



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## March Newsletter

### News from the Board

#### Election for Board of Directors 2018

The Nominating Committee met and confirmed the slate of candidates to present for a vote at the April 20, 2018 meeting. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Sylvia Nelson, Chair; Andy Hoskins, Kathleen Penn, and Don Scott, members.

The slate includes:

President:

Betty Wiese

Vice President /Program

Chair:

Sylvia Nelson

Secretary:

Rebecca Pratt

Treasurer:

Sue Hassenmiller

Director #1 Ways & Means:

Betsy Hettich

Director#2 Publicity & PR:

Sue Elfving

Director #3 Ombudsman:

Don Scott

### Member's Corner

#### Family Lore: Fact or Fiction?

By Joleen Aitchison

Once Upon A Time...

...Two young people immigrated to the United States from Ireland. John Thomas Wynne and Winifred Marn were both born in Tubbercurry, County Sligo. However, they were not acquainted with each other in Ireland. Each of them had an uncle in New York City who sponsored their entrances into the country. They met in New York and were so unhappy with the way the Irish were treated there that "they traveled by buggy and two horses with a cow tied on behind" to Illinois. "At night, they slept under the buggy." There may have been other family members with them.

I first heard this account from 'Granny Wynne,' my husband's grandmother and the daughter-in-law of the above-mentioned couple. My mother-in-law has also shared it with me many times, and I have loved hearing it. This is a cherished story in the Wynne family, and one not to be disputed! But - is it true?

There are a couple of other tidbits that have come out in conversations over the years. One is that Winnie immigrated when she was 18. Other bits are that John had a brother in Joliet, Illinois, and a brother named Dennis, not necessarily being one in the same.

Winifred Marn was born on April 16, 1855. If she immigrated at 18, in theory, she would have arrived between April 15, 1873 and April 16, 1874. On the 1910 U. S. census, it was recorded she arrived in 1872 and was not

**We will take nominations from the floor at the meeting. Any member desiring to be a nominee may either self-nominate or have someone nominate them. If they are not present at the meeting they MUST provide a signed statement that they are willing to be nominated and serve in the position.**

**Only paid-in-full members are eligible to vote at the meeting. If you have not yet renewed your membership and want to participate in the future direction of BIGS, please renew as soon as possible. If you have any questions or comments, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members.**

### **Upcoming BIGS Membership Survey**

**Later this month, you will receive an email request via Survey Monkey to complete a BIGS Membership Survey. Please help us be the organization you want by responding to the survey request when you get it. Your responses will be confidential; we'll be able to see who has responded, but not what your responses are.**

naturalized. So far, no record has been located that documents her arrival into the United States.

Likewise, it was reported that John immigrated in 1872. While it has not been undeniably proven, there is a passenger list entry for a John Wynne arriving in New York on the S. S. Calabria on April 15, 1872. This record shows he was born in Ireland and was 20 years of age. Since John's birthday was May 12, 1851, this information is consistent. Reviewing the passenger list did not yield any other passengers with the names Wynne or Marn in any of their variations.

After reviewing the great number of records located for this couple, as well as correspondence with a distant relation, here is what seems to have occurred.

A man named Dennis Wynne (b. 1844; likely John's older brother) immigrated to the United States in 1862. He enlisted in the 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, Co. B on May 15, 1862. He was shot in the forehead, left without being discharged, and was in hospital at the conclusion of the war. On February 12, 1870, Dennis married Mary Marren (Marn) in Kankakee County, Illinois (Illinois Statewide Marriage Index 1763 - 1900). Between 1877 (birth of fourth child in Illinois) and 1880, they moved their family to Adams County, Nebraska, where Dennis and Mary lived out their lives.

In the meantime, both John and Winnie made their way to Illinois. They were married in Will County on January 12, 1876 (Illinois Statewide Marriage Index 1763 - 1900). Their first two children, Mary Jane and James Frank, were born in Illinois. Their family is also enumerated in Adams County, Nebraska, in 1880. Interestingly, some of their children have the same names as some of Dennis' children: Ella, John, and Morgan (Mark).

In the Nebraska State Census for 1885, there was the Dennis Wynne family, the John Wynne family, and the Patrick Marren (who also has a daughter named Winifred) family. The relationships among the families are not yet absolutely clear. However, it appears that Dennis and John are brothers, along with the unnamed brother (possibly John Wynne who died in 1939 in Joliet, Illinois). These men likely had an uncle in New York City who sponsored them into the United States. There are several possibilities, which will require further research.

**BIGS' purpose and strategic directions are to promote genealogical research and education to meet the needs of our membership. We periodically conduct membership surveys to find out what you need and want, and how well your needs and wishes are being met by the activities we sponsor. We did similar surveys in 2014 and 2016.**

**We will use the information, along with other feedback we get, to guide the decisions we make for allocating funds, program topics, meeting formats, expertise to share, and interest groups to support. We will share what we are learning from the survey with you, including at the April 20th Annual Membership Meeting.**

The more responses we get the more meaningful will be the information we get and the more useful to guide our decisions. We are happy to make a paper copy available to anyone who would prefer to respond this way. Let's exceed last time's response rate of about 50%!

*Betty Wiese*

President

Patrick Marren is very likely a cousin to Winifred (Marn) Wynne. These two must have also had an uncle in New York City, if the family lore is to be supported.

Ultimately, in 1886, John and Winnie homesteaded in Banner County, Nebraska. The youngest four children, Clarence, Florence, Mark, and Ethel, were born in Banner County. The family was enumerated in Gabe Rock Precinct in 1900, and Flowerfield Precinct in 1910. In 1915, they removed to Pine Bluffs, Laramie County, Wyoming, where they remained until their deaths. John died in 1924, Winifred in 1942. They are both buried in the Pine Bluffs Cemetery.

Though there is much left to be discovered about this family, both John and Winnie seem to have come from the same vicinity in Ireland. It appears very likely that they each did have an uncle in New York and they each made their way to Illinois. The means by which they did that is not certain and there is no proof they traveled together. They did marry and have a family.

So, is the family story fact or fiction? Whatever the case, these were brave young people who left their homeland to begin a new and, hopefully, better life. As far as we can tell, they lived happily ever after.



John and Winnifred Wynne

## Did You Hear?

The Community Room at the Bainbridge Public Library has a hearing loop system to assist folks with hearing loss, thanks to a grant from the Rotary Club of Bainbridge. The hearing loop transmits the audio from the PA system directly to telecoil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants. The "t-coil" functions as an antenna, relaying sounds directly into the ear without background noise or distortion. Some 70 percent of hearing aids are now equipped with t-coils, and it can simply be a matter of switching the aid to t-coil mode. In addition, the library has four receiver/headset systems for people without hearing aids or with hearing aids that are not telecoil-equipped. The headsets are available on request. If you have trouble hearing, be sure to ask!



### TIP OF THE MONTH

**It helps to keep a research log for a genealogy project. Keeping track of where you've looked and what you've found (or not found) helps you focus your research.**

**You can record any conflicting evidence, your conclusions and your strategy forward. A log may also save you from later re-doing work you've already done.**

**- Claire Smith**

## The Four P's of Emigration

Members attending our February meeting had the pleasure of hearing Jill Morelli

speak on the decision making process of the 19<sup>th</sup> century emigrant. Jill explained that the process was complex, messy and unique to each family. She framed the discussion with the four P's: Push, Pull, imPediments and Personal factors. The **Push** represents the negative factors that might drive a family or community to leave home; the **Pull** represents the positive factors of the destination - whether true or wishful thinking. **Impediments** would be obstacles, usually imposed by governments, such as a passport tax or restrictions on those who were seen as assets to the labor force or the military. **Personal choice** might include accepting a proposal of marriage from a person who had already emigrated, or a strong desire to travel and experience the New World. Jill used a series of case studies to illustrate the decision making process and shared an incredible letter home from an ancestor who made a strong case to his family for making the move to America.

If you were not able to attend the presentation, contact our historian Betsy Hettich to get a copy.

## Monthly Meetings

### JOIN US

**Friday, March 16, 10:00am to Noon**

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Navigation Skills for Genealogists** - *the presentation will focus on the research process - how to plan where you're going, find the sources you need to further your research, track what you've found and stay on course.*

Speaker: **Claire Smith** - *As a longtime BIGS member and mentor, Claire is well known to the membership. Plan on sticking around after the presentation for a chance to say hello.*

**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**

## Special Interest Groups

### For BIGS Members Only

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

**Skill Building**, second Friday of the month

Friday, March 9, 10am to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Topic: **Ancestry.com Search Tips and Tricks**

Leaders: **Sue Hassenmiller, Betsy Hettich, Rebecca Pratt**

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**

**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**

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## Special Interest Groups Cont.

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**New England Mid-Atlantic Special Interest Group**, Quarterly

Tuesday, March 6, 10am to Noon, downstairs at Bainbridge Library

Leader: **Mary Ferm**

**Great Britain Special Interest Group**, first Friday of the month

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

Leader: **Joleen Aitchison**

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## Happening Around the Sound

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**Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle****Finding and Using Historic Newspapers**

Second Saturday Speaker Series and Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday March 10, 2018 - 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Topic: Let's put flesh on the bones and faces to the names by discovering the stories that our ancestors lived. We'll talk about the proliferation of newspaper databases online and how to obtain newspapers that are not online. Birth announcements, wedding notices, obituaries and other stories illustrate the lives of those that came before us.

Speaker: Claudia Breland

**Brick Wall Workshop**

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

National Archive (NARA) 6125 Sand Point Way NE

Instructor: Karen Sipe

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

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## Happening Around the Sound Cont.

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### **Puget Sound Genealogical Society - 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton**

#### **Dealing with Digital Images in Genealogy**

Saturday March 24, 10:30am -12:30pm

Topic: Understanding the types of digital images, sources, methods for obtaining images and using them in genealogy plus restoration techniques.

Speaker: Mary Lynn Strickland

#### **Beyond Outlander: Researching your Scottish and English Ancestors**

Wednesday, March 28, 1 - 2 pm

Topic: Trace your Scottish and English ancestors using the top record types and online databases as well as records not on line.

Speaker: Claudia Breland

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

### ***2018 Northwest Genealogy Conference***

Have you registered yet for the 2018 Northwest Genealogy Conference? Better get on it – the Early Bird Registration special ends **March 15, 2018!**

The conference, one of the premier conferences in the region, is from Wednesday, August 15th to Saturday, August 18, 2018 in Arlington, WA.

Don't miss the chance to hear keynoter speakers CeCe Moore, Beth Foulk and Peggy Lauritzen. There will also be 12 other speakers to round out the conference sessions.

Go to [www.nwgc.org](http://www.nwgc.org) to see the full schedule of classes. Be sure to register while you are there and take advantage of the reduced rate through March 15. Also be sure to get your hotel reservations as the conference room blocks are filling up fast.

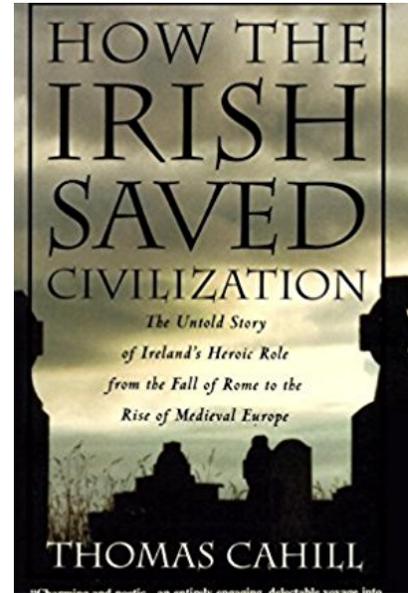
## Recommended Reading for March. . .

### ***How the Irish Saved Civilization***

By Thomas Cahill

The perfect read to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the untold story of Ireland's role in maintaining Western culture while the Dark Ages settled on Europe.

Every year millions of Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day, but they may not be aware of how great an influence St. Patrick was on the subsequent history of civilization. Not only did he bring Christianity to Ireland, he instilled a sense of literacy and learning that would create the conditions that allowed Ireland to become "the isle of saints and scholars" -- and thus preserve Western culture while Europe was being overrun by barbarians.



In this entertaining and compelling narrative, Thomas Cahill tells the story of how Europe evolved from the classical age of Rome to the medieval era. Without Ireland, the transition could not have taken place. Not only did Irish monks and scribes maintain the very record of Western civilization -- copying manuscripts of Greek and Latin writers, both pagan and Christian, while libraries and learning on the continent were forever lost -- they brought their uniquely Irish world-view to the task.

As Cahill delightfully illustrates, so much of the liveliness we associate with medieval culture has its roots in Ireland. When the seeds of culture were replanted on the European continent, it was from Ireland that they were germinated.  
-Random House

***How the Irish Saved Civilization*** is available from the Bainbridge Library, either off the shelf or as an e-book.



[BIGS Website](#)

