



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## March 2020 Newsletter

### News from the Board

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Sylvia Nelson, met and confirmed the slate of candidates to present for a vote at the April 17, 2020 meeting. The slate includes:

**President: Andrea Hoskins**

**Vice President/Program Chair:  
Sylvia Nelson**

**Secretary: Holly Ardinger**

**Treasurer: Sue Hassenmiller**

**Director #1 Ways & Means:  
Betsy Hettich**

**Director #2 Publicity & PR:  
Larry Noedel**

**Director #3 Director at Large:  
Don Scott**

We will take nominations from the floor at the April meeting. Any member that wishes to be a nominee may either self-nominate or have someone nominate them. Only paid-in-full members are eligible to vote at the meeting. If you have not renewed your membership and want to participate in the future direction of BIGS, please renew as soon as possible.

### Member's Corner

#### ***In Our Ancestors' Footsteps: A Meaningful Trip to the Île d'Orléans, Québec.***

*Contributed by Stephanie Balzarini*

In the early 2000's, my Mom's research into her father's French-Canadian family led to the discovery of a link to Louis Houde, a New France pioneer and the patriarch of one of the "Founding Families" of the Île d'Orléans (Island of Orleans) in Québec, Canada. While we have since learned that our ancestry throughout Québec is quite extensive, the allure of this particular ancestral island captivated our imaginations for years, making a trip to the island a "bucket list" destination for both of us.



**FOUNDING FAMILIES SCULPTURE AT PARC-DES-ANCÊTRES WITH ST. LAWRENCE RIVER IN THE BACKGROUND.**

The Île d'Orléans is a large island situated in the St. Lawrence River, about 15 minutes east of old town Québec City, accessible by bridge. It was one of the first areas settled in New France starting around 1650. Today the island is known as the "bread basket" of Québec and is noted for wines, berries, farms, maple syrup and chocolate. Many people of French-Canadian descent

## Volunteer Opportunities no experience required

We are in need of a couple of volunteers to help with the Welcome Table at our monthly meetings. If you come regularly to the meetings on the third Friday of the month, consider volunteering to manage the materials that we have available for members and guests - name tags, handouts, brochures, membership forms, feedback forms, etc. You set out the materials on the Welcome Table prior to the meeting, and gather them up and take them away when we are done. If we can recruit two volunteers, the job can be shared. That way if you can't make it to the meeting, you've got back-up! To learn more about this opportunity to help, contact Larry Noedel. [larrynoedel@comcast.net](mailto:larrynoedel@comcast.net)

(And if the volunteer(s) wanted to also learn about using the AV equipment as back-up to Rebecca Pratt [willflourish@hotmail.com](mailto:willflourish@hotmail.com) that would be a bonus).

## Future of Southern SIG

We offer several Special Interest Groups (SIGS) for members to meet regularly as a BIGS activity to share information and support each other to become more knowledgeable in a particular focus area (e.g., DNA, Great Britain, etc.). Please see below for the status of our Southern States SIG.

*Betty Wiese*  
**President**

can trace ancestors back to this charming island.

In recent years, my research brought us to a fuller understanding of our ancestral connection to the Île d'Orléans. With the aid of modern online genealogy resources in Québec which are plentiful, I've confirmed that our ancestors include not one, but at least 9 families who settled on the island in the 1600s and are considered among the 300 "Founding Families" of the Île d'Orléans. Our ancestors also include other families who were not the first, but who settled in one of the 6 villages on the island in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Of the 6 villages, Sainte-Famille was the first parish established in 1661 and the location where many of our ancestors chose to live, and it is quite possible that some distant relatives still do.

Inspired by this information (and cheap airline tickets), in May of 2019 my Mom and I went for a visit. We were not in search of genealogical records on this trip. Instead we were in search of "the sense of place." We wanted to experience the history of Québec City and the Île d'Orléans, and to literally walk where our ancestors walked almost 400 years ago. Just the planning of this trip was thrilling for us. Being there among so much history and locating



homesites, churches, graves, and monuments of our ancestors was even more so. We were thoroughly enchanted by these places.

On the Île d'Orléans, we visited, La Maison de Nos Aïeux (The House of Our Ancestors), a small history museum and genealogy center run by the Foundation Francois-Lamy in the old rectory of the Sainte-Famille parish church. As a member I enjoyed an hour of consultation with the staff in the genealogy research room.

We looked at books and maps and a large diorama of the island showing the land owned by each family. Typical of New France, the lots on the island were all very long and narrow providing each owner with both river access and upland forest lands. The staff at the center gave us the current day addresses of land owned by



some of our Founding Families, and later that day we drove around the island happily finding these properties and visiting all 6 villages.

The church of Sainte-Famille is a beautiful church completed in 1749 with three bell towers. It is one of the last examples of a typical French Regime period church and is situated in the middle of the village along the main road. Unfortunately, it was not open the day we visited.

We enjoyed the view of the church from the front porch of the old rectory and we strolled around the church building imagining our ancestors witnessing the marriages, baptisms and funerals of their family and friends inside the four walls. We also wandered the path through the old cemetery looking at headstones. On the side of the church next to the cemetery we found plaques commemorating two of our Founding Families' patriarchs, Louis Houde and Gabriel Rouleau.

One of the highlights of our visit to Sainte-Famille was the Parc-des-Ancêtres (Ancestors Park) located near the church and adjacent to La Maison de Nos Aïeux. It is a lovely natural park slopping down to the St. Lawrence River from the old rectory with a path winding toward a large gazebo. A joyful sculpture commemorating the Founding Families

greet visitors near the entrance. The name of each family is engraved around the bottom of the sculpture.

While we looked for our ancestors' names, several songbirds with shimmering blue and white feathers flew in and perched on the arms of the sculpture above. Their unexpected arrival seemed symbolic to us, as if our ancestors were welcoming us to the island. We found ourselves pausing to look around and soak in the presence of our ancestors in this place. We both had an unmistakable feeling of belonging. Next time, we decided, we will spend more "down time" in this park and bring a picnic of local specialties.

We are not the first people in my grandfather's family to make the trip to the Île d'Orléans. One of my Mom's cousins recalls being with his grandmother, my Mom's Aunt Isabelle, in the Sainte-Famille cemetery searching for ancestors' graves when he was a child. Isabelle stood in the cemetery and gazed across the St. Lawrence River to the renowned Basilica of St. Anne de Beaupré. We imagine she was feeling the same way we did as she pondered the lives of her ancestors on this island they have inhabited for nearly 400 years.

In fact, we think this must be how many descendants of the Founding Families feel because on the day of our visit we met a man from Germany in the parking lot of the Sainte-Famille



church who was standing looking up at the church, mesmerized, and who told my Mom through teary eyes how overwhelmed he was by a sense of being home.

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# Monthly Members' Meetings

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## JOIN US!

**Friday, March 20 10:00 - 12:00**

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

### **Geneological Benefits of FaceBook**

Speaker: Marilyn Schunke, Noted NW Genealogist

Learn how to use Facebook for family history research. There are pages covering nearly every city and county in the U.S. and most locations across the globe, as well as scores of sites for those interested in genealogy DNA.

**Friday, April 17 10:00 - 12:00**

Bainbridge Public Library, 1270 Madison Ave N

### **BIGS Annual Members Meeting + Bring Your Ancestor to Life, Part 2**

The first part will be spent on our annual business meeting with election of officers.

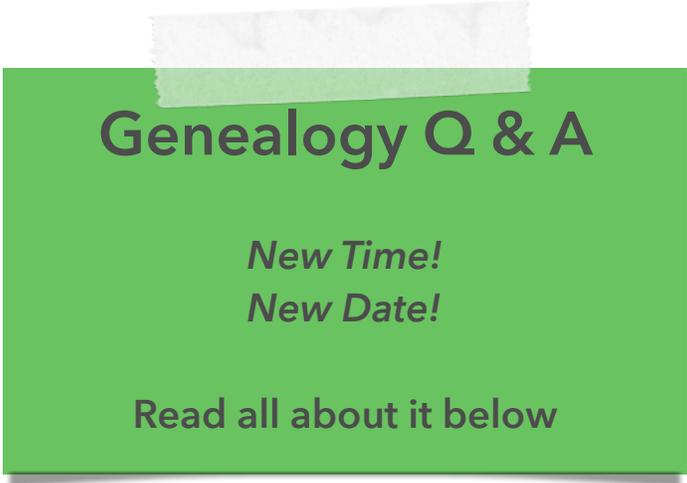
The second part will be a continuation of our January topic:

Bring Your Ancestors to Life.

There was a lot of positive feedback about that session, and we just happen to have a few more ancestors to share!

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

The complete meeting schedule is on our [website](#).



## Genealogy Q & A

***New Time!***

***New Date!***

**Read all about it below**

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# Special Interest Groups

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## For BIGS Members Only

Refer to our [website](#) for the complete schedule.

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

**Friday, March 13 10:00-12:00**

Bainbridge Public Library, Community Room

Topic: **PowerPoint Tips to Help You Tell Your Family Story (and some Windows tools like Snip & Sketch)**

Facilitator: Larry Noedel

**Note: Those new to PowerPoint and Snip & Sketch are encouraged to explore the basics before attending.**

**Friday, April 10 10:00-12:00**

Bainbridge Public Library, Community Room

Topic: **A Home Archivist: Protecting and Preserving our Family Treasures**

An introduction (via webinar); group discussion and sharing

Facilitator: Betty Wiese

**Friday, May 8 10:00-12:00**

Bainbridge Public Library, Community Room

Topic: **Ancestry Card Catalog - What it is and Search Tips**

Facilitators: Sylvia Nelson and Sue Hassenmiller

## **Genealogy Q & A - New Time and Place**

**Monday, March 9 7:00-9:00 PM every second Monday**

Bainbridge Public Library Community Room

Facilitators: Larry Noedel, Susan Wood, Andy Hoskins

The purpose of the program is to bring genealogical knowledge to anyone interested in getting started with genealogy, or anyone looking for help in their family tree research. While the sessions are intended as a way of reaching out to the general public, BIGS members are welcome to come and join the conversation. **Drop by! No formal program. Here's an opportunity for help and encouragement if you are stuck or just wondering what to do next.**

**New England and Mid-Atlantic** - quarterly

**Wednesday, March 4 10:00-12:00**

HomeStreet Bank, 921 Hildebrand Lane, Community Room, 1st floor

Facilitator: Mary Ferm

**Please note change of location** - the usual meeting room is not available this month.

**Great Britain** - monthly**Friday, March 6 10:00-12:00**

HomeStreet Bank, 921 Hildebrand Lane, Suite 100

**Please note change of location** - the usual meeting room is not available this month.

Facilitators: Judith Rogerson and Priscilla Greenlees

The focus is on Scottish research and our latest finds. In addition, each attendee is asked to bring an old family photo without revealing whose ancestor it is. We will then try to identify who in the room resembles the ancestor.

**Writer's Workshop****Friday, March 6 12:30-2:30**

Meeting will be held at Pat Scott's home, 8511 Ferncliff Ave NE

Please be ready to discuss Steps 8 &amp; 9 in Carmack's book.

Facilitator: Andy Hoskins

**Please note change of location** - the usual meeting room is not available this month.**Evening Discussion Group (EDG)**, third Tuesday of the month**Tuesday, March 17 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

at the Ferm's home 465 Ambrose Lane, unit D 104. E-mailed directions can be sent on request.

Topic: **Active problem solving and updates on research progress.** This all-topics genealogy discussion group loves hearing about your challenges as well as your discoveries. A great group for beginners and experienced researchers alike.

Facilitators: Mary Ferm and Sue Elfving

**Irish & Scots-Irish** - quarterly**Friday, May 22 10:00-12:00**

Bainbridge Public Library, Community Room

Facilitators: Cathy Jones-Smith and Kathy Penn

**DNA****Second Quarter 2020**

TBD

Facilitator: Sue Hassenmiller



## Southern States

Our Southern States SIG has been in existence for 10 years as a quarterly meeting, facilitated by Paula Schmidt. Recently, Paula has noted the level of participation has decreased.

We are asking you to let us know your level of interest in continuing a quarterly meeting of a southern state's SIG. It's perfectly fine for it to continue as a small group; Paula is willing to continue as leader. It's also perfectly fine to let it go, if the interest is no longer there.

Please respond to the email that will be coming to the membership to let us know if you would like the southern states SIG to continue and your willingness to actively participate. Whether this SIG continues or not, please remember there are other resources available to you to explore Southern States research or any topic of interest:

- Use BIGSNET email group to post questions and get advice from other members
- Email [bettywiese@comcast.net](mailto:bettywiese@comcast.net) and request a mentor to help you explore a specific issue or concern
- Meet informally with other members to explore topics of mutual interest

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## Events Around the Sound

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### **Seattle Genealogical Society**

SGS Library, 6200 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

**"Do you Trello and Kanban?"**

**Saturday, March 14 1:00-3:00**

**1890-1920 - The Progressive Era and Women's Rights**

**Saturday, April 11 1:00-3:00**

**Spring Seminar with Fritz Juengling, an Accredited Genealogist for Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Sweden.**

**Saturday, May 16 9:00-4:00**

Fairview Christian School, Seattle

Confirm events and learn more at [SGS](https://www.seattle-genealogy.com)

**Puget Sound Genealogical Society**

Heninger Room, Sylvan Way Library, 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton

PGSG Classes are free and open to the public. Call 1-360-475-9172 to register.

Fraktur und Fremdwörter: Hacks for Reading Foreign Books & Newspapers with Mary Kircher Roddy.

Wednesday, March 25 1:00-2:00

Confirm event and learn more at [PSGS](#)

**Irish Festival of Seattle**

March 14 - 15, 2020

Seattle Center Armory

**Irish Heritage Club**

Putting the Gene in Your Genealogy

Saturday, March 21 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Learn to use the latest Technology and your DNA results to discover Clues to your Irish Ancestral Origins.

Find place names and castles associated with your family and their neighbors

Conducted by: Tyrone Bowes Ph.D., Galway, Ireland

Fairview Christian Church Hall, 844 NE 78th Street, Seattle, WA 98115

Buy tickets on line through <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/irish-heritage-club-7871179248>

**7th Annual Northwest Genealogy Conference**

August 12-15 Arlington, WA

Early Bird registration is now open. Check the [Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society's](#) web site.



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*Your newsletter was edited by Susan Palmer and designed by Lori Gibson*

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