



President's Message

Arlene Sampson

This is a direct plea to members of the Society to consider serving on the Long Range Planning Committee. We need dedicated individuals who see the value in making sure our Society remains strong and viable, to explore and make recommendations to the board and membership for our future.

Several years ago, the Long Range Planning Committee had the vision to see that the Society needed to look down the road, not by one or two years but five to fifteen years, in order for our Society to stay viable. To this end they felt we needed to have a way to set aside funds for the eventual needs of the Society. The Long Range Planning Committee recommended that the board approve to have a "Nonprofit Reserve



Fund" created at the Arizona Community Foundation. In 2011, the Society signed the agreement and began transferring the majority of the previous mortgage payment to the Arizona Community Foundation Account for our future use. We continue today to make this transfer monthly.

Now we need to review the 2010 recommendations, take a look at where we are now, and plan for the next 5-15 years. I can't tell you how important it will be for this committee to review and continue the work of the previous Long Range Planning Committee. Are you someone who is interested in serving on the 2014 Long Range Planning Committee? If so, please contact me! pres@azwvgs.org

May 12th Speaker

James L. Tanner

"The New Family Tree Program at the Family History Library"

Mr. Tanner is actively involved in genealogical research and is the blogger for Genealogy's Star Blog. He will be talking about the new Family Tree which has replaced the New Family Search program and other new happenings at the Family History Library.



WVGS Library:

12222 N. 111th Avenue, Youngtown, AZ 85363-1225

Hours:

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday
6:00 - 9:00 pm Tuesday nights
12:30 - 4:00 pm Sunday

Last Saturday of the month open 9:00 am-6:00 pm

Closed Monday and Wednesday for classes/meetings

Telephone: 623-933-4945

Website: <http://www.azwvgs.org>

Monthly Meetings: September through May

Second Monday of each month - Doors open at 1:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Avenue, Sun City

Online Book Store is Open

WVGS members have online access to our store that sells gently used and reasonably priced genealogical books.

Shop when it's convenient for you and have books sent to your home or choose to pick them up at the WVGS Library.

Support the Genealogical Society and shop at azwvgs.org.

Calendar

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| May | 5 | WVGS Board Meeting, 1:00 pm |
| | 12 | General Membership Meeting, 1:30 pm |
| | 15 | Research Night, 5:00 to 9:00 pm; call the Library to reserve a spot |
| | 19 | Lunch With Your Favorite Ancestors |
| | 19 | Library Tour, 9:30 to 11:00 am; call the Library to reserve a spot |

Condolences

Long time member and volunteer Leona Goodhart passed away suddenly at home.

Former member Lois Levering, who was a member for many years, passed away at 100 years old.

Our sincere condolences to long time member, Shirley Woodward, whose dear husband passed away recently.

Condolences to member Craig Lee on the recent death of his wife Nancy Lee, also a member.

Please join us in expressing our condolences to these families.



Research Night

Bored? Need something to do or do you want to get some important research done on the third Thursday of the month? Why not come to the WVGS Research Night on May 15th from 5-9 pm. All you have to do is bring your dinner and \$3.50, which covers dessert (most often something chocolate), and all you can drink (as long as it's water or soda). If anyone needs help with researching, someone will be there to assist you. Come for lots of fun company and a good time.

Display Case

We will be showcasing postcards from "Around the World" for May. Some of these are quite old. They were donated by the daughter of an actress who made world tours and indulged in her hobby of postcards. Be sure you stop by and see the display.

Media Display Cases

The military display cases are really coming along, however, we still have room for a few more military photographs of members or of their families. I'm moving the ones we have now around to make room for more. Let's make this display something of which to be proud. If you haven't seen it yet, make sure you drop by the media room and check the four glass display cases on the wall. It's a real treasure!

Contact Sally Pavia, dir.specprojects@azwvgs.org
or call 623-974-0195.

Periodical & CD Sale

Jean White

The Collection Development Committee will be holding a periodical and CD sale at the May general meeting. Doors open at 1:00PM. *There will be no books at this sale.* Please use the on line list of books for sale at the Store section of the WVGS website (www.azwvgs.org) for the purchase of used genealogy books.

Donations – Thank You!

Many, many thanks to all of our donors of materials, equipment and publications.

This Months Donors are: From the 50/50 Club - Peggy Morphew, Judy Linnebach, Jaci Hirschthal, Penny Williams & Marietta Troxel. Other donations by Alice Bacon, Janet Buchanan, Ruth Day, Mickey Dunlap, Estrella Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Marsha Hanson, John Hjelm, Richard Hudnall, Patricia Ide, Jeanne Kirsch, Janet Lintz, Linda McCleary, Peggy Morphew, Joan Rentner, Dorothy Scott Seagren, Mareta Troxel, Wally Turnage, Jean White, Chris and Caroll Yoder, Chris Yoder, Wanita L. Zarumba and Karen R. Zeppenfeld.

Welcome New Members

Membership Registrar - Bob Gallagher

Please welcome all the new Members who joined the Society during March 2014. The New Members are: Mary Baxter, Jim Buckley, Charles Croghan, Lester Dunn, Sandra Enkey, Doris & James Guilbeault, Betty Hamiton, James Hanson, Martin & Ruby Kerfoot, Cheri Landers, Linda Leach, Marie & Richard Olin, Marvin Otto, Frances Pitcher, Richard Rassfeld, Alan Strom, Georgina Tortorici, Anne Vaughan, Jeannette Vaupel, Sara Watkins and Sammee Weaver.

When you see these new members, be sure to introduce yourself and encourage them to participate in the Society's many activities. We welcome everyone to many years of continued membership, fellowship, and research within the Society.

The total active membership of the Society is 587 as of April 14, 2014.

Help Wanted:

SHELF READERS - Chair Nancy R. Reed is giving a shout out for volunteers to help read the bookshelves. Donate as much of your time as you like to help the Society. Hours are flexible and Nancy is great to work with! Contact Nancy at nrreed45@hotmail.com and reserve your time slot.

RECYCLING - We need help in removing the bags of cans from the Library so they don't overtake us all. If you live between Del Webb and El Camino, you are a prime candidate, but anyone's help is welcome. Please contact Karla Bartel at kbazne@yahoo.com.

Put These Numbers In Your Wallet

Office Max Perks..... #012748337
Staples Rewards #04050-4355-5
Or just use WVGS phone number 623-933-4945

Fundraising News

Sharon Brown

We really need your help by linking your Fry's VIP Cards with the WVGS account #80153 to help our organization earn money. WVGS will get a percentage from all our shopping purchases by signing up and using your card. Tell your friends and neighbors as well, everyone is eligible. Go online to the Fry's web site and either create an account or sign in; then go to account settings. It's simple and easy.

Eat at *Marley's Restaurant and Bar* in Surprise at 15226 W Bell Road, 623-251-4854, and WVGS will get a percentage of your cost just by showing your FREE *Marley's Card* available at the WVGS Library.

We also get a percentage on your purchases at *Albertsons*. Need a card? They can be picked up at our Library.

Any out of town guests coming to visit can get a discount at the *Comfort Inn* in Surprise. Pick up a FREE card at the Library and check out the requirements. We get a percentage from them as well.

Raffle tickets for the picture painted by Irma Hardin's husband are on sale at the Library and at the General Meetings. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Drawing will be in May at the General Meeting.

Remember, by supporting these business partners you are also helping our WVGS Library.

Good News for Members

There are four Subscriber Genealogy Databases available as part of your WVGS membership. Be sure to take advantage of this generous benefit.

	<u>Database Cost</u>	<u>Member Cost</u>
New England Historic Genealogical Society	\$80	\$0
Ancestry.com	\$299	\$0
World Vital Records	\$90	\$0
Fold3	<u>\$80</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	\$549	totally free

WVR and Fold3 are also available to members from home. Visit the web site for instructions on how to access them.

Lunch With Your Favorite Ancestor

We would love to have you join us with a story about your ancestors

Monday, May 19th

from 11 am to 1 pm

come share family memories & mementos at the

5 & Diner Deluxe

11341 W. Bell Road, Surprise

All lunches require sign up and a \$5.00 fee; lunch & tip on your own

Contact: Sharon Brown at Dir.Fundraising@azwvgs.org

Insulated Lunch Bags

There are only 10 Lunch Bags (\$15.00 each) left from our first order.

Contact Marilyn Vollmer at wlkrvlmr@gmail.com if you would like to purchase one.

After these 10 are sold, prepaid requests are available for the next order, \$15 or at least 50% down, \$7.50.

Lunch bag description:

The bag is tan and is made of recycled material, sturdy canvas with a thermal insulated lining, zippered closure and an outside pocket with our logo embroidered on it. It measures 7 1/2 inches high x 12 1/2 inches with a 5 inch base; the pocket is 6 inches x 9 inches.



Do You Know

WVGS has a Facebook page? To access, just click the Facebook symbol on our web site, or from home, type in "West Valley Genealogical Society." Once there, view the page and give us a *Like*.



Library New Book Report

Linda McCleary, Book Accessioner

Karen Zeppenfeld, Library Administrator

- *Ava Remembers 1889* [Jackson County, Illinois]
- *Bacon Genealogy: Michael Bacon of Dedham, 1640 and His Descendants*
- *Caldwell's Atlas of Ashland Co, Ohio from Actual Surveys Under the Direction of J. A. Caldwell, C. E.*
- *Combined History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties, Illinois: With Illustrations Descriptive of Their Scenery and Biographical Sketches of Some of Their Prominent Men and Pioneers*
- *Copper Country Homecoming & Old Settlers Ball. 2004. Collectors Program Book. [Houghton County, Michigan]*
- *Denomme: 400 Years of Family*
- *Dictionary of Oregon History*
- *Dorothy Scott Seagren Collection*
- *Fireside Tales* [Jackson County, Illinois]
- *French-Canadian Connection, The. Volume 2: Ancestor Charts*
- *Georgia in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*
- *History of Ashland County, Ohio*
- *I Remember... Kitty Allen Wright Blair (March 29, 1875- June 30, 1962)*
- *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Montgomery County, Missouri, An*
- *Index to Ava Remembers 1889, Fireside Tales, & Memories - Jackson County, IL*
- *Introduction to Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide to Genealogical Research*
- *Jenny Lind Album, The*
- *Marriage and Death Notices in Raleigh Register and North Carolina State Gazette 1826-1845***
- *Memories* [Jackson County, Illinois]

- *Old Northwest Territory*
- *Our French Canadian Ancestry in Huron County [Michigan], 1631-1990*
- *Planting Your Family Tree Online: How to Create Your Own Family History Web Site*
- *Randolph County, Illinois, Probate Records. County Court House, Chester, Illinois*
- *Secret Holocaust Diaries: The Untold Story of Nonna Bannister, The*
- *Standard Atlas of Montgomery County Missouri. 1897*
- *Standard Atlas of Montgomery County Missouri. 1918*
- *Trapped in Tuscany, Liberated by the Buffalo Soldiers: The True World War II Story of Tullio Bruno Bertini*
- *Web Graphics in Easy Steps*

New Periodicals - Karen Zeppenfeld

- *Barnett Source, The*
- *Genealogy Bulletin*
- *Germanna*
- *Journal of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society, The*
- *Mesa AZ Family Research Library Newsletter*
- *Morgan County Messenger, The*
- *Ray County Reflections*
- *Yoder Newsletter*

CDs - Marie Beernink

- *Annals of New Netherland, The Essays of A.J.R. Van Laer*
- *Documentary History of the Dutch Congregation of Oyster Bay, Queens County, NY, Parts 1 & 2*
- *Marriage Records of Clark County, Missouri 1837-1865, Volume 1*
- *Pennsylvania Folklore Society, Volume 16*

* CDC - Collection Development Committee

**50/50 club

Special Recognition

At the WVGS March General Meeting, Sheri Erikson presented three members who reached 90 year old with books of their choice for the Library. Congratulations to these wonderful members! They are l to r: Mary Eberhart, Gladys Smith and Betty Thomson.



April Volunteers of the Month

Barb Behrman

Leona Goodhart

We were pleased to recognize Leona Goodhart for her many years of volunteering with the Society. She passed away on March 24 and her absence is already being felt. She grew up in MN where she married her husband of 57 years, Kermit (known as Goody). They raised three daughters who are now spread around the US. She was



employed as a pharmacist in MN, a job she continued after they moved to Sun Village in Surprise.

In her spare time, she enjoyed planning vacations for the family, sometimes to battlefields and sometimes to places connected to their genealogy. One year she took her three daughters to Norway to "meet the relatives." A trip they will never forget.

Leona joined the Society in 1986 and for the next nearly 18 years was active in many different areas. She was very involved in research in Norway and Sweden and helped lead that SIG. Her family noted that she had spent much of her time recently writing her stories to complete their family tree.

She volunteered as the Library Saturday morning opener for several years. When asked if she wouldn't like to work another shift she replied, "No, this is how I get Goody to take me out to breakfast." She was one of the proof readers for the *Desert Tracker* whose skills will be deeply missed as she never missed a misspelling or an errant comma. As part of the Long Range Planning Group, she had an important part in securing and moving into this building so the Society could keep expanding. Perhaps what will be missed the most will be her anonymous donation of wrapped candy for the front desk. Suddenly, a morning aide would show up and there would be a bag of candy on her chair with no note or ID as to who left it there. It was a very long time (perhaps years) before it was discovered who was providing the goodies.

We were especially pleased to welcome her husband, Goody, to accept her certificate and pin and thank him for sharing Leona with us.

Use: Goodsearch.com

GoodSearch.com works much like Google, but WVGS receives a penny for each of your searches. Read the instructions on the home page and be sure to enter **West Valley Genealogical Society** in the lower box so we receive the credit.

George Davidson

George spent his working career in Customer Services for Northwest Airlines. After retirement he volunteered in a nearby city police department. Helping people certainly laid a foundation that still follows him today. He joined WVGS in 2006 and has been a busy, can do, volunteer ever since.



As a member of the Computer Equipment Committee he has helped with all aspects of the rebuilding and maintenance of our computers. As our Window Operation Systems have changed over and over again, he has worked with the CDC to maintain access to our varied collection of genealogical CD/DVDs. In addition, he is always happy to help others learn the Legacy software program and assists with the Legacy SIG.

As it begins to warm up here in the valley, he and his wife, Frances, who he married here after leaving his native Oregon, move north for the summer. He enjoys the cooler temperatures of Show Low but misses our Library here. To keep himself busy and again help others, he began creating a comprehensive record of all the burials in the Show Low Cemetery. The city was happy to have his help as nothing like that had previously been done. So, he created a census and photographed all the headstones in the cemetery -- all 600 of them. He gave that information to the city and added memorials and the pictures to give to Find A Grave. One more thing that keeps him busy, and he shares for the enjoyment with others, are his nature photographs which are said to be of professional quality.

As you can see, George Davidson doesn't let any grass grow under his feet! We are delighted he spends a lot of his energy and skill with us. We are pleased to present George Davidson with an April Volunteer of the Month award.

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Salt Lake City Research Trip

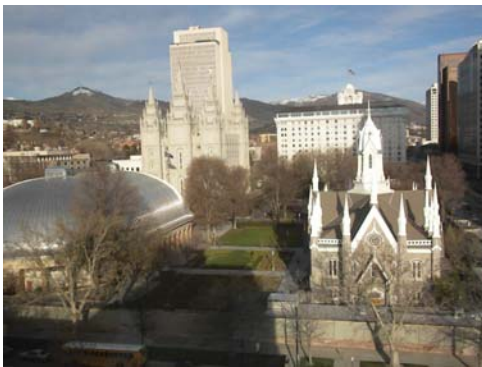
Judy Crawford

For some, March madness means college basketball's championship tournament. For some WVGS members and their friends, March madness means trekking to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to search for elusive ancestors.

Eighteen motivated researchers made the recent, nine-day trip to SLC. They returned home with flash drives, cameras, computers and luggage brimming with genealogical data. Their ancestors would be amazed at these descendants' critical thinking skills and tenacity as they attempt to reconstruct their own heritage!

Those making the 2014 annual trip were Margie Boylen, Pat Cameron, Annie Cikler, Judy Crawford, Leslie Eaton, Sheri Erickson, Dottie DeYoung, Lori Gurcius, Adrienne Haupt, Nan Hoffman, Cynthia Lamm, Barbara and Loren Littlefield, Mary Lou McLean, Barbara Scholwin, Dee Snook, Kathy Stromer and Shirley Willis.

On the return trip, some researchers were already making plans to return in 2015. A splendid time was had by all.



Classes

Connie Sheets

Important change: As of January 2014, all checks should be made out to WVGS instead of the instructor.

For schedule of classes, dates, times, class descriptions and costs, please check our website www.azwvgs.org or call the Library at 623-933-4945.

All classes are limited to the first 20 people to register.

Barbara Stenberg, Instructor

Novice Genealogy

Every third Friday unless noted

Monthly

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Charlie Mannino, Instructor

Introduction to Basic PowerPoint 2010

Friday, 9:30 - 11:30 am

1 Class

May 16

Aluminum Cans

Gale Kristof, The Can Man

The members did a super job this past month bringing in their aluminum cans. After a bit of a slow start early this year, the year-to-date total is \$461.67, 15% ahead of last year's amount following the April meeting. Let's keep up the good work and stay ahead of last year's record amount.



PLEASE NOTE: Do not leave cans in the caged area due to thefts. Bring them into the Library or to the General Membership meeting.

Notice - Notice - Notice

We **do not** recycle plastic bottles. Please put them with your regular recyclable items at home.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Cathy Gallagher



***Be Sure To Check With The Library Or WVGS Website To Verify SIG Schedules**

- NY/NJ/PA *Sept-May1st Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am
 - Italy 1st Thursday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
 - Maryland & Southern States 1st Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - Legacy..... 1st Saturday, 10:00 am to noon
 - DNA *June, Oct-April..... 1st Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - Norway *Oct-April2nd Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am
 - Kansas/Missouri..... 2nd Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - TMG *Sept-April 2nd Saturday, 10:00 am to noon
 - Germany/Poland.....3rd Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am
 - Canada3rd Thursday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
 - Sweden *Oct-April 3rd Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - New England States *Sept-April ... 3rd Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - British Isles.....4th Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - Family Tree Maker *Sept-May ...4th Friday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
 - Illinois/Indiana/Ohio..... 4th Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm
 - Adoption.....**Oct 4th
- **contact Lou McLean for details: mlm16ddm@yahoo.com

If there are any questions, call the WVGS Library or contact our SIGs Coordinator Cathy Gallagher at 623-266-1330 or sigs@azwvgs.org

50/50 Books Report

Lu Williams

The Society pays one-half of the cost of the books listed; interested members donate the remainder. Members may suggest titles to be considered for the list.

The following books can be purchased through your participation in the 50/50 program:

- *History of Shelby & Montclair Counties, ILL, Brink, McDough, 1881*
Cost \$65.00Balance Due \$33.50
- *(The) History of Williamson County from the Earliest Times to the Present 1876*
Cost \$45.00Balance Due \$22.50
- *(The) Land Between: A History of Slovenia*
Cost \$35.10**Paid In Full**
- *(The) Past & Present of Warren County, ILL. H.F. Kent & Co. 1877*
Cost \$65.00Balance Due \$32.50
- *Portrait & Biographical Album of Warren County, ILL., Chapman Bros, 1886*
Cost \$65.00Balance Due \$32.55

British Isles SIG

On March 26th, the British Isles SIG Members were given a special tour of the McClelland Irish Library and then spent several hours doing genealogical research with the help of their many volunteers.



WVGS Members who attended were: Betty Asato, Mary Becker, Lynne Corbett, Carol Daly, Cathy Gallagher, Jody Johnson, Emily & Bill Malone, Mike O'Beirne, Lynn Pedro, Nancy A. Reed, Joyce Rogers, Michelle Warren, and Bob Gallagher, British Isles SIG Facilitator.

Mike O'Beirne's friends, Cindy Harrison and Butch and Jackie Pendergast, joined the group and hope to become WVGS members soon!

May Raffle

This painting, donated by Irma Harding, will be our May Raffle. Tickets may be purchased at the Library or our General Meetings for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 from now until then.

The Way I Heard It

A young man was researching his family tree. He remembered a story he'd heard as a child about his great-great grandparents. He had been told that they had traveled West looking for new land. On the way they became ill and died. They were buried in the desert. The couple had two children. One of the other couples took the children to raise.

The young man spent his vacation time driving from town to town in the western states looking for the two graves. On about the third trip, he stopped at a garage in a little town in New Mexico to have his car serviced. He told the owner the story of his quest. One of the other men working there said as a youth on an outing with a church group, he saw two graves with wooden crosses. He gave the young man directions to the ranch where he thought the graves were.

The man went to talk to the owner of the ranch. He was quite elderly. The rancher admitted there were two graves on his property. He loaned him a horse and told him where to look for the graves. After finding the graves, he returned to the ranch and talked some more with the elderly rancher.

The rancher told him that his great grandfather had decided to stop here and build a ranch. The member of the party who took the children decided to go back East. The rancher's grandfather was a brother to the man in the grave and the woman who took the children to raise was a sister to the woman in the grave.

The elderly rancher took him to the barn and showed him a piece of wood from the broken cross and by matching stories handed down from family members, confirmed that the two graves were those of the young man's great-great grandparents and the elderly rancher was his great-great uncle.

