



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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Eileen Dodge, Editor

A Note from Zoom Coordinator – Nancy Cordell

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 type 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 five 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 from President – Kathy Erlandson

See Member Christmas Memories on Page 8 for Kathy's Note from the President.

In This Issue:

Page 1 – Zoom Coordinator, President's Note

Page 2 – Vice President's Note, Wash. Birth & Death Certificates, Claudia Breland

Page 3 – Library, OGS Website, Special Interest Groups

Page 4 – Spring Seminar, Sunshine, Eastman's, WSGS, Roots Tech, Members Recipes

Page 5, 6 – Members Recipes Continued, Members Christmas Memoria

Page 7, 8, 9 – Members Christmas Memories Continued

Page 9 – OGS Board & Committees

A Note from Vice President – Greg Nordlund



ACADEMIC ARCHIVES AND HOW TO USE THEM IN YOUR RESEARCH

Olympia Genealogical Society
General Meeting, December 10

Our December meeting will feature a presentation titled **Academic Archives and How to Use Them in Your Research**.

Mark O'English and Gayle O'Hara from the [Washington State University](#) will give us a look at the types of materials held in archives and special collections at colleges and universities, what you can expect to find there, and how to find materials around the region and the country useful to your genealogy. They will share relevant collections, examples from genealogy researchers they've aided, and tools for identifying and locating resources. We'll learn how academic special collections can help, both in today's complex outbreak times and when we return to "normal."

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.

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>

A Note Regarding the Timberland Library – Retired Librarian, Pat Harper

Genealogy information – US Immigration Records, SSDI, and Census images available anywhere (yes, in your home!) with your TRL Library card number and PIN through December 31, 2020 ([Ancestry Library Tutorial](#)). It says US records, but when I did a search on an ancestor in England I got results from English records.

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

The OGS Virtual Spring Seminar will be held on Saturday, April 24th. We are looking forward to an informative day with Certified Genealogist, Richard G. Sayres as our speaker.

The Seminar Committee is meeting and ticking off items on the To Do list.

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.

Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter:

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

Nuggets From The Washington State Genealogical Society Blog:

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

For more information and to register go to <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

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.

For more information and to register go to <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

From the Refreshment Table



This is the backside of a memorial stone for Maxine K. Menster of Dubuque Iowa. Her family had her Christmas Cookie recipe inscribed on the stone because when Maxine was alive and people would ask for her Christmas Cookie recipe, she would always say “Over my dead body!”

MOM’S CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Ingredients & Directions:

- Cream: 1 cup sugar & ½ cup oleo
- Add: 2 beaten eggs & 1 tsp. vanilla
- Add: 3 cups flour & 3 tsp. baking powder & 1 tsp salt
- Add alternately with 1 cup cream
- Chill and roll out with flour
- Bake 350 degree oven, frost

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ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear Santa:

Don't bring me new dishes;

I don't need a new kind of game.

Genealogists have particular wishes,

For Christmas I just want a surname!

A new washing machine would be great,

But it isn't the desire of my life.

I've just found an ancestor's birth date,

Now I need the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring that

Would put a real diamond to shame.

What I want is a much cheaper thing:

Please give me Martha's last name!

To see my heart singing with joy,

Don't bring me a red leather suitcase.

Bring me a genealogist's toy:

A surname, with dates and a place.

Member Christmas Memories

From Eileen Dodge – two short stories

This first story occurred when I was five years old.

My father came from a large family – he was the fourth of ten children.

Every Thanksgiving and Christmas all the Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins would meet at my Grandparents home for a big dinner. After Dinner on Thanksgiving, everyone, children and adults alike, would draw a name and would be a secret Santa, responsible for buying a gift for that person and presenting it to them when once again we would meet on Christmas Day.

That year, my Uncle Loren drew my name. He went Christmas shopping for not only my gift but also for his wife and three sons. When it came time to wrap the gifts he realized that two of the gift boxes were the same size and tried his best to not get the two gifts mixed up.

Christmas day came, the big family dinner finished, and it was time to find out who your secret Santa was and open the gift in front of everyone so they could see what you had received. When I opened my package there was a set of red baby doll pajamas for an adult woman. My Uncle was embarrassed, my Aunt was furious, and my Grandmother, a Pentecostal Preacher was mortified!

This second story occurred when I was six years old.

That Christmas I was missing my two front teeth. I remember singing the song "All I want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth."

Of course, I did not know it at the time, but the neighbor across the street from us played Santa. That Christmas Santa brought me a Saucy Walker Doll that had two front teeth (see picture in page below). It came with a small toothbrush and a small tube of Ipana toothpaste.



Member Christmas Memories

From Kathy Erlandson – two short stories

Story #1

My Christmas story holds a genealogical tip. “You’d be surprised what you might find in newspaper articles. So, keep searching!

One Christmas of my childhood stands out from all the rest. For me, it was totally different from any other. The season started out like any other; decorating the tree, painting angels on the front windows, singing in the church pageant, baking tons of sugar cookies and decorating with homemade colored sugar. It should have been extra special because my great-grandmother was staying with us while she recovered from cataract surgery. She was so sweet and thought we kids were the best. But on Christmas Eve, 1959, while my mother was at the store for last minute supplies, disaster (for me) struck, as well as my first five minutes of fame, as printed the next day in the Tacoma News Tribune.

Girl Breaks Leg Skipping

Kathleen M. Holcomb, 10, of 634 No. Hawthorne St. hopped when she should have scotched yesterday, fell over a marker and broke her left leg. The accident happened in the garage of her home.

She was reported in satisfactory condition – and traction – at Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital this morning. Attendants said Santa Claus got word of the accident and changed course – her presents were delivered at her bedside.

Merry Christmas to you, or Happy Hanukkah, or Happy Kwanzaa. Whatever you do, don’t play hopscotch!

Story #2

In childhood, I never knew any specific ethnic Christmas traditions. My husband’s family is mostly Norwegian, but other than some ethnic foods, their Christmas celebrations were much the same as mine. However, in 1991, Jim and I became part of a Scandinavian dance band, and subsequently learned and participated in a number of Scandinavian Christmas Traditions. One that I particularly enjoy is the ancient St. Lucia celebration.

Lucia is an ancient mythical figure, the bearer of light in the long dark winters of the north. By tradition, the eldest daughter of a family awakens the family on December 13, dressed in a white gown, or robe, and with a crown of candles on her head, symbolizing the return of light to the world, and carrying a tray of cookies to family members. In the public pageant, she leads a procession of other children, all dressed in white, wearing white cone shaped caps, carrying candles, and singing Santa Lucia.

It is a beautiful ceremony. I wish I had known of it when my children were young. However, in about 2012, I made costumes, hats and candle wreath, and my nieces and grandson enacted the procession for us on Christmas Eve. It is a very special memory.

See a picture of St. Lucia in page below.



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