

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

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UPCOMING DATES

- **GENERAL MEMBER-SHIP MEETING:** Thursday, Jan 11th, 7-8pm
- **SIG MEETINGS -** throughout January
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** January 20th

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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.

President's musings

This month's musings is from our newly elected President who was voted in at the December in-person gathering. The OGS Board would like members to know who the people are volunteering their time to keep this organization running. Across the country, genealogical societies are closing their doors because of a lack of members and participation. We know we have lost some of the connection to our members since going completely virtual. It is our hope that by featuring a different board member each month, you will recognize a friendly face at the OGS mem-

bership meetings and we can help build and foster new friendships. We hope to make this organization last another 50 years!

I began my genealogical journey in 1974. My grandmother, Gertrude Wood, told me Congress had changed the Wood family name. I discovered that it was the Maine State Legislature, not Congress, which changed the Wormwood surname to Wood. While attending Bellevue High School I started doing research on my paternal

Carter and Wood lines at the Seattle Public Library and the National Archives at Sand Point. As my maternal line has been in Washington since the Alaskan Gold Rush, I quickly expanded my research to include the Verd and Trenholme lines and interviewed my then-living Washington relatives. I joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1976 and the Church called me to work in the Bellevue Family

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January speaker

"Review Your Sources and Notes - Are You Overlooking Clues in Your Early Research?"

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.

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 Washing-

ton State Genealogical Society, the DAR and the Mayflower Society.



Photo: Jerri McCoy

President's musings continued...

Family History Center. As I assisted members with their genealogy, I also worked on my own lines. I soon discovered that both my paternal great grandmothers, Emma Gertrude Greene, and Mary Almira Sawyer, of Portland, Maine, had been members of DAR. They had traced our line back to three Maine soldiers who fought in the Revolution. I received copies of their work, and our family history ties to the Mayflow-



Photo: Anthony "Andy" Wooder, from Grandmother Wood. I travel frequently to Maine and New Hampshire on research trips. I have also made several trips to the Family History Library in Salt

Lake City. Once my wife retires, we are planning a trip to Europe, particularly England, Ireland, and Scotland. I retired from the State of Washington in February 2022 after 37 years and almost immediately joined OGS. I live in West Olympia with my wife of 20+ years, Vivian, in a house built around 1895 by Washington Pioneer Harvey Woodard. Our house overlooks Budd Inlet, the Port of Olympia, and in the distance, Mt. Rainier.—**Andy Carter, OGS President**

"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 December Holiday meeting was a smash hit!!

Many, many thanks to all who stayed after the OGS party on December 9th and helped us clean up and pack - for fear of missing a name, you know who you are. It was a veritable beehive of activity around those tables and proved once again that many hands make the work lighter. On behalf of the Program Committee - Terry Church, Cindy Stalnaker, Cindy Neff, and Diana Bargmann—THANK YOU!



DNA Learning Opportunity with OGS Part 3

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 newsletter we gave you the next steps while you wait for the test(s) and the results. You are still waiting for your results (assuming you have sent in your spit). There is still work to do while you wait! Take the information (documents, stories, family trees, etc.) you have gathered and start organizing it! Start with yourself and your life, then your parents, then your grandparents, etc. When you ordered your DNA test, you had to

create an account with the company you ordered from. You did not have to start a subscription, but you will need to soon. If you do not have any documents, start with the information you do know (no matter how vague) and work to find reliable documentation using [Ancestry](#), [FamilySearch](#), [MyHeritage](#), and numerous other online sources. Doing a DNA test will not magically create your family tree, you still must do genealogy and find reliable sources of information. You'd be amazed how many vital records, censuses, land documents, wills, probates, military records, newspaper articles,

Start a family tree on your DNA testing site! Enter information about yourself, at the least, you need to add your name. You can make your tree public, private and searchable, or private and unsearchable. The choice is yours. If you do not enter a death date, your name and other information about you, will be private (this applies to anyone whose death date is blank). Add your parents and all the information you have about them. Be sure to add your siblings and the sisters and brothers of your parents and grandparents.

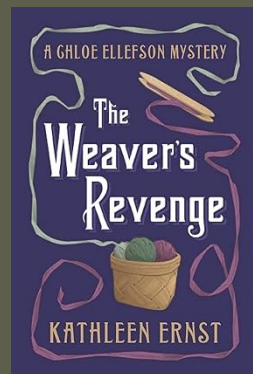
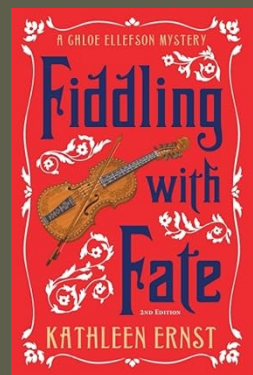
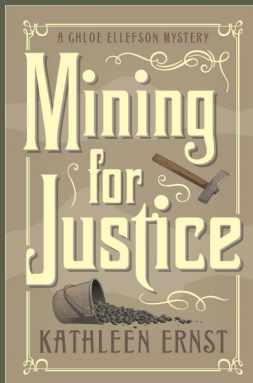
- Nancy Neville Cordell, PhD

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 Coppennoll 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. In order to get the full benefit of the workshop, homework must be completed between the sessions. Refer to the OGS newsletters (November and December 2023) for the steps that will help you gain the most

from this workshop. Please make sure your Ancestry 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. Registration opens February 4, 2024.



Book Reviews

“[Mining for Justice](#)” by Kathleen Ernst is the eighth Chloe Ellefson mystery where we learn of the immigrant Cornish lead miners while the mystery of a human skeleton is unearthed in the cellar of an early Cornish cottage in Mineral Lake, Wisconsin. Chloe is on a temporary assignment at Pendarvis Historic Site helping to establish a display of the story of the immigrant lead miners. She weaves the story of an 1820 Cornish family that immigrants to Wisconsin seeking a better life into the 1830's and 1860's. Learn more about the early mining experience and Cornish daily life in this mystery set in a real historic site. “[The Lace Maker's Secret](#)” is the ninth Chloe Ellefson mystery where we learn of the Belgium Lace Making industry. Historical timeline is set in the Kingdom of Belgium in 1854 and continues through WWI with the immigrant couple leaving Belgian because of the desire of farming on their own land. The mystery starts off with Chloe stopping by a hundred year old bake oven while on her way to her guest lodgings for her temporary consulting gig at Green Bay's Heritage Hill Historical Park. As usual there is more to the story as the current story timeline weaves back into the early Belgium immigrant's experience in Wisconsin. This was one of my favorite stories as we

learn of the early immigrants hoping to start farming on their landshare only to discover that it is a forest that they need to clear before they can even begin to start farming. Might be the story of my Irish immigrant. Enjoy the mystery and learn more about early Wisconsin and the Belgium experience, which might be the experience of your immigrant ancestor. “[Fiddling with Fate](#)” is this tenth Chloe Ellefson mystery where we get to go to Norway! The story begins with the burial of Chloe's mother with her friend playing the fiddle over her casket. While cleaning out her mother's closet, Chloe discovers some artifacts that begin to question her mother's origins. Her mother was set to take a trip to Norway and to bring Chloe along, instead Chloe and her boyfriend Rolhke took the trip. The historical timeline is set in the late 1800's and early 1900's in the Hardanger region of Norway. Once in Norway Chloe feels a closeness to the region when a death occurs at one of the historical home sites. Learn more about the early Norwegian lives and how the fiddle was deemed the Devil's instrument. I really enjoyed the story line even

though I don't have a drop of Norwegian in me bones. This is a great read as the historical timeline is woven into the current storyline. “[The Weaver's Revenge](#)” This is the eleventh and final (from what I can tell) Chloe Ellefson mystery. The historical timeline is 1919 - 1924 with the telling of the Finnish immigrants' experience, leaving Finland to start a new life in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Chloe takes on a temporary consulting position at a startup historical site on an acquired Finnish homestead. While on assignment she wants to learn more about the history of a rag rug she found in an antique store. As usual, Chloe's first stop, she comes across a dead body of a weaver she wanted to interview about her rag rug. Enjoy this final mystery as you learn a bit about weaving and the looms while learning about the Finnish immigrant experience in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This book as well as all of the books reviewed here can be found at the Timberland Library as well as electronically and at all booksellers.

- Kerri McHugh Upton

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

VIRTUAL SEMINAR



OLYMPIA
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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 promised to talk about deeds and what you can find in them. I will be talking mostly about deeds from the eastern US because that is where I have been working recently. However, the methods and information are generally the same. Some states have different indexing systems. Be sure before you start to look for a surname that you understand the system. North Carolina uses a system where each surname is given a page number; the pages are not in sequence alphabetically. One has to look at the sections and find the page number; there may be many pages of the same name and number. For instance, in Cumberland County, North Carolina, Adams & variants are on page 9; Adcock is on page 45; and Armstrong is on page 1. Under the B's Baker/Backer are on page 5 and Bacon is on page 183. Putnam County, West Virginia has to me a very confusing system. All the indexes are by

Genealogy 101

the first name of the surname – and then by the first name of the first name. For instance, Will Balch would be in one section (B and W) and Bill Balch would be in a completely different section (B and B). The descriptions in the western states are by meridian, ranges and sections, while those in the eastern states are what they call metes and bounds. They may take a while to get used to, but it is easy enough after a while to follow a piece of land by description through various owners. I was able to prove one father/son relationship through the deed records, although one key deed was missing; the final deed where the son sold the land referred to a deed in 1806 where his father had bought the land from someone. Though the deed from father to son was missing, the description for the original owner was the same as what

the son used to sell it. This was not definite proof, of course, until I added other indications. But a big help. Deeds are usually the sale of one piece of land from one person to another, and the indexes are only the grantor and the grantee. Deed books, however, have much more information. One may find when a person came into the county and where he came from; there are marriages, deaths, relationships, slave sales (before the end of the civil war). Deeds are one of the best places to find the maiden name of a married woman. Often a person will give a deed of gift to a daughter (naming her husband), a grandchild, a son, or some other relative. Sometimes the grantor (person selling or giving the land) will mention that one of the reasons for the gift is he or she is moving; another reason is that the grantee has promised to keep him or her until the end of his or her life. Next month I will delve more deeply and examples of various records.

- Carolyn Gibbons

Genealogy news

1. [Reclaim the Records](#) has obtained vital record certificates (birth, marriage, death) and naturalization records for Maryland which haven't been released before. There is no charge for these records. These are available on the [Maryland State Archives](#) page.
2. [Roots Tech](#) registration is open. Roots Tech 2024 will be held February 29th– March 2nd. This worldwide conference has both an in-person

and online option. The online option is free. Registration is required.

3. [Finding Your Roots](#) Season 10 premieres January 2nd, 2024.

4. OGS member Cary Retlin's article about the Cain family migration from Cainsville, MO to the Chehalis lumber fields at the turn of the 19th century was published in the April 2023 issue of Thurston County Historical Journal. The Charles Cain family eventually owned over half a mile of proper-

ty along Cain Road from Log Cabin Road to and including most the land where the Washington Middle School sits. The road was named for the Cain raspberry farm whose entrance can still be seen on Cain Road where First Street ends. Of interest to genealogists may be the technique used to determine where the railroads used to go from the middle of the country to the Chehalis lumber fields and the cost of the travel. Printed copies are available at the Olympia, Lacey, State, and other libraries.

OGS News

1. We are looking for volunteers for the 50th Anniversary Party to be held in May. Please contact info@olygensoc.org if you will volunteer. This is a landmark achievement for our Society and we want to CELEBRATE!!

2. Board Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8pm to discuss OGS news. Meetings are open to current OGS members, but voting is limited to Board members. If you have a topic that you would like the Board to discuss, please contact the Board at info@olygensoc.org by the first of the month to be included in that month's board meeting.

3. **SIG News:** Family History Writing SIG will meet on **Monday, January 8th** 7pm to 8:30pm.

4. **DIG Virtually** - Help members in the community similar to our pre-

vious work at the Olympia Library. Virtual meeting times and frequency will vary depending on the number of volunteers. Training will be provided. Please email info@olygensoc.org if interested.

5. **Historian** - The historian keeps a record of our events and members in the news for the past 50 years. Position is currently open. Duties include posting our live history in our scrapbooks and attending and voting at board meetings. Being on the board, you'll be in a front row seat as our history is happening. Please contact Kathy Erlandson pastpresident@olygensoc.org if interested.

6. **Meeting Tech Team** - In order to transition to hybrid general membership meetings, we need 1

or preferably 2 people who can help with the tech setup each meeting. Set up is simple— bring OGS laptop to each meeting and set up internet connection. If you are interested, contact Joe Brookshier webmaster@olygensoc.org or Bob

Monn membership@olygensoc.org

7. **Speakers Bureau** - Available to speak to groups about genealogy and OGS. It would be great to have a few members who would like to speak for 30-45 minutes. Opportunities for this maybe once or twice a year depending on how many setup to represent OGS. Great outreach opportunities to grow our organization. Send an email to Info@olygensoc.org if you have an interest!

OGS Website

Did you know that there is a list of genealogy books on the OGS website? I have been compiling a list of genealogy mysteries, memoirs and general genealogy books. I first received a list of books from Kathy Erlandson and have been expanding the list over the last couple of years. Most recently I saw a list of books in an email from Diahan Southard. I have added those books to my master list. In addition to these books, Diahan also has listed a group of books for kids!! So if you want to give a book on genealogy

to a child you know, check out the booklist! The books are listed together at the bottom of the main list. Some of the books that I have, I have noted "KMU". Please reach out to me if you are interested in borrowing any of these books! To view the list, you must be logged into the [OGS website](#). Log onto the OGS website, go to Publications/Files, Downloadable Files, click on the Genealogy Mysteries & Other file, then click on the Excel or PDF list to access

the downloadable document.

Enjoy!! - Kerry McHugh Upton

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

OGS Holiday Party—December 9th



Community Partners

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

December Meeting Minutes

Past President Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 1:26 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

Election of 2023-2024 OGS

President: Kathy announced that member Andy Carter has accepted nomination as OGS president for the remainder of the 2023-24 year. No additional nominations were offered from the floor. Andy was elected unanimously.

Newsletter Team: Peggy Cooley reminded members that they should continue to contribute newsletter items.

Program Team: Kathy thanked the Program Team (Diana Bargmann, Cindy Neff, and Terry Church) for all their work organ-

izing this first in-person OGS event since 2020.

Adjournment: Kathy Erlandson adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Thirty-four members and guests were in attendance.