



Washington State Genealogical Society

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS - 2005

The following outstanding volunteers, nominated and honored by their local societies, were recognized at the annual meeting of Washington State Genealogical Society at Yakima, Washington, on 23 April 2005.

Barbara Stuart Brazington	Region 7 - Eastern Washington Genealogical Society
Catherine Cook	Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society
Clark Denise	Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society
Louie Guizzetti	Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society
Pamela Hagedorn	Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society
Mary Hahn	Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society
Peggy Hoaglin	Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society
Phil Kohl	Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society
Marva Lee Wohlman Langsted	Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society
Frank L. McLean	Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society
Gero Mitschelan	Region 8 - Okanogan County Genealogical Society
Maggie Mitschelan	Region 8 - Okanogan County Genealogical Society
Opal I. Myhres	Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society
Anne Nolan	Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society
Marge Samuelson	Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society
Ralph Seefeld	Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island
Margaret Robe Summitt	Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society
Carole M. Thul	Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society
Jeanne McAlexander Tomlin	Region 7 - Eastern Washington Genealogical Society
Diane Wagner	Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island
Robert Graham Witherspoon	Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society

2005 - Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island

Ralph Seefeld, of Coupeville, 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 researcher through his efforts to preserve important genealogical data. With the help of other society members Ralph surveyed all of the cemeteries in Island County (both Whidbey Island and Camano Island). The results were then posted on the web and published in book form which is available to the public. Ralph also transcribed several territorial and state censuses of Island County from the 19th century. These were posted on the web and submitted to the Secretary of State's office for posting on their web site. Ralph's ongoing project is the collection and printing of obituaries of Island County. To date there are 40 2-inch binders of obituaries. Copies have been shared with the Island County Historical Society. While going through newspapers, Ralph has also been collecting information on births, marriages, divorces and naturalizations.

2005 - Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island

Diane Wagner, of Coupeville, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island. Diana Wagner distinguished herself in support of the Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island as librarian of the Society's collection from September 2000 to June 2004. Working with Myrna Liddell, librarian at the LDS Family History Center Langley, she helped establish a long term loan arrangement to house the book collection with the LDS collection. After determining that a geographically based classification system would work best, Diana and Myrna cataloged and classified our collection accordingly by author and title with all other library identification information included. They also used zip codes or the first three letters of a country's name on the spine. After the books were moved to the Family History Center, Diana made a list of all of our books and subsequently it was added to the Society's website.

2005 - Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society

Margaret Robe Summitt, of Everett, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to Sno-Isle Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Dr. Margaret Robe Summitt has distinguished herself in support of all family and local history researchers by editing *The Sounder*, the quarterly journal of the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society. Under her direction, *The Sounder* is providing hitherto unpublished records, new material and transcriptions of rediscovered data. As editor, Dr. Summitt collects these materials and works with authors and compilers to produce quality reference sources. Somehow she finds time to present programs on a plethora of subjects not only for SIGS members, but for other area genealogical societies as well.

2005 - Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society

Carole M. Thul, of Bothell, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Sno-Isle Genealogical Society. Carole Thul has distinguished herself in untiring support of the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society by serving

as the head of the Society's Library Committee. She has directed a workable acquisition, cataloging, storage and retrieval system for the SIGS library. During her watch, the Society's library holdings will have been moved three times - the final time will be to the Humble House at Lynnwood's new Heritage Park. Through all the confusion of packing and repacking, Carole has been able to maintain a professional library system often personally hunting down and copying stored references for researchers.

2005 - Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society

MarvaLee Wohlman Langsted, formerly of Blaine, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Whatcom Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Lee Langsted 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 spent many hours helping to research and extract information from the early marriage records of Whatcom County for publication in the Society's journal and as additional volumes of records for sale by the Society. She also undertook a massive project to index local obituaries, dating from 1945 through 1995, which had been clipped from newspapers and pasted to file cards. Before she moved to Everett, Washington, she carefully indexed thousands of these obituaries to improve the usefulness of this collection to Whatcom County family history researchers. Lee's willingness to serve, her reliability and the eagerness to help accomplish the Society's projects and goals are greatly appreciated. She will be missed.

2005 - Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society

Robert Graham Witherspoon, of Bellingham, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Whatcom Genealogical Society. Bob Witherspoon has distinguished himself in untiring support of the Whatcom Genealogical Society in many capacities over the past fifteen years. He first volunteered to help publish the Society's quarterly journal, later becoming its editor for two years. He was elected as President of the Society, serving more than two terms and overseeing the change in the Society's fiscal year. He has been Chair of the Society's Education Committee for several years, providing excellent program speakers for the general meetings and periodic seminars. He is a member of the Library Committee, serving as one of the genealogy aides at the Bellingham Public Library, and helps with research requests received from outside the local area. Because of his significant knowledge of local research resources, the Bellingham Public Library Research Librarians refer many calls to him for resolution. Bob is one of the key leaders of the Whatcom Genealogical Society.

2005 - Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society

Catherine Cook 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. Catherine Cook is a long-valued member of the Grays Harbor Genealogical Society and has distinguished herself most notably as the Society's obituary chairperson for the past 10 years. Her skill and attention to detail are evident by the fact that, during her tenure, the obituary

file has grown to a 40,000-plus card file. She has spent countless hours over the past years extracting obituaries from various local newspapers, as far back as they have been printed. Additions to this file are made on a daily basis, and these records are well used by patrons in the Society's research library. Besides the card file, Catherine has indexed the obituaries in a computer database, noting where they can be found in the newspapers, and she updates the database monthly. Catherine's contribution to the Society and its library has greatly enriched their effectiveness in furthering the research process for family historians.

2005 - Region 3 - Grays Harbor Genealogical Society

Pamela Hagedorn is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Grays Harbor Genealogical Society. Pamela Hagedorn is recognized for her exceptional and consistent support of the work and goals of the Grays Harbor Genealogical Society. She has been a valuable member since 1997 and has worn many hats for the Society. She has been the Society treasurer for seven years. Her skill and attention to detail are evidenced by the fact that during her tenure the books were always ready for the finance committee to audit, consistently free of errors, and that the Society has maintained a healthy financial status. Pamela also found time to serve as Publicity Chair, Newsletter Co-Editor, Cookbook Co-Editor, Membership Chair, and Library Committee member. She volunteers once a month at the Elma Family History Library, helping others by sharing her research expertise. No task is too big or too small for her. She never says "no" and is always willing to take on a project or help another member complete an assignment. Pamela's enthusiasm and dedication to improving the Society are exceptional and greatly appreciated by its members. Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island (Region 1)

2005 - Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society

Phil Kohl, of Port Townsend, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Jefferson County Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Phil Kohl distinguished himself in support of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through his creation of a computerized Index, known as the "Kiosk", to 47 databases of containing Jefferson County genealogical data, and by publishing portions of the information on the society website. Further, he has set high standards for accurate data extraction, and diligently works with other volunteers to achieve them. He was leader of the team of volunteers that extracted Jefferson County funeral home records in 2000 and 2001. The Society's web page is another of Phil's creations, and he continues to maintain and improve the access to records it affords to local and distant researchers.

2005 - Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society

Marge Samuelson, of Port Townsend, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Jefferson County Genealogical Society. Marge Samuelson has distinguished herself in untiring support of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society. She has served as both the Treasurer and the Membership Chairwoman for the past 6 years. In addition she has been the editor of our Newsletter for a period of 4 years, and she continues to write the County History section of the newsletter. She has coordinated the Society's booth at the Jefferson

County fair, including many excellent displays, and has faithfully represented the Society at the Quilcene Community Fair. Marge also is the group's historian, maintaining the official scrapbook. As a weekly library volunteer, she has been responsible for the extraction of data from many of the Jefferson County Historical Society sources. She is currently working on updating one of the county cemetery listings. Marge provides the essential "glue" that makes a genealogy society work.

2005 - Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society

Frank L. McLean, 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. Frank McLean has distinguished himself in support of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through his untiring efforts to preserve important records. His efforts include copying and extracting the school census records for Yakima County from 1900-1930, and helping the Society to establish a Media Reference Library as well as diligent work on several other similar projects.

2005 - Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society

Opal I. Myhres, of Yakima, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. Opal Myhres has distinguished herself in untiring support and outstanding leadership of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. Over the years she has served as President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and as a member of the Audit Committee. She also has served as a volunteer librarian in the Society's library, and has helped with several projects, including the school census extraction and serving coffee at Indian John Rest Stop. Opal has consistently provided the type of steady administrative support needed, but often overlooked, in all organizations.

2005 - Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society

Clark Denise, of Kennewick, 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. Clark Denise distinguished himself in support of Tri-City Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through his leadership in a project to preserve, index, and make accessible the North Light Studio photographic collection of 16,000 images held by the Columbia River Exhibition of History Science and Technology (CREHST) in Richland. He recognized the need for making the collection accessible to family historians so that copies of the pictures could be obtained. He took the initiative and teamed with Anne Nolan to establish the process for accomplishing this major indexing project. Clark followed through by being available to open the building and help other TCGS member volunteers transcribe names, addresses and other information that would identify the photo packet, thus preserving those records.

2005 - Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society

Mary Hahn, of Richland, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Tri-City Genealogical Society. Mary Hahn distinguished herself in untiring support of the Tri-City Genealogical Society as

President from 1988 to 1990 and Membership Chairman from 1990 to 2003. At meetings, she greeted members and guests as they arrived, issued society memberships and managed the Society's collection of permanent nametags. Outside of the meetings she picked up and distributed the mail, sent welcome notes to new members and guests, identified the need and sent sympathy cards to members, maintained the membership and exchanges lists, notified members of membership renewal, and provided mailing labels for the Society's bulletin. Over the years she has been involved in many other society activities including being the yard-sale chairman for several years, helping to copy and collate the newsletter, and preparing packets for seminar attendees. In the words of one member, "You name it, Mary has helped with it".

2005 - Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society

Anne Nolan, 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. Anne Nolan distinguished herself in support of Tri-City Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through her technical computer skills and untiring data entry efforts in a project to preserve, index, and make accessible the North Light Studio photographic collection of 16,000 images held by the Columbia River Exhibition of History Science and Technology (CREHST) in Richland. Working with Clark Denise to develop the process for indexing the collection, she designed the database and did the data entry for the 16,000 records. Anne was instrumental in making the collection accessible to family historians so that copies of the pictures could be obtained. Through her effort and help with this project, the information is now available on the CREHST website, and photographic or electronic copies made from the negatives are available from CREHST, Eastern Washington Genealogical Society (Region 7)

2005 - Region 7 - Eastern Washington Genealogical Society

Barbara Stuart Brazington, of Nine Mile Falls, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society. Barbara Brazington has distinguished herself in untiring support of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society as a volunteer library assistant, Chair of the Acquisitions Committee, and team member on data extraction projects. As a volunteer library assistant she often expends 30 or more hours per month helping visiting researchers to effectively use the large genealogy collection available in the Spokane Public Library. She chairs the Society's committee responsible for identifying and acquiring publications, books, microforms and compact disks for donation and inclusion in the Library's genealogy collection. She also works closely with the Library's webmaster to ensure their link to the Society's website is updated whenever necessary. Barbara also has contributed many hours working on extraction projects, such as the 1910 census of Washington State, the 1889 Auditor's Census of Whitman County, and the Spokane County World War One History project. Her volunteer efforts contribute immensely to the vitality and effectiveness of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society.

2005 - Region 7 - Eastern Washington Genealogical Society

Jeanne McAlexander Tomlin, of Spokane, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Jeanne Tomlin has distinguished herself for many years as Chair of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society's Extraction Committee. Under her leadership teams of volunteers have collected, collated and made public a large variety of important and interesting information which otherwise would have remained hidden. Indexes has been organized and provided for the 1912 Spokane County Plat Book and for the records of several funeral homes which operated in the Spokane area. A unique index has been constructed to pictures in selected books housed in the Spokane Public Library's Northwest History Room, which contains the Fuller Collection, the Spokane House History, and photograph and map collections. The committee also has indexed 17 volumes of the *Northwest Mining Truth*, a local mining industry newspaper dating from 1916, and 37 volumes of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, a journal devoted to history and culture of the northwest United States, Alaska and western Canada. A current project of Jeanne's Extraction Committee is to index the biographical material, some 25 drawers of obituaries, newspaper articles, etc., housed at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, known in Spokane as "The MAC." Jeanne Tomlin, and the Extraction Committee she leads, have contributed immensely to the resources available for historical and genealogical research.

2005 - Region 8 - Okanogan County Genealogical Society

Gero Mitschelan, of Okanogan, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of significant genealogical value to Okanogan County Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in Washington State families. Gero Mitschelan has distinguished himself with his outstanding efforts in preservation of important records through his guidance in the publication of Okanogan County Genealogical Society's two books: "*Okanogan County Washington Cemetery Records*" and "*Okanogan County Vital Statistics: A Chronology of Vital Statistics Reported in the Omak Chronicle, 1910 Through 1934.*" He was responsible for obtaining exact physical locations of the cemeteries and driving instructions to reach them. His computer skills were invaluable in editing books for publication, updating the Society computer system and instructing members in its use. Gero also built a special shelf system for the storage of bound copies of the Omak Chronicle from 1910 to the present. He has served as the Society's Treasurer for the past 10-plus years and is always available to give a helping hand were needed.

2005 - Region 8 - Okanogan County Genealogical Society

Maggie Mitschelan, of Okanogan, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Okanogan County Genealogical Society. Maggie Mitschelan is a founding member of the Okanogan County Genealogical Society and served as its President for the first four years of its existence. She also has served as Vice President, Treasurer and as a Board member in the intervening years. As the Society's primary PR person, she has kept the public informed of Society meetings, workshops and activities through the media. When Wenatchee Valley College asked the Society to teach a class on genealogy, Maggie set up the lesson plans and co-taught the class with other society members. Maggie was

instrumental in the publication of the Society's two books: "*Okanogan County Cemetery Records*" and "*Okanogan County Vital Statistics: A Chronology of Vital Statistics Reported in the Omak Chronicle, 1910 Through 1934.*" Maggie is always ready to aid anyone in their search for family data. She has formatted and typed the Society's library catalogue and the early Okanogan County vital records, available in booklets or on the Society's computer.

2005 - Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society

Louie Guizzetti, of Wenatchee, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Louie Guizzetti has worked on many fronts for the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society, including serving as its President for the past three-plus years. However, his biggest project, the reading and organizing all records associated with Wenatchee City Cemetery, may be the most useful. In addition to reading every stone at least twice, he searched through old maps and several old volumes to compile a database. He also included a plat map collection and burial permit collection, which can be useful. His project took about two and a half years, and has been kept up to date on a monthly basis ever since. He also aided in the identification of many unknown gravesites and continues to work for cemetery improvements. Louie notes that this project took a great deal more effort than his Master's degree paper.

2005 - Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society

Peggy Hoaglin, of Wenatchee, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society. Peggy Hoaglin's 1984 visit to the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) Library proved to be such a pleasant experience, she chose to become involved herself. Since then she has been a tireless worker for the Society, taking on tasks as varied as routine cleaning to complete, thorough inventories of the library collection. Appointed as Chief Librarian, she has helped develop an excellent collection of genealogical materials of all sorts. Peggy warmly greets patrons, determines the areas and names they are researching, and helps them find valuable material in the library and elsewhere. She invites patrons to become WAGS members and, regardless, to use the library often. Peggy greets most returning guests by name and has an exceptional memory for the family research materials of the library collection. For more than 20 years, Peggy has worked tirelessly to expand and improve the WAGS Library and to provide the best assistance possible to its patrons.