



Washington State Genealogical Society

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS - 2008

The following outstanding volunteers, nominated and honored by their local societies, were recognized at the annual meeting of Washington State Genealogical Society at Mount Vernon, Washington, on 17 May 2008.

Ray Baalman	Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society
Joan Buhler	Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society
Dot and Earl Derry	Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society
Harriet Wahlstrand DeWolfe	Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island
Callie Jo Eli	Region 8 - Chelan Valley Genealogical Society
Carol Seaman Foss	Region 3 - Clallam County Genealogical Society
Betty Lou (Deeback) Gaeng	Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society
Phyllis Frenald Griffith	Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society
Dan Irving	Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society
Susan Koehler	Region 3 - Clallam County Genealogical Society
Roger W. May	Region 7 - Northeast Washington Genealogical Society
Jeffery M. Moon	Region 4 - Lewis County Genealogical Society
Charles and Carroll Allen Munson	Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society
Roger H. Newman	Washington State Genealogical Society
Donna Potter Phillips	Region 7 - Eastern Washington Genealogical Society
Clar Pratt	Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society
Marietta Colbern Roth	Region 1 - Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society
Alice Loree Collins Sanders	Region 4 - Lower Columbia Genealogical Society
Carol McFeron Signett	Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society
Laura LaVerne Pemberton Sparr	Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Gayle and Richard Stephens	Region 4 - Lewis County Genealogical Society
Arnold Kendrick Stewart	Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Joan Ardith Martin Udd	Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society
Elaine Stahl Wasil	Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society
Maureen Mae White	Region 8 - Chelan Valley Genealogical Society

2008 - Washington State Genealogical Society

Roger H. Newman, of Shelton, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Washington State Genealogical Society. Roger Newman worked quietly behind the scenes for many years as the Society's Corresponding Secretary, ensuring the mail received at the Society's Olympia post office box was efficiently and accurately distributed to the various officers and Board members in other parts of the state. The State Society has no library or office of its own, so when research queries were received, Roger took it upon himself to use the State Library, Archives and other resources to provide an answer or suggest a solution. Roger also voiced the Society's interest and concerns to State Legislators and the Secretary of State's office when continued open access the State Library collections was threatened. To support distribution of the Society's Newsletter, journal and membership directory, he learned the ins and outs of the bulk mail system, and when the committees shipped boxes of these documents to his home, he drove them to the bulk mail facility for processing. Roger fulfilled a critical role in the operation of the State Society with exceptional care, patience and humor. Well done, Roger.

2008 - Region 1 - Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island

Harriet Wahlstrand DeWolfe, of Freeland, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island. Harriet DeWolfe is recognized for her outstanding support, management and leadership of the Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island. She was the Society's second President and served before that as Treasurer. She was Program Director four years, raising the level of the Society's programs to an extraordinarily high level and improving the speaker communication process. As the Seminar Chairperson for three seminars she distinguished herself and her committee. Harriet researched nationally known genealogical speakers and their potential topics. Because of her efforts the Society has enjoyed inspiring seminars with superb speakers. Outstanding in her organizational capabilities, she followed the seminars to the end by creating and collecting feedback surveys for future seminars. Harriet can always be counted on as a voice of reason if a subject becomes contentious. She has a wonderful way of getting to the heart of matters and expressing a common sense approach for resolution. She is an exceptional asset for the Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island and is greatly appreciated.

2008 - Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Laura LaVerne Pemberton-Sparr, of Lynnwood, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. Laura Sparr became interested in Genealogy and Family History, attending many classes and eventually becoming an instructor of genealogical research. Her efforts and knowledge in this endeavor have gained her the respect of the genealogical community both locally and nationally. She has been an active member and teacher of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society since 1993. She has distinguished herself in continuing support of the Society and, in 1997, she was granted a Life Membership in the Society for her contributions. She has been an active Board member for the past six years and served four years as the Society's President. She has also served as Parliamentarian and is currently serving as Education Chair. In this capacity, she arranges field trips to places of interest for research and is currently instructor of genealogical topics, teaching structured classes twice yearly to anyone interested in learning about genealogy. She is an exceptional asset and friend to the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.

2008 - Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Arnold Kendrick Stewart, of LaConner, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in genealogy and family history. Arnold Stewart has been an active member of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society since 1993 and has distinguished himself in support of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and other Washington State researchers through his untiring efforts to disseminate genealogical data. Arnold has spent many years as a Board member of the society. He has been extremely active on the publication committee, both as a chairperson and a current member. He spent many hours assisting with the photocopying of all funeral home records in Skagit County. He has shown adeptness in the extraction and proofing of final copies of the census and cemetery series. He has spent much of his time and effort in getting society publications printed and assembled, including comb binding, and readying them for sale by the Society. For his dedication and support of the Society, Arnold was awarded a Life Membership in 1996. Arnold is an impressive leader of the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.

2008 - Region 1 - Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Joan Ardith Martin Udd, of Bayview, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in genealogy and family history. Joan Udd retired after spending 29 years as an elementary school librarian, joined Skagit Valley Genealogical Society in 1996, and became the society's librarian in 2000 and a member of the Society's Board. She has distinguished herself through her untiring efforts as society librarian. She cataloged all of the Society's holdings, which are housed at the Burlington Public Library. With her committee, she has greatly increased the holdings through purchase and donations. The new acquisitions were quickly processed to the collection for use by the library patrons. She has worked tirelessly over the past year with the Public Library staff to arrange and prepare the Society's collection for the move to the newly constructed library building. This planning maximized the use of the available space, and organized the files for ease in researching in the library. She has made herself available to her committee and to patrons researching in the Society's collection and has developed a schedule for volunteers serving at the library. Joan has been an active member and invaluable participant at Skagit Valley Genealogical Society meetings.

2008 - Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society

Betty Lou (Deeback) Gaeng, of Lynnwood, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Betty Gaeng has been leading an ongoing research project in gathering and preserving records relating to the native tribes of Snohomish County. She is guiding the translation and preservation of original diaries, letters and other materials of Father Eugene Chirouse, the first missionary to the Indians of the Tulalip Agency. She is also gathering census, allotment, land patent and other records of the native tribes of Puget Sound for the first time into one place, for the benefit of researchers into their genealogies. For these projects the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society has received substantial grants from the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes. Betty's leadership and efforts are greatly appreciated.

2008 - Region 1 - Sno-Isle Genealogical Society

Dan Irving, of Brier, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society. Patrons of the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society Research Library owe a debt to Dan Irving for his craftsmanship in building bookshelves, book cases, tables and other expertly fashioned wooden fixtures. Located in the historic Humble House in the City of Lynnwood's Heritage Park, the SIGS Library requires an interior ambience suited to its display as a historic home as well as a library. Dan has provided this with his design and building skills, using only the best of wood, and donating all his time and labor. SIGS volunteers at the library point with pride to the fruits of Dan's skill.

2008 - Region 1 - Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

Marietta Colbern Roth, of Arlington, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society. Marietta Roth is recognized locally as the founder of the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society. It was through her effort that a genealogical interest group met and decided to form an official society. Marietta was elected to serve as the first President in 1987 and has maintained an active role in the society since then. She has participated in countless research projects and has shepherded many publications to fruition. In addition, the annual yard sale has been held at her home along State Highway 9 for many years. Marietta currently serves the society as Recording Secretary.

2008 - Region 1 - Whatcom Genealogical Society

Carol McFeron Signett, of Ferndale, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Whatcom Genealogical Society. Carol Signett has distinguished herself in outstanding support of Whatcom Genealogical Society. She did an outstanding job for two terms as the Society's Treasurer, and when no one stepped forward to take the position, she agreed to continue for an additional year. She has consistently maintained a sound fiscal management program for the Society, and provides concise financial reports to the Board and general membership which are always prompt and accurate. In addition, Carol has presented several entertaining programs at the Society's meetings, reporting on her travels to various genealogical seminars and meetings through the United States and her research of a Civil War battle involving one of her relatives. She is always willing to assist other members of the Society on questions in their research and volunteers to promote and assist in various Society projects. She has been and continues to be a significant asset to the Whatcom Genealogical Society.

2008 - 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 is recognized for her contributions to helping preserve the memories of Clallam County ancestors. Over the past few years Carol has been using her photography talents to digitally memorialize the gravestones of Clallam County. To date she has produced about 12,000 photographs. She has indexed all of these photos, put them on CD's and donated them to the Society's library so that the local patrons and other researchers have access to this valuable resource. She also provides many photos to Find-A-Grave.com. Carol has

dedicated many years of service to the Society, serving in various capacities, including as President, and is currently serving on the Society's Board of Directors. Carol is greatly appreciated for all she does to keep the Society alive and well.

2008 - Region 3 - Clallam County Genealogical Society

Susan Koehler, of Sequim, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Clallam County Genealogical Society. Susan Koehler is recognized for her long and faithful support of Clallam County Genealogical Society. She has stepped up to the plate many a time when the Society needed assistance. In the past year she agreed to take over as the Society's office manager, when our previous manager left due to family illness. She stepped up to the plate again, agreeing to fill an interim term on the Board of Directors when one of the directors resigned unexpectedly. Susan also provides a great service to our library patrons as a volunteer researcher. Her excellent research skills help fulfill requests for patrons of the Society's library from near and far. The Society is truly blessed to have such a dedicated genealogist and talented leader. For all Susan does, she is greatly appreciated.

2008 - Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society

Joan Buhler, 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. Joan Buhler has been a member of Jefferson County Genealogical Society since 1988, and has consistently been a strong supporter of and contributor to the Society. Over the years, she has acted as our Corresponding Secretary and undertaken many other challenges. At present, she is responsible for answering research requests and has volunteered to proof-read the data entry for our Jefferson County databases. Not only are these two undertakings critical to the preservation and communication of genealogical records, but Joan continues to seek out further records relating to Jefferson County residents adding further to our collection.

2008 - Region 3 - Jefferson County Genealogical Society

Landon Kimbrough, of Port Townsend, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Jefferson County Genealogical Society. In 2007 Landon Kimbrough stepped up to help Jefferson County Genealogical Society with the re-design and implementation of its new website. Taking on this formidable challenge with the goal of making the website user-friendly while containing voluminous information for both our members and researchers of Jefferson County families, Landon made it look easy. Ongoing, Landon continues to assist the Society by updating and maintaining the Society's website.

2008 - Region 4 - Lewis County Genealogical Society

Jeffery M. Moon (1959 - 2007), of Chehalis, Washington, is recognized posthumously for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Lewis County Genealogical Society. Jeff Moon distinguished himself in his support of the Lewis County Genealogical Society, and was an active member of the Society from the day he joined until he was suddenly taken from us last year at the age of 47. Jeff was very detailed oriented, and that was a big help to those of us working on projects for the Society. He thought of details that many others just didn't see, and on a big project, that is invaluable. His family

and friends, as well as all those he came in contact with through the Lewis County Genealogical Society miss him greatly.

2008 - Region 4 - Lewis County Genealogical Society

Gayle & Richard Stephens, of Chehalis, Washington, are recognized for exceptional support of the goals and operation of the Lewis County Genealogical Society and for outstanding efforts in preserving important records of historic and genealogical value to researchers interested in the history of Lewis County families. Gayle & Dick Stephens have distinguished themselves in support of the Lewis County Genealogical Society in numerous ways. They have helped read and prepare the lists of several cemeteries so they could be posted at the Tombstone Project at USGenWeb. They have also participated in transcribing records for the Society's special project concerning the Lewis County Reconstitution Project. Dick and Gayle are always available to help in the management and operation of the Society, and this past year Dick became the Society's President. Their dedication is very much appreciated by all members of the Lewis County Genealogical Society.

2008 - Region 4 - Lower Columbia Genealogical Society

Alice Loree Collins Sanders, of Longview, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Lower Columbia Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Alice joined the Lower Columbia Genealogy Society in 1975 when a friend wanted help solving a family mystery and she has enjoyed the hobby and friendships since. She has served the Society as secretary, program chairman, librarian and president. She developed the Society "FYI e-mails," which provide a valuable way to share information. She worked on indexing Cowlitz County early marriage records and 1910 Federal census, and helped produce the Cowlitz County Cemetery Books. Alice spearheaded a series of community genealogy classes and began the Coffee Rest Stop project, an annual event/major fund raiser. She enjoys attending family reunions, and her creative avenues included work with a large collection of old family pictures. She printed an album for each of her children and later created a heritage quilt as a wedding present. Alice is a multi-talented leader of the Society.

2008 - Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society

Dot & Earl Derry, of Yakima, Washington, are recognized for exceptional operational support of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society and for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to researchers interested in the history of Yakima Valley and other Washington State families. Dot and Earl Derry are two people who have distinguished themselves in continuous support of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. Together, they take care of the paper and aluminum can recycling project which adds considerably to the Society's coffers. When the Society moved into its new library building, Dot worked with two other ladies, and together they did a complete inventory and added tracking barcodes to about 20,000 books. This job took 6 to 8 hours every day for about three months. Now they spend many hours each day working on the microfilm collection; putting each roll in a new box and adding the barcodes and call numbers. This project will be a big asset for everyone who visits the Society's library. Earl and Dot also work shifts together serving coffee to motorists at the Indian John rest area on I-90. They also work many hours to make the Society's yard sales successful. Their willingness to serve and help in accomplishing the Society's goals is greatly appreciated.

2008 - Region 5 - Yakima Valley Genealogical Society

Clar Pratt, of Yakima, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. Clar Pratt has distinguished himself in support and leadership of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. He serves as the Publicity Chairman and is successful in getting coverage in the newspaper and on television stations for the Society's activities. He led the special committee in charge of the construction of the Society's storage building. He organized work parties, obtained the permits and made sure the inspectors were called when different parts of the job were completed. All of this was accomplished even though he was recuperating from heart surgery. Clar is one of the members who will work the dreaded midnight-to-6AM shift serving coffee to motorists at the Indian John rest area on I-90. He works tirelessly at the Society's yard sales as salesman par-excellence. Clar's willingness to serve, and his eagerness to help the society accomplish its projects and goals are greatly appreciated.

2008 - Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society

Ray Baalman, of Pasco, Washington, is recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of Tri-City Genealogical Society. Ray Baalman serves as the TCGS librarian and board member. During his four-year tenure as librarian, he has entered about 500 donated books into library's collection; inventoried the library's collection of over 2900 books, CDs, microfilms and microfiche; and recently, in cooperation with the Family History Center's Director, he has expanded the descriptions of the library's holdings. The expanded descriptions can be searched using computers allowing TCGS members and library patrons to quickly locate relevant references. Ray became a charter member of the TCGS while in high school, has served as TCGS Publication Committee Chair, and shares his German research techniques and information through presentations at TCGS general meetings. His contributions are greatly appreciated.

2008 - Region 6 - Tri-City Genealogical Society

Elaine Stahl Wasil, 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. Elaine has participated in several records preservation projects. Among these are the state census transcription, and indexing negatives of the North Light and Marlin Photo Studios. The photo indexing team, of which she is a part, has indexed over 42,000 photos of people and events associated with the Tri-City area. Besides record indexing and preservation, she has also served the society as secretary from 2003 until mid 2006, and then as research chair. As research chair she has connected with people outside the area and has made the society's holding available to them. Even a broken hip in 2007 only kept her from her email for a few days. During her recovery period she continued to coordinate the research efforts of the society.

2008 - Region 7 - Eastern Washington Genealogical Society

Donna Potter Phillips, of Spokane, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in supporting operations of Eastern Washington Genealogical Society and in providing education about records and resources of value to all researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Donna Potter Phillips has distinguished herself in untiring support of Eastern Washington Genealogical Society for the past 30 years by serving on myriad committees and offices, including the Presidency. Donna's name and EWGS are nearly synonymous. Her longtime newspaper genealogy column attracted numerous members;

she's a popular program speaker; she knows most members by name and makes everyone feel welcomed. She serves wherever needed, including cajoling members for years to buy raffle tickets before every meeting. Donna is a treat.

2008 - Region 7 - Northeast Washington Genealogical Society

Roger W. May, of Colville, Washington, is recognized for outstanding efforts in the preservation of important records of genealogical value to the Northeast Washington Genealogical Society and other researchers interested in the families of Washington State. Roger May has written a book, "Civil War Veterans Buried in Stevens County," culminating over 2,000 hours of research. Starting with a list of about 45 known veterans, the project grew, and the book now contains information on almost 300 veterans who are either buried in Stevens County or who lived there at one time and are buried elsewhere. He contacted any descendants he could find seeking personal information to add about the veterans. He also spent many hours transcribing old records, including the 1890 Special Census for Stevens County and the minutes of the local Grand Army of the Republic post. As so often happens, one project leads to another. Aware that the Veterans Administration will provide markers for previously unmarked graves of veterans, and having identified so many Stevens County graves for Civil War vets that do not have markers, Roger's new project is to get markers placed on them. His efforts greatly honor our Civil War veteran ancestors.

2008 - Region 8 - Chelan Valley Genealogical Society

Callie Jo Eli, of Chelan, Washington, is recognized for exceptional leadership and operational support of the Chelan Valley Genealogical Society and for outstanding efforts in preserving important records of historic and genealogical value to researchers interested in the history of Chelan Valley families. Callie Jo Eli has served Chelan Valley Genealogical Society faithfully for many years. She has served as president five times, and several times as secretary. She collected and organized pictures for two calendars put out by the Society. Callie also helped to organize Chelan High School's 100 year reunion in 2007. She has always worked to provide support for the community with Memorial Day grave assistance and on Earth Day. As Family History Director, Callie has cooperated with the Society to sponsor workshops. Now Museum director for the Lake Chelan Valley Historical Museum, she has continued fulfilling responsibilities for the Chelan Valley Genealogical Society as well.

2008 - Region 8 - Chelan Valley Genealogical Society

Maureen Mae White, of Manson, Washington, is recognized for exceptional leadership and operational support of the Chelan Valley Genealogical Society and for outstanding efforts in preserving important records of historic and genealogical value to researchers interested in the history of Chelan Valley families. Maureen White was instrumental in the formation of Chelan Valley Genealogical Society in December of 1990. She then served as the first president, 1991 – 1992. She worked on the Society's first publication, *Chelan Fraternal Cemetery Book*. She has worked diligently on public recognition for the Society at a booth on Earth Day, at Manson's Farmer's Market and on KOZI Radio, where she is considered "the voice of Chelan Valley Genealogical Society". Maureen has long been a promoter of genealogical research, and is currently housing our library materials in her former preschool room until we find permanent headquarters

2008 - Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society

Phyllis Frenald Griffith, of Entiat, 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. Phyllis Griffith is the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society's "Entiat Specialist." While not appointed to such a position, it was her curiosity and interest in the area that prompted her to explore and record information about Entiat. She consistently updates the Entiat Cemetery records and provides a new list to the Society's library every January. Phyllis spends time every week at the North Central Regional Library searching for any and everything related to the Entiat area. She maintains a card file of everyone who ever lived from Knapp's Hill to Zenith (Rocky Reach Dam), and has indexed the censuses for the Entiat area. She has completed listings of high school graduates, along with the valedictorians and salutatorians, and the Entiat Princesses who have represented Entiat at the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival. Phyllis also answers queries which appear on the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness website. Patrons of the Society's library have been most fortunate to have her research expertise. Phyllis works tirelessly on her projects and in support of Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society. She is greatly appreciated.

2008 - Region 8 - Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society

Charles & Carroll Allen Munson, of East Wenatchee, Washington, are recognized for exceptional and consistent support of the goals and operation of the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society. Carroll Munson was a charter member of Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society and worked diligently in its organization from a one-box Library to its present size. As the Society became a reality, both she and her husband, Chuck, were consistently involved. Carroll held almost every office in the Society from President to Telephone Notification Committee. She wrote obituaries and other articles for the Society's journal, *Appleland Bulletin*. Early fundraisers included yard sales, and Chuck supported them by arranging tables in their own back yard. When the Highway Department started the coffee service at highway Rest Areas, Chuck was responsible for negotiating the dates for the Society to serve, while Carroll organized the work schedule. As this became a regular fundraiser, they continued to lead this effort. In recent times Chuck has been collecting "Old News" from the Wenatchee World newspaper. Several volumes have been added to the Society's "Pictorial Past" scrapbooks. Carroll passed on in May 2007, and she is missed by all. Carroll and Chuck Munson have contributed so much to the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society it is hard to fully describe all of their accomplishments. Their service is immeasurable, and we honor them.