



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

News from the Board

Time to Renew - Deadline Feb. 17

Please renew your membership now. Non-members will be removed from the roster and email groups by the end of February. If you don't plan to renew, please let us know so we can stop contacting you. Mail your check to PO Box 135 Rolling Bay, WA 98061 or give it to a board member at the Feb. 10 Skill Building meeting or Feb. 17 general meeting.

Should we continue to have a newsletter?

If yes, consider volunteering to be newsletter editor. Our current editor, Mae Gentry, will be stepping down this spring. The editor collects information provided by others (i.e., News from the Board, Member's Corner,

Member's Corner

Surprise! You Have a New Family Member

by Sylvia Nelson

Today my husband and I have connected an unknown child to her surviving aunt. All of this came about through DNA testing. I have her approval to use her name, as well as Gary's and his cousin's.

Last May, I got an email from a woman in Arkansas named Lisa, who said she matched my husband Gary's mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) as a first or second cousin. She had taken the Family Tree DNA's mtDNA test after learning she was adopted. I also got the notice from Family Tree DNA that she and Gary share DNA with approximately 400 cMs in the Family Finder test.

I talked with Sue Hassenmiller about this, and she suggested I have Lisa contact the website DNA Adoption.

In her next email, Lisa told me she knew where she was born in 1969. Her birth mother was Native or half Native. She had not spoken to her adoptive father about this yet; the information was from her adoptive mother's sister. She had her adoptive father take a DNA test. It came back that they are not related, and the story unfolded.

She asked if Gary had any family in that area or who may have lived there in the '60s. She wrote:

"I'm praying my parents kept the adoption papers and my real parents are listed."

I then got this email:

"I received my adoption packet today and my

upcoming local events, upcoming BIGS meetings). The editor checks local area genealogical resources (e.g., Fiske Library) to identify upcoming events of interest. The job involves a few hours of work each month to prepare a Word document for Lori Gibson to format for the website. Please contact [Mae](#) or [Betty](#) for more information.

New books in the Bainbridge Library

As noted last month, due to the generosity of Rebecca Judd and work done by Priscilla Greenlees and Pat Scott, we are happy to report that nine of the 10 books we asked the Bainbridge Island Branch to purchase have arrived.

The book on order is **A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland**.

The books already in circulation are:

- **Elements of Genealogical Analysis,**
- **The Great Migration Directory,**
- **Genealogist Handbook for Irish Research,**
- **Genealogy and the Law: A Guide to Legal Sources for the Family Historian,**
- **Genealogists Handbook to**

father is not listed. My birth mother was [Withheld], and she was 18 years old in 1969; she gave birth to me in Arkansas, but I don't think she was from the area. I plan on doing some more research to find out if she came to Arkansas from another state or if she lived in the area. Since a father was not listed, I assume he probably never knew [she] was with child and she came to Arkansas to hide the pregnancy since she was unmarried and only 18.

"Since Gary and I are 1st-2nd cousins that means we would possibly share a great grandparent or even a grandparent. I'm just hoping to at least know my natural father's name and to know if I have brothers and sisters somewhere."

"All of this is so mind blowing to me, I feel as though I'm dreaming and none of this is real - even after reading the documents."

On January 2, I received this message:

"I have some news, I found my birth mother and we talked last night - David Langlois is my father. When he was told about the adoption, he said he would have kept me."

Lisa later told me that the European portion of her DNA was 70 percent French. She has sent pictures of herself and of her birth mother, who lives in California.

I was able to tell her that David Alan Langlois was Gary's cousin on his mother's side. She and Gary would be first cousins once removed. David was in the Navy during the Vietnam War - in fact, his burial information in a military cemetery indicates he joined the Navy in 1969. Where he was before and during that time, I don't know. The family lived in Southern California, but he could have been anywhere as a Navy recruit.

I shared the Langlois side of Gary's family tree with her. The Langlois family goes way back, into Nova Scotia from France.

Gary wrote to his surviving cousin (David's sister) in California. This week he got an email from her: *"Hi Gary - got your very interesting letter. I am open to meeting this woman. Dave never said anything about her to me, and at that time I'm probably the only one he would have confided in. So what now?"*

New England Research

- **Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses 1790-1920**
- **The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy.**

Betty Wiese

President



[BIGS Website](#)



I introduced them via email on Jan. 17, and I just learned that they have spoken and Lisa will be going to California to meet her new family. Gary's surviving cousin has two sons, and Lisa has two daughters. Their families

are grown and both are very pleased. Lisa's adoptive father is very happy for her. So are we! She said he would always be her true father. And of course, I have added her to Gary's tree.

If you'd like to share your story in a future BIGS newsletter, please contact [Sue Hassenmiller](#).

Meetings

Until further notice, our monthly meetings will be held at the LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave. NE, Bainbridge Island. Park on the northwest side of the building, and enter through the northwest corner door by the bike racks.

Friday, February 17, 10:00 AM to noon

Mary K. Roddy, *A Decree of (Temporary) Divorce - My Life Without Ancestry.com*

Friday, March 17, 1 10:00 AM to noon

Janet O. Camarata, *Ask, Listen and Record.*

For handouts from one of our guest speaker presentations, contact our historian, [Rebecca Pratt](#).

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

Special Interest Groups

For BIGS Members Only

Upcoming SIG meetings in chronological order.

All meetings will be held at the LDS Church, unless otherwise noted.

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

Skill Building, second Friday of the month

Friday, February 10, 10 AM to Noon,

Topic: ***Where Do I Begin? A review of Research Fundamentals***

Leader: Mary Ferm and Sylvia Nelson

Friday, March 10, 10 AM to Noon,

Topic: ***Genealogy Instructional Videos: Featuring Ancestry's The Barefoot Genealogist***

Leader: Rebecca Pratt

Evening Discussion Group, third Monday of the month

Monday, February 20, 7 PM to 9 PM, Homestreet Bank on Hildebrand.

Topic: ***Active problem solving and updates on research progress***

Leaders: Mary Ferm and Sue Elfving

Great Britain

Wednesday, March 1, 1 PM to 3 PM (pending confirmation of the LDS church meeting room)

Leader: Joleen Aitchison

All Things DNA, every other month

Friday, March 3, 10 AM to Noon

Topic: ***BIGS member Steve Louis will present a program on autosomal and mitochondrial DNA***

Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

New England Mid-Atlantic, quarterly

Next meeting in March (details TBA)

Leader: Mary Ferm

Southern States, quarterly

Next meeting in April, details TBA

Leader: Paula Schmidt

Irish, monthly

Next meeting TBA

Acting Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

Program Notes

BIGS program chair Bagley Dawson is interested in hearing your suggestions for speakers in 2017 and beyond. They can be written on your comment slip and deposited in the comment box at the monthly meeting, or they can be given directly to Bagley, president Betty Wiese or any board member. All suggestions are welcome.

Genealogy News

Kimberly Powell's wonderful genealogy newsletter has ended. Her articles will remain online, at least for now.

<http://link.about.com/view/5436f4d3ba57e6ea0e8b4a9d51ifm.ach/536dc164>

This website may be of interest to those searching for Irish ancestors:

<https://www.johngrenham.com/blog/2016/12/12/new-free-irish-genealogy-education-site/>

This website gives genealogists free online access to an index of some 2 million African American names from 1865 to 1872:

www.DiscoverFreedmen.org.

Local Events

The Clallum County Genealogical Society will have BIGS member Mae Gentry as its guest speaker at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 11. The presentation, "Erased From South Carolina History: A Family Tree's Missing Branch," will be held at the Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church, 925 N. Sequim Ave. in Sequim. For more information, visit <http://clallamcogs.org>

"Discover Your Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestry" will be held Sunday, March 5, at 3005 112th St East in Tacoma. For information, call 253-548-3425 or 316-300-3383 or email jprothro@piercecounitylibrary.org.
Registration required.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society will have legal genealogist Judy Russell as its guest speaker for the spring seminar on April 29. For registration and information, visit <http://www.tpcgs.org/seminar.html>

Other BIGS Business

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 BIGSNET menu on [our website](#) or [contact Sue Hassenmiller](#), the BIGS-net moderator, if you have questions.

*Feedback and ideas from our members are always welcome.
BIGS is YOUR group so let us know what you'd like to see!*

Mae Gentry

Newsletter Editor
