



Olympia

Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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December 2019

Eileen Dodge, Editor

A Note from President – Kathy Erlandson

I've been very fortunate in my personal genealogy odyssey, especially in its beginnings. I am fortunate that a great grandmother left a genealogical treasure trove, which planted the seeds of my own eventual interest and research in family history.

Born in 1879, Grandma Cone belonged to a generation of letter-writers, (not texters or tweeters) and lucky for me, she was also a letter-keeper. As a result, Grandma knew generations of who married whom, when and where, as well as birthdates, death dates, children born, etc. etc. etc. But Grandma went a step further, she recorded all that information, and passed it to subsequent generations. I have in my possession her 6-foot-long, hand drawn family tree, which contains many names in her extended family. I also have 40 pages of handwritten notes of those names and dates, and best of all, I have about 70 pages of personal memoir. Reading and transcribing all those pages was such a wonderful adventure that I was hooked.

Since then, I have vicariously lived the life of a seafaring scallywag, my grandfather, as I transcribed years of notes and tape recordings to become over 40 single-spaced pages of memoir. And more recently, I've had the privilege, and admittedly, frustration, of transcribing my own mother's memoirs. I have to laugh, because the frustration part came from the fact that although Mom wrote her memoirs on her computer, she never understood that it wasn't "getting too full". So, when she was done, she printed it out and deleted the digital file. But I bless her for doing the job in the first place.

What am I doing to carry on this tradition, besides all this transcribing and entering into Family Tree Maker? I've made so many false starts on my own memoirs! I begin, then think that surely, nobody would be interested in my boring life. The interesting times are all behind me! But somehow, I know that is not entirely true. Future generations will never know about sitting at a telephone table, holding a 2-pound receiver to talk with friends, or having to pay money for every phone call to a grandma in Oregon. I guess our 'today' will become their 'olden days'. Will we save it for them?

A Note from Vice-President – Greg Nordlund

DNA Redux.

Using DNA for genealogy is no longer the "new thing" and we should all have some knowledge about what it is and how it works.

At our December 12 meeting, we will get a crash refresher course about DNA—what it is, how to test it and what it can, and can't, tell us about our ancestors.

Our presenter is longtime OGS member, Carol Ballard, who also leads the genealogy and DNA efforts at Panorama.

Please join us for our 7:00 pm meeting and presentation.

A Note from Refreshment Chair - Diana Bargmann

From the Refreshment Corner: This month we'll have our holiday party celebration at the general meeting.

Everyone is invited to bring refreshment contributions - maybe a family recipe that's been passed down for generations or part of your ethnic heritage, something you like to make every December or maybe just a plate of food you want to make sure is there because it's your favorite!

Anyway, it will be a 2-table affair to be sure we have room for everything, so don't miss the December meeting!

A Note from Spring Seminar Chair - Peggy Cooley

We've finalized the title and presentations for the Spring Seminar on March 28, 2020.

Please join us for *Ancestral Origins through the Eyes of a German Genealogist*. Teresa Steinkamp McMillin will cover these topics: Kickstart Your German Genealogy; Voyages of our German Ancestors; He took Her Name; and Petition to Oath: U.S. Naturalization for Genealogists.

My thanks to the Seminar Committee for their hard work.

For the first time, we will offer on-line registration as well as mail in registration. Stay tuned!

The seminar will be held at the Capital Event Center - 6005 Tye Drive South West, Tumwater from 9 am to 4 pm. Registration begins January 9, 2020.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

You can access information as to date, time, location and group coordinator in the Members Only area of the OGS website. Just click on Special Interest Groups.

Ancestry.com - led by Gred Nordlund

Computer Support Group - led by David Abernathy

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

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 Drop In Genealogy Help (Dig) - Eileen Dodge

DIG Help usually meets at the Olympia Library, however the library is closed December 2019 and January 2020 for remodeling. Therefore, our sessions will be on the same day and time in the meeting room at the Tumwater Library.

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
Cemetery Project – Norman & Eileen Dodge
Drop In Genealogy Help – Eileen Dodge
Election Committee –
FaceBook – Kerry McHugh-Upton
Historian – Joyce Ogden
Library Liaison – Juliet Lawson-Hall
Membership – Bob Monn
Memorials –
Multi-Media – Rebel Romero
Newsletter – Eileen Dodge
Outreach –
Publicity – Joyce Ogden
Refreshment – 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

Olympia Genealogical Society Events Calendar – November 2019

OGS General Meeting	Thursday, December 12	7:00-9:00 pm
Thurston County Courthouse	2000 Lakeridge Drive SW	Building 1, Room 152
<u>Guests are always welcome</u>		
OGS Spring Seminar Committee	Tuesday, December 17	6:00-7:00 pm
Thurston County Courthouse	2000 Lakeridge Drive SW	Building 1, Room 152
<u>Any OGS member in good standing may attend</u>		
OGS Board Meeting	Tuesday, November 19	7:00-8:00 pm
Thurston County Courthouse	2000 Lakeridge Drive SW	Building 1, Room 152
<u>Any OGS member in good standing may attend</u>		
OGS Drop In Genealogy Help	Thursday, December 19	1:00-3:00 pm
Tumwater Timberland Library	7023 New Market Street SW	Meeting Room
<u>Any OGS Member interested in assisting others in their genealogy quest</u> <u>is encouraged to attend – all skill levels accepted</u>		
OGS Drop In Genealogy Help	Saturday, December 21	1:00-3:00 pm
Tumwater Timberland Library	7023 New Market Street SW	Meeting Room
<u>Any OGS Member interested in assisting others in their genealogy quest</u> <u>is encouraged to attend –all skill levels accepted</u>		

OGS General Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2019

PRESIDENT Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She then welcomed four guests and one new member. There were approximately 80 people in attendance.

Kathy addressed the issue of our snacks and explained that we didn't want disruptions during the meeting or program and that is the reason for waiting until the end to serve the snacks.

SECRETARY Judi Hine sent out the October minutes via the newsletter, which were approved as printed.

TREASURER Judy Artley was absent. Greg Nordlund gave the report. The checking account has \$15,755.71. The CD has \$4,154.91.

VICE PRESIDENT Greg Nordlund announced the December program which is a refresher course on DNA. Carol Ballard will be presenting it.

Greg and Kerry Upton are working on a members-only field trip to either Fiske Library in Seattle or the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in Portland. They took a show of hands as to who would be interested, even if we had to pay for it. There was sufficient interest shown to go forward with planning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Drop in Genealogy – Eileen Dodge reminded everyone that the 3rd Thursday comes after the 3rd Saturday this month. Also, in December and January DIG will be held in the Tumwater Library.

Refreshments – Diana Bargmann asked everyone to bring snacks in December for Christmas.

Seminar – Peggy Cooley announced the titles of the sessions for the seminar. Not in relation to the seminar, Peggy read excerpts of an email to Bob Monn from Jim Lawson who is taking a break from his genealogical research due to health issues. He has a great deal of genealogy to give away. Peggy pointed out that we need to make plans for our genealogy when we no longer can take care of it.

SIGS – Kerry Upton will post the updates for the DNA group. David Abernathy announced there would be a Computer SIG this Saturday at his home at 1:00 pm. He also announced the Family Tree Maker SIG will meet January – March at the fire station on Mullen Road. He also announced that the 2019 FTM has been released.

Greg announced the Ancestry SIG will meet on 28 December.

Gayle Strom announced the Legacy SIG will hold off meetings until March.

Family Search SIG hasn't gotten going yet as Carolyn Gibbons needs help to set up a location.

PROGRAM - Greg Nordlund introduced our speaker, Tracy Rebstock from the Secretary of State Archives. She presented a program "Fun with Maps/Land Research".

OTHER - Stephanie Jones shared a family story about her grandmother and great uncle who were the third from the last car across the Tacoma-Narrows bridge the day it collapsed in 1940.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS & VISITING were accomplished.

