



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 Group meetings, and the 2021 OGS Seminar via Zoom. You will be able to enter the Zoom meeting at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start 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 OGS members. 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, 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>

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A Note from Vice President – Greg Nordlund

October is the month of colder weather, hot cider and Halloween! In preparation for the holiday, we have asked OGS member **Jerri McCoy** to talk to us about “**The Witches of Salem.**” We of the twenty-first century are aware that witches do not fly across the sky on brooms, but in 1692 charity and mercy – and plain good sense – were all cast aside in persecution of suspected witches in colonial Massachusetts. The Witch Hunt would swell and burn through Salem Village and neighboring towns. How were witches identified? What happened to them? And who were those who were executed that terrible year? Come learn a little bit about them and their meddling neighbors at our general meeting, October 8 at 7 p.m.



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. We will have more information at the November General meeting.

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

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

A Note from Membership Chair – Bob Monn

Please welcome the following new OGS members who joined this past month:

Terry Church Carole Cropley Barbara Moore

Thanks to the many members who have renewed their OGS membership for 2020-2021. A special thanks to those who also have made donations to OGS!

The grace period for renewals ends October 31 [*corrected Oct 3*], so if you haven't yet renewed your membership and are planning to do so, now would be a great time to act! If you have any questions about membership renewal, please contact me at membership@olygensoc.org.

We continue to encourage members to provide photos for use in the Membership List accessible to members only. To have your photo included, please send it to me at the above email address and I will post it.

A Note from President – Kathy Erlandson

I've read a number of articles about organizing one's genealogical research; whole books even. Everybody tells me to stay focused. Set a goal and stay on track. Don't be distracted by tempting bits of information that want to lead you into a different line or topic. Ah-ha! Easy to say! Wise even. But I guess I'm a bad student. I am so easily distracted. It is true that I may never achieve that original goal, but I guess that for me the journey is more important than the destination.

I wrote in September that I am trying to write my mother's obituary. That really is the goal right now, but it sure has led me down some fun and interesting paths. I decided that I should read through a bunch of my family's obits for ideas. That led me to look back at many of the Find-A-Grave memorials created by myself and others. That further diverted me as I found that there were facts new to me, or omissions that I thought I should remedy. That led...well, you get the picture. And before you ask, no. I have not yet written my mother's obituary. However, just starting it was the motivation I needed to break me out of my genealogist's block (like writer's block) and to get me back into researching new and compelling family mysteries.

If you are an organized, focused, motivated genealogist, you may be shaking your head at me. But if you too find yourself temporarily lacking motivation, just pick a path and get started. You may not wind up where you thought you were going, but you just might find yourself on a new and exciting adventure.

In the meantime, please mark your calendar and make it a priority to attend, via Zoom, the October general meeting. Whether you have ancestors from Massachusetts or not, you will be spellbound by Jerri McCoy's program about the Witches of Salem. It is sure to be enchanting.

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.

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>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:

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

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 and 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 accessible 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 group, etc.

A Note Regarding Drop-In-Genealogy (DIG) :

Timberland Regional Library has supported the OGS twice-monthly Drop-In-Genealogy Help Sessions. The library recently informed us by e-mail that when the library reopens to the public, it will no longer support meetings that have one-on-one close contact. The OGS Board is researching ways that we may be able to continue the genealogy research sessions. We will let you know when we have made a decision as to how to proceed. Additionally, the previous DIG Chair, Eileen Dodge, has stepped down and we are now actively looking for a member to head up this committee.

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 via your web browser.

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

From the Refreshment Table – Dianna Bargmann

"From the Refreshment Table" - With our new form of meetings comes a new form of refreshments! I'll bet some of you must have thought I was now out of a job when OGS could no

longer meet physically. But thanks to the suggestion of one of our board members, I have repurposed that job. In lieu of our non-existent refreshments, I am asking all of us in the general membership to consider submitting recipes for our newsletter - any type of food, main dishes, desserts, vegetables and fruits, holiday, snacks, etc.

If we can't actually eat together, we can salivate together as we read them! Also, please include a bit of information about yourself, like your name, how long you've been a member of OGS and/or the areas in the U.S. or world where you are doing your genealogical research, and definitely something about your recipe: why is it a favorite, is it a recipe that's been handed down, is it made during a certain time of the year, have you tweaked the original, etc. You get the idea - just consolidate all of that into a few sentences.

We look forward to seeing many more recipes from our OGS members. Please send them to me at barbourgenealogist@yahoo.com. Below please find the OGS recipe contribution for October.

Our member recipe contribution is from a new member, Carolyn J. Odio
MILDRED'S LEMON POUND CAKE

1 lb of butter

2 cups sugar

6 eggs (the egg whites are folded in at very last)

2 cups of flour

2 oz of lemon extract

In the flour & sugar mixture, mix the butter in.

Mix in the egg yolks and lemon extract and add to flour mixture.

Fold in the beaten egg whites.

Bake at 300 degrees for 1 ½ hrs

Makes 4 little loafs or 2 bread loafs

Extra (optional) only if want to make a "fruit cake" add these:

1 lb white raisins dredged in ¼ cup flour

½ lb candied cherries

2 cups coarsely chopped pecans

(I tweaked it by removing the fruitcake ingredients.)

Family story:

This recipe comes from Mildred (Pearson) Porritt of Lincoln, Nebraska – my mother's sister. She would send these loaves out to the relatives every Christmas. We waited eagerly for Mildred's Lemon Cake.

When I was learning to bake, the recipe was written on a 3x5 card and the lemon extract was written as 2 1oz lemon extract, which meant 2 bottles of 1 oz each, lemon extract. However, I read it as 21 ounces of lemon extract. I marched off to the grocery store and cleared out their shelves of lemon extract. I even summoned the Manager to ask if he had any more lemon extract—he didn't. (You should have witnessed the confusion on his face...) Of course, eventually I realized the mistake. I believe it took me 10 years to use up my supply of lemon extract!

As a side note – my genealogy research areas are: MOORE = Northern Ireland; von NIDA = Germany; ODIO = Costa Rica / Cuba / Italy; PEARSON & MOORE = Lincoln & Hastings, Nebraska.

OGS Member Contribution - By Roger Newman

John McPhail (abt 1809-1876)

John McPhail was born to Murdo MacPhail and Catherine McAskill around 1809 in Shawbost, Scotland, on the Isle of Lewis. John's grandparents are believed to be John and Margaret

(MacLeod) MacPhail and Murdo and Effie (MacLean) MacAskill. In 1832 John MacPhail signed a contract with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). He arrived at York Factory, Manitoba, Canada in the same year. He made his way through Canada by the rivers and the trails until he got to HBC Fort Vancouver (Vancouver, Washington today) the next spring. He worked as a shepherd at the fort for many years. The Journal of Occurrences for HBC Fort Vancouver have been misplaced or destroyed so we do not have day-to-day activities for John McPhail until he transferred to HBC Fort Nisqually (DuPont, Washington today) in 1850.

Mainly he was a shepherd, but at different times led groups of Indians in different seasonal activities at the fort. He continued to make trips to HBC Vancouver and HBC Victoria (Victoria, British Columbia today) as needed. He did have one vice and that was alcohol, as many other men did. The fort's solution was to put John in the potato shack to sober up.

He was married at least four different times and had numerous children. The only children surviving to adulthood are from his last wife, which was Margaret, who was of the Snohomish Nation. The children are (1) Catherine "Snohomish Kate," who married first to Perry D. Woodworth Sr. After he died, she married a second time Roderick Byrd. She had children by both husbands: (2) John Jr. married Emma Sears and had several children and a stepdaughter; (3) Murdoc married first Jane Northover and after her death married second Mary (Tyler) Alexander. He had children by both wives. She had children from a prior marriage to Joseph William Perry Alexander. The marriage of Roderick Byrd and Catherine (McPhail) Woodworth is one of the most unusual I have seen. In 1886 it was illegal to cohabit. A complaint was filed against them both and they were both arrested and put in the Tacoma jail. Solution: Get married in jail to get out of jail. So that is what happened in 1886 Tacoma!

In 1854 John McPhail settled on a donation land claim of 315 acres on Muck Creek in Pierce County South of Spanaway, Washington. John and his boys farmed the land and grew hay, which they sold to the Army. During the Indian Wars of 1855-56, John McPhail and four others were arrested for aiding the Indians. They were later released. Local historians have named them the Muck Creek Five. The Washington Territorial Militia raided and ransacked their farm. Governor Stevens got himself in many legal problems the way he conducted himself during the Indian Wars. He later died during the Civil War. Catherine after separating from Roderick moved with her children to the Skok Reservation in Shelton. The children from the first marriage (Woodworth) did not stay on the reservation but the children from her second marriage (Byrd) did. John Jr. and Murdoc both stayed in the Pierce County area. Margaret, wife of John McPhail, died in 1865 and John died in 1876 while taking a load of hay to the army at Steilacoom. The horses were spooked and started running. John's son told him to jump off the hay wagon, which he did, resulting in his death. The fact that he only had one arm probably contributed to his death. When and how he lost his arm has not yet been discovered.

John McPhail is my 3rd great grandfather. Perry D. Woodworth Sr. and Catherine McPhail are my 2nd great grandparents.

Nuggets From The Washington State Genealogical Society Blog:

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

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
Drop In Genealogy Help – OPEN
Election Committee – Varies from year to year
FaceBook – Kerry McHugh-Upton
Historian – Joyce Ogden
Library Liaison – Agatha Burstein
Membership – Bob Monn
Memorials – OPEN
Multi-Media – Rebel Romero
Newsletter – Eileen Dodge
Outreach – OPEN
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, Kerry McHugh-Upton & Jerri McCoy
Zoom – Nancy Cordell

Community Partners

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