

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 35, NO 9

MAY 2025

UPCOMING DATES

- **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Thursday, May 8th, 7-8:30pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** - throughout May
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** May 20th
- **OGS Board Meeting** May 13th, 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.

May Musings

Election Time! Elections will be held at the June meeting. The Nominating Committee will present a full slate at the May meeting and voting will be held at the June meeting. The Nominating Committee has made calls to each of our members and wants to thank you for answering. We still need volunteers to make our Society great! This is especially true as genealogy societies

all over are having to close their doors due to a lack of participation. Volunteers run this organization. You don't need to know how to do any of the roles as there are plenty of people in this organization who will guide you and can help answer any questions you may have. All you need is an interest and desire to see this organization continue.

Sunshine Person Our Thanks to Kris Retlin, who has agreed to be our Sunshine Person. She will send a card to anyone who needs a little 'sunshine' in their life, due to illness or life problems. Please contact her at kris.retlin@gmail.com. Please put **OGS Sunshine Person** in the subject line and let her know who needs a card.

From Research to Draft: Rapidly Writing Your Ancestor's Story

Unlock the power of storytelling and preserve your family history like never before in this

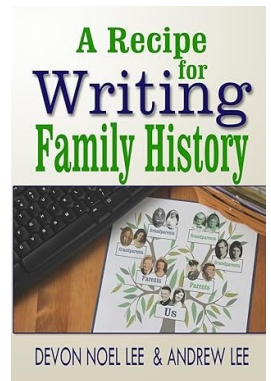


Photo: Devon Noel Lee

captivating workshop! Join renowned genealogy expert Devon Noel Lee as she transforms one lucky RootsTech attendee's genealogical document into a compelling rough draft right before your eyes. Experience the magic of the "Recipe for Writing Family History" process as Devon simplifies the writing journey for our ancestors, ensuring no one ever faces writer's block again.

Devon Noel Lee is known for her contagious energy and passion for capturing and preserv-

ing family histories. She specializes in practical research, writing, and memory keeping. She has published over 60 books, including a memoir and four family history how-to books, including the popular "[A Recipe for Writing Family History](#)."



OGS Program Year at-a-glance

June is our last meeting date until we break for summer. the Family Search Center and What it has to Offer" - John Anderson.

June 12th (TBD) - Then we break Family Search.org until September
- Working with

Community News

1. The local chapter of Daughters of 1812 is in Tumwater and they would be pleased to have new members. For more information, contact Eileen Dodge, edodge1946@comcast.net, 360-493-2131 or Alma Greenwood, alma_greenwood@msn.com, 360 943-4290



birth certificates. The law becomes effective July 27, 2025.

-Karin Coppel

2. With the passage of House Bill 1157, great-grandchildren can now request access to death and

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

Backing Up Your Genealogy Data

What is the 3-2-1 Data Backup?

At least 3 different backups. One is not enough. For me, I use a cloud-based program (Amazon Web Services), a 4TB external hard drive, and a 2TB external solid state drive.

Use 2 different media for backup. I chose three actually, but never have all your backups in the cloud or on solid state drives.

At least 1 backup must be offsite, and away from the original source computer. For me, the cloud qualifies as well as a USB flash drive since I store it in a fire safe away from my computer.

What to do BEFORE backing up data?

Remember to look everywhere and anywhere to identify possible genealogy data. This includes going beyond the database where you store your research data. Don't overlook Internet bookmarks, emails, scanned photos and documents, research logs.

3-2-1 Data Backup: Step-by-Step

Deploying the 3-2-1 Data Backup is fairly easy once you understand what backup methods to use for each section.

Basic Data Backup Methods

These methods involve backing data up to different media.

External hard drive: New Solid State Drive (SSD) technology means less drive failure and the portable drives are as small as a credit card!

Flash drive: Flash drives are convenient and portable BUT they do fail over time so they should not be considered a reliable data storage method.

Online Data Backup Methods

- iDrive: A continuous online backup with up to 5TB of storage with NO LIMIT on the number of computers or devices and includes the ability to backup mobile devices and tablets.
- Backblaze: Backs up everything on your personal computer except for the operating system, applications and temporary files. Includes PC and Mac as well as external drives. Also provides a mobile app to access backed up files.
- Carbonite: Backup personal data with no limit on storage space; does not include system files or programs.

Online Cloud Computing Programs

These programs are different from typical backup programs in that they place your data in the cloud and synchronize updates from your computer resident file to the cloud copy.

- Dropbox: Automatic synching of files of any size or type to different computers. Includes mobile option and file sharing.
- Google Drive: Formerly Google Docs, offers file storage and automatic synching with a free option of up to 15 GB of storage.
- OneDrive: Formerly SkyDrive, Microsoft's version of online storage and backup. Requires a Windows Live ID and offers RSS feeds. Free version is 7 GB.

Creating a Data Backup Plan

- Identify the data you need to

backup. Don't forget the other programs you use when doing your research such as images, research logs, scanned documents, Internet bookmarks. Do a thorough inventory of locating where your genealogy data might be hiding.

- Identify a backup method that works for you. Don't commit to a method like copying to a flash drive once a week if it won't work for you. The method should be easy to use, have some form of automation, and use some sort of reminder.
- Perform a test restore of data. Make sure you do a test restore of your data from time to time to ensure that your method is working.
- Keep up with technology. Make sure you are using current technologies.

Restoring Data

- If your data backup process incorporates any log files (files ending in .log or .txt) or messages listing backup data, make sure you read these from time to time.
- Do a test restore – but do it carefully! Don't actually delete any data – just move it to a different location, rename a folder etc. Then perform a restore based on the backup plan you have in place. Once the restore is done, check to make sure the results are what you expected.

- Continued on Page 4

Backing Up Your Genealogy Data...continued

Data Backup Best Practices

- Make sure you identify all your data. Remember that genealogy data can hide in the weirdest places on your computer. Think beyond genealogy software and include favorites, bookmarks, emails and photos.
- Keep a regular schedule. Backing up on a regular basis—not just when you re-
- member to do it—is the key to successfully ensuring your data is available in case of a mishap.
- Automate as much as possible. Look for online backups such as Carbonite, Dropbox or Backblaze. Or use an external hard drive with software that will perform a backup on a regular basis.
- Test your backups. Periodically test your backups. Also realize that CDs and DVDs can degrade over time.
- Use current technology. Data backups should be in a format that can be used in the future.

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Washington State Genealogical Society

The nomination period for the Washington State Genealogical Society President's Award for Outstanding Achievement is open. Nominations are due by 01 Aug 2025.

The President's Award is designed to single out that rare individual, society or organization who has demonstrated exemplary service above and beyond expectations. For more information about the WSGS President's Award for

Outstanding Achievement, email Roxanne Lowe at info@wasgs.org. Please put "President's Award" in the subject line.

The nomination period for the Washington State Genealogical Society for us to honor our outstanding volunteers or teams with an Outstanding Volunteer or Team Award. Nominations are due by July 1, 2025. Submit the required form and photograph of your honoree(s)

to info@wasgs.org. The narrative (approximately 150 words) should explain the accomplishments of your nominee/team and why you are honoring him/her/them. The photo should be a good quality digital photograph (at least 300 dpi). Additional details and deadlines may be found at the WSGS website here.

Please contact Roxanne Lowe at info@wasgs.org if you have questions or suggestions.

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

Places Then and Now

We all know we need to log places as accurately as possible in our genealogy work. But the question arises – do we put where it was then or where it is now.

One of the most obvious place name changes, that we are all familiar with, is West Virginia when the western part of Virginia became a separate state. Here in Washington we are familiar with Oregon Territory, then Washington Territory and finally Washington State.

Following are the instructions for the 1930 census having to do with place names:

165. *Column 18. Place of birth of person.* If the person was born in the United States, give the State or Territory in which born. The words "United States" are not sufficiently definite. A person born in what is now North Dakota, South Dakota, or Oklahoma should be so reported, although at the time of his birth the particular region may have had a different name. For a person born in Washington, D.C., write District of Columbia. Do not abbreviate the names of States or Territories.

166. If the person was born in a foreign country, enter the name of the country only, as *Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Norway, Poland, China, etc.*, as the case may be, *except as noted in the following paragraphs.*

167. Since it is essential that each foreign-born person be credited to the country in which his birthplace is now located, special attention must be given to the six countries which lost a part of their territory in the readjustments following the World War. These six countries are as follows: **Austria**, which lost territory to Czechoslovakia, Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Rumania. **Hungary**, which lost territory to Austria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia. **Bulgaria**, which lost territory to Greece and Yugo-

slavia. **Germany**, which lost territory to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, France, Lithuania, and Poland. **Russia**, which lost territory to Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Turkey. **Turkey**, which lost territory to Greece and Italy and from which the following areas became independent: Iraq (Mesopotamia); Palestine (including Transjordan); Syria (including Lebanon); and various States and Kingdoms in Arabia (Asir, Hejaz, and Yemen).

168. If the person reports one of these six countries as his place of birth or that of his parents, ask specifically whether the birthplace is located within the present area of the country; and if not, find out to what country it has been transferred. If a person was born in the Province of Bohemia, for example, which was formerly in Austria but is now a part of Czechoslovakia, the proper return for country of birth is Czechoslovakia. If you can not ascertain with certainty the present location of the birthplace, where this group of countries is involved, enter in addition to the name of the country, the name of the Province or State in which the person was born, as Alsace-Lorraine, Bohemia, Croatia, Galicia, Moravia, Slovakia, etc., or the city, as Warsaw, Prague, Strasbourg, etc.

I spent most of my 30-plus years in Fayetteville, North Carolina doing genealogy work in Cumberland County though I had no family from there. Cumberland County was formed in 1754 from Bladen which was formed in 1734 from New Hanover and Bath Counties. In 1855 Harnett was carved out of Cumberland and then finally in 1911 Hoke came from Cumberland and Robeson Counties. When someone wrote to me asking about records for their families who lived in Harnett in 1830, I was set back and knew that they did not understand what had happened to the area. Many people born in western North Carolina have en-

tered Tennessee for their place of birth; often it was not known which state the person was born in.

My family was sometimes even more disjointed in where they came from. My North Carolina families were out of the state by 1805; they came from the northeast in what was then Dobbs County (now defunct), and what were then Mecklenburg, Rowan and Surrey Counties. If I put Dobbs County down for a location, where do I look for the records? If I put Mecklenburg down for a location, but the event happened in Salisbury (now in Rowan County) where do I look for records? And how do I know?

An even more difficult part of my family lived for generations in what is now Conejos County, Colorado. At various times this part of the country was part of Spain, Mexico, Texas Republic, New Mexico Territory, Colorado Territory and finally the state of Colorado. What do I put down for locations? Go to [Recording a Place Name in Genealogy Record](#) on Family Search Wiki. This page discusses the three ways to identify a place, together with the pros and cons of each.

First is to use the Name at the Time of the Event. Second is to use the Contemporary Place. Third is to use the "Then and Now" method. Each has pros and cons. I, myself, like the third option, though I had not used it before. I will have to update most of my database, but I am in the process of doing that anyway. I am not going to go through each one and the pros and cons thereof. I suggest strongly that you each read the item from Family Search and implement whichever you finally decide fits your needs. I just want you all to be educated about them. - **Carolyn Gibbons**

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

April General Membership Meeting

Craig R Scott presented "**Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor**" at our April meeting.

Researching a War of 1812 Ancestor can involve a set of interesting records. This lecture examined types of service, compiled military service records, how to compile your own service record, pension applications, settled accounts, and where other records can be found.

Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG, FUGA is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty-nine years, he specializes in the records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military. Former IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP Military Course Coordinator.

Olympia Genealogical Society

Membership Meeting Minutes
10 April 2025 (Hybrid)

President Andy Carter called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Program: Diana Bargmann introduced Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG®, FUGA, who presented "Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor."

Business Meeting: Diana announced two outreach opportunities and requested volunteers. Norway Day is on 19 April at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, with set-up on the 18th. Also, OGS will have a table at the Delphi Schoolhouse rummage sale on 3 May. Prospective volunteers should contact Diana.

Team Report: Nancy Cordell announced that the Seminar Team has scheduled Cyndi Ingle for 7 February 2026 presentations focused on technology for genealogy.

Adjournment: President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:19 pm.