



UPCOMING DATES

- Thursday, Nov 10th, [virtual](#) General membership meeting begins at 7:00pm (Meet and Greet at 6:30pm)
- SIGs meeting throughout November
- Nov 15th deadline to submit stories for Dec newsletter
- Newsletter family story issue in December - send us your family stories by Nov 15th to be included
- Spring seminar—April 2023 “Judy Russell— *The Legal Genealogist*”

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Olympia Genealogical Society

Founded in 1974

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President’s musings

I recently came across some new treasures that were in the possession of my sister including several photos of my father and a relative who could be a clue to my brick-wall— my paternal great-grandmother.

My father, Louis, was born in Memphis, Tennessee during the years of the [Spanish flu](#). I found a familiar photo of him as a baby and a photo that I don’t remember seeing before, of him as a 4-year-old.

I found another familiar photo of him with his pipe and overcoat from my memories of him as a child (my first

word was “hot” *See picture at end of article*). Another photo was him next to a woman



singing, waiting for his part in the duet. He had a wonderful tenor voice. I also found a school photo I recall seeing before. I looked up the name of the school and was thrilled to see that it was still around, [Bruce Elementary School](#) in Memphis Tennessee, a must-

visit on a genealogy tour of Memphis. I also found a business card for my father’s military service in World War II.

In addition, I found a photo of Joy Alexander, his cousin (*see picture at end of article*). Joy and my father were connected by my great-grandmother, Mary Ella Hulit, who has been a significant genealogy challenge. Joy was related through Mary Ella only, as my great-grandmother had remarried after my great-grandfather died in 1901.

In addition, DNA analysis shows a connection to Mary Ella Hulit’s descendants
Continued on Page 2.

November Presentation “The art of the Interview” by Jerry Pugnetti

The ability to do a good interview is a key skill for genealogists. Career journalist, author and communications expert Don (Jerry) Pugnetti Jr. will share his thoughts on those skills at the November General Membership meeting. Mr. Pugnetti has had a long career in journalism and public affairs. He

was a reporter and editor for 18 years at The News Tribune, Tacoma. He then served a stint as public affairs manager for the Washington State Department of Revenue before becoming deputy state auditor/chief policy advisor 16 years for now-retired State Auditor Brian
Continued on Page 2.



President's musings continued...

Want to share a family story? All you need is 100-150 words and submit by the 15th for inclusion in the next newsletter. Email newsletter@olygensoc.org with your submission.

through a family with the surname Alexander. Perhaps Joy's mother married a cousin, and perhaps finding this photo is pointing me to



Picture of Louise Haas

DNA as a way to solve the Mary Ella Hulit mystery. The back of the photo of Joy reads "Hello Louis, I still think of you so often, but guess you don't know me anymore, but here's something to remember me by anyway. As always, Joy". Awww. Well, he kept the photo, and now I have it.

- Laurel Haas



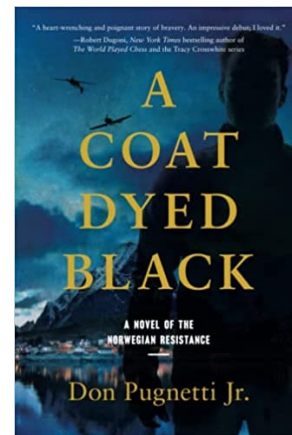
Picture of Joy Hulit

Don't forget to add "Olympia Genealogical Society" to your Amazon smiles account. OGS earns 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase. No cost to

November Presentation by Jerry Pugnetti continued...

Sonntag. Jerry also was a visiting communications professor at the University of North Florida and adjunct instructor at Pacific Lutheran University. He holds a B.A. in Journalism from Washington State University and an M.A. in Communications from the University of Washington. On February 1, 2022, he published his debut historical

novel, [A Coat Dyed Black: A Novel of the Norwegian Resistance](#). The book is set during World War II. It's available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and wherever books are sold. Now retired, Jerry lives in Gig harbor with his wife, Wendy, where novel No. 2 is currently in the works.



Spring Seminar with Judy Russell

Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist®, is a genealogist with a law degree. She writes, teaches and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, providing expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect. A Colorado native

with roots deep in the American south on her mother's side and entirely in Germany on her father's side, she holds a bachelor's degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a law degree from Rutgers School of **Continued on Page 3.**



Spring Seminar continued...

Law-Newark. Before she retired, she worked as a newspaper reporter, trade association writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, law editor and, for more than 20 years, as an adjunct member of the faculty at Rutgers Law School.

She is a member of the [Association of Professional Genealogists](#), the [National Genealogical Society](#) and numerous state and regional genealogical societies. A recipient of the

[Silver Tray Award](#) from the Utah Genealogical Society and the 2017 Award of Excellence from the [National Genealogical Society Quarterly](#), she now serves as a member of the NGSQ editorial board. An internationally-known lecturer and course coordinator and faculty member at numerous genealogical institutes, she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and Certi-

fied Genealogical LecturerSM from the Board for Certification of Genealogists®. Her award-winning blog appears at [The Legal Genealogist](#) website.

The 2023 Seminar is scheduled for April 2023. We are continuing to hold the seminar virtually. Registration will open in early 2023. More updates to come in future newsletters.

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

The Legal Genealogist®

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

Member contribution: “Which Frog Killed James Anderson?”

December 1883 was a cold wintery night in Des Moines, Iowa. James Anderson was hard at work and wanted to get done and go home where he was living with his widowed mother Mary. Late that night would be his last breath of life. James' body was crushed and man-

gled in a horrible and sickening manner, scarcely a bone being left unbroken.

“What happened?” one would ask, “a frog you say? What frog? A railroad frog? What!” I never heard of a railroad frog, so to the internet I

go. Here is what I found: Railroad frogs got their name by allowing trains to move across a separate set of tracks without any hiccups by utilizing a type of rail that resembles the bottom of horses hooves. If you know anything about horses, **Continued on page 4.**

Olympia
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
newslet-
ter@olygensoc.
org.

Check out the
new OGS logo on
the front page of
this newsletter!



Photo: Railroad frog

you will know that there is a sort of "V" shape on the bottom known as the frog. James was engaged in throwing switches and uncoupling/coupling freight cars. The engineer got the signal to move the train and, in the process, when James was moving out of the way his shoe got caught in the frog. Six freight cars ran over him and dragged him down the track some 60 feet killing him instantly.

These frogs must be a dangerous thing as another family member was crippled by the "frog" some years later. Ed Brown was a switchman at Alamosa, Colorado. One day in July 1919, while working he also got his foot caught in the railroad frog. He was able to get his body out of the way with only the freight car running over his foot. A special train was made up for him to be transported to the hospital in Salida. They couldn't do anything but amputate his foot a little above the ankle.

James Anderson died age 23 and was the younger brother of my ancestor David W. Anderson of Whidbey Island, Washington. Ed Brown died age 63 and was the younger brother of my ancestor George C. Brown of Montrose, Colorado. Ed made the best of the situation and in the 1930 census he is a pool tender in a pool hall at Hotchkiss, Colorado, where he died in 1938.

- Roger Newman

Beginning Genealogy: Part 3

We are ready now to put the bones out there. That is what I call census work. The census is a wonderful snapshot of a family every 10 years. Since 1850 every person in the household was named with ages and birthplaces (states, countries) and the value of land they owned. From 1860 we also get personal property value. 1880 starts with the

relationship of every person to head of household and birth places of parents. Sadly, 1890 is gone (a few counties survived only). Every census gives more and different information. The 1900 asks how long people have been married and how many children each wife had born and how many were still living. 1910 additionally asked how many

marriages. Ancestry.com has all the census with indexes (sometimes wrong).

FamilySearch.org also has them for free.

Ask me questions. SEfromNC@gmail.com

- Carolyn Gibbons

Research Tip

Have French ancestors? I recently became aware of this website and though I haven't had chance to utilize it yet, it sounds good. It is called Filae.com and claims that it contains not only civil records, censuses, etc. but also those of the

church. While there are apparently other French genealogy sites, Filae claims to be the only one in both French and English, and the tech help is also bilingual. The format sounds very like Ancestry.com so you might want to

check it out.

- Diana Bargmann

Coming up for December

Prior to COVID, OGS traditionally held a holiday party in the month of December rather than having a speaker so of course, there was lots of socializing and lots of good food.

While we can't bring the food to the meeting virtually, we would like to try to recreate the socializing by inviting any and all members to bring their stories of genealogy research (maybe from this last summer, or previous years), family stories, photos, etc. to share with the rest of us as we get know each other

better. It's always good to hear about the successes, discoveries and other endeavors going on in the lives of our fellow genealogists.

You can use the screen share feature on Zoom or simply relate your story verbally. Hope that everyone will plan on attending that month and having a fun time.

Questions—contact barbourgenealogist@yahoo.com
—Diana Bargman

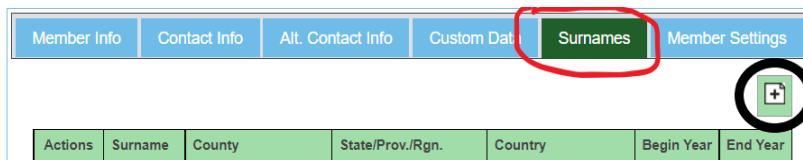
December will also showcase an expanded newsletter to include many of the family stories we have received over the past few months in their entirety.

Do you have a favorite story about an ancestor or found something while doing research that you just have to tell someone? Send your stories to the newsletter team by November 15th to be included. Email newsletter@olygensoc.org for questions and submissions.

OGS Surname Database

OGS members can add surnames of their ancestors to a searchable database on the [OGS website](#).

Only members can add to the database, but anyone visiting the website can search if they have a common ancestor and email the OGS member for more information. *Your personal email and information will NOT be shared*



when someone emails you about a surname.

If you haven't added records to the database, you will need to go to your Member Profile and look

for the blue "Surnames" tab (circled in red). Click on the tab and look for the plus symbol (circled in black).

- Bob Monn

Membership update

Please welcome the following new members who recently joined OGS: Cindy Stalnaker and Anne Thom.

Thanks to our members who have renewed their memberships for 2022-2023. Our new membership year began Sep 1 and our grace period ends Oct

31. Members who haven't yet renewed will not be able to access "members only" content until they renew. We have about 40 people who have not renewed.

A very special thanks to the following for their generous donations to OGS recently: Eliz-

abeth Hebert, Durina Taylor, and Jeanne Thompson.

If you have any trouble logging in to the [OGS website](#) or with the membership renewal process, please contact me at membership@olygensoc.org

- Bob Monn

Annual Dues:
Individual—\$20
Family—\$25

OGS Elected Officers

President — Laurel Haas
Vice President — William Kautz
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

“Roslyn Cemeteries”



Tucked into the historical mining town of Roslyn, Washington, which was founded in 1886, the Roslyn Cemeteries are 26 distinct multi-ethnic cemeteries two hours away from Olympia. The operation of the cemeteries is overseen by the Roslyn Ronald Cle Elum Heritage Club’s Roslyn Cemetery Committee. Maria Adams, the Vice Chair of the Committee, and Lynda Solter, Committee Historian, shared history of the cemeteries and discuss ongoing innovative projects they are working on with local community partners, including Central Washington University.

October 13th Meeting Minutes

OGS President Laurel Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The September 2022 general meeting minutes were approved as published in the October 2022 OGS Newsletter. Vice President William Kautz reported that the program for November is set and that the program for December is being developed.

Treasurer Karin Coppernoll reported balances as of 30 September of \$15,485.27 in the checking account, \$1,577.35 in the PayPal account, and \$4,212.91 in the CD, for a total of \$21,275.53.

Book Management Lead, Rebel Romero, reported that OGS received 24 books from a local donor who is downsizing. Newsletter Lead, Peggy Cooley, announced that newsletter submissions should arrive by the 15th of each month. She noted that some stories have been submitted and encouraged members to submit family

recipes with background stories.

Diana Bargmann is organizing a December program where members can present brief (5-minute) talks about research trips they have taken this summer (or before).

Kerry McHugh-Upton reported that the SIGs are alive and well and active. These include Family Tree Maker and Legacy software groups, and SIGs focused on Ancestry and DNA. The Italian group meets quarterly and has an upcoming meeting. The writing group meets on the first Monday of the month.

Genealogy Chat is coming up, also. Information about the SIGs, including contact information for the leads, is posted on the OGS website.

There was no new business.

Program Committee member Terry Church introduced the speakers for the evening – Maria Adams (vice

chair) and Lynda Solter (historian) from the Roslyn, Ronald, Cle Elum Heritage Club. They described the area's history and how African Americans and workers of 28 nationalities came to work in area coal mines. They told of the collaboration between the Roslyn, Ronald, Cle Elum Heritage Club, the Roslyn Cemeteries, and Central Washington University to continue to develop historically accurate information related to those interred in the 26 separate but adjacent cemeteries making up the Roslyn cemetery complex. Further information is available on the websites of the [Heritage Club](#) and [Roslyn Historical Cemeteries](#). Cemetery look-ups are available on the [Roslyn Cemeteries Kiosk](#).

Member sharing followed the program.

President Laurel Haas adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.