



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

April 2019 Newsletter

News from the Board

We are looking for your ideas to help BIGS continue to be a vibrant, relevant, robust organization.

Important work for the board of directors of an organization like ours is to set the vision for the organization. What do we want BIGS to look like? How do we measure our success? Equally important is a periodic assessment of the organization's strengths and weaknesses.

We want to get your ideas on these various aspects of an organizational self-assessment. We plan to start the process as part of the annual membership meeting on April 19, 2019. In addition to our speaker's presentation, the annual membership meeting portion will include the election of our board of directors, the annual president's report and the annual treasurer's report. This

Member's Corner

Thinking Outside of the Box

Contributed by Sue Hassenmiller

Schlieff Charles	25	m	n
Schlieff Georges	21	m	n
" Marie	20	f	n
" Clara	22	f	n
" Georges	18	m	n
" Chabrea	20	m	n
" Louis	16	m	n
" Christian	12	m	n
" Charles	8	m	n
" Christine	7	f	n
" Philippe	6	m	n
" Barbara	4	f	n

Schlieff family on passenger list for the St Nicolas,
out of Le Havre, France to New York, 1850.

What do you do when you can't find your great, great grandfather's marriage record or his naturalization papers, and he doesn't show up in the census? His many brothers and sisters also did not want to reveal any information on where the family came from.

After finding the passenger list for my maternal grandfather's mother's side of the family, I was obsessed with finding out where they came from in Europe.

For my 10th birthday, I received a Rand McNally World Atlas. I spent many hours going through the atlas, dreaming of the places I wanted to visit. Even then, I wondered where all my ancestors had come from. It became a goal of my genealogy research - find the home village and then go to visit it.

year we will also take a little time to get your ideas on the several key questions including:

(1) What does a successful BIGS organization look like? What is our vision, even if not yet achieved?

(2) What are our strengths? What are our weaknesses? Are there opportunities we should be taking advantage of? What threats/challenges do we need to be aware of?

We will do this by simply brainstorming as a group, which means gathering any and all ideas. We will not be evaluating the ideas at this point.

The board went through a similar process in 2010, the results of which we used in our strategic planning. A summary of that brainstorming will be shared with the membership by email to provide members with some historical perspective and to stimulate your creative thinking.

If you can't attend the April meeting, we would still love to hear what you think. Just send us your ideas and suggestions as a response to the board's email message.

Thank you for your help,

Betty Wiese
President

I knew where my maternal grandmother came from in Sweden because my grandmother wrote letters to and received letters from relatives in Jonstorp, Malmo, Sweden. I know that my father's family came from Potenza, Italy because the family had my grandfather's naturalization papers. But no one in my mother's family knew where the Schlieff family came from in Europe, only that they had settled originally in both Fond du Lac and Washington counties in Wisconsin.

After finding their passenger list while on my first trip to the Salt Lake Family History Library, I knew the whole family came over on the same ship - the St Nicolas, from Le Havre, France to New York, arriving on 13 April 1850.

After going to a genealogy conference in Portland and attending a lecture on loose records, I decided that loose records in the two counties could be the key to finding my answer. But how to get to them was the question.

Going back to Wisconsin was not on my schedule at the time and, of course, I wanted to know ASAP. I got to wondering if there was anyone named "Schlieff" still living in the area. Since cell phones had not yet been invented, it was still possible to order telephone

books from the telephone companies. So, I ordered the telephone books for Fond Du Lac and Washington counties. When they came, I wrote letters to all the Schlieff's listed, giving what information I had and asking if they had any information on the family. Several answers said they were not related and did not know anything. Then the letter from David Schlieff arrived. He was the descendant of Phillip Schlieff, my ancestor's brother. He was interested in learning about the family and where they came from. David also said that he had just retired and asked if he could help. Luckily he had included his phone number which I already had in the phone books, so in a fairly long call, I told him what to look for at the court houses.

About a week and half later, as I was walking up the driveway to the house after getting off the bus, my husband yelled from the porch to come quickly. It seemed that David was calling every half hour to see if I was home from work. (Remember no cell phones at the time). He had lucked out. David had found the first son's first marriage record. On it was written his birth location - Aspisheim, Hassen Darmstart. So several years later on a trip to Europe, we stopped in Aspisheim. It is located near

Mainz, Germany, founded in the year 700 A.D. and surrounded by vineyards. The cemetery offered a whole family tree, if one had the time to record all the names. The mayor, at the time of our visit, was

related to the Schlieff family. Sometimes one has to come up with their own research ideas!

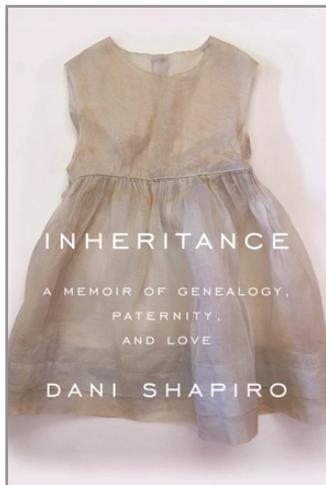


Spring Reading

Contributed by Holly Ardinger

Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love

by Dani Shapiro



Described as a “genetic detective story” and featuring DNA testing from Ancestry, this seemed like a book of interest to today’s genealogists and I was excited when a copy became available at the library. This is an easy, quick read and written much like a very long magazine essay. The story revolves around the author’s DNA test results, which indicate that she is not related to her paternal half sister and has a cousin of whom she was not previously aware. In the process of researching these findings, she learns that she was the product of a donor conception more than 50 years ago and is “traumatized” to learn that she is not biologically related to her father. With some help she determines the identity of the anonymous donor, researches him online and contacts him twice asking for a meeting, something he initially and thoughtfully declines. There is very little mystery and the genealogy research aspect of the story is minimized. Much of the book revolves around the author’s emotions pertaining to her discovery and her focus on biology as the basis for what is considered family. While I found the writing a bit repetitive and the author to be self-absorbed, this book serves as a reminder of the surprises that may await unsuspecting DNA test-takers and the impact on not just the individual but their family members (both new and already known) as well.

If you are interested in how a BIGS member’s DNA results helped an adoptee find her family, follow the link to the BIGS newsletter for July 2017 and read [“Another DNA Find for the Nelson-Tripp Family”](#) by Sylvia Nelson.



Tip of the Month

This tip was shared by **Charles Hansen of the Seattle Genealogical Society.**

In response to feedback from angry customers, FTDNA has provided a separate option so one can now opt out of the new Law Enforcement Matching (LEM), but still maintain matching capabilities with DNA Relatives.

If you are using FTDNA and would like to adjust your Matching Preferences, visit the Privacy & Sharing section within your Account Settings as shown in the steps below:

1. Log in to your FTDNA account
2. Use the dropdown arrow in the upper right, to the right of name, to open the menu there and choose **Account Settings**
3. On the Account Settings page, open the **Privacy & Sharing** tab
4. Cursor down to the **Law Enforcement Matching** (LEM) section and slide the marker from the right (where it's blue) to the left (where it will turn grey).

If you manage multiple accounts, you'll need to log into each account individually and repeat steps 1-4. Judy G Russell, the Legal Genealogist, wrote an insightful blog on the Law Enforcement Matching issue and what it might mean to you, as well as any other kits you administer. If interested, you can read it at [Legal Genealogist](#).

Monthly Members' Meetings

JOIN US

Friday, April 19, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: Our April meeting will be divided between our annual business meeting with the election of officers and a "FamilySearch Free-for-All" with our very own Joleen Aitchison - an opportunity for Q & A on all things FamilySearch.

Friday, May 17, 10:00 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

Topic: **Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors**

We all have immigrant ancestors, whether they came in Colonial times or much more recently. We'll be looking at strategies for tracking down their places of origin, finding out whether records exist, where to find them and what they can tell you.

Speaker: Claire Smith

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, April 12, 10 AM to Noon

Bainbridge Public Library, Community Room

Topic: **Using City Directories**

Facilitator: Cathy Jones-Smith

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

Monday, April 15, 7 PM to 9 PM

HomeStreet Bank on Hildebrand Lane, Community Room, 1st floor.

Knock if it's locked!

Topic: **Active problem solving and updates on research progress**

Leaders: Sue Elfving and Mary Ferm

Great Britain Special Interest Group, two times quarterly

Friday, April 5, 10 AM to Noon

LDS Church, 8677 Madison Ave NE

Facilitator: Joleen Aitchison

Southern States Special Interest Group, quarterly

Thursday, May 9, 1 PM to 3 PM

Bainbridge Public Library, Downstairs Conference Room

Facilitator: Paula Schmidt

Happening Around the Sound

Seattle Genealogical Society - 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

Second Saturday Speaker Series: *Using the Collections of NARA Seattle*

Saturday, April 13, 2019 - 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Speaker: Trish Hackett Nicola

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

Puget Sound Genealogical Society - 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

Germanic Immigration in the 1800's

Wednesday, April 24, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Sylvan Way Library, Heninger Room

Topic: Learn about the six million people who left Alsace, German states, Luxemburg, Prussia and Switzerland to live in North America. Discover how ports of departure/arrival, settlement patterns and location of native villages can help you trace your Germanic ancestors.

Speaker: Evelyn Roehl

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

Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society

2019 Spring Seminar

Friday and Saturday, April 26 & 27

Location: LaQuinta Inn and Suites, 1425 East 27th St., Tacoma, WA

Presenter: Michael Lacopo, DVM

Topics:

- More than the Census - our families did exist within those ten-year intervals!
- German Genealogy on the Internet: Beyond the Basics
- Incorporating Social History into your Research
- "She Came From Nowhere. . ." A case study approach to a difficult genealogical problem

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.tpcgs.org/seminar.html>



[BIGS Website](#)



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