

**January 8, 2016**

**Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society**

**BIGS News - Message from President Betty**

**Dues:** Annual dues of your 2016 BIGS membership are due for 2016. Thanks to all of our members who have already renewed.

You can mail your payment to BIGS (P.O. Box 135, Rollingbay, WA 98061-0135) or pay at the monthly meeting. Dues are \$35 for an individual or \$50 for a family. Membership includes monthly meetings, guest speakers, special interest groups, a session with a mentor, the BIGS newsletter and website. Your BIGS membership is tax deductible since we are a non-profit 501c(3) organization.

**Membership Satisfaction Survey:** A survey will be coming to you by email later this month (You can fill out a paper copy if you prefer.)

**Getting to BIGS meetings:** If driving to BIGS meetings isn't working for you, here are some options.

- 1 BI Ride is on-island bus service you can schedule for pick-up Monday-Saturday travel during the day. This on-demand service will pick up and drop you off at any location on the island. You must call at least two hours before you need a ride. Contact: 1-844-4BI-RIDE [www.kitsaptransit.com/service/routed-buses/bi-ride](http://www.kitsaptransit.com/service/routed-buses/bi-ride)
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- 3 BIGS-net is an email group for our members to communicate with other members. Consider offering or requesting a ride or explore carpool options. If you are not yet part of the network, click the Network button on [our website](#) or contact [Susan Hassenmiller at suzyh1943@gmail.com](mailto:suzyh1943@gmail.com) to be added.
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- 5 IVC (Island Volunteer Caregivers) can provide rides to such activities as BIGS meetings for those who enroll and qualify for their services, including people with disabilities or seniors who no longer drive. Contact: 206-842-4441 [www.ivcbainbridge.org](http://www.ivcbainbridge.org)
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**A way to share what you know with other members:** Do you have a yen to share with others what you've learned about the wonderful resources for a specific geographic area or what you've learned about getting great information from city directories, census records, or any other source? Think about sharing at a SIG.

As you may know, our 2nd Friday Skill Building SIGs (which used be monthly and focused on computing skills) are now alternating between computing skills and other types of genealogical skills. We are exploring ways to enable members to share their skills and knowledge and not to rely only on our mentors. Stay tuned, and be thinking about how you might share an area of expertise you've developed.

[Betty Wiese](#)

**President**

### **Meetings**

- **January 15, 10:00 AM - Noon: *Genealogy Resolutions for 2016*** - Come and brainstorm on how to plan and organize your ongoing genealogy research for the coming year.
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- **February 19, 10:00 AM - Noon: Mae Gentry - *Erased From South Carolina History: A Family Tree's Missing Branch***
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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.

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

- **Friday January 8, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- Brian Quick shares ***Breaking through Blocks in English Research***

**Evening Discussion (EDG)**, monthly

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

**Southern States**, quarterly

- **Thursday January 28, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**, at the Bainbridge Library, downstairs conference room

- Leader: Paula Schmidt

#### **Scandinavian**, quarterly

- **Tuesday February 9, 10:00 - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, downstairs conference room
- Leaders: Sue Hassenmiller & Mary Ferm

#### **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 (even numbered months)

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

#### **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

### **Genealogy News**

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- Season 3 of [Finding Your Roots](#) began earlier this week. You can watch it on KCTS/Channel 9 at 8:00 PM on Wednesdays or online on the [PBS website](#).
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- The [New England Historic Genealogical Society \(NEHGS\)](#) has free access so some of their vital records databases through the end of January. If you're researching in New England, just go [here](#) and sign up as a guest user to get access to these databases.
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- Subscription genealogy super-site [MyHeritage](#) has launched a free collection of more than 150,000 searchable digitized books, the [Compilation of Published Sources](#). We now have a new place to search for those elusive ancestors. You can find a link under Books Online on our Links page.
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- You might find it useful to look through the [Gene Awards 2015](#). The commentary is pretty informative and worth a look especially if you're switching genealogy software. Thank you Linda Gaskins for sending me this.
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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 collections:](#)
  - - [Australia, Pastoral Directories, 1913-1954](#)
    - [Port Stephens, Australia, Area Cemeteries, 1845-2010](#)
    - [Ebersberg, Germany, Births, 1876-1905](#)
    - [Würzburg, Germany, Deported Jews, 1941-1943](#)
    - [Ludwigshafen, Germany, Family Tables, 1730-1903](#)
    - [Oranienburg, Germany, Auschwitz-Sachsenhausen Transfers, 1944](#)
  - 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.
  - - [Alaska, Vital Records, 1816-1959](#)
    - [Delaware Vital Records, 1650-1974](#)
    - [Missouri, Cole County Circuit Court Case Files, 1820-19275](#)
    - [Missouri Deaths, 1883-1930](#)
    - [Missouri, Pre-WWII Adjutant General Enlistment Contracts, 1900-1941](#)
    - [Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790-1950](#)
    - [Austria, Upper Austria, Catholic Church Records, 1581-1919](#)
    - [Manitoba Probate Records, 1871-1930](#)
    - [England, Kent, Register of Electors, 1570-1907](#)
    - [England, Lancashire, Parish Registers 1538-1910](#)
    - [Italy, L'Aquila, Civil Registration \(State Archive\), 1809-1865, 1911-1943](#)
    - [Japan Village Records, 709-1949](#)
    - [Netherlands, Zuid-Holland Province, Civil Registration, 1679-1942](#)
    - [Wales, Glamorgan, West Glamorgan, Electoral Registers, 1839-1925](#)
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- [Findmypast](#) - This month's additions include:
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  - [American Bible Society](#), collection of family bibles
  - [British India Office Wills & Probate](#), 16,000 new records added
  - [New York Genealogical and Biographical Record](#), 3 new issues added
  - [PERiodical Source Index](#), over 1000 images added
  - [Warwickshire Baptisms](#), updated
  - [Warwickshire Marriages](#)
  - [Warwickshire Burials](#)
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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.
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- The new database The [New Hampshire Gazette: Newspaper Abstracts, 1756-1769](#) is available to guest users for one month after it was announced this week.

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## • **Tip of the Month**

Be sure to check which items are included in different years of the United States Census to take full advantage of this resource.

Did you know that...

- the 1850 census is the first year that lists each member of a household? Previous censuses only listed the head of the household.
- the 1880 census lists the birthplaces of the person and their parents?
- the 1910 census lists how many children were born and how many were still living for females?
- the 1900 and 1910 census takers asked foreigners their year of immigration and whether they were naturalized?
- There's a useful summary of the census questions by year [here](#). You might want to save a copy. I've found it to be an invaluable resource.

You can find a link to this document under Census > Population Census Items on our Links page.

- **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.

- Do you want fresh ideas on tracking down your female ancestors? Try searching using a nickname. Check out this [list of nicknames](#) from [Family Tree Magazine](#).
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- Last year's Genetic Genealogy Ireland video presentations are now online on [GGI's YouTube channel](#). Go to Places > Ireland > DNA or Genetics & DNA > DNA on our Links page.
- [Archives West](#) provides descriptions of primary sources in the western United States, including correspondence, diaries or photographs. They even have some digital reproductions of these materials. Thanks to Betty for this link. Go to Places > United States > Western States on our Links page.
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- It can be a hard slog reading through wills, inventories and other documents for the 17th & 18th centuries. I found the [Dorchester & Fordington Glossary](#) to be pretty helpful. Go to Reference > Handwriting and Tools for Deciphering Documents 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 January 11, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Mapping an Ancestor](#) with Janet O'Connor Camarata at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Monday January 11, 2016, 7:15 PM** [Unravelling Family Myths Using the Principles of Logic](#) with Jill Morelli at the LDS Building in Factoria, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Monday January 18, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Tennessee Research](#) with Laura Pemberton Sparr at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday January 20, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Best Repositories in Massachusetts](#) with Gary Zimmerman at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Monday January 25, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Land Survey Systems](#) with Janet O'Connor Camarata at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday January 27, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Exploring the New Ancestry](#) with Gary Zimmerman at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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- **Saturday January 23, 2016, 10:00 AM - Noon** [Using Church Records to Identify Ancestors](#) Mary Hill explains the benefits of researching church records as they contain a wealth of family history information. Learn what types of records different churches kept, how to determine your ancestor's denomination, and where to locate these important records. At at the Sylvan Way Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton. Preregistration required. Call (360) 475-9172 or visit the Genealogy Center at the Sylvan Way branch library. FREE
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- **Wednesday January 27, 2016, 1:00 - 2:00 PM** [Preserving Family Artifacts](#) Nicolette Bromberg, the Visual Materials Curator for the University of Washington, will show us how to store and preserve our family artifacts, such as photos, letters and old documents. The Puget Sound Genealogical Society general meeting will follow this program and the public is welcome to attend. At at the Sylvan Way Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton. FREE

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- **Monday February 8, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM** [Free Land; Will Travel](#) with Janet O'Connor Camarata at the Heritage Quest Research Library in Sumner, \$15.
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- **Wednesday February 10, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Best Repositories in Connecticut and Rhode Island](#) with Gary Zimmerman at the Fiske Library in Seattle, \$5 for non-members.
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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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## 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 Fern](#). 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**