



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

April Newsletter

News from the Board

Member Survey Deadline April 6th

Our many thanks to those who responded (currently about 40% of our membership). Our goal is 50% response rate, so please share your views and opinions now! The DEADLINE is Friday April 6th. The survey is in your email inbox as a message from Betty via Survey Monkey. If you don't see it, please check your SPAM file. If you didn't get it, please let us know right away. We want to know what you think!

Program Meeting April 20th

Before Jolene Aitchison's presentation *The Many Facets of FamilySearch*, please join us for the

Member's Corner

The Image of Oscar Lott Wozencraft By Paula Schmidt

I have a photograph of my great-grandmother, Emma Louise Wozencraft York, and her family dated about 1897. It is actually a black & white photocopy on copier paper, in poor quality, of what I assume was from the original photograph. I don't know who has the original so that I can ask for a better copy. One of my mother's cousins sent her this photocopy in the 1970's and, thankfully, wrote down the names of all ten people in the picture. I am intrigued by one person in particular, identified as Oscar Wozencraft, brother of Emma Louise.

Emma Louise is sitting in a chair and sitting next to her is her husband, Abraham Huddleston York (Hud), and standing between them is one of their seven daughters, Madge. Sitting on the ground, between Emma & Hud, are their two youngest children, daughters

Iona & Huddie Mae. I say sitting on the ground because the family is posing for the picture outdoors, with a carpet spread out on the ground for the young girls to sit on and Hud & Emma's chairs are set on it also. A traveling photographer may have passed through their hometown of Van Wert, Georgia, set up his camera and laid out a carpet encouraging residents to stop and allow him to photograph them. Or, they may



Oscar Wozencraft, 1901

annual membership meeting. You will get an update on the "State of BIGS," learn how you can help carry out the work of BIGS and elect your new board of directors.

Betty Wiese

President



Call for Articles

We are always on the look-out for articles about genealogy research or family history that might be of interest to your fellow BIGS members. If you would like to share a book review, historical photos, problem solving suggestions, memoirs, etc. we would love to hear from you. Please contact:

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be on their own land. It is hard to know because there is not a house in the picture, only a tree and a fence behind them. The family is nicely dressed, with the men in suits and ties and each of the women wearing a dress.

Standing on the carpet, directly behind Emma Louise are three of the oldest daughters: Ola, Fannie, and Lenna. There are a total of seven sisters living at this time and only Berchea is not present. There are two more people in the picture. My grandfather, James Josiah York, is standing next to his father, Hud and standing behind Hud is Oscar Wozencraft, Emma Louise's stepbrother. Oscar is twenty-four years younger than Emma Louise. They have the same father, James Lawrence Wozencraft, who remarried in 1869 after the death of his first wife in 1866.

The person in this picture that intrigues me the most is Oscar because I don't know anything about him except what my mother's cousin has written on this photocopy, that Oscar is the brother of Emma Louise. I wonder if he has been living with Emma and Hud and their eight children or is just visiting for the day. I decide to do some online research on him and get some links to records that include census, death, burial, city directories and newspaper articles.

What I learn is that Oscar was a student at Emory College in Oxford, Georgia. This college would become what is now Emory University in Atlanta. In 1899 he is a sophomore and on the debate team of the Few Literary Society. A newspaper article in the Macon Telegraph, dated 16 Jun 1899, says he is one of the best speakers at the college. Another article, this time in the Atlanta Constitution dated six months later, announces that Oscar has been elected leader of the Few Society with sixty-two votes out of sixty-three cast. The article goes on to say the selection of Mr. Wozencraft *"is a deserved compliment to his wonderful ability and achievements. He is universally conceded to be without doubt the champion debater of the college and time after time he has displayed his genius for argument. He entered the class of 1901 in the fall of 1898 and after a single speech was chosen by the franchise of his hearers, inter-term debater, when his speech won the day. His ability was so extraordinary that in his sophomore year he was chosen leader of the champion, an occurrence happening but twice before in the history of the institution, and his closing speech on that occasion so electrified the judges that, against fearful odds, he was given the decision."*

Now, I am even more intrigued by Oscar. I think any family would

Seattle Genealogical Society's Annual Spring Seminar 2018

The Seattle Genealogical Society will be presenting their Annual Spring Seminar on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the Fairview Christian School, 844 NE 78th Street, Seattle. This year's seminar is entitled "Family History: What the Future Holds." It runs from 9:00am to 4:00pm, and will feature D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, nationally known speaker and recognized genealogical author and researcher. The day's presentations include: The Wealth of Genealogical and Historical Societies; Finding Ancestors in the US between 1780 and 1830; Successful Searching Online; and New Tools and Ideas in Research.

For further information go to: <http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org>

If you are interest in seeing the photograph mentioned in Paula Schmidt's story, you can find it on the new slideshow of photos on the BIGS website:

<http://bigenealogy.org/>

be proud of someone like this and I wonder why his story has not come down through the generations. I continue to look at the records that popped up with my initial search on Ancestry and FamilySearch. The 1900 Federal Census tells me that Oscar was born in July 1876, lives in Oxford, GA and is a college student. In a newspaper article in The Atlanta Constitution, dated 27 Mar 1900, there is an article about a mock trial at Emory College, attended by students and citizens of the town of Oxford. The mock case was a murder trial, where a Mr. Johnston was accused of murdering a Mr. Tate. The defendant was represented by three students, one of whom was Oscar. The article goes on to say fine speeches were made by all and especially by Mr. Wozencraft. With this article I now discover that Oscar was a Law student. Another article, also from the Atlanta Constitution, dated 26 May 1901, includes photographs of the members of the graduating 1901 Law Class of Emory College, and one of the eleven is Oscar Lott Wozencraft. Two weeks later another article names Oscar as winning the Emory Champion Debate. The Atlanta Constitution identifies O.L. Wozencraft, of Buford in Gwinnett County, Georgia as one of the most prominent young attorneys in north Georgia in an article dated 24 Feb 1902.

I am amazed by all of this information and of Oscar's considerable talent and success and am stunned, when reading his death certificate that he died on 13 Jun 1904 from pulmonary tuberculosis in Phoenix, Arizona and is buried in the Loosely Cemetery, apparently in an unmarked grave. I also learn he is listed in the 1904 City Directory in Colorado Springs as a boarder at a residence on Nevada Avenue. Within three years of graduating with a Law Degree from Emory College, he has left Georgia for the west, Colorado and Arizona, probably in an attempt to find a cure from the disease that was so common at that time. It saddens me that he must have travelled alone and died so far from his home and family and then was buried in an unmarked grave.

One final article in the Atlanta Constitution dated 28 Jun 1904 states the Hon. D.M. Johnson is to be solicitor of the city court of Buford to fill out the unexpired term of Oscar Wozencraft, deceased.

I was inspired to search for Oscar because of a photocopy of a photograph that was given to my mother and because I became intrigued by his presence in this picture of my great-grandparents with their children. I feel like I have found a relative who had become lost in our family history because of his early death and not having any offspring of his own. Having found this information I wanted to honor Oscar's brief life by writing this story. It is also an example of how one can partially reconstruct the life of someone you know nothing about just by using a few records that are now easily available.

CeCe Moore Is Coming to Port Townsend

CeCe Moore, the renowned genetic genealogist and media consultant, will be the Jefferson County Genealogical Society's guest speaker on November 10, 2018. She will give four DNA lectures in Fort Worden's USO building. Participation will be limited to 125 people, and the event is expected to sell out quickly.

For those unfamiliar with CeCe Moore, she has worked for four seasons as the genetic genealogy consultant and scriptwriter for the PBS television documentary series *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. She is a sought-after media consultant and the founder of *The DNA Detectives*, which boasts an online following of over 30,000 people.

The Jefferson County Genealogical Society is not advertising this event, because of limited seating. Instead, they are notifying local genealogical societies about CeCe Moore's day in Port Townsend. If you are interested, go to their website after April 1st to download a registration form. The site is www.wajcgs.org. The event costs \$75.



TIP OF THE MONTH

While working on early county records, it is helpful to have a map for the county you are researching, the surrounding counties and the county seats. Have you discovered MapofUS.org? This site has interactive maps for each state that will show the chronological development of the counties - as you click through time you can see how one county splits off from another. This is how your

Navigating Both On and Off the Net

On March 16th, BIGS members welcomed speaker Claire Smith to our Members' Meeting.

Long time mentor and friend of BIGS, Claire now lives in Massachusetts where she can be closer to her ancestors. With her presentation, *Navigation for Genealogists*, Claire took us through 15 types of record sources, comparing search methods both on and off line. She offered a detailed, organized overview of what to look for and where to look for it. BIGS members received an email with Claire's list of live links to sources for each of the record types she reviewed - from census and court records to directories, journals, newspapers, and maps. A handy reference to hang on to!

Claire has made available a link to her presentation slides and her search links for BIGS members: <http://bit.ly/csnavgen>

Monthly Meetings

JOIN US

Friday, April 20, 10:00am to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Annual Business Meeting** with election of officers plus presentation:

The Many Facets of FamilySearch

Speaker: **Joleen Aitchison**

Friday, May 18, 10:00am to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Making Sense of the U.S. Census**

Speaker: **Janice Lovelace**

Contact Historian [Betsy Hettich](#) for presentation handouts.

The complete meeting schedule is on our [website](#).

Special Interest Groups

For BIGS Members Only

Refer to our [website](#) for the complete schedule.

Great Britain, first Friday of the month

Friday, April 6, 10 am to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Leader: **Joleen Aitchison**

Skill Building, second Friday of the month

Friday, April 13, 10am to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Topic: **Sensational news: the hows and whys of using newspaper for genealogy**

Leader: **Mary Ferm**

Friday, May 11, 10am to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Topic: **Introduction to Genealogy Software Options: Members Learning From Each Other**

Facilitator: **Betty Wiese**

Special Interest Groups Cont.

Evening Discussion Group (EDG), third Monday of the month

Monday, April 16, 7 pm to 9 pm, HomeStreet Bank on Hildebrand Lane

Topic: **Active problem solving and updates on research progress**

Leaders: **Sue Elving and Mary Ferm**

Southern States, Quarterly

Thursday, April 26, 1- 3pm, downstairs at Bainbridge Library

Leader: **Paula Schmidt**

Irish, Quarterly

Friday, June 1, 2018, 10am to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Happening Around the Sound

Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

General Land Office Records

Second Saturday Speaker Series

Saturday, April 14, 2018 - 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Topic: Learn how to access, view, print and save the federal land grant records available through the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office website and how to order copies of your ancestor's land grant file from the National Archives and Records Administration.

Speaker: **Janet Camarata**

Brick Wall Workshop

Second Thursday of every month 11:30am - 1:00pm

National Archive (NARA) 6125 Sand Point Way NE

Instructor: **Karen Sipe**

Interested? Confirm event: <http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/>

Happening Around the Sound Cont.

Puget Sound Genealogical Society - 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

Webinar: Did I get Everything? Creating a Checklist for Genealogy Research with Thomas MacEntee

Saturday, April 28, 10:30am -12:30pm

Topic: Learn how to assemble a genealogy research checklist to take your genealogy to the next level.

Workshop: Spreadsheets for Genealogy

Tuesday, May 1, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Topic: Learn advanced tools for using Excel for genealogy, including importing data from websites in a hands-on workshop for PC users.

Speaker: **Mary Kircher Roddy**

Confirm these events: <http://www.pusogensoc.org/>

Recommended Viewing: Finding Elusive Records

FamilySearch has an instructional video entitled "Finding Elusive Records." It is definitely worth checking out : <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/finding-elusive-records/> FamilySearch suggests that if a basic search is all you are doing, you are likely to be missing out! Some 77% of their free historical records can't be found with a simple search. You need to use their catalog, unindexed image collections and other more advanced search features. This video helps you learn how to do those searches in an easy-to-follow, 58 minute presentation by Robert Kehrer. Take time to sharpen your skills and you may uncover one of those hard-to-find ancestors!



[BIGS Website](#)

