efforts to establish and construct the Society's research library. He headed a committee to find potential locations, secured a location with the Aberdeen city museum, got donations for materials, wired and did the carpentry for the room, and did the painting. Clarence has many hundreds of hours in bringing the Society's dream to reality. The Society now has a functional library, open to the public and growing daily.

2003 - Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society

**Anna Tetreau**, of Montesano, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Grays Harbor Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Anna Tetreau has distinguished herself in support of the Grays Harbor Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her untiring efforts to provide a well organized and useful genealogical library collection. She has set up all the records and books in the library using her experience as a librarian at the University of Washington. The Society's entire library is being cataloged using the Dewey Decimal System. Anna has spent countless hours moving and restoring the books onto new shelves in the Society's newly established library location.

2003 - Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society

**Lora Eccles**, of Port Townsend, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Jefferson County Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Lora Eccles has distinguished herself in support of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her untiring efforts coordinating the extraction of obituaries from 135 years of the local newspaper, filling seventeen 3-ring binders with copies, and creating a name index for the files. She continues to update the project to ensure researchers can work with the most complete obituary files available.

2003 - Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society

**Eileen Martin**, of Port Townsend, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Jefferson County Genealogical Society. Eileen Martin has distinguished herself in support of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society through her unselfish and untiring leadership efforts. She has served as President for four terms, and as Program Chairman, Coordinator of the Cemetery Update project, Coordinator of Extractions from the local newspaper, and as a member of the Executive Committee.

2003 - Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society

**Maxine Zabel Bissell**, of Yakima, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. Maxine Bissell has distinguished herself in support of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society through her unselfish efforts as co-founder of the Society, in her activities as the Society's President and Past President, and as Treasurer for 12 years. She also is recognized for her untiring commitment to the operation of the Society's Library through the organization of the staff and fundraising efforts. She is someone to look up to and to emulate.

2003 - Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society

**Ellen Kennedy Brzoska**, of Yakima, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Yakima Valley Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Ellen Brzoska has distinguished herself in support of Yakima Valley Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her unselfish efforts as Head Librarian for the Society. She has used her experience and education to catalogue and maintain the

library holdings, which have created a user-friendly library rivaling many libraries in larger cities. Her untiring devotion to teaching others about genealogy is apparent in the many seminars, lectures and workshop presentations she has given. Genealogical research, records preservation and the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Library are the joys of her retirement years.

#### 2003 - Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society

**Lois Price**, of Richland, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Tri-City Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Lois Price distinguished herself in support of Tri-City Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her unselfish efforts in preserving records and maintaining a significant collection of genealogical material in the Society's library. In the 1980s, she assumed the position of Librarian, a post she has held for many years. She headed a committee that undertook the first complete inventory of the Society's holdings, involving several thousand books and bound periodicals. She worked on projects creating an index of the 1910 census of Franklin County and cataloging old newspapers and other materials held by Franklin County Historical Society. She culls the materials donated by members to determine which are needed in the library and which can go to the annual fund-raising auction. She headed the effort to collate and bind research material received by the Society, and she helped obtain binding services for members who wish to preserve their own collections in a permanent fashion.

#### 2003 - Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society

**Lee Smith**, of Richland, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Tri-City Genealogical Society. Lee Smith distinguished himself in support of Tri-City Genealogical Society through his untiring efforts to contribute to the Society's publications, to help ensure Society meetings run smoothly, and to assist others in their research efforts. He has served on the Society's Board for many years, and assumed the position of Publications Committee Chair upon the resignation of his predecessor. Prior to this he had been the editor of the Society's Bulletin, which is published 3-4 times per year. After a new Publications Committee Chair was appointed, Lee returned to the post of editor full time, performing this function almost single-handedly. He attends Society meeting with great regularity, getting there early to help set up and staying late to help put things away. He also is the guardian of the Society's sound system and other equipment, making sure they are available at each gathering. This past spring, Lee led a group of researchers to use the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. For several days he helped the handful of members to use the Library's resources to best advantage. Lee is a tremendous asset to our Society. His constant support and many hours of labor have helped ensure the Society's success.