



Olympia

# Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

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MAY 2022

Eileen Dodge, Editor

*The Olympia Genealogical Society (OGS) was founded in 1974 to promote the study, interest and research of family and local histories, and to encourage assistance, cooperation and guidance in those efforts to members, friends, and the community*

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### *Upcoming Events*

2022

Thursday, May 12 – Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom  
July and August – No Monthly General Membership Meeting  
Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom

*May General Meeting - Greg Nordlund*

**You joined what?!**

People choose genealogy as a hobby for many different reasons: to find out how an ancestor was involved in history, to explore family stories or to honor and preserve family culture and heritage. Some, however, pursue genealogy in order to join a lineage society. What is a lineage society? Which ones could I join? Come to our May meeting to find out.

Our own Jerri McCoy will be our presenter.



### *ZOOM Coordinator - Erin Quinn Valcho*

I am delighted to be of service to OGS as your Zoom Coordinator. Thanks to Nancy Cordell for her great work in these stressful and changing times in filling this role! You can reach me at [quinnthecurator@gmail.com](mailto:quinnthecurator@gmail.com) for any of your Zoom needs.

If you are having problems logging into Zoom meetings, your first step should be to download updates for the Zoom App on a regular basis for all of your devices. You can find step-by-step instructions on their YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/E7zERcVLUBM>.

Happy Zooming!

### *Genealogy Books Review - Kerry McHugh-Upton*

I am slowly working through the list of genealogy mystery and memoir books that is posted on our website. The next couple of books that I have most recently read were "Bitter Tide: An Ellis Island Mystery" by Ann Stamos and "Fair Warning" by Michael Connolly.

"Bitter Tide: An Ellis Island Mystery" by Ann Stamos takes place in the early 1900's with an Irish immigrant coming into the United States through Ellis Island, when she is detained for shooting her fiance. The plot thickens. This story is well researched on the inner workings of Ellis Island and the Irish immigrants of New York City. The only connection to genealogy that this story has is to give color to our immigrants' story during the early 1900's. For a fun read check it out!

"Fair Warning" by Michael Connolly is written in the modern times of online dating, stalking and DNA. The story doesn't delve into actual genealogy or genetic DNA research. The story goes into the darker side of DNA stalking for victim types.

If you are looking for a good genealogy mystery neither of these fit into a true genealogy mystery and how to connect the dots to solve the family mystery. If you want to check out the book list, log onto OlyGenSoc.org as a member, Click on Publications / Files > Downloadable Files > Genealogy Mysteries & Other for links to the pdf or excel list.

If you have any suggestions or books to contribute to the list let me know!  
On to more genealogy mystery books! Good Reading!

### *Sunshine - Gayle Strom*

As the Olympia Genealogical Society Sunshine person I like to bring a bit of "sunshine" when needed. I would like for you all to let me know, when you know, that someone is ill or needs a thoughtful note. You may contact me at [ggnpoppa@comcast.net](mailto:ggnpoppa@comcast.net)

### *Membership Lead - Bob Monn*

We had no new members join this past month. We currently have 142 members including associated members in family memberships.

One of the benefits of OGS membership is the opportunity to add the surnames of your ancestors to the OGS Surname database. You can input multiple spellings of a surname, states and counties of residence, and timeframes of residency. This database is search-enabled, making entries discoverable via search engine queries world-wide. More information on this database and how to access it, browse and search it, and add and edit your records as well as the email contact feature is linked from the new "article" near the bottom of the OGS home page. Although the database currently contains 438 records, many of our members haven't yet added to it. Even if you're aware of this database and possibly have contributed to it, check out this new information. Comments are welcome.

As always, if you have any difficulty logging in to the OGS website, please contact us at [membership@OlyGenSoc.org](mailto:membership@OlyGenSoc.org).

### *Remember OGS When You Shop At Amazon*

When shopping at Amazon, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>.

You must register at AmazonSmile and select the Olympia Genealogical Society as your charitable organization.

OGS will receive 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. There is no cost to you.

### *From the Refreshment Table - Diana Bargmann*

**NOW BEING ACCEPTED:** Short Stories about your Holiday Memories. They must be sent to the editor, [edodge1946@acomcast.net](mailto:edodge1946@acomcast.net) by November 25<sup>th</sup> to be included in the December Newsletter. Share your memories about the best present you ever got, favorite holiday food, etc. Also, if you have favorite recipes for that time of year we'll accept those too. Questions? Call Diana Bargmann, 360-357-4251.

Please remember this is not a literary contest and there is no critiquing, no standard by which the stories are held accountable. They don't have to be a certain length, they don't have to be unusual, quirky or funny – they can be serious, sad or thoughtful too – like life itself. Just the story you might share with the rest of us at a meeting – something you uncovered during your research about an ancestor an experience you had while doing that research; and written in the same words you would use to tell it verbally, The same with the recipes – they don't have to be one that's been passed down through the generations or even holiday related, just one you think worth sharing, any type of food.

Thank you for your effort!

### *Washington State Digital Archives - Volunteers Needed*

If you aren't familiar with Scribe, it's an online digital application that enables users to become "honorary archivists" by transcribing and indexing records that are historically important to Washington. By using Scribe, volunteers are able to add information to the images, making them searchable on the Washington State Archives Digital Archives.

Scribe users are volunteers from around the globe who have access to the ever-growing collection of digital images ready to be transcribed and indexed, from home, on their own time.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please go to <https://scribe.digitalarchives.wa.gov/> to create an account. You can view a short tutorial there. Happy Scribing!

### *Special Interest Groups - Kerry McHugh-Upton*

The Special Interest Groups (SIG) have been going strong this year so far. SIGs are a benefit of membership. Various OGS members have stepped up to lead the various groups. I've heard compliments from many in OGS how they are gaining practical knowledge and getting to know fellow members. Even experienced genealogists have walked away from a Zoom meeting learning something new! If you haven't participated in a SIG yet, feel free to check out the SIG link on the homepage of our website <https://olygensoc.org/> Drop in to learn about different genealogy database software, DNA, Italian research, etc. Unfortunately we are not able to offer the FamilySearch.org SIG at this point in time. If there is someone interested in leading the FamilySearch.org SIG please let me know and we can get it started back up.

Legacy Family Tree – Jerri McCoy – 3rd Saturday of the month; 1:00 pm

MyHeritage – Jan Minzel – 3rd Tuesday; 6:30 pm

Ancestry – Greg Nordlund – 4th Saturday; 11:00 am

DNA – Nancy Cordell – 2nd Tuesday; 6:30 pm

Family History Writers – Laura Carroll – 1st Monday; 6:00 pm

Family Tree Maker – David Abernathy – 4th Thursday 10:00 am

Genealogy Chat – Peggy Cooley – 3rd Wednesday – 1:00 pm

**CHECK OUT THE ITALIAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> 11:00-1:00. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO REACH TO GREG ORDLUND OR LOG ON TO THE OLYGENSOCORG, CLICK ON SIGS – ITALIAN SIG FOR THE ZOOM LINK – THE SIG GROUP MEETS EVERY 3 MONTHS, SO DON'T WAIT!**

Log onto OlyGenSoc.org website to access the Zoom link at time of the meeting. This is a benefit of membership!! Feel free to join in any session, ask questions, members welcome at any time!

## *Tech Team - Kerry McHugh-Upton*

### **Updates From The Tech Team**

Welcome back everyone from hopefully a summer of active research, in spite of the restrictions! During the summer break several of us on the Tech Team spent our time preparing for this coming year.

- Joe Brookshier spent some of his free time getting acquainted with our website as our newest member to the website team, under the direction of Bob Monn.

- Nancy Cordel worked with Erin Quinn Valcho in transitioning the coordination of the Zoom facilitator responsibilities, preparing for this year's meetings that will include the general membership meetings, the board meetings and the SIG meetings.

- Nancy Cordel, Bob Monn and myself attended a virtual meeting put on by the Washington State Genealogical societies President's group for discussion on how to facilitate a hybrid meeting. A hybrid meeting comprises of an in-person live meeting with some of attendees &/or the speaker attending virtually. There would be the ability for remote attendees to ask questions of the presenter much like an in-person meeting. We have also been watching some recordings provided by other groups on how to set up the meetings, what type of equipment would be needed and how to facilitate the meeting for an overall satisfactory presentation.

- Kathy Erlandson and I toured a facility in August with the focus of conducting our hybrid general membership meetings. Given all of this research this last summer in preparation for returning to in-person meetings we have decided, with the board's approval, to continue with all OGS meetings via Zoom until further notice. The timing just isn't right to start meeting in-person. The research that we have done isn't wasted though! There will come a time soon when we can start to meet in-person. One major caveat is that we would need to have an A/V person (preferably 2) who would be able to set up the onsite equipment to run the meetings for in-person & remotely with the help of our Zoom facilitator. With the team that we have currently, we won't be able to pull off a hybrid meeting. If you are interested in learning more about what it would take please drop me a line at [Kerry.upton123@gmail.com](mailto:Kerry.upton123@gmail.com) or give me a call! We sure need you! Hybrid meetings won't take place without 1 or 2 people stepping up to help. In the meantime, we will continue all meetings via Zoom. The general membership meetings will be recorded and posted to our members' only section of our website, hint, you'll need to log onto the website first before you will find the recordings located at Community Events - \*Recordings General Membership meetings via Zoom in real time will be open to the public, members and their guests. Recordings are only available for members.

*Member Story - by Diana Bargmann*

**Motherhood**

During this month of May and Mother's Day when we usually associate the fairly common phenomena of women becoming mothers of healthy, playful children, I wanted to bring up the story of a woman who may very well have been forgotten in past years now that her own children are deceased and their memory of her lost to time. Every so often I discover circumstances in this genealogy searching that really speak to me - some stories just need to be told.

Recently while working on the family tree relatives that I grew up with, I came across the name of Charles Pantel, my Uncle Charlie. I knew him but not all that well due to my age. He was the second husband of my father's sister and an uncle to me during all of my early childhood. This aunt and uncle lived only about a city block away from my family in Santa Monica, California. I remembered that Charlie had a brother named David who lived as a boarder at their home in an apartment in the back yard. I contacted my older cousin Brad to reminisce with him and find out what he could recall about Charlie, who had been his stepfather. While not very helpful with the kind of information I was seeking, Brad did mention that Charlie's brother David had an entirely different surname than Pantel, something I hadn't been aware of and probably wouldn't have been very interested in anyway if I had known due to being a child. Since I like to provide not only the vital statistics about the people who married into our family but also their parents' names if I can, I tried to do some quick research on him.

I knew from the 1940 Census that he and my father had roomed together for a time before my father met and married my mother overseas during WWII and this must have been how my dad's sister met Charlie. However, reaching back in time, I next discovered

Charles as a 17 year-old on the 1930 Census in Grandview, Louisa County, Iowa. He was listed as an adopted son of William Albert "Albert" Werner, a 43 year-old farmer and widower. This piqued my interest, as I had never run across an adoption situation before. I wondered if perhaps Charlie's parents had died of sickness or an accident, and Mr. Werner had taken him in. So I went back a little further to see if I could locate his parents, caught up by now in the thrill of the chase, as it were.

In the process I found Mr. Werner's wife Pearl was still alive on the 1920 Census and I uncovered some interesting facts. In a marriage record, linking her and Albert Werner, Pearl's previous name had been Pantel, the same name of the adopted boy Charles. I assumed she had been married once before, but instead what I found was Pearl living with her parents on a farm as a 20 year-old, and apparently having birthed him as an unmarried girl.

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One can only imagine the stigma of an out-of-wedlock child in 1913 in a small farming town in Iowa. In addition, her father was an emigrant from Germany and her mother had immigrated from Switzerland.

Small wonder that Charles never had his birth recorded in the county at the time and only an aunt to vouch that she had been present at his birth when he needed a delayed birth certificate. Pearl must have had to have been a very brave young woman to face curiosity and possibly ostracism from the neighboring farm families and probable disapproval, to say the least, from her old world parents. Hopefully, though, as time has a way of doing, Charles found himself being raised by 3 loving adults since this was their grandchild. Perhaps the fact that Pearl gave her son the exact name of her father, Charles Frederick Pantel, helped.

So in 1918, at the age of 25, Pearl Pantel became Mrs. Albert Werner, bringing along her 5 year-old son, Charles, to the household. During the next 4 years, she gave birth to a child every year. Not so unusual, I know, but it must not have been an easy life. In addition to being the wife of an Iowa farmer with all the demanding physical chores both inside the house and outdoors, and having previously also been the daughter of a farmer, helping out her aging parents who had already been older when Pearl herself had been born. Two years into the marriage, her mother died and her father came to live with Pearl and husband Albert. One more person to care for....

Then came 1923.....the fifth year of her marriage. Pearl was pregnant again, this time hugely so, and on the night of Sept. 15, she went into labor but things went very wrong. Despite having a doctor at the home to assist her, after laboring through the night to deliver twin boys, she died at 5:00 am. the next morning, to the shock of everyone there. On the death certificate, the doctor listed her death as being the result of eclampsia, a toxic twist of pregnancy, complicated by an enlarged heart and what seems to be a past episode of flu. She may have been a recent victim of the Spanish influenza pandemic. Eclampsia is often characterized by convulsions and seizures, sometimes continuously until death. Likely pre-natal care at this time would have been little to nonexistent, especially in these small rural towns, and the signature signs of pre-eclampsia, high blood pressure, swelling, headaches, etc. might have just been attributed to being pregnant, if blood pressure was even something that was monitored then. Also, some cases are asymptomatic so there may not have been any warning signs.

Definitely at the very least Pearl's mental status would have been very affected, especially if convulsions were continually weakening her, and she might well not have known what was happening to her nor the fact that one of her twin sons had died. She left behind 4 year-old Raymond, 3 year-old Mary, Robert who was under 2 years of age and a newborn boy who had survived.

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In addition, there was 9 year-old Charles who undoubtedly thereafter had to quickly become a great help to his stepfather, both with the farm chores and caring for his younger siblings. Pearl was only 30 years of age when she suddenly left them all motherless, and her husband without a wife to care for such a young brood.

According to the local newspaper articles, Pearl was remembered by many, at her wake and funeral 2 days later, with a service at the house before being buried at a nearby cemetery. Imagine the confusion and upheaval for all those young children. As is tradition in many places, hopefully, food was dropped off by the neighbors at the farm of the grieving family. Maybe some of the women close by were able to come and help out briefly with the children or even temporarily adopt them into their own families for a while.

Coming back to the present time, with me digging into all this, newspaper articles at that period of time were rich with details that we wouldn't find today. I learned the names of the children, including the twin boy who had died and the surviving twin. Also, that tragedy still stalked the Werner family as they lost little Robert later that year in December to pneumonia at the age of 20 months, as if the poor little toddler hadn't already suffered enough losing his mother.

In the process, I discovered that the surviving twin boy, David, was the same half-brother that my Uncle Charlie had been helping out years later in Santa Monica, California by providing him with lodging. No wonder now that David was so much younger than Charlie (10 years). Though we never uncovered who was his father, now I knew so much more about my Uncle Charlie – I only wish I had known it then so I could have talked with him about his life.

Many thanks to my good friend Rebel Romero who helped out by negotiating the labyrinths of newspaper articles for me as she, too, got swept up with the mystery of who Pearl was during her short life.

*Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State (JGSWS)*

To view the website use this Url: [jgsws.org](http://jgsws.org)

*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:*

To read the most recent Online Newsletter go to: [blog.eogncom](http://blog.eogncom)

*The Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS):*

To access their very informative web page: [wasgs.org/](http://wasgs.org/)

*Washington State Archives*

To access their monthly and back issues of their Newsletter:

[www.sos.wa.gov/archives/newsletter-archive.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/newsletter-archive.aspx)

*Thomas MacEntee Genealogy Bargains*

To access his website for genealogy bargains, genealogy do-over, and subscribe to his newsletter: [genealogybargains.com/thomas-macentee](http://genealogybargains.com/thomas-macentee)

*Elected Officers*

President – Kathy Erlandson

Vice President – Greg Nordlund

Secretary – Jean Coons

Interim Treasurer – Karin Cooperdoll

*Appointed Teams*

Book Coordinator – Rebel Romero

Historian – Kasey Schiewe

Information Technology – Kerry McHugh-Upton

Membership – Bob Monn

Newsletter – Eileen Dodge

Publicity – Mandy Stahre

Refreshments – Diana Bargmann

Research – Jerri McCoy

Spring Seminar – Nancy Cordell

Sunshine – Gayle Strom

Special Interest Groups – Kerry McHugh-Upton

Webmaster – Bob Monn

Zoom – Erin Quinn-Valcho

*Community Partners*

City of Lacey: Erin Quinn Valcho

Timberland Library: Agatha Burstei

**OGS General Meeting Minutes (via Zoom)  
April 1 , 2022 (approximately 34 people attended)**

**President – Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She welcomed the members, both new and long standing, and our guest speaker.**

**President Report – President Kathy reminded us that OGS elections are in June.**

**The newsletter Editor, Eileen Dodge, will be retiring this year. A new editor is needed. Some of our members have experience in this area. If someone will take the leadership position, it is likely that others will agree to work on the newsletter. Please contact Kathy Erlandson or Eileen Dodge if you're willing to work on the newsletter.**

**Kathy and the members gave kudos to the seminar team. The successful Spring Seminar was very professionally handled.**

**Secretary - The March 2022 general meeting minutes, submitted by Jean Coons, were approved as published.**

**Vice-President Report – Vice President Greg Nordlund noted that there are two months and two presentations remaining until our summer break. He has two presentations lined up.**

**Treasurer – Karin Coppernoll will give the Treasurer's Report in May since she had a conflict this evening. If there are questions, please contact Karin by email.**

**Nominations – Chair Terry Church reported that he and the committee, John Halvorson, Cindy Neff, Norman Dodge and Peggy Cooley, tried to contact all members. They had some good conversations! Two members are willing to stand for nomination as President and Vice President. The nominations will be announced in May. Three members are willing to serve on the program team. Terry Church thanked the committee and mentioned that Peggy Cooley takes great notes! John Halvorson thanked Terry for his leadership. John reported that the SIGs attract people to OGS. The seminars also engage members' involvement.**

**Team Reports**

**Genealogy Gab Fest – Peggy Cooley reminded us that the gab fest meets next Wednesday from 1 to 2:30. Any subject pertaining to genealogy is welcome.**

**IT – Kerry McHugh Upton listed the various responsibilities of the IT Team: A/V, Facebook, Website, Zoom. The team will have a May meeting to determine data base storage for the Zoom account, mailchimp and email. The goal will be to incorporate all under one platform. Kerry is looking for someone to help with hybrid meetings (Zoom**

and in person.) She would be happy to talk with anyone who has these skills as she will not be responsible for the task.

Greg Nordlund suggested that a short poll be taken of members preferences for Zoom or in person meetings. John Halvorson remarked that during his nomination committee calls, members frequently said that they liked and preferred Zoom meetings.

**SIGs –**

Kerry McHugh Upton listed the SIGs: Legacy Family Tree, MyHeritage, Ancestry, DNA, Family History Writers, Family Tree Maker, Genealogy Chat, Italian and Family Search.org. The SIGs are also listed on the website. Connect with them by logging in to the OGS. They are a benefit of membership.

**Program –** Greg Nordlund introduced Laurel Smith, the acting president and long term library chair of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO.) GFO and its library house one of the largest genealogy research collections in the Northwest. Laurel gave a lively and very informative presentation on the website and on aspects of visiting the GFO in person.

**Other –** Rebel Romero reported that OGS volunteers will staff a table at Norway Day In the Thurston County Fairgrounds this Saturday, April 16.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Coons, Secretary