

Supporting family historians in the South Puget sound since 1974



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

V O L . 3 4 , N O 3

N O V 2 0 2 3

UPCOMING DATES

- **GENEAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Thursday, Nov 9th. Meet and Greet 6:30pm, meeting start 7:00pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** throughout Nov, page 2 for details
- **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NEWSLETTER STORIES:** November 20th
- **OGS HOLIDAY PARTY** December 9th, 1-3pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board member	1-2
Musings	
Nov speaker	1-2
Membership dues	3
Genealogy 101	4
Spring Seminar	5
Member story	6
Book review	6

WEBSITE LINK:

olygensoc.org

FOLLOW US:



Board member musings

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 membership meetings and we can help build and foster new friendships. We hope to

make this organization last another 50 years!

Hello OGS! I'm Joe Brookshier the leader of OGS's Technology Team. My background working as a software engineer in Silicon Valley for almost 40 years has given me surprisingly little background for this role. Fortunately, I do have experience working with websites and Google Workspace from my time with other volunteer organizations, so all is not lost. My wife Tracey and I moved to Olympia in 2020 after I retired (mostly) to be closer to our two chil-

dren in Seattle. I joined OGS shortly thereafter and have enjoyed being a member, particularly the Family Tree Maker and Ancestry SIGs. After tiring of fighting the traffic driving to visit our kids, we recently moved to Seattle. I first became interested in genealogy when my maternal grandmother passed away. The family knew very little about her past, and there were few people left to ask. My father knew very little about his own family. This was troublesome for someone who is curious about **Continued to page 2.**

November Presentation:

"Cyndi's List in Practice"

Sometimes overwhelming to beginners and sometimes underused by veterans, Cyndi's List is a research tool that is robust with resources helpful in everyone's research. Using specific examples for beginners, as well as more advanced researchers, we will explore the site and point out how to make the most of the categories and

the links found within. Cyndi Ingle is the creator and innovator behind the award-winning and globally recognized Cyndi's List.com, a free categorized list of more than 320,000 links for genealogical research. Cyndi, a genealogist for more than 43 years, has an expertise in using technology for **Continued to page 2**



Photo: Cyndi Ingle

Board member musings continued...

history and likes everything to be in order, so I became the family genealogist of my generation. I created a whole set of folders to keep my papers and photos, which have aged gracefully into obsolescence with the advent of Ancestry.com and scanners. These days you will find me updating my family tree with the never-ending nuggets that keep popping up. I recently travelled with my father to Missouri on a family history trip, meeting up with the cousin



Photo: Joe Brookshier

that my father had not seen for 70 years. I came away with a cache of old family

photos – much better than Christmas!

I wish good luck to everyone working on their own family trees. The Tech Team will be happy to answer your questions about our technology resources. Send us an email at webmaster@olygensoc.org.

-Joe Brookshier

Board Vacancy and Election

As noted in the October newsletter, OGS is currently without a President. According to our by-laws, the Vice President will succeed to that higher office. Our VP, Terry Church, has done a wonderful job keeping things moving along during this time, but would prefer to finish his term as the VP.

Therefore, we will hold a special election at our December membership meeting. We are aware of one nomination so far for the office of President. Andy Carter has agreed to be nominated, and we welcome any additional nominations either emailed directly to the board

(Info@OlyGenSoc.org), told to any of the board members, or introduced at the November meeting. Past president, Kathy Erlandson, is happy to mentor a new president and help until he/she is comfortable in the new position.

—Kathy Erlandson

November presentation continued...

genealogy. Additionally, her many active years in genealogy have also resulted in specialties for research in the United States and bringing together traditional methodology with organization, computers, software, and the Internet. Cyndi is the recipi-

ent of several awards and honors, she has served in several capacities for genealogical organizations, she is an internationally-known guest lecturer, and she has authored numerous articles and three books. Cyndi is the Executive Director

for the [Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research](#). She is a columnist for the [Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly](#).



Wondering how to make a donation to OGS in someone's memory? Go to olygensoc.org and click on "[Donations and Memorials](#)".

Reminder Membership Dues Increase and a New Student Membership Option

After no changes in our annual membership dues in the past 20 years, the OGS Board at its September meeting decided to increase dues to \$30 for an individual membership and \$35 for a family membership *effective Nov. 1*. This means that this increase will not affect any current member this year who renews their membership within this year's grace period which ends Oct 31. So, if you are a dues-paying member and you haven't yet renewed, please do so

this month. Current members will see the increase for the 2024-2025 membership year beginning next Sep. 1. Anyone joining OGS after Nov. 1 this year will pay the new dues amount. Over time, this increase will help sustain our ability to deliver quality service to our members.

In addition to the above action, the OGS Board also decided to create a new [Student membership plan](#) for anyone currently enrolled as a stu-

dent (e.g., high school, trade school, community college, or university). The annual dues will be \$15 and those joining as Student members will be requested to provide a copy of their current registration. This plan provides its participants with access to the same benefits as other OGS members at an affordable cost, and it is hoped that it will help develop a younger age cohort in our membership. This plan is now available for current students to join OGS.

-Bob Monn

DNA Learning Opportunity with OGS

DNA Sale Price Season is upon us! Black Friday (Nov 24, 2023) and Cyber Monday (Nov 27) are the best times to buy DNA tests at a great price. OGS will be offering a short course on how to use your DNA results in your genealogical research. There are two prerequisites: you must be willing to do your homework and you have to already have your DNA results from either [AncestryDNA](#) or [My Heritage!](#) You will need a subscription to whichever

site you test with to make full use of all the functions.

The subscriptions are often on sale those days too. It can take up to **four weeks** to receive your results once you submit your DNA sample. While you are waiting for your results, either start building your family tree or reassess the quality of a tree you already have. Start with what you know and work to verify the accuracy of the information using various records available online

at Ancestry, My Heritage, FamilySearch, etc.

The DNA course will be 2 two-hour sessions at least a week apart (so you can apply the skills you learn in the first session and discuss them in the second session). Of course, you can also join the OGS DNA SIG, just send an email to dnasig@OlyGenSoc.org.

- Nancy Cordell

OGS Holiday Party

This December, instead of our usual membership meeting, OGS members (and immediate family) are invited to attend an in-person **Holiday Party** on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1pm - 3pm at the [Capital Vision Church at 1775 Yew Ave NE](#) in east Olympia. Here is the opportunity to greet friends of old and meet newer members you've only seen at virtual meetings. In keeping with our past party tradition, we ask for **contribu-**

tions of snack foods/light refreshments for our table (please, no items that require refrigeration). OGS will provide plates, napkins and drinks. Capital Vision Church on 1775 Yew Ave NE is located not far from Ralph's Thriftway market, on the other side of State Ave NE. From State Ave NE (one-way street), make a right onto Puget St NE, go uphill, right onto Yew Ave NE, continue for several blocks and the church will be on the right side. Large gravel parking lot,



cement walkway into the

building follow ramp to the auditorium. We need volunteers for set up of tables and chairs at 12:30pm and clean up from 3pm to 3:30pm. Hope to see everyone there!

The OGS Program Committee - Terry Church (VP), Diana Bargmann, Cindy Stalnaker, Cindy Neff Stevens

Genealogy 101

Let us revisit the census records. Suppose you know that your person/family was in a certain place for the 1870 report and then again for the 1900 report but you cannot find them in the 1880. You are sure they were there.

There are several reasons why this could happen. The primary reason is that the person who indexed the person made an error. I was looking for Lawson in Scioto County, Ohio and it was indexed as Samson. The capital L and capital S are frequently interchanged as are capital M and capital W. You could try that – putting a “?” in place of the first letter of the name and see what you get.

Another way is to search by first name only – give +/- 5 years on birth. It is better if you have a slightly unusual name such as Theron or Frederick rather than Mary or John. I just tried John with nothing else and got 3,669 hits in 1870 in Scioto County, Ohio. That included the initial J. Try other members of the fami-

ly; occasionally for one reason or another, the head of household may have been missed in the indexing.

You can narrow it down by birth year and/or birth place. Just remember that how the question was asked will get different results. “Where are you from?” might give you Virginia and “Where were you born?” might give you Pennsylvania. If someone asked me where I was from, for years I said California and then North Carolina, while I was born in Denver, Colorado.

Another thing to remember is that if no one was home when the census taker visited, he would ask a neighbor – even if it were a 10 year-old boy. The neighbor might or might not know the answers to the questions.

If you are looking in 1880 or later census records, you can also fill in where the parents were born. Try several different combinations.

Another way to look is to find them on the earlier census, note the neighbors, especially the ones who owned land, and search for them,

looking on either side of those neighbors for your family; try a page or two.

The last effort is to go page by page through the census. This is really time-consuming but very well may be worth the effort. And finally you may not find them at all. I tried all of these tricks looking for my Adelaide Watkins, son John, daughter Bertha and daughter Izetta. They were in the Portsmouth city directory for 1899 – but no where in the 1900 census. I have no idea where they were; they were there again in 1910, or rather Adelaide was, living with her daughter. I can only imagine that the census page went missing.

Good luck and good hunting. Next month I will talk about deed records and what you can find in them.

- Carolyn Gibbons



CALL FOR FAMILY STORIES!!

Please submit a family story for the December newsletter. Stories can be about genealogy finds, stories passed down over the generations, or a favorite family memory. We ask that the story be a minimum of 150 to 200 words. Pictures are always welcome. Send to newsletter@olygensoc.org by Nov 20th to be included.

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

Member story

This is a connection I made through [Findagrave](#). I was looking for my grandfather's brother and his wife's cemetery plot. I had found newspaper clippings from Freeborn County, Minnesota about each of them, but I had no pictures of Mabel. On [Findagrave](#), there was a



picture of a school (below), so I wrote to the person who presented it; he had no pictures of Mabel, but he shared a wonderful story. Teacher for many years at Marguerita

Elementary School, Alhambra, Los Angeles Co., California. Below is what Lee shared with me. "Yes, that is the school where she taught and where she was my 4th grade teacher. I was in her class on June 1, 1954, the day Paul died. She was called to the office and another teacher came in to take over our class. In a few minutes, we students looked out the window as she was escorted in tears to her car. She was out for about 10 days and returned to class just before the end of the semester. She was a very good teacher. I

can even remember her taking me and a couple of

other students to a museum one Saturday in her car and on her own time. I don't know if she and Paul are buried together or near one another. The school looks much the same today, although the second story was removed because it didn't meet California earthquake standards. She taught there quite a few years, including 4th grade and later 7th grade. I recall her telling our class about traveling to Mexico on vacation with another teacher. Mabel did have a real talent for music. She taught music to our class, playing piano accompaniment. She also arranged to teach music to the other 4th grade class, while that teacher came to our class to teach spelling. We had a festival each spring featuring music and dancing. Mabel taught our class a Mexican dance which we performed for the other classes and for our parents. She brought a number of items to class acquired on her trip to Mexico. These included apparel and folk art. I remember particularly a ceramic plaque of Father Junipero Serra who had come from Mexico to found the California Missions. Mabel also had a flair for art. I recall a major class project, a wall map showing

the voyages of exploration from Spain to the New World. She had small groups of students who took turns painting the map. It was supposed to be ready in time for the school open house. When the project was running late, she asked student volunteers to come in on a Saturday to finish it up. She bought them ice cream as a reward. Teachers dressed more conservatively in the 1950s than today. Mabel always was among the best dressed in our school. I remember her often wearing a light blue knitted stole that I believe she acquired in Mexico. I don't have a photo of Mabel. Unlike many of the other teachers, she did not pose with her students for the class photo. I also recall that Mabel's widowed father lived with her and Paul and that he died sometime after Paul. Mabel was good friends with another teacher in our school named Helen Winsor who lived near the school. Helen's son Tom was in my class. After Paul's death Mabel sometimes stayed overnight with Helen and her family. You are welcome to include my recollections in your history. I have more and will share them with you a bit later, as I need to run an errand now. Perhaps you could tell me something about Paul McDonald. As I recall, he died suddenly while at work." From [Findagrave](#): Lee

- Sue McDonald

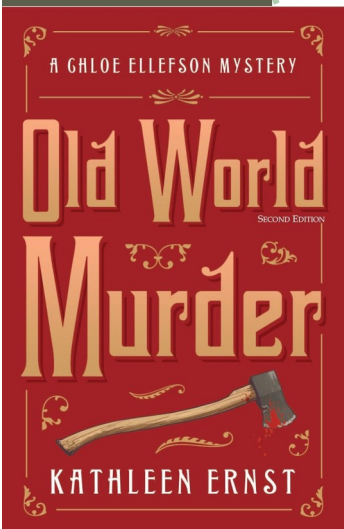
Book Review

The [first](#) in a series by Kathleen Ernst written in 2010 is not really a genealogy mystery as most of the books that I have read are. What is relevant is that Kathleen uses real settings based on her knowledge of the locations and has created a mystery. Through reading the books you learn of various

details that take place in these various locations. This first book is set at the Old World Wisconsin where there are living exhibits for the various ethnic groups that settled in Wisconsin. The new curator Chloe Ellefson finds herself in the middle of death which has a connection to the Old World Wisconsin exhibi-

tion. You'll learn a lot about Norwegian artifacts. Enjoy getting to know more about your ancestors, Norwegian or not. Her books all end with her notes and photos of the actual items that are referenced in the book along with her credits to the people who have helped her with her research.

- Kerri McHugh Upton



New Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Forming in SW Washington

We are pleased to share with you the news that the Brothers (members) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) have been authorized to form a Camp (chapter) to serve the 10 counties of southwestern Washington. The Camp will be known as Gen. John W. Sprague Camp No. 4. Gen. Sprague was a Medal of Honor recipient and is buried in Tacoma. The SUVCW was established by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in

1881 as their male auxiliary, and is their legal heir and representative today.

We invite you, any of your family members, friends, and/or acquaintances who reside in southwestern Washington (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum Counties), and is a male descendant (son, grandson, great grandson, nephew, grand nephew, great grand nephew, etc.) of a Union

soldier, sailor, marine or Revenue Cutter serviceman to become a Charter Member of the new Camp.

For a membership application and further details, contact Loran Bures at camp4organizer@suvpnw.org

We plan to file the final paperwork establishing the new Camp with our National organization in December. Once the final paperwork is submitted, no one can be added as a Charter Member.

Don't miss this opportunity!

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
- LEGACY FAMILY TREE - Jerri McCoy; meets 3rd Saturday 1:00 pm

★
Updating FTM email list. Please email David Abernathy with the email you want to receive updates. Please indicate if you use Windows or Mac and which version of FTM you are using.



OGS Needs You!

1. 50th Anniversary - This group will plan how we'll celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2024. Commitment would be for this year only. Ideas include event planning, helping with news media, scanning photos for Facebook and Instagram posts, etc. Please email info@olygensoc.org if you are able to help!

2. DIG Virtually - Help members in the community similar to our previous work at the Olympia Library, but virtually. Virtual meeting times and frequency will vary depending on the number of volunteers. Training will be provided. Please email info@olygensoc.org

fo@olygensoc.org if interested.

3. 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.

4. Meeting Tech Team - In order to transition to hybrid general mem-

bership 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

5. 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 Elected Officers

President — Vacant

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

Picking Cottens—Oct 12th Meeting

Nancy Cordell presented "**Picking Cottens: Doing Research on the Enslaved and Enslaver in Mississippi**". Family history research of enslaved and free African Americans in 19th century Southern states requires patience, tenacity, and, sometimes, serendipity. The African American Cotten family of Port Gibson, Mississippi migrated to Wilberforce, Ohio in about 1859. James Cotten, a white enslaver, had arranged to move his African American partner and their eight (8) children to the North before the onset of the Civil War. Uncovering this story required research online and onsite. Learn how Nancy uncovered this fascinating tale. A recording of this meeting will be posted soon under Community Events/Recordings; OGS member logon required.

Community Partners

City of Lacey — Erin Quinn Valcho

Timberland Library — Agatha Burstein

October Meeting Minutes

Vice President Terry Church called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed new members and visitors.

Secretary: The September 2023 general meeting minutes were approved as published in the October newsletter.

Vice President: Terry Church reported that the **Program Committee** (Terry, Cindy Neff and Diana Bargmann) has finalized most of the programs for this year. Cyndi Ingle will present in November. A holiday party is planned for 1–3 p.m. on December 3 at the Capital Vision Church. Details will be published in the November newsletter.

Treasurer: Karin Coppernoll reported balances of \$2,670.84 in checking, \$10,103.61 in savings, \$4,229.68 in the CD, and \$3,352.11 in PayPal, totaling \$20,356.24.

Team/Committee/SIG Reports:

- Nancy Cordell reported that on 3 February 2024, Rich Venezia will present sessions on immigration, naturalization, and Irish research. The seminar will be virtual. Seminar registrants will have access to the recordings for 30 days after the seminar.

- Peggy Cooley reported that members submit newsletter items by 15 October for inclusion in the November newsletter. Items not included in the October newsletter will be published in November. Members should keep sending newsletter items.

- The Genealogy Chat SIG meets at Peggy's home. Contact Peggy if you plan to attend.

- Kerry Upton noted that there are seven active SIGs available to OGS members.

Bob Monn reminded us about the dues

increase, effective November 1. Then, dues will increase to \$30 for individuals, \$35 for families, and \$15 for students. Bob will send reminders to those who have not renewed their membership. **Old Business:** There was no old business. **New Business:** Reasons for the dues increase were discussed.

Breakout Rooms: Members met in small-group breakout rooms to discuss "What are your new, exciting discoveries?"

Program: Diana Bargmann introduced our speaker, Nancy Cordell, who presented "Picking Cottens: Doing Research on the Enslaved and Enslaver in Mississippi."

Adjournment: Vice President Terry Church adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Fifty members and guests were in attendance.