



Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society
Finding ancestors since 1971

President's Letter
May 2025

It's May already. We have a new sense of urgency about finding a new location for WAGS. And perhaps even more urgent—who and what will we become in this new location? Is it time to make some adjustments? Look for “WAGS at a crossroads” on page 2.



May presentation for members and guests:



Cathie and Brian

“Where Did Your Family Tree Grow?”

by WAGS members Cathie and Brian Wengreen

What could you gain by knowing more about where your family story began? Cathie and Brian will be live at the FamilySearch Center, and also on the Zoom camera. They'll share the things that made their recent travel to the Netherlands successful. Then they will show ideas about how anyone can **a) determine a location** where their family once lived; **b) determine objectives** in going to that place; **c) explore the area** in depth; and finally, **d) how to capture and share that information** with extended family members.

WAGS Presentation for Members and Guests

“Where Did Your Family Tree Grow?”

Monday afternoon, May 12, 2025 2:00 p.m.

**In person at the FamilySearch Center, 667 10th Street NE, East Wenatchee
and via Zoom:**

Topic: WAGS's Zoom Link for May General Meeting

Time: May 12, 2025 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85107080265?pwd=rfTOezXXamTXUxaOUvcHDVdQFI4vi3.1>

Meeting ID: 851 0708 0265

Passcode: Blossoms



Thomas MacEntee

Our June 9 meeting . . .

We'll finish our year strong with Thomas MacEntee presenting ***"After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research."***

Have you ever considered what will happen to your years of genealogy research once you're gone? Learn how to ensure that your hard work carries on. Thomas will show us how to create an action plan for preserving all your diligent labor.

I've heard that Thomas will be retiring from speaking after this year. He's been a friend of WAGS since before Zoom. Come and enjoy his style one more time!

Elections

At this coming membership meeting (May 12), the Nominating Committee will present their slate of officers for 2025-26 (and we will still take nominations from the floor during the meeting). Please let us know if you would like to be included on the board by emailing library@wags-web.org. Shortly after the May 12th meeting, we'll email ballots for you to fill out and return. At the June 9 meeting—our annual meeting—the results will be revealed, and the new slate of officers will be installed.

Cashmere Valley Record Digitization Project—completed!

114 years (1907 to 2020) of the *Cashmere Valley Record* are now digitized and free to access at washingtondigitalnewspapers.org.

The Friends of Old Mission History Group (which included our late WAGS member Dick Brender) contacted Washington State Digital Newspapers, who had in-house people and subcontractors who did the actual digitizing. The state is hosting the Cashmere newspapers on the digital newspapers website for free. (Note that the *Wenatchee World* is also on the site from 1905 to 1910; *Leavenworth Echo* from 1904 to 2022.) Click on Chelan County on their map, select *Cashmere Valley Record* and have fun browsing!



WAGS at a crossroads!

Our beloved WAGS organization is a treasure to our community. Unfortunately, as communities change, genealogical and historical societies need to change with them to survive. There are several things that have evolved that require change from us:

The Museum is remodeling and we must find a new space.

What kind of space do we need? Most of our WAGS business and research is completed online. Do we still need research computers for the community or do we just need a couple for our volunteers? Should we become more of a workshop for digitizing, with

our main community outreach being our programs? Where do we find our next generation of volunteers?

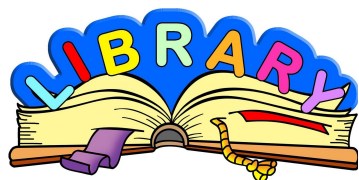
Is our WAGS Library still viable?

Although we have some amazing research and community treasures in our library, the number of visitors has dwindled. Our books and journals are neglected. Are they still treasures if no one sees them?! What steps should WAGS take to make these treasures available to more people? Do we maintain ownership or hand them off to an organization with more resources?

Who can help?

Our WAGS board is chugging along with ideas. We have so many ideas and so little time that we feel like we're not making headway into the many projects we'd love to complete. **We need your input!** Which direction should we go? What tasks should we do? Who can help?

We plan to have a special executive board strategy meeting (as yet unscheduled) to discuss these and other questions and topics. Once we've identified our limits—both monetary and people-hours—we'll be coming to you, our members, for a sanity check on our new direction.



The WAGS Library will be closed on Saturday, May 3 for Apple Blossom, opening again on Tuesday the 6th from 1 to 4 p.m.

Welcome

New member. . .

We're welcoming **Kellie Yeates** of Quincy to our membership rolls. Thank you for your support, and wishing you many important finds.

Have a great Apple Blossom,
Susan Rumble
WAGS President
and the WAGS Board



P.S.: The May **WAGS board meeting** will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, May 14 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Topic: WAGS Board Zoom Meeting

Time: May 14, 2025 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82843908024?pwd=EeSRR9WkiYFxVHKPEyXU2Df6G8fsxh.1>

Meeting ID: 828 4390 8024

Passcode: Apple

WAGS Library hours

Tuesday and Saturday, 1-4 pm

Wednesday afternoons, digitizing by appt.

127 South Mission, Wenatchee

corner of Yakima and Mission

FamilySearch Center hours:

Tuesdays 11 am to 2 pm

Wednesdays 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Thursdays 1 pm to 4 pm

**Genealogy 101 First Wednesday
of the month at 7 pm**

667 10th Street, NE in East Wenatchee