

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY

VOL. 34, NO 9

MAY 2024

#### UPCOMING DATES

- **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Thursday, May 9th, 7-8pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** - throughout May
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** May 20th
- **OGS Board Meeting** May 21st, 6:30-8:30pm

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Newsletter team: Peggy Cooley, Carolyn Gibbons, and Mandy Stahre  
**Contact us:**  
[newsletter@olygensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@olygensoc.org)

#### WEBSITE LINK:

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

#### FOLLOW US:



This newsletter is free to the community.

**Cake & snacks!**

**Goodies!**

**Bring your memories!**

**Featuring a short program by society founders!**

OLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

**Saturday**  
**May 18, 2024**

**1:00 to 3:30 PM**

**Capital Vision Christian Church**  
**1775 Yew Ave NE, Olympia**

*All are welcome!*

## OGS 50th Anniversary Party!

The Committee is hard at work to provide the community with a fun experience on May 18, 2024, from 1-3:30 at

Capital Vision Christian Church. We'll have cake and snacks and a short program with Ann Olson and Alma

Greenwood, answering questions and talking about the early days of OGS. **Everyone welcome!**

## Musings by Diana Bargmann

So, the question is when and what inspired me to become involved with genealogy? Was it when my grandmother was showing me some old photos of her family and would have been happy to share stories at that moment? No, of course not! But I have always had an interest in names – of people, of places – and I know that at some point in elementary school, I checked out a library book about 5 generations of a family. To this day, a book with that kind of plot still appeals to me. So possibly these were the first

“symptoms”. I remember shortly after I married (53 years ago), naively telling my in-laws that I was going to complete our family tree before I ever had any children. Can you imagine if I had stayed with that plan, especially since I still don't have it all finished yet? I would never have had any children! Fortunately, our son made an unexpected appearance in our lives shortly after that and changed my “plans”. Since that time in the outreach efforts in addition to being on the Programs team for the last 2 years. In April, we were invited by DAR to staff a table representing OGS at the Schmidt House

during their traveling Revolutionary War exhibit and we also had a table at Norway Day held at the Thurston County fairgrounds later that same month. It's fun to meet people excited to find a group like us who are willing to help them discover more about their ancestors. My goal is to make this Outreach Team a fun team to be a part of, with a big enough pool of volunteers and short shifts at our table so that our members enjoy themselves while helping to spread the word about our vibrant 50 year-old organization.

- Diana Bargmann, Outreach Team Leader

### Save the Date

May 18th,  
2024 OGS  
50th Celebration Party!

### May speaker

## Jewish Genealogy: How Is This Research Different from All Other Research?

Janice M. Sellers will present “Jewish Genealogy: How Is This Research Different from All Other Research?” at our May general meeting. This talk will tell us what is unique about Jewish research, show us what resources are available, and suggest what can be done with your research. Janice M. Sellers is a professional genealogist specializing in black, Jewish, dual citizenship, forensic, and newspaper research. She is the president of the Jewish

Genealogical Society of Oregon and a board member of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society (SFBAJGS) and other genealogy publications. She has volunteered at LDS FamilySearch Centers since 2000 and gives presentations on many genealogical topics at local, regional, state, and national/international levels. She has researched her own family history for almost 50 years.

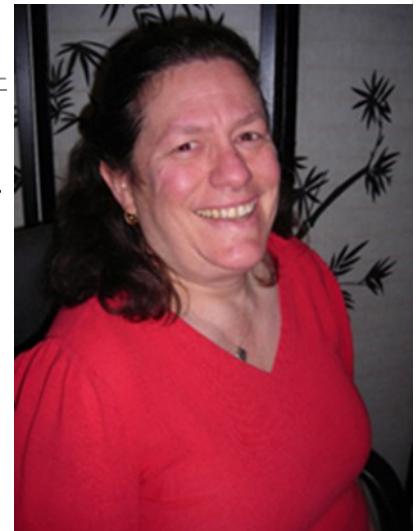


Photo: Janice Sellers

# OGS News

**Monthly General Meetings:** All OGS members receive an email from OGS the day before a general meeting (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, September through June). The DAY OF the meeting, a live link will be put on the home page of our website at [olygensoc.org](http://olygensoc.org).

**Cindy Stalnaker** has graciously accepted the Board appointment for OGS **Historian**. We haven't had a historian for several years, so please thank Cindy when you see her.

**Election News:** Andy Carter regrets that he missed the voting to form a Nominating Committee at the April General Meeting. When the Board met on April 16, we discovered that only the Vice President position needs to be filled. Cindy Stalnaker has agreed to be nominated. We will hold the vote at the June meeting for Cindy Stalnaker or any other nominees. If you would like to be a nominee, please contact Andy Carter at [president@olygensoc.org](mailto:president@olygensoc.org).

[president@olygensoc.org](mailto:president@olygensoc.org).

**Publicity Team Lead:** Mandy Stahre has had to resign her position. As a Society, letting the public know about us and our activities, especially now that we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year, is important. We have all of the contacts and emails for those she has been sending releases to for the past 2 years. Please contact Andy Carter at [president@olygensoc.org](mailto:president@olygensoc.org). This job takes approximately 1 hour per month.

**Outreach:** OGS presented at the American Battlefield Trust & DAR exhibit at Schmidt House presented **The American Revolution Experience** from April 5-17. Diana Bargmann quickly scrambled to get coverage from OGS members Peggy Cooley, Andy Carter, Greg Nordlund, Rebel Romero, Jon Halvorson, Kathy Erlandson, Nancy Cordell, Judy Artley, and

Cindy Stalnaker.

You can view this exhibit at [american-revolution-experience.battlefields.org](http://american-revolution-experience.battlefields.org)



Photo: OGS at the Schmidt House



Photo: OGS at the Schmidt House

## Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The **Family Search SIG** meets the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6-8pm. We have been exploring the Catalog, the Books section and the WIKI in addition to an exciting new service which allows, using AI, to search the hundreds of thousands of records that are not yet catalogued. The Family Search gurus have a program which reads manuscripts. So far only American wills and deeds, plus one set of Mexican records, are available, but it is a peek at a whole new future for searching for our families' rec-

ords. Join us and bring questions.

— **Carolyn Gibbons**

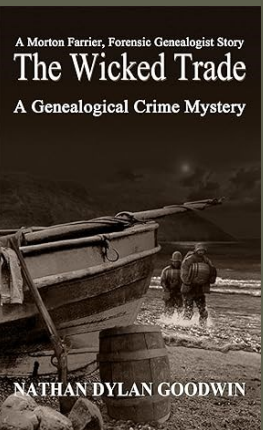
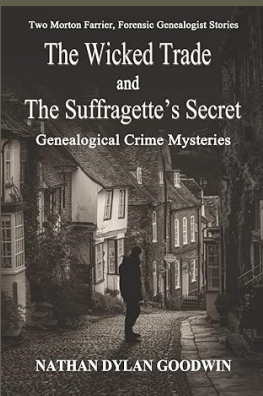
### **FAMILY TREE MAKER - 2024 NORTHWEST TOUR!**

I know of several people that have inquired that are NOT able to attend any and would still like to hear and/or see the presentation. I have asked Mark Olsen if a link would be posted to a "recording" and/or a transcript of one of the presentations? His answer is as follows: "We will try to, but in some sessions technology fails on

us etc. so we will have to review everything when the trip is over and post what worked well for us technologically speaking." When I get additional information on this, I will request an Eblast email as to the status. The April meeting had a very small group. We continued to discuss the different ways of inputting data for some of the facts. We will continue this unless attendees have more questions, issues etc. to discuss.

— **David Abernathy**

## Book Reviews



The Suffragettes Secret (A Morton Farrier Short Story) by Nathan Dylan Goodwin Morton has been researching a range of clients' family histories as well as his own over the years. With his wife Juliette getting close to delivering their first child, Morton decided to surprise her with research on her grandmother Grace. Little was known about Juliette's grandmother Grace. As Morton uncovers Grace's past, he learns of her involvement in the Suffragette movement. An enjoyable read, learning about the UK's suffrage movement. This short story is published alone or in print with The Wicked Trade, the next mystery I'll review.

The Wicked Trade, (Morton Farrier Forensic Genealogist) by Nathan Dylan Goodwin. Morton is hired by a 95 year old man to look into the life

of his great-great-grandmother Ann Fothergill. Newspaper articles of the 1820s reveal that she had been arrested 36 times but now wants to lead a quiet life attending to her son and an Inn she purchased. She refers to a couple of barrels of gold guineas that she has hidden. The family is wanting Morton to uncover the truth about Ann's illegal events. Enjoy this well written mystery with tales of the smuggling trade of the 1800's in Kent, England.

Nathan Dylan Goodwin's Morton Farrier Forensic Genealogist stories get more in depth in complexity of the history as revealed in this next mystery The Sterling Affair. In this mystery we learn of espionage, spies and dou-

ble spies, change of identities and murder. Morton is charged with learning the true identity of a 91 year man who left his estate to his sister. As the sister reveals to Morton, her brother died when he was 17 and she needed to know who this impersonator was. As usual with Morton, he is also uncovering another of his own family's history with more family members coming out of shared DNA testing. A great read, one hard to put down!

If you are interested in any of these Morton Farrier mysteries, these can be found on Kindle, at a bookseller or I have a copy of each of these books to lend out. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested.

- Kerri McHugh Upton



"Family History: It is not just a hobby. It is a vitally important preservation mission for future generations of our family."

- George G. Morgan

## Member story

GRANDFATHER VS. PENNSYLVANIA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1908 AS REPORTED IN SCRANTON NEWSPAPERS AND TRANSCRIBED FROM [NEWSPAPERS.COM](http://NEWSPAPERS.COM)

### Scranton Times, 21 May 1907:

**TURNER KEPT PIG STY ON WATERSHED** In a final effort to abate the nuisances and menaces along the city watershed, Chief Inspector Ely of the State Department of Health, this afternoon caused the arrest of Ira Turner of Spring Brook Township for refusing to do away with a pig pen on one of the streams of the Spring Brook shed. Turner is a well-known farmer and is charged by the state inspector with maintaining a pig sty which drains into the water-course. Turner was directed to remove it and given a certain length of time in which to do it, but declined.

### Scranton Republican, 19 Oct 1907:

**TURNER NOT GUILTY** Commonwealth Cannot Compel Farmers to Remove Alleged Nuisances on Their Own Grounds ...An important ruling was made yesterday by Judge Evans in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Ira S. Turner, who was prosecuted by the state board of health for maintaining an alleged nuisance on his premises in Spring Brook Township. The commonwealth contended that he maintained a pig sty upon a creek which was tributary to a stream known as the Spring Brook, from which the water supply of the Spring Brook Water Company is mainly derived. The intake reservoir of the company from which the pipes of the company run is located about thirteen miles from the Turner property. Judge Evans took the position that before a man can be indicted

in the criminal courts for maintaining a nuisance it must be shown that the nuisance complained of affected the general public, and that there was no evidence in the case to show any pollution of the water at the point where the distribution to the public began, and that therefore there could be no conviction.

### Scranton Republican, 8 February 1908:

**CASES TO BE TRIED** Commonwealth vs. Ira S. Turner, nuisance; D.H. Coleman, prosecutor

### Scranton Republican, 12 September 1908:

**DIXON TO CONFER WITH IRA TURNER** "State Health Commissioner and Belligerent Spring Brook Farmer Will Get Together for a Talk" Ira S. Turner, the Spring Brook farmer who has been victorious in several conflicts with the state health authorities, has been invited by Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, State Commissioner of Health, to attend a conference arranged by Mr. Turner. The Spring Brook farmer has been invited to the state capital, it is presumed, to give the state commissioner some idea of the farmers' side of the water difficulty. Turner maintains that he has the right to the land as the pig-pen was located along the stream forty years before the water company came along and had been there sixty years in all. The pen, according to Mr. Turner, was built of solid concrete and had cost him \$500 to build. It is as near the ideal from the sanitary standpoint as a pig-pen can be according to Mr. Turner. "They have tried threatening and every other method to get me to get rid of that pig-pen," continued Mr. Turner, "but I

refuse to do it until I have a guarantee that I will be recompensed fairly for my trouble and the expense I have put into the property... I have lawed them from one court to another and have always beaten them. Now, I reckon, they want to get back to reason."

### Scranton Republican, 18 Sep 1908:

**TURNER IS ELATED WITH HIS MISSION** -- "Spring Brook Farmer "Has Met the Enemy, and He is His'n"—Back from Harrisburg—Prosecution at an End" Ira Turner, the Spring Brook farmer who has been at odds with the State Health Department, returned to Scranton yesterday after having a confidential chat with Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Health Commissioner, whose office is in Harrisburg. The upshot of the conference was that the prosecution of Mr. Turner by the department will be discontinued... "Dr. Dixon stated that he did not claim the right to tear down bridges and pig pens and compel farmers to sell their stock. All he wanted was a clean place where the hogs were not permitted to wallow in the stream. I showed him photographs of the pen and the farm; then he called in a chief inspector to ask him about the place and my word was substantiated. Soon after that the commissioner told me that the prosecution, which had once failed, would be stopped and that I would be allowed to remain in peace attending to my own business."



Photo: Ira Snyder Turner

- Joyce Ogden

# Genealogy 101

The PLSS System: Introduction to the Section – Township – Range system for describing land purchases or as the government calls it, the PLSS or Public Land Survey System. This is a very short, quick description for which I am using a 774-page booklet from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) entitled “A History of The Rectangular Survey System” which is easily found using a Google search for anyone who wishes to delve more deeply into the subject. In addition to the description I am including a very short history of how and why this system came into use. The basic unit is the Section which is a piece of land one mile by one mile, containing 640 acres. A Township is 36 Sections arranged in a 6 mile by 6 mile square. Ranges are columns of Townships and numbered by reference to a Principal Meridian. Although there are 360 Meridians running North to South through the poles (starting at Greenwich, England as the Prime Meridian) there are 37 Meridians in the BLM system. Because of the curvature of the earth the Sections do not end up being exactly 6 miles by 6 miles. The closer one gets to the pole, the more land is lost. Parcels

along the north and west boundaries take up the loss, containing less than the standard 40 acres, and are known as “fractional lots” or “government lots.” Above is a layout of a Section.

Northwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter	Northeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter	Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter	Northeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter
Southwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter	Southeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter	Southwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter	Southeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter
Northwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter	Northeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter	Northwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter	Northeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter
Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter	Southeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter	Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter	Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter

the land in the original colonies was taken up already, discounting the lands previously owned by English who remained loyal to the Crown and were confiscated, so “Go West, Young Man” was the push. Plus the new government needed to sell land to get money. Actually, if one reads further into the history, there was a lot more land confiscation and “illegal” settlement, depending on which was the government. Much of the land was disputed among the various states. Before the land could be distributed, it had to be surveyed. Hence the PLSS starting with the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The origin of the surveys was in Ohio on the north bank of the Ohio River; there is a marker there describing the site as “The Point of Beginning for Surveying the Public Lands of the United States there on September 30, 1785, Thomas Hutchins, the First Geographers line of the seven ranges.” The BLM has maps showing the Sections, Townships and Ranges used throughout the US. One can go to their website and locate property and also find the homesteader’s original paperwork. More on searching the website later.

You can see the descriptions in the grid. I have highlighted “the S 1/2 of the SW ¼” for you. How did this come about and what does this method cover? To answer the second question first, this is used for most of 30 states – all west of the Mississippi except Texas (not sure why that was excluded). The original 13 states were excluded as were Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia. Why did this happen? Right after the Revolutionary War many of the soldiers were awarded bounty land, but much of

—Carolyn Gibbons

“The history of relativity says that no matter what you do in life, your relatives will have a theory.”

- Mary Wenzel

### 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  
Information Technology — Joe Brookshier  
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

### April presentation

Diane Richard spoke about **Genealogical Gems in Ledgers** at our April general meeting. Have you explored “small business” ledgers, typically found in manuscript collections (privately held or as part of a university collection)? You can learn so much about your family, FAN club, and neighborhood through these records. Store, business, post office, health-related and many other types of ledgers can link family members and provide content invaluable to your family history narrative. The frequent use of the barter system connected many! Samples of many ledgers are shared along with insight into the myriad resources helpful in discovering their existence.

### Community Partners

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

# April General Meeting Minutes

**PRESIDENT** – President Andy Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PROGRAM - Genealogical Gems in Ledgers** by Diane Richard. Diane introduced us to the many sorts of ledgers --- small business, milliners, blacksmiths, foundries, lawyers, midwives, etc, where valuable genealogical information can be captured.

**SECRETARY** – Acting secretary, Kathy Erlandson, asked for additions or corrections to the March minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

**TREASURER REPORT** – Karin is traveling. Report is postponed until next meeting.

**VICE PRESIDENT REPORT** – Terry Church reported that the May program by Janice M. Sellers will

be on Jewish genealogy and how it differs from others. June’s program is about Apprentices and Redemptioners.

**TEAM REPORTS - Outreach:** Diana Bargman, team leader, is preparing for representing OGS at Norway Day, April 20 at the fairgrounds, and has organized our display at the American Revolution exhibit at the Schmidt. Members are urged to volunteer for short stints at these and other community events.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** Team leader Peggy Cooley with team members Laurie Ducatt, Cindy Stalnaker, Cindy Neff, and Andy Carter are planning a party for Saturday, May 18. Members are asked to volunteer to help with setup and clean-up.

**Historian:** Cindy Stalnaker has volunteered to be our historian.

**Publicity:** Mandy Stahre has ten-

dered her resignation as OGS Publicist. Members who might be willing to write brief descriptions of our events and distribute them via computer are urged to consider this position. Detailed guidelines and resources will be provided. Talk to Andy or Peggy if you are willing to help.

**Membership:** Bob Monn was unable to attend, but reported that we have one newly returning member in the past month; Carol Cropley.

**NEW BUSINESS or NEWS TO SHARE** – Kathy Erlandson shared a news article about her 3-great uncle, a Civil War vet who was offering to contribute to the WWII drive to build bombers, if he could go up & help fight.

**ADJOURN** – President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:39.

- Acting Secretary, *Kathy Erlandson*