



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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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

President's Musings - Kathy Erlandson

Happy New Year! I don't know about you, but I am ready for a clean slate and a new start. So, here's a little genealogical whimsey for you.

I'm my own grandpa.

I'm my own grandpa.

It sounds funny, I know, but it really is so,

Oh, I'm my own grandpa.

Now many, many years ago, when I was twenty-three,

I was married to a widow who was pretty as could be. d

This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.

My father fell in love with her, and soon they, too, were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law and changed my very life,

My daughter was my mother, cause she was my father's wife.

To complicate the matter, even though it brought me joy,

I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to Dad,

And so became my uncle, though it made me very sad.

For if he was my uncle, then that also made him brother

Of the widow's grown-up daughter, who, of course, was my stepmother.

I'm my own grandpa.

I'm my own grandpa.

It sounds funny, I know, but it really is so,

Oh, I'm my own grandpa.

(CONTINUED)

Father's wife then had a son who kept him on the run,

*And he became my grandchild, for he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother, and it makes me blue,
Because, although she is my wife, she's my grandmother, too.*

*Now if my wife is my grandmother, then I'm her grandchild,
And everytime I think of it, it nearly drives me wild,
For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa!*

*I'm my own grandpa.
I'm my own grandpa.
It sounds funny, I know, but it really is so,
Oh, I'm my own grandpa. **

That novelty song, written by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe, and first recorded in 1947, was apparently inspired by this article that has popped up in newspapers periodically (no pun intended!) for over 150 years, evidently appearing first in 1822 in the London Literary Gazette: "Proof that a man may be his own Grandfather. — There was a widow and her daughter-in-law, and a man and his son. The widow married the son, and the daughter the old man; the widow was, therefore, mother to her husband's father, consequently grandmother to her own husband. They had a son, to whom she was great-grandmother; now, as the son of a great-grandmother must be either a grandfather or great-uncle, this boy was therefore his own grandfather. This was actually the case with a boy at a school in Norwich."

Sound like anyone in your family tree? I can't say that I've found anything quite that convoluted, but I do have a few mildly humorous name or kinship situations. We've all seen them; some man is obliged to marry his brother's widow), incest, confusion over multiple successive marriages, or a wide variety of other reasons.

I got to thinking about this when laughing over the situation of my daughter's first marriage. My maiden name is Holcomb. I married an Erlandson, so of course, our daughter's maiden name is Erlandson. In the fullness of time (Sorry. I couldn't resist that.) our daughter married my paternal cousin's son, her 2nd cousin. So, for a time, I had her maiden name, and she had mine! Also, I was surprised when first I learned that my favorite great-grandparents were not only husband and wife, but step- siblings; certainly not all that un-common, but surprising to a new amateur genealogist. (Continued)

I think that at a future monthly meeting, I'll ask you to tell us about some of the strange relationships you have discovered in your own family tree. Be thinking about it. It should be fun to hear those stories. In the meantime, if you would like to hear the first recorded version of the song, you'll find it on Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3CvRC4fAmk>

*I AM MY OWN GRANDPA written by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe, and recorded by Lonzo and Oscar in 1947

Vice President - Greg Nordlund

January's presentation is called "Writing Your Own Obituary" with Western Washington genealogist Roxanne Lowe. For most of us, our obituary may be the most important thing that will ever be written about us. So why not write it yourself? You'll learn how to look at your life and the lives of those in your tree in a new light. Roxanne will share tips and examples of humorous, serious and poignant obituaries.



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 - Bob Monn

Please welcome Elizabeth Grady and Belinda Hovde-Klingman who joined OGS this past month.

Thanks to those members who have renewed their membership for 2021-2022 and a very special thanks to Jo-Anne Huber for her donation to OGS in December.

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.

Ditalian – Greg Nordlund - 1st Saturday of the month; 11:00 am
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

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

These last couple of months I enjoyed the sleuthing rompings of genealogist, Alexandra "Alex" Campbell and her mentor/partner Brighamina "Briggie" Poulson. Along with their tag alongs, they find themselves in all kinds of messes. From Chicago Illinois, to Oxford England, back to Chicago, then into the dark they collect throughout the series written by G. G. Vandagriff, will keep you entertained.... Possibly learn a trick or two for your own genealogical research. "Cankered Roots"; "Of Deadly Descent"; "Tangled Roots"; "Poisoned Pedigree"; and "The Hidden Branch". I have paperback copies of this series if you would like to borrow them, I'm happy to share! They are also available on Kindle.

The other book that I read this past month is "Inheritance, a Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love" by Dani Shapiro. This is a poignant memoir of her own parents' secret, revealed through a casual DNA test. She shares her emotions and feelings of what it is like to discover that who she thought she was, is not who she is. The book is an easy read, which grasps your heart. As many more people "play" with DNA testing, results of these tests may not always point them in the direction of who they thought they were, or who their grandparents were. I have a copy of this book to share, as well as it can be found at the Timberland Library, hardcover, Ebook, EAudible books, as well as on Kindle.

If you have books that you would like to share, or write a review, please let me know. We can include your review in the monthly newsletter as well as add it to a master list which will be posted to the website sometime this winter.

Meanwhile, get lost in a good book for these dark days of winter

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 Cordell worked with Erin Quinn Valcho in transitioning 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 Cordell, Bob Monn and myself attended a virtual meeting put on 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

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/

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!

