

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 35, NO 8

APR 2025

UPCOMING DATES

- **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Thursday, Apr 10th, 7-8:30pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** - throughout April
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** Apr 20th
- **OGS Board Meeting** Apr 15th, 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

FOLLOW US:



This newsletter is free to the community.

April Musings

Did the California wildfires and the mass destruction give you pause? Did you start thinking about a "Go Bag" for your important papers, genealogy and supplies? It has been on my mind for the past several months and here are the suggestions I've found for documents.

Papers that prove your identity: driver's license, passport, immigration, birth, marriage and social security papers.

Estate documents: wills,

trusts, Power of Attorney, list of banking or investment accounts

Insurance papers: home, auto, medical and life.

Important phone numbers and credit card numbers

Scan the documents onto a flash drive or copy them and store them in document protectors or laminate. Label everything then place together in a container that is easy to pick up in a hurry.

Andy Carter suggests you

look at the WA State Emergency Management Division website for Prepare in a Year: 1 hour of planning and action each month for successful preparedness

www.DisasterReadyWashington.com

Thomas MacEntee has great advice for securing your genealogy. Look for his complete article in next month's Musings. Hints: Locate ALL your genealogy data and consider 3 back up plans. - **Peggy Cooley**

Researching your War of 1812 Ancestor

Wars by their nature create paper; an enormous volume of paper. The War of 1812 was no exception. Fortunately, many of the records from this time period still exist and the National Archives of the United States help to document American history from that time. These records include enlistment papers, muster rolls, pay rolls, rosters, descriptive lists, account books, oaths of allegiance, and discharge papers. These records may provide names, ranks, dates, organiza-

tions, locations, and remarks concerning hospitalizations, promotions, wounds, dates of death and physical descriptions.

Bio: Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG, FUGA is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 10,000 titles in print. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty-nine years, he specializes in records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the mili-

tary. He has coordinated the Military tracks at IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP in years past. He is currently the Coordinator of the SLIG Consultation Track, helping students solve their brick wall problems.

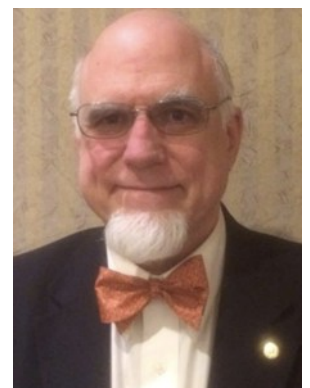


Photo: Craig Roberts Scott

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.

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!! OGS elections are held at the June Member Meeting (June 12th this year). President Andy Carter has constituted a Nominating Committee of Peggy Cooley, Kris Retlin, Eileen Nashleanas and Laurie Ducatt. They will be contacting every member of the society with a short survey and the question: Are you willing to be nominated? Please respond when they call or email. This is an opportunity for you to have

input into our Society. We are looking for a **Treasurer** (elected position), a **Publicity person** and a **Sunshine person**.

Treasurer—handles OGS's finances and presents this information at board meetings and general member meetings.

Publicity—handles advertising and communication of OGS meetings and events. This includes posting to

social media accounts and websites, and emailing Senior News and other genealogy societies about our events.

Sunshine— sends cards and messages for members having difficulties of any kind.

Please consider if interested. Members are available to help train and support anyone in these positions.

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

Community News

- 1. **Olympia Timberland Library is closed for cleaning, technology, furniture and accessibility upgrades until April 6.** Picking up holds and digital resources are available during this closure.
- 2. Tumwater Timberland Library closed for renovations until the summer.
- 3. **Olympia Historical Society: A Celebration of Olympia Heritage** Thursday, April 24, 2025 5-8PM. Lord Mansion, 211 21st Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98501

Celebrate the **30th anniversary of the Bigelow House Museum** with historic displays, music, an online auction, and delicious appetizers and wine. Tickets are \$75 person with all proceeds benefitting the Bigelow House Museum. Space is limited. More information and to purchase tickets, go to Olympiahistory.org,

Don't forget to take a guided tour of the Bigelow House Museum. Check Olympiahistory.org for times.

Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum presents

A CELEBRATION OF OLYMPIA'S HERITAGE

April 24 | 5pm - 8pm
LORD MANSION
 211 21st Ave SW, Olympia

OLYMPIA MEMORABILIA | SILENT AUCTION | MUSIC
 APPETIZERS PROVIDED BY *BITE ME* CATERING

30 years of the Bigelow House Museum



SCAN FOR TICKETS AND AUCTION INFORMATION
 or visit www.olympiahistory.org

Proceeds benefit the preservation of the Bigelow House Museum

Bigelow House image provided by Bigelow House Museum; Birdseye Map of Olympia, 1879 by E. S. Glover

Take Action! The Future of the National Archives is up to you!

Is saving the records of America's history, and making documents accessible for all, a priority to you? If so, we need to act now. Tell Congress to continue funding NARA at \$427.3 million, the current funding level.

Here's how to do it:

1. Learn about the funding NARA needs to keep research rooms open, scan records, process collections and so much more

2. Watch a quick video showing

how to contact Congress

3. Write and share your comments

Find your member of Congress at <https://www.congress.gov/members>

Important news regarding 23andMe

23andMe filed for bankruptcy. It is recommended that those who've tested there do the following:

DNA testing site 23andMe files for bankruptcy protection

Source: [<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9q4r9xy9wro>] (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9q4r9xy9wro>)

23andMe customer should do the following:

1) download and save all available reports locally, after all you've paid

for them

2) request to download your raw DNA data file for all people under your account (*)

3) for information that cannot be downloaded at the moment, opt instead to use your browsers "print" option and then select "to PDF", so that the information that you see right now in front of you is saved to a PDF locally at your computer

(*) to request downloading your raw DNA data, do the following:

a) log into 23andMe

b) go to this link: <https://you.23andme.com/tools/data/>

c) click on the "Download" tab

d) enter your birth date

e) Scroll all the way to the see "Request your raw genotyping data download" and check the box

f) click on "Submit request"

It will take half a day or so and you will get an email when it's ready.

- **Nancy Cordell**

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

Today I want to talk about court records and what you can find in them. Beginners to genealogy may think there are only court cases with plaintiffs and defendants and possibly juries, but there is so much more in those records.

Right now I am deep in the 1795-1796 Cumberland County, North Carolina records, and this is specifically what I am talking about, but other states will have similar things. What I am looking at is the P's & Q's or the Pleas and Quarter Sessions, held as you might guess, every three months. A couple of times the session are closer together as the months of sessions are changed by state law.

This is the lowest court, though it is called the Superior Court. They handle minor cases, though I know of a trial of a slave who was executed. This is very unusual. They do have cases such as Alexander Avera vs James Pearl (16 Oct 1795) but all it has in it is the list of the jury and the damages assessed. Other cases might give the cause such as Assault and Battery, Trespassing, Petition for Division of Lands, Division of Negroes or a Jury to inquire into paternity. Major cases, such as murder, were handled by the Superior Court of Law & Equity, which met twice a year. To return to the Pleas and Quarter Sessions:

Lists of juries give information on the persons listed. Sometimes an occupation was given to separate a

man from another of the same name; the only people able to serve on juries were white males over 21 who owned property; the amount of property varied over time. After 1870 (15th Amendment), Blacks were eligible but seldom allowed to serve. Women were not allowed to serve on juries in North Carolina until 1946. I don't know about other states. Women were allowed to serve on juries here in Washington as early as 1911 (one of the earliest states).

Overseers of Roads with the hands they are to use. This particular item will give the neighbors (because they work on the road on which they live) and let you know where the person you are looking at does live.

Lists of deeds, deeds of gift, and bills of sale. These will only give the names of the donors or sellers and the recipients. To find out more about them, one would have to dig into the deed books.

Appointments of Constables, Justices of the Peace, licenses to own taverns, and permission to run ferries, bridges, and mills.

In later years (ca 1818) Revolutionary Soldiers applied for pensions. They had to be destitute and named all their relatives and listed their possessions and their war service. There were also occasional mentions of pensions for widows of soldiers who had died from wounds in the War. I know of two in Cumberland County who were frequently mentioned as the county was giving them a pen-

sion.

When someone became an administrator or executor of a will, he was required to post a bond; that bond was usually the estimated value of the property.

All right. There are all these goodies (and more I have not listed) but how do you find them? Many of the counties have had dedicated people who have abstracted many of the court records and published them. In addition, now that Family Search has the ability (with their new "experiment") to search handwriting for words, names and so on, that is a great source. I am looking at the 1795 records, though, and feel that there are some that just need to be read (or attempted) before it can be considered searched. Family Search has films of most of the counties in North Carolina, except the burned counties, and also from many other if not all of the states. I use them every day. Sometimes it takes work to find these things, but it is worth it.

- 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

Frank William Edgebert

Frank was a Civil War Veteran who enlisted in Illinois in the 91st regiment, Company E.

He was born on August 10, 1845, in Harrisburg, Lewis co., New York to Fletcher William Edgebert and Almira A. He married Vienna Delia Sharp on September 2, 1875, in Grundy, Illinois. Their children were Irene Eliza Bridges, Florence Gertrude Carlo, Emma Pearl Green, Olive Myra Julson, James Albert, Nellie May Lott, Delbert Decatur, Charles Raymond, Frank William, Clara Vienna Schlottmann.

In 1880, he was living with his family in White Post, Pulaski County, Indiana at age 33 on a farm. In 1900, he was living with his family in Arcadia, Mason County, Washington working as

a postmaster. On June 2, 1902, he was appointed as US Postmaster in Arcadia. In 1910, he was still in Arcadia with his family still working as the postmaster. On January 4, 1935, he died in Olympia, Thurston County, WA and was buried in the Odd Fellows Memorial Park in Tumwater, Thurston co., WA.

Obituary - Frank W. Edgebert, 89, Civil War Veteran and pioneer of the Sound country, died at his home, Thomas and Conger streets, Friday evening. Mr. Edgebert came to this state 46 years ago and engaged in business at Arcadia, operating a general store until 17 years ago, when he retired and came to Olympia to reside. He was born in the state of New York on August 10, 1845. In his early life, Mr. Edgebert went to Chicago, and at the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted in the 91st Illinois

infantry. He had the distinction of being with the troops that participated in the funeral service for the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln. Following the war, Mr. Edgebert located in Indiana and came from there to this state. He was a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), and his death further depleted the fast-thinning ranks of the corps. Mrs. Edgebert died here in 1929. Surviving are two sons, Charles R. and Frank William, five daughters, Mrs. Irene Bridges, Mrs. W. W. Lott, Mrs. Emma Green, Mrs. Clara Schlottmann and Mrs. Florence Carlos, and 27 grandchildren, all residents of this county. Mr. Edgebert was a member of the Christian Missionary Alliance congregation.

- Jan Wells Minzel

Book Reviews

The 6th book in the Maze Investigations Genealogy Detectives series is "[The Soldier](#)" by M.K. Jones takes us back to Spain to search for a Welsh volunteer soldier. Many Welsh

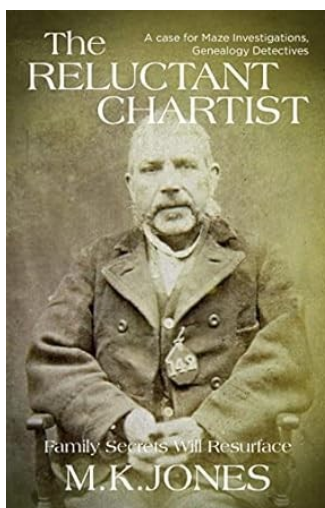
young men went as volunteers to fight with the resistance in the Spanish Civil War. This is a story of one young man who didn't return under mysterious



ous circumstances. Meanwhile back in Wales the Maze Investigations team are dealing with the sinister McCarty Miller family who have been out to destroy the Maze Investigations team. I learned a lot about the Spanish Civil War reading this mystery. MK Jones has done a great job researching the Spanish Civil War and weaving it into a story. You can find this book on Kindle, through your favorite bookseller or you are welcome to borrow my copy.

The next book in the Maze Investigations Genealogy Detectives series is "[The Reluctant Chartist](#)". The main character isn't actually a Chartist but a common thief who has just stolen a rare Asian ceramic artifact. He gets caught up in the march of the Chartist and can't escape. As the authorities round up all of the participants, the thief is identified as partaking in the march as well. He is subsequently tried and sent off to Australia. The Maze

team is trying to determine what happened to the thief, trying to determine what happened to the Asian artifact. There is another group of people trying to determine where the Asian artifact is and will not stop until they get their hands on it. This story



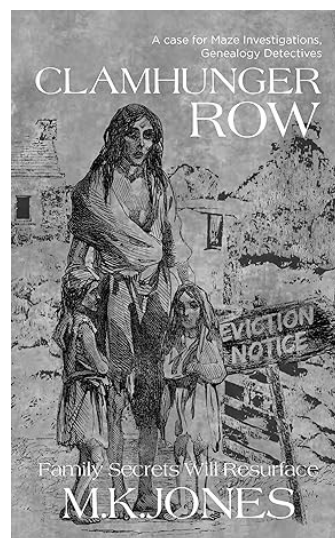
shares a bit about the Chartist movement and convict ships to Australia. You can find this book on Kindle, through your favorite bookseller or you are welcome to borrow my copy.

The final book in the Maze Investigations Genealogy Detectives series, book 8, is "[Clamhunger Row](#)" by MK Jones. This story takes place during the Great Hunger (the Famine) in Ireland where 3 orphan female cousins are sent from the workhouse to Australia under the Earl Grey scheme, however one of them escapes and heads back to Ireland where she seeks revenge and escapes to America. The Maze Team is charged with finding what happened to the girls and what their true identity is. MK Jones tells a great story and weaves in genealogical research tips along the way. You can find this book on Kindle as well as through your favorite bookseller. I also have a

copy to lend out if you are interested. Please contact me via email if you would like to borrow my copy.

MK Jones has also written a compilation of 15 short genealogical stories called "The Maze Genealogy Case Files. This is a quick read of short stories that she has sent out via her newsletter. I have a copy of this book to lend out as well as it is available through booksellers.

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

March General Membership Meeting

Brian Rhinehart presented "**Was My William Smith in the Civil War**" at our March meeting.

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

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.

Olympia Genealogical Society

Membership Meeting Minutes
13 March 2025 (Hybrid)

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

Program: Cindy Stalnaker introduced Brian Rhinehart, who presented "Was My William Smith in the Civil War."

Business Meeting:

Andy called for volunteers to join Peggy Cooley and Kris Retlin on the nominating committee. Laurie Ducatt volunteered. The committee will identify nominees for board positions and other societal roles and report back in May.

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

Team Reports

Kerry Upton reported that the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were alive and well and encouraged members to review the list of opportunities on the OGS website.

The society needs leads for Publicity and Sunshine.

Announcements

Eric Olson reported that the local chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is active and is in the process of forming an auxiliary. Contact member Eric Olson for information about both groups.

Adjournment: President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.