



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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Eileen Dodge, Editor

A Note from Newsletter Editor – Eileen Dodge

You will note that there are some new features in this month's Newsletter. My hope is to include all of these in future editions.

First, there is a new section called OGS MEMBER CONTRIBUTION. It will feature OGS members' stories, solved and unsolved genealogy mysteries, genealogy travel adventures, genealogy related jokes, etc. Ideal length would be less than 600 words, but something longer might be serialized.

Second, there is a new section for Reunion Remembrances and/or Reunion how-to suggestions for a successful reunion.

Third, is new section: NUGGETS FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BLOG.

Fourth, is a new section: NOTES FROM THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CLAUDIA C. BRELAND. Claudia has invited you to subscribe to her free monthly online Newsletter: <http://www.ccbreland.com>.

Fifth, is a new section: EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER. On his website, <https://blog.eogn.com>, there is an option for you to sign up for his free weekly Newsletter.

Sixth, is a new section: ANCESTRY SOCIETY NEWS. This monthly Newsletter includes both free and member information on new and updated additions to their collections.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the Newsletter contents, or if you have a story you would like to include, please contact me – edodge1946@comcast.net.

As a side note, this will be the last OGS Newsletter of the 2019-2020 operating year. The next Newsletter will be published September 1, 2020 when the new operating year begins.

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A Note from President – Kathy Erlandson

How many ways are there to research your genealogy? How many possible repositories of information and avenues of research to investigate? My head spins when I think of all the resources I have explored, often without success, and how many more there are. Thank goodness, we are rewarded with clues, hints, and answers often enough to keep us trying. Sometimes we are astonished to find what we are looking for in a totally unexpected place. What is the strangest place you have found a valuable piece of information? I just might have you beat for strangest place. I'll give you some hints: 7:00 Heckle and Eckle; 7:30 Cartoon Carnival; 8:00 Ruff and Reddy, Kaptain Kangaroo; 9:30 Howdy Doody.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, I have begun to face up to the fact that I can't keep saying, "Before I die I must...." and then continue to procrastinate. So, I recently resolved to finally look through all of the photos and documents that I have amassed from my parents, grandparents, ancestors and in-laws, and to whip them into some kind of useful or searchable order. It is a slow, painful process. Painful because I am having to make those terrible decisions of what to keep and what to toss. But in the process of digging, weeding and winnowing, I have found the answer to a long-held question. Have you guessed where? No? I found it in a 1958 TV Guide.

I just laughed right out loud, and I've had so much fun looking through it, and remembering the programs I loved to watch when I was 9 years old. But the biggest surprise came when I saw a featured program and a familiar face opposite the ad for the Ozzie & Harriet show. There was a picture of my father and the ad for his nightly Fishing Report, 10 p.m. on Channel 13. I have been trying for a long time to piece together my father's work history. I knew most of the 'whats', but wasn't certain of the 'whens'.

I guess the message is keep looking. You never know when the answer is going to stare you in the face. I'd love to hear your stories of surprise discoveries at a future General Meeting. Which brings me to remind you of an important announcement. In light of the continuing need for social distancing, and the uncertainty of when that will change, our Board of Directors has made the decision to make all monthly General Meetings of the 2020-2021 Program Year 'virtual' meetings, through Zoom video conferencing. You will get instruction of how to attend these meeting very shortly, and our first one will be Thursday, June 11. We can still see each other, enjoy a program, share our stories and hold the annual election of officers in this new way. I look forward to seeing you June 11!

A Note from Vice President – Greg Nordlund

Looking forward to seeing you all on my screen on the 11th for our general meeting via Zoom! Our speaker will be a familiar face and voice, Steven Morrison. Steve's presentation is "Is It True? Using Manuscripts and Family Records for Genealogical Proof" which will tell us how to get the most out of seemingly minor family records like – including diaries, letters, and personal photographs.

A Coronavirus Note - Greg Nordlund

During the coronavirus quarantine, I've been thinking about two of my great-grandmothers, who experienced the flu pandemic in 1918. One of them died from the flu in the second wave in 1919. The other great-grandmother actually wrote about several episodes in her life, including the flu. She was a young mother and the family was hit hard by the virus. She, her husband and 8-year-old daughter were very ill and nearly debilitated. The family survived with the help of neighbors who delivered food and, amazingly, my grandmother who was a 4-year-old at the time. She tended to her family until they were well enough to care for each other.

I am very lucky to have these writings and I would like to challenge us all to commit some part of this current outbreak to paper. It doesn't have to be much - how you made do, a description of one aspect of staying home, your feelings/fears, someone who helped you, learning how to make a video call, etc. It will be part of your history one day.

See you in September!

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

Our virtual Seminar was a success! We had 78 people who registered and most tuned in "live" to an informative and well-presented Seminar by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin. Some were from out of state, but many were our OGS members. The presentations were recorded and made available to registrants for 30 days following the event.

Our Ad Hoc Committee (Nancy Cordell, Kerry McHugh Upton and Bob Monn) was fantastic! Before my disappointment over cancelling the face-to-face event had time to take hold, they came up with the virtual idea and planned it all.

Now that we know Zoom works well for genealogy purposes, we are thinking about how else to use this technology.

A Note from Drop-In Genealogy (DIG) Chair– Eileen Dodge

Timberland Regional Library has supported the OGS twice-monthly Drop-In Genealogy Sessions. The library recently informed us that by e-mail that when the library reopens to the public, it will no longer support meetings that have one-on-one close contact meetings. 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.

Radio Genealogy – Diana Bargmann

Radio Station KMAS (1030 AM & 103.3 FM) has a genealogy broadcast called Extreme Genes. It is America's Family History Show. The broadcasts are on Saturday mornings from 7 – 8 am.

For those who find 7 am too early, they have the current as well as past episode podcasts available online at extremegenes.com. It's nice to have that option to the episodes, and all podcasts, present and past have full online transcripts of each episode.

Scott Fisher hosts all episodes; the subjects are varied and have guest speakers such as Judy Russell, Dr. Henry Louis Gates, CeCe Moore, David Allen Lambert, Dr. Blaine Bettinger, etc.

Additionally, there is a section entitled Fisher's Top Tips and News (articles of genealogical interest).

Nuggets from The Washington State Genealogical Society Blog:

Arolsen Archives: The Arolsen Archives–International Centre on Nazi Persecution (formerly known as the International Tracing Service) reached a milestone this week and now has all 26 million of its documents available online. This collection includes information on 21 million people who were displaced, persecuted and murdered by the Nazis. The new uploads include data on the deportations of Jews, Roma and Sinti from the former German Empire, Austria, Bohemia and Moravia.

What documents can you find in the Arolsen Archives and helpful hints on searching for them can be found here: <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/help/>

Notes from The Monthly Newsletter of Claudia C. Breland:

Companies Offering Free Resources During Quarantine:

- Ancestry Library Edition, normally only available INSIDE most public libraries, is now available from home with your library card
- National Genealogical Society is offering free access to their NGS Monthly, through July 31, 2020
- Legacy Family Tree Webinars is offering a free webinar every day, through the end of this month
- JSTOR (Journal Storage) offers free access during the pandemic
- The British Museum offers millions of images for free

Claudia has invited you to subscribe to her free monthly online Newsletter: <http://www.ccbreland.com>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:

Explore 6 million new, free, historical records: Guatemala, England, Peru, Argentina, DR Congo, Venezuela, Chile, South Africa, Brazil, American Samoa, United States Obituaries, vital, passenger and voter records were also added: Wisconsin, Louisiana, Hawaii, Arizona, Arkansas, New Jersey, California, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Utah, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Montana, Idaho, Oklahoma, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi and Iowa.

Ancestry Society News:

New Collections

- Alabama, Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, Church Records, 1837-1970
- Washington, Various County Census Records, 1850-1914
- Minnesota, Marriages from the Minnesota Official Marriage System, 1850-2019
- St. Louis County, Minnesota Birth Index, 1870-1900
- St. Louis County, Minnesota, Death Index, 1870-1899
- Minnesota, St. Louis County Marriage Index, 1871-1894
- Global Obituary Updates New York State, Extradition Requisition and Mandate Registers, 1857-1938
- U.S., Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic Membership Records, 1865-1936
- Latvia Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1854-1909
- ANZAC Memorial, 1914-1918
- Australia WWII AIF Service Records, 1939-1947

Updated Collections

- Texas, Select County Marriage Records, 1837-2015
- Tennessee, Death Records, 1908-1965
- North Dakota, Marriage Records, 1872-2017
- Global Find A Grave Updates
- New York, Discharges of Convicts, 1882-1915
- New York, Executive Orders for Commutations, Pardons, Restorations, Clemency and Respites, 1845-1931
- New York, Grand Army of the Republic Records, 1866-1931
- California, Voter Registers, 1866-1898
- England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800-2016
- Liverpool, England, Catholic Baptisms, 1741-1916
- Liverpool, England, Catholic Marriages, 1754-1932
- Liverpool, England, Catholic Burials, 1813-1985
- Liverpool, England, Catholic Confirmations, 1813-1922
- Liverpool, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1917
- Liverpool, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932
- Liverpool, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1975
- UK, WWI Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914-1923

Reunion Remembrances – By Diana Bargmann

Most of us have attended a family reunion at some point in our lives – some with fond remembrances, others best forgotten, depending on the cast of characters involved. For me, the words “family reunion” have always conjured up the picture of an endless sea of people, visiting with each other in a friendly fashion, maybe not really knowing each other all that well but content with the fact that they have an ancestor or two in common, who is responsible for them being there. I do not come from a background such as this, but I had heard of reunions a number of times during my forays into West Virginia while doing research on my paternal ancestors. Dorothy, my elderly, extremely knowledgeable friend and guide (and yes, she was right, we were related!) knew the county inside and out, including the current events, such as the Judah Fitzwater reunion. At the time, I didn’t realize Judah was in my family tree, too, so I would have qualified to attend. Would that one of my visits had coincided with a reunion of that magnitude – I’ll bet there would have been some darn good eating!

Historically speaking, both sets of my paternal great-grandparents had had large families. One wife, Synthia, had devoted 21 years of her life to childbearing, ending up with 12 children. She’d already had 11 of them by the time her oldest daughter Viola died, just a few weeks after delivering her first child. So the first grandchild was adopted into her mother’s large birth family, which currently had a new baby. Then to top it off, the very next year after the granddaughter became a permanent resident, Synthia had one more baby of her own, giving her two 1-yr.-olds and a new infant. But I am digressing as genealogists are wont to do when discussing their ancestors. The point I wanted to make was that for years, I had assumed these families must have had big reunions. But not so, after interviewing descendants who were children at the time, it became apparent that only those siblings who were close in age to each other got together in smaller groups in the future, not the entire clan. In fact, since the older siblings were often already gone from the home when the youngest ones were born, some of their offspring had never even heard of the others due to the wide age span.

In my own family, I was the initiator of the family reunion. After the deaths of my parents, there didn’t seem to be any central meeting place (previously the home of my parents) for the 5 adult children and their families. Being the oldest, it seemed to be my responsibility to head up a solution – no one else spoke up for the position anyway. So after several years of trying to coordinate the schedules of various people (it wasn’t even because there were so many of us – we numbered less than 20), we were able to launch the first reunion in the year 2000. It was held at my brother’s house in Duvall, WA and most of us came, spread out over several states as we were. We enjoyed each other’s company, the large offering of food, and with only a weekend to visit, the congeniality didn’t have time to succumb to any altercations. The plan was to hold the event every other year rather than annually, and to take turns hosting it so the same people weren’t always doing the long-distance traveling. That seemed to work well until 2008 when my sister was the hostess. Known for her fractious personality and love of disruption, I should have known this year wasn’t destined for anything good. Sure enough, in the blink of an eye, she’d managed to whip up several disputes simultaneously, and then sat back with a grin watching it all play out! You’re right; you

wouldn't want her for your sister either! Everyone left upset or disgruntled, and just like that, my dream of this reunion stretching on for generations to come, not to mention my name being praised down through the years as the creator of it, went up in smoke. I never had the heart or energy to try to resurrect it.

But I hope, when the future allows us to do so again, that this doesn't discourage any of you from starting your own reunions because until 2008, my family had a great time seeing each other and renewing our relationships. Plus, you wouldn't have you-know-who there! I think it would be great to hear about the reunions of other OGS members through our newsletter and hope that many of you will submit your experiences in future issues. It goes without saying, that I have great admiration for those reunions that have been held for many years!

OGS Member Contribution – By Joyce Ogden:

A SIX-YEAR SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS: OGDEN FAMILY TRAGEDIES 1915-1921

In 2014 Ancestry.com brought up a collection of "Pennsylvania Death Certificates, 1906-1963".¹ Little did I realize how much was hiding beneath those Ogden tombstones in Sandy Bank Cemetery, Lackawanna County, PA! The unfolding of this tragic family tale begins in 1915, and ends 6 years later with many of its members dead.

At the start of 1915, a census of my Great-grandfather William Casper Ogden's family shows the 70-year-old patriarch living on his family farm in Scott Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. There also was his wife Esther (Lee) Ogden, 70; daughter Blanche, 38 and her husband Mark Wilmot, 37; and Mark and Blanche's children Ruth, 14; Ralph, 12; Royal, 9; Reid, 7; Fred, 5; and Helen, 2. Nearby was the family of William's only son, William Garfield Ogden, 32; his wife Fannie (Decker) Ogden, 40; and their children Grace, 9; William Casper, 6; and Sylvia, 3.²

On February 9, 1915, William Garfield Ogden's house caught fire and wife Fannie was burned to death.³ William Garfield and the three small children somehow survived.

A short year later, on January 22, 1916, patriarch William Casper Ogden's wife Esther died of a cerebral hemorrhage.⁴

¹ Ancestry.com. *Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1963. Original data: Pennsylvania (State) Death certificates, 19096-1963. Series 11.90.*

² All names and dates are from family records

³ Death certificate, Fannie Ogdon [!], Feb. 19, 1915

⁴ Death certificate, Esther Ogden, Jan. 22, 1916

Two years later, on March 27, 1918 patriarch William Casper Ogden re-married to a local widow, Clara (Grosvenor) Hinklie.⁵ She told the marriage license officer that she was 59, when she was actually 62. My grandmother Nettie (Ogden) Turner wrote to her father on April 18:

“I hope you will be happy and take lots of comfort, and I hope you will make your wife happy. It is very hard to live alone, and you have had lots of troubles. Tell her I hope she will be happy and enjoy life...”⁶

On November 5, 1919, son William Garfield Ogden and now a widower died of kidney disease.⁷ His three children were first sent to live with their aunt and uncle, Blanche (Ogden) and Mark Wilmot.⁸ Youngest daughter Sylvia wrote to my mother:

“.. Aunt Blanche was appointed our guardian when Dad died Nov. 5, 1919, & we were all separated. I was raised by Martha Shorts & Whit Lee, went there when 9 yrs [abt 1920]”

Patriarch William Casper Ogden’s second marriage was short-lived. His second wife Clara died on January 22, 1920 from heart and kidney disease.⁹ He was again a widower.

Most people hope to die in their beds, but Patriarch William was not so lucky. Fifteen months later, on April 27, 1921, he fell from a wagon, fractured his skull, and died.¹⁰ Thus ended this six-year series of unfortunate events.

Accidents continued to pursue the Ogdens, however. In 1938, son-in-law Mark Wilmot fell from a ladder to the floor of his barn, got a brain concussion, and died a lingering death on November 27.¹¹ The family farm was taken over by his second son, Royal, then aged 33.

⁵ Application for Marriage License, State of Pennsylvania, Lackawanna County. William C. Ogden—Clara C. Hinklie, 26 Mar 1918.

⁶ Letter, Nettie Ogden Turner to her father, William Ogden, April 18, 1918

⁷ Death certificate, William Ogden, Nov. 5, 1919 (I’ve omitted specific medical terminology, because modern terminology might not agree)

⁸ Letter, Sylvia Ogden to my mother, June 10, 1972

⁹ Death certificate, Clara C. Ogden, Jan. 22, 1920

¹⁰ Death certificate, William C. Ogden, Apr. 27, 1921

¹¹ Death certificate, Mark A. Wilmot, Nov. 27, 1938



William Casper Ogden and his first wife, Esther Lee. He had blue eyes and a red beard, and passed on many of his facial features to my father and my son.

Photo below is their farmhouse in Scott Township, Lackawanna County, PA



Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

You can access information as to date, time, location and group coordinator in the Members Only content on the OGS website; click on Special Interest Groups in the main menu.

Ancestry.com – led by Greg Nordlund
DNA – led by Kerry McHugh Upton
Family Search – led by Carolyn Gibbons
Family Tree Maker – led by David Abernathy
Legacy – led by Gayle Strom
Roots Magic – led by Rosemary Walrod
Writing Your Family History - led by Cindy Neff

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 – Eileen Dodge
Election Committee – Varies from year to year
FaceBook – Kerry McHugh Upton
Historian – Joyce Ogden
Library Liaison – Agatha Burstein
Membership – Bob Monn
Memorials –
Multi-Media – Rebel Romero
Newsletter – Eileen Dodge
Outreach –
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

Community Partners

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