



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 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 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=9isp3gPeQ0E>

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A Note from Vice President – Greg Nordlund

How well do you know your way around the OGS website? Well, at the September meeting we'll be taken on a guided tour by our web masters, Bob Monn and Kerry McHugh Upton. There are sections, resources and tools you may never have known existed. Bob and Kerry will show us where to find documents, archival materials, tools to help you collaborate, what's available publicly and what's behind the curtain "for members only."

One exciting thing about meeting remotely this year is the possibility of having speakers at our monthly meetings that would have been geographically out of reach before. Now we can reach out all over the state, the country, the world to find someone we want to hear from.

Maybe you know a person through your research or your family who has a fascinating tale to tell, a unique set of research tips, a little-known bit of history. Of course, most of our speakers will continue to be local experts from the community and our membership, but it's also a time to dream big! If you have any great ideas about people, topics or places you want to hear about, send your ideas to me at gregnordlund@gmail.com

The next General Meeting will be Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 pm in the Zoom format.

A Note from President – Kathy Erlandson

Finally, September. Summer is wonderful, but I've missed you all, and I'm looking forward to our September 10 program meeting. No, it isn't the same as meeting in person, but at least we can see each other's faces on Zoom, and if you sign in before the start of meeting, you get a chance to chat and visit a bit. Maybe you didn't participate in the June virtual meeting. I urge you to give it a try. We had good attendance and fun, and it was easy! If you need help getting started, please contact me and I will see that you get some help.

Isolation has taken a bite out of the fun of summer for most of us. Although I have really enjoyed the sunshine and flowers, I have had some additional challenges this summer. You may already know that my mother is dying. I really did not expect her to still be holding on by September, but she is. To my surprise, she made it to her 90th birthday, although she slept through the celebration. So, not surprisingly, writing Mama's obituary has been on my mind.

Obituaries are an important tool for us, as genealogists. Each of us has probably read scores of them, but reading and writing are two very different things. So, I'm doing some online research about how to write a good one. I'm pleased to see that there are a great many articles there, and I am confident I'll be able to write a good one, if I can just get my heart to allow it.

A few years back, we had a wonderful program about writing your own obituary. I wish I could find my notes from that program. It was informative as well as humorous. One of the points being made was that if you write your own, you get the last word in saying what you want people to remember about you. Some great examples of the alternative were shared, like the following:

"...was born in Galveston on November 20, 1942 and passed away January 30, 2017, which was 29 years longer than expected and much longer than he deserved."

"Her extensive vocabulary was more than highly proficient at knowing more curse words than most people learned in a lifetime."

"Dolores had no hobbies, made no contribution to society and rarely shared a kind word or deed in her life...her presence will not be missed by many, very few tears will be shed and there will be no lamenting over her passing."

Ouch! I think when I'm done with my mother's obituary, I'd better get cracking on my own!

Have you found some fun, interesting or scathing obits in your own searches? I'd love to hear about them. Maybe this could be a future program for OGS.

A Note from Membership Chair – Bob Monn

Please welcome the following new OGS members who joined this summer:

Shiloh Kauzlarich Shari Peterson Carolyn Odio

Please also note that September is the beginning of a new OGS membership year – Happy New Year! OGS membership renewals now are due for dues-paying members who did not join after June 1 this year or have not recently renewed. Please see the “article” at the top of the OGS home page for more information about how to renew your membership. Thanks much!

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 monthly, 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 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 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 Spring Seminar Chair – Peggy Cooley

Your OGS Seminar Committee has started work on the 2021 Spring Seminar.

As you know, the Seminar will be in virtual mode, which we found was successful this past April. The title is OGS Spring Seminar 2021: Land and Military Records. Certified Genealogist, Richard G. Sayres will be our speaker - check him out at his website <http://www.sayreandsayre.com/aboutUs.htm>

A Note Regarding Drop-In Genealogy (DIG) :

Timberland Regional Library has supported the OGS twice-monthly Drop-In Genealogy 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.

Nuggets From The Washington State Genealogical Society Blog:

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

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>

Front and center of this week's issue is "A Tombstone with a Video Screen" – here it is:

Mr. Robert Barrows of Burlingame, California, has filed a patent application for his design of a tombstone that can accommodate video equipment operated by a remote control. "You can go from grave to grave and click on anything that person wanted to say before they died," said Mr. Barrows. Messages could include telling your side of the story, making amends, or saying "sweet things to loved ones," he added. Mr. Barrows declared that it would be a far more "dramatic" way of communicating from beyond the grave than leaving a videotaped message to be played at home.

Barrows also stated, "Imagine how interesting it would to go to tombstones where you didn't know the person, or historical tombstones to find out what someone had to say... ."

Is it just me, or do other people think this is an idiotic idea? Wait, it gets worse.

Inventor Barrows maintains that computer equipment could be installed in the tombstone and connected up to the Internet, enabling people to program their messages to be delivered long after they have died. Barrows suggests that the person who died could use one of those "after I die" email services to update his messages.

Refreshment Chair – 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.

Contact me at 360-357-4251 or <barbourgenealogist@yahoo.com> about submitting. Please be sure to double-check the measurements and directions of your recipe before submitting unless you want to invite the ire of your fellow members.

I will kick off our project for the new OGS year with the following recipe. I don't know if I would call it worthy of salivation but here it is. This is prepared in a slow cooker although I imagine it would do just as well in the oven on a cookie sheet or rimmed shallow baking pan. I have to confess that I haven't tried it yet (not always a good recipe to pass on) but it sounds as if you couldn't mess it up too badly. What prompted me to pick this one was remembering some of you who have expressed a desire to eat your refreshments during the meeting, rather than after - in fact, maybe a Zoom meeting is your idea of perfect! Just be sure your mic is off when you are actively crunching and munching. And I think that it is obvious that this recipe was not passed down from my great-grandmother! Enjoy!

BBQ SNACK MIX - Source: from some cooking magazine?

Prep Time: 10 minutes - Slow Cook: 1-2 hours - Cool: 30 minutes.

Nonstick Cooking Spray

3 cups crispy corn and rice cereal

2 cups bite-size multi bran cereal

2 cups oyster crackers

2/3 cup slivered almonds

1 tsp. dried thyme

1 tsp. paprika

1 tsp. packed brown sugar

1/4 tsp. ground cumin

1/4 tsp. dry mustard

1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

3 Tbsp. olive oil

Directions:

1. Lightly coat a 5 to 6 quart slow cooker with cooking spray. Add cereals, crackers, and almonds. In a sm. bowl, combine the next 6 ingredients (through cayenne pepper). Drizzle cereal mixture with oil, tossing to coat. Sprinkle with spice mixture, tossing to coat.
2. Cover and cook on low for 2 hours, stirring every 30 minutes, or on high 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes.
3. Spread snack mix in an even layer in a 9X13 baking pan; cool completely. Store in an airtight container up to 2 weeks.

OGS Member Contribution - By Laurel Haas

Tell Curley to Help You, and Keep his Mouth Shut! A Story of a Kidnapping in 1928 Los Angeles

I became a genealogist after taking a DNA test, when I realized I could figure out who my mother's biological parents were. My mother was adopted in Los Angeles in 1924, by the Ohlhausens, a midwestern couple who recently moved to Los Angeles from Seattle, where George Ohlhausen tried his hand at gold mining, and where George and Thula had lost their baby.

I was searching through newspapers for an announcement of an adoption of my mother (who was just brought home one day to Thula, according to family legend). Instead I found a story of how my mother's adoptive father, George Ohlhausen had been kidnapped. The story read like the dialogue from a gangster movie. The kidnapers even looked like gangsters.



George Ohlhausen, surrounded by his captors, L.A. Times, 4/13/28

George was kidnapped at gunpoint from his house at 2010 West 47th Street. According to his account, he was forced by gunpoint to lie on the floor of the car and brought to the home of one of the kidnapers, E.C. Morris, where he is gagged, taped to a chair, and his ears were stuffed with cotton. He was then forced to write a ransom letter to Thula. He wrote:

“Dear Thula:

You go to the Farmers’ and Merchants’ Bank, get that \$4,500 that is in the savings account and what there is in the checking account.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Also, there is a hundred or two in the Pacific Southwest at Washington and Vermont, and take deeds of the house and raise the balance of \$10,000.

Deliver this to these people as they say. For God's sake do as these people say and do not talk to the police. If anyone asks where I am, tell them I am in San Francisco.

For God's sake keep your mouth shut and do as these people say and the quicker you do this, the quicker I will get home.

Have Curley help you and tell him to keep his mouth shut.

Signed
Your Daddy, George Ohlhausen"

The letter was delivered to Thula by a taxicab driver hailed at Hollywood and Vine. Meanwhile, George was brought to a filling station in the San Fernando Valley where he was thrown into a locker in the basement. He lay there for hours, but then he was taken out, trussed to a post in a room, and left on his own. George got himself loose, went to a neighboring home, and called the police.

Officer Murphy was patrolling Ventura Boulevard with his partner, Officer Marr, when he saw a speeding car. They blocked the road and stopped the car. The occupants were heavily armed, and the car was stacked with luggage, like they were planning to skip town. The kidnapers were caught quickly.

Just a week or so later, on April 24, 1928, E.C. Morris was brought before a judge (which seemed to be a very fast justice system. Here he said, "I just paid the outfit back for what they did to me two years ago. They got 367 cases and \$1,700 from me, and I didn't snitch on the one of them."

When the judge asked who the people (the outfit) were, E.C. Morris said I'll never tell. Pronounce your sentence as soon as possible. I'm ready to take my medicine."

George, who was portrayed as an innocent, respectable citizen, at the mercy of kidnapers, was arrested for bootlegging about four months later.

I recall my mother telling me her adoptive father, who died in 1955, was a bootlegger. He was a "ne'er do well", according to my sister. To me he seemed like maybe a man of schemes, with dredging for gold and bootlegging as two of his occupations. I vaguely remember a kidnapping story from many years ago, but if I did, I had forgotten all about it. My research really brought it to life.

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Cousin Thula, Thula Ohlhausen, my mother Merle, and George Ohlhausen, in early 1920s Los Angeles

I also wrote a little script for it, and with my actress partner, re-enacted it and filmed it, and you can see it [here](#), via youtube.

Sources:

“Men and Two Women Jailed in Asserted Kidnapping Campaign”, Los Angeles Times, April 13, 1928

“Feudist Takes his Medicine”, Los Angeles Times, April 24, 1928

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