

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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UPCOMING DATES

- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP HOLIDAY PARTY: Saturday, Dec 7th, 1-3pm
- SIG MEETINGS - throughout Dec
- DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES: Dec 15th
- OGS Board Meeting Dec 17th, 6:30-8:30pm

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Newsletter team: Peggy Cooley, Carolyn Gibbons, and Mandy Stahre  
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WEBSITE LINK:

[olygensoc.org](http://olygensoc.org)

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This newsletter is free to the community.

# What will you do with 10 hours of sunlight in December and January?

Is that enough incentive to sit at your computer next to your UV light and work on your genealogy? At our monthly Genealogy Chat SIG meeting, Cindy Stalnaker, Eileen Nashleanas, Diana Bargmann and I brainstormed some ideas.

- Watch [Legacy Family Tree Seminars](#) (a membership costs \$49/yr); however, they are available free for a 7 day period after the live event
- Get Devon Lee's book [A Recipe for Writing Family History](#), \$4.99 on Kindle. She's an upcoming speaker in 2025!
- Update your database
- Curl up with a good book - genealogical mysteries are hot right now
- Get Thomas MacEntee's digital free book, [Genealogy Do-Over](#) at [genealogybargains.com](http://genealogybargains.com)
- Clear out just one box in a closet or the garage, especially if it has genealogy files
- Scan your old photographs and LABEL!
- Sign up for Libby® at [Timberland library](#), to borrow e-books, magazines and audiobooks
- Do you have a family member who witnessed a significant event in history? We would love to hear from you.

—Peggy Cooley

## December meeting is a holiday party!

Join us for our annual holiday party on **Saturday, Dec. 7th from 1-3 pm** at the Capital Vision Church, 1775 Yew Ave. NE in east Olympia (same location as last year). **OGS members and their immediate family are welcome.** We are asking for contributions of snack foods and light refreshments (please, no items that require refrigeration). OGS will provide plates, napkins and beverages. We could use volunteers for set up at 12:30 pm and for clean-up after 3 pm. Hope to see you there!



Remember—No general membership presentation in December. Presentations resume in January!

## 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.

**December 7th (P)** - Holiday Party.

**January 9th (TBD)** - "Finding a Professional Genealogist" with Nancy Cordell.

**February 13th (Z)** - "Digging

into Finding Aids: The Roadmap to Any Manuscript Collection" with Melissa Barker.

**March 13th (Z)** - "Was my William Smith in the Civil War?" with Brian Rhinehart.

**April 10th (Z)** - "Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor" with Craig R. Scott.

**May 8th (Z)** - "From Re-

search 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.

**2025 OGS virtual Seminar registration is open! See pages 4 and 7 for more details.**

## Attention state employees and retirees (and OGS!)

Olympia Genealogical Society is now a member charity of the Washington State Combined Fund Drive (CFD), a workplace giving program that allows Washington State employees and retirees to donate to charities of their choice. Current state employees can specify **Charity Code 2006621** to give to OGS. Retirees needing to

establish an account should contact [cfid@sos.wa.gov](mailto:cfid@sos.wa.gov). For more information about CFD and to search for active charities, see the CFD website at <https://give.wa.gov/>.

Big thanks to Treasurer Karin Copernoll for registering our organization with the Secretary of

State's office and serving as CFD contact.

- Carol Jenner





## 2024 Holiday submissions:

### My Children's Miracle Christmas Gift

- Cindy Stalnaker

I remember Christmas as a child being fun. My parents loved to give us gifts and I still can see their smiles as we opened the gifts. My Mom especially loved the stocking stuffers. The gifts I received were things like a new Osmond album or a ballerina doll that could dance when you pushed her crown down, and I always got little things like lip gloss and earrings in my stocking. My favorite gifts as I got older were the ones I received in Nordstrom boxes. It usually meant a pretty dress with shoes. As an adult I also enjoyed the looks on my children's faces as they opened their gifts. One Christmas stands out. It was 1986 and my husband and I lived in Idaho. We had noticed the Sears Christmas catalog was all marked up with the names of our three children. Concerned that they were getting a little too wrapped up in themselves we decided to get them involved in giving. We signed them up to serve at the local shelter and we encouraged them to pull names from Angel trees. They really had a good time doing this. About two days before Christmas Eve our oldest child realized we didn't have a Christmas tree and being the one child that really, I mean really,

believed in Santa Clause got upset that he wouldn't visit our house without a tree. It was already hard enough to explain to this child that Santa would still deliver without a chimney in our house and now the tree was a problem. So, we decided to take our Christmas lights and create a tree on our wall in the living room. We then placed the gifts we had bought each other under that tree and all three children were happy. What they didn't know was that we had a tree in our storage unit and once they were asleep, we put the tree up and placed all the gifts and some extras under it. The way we solved the chimney issue was to leave the front door unlocked and yes, we left cookies and milk out. The next morning our oldest was up first and I heard him say "it's a miracle". He then woke up his siblings and took them down the hall explaining the miracle. My husband and I were still in bed, and we couldn't stop giggling. It was only a couple of years ago, our oldest is 43 now, that he asked, "how did you guys pull off that miracle"? I had to confess how we tricked them and then I told him it was one of the best Christmas gifts I've ever gotten.

### Recipe: See's Fudge

- Eileen Nashleanas

My mother always made "See's Fudge" during the Christmas season. The "See's" name refers to [See's Candies](#) which is a famous brand in Southern California where I grew up. Charles See started the business in a single shop in Los Angeles in 1921 using recipes developed by his mother Mary. They had door to door delivery in 1928. During World War II when there was rationing of important ingredients such as butter and sugar, See's shops would often sell out of candy after a few hours and then close for the rest of the day. See's had a float in the Rose Parade in Pasadena California in 1949. There are now 250 shops across America, as well as a flourishing online store. See's Candy still uses Mary See's original recipe for making fudge.

So, here is my mother's recipe:

#### See's Candy

Mix 10 marshmallows with ¼ lb. butter in double boiler.

Boil ¾ cup evaporated milk with 2 cups sugar for 8 minutes.

Pour milk mixture and marshmallow mixture over 1 ½ cups chocolate chips. Mix until creamy and thick.

Add ½ tsp. vanilla and ½ cup nuts.

Pour into a buttered pan.

Cool in refrigerator.

(Spoiler alert...this is probably an adoption of the "See's Candy" actual recipe).

## Genealogy Tips

Roberta Estes, founder of [DNA Explained](#), suggests that you at least check DNA kits on your ancestor/taker's birthday. That means checking the YDNA kits for my brother and uncle and the kits for my aunt, cousin and sons as I am the administrator. - **Peggy Cooley**



## 2025 OGS Virtual Seminar

We are thrilled to announce our annual seminar on February 1, 2025, featuring the renowned genealogist and speaker, [Blaine Bettinger](#). This year, our topic is “*AI Made Easy: Boosting Your Genealogy Research with Technology*”, a timely and fascinating subject that is reshaping how we research our family histories. As AI technologies continue to advance, they offer incredible new tools for genealogists of all skill levels. Blaine will guide us through the ways AI can enhance

our research processes, from analyzing historical records to breaking through brick walls in our family trees.

### What You Can Expect:

- Insights from an Expert: Blaine, known for his expertise in genetic genealogy, will share practical strategies for incorporating AI into your genealogy research.
- Interactive Q&A: Engage with Blaine as he addresses your questions and shares real-world applications of AI in uncovering your family history.

### Registration opens November 14!

Don't miss this chance to explore the intersection of technology and genealogy. Registration opens on November 14 at [olygenesoc.org](http://olygenesoc.org). Payment will be accepted via PayPal, ensuring a quick and easy registration process. The seminar is virtual once again and it will be recorded. Recordings will be available to registered participants through Sunday, March 2, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

- **Nancy Neville Cordell, Seminar Coordinator**

### Special Interest Groups and Facilitators:

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

# Genealogy 101

## Revisiting Finding Women's Surnames

I'm going back to this first, because it is important and second, because I have just spent most of the past month doing this.

Finding the maiden names of women is often extremely difficult. There are many places to look: obituaries, death certificates, marriages, death certificates of their children, Find A Grave, burial notices, wills. And a warning – watch out for the information you get – be sure and check with more than one source if possible.

My genealogy database has changed three times and my computer at least six times. My database has become jumbled in some areas, and I started to fix it – and found it was much more than I had first thought. Notes are moved, marriages are lost, connections are not there, and it was brought home to me very strongly that I had no idea how to do sources when I first started. I am starting down my list of people from No Surname, A and working my way through my list of people, correcting and adding to as I go along. I have over 22,000 people in my database – and over 40,000 events with no sources. Out of the number of people in my database, I have over 1,000 with no surname or no name at all. UGH! I will take you through a couple of my searches – and show you some caveats and some problems which need more research.

I had a Susan Letha Somebody married to Thomas Smith Bailey. I found them on the 1920 census living in Howard County, Missouri; Thomas S Bailey is 60, owns his mortgaged farm, and is living with wife Susan L age 50 and two sons. Susan's father was born in New York and her mother in Kentucky. I did find a

marriage for her and Thomas Bailey as T S Bailey and Susan L Avery for 1904. Is her maiden name Avery? Let us not jump to conclusions. I looked at the 1910 census.

In 1910 they were living in Rainy Twp, Washita, Oklahoma on a rented farm. Thomas S Baily is 53, married twice, this time for eight years. Susan, his wife, is 40, married twice, has had five children, all living. There are five Baily children aged 18, 15, 13, 3 and 3 months, and three Avery children aged 10, 15 and 12. The oldest three Baily children are Thomas' first wife's and the latter two are Susan's. All of the Avery children are Susan's and first husband's. Now we have two marriages to look for. I will look at the 1900 census for Susan Avery and husband and the three Avery children. In 1900 Susan is in Howard County, living on a mortgaged farm with her three sons and a husband, W K Avery, 32, married nine years. Susan is 28, born Nov 1871 and has had three children, all living. This time both her parents were born in Missouri.

Looking again for a marriage for a Susan, this time to an Avery about 1891, I don't find one. Moving on. I went to Find A Grave for Avery died ca 1901 and found William Keith Avery; he was born 8 Sep 1867 and died 7 Nov 1902. This fits with the 1900 census and the second marriage of his wife. His wife's is at the site as Susan Letha Stewart Bailey born 13 Nov 1871 and died 19 Jul 1950. The information on the website includes that Susan was the third wife of Thomas Smith Bailey.

There is one other wrinkle in this mess. There is a clipping from the Higbee News dated 24 May 1912 (transcribed by Kathy Bowlin): "Friday, PERHAPS FATALLY KICKED--Martin Avery, the 17-year-old son of the late Wm. Avery, was per-

haps fatally injured at the home of his grandfather, John H. Dougherty, near Myers, Wednesday evening, a mule which he was unharnessing kicking him in the abdomen with both feet. At four o'clock yesterday evening he was no better and but little hope for his recovery was entertained." This is the oldest child of Susan's.

Dougherty is my direct family in Howard County, and I have no idea how this fits: it seems to say that Susan was a Dougherty (and I had her as one until I began this whole mess) but now Find A Grave says she is a Stewart. I followed up with her death certificate (the Missouri Secretary of State has all the death certificates up to 1973 free) and it says her father was Charlie Stewart and her mother Letha Bunnell. Who was John H Dougherty??? Always more questions.

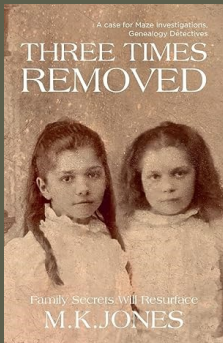
I originally was going to go over something I found (and cannot find again) where the death certificate gave let's call her Christine as a mother (no surname, just a first name). When I looked at the census for 1900, I found the child (let's call her Nancy Jane) living in the household with those parents, but John and Christine had only been married three years and Nancy Jame was 23. So the mother was someone else. Just a quick note about wills. I mentioned you can use them to find maiden names. This is sort of a last resort because it is very difficult. If you have an idea, such as one of the children has a middle name that looks like a surname, that might be hers and then you can check for a will naming the woman as a child, using her married name. Or you might find that someone has abstracted wills with indexes to all the

**Continued to Page 6...**

## Genealogy 101 continued.....

names and find the married name of the woman you are looking for. Now that Family Search allows for the AI searching of wills and deeds, searching these documents for maiden names is more feasible. You can try that. And remember, no matter WHAT source you use, try to find at least one other which gives the same information. A death certificate is only primary proof of the place and date of death and not for anything else!! Not even for the name of the decedent. Newspapers are often incorrect. Tombstones are often erected years later, and everyone lies (to quote Sherlock Holmes).

- Carolyn Gibbons



I just started a new genealogical mystery series by M.K. Jones. The first book, "[Three Times Removed, a case for Maze Investigations the Genealogy Detectives](#)".

Maggie Gilbert and her children move into a new home, starting a new life when she learns that the home that she moved into was built by her great grandparents. She starts looking into her family history and uncovers a dark mystery. As she starts researching, she consults with a genealogist Zelah who is taking an interest in her and her family story. As the mystery continues to unravel, they are joined in the investigation with Nick Howell

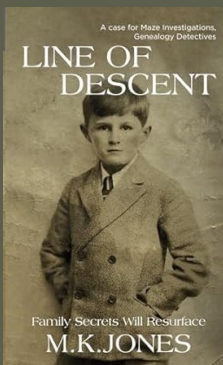
who is an archivist at a manor house in a neighboring town. Family history entails experiences that overlap from historical time into modern day. This is a great read set in South Wales which draws on historical details.

This book is available through Kindle, booksellers as well as I have a copy to lend. If you are interested in reading this book, feel free to send me an email to borrow the book.

The second book in the series, "[Line Of Descent](#)" takes Maggie to Spain to find a descent of a Welsh volun-

teer soldier to help fight in the Spanish Civil War; Zelah has gone to Canada to research a family history of a suspect con-man, all while Nick looks into his family history and discovers the truth behind a family lore. This is a great read to learn more about Spanish civil war and tracing family history. The haunts of the first book weaves it way into the storyline of this book. This book is available on Kindle, through booksellers or I have a copy to lend out. Send me an email if you are interested in borrowing this book or any others that I have reviewed.

- Kerry McHugh Upton





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# AI Made Easy:

## Boosting Your Genealogy Research with Technology

### OGS Virtual Seminar 2025

Generative AI tools are being used more and more, in genealogy. Renowned genealogy expert (and familiar face)

**Blaine Bettinger**, PhD, JD, will spend the day helping us learn how to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool in genealogy.

Topics will include:

- essential AI tools for genealogy
- basic AI prompts
- the ethics of AI
- using AI to help preserve family memories.



**Saturday  
Feb. 1, 2025  
9 am to 3 pm**

**Live online**

**\$35 OGS members  
\$45 nonmembers**

Details and registration  
at [bit.ly/OGS2025](https://bit.ly/OGS2025)



### 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

### Nov presentation

“The Witches of Salem” – There are no witches – are there? Of course not! But in 1692, in Salem, the witch hunt would swell and burn. How were witches identified? What happened to the accused? And who were those who were executed that terrible year in Salem? Come learn a little bit about them and their accusing neighbors. Jerri was born and raised in San Diego, California, and worked in the computer industry for 30 years. She and her husband have been married for 55 years, and have two grown sons. Jerri has been active in genealogy for almost 50 years, and has published three books on her family. She is a member of OGS, the WA State Genealogical Society, the DAR and the Mayflower Society. A recording of the Zoom meeting is now available for OGS members. Click on Community Events / Recordings\* to view the recording. The recording will be available until 17 December 2024.

## Nov General Meeting Minutes

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

### Business Meeting:

**Minutes** for the October 2024 membership meeting were approved as published in the OGS newsletter.

**Seminar:** Nancy Cordell announced that registration for our February Seminar will open on 14 November. Our speaker will be Blaine Bettinger, who will present "AI Made Easy: Boosting Your Genealogy Research with Technology" on 1 February. Recordings of the seminar presentations will be available for 30 days to seminar registrants.

Posters are available for members to post in the community.

**Holiday Party:** The December monthly meeting will be a holiday party on 7 December (Saturday). The party will take place at the Capitol Vision Church, where we have held events in the past. Details will be available on the OGS website and in the December newsletter.

**Beginning Genealogy:** Peggy Cooley reported that the Beginning Genealogy class was presented at the Tumwater Timberline Library on 19 October to nine (of the 14 registered) students. The team (Peggy, Joe Brookshier, and Jerri McCoy) is already working on revisions for the

next presentation. Peggy recognized four OGS members who assisted the team in the presentations — Diana Bargmann, Kris Retlin, Cindy Stalnaker and Carolyn Gibbons.

**Outreach:** Diana Bargmann encouraged members to offer suggestions for programs next year.

**Program:** OGS member Jerri McCoy, appropriately attired, presented "The Witches of Salem."

**Adjournment:** President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Thirty-eight members and guests attended (28 via Zoom and 10 in person).