

February 12, 2016  
[Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society](#)

## **BIGS News - Message from President Betty**

News from the Board:

**Northwest Genealogy Conference:** This is an outstanding local opportunity to learn! The conference, sponsored by the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society, is being held in Arlington, Washington August 17 -20, 2016. Many BIGS members have attended past conferences so we're **cancelling our August 19 monthly meeting** since it conflicts with the conference. Watch [their website](#) for more information.

**Membership Survey:** THANK YOU to the 30% who have responded. If you haven't already responded, please do. This is a great opportunity to get feedback from our members that will be helpful in guiding the organization.

### **More about Getting Organized from a Professional Organizer:**

As those of you at the January 19th meeting recall, one of the topics we talked about was organizing our genealogy information and papers. In the January 2016 Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) forum, there was an article by a professional organizer about organizing which I found interesting, so I'll pass some ideas along.

Here are a few of the suggestions I especially liked from Janine Adam's **11 Tips for Getting Organized in 2016** from FGS Forum, Vol 27 #4 Winter 2015.

- #2: Label the heck of out everything (files, boxes, piles). "Misc." and "stuff" aren't recommended! Try to find a meaningful 2-3 word category.
- #8: Carve out time - make a date - to organize. Try to stay on top of new documents while working on your backlog.
- #9: Set a timer (e.g., 15 minutes) to stay focused on task.

The author is a professional organizer and amateur genealogist and here is a link to her website [www.peaceofmindorganizing.com](http://www.peaceofmindorganizing.com).

[Betty Wiese](#)

**President**

**Meetings**

- **February 19, 10:00 AM - Noon: Mae Gentry - *Erased From South Carolina History: A Family Tree's Missing Branch*.** Come and hear Mae, former writer and editor at the Chicago Sun-Times and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and one-time Bainbridge Island resident. She has a fascinating tale to tell us about her family history.
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- **March 18, 10:00 AM - Noon: Janet O'Connor Camarata - *Timelines and Chronologies*** One of our most popular speakers from last year is coming back to show us how she used timelines and chronologies to further research her family.
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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 all of our upcoming SIG meetings in chronological order. Go to [our website](#) for the complete schedule.

#### All Things DNA, every other month

- **Thursday February 11, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

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

- **Friday February 12, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- Topic: ***Working with Images***
- Leader: Claire Smith

#### Evening Discussion (EDG), monthly>

- **Monday February 22, 7:00 - 9:00 PM** at the HomeStreet Bank community room
- Leaders: Mary Ferm & Sue Elfving

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

- **Friday March 11, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- Topic: ***Where Do I Start Researching?***
- Leaders: Mary Ferm & Claire Smith

#### Northeast Mid-Atlantic, quarterly

- **Thursday March 24, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**, at the Bainbridge Library, downstairs conference room
- Leader: Mary Ferm

#### **Southern States**, quarterly

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

#### **All Things DNA**, every other month

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

#### **Scandinavian**, quarterly

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

### **Genealogy News**

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- Many users were devastated last month when [Ancestry](#) announced the demise of Family Tree Maker, their popular genealogy software. They announced that they would be discontinuing updates immediately and support at the end of 2016. However, in response to backlash from customers, they've just announced agreements with two software vendors. Software maker [Mackiev](#) is buying Family Tree Maker and will continue to support and update the software. It will also maintain the capability to sync with online tree at Ancestry. Ancestry also announced a deal with [RootsMagic](#), the popular genealogy software maker. You should be able to connect RootsMagic on your home computer to your family tree on Ancestry by the end of 2016.
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- Read more about it at the [Genealogy Insider](#)
- [RootsTech](#), the world's largest genealogy event, was held earlier this month in Salt Lake City. If you didn't attend, you can still watch the presentations at home on your computer for free. There are some great speakers and topics! Click [here](#) to see what they have and start watching!
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- I received an announcement from genealogy site [Mocavo](#) a few weeks ago announcing that they will be merging with [FindMyPast](#). The Mocavo content will be moving to the FindMyPast site over the next few months. I guess I shouldn't be surprised by another merger in the genealogy world. At least I'll have one less password to keep track of!

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- Anyone researching their Irish ancestry will be happy to hear that subscription site [FindMyPast](#) is releasing a collection of 10 million Irish Roman Catholic parish registers next month. Read more about it on [Irish Genealogy News](#).
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- [FindMyPast](#) last year released the 1939 register, an important new resource for anyone researching recent ancestors in the England or Wales. However, they imposed an additional fee to download documents and view full transcriptions, even for existing subscribers. I'm happy to say that they're lifting that fee on February 16 so subscribers will have unlimited access to these records.  
The United Kingdom has a 100 year rule restricting access to census records. So the 1911 census is latest UK census available for research. The 1921 census should be available after 2021. Additionally, the 1931 census was destroyed and there was no census taken in 1941 due to the Second World War. So the 1939 register, produced to create ration cards and track the entire civilian population of England and Wales, is significant since it bridges a 30 year gap.
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- The UK National Archives has an excellent [video](#) on using the 1939 register. It's well worth watching before you use these records.
- Season 3 of [Finding Your Roots](#) began last month. You can watch it on KCTS/Channel 9 at 8:00 PM on Tuesdays or online on the [PBS website](#) if you missed any episodes.
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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:](#)
  - - [U.S., Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1914-1962](#)
    - [Missouri, Methodist Church Records, 1856-1970](#)
    - [Queensland and Victoria, Australian Directories, 1859-1947](#)
    - [Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1532-1812](#)
    - [Scotland, National Probate Index \(Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories\), 1876-1936](#)
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- 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.

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- [Idaho, Birth Index, 1861-1911](#)
- [Idaho Death Certificates, 1938-1961](#)
- [Illinois, Cook County Deaths, 1878-1994](#)
- [Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007](#)
- [Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911](#)
- [Kansas, Marriages, 1811-1911](#)
- [New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891](#)
- [North Carolina, State Supreme Court Case Files, 1800-1909](#)
- [Oklahoma, County Marriages, 1890-1995](#)
- [Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013](#)
- [Texas and Arizona Arrivals, 1903-1910](#)
- [Australia, Tasmania, Miscellaneous Records, 1829-2001](#)
- [British Columbia Marriage Registrations, 1859-1932; 1937-1938](#)
- [Italy, Napoli, Civil Registration \(State Archive\), 1809-1865](#)
- [Japan Genealogies, 850-2012](#)
- [Poland, Radom Roman Catholic Church Books, 1587-1966](#)
- [Sweden, Örebro Church Records, 1613-1918; index 1635-1860](#)

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- [Findmypast](#) - This month's additions include:

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- [United States Marriages](#), from 1650 to 2010, when complete will contain at least 100 million records
- [England, Pollbooks and Directories 1830-1837](#)
- [Norfolk, England Baptisms](#)
- [Norfolk, England Banns](#)
- [Norfolk, England Marriages](#)
- [Norfolk, England Burials](#)
- [Scotland Registers & Records](#)

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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.

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- 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

Looking for your ancestor between censuses or can't find them in a census? Try city directories. Think of them as phone books before phones. They list the head of household and their occupation and may list other family members.

Check anywhere there are books - libraries or online at [Archive.org](#), [Ancestry](#), [FamilySearch](#), [Google Books](#), [Hathi Trust](#) and [Heritagequest](#) to name a few places you can find them.

## 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.

- [Rootschat](#) is messaging forum for everyone researching their family or local history with a focus on the British Isles. Thanks to Sylvia Nelson for this! Go to Places > England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales on our Links page.
- Dutchess County, New York has digitized and cataloged over 12,000 pages of eighteenth-century legal documents in the [Dutchess County Ancient Documents Collection](#). These records are from the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions beginning in 1721. They are searchable by keyword, party (individual names and party identifiers), record type, offense type and location of incident. Go to Places > United States > New York on our Links page..
- [Minnesota Historical Society's Digital Newspapers](#) Go to Places > United States > Minnesota on our Links page.

## Local Events

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- **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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- **Monday February 15, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [How and When to Cite Your Sources](#) with Mary Kathryn Kozy at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday February 17, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Fiske's Field Trip to Bellevue Regional Library: Genealogical Resources](#) with Darcey Briskey at the Bellevue Regional Library, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Monday February 22, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Effective Ancestry Searching](#) with Janet O'Connor Camarata at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday March 2, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [New England Land Records](#) with Karl Kumm at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Monday March 7, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Reading Old Land Records](#) with Janet O'Connor Camarata at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday March 9, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Best Repositories in Northern New England States](#) with Gary Zimmerman at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Thursday March 17, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Writing your life stories](#) with Delores Davis at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Wednesday March 23, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Spring Cleaning your genealogy](#) with Claire Smith at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.

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- **Monday April 4, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Sprechen sie deutsch? No!](#) with Dee Haviland Fournier at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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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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- **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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## 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 Network**
- The BIGS network is a bulletin board for members to share ideas, ask questions and discuss their issues. We often post about discounted genealogy subscription deals there. Just click on Network on [our website](#) to join. Contact [Sue Hassenmiller](#), our Networking 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**