



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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Eileen Dodge, Editor

A Note from President – Kathy Erlandson

January 1, 2020 was much like any other. We woke up thinking, “What will I do this year?” Many of us made resolutions to eat healthier, exercise more, break down a brick wall, travel more, get organized, quit smoking, learn a new skill or hobby, save more money, or spend more time with friends and family. Little did we know what was awaiting us, just around the corner. A year later, we are looking at things much differently. Some of us achieved our goals. Others of us – not so much.

So, what are we going to do this time? Many of our goals are just as valid as ever, but many of us are looking at the coming year in a totally different way. We still need to practice social distancing. Hence, our visiting is done virtually. We probably won’t be traveling much. Some of us need to try that “lose weight” resolution more seriously this year! But what else? Boredom has become a frequent companion too. What can we do about that?

I would like to challenge you to consider this as a 2021 resolution. Make a difference in your community by volunteering a little bit of your spare time. Olympia Genealogical Society needs YOU! If you are shy about public speaking, or don’t think you have leadership skills, there are still important ways to help. I’m not asking you to take on a part-time job. I am suggesting that you give just one or two hours, or less, per week. The pay-back is deeper friendships which will enrich your life, and a more effective organization, which will help your genealogical research.

Please, if you are not presently on the OGS Board of Directors, will you resolve to volunteer just a little bit of time to make our society stronger, more effective, and more interesting? Please email me at kathyerlandson@yahoo.com, or phone me at 360-28-4802, and just talk with me about it. I’ll tell you what we need, and you can tell me what you like. You would be amazed at how much you can help and how much you’ll love it!

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A Note from Vice President – Greg Nordlund

“Powerful Legacy – Fort Nisqually and the American Settlement of South Puget Sound” is the title of our January meeting presentation.

Local historian Drew W. Crooks will tell us the exciting story of Fort Nisqually (1833-1870), a Hudson’s Bay Company post near the Nisqually River. Fur trading and farming were at the heart of the station’s activities and it had a significant and complicated relationship with Native Americans and American settlers (including the pioneers of Olympia and Tumwater). Fort Nisqually left a powerful legacy, which continues to the present day.



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>

A Note from Zoom Coordinator – Nancy Cordell

Olympia Genealogical Society Meetings on Zoom

There is a new Zoom link for the monthly general meetings, it is: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99337583595?pwd=NW9HTzhwZE41NmNrVUJWcmhKalliZz09>

Meeting ID: 993 3758 3595

Passcode: 971056

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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E)

Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State (JGSWS)

A free presentation of "A Post -Holocaust Genealogical and Family History Journey" from the USA back to Ukraine will be on a Zoom meeting platform on Monday, January 11, 2021 from 6 – 8 pm. To register for this Zoom meeting, copy this link into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222143943?pwd=UE9VOHE0dUF2NTBidkkwK1EvY3R0Zz09>

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, 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

Special Interest Groups 2020~2021

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

A Note from Spring Seminar Chair – Peggy Cooley

Our Spring Seminar registration is just a few weeks away!

This year, on April 24, 2021, we will have speaker Rick Sayre, a nationally recognized and board certified genealogist. His topics will be Land and Military Records.

After our general meeting on January 14, online registration will open. This will be online registration only. OGS members \$40 and Non-OGS members is \$50. We have unlimited openings for this virtual seminar.

Hope you sign up!

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 gggnpoppa@comcast.net.

A Note from Membership Chair – Bob Monn

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

Joe Brookshier

Laurel Haas

Carrie Warren

I also want to thank the 2019-20 members who renewed last month.

Changes Ordering Washington State Birth & Death Certificates

Important changes are coming to the ordering of birth and death certificates 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.

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/>

From the Refreshment Table – Diana Bargmann

Last September, when it was deemed that OGS would not be able to resume physical meetings, two 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, any type of food.

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!

Happy New Year!

OGS Member Contribution - By Joyce Ogden

Spinsters are supposed to be older maiden aunts who sit in a rocking chair in the corner, sew quilts, or maybe rock a baby (or two). However there were two spinster aunts in my mother's family who didn't exactly meet these particular expectations.

First was Safety Edmonds, my mother's paternal great-aunt, who was born in Litchfield County CT about 1793. She was the oldest of six children born to Stephen and Rebecca (Root) Edmonds. When she was about 15 and her youngest sister, Emily, was only two, both parents died ¹ in "an epidemic fever"... leaving the children to "the tender mercies of charity" ². The orphans were split up to live in foster homes, and when the 1820 and 1830 census-takers came around they didn't bother to list them by name. By 1840 Safety was living with her youngest sister, who had married, borne a daughter, and moved to the Town of Amboy in Oswego County, NY ³.

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I suppose she did her share of baby-rocking with niece Rebecca, and maybe some of Rebecca's children who came along in the 1860's after Rebecca had married my mother's paternal grandfather. After sister Emily's husband Amos Doty died in 1865, both she and Safety moved in to the log cabin with Rebecca, her husband James Hamilton Durgee, James's mother Margaret, and of course, their first children. ⁴ That must have been a full house (or cabin!).

But what set Safety apart, and made her a non-traditional spinster aunt, was that she was a rural school teacher. The salary for schoolteachers in Amboy at that time was \$1.00 per day for women and \$1.50 per day for men. ¹ Despite losing most of her savings in a Camden bank during the panic of 1873, there was nonetheless enough money left to will sister Emily the remaining \$100.00 or so, which the family used toward building the new square house on the farm where Emily's daughter and family were living ². The lumber mostly came from the farm property itself, while the \$100 covered the hardware (nails, hinges, door-knobs, etc.). [Photo attached]

Safety died on November 17, 1873 at age 80. Her obituary was brief, almost to the point of non-existence:

Camden Advance, 20 Nov 1873:

DIED EDMONDS-- In Amboy, Nov. 17, 1873, Mrs. [!] S. Edmonds, aged 80 years.

¹ NY State Census 1875, Agriculture, Town of Amboy, Oswego County NY

² "Durgee Family" book, p. 8

¹ First Congregational Church in New Preston, Washington County CT: Edmonds, Stephen / d. Apr. 27, 1812

² Genealogical Record of the James Edmonds Family, p. 44

³ US Census 1840 and 1850, Town of Amboy, Oswego County, NY, family #157

⁴ NY State Census 1865, Town of Amboy, Oswego County NY, family #194



Member Contribution - By Rebel Romero

Savage Mysteries and Discoveries

I was fortunate to spend my Easter break with my Maternal Grandmother Thomas in Santa Cruz, California, before I got married some decades ago. While I was there my Grandmother's first cousin, Claude Savage, and his wife, Georgia Cook Savage, arrived for a visit as they were traveling about in their RV. My Grandmother's Mother was Alice Savage and Alice's brother John was Claude's father. I often introduce Alice Savage into my family history conversations because those kin who are not interested in genealogy will perk up a little bit when I tell them that Alice's Mother was Mary Elizabeth Gump. Yes, as in "Forrest Gump."

But movies aside, I always remembered the dramatic tales Claude and my Grandmother shared while I was in Santa Cruz on Easter break! The story of someone shot in a gunfight in a saloon. In my mind, I could visualize an old western saloon shootout! It seemed one of our Savages was tragically the cause of shooting their own son in the middle of the night. He couldn't see who it was and thought it was an intruder. The stories were flying about the room faster than I could keep up. But I remembered they both knew about someone who was pulled from the river; and that they never knew whether that was a suicide, accident, or murder. Sadly these remain only as tall tales since I never asked for more information.

I met Claude and Georgia several times in later years when they drove their RV to Olympia and stayed at my Mother's. My husband and I got the RV tour, and first person interviews about their family tree. We corresponded over the years until they passed.

I was pleased to use those interviews from the 1970s to add the Savage family to my online tree. Records quickly confirmed the information and helped me trace the Savage kin from Ohio to the Midwest to the West coast.

As the self-appointed family archivist, I have boxes of my Mother's papers as well as letters that belonged to my Grandmother. There is much to scan and share. But I'm also pursuing downsizing. I recently noticed a small box of my Mom's that seemed a quick candidate for downsizing. It was full of newspaper clippings! I went through about 10 clippings and they were all general news items. I was ready to dump the whole box with contents in the recycle when I noticed one of those small newspapers, 16 pages in total. Why would she keep the whole newspaper even though it was a small one? I opened it and the first inside page reveals a full page and a half spread article on Claude Savage! (Titled: "80-year-old retiree finds niche on banks of Panther Creek.") The article mentions their motor home and Santa Cruz, and next to one of his photos says, "C. W. Savage takes a break from work to appreciate the greening of his Panther Creek acreage." I have several color photos of my Mother and Grandmother visiting them on Panther Creek in 1971. This felt like I had discovered the family all over again and brought back fond memories from over the years.

While it did not solve any family tree mysteries, nor old dramatic tales that may be mis-remembered, it reminded me to get busy on those boxes and to look before I trash something! And to get that scanner warmed up!

Olympia Genealogical Society Board of Directors 2019-2020

Elected Officers

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
Webmasters – Bob Monn
Zoom – Nancy Cordell

Community Partners

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