



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## October Newsletter

### News from the Board

#### What is BIGSNET? How is it Different From BIGS Google Group?

We encourage you to join BIGSNET if you are not already a member and want to clarify the difference between **BIGSNET@googlegroups.com** (for members who want to communicate with each other) and **BIGS@googlegroups.com** (used primarily for "official business to the whole membership).

All current BIGS members (about 90 members) are automatically included in **BIGS google group**. This is the email group the board, mentors, SIG leaders, newsletter editor, historian, web master use for meeting announcements, membership surveys,

### Member's Corner

#### **My "Sixteen": The Big Picture**

*Contributed by Mary Ferm*

In genealogy it can be useful to change the "lens" we use to view our research. One way to do this is to take a step back from all the minute details we know about our ancestors and simply look at the big picture. Recently, I tried to do this by making a list of my 16 two-times great grandparents, with their birth and death dates and places. Here they are.

(The < symbol means that the couples' children married each other):

John Parrish McGinitie	1813 Pennsylvania-1886 Iowa
Marilla Baird Hamilton	1818 Pennsylvania-1901 Iowa
<	
Edward Long McElhany	1819 Ohio-1888 Iowa
Amanda Dunlap	1822 Ohio-1852 Iowa
Lindley Marsevan Murray	1819 New York-1901 Minnesota
Elizabeth Margaret Green	1821 New York-1872 Wisconsin
<	
Peter Joseph Kurz	1820 Germany-1898 Wisconsin
Katherina Bibelhausen	1835 Germany-1915 Wisconsin
William Wylie Kilpatrick	1830 Scotland-1918 Arkansas
Sara Jane Farlin	1840 Michigan-1878 Michigan
<	
William Robbins Squires	1842 New York-1891 Washington
Mary Jane Sherman	1839 New York-1913 Washington
Wilber Harvey Hunt	1842 Ohio-1873 Ohio
Laura Frances Sullivan	1844 Ohio-1863 Ohio
<	
Elisha Clark Luce	1836 Massachusetts-1909 Ohio
Louise Arrowsmith Compton	1839 Ohio-1912 Ohio

newsletter distribution and similar items related to the organization.

**BIGSNET@googlegroups.com** (short for network) is an optional group for members who request to join (it includes about 50 members). The purpose of this group is for members to communicate with each other, to ask a question, or to share information such as blogs, DNA test sales, subscription service sales. You could ask if others want to ride to a conference or work together on a topic of interest. You can ask for help with a research question or help with translating a source record in a foreign language.

If you are not now in BIGSNET, you can join from our webpage at the far upper right [www.bigenealogy.org](http://www.bigenealogy.org) or by contacting Rebecca Pratt at [willflourish@hotmail.com](mailto:willflourish@hotmail.com). (Rebecca manages our roster and all the email groups, so be sure to let her know if you change any of your contact information.)

If you have questions about joining or using

Then I looked for patterns. You can tell a lot from names, dates, and places.

For example, from the names alone you can tell pretty well what their national origins were.

**MacGinitie and Hamilton**—Scots-Irish; **McElhany**—Scottish; **Dunlap**—Irish; **Murray**—Scottish; **Green**—English; **Kurz and Bibelhausen**—German; **Kilpatrick**—Scottish; **Farlin**—probably Irish; **Hunt**—probably English; **Sullivan**—probably Irish; **Squires and Sherman**—probably English; **Luce**—English or French; **Compton**—probably English

If you start with people who lived back this far, (early 1800s), the ancestors of these people were generally of the same national origin as they were. So, basically I am 5/16 (31%) Scottish or Scots-Irish, 3/16 (19%) Irish, 2/16 (12%) German, 6/16 (37%) English. There is a smidgen of New Amsterdam Dutch in the Compton line, and a smidgen of Palatine German in the Murray line. In comparing this to the Ancestry DNA ethnic origin results, I could see that Ancestry's new ethnicity estimates are a lot better than the previous ones which had a lot less Scottish and Irish, and a lot more western European.

What can you tell from the locations? For the most part, the death locations indicate they had moved west across the United States.

What can you tell from the dates? Going back five generations took me to people who were born between 1813 and 1844. During this time, women generally bore children every 2 years from age 20 to age 44. Families were large.

In our families with people of this generation (my "sixteen"), who were born at the beginning of the range (1813-1819), I descend from younger children in the family (John Maurice McGinitie was his parents' 6<sup>th</sup> child born when his mother was 32. His son George Eber (my grandfather) was his parents' 6<sup>th</sup> child, born when his mother was 37. Lindley Byron Murray was his parents' 4<sup>th</sup> child, born when his mother was 26. His daughter Nettie Lorene (my grandmother) was her parents' 5<sup>th</sup> child, born when her mother was 39.)

In our families where the "sixteens" were born at the end of the range, (1840-1842), we descend from older children in the family. (Charles Colman Hunt was his parents' first child, born when his mother was 24. His daughter, Louise (my grandmother) was her parents' first child, born when her mother, Maud Luce, was 30. Olive Ada Squires was her parents' first child, born when her mother was 32. Her son, William Kilpatrick (my grandfather) was his mother's 2<sup>nd</sup> child, born when his mother was 23.)

BIGSNET, or if you need help figuring out how to tell the difference between the groups in your email server, please let any board member know.

## October Family History Month Event and Activities

Stop by the Bainbridge Library lobby between October 1 and October 15 to see our display honoring Family History month. Our display is brought to you by BIGS members Judy Willot and Kay Grant.

Check out our webpage at <http://www.bigenealogy.org> for more information about our free public event, co-sponsored with the Bainbridge Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library, to be held at the library on October 27, 2018. Tell all your FANs (Friend, Associates, Neighbors) who are interested in the topic of DNA testing. Members of the public who have completed a DNA test can sign up for a consultation with one of

What about the outliers, whose dates are more unusual? Are there explanations for those differences? Do you notice how old Mary Jane Sherman was when her first child, daughter Olive was born? She was 30! What was the story there? Mary Jane Sherman was a highly educated woman, who was principal of a school in upstate New York. In the 1870 census, she was even listed as the head of the household above her husband, who was a teacher! They did not marry until she was almost 31, "old" for a first time bride in those days. I have to admire her husband, William Robbins Squires, who fell in love with such a standout ambitious woman, and was willing to be on an equal footing (or even lower) with her.

What about how old Maud Luce was when her first child was born—again, age 30! She was also a highly educated woman, a graduate of Smith College, who taught high school Latin and Greek. She had a few years of career before marrying Charles Hunt. In their case they also had to wait for the economic panic of 1893 to run its course so Charles could get a job (as a banker) before they married in April of 1894. (There have been 2 economic downturns recently in the U.S., the "dot.com" technology bubble (2000), and the housing bubble (2008). The panic of 1893 that put their marriage plans on

hold was a railroad bubble.) Educated women in our family do seem to marry later than average.

Now, do you notice some people among the sixteen ancestors who died relatively young? Laura Frances Sullivan stands out. She died at age 19, of tuberculosis, 6<sup>th</sup> months after the birth of her only child, Charles Colman Hunt. All of her siblings except one had TB too, and died before the age of 32. One sister managed to have 2 children before she died, the rest didn't even live to marry. Their oldest brother, Melville Colman Sullivan, must have left their childhood home in Dayton, Ohio, before the disease invaded it. Or, he just lucked out. He lived to be 86.

Amanda Dunlap was another ancestor who died young, at age 29. She had a difficult time bearing children, having 4 children who died in infancy before succeeding in producing a healthy baby, our ancestor, Laura Ella McElhany. Amanda died 4 months later. Childbirth was risky.

What happened to the children of these two deceased mothers? Both motherless children, Charles Hunt and Laura Ella McElhany, were raised by their maternal grandparents. Charles' father had died when Charles was six, and Laura Ella's father remarried a 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, moved, and started a new family, leaving his daughter behind.

our member DNA coaches to get help understanding what their results mean. Members of the public who don't have an appointment can stop by to learn more about DNA testing and family history.

If you are interested in a one-on-one session, the library is handling registration. Go to [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org) to sign up.

*Betty Wiese*

**President**



I also wonder about Sara Jane Farlin, who died at age 38, almost exactly 2 years after her daughter, Jennie Kilpatrick, (our ancestor's sister) was born. The timing seems to suggest that Sara Jane may have died in childbirth, and the baby didn't make it either. In this case the father also married again (5 more times!), but the 4 children from the first marriage stayed with the father and his new wives.

It was mainly the people who died relatively young whose birth and death locations did not show much of a migration trail.

I am fascinated by the way names and dates can

indicate stories. Yes, even the big picture points to the stories.

My husband's "sixteen" show a very different pattern. Half of his family immigrated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century from Scandinavia, and the other half was born on and stayed on the East Coast.

Now, when I encounter "new" ancestors, I look at the names and dates more carefully, using them as clues about their life histories, which suggests avenues of research to follow. What does your family's big picture look like?

## *Grays Harbor Genealogical Society*

### **After the Fire**

Washington State Genealogical Society Blog recently posted an update regarding the Grays Harbor Genealogical Society and the ups and downs they have faced since the loss of their library to fire in June. Here is a link to that post where you can also find information about GHGS's upcoming workshop/fundraiser planned for October 13<sup>th</sup> in Aberdeen.

<http://wasgs.org/blog/2018/09/19/latest-on-grays-harbor-research-library/>

## Recommended Reading

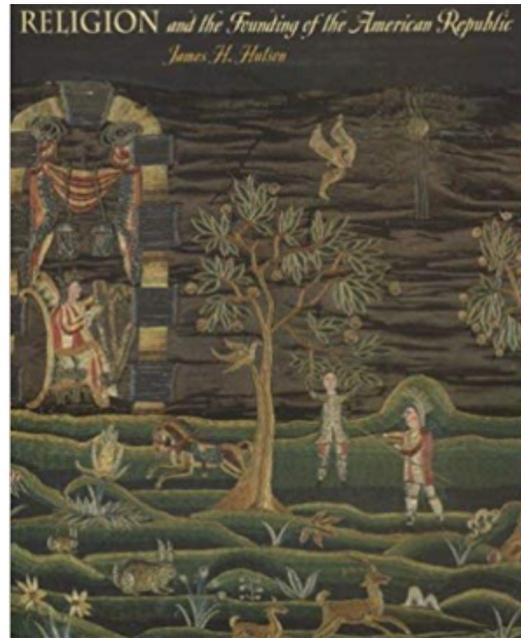
Contributed by Kathy Penn

### ***Religion and the Founding of the American Republic***

by James H. Hutson

This book is the companion to an exhibit of the same name presented by the Library of Congress with James Hutson as the curator. It tells of the search for religious freedoms and the development of religion in America.

I find the first two chapters particularly informative. Church of England, Pilgrims, the Dutch Reformed Church, Puritans, Catholics, Jews, Quakers and early German religions came to America in the 1600s. The next century brought the Great Awakening and George Whitefield and the advertising of religion. The Separate Baptists are born of this movement and the Presbyterian Church splits into Old and New Sides



Religion during the revolution is discussed at length. The arguments and debates about the involvement of government in religion and religion in government are clearly described. Who said what and when? What actions were taken in the early government?

From this cacophony of ideas, languages, and cultures flows the next big wave of religious zealotry, the ecstatic evangelical meeting movement that began at Cane Ridge, Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1800. Excoriations of sinners by rabid fire breathing ministers marked a new stimulation of religious fervor. The author suggests the formation of a new American religion that has been a major driver of our national success.

This book is nicely illustrated, soft-bound, 136 pages, on slick paper from the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 1998. It is scholarly but still readable. I believe it has been used by some for political purposes to affirm that America is Christian. But, it appears to me to be what it is, a history of religion in early America.

## **Interested in learning about how church records can help in your research?**

Our November 9<sup>th</sup> Skill Building session will focus on

### **Church Records in the Colonies and Early Republic**

Presenters include: **Joleen Aitchison, Sue Elfving, Andy Hoskins, Christa Little and Kathy Penn.**

Bring you laptop, share your knowledge, and build your skills!

**Friday, November 9, 10:00am to Noon at the Bainbridge Library**

## **Consider renewing before the year is out!**

Now is a great time to renew your BIGS membership. Not only does it help with BIGS planning and budgeting, but your good intentions won't get lost in the whirlwind of the winter holidays.

Annual dues are \$35 for individuals and \$50 for families.

**Make your check payable to Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society and send it to:**

**Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society  
PO Box 135, Rollingbay, WA 98061-0135**

Or, if you prefer, you can pay with cash at one of our meetings. Any of our board members would be happy to help.

Sorry, but BIGS cannot accept credit card payments at this time.

---

## New Website Links

---

### Added September 2018

#### Delaware

[Delaware Online Genealogy Records](#): Guide to Delaware Online Genealogy Records for researching ancestry, family history and genealogy: birth, marriage, death, census, church, military, immigration, and naturalization records.

#### Hawaii

[Hawaiian Genealogy Indexes](#) contains information extracted from the Hawaii State Archives including marriage records, court records (divorce, probate, wills), naturalization, denization and passports covering a time period of mid 1800s through early 1900s.

---

## Monthly Members' Meetings

---

### JOIN US

**Friday, October 19, 10:00 AM to Noon**

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **DNA Webinar and panel discussion**

Speaker: Sue Hassenmiller

**Friday, November 16, 10:00 AM to Noon**

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Anatomy of a Civil War Pension Record**

Speaker: Jill Morelli, President, Seattle Genealogical Society

*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, October 12, 10 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library

Topic: **The Power of the Question: Do's and Don'ts for research questions and queries to help you get useful information**

Facilitators: Paula Schmidt and Betty Wiese

*Please consider sharing a research question for group discussion so we can learn together about ways to prepare effective research questions. Send a question you are willing to share with the group to Betty Wiese and Paula Schmidt.*

Friday, November 9, 10 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library

Topic: **Church Records in the Colonies and Early Republic**

Facilitators: Joleen Aitchison, Sue Elfving, Andy Hoskins, Christa Little and Kathy Penn

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

Monday, October 15, 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**, three time quarterly

Friday, October 5, 10 AM to Noon

LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Facilitator: Joleen Aitchison

### **Southern States Special Interest Group**, quarterly

Thursday, October 4, 1 PM to 3 PM

Bainbridge Public Library, downstairs meeting room

Leader: Paula Schmidt

---

# Happening Around the Sound

---

Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

**SGS Fall Seminar: Sharpen Your Online Genealogical Sleuthing Skills with Cyndi Ingle**

Saturday, October 20, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Fairview Christian Church, 844 NE 78th St, Seattle, WA

Doors open at 8:00am for check-in and the SGS Book Sale!

Cost: \$55 for SGS members, \$65 for all others.

Lunch will be available by pre-order.

Late fees will be assessed after October 14, 2018.

Register online: [Fall Seminar Registration Link](#)

Puget Sound Genealogical Society - 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

**Google Earth & Other Internet Maps**

Saturday, October 27, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Sylvan Way Library, Bremerton

Topic: Learn how Google Earth, a free mapping program, can help document your ancestors' lives.

Speaker: Jim Johnson

**Facets of Family Search**

Tuesday, November 6, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Sylvan Way Library, Bremerton

Topic: Tour the best pages within the FamilySearch.org website most relevant to family history researchers.

Speaker: Joleen Aitchison

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



[BIGS Website](#)



---

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

---