



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

News from the Board

GIVE YOURSELF A GENEALOGY GIFT

Why not treat yourself to one-on-one time with an experienced BIGS member to follow a lead, get past a sticking point, get the most information out of a census or other record you have, explore options for DNA testing, or ????. As a benefit of your membership, you are entitled to at least one meeting each year with a mentor. Our mentors have a wide range of knowledge, experience and interests; many of them are also SIG leaders. Our current mentors are: **Joleen Aitchison, Sue Elfving, Mary Ferm, Sue Hassenmiller, Sylvia Nelson, Paula Schmidt, and Claire Smith (long distance).**

Member's Corner

Melba

by Sue Hassenmiller

Sometimes while doing research, you come across a person who's life just is so fascinating, you want to know more about that person, even if the person is not related to you. This happened to me last spring when I was helping Mary Tate-Phillips, one of our members, put together a memorial for her husband, Gary Phillips.

In researching Gary's family in rural southern Indiana, I came across Melba Phillips - a girl, born in Hazelton, Indiana in 1907, who lived on a farm with her parents and her three brothers. She graduated from high school at age 15 and received a bachelor's degree in math from Oakland City College of Indiana in 1926. Melba received a master's degree in physics from Battle Creek College of Michigan in 1928 and her doctorate in physics in 1933 from the University of California at Berkeley.

Melba was one of the first doctoral students of J. Robert Oppenheimer, who led the effort to build the first atomic bomb. In 1935, they published an explanation for the unexpected behavior of accelerated "heavy hydrogen" atoms, which became known as Oppenheimer-Phillips effect. She also worked for Einstein.

In 1952, the McCarthy Committee subpoenaed Phillips. She invoked the Fifth Amendment and declined to

To request help or just to explore this option, email Betty at bettywiese@comcast.net with a brief description of the help you are seeking. Based on our mentor's areas of experience, interest and availability, you will be matched with a mentor and work out the details to meet (usually a one-two hour meeting). We encourage you to try it out!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Now is the time to renew your membership (or join if you are not currently a member). Annual dues are \$35.00/individual, and \$50.00/family and you may pay a board member at any meeting or mail it to PO Box 135 Rolling Bay Washington 98061.

MEETING LOCATION DECISION

Beginning in January 2018 (January 19, 2018), monthly program meetings will return to the Bainbridge Island Library upstairs meeting room, 1270 Madison Avenue N.

answer when asked if she ever been a member of the Communist Party. For this, she lost her teaching positions and was unemployed for 5 years.

By 1957, Phillips was appointed associate director at Washington University of St. Louis, and in 1962 she joined the University of Chicago as a physics professor. Melba went on to become one of the leading physics educators of her time. Melba Phillips died at age 97 in Petersburg, Indiana in 2004.

Mary and I are still trying to connect her husband's Phillips family line with Melba's Phillips line which to date we have not been

able to do.

This is the story of a remarkable woman. But the story I would like to know, but never will, is what existed in her world or in her to have her achieve so much in a world that was not setup for women. Did her father encourage her? Not telling her that math was only for boys? Was there a teacher that saw something special in Melba? If she showed her intelligence in school (probably a one-room school), did the other students not tease her? Or did she not care and continue to study. If only you had written your story, Melba!!!

Recommended Reading

97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement

by Jane Ziegelman, Harper Paperbacks, 2011

This engaging book tells the story of five immigrant families, all residents of the same Lower East Side Tenement in Manhattan. The families represent the various waves of immigrants in New York City from 1885 to 1935 - German, Irish, Jewish, Russian and Italian. The tenement building at 97 Orchard Street is

The 2nd Friday Skill SIGS will continue to meet at the LDS church, 8677 Madison Avenue N. Watch our website (www.bigenealogy.org) for notices of all meeting dates and places.

Wishing each of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Betty Wiese

President



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



now a museum, and the book's author, Jane Ziegelman, is director of the museum's culinary center. She introduces the reader to the immigrant families through their foods - what foods they ate, how they were procured and prepared, and the impact they had on the American diet. At the same time, we get a look at what life was like

for these new arrivals - as they made a home in a 325 square foot apartment, initially without water or electricity, often shared by as many as 10 family members. Ziegelman's use of photos, recipes, and contemporary newspaper stories helps fill out the portraits of the five families, giving a vivid sense of time and place.

Calling all Members! Do you have a story to tell – about your research, your ancestors, discoveries you have made? Or maybe you just finished a book that you think your fellow BIGS members would enjoy. Our newsletter is a great place to share your thoughts. We would love to hear from you. Contact: andrea.kay.hoskins@gmail.com

New Website Links

Added in November

[AnyPlace America](#)

Free US topographical maps, good for finding small watercourses and springs in land descriptions

[Montana Newspapers](#)

Montana Historical Society's free portal for digitized newspapers

[Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness](#)

Volunteer lookup directory

[Simple Citations](#)

Citing genealogical sources for your family history shouldn't require a degree in rocket science

Monthly Meetings

Friday, December 15, 10:00 AM to Noon

LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Holiday Genealogy Fest: Family Treasures "Show & Tell"

Members are encouraged to bring along a treasured item to share - perhaps a prized photo, a family relic, a story, a letter? Don't forget to gather up any books, maps, or other references you are ready to hand off to someone else, and bring them to the exchange. There will be tempting treats and door prizes too! If you have a friend that might like to know more about BIGS, bring them along. This is a great way to introduce a prospective member to the benefits of membership.

Friday, January 19, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: Arriving in America: Passenger Lists and Ports of Arrival from Colonial Times to the Present

Speakers: Sue Hassenmiller and Paula Schmidt

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

There will be no meeting in December.

Friday, January 12, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Topic: Year of Discovery & Learning: Member Sharing

Leader: Betty Wiese

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

There will be no meeting in December.

Monday, January 15, 7 PM to 9 PM, HomeStreet Bank on Hildebrand Lane

Leaders: Mary Ferm

Great Britain Special Interest Group, first Friday of the month

Friday, January 5, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Leader: Joleen Aitchison

New England-Mid-Atlantic Special Interest Group

Monday, December 4, 10 AM to Noon, HomeStreet Bank on Hildebrand Lane

Leader: Mary Ferm

Southern States Special Interest Group

Thursday, January 11, 1 PM to 3 PM, Bainbridge Library, downstairs

Leader: Paula Schmidt

Tip of the Month

If you are new to genealogy research, you may not have discovered **Cyndi's List** yet. Cyndi's List is a free comprehensive index of genealogical resources on the Internet. It is a one-woman effort by Cyndi Ingle of Edgewood, Washington that currently has more than 300,000 links with more than 1000 new links added each month. There are pages for each state and county in the United States, each Canadian Province and each county in the United Kingdom. It can help you dig deeper or jump-start a new direction in your research. Try it out!

Here is the link: <https://www.cyndislist.com/>

Happening Around the Sound

Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

Irish Special Interest Group

Date: Saturday, December 16, 2017 - 10:15am to 12:15pm

Chair: Jean A. Roth

German Special Interest Group

Date: Saturday, December 16, 2017 - 1:00 to 3:00pm

Chair: Jean A. Roth

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

Puget Sound Genealogical Society - 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

Supplemental Census Records

Date: Saturday, January 27 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Topic: Learn the types of Federal supplemental censuses, what data was collected and how they can help in our research.

Speaker: Winona Laird

Naturalization & Ship Passenger Lists

Date: Tuesday, February 6 - 10:30am to 12:30pm

Topic: Learn about passenger lists, the European ports of departure, changing immigration laws and where to find records.

Speaker: Laura Sparr

Finding UK Ancestors

Date: Wednesday, January 24 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Topic: Discover which popular online sites related to England, Scotland and Wales could help you locate your ancestors.

Speaker: Joleen Aitchison

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

Jefferson County Genealogical Society

Where In The World Am I From?

- Date: January 6, 2018 - 9:30 - 11:00am, JCGS Research Center 13692 Airport Cutoff Road & Highway 19, a few miles south of Port Townsend
- Topic: Members of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society invite the public to a conversation about genealogy and how one goes about finding one's family. We will talk about where to find family records, give tips and answer questions.
- If you are interested in attending please call 360-385-3065 and leave a message with your full name and email address. Registration deadline is Jan 4, 2018.

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

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