



UPCOMING DATES

- Thursday, Sept 8th, [virtual](#) General membership meeting begins at 7:00pm (Meet and Greet at 6:30pm)
- New membership year begins September 1.
- SIGs meeting throughout September
- Sept 15th deadline to submit stories for Oct newsletter
- 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

Hello! I am Laurel Haas, the new President of [OGS](#). I began my term in June. I live in Tumwater with my family and four cats, currently work at Washington State Parks as the reservation system manager.

In my spare time, as well as trying to keep up with the garden, I am working on my Level One accreditation from [ICAPGen](#), specializing in the Upper South region. I originally became a genealogist several years ago after taking a DNA test and finding that I could identify my mother's biologi-

cal parents in Southern California. After that I became enthralled with the research and detective work of genealogy.

I had the good fortune to



publish a [brief little write up](#) of the joy of genealogy in NPR's "I'm Really Into" series. I am honored to serve as the

President for the Society for the next term. I'm very fortunate to have such dedicated board members and a community membership.

Jean Coons, our secretary, is leaving her role, and will be looking forward to spending more time researching. *Thank you to Jean for her great service! Don't worry, I did not drive her away.*

We are looking to fulfill our Secretary role! The secretary role requires about 6 hours per month. The Secretary is responsible for recording minutes for the board and **Continued on Page 2.**

September Presentation by Shawna Valentine

How to Prepare for a Research Trip

Although a lot of research is done from the screens of our home computers today, not everything is online, and nothing can replace the experience of being in the same environment that our ancestors once called home. The



time will come when we want

to view manuscripts or documents that are only available in the locality, or we want to see former homes, landmarks, or tombstones. Locating what we hope to find requires careful planning.

Continued on Page 2.

“I have taken the place as the family historian. There is much more to learn and to pass on to my descendants.”
- Laurel Haas

President’s musings continued...

membership meetings, maintaining Society files, and the membership list. If you or someone you know is interested, please drop me a line president@olygensoc.org. We greatly appreciate your support.

At our August 2022 board meeting, we passed the annual operating budget—hats off to **Karin Co-**

pernell, our treasurer, for all her excellent and hard work on the budget!

Photo: Elisha Vickery, Laurel Haas' grandfather, his fourth wife, and her great-grandmother's sisters, half brother, and his family.



September Presentation by Shawna Valentine continued...



Shawna Valentine

For the past twenty-two years, Shawna Valentine has enjoyed the journey of discovering her ancestral heritage. Her research has been a combination of a quest for education in the field of genealogy that includes six sessions at the [Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh](#) (GRIP) and two at the

[Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research](#) (IGHR). She has travelled extensively, dedicating more than fifteen trips solely to researching the numerous places across the northern tier of the United States that her ancestors called home beginning in the years before the Revolution. For the past fourteen years, she has served

as President of the [Montana State Genealogical Society](#) and is a member of numerous genealogical and historical societies in her key areas of research.



Dedication to Barbara Nichols

On Aug, 19, [Barbara Nichols](#), a resident of Panorama for over 30 years, was feted at Ft. Lewis on her 100th birthday, as the longest living Army nurse. Prior to that, Lacey named August Barbara Nichols month with a lengthy [proclamation](#). When I met Barbara several

years ago she approached me as I was starting my fledgling Panorama Genealogy Group. In her soft spoken way, she offered her help and her extraordinarily extensive family tree, spread out on a cardboard display that unfolded at least 5 feet across and 4 feet

high, to use in displays. She faithfully attended my meetings and quietly rode our bus to OGS meetings. She had traced her ancestry to the American Revolution and the Mayflower. A skilled genealogist, she joined the DAR,

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Dedication to Barbara Nichols continued...

Tacoma's Mary Ball Chapter, in 1988, establishing four patriots: Henry Amick, Abel Nichols, John Nichols, and Asa Corbin. In 2016, she transferred to the Sacajawea Chapter, nearer to home. However, I had no idea of her heroic and traumatic history serving in WW2, the Korean War and Vietnam, resulting in PTSD and a 100% disability from Agent Orange. Her exterior certainly did not reveal the inner turmoil she must have dealt with. I salute you Barbara! I cannot begin



to imagine the many lives you have

positively impacted at great personal cost.

- Carol Ballard

To see more of Barbara, KOMO News did a segment of her in May as part of [Eric's Heroes](#).

Have family members who are veterans? The [National Personnel Records Center](#) has resumed normal operations and is processing genealogy requests.

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](#).

Special Interest Groups and Facilitators:

- 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 6:00 - 8:00 pm (note September will meet 9/12/22)
- 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

SIG Highlight: Family History Writing

This month we highlight the Family History Writing SIG lead by Laura Carroll. The [New York Public Library](#) posted an article by Carmen Nigro on its website, "[20 Reasons Why You Should Write Your Family History](#)." Reason number five: "Family trees are abstract, stories add depth." Whether you are inspired to write a series of short stories or a longer essay, the Family History SIG offers kind and encouraging

accountability to stay on task with a project. Share questions, problems, and accomplishments on the first Monday each month starting at 6pm (September will be the 2nd Monday, September 12th due to a conflict with the Labor Day holiday). For more information email: familyhistorywriting-sig@olygensoc.org.



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

We want to
hear from you!
Email us your
stories and ide-
as by the 15th
to be included
in the next
newsletter.



Family tree maker update and SIG

An updated version of Family Tree Maker (FTM) (release v24.1) is available. If you have a current subscription to FTM and have not received notice of the update, then contact the FTM [tech support](#). Information about the update and other questions can be answered on their [website](#).

On a side note, the company that makes FTM – MacKiev is headquartered in Boston, MA, but their development and tech support are located in

Kiev, Ukraine. You can read about how their employees are handling the conflict [here](#). The company has also put together a [list of resources](#) of ways to support Ukraine.

The FTM SIG is for user-to-user support, but NOT limited to FTM. We discuss most any question relating to family research. Meetings are held 4th Thursday, 10am. Follow the [link](#) to the meeting on the Family Tree Maker SIG page. I follow up each meeting with a

PDF of what was discussed. One can always email me your question beforehand and it will be discussed and included in the follow up pdf.

!!!WARNING !!!

There is a SPAM vendor using name of "Support for FTM".

They are NOT affiliated with Software MacKiev. FTM tech support does NOT use phone numbers. LIVECHAT is the only way to reach [tech support](#).

- David Abernathy

Beginning Genealogy: Part 1

Genealogy interest is rising by leaps and bounds in the US, fueled partially by such programs as "[Who Do You Think You Are?](#)" and "[Finding Your Roots](#)". However, many people are daunted by the amount of information available and wonder what to do with it. First, before you start gathering information, re-

member an important key – ALWAYS DOCUMENT! Why? First, when you have questions about the information you found, you can go back and confirm. Second, when you find discrepancies – note I said *when*, not *if* – you can weigh the two sources to determine which is more probable. Third, you make it easier for anyone

you share with to see how and why you arrived at your conclusions. Elizabeth Shown Mills' book [Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian](#) is a great resource. You have that in your head, but how do you start? You will need a place to put the information. That is Part 2 .

- Carolyn Gibbons

Genealogy Book Reviews

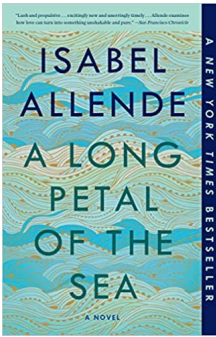
Welcome back from a summer break! Hopefully yours included reading some great mysteries. Recently I read Steve Robinson's latest genealogical mystery, "[The Girl In The Painting](#)". This was a quick read about the main character moving to London and

meeting a student with a mystery involving the theft of a family portrait of an unknown girl. I also read three other novels, not genealogy related but they might give some new thoughts on where to look for your ancestors. The first, "[A Long Petal of the Sea](#)" written

by Isabel Allende tells the story of a family fighting in the Spanish Revolution between WWI & WWII. The family flees Spain to France then to Chile. Once in Chile, family members flee again to the US and Venezuela.

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Genealogy Book Reviews continued...



An interesting story about how and why families flee their native country. A good read if you have

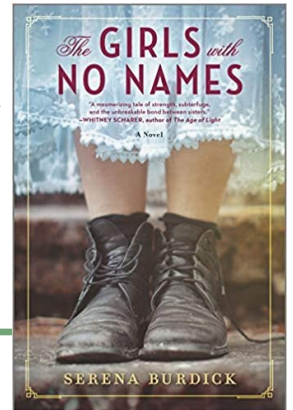
Spanish ancestry who fled to South America. The second book I read was "The Girls with No Names" by Serena Burdick. This takes place in New York, but the story could be

anywhere girls were in trouble either with the law, within the family, or in the "family way" and where they were sent to be rehabilitated. A bit on the darker side of family history but may give you clues on what could have happened to a young female family member. I'll save the final book for next month's newsletter. If you are interested in reading any of these books, I do have them available to lend out. Send me an email

at Kerry.upton123@gmail.com.

Have you read any great genealogical mysteries and would like to share with other members? Let me know and I'll add them to the list. - Kerry Upton

OGS has an [Amazon smiles](#) account where we earn 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase. No cost to you. All you have to do is select "Olympia Genealogical Society" as your charitable organization.



Come join the OGS Board

The OGS Board is currently looking for a person to fill the position of Secretary. The Secretary records the proceedings of the OGS Membership meetings, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Other duties include giving notice of special meetings, conducting correspondence of the Society, maintaining the Society files including a current copy of the

bylaws and other policies of the Society. The Secretary will also be an authorized signatory on all Society bank accounts if needed and will serve as back up if both the President and Vice President are absent. All in all, the duties take about 5 hours a month.

Also vacant is the Historian position. Although not a member of the

Board, the OGS Historian is important in documenting the organization's actions and preserving our knowledge for future generations. If you are interested in either position please let our current OGS President—[Laurel Haas](#) know by sending an email.

Membership update

Please welcome the following new members who recently joined OGS: Teresa Goldsby, Shari Peterson, and Helen Weagraff. Our [new membership year](#) now has begun. Thanks to our members who have renewed their memberships for 2022-2023.

A very special thanks to the following for their generous donations to OGS: **Anthony Carter, Carolyn Gib-**

bons, Susan McDonald, Julia Miller, Helen Weagraff, and Linda Fialkowski.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please see my Aug 21 email message to you or the information on the Membership page. If you have any trouble logging in to the OGS website or with the membership renewal process, please contact me

at membership@olygensoc.org.

Did you know? OGS counts among its current members the following OGS charter members from 1974:

Marie Adelle Brown, Jeannine Flemer, Bill and Alma Greenwood, Ann Olson, and Elaine Staack.

- Bob Monn

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

OGS Elected Officers

President — Laurel Haas
Vice President — William Kautz
Secretary — Vacant
Treasurer — Karin Coopernoll
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



June 9, 2022

**Presenta-
tion** by Dr
Jewell Lorenz
Dunn of the Wash-
ington State
Archives
(Southwest
Regional
Branch) was

the speaker. The topic was “Records found in our archives and a brief explanation of the difference between federal and state repositories.”

June 9 Meeting Minutes (abridged)

President – Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Secretary** - The May 2022 general meeting minutes, submitted by Jean Coons, were approved as published. **Treasurer** – Karin Coppennoll gave the Treasurer’s Report for the month of May. The Pay Pal account is now closed to checking. **Team Reports:** **Genealogy Gab Fest** – meets next Wednesday, June 15, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. **IT (A/V, Facebook, Publicity, Website, Zoom)** -Kerry McHugh Upton reported that the IT team is working to consolidate storage of all its phases under one umbrella, which will save money for OGS. **SIGs** – Kerry McHugh Upton listed the SIGs which will meet in June but not the other summer months and the SIGs meeting throughout the summer. **Newsletter** – Eileen Dodge related results of a call she received from Olympia Family History Center. As a representative of OGS, she accepted six boxes of obituaries from the Olympian newspaper. She also received boxes of cemetery records from Butte County, California. The genealogy society in Butte County, California lost everything in a major fire in 2018. Eileen contacted a Butte County to offer the records, they were gratefully accepted. This offered stash of records from the Olympia Family History Center also includ-

ed a small box of cemetery records from San Francisco, California. Joyce Ogden, Karin Coppennoll and Greg Nordlund volunteered to work with the Olympian obituary records. Kathy Erlandson announced the new OGS program team will meet next Thursday, June 16. Any interested member can join the program team. **Special Awards Presentation** – Roxanne Lowe, Secretary of the Washington State Genealogical Society, presented three **Outstanding Volunteer Awards**.

Kathy Erlandson has served the Olympia Genealogical Society as President for three years, as Vice President and as Secretary. She has been a stellar President, serving during the covid pandemic. Under her leadership, meetings, SIGs and the spring Seminar have not only survived, but thrived. Kathy gets people together; she is respected and diligent.

Eileen Dodge served as the Olympia Genealogical Society President for a number of years. She served as Membership Chair and has been the Newsletter Editor for the last five years. Eileen presented at the OGS Beginners Workshop. She is tireless and enthusiastic at helping others.

Norman Dodge served as the Olympia Genealogical Society President from 2008 to 2011. He helped with set up and take down when the Society met in person and assisted with drop-in sessions. Norman, a long time OGS member, is respected and diligent.

Election of 2022-2023 OGS Executive Board – Terry Church, Chair of the Nominating Team, thanked team members Peggy Cooley, Norman and Eileen Dodge, Jon Halvorson and Cindy Neff. Terry introduced the slate of nominees. No nominees were offered from the floor. Terry Church moved that the membership accept the full slate as nominated. Marcy Belles seconded the motion. The slate was approved as nominated. Kathy Erlandson welcomed Laurel Haas and William Kautz to the board and thanked the OGS membership and past and present boards.

Program – Greg Nordlund introduced Dr. Jewell Lorenz Dunn of the Southwest Regional Branch of the Washington State Archives as our guest speaker. The next general meeting of the Olympia Genealogical Society will be in Sept 8, 2022.

President Kathy Erlandson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.