

Supporting family historians in the South Puget sound since 1974



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

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M A R 2 0 2 3

UPCOMING DATES

- **Thurs, Mar 9th, virtual**
General membership meeting begins at 7:00pm (Meet & Greet at 6:30pm)
- SIGs meeting throughout March
- Mar 15th deadline to submit stories for newsletter
- Spring seminar—April 2023 “Judy Russell— *The Legal Genealogist*”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President’s Musings	1-2
March speaker	1
Book review	2
Research tip	3
SIGs	3
Beginning Gen	4
Spring Seminar	5
Vital records	6



President’s musings

Greetings! I hope you saw the presentation at our last meeting by [Peggy Clemens Lauritzen](#), “Faith of our Fathers”. Peggy presented information about European religious history and how it impacted many of our ancestor’s immigration. I really appreciate the opportunity to learn contextual information that is so valuable in our research. If you did not get a chance to see this, the recording will be available on the website

soon. I hope you have had an opportunity to sign up for our [Spring Seminar](#) with Judy Rus-



sell, the [Legal Genealogist](#). Here is another significant area, where context is key, in our research. Judy Russell is

speaking about probate, linking generations with land and court records, and some of the laws impacting our research into women and African Americans.

I was recently researching an ancestor of my spouse, Farquhar McRae who immigrated from Scotland in the early 18th century, settling in West Virginia. I had not found any records linking Mr. McRae to his son Duncan, who is my **Continued on Page 2.**

February Presentation: “Online Sources for Finding Living People”

Vicky Lambert a native Californian has been a genealogist for over twenty years researching their Eastern, Midwestern, and Southern ancestors, as well as veterans from the Revolutionary War to WW II. This work has led her to help others in tracking their hard-to-find ancestors and stories. Her specialization is in Forensic Genealogy with specific focus on probate, estate, kinship determination, and missing heirs.



Details of her March program: Whether you are looking to reunite mementos with lost

family, identify missing or unknown heirs, locate others who can advance your genealogical research, or find lost school mates for a reunion, finding living people online with reliable contact information can be a challenge. In this presentation we will look at well-known sites and little-known resources, free and paid, and discuss lateral thinking strategies to improve the odds of a successful living person search.

President's musings continued...

spouse's direct ancestor. After reviewing the court records in Monongalia county, West Virginia, I found Farquhar was in court regularly, a litigious type, no doubt. However, in one case, Farquhar was in court because of the adoption of his three grandchildren, children of his son Duncan, who had died. In this court record, I was able to connect Duncan to his father Farquhar, identify Duncan's children and identify when Duncan died. On our Facebook group, I saw that Kathy Erlandson posted an article about what it takes to be successful as a Genealogical Society, a great read, if you are a member. I believe our group is doing excellent work on two key elements, education and our newsletter.

We also need your help in these areas! Please let us know of the topics you are interested in learning more about. Also, we would love to hear about your

research journey and successes for our newsletter. On another note, I recently joined the Facebook group, [Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence](#), in which our speaker, Judy Russell is also a member. I noted that she advised against asking ChatGPT questions about genealogy and the law. Some members, like me, were curious if they could obtain assistance from AI for their brick walls. So, I



Who are the parents of James Parton Vickery, born about 1805 in South Carolina, died between 1850 and 1860 in Marion County, Alabama

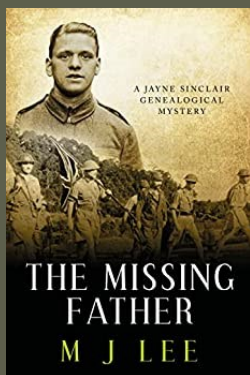


I'm sorry, but I don't have any information on the parents of James Parton Vickery born around 1805 in South Carolina and died between 1850 and 1860 in Marion County, Alabama. Genealogical research is often a complex and time-consuming process, and many historical records have been lost or destroyed over time. If you're trying to learn more about James Parton Vickery's family tree, you might start by searching online genealogy databases, contacting historical societies in South Carolina and Alabama, and consulting local archives and libraries for any available records, such as census records, wills, deeds, and church records.

decided to try this as well, out of curiosity. Throwing all caution to the wind, I signed up for an account on [ChatGPT](#). ChatGPT is a new artificial intelligence that has

been much in the news lately. According to the online magazine, [ZDNet](#), the language model can answer questions, and assist you with tasks such as composing emails, essays, and code. Many genealogists have been curious as to how it can benefit our work, even so far as asking it to do research. After agreeing to surveillance, no doubt, I typed the text below and here were the results. As one member of the group point-

ed out, the strength of ChatGPT is with words, not facts. Until next time, I wish you all the best with your complex, time-consuming research!
- Laurel Haas



"The Missing Father" - book review

[The Missing Father](#) by M.J. Lee is a great read for those that love genealogy and mysteries. This is part of the Jayne Sinclair Genealogical Mysteries, Book 9. The author [Martin Lee](#) is a skilled storyteller and a genealogist who shares his love of solving a genealogy mystery. He leads the reader through a historical era woven through actual records research at various repositories in Great Britain. The Missing Father takes place dur-

ing WWII, in Singapore, up through the fall of Singapore connecting Jayne Sinclair's client to her missing biological father through DNA testing. A well-researched mystery, both historically and how to do the genealogy research. I highly recommend this book. I have a copy in my library to lend, as well as the other eight mysteries; purchase it yourself, but it is also available on Kindle. If you know of a book that you would like to share a review,

please let me know or send it the newsletter team for publishing in the newsletter (by the 15th of each month).

Please check out the list of genealogy mysteries, memoirs and others on the OGS website. Log on to olygensoc.org; go to Publications. You'll see a folder for Genealogy Mysteries. List is available as a pdf or an Excel spreadsheet. Enjoy!
- Kerry McHugh Upton

DNA SIG Testimonial

Have you taken a DNA test and not known what to do with your results? Do you have a “brickwall” that you think DNA could help you break through? That’s where I was about a year ago when I started to participate with the OGS DNA SIG, albeit on a very limited basis. In the 2022-2023 membership year, I committed to more active participation and early last month, I came to realize how much I’ve learned in the past year. For some time, my wife has wanted me to do more work on her

family history so a few weeks ago I worked with her to designate me as the manager of her [AncestryDNA](#) test results. This was my first experience with the Manager role, but rather than being overwhelmed as I was when I began working with my own matches, I felt like I knew what needed to be done with my wife’s matches. I’ve now created a [Leeds chart](#) for her 400-90 cM matches, began compiling available family trees for these matches, explored Ancestry.com ThruLines®, substantial-

ly expanded her family tree . . . and made my wife very happy! I’m very thankful for the work that Nancy Cordell and Karin Coppennoll have been doing in expertly leading the DNA SIG and for the participation of the other SIG members. Like most good things, you do have to put in the work, but participating in the SIG now has given me the confidence that I’ve been using the best tools and working on the right stuff . . . at least most of the time. ;<}

-**Bob Monn**

Know any local heroes or living legends? Send their stories to newsletter@olygensoc.org.

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

Membership update

Please welcome **Gail Carey, Kelly McAllister, Laurie Ducatt, and Kristin Holt** who joined OGS in the past two months. If you’d like to reach out to them, you can find contact information for OGS members in the OGS Membership List available only to members **who**

are logged on to the [OGS website](#); see “Members Logon / Membership List”. We encourage you to provide a photo for use in the Membership List. As noted above, this list is accessible only by OGS members logged on to the OGS website. We also encourage members to contribute to the Sur-

name database; see “Members Logon / Member Profile / Surnames.” If you have a family membership, please provide info on their “associate member” - see “Member Profile”. If you have any questions or need help, please contact us at membership@olygensoc.org.

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Genealogical
Society :
Supporting family
historians in the
South Puget Sound
since 1974.

Do you have
any tips about
doing genealog-
ical research?
Send them to
newsletter@olygensoc.
org.

Volunteers Needed!

Might you be willing to take on an easy, fun, and short-term (two months) position in OGS to help us continue the work of promoting the study and research of family and local histories? If you are not up to serving as an officer, there is another easy way to help. Volunteer to be on the **Nominating Committee!** The committee

of three to five members only serves in March and April, contacting members, and asking if they are willing to accept an elected office.

Please consider being a member of this important committee! It is fun, and will not only help the whole society, but will help you get

better acquainted with some of our members. If you are willing to help in this way, please email Kathy Erlandson ASAP, at kathyerlandson@yahoo.com. The committee needs to be formed by March 9.

Beginning Genealogy: Part 7

This is going to be a little longer than usual because I am covering several censuses.

The censuses before 1850 listed only heads of household and other members by **sex** and **age** groups, except the 1840 also gives names for any Revolutionary Pensioners. Many people disregard them because they don't give them quick, easy information. But that can be a mistake. I will give an example of discovering the parentage of a woman you know only by marriage.

In [Scioto County, Ohio](#) there were Drucilla Watkins, born 1817, married 1838 to Thomas Beatty and Harriet Watkins, born 1819, married 1849 to Sidney Holmes. Both are on the 1850 with husbands. We don't know if they are sisters nor who their father is.

Looking at the **1820** census in Scioto (and bordering counties) we are looking for fe-

males aged 1 and 3 and results (m=males, f=females) for **Watkins:**

1. Benjamin in Pike County, OH with 1m <10, 1m 26-44, 1f 16-25; **not ours**
2. John in Lewis Co KY with 1m 16-25, 1f<10, 1f 16-25 (**maybe**)
3. William in Lewis Co KY with 1m<10, 1m 45+, 1f<10, 3f 10-15, 1f 16-25, 1f 45+ (**maybe**)
4. Joseph in Lewis Co KY with 1m 10-15, 1m 16-25, 1m 45+, 1f<10, 1f 10-15, 2f 16-25, 1f 45+ (**again, maybe**).

The **1830** census, same parameters, looking for females age 11 and 13:

1. Thomas in Scioto Co OH with 2m<5, 2m 5-9, 1m 40-49, 3f 10-14, 1f 30-39 (**maybe both**)
2. Joseph in Lewis Co KY 1m 10-14, 1m 15-19, 1m 50-59, 1f 15-19, 1f 40-49 (**no**)

3. Joseph Jr in Lewis Co KY 2m 20-29, 1f 20-29 (**no**)
4. William in Lewis Co KY 1m 15-19, 1m 50-59, 1f<5, 1f 15-19, 2f 20-29, 1f 50-59 (**no**).

The father of Drucilla and Harriet appears to be **Thomas** in Scioto Co. I am cheating; Thomas is my 3rd great grandfather; Drucilla and Harriet are both his, and he came in Scioto County from Hampshire County, Virginia in 1821. But for searching, we did not know that. It is true that Drucilla's father could have moved into Scioto County just before she got married, but I am ignoring that. If we did not find any possibilities, we would have to do some deeper searching, but the theory of what I showed you is good and workable.

Ask me questions. SE-fromNC@gmail.com

- Carolyn Gibbons

2023 Virtual Spring Seminar



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Spend a Day with The Legal Genealogist®

Spend the day with legal expert and genealogist Judy Russell as she helps us explore the legal sides of genealogy including:

- Wills and probate
- African-Americans and the courthouse
- Court and land records
- Women and the law

The chance to win door prizes including:

- 1-yr OGS membership
- Free registration for 2024 Seminar
- Free genealogy software and subscriptions
- And more!!



JUDY G. RUSSELL

JD, CG®, CGLSM

The Legal Genealogist

Judy provides expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect. An award-winning writer, she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and Certified Genealogical LecturerSM from BCG. Her blog is at www.legalgenealogist.com.

2023
April 15

**Registration and full
details at OlyGenSoc.org**

Registration begins Jan 12, 2023

\$40 for members
\$50 for non-members

The Year without Summer

Peggy Lauritzen spoke about 1816 — the year without a summer — in her February presentation to OGS. **Do you want to learn more?**



Satellite image of Mt Tambora courtesy of NASA

The eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia on 10 April 1815 was the largest volcanic eruption in the last 10,000 years.

The volume of ash injected into the atmosphere by the Tambora eruption significantly reduced the amount of solar radiation reaching the earth's surface. Europe and North America experienced lowered

average temperatures and widespread crop failure as volcanic debris circled the globe. Materials used to document these effects are familiar to the genealogist — diaries, town records, ship logs, etc.

Here are some resources:
 - Michael Chenoweth, "[Ships' Logbooks and 'The Year Without a Summer,'](#)" Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 77 (September 1996): 2077-94.

- Shirley T. Wajda, "[Eighteen-hundred-and-froze-to-death: 1816, The Year Without a Summer,](#)" ConnecticutHistory.org, posted 17 August 2020.

- Lucy Veale and Georgina H. Endfield, "[Situating 1816, the 'year without summer', in the UK,](#)" The Geographical Journal, 182 (December 2016): 318-330.

- C.R. Harington (ed.), [The year without a summer?: world climate in 1816](#) (Ottawa:Canadian Museum of Nature, 1992) (contains the text of Lord Byron's poem "Darkness")

- Peter McGuigan, "[1816: The Year Without Summer,](#)" Canada's History Society, posted 10 April 2016.

Close up of Mt Tambora, Photo courtesy of Pierre Markuse



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

Thanks to some research for me from Rebel Romero, I learned about the [California Digital Newspaper Collection](#). While these aren't as easy as Newspapers.com, it is free.

Family Search >Search> [Research Wiki](#)> Type in 'States Newspaper projects' and find the state that interests you.

-Peggy Cooley

Do people know that there is a free newspaper database you can use at Timberland [Regional Library](#) from home?

Timberland Regional Library>Lean Tab>Reference Databases Tab>Genealogy, History, Culture Tab>scroll down to [Newspaper Archive](#) Tab>put in Card # & Pin #>Login

Also [Chronicling America](#) « [Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](#) is free from home.

Another one I like if you have Colorado families is [Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection](#). This is where I found all the scandals in my Colorado families. I tell you they printed everything!

- Roger Newman

Have you signed up for the Spring Seminar? There's still time. Details at [olygensoc.org](#).

Local Events

Olympia Norway Day, April 15, 2023, at the Thurston County Fairgrounds from 10-4pm. Norway Day is the coming together of Norwegians from around the country to celebrate a unique way of life and heritage abundantly rich in culture.

Admission \$3, Children under 12 free with Adult.

There will be music, Vikings, fjord horses, Norwegian Elkhounds, giftware, Nordic Café, bake sale, crafts, artwork, genealogy and much more.



15th Annual
NORWAY DAY
And Other Nordic Countries
April 15, 2023 10-4
Thurston Co. Fairgrounds, Olympia, WA

There's SO MUCH more to Norway than Lutfisk and lefse!



*Music, Vikings,
Fjord Horses,
Norwegian Elkhounds,
Giftware, Nordic Café,
Bake Sale, Crafts, Artwork,
Genealogy,
& So Much More!*

Sponsored by Sons of Norway, Hovedstad Lodge
&
Daughters of Norway, Prillar Guri Lodge

Artwork courtesy of Sharn Amoldi Oetzer
[www.nordisfolkjen.com](#)

*Admission \$3.00
Children under 12,
Free with adult*

[www.OlympiaNorwayDay.com](#)

Spring seminar speaker honored

Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist®, will be the OGS 2023 Seminar Speaker. She recently announced* that the United States Library of Congress is going to include her website (which includes her blog) in the Local History and Genealogy Web Archive.

In other words, it has been designated for preservation as a "historically and culturally significant website."

How cool is that!? If you want to see the website that was included, the link is here: [www.legalgenealogist.com/](#)

The Legal Genealogist®

*Judy G. Russell, personal page, Facebook posted 10 February 2023, Accessed 15 February 2023.

OGS Elected Officers

President — Laurel Haas
Vice President — William Kautz
Secretary — Carol Jenner
Treasurer — Karin Coppernoll
Past President—Kathy Erlandson

Community Partners

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

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

“Faith of our Fathers” - February 9th General Membership Meeting

Peggy Clemens Lauritzen discussed how churches were a valuable source of information for finding information about our ancestors. She discussed how these records can sometimes be used as a substitute for vital records.

A recording of the meeting will be available soon for OGS members.

February Meeting Minutes

OGS President Laurel Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The January 2023 general meeting minutes were approved as published in the February 2023 OGS Newsletter. Vice President William Kautz reported that programs for the March and April meetings are set. The team is exploring topics for May and June. Treasurer Karin Coppernoll reported balances of \$4,463.82 in the checking account, \$10,100.00 in the savings account, \$2,922.17 in the PayPal account, and \$4,215.03 in the CD, for a total of \$21,701.02. Karin has filed the change for the fiscal year with the IRS.

Nancy Cordell reminded attendees of the 15 April OGS

Spring Seminar with The Legal Genealogist®, Judy Russell. The registration count is now nineteen. Newsletter Lead, Peggy Cooley, announced that the newsletter team continues to seek 150- to 200-word items such as stories, discoveries, helpful websites, etc. "Pithy quotes" about how a SIG has helped with your work are also requested. Submissions received by the 15th of the month are candidates for the next month's newsletter.

New Business: Kathy Erlandson suggested that OGS initiate recruitment of a nominating committee for developing a slate of officers for 2023-24. Members elect nominating committee

members at a regular meeting, so it is essential to line up volunteers as soon as possible. Two members volunteered to serve on this year's nominating committee. Kathy will send out a blurb to recruit additional volunteers.

Program Team member Cindy Neff introduced the speaker for the evening – Peggy Lauritzen. Peggy presented "Faith of Our Fathers: U.S. Church Records," accompanied by a comprehensive handout. A question and answer period followed.

President Laurel Haas adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Forty-four members were in attendance.