



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

News from the Board

2017 Board of Director Candidates

A new board will be elected at the April 21, 2017 monthly program meeting, with voting by current members present at the meeting. The slate (as announced to the membership by email on March 21, 2017) is:

President - Betty Wiese

Vice President/Program Chair - Sylvia Nelson

Secretary - Rebecca Pratt

Treasurer - Sue Hassenmiller

Director Pos. 1 - Ways and Means - Betsy Hettich

Director Pos. 2 - Publicity/PR Chair - Sue Elfving

Director Pos.3 - Ombudsman - Don Scott

Annual President's Letter to Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society Members April 2017

Thank you for being a member of the Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society. Because of you, we continue to be a vibrant and relevant organization of nearly 95 members.

This past year has been marked by significant changes. Considering the Bainbridge Library's planned space remodeling project (and uncertainty about the schedule for that), we took advantage of the opportunity to hold our monthly program meetings and many of our larger special interest group (SIG) meetings at the LDS Church on Bainbridge Island. There is no charge for our use of this space; we have purchased a projector and a screen to improve delivery of presentations. Once the library's remodeling project is complete, the board will evaluate whether to return to use of library space for some or all our meetings. When the time comes to make that decision, we will welcome your comments.

An even bigger change was departure of founding member and long-time leader Claire Smith. As many of you may know, Claire was instrumental in founding the organization in 2005, serving as newsletter editor, webmaster, special interest group leader and mentor. Most significantly she served as President for 10 years

Special Olympics Gold Medal Winning BIGS Member

Congratulations to our member Stefanie Sarason who recently competed in the 2017 Winter Special Olympics in Austria and came home with a gold medal as a member of the US cross-country ski team. Stephanie and her teammates won gold in the 4 x 1k cross country relay; she won individual 5th and 6th place ribbons in the 1-kilometer and 500 meter races. Read more about Stefanie's experience in the April 02, 2017 issue of the Bainbridge Islander.

Betty Wiese
President



[BIGS Website](#)



and then as Vice President/Program Chair until her departure from Bainbridge Island in the fall of 2016. We are delighted she continues as a member and a mentor.

Thank you to members who assumed key roles including Lori Gibson - webmaster, Mae Gentry (and now Pat Scott) - newsletter editor, Rebecca Pratt - AV specialist and Bagley Dawson - vice president/program chair. We owe a special thank you to our mentors and other members who are leading special interest group meetings. Because of them, our 2nd Friday Skill Building SIG topics are lined up for 2017; hopefully we'll be able to continue them in 2018.

We are doing great from a financial standpoint. Your dues more than cover our operating costs (even if we return to use of the library, for which there is a charge). We can continue to bring paid speakers for our monthly program meetings. We will also experiment with occasionally hiring speakers for selected SIGS.

I am proud of our organization - we have experienced big changes and continue to thrive. We offer monthly program speaker meetings, seven regular SIG meetings, our website, monthly newsletter and our cadre of mentors who lead special interest groups and provide one-on-one help upon request.

Thank you to all our volunteer members who give of their time and energy to make our organization successful.

Betty A. Wiese, President

Tip of the Month

Ancestry Academy Videos Now Free

Check out the dozens of free how-to videos Ancestry has made available to the general public on a range of topics from Ancestry Products (of course), to Records (census, probate, military), Methodology, and Locality-Ethnicity Research. Videos range in length and subject complexity; everything from "Needle & Thread: Piecing Together African American Families" at almost 2 ½ hours to "1920 Census: An Overview" at only 2 ½ minutes. The latter is in their Short Course Videos series. www.ancestry.com/academy

Member's Corner

A Life Detoured

by Susan Slater

We genealogists are constantly amazed at our ancestors and how they moved about at a time when moving was not an easy thing to do. I have chased my English grandfather's family across England to Wales and back to England, again. I have learned that these moves were for better job prospects and opportunities for the family. But what if one was just in the wrong place at the wrong time, and circumstances forced the change?

Such was the case of my fourth great-grandfather, Timothy Lacey, when, on 29 October 1813, he was captured at sea and his life was forever changed. I doubt that he planned to become a resident of Quebec, Canada, but that is exactly what happened. He would never see his English family again.

On that fateful day he was working as a seaman on the British merchant ship *Argo*. He was in a convoy of three ships, one of which was the *HMS Galatea* which was protecting two merchant ships likely carrying whale oil. But the situation changed quickly when the *USS Congress* and the *USS President* came upon them. The *USS President* commenced a chase of the *HMS Galatea* which ended in failure for the *Galatea* was able to make it successfully to Halifax, Nova Scotia. However, the fate of the *Argo* and its crew was not so fortunate.

The *Argo* was captured by the *USS Congress*. The crew and cargo were claimed by the United States and transferred to the *USS Congress*. It is believed the *Argo* was sunk either by cannon or by fire. The *USS Congress* and the *USS President* set sail for Boston. It had been a good year for them because the two U. S. "frigates captured nine prizes." (Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Congress_\(1799\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Congress_(1799)))

Once in the Boston Harbor, the captured crew was transferred from the frigate *USS Congress* to a prisoner exchange ship and then taken to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

This is how I suppose my ancestor Timothy Lacey of

Gosberton, Lincolnshire, came to live in Canada for the remainder of his life. I believe his heart was still in his native land in Gosberton for his headstone reads "Native of Gosberton, Lincolnshire, England."

The sourcing of this story is found in documents held by both [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and [FindMyPast.com](https://www.findmypast.com). These two entities have

images of the original entries for these prisoners of war and other information can be found online. When released in Canada, the occupations of the men were listed for the record. One of the occupations listed was "harpooner." From these records I have established that the Argo, with a small crew of about fourteen men, was a whaling ship.

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, April 21, 10:00 AM to noon

Karen Sipe, "Petticoats and Dowries - Women"

Friday, May 19, 10:00 AM to noon

Janice C. Lovelace, Ph.D., "Beyond Online: Beginning Courthouse Research"

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

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.

APRIL - MAY - JUNE

Skill Building, second Friday of the month

Friday, April 14, 10 AM to Noon,

Topic: **Researching tax records, why, where, and how with focus on online access**

Leader: Sue Elfving

Evening Discussion Group, third Monday of the month

Monday, April 17, 7 PM to 9 PM, Homestreet Bank on Hildebrand Lane

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

Leaders: Mary Ferm and Sue Elfving

Southern States, quarterly

Thursday, April 20, 1 to 3 PM, Bainbridge Library downstairs meeting room

Leader: Paula Schmidt

Great Britain, first Friday of the month

Friday, May 5, 10 AM to Noon

Leader: Joleen Aitchison

Skill Building, second Friday of the month

Friday, May 12, 10 AM to Noon,

Topic: **Planning for a Research Trip**

Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

New England Mid-Atlantic, quarterly

Next meeting June

Leader: Mary Ferm

All Things DNA, every other month

Next meeting TBA

Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

Irish, monthly

Next meeting TBA

Acting Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

Local Events

Kitsap County Genealogy Expo

The 5th Annual Kitsap County Genealogy Expo, free to anyone interested in genealogy, will be held Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the LDS Church at 9256 Nels Nelson Road NW, Bremerton. For information, visit www.kitsapgenexpo.org.

Puget Sound Genealogical Society

"Detours Around Irish Roadblocks & Stone Walls Plus Irish Roots Jeopardy" with Steven Morrison Saturday, April 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

and

"Spreadsheets 101 and 201 Excel-lence in Genealogy" with Mary Kircher Roddy Tuesday, May 2, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Both events will be at Kitsap Regional Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton. For information, call 360-475-9172.

"O Canada! Children of a Common Mother"

Register now for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society's spring seminar in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary as a confederation. The event will be held April 21-23 in Burlington,

Other BIGS Info.

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
