



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## May Newsletter

### News from the Board

#### Annual Membership Meeting

#### Election

The members of the Board of Directors elected for the 2018/2019 term include:

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  
Chair - **Sue Elfving**

Director #3 Ombudsman -  
**Don Scott**

#### Questions & Answers

After Betty shared remarks from her Annual Letter to Members and Sue provided the Annual Financial Report, there was time for questions from the membership. Some related to genealogy books, including "Does BIGS own books or do we own any of

### *President's Letter to the Membership*

April 2018

As I enter my third term as president and my tenth year as a BIGS member and board member, I would like to share some observations and hopes.

**Strength and vibrancy of organization:** BIGS offers a lot in a collaborative environment with members sharing knowledge and experience. The member survey shows 81% of respondents being very satisfied, with the remainder being mostly satisfied. Our income is dependent on membership dues. While our level of membership goes up and down, we are on a sound financial footing with enough money in reserve to carry us for at least a year of activity, even if we had no new income. Please see our Treasurer's Annual Report for more details.

**Weathered some big changes:** We had changes in our regular meeting spaces while the library was being remodeled. And, due to Claire Smith's departure in 2016, we experienced a loss in our depth of technology education and support. While her departure didn't really affect our financial bottom line, it is a reminder not to be over-reliant on a few people.

#### **Opportunities/Challenges for the future**

- **Sharing the work** I am encouraged by the results of the recent survey where many of you expressed

the books at the Bainbridge library?" The answer is no, although a few years ago, the library asked us to recommend some titles to purchase. Any library cardholder can ask the library about specific titles you are interested in. If you have books to donate, you can offer them to the Kitsap Library (Bainbridge branch or Sylvan Way branch) or offer them to fellow members via BIGS-net or our annual December holiday gathering.

Another question related to whether the board could reconsider the decision to hold the 2nd Friday Skill Building Group at the LDS church instead of returning to the library for those meetings. Yes, the board can revisit this question. We will keep you posted as we re-evaluate the budget/financing for additional library rental for these meetings. At current rates, the additional cost would be \$350/year.

*Betty Wiese*

**President**

willingness to contribute in different ways as that will help us spread out the work among more members.

- **Share technology know-how.** The survey affirms the importance of and interest in technology for genealogy. We need and want your help to share what you know, especially in the Skill Building meetings.
- **Project team member and/or team lead** (one doesn't need to be subject matter expert to help plan and carry out projects). The project lead is the person designated by the board who convenes team or project meetings, tracks progress, and keeps the board informed about problems to be addressed or decisions to be made.

Here are some specific opportunities coming up; more will be highlighted in the future.

1. For October, 2018 Family History Month, we need a few people to join the board's team evaluating whether BIGS will sponsor a public event on Saturday October 27th. Members of the public would be able to get information about DNA testing from knowledgeable BIGS members. This teamwork happens the rest of April and into May.

Several years ago, BIGS held a similar public event. While it can publicize BIGS and perhaps gain new members, it is a lot of work. We are asking a few of you help us think this through to see whether we can pull it off well.

2. Support the team of folks who are reviewing webpage links for relevance/accuracy; we can use someone to help us track progress on this project.
3. Analyze membership survey results to identify trends, key findings or conclusions to share with the board.



## Swedish National Archives Now Free

According to a recent article in the Fiske Library Newsletter (Spring 2018) all digital collections at the Swedish National Archives are now free to search and view. There are more than 100 million digitized archival records available in their "Digital Research Room." The home page is at:

<https://sok.riksarkivet.se/digitalaforskarsalen>

Most of the pages are in Swedish, but you can click the "other languages" tab at the top of the page to switch to English.

## Family History Slideshow

Have you noticed the new addition to the BIGS website? We now have a slideshow of members' ancestor photos. The plan is to change the photos periodically but to do that we will need you to scan and share your own favorites. Eventually we expect to have the contributing member's name attached to each photo. Look for details in the June newsletter. Meanwhile, check out the [website](#).

Please contact me at [bettywiese@comcast.net](mailto:bettywiese@comcast.net) if you have questions or would like to volunteer for any of these activities. Feel free to let us know if there are other ways you would like to be involved.

**Future leaders:** A comment in our recent survey noted in part "some people seem to get stuck in the top positions." It is healthy for organizations to have a base from which to draw for leadership roles and for members to be learning the ropes from incumbents. Our Bylaws spell out specific duties for each board position; we have a detailed task list of all the work that keeps the organization going.

Over this next year, we will share information about board positions and other important work. By sharing this information, I hope it will help us find and support members who will prepare for future board and leadership positions.

**About the Survey:** Thank you for taking the time to respond and share your comments. We had about a 50% response rate (44 members responded). We will share the results and how we use the information to help us guide BIGS. In closing, thank you for being a member of the Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society. I wish to also recognize and thank all our volunteer members who give of their time and energy to make our organization successful.

**Betty A. Wiese, President**  
**Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society**



## Annual Financial Report

**Income** **\$3,507.00**

**Expenses** **\$2,411.13**

### Major Expenses:

Rent	\$167.50
Internet	119.40
Copies	412.25
Speakers	755.00
Speakers lunch	118.12
Speakers Trans	292.72
Insurance	250.00
Equipment	107.96
USPO Box	76.00
Miscellaneous	112.18
Gov Rpt, Society Dues, Bank Fees	

**Balance** **\$1,095.87**

Cash in Bank at 12/31/2017 \$3,846.57

CD as of 12/31/2017 \$3,030.33

**Total** **\$6,876.90**

CD Renewed 3/29/2018 \$3,055.49

### Membership

#### 2017

92 Single Family Memberships

10 People - 5 FamilyMemberships

102 Members

Income \$3,470.00

#### 2018

73 Single Family Membership

14 People – 7 Family Memberships

87 Members

Income \$2,905.00

*Report submitted by  
Sue Hassenmiller, Treasurer*

## TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a surname that begins with a vowel, and can't find it in an index, look for the surname by substituting a different initial vowel or try starting it with an H. If you have a surname beginning with an H, and can't find it, try the same name minus the H. Humphrey can be Umphrey; Albert can be Halbert. Ahlers can be Ehlers or Ohlers. Angle can be Engle or Ingle.

~Mary Ferm

## APRIL MEETING

### *Facets of FamilySearch*

In addition to taking care of the business of electing officers and the presentation of annual reports from our president and treasurer, BIGS members had the opportunity to hear from long-time mentor Joleen Aitchison. Joleen shared her expertise in plumbing the depths of FamilySearch.org. She showed us how to maneuver through the historical records and the FamilySearch catalog. She emphasized the value of the Research Wiki as a source of historical information that can help fill out your understanding of your ancestor's life events as well as provide links to databases, maps and records you might not have thought of. You can find her presentation notes on the BIGS website: <http://bigenealogy.org/class-notes/>.

## Get some help dismantling that brick wall!

Don't forget that there is an ongoing opportunity to get help with troublesome research at the National Archives (NARA), 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle. Their "Brick Wall Workshops" are offered on the second Thursday of every month from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. The experts, Charliann Beck, and Karen Sipe, are happy to offer assistance and advice on how to break through your wall. And it's free! For more information call 206-336-515 or send an email to [seattle.archives@nara.gov](mailto:seattle.archives@nara.gov)

## Recommended Resource

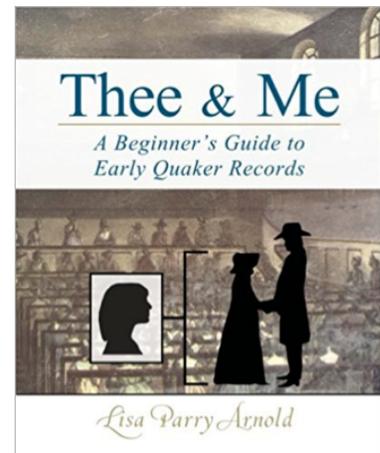
Submitted by Andrea Hoskins

### **Thee & Me: A Beginner's Guide to Early Quaker Records**

by Lisa Parry Arnold

*I spent a great deal of time learning how to research my Palatine ancestors in Pennsylvania and became pretty confident in how to go about it. But when I recently discovered I also had Quaker ancestors in Pennsylvania, I quickly realized that researching their records takes a whole different approach. First off, there are no baptisms to look for, no sponsors to discover. In their records, months are indicated by ordinal number not by name. Family graves are not typically grouped together, and there are no monuments or epitaphs in a Quaker burial ground.*

*In looking for help to better understand how to go about doing Quaker research, I discovered "Thee & Me: A Beginner's Guide to Early Quaker Records." The book is well laid out, and easy to use. It covers basic research guidelines, a brief Quaker history, and an explanation of how the Quaker religion is organized and what types of records were kept. If you know where to look, you will find their monthly meeting records are filled with detailed information about the members: births, burials, marriages, arrivals and departures and discipline issues. If you are new to Quaker research, I think you will find this book to be a valuable resource.*



**John Adams on the Generations:** *"I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain."*

*~ John Adams, US President & Diplomat (1735 - 1826)*

## Monthly Meetings

### JOIN US

Friday, May 18, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Making Sense of the US Census**

Speaker: **Janice Lovelace**

Friday, June 15, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Making Use of Land Records**

Speaker: **Jerri McCoy**

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

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

## Special Interest Groups

### For BIGS Members Only

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

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

Friday, May 11, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Topic: **Intro to Genealogy Software Options: Members learn from each other**

Facilitator: **Betty Wiese**

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

Friday, June 8, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Topic: **More about Genealogy Software Options and Online Trees:  
Members learn from each other**

Facilitator: **Betty Wiese**

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

Monday, May 21, 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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**Great Britain Special Interest Group**, first Friday of the month

Friday, May 4, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Leader: Joleen Aitchison

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

Next meeting in June, exact date TBD

Bainbridge Library, downstairs meeting room

Leader: Mary Ferm

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## Happening Around the Sound

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**Fiske Library - 1644 43rd Ave East, Seattle****Genealogical Trees & Information on Public Websites**

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 10 AM to Noon

Speaker: Lou Daly

**The Evergreen State: Researching Your Washington Ancestors**

Date: Wednesday, May 30, 10 AM to Noon

Speaker: Mary Roddy

**Interested?** Confirm event: <http://www.fiskelibrary.org>**Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle****Second Saturday Speaker Series:****Profile of a Quaker - Finding a Friend in Colonial American**

Date: Saturday, May 12, 1 PM to 2:30 PM

Speaker: Steven Morrison

**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

- **Where There's a Will**

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 1 to 2 PM

Topic: Learn how to find wills and abstracts, understand the differences and what to do with the will once you find it.

Speaker: Mary Kircher Roddy

Registration required: 360-475-9172

- **Webinar: Tap Into Your Inner Private Eye**

Date: Saturday, May 26, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Topic: Learn techniques to find elusive living relatives who may hold the key to your brick wall or possess treasured family photos

Speaker: Lisa Louise Cook

- **PSGS Annual Seminar: Day of Discovery with Lisa Louise Cooke**

Date: Saturday, September 22, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Bremerton Elks, 4131 Pine Road NE

Registration form available:

<http://www.pusogensoc.org/psgs/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Seminar-2018-registration-form-FINAL.pdf>

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



[BIGS](http://www.pusogensoc.org/)



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

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