



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

News from the Board

Hope all have had a good summer in spite of heat and smoke. The Board has been on August break, but will meet in September. Now that the library remodel is done we will consider whether to return to use of the library's meeting room for either of our larger meetings: the Second Friday SIG and Third Friday Program Meeting.

UNTIL you hear otherwise from us, we will continue to meet at the LDS church on Madison.

The Board will determine if the new meeting room at the Library will work for us, and also consider the availability and cost of the space.

Member's Corner

Learning to Count

by Pat Murray Scott

She wasn't exactly tall, my grandmother, but not many women in my mother's family were over five feet tall. At 5'3, though, my grandmother Emma stood taller than her four daughters. More to the point, in her will power, in her ability to dominate conversations and argue longest, Emma McKeen Cain was six feet tall.

Emma Luella McKeen, was born in 1890, died Emma Cain in 1975, in Belmont County, Ohio. She outlived my grandfather by thirty-seven years, and, in living to be 85 years old, lived more years than any one of her daughters. The middle child of thirteen, in a family that met adversity on a seasonal basis, Emma was tough from the get-go. In 1899 the McKeens lost everything in a spring flood of the Ohio River. For Emma, then, school ended at Grade 4. She was "put out" as an upstairs maid where she "earned-her-keep," spending money (a quarter), and Sunday afternoons with her family. She learned to clean house, to fight for herself, and that life was hard. She had no sympathy for whiners.

As the first grandchildren, my cousin Lee and I were an exception in grandmother's harsh world, but sometimes Grandma's sharp tongue could even pierce me: "Patty Ann, can't you sit still?" I've translated that for you from the high-pitched, sing-song that I still hear in my head: "Paa-dy A-en, caint you set still?"

Stay Tuned!

The board is also working on something for October Family History Month, so stay tuned. We look forward to what Fall brings for us.

Betty Wiese

President



[BIGS Website](#)



No, Grandma, not yet, I "caint set still," but, you know what? I don't think you were a "setting still" kind of girl, either.

In the days of 1940 and 1941, when we were still called "Wa-alter-L-ee" and "Pa-addy-A-yen," our mothers left us with our grandmother on Saturday mornings. We came with the energy of five year olds. Grandma knew only to use energy for work. We learned what she knew best: a permanent need for order that came to be known (irreverently to be sure) as "Emma's Here." Today, when the self-talk begins in our heads, "Pick it up. Put that away," we smile. Emma isn't far.

The activity that I remember best was counting "chits." My grandmother worked as a "Stemmer" at H. and R. Bloch and Company in Wheeling. Stemming was the process of manually separating the stem and veins in a tobacco leaf

from the dried leaf that would be used in making cigarettes. My grandmother's hands were tough and stained, but she had nimble fingers that could slyly separate the leaf from the coarser fibers. Time was everything. The stems & veins dropped away, the preserved bits went into a basket, and, at the end of a shift, Grandma's filled baskets were counted. She received a "chit," a ticket for each basket turned in. The "chits" turned into money on Friday afternoon. On Saturday mornings, Grandma sat her grandchildren at the kitchen table with the chits for the most important chore of the week. Count the chits to make sure Grandma had not been cheated.

At the age of five, Walter Lee and Patty Ann learned to count. We were a team, and we were important. What better lessons to learn from Grandma?

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

New Website Links

Added in June 2017

[Oregon Historical Society Online Digital Archives](#)

Added in July 2017

[Open Library](#) Open Library is an open, editable library catalog, building towards a web page for every book ever published.

[Smithsonian Libraries](#) over seven thousand rare books, journals and manuscripts online.

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, September 15, 10:00 AM to Noon

Presented by Michelle Goodrum

Cluster Research Using the FAN Principle

(Family/Friends, Associates, Neighbors)

Friday, October 20, 10:00 AM to Noon

Presented by Donna Potter Philips

Leave a Legacy and Not a Mess

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

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, September 8, 10 AM to Noon,

Topic: ***My Heritage Website and DNA Tests***

Leaders: Suzy Hassenmiller and Rebecca Pratt

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

Monday, September 18, 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

New England Mid-Atlantic, quarterly

Tuesday, September 26, 1 PM to 3 PM, HomeStreet Bank on
Hildebrand Lane

Topic: ***Covers New England plus NY, NJ, and PA***

Leader: Mary Ferm

Southern States, quarterly

Thursday, October 5, 1 PM to 3 PM, HomeStreet Bank on Hildebrand
Lane

Topic: ***Covers Southern States Interests***

Leader: Paula Schmidt

Great Britain, first Friday of the month

No September Meeting

Next meeting Friday, October 6, 10 AM to Noon

Leader: Joleen Aitchison

Happening Around the Sound

A quiet month round the Sound, and your editor was on vacation. One important date, though, is **October 21**. See SGS offering below.

Seattle Genealogy Society

SGS 2017 Fall Seminar - October 21, 2017

Speaker: Dick Eastman

Fairview Christian School, Seattle, WA

SGS is excited to have Dick Eastman for the Fall Seminar. Registration will open in early September.

More distant news comes from Ireland:

From Irish Genealogy News, August 22, 2017 issue

Sean Murphy's Introduction to Family History course will be running again at the National Library of Ireland (NLI) this Autumn. While the course content is suitable for genealogy beginners, participants need to be familiar with using computers. Places on the course are limited to 30, and the course fee is €100. Booking opens on Monday 28 October. For more information about the course, or (from 28 October) to book a place, contact Ciara Kerrigan by emailing ckerrigan@nli.ie.

Go to the url: <http://www.irishgenealogynews.com/2017/08/introduction-to-irish-family-history.html>

Pat Scott

Newsletter Editor
