



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

### News from the Board

**GOT A BURNING QUESTION?**  
**LOOKING FOR HELP?**  
**TRY BIGSNET**

**BIGSNET** is our email group for members interested in communicating with each other. It is a great way to reach BIGS members to ask for help; no need to wait for a meeting or coffee date with a "geni-buddy." For example, you might ask: "How do I ...?"; "Where do I look for ...?"; "Anyone looking at birth records for New York City in 1870?"; "Who wants to go with me to the National Archives in Seattle?" or "Why do Americans and Canadians use the dinner fork differently?"

The idea is based on an international group that Sue Hassenmiller belongs to. It is

### Member's Corner

At the members' meeting last December, Melody Truscott shared an impressive family bible bound in stamped leather and ornamented with metal corners and catches. Melody explained that the bible was believed to be a wedding gift to her husband's great-grandfather and his new bride in 1892. Melody reports, "Apparently he immigrated from Cornwall, England to Montana in 1896, and she followed the next year with their two sons. We assume it came with her, but it is huge and heavy! I can't imagine uprooting life, moving to a far off place and packing this treasure, along with everything else necessary for a new life in a new country. It was that important!

Eventually, the bible ended up with a family member not from the direct line. This relative lives in Pennsylvania and had access to folks who do a lot of restoration work for the Smithsonian. In our talks about family and ancestry he decided to return the Bible to the rightful family members after he had it reworked. We are very grateful to have it and so appreciative of the fabulous work done to it. There were a few clues to locations, a name and dates inscribed inside that were helpful in my research."



Family Bible c. 1892 - Melody Truscott

a group that is primarily interested in history and enjoys finding the answer to questions such as the one about Americans and Canadian using the dinner fork differently. An example of how BIGSNET can help you with your research is a question that was posted on January 24. One of our members needed help reading the cause of death on three death certificates. Three members offered to help and by the end of the next day, our member had her information from the death certificate.

You will know you are in the group if you now receive emails with {BIGS-NET} in the subject line. New members are added when they join BIGS. Members of long standing can request to be added to BIGSNET. If you are not receiving BIGSNET emails, and would like to join BIGSNET, go to the top right side of our webpage <http://www.bigenealogy.org> and click on BIGSNET or contact Sue Hassenmiller, the moderator, at [suzyh1943@gmail.com](mailto:suzyh1943@gmail.com).

To use BIGSNET, either go to the BIGS website and select BIGSNET in the top line, and then either select the New Topic button or reply to a message. Also, you can send

## It's time to renew your BIGS membership!

The deadline for annual dues is February 16, 2018. It's coming up fast! If you haven't already done so, please send your check to:

PO Box 135 Rolling Bay, WA 98016.



We need to know our budget for the year so we can plan our presentations and events. Please pay as soon as you can if you plan to renew. Thank you!

### GEDCOM basics

*During the January Skill Building session, the question of what is a GEDCOM file and how is it used came up more than once. A little research online, including a look at Family Tree Magazine and Dick Eastman's blog provided the following information:*

GEDCOM is an acronym for **G**enealogy **D**ata **C**ommunication - the standard computer file format used by family genealogists to share information. It allows genealogy files to be

opened in any genealogy software program on a Mac or PC. This format allows different family tree software applications to understand and open the same family tree file, bypassing differences in coding that would normally prevent sharing. GEDCOM files will have the file extension ".ged" as in "myancesters.ged." GEDCOM was originally developed by the LDS Church in 1983. The current version has been in use since 1996. Simply put, GEDCOM allows you to download your information from

an email to [www.bigsnet@googlegroups.com](mailto:www.bigsnet@googlegroups.com). It is very helpful to put your question in the subject line.

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## WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM THE JANUARY 12, 2018 SIG - YEAR OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING?

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With 14 members in attendance, we each shared something we plan to work on this year. In addition, we brainstormed topics about which we want to learn or get help, where BIGS might be an avenue (i.e., meetings, mentors, members helping each other, small workgroup meetings). Ideas include: Sharing research secrets; exploring genealogy software options; organizing paper and digital files; learning techniques for interpreting DNA results.

Feedback from those attending was generally positive and suggests we have a meeting like this periodically.

*Betty Wiese*

**President**

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one program and upload to another. GEDCOM allows you to send some or all of your tree to your cousin or add your aunt's research to your tree. Or maybe you like to print your pedigree charts from Ancestry.com, but you are currently doing British research on FindMyPast.com. If you use a program like Family Tree Maker or Roots Magic to maintain your tree offline, you will be using GEDCOM to transfer your information.

Each family tree program has its own default file format, called a "proprietary format," which other software usually can't translate. But the various programs can all read and write GEDCOM files. However, because of the proprietary format, the data does not always transfer exactly, and you

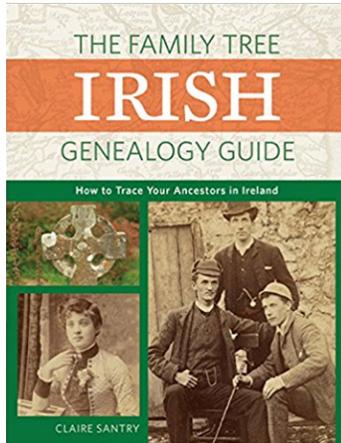
may not be able to transfer photos, citations and documents this way.

It should be relatively easy to figure out how to create a GEDCOM file within your family tree program. For example, in Ancestry, by clicking on "Trees," going to the bottom of your tree list and clicking on "Create and Manage Trees" you can access the **upload** command at the bottom of that page. If you click on "Manage Tree" next to an individual tree, you will find a command that will allow you to **download** a GEDCOM file for export. If you use other sites such as My Heritage or Find My Past, the process is similar and you can find the steps readily online. It is important to note that while you can upload a GEDCOM file to Family Search, you cannot create a GEDCOM file for export.

**KITSAP ANTIQUE SHOW 2018**  
President's Hall - Kitsap County Fairground

February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 am - 4 pm

Admission \$6.00   Appraisals \$5.00/item  
Organized by Kitsap History Museum & Puget Sound



## Recommended Reading

*Submitted by Claire Smith*

### ***The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide***

*by Claire Santry*

I would like to recommend my favorite new book for Irish research! Claire Santry is a well-known Irish genealogist and author of the Irish Genealogy News blog. She recently published ***The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide***, an indispensable reference for anyone working on Irish ancestry.

Santry first covers genealogy basics, topics including citations, research logs and the difference between primary and secondary sources. She then delves into the specifics of Irish research with a historical overview, an explanation of administrative divisions in Ireland, why land and property records are so important and immigration to the United States. She thoroughly covers what record collections exist, where to find them, the pros and cons of various websites and suggests research strategies and even illustrates them with several case studies.

*The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide* is readily available for purchase online or for check out at the Bremerton Branch of Kitsap Regional Library.

## January Meeting

Our January Program Meeting included a thorough and informative presentation on **Passenger Lists and Ports of Arrival** by BIGS mentors Paula Schmidt and Sue Hassenmiller. Paula took us from colonial times through 1855, when the first official immigration center opened at Castle Garden, New York. Sue picked it up there and brought us into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We learned, among other things, where to look for passenger lists, how various immigration laws impacted record keeping, and which were the most common ports of arrival for different immigrants. If you missed the meeting, you are in luck! You can find the bibliography Paula created for the presentation, including journal articles, books, data bases and websites, on the BIGS website: <http://bigenealogy.org/class-notes/>.

## Monthly Meetings

### JOIN US

Friday, February 16, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **The Push and the Pull: Decision-Making of the 19th Century Emigrant**

Speakers: **Jill Morelli**

Friday, March 16, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Navigation Skills for Genealogists**

Speakers: **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.*

*Contact Historian [Betsy Hettich](#) for presentation handouts.*

## Special Interest Groups

### For BIGS Members Only

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

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

Friday, February 9, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Topic: **Where Do I Begin? (Research Fundamentals)**

Leader: **Mary Ferm and Sylvia Nelson**

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

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

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

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

**Evening Discussion Group (EDG)**, third Monday of the month

Monday, February 19, 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**

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

Friday, February 2, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Leader: **Joleen Aitchison**

## Special Interest Groups Cont.

### **New England - Mid - Atlantic Special Interest Group**

Tuesday, March 5, 10 AM to Noon, Bainbridge Library, downstairs

Leader: Mary Ferm

## Happening Around the Sound

### **Fiske Library - 1644 43rd Ave East, Seattle**

#### **Angst Free Citation**

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2018

Cost: \$5

Speaker: Jill Morelli

#### **Church Records & How to Find Them**

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2018 - 10:00 to noon

Cost: \$5

Speaker: Mary Kozy

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

### **Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle**

#### **Family Tree Maker Users Group**

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018 - 10:15 to 12:15pm

For those using FTM software

Chair: Reiley Kidd

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

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

#### **Naturalization & Ship Passenger Lists**

Date: Tuesday, February 6 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Topic: Learn about passenger lists, the European ports of departure, changing immigration laws and where to find records.

Speaker: Laura Sparr

# Happening Around the Sound Cont.

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

### **Soldiers, Spies, & Farm Wives: The Changing Roles for Women During the Civil War**

Date: Wednesday, February 28 - 1:00 to 2:00pm

Topic: Learn about the roles of women before the war, the roles they accepted during the war, and the legacy of the Civil War.

Speaker: Jill Morelli

### **Webinar: Finding Ancestors Amid the Rubble of Disaster & Misfortune**

Date: Saturday, February 24 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Speaker: Webinar by Thomas MacEntree

Registration required: 360-475-9172

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

## TIP OF THE MONTH

**HELP!** If you're stuck, ask a genealogy friend for help. It's always good to get another perspective. Sometimes, just putting together what you know so you can explain it to someone else will make you see something you've missed. And don't forget, as a BIGS member you have access to BIGSnet to ask a question of the group or you can schedule time with a mentor that might be well-versed in the area you are researching.



[BIGS Website](#)



*Your newsletter was edited by Andrea Hoskins and designed by Lori Gibson*