

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

VOL. 35, NO 7

MAR 2025

UPCOMING DATES

- **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Thursday, Mar 13th, 7-8:30pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** - throughout March
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** Mar 20th
- **OGS Board Meeting** Mar 18th, 6:30-7:45pm

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Newsletter team: Peggy Cooley, Carolyn Gibbons, and Mandy Stahre
Contact us:
newsletter@olygensoc.org

WEBSITE LINK:

olygensoc.org

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This newsletter is free to the community.

RootsTech 2025

ROOTSTECH is just a few days away (March 6-8th), in Salt Lake City, Utah and registration is still open and online. There are hundreds of classes available online FOR FREE! this year. Sessions begin at 7am PST and the last session of the day begins at 6:15pm. There is a scheduling tool or just tune in anytime, any day, to see what is available. Classes range from beginner to

advanced, so don't be shy. You can even chat online with other attendees, and if you have the Family Search app, you can see if you have any cousins in attendance (Relatives at RootsTech). It is worth every moment! familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online.

- Peggy Cooley



March Presentation

“Was my William Smith in the Civil War?”

Over ten percent of the US population fought in the Civil War in the 1860s. Using (mostly) free resources, learn some tips on how to determine if your ancestor was in the war, and how to differentiate among those common named soldiers.

Bio: Brian Rhinehart is a professional genealogist and speaker and is the owner of CivilWarRecords.com. He is a

graduate of Boston University's Certificate of Genealogy Research and is a regular researcher for the television show Finding Your Roots. A direct descendant of seven Civil War soldiers, Brian specializes in research and record retrieval for Civil War and War of 1812 soldiers at the National Archives in Washington DC and has retrieved military files for hundreds of clients there.

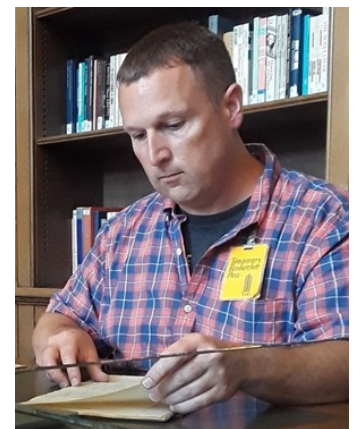


Photo: Brian Rhinehart

Wasn't That a Great Seminar?!

Our Feb 1 seminar with Blaine Bettinger was the best attended since 2018 (when Blaine presented on DNA). Traditionally, OGS has used seminar revenue that exceeds the cost of presenting to purchase books or technology related to the seminar topic. The Board will discuss this policy at a future meeting after the seminar committee has met and made a recommendation. At this time, OGS bylaws do not address this policy.

OGS Program Year at-a-glance

If the speaker is in-person (designated with a P) at our meeting place on Zoom (Z) which can be viewed at the church or from your home.

April 10th (Z) -
"Researching Your War of

1812 Ancestor" with Craig R. Scott.

May 8th (Z) - "From Research to Draft: Rapidly Writing Your Ancestor's Story" with Devon Lee.

June 12th (TBD) - Family Search.org – Working with the Family Search Center and What it has to Offer" - John Anderson.

OGS News—Elections

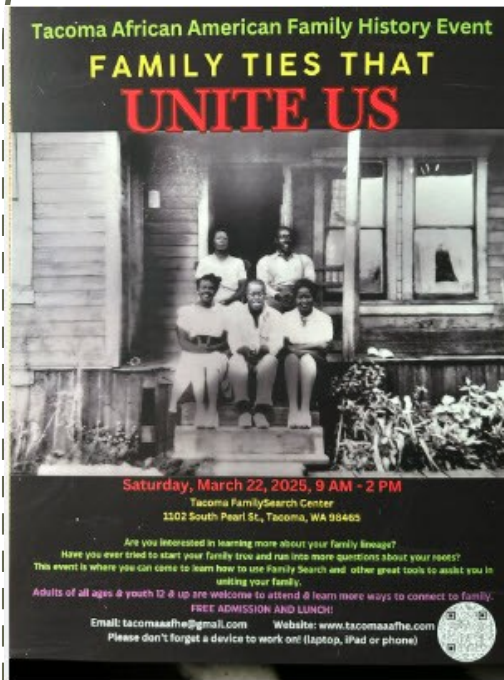
Elections are coming in June, so we need a **3-person Nominating Committee** constituted by March 13, our regular meeting. These volunteers will contact every member of the society searching for potential nominees and other information about the society and its' programs. There is a questionnaire for the committee to use during telephone/email conversations. The job would take

about 5-10 hours over the months of March and April, and the committee will report on the nominees at the May meeting. The nominees will be voted upon at the June meeting and serve from June to the following June. This is a most important job, as the Society depends on officers to do the business of the society. If interested, contact our President, Andy

Carter at President@olygen.org. Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to meet, learn and grow. Check out the list on our website for one that may interest you. **OGS needs a Publicist**, someone who is comfortable with social media. **OGS needs a Sunshine person** to help OGS members when they are feeling down.

Have you missed a general meeting? Members can view recordings at our website. olygensoc.org> Sign In> Community Events> Recordings"

Community News



Tracing one's African American roots can be a complex journey, but it is also a rewarding way to honor the contributions and history of our ancestors. In celebration of African American heritage, the **FamilySearch Center of Tacoma** is hosting a **FREE workshop and lunch** titled **"Family Ties That UNITE Us!"**. The event will take place on **March 22, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at the **FamilySearch Center**, located at **1102 S. Pearl St, Tacoma**.

This workshop is designed to help individuals discover strategies for uncovering records and information on African American ancestry. Participants will hear

from expert genealogists on how to use various research tools to trace their African American ancestors, as well as learn ways to preserve their family stories for future generations.

Thanks to a partnership with **FamilySearch International**, the **Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture**, and the **Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society**, over **4 million historical records** of African Americans are now available

online at no cost. This workshop will teach attendees how to use these valuable resources, along with other free online tools, to build and preserve their family history.

Event Topics Include:

- **"Where to Start – One Name"**: How to begin your search with one name and expand to uncover more family connections.
- **"Plantations and Reservations"**: Exploring the connections between African American and Native American ancestry.
- **Lunch Time Entertainment and Storytelling**: Enjoy a special performance by **Markal Harris on his congas**.

As we reflect on the deep bonds that unite us—whether through blood, love, or shared experiences—this workshop invites you to honor the legacy of your ancestors. **"Family Ties That UNITE Us!"** is a chance to explore how the history of your family shapes who you are today and how you can preserve that story for future generations. As Henry Louis Gates, Jr. wisely said, "We stand on the shoulders of ancestors who endured incredible hardships so that we could be born. We must honor them by finding and remembering their names and passing that information on to future generations."

Sign up now to reserve your spot: <http://www.tacomaaafhe.com/home>.

Alisha Chang, Event Chairman
tacomaaafhe@gmail.com
 360) 265-1016

OR

Mary Anderson, Director, Family Search Center
tacomaaafhe@gmail.com
 (253) 223-1719

Tumwater Timberland Library Refresh

Tumwater Timberland Library is open with limited service including returns, holds pickup, small browsing collection, internet computers, printing through June.

Library services including holds and drop offs have been moved to the Tumwater Service Center at 415 Tumwater Blvd. The library plans to re-open with

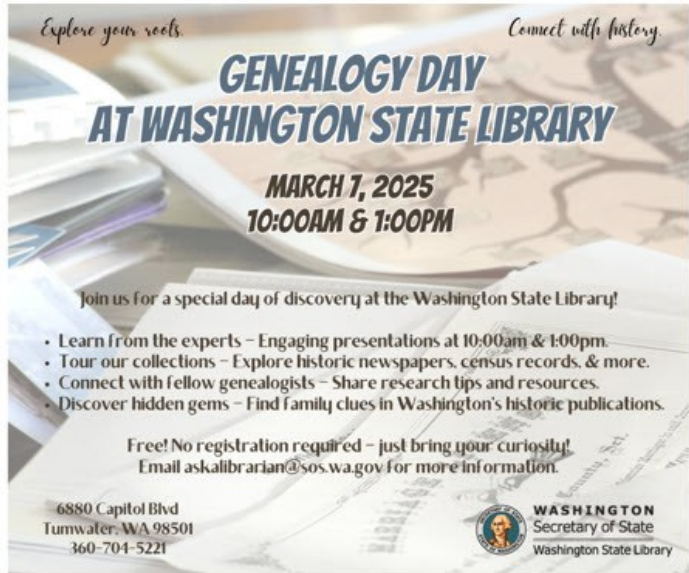
full service in June, but no exact date is known at this time. Please visit the Timberland Library [website](#) for updates.

Upcoming Genealogy Event

Genealogy Day at the Washington State Library **March 7th**. Learn from experts! We will have engaging presentation about our collections at 10:00am and 1:00pm, where you'll gain valuable insights into our extensive historical materials. Take a guided tour to explore our collection and learn how they can support your research, whether you're tracing your family history or uncovering historical records. Connect with fellow genealogists, share discoveries, and exchange

tips to enhance your journey. Along the way, you may even uncover hidden gems that could lead to exciting breakthroughs in your research!

Where: 6880 Capitol Blvd, Tumwater, WA 98501



Explore your roots. Connect with history.

GENEALOGY DAY AT WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY

**MARCH 7, 2025
10:00AM & 1:00PM**

Join us for a special day of discovery at the Washington State Library!

- Learn from the experts - Engaging presentations at 10:00am & 1:00pm.
- Tour our collections - Explore historic newspapers, census records, & more.
- Connect with fellow genealogists - Share research tips and resources.
- Discover hidden gems - Find family clues in Washington's historic publications.

Free! No registration required - just bring your curiosity!
Email askalibrarian@sos.wa.gov for more information.

6880 Capitol Blvd
Tumwater, WA 98501
360-704-5221

WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Washington State Library

Special Interest Groups and Facilitators:

- ANCESTRY - Greg Nordlund; meets 4th Saturday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- DNA - Nancy Cordell; meets 2nd Tuesday 6:30 pm
- FAMILY HISTORY WRITING - Laura Carroll meets 1st Monday 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- FAMILY TREE MAKER - David Abernathy; meets 1st Tuesday 6:00-8:00 pm Via Zoom
- FAMILY SEARCH.org – Carolyn Gibbons; meets 4th Wednesday 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- GENEALOGY CHAT - Peggy Cooley; meets 3rd Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30 pm, in person at Peggy's home!
- LEGACY FAMILY TREE - Jerri McCoy; meets 3rd Saturday 1:00 pm

Genealogy 101

Researching Early Virginia

I asked for suggestions for what to write for this column. Peggy Cooley suggested finding early Virginia people. At first, I was dismayed. I do have early Virginia ancestors. David Dryden, my 6th gr-grandfather first appeared in what would shortly be Augusta County, Virginia in 1742 in McDowell's militia but I had not remembered the actual searching – I found them shortly after I first started genealogy in 1966 and remembered my source as Chalkley's [Annals of Augusta County, Virginia](#). Seems memories are hazy sometimes.

The set of books I had studied and studied was Lyman Chalkley's three volumes [Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement of Virginia](#). While there are some errors – this comprises about 1900 pages all told – it is an absolute wealth of information on the western part of Virginia from 1745 to 1800. There are wills, deeds, marriages, and I found reference to a letter which mentioned a half-brother of my David's sister; must be his half-brother, also, but it was all news to me; I still have not completely untangled the relationships.

Augusta County, when it was first formed in 1745, was bounded on the east by the Blue Ridge Mountains, on the north by Fairfax's Northern Neck Grant and the boundaries of Maryland and Pennsylvania, on the west by all the terri-

tory owned by Great Britain, and on the south by the Caroline line.

These volumes are on Family Search under "Books;" I had found them in the 1960s in the San Francisco Library and much later in libraries in Georgia and North Carolina. You can download them from Family Search or from Google Books; or, if you want them in your hot little hands, buy them from Amazon or other used book sellers (run about \$50 or so per volume).

Look also in the catalog in Family Search for Virginia. Many of the most interesting items are books which I did not delve into too deeply. Once you find one of interest, check Google Books, Internet Archive, Books in Family Search and World Cat for libraries which own the various books. You can also try one of the local Family History Libraries. One book did catch my interest: [Virginia Ancestors and Adventurers](#) compiled by Charles Hughes Hamlin published 1975, 3 volumes in 1. The notes on the volume say this: *Information was transcribed or abstracted from many counties in Virginia. Some information is included for North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. Contains marriage records, naturalizations, proofs of importations, Revolutionary War records, censuses, abstracts of deeds, wills, court orders, and newspapers, and other genealogical information.* I do not expect to find any of my ancestors there – mine are almost entirely

from the British Isles – but possibly as I work more on my extended family.

Another book of interest in Augusta County is [Naturalization Records, Augusta County, Virginia, 1753-1902](#) abstracted by Katherine Gentry Bushman (this is also in the Books part of Family Search) only 39 pages, but of interest, especially when you consider the preface which states that during the colonial period naturalizations were conferred by the local courts to those who were not from Great Britain. English, Scots, Irish and Welsh coming to the New World were not changing citizenship.

If you have early Virginia ancestors, check out the catalog and the Books section on Family Search; also (I urge strongly) you try out the Experiment using AI to search names in various states. The last time I used it, I found naturalization, marriage, death and deed records.

- Carolyn Gibbons

Carolyn is looking for topics to research and present for future Genealogy 101 articles. Is there a particular search topic or brickwall you would like some advice about? Please send your ideas to newsletter@olygensoc.org.

Member submission

Mason County Genealogical Society took on the project to re-search all of the Civil War Veterans who had lived in Mason County. From that information that we gathered as a team effort, we next wrote a narrative summary of the life story of each veteran. We next compiled the narratives and provided them to the Shelton Historical Society for their records.

Nathen Butler Canning

Nathen was a Civil War Veteran enlisting in Kansas with the 11th regiment, Company E, with the Volunteer Cavalry.

He was born on May 4, 1836, in Ohio to John Canning (1802-1853) and Sarah Ann Brewster (1811-1894). His siblings were Robert (1837), George (1840), Letitia (1842), Manny M. (1845), and Alexander (1850). He married Mary Elizabeth Poston (1843-1922) on August 13, 1865, in Douglas, Kansas, and their chil-

dren were Poston Brewster, Marion Alexander (1872-1952), Albert Wesley (1879-1896), and Clarence B. Nathan (1882-1967).

In 1850, he was with his parents and siblings in Peoria, Illinois. In 1860, he is in Grove, Kansas working on a farm at age 26. In 1870, he was living in Kansas with his wife Mary and son Poston (8 months) as a farmer. Next door was his brother George, with his family and their mother, Sarah A. In 1885, he was living in Elm Creek, Morris Co., Kansas with his family as a farmer. On February 27, 1890, he was appointed US Postmaster for Pickering, Mason County, WA. In 1890, he was on the veterans' schedule for Mason County, Washington in Township E.D. 81. In 1892, he was in Shelton, WA listed as N.B. Canning at age 57. In 1900, he was in Olympia, Thurston Co., WA

with his wife and son Clarence working as a carpenter living on Central Street. In 1910, he was still in Olympia, WA, with his wife Mary, at age 74. In 1920, he was still in Olympia on Central Street at age 83 with his wife Mary and owned his home free (no mortgage).

On July 13, 1920, he died in Olympia, WA. He was buried in the Masonic Memorial Park in Tumwater, Thurston co., WA in Plot row 45, grave 4N, lot W1/2-1, block 114, listed on page 47. A photo of his gravestone can be found on findagrave.com website.

Sources – ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, federal census, findagrave.com.

- **Jan Wells-Minzel**

Book Reviews

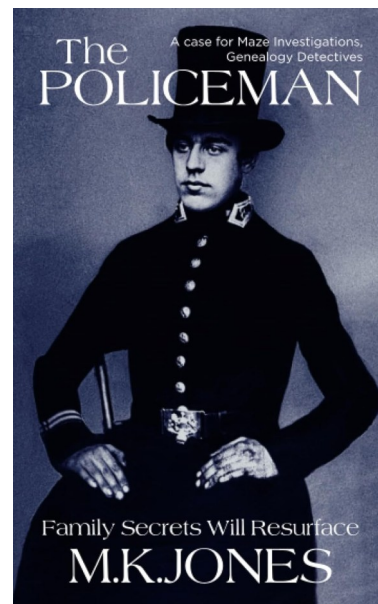


The fourth book in the series by M.K. Jones' Maze Investigations series is "[The Politician](#)". The team is requested to research a politician from the 1800's whose family wants to honor him by commissioning a statue in the town center to honor him and his great contributions to the community. The woman who wants this stopped is a medium who has learned that this politician is not the man he and his family portray him to be. There is a looming deadline that the Maze team needs to meet. This story is full of family mystery, cold case murder, missing person, a little bit of Irish research along with psychic mediums. Definitely a must read, but best read in the order of the

books as written. I have this book to lend. Contact me if you wish to borrow this book. It can also be found at various booksellers as well as digitally.

The fifth book in the Maze Investigations, Genealogy Detectives mystery by M.K. Jones is "[The Policeman](#)". This cold case mystery takes place in Liverpool and Wales, where a policeman never came home back in the 1800's. The request comes through a medium who gives them a clue of a couple words. The trail leads to a property that is being developed into an estate where remains of a person are found while a trench is being dug. The events of the 1800's that lead to his death, ties into current times of sex slave trafficking in the UK. Characters from the last two books are still showing their demented selves in this book. Another great read and genealogical research tips found in this book. I have this book to lend, contact me if you are interested. This book can also be found at various booksellers as well as digitally.

To see all of the books that I have reviewed and yet to be read simply log onto the OGS



website: olygensoc.org Click on Publications/Files. Click on Downloadable Files. Click on "Genealogical Mysteries & Other" green button. You can download an excel file or a pdf file to see the most updated list. New books have been added. Some are available through the Timberland Library System, although they have been culling some of these books so it is best to check if they still have them in their system. Books that I have to lend are indicated with "KMU" in the column. Good Reading!!

-Kerri Upton

OGS Elected Officers

President — Andy Carter
Vice President — Terry Church
Secretary — Carol Jenner
Treasurer — Karin Coppernoll
Past President—Kathy Erlandson

Team Leads

Book Management— Rebel Romero
Membership — Bob Monn
Newsletter — Peggy Cooley
OGS Historian — Cindy Stalnaker
Publicity — vacant
Research — Jerri McCoy
Spring Seminar — Nancy Cordell
SIGs—Kerry McHugh-Upton
Sunshine—Gayle Strom
Technology—Joe Brookshier

Community Partners

City of Lacey — Erin Quinn Valcho
Timberland Library — Agatha Burstein

February General Membership Meeting

Melissa Barker presented "*Digging into Finding Aids: The Road Map to Any Manuscript Collection*" at our February meeting. Genealogists use all kinds of tools to help them with their genealogy research. One of the best tools to understand and use when working with Manuscript Collections is the Finding Aid. Archivists develop Finding Aids to help genealogists navigate through Manuscript Collections to find their ancestors. This presentation showed genealogists how to read, follow, and use a Finding Aid to find your ancestors in the records. Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager and Public Historian. She is affectionately known as *The Archive Lady* to the genealogy community. She lectures, teaches, and writes about the genealogy research process, researching in archives and records preservation. She writes a popular blog entitled [*A Genealogist in the Archives*](#). She has been a Professional Genealogist for the past 21 years with expertise in Tennessee records.

Olympia Genealogical Society

Membership Meeting Minutes
12 February 2025 Zoom

President Andy Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Program: Diana introduced Melissa Barker, "The Archives Lady," who presented "Digging into Finding Aids: The Road Map to Any Manuscript Collection."

Business Meeting:

Minutes for the January meeting were approved as published in the OGS Newsletter.

Newsletter Team: Peggy Cooley encouraged members to submit items, including family recipes and book reviews. The team hopes to include information related to disaster preparedness for your genealogy work.

Seminar Team: Nancy Cordell thanked everyone who participated in our February seminar. It was the best -attended event post-Covid.

Adjournment: President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Forty-one members and guests attended.