



Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society
Finding ancestors since 1971

President's Letter
June 2025

We're traveling in **uncharted territory**, with the mandate to move our library by the end of the year. We are intensifying our survey of what's possible, and our discussions of what we want WAGS to become after the move. See p. 2 for more details.



Thomas MacEntee

**June Presentation for
Members and Guests:**

***"After You're Gone: Future Proofing
Your Genealogy Research"***
by Thomas MacEntee

It's the **200-lb. gorilla** over there in the corner of the room and he won't go away! Whatever shall we do with all our research to make sure it's cared for and passed on? MacEntee has it analyzed for us: We'll look at basic planning and data successorship, technology and resources, and best practices for genealogy future proofing. With planning, common sense and new technologies, he'll help us create an action plan for preserving our research.

WAGS Presentation for Members and Guests

"After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research"

Monday afternoon, June 9, 2025 2:00 p.m.

In person at the FamilySearch Center

667 10th Street NE, East Wenatchee and via Zoom:

Topic: WAGS Zoom for June General Meeting

Time: Jun 9, 2025 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82195892311?pwd=Wb79vmb822OWmbb2ZSaWbqQzPisRct.1>

Meeting ID: 821 9589 2311 Passcode: Junebug

Annual Meeting and Elections

The June 9 meeting will serve as our **Annual Meeting**. The big item on the agenda is the revelation of the results of our election, and the new slate of officers will be installed. It would be a great time to discuss our impending move! If there is anything else you'd like to see discussed, contact us at info@wags-web.org.



Sailing in uncharted territory

Actually, not completely uncharted—back in 1984 we had to move our library to the Wenatchee Public Library for some museum renovation. But that was 40 years ago! Now we have 40 years' more accessions, computers, recordkeeping—you get the picture. The board has met to look at our stats—how many patrons are using our library now that so much is online? And are our subscriptions (MyHeritage, Ancestry) getting the kind of traffic we expected? What should we pare down? What should we keep? The library committee has also met in constructive discussion.

We haven't come to a definite decision—maybe deciding needs to be a slower process than we first thought. The best we've come up with is turning our library into a “by appointment” place, and have our volunteers do work sessions to digitize our holdings and increase our online footprint.

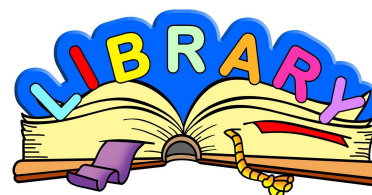
We will soon make a focused appeal to the community and see what might be out there to fit our needs. NCWLife wants to do an article about our situation.

We'll be glad to hear your thoughts at the June 9 meeting, or at the board meeting on the 11th!

Take a sail through our WAGS Library collection!

When I think of sailing, I have blue skies, calm seas and a good book in my hands . . . when is the last time you **sailed** through our WAGS library? As we enter the unfamiliar waters mentioned in this newsletter, we need to chart a path for the library. What if we end up in a smaller space—where does the collection go? What should we save? How do we decide? These are questions the librarians and board have been grappling with, and we'd love to hear your answers.

Come into the library on a Tuesday or Saturday afternoon between 1 and 4 and walk through our library with our volunteers and share your comments and ideas with us. We still want to be YOUR organization when we pull into port! If your boat has a leak, but you still have comments, send them to library@wags-web.org.





A new meeting place . . .

In the midst of all the uncertainty, one thing will keep happening: our meetings! We are very thankful that the FamilySearch Center took us in when the Douglas PUD could no longer have us, and we've enjoyed their light

and airy room up on 10th Street in East Wenatchee these past two years.

But now we'd like to collaborate with the main library at Chelan and Palouse, and perhaps gain a little more foot traffic. We have not worked out the details yet—we'll need to pick a day and a time—we'll need to be a little later in the afternoon to avoid parking problems with the courthouse. You'll be notified in plenty of time. Look forward to something new in the fall!

Welcome

. . . to new member **Jeanette Collins** of Manson. We're wishing you very productive research at WAGS!

Happy sleuthing,
Susan Rumble
WAGS President
and the WAGS Board



The June **WAGS board meeting** will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, June 11 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Topic: WAGS Zoom Board Meeting

Time: Jun 11, 2025 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85450631205?pwd=6oL6nIHaOHMAtRcbxsUxKCbpyJh9wq.1>

Meeting ID: 854 5063 1205

Passcode: Junebug

In case you haven't seen this yet:

Urgent Appeal: Help Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society Find a New Home!

Our History Needs a Future! Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) is URGENTLY seeking a new location. Due to upcoming construction plans at our current home in the Museum, we need to find a new space to continue serving our community and preserving the rich history of North Central Washington.

For years, WAGS has been a vital resource for residents exploring their roots, offering access to invaluable historical records, research assistance, and a dedicated space for discovery. Now, we need your help to ensure this crucial work continues.

What We're Looking For:

We are seeking **donated or low-cost space** that can accommodate our needs. We dream of maintaining a public space to keep our research library open and accessible to everyone. However, we recognize the challenges and are flexible. We are considering solutions that enable secure storage of our extensive collections and a reduced public-facing footprint, while maintaining access to our collections and digitization equipment.

Our Current Space & Needs:

- **Size:** We currently occupy 1400 sq ft.
- **Storage is Key:** We have approximately **180 linear feet of bookcases and file cabinets** housing irreplaceable historical documents and research materials.
- **Essential Operations:** A dedicated **digitizing workspace**, space for **2 research computers** on desks for public and volunteer use, **administrative desks** with a computer, printer, and copier, a **small conference table** for meetings and collaborative research.

Flexibility is Possible: While we cherish the idea of a full library space, we are adaptable. We could potentially share some desk space and conference room facilities. However, a critical requirement is an **area that can be secured and closed to the public when a WAGS librarian or volunteer is not available.**

Why This Matters to the Wenatchee Valley:

WAGS is more than just a collection of old documents; we are storykeepers, educators, and connectors. We help people uncover their family histories, understand the legacies of those who built our community, and preserve these narratives for future generations. Losing a physical space jeopardizes our ability to:

- Provide public access to unique local historical and genealogical records.
- Offer workshops and assistance to community members researching their heritage.
- Continue our important digitalization projects that preserve fragile materials and make them more widely accessible.
- Collaborate with other local historical and cultural organizations.

How You Can Help:

- **Do you know of a suitable donated or low-cost space?** This could be in a public building, a shared non-profit space, a commercial property with a community-minded owner, or any other potential location.
- **Can you offer connections to property owners or managers who might be willing to help?**
- **Share this appeal far and wide!** The more people who know about our need, the greater the chance of finding a solution.
- **Offer ideas or suggestions.** We are open to creative solutions!

This is a significant challenge, but we believe in the generosity and community spirit of the Wenatchee area. Your support can help us find a new home where we can continue to connect, collect, and protect family histories for years to come.

Please contact us with any leads, ideas, or offers of support by responding to this email or calling Kris McGregor (509) 884-1876 or Kari Strain (509) 393-9461.

Thank you for helping us write the next chapter for the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society! (WAGS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.)

--the WAGS Board

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