



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Vol. 32, No. 7

MARCH 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.

March General Meeting - Greg Nordlund

Newspapers are one of the unsung sources of genealogy research. At March's meeting we will hear a presentation called, "Read 'Em or Weep - Promise and Pitfalls in Newspaper OCR." Seattle genealogist Mary Kircher Roddy will talk about using newspapers, where to find free and pay newspaper sites online and teach us how to put OCR (Optical Character Recognition) mistakes to work for us to increase search results. In no time, you'll be doing thorough searches in newspapers every time.



President's Musings - Kathy Erlandson

What is a logo? A symbol. An icon. A visual representation of a company or organization. Ideally, a logo should represent the purpose, the essence of the organization. It is a visual way to make a memorable impression when used on brochures, fliers, business cards, stationary, websites and much more. Are you familiar with our logo? During this time of virtual activities, we don't get to use it much, but it is displayed at the top of our webpage and on the top of our monthly Newsletter. It's a tree. It was designed by a local architect, Frank Smith, husband of charter member Jan Smith, and it appeared on the first OGS Quarterly.

Our logo has served us for almost 28 years. Since then, our Society has grown and matured, we are firmly entrenched in the 'digital age', and it seems that the time is right to update our logo to suit our growing needs. A team of volunteers has begun the task of identifying the elements to make up that new logo.

After the February general meeting, members Mandy Stahre, Pat Harper, Rebel Romero and Peggy Cooley met with me to brainstorm ideas. Together, we developed a simple list of elements we think important in describing who we, as OGS, are. The highlights are:

Our full name, possibly encircling an image

The year established: 1974

Some kind of tree, possibly the state tree, Western Hemlock

State Capitol Building Dome

People

Water

Our ideas will be presented to a graphic design service who will then collaborate with us to develop something unique, eye-catching and memorable to represent Olympia Genealogical Society and the work we do. We are excited that sometime soon, we should be able to unveil a new OGS logo. Stay tuned!

******Nominating Committee Calls******

Every year OGS holds an election for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer to serve for the coming fiscal year.

This requires a Nominating Committee member to contact OGS members by phone, asking if they would consider serving in one of these positions, or perhaps chair or serve on one of the OGS Teams.

The Nominating Committee members this year are John Halvorson, Terry Church, Peggy Cooley, and Norman Dodge.

Expect a call from one of these folks in March and April – the election is held at the May meeting.

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 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!

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 gggnpoppa@comcast.net

Membership Lead - Bob Monn

No new members joined OGS this past month, but we received a generous donation from Durina Taylor in February – Thanks, Durina!

We've been encouraged by the growing percentage of members who have been logging in to the OGS site this membership year.

If you have any questions about logging in to the OGS website or renewing your membership, please contact us at 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.

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/>. 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 5TH 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!

Helpful Genealogy Websites

Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State (JGSWS)

To view the website use this Url: jgsws.org

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:

To read the most recent Online Newsletter go to: blog.eogncom

The Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS):

To access their very informative web page: wasgs.org/

Washington State Archives

To access their monthly and back issues of their Newsletter:

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

Publicity - Mandy Stahrs

A new face for Publicity

I'd like to welcome Mandy Stahrs as our new Publicity chair for 2021-2022. She will be posting our meeting notices on a variety of local and regional outlets advertising our general membership meetings. She will also be working with the Seminar team to advertise this year's seminar.

Mandy is off to a fresh start by getting OGS set up with a Twitter feed. If you are a Twitter user please add Olympia Genealogical Society to your feed! If there is something of interest that you would like Mandy to post, please send her any information. You can also find the Twitter link on our OlyGenSoc.org page, found on the left side banner. Once again, Thanks Mandy for saying "Yes!"

Genealogy Books Review - Kerry McHugh-Upton

Genealogy related stories, memories and mysteries

Have you ever wanted to get lost in a good mystery or a great story that is genealogy based? Perhaps it is a silly genealogy mystery, or a personal journey into a family lore, or how a personal DNA mystery was solved? I've compiled a list of genealogy related mysteries and stories into one database. I've had a list that I compiled over the years and received Kathy Erlandson's personal list that she has been working on. I weaved them together, then started finding more books through various lists from Thomas MacEntee to a Facebook group "Genealogical Crime Mystery Book Club". The list has grown to over 380 books! Who knew?

I have gone through the list to determine which of the books the Timberland Library System has in their inventory, both physical and in a digital format. I have determined which books are on Kindle for those of you with that type of reader. I then added a column for members' owned books that would be interested in lending them to other members to read. Sort of like the little neighborhood book libraries. My thought is that when we start meeting in person, we could arrange a meet up and exchange books at the meeting. In the meantime I have been dropping off books to members to read. If you have a personal library that you would like to share with others, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

This is not a complete list. If you see books that are on the list that are not genealogy related, please let me know and I will remove them. If you know of books that are missing and think others would be interested in knowing about them as well, please let me know and I will add them to the list! If you are an author and would like to be included on this list, please let me know and I will add your books to the list as well!

Take a look at the list. Download it for your personal reference! Go to olygensoc.org Log in as a member. On the left side banner, go to Publications/Files > Downloadable Files > Genealogy Mysteries & Other > Select the PDF or the Excel folder and click to download the list!

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 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.

OGS UPCOMING EVENT



THE OLYMPIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
VIRTUAL SPRING SEMINAR

DNA: TODAY'S MATCHMAKER

Saturday, April 9, 2022

8:30 am - 3:30 pm PDT

\$40 for members

\$50 for non-members



Register at: [OlyGenSoc.org](https://olygensoc.org)

Diahn Southard

This year's seminar will explore the complex and rewarding topic of DNA and genealogy. Renowned expert, Diahn Southard will lead us through sessions like:

- Making sense of your DNA results
- What to do if your matches don't have family trees
- Organizing your matches
- Using female DNA to answer questions.

★ **Door Prizes!** ★

Registration begins Dec 1, 2021

Our featured speaker, Diahn Southard, teaches the concepts of genetic genealogy all over the world and consults with leading testing companies and forensics experts. She has a special gift for making this technical, complicated subject understandable.

Her company, Your DNA Guide (YourDNAGuide.com), provides one-on-one genetic genealogy education and research services.

Registration and full details at olygensoc.org

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 by **November 25th** 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!

Member Contribution - Jerri McCoy

What's in a picture? – Tell me that family story again.....



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In the early years of my genealogy "obsession" Bob and I went through some old family photos with his Dad. We found a McCoy family photo taken just before 1900 in Missouri that I have always thought was special. It was of Bob's great grandfather and his five teen-aged children. Of course, I had to ask about the photo and the stories around the people in it.

Bob's great grandfather, Rufus, is on the left in the front row. His grandfather, Benton, is on the right in the front row. Benton's sister, Allie, is middle front. The back row has his brothers, Madison and Loren, with sister Laura back center.

Over time, Bob's Dad was able to tell me lots of info on all of these children but Laura. I asked him to tell me what little he knew about Laura when we next visited. He said Laura's story was very short. She married at age 15 to a 19-year old boy that the family didn't approve of. A couple of years later, she was killed by her husband. He was executed for the crime, and that was pretty much the end of the story. They never had any children, so there was nothing more to add to that part of the family genealogy. Indeed, a short story, and not very sweet. I didn't pursue Laura's history further.

Years later, when the Internet came along, I wanted to create a website for our family. This photo struck me as being perfect for my home page introduction to "The Real McCoy's". I placed it there, and named the people in the photo like above.

Some more years went by, and I received an email from an unknown woman in California, asking about the photo. It seems this woman's grandmother was also named Laura McCoy, and her father was also named Rufus. She wondered if this photo might be of the same family. The family names matched what she had for her grandmother's family. Are we related?

I quickly called Bob to come to my computer. I asked if he remembered his Dad telling us about his great-aunt Laura, who had no children, and was killed by her husband? He said yes. I told him there must be something wrong with the family story about her, because I think I just got an email from her granddaughter in California!

After some emails back and forth, we discovered that "our" Laura was indeed also this woman's Laura! The real story? Laura did marry young, to a boy the McCoy family didn't like. They had FOUR children. Laura died in 1903, at age 27, from complications after delivering her fifth child. Both mother and child died. Laura's husband later remarried, and THEY apparently had marital problems, as some years afterwards he was arrested, convicted, and executed in the federal prison for killing this second wife!

Oh my! There was certainly a wrong turn at the bend in that original family story! I learned from that to never take a family story at face value on the first telling. Ask questions about family members, from a number of other family members, to try to get the whole story. Even my Mom and her twin sister remember family events and stories differently!

Over the years we have met and visited with this new "cousin" in California and her family. She and I talk genealogy on the phone occasionally. Rufus McCoy's father, James, is our brick wall on this line. We compare notes, and we both hope someday to solve the mystery of James' parents.

So, there's the picture. Tell me that family story again....

Upcoming Events

2022

Thursday, March 10th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom
Saturday, April 9th – Spring Seminar via Zoom
Thursday, April 14th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, May 12th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, June 9th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom
July and August – No Monthly General Membership Meeting
Thursday, September 8th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, October 13th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, November 10th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, December 8th - Monthly General Membership Meeting via Zoom

Elected Officers

President – Kathy Erlandson
Vice President – Greg Nordlund
Secretary – Jean Coons
Treasurer – Judy Artley

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 Burstein

**Olympia Genealogy Society General Meeting - (via Zoom)
February 10, 2022 - In attendance: approximately 34**

- **PRESIDENT - Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She welcomed the members, and three guests were introduced.**
- **PRESIDENT REPORT – Kathy Erlandson and the logo committee will have their first meeting next week. An online company will be engaged to design the new logo. Peggy Cooley, Jon Halvorson and Terry Church have volunteered for the 2022 nominating committee. At least one more committee member is needed. Possible guidelines are available from the 2021 nominating committee. Each member was contacted by phone last year. The positions of Treasurer and Vice President will need to be filled. The President is undecided. Our newsletter editor is retiring at the end of this OGS year. Kathy Erlandson asked for a show of hands from those who have worked on newsletters in the past. Alma Greenwood, Rebel Romero, Marcie Allen and Marilyn Miller responded.**
- **SECRETARY – Minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting, submitted by Eileen Dodge, were approved as published.**
- **VICE PRESIDENT – Greg Nordlund is close to finalizing the March speaker on the topic, Researching with Newspapers.**
- **TREASURER – Judy Artley gave the Treasurer’s report.**

TEAM REPORTS

- **GENEALOGY GAB FEST – Peggy Cooley explained that participants may talk about anything related to genealogy. The next session will occur via Zoom on Wednesday, February 16 at 1 p.m. and will last for an hour and a half. The link will open at 12:45 p.m.**
- **SIGS: Kerry Upton McHugh reminded us that the SIGs are open to all members, and all re virtual. The current SIGs are: Ancestry, DNA, Family History Writing, Family Tree Maker, Genealogy Chat, MyHeritage.com, Italian and Legacy Family Tree. The DNA SIG has been reading the Spring Seminar speaker’s book and has had some breakthroughs.**
- **SEMINAR – Nancy Cordell reminded us of the Spring Seminar on April 9, 2022. Diahn Southard will speak on various aspects of DNA. Eighteen door prizes are lined up. Look on the website for registration.**
- **LACEY MUSEUM – Erin Quinn-Valcho reported that the Lacey Museum will break ground for the new building this month. The museum is housing the OGS library and will provide a room for our meetings when we meet in person**

- **PROGRAM**

Greg Nordlund introduced Marian B. Wood, who spoke on the topic, “Get Ready for the 1950 U.S. Census.” The release of the 1950 Census will occur on April 1, 2022. Marian gave a thorough, polished and very helpful presentation on this release of information.

- **BREAK OUT ROOMS** – Erin Quinn-Valcho set up small group break out rooms to conclude the meeting.

- **ADJOURN** – Kathy Erlandson adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Coons
OGS Secretary