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March-April 2019

Annual General Meeting Gerry Buydens

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at Old Craigflower School. The meeting was chaired by Gerry Buydens, President of OCS. Gerry summarized the highlights from the president's committee reports. He thanked the executive for their support and also thanked the many volunteers. The Executive for 2019 will be Gerry Buydens - President; Wilf Bruch – Past President; Vice President – vacant; Gudrun Leys - Treasurer; Michael Halleran - Secretary; and Members at large are: Bente Svendsen, Paul Taylor, Linda Richards, Pat Lydon and Steve Thomson.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 8:30 pm. and then the meeting was treated to a presentation by Yvonne van Ruskenveld & John Azar on their trip to Europe and visits to cemeteries in Spain, England and Belgium.

A copy of the Treasurer's Report and all other Committee Reports are available upon request from the office. Sunday Tour Brochures have been delivered to the various public libraries and the local archives. They are also available at the Sunday tours or from the office.

CLEANING AT ROSS BAY CEMETERY

Sharon Welsh will be stepping down from coordinating the cleaning bees and we are looking for someone to volunteer to take over. No experience necessary; Must enjoy working with an excellent group of volunteers; Likes working in the Cemetery on **Saturday** mornings – washing, scraping, sweeping, etc; Needs to enjoy speaking with locals and visitors about the Old Cemetery Society and the Cemetery; On the job training available until you are comfortable, Please contact the office if you or if you know someone who would like to volunteer, oldcem@pacificcoast.net

Nordic Roots

Skagit Valley Genealogy Society

Spring Genealogy Seminar 2019

Sat. March 23 • 9am-3:30pm

First United Methodist Church
1607 E. Division St. • Mount Vernon, WA

Featuring Scandinavian Experts

Viking Historian:

Torolf Torgersen

Viking Influences On Our Culture
& Names With Nordic Meanings

& Swedish Genealogy Expert:

Evelyn Roehl

Swedes in the States: Scouting for Records
& Swedes in Sweden: Where Do I Look?

\$50/SVGs member • \$55/non-member

After March 1, 2019 • everyone \$60/person

For directions, online registration or to download a mail-in registration form

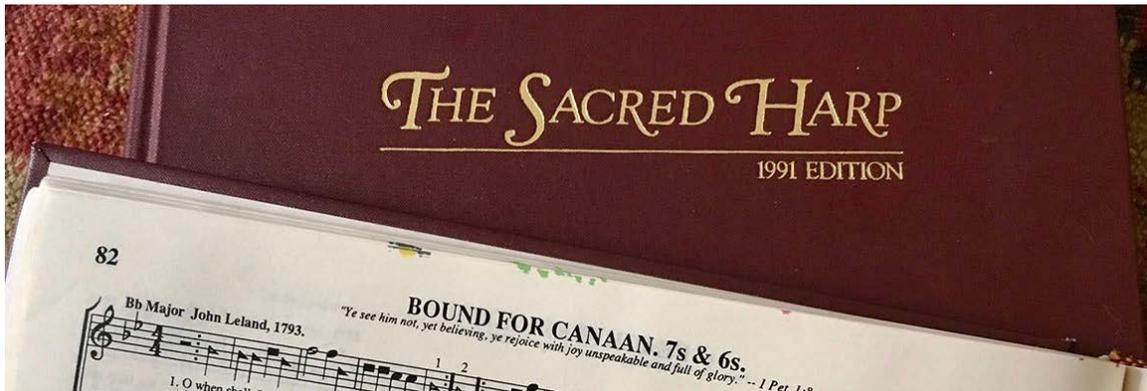
visit: skagitvalleygenealogy.org

360.770.0702 • Genealogy0715@gmail.com

The First Old age Pension Cheque Drew Waveryn

This is a photo of William Derby of Alberni receiving OAP check number 1 on **October 16, 1927**. It was for the whopping sum of \$20. Bill Derby was 75 when he received the cheque. The MP who was largely responsible for the creation of the pension plan was A. W. Neill and is the gentleman handing the cheque to Mr. Derby. Since he was a strong supporter of the plan, the first cheque was to be issued to someone in Neill's riding. I've seen Bill Derby's grave in Greenwood Cemetery, but couldn't find an image of it. The next time I go to Port Alberni, I'll give Mr. Derby a visit and take a picture.





*Broad is the road that leads to death, and thousands walk together there.
But wisdom shows a narrow path, with here and there a traveler.*
(written in 1785, **Windham 38b** from **The Sacred Harp**)

Who would gather with other people to sing ancient songs about death, in glorious a cappella harmonies, just for fun? Maybe the same kind of people who spend beautiful summer afternoons hanging out in a cemetery reading epitaphs on tombstones? Lovers of old cemeteries and Sacred Harp singers have a lot in common and to outside observers their activities can appear equally strange.

Sacred Harp is a form of early American sacred music that has taken the world of choral singing by storm over the last decade—since it made an appearance in *Cold Mountain*, the 2003 blockbuster movie set during the American Civil War. Originating in 18th-century English parish churches, this haunting music was preserved for 150 years in the rural southeastern United States by a poor white population eking out a hardscrabble, often brief, existence. The songs express both a grim expectation of death and a joyful anticipation of reunion with loved ones in the afterlife. Indeed, these voices worshipping God in song were considered rambunctious and entirely too joyful by most 19th-century American church leaders.

Sacred Harp singing has now spread to cities in 19 countries, embracing people of all faiths and philosophies, and all musical abilities. The “singings” are participatory, non-performance-oriented, free and without obligation. Meeting regularly in churches, community centres, cafés, and private homes, Sacred Harp singers are also known to appear in parks, shopping malls, and cemeteries. Victoria Sacred Harp has recently found a home at St. Philip Anglican Church in Oak Bay. All are welcome! To learn more, check our new website at <http://victoriasacredharp.wordpress.com>.

Diana Pedersen is an OCS member and enthusiastic Sacred Harp singer.

Do you have a story to tell?

The demise of the OCS journal *Stories in Stone* left us with no place to publish longer articles that our members might want to share. In an effort to partly fill the gap, Stone Cuttings has been publishing longer items submitted by our members. While there is no strict limit on length, articles should be reasonably brief and of general interest to our members. Book reviews and photos relevant to your article are welcome. Submit articles to rste00@shaw.ca The editor reserves the right to edit or reject any item.

Tombstone Oddities



The tombstone of musician and actor Fernand Arbelot in Pere Lachaise cemetery, Paris, shows him holding his wife's head. He wished to gaze on her face for eternity.

Last Words

Jimmy Stewart 1908-1997



"I'm going to go be with Gloria now."

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your OCS membership and for the board to thank you for your past support of our activities. Please circle type of membership: Individual \$30 Family \$45 Student \$20 Donations are greatly appreciated. \$_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____ Please

make cheques payable to The Old Cemeteries Society and mail to P.O. Box 50004, RPO Fairfield Plaza, Victoria BC, V8S 5L8

NB: Membership cards are issued only if requested.