

March 11, 2016

[Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society](#)

BIGS News - Message from President Betty

News from the Board:

Annual Election:

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

If you are planning to renew for BIGS membership 2016:

Please [let Paula Schmidt know](#) right away. We will be updating the membership list at the end of the month to reflect current members for receipt of the newsletter and other notices.

Membership Survey:

Our membership survey results are in! We had a great response (50%), and we sincerely appreciate your feedback. Here are a few highlights:

- 1 70% said not to worry about trying to schedule meetings so we don't "bunch" things up
- 1 Level of satisfaction with BIGS: 71% very satisfied, 24% mostly satisfied, 5% somewhat satisfied
- 1 Experience level: Beginner (24%), Intermediate (18%), Experienced (34%), Very experienced (20%)

We will be looking at all the results and comments in more depth and will provide additional information about the results and how it shapes our thinking.

[Betty Wiese](#)

President

Meetings

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.

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***.

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

Evening Discussion (EDG), monthly

- **Monday March 21 (Note 3rd Monday of the month this time), 7:00 - 9:00 PM**, at the HomeStreet Bank community room
- Leaders: Mary Ferm & Sue Elfving

Northeast Mid-Atlantic, quarterly

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

All Things DNA, every other month

- **April 7, 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 April 8, 10:00 AM - Noon**, at the Bainbridge Library, upstairs conference room
- Leader: Claire Smith

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 Fern

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

Genealogy News

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- The [Kitsap Family History Expo](#) will be held on April 30 at the LDS Stake Center on Nels Nelsson Road in Silverdale. Attend a day of free genealogy presentations and exhibits right in your own backyard!
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- The new season of [Who Do You Think You Are?](#) is returning to TV on the TLC network on Sunday April 3. Click [here](#) for details.
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- Both [FindMyPast](#) and [Ancestry](#) earlier this month launched indexes for the Irish Catholic Parish Register records. Both sites link to the National Library of Ireland's images of the original records. The NLI completed the mammoth effort of digitizing this collection last year and now it's indexed and searchable on two different websites. 'Tis a grand day for anyone researching their Irish ancestors!
The Parish Registers are considered to be the single most important source of information for Irish genealogy prior to the 1901 census, which is sadly the most recent surviving Irish census.
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- You can find the links to these indexes below in the New Links section.

- [FamilySearch](#) is working with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on a project to transcribe the Freedmen's Bureau records. These are essential records for anyone researching their African American ancestry since the Freedmen's Bureau was an agency assisting freedmen in the South after slavery was abolished in 1865. Find out more about this record set [here](#).
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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:
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- [Ancestry recently added and updated these collections:](#)
- - [U.S., Selected States Dutch Reformed Church Membership Records, 1701-1995](#)
 - [Alabama, Civil Appointments, 1818-1939](#)
 - [California, Mortuary Records of Chinese Decedents, 1870-1933](#)
 - [New Jersey, United Methodist Church Records, 1800-1970](#)
 - [Sydney, Australia, Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions, 1867-2002](#)
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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.
- - [United States, Freedmen's Bureau Marriages, 1861-1872](#)
 - [Illinois, Church Marriages, 1805-1985](#)
 - [Illinois, Civil Marriages, 1833-1889](#)
 - [Illinois, County Marriages, 1810-1934](#)
 - [Maine Deaths and Burials, 1841-1910](#)
 - [Maine Marriages, 1771-1907](#)
 - [Maryland Births and Christenings, 1650-1995](#)
 - [Maryland, Church Records, 1668-1995](#)
 - [Maryland Deaths and Burials, 1877-1992](#)
 - [Maryland Marriages, 1666-1970](#)
 - [Nebraska Marriages, 1855-1995](#)
 - [New Jersey, State Census, 1855](#)
 - [New Jersey, State Census, 1865](#)
 - [New York, New York, Soundex to Passenger and Crew Lists, 1887-1921](#)

- [Ohio, Marriages, 1800-1942](#)
 - [England, Devon Bishop's Transcripts, 1558-1887](#)
 - [England, Lancashire, Oldham Cemetery Registers, 1797-2004](#)
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- [Findmypast](#) - This month's additions, in addition to the Irish Catholic Parish records, include:
 - [Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Congregational Records](#)
 - [Ireland, Non-Conformist Congregational Records](#)
 - [Ireland, Non-Conformist Births & Baptisms](#)
 - [Middlesex \(England\), Poplar, Military Tribunals 1916-1918](#)
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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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Tip of the Month

Sometimes it helps to just slow down and focus when working on your family research. You might make a breakthrough with a different approach. Here are some things you might want to try:

- Make sure you know what you're looking for. Develop a query with who, what, when and where.
- Have an Internet-free day and catch up on your filing. I've made some great discoveries doing this.
- Read books and journals.
- Go to a library and explore resources that aren't online.

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.

- The [Brooklyn Newsstand](#), on the Brooklyn Public Library's website, has digitized searchable images of newspapers, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle from 1841 to 1955, Brooklyn Life from 1890 to 1924 and Brooklyn Life and Activities of Long Island Society from 1924 to 1931. Go to Places > United States > New York on our Links page.
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- Here is where you can find the indexes for the Irish Catholic Parish records. Go to Places > Ireland > Church Records on our Links page.
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- Ancestry is offering free access to their entire Irish records collection, including this new index, for the month of March.
 - [Irish Catholic Parish Registers, 1655-1915](#)
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- The FindMyPast index to the Catholic Parish Registers will be free forever.
 - [Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms](#)
 - [Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Marriages](#)
 - [Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Burials](#)
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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 March 14, 2016, 7:15 PM [Genealogical Research in Israel: The Records and Databases of the Israel Genealogy Research Association \(IGRA\)](#)** with Garri Regev at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State in Factoria, FREE.
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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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- **Thursday March 19, 2016, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM [Irish Genealogy Workshop](#)** from the Irish Club, part of Seattle's Irish Week, \$38 includes box lunch.
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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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- **Wednesday March 23, 2016, 10:30 AM - Noon** [Family Photo Editing](#) presented by KRL's Adult Services Librarian Megan Doreen May at the Puget Sound Genealogical Society, in the Heninger Room at the Sylvan Way Library, FREE.
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- **Saturday March 26, 2016, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM** [Emigration and Immigration](#) with Gary Zimmerman at the Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island, \$50.
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- **Saturday March 26, 2016, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** [Massachusetts State Research](#) presented by Ann Northcutt at the Puget Sound Genealogical Society, in the Heninger Room at the Sylvan Way Library, FREE.
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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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- **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 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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- **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 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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- **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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- **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 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