



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Vol. 32, No. 6

FEBRUARY 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

February Meeting - Greg Nordlund

“Get Ready for the 1950 US Census” is the topic of the presentation at our February general meeting.

The 1950 census will be released in April and our guest, Marian B. Wood will help us understand what it will look like, how to access it and how you can browse the documents for ancestors and interpret what you find.

If your parents, grandparents, siblings, or other family members were counted in the 1950 US Census, you'll want to be ready to look for them when these records are made public. Learn about the quirks and assumptions built into the enumeration process!



President's Musings - Kathy Erlandson

One of my favorite family anecdotes came from my mother's remembrance about her first pregnancy (with me!) Shortly after his discharge from the military, Dad left Mama living with his mother in Grays Harbor, and he went north seeking work. He found a job in Tacoma, but he was working nights, and didn't want Mom to come until I was born. Gramma was wonderful, but there was Mama, pregnant, just 19 years old, and desperately missing her new husband. So, she told me, anxious for me to be born, every day Mom would go outside, jump off the porch, run around Gramma's house, up the stairs, and repeat, hoping it would hurry me up. All the while, Gramma would stand there wringing her hands and crying, "You're gonna kill that baby."

What does this have to do with genealogy? By now, you have undoubtedly heard, multiple times, that the 1950 United States Census will be released in April of this year. Many readers will have been counting off the days until its release. Some have been helping to index the data. Others may be wondering why all the excitement? I have to admit that my research has been pretty stale the last couple of years, and I haven't paid much attention to the impending release. However, it has finally dawned on me that some long-held questions may finally be answered for me.

For years, I've wanted to know the address of my parent's first home in Tacoma. I know approximately where it is, but even my mother, when I finally thought to ask, was unable to tell me exactly where. I'd also like to know where my grandmother lived. Where was that little house, the scene of my mother's daily marathon? One feature of the 1950 census is that it specifies addresses! What's more, this census contains an additional section with general household questions that reveal how residents were living. Did they have indoor plumbing? Toilet, bathtub, shower? What kind of structure, and how many rooms? When was the house built? What kind of heating? Now I'm getting excited!

There's a Facebook page called 1950 US Census for Genealogists, where folks are sharing info and questions preparatory to the release. I hear that The National Archives plans to use index to accompany the release of the census. That could be very helpful if we have no clue where to begin looking for someone. OGS V.P. Greg Nordlund has engaged Marion Wood to speak to us about the 1950 census at this month's general meeting. She'll be giving us a sneak peak at what to expect and how to use the data. I hope to see you at that meeting. Let's get excited about the 1950 census together!

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

Please welcome Donald Propp who joined OGS this past month.

We continue to receive a few membership renewals and our membership is now at about the same level as it was at the end of the 2020-2021 membership year. Thanks to everyone who has renewed this past month.

We also offer a very special thanks to Julia Miller for her generous donation to OGS in January.

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/>. 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 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!

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

The Family Tree

By Steph Mullin & Nicole

The DNA Results are back and there's a serial killer in the family tree! Meet Liz Catalano, she did an ancestry kit as a gift from her cousin. She learns that she is adopted. Eventually the FBI gets involved because her dna matches to an unknown serial killer.

This mystery doesn't involve any genealogy sleuthing by the Liz, the FBI does all of the sleuthing behind the scene. Never the less there are a lot of twists of turns in the story.

I have the book if someone is interested in borrowing the book.

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

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 - Roger Newman

A Women Ahead of Her Time?

Pre-nuptial agreements are something I considered to be a more modern approach to marriage among the wealthy although the French have done this for many years prior to marriage. My 5th great-grandmother Sarah's husband James died prematurely in about 1806 in Nelson County, Kentucky leaving her with young children. One James Brooks decided he wanted to marry the widowed Sarah before the estate was settled. Sarah being a smart women wasn't going to let any of the property pass to James Brooks by way of marriage to him. She also made sure she would have dower rights from her marriage to him. She had a contract written, see below. They were married the next day after the contract was signed.

Contract: James Brooks to Sally Brown (Widow of James Brown)

This is to certify that James Brooks & Sally Brown (both of Nelson County) intending to intermarry with each other the said Brooks under the penalty of one thousand dollars doth oblige himself not to dispose of any property (now vested in the said Sally) and by these presents do disclaim any title or right to the aforesaid on condition that she keep said property in her hands during her natural life for the support of herself & family. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 20th day of April 1808.

James Brooks (Seal)

Test: Beal Dorsey, Charles Wortham

The within contract is by no means intended to prevent the within mentioned Sally from claiming and receiving her right of dower to my estate as witness my hand the day & date within written.

James Brooks

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

**OGS GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
Thursday, January 13, 2009**

President Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting was approved as published.

Vice-President Greg Nordland stated he did not have a speaker lined up for next month – perhaps he will give a presentation himself.

Treasurer Judy Artly was not present at the meeting, so no report was given.

Kerry McHugh-Upton reported that we currently have six SIGS that are active.

Nancy Cordell talked about the upcoming Spring Seminar.

Roxanne Lowe presented her PowerPoint Program on “Writing Your Own Obituary.” It was well received and a lively, spirited and informative discussion as well as a question and answer session followed the presentation.

A “Sharing of Artifacts” session commenced with many OGS members participating. President Kathy Erlandson asked OGS members to consider sharing of their artifacts at future meetings.

President Kathy Erlandson closed the meeting at 8:30 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Eileen Dodge, Secretary Pro Tem**