

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

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UPCOMING DATES

- OGS Virtual Seminar - Saturday, Feb 3rd.
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Thursday, Feb 8th, 7-8pm
- SIG MEETINGS - throughout February
- DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES: February 20th

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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.

President's musings

This month's musings is from our President, Andy Carter. As will be highlighted throughout this issue the Spring Seminar is right around the corner. Please join us!

I want to encourage everyone to sign up for the Spring Seminar! On Saturday, February 3rd, our Seminar Team is bringing in noted genealogist [Rich Venezia](#) for a virtual seminar on "Immigration and Naturalization". The seminar includes four one-hour programs, and details about the program are

available on our [website](http://olygensoc.org) at olygensoc.org. I spoke last week with long-time members Gayle Strom and Jerri McCoy. Gayle is our stalwart Sunshine Team lead, sending get well, sympathy, and greeting cards to members who are in need of support and fellowship. If you know of someone who needs some Sunshine in their life, please message the details to Gayle at ggnpop-pa@comcast.net. She will make sure a card from OGS will be sent to support our member.

Jerri is both our presenter from January, the SIG Leader for Legacy Family Tree, and the lead of our Research/Obit Team. The Research/Obit team will track down obituaries from our local newspapers and on-line sources. If you, family, or friends need local obituaries, contact Jerri at geniebug@comcast.net. She will make sure the request is filled if possible. It was wonderful to connect with two of our Team Leads. I hope to see you all at the Spring Seminar!
- Andy Carter

February speaker

"Her Name was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors "

"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? Gena Philibert-Ortega will explain techniques, methodology, and resources vital to family history research.

Enhance your research skills using a 5-step approach to researching (and finding) female ancestors. Gena is an author, researcher, and instructor specializing in the use of social history and material culture to tell the story of historical women's lives. She holds two Master's degrees: one in Interdisciplinary Studies (Psychology and Women's Studies) and the other in Religion. As an au-

thor, Gena has published two books, [Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra](#) (Arcadia Publishing) **Continued to page 2.....**



Photo: Gena Philibert-Ortega

February speaker continued...

and [From the Family Kitchen](#) (F+W Media), and hundreds of articles in print magazines and online publications. Her writings can also be found on her two blogs, [Gena's Genealogy](#) and [Food.Family.Ephemera](#), as well as the GenealogyBank and Legacy Family Tree Webinars blogs. A highly sought-after instructor, Gena

has taught material culture and social history at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and is a frequent presenter at seminars and conferences throughout the United States and Canada. Her professional associations include the American Quilt Study Group, the As-

sociation of Gravestone Studies, and the National Genealogical Society. Gena has conducted research for PBS, HGTV, and the Travel Channel and has collaborated on research for the Genealogical Institute of America. Gena's current research projects focus on American cemeteries, cookbooks, signature quilts, and 20th-century women's lives.



“Immigration and Naturalization” 2024 Virtual Seminar Olympia Genealogical Society

Register for 2024 OGS
Virtual Seminar:

Members—log into
your [OGS account](#).

Nonmembers—
register [here](#).

In case you have noticed, the 2024 Seminar is earlier this year! It is Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 9am to 3pm (PST). Rich Venezia will do four presentations on immigration and naturalization. You can learn more details on the OGS [website](#) (in the left hand banner select Community Events > 2024 Seminar). The seminar will be virtual and the recordings will be available to registrants for 30 days after the seminar! Rich Venezia is a New Jersey native who now calls Philadelphia home. He

founded [Rich Roots Genealogy](#) in 2013. He was a member of the research team of Genealogy Roadshow (PBS) for two seasons, and also consulted on Follow Your Past (Travel Channel). He is an expert in the research of 20th-century immigrant ancestors, especially underutilized record sources and federal records. He also specializes in Italian and Irish research. Additionally, he assists clients with dual citizenship applications for Ireland and Italy and is a proud Italian dual citizen.

He holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. He lectures nationwide and spoke about "[How to Grow Empathy From Uncovering Your Roots](#)" at TEDx Pittsburgh 2017.

Please register today at <http://OlyGenSoc.org> . If you are an OGS member, be sure to login to get your member discount! As always, there will be door prizes.

- by Nancy Neville Cordell,
Seminar Coordinator

OGS News and hybrid meetings

Great News! We now have two OGS members that have stepped up and said "Yes!" to setting up the technical equipment for the in-person part of the hybrid general membership meetings! So exciting to have two members say yes! Having two means they can rotate/share the responsibilities. Our General Membership meetings have always been held on the second Thursday evening of the month, September through June. During the last couple of years members

have appreciated being able to be on Zoom for the meetings. Some members will continue participating on Zoom while many of us will attend in-person meetings. Since the programs are set through June 2024, we are discussing starting our in-person meetings September 2024. We are in the process of securing a location and have an opportunity to change our meeting times starting September 2024 too. A survey will be sent via email on Monday, February 5th to poll members

about their preferences.

The choices for future meeting days and times will be:

1. Keep the same (2nd Thursday evening)
2. A Saturday morning
3. A Saturday afternoon
4. Don't care, plan to view at home
5. Don't care either way

Please look out for the survey from Events@OlyGenSoc.org Monday February 5th
—Kerri Upton

DNA Learning Opportunity with OGS Part 4

In our November newsletter, we encouraged those interested to purchase a DNA test(s) while they are on sale at either AncestryDNA or MyHeritage. In the December and January newsletter we gave you the next steps while you wait for the test(s) and the results. Do you have your test results? What is the genealogical research question you have that DNA can help answer? For instance, I took DNA tests (and had many others in the

family take them, too) to answer the following question: Who was my paternal second great grandfather who went by the name Walter Eugene Boyed? The limited records we have indicate he was born December 1861 +/- 5 yrs in Texas. The question and follow-up information make him unique. It gives a name (which may or may not be correct), but includes further information that narrows things to a time and place. I could also add

that he married Annie Louisa Mullens 15 March 1899 in Tooele, Tooele County, Utah.

A specific research goal is important to keep us away from rabbit holes, BSOs, or other genealogical distractions. Write out your research goal and revise it as appropriate.

Sign up Feb. 4 for *From Double Helix to Family Tree: DNA Basics* at <http://OlyGenSoc.org>
- Nancy Neville Cordell, PhD

March Virtual Workshop

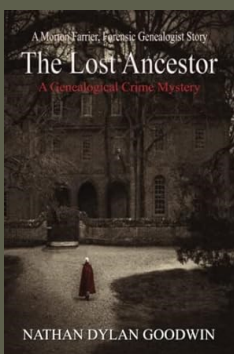
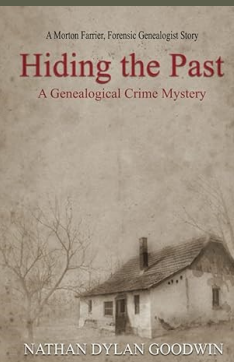
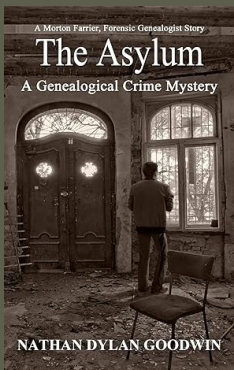
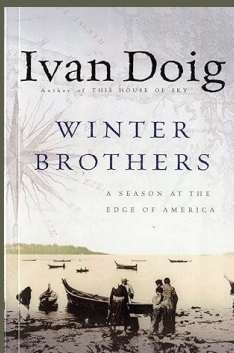
“From Double Helix to Family” Tree: DNA Basics”

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 recom-

mend 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 Diahann Southard (2020) or *your DNA guide the workbook* by Diahann Southard (2023).

Registration Opens 4 February 2024 at <http://OlyGenSoc.org>! (closes March 7, 2024 at 5 pm)



Book Reviews

"[Winter Brothers; A Season at the Edge of America](#)" by Ivan Doig. Doig spends one winter working through 40 years of unpublished diaries of James G Swan, an earlier settler of the region. Swan is originally from Boston, he left his family and headed to the west coast of the United States in the 1850's. He primarily lives among the Makahs in and around Neah Bay until he moves to Port Townsend. He travels around the northwest up into Vancouver Island among the Haida tribe. He serves as school master, commission of Indian Affairs, arbitrator, and curator of Indian artifacts for the Smithsonian museum and some regional repositories at UW. Ivan Doig weaves excerpts of Swan's diaries with Doig's events and exploration of the most NW region of the US for one winter. This is an enjoyable read if you are interested in the time of the Washington Territory into statehood. This book doesn't have anything directly to do with genealogy but it does give insight to what it was like for our Washington Territory ancestors. *I have the book to lend out.*

I'm starting a new series by author Nathan Dylan Goodwin with "[The Asylum; A Morton Farrier short story, The Forensic Genealogist](#)". Nathan introduces us to his leading character, Mor-

ton Farrier, a forensic genealogist in this short story. Morton learns about an unknown first wife of his client's ancestor who died in an asylum 80 years earlier. Along the way we meet Morton's future girlfriend, his antagonist reference librarian and tools that he uses to research in Sussex England.

This story is included in the same book as Nathan's first genealogical crime mystery.

"[Hiding the Past; Morton Farrier, The Forensic Genealogist](#)" The first mystery in the series involves Morton's client who knows nothing of his past even though he has had other researchers try to uncover his background. Morton has to dig deep and use a variety of resources to determine who his client really is. While uncovering his client's family, Morton, an adoptee as well, is coming to terms with his past. Both of these mysteries are published in one book, which I have available to loan out. It is also available on Kindle.

"[The Lost Ancestor, A Genealogical Crime Mystery](#)" This is the second in the Morton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist series by Nathan Dylan Goodwin. Morton is hired to find

an aunt that had gone missing in 1911 from the Edwardian country house. In 1962 she was possibly seen at her sister's grave. The client has done extensive research but was never able to find anything after 1911. Morton accepts the challenge to figure out what happened to the aunt when the last clue was a letter written from Scotland that was sent to her parents home. Enjoy the mystery as Morton does extensive research at "The Keep" digging into the records. I have this book to loan if you wish to borrow it, please send an email to Kerry.upton123@gmail.com. It is also available on Kindle.

For the complete list of genealogy mysteries, memoirs, other books, log onto our website; olygensoc.org; go to Publications on Left side panel; click on Downloadable Files and then click on file folder "Genealogical Mysteries, Memoirs, and Other". If you know of other books that should be on this list send me an email and I'll add it.

- Kerri McHugh Upton

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

VIRTUAL SEMINAR



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

WITH **RICH VENEZIA**



Rich Venezia is an expert in the research of 20th-century immigrant ancestors, especially underutilized sources and federal records. He also specializes in Italian and Irish research.

Our day with Rich will include these topics:

- Irish ancestors
- Exhausting resources about your immigrant's origins
- Ship manifests
- Laws and records of U.S. citizenship

**SATURDAY
FEB 3, 2024
9AM - 3PM PST**

**\$ 35 MEMBERS
\$ 45 NON-MEMBERS
\$100 SPONSORS**

Registration and full details at OlyGenSoc.org

This month I am going to talk a little more about Deed Records, with some examples. I mentioned finding relationships. Cumberland County, North Carolina, **Deed Book 51 page 51: 4 Nov 1852.** "Sarah Shaw of Haywood County, Tennessee appoints her son William J. Shaw of same her true attorney to demand & receive from Exrs or Adms of her father John McNeill or of & from any other person all & every moneys, property, slaves & every species of property real or personal that she may be entitled to as heir or distributee of her late father John McNeill of North Carolina or her mother Levice, the former wife of said John McNeill." This shows that Sarah was married to a Shaw, had lived in Cumberland County but now in Tennessee, has a son William, father John McNeill, mother Levice --- McNeill and both are deceased. **Book 51 page 102** has this marriage contract: "16 Nov 1852. Whereas on 8 Jan 1852 articles of agreement were executed between Archibald S. McNeill of Cumberland County & Mary Virginia Covington, widow of Harrison W. Covington of Richmond County, & the Rev. Evander McNair of Cumberland County; & whereas by said articles it was stipulated between the parties that provided a marriage should be solemnized between A. S. McNeill & Mary Virginia Covington,

Genealogy 101

then all the Negro property which said Mary V. then had in possession or had an interest in, should remain her property free from the claim of A. S. McNeill & in no manner to be held for the debts of said Archibald; said parties have concluded to sell a Negro Man Slave named Bob aged about 45 years, which slave before the marriage was the property of Mrs. McNeill & by virtue of said marriage, the title was invested in Evander McNair as Trustee. Now therefore Archibald S. McNeill, Mary V. McNeill & Evander McNair, all of Cumberland County, for \$550, to Thomas Covington of Richmond County." **Book 13 page 150** has this: "12 Apr 1794. William Scott of "Beaford" County, Virginia to James Spiller of the Town of Fayetteville, for \$80, all his interest in an undivided 1/5 part of a lot in the Town of Fayetteville on Hay Street, formerly the property of Col. James Thackston, [illegible] to said Scott by reason of a marriage with Mary Thackston sole daughter & heir of John Thackston, brother to the said Col. James Thackston. Wit: William Vann, James Brenan. Apr Term 1794 this Deed proved by Wm. Vann & Js. Brenan." Note the 1/5 undivided interest means there were 5 heirs to this land, but more research is needed to deter-

mine who all were the heirs and why James Thackston left it to his niece; no children? Left to brother who subsequently left to HIS daughter? **Book 51 page 56** shows a death, within a fairly short time span: "9 Sep 1850. Martha Marsh Sr. to George W. Marsh, both of Cumberland County. . . Wit: Daniel Marsh. Sep Term 1852; appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Daniel Marsh is dead, his handwriting duly proved by Neill Marsh. Registered 28 Dec 1852." One more thing to show: **Book 51 page 58:** "15 Dec 1851. Henry Bagwell (indexed William H Bagwell) and his wife Martha, daughter of Louis Nixon, of the Town of Fayetteville to John Depo of Cumberland County ... Wit: H. H. Depo. Signed W. H. Bagwell by mark, Mary Jane Bagwell. Personally appeared before John W. Ellis, a Judge of the Superior Courts of Law & Equity William H. Bagwell & Mary Jane Bagwell his wife who acknowledged the execution of forgoing deed. Mary Jane examined apart from husband & acknowledged she executed deed voluntarily. Fayetteville 5 May 1852. Registered 4 Jan 1853." Note that Mary Jane was interviewed separately from her husband as to her execution of the deed voluntarily. This means she has a right to all or part of the land as an inheritor from a father, previous husband, brother, mother or other relative. Probably from her father as he is mentioned, but not definitely.

- Carolyn Gibbons

Community News

1. Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) is looking for a secretary. Interested parties could email to email [Roxanne Lowe](mailto:Roxanne.Lowe), the current secretary, at roxannelowe260@gmail.com

2. Julie Cahill Tarr has a list of [genealogical and historical mysteries](#) to check out: <https://genealogy.julietarr.com/blog/genealogical-fiction/>

3. The Washington State Genealogical Society invites all genealogical societies, historical societies and individuals to research and document every Pioneer who resided here on or before November 11, 1889, and two subsequent generations of their descendants. For results, see [https://wasgs.org/blog/2024/01/17/pioneer-pursuit-and-the-winners-](https://wasgs.org/blog/2024/01/17/pioneer-pursuit-and-the-winners-are/)

[are/](#). For more information, email Info@wsgs.org. Please put Pioneer Pursuit in the subject line.

4. Seattle Times article about the condition of our Southwest WA Archives: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/floods-threaten-wa-historic-documents-but-a-new-home-is-pricey/>.

Need your help

My family has had a photo of our great-grandmother, Susie Louise Gragg Day for I don't know how long. On the back it just says, "Day". She married Frank Day on 18 August 1900, when she was thirty, so the photo was taken some time after that. She is looking to the right in this photo (**Photo 1**), and it is in poor condition. My first cousin sent me a Christmas card and inside was tucked a studio portrait labeled on the back: Susie, 21 years old, Dec 2, 1890. Susie was looking to the left and the photo is in very good condition (**Photo 2**). I first thought, "This isn't my great-grandmother," but then I compared the nose, ears and mouth. I believe these portraits are Susie Louise Gragg Day, 2 May 1870-5 Jun 1958.

What do you think? Contact me at newsletter@olygenc.org.



Photo 1: Photo of Susie Day age 30

Same woman?
What do you
think?



Photo 2: Possible phot of Susie Day age 21

Big changes are coming to the OGS website!

Please bear with us as we work through upgrading the website and moving over content. Over the next few months, there may be times when the website is not accessible.

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

January presentation

Jerri McCoy presented "**Review Your Sources and Notes - Are You Overlooking Clues in Your Early Research?**" at our January meeting. Synopsis: Now that some time has gone by since your early research, are there clues in your sources that might make sense now that were unrecognized back then? Has additional research or resources come to light since then? We will explore possibilities for expanding families that you haven't looked at in a long time. OGS Members, to view recording please log onto website. On left side panel, click on Publications, then click on Recordings*. Remember, you need to be logged onto the website to have access. Recording will be available through 15 February 2024.

Community Partners

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

January Meeting Minutes

President Andy Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed new members and visitors. **Secretary:** Andy Carter moved that the November and December 2023 minutes be adopted as published in the OGS Newsletter. Nancy Cordell seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. **Vice President:** Terry Church reported a successful December party and acknowledged the work of program committee members Diana Bargmann and Cindy Neff. The February speaker will be Gena Philibert-Ortega. The team has confirmed the speaker schedule is through May. **Treasurer:** Karin Coppernoll reported balances of \$3,323 checking, \$10,105 savings, \$5,296 PayPal, and \$4,242 CD. **Team/Committee/SIG Reports:** Our *Seminar Team*

lead, Nancy Cordell, reported that the OGS Annual Seminar is scheduled for 3 February 2024. Rich Venezia will present sessions on immigration, naturalization, and Irish research at this virtual event. Seminar registrants will have access to the recordings for 30 days after the seminar. **Special Interest Group Team** lead Kerry McHugh Upton described the SIGs and directed members to the OGS website for additional information. Kathy Erlandson reported on behalf of *Newsletter Team* lead Peggy Cooley. Newspaper submissions are welcome by 20 January for the February newsletter. Multiple submissions are welcome; if the team is inundated with items, some will appear in future newsletter editions. **The Beginner Workshop** team currently has five members. They plan to complete a course outline by the end of March. The workshop will be offered annually in the

fall. *Tech Team* lead Joe Brookshier reported that the team continues working on new website software incorporating responsive design. Andy reported that *Sunshine* lead Gayle Strom continues to reach out to members experiencing loss or health issues and those experiencing milestone events. As *Research* lead, Jerri McCoy responds to requests for Thurston County obituary lookups. **Program:** Diana Bargmann introduced our speaker, OGS member Jerri McCoy, who presented "Review Your Sources and Notes - Are You Overlooking Clues in Your Early Research?" Discussion followed. **Sharing:** Several members shared recent successes in their family history research. **Adjournment:** President Andy Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Forty-three members and guests were in attendance.