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LCGS MEETINGS

March 17, 2015: Meeting is at 7 pm with doors open at 6:45 pm at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 2190 Jackson Hwy, Chehalis, WA 98532

OREGON TRAIL METHODOLOGY: Using Manuscripts and Family Records for Genealogical Proof.

To some, family records - including diaries, letters, and personal photographs - might be seen as having little genealogical value. Our guest speaker tonight, Steven Waltz Morrison, will show us that nothing could be further from the truth, and that, as original information, these records can shine new light on undiscovered facts or



family relationships.

He will focus on one of his geographic specialties, the Oregon Trail.

Mr. Morrison has been a professional genealogist since 2006. He’s a past president of the Olympia Genealogical Society, was their chair of the spring seminar for three years, and has served multiple positions on the board of the Puget Sound chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He is also a member of the National Genealogical Society.

April 21, 2015: Meeting is at 7 pm with doors open at 6:45 pm at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 2190 Jackson Hwy, Chehalis, WA 98532

Dick Moody will present part one of this two part series **Records Generated By 20th and 21st Century Military Service:**

Pt. 1, WAR!! REVOLUTIONARY, CIVIL, 1812 & MORE.

(Pt. 2, WAR!! WWI, WWII, KOREAN, VIETNAM, & MORE will follow at our September 15, 2015 meeting.)

Dick Moody has been actively researching his and his wife’s lines for over 30 years. In that time he has had several "pre-Internet" trips to the National Archives in Washington DC, state archives and libraries in several states, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City ... and literally has been digging in a cemetery in the



Appalachian mountains of northeastern Tennessee in his search for family roots.

He is a former reporter turned academic, has a doctorate degree, has taught research methodology and reference citations at the graduate level for Regis University, and has served as a committee member for doctoral students at Seattle University. He currently manages state contracts in Washington, Oregon, and California for ACT (pronounced A - C - T), the college entrance testing company.

Dick is member of the Olympia Genealogical Society Board of Directors and editor of the Society's Quarterly Journal.

EVENTS, SEMINARS.

March 28, 2015, Olympia Genealogical Society's Spring Seminar "Genealogy-The Future is Now", presented by Thomas MacEntee of High Definition Genealogy. Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 415 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA. Registration is limited to 78, but late registration (after March 9) may still be possible. Email to Ann Olson, Registrar at sandaolson@comcast.net

March 28, 2015, Yakima Valley Genealogical Society 2015 Annual Spring Seminar Presents "Researching Your Irish Heritage" with Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast, Ireland.

Topics include:

- Irish nineteenth century sources available online (part 1) e.g. Griffith's Valuation, and valuation revision books, Tithe books, freeholders records, and introduction to estate records.
- Irish nineteenth century sources available online (part 2)—e.g. civil registration of BMDs; church records, gravestone inscriptions, wills, and nineteenth century census fragments
- Census substitutes and other sources for the early nineteenth and eighteenth century including: e.g. agricultural census, flaxgrowers list, religious census, Protestant householders list, Ordnance Survey Memoirs, Registry of Deeds
- Individual Irish brick wall problem solving plus general Q&A.

Seminar will be at Mt Olive Lutheran Church, 7809 Tieton Drive, Yakima, WA. \$40 registration fee includes lunch. For a brochure with further information about the speakers and registration form can be found at www.yvgs.net or call (509) 248-1328

April 25, 2015, Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society presents Connie Lenzen, CG,

at their Spring Seminar at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites in Tacoma, WA. Ms. Lenzen's topics will be: "Break Down Brick Walls with Evidence Analysis", "Probate Research: Follow The Money", "Proving A Maternal Line When Grandma Didn't Tell Us Her Parents' Names", and "Lost Parents: Adoption Research and Finding Other Missing Persons". Further information is available on their website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~watpcgs/seminar.html>

April 25, 2015, Genealogical Society of South Whidbey informed us that their seminar in Freeland, WA, featuring Bill Dollarhide **HAS BEEN CANCELLED**. If you signed up for the seminar, they sent their apology and will return you check. For further information, find their contact information GSSWI's website at www.gsswi.org.

April 25, 2015, Genealogical Forum of Oregon Seminar, Portland, OR. Laura G. Prescott, APG, "Finding Your Family Beyond Vital Records". The four topics she will present are; Treasures Within the Ivory Tower—Finding Family in Academic Archives, Turning Fiction into Fact, loc.gov – Using Our Nation's Library Online and The Rest of the Story—Using Manuscripts to Create a Family History. Laura G. Prescott is a professional researcher, writer, and speaker and currently the director of Ancestry Academy, a new online learning initiative. She worked for the New England Historic Genealogical Society for seven years before starting her own research business in 2005. Originally from Charleston, WV, she lived in New England for nearly forty years before moving to Utah in 2015. Laura graduated with a B.A. in History from Dartmouth College in 1980, ultimately putting her degree to good use when she discovered a latent passion for genealogy. She is past president of the APG. She lectures nationally on a variety of genealogical topics including the use of manuscripts, genealogy online, military records and merging history with genealogy. Her articles have appeared in many genealogical publications and online. Watch for Laura as director and host of Ancestry Academy, online at Ancestry.com in early April 2015. For further information about the GFO seminar the flier is at www.gfo.org/seminar/laura-prescott.pdf

May 9, 2015, Seattle Genealogical Society Spring Seminar "Who's Your Daddy? Researching Your Family History in the Mid-South States". Speaker C. Lynn Andersen, Accredited Genealogist (ICAPGen) in Mid-South States (Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia). Topics: "An Overview of Internet Resources for ht Mid-South States", "Internet Resources for Mid South States Will & Probate

Records”, “Finding and Using Land Records Online to Solve Mid-South States Research Problems”, “A Look at Colonial Land Records from the Mid-South States”. For further information, go to their website

<http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/springseminar>

June 27, 2015, Washington State Genealogical Society, with the Kittitas County Genealogical Society presents: **A Day with David Rencher**, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA. Professional Genealogist since 1977; Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch; Past-President of Federation of Genealogical Societies; B.A. in Family and Local History; Irish course coordinator and instructor Samford University; Accredited Genealogist with ICAPGen in Ireland research; Certified Genealogist with the Board for Certification of Genealogists; Fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society. The WSGS conference will be held at the Quality Inn Motel in Ellensburg, WA. Brochures will be available at the LCGS March meeting or can be found online at www.wasgs.org/upload/menu/Conference_Brochure.pdf. The brochure includes information about other activities taking place before the seminar.

August 13, 14 & 15, 2015, Stilliguamish Valley Genealogical Society presents “The Northwest Genealogy Conference” Registration opens on April 15th. Featured speakers will be Angela Packer McGhie, for Thursday’s “General Genealogy Day”, CeCe Moore .Friday’s “DNA Genealogy Day”, Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, Saturday’s “Courthouse Research Day”. Watch their website, www.nwgs.org for details.

October 10, 2015, Autumn Quest 2015 will be held at the Faith Covenant Church in Sumner, WA. Speaker to be announced.

October 17 & 18, 2015, Seattle Genealogical Society 2015 Fall Seminar “The Family History Detective: Finding Solutions to Your Toughest Research Problems”. Speaker: Dr. Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL, Co-Editor of National Genealogical Society Quarterly, past APG board member, BCG trustee and president, teacher at BU, IGHR, and SLIG, author of the recently published book *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. Topics for October 17, 2015 (seminar): “Can a Complex Research Problem Be Solved Solely Online?”, “Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestor Was (Some Reliable and Others Not Reliable)” “Inferential Genealogy: Deducing Ancestors’ Identities Indirectly”, “Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor”. October 18, 2015 (special classes): “Developing Research Questions and Hypotheses: Planning an Exhaustive Search”. “Special Problems: Finding

Immigrant and Migrant Origins”.

Online Seminars and Courses: Roots Tech 2015 seminars are now available online at no cost at <https://rootstech.org/video/4046597103001>

If you know of a seminar or event of interest to members of our society, please e-mail your newsletter editor.



LDS Family Discovery Day, 2/28/15
By LCGS Pres. Sam McReynolds

Every once in a while, I don't save every scrap of paper that I see at an event that I attend. It is usually when I am thinking that "today is the day that I finally start being minimalist in my paper life." Unfortunately for someone attempting to write a small story about the LDS Family Discovery Day at the LDS Family History Center in Chehalis on Saturday, 28 Feb 2015, this was one of those events.

While I usually write from notes, this time I write from memory....always dangerous for me! Nevertheless, I had a great impression of the day. There were more classes, and it was more widely attended than I anticipated given the relatively short timeframe for planning the event. Margie Lloyd, Joann Hulse and I had a table right next to Margaret Iverson, who was representing D.A.R. We had membership packets with us, and were able to talk with a number of prospective new members. We also had on display a tri-fold board on loan from Leslie Parnell detailing her family's genealogy, along with quite a few books from Margie's extensive library.

During the course of the day there were five areas of the building that had four classes each, with some of them being repeated. There were classes on various software to use such as Ancestral Quest and RootsMagic, as well as streamed presentations from the recent RootsTech conference that included such things as navigating the new FindMyPast site. Individualized assistance was offered by Margie, our own Genealogist, and Jarlee McCormick offered assistance with Swedish research.

All in all it was time well spent. I enjoyed the time getting to know Margie, Joann, and Margaret better; and getting to visit others throughout the day. I do hope the opportunity to have another of these comes about next year.

WSGS Communicates: News From the Blog

The Washington State Genealogical Society's blog, has moved to a new web address at <http://wasgs.org/blog/>. Here are some highlights from our WSGS blog posted by Donna Potter Phillips:

Jim Andrews lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and recently shared information about his specialty services: He repairs old Bibles and other precious books from all over the U.S. and Canada. His website shows examples of some of his work. If you're needing this kind of service, click to www.GBBookMan.biz. Or email a question to bookman.gbwi@gmail.com. If you do use his service, please give us some feedback.

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Here are some odd causes of death notes that I found quoted from the *New Athens Journal* for 19 July 1940, and found in the *St. Clair Genealogical Society Quarterly* in 1995. These were "real" quotes from "real" records:

- "nervousness from gunshot"
- "auto accident, complicated by hookworm"
- "fractured skull – contributory was mule"
- "auto wreck started it; pneumonia ended it"
- "stab wound of chest inflicted by lady friend"
- "hit over the head with slop jar"
- "leakage of head"
- "frightened to death by deputy sheriff"
- "rubbed to death by chiropractor"

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Everybody's talking and touting Google as well they should for it's a wonderful tool. And we keep being told that Google is adding new tools all the time. How to stay updated? One way is to click to Wikipedia and type in "list of Google products." Since Google Search is a web search engine it receives over 3 billion search queries per day. We ought to learn how to best do that searching. A Google tip that I learned at RootsTech: "Post the physical address of an ancestor's home and when the house goes up for sale, you can take a virtual tour." What a cool idea.

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You can sign up to receive blog posts via email if you want to stay up date.

*We say goodbye. . .*

...to our friend and LCGS past president Richard H. "Dick" Stevens, Sr., who passed away at his home in Raymond, Mississippi on December 27, 2014

...to Margaret Langus, 20 year volunteer at Lewis County Historical Museum, passed on February 10, 2015

*... You will be missed.*

## Websites to Check Out

Tax Lists (1792-1840): An Overlooked Resource For Kentucky History and Land Titles:

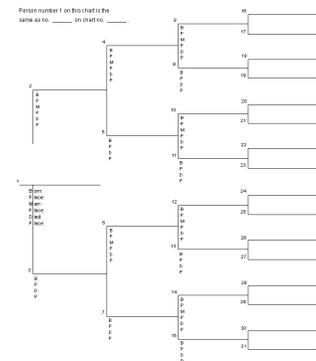
Buried in microfilm cabinets in Kentucky's research libraries are rolls of microfilm simply labeled "Tax Lists." Arranged by county in chronological order, tax lists are a hidden treasures for researchers studying the history, culture, and land titles of Kentucky. As census information is collected decennially (every ten years), data derived from the annual collection of taxes provides a better insight into the household of the taxpayer and his/her acquisition of property, both real and personal. . . . To read the rest of this article by Kandie Adkinson, Administrative Specialist, Land Office Division, Office of the Secretary of State, go to <http://kentuckyancestors.org/tax-lists-1792-1840-an-overlooked-resource-for-kentucky-history-and-land-titles/>

Digital Collections of the Kentucky Historical Society includes old maps that you can download and more: <http://history.ky.gov/research-genealogy/>

Your link suggestions are appreciated. Please e-mail them to your newsletter editor at [LesleeD@minerallake.com](mailto:LesleeD@minerallake.com)

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● **Who Do You Think You Are?** Returns to TLC Sunday evenings beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>. Featured celebrities this season include Julie Chen, Josh Groban, Angie Harmon, Sean Hayes, Tony Goldwyn, America Ferrera, Bill Paxton and Melissa Etheridge in that order. Past episodes can be found for viewing online at [www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are/videos/](http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are/videos/) if you miss an episode or want a replay.  
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**PEDIGREES** - The Pedigree book for members will be at each meeting. Feel free to glance through the book to check who other members are researching.



Pedigrees should be updated every year to reflect any changes or additions, including the **date**.

**DO WE HAVE YOUR PEDIGREE?** We like to print a one page pedigree in each newsletter.

# Genealogy: Verifying online resources

By Barry J. Ewell, Genealogy by Barry, reprinted with permission.

## Step One: Search for the Source

Whether it's a personal web page or a subscription genealogy database, all online data should include a list of sources. The key word here is should. You will find many resources that don't. Once you find a record of your great, great grandfather online, however, the first step is to try and locate the source of that information.

1. Look for source citations and references – often noted as footnotes at the bottom of the page, or at the end (last page) of the publication.
2. Check for notes or comments.
3. Click on the link to “about this database” when searching a public database. (Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com and FamilySearch.com, for example, include sources for most of their databases.)
4. Email the contributor of the data, whether it be the compiler of a database or the author of a personal family tree, and politely ask for their source information. Many researchers are wary of publishing source citations online (afraid that others will “steal” the credit to their hard-earned research), but may be willing to share them with you privately.

## Step Two: Track Down the Referenced Source

Unless the web site or database includes digital images of the actual source, the next step is to track down the cited source for yourself.

1. If the source of the information is a genealogy or history book, then you may find a library in the associated location that has a copy and is willing to provide photocopies for a small fee.
2. If the source is a microfilm record, then it's a good bet that the Family History Library has it. To search the FHL's online catalog, click on Library, then Family History Library Catalog. Use the place search for the town or county to bring up the library's records for that locality. Listed records can then be borrowed and viewed through your local Family History Center.
3. If the source is an online database or web site, then go back to step #1 and see if you can track down a listed source for that site's information.

## Step Three: Search for a Possible Source

When the database, web site or contributor doesn't provide the source, it's time to be a detective. Ask yourself what type of record might have supplied the information you have found. If it's an exact date of birth, then the source is most likely a birth certificate or tombstone inscription. If it is an approximate year of birth, then it may have come from a census record or marriage record. Even without a reference, the online data may provide enough clues to a time period and/or location to help you find the source yourself.

## Step Four: Evaluate the Source

While there are a growing number of internet databases which provide access to scanned images of original documents, the vast majority of genealogy information on the web comes from derivative sources – records which have been derived (copied, abstracted, transcribed, or summarized) from previously existing, original sources. Understanding the difference between these different types of sources will help you best assess how to verify the information that you find.

1. Does the data come from a primary source? These sources, created at or close to the time of the event by someone with personal knowledge of the event (i.e. a birth date provided by the family doctor for the birth certificate).
2. A significant amount of time after an event occurred or by a person who was not present at the event (i.e. a birth date listed on a death certificate by the daughter of the deceased). Primary evidence usually carries more weight than secondary evidence.
3. How close to the original record is your information source? If it is a photocopy, digital copy or microfilm copy of the original source, then it is likely to be a valid representation. Compiled records — including abstracts, transcriptions, indexes, and published family histories — are more likely to have missing information or transcription errors. Information from these types of derivative sources should be further traced back to the original source.

**Step Five: Resolve Conflicts**

You've found a birth date online, checked out the original source and everything looks good. Yet, the date conflicts with other sources you've found for your ancestor. Does this mean that the new data is unreliable? Not necessarily. It just means that you now need to re-evaluate each piece of evidence in terms of its likelihood to be accurate, the reason it was created in the first place, and its corroboration with other evidence.

1. How many steps is the data from the original source? A database on Ancestry.com that is derived from a published book, which itself was compiled from original records means that the database on Ancestry is two steps away from the original source. Each additional step increases the likelihood of errors.
2. When was the event recorded? Information recorded closer to the time of the event is more likely to be accurate.
3. Did any time elapse between the event and the creation of the record that relates its details? Family bible entries may have been made at one sitting, rather than at the time of the actual events. A tombstone may have been placed on the grave of an ancestor years after their death. A delayed birth record may have been issued dozens of years after the actual birth.
4. Does the document appear altered in any way? Different handwriting may mean that information was added after the fact. Digital photos may have been edited. It's not a normal occurrence, but it does happen.
5. What do others say about the source? If it is a published book or database rather than an original record, use an internet search engine to see if anyone else has used or commented on that particular source. This is an especially good way to pinpoint sources which have a large number of errors or inconsistencies.

One last tip – just because a source is published online by a reputable organization or corporation doesn't mean that the source itself has been verified. The accuracy of any database is, at its best, only as good as the original data source. Conversely, just because a fact appears on a Geocities personal page or the LDS Ancestral file, doesn't mean that it is more likely to be inaccurate. The validity of such information is largely dependent upon the care and skill of the researcher, and there are many excellent genealogists publishing their research online.

## Genealogy: Citing online sources

By Barry J. Ewell, Genealogy by Barry, reprinted with permission.

The following are examples of how to cite online resources. When possible I include a URL address plus a physical address because email addresses tend to change.

**Scanned image file**

- **Description:** Birth Certificate
- **Individual:** Mary Jones
- **Details:** Certificate # 345-289
- **Date:** 22 Oct 1938
- **Location:** Spanish Fork, Utah
- **Scan Date:** 24 Nov 2005
- **Image File Name:** JONES-Mary Jones Birth Certificate.tif
- **Scanned by:** Barry Ewell, bj57barry@msn.com, Riverton, Utah
- **Address of Person Who Scanned Info:**
- **Image Editing:** Digitally retouched by Barry Ewell, Riverton, Utah, January 2006 to provide color correction to faded document. Data was not changed.
- **Formatted:** Birth certificate of Mary Jones, Spanish Fork, Utah County, Utah, Certificate # 345-289, 22 Oct 1938, Image File: JONES-Mary Jones Birth Certificate.tif, scanned by Barry Ewell, [bj57barry@msn.com, Riverton, Utah], 20 November 2005. [Image has been digitally retouched by Barry Ewell, Riverton, Utah, January 2006 to provide color correction to faded document. Data was not changed.]

**Email message**

- **Author:** Igor Pleve
- **Email Address:** igor@mt.ru

- **Message Title:** 1857 Schondorf Census-Wagner Surname
- **Description of Email:** Message to Barry Ewell
- **Date:** 6 April 2004
- **Specific Location:** Electronic file in possession of Barry Ewell
- **Detail:** Description of 1857 Census, Schondorf, Russia with Wagner Surname
- **Form Used and Repository:** Located in Wagner Surname Folder, Igor Pleve Correspondence, File Name Igor Pleve-1857 Shondorf Census-Wagner Surname
- **Formatted:** Igor Pleve [igor@mt.ru], "1857 Shondorf Census-Wagner Surname," Message to Barry Ewell, 6 April 2004, Electronic file in possession of Barry Ewell. [Description of 1857 Census, Schondorf, Russia with Wagner Surname, Located in Wagner Surname Folder>Igor Pleve Correspondence>File Name Igor Pleve-1857 Shondorf Census-Wagner Surname.]

#### Message board

- **Author:** George Wright
- **Email Address:** gwabc97@hello.net
- **Message Title:** John Mullins 1789 White Hall, Virginia
- **Date:** 23 March 2006
- **Message URL:** [http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/17\\_after.html?priority=0001000](http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/17_after.html?priority=0001000)
- **Description:** John Mullins family in Whitehall, Albemarle County, Virginia. Lineage of family and children from 1750 to 1804
- **Form Used and Repository:** Copy downloaded and in the possession of Barry Ewell, Located in Mullins surname Folder>Message Board-Mullins>John Mullins 1750-1804
- **Formatted:** George Wright [gwabc97@hello.net], John Mullins 1789 White Hall, Virginia, 23 March 2006 [[http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/17\\_after.html?priority=0001000](http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/17_after.html?priority=0001000)], John Mullins family in Whitehall, Albemarle County, Virginia, Lineage of family and children from 1750 to 1804], Copy downloaded and in the possession of Barry Ewell, Located in Mullins Surname Folder>Message Board-Mullins>John Mullins 1750-1804.

#### Website file

- **Description:** Ewell Family Organization
- **Individual:** Family line of Francis Marion Ewell
- **Website Address:** <http://www.ewellfamily.org/>
- **Date:** 29 June 2006
- **e. Detail:** Downloaded Franklin Marion Ewell Gedcom. Reviewed data and includes detail and sources. Compiled by Ginger Hall
- **Form Used and Repository:** Copy in the possession of Barry Ewell, Located in Ewell Surname Folder>Gedcoms,>Francis Marion Ewell
- **Formatted:** Family line of Francis Marion Ewell, Ewell Family Organization, , June 29, 2006 [Downloaded Franklin Marion Ewell Gedcom, Reviewed data and includes detail and sources, Compiled by Ginger Hall], Copy in the possession of Barry Ewell, Located in Ewell Surname Folder>Gedcoms,>Francis Marion Ewell.

#### This is a Cemetery

Lives are commemorated...deaths are recorded...families are reunited...memories are made tangible ...and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery.

Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.

Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life – not death—of a loved one.

The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A cemetery is a history of people – a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today.

A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always.

Anonymous

**Membership Dues** Lewis County Genealogical Society membership runs January through December. Cost for one person is \$12 and for a couple in the same household is \$15. Membership includes a bimonthly newsletter via email. Add \$3 if you wish a printed copy via US Mail. We meet January-June, September-November at the Lewis County PUD meeting room, 345 Pacific Avenue, Chehalis WA, on the third Tuesday evening of the months listed. Research trips are planned periodically. Please return the membership form to: LEWIS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 782 CHEHALIS WA 98532-0782.

Please make check payable to "LEWIS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY"

My/Our membership should read:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preference to have newsletter by **email** (attachment)? \_\_\_\_\_, OR **standard postal mail**? \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check for Individual \$12 (emailed newsletter) OR \$15 (USPS delivered newsletter) enclosed for 2015 membership

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check for Family \$15 (emailed newsletter) OR \$18 (USPS delivered newsletter) enclosed for 2015 membership

Permission to print member information in the newsletter? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

If you are joining us mid-year, would you like the past newsletters for this year? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

Please list surnames and locations being researched: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a self addressed stamped envelope if you would like a membership card & or receipt.

Items for the May-June newsletter are due by April 30th

*Lewis County Genealogical Society*  
*PO BOX 782*  
*Chehalis WA 98532-0782*

