



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

February 2019 Newsletter

News from the Board

Adverse Weather Policy

If the Bainbridge Island Public library is closed, BIGS will not meet. This applies not only to meetings held at the library, but also to SIG meetings that are held in other locations such as the Home Street Bank or the LDS church. If we can, we will send an email and/or post something on our website when there is a question about whether or not we are meeting.

Family History Month October 2019

As Sue Hassenmiller explained in her email message dated January 22nd, the Board has decided to once again sponsor a public event as part of Family History Month in October 2019. Last year's event was a success. The planning committee will review how

Member's Corner

Closing the Circle

Contributed by Betty Wiese



Johanna Kattenbelt, Red Lodge, Montana 1908

"If they need young men, they need young women," recalled Johanna Kattenbelt Kray Vermeire with a chuckle as she told her story of coming to America in October 1907 as a 21-year old Rotterdam, Netherlands city girl. She had seen an advertisement - news from the United States as Montana was opening for homesteading. Johanna's parents would not allow her to go to America alone, so she continued to work for the Maat family in their tea room/dairy business in Rotterdam.

When her employers Joris J. and Barbara Maat decided to emigrate with their 6 sons and a seventh

things went, including any lessons learned, and get us ready for this year's event.

While support and education of our members is BIGS primary mission, we contribute to the broader community as well. For example, our website is available to all and our monthly program meetings are widely publicized in order to encourage interested members of the public to attend. Family History month activities are a part of our community service; we can always explore other ideas that our members bring forward. I am excited about how our plans for this year will develop.

Betty Wiese

President



*February is
Black History Month*

child on the way, Johanna came with them to help, with her special charge the baby boy, Anton, age 8 months. He was so ill on the journey and after they arrived, they all worried he would not live.

The Maats and Johanna arrived at Ellis Island in the fall of 1907 and made their way to Red Lodge, Montana. Johanna eventually married Henry Kray and moved with him to their own homestead outside of Hardin, Montana. Their daughter, also named Johanna, was my mother.

Anton Maat grew up to be a Catholic priest. He was ordained as a Benedictine in Washington State. My grandmother spoke with pride about the baby she cared for who grew up to be a priest and visited her more than once when they both lived in Seattle, Washington area. Johanna passed away in Seattle in 1983.

Fast forward to December 2001 when my brother David, Johanna's grandson, passed away. Our family had already planned to spend the

holidays together on the Oregon coast, so it seemed an opportune time to have a family memorial gathering for David. As the family organizer, I planned the memorial. While my mother said it need not be at a Catholic church, I found a lovely small church at Rockaway Beach, Oregon. When I noted the parish priest was William Maat, of course I inquired if he was from Montana (thinking there might be a connection to the Maat family that my grandmother immigrated with). I was told no; Father Maat was from Michigan.

So, imagine our surprise and wonder when we met a very elderly priest at the lovely church on the Oregon coast who remembered Johanna Kattenbelt. Yes, that baby who arrived in America in 1907 in Johanna Kattenbelt's arms, officiated at the memorial service for Johanna's grandson in 2001.

Meet Your Board

Here is the fourth in our series of Board Member Profiles

Submitted by Rebecca Pratt, Administrative Secretary



I have been a member of BIGS since 2006.

Currently, I am the administrative secretary, AV person and general tech support for BIGS. I manage the Google Groups and the membership rosters, setup the projector and sound system at our meetings, take minutes at the board meetings and keep our state and city business licenses up to date.

I live in Eglon, a tiny farming community halfway between Kingston and Hansville. Even though I have spent my entire adult life in and around Kingston, I have always worked in Seattle, Everett, or worse, Bellevue. I was employed by Boeing for 27 years where I first worked as an engineer in Boeing's test laboratories, then for Boeing IT troubleshooting chronic web server problems and finally as liaison between Boeing and their IT vendor.

Most of my childhood was spent away from my family. I hardly knew my siblings until I was an adult and I never knew my mother who died when I was an infant. I did not know if I had any aunts and uncles or cousins. I first thought about genealogy when I saw a very early version of Family Tree Maker in the 90's and bought a copy. I didn't get very far with my search at that time. I tried again in 2005 with a free six-month Ancestry account and made minimal headway finding my family. Then, I saw a BIGS meeting notice on the library calendar and decided to attend. From there it became a passion. Putting my family together was like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

My father had mentioned his own father from time to time but since my father was 5 years old when his father died in a work-related accident, he didn't have much to share. I only knew my grandfather's name was Hawley Robertson and he was born in South Carolina. I found a lot of Robertsons in South Carolina, and too many of them were named Hawley, believe it or not. I finally discovered which line of South Carolina Robertsons I belonged to when I found an old 1962 Christmas card from my father's cousin in South Carolina. It was full of news of the family back there, and I was able to use this letter to prove which Robertson line I came from. Fortunately, the cousin mentioned her father, Muscoe Robertson, and there aren't many Muscoes in the censuses!

~ Rebecca Pratt

BIGS February Monthly Meeting

Be sure to mark you calendar for our monthly meeting on February 15th, when Janet O'Conor Camarata will be presenting "Mapping an Ancestor." Geography is a discipline closely related to genealogy and an untapped resource for learning more about our ancestors. Using geography and maps in research provides visual clues to help answer questions about where, how far, and what is nearby. By focusing on the George E. Curry family of Ohio and Kansas, our speaker will show us how maps help focus your research, locate property, discover lost place names, identify jurisdictions to write for records and maybe even solve a family mystery.

Friday, February 15, 10:00 Bainbridge Library

Here's a hint. . .

Always look for probate records for collateral ancestors who have no children. They just might have left property to their siblings or their siblings' children. Probates of cousins who were only children without children are also worth checking. Their property might have been distributed to cousins.

Submitted by Claire Smith

Kitsap Antique Show 2019

A joint fundraiser for the Kitsap History Museum &
Puget Sound Genealogical Society

February 23rd and 24th

at the President's Hall

Kitsap County Fairgrounds

Saturday and Sunday 9am to 5pm

Admission: \$6

Appraisals: \$5 per item

For more information go to: antiqueshowkitsap.com

Monthly Members' Meetings

JOIN US

Friday, February 15, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Mapping an Ancestor**, Using geography and maps in your research

Speaker: **Janet O'Conor Camarata**

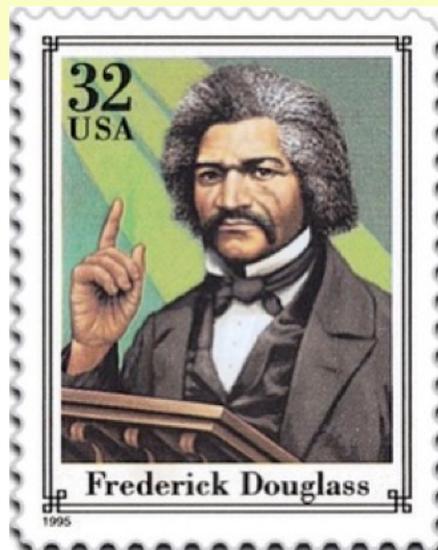
Friday, March 15, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Preserve and Digitize Over-Sized Items**

Speaker: **Mary Hammer and Maggie Cogswell**,
Preservation and Imaging Experts, WA State Archives

Contact Historian [Betsy Hettich](#) for presentation handouts.
The complete meeting schedule is on our [website](#).



"Some know the value of education by having it. I know its value by not having it."

~Frederick Douglass

Special Interest Groups

For BIGS Members Only

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

Great Britain Special Interest Group, two times quarterly

Friday, February 1, 10 AM to Noon
LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE
Facilitator: Joleen Aitchison

Skill Building, second Friday of the month

Friday, February 8, 10 AM to Noon
Bainbridge Public Library
Topic: **Getting Started/Where Do I Begin? Introduction to Genealogy Research**
Presenter: Joleen Aitchison

Skill Building, second Friday of the month

Friday, March 8, 10 AM to Noon
Bainbridge Public Library
Topic: **Member Sharing/Problem Solving**
Presenter: Betty Wiese

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

Monday, February 18, 7 PM to 9 PM
HomeStreet Bank on Hildebrand Lane, Community Room, 1st floor. Knock if it's locked!
Topic: **Active problem solving and updates on research progress**
Leaders: Sue Elving and Mary Ferm

Irish Special Interest Group, first Friday of the month, quarterly

Friday, March 1, 10 AM to Noon
LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE
Topic: **Learning from each other and active problem solving on all things Irish**
Facilitator: This is a self-lead group where members come to share discoveries and questions.

Happening Around the Sound

Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

Second Saturday Speaker Series: Using Manuscripts and Family Records for Genealogical Proof

Saturday, February 9, 2019 - 1:00pm to 3:00pm

SGS Library, 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

To some, family records, diaries, letters, and personal photographs may be seen as having little genealogical value. Nothing could be further from the truth! Explore how original information can shine new light on undiscovered facts or family relationships.

Speaker: Steven Morrison

Confirm event: <http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org>

Puget Sound Genealogical Society - 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

Canadian Genealogy: Migration

Tuesday, February 5, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Sylvan Way, Heninger Room

An exploration of Canadian migration patterns

Speaker: Elisabeth Demmon

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



[BIGS Website](http://www.bigsociety.org)



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