

April 8, 2016

[Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society](#)

BIGS News - Message from President Betty

Mentor Program and BIGS-net: What are they?

Mentors are experienced BIGS members who are available to provide one-on-one genealogy help. They each have different areas of knowledge, experience, and interests. Many of them are also special interest group leaders. You can ask a mentor to help you follow a lead you've found, to evaluate what kind of DNA testing to do, evaluate genealogy software options, help you review what you know about an ancestor or place, or help you figure out the next steps to take in your research. [Email Betty](#) to request a mentor.

BIGS-net is an email discussion group, where BIGS members communicate with other members, e.g., post a question, identify a resource, carpool to a class, meet informally. Join the network by clicking the Network button on [our website](#) or [contact Sue Hassenmiller](#).

Introducing the Members' Corner

As you can see below, we are introducing a new feature in our newsletter. Members' Corner is a spot for members to share a highlight or interesting find. This is another way for members to learn what other members are doing. Thank you, Dena Leavitt, for today's contribution. If you'd like to share your story, please [send a brief write-up to Sue Hassenmiller](#) who will submit it for an upcoming newsletter.

Making Progress on goals you set for 2016? Come and share at the Skill Building SIG on May 13

Our May 13, 2016 SIG is ***Genealogy Potpourri*** where you can share with others the progress you are making on goals you have set for 2016. You will also be able to meet some of the mentors and get ideas about how they can help you. We are still planning the rest of this meeting, so stay tuned or come and be surprised!

Election of the Board of Directors will occur at the **April 15th** monthly meeting. Here is the slate:

President: Betty Wiese

Vice President: Claire Smith
Secretary: Rebecca Pratt
Treasurer: Sue Hassenmiller
Position #1 (Ways & Means): Melody Truscott
Position #2 (Publicity & PR): Sylvia Nelson
Position #3 (Ombudsman/at large): Liz Powell

[Betty Wiese](#)

President

Meetings

April 15, 10:00 AM - Noon, will be our annual meeting. The brief election will be followed by guest speaker **Claudia Breland** talking about ***Social Media and Genealogy***.

May 20, 10:00 AM - Noon, **Joleen Aitchison**, Director of the Family History Center in Poulsbo will be discussing how to use ***FamilySearch effectively***.

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

To get a copy of a handout from one of our guest speaker presentations, contact our historian, [Rebecca Pratt](#).

Special Interest Groups

Here are our upcoming SIG meetings in chronological order. Go to [our website](#) for the complete schedule.

Computer Skill Building, second Friday of every other month (odd numbered months)

- **Friday April 8, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- **Topic: *What Records Should I Look at Next and Where Can I Find Them?***
- Leader: Claire Smith

Evening Discussion (EDG), monthly

- **Monday April 25, 7:00 - 9:00 PM**, at the HomeStreet Bank community room
- Leaders: Mary Ferm & Sue Elfving

Southern States, quarterly

- **Thursday April 28, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**, at the Bainbridge Library, downstairs conference room
- Leader: Paula Schmidt

Scandinavian, quarterly

- **Wednesday May 4, 10:00 - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, downstairs conference room
- Leaders: Sue Hassenmiller & Mary Ferm

Skill Building, second Friday of every other month (odd numbered months)

- **Friday May 13, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- **Topic: *Genealogy Potpourri***
- Leader: Betty Wiese

Computer Skill Building, second Friday of every other month (odd numbered months)

- **Friday June 10, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- Leader: Claire Smith

Northeast Mid-Atlantic, quarterly

- **Wednesday June 15, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**, at the Bainbridge Library, downstairs conference room
- Leader: Mary Ferm

All Things DNA, every other month

- **June, date and time to be announced**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

Skill Building, second Friday of every other month (odd numbered months)

- **Friday July 8, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- **Topic: *Watch those Assumptions***
- Leaders: BIGS Mentors Sara Scribner, Anna DuPen, and Claire Smith

Members' Corner

BIGS Member Dena Leavitt explained she could not believe it when she learned her great-great-great-grandfather, Jean Pierre Sioussat, worked for Dolley Madison. Dena said that according to the Records of the Columbia Historical Society in Washington D.C., Sioussat was the First Master of Ceremonies of the White House. As Dolley Madison's duties expanded when her husband, James Madison, became president, she hired Sioussat. His knowledge of French customs made him valuable at White House functions. He also assisted Dolley Madison in saving many items from the White House when it was burned during

the War of 1812. Jean Pierre Sioussat, was born in Paris on 22 Sep 1781 to Julien Jean Sioussat and Marie Genevieve Adoit. He died on 2 Apr 1864 in Washington, D.C. The records also stated that Pierre reported seeing the execution of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

Genealogy News

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- The [Kitsap Family History Expo](#), a day of free genealogy presentations and exhibits, is coming up on April 30. It'll be held at the LDS Stake Center on Nels Nelsson Road in Silverdale.
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- Access to the Civil War collection at [Fold3](#) is free through April 15! Find out more [here](#).
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- The new season of [Who Do You Think You Are?](#) started on the TLC TV network on Sunday April 3. If you missed it, you can [watch it online](#).
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- Season 3 of [Genealogy Roadshow](#) starts on Tuesday May 17. The four new episodes take place in Boston, Houston, Los Angeles and Miami.
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- Genealogy website [Mocavo](#) shut down and merged with [FindMyPast](#) last month. All of the records from Mocavo will be merged into the FindMyPast collections.
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- [FindMyPast](#) is creating the largest online database of U.S. Marriages with records spanning from 1650 until 2010. Updates are ongoing and will be completed in 2017 but subscribers can search now [here](#). Just keep checking back. If you don't have a subscription, you can access FindMyPast for free at any [Family History Center](#).
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- Here are links to the latest updates from some of the major genealogy websites, with highlights in areas BIGS members are researching:
- - [Ancestry recently added and updated these collections:](#)
 - - [North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000](#)
 - [North Carolina, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1958-1963](#)
 - [Web: Chester County, Pennsylvania, Birth Index, 1852 - 1855, 1893 - 1907](#)
 - [Web: Rhode Island, Historical Cemetery Commission Index, 1647-2008](#)

- Subscription required. Access the library edition for free at the Kitsap Regional Library or any Family History Center if you're not a subscriber.
- [Familysearch Historic Records Collections](#) - Click on "Last Updated" to sort by date to view the latest records.
- - [United States Civil War and Later Pension Index, 1861-1917](#)
 - [Connecticut Marriages, 1630-1997](#)
 - [Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935](#)
 - [Massachusetts Deaths and Burials, 1795-1910](#)
 - [Massachusetts Births, 1841-1915](#)
 - [Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639-1915](#)
 - [Montana, Mineral County Obituaries, 1870-2010](#)
 - [New Jersey Births and Christenings, 1660-1980](#)
 - [New Jersey, Marriages, 1670-1980](#)
 - [New Jersey Marriages, 1678-1985](#)
 - [Rhode Island Marriages, 1724-1916](#)
 - [Netherlands, Gelderland Province Civil Registration, 1800-1952](#)
- [Findmypast](#) - This month's additions, in addition to the Irish Catholic Parish records, include:
- - [New York State Religious Records 1716-1914](#)
 - [Western Australia Birth Index](#)
 - [Western Australia Death Index](#)
 - [Western Australia Marriage Index](#)
 - [Middlesex, England Baptisms 1543-1876](#)
 - [Ireland, Irish Revenue Police 1830-1857](#)
 - [Ireland, Royal Irish Constabulary History & Directories](#)
- Subscription required. Access the library edition for free at any Family History Center.
- [GenealogyBank](#) - You can access the library edition, America's GenealogyBank, for free from home with your [Seattle Public Library](#) card. Kitsap County residents are eligible for free Seattle Public Library cards. Click [here](#) to sign up for a card.
- The [New England Historic Genealogical Society \(NEHGS\)](#) - Although a subscription is required to access many databases, there are quite a few that you can access free of charge.

Tip of the Month

Can't find you ancestor in the census? Don't just assume they weren't there. Their name may have been mis-spelled or mis-transcribed so it might not show up in the index. Here are a few tricks you can try:

- Use wildcards. Example: S*mpson will find Sampson and Simpson.
- Use a different index. Can't find them on [Ancestry](#)? Try [FamilySearch](#), [FindMyPast](#) (\$) or [MyHeritage](#) (\$).
- Look for a neighbor from another census year and try searching for them.
- Search for another member of the household.
- Search just for the first name in the place you think they lived.
- Switch the first and last names. Maybe the census taker or the indexer reversed the names.
- Look through the census for the entire town.

BIGS Website

New Links

- Websites for genealogy research are listed on our [Links](#) page. Here are this month's new links. All new entries are tagged with * on our website so it's easy to see what's new.
- [Extreme Genes](#) is a weekly radio show and podcast about genealogy research. Go to Genealogy News > Podcasts on our Links page.
- [Genealogy on Facebook](#) is a list of more than 7000 links to genealogy groups on Facebook. This could be a useful tool for finding your living relatives to collaborate with on your family history. Thanks to Sylvia Nelson for sharing this resource. Go to Tools > Collaboration and Social Networking on our Links page.
- [Hoosier State Chronicles](#) is the Indiana State Library's collection of small-town newspapers across Indiana. Go to Places > United States > Indiana on our Links page.

Local Events

- **2nd Thursday of every month, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM** [Brick Wall Workshop](#), at the National Archives on Sandpoint Way in Seattle, FREE.

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- **Saturday April 9, 2016, 9:15 AM - 3:15 PM** [The Power of Your DNA](#) the Olympia Genealogical Society's Spring Seminar with CeCe Moore "Your Genetic Genealogist", \$45 for non-OGS members.
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- **Monday April 11, 2016, 7:15 PM** [Research in Hungary, Transylvania, Romania and Adjacent Areas of Ukraine](#) with Vivian Kahn at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State in Factoria, FREE.
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- **Wednesday April 13, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Adoption \(DNA\)](#) with Diane Harmon-Hoog at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Monday April 18, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Online Land Research](#) with Janet O'Connor Camarata at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday April 20, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [FamilySearch](#) with Lou Daly at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Saturday April 23, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Social Media for Family History: Why Bother?](#) with Mary Kathryn Kozy at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday April 27, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Doing Time for the Crime](#) with Karen Sipe at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Saturday April 30, 2016** [Kitsap Family History Expo](#) at the LDS Stake Center on Nels Nelsson Road, Silverdale, FREE.
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- **Monday May 2, 2016, 2:30 AM - 4:30 PM** [Beginning Your Family History Research](#) at the Seattle Public Library in downtown Seattle, FREE. Registration required.
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- **Thursday May 5, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Norway - Researching Your Family Through Church and Congregational Records](#) with Luci Baker Johnson at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.

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- **Monday May 9, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Iowa: The American Heartland](#) with Dee Haviland Fournier at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday May 11, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [The Twists & Turns of a Family Tree](#) with Kelli Green at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Saturday May 16, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Using FamilySearch Family Tree: Tips & Tricks](#) with Mary Kathryn Kozy at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday May 18, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Germans from Russia](#) with Jean Roth at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Wednesday May 25, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Virginia](#) with Gary Zimmerman at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Wednesday June 2, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Field Trip to the Coast Guard Museum](#) with the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Wednesday June 8, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Advanced Techniques for Searching Libraries Around the World](#) with Gary Zimmerman at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Monday June 20, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Digging Deeper into your German Roots](#) with Dee Haviland Fournier at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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Members

Check out our [Members page](#) to find out what other BIGS members are researching. If you'd like to add or change your interests, just [let us know](#).

Library

See our [Library page](#) if you'd like to borrow a book or CD from another BIGS member. If you're willing to loan or do lookups of your books or CDs, just [email us](#) to have them added to the list.

Other BIGS Business

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- **BIGS-net**
- BIGS-net, is an email discussion group, where BIGS members communicate with other members, e.g., post a question, identify a resource, carpool to a class, meet informally. We often post about free access to premium websites and discounted genealogy subscription deals there too. Join the network by clicking the Network button on [our website](#) or [contact Sue Hassenmiller](#), the BIGS-net moderator, if you have questions.
- **Mentors**
- Would you like a new perspective on your genealogy research? An annual consultation with a mentor is a benefit of BIGS membership. Contact [Betty](#) to find a mentor who can best help you.
- **Basics Class**
- If you're a new BIGS member or would like to attend a **Basics class**, please contact [Mary Ferm](#). Basics classes are open to all members. Sometimes we all need a refresher.
- **Facebook**
- Visit us on Facebook. Just scroll to the bottom of the page on [our website](#) and click on the Facebook logo!

BIGS scholarships are available. Any member in good standing can apply to the **BIGS Scholarship Fund** for funds to take a genealogy related class. Up to four individual scholarships may be awarded. There's a maximum of one scholarship per membership each year. Funds may be used for transportation, class materials and class fees. You can submit your [application](#) by email or in person to [Betty](#) or [Claire](#).

Feedback and ideas from our members are always welcome. BIGS is your group so [let us know](#) what you'd like to see!

[Claire Smith](#)

Vice President & Newsletter Editor