



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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Eileen Dodge, Editor



A Note from Vice President – Greg Nordlund

A VOYAGE ON THE ERIE CANAL

Olympia Genealogical Society member Joyce Ogden lived in a house in Brockport, NY for 20 years where the backyard ended at the Erie Canal, but she had no idea then that there was a personal family connection. As she later discovered, however, she had THREE ancestors who had died in the canal in different years and in different circumstances. This presentation will include color photos, black-and-white photos, genealogy charts, a map or two, and newspaper clippings. It may bore you with some spreadsheets, but it will send you out with historical Erie Canal music.

This virtual presentation via ZOOM will be given at Olympia Genealogical Society's monthly meeting on Thursday, February 11 at 7 pm. Access our website at <https://OlyGenSoc.org> to get the Zoom link to the meeting.

RootsTech Conference 2021

For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser. The conference will run from February 25 – 27, 2021. For more information and to register go to <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

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President’s Musings – Kathy Erlandson

I have been reflecting upon an endangered resource: Letters. In 2009, when failing eyesight forced my mother to move to an assisted living facility, my sister and I began to help her downsize for moving. As Mama sorted through 40+ years of accumulation, she became progressively sad and overwhelmed, and just started chucking stuff. One day, I arrived to find her cramming things in plastic trash bags, saying that she had already filled the recycle can. It was then I discovered that she had thrown away most of my father’s war-time letters, her parents’ and siblings’ letters, school yearbooks, and goodness knows what else. I saved what I could, but much was already gone. Then, in 2020, when we moved Mama to her final home, I discovered the last few keepsakes and letters she had retained. One of those letters shed light on a mystery I had been researching.

Some years earlier, my grandmother had told me that her great-grandmother, Gertrude, had followed her brother, Cal, and her son, Ralph, to Circle, Alaska, where she operated a roadhouse. The Fairbanks goldrush began about 1901 and continued until about 1930, so I thought maybe that was the impetus. I found records showing that Cal was mining in Alaska in 1900, and had become a woodcutter by 1910, but I didn’t know when Ralph or Gertrude had gone north. Imagine my excitement to find in Mama’s things a letter from Grandma Gertrude, dated February 18, 1917 from Circle, Alaska.

Although she didn’t state that she had a roadhouse, she did say “I have been quite busy for a week now. Have had someone here the most of the time. There were seven left here this morning.” There was a reference to her son “working his ground” and “money don’t grow on bushes in Alaska I find.” Sadly, they never did strike it rich. Ralph and Gertrude eventually returned to Olympia; Cal to California. There was plenty more new information in that letter though. I learned a lot.

Letters. I wish I had more, but I’m lucky for what I have. As genealogists, we are fortunate for all the information available on the internet today, but that same tool is striking the death knell for personal letters. It is sad to think that future generations probably won’t have the gift of our letters. Funny, but progress isn’t always.

First picture is of Sylvia Gertrude Blanchard
Second picture is of Gertrude and her daughter, Ethel





A Note from Membership Chair – Bob Monn

Please welcome the following new OGS members who joined last month:

Marcie Allen Christine Maltby Jarlee McCormick

We also had a few more 2019-20 members who renewed last month. We thank them for continuing to support OGS.

A Note from Spring Seminar Chair – Peggy Cooley

Greetings, everyone!

Our Spring Seminar registration is open now. Our speaker is Rick Sayre, Certified Genealogist, and his topics are Land and Military Records. Go to our website and click to start the process. It only takes a few minutes and payment is by credit card or PayPal account. I hope to 'see' you there!

EDITOR'S NOTE – Be sure to share the information about our seminar with your friends and family. Since the seminar is being offered virtually, anyone can join in regardless of where in the world they reside.

A Note from Sunshine Chair - 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.

A Note from Zoom Coordinator – Nancy Cordell

If you are having problems logging into the monthly Olympia Genealogical Society general meetings on Zoom. Here are several suggestions:

- 1). Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/download> and download the updated version. It gets updated often, so check back frequently.
- 2). The link is emailed out the day before every general meeting. The link is also posted at <http://OlyGenSoc.org> and on the Olympia Genealogical Society Facebook pages.
- 3). If clicking on the link does not work, try to copy and paste the link into your browser.
- 4). Try logging out of Zoom and then log back in. You will need to go to <http://zoom.us> and find your username in the upper right-hand corner. When you click on that, a dropdown menu will appear and you can select log out. Then log back in.
- 5). Try a different browser.
- 6). Send an email to me at Nancy.cordell@gmail.com or a text to 360.451.1059; I might be able to help you. If you are new to Zoom, please continue reading below for information on getting started on Zoom or how to connect to OGS Special Interest Groups and OGS Board Meetings

As you all know, OGS will continue to have General meetings, Board meetings, Special Interest Groups, and the 2021 OGS Seminar via Zoom. You will be able to enter the Zoom meeting at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time of any meeting. Below is some information for each sort of event:

General meetings: Links (and passcodes) will be posted on <http://OlyGenSoc.org> on the calendar (found in the right column of the home page). As always, the general meetings are open to the public; members and guests are welcome to attend.

Special Interest Groups: Links (and passcodes) are posted in the Members Only section of the website. At present, there are 5 SIGs offered through OGS: Ancestry, DNA, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker, and Writing. Participation in the SIGs is a benefit of membership. See Kerry Upton's message for more information about SIGs.

Board meetings: Olympia Genealogical Society Board meetings are open to the public. If you care to attend an OGS Board meeting, please send an email to events@OlyGenSoc.org and we will gladly share the link with you. If you use an electronic calendar of any kind, you can copy and paste the relevant meeting link onto your calendar. Be sure to include the accompanying passcode, as all Zoom meetings will require that passcode.

If you are new to Zoom, please give a try!

You can learn how to participate in a Zoom meeting by viewing: Joining a Zoom Call for the First Time at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

A Note Regarding the OGS Website – Kerry Upton

There's a new link in town! Or at least on our website!

As a member benefit we have added a new page to our website. You'll now be able to view a past general membership meeting recording of the main presentation. Simply log onto our website through the "Members Only*" link on the left-hand navigation menu. Once logged in, click on Community Events; the drop down menu has a new feature "Recordings." Click here to see the recordings available to members. Some recordings will be for a limited time, others will remain in perpetuity.

Log on and Enjoy!!

A Note from Special Interest Group (SIG) Chair – Kerry Upton

Two years ago we started up small groups to focus on various genealogy subjects relating to data management programs and "How-to" groups. Each group met in person on a monthly basis, learning and sharing about the focus topic. The best part of each of these groups was getting to know each other beyond our monthly general membership meetings! Last spring we suspended all in person gatherings. An Ad-Hoc group was formed to determine how we could move forward as the Olympia Genealogical Society under the current environment. The Zoom online platform was adopted as our platform for holding our meetings. Although not the same, it gives us the opportunity to continue our meetings. This is exciting to be able to offer this, especially for snowbird members, those unable to attend due to time of day or transportation issues. You will be able to log in and attend the meetings no matter where you are!

You'll need to be a current member of OGS. Once logged onto the website you'll be able to access the different Zoom log ons for each SIG meeting. The SIG Groups will be listed on the left hand border once you have logged onto the Members Only section found on the left hand border.

Special Interest Groups and Facilitators:

- ANCESTRY - Greg Nordlund
- DNA - Kerry McHugh Upton
- FAMILY HISTORY WRITING - Cindy Neff
- FAMILY SEARCH - Carolyn Gibbons
- FAMILY TREE MAKER - David Abernathy

Special Interest Groups are open to all members. Feel free to contact the facilitator to learn more about the group. More information is shared on the Forum page once you have logged onto the OGS website, Members Only section. Access to the Forums is a benefit of membership; if you aren't a member yet, join up and start taking in all that membership offers!

If you have a subject that you feel would be of benefit to other members, please contact Kerry McHugh Upton to share your idea. We'll send out a notice to the membership to see if there are other members interested in a SIG group on that topic.

These groups can be a cultural group, other genealogical database groups, etc

Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State (JGSWS)

To view the JGSWS website, go to <http://jgsws.org>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:

To read the most recent Online Newsletter go to: <https://blog.eogncom>

Notes From The Monthly Newsletter Of Claudia C. Breland:

Claudia is a Professional Genealogist and author living in the Key Peninsula in Western Washington. To read the most recent Online Newsletter go to <https://www.ccbreland.com>

Nuggets From The Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) Blog:

To access their very informative website: <https://wasgs.org/blog/.browser>

Thomas MacEntee Genealogy Bargains

To access his website for genealogy bargains, genealogy do-over, and to subscribe to his newsletter: <https://genealogybargains.com/thomas-macentee/>

Changes Ordering Washington State Birth & Death Certificates

Important changes to the ordering of birth and death certificates became effective 1 Jan 2021 as a result of a new vital records law. See [WA Dept. of Health FAQ web page](#), [birth certificate handout](#), and [death certificate handout](#) for more info.

Washington State Digital Archives – Volunteers Needed

Death certificates are now available for transcription in Scribe. Scribe has long been without death/certificates, but our volunteers need not wait anymore. Tens of thousands of records from the Department of Health have been uploaded and are now available for transcription.

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!

From the Refreshment Table – Diana Bargmann

Last September, when it was deemed that OGS would not be able to resume physical meetings, 2 new features were added to our newsletter - recipes and stories. The recipes were to be substitutes for the actual refreshments we would have had, and the stories were in lieu of those we might have exchanged in person while socializing there, and to add depth to the newsletter. It was a rocky beginning for both features as admittedly there were other events claiming our attention so we are continuing these ideas into the new year to give them a fair shake.

The recipes are starting to take off though we have several more months ahead left to cover, but the stories are not as forthcoming as we'd hoped. We know they're out there among our members and that all of us enjoy reading them and getting to know a little more about the people who authored them. Please remember that 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 or on certain subjects, 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 or 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.

Please consider taking a few moments to jot down a recipe or a story to contribute to our newsletter. Send them to our editor Eileen Dodge <edodge1946@comcast.net> by the 25th of the month and she'll include them in an upcoming month's publication. And thank you for your effort!

OGS Member Recipe - By Diana Bargmann

Minestrone Soup

From Better Homes and Gardens magazine: "In addition to vitamin K, which helps blood to clot, Swiss chard provides a bone-building mix of magnesium, manganese, and potassium." Start to finish: 30 minutes. Makes 6 (1 1/2 C.) servings.

- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 14-oz. can reduced-sodium chicken (or veg.) broth
- 1 1/2 C. water
- 1 15-oz. can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 med. zucchini, coarsely chopped
- 1 C. sliced carrots
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3/4 C. dried multigrain elbow macaroni
- 1 Tbsp. snipped fresh oregano or 1 tsp. dried oregano, crushed
- 6 C. coarsely torn, trimmed Swiss chard or 8 C. packaged fresh baby spinach leaves
- 1 14 1/2 -oz. can no-salt-added diced tomatoes

In a 5-to 6- quart Dutch oven cook onion in hot oil over medium heat until tender, stirring occasionally. Add broth, water, beans, zucchini, carrots and garlic. Bring to boiling. Add pasta and dried oregano, if using. Return to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, 5 minutes. Stir in Swiss chard. (If using spinach, stir in at the last with tomatoes.) Simmer, uncovered, 5-7 minutes more or until pasta is tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in tomatoes and fresh oregano, if using. Remove from heat. Season with salt and black pepper. Sprinkle with additional fresh oregano.

OGS Member Recipe – By Diana Bargmann

Hungarian Mushroom Soup

(This soup has a very unique flavor. Everyone always wants a copy of the recipe. It is from Allrecipes.com)

- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 2 cups chopped onions
- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms
- 2 tsp. dried dill weed
- 1 Tbsp. paprika
- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 2 C. chicken or veg. broth
- 1 C. milk
- 3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- Ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 C. chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 C. sour cream

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Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Saute the onions in the butter for 5 minutes. Add the mushrooms and saute for 5 more minutes. Stir in the dill, paprika, soy sauce and broth. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 15 minutes. In a separate small bowl, whisk the milk and flour together. Pour this in the soup and stir to blend. Cover and simmer for 15 more minutes, stirring occasionally. Finally, stir in the salt, black pepper, lemon juice, parsley and sour cream. Mix together and allow to heat through over low heat, about 3 to 5 minutes. Do not boil. Serve immediately.

OGS Member Contribution - By Joyce Ogden

SPINSTER NO. 2

The second spinster was Sophronia Jacobs, aunt of my maternal grandmother Flora Froebel. John and Katherine (Kochendoerfer) Jacobs, Sophronia's parents, had emigrated from Wurttemberg, Germany about six years before she was born in 1854 in Oneida County, New York. Her father purchased a farm in the Town of Amboy, Oswego County, ten years later, and Sophronia lived there for the next 48 years. There were three sisters and the one brother who eventually took over the farm. But of those five children there was only one grandchild, my grandmother Flora. How many parents in the 1850's had five children and only one grandchild?

The only baby she would have had to rock would have been my grandmother Flora, who was born when Sophronia was 26 years old. Since her brother John was single until age 61, Sophronia and her widowed sister Catherine ("Katie") would have done the cooking and housekeeping.

In October 1912 Flora was married and living nearby when her husband Irving Durgie was killed when he was run over by a train. My grandmother had six children and was nine month's pregnant with her seventh. It wasn't long before Sophronia ("Frona") and her sister joined widow Flora in Parish NY to help with child-raising, housekeeping and cooking while Flora went out and cleaned peoples' houses. No time for that rocking-chair! My mother remembers "Aunt Frona" as an excellent German cook, but, alas, those German cooking recipes were not passed on to her nieces.

Sophronia died in that Parish home in February 1934, aged 79.

Oswego Palladium-Times, 19 Feb 1934:

MISS SOPHRONIA JACOBS Parish, Feb. 19 (Special)-- The death of Miss Sophronia Jacobs, 79, occurred early Monday morning at the home of her niece, Mrs. Flora Durgie. Miss Jacobs was born in Oriskany, daughter of the late John and Catherine Jacobs. About 20 years ago she came to Parish to make her home with Mrs. Durgie, who is her only near surviving relative...

This is the only photo I have of her.



Here ends the tale of the two spinsters. One saved enough money from teaching school to enable her family to build a house. One helped raise her niece's seven children. Yet their obituaries are silent about their real contributions to society!

Olympia Genealogical Society Board of Directors 2019-2020

President – Kathy Erlandson
Vice President – Greg Nordlund
Treasurer - Judy Artley
Secretary – Judi Hine
Past President – Nancy Cordell

Appointed Committees

Beginners Workshop - Ann Olson
Book Coordinators – Nancy Cordell & Rebel Romero
FaceBook – Kerry McHugh-Upton
Historian – Joyce Ogden
Library Liaison – Agatha Burstein
Membership – Bob Monn
Newsletter – Eileen Dodge
Publicity – Joyce Ogden
Refreshments – Diana Bargmann
Research – Jerri McCoy
Spring Seminar – Peggy Cooley
Sunshine – Gayle Strom
Special Interest Groups – Kerry McHugh-Upton
Webmaster – Bob Monn
Zoom – Nancy Cordell

Community Partners

City of Lacey: Ms. Erin Quinn Valcho
Timberland Library: Agatha Burstein

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Minutes OGS General Meeting (via Zoom) - January 14, 2021 - 49 Attendees

1. **PRESIDENT** - Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There was one guest.
2. **MINUTES** - The minutes from the December meeting were not published in the newsletter. However, they were approved as a number of members had seen them.
3. **TREASURER** - Judy Artley gave her report
4. **VICE PRESIDENT** - Greg Nordlund announced our February speaker will be Joyce Ogden. This is usually our 'Dinner' month, but due to Covid we will hold a regular Zoom meeting. Greg also announced that our March program will be Thomas MacEntee, a nationally known genealogy technology specialist.
5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** - Seminar committee chairman Peggy Cooley announced that registration for the seminar will begin after this meeting. Registration will be on-line only. We have unlimited spaces.
6. **PRESIDENT** - Kathy Erlandson thanked all of the volunteers who make OGS run and encouraged other members to get involved.
7. **PROGRAM** - Greg Nordlund introduced historian Drew Crooks who presented a very interesting program on Fort Nisqually.
8. **OTHER** - Ann Olson, Greg Nordland, Kerry McHugh, Norm Dodge and Barb Moore shared some of their research finds.
9. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:30 p.m.