

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

VOL. 34, NO 8

APR 2024

UPCOMING DATES

- **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Thursday, April 11th, 7-8:30pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** - throughout April
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** April 16th
- **OGS Board Meeting** April 16th, 6:30-8:30pm

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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.

Musings by Laurie Ducatt

Family history was always an interest of mine, but around 1990, my cousin really lit the fire when she presented me with the research findings she had gathered using LDS information in Canada. This information was stored away as I found it very difficult to investigate further with my limited

time and knowledge. In 2013, I signed up with the online tool, Ancestry. That presented me with a wealth of information, and I soon became the family historian and keeper of artifacts from relatives now gone. My goal is to document the family tree, attaching pictures and formal documents. Also,

to store the information in a manner where generations after me can find view our history and possibly unlock more. A few years ago, I retired and found myself with the extra time to make sure I was exhausting all the tools available to me. The OGS interested me with all the Special
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April topic

“Genealogical Gems in Ledgers”

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 (general, hatting, millinery, shoes, etc.), business (hotels, livery, stable, distillery,

blacksmith, etc.), post office, health-related (Physician, Insane Asylum, etc.) 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



Photo: Diane Richard

myriad resources helpful
Continued to page 2...

Musings continued...

Interest Groups, guest speakers, and seminars. This friendly group has so much knowledge and experience and a genuine interest in helping us all succeed. I am thankful to have

found OGS and appreciate all our volunteers and contributors.
- Laurie Ducatt



Save the Date

**May 18th,
2024 OGS
50th Celebration
Party!**

April speaker continued

in discovering their existence. Join Diane Richard on Thursday, April 11th to dive deeper into this topic. Diane Richard MEng & MBA, of Mosaic Research and Project Management (MosaicRPM), www.mosaicrpm.com, has been doing genealogy research since 1987 and, since 2004, professionally focused on the records of North Carolina and southern states. She has authored over 600 articles on genealogy topics. In 2019, she published *Tracing Your Ancestors — African American Research: A Practical Guide* via Moorshead Publications. Since 2016,

she has been the editor of the [North Carolina Genealogical Society \(NCGS\) journal](http://www.ncgs.org). As a speaker, she has delivered webinars and in-person talks about the availability and richness of records documenting southerners, pursuing formerly enslaved ancestors and their descendants, genealogical research tips, techniques, tools and strategies, under-utilized resource collections [online and on-the-ground], and much more. She has appeared on *Who Do You Think You Are?* (Bryan Cranston episode). She is co-leader of Tar

www.tarheeldiscoveries.com, started in 2018, which offers guided North Carolina genealogical research programs providing participants with targeted, focused research assistance leading to new family discoveries. She is VP of [NC Historical Records Online \(NCHRO\)](http://www.ncchro.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing public access to high-quality images of original records and other related information to research North Carolina history and genealogy. She is co-owner of GenWebinars, direct to consumer webinar offerings coming in 2024.

OGS 50th Anniversary Party!

Planning for the 50th Anniversary Party is in full swing with committee members: Andy Carter, Laurie Ducatt, Diana Barg-

mann, Cindy Stevens Neff, Cindy Stalnaker and Peggy Cooley. **Mark your calendars for May 18th!**

Family Tree Maker SIG news

Family Tree Maker SIG

Meets 3rd Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00 pm Via Zoom platform
Open to all OGS members, beginners to experienced users. The Family Tree Maker (FTM) SIG is for user-to-user support, but NOT limited to FTM. We also discuss most any question relating to family research. Family Tree Maker website: www.mackiev.com/ftm/
David will follow up each meeting with a PDF of what was discussed, this is for those who cannot attend due to a real life. One can always email David your question beforehand and it will be discussed and included in the follow up email (PDF). Email David

at davidabernathy1@comcast.net to be included on the email list or with your questions.

Currently we are discussing how each of the members input different data about the people and Facts. There are many ways that data can be compiled, some are based on how things were handled when it was done by hand, now with computers and different software programs, things can just be different.

How do we do things?

1. Place names, Address and Residence what is and when to use
2. Customize "Editing Panel" Add facts to right panel (Tree mode)
3. How do you ID unknown



4. Naming of media
5. Naming Custom Facts, Do you have and could you share them?
6. Custom Reports, Do you have and could you share them
7. Do you use "Bookmarks"
8. Nick names
9. Find A Grave entries
10. Censuses
11. Research Notes
12. Never Married

- **David Abernathy**

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 *The September meeting will be on the 11th, same time.
- FAMILY TREE MAKER - David Abernathy; meets 3rd Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00 pm Via Zoom platform
- 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

Norway Day Volunteers Needed!

Looking for volunteers to help with the OGS table at Norway Day, Saturday, April 20 (Thurston County Fairgrounds) as part of our outreach effort. We will be representing our organization at this event from 10am - 4pm, handing out brochures, answering questions,

etc. The time will be divided among the number of volunteers we get - you will always be paired with at least one other person. We have been part of this event in the past and it was a lot of fun. And you do not need to be a genealogy expert to participate; we simply are letting people know that OGS is out there.

ally expert to participate; we simply are letting people know that OGS is out there.

Email or call Diana Bargmann for more info:
barbourgenealogist@yahoo.com
 (360) 357-4251

Tips and Tricks

Newspapers.com

1. Try using quotation marks around names or phrases to narrow search results (e.g., "James Smith"). This will give you results where those words appear next to each other on the newspaper page.
2. Don't forget to clip articles as you find them
3. Check for nicknames and spelling variations. James, Jim, and Jimmy might all be ways a family member appeared in the paper.

4. Research grandparents, siblings, cousins, and other family members. Even if your dad isn't mentioned in an article, his family members might be.
5. Research places of business and home addresses. These can help you uncover valuable details about your relative's career and community.

recently I listened to Elizabeth Shown Mills talk about finding female relatives and Thomas MacEntee spoke about Artificial Intelligence(AI) and genealogy. Really good stuff! What are some of your favorite webinars from any source? Share, please!

- Peggy Cooley

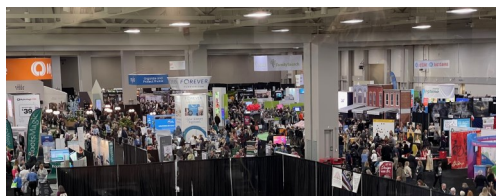
Legacy Family Tree Webinars

With a paid subscription [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#) has some interesting topics. Just



Roots Tech Highlights

If you have photos to share from RootsTech or recommend a presentation. Please pass along to the newsletter. Thank you Carol Jenner for the photos.





16th Annual

NORWAY DAY

And Other Nordic Countries

April 20, 2024 10-4

Thurston Co. Fairgrounds, Olympia, WA

*There's SO MUCH more to Norway than
Lutefisk and lefse!*



*Music, Vikings,
Fjord Horses,
Norwegian Elkhounds,
Giftware, Nordic Café,
Bake Sale, Crafts, Artwork,
Genealogy,
& So Much More!*

Sponsored by **Sons of Norway**, Hovedstad Lodge
&
Daughters of Norway, Prillar Guri Lodge

*Artwork courtesy of Sharon Ramodt Dexger
www.nordicfolklore.com*

*Admission \$3.00
Children under 12,
Free with adult*

www.OlympiaNorwayDay.com

Genealogy 101

One of the more difficult things to discover is the maiden name of a woman. If you can find the marriage record, license or marriage bond, more power to you. You still have to check if it says "Miss" or "Mrs." because she might have been a widow and confirm another way the surname.

One of the more easy ways to confirm is to find an obituary and/or death certificate. Bear in mind these are NOT primary evidence of anything except the fact she died. All other information – birthdate, birth place and so on – is secondary and subject to error. However, if you find an obituary and a death certificate and an obituary of her husband, all of which give the same surname as her maiden name, you can be pretty sure that is correct.

What if you cannot find any of those? She died before death certificates were in use and the newspaper of the time either did not print an obituary or is not where you can find it. Then you have to dig a little deeper. Look at all her children. See if they had death certificate and obituaries, the more the

merrier. Don't just take one and say you are done. See if several agree. Remember, the information on their death certificates will be well past the date of the elusive woman's birth or even her marriage.

Suppose after all that, you still do not have an answer. Maybe she had only one child who ran off to Zanzibar and there is no record.

What now?

Did her husband have any land which she had inherited? You can get a hint if she had to sign off when he sold it. If so, track down where it came from and look at the deed; does it say deed of gift to my daughter for love and affection or anything similar? Did it come to her because a father or brother or mother died, leaving it to her? Look at all the deed records in the Register of Deeds office; there are indexes, both grantor and grantee. You can find most at www.familysearch.org or many at Ancestry or other sites. If these are all dead ends, and she married after the 1850 census, you can try to find her in the census. This is hard work, and you will find quite a few dead ends, but start by

(we hope she had a somewhat unusual name, not Mary) doing a search on Ancestry if you have access or on Family Search if not, for first name, no surname, in the county where she was living. You have already information on her date and place of birth through other census records (at least I hope you have done the basic census with her husband) which will give you her parents' places of birth; this will help you eliminate some of the records that appear. Once you find a possible suspect, do some research on her; find out if that particular person died or married someone else. Then look for a will for the putative father, and find out if it mentions her husband.

Finally, look through the wills of the county and if necessary surrounding counties. Most have a cross-index so you can look for her first by married name and as a last resort by first name and then search through those, eliminating women who obviously do not fit because of death or marriage to someone else.

And I wish you good luck with your search!

- Carolyn Gibbons

Save the Date

May 18th,
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Party!

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 — Vacant

Publicity — Mandy Stahre

Research — Jerri McCoy

Spring Seminar — Nancy Cordell

SIGs—Kerry McHugh-Upton

Sunshine—Gayle Strom

Technology—Joe Brookshier

March presentation: Lynn Heidelbaugh and Thomas Paone discussed their book "[Between Home and the Front: Civil War Letters of the Walters Family](#)". The book offers a glimpse into wartime experiences taken from the family's papers in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, transcribed to preserve the language of the originals that make apparent the writers' literacy and period customs of correspondence. The letters by Private David Walters of the 5th Indiana Cavalry include details about life as a volunteer Union soldier. His wife Rachel's poignant replies document how she managed the household and a young child while being a hub of communication for the family. The presenters discussed how they applied genealogical research to learn about the family's circumstances and to contextualize their experiences of the war.

Community Partners

City of Lacey — Erin Quinn Valcho

Timberland Library — Agatha Burstein

March meeting minutes

President Andy Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed new members and visitors. **Program:** Diana Bargmann introduced our speakers, Lynn Heidelbaugh and Thomas Paone, who discussed their book "**Between Home and Front: Civil War Letters of the Walters Family.**" **Announcement:** Save the date – the kickoff event for the 50th anniversary of OGS is scheduled for 1:00–3:30 pm on Saturday, May 18, at the Capitol Vision Church on Yew Ave NE. Peggy Cooley and the team need volunteers for set-up and

take-down. **Membership:** Bob Monn noted that no members have joined in the last month. Members joining OGS on or after June 1 are members for the remaining part of the current year and the following year. There was discussion about moving that June 1 date back to May 1. **Secretary:** The February 2024 general meeting minutes were approved as published in the March newsletter. **Vice President** Terry Church reported that speakers are lined up through May. **Treasurer** Karin Coppernoll reported balances of \$4,250.84 in the CD, \$4,378.91 in checking, \$2,471.85 in PayPal, and \$10,134.90 in sav-

ings. **Team/Committee/SIG Reports:** *Newsletter Team:* Peggy Cooley requests submissions for the April newsletter by March 20th. Of particular interest are family stories, book reviews, RootsTech follow-ups, family recipes, and useful products. Peggy Cooley reported that the *Beginner Class* team continues to meet. They are gathering materials for a 15-student class at the Tumwater Library in October. **New Business:** There was no new business. **Announcements:** There were no additional announcements. **Adjournment:** President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.