

Supporting family historians in the South Puget sound since 1974



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#### UPCOMING DATES

- **Thurs, Sept 14th, virtual general membership meeting begins at 7:00pm (Meet & Greet at 6:30pm)**
- **SIGs meeting in Sept**
- **September 15th deadline to submit stories for newsletter for October 2023 issue**

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## President's musings

Hello! I am Thomas Miller, your new president. I was asked by Peggy Cooley of the OGS Nominating Committee, over a lengthy but pleasant phone call to run for President of OGS. I agreed. I was elected in absentia for my failure to remember the meeting date. Oh well. I am not sure if that is good or bad. I have never been a board member or officer of any organization that uses Roberts Rules of Order. In my first board meeting I was forwarded notes like "Tom, don't you think we should make a motion on the board meeting minutes and vote before we move on". Good idea, I thought. Let's do

that. This help is openly encouraged. I am struck by the willingness of everyone to help. Kathy Erlandson and Joe Brookshier have helped me put on training wheels needed to move forward. I have lived in Olympia since 1979. My wife Julie and I raised three children here and now are blessed with five grandchildren that live in the area. I graduated in Engineering from Montana State University and first worked in San Francisco and then Arkansas before moving to Olympia. Here, I worked at Satsop as an engineer and when the plant was obviously going to close, I chose to go to law school at UPS in their

night program. I continued to work as an engineer during the day while I went to law school. My wife Julie was more than busy during this time raising three children and teaching at St. Martin University in their nursing program. When our first grandchild was born 12 years ago, we became curious about our family's history. We knew some information but wanted to confirm some of those family tales. Showing some interest, I was introduced to a relative on my mother's side who with her brother had done extensive genealogy work. **Continued to page 2.**

### September Presentation: Meet OGS

As we begin a new OGS year (September-June), we're reminded of all the unique opportunities and benefits of belonging to our organization. Come to the Zoom General membership meeting on September 14 as Kathy Erlandson and Kerry McHugh Upton discuss our website, newsletter and more, and bring your questions. Make the most of your OGS membership this year! Kerry McHugh Upton is a native Washingtonian! Having



**Photo: Kerry McHugh Upton** grown up in Auburn and Hoquiam and living most of my adult life in Olympia. I've received my degree in Inte-

rior Design at Clover Park Technical School. I was raised in the family business of McHugh's Ken Schoenfeld Furniture. After the closure of our business, I formed my own interior design firm. I have been interested in family history most of my life. After reading some of the great uncle's and cousin's family trees containing the birth and death dates, I got more interested in finding out what took place **Continued on page 2.**

## President's musings continued...

I was provided six 4" binders of information. Every document had its own page protector. They were focused on my grandmother's parents from Ireland and my grandfather from Kentucky to Kansas. This was done I was told, by spending weeks in Ireland, Kansas, and Salt Lake City. No computer research, just lots of time with a microfiche reader and a typewriter. I was surprised by the volume of support documentation. Truthfully, much of it I did not understand. Soon, Julie and I had booked a garden tour with Mary Ann Bennetti and her husband Joe, to Ireland. We arranged to stay a few days later in Dublin to see where my Irish relatives had lived. After a wonderful time touring the gardens in Ireland, we booked a driver for the day to take us to see where my Great-Grandfather Mullen named "Mullen" had lived. Two of my second great uncles were catholic priests in the late 1860's.

One was buried in a church according to my inherited research books. We set out to discover. We found the church and saw his grave marker inside. This genealogy stuff looked easy. Kind of like, just follow the Yellow Brick Road. We tried to find my other second great-uncle and second great-grandfather all with surname Mullen. After many graveyard searches and finding the weather getting rainy, I made one last pass trying to read the headstones. Genealogy was soon looking hard. There was a grave digger with a hand shovel closing a recently dug grave. As I passed, he asked who I was looking for. The "Mullens". I'll be damned! I'm a Mullen. He asked their names and thought we were related. He said he was not good on the computer, but his oldest lassie could help us exchange information. Julie and his lassie soon communicated by e-

mail exchanging information. Soon, I had arranged a trip with my aunt and uncle and cousin to Ireland. My newly found Irish relative showed us our Irish relatives' farms and burial sites. I now was hooked on the fun and exciting part of Genealogy. My goal as President is to enjoy the learning process of working as a board member and continue to enjoy the friendly exchanges of information and questions I have seen. I do want to try and get back to monthly in-person meetings. But, from my first board meeting, I have started to understand the challenges. Hopefully, with my limited knowledge of how this organization works, I can ask those questions that have not been asked, but probably should have been. You may contact me by e-mail at [tfmiller75@gmail.com](mailto:tfmiller75@gmail.com) to ask any question or discuss issues you have. We only grow if we ask questions. I also openly welcome suggestions.

- Tom Miller

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

## Meet OGS continued...

between those two life events. I've had the joy of escorting my parents on their 50th wedding anniversary trip in 2001 to Ireland where we visited two of my father's grandparents' birth homes. Two years later Steve and I honeymooned in Ireland where we got to visit the birth home of his grandfather. Recently we made a

trip to Illinois where we visited the town where my mother's parents grew up. Genealogy is a great hobby that brings the puzzle-loving, mystery seeker, history buff all together.

Since joining OGS in 2011, Kathy has served as secretary, vice president & president, & has worked on a variety of committees &

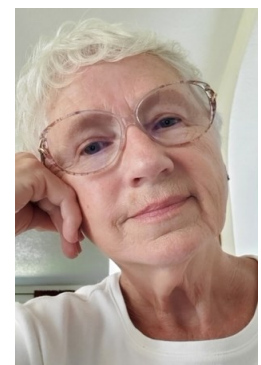


Photo: Kathy Erlandson

projects. She says what she likes best about the society is the many friends she has made since joining.

# Return to in-person OGS meetings?

Many OGS members have high hopes of returning to physical, in-person meetings this fall. A small team of members researched our options for doing so. Here is what we've discovered.

Our membership has changed somewhat over the last 3 years, in ways that impact our meetings. During the years of Zoom meetings, we welcomed a number of new members who do not live in our community, or even our state, and two or more of our board members do not live locally. Exclusively physical meetings would exclude those members from participation, and cripple our board. Hence, even if we find a meeting place, we need to have hybrid meetings --- meetings in which some people meet together in the same place while others join the meeting through the internet.

The Site Team has done a lengthy search of local venues with the space & equipment to accommodate our monthly meetings. It seems that the days of free space are long gone. A good place was found at a reasonable cost of \$75-\$100 per meeting. However, we are already spending every penny, and then some, that we bring in each year. So, we need to find a way to increase our income to meet the cost of physical meetings.

In addition to securing a facility, in order to have hybrid meetings we need at least two volunteers, a primary and a backup, to operate the equipment necessary to support the internet side of the meetings. I am told that it is not particularly difficult, and we have members who can train volunteers to do it, but that is the sticking point: **VOLUNTEERS**. Our Tech Team is already

stretched to the max, so we must find new volunteers.

Will you please help solve these problems? As for the cost, please consider making an extra donation to OGS. And if you cannot volunteer to learn to run the hybrid meeting, you can help by searching for someone who will. Make phone calls to other members. Or perhaps you know someone outside OGS who is good with computers and would volunteer one Thursday evening per month to manage the hybrid meeting.

This is an all-volunteer organization, and to keep supporting genealogical research in our community we need the help of every member. Please heed the call, and keep OGS vibrant for another 50 years. Look for a survey link to be in an upcoming email that will help the OGS board better understand your needs around meetings.

- Kathy Erlandson

## Membership update

As of writing this newsletter here are new members to OGS:

Please welcome Dick Kern, Judy Pieper, Linda Fretts, and Mary Lang.

The new OGS membership year begins Sep 1. Thanks to those who already have renewed your membership and a special thanks to Joe Brookshier and Barbara Ritchie for their very generous donations to OGS.

Dues-paying members who log in to the OGS website (except those who joined after June 1 or who already have renewed) will see a notice in a red banner regarding the need to renew their membership.

To renew, go to your **Member Profile** (see link in left nav menu under Members Login), click on the "Renew Membership" button, and follow the directions to renew. You may pay via either a PayPal account or a credit card. Tip: To checkout, you must click the

check box above "Confirm & Checkout" and then enter the numeric code in the adjacent text box.

If you wish to change your membership plan (e.g. from an individual membership to a family membership), please contact us first

at [membership@olygensoc.org](mailto:membership@olygensoc.org).

If you have any trouble logging in or have any questions about the membership renewal process, please contact us at the above email address.

- Bob Monn

# Outstanding volunteers

Each year the Washington State Genealogical Society invites individual societies to nominate an outstanding volunteer or team to be honored for their exceptional efforts on behalf of their organization. It is a means for local societies to give wider recognition to their outstanding volunteers.

This year, OGS nominated Kerry McHugh Upton and Bob Monn for their extraordinary and on-going contributions to the work of our society.

In over 20 years with OGS, Kerry has held several elected positions, including president and secretary. She has provided friendly help and guidance to many members, assisted on numerous committees and teams, presented programs, planned events, and done far more than could be easily listed here. She is currently our special interest group

coordinator, and a critical member of our tech team. Bob Monn joined OGS in 2015, and practically hit the ground running. He has been our membership coordinator since 2017, and was a driving force for development of our amazing website in 2018. Working quietly behind the scenes, Bob has been persistent in leading OGS to make use of new technologies to improve and streamline many operations. His contributions benefit the work of secretary, treasurer, board, newsletter team, publicist, program team, special interest groups, and tech team. With humor and professionalism, Bob helps OGS to better serve our members and our community.

Next time you see Kerry or Bob at a Zoom meeting, send them a congratulatory chat, or give them a phone call, and thank them for their out-

standing dedication to the work of Olympia Genealogical Society.

- Kathy Erlandson



Photo: Kerry McHugh Upton



Photo: Bob Monn

## Fred Meyer Rewards

Every time you shop at Fred Meyer, you could be making a donation to OGS by using your Fred Meyer Rewards Card. **And it won't cost you a penny.** You only need a Rewards Card and a digital account.

**Don't have a Rewards Card?** You can get one for free at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer Store.

**Don't have a digital account?** Visit [www.fredmeyer.com](http://www.fredmeyer.com) and create an account by clicking the down arrow next to "Sign In". Enter a valid email address and your Fred Meyer Rewards Card number. Then search for

**Olympia Genealogical Society** under "Community Rewards" and click "Enroll". Every time you make a purchase using your rewards card, you make a small donation to the OGS without costing you anything.

*This program is separate from your gas rewards and your cash back rewards.*

The Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program bases the donation to OGS on a percentage of spending. The amount OGS receives is



based upon how many people choose OGS as their charity and how much they shop.

**\*Remember, your purchases will not count unless you have registered your rewards card.**

You must either swipe your card or enter your alternate number every time you make a purchase at Fred Meyer. Please note: the physical address on the account is correct.

—Karin Coppernoll

# Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Make the most of your membership and consider joining one of the Special Interest Groups aka SIGs. All SIGs meet via [Google Meet](#) unless otherwise noted.

**DNA**— Lead by Nancy Cordell and Karin Coppernoll will meet online from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The DNA SIG will continue starting on **Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30pm.**

Nancy and Karin will continue as facilitators. This year we will continue to use *YourDNAGuide: The Book*, by Diahn Southard, and *Research Like a Pro with DNA*, by Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, and Robin Wirthlin, as guides to working with our DNA. The goal is to *learn by doing*. Both books give instructions on how to make sense of your DNA results. At each meeting, we will ask 2-3 volunteers to share their accomplishments since the last meeting. Participants can share charts, graphs, and/or written summaries with the group. We encourage SIG participants to keep a written log of their work as they go. Please join us. If you are not already on our email list, please send an email to

[dnasig@OlyGenSoc.org](mailto:dnasig@OlyGenSoc.org).

**Genealogy Chat**— Lead by Peggy Cooley. Our group didn't meet in June, as I was away, but we did meet at my home in July and August and got some problems solved and stories told. We will meet at my home in Lacey the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**Family History Writing**—Lead by Laura Carroll. Group usually meets online the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month from 7-9 PM, however, in September it will be on **September 11** (due to Labor Day holiday).

**Family Search**— Lead by Carolyn Gibbons. Scheduled online the fourth Wednesday at 6-8 pm. She is looking forward to seeing you all again. There are a few new features she will show you. The library did a complete overhaul while shut down for COVID. Be sure to bring questions when you come.

**Ancestry**— Lead by Greg Nordlund. The online meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 11 AM-1 PM.

**Legacy Family Tree**—Lead by Jerri

McCoy who is an expert at all the ins and outs of the software and can help you over rough spots and direct you to where you can solve problems by yourself. She will also illuminate features of Legacy you didn't even know were there! Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday online at 1pm.

**Family Treemaker**— Lead by David Abernathy. This SIG is uses [Zoom](#) in lieu of Goggle Meet. Log on to OGS website, click on SIGs in main menu, click on Family Tree Maker for Zoom link. Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. I normally have the meeting open at 12:45, and meeting starts around 1:00 until 3:00. I do not prepare any formal presentation, but lead off to what the attendees wish to discuss. Sometimes we cut the meeting short as there are not many questions. When there is only a few of us, not much time is needed. I would like to see more of the FTM users attend these meetings. NOTE: that we may be seeing a "Update" shortly, that may be improving the syncing with Ancestry.

## Special Interest Groups and Facilitators:

- ANCESTRY - Greg Nordlund; meets 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- DNA - Nancy Cordell; meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:30 pm
- FAMILY HISTORY WRITING - Laura Carroll meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 - 9:00 pm \*The September meeting will be on the 11th, same time.
- FAMILY TREE MAKER - David Abernathy; meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00 pm Via Zoom platform
- FAMILY SEARCH.org – Carolyn Gibbons; meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- GENEALOGY CHAT - Peggy Cooley; meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30 pm
- LEGACY FAMILY TREE - Jerri McCoy; meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 1:00 pm

## OGS Goes to the Fair

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible for OGS to have a booth at the Thurston County Fair this year! Not only those who were there for shifts at our table on July 29, but also those who put in ideas, time, energy and equipment before the big event, like Kathy Erlandson, Rebel Romero, Mandy Stahre and Joe Brookshier. Mandy updated our brochures and served as courier for them, and Joe did all the printing for us. The cheerful faces gracing our booth were: myself, Greg Nordlund, Rebel Romero, Patricia Novarra, Terry Church, Andy Carter, Cindy Stevens Neff, Mandy Stahre, and Peggy Cooley. Also, many thanks to my husband, Greg Bargmann, who assisted extensively before and after the fair (loading, unloading, and loading again!), especially for his help in the later hours of the evening when I started to get tired and cranky

(don't worry, he's had plenty of experience with this!). Big hug to Greg for hanging in there with me for 53 years! Special kudos to Rebel who not only came to help in the early hours before the fair started but remained during the day, running out to make more copies of the handouts when needed and was there till the very end to help repack everything. Her organizational and mechanical skills, and moral support, were invaluable. Big hug to Rebel, too! It was a very long day (8am-10:30pm) – since we were there for only one day of the event, we had to set up everything in the hours before the fair started, “man” our booth from 10am – 10pm, and then tear down and repack everything after the fair ended at 10pm. But it seemed like everyone who participated had fun. Despite a technical



Photo: Greg Nordlund and Diana Bargmann

glitch by the person who organized it, perseverance and creativity by our members won out. The current outreach efforts of OGS are still in the infant stage but with each event that we take part in, we find out more about what works and what needs improvement. As well as the smart looking brochures, we had a variety of handouts for everyone, both about OGS and how to go about family research. Maybe in the future, we'll see even more of our members taking part in these efforts!  
- Diana Bargmann

## Sneak Peak Spring Seminar

Spring seminar is coming early this year. We are excited to announce the spring seminar will be held Saturday, February 3, 2024. More details to come but here's a sneak peak. 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 ex-

pert 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

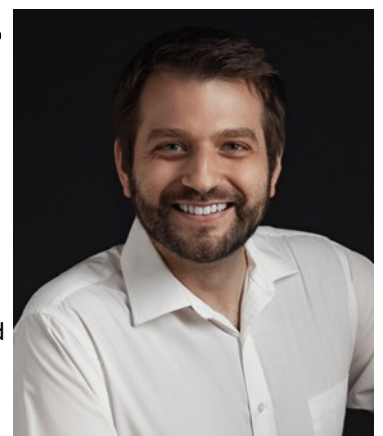


Photo: Rich Venezia

Pittsburgh 2017.

# Tips and Tricks—warning!!

I have been encouraging people to use [www.mapofus.org](http://www.mapofus.org) for county formation in various states. It was a wonderful site. Someone has taken over some of its features. Three days ago I tried to access WV counties. The site was extremely slow; I saw a button labeled "Continue" in lower left hand corner. I hit that button, and my Norton Anti-Virus stopped me, warning I was accessing an unsafe site. Seems it did not warn me soon enough as I ended up with my computer frozen and messages,

both computer voice and written, purporting to come from Google that I had a virus and to call a number to get it repaired. It sounded like a scam, and the person at the other end wanted to take control of my computer. I hung up. Then I spent several hours, after shutting it down despite the warnings saying not to, trying to eliminate my virus which was giving me continuous pop-ups saying they were Google and MacAfee and Defender, blocking the right hand area of

my computer. I ran Norton's Quick Scan, Deep Scan and downloaded the Eraser program. Finally had to contact Norton itself for a tech to clean up my computer. Several hours wasted! I just looked at the mapofus site; the Continue button is still there though in a different style. I now suggest you make use of the Newberry Library's version: <https://digital.newberry.org/achb/> where achb stands for Atlas of Historical County Boundaries project. Good luck and good hunting!!!

- Carolyn Gibbons

*Do you have tips and tricks to share with other budding genealogists? Send them to [newsletter@olygensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@olygensoc.org) by the 15th.*

## OGS Speaker's Bureau

Have an inkling to talk to people about genealogy or about the Olympia Genealogical Society? Want to help out OGS without getting too involved in monthly projects but want to see the organization have exposure and grow? A few times a year we get a request from other groups in the community who are looking for a program on genealogy. These requests come from senior living communities, schools, historical events, service clubs, etc., throughout the community. They are

looking for programs from as little as 30 mins to an hour or so. Topics could be "who we are"; "how to start a genealogy project,"; "how to conduct a family interview"; etc. It would be great to get 3-4 people on this team who could create some programs that could be presented to these various groups. One or two of the team could make the presentation. As of the last couple of months we have had two requests that I haven't known how to answer or direct to members. If a longer program

is needed for a historical fair or the county fair, other members would be available to help out at these events. This "speakers' bureau" would be more for the smaller group presentations lasting 30-90 mins. Please reach out to me if you are interested. As we get some members responding I'll send out an email to see what we can get together. Thank you so much for considering helping OGS! Preferably non-board members to step up would be great as I know fellow board members have their plates very full. Kerry Upton [Kerry.upton123@gmail.com](mailto:Kerry.upton123@gmail.com)

## Drop in Genealogy

Remember the days of the Genealogy Café, more recently known as the Drop In Genealogy, aka DIG? There is interest and need to start this back up again! Members of the public have been contacting OGS looking for assistance in their

family history. If we could get a few members perhaps 6-12 or so that would agree to volunteer monthly or every other month, we could start DIG again. We are considering doing it virtually via Google Meets. Training would be provided. We

would need someone willing to be the lead for this group. Please send me an email if you are interested. Send to [Kerry.upton@gmail.com](mailto:Kerry.upton@gmail.com)

### OGS Elected Officers

**President** — Tom Miller  
**Vice President** — Terry William 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

### Community Partners

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

### “WA State Library Resources” - June Meeting

Mary Paynton Schaff is NW Librarian at the WA State Library (WSL), where she has worked since 2005, assisting library users with research on Pacific Northwest history, government, and genealogy. She also serves on the WA Committee for Geographic Names. Mary provided an update about the resources, services, and expertise the WSL provides to genealogists, and then asked us to help WSL plan for the future by providing valuable input for how they can best assist you. She also discussed the important work of geographic naming in our state, and how genealogists can lend a hand there as well.

WA State Library: [https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/genealogy.aspx\\_A](https://www.sos.wa.gov/library/genealogy.aspx_A) recording of this meeting is now available for OGS members.

## June Meeting Minutes

**Vice President** Terry Church called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Secretary** - The May 2022 general meeting minutes were approved as published in the June newsletter.

**Vice President** Terry Church reported that the Program Committee met in May and will meet again in July to finalize the programs for next year.

**Treasurer** Karin Coppernoll reported a balance on all accounts of \$19,367.73 as of May 31.

### Team/Committee/SIG Reports:

- Kathy Erlandson reported that a small committee is organizing a June 17 board retreat.

- David Abernathy reported that the Family Tree Maker SIG will meet via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month through the summer. He would like to hear from anyone not receiving SIG emails.

Kerry Upton added that details for other SIGs meeting over the summer were available on the OGS website.

### Election of 2023-2024 OGS Executive Board:

Peggy Cooley, speaking for the Nominating Committee, introduced the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming year: Thomas Miller – President, Terry Church – Vice President, Karin Coppernoll – Treasurer, and Carol Jenner – Secretary. No nominees were offered from the floor. The slate was approved as nominated.

**Program:** Our guest speaker was Mary Paynton Schaff, Northwest Librarian at the Washington State Library and member of the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names.

**Announcements:** Diana Bargmann announced that OGS will have a booth at the Thurston County Fair on July 29. Volunteers are needed for 2—3-hour shifts from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The next general meeting of the Olympia Genealogical Society will be on Sept 8, 2022.

Vice President Terry Church adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Thirty-eight members were in attendance.