



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## July Newsletter

### News from the Board

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#### **BIGS 2018 Outstanding Volunteer Award**

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**Cathi Hepworth**, liaison for BIGS at the LDS church, is our recipient of the Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) outstanding volunteer award for this year. Cathi was so helpful when we moved to using the LDS church for our meetings during the library remodel. She reserved rooms and provided logistics support, including roping off part of the parking lot to ensure we would have room to park! She helped us figure out options for a projector screen. Cathi was generous with her time, always patient with us, and found ways to solve problems with grace and tact. We were fortunate to have Cathi as our liaison during this period.

### Member's Corner

*By Lisa Giles*

#### FINDING BONES

Abbeville, South Carolina, September 2015

I.

Last September, in our electric Tesla David and I drove to visit my sister Genie in South Carolina--where she and I were born--to find our ancestors. Genie is two years younger, close to family and our roots.

II.

Genie and I were on the hunt for the bones of our ancestors in the Abbeville cemetery.

"Meet me at 11 at the mall and I'll lead you to the cemetery," said short, elderly Reverend Erwin--with animated round face, laughing eyes, glasses--minister at Rocky River Presbyterian.

We turned onto a long, rutted gravel road that went for miles, it seemed, way back in the woods. The September day was hot and muggy. Who would ever drive down this isolated road? Are my ancestors lost to civilization?

Finally we reached the Abbeville Cemetery--old, beside the road--size of a football field, lichen and black spots dotted eroded cement tombstones musty, rough to touch. Some names illegible, worn down over years. An enormous maple shaded gravestones. The heat enveloped us as we walked through.

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## October Family History Month Public Event

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**BIGS** will co-sponsor an event with the Bainbridge Island Library on Saturday October 27, 2018 to introduce members of the public (who might then become interested in joining BIGS) to the topic of genetic genealogy (DNA). Library staff will be involved in publicizing the event and managing the pre-registration process.

Knowledgeable BIGS members will provide one-to-one consultations to help interpret DNA testing results. We expect to also have general information available for the people who haven't tested or don't have a one-to-one appointment. Stay tuned for more details.




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## Results of 2018 Membership Survey

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A copy of the results of the 2018 survey and a report prepared by a member committee have been sent to all members via email. Our sincere thank you to Andy Hoskins, Lisa Giles, and MaryAnne Kennedy for providing us their perspective as a member's review committee.

## Interested in helping?

If you have the time and interest to help out with **BIGS October DNA Event**, please contact either **Sue Hassenmiller** [suzyh1943@gmail.com](mailto:suzyh1943@gmail.com) or **Sylvia Nelson** [shn1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:shn1@ix.netcom.com)

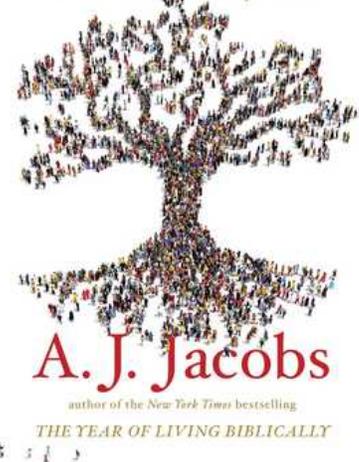
## Summer Reading

A.J. Jacobs, long time humor writer for Esquire Magazine and contributor to NPR, has written a new book entitled *It's All Relative - Adventures Up and Down the World's Family Tree*. The book is both entertaining and informative. There are two story lines at work here. One follows Jacob's exploration of his own genealogy with an emphasis on the concept that, when you get right down to it, we are all cousins.

The second story follows Jacobs attempts to pull off the world's largest family reunion - a Global Family Reunion - with hopes of breaking the Guinness World Records title. This book is a fun and easy read, built on the hopeful premise that we are all family.

## It's All Relative

Adventures Up and Down  
the World's Family Tree



***Have your registered yet?*** One of the premier conferences in the region, the Northwest Genealogy Conference, will be held Wednesday, August 15 to Saturday, August 18, 2018 at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center, 18821 Crown Ridge Blvd., Arlington, WA

Keynote speakers include CeCe Moore, Beth Foulk and Peggy Lauritzen. There will also be 12 other speakers to round out the conference sessions.

Go to [www.nwgc.org](http://www.nwgc.org) to see the full schedule of classes and register.

This is the first time we have asked members to review the results to provide comments to the board. They did a wonderful job, so we decided to share their informal report with all of you.

Betty Wiese

**President**



### **August is Vacation Month!**

Remember that BIGS will not be holding a monthly meeting in August. There won't be a skill building session, an evening discussion group or a British Special Interest Group. But if DNA is your thing, you are in luck! There will be a DNA special interest group meeting in August, so be sure to check the listing on page 6 for dates and details.



**Unlock the Past** will host a full-day two stream conference in Seattle on Thursday, September 6, 2018, 9am-5pm at the Seattle Public Library. It is a one-day genealogy conference program that will feature 10 presentations in two streams - a DNA stream and an Irish/general stream, presented by four of the top international genealogy and DNA experts of our time: Blaine Bettinger, Dr Maurice Gleeson, Cyndi Ingle - best known for her web site, Cyndi's List and Wayne Shepherd. You can request access to lectures in either or both streams.

Dick Eastman of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter has details about the conference and a link to registration on his site: <https://blog.eogn.com/2018/05/24/announcing-the-unlock-the-past-conference-in-seattle/>

**Drop-In Computer Lab**

**@ Bainbridge Library**

**Every Tuesday in July and August**

**from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

**Get help with your computer skills**

**Improve your technology know-how!**

### **BIGS June Meeting**

Our June Meeting featured Jerri Thorpe McCoy, well known Northwest genealogist, speaking on *Using Land Records to Break Down Brick Walls*. Jerri explained the main systems of land surveys and how they differed between State Land States and Federal Land States. She presented three case studies that highlighted ways to use deeds to prove parents. First, she provided a fascinating demonstration of how plotting land purchases on graph paper and understanding who lived where when, can help identify family members. Then she showed the value of title searches and the trail provided by adjacent neighbors' deeds. Her third case study involved proving family relationships through deeds related to the sale of slaves.

**(Finding Bones, cont.)**

As we drove up, an older gray and white sedan with rumbling engine--two women and a man--was leaving the cemetery.

Reverend Erwin stopped, backed up, got out of his car, asked the driver to come back and meet us.

The driver was Carolyn Horton-- early 60s, slightly overweight, tall, shoulder-length wavy brown hair, sparkling eyes, fast-talking voice, dressed in a pale pink sleeveless blouse, black capris--an extrovert--5<sup>th</sup> cousin, family genealogy queen, ready with details about the Gileses.

The other passengers in the car--Carolyn's cousin Barbara and her husband Dan--maternal Horton family side.

"You--Lisa and Genie--and I are direct descendants of Revolutionary War veteran Capt. James Hervey Giles, born in 1744, and of his son Andrew, postmaster of Abbeville," said Carolyn.

Here were our family's bones.

As I listened to her talk of our ancestors in her soft, pressured Southern voice, my eyes widened, my heart beat faster, I couldn't breathe. I smiled widely, like a monkey as I floated, trying to ground myself in this place.

III.

Carolyn asked, "Can you come to the family reunion this weekend?" My first family reunion.

At the century-old Belmont Inn, in the middle of town, we stayed the weekend with antique furniture.

Hall table--  
1895 vintage cast iron round radiator--4 feet high, 5 feet across, white tablecloth, turn-of-the-century marble lamp, gold-black brocade lampshade, pearls and black pompoms.

A long stairway led to the bedrooms and our spindle bed.

IV.

At the reunion were 25 descendants of patriarch Capt. James Giles.  
Genie, Carolyn and I were descendants of his son Andrew Giles.  
The others--descendants of William Giles, another son of Capt. James.

Saturday night--reunion dinner at our hotel.

Descending the tall staircase for the meal, we smelled fried chicken and baked cornbread.  
Dinner served family-style long table, white tablecloths  
Southern foods, remembered and loved--salt-cured ham, sweet tea, cornbread,  
soft gray-green simmered collard greens, crispy fried chicken, creamy mashed potatoes,  
salty ham-hock flavored green beans cooked hours, peach cobbler, whipped cream.

Across the dining hall, Carolyn's book of Giles family ancestors,  
copies of 19<sup>th</sup> century photos, wills and documents. I pored through the pictures.

All evening, I peered into faces of our relatives looking for a resemblance to myself or Genie  
but did not see any.

Tonight we met a family of Gileses who attended our Presbyterian church  
in Greenville, SC, in the early '60s, when I was a teenager--their oldest girl was about 9.

The little girl in that family was also Lisa Giles. We were not related before, but we are now.

## Monthly Meetings

### JOIN US

Friday, July 20, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: Immigration Laws and Records

Speakers: Jewell Lorenz Dunn, WA State Archives

*There will not be a monthly meeting in August. Join us again in September!*

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, July 13, 10 AM to Noon, Bainbridge Public Library

Topic: **Member sharing/active problem solving**

*Bring questions for group input/brainstorming, share your discoveries and breakthroughs, report progress on your goals for the year.*

Facilitator: Betty Wiese

***There will be no Skill Building session in August.***

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

Friday, September 14, 2018 10 AM to Noon, Bainbridge Public Library

Topic: **Working with downloads, images and digital files**

Leader: Joleen Aitchison

### **Great Britain Special Interest Group**, first Friday of the month

Friday, July 6, 10 AM to Noon, LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Leader: Joleen Aitchison

***There will be no meeting in August.***

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

Monday, July 16, 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

***There will be no meeting in August.***

### **All Things DNA**, as scheduled

Friday, August 10, 2018 10 AM to Noon, Bainbridge Public Library

Topic: **Open forum focusing on items of interest to members in attendance, including results of DNA tests, ethnicity tests, exploring DNA matches, etc.**

Leader: Sue Hassenmiller

### **Irish Special Interest Group**. quarterly, 1st Friday

Friday, September 7, 2018 10 AM to Noon

LDS church, 8677 Madison Avenue N

Topic: **Learning from each other & problem solving on all things Irish**

Facilitator: Betty Wiese

## Special Interest Groups Cont.

### **New England & Mid - Atlantic Special Interest Group**, quarterly

Next meeting will be held in September, date to be determined

Bainbridge Island Library, downstairs

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

Leader: Mary Ferm

### **Southern States**, quarterly

Next date to be determined

Leader: Paula Schmidt

## Happening Around the Sound

### **Puget Sound Genealogical Society - 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton**

#### **The GEDCOM**

Date: Wednesday, July 25 - 1:00 to 2:00pm

Topic: **Learn how to safely create a GEDCOM file to share your genealogy research with others.**

Speaker: Jerri McCoy

#### **Digging in Dead Man's Land**

Date: Wednesday, August 22 - 1:00 to 2:00pm

Topic: **Find death records in physical repositories, on the internet, and in old newspapers.**

Speaker: Jim Johnson

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



[BIGS Website](#)

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