

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA
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UPCOMING DATES

- **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Thursday, March 14th, 7-8pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** - throughout March
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** March 20th
- **OGS Board Meeting** March 19th, 6:30-8:30pm

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Newsletter team: Peggy Cooley, Carolyn Gibbons, and Mandy Stahre
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olygensoc.org

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This newsletter is free to the community.

OGS Turns 50!

OGS's 50th Anniversary is almost here. We will have a party celebrating this auspicious event, so watch for more info in our newsletter. We have two founding members still in active status, Ann Olson and Alma Greenwood, so every time you see them

congratulate them on *their* 50th anniversary! Peggy Cooley, Diana Bargmann, Cindy Neff and Andy Carter will be working on OGS's 50th Anniversary Celebration, tentatively scheduled for **May 18th, 2024**, in the afternoon. If you'd like to

help, please contact Peggy or Diana through [news-
letter@olygensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@olygensoc.org) or ask at the next General Membership meeting.

Save the date on your calendar!

March topic

"Between Home and the Front: Civil War Letters of the Walters Family"

Lynn Heidelbaugh and Thomas Paone provide a glimpse into the wartime experiences recorded in correspondence of an Indiana family. The family's [papers in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum](#) are transcribed with an editorial approach to preserve the language of the originals that



Photo: Lynn Heidelbaugh

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 in some of the lesser-known combat actions of the western theater, such as Morgan's Raid. His wife Rachel's poignant replies document how she managed the household and a young child while becoming a hub of communication, often relaying messages between family members and receiving missives from David's brothers, Isaac and John Wesley, both of whom served with Indiana units. The presenters will discuss how they applied genealogical research to learn about the family's

circumstances and to contextualize their experiences of the war. Their [book](#) is available through Indiana University Press.

Lynn Heidelbaugh is a curator at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, where she specializes in the history of the postal service, military mail, and the material culture of letter writing. Ms. Heidelbaugh has curated exhibitions including, *Behind the Badge: The U.S. Postal Inspection Service (2014)*, and *My Fellow Soldiers: Letters from*
Continued to page 2...



Photo: Thomas Paone

March speaker continued...

World War I (2017), for which she received a Smithsonian Secretary's Research Award. She is co-editor of *Between Home and the Front: Civil War Letters of the Walters Family* (Indiana University Press, 2022).

Thomas Paone curates several collections at the Smith-

sonian National Air and Space Museum, including the lighter-than-air, Pre-1945 US Navy, and Wright Brothers collections. Mr. Paone's research focuses on ballooning in the Civil War, as well as the use of airships and blimps in America. He is coauthor of *Milestones of Flight: The*

Epic of Aviation with the National Air and Space Museum as well as *Between Home and the Front: Civil War Letters of the Walters Family*.

NOTE: presentation will start promptly at 7pm.

RootsTech 2024

RootsTech 2024 runs from February 29th through March 2, 2024. The online piece of the conference is free and there are hundreds of sessions and videos. Don't worry if you are reading this on March 1, you can still register online for free by going to: www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/

According to the website RootsTech welcomes millions of people worldwide to cele-

brate family at the world's largest family history conference and year-long learning platform. With thousands of classes, inspiring speakers, meaningful activities, and joyful connections, RootsTech brings the human family together like no other event.

Streaming sessions stay on the website for three years so don't feel like you have to watch everything during the days of the conference. Clas-



ses cover a range of topics from a variety of courses exploring using DNA in genealogy, country-specific topics, record specific topics, and more. There are always presentations on new technologies available to help with your genealogy journey. Good luck and I hope you try out it. - Mandy Stahre

Save the Date

May 18th,
2024 OGS
50th Celebration Party!

Registration for DNA Basics workshop closes

March 7, 2024 at 5pm

<https://olygensoc.org/>



MyHeritage DNA Free Upload Opportunity

From the MyHeritage website: Are you ready to unlock the full power of your DNA? For one week only, you can upload your DNA data file to [MyHeritage](#) from another service and get FREE access to all advanced DNA features,

including the Ethnicity Estimate, forever! The special offer, **valid from February 27 through March 4, 2024**, saves you the usual \$29 USD unlock fee on all new kits you upload this week. You'll get full access to all DNA fea-

tures and gain valuable new insights into your heritage, as well as new-found family connections, absolutely free. Hurry! Offer lasts only through **March 4, 2024**.

DNA Learning Opportunity with OGS Part 5

In the previous four parts, participants were given steps to take in preparation for the OGS DNA Basics Workshop, *From Double Helix to Family Tree: DNA Basics*. Now that you have completed those first steps, it is time to dive into your DNA results. In particular, your DNA match list.

Open your DNA match list, do you see anyone you recognize? If so, use the the DNA testing company's tools. AncestryDNA has a dot sys-

tem (called Groups) and MyHeritage also has a dot system (called Labels). Go to *AncestryDNA Dot: System: How to Use It!* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRrEEDziYAs>) or to *How to label your MyHeritage DNA Matches* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRrEEDziYAs>). These videos by Diahn Southard (Your DNA Guide) are an excellent introduction. She has a large number of free videos to help you work with

your DNA. Start grouping or labeling your DNA matches!

- Nancy Neville Cordell, PhD

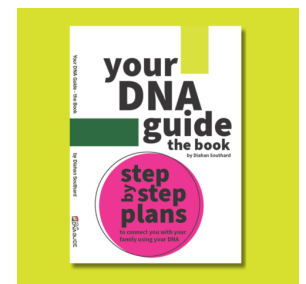
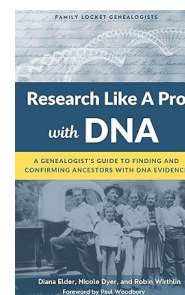
Registration closes on March 7, 2024, so sign up now for *From Double Helix to Family Tree: DNA Basics* at <https://olygensoc.org/>

March Virtual Workshop "From Double Helix to Family" Tree: DNA Basics"

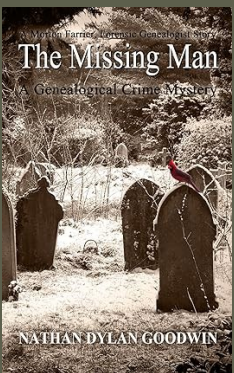
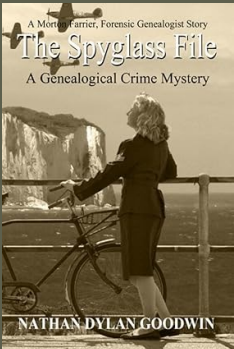
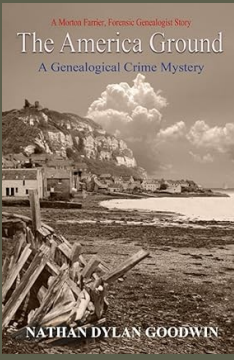
OGS will offer a two-part DNA workshop in March 2024. The cost of the workshop is \$25, and the class is limited to ten (10) students. Professional genealogists Karin Coppernoll and Nancy Cordell will teach students how to use DNA to build their family trees. One two-hour session will be held on **Saturday, March 9**, with a two-week break before the other two-hour session on **March 23**. Class time will be from 1-3pm (Pacific Time). To get the full benefit of the workshop, homework must be completed between the sessions. Refer

to the OGS newsletters (Nov. & Dec. 2023 and Jan 2024) for the steps that will help you gain the most from this workshop. Please make sure your *AncestryDNA* or *MyHeritage* DNA test results are available before the workshop begins. You will want to consider getting a subscription to the company where you have your test results. We also recommend either one or both of the following books: *Research Like a Pro with DNA* by Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, and Robin Wirthlin (2021) and/or *your DNA guide the book* by Diahn Southard (2020) or *your DNA guide the*

workbook by Diahn Southard (2023).



Register at <http://OlyGenSoc.org!>
(closes March 7, 2024 at 5 pm)



Book Reviews

"[The American Ground, A Morton Farrier Forensic Genealogist Story](#)" by Nathan Dylan Goodwin. "The American Ground" is the third genealogical crime mystery set in the 1800's in an unincorporated area known as the American Ground, a tax free piece of land outside of Hastings, Sussex, England. This is a real place with historical facts woven into mystery. Morton is tasked to find out the provenance of a portrait subject. As he starts his research on who she is, he learns about the American Ground. Nathan Dylan Goodwin has created some colorful characters with lots of twists and turns, weaving the past with current events. "The Spyglass File, A Morton Farrier Forensic Genealo-

gist Story" by Nathan Dylan Goodwin. "The Spyglass File" is the fifth in the Morton Farrier Forensic Genealogist series. Morton is hired to find the client's birth parents during the WWII time frame. Nathan holds you as he weaves the mother's time as a WAAF in the RAF as a radio operator with her WAAF friends, the RAF pilots and her sinister inlaws. The past story is woven into the modern day descendants stories. I really enjoyed the twists and turns that Nathan takes the reader on while uncovering the truth. "The Missing Man, A Morton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist Story" is a novella finding our forensic genealogist Morton

Farrier crossing the pond to Massachusetts in search of finding his birth father. All known mention of his birth father "Jack" stopped six days after a fatal fire in 1976. Morton is on a quest to find out what he can about his birth father. Locations and records that Morton uses in this novella are really but with fictitious content. Travel along with Morton as he learns the truth about his family. All book I have available to lend. They are also available online through booksellers like Alibris.com and Amazon. Most of these books are available for Kindle e-readers.

- Kerri McHugh Upton

March Presentation of "History Talks!"

On March 14th 6:30-7:30pm History Talks! with the Lacey Museum will present "150 Years of Jewish History in the South Sound" Come in person to [Lacey City Hall, Council Chambers](#) or join online. [Registration required](#) for online attendance only. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Program Description:

The first Jewish settlers in Washington arrived in the Olympia/Tumwater/Lacey area, establishing the first Jewish organization and first Jewish cemetery in Washing-

ton state. Beginning with a handful of merchants and families, the Jewish community in our region has grown over time to several thousand people. Join Rabbi Seth Goldstein, spiritual leader of [Temple Beth Hatfiloh](#), for an opportunity to learn about the history of the Jewish people in the U.S. in general and Washington in particular, and Judaism as a faith, tradition and culture.

Speaker: Rabbi Seth Goldstein has served as the spiritual leader of Temple

Beth Hatfiloh in Olympia since his ordination in 2003. He is both committed to creating vibrant Jewish community and using a spiritual voice to speak to issues of social justice and common concern. Rabbi Goldstein is the author of numerous published articles, essays, liturgy and poetry, has been quoted in major news outlets, and has an active presence in teaching Judaism on social media.

- Mandy Stahre

Member recipe—Lefse



Photo: [Lance Fisher](#)

Lefse is a flat bread; sort of a potato tortilla. I recently wondered how long ago it began, and learned that potatoes have only been grown in Norway for about 250 years, so I had my answer. Lefse quickly became a staple of Norwegian diets. Though grains didn't grow or keep well there, potatoes did, and old-timers remember that potatoes and lefse kept many Norwegians from starvation during the German occupation. It used few ingredients and kept well when dried. Women would travel house to house, staying a few days at each, to help make up a year's supply of lefse on the wood stove. It would be dried over lines or in rafters, then stored, often in barrels or sea chests. It could be eaten like crackers, or softened up by placing it between damp cloths, for use like a tortilla. My husband, Jim, remembers his great-grandmother and grandmother drying lefse over lines to keep it for later use. The making of lefse became a holiday tradition in our family shortly after we were married. My in-laws taught me in the late 60's,

and in the 80's I inherited their corrugated rolling pin, and Jim made me a lefse pastry board and turning stick. For a few years in the 70's, I cooked on an old wood-burning cook stove. I made lefse on it one year. It was HOT work, but well worth the memory. At Thanksgiving or Christmas, we've always loved to make up huge batches of lefse to share with the family. It's perfect for using up that leftover turkey, ham, or spread with butter, sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon. Jim loves it with Limburger cheese, or stuffed with pickled herring, but my personal favorite is with tuna salad.

Here is **Grandma Erlandson's lefse recipe**. Makes about 25-30 pieces of 8-9 inches.

8-9 medium russet spuds

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. shortening

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. milk or cream

2 c. flour (approx.)

1 t. salt

1. Peel and cube (1") spuds, then boil til tender (not mush!)

2. Drain thoroughly in colander, cool to room temp

3. Mash spuds, then put

through ricer, into large bowl
4. Mix well with shortening
5. Mix in milk and salt, then flour, gradually to rolling consistency (You're getting close if a wad of dough stretches a bit when pulled slowly apart.)

6. Using a pastry cloth, generously flour rolling surface

7. For 8-9" lefse, form ball of 2 oz (abt $\frac{1}{4}$ cup)

8. Heat grill to 375°

9. Roll each ball briskly by hand to compact and make round

10. Gently pat down ball in flour on both sides, then begin rolling with light, quick strokes. Turn only once after beginning to roll

11. Using virtually no pressure, roll quite thin

12. Lift from pastry cloth and transfer to hot grill with turning stick

13. Brown lightly on first side. Turn. Cook 2nd side 'til bubbles start and darker brown spots appear

14. Transfer to papers or tea towel to cool thoroughly before storing

- **Kathy Erlandson**

Quote to shared

A Short History of Nearly Everything, by Bill Bryson

"Not only have you been lucky enough to be attached since time immemorial to a favored evolutionary line, but you have also been extremely – make that miraculously – fortunate in your personal ancestry. Consider the fact that for 3.8 billion years, a

period of time older than the Earth's mountains and rivers and oceans, every one of your forebears on both sides has been attractive enough to find a mate, healthy enough to reproduce, and sufficiently blessed by fate and circumstances to live long enough to do so. Not one of your pertinent ancestors was squashed, devoured,

drowned, starved, stuck fast, untimely wounded or otherwise deflected from its life's quest of delivering a tiny charge of genetic material to the right partner at the right moment to perpetuate the only possible sequence of hereditary combinations that could result – eventually, astoundingly, and all too briefly – in you."

Genealogy 101

This is my final entry on deeds – at least for now.

I mentioned earlier the difference between the boundaries in the East and in the West. You here in Washington are familiar with the Meridians, Sections, Ranges and so on. Nice, easy to plot pieces taken from a mile square and then broken down into quarters or quarters of quarters. It is very different in the East.

In the East they use something called metes and bounds. Metes is a mathematical description of property lines from one point to another, while bounds uses landmarks along the metes to describe the property. In the bounds type of description, maybe the one

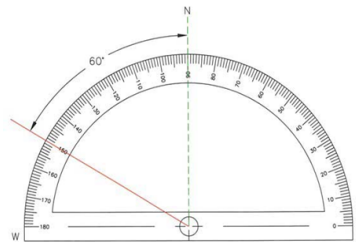
you are more familiar with, the deed will be written something like this from Deed Book 51 page 74: A parcel of land ...on both sides of Little Rockfish... Beginning at a stake formerly where stood a pine on the North edge of Chicken Road about 20 chains East of said Creek, known as the beginning corner of 1280 acres patented by Holmes & Black & is also a corner of Gilbert Shaw's, runs thence with Shaw's line North... and then will use creeks, walls, property lines and so on. While

it also gives some N/S degrees E/W chains it gives the neighbors. This is really hard to map especially if it has "formerly stood a pine" or "used to be McNeill's."

The metes type of deeds often give only a starting point and then the direction/degrees/distances.

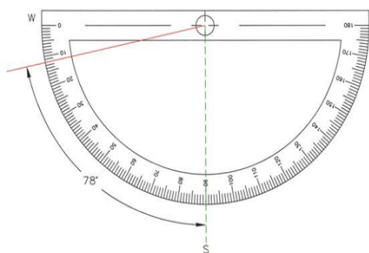
How do you translate that? You can map (I started to say "easily" but not so much) with a compass, a pencil and graph paper.

Here is a picture of what you do:



The first direction will always be either north or south. In the following example, the surveyor specified N60W, i.e. face north and turn 60 degrees toward the west.

The second direction, after the degrees, will always be east or



west. In the second following example, the surveyor specified S78W, i.e. face south and turn 78 degrees toward the west. The red line in the following image is plotted with a direction of S78W.

The final thing to know about these directions are the measures used. England found they needed standardized measurements. Previously, lengths were all over the place. A foot was the length of the King's foot, which obviously varied from king to king. An acre was how much land a team of oxen could plow in a day – but day lengths varied, oxen's strength varied, a plowman's abilities varied and so on for all measures. With the standardizing of distance, an Englishman Edmund Gunter in 1620 came up with the chain with 100 links, which was adopted.

1 chain = 66 feet

1 link (100 per chain) – 7.92 inches
1 rod, 1 pole, 1 perch all = 16.5 feet (1/4 chain)

1 acre – 10 chains by 1 chain
1 furlong – 1/8 mile or 660 feet or 10 chains (this isn't used in land, but just interesting I think)

This should be enough to make your head spin. Next month I will take on something entirely different. If you have any questions contact me, and I will try to answer them.

- Carolyn Gibbons

Save the Date

**May 18th,
2024 OGS
50th Celebration
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

February presentation

Gena Philibert-Ortega presented her program "Her Name Was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors" at our February 8 general meeting. "What's her maiden name?" "What happened to her after her husband died?" "How do I start researching my great-grandmother?" We've all felt the disappointment of seeing the word "unknown" to describe a female ancestor's name. How do we go from "unknown" to finding a name? This presentation explains techniques, methodology, and resources vital to family history research. Enhance your research skills using a 5-step approach to researching (and finding) female ancestors. The recording and handout will be available through March 13th.

Community Partners

City of Lacey — Erin Quinn Valcho

Timberland Library — Agatha Burstein

February Meeting Minutes

President Andy Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed new members and guests. Robert Monn reported that four members joined last month.

Vice President Terry Church reported that the program team has planned most of the rest of the year.

Team/Committee/SIG Updates:

Rebel Romero reported on the status of *OGS books*. There are two collections — one held by the City of Lacey and one in OGS storage. All are indexed on LibraryThing, and access to the index is available on the OGS website. Peggy Cooley reported

that *Newsletter* submissions for the March issue are due by February 20th. The team is particularly interested in write-ups about sources and tools (photo dating, for example). Peggy reported that the *Beginner Workshop* group is reviewing past material for use in the new class. Peggy reported that three or four more volunteers are needed to join her, Diana Bargmann, and Alma Greenwood in planning the *50th anniversary event*. Nancy Cordell announced the *Beginner DNA class*, which will be held in 2-hour sessions on March 9 and 23, with homework in the intervening weeks. The cost is \$25 for OGS members, and class size is limited to ten. *Tech Team* lead Joe Brookshier reported that the team

continues working on the new website.

Adoption of Minutes: Andy Carter moved that the January 2024 minutes be adopted as published in the OGS Newsletter. Nancy Cordell and Kathy Erlandson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Program: Diana Bargmann introduced our speaker, **Gena Philibert-Ortega**, who presented "**Her Name Was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors.**"

Adjournment: President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting.

Forty-three members and guests were in attendance.