

Supporting family historians in the South Puget sound since 1974



QLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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UPCOMING DATES

- **Thurs, June 8th, virtual** General membership meeting begins at 7:00pm (Meet & Greet at 6:30pm)
- SIGs meeting throughout June
- **August 15th deadline to submit stories for newsletter for September 2023 issue**
- **Have a fun and safe summer!**

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President's musings

This is my last newsletter article, before I am off to New England. First, I want to thank the membership and the board for all the support that you provide to the Society. From the "Legal Genealogist" to "Planning a Future for Your Family's Past", we have had the opportunity to hear from some excellent speakers this year. Bravo to the Program Committee!

I'll close by telling you a bit about my own genealogy journey. My partner convinced me to take a DNA test several years ago, which led to my discovery of my mother's biological parents. She had been adopted in Los Angeles in the 1920s. Once I

signed up for an Ancestry membership, I quickly became addicted to finding more people in my tree. When I think about what my



new pastime and potential next career have given me, there are three areas that come to mind.

Self Discovery

My family was not close-knit. My mother was adopted. My father had a rift with his father. I only knew one grand-

parent. Now, I know so much more. I know where my bushy hair came from, probably from my great-great-grandfather. I've found and visited the area in Denmark where my paternal great-grandfather came from. And—I found something, genealogy research, that brings me "flow".

Research and Writing Skills

I have gained much better writing skills by learning how to write client reports. This has translated to my day job. I've also had the opportunity to learn about conducting historical research, which is very different than market research.

Continued to page 2...

June Presentation: Washington State Library

Mary Paynton Schaff is Northwest Librarian at the Washington State Library, where she has worked since 2005, assisting library users with



research on Pacific Northwest history, government, and genealogy. She also serves on the Washington Committee

for Geographic Names. Join Mary to hear an update about the resources, services, and expertise the Washington State Library provides to genealogists, and then help us plan for the future by providing valuable input for how we can best assist you. We'll also discuss the important work of geographic naming in our state, and how genealogists can lend a hand there as well.



Photo: Mary Paynton Schaff

President's musings continued...

I can now use my analytical skills in a new way. Not only that, but I have also become interested in history for the first time.

Relationships

As genealogists, we do not seem shy away from reaching out to others. I've met many DNA cousins; Shared photos; Traveled to Denmark and stayed with my wonderful Danish cousins; Visited my grandmother's house—she died well

before I was born, and she never knew us; Heard stories from an 80 year old cousin about my grandmother ("her second husband was a charlatan!"); Was given goblets from my great-aunt from one cousin; Watched seasons 5 and 6 of the Cisco Kid, so I could see my grandfather's name in the credits.

As well as my own family, I've met passionate, helpful, and accomplished people at OGS

and [ICAPGEN](#).

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve you over the past year. I wish I could do more, and that I could stay. I wish you all the best, and I'm sure I'll be checking in from time to time to see where you have gone. Please keep supporting the education and resources of OGS!

- Laurel Haas

Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Did you know that Fred Meyer has a [Community Rewards Program \(CRP\)](#) that donates to participating organizations every year? OGS is one of those participating organizations. Every purchase you make using your Fred Meyer Rewards Card gives OGS a small donation without costing 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 and create an account by clicking the down arrow next to "Sign In". Simply enter a valid email address and your Fred Meyer

Rewards Card number. It's free.

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



The Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program is based upon percentage of spending. The amount of donation OGS receives is based upon how many people choose "Olympia Genealogical Society" as their charity and how much they shop. Tell all your friends about this easy way to support our favorite local

organization.

** Remember, your purchases will not count toward the OGS unless you have registered your rewards card and chosen Olympia Genealogical Society. 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 listed for Olympia Genealogical Society in the Community Rewards area is correct—one of our member's address, which is a requirement of the program.



New National Archive Records

A new record group is available: [Plans of Military Posts in the United States, 1840-1947](#).

this article 2,973 items are available online. This series consists of maps and plans of

the drawings were transferred to the custody of the Corps of Engineers. Included are detailed maps, architectural plans, elevations, sketches, diagrams, and views of buildings.

- Diana Bargmann

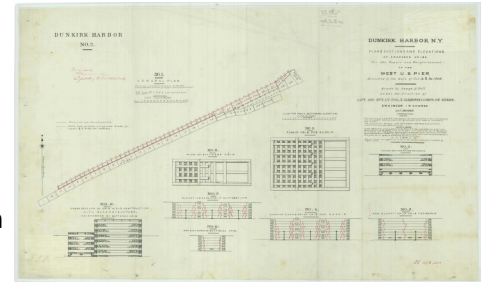


Image: Plans for Dunkirk Harbor, NY



Record Group 77. Creator: War Department– Office of the Chief of Engineers. This series is partially available online. As of the posting of

military posts primarily in the western United States. Most of these plans were originally compiled by Army quartermasters at each post before

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a perk of membership in OGS. Free and open to all members, these groups meet monthly around a variety of topics related to genealogy. Current SIGs include: [ancestry.com](#), [familysearch.org](#), DNA, family history writing, [Family Tree Maker](#), Genealogy chat, Italian heritage, and [Legacy Family Tree](#). These groups offer a small group setting to dive deeper into topics.

OGS is always interested in starting new SIGs so if you have a topic you would like to lead, please contact [Kerry Upton](#). Meeting format is currently virtual using [GoogleMeet](#), a platform very similar to Zoom. If you would like to be on the SIG list please send an email to the facilitator to be included on their list of

members. You'll find their email contact on the Membership List (accessible only to current OGS members). A list of days, times, and facilitators for current SIGs is listed on the [OGS website](#).

- 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 (Note change in start time!)
- ★ FAMILY TREE MAKER - David Abernathy; ~~meets 4th Thursday~~ 10:00 am
- 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
- ITALIAN - Greg Nordlund; meets quarterly (Nov, Feb, May, Aug) 1st Saturday 11:00 am.
- LEGACY FAMILY TREE - Jerri McCoy; meets 3rd Saturday 1:00 pm

★ Schedule change: Family Tree Maker will meet the 3rd Tuesday at 1:00pm on Zoom.

Guess who's turning 50?

Olympia Genealogical Society will be celebrating our golden 50th anniversary this next year. Were you a member back in 1974? Do you have photos or memories you would like to

share from OGS's early years? Next year, we will be collecting stories and running a special section in our newsletter looking back over the past 50 years. Are you a charter member or a

Past President? We would love to hear from you. Please send any articles, photos, or happy memories to news-letter@olygensoc.org. Articles need to be between 100-150 words

Genealogy 101

Last time I introduced Probate, mentioning wills. One of the things to look at that many people ignore is the estate sales. Two reasons: 1) the people who bought are often the relatives; 2) and it gives a good look into the lives of the decedent. *Did they have books?* If so, they were literate and interested in outside things. *Did they have blacksmith tools?* They were competent to do smithy work and may have done it for others. *Did they just have four plates, one pot, one sharp knife and four spoons?* They were probably pretty poor. *Did they have livestock and what kind?*

When an estate is probated, the administrator or executor may have to post a bond: this is usually for about the estimated value of the estate. An executor (or executrix if female) is the person appointed by the will to take care of the estate. The administrator (or administratrix) is the person appointed by the courts. The executor may refuse and

sometimes does; another relative may volunteer and apply to be executor but requires court approval (usually does). An administrator is often a relative but sometimes it is a lawyer who deals in estates; the same person may be administrator for several estates. Nevertheless, the person who handles the estate and the people who are surety for the bonds deserve a close look. Relative? Close neighbor?

The ratio of the estate given to each legatee will give you an idea of how many people there were. Ex: If four people get one-fourth each, probably the decedent had four children who survived (or anyone who died, died without issue). If no dower is mentioned, the wife is already dead. However, if you get something such as “one-fourth of one-fifth” that means that four children lived and one died leaving four children. If a dower is left, there may be many years from the original application for probate to the final wind-up of the estate because usually the widow gets her dower (land

and/or personal property) for the rest of her life or widowhood and then it goes to the children. If you are really lucky, people will fight over it. I saw 127 pages in Cumberland County estate records; it listed all the children by name, said where they were living (some were in Florida) and later one of the sons had died because then the papers listed his children as legatees. Be sure and carefully read the documents. I just saw a probate on my family in 1921 in Scioto County, Ohio. The will was presented for probate 16 Jul and the court ruled that five days’ notice be given to next of kin resident in Ohio; then on 22 Jul the waiver of notice and consent to probate was signed by six people – a son; two granddaughters and a grandson, children of a deceased son; two granddaughters, children of another deceased son. The son living in Ohio who applied to be executor was not named until the following page of court records nor was the grandson living in California.

- Carolyn Gibbons

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

Vital records in Washington

The Washington state Department of Health (DOH) made the first step in amending rules around vital records by filing a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry ([CR 101](#)) on January 27, 2023. The department states in the CR 101 that the rulemaking may:

- Establish registration and amendment requirements for vital records
- Update or add program processes.
- Adopt fees associated with amendment and delayed birth applications.
- Adopt or adjust fees associated with the issuance of certifications and informational copies.
- Add or remove data items collected in a vital record.
- Expand use of electronic registration of a vital event.
- Make editorial and technical changes to align with statutory changes.

- Repeal obsolete sections of rule.

A timeline of rulemaking activities can be found [here](#). It appears from the timeline DOH will be gathering input and drafting rules over the next few months.

I strongly encourage members to contact DOH to receive updates and to provide input about any changes to current statute at: VitalRecordsRules@doh.wa.gov

- Mandy Stahre

Tips and Tricks

I really enjoyed listening to Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist, from our Spring Seminar. I actually found my 2nd Great-grandfather's probate record. I used her tip to about the [Family Search Wiki](#) on seeing what records are available for particular counties in the US. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to locate any for his wife nor my great-grandfather

or grandfather here in Washington State. - **Marcy Belles**



Do you have tips and tricks to share with other budding genealogists? Send them to newsletter@olygensoc.org by the 15th.

Regional news

Have you ever been to the [Northwest Carriage Museum](#) located at [314 Alder St. in Raymond, Washington](#)? Phone number: (360) 942-1150, hours: daily 10-4pm. It makes a great day trip, and you can find some of the historical conveyances that your ancestors probably used, seeing them up close and personal. The museum

is cared for by staff who truly love this extensive collection, and it is a gem of a museum right in our midst. Geared for both adults and children.—**Diana Bargmann**



And while you are there stop into the [Pacific County Courthouse](#) in South Bend. The Rotunda is made of stained glass and is magnificent.—**Peggy Cooley**

Summer break ask

OGS will be taking a break for July and August and can't wait to see everyone again in September. We would love to hear from our members and feature some of your stories in upcoming newsletters. You only need 100 to 150 words and we LOVE pictures!

Can't think of anything? Think no one would be interested in hearing about your relatives? We are here to tell you that your stories and genealogical finds could help someone break through a brick wall. Or give someone an idea to explore. You never

know who you could help just by sharing your own stories. Put your writing skills to the test and send us your stories in September.

- **OGS newsletter staff—Peggy, Caroline, and Mandy**

OGS Elected Officers

President — Laurel Haas
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
Refreshments — Diana Bargmann
Research — Jerri McCoy
Spring Seminar — Nancy Cordell
Sunshine—Gayle Strom
SIGs—Kerry McHugh-Upton

Community Partners

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

"Planning a Future for Your Family's Past" - May General Membership Meeting

Marian Burk Wood presented on what to do and how to pass on and protect your family history materials. Her presentation also included ideas to consider if there are no obvious heirs for your genealogy research and materials. A recording of this meeting is now available for OGS members. Click on Community Events / Recordings* and click on "Future Planning" to view the recording. Program material is available under Publications / Downloadable Files / Program Materials-OGS Only*.

May Meeting Minutes

11 May 2023 via Zoom
President Laurel Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The April 2023 general meeting minutes were approved as published in the May 2023 OGS Newsletter. Terry Church noted the passing of our Vice President, William Kautz, and reported on behalf of the program team. Terry, Diana Bargmann, and Cindy Neff are members of the team. An archivist will present in June, the last program until meetings resume in September.
Treasurer Karin Coppernoll reported a total balance of \$19,858.61.

Reporting for the Newsletter Team, Peggy Cooley urged members to contribute items, including recipes and book reviews, for the upcoming newsletter. Members should submit items by May 20 for inclusion in the June newsletter.
The Nominating Committee (Peggy Cooley, Andy Carter, and Joyce Ogden) proposed the following slate of officers for the 2023-24 program year:
President – Tom Miller
Vice President – Terry Church
Secretary – Carol Jenner
Treasurer – Karin Coppernoll
Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the June meeting. Anyone desiring to be added to the nomination list

should contact Peggy Cooley.
Vice President Terry Church introduced the speaker for the evening, Marian Burk Wood, who presented "Planning a Future for Your Family's Past." Kathy Erlandson was the winner of the book giveaway held after the presentation. Marian will send her an autographed copy of her book, which shares the title with the presentation. A member-sharing discussion followed.
President Laurel Haas adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Thirty-one members were in attendance.