

Supporting family historians in the South Puget Sound since 1974



OLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 36, NO 5

JAN 2026

UPCOMING:

- **MEMBER MEETING:**
Thursday, Jan 8th 7-8:30pm
- **SIG MEETINGS** - throughout JAN
- **Newsletter articles due January 15th**
- **OGS Board Meeting Jan 20th, 6:30-7:45pm**
- **Registration OPEN for OGS Virtual Seminar (February 7th)**

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Newsletter team: Peggy Cooley, Carolyn Gibbons, and Mandy Stahre
Contact us: newsletter@olygensoc.org

WEBSITE LINK: olygensoc.org

FOLLOW US:



This newsletter is free to the community.

New Year, New Website

OGS is pleased to announce that our new website is live! We are still located at olygensoc.org. The new website works better on devices like phones and tablets with smaller screens, as it automatically changes the page layout to match the width of the display device. It also has a fresher, more modern feel.

If the new website will not display for you, it might be necessary for you to delete your browser's cached data. We've made extensive efforts to migrate the content from

our previous site. For example, our membership database, all of our newsletters, our meeting minutes and annual budgets, and our set of links to websites of interest to genealogists are still present. Some content is organized a bit differently. Some highlights of the changes:

- **On narrow browser windows** the menu collapses to a "hamburger" icon in the upper right corner of the page. To access the menu, click on the icon.

- The **menu items are similar** but not quite the same. Note that you can click on a top-level menu item (like "Home" or "Events") to see the corresponding page, even though there are sub-menus available.

- Our **homepage no longer shows all upcoming events on the right-hand side of the page.** Instead, after the banner area and Who/What/Where information, there is a list of the next three general meetings. You can see upcoming and past meetings of all types on the Events page.

Continued to Page 4....

January program

"Finding Uncle John's Grist Mill, His Neighbors and That Cemetery Using Maps, Records & Stories" (Zoom only)

Topographic maps and soil maps should help us identify a community, including neighbors, ferries, mills, cemeteries, historic houses, and many other landmarks. By using a combination of resources, the picture of this community will be more visible and more clearly under-

stood. **Speaker:** J. Mark Lowe, FUGA

marklowe@kynresearch.com

J. Mark Lowe describes himself as "born to be curious." He is a [professional genealogist](#) and educator who specializes in original records and manuscripts throughout the South. He coordinates "Research in the South" courses at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR Georgie), Salt

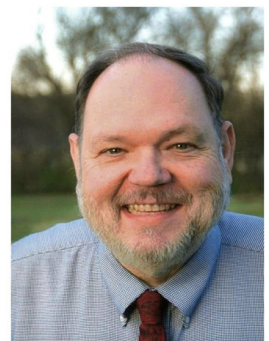


Photo: J. Mark Lowe

Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), and Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR), worked on several TV series, a YouTube channel, and does webinars.

2026 Seminar

Cyndi Ingle, a genealogist for more than 45 years, is the creator and innovator behind the award-winning and globally recognized [Cyndis-List.com](https://www.cyndislist.com). Cyndi is an expert in using technology for genealogy, research in the U. S. and bringing together traditional methodology with organization, computers, software, and the Internet. She is an internationally known guest lecturer, and she has authored numerous articles, two magazine columns, and three books. Cyndi is the Executive Director for the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.

Seminar Sessions

1. The Path to Digital Libraries and Archives: Today every nook and cranny of the Internet is filled with hidden gems in digital library and archive collections. Often part of a special project or a larger web site, these collec-

tions aren't always easy to find and explore. We will discuss methods for locating them and, once found, methods for using them to answer specific research questions.

2. Coordinating to the Cloud: Collaboration with Genealogists Online: Cloud-based tools for our research include options for file storage, note-taking, tree building, and more. Each of these tools make it easy to access your research from any device with an online connection. One of the best uses of cloud-based research is the ability to share your research with others and work together no matter where you are in the world.

3. Pin Your Ancestors Down with Google Maps & Google Earth: Google Maps and Google Earth provide two wonderful sources for geo-

graphical assistance in tracking your ancestors and pinning them down for your research. Combined with other mapping resources online we will demonstrate how using these Google tools can give you a visual aid for your research. Follow migration paths, historical routes, and your own family's path, marking them on the maps with information, photos and documentation.

4. Be Your Own Digital Archivist: Preserve Your Research: Are you doing everything you can to safeguard your genealogical research? Your documents? Your data? Your scanned images? We will talk about the importance of taking charge of your own materials and making sure they aren't going to disappear.



OLYMPIA
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

2026 OGS Virtual Seminar

DECODING YOUR ANCESTORS: THE TECH EDITION

with Cyndi Ingle

Saturday, February 7, 2026
9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Cyndi Ingle, a genealogist for more than 45 years, is the creator of CyndisList.com and the author of numerous articles and three books. She is an expert in using technology for genealogy, research in the US, and organizational methodology. She is the Executive Director for the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research.

4 One-hour Sessions on Technology Tools for Genealogy

- ✓ The Path to Digital Libraries and Archives
- ✓ Collaboration with Genealogists Online
- ✓ Pin Your Ancestors Down with Google Maps & Google Earth
- ✓ Be Your Own Digital Archivist: Preserve Your Research

\$35 OGS Members
\$45 Non-Members
\$100 Sponsor

REGISTER TODAY AT
WWW.OLYGENSOC.ORG

New Year, New Website continued from Page 1

As before, some content is only available to members **who have logged in**. This protects our list of members, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) meeting links, and other society information.

The **PASSWORD** to your member login will no longer work and **MUST BE RESET**:

1. Click on the "Log In" menu, then click on **"I forgot my password"**.
2. This brings up a dialog box for you to enter the email address associated with your OGS account, after which you click on **"Send Password Reset Link"**. A password-reset link will be emailed to the address that you specified.
3. Click on **"Reset Password"** in that email. This brings up a password reset page on the OGS website. The top editable line (has an email icon) is prefilled with your email address. The next two lines are for you to enter your new password. You can set the new password to your old password if

you wish.

4. Click "Reset Password" in red.
5. This brings up the regular OGS website login page. The top editable line (has a shoulders-and-head icon) is prefilled with your **OGS username** (NOT your email address unless they are the same). Enter your new password and you should be in!

***If you have problems getting this to work, please send an email to webmaster@olygensoc.org and we'll help you out. You won't be the first person to ask us about this! The new website also changes how your name is displayed:

- To see how your name is displayed, log in to the new OGS website and select the "Members List" item under the "Membership" menu, and look for your name.
- Previously, if you specified a "preferred name" in your profile, your preferred name would be displayed instead of your first name in the membership list (and in the "About Us" section of the website,

for those in leadership positions).

- The new website will use your first name instead of your preferred name. (Preferred names are mostly not used by the new website.) If you want your preferred name to show up in the listings, go to the Profile menu and set your "First Name" to your preferred name. You can keep or remove your "Preferred Name" setting after doing that. In my case, I changed my first name from Joseph to Joe because I want to be known by Joe.

Maiden names generally were not displayed previously, but they are now. If you do not want your maiden name displayed in the membership or leadership lists, just remove it from your Profile.

We ask for your patience as we tie up loose ends and work through any issues that are identified. As always, your feedback is encouraged by sending an email to webmaster@olygensoc.org.

- Joe Brookshire



WELCOME TO THE
Olympia Genealogical Society
Thurston County, Washington



Genealogy 101



Family Search Part 3

This is a continuation of the introduction of the ins and outs of the website www.familysearch.org and the new things that have been introduced in the past few years.

Fabulous! Wonderful! Eye-Opening! Groundbreaking! I do not have the vocabulary to fully describe the changes in Family Search. Recently there have been so many changes that it is hard to keep track of them all.

Today I am going to go through the Full Text search feature for you. I will be giving step by step instructions to you and I ask that you follow along with me, especially for the second part of this so you, too, can be astounded. We begin at the home page on www.familysearch.org. We hope you have already established yourself on the website. While the home page will be in many ways different for each of you, the menu bar across the top is always the same. The categories are Family Search, Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved and Activities. These are on the left side of the home page. On the right side are several symbols, including your sign in notice with your username.

Click on the Search and a drop-down menu will appear containing 10 items (a couple of these are new in the recent past which I will explore myself before talking about them to you).

The one we are working with now is the second, Full Text. Others use this AI based service so I cannot claim that Family Search has a unique title to it, but the whole idea is mind-blowing. AI

can read handwriting from much earlier centuries. I have spent much of the past 40 years doing that on 18th and 19th century handwriting, so I am astounded!

Click on Full Text and another page will open with at the top a search box with several choices. [Scrolling down the page, you can come across several helpful articles on how to use Full Text.]

I am going to simply put in Dryden – this was my grandmother’s maiden name – and see what we get. This again opens up a new page; right now (I am writing this article at the end of November) there is also an information overlay which opens explaining even newer features on how to filter. I am closing that so I can reach the filters. I will definitely have to apply at least some filters because just using Dryden in the name field gives me over 307,000 hits. There are four filters on the left side of the page – Collection, Year, Place, and Record Type. I will start with Place.

Before I delve into the filters, note I used only the surname; if I had put, for example, William Dryden, I would have gotten all the hits for Dryden plus all for William, giving me 142,788,734 hits because the feature would have picked up all Dryden and ALL William. Putting quotes around the name so you get ONLY William Dryden together gives 9,304 records. Be careful how you ask!

Going back to just Dryden I will hit

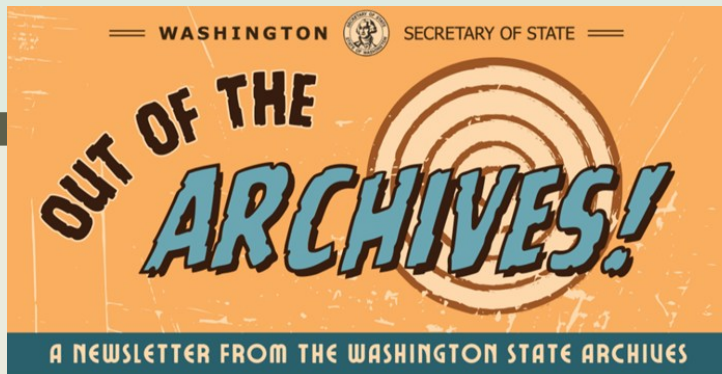
on place for United States, then Illinois because my Drydens were in Coles County, Illinois by 1829. How to filter – click on Place, search down for United States of America, click on that, states will open up, scroll down to Illinois and click on the box next to Illinois. Hit the Apply button. This gives me 7,216 hits, but I will narrow even further to Coles County. My family were in a couple of the adjoining counties, but this will work for a test. You find the county by clicking on the state. Coles County has 476 hits. Even this is too much for me to search through. There are two choices I can make to narrow my results even further – Year and Collection. I will take these in turn. When you do it for yourself, you can decide which will benefit you best.

Clicking Year gives me two choices here – 1800 or 1900. My direct family was there from 1829 to 1860 though cousins were there much longer, so I will hit 1800 which opens up the various decades, starting with one hit in the 1820s. I will click on the boxes in 1820, 1830, 1840 and 1850, then Apply. This gives me 216 hits, manageable. The one in 1820s (I was just curious about that) gives me a page in a book of History of Coles County, Illinois page 413 and is describing the settling of the townships in Coles County and that my William Dryden, along with other family

Continued on Page 7

Community News

1. **America 250!:** Kathy Erlandson and Diana Bargmann will chair this committee. If you are interested in helping, please email Kathy at kathyerlandson@yahoo.com or Diana at barbourgenealogist@yahoo.com.
2. Registration is open for **RootsTech 2026**. Register online at: www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration



A recent story in "Out of the Archives" a newsletter from the Washington State Archives discussed records management and what to do when disaster strikes and you have wet records. Two key pieces of information:

1. **Freezing buys time against mold:** Within the first 8 hours after paper, photographs, and fabric covers get wet, spores can start to form. While freezing the records does not kill existing spores, it keeps them from spreading and gives you time to find air drying space supplies without worrying about further damage.
2. **Packing records:** Wet boxes, binders, or folders may fall apart when you try to pick them up. Use clear, stackable plastic storage containers to move your records and avoid further damage. If these are not available or are too expensive, large clear plastic trash bags can be used instead.

Once your records are stable, we recommend consulting the Heritage Emergency National Task Force's "[Save Your Family Treasures](#)" guide. This will provide some item-specific drying ad-

vice. You can find the downloadable fact sheets "[After the Flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures](#)" and "[Salvaging Water-Damaged Family Valuables and Heirlooms](#)," in multiple languages on the [Federal Emergency Management Agency Website](#).

Members of the public who have questions about saving family heirlooms can email the [National Heritage Responders](#), a team of trained conservators and collections care professionals administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, at NHRpublichelpline@culturalheritage.org. Please note, this is a national program, not managed by the Washington State Archives.

Outside of a crisis, you can prepare yourself and your valuable documents, photographs, etc. by:

- Store valuable belongings off of

- the floor or in fireproof safes
- Create backups of your important information and documents
- Have a priority list of what comes with you during in an evacuation
- Regularly evaluate your response plan

Further reading:

- Heritage Emergency National Task Force's [Save Your Family Treasures Guide](#)
- Washington Records Management [How to Respond to Records Disasters](#)
- Washington Department of Ecology [Floods and Floodplain Planning](#)
- Sustainable Heritage Network [Salvage of Water Damaged Collections](#)

Genealogy 101 continued from page 5

members whose names I recognize, I came into Coles County in 1829. I stopped to read about four pages of it – interesting to me.

I was so excited I skipped over getting to the item. Going back to the 216 hits, you will see on the left side of the page the filters and where they have been selected. Right of that is a list of the hits, each with a minimum of information about the contents. The first one is labeled Coles, Illinois, Deeds 1836-1838 and below that four lines taken from the item mentioning the Dryden (Morgan) and below that the date 1838. Morgan is unknown to me. Later I can go back and try to fit him into my family, but right now I am looking for known ancestors.

The third entry down is Jonathan A Dryden and wife Mary Jane in the deed records dated 1842. I am almost sure this is my Jonathan Albert Dryden and wife Mary Jane Whetstone (married 1842); he is the son of

my third great-grandfather. Clicking on the symbol of a book will open another page in a new tab on your

web browser with a film strip at the bottom (you can manipulate through that as usual on family search films online); above the film strip is the page found with every instance of Dryden highlighted in yellow. Just left of the digital page at the top are several icons so you can maneuver through the film – the grid to open up pages and pages together; the down arrow to download to your computer the page showing; the broken square to toggle full screen mode; the two sliders to adjust the image; and the plus and minus signs to make the image larger or smaller. Then on the far right is the transcript of the two page image on screen. Read carefully; while AI is fantastic, it does make mistakes. Clicking on the pencil icon will allow you to make corrections in the document. While there are mistakes, I am completely flabbergasted by the ability of AI to search as it does.

I want to show you one image I found that I just sat in awe at the discovery. I am putting into the search box at

the beginning Inyart Inyard Enyart Enyard Enjoert then narrowing to 1600s New York. This is a line of mine that was in New Amsterdam. The fourth one down is Richmond. Deeds 1683-1718. Look at that writing!!! This is my eighth great-grandfather. I am so happy with the transcript. There are another couple of deeds for him I found. I cannot wait to try to put them together in my database. I am running out of space, but next time – in February – I will go more into the Collection and Record Type filters. Or you can experiment now with those items.

- **Carolynn Gibbons**

Carolynn also leads the Family Search SIG that meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month on Google Meet.

Special Interest Groups and Facilitators:

- **ANCESTRY** - Greg Nordlund; meets **4th Saturday 11:00 am – 12:30 pm** (virtual on Google Meet)
- **DNA** - Nancy Cordell; meets **2nd Wednesday 6:30—8:00 pm** (virtual on Google Meet)
- **FAMILY HISTORY WRITING** - Laura Carroll meets **1st Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm** (virtual on Google Meet)
- **FAMILY TREE MAKER** - David Abernathy; meets **1st Tuesday 6:00 - 8:00 pm** (virtual on Zoom)
- **FAMILY SEARCH.org** – Carolyn Gibbons; meets **4th Wednesday 6:00-8:00pm** (virtual on Google Meet)
- **GENEALOGY CHAT** - Peggy Cooley; meets **3rd Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30 pm** (in person at Peggy's home)

OGS Elected Officers

President — Andy Carter

Vice President — Terry Church

Secretary — Kris Retlin

Treasurer — Carol Jenner

Past President—Kathy Erlandson

Team Leads

Librarian — Rebel Romero &

Traci Ragen Clawson

Membership — Helga Warner

Newsletter — Peggy Cooley

OGS Historian — Cindy Stalnaker

Publicity — Andy Carter

Research — Jerri McCoy

Spring Seminar — Nancy Cordell

SIGs—Kerry McHugh-Upton

Sunshine—Kris Retlin

Technology—Joe Brookshier

Outreach—Diana Bargmann

Community Partners

City of Lacey — Erin Quinn Valcho

Timberland Library — Agatha Burstein

Upcoming General Meetings

January 08, 2026

07:00 PM to 08:30 PM

January 2026 General Meeting

Zoom (no in-person meetings during wint...

J. Mark Lowe: Finding Uncle John's Grist Mill, His Neighbors and That...

February 12, 2026

07:00 PM to 08:30 PM

February 2026 General Meeting

Zoom (no in-person meetings during wint...

Billie Stone Fogarty: School Censuses: What, When, and Where...

March 12, 2026

07:00 PM to 08:30 PM

March 2026 General Meeting

Zoom or in-person.

Karen Wallace Steely: Bounders, Bigamists, and Grass Widows: Using...

OGS December 2025

The Holiday Party was the Membership Meeting. It was a festive atmosphere and a wonderful occasion to meet and greet members in person at the Capital Vision Christian Church. Adding to the holiday atmosphere was traditional Scandinavian music supplied by Nordic Exposure and Kathy Erlandson who had once been a member of the group. There was a huge variety of sweet and savory snacks supplied by the members in attendance. Approximately 36 members and guests enjoyed the festivities.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Retlin, Secretary