



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

## MEMBERS CORNER

### *OPERATION MARKET GARDEN*

BY SUSIE WOOD

It was called Operation Market Garden during WWII, when the United States and its allies attempted to take back much of the Netherlands that the Nazi had inhabited for two years. Those two years were a frightening time for the Hollanders that lived there, one particular seminary student, but I am sure he was not alone. It was also a frightening time for the men of the 101st Airborne, which included my dad.

My dad was trained at Fort Benning, Georgia. This is where the 101st and 82nd Airborne are trained. We now know them by Rangers and Green Beret. It wasn't my dad's first dream. Dad wanted to be a pilot. An opportunity came up when boot camp was over. Where most of the 101st were sent to Normandy, Dad went to flight training. His idea was that it made much more sense to sit in the pilot's seat of the cockpit, then jump out an open door into enemy territory. Or anytime for that matter. Dad told me that "you've got to be crazy to jump out of a perfectly good airplane."



ALLAN WOOD IS BACK CENTER, TALLEST, WITH SKEWED HELMET

D-day proved a hardship on the 101st. Dad's desires were rerouted from flight school back to the 101st and on his way to Nijmegen, Holland.

Operation Market Garden is the largest military airborne operation to date, with more than 34,000 paratroopers conducting static line paradrops and glider landings into the Netherlands to seize and secure key bridges and terrain that would allow for entrance into Germany.

One man, a seminary student, believed he was living in the last days of his life when he came out to witness hope. The sky was raining paratroopers. There was hope for tomorrow.



Dad told me that once on the ground, they went door to door clearing out German soldiers. These men in Nazi uniforms were now POW's. Dad didn't speak of these days easily, but he did share a special memory of one man. He was a German soldier who had gotten in the way of a bullet. It was too late to take him to the POW camp, so dad took him up to the room where he was sleeping that night. Dad dressed the wound and got 'wasser', the glass of water asked for by his ward. Dad spoke German, so he was able to easily communicate with his captive. What felt special to me was the fact that these two young soldiers slept on the floor next to each other, 's rifle leaned up against the wall, one German and one American, knowing that they had survived another day of war together. said he didn't know what happened to this man, but I know that always carried him in a very special place in his heart.

instilled in me that he was fighting in an uniform and the ideals it stood for, not the person in the uniform. His work wasn't done. There was another battle yet to be fought for . It was known as the Battle of the Bulge.

received a bronze star and purple heart from this battle, but that is another story.

Many years had passed, and much life lived when at 89 dad found himself with some heart trouble that took him to Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA. He was in a double room and there was a man in the bed next to his. Dad introduced himself. When Father Arnold Schoffemeer introduced himself in return, Dad sensed a Dutch accent and asked him where he was from. When Father told him Nijmegen Holland, Dad clicked his tongue and pulled back his cheek in amazement. "I jumped into Nijmegen during the war.

The tight connection was made. You see Father Schoffemeer was a seminary student that was sure it had come to the end of his life when he saw the 101st glide from the sky.

Dad visited with Father many times in the next few months of Father's life.

It was only a short time later that Father Arnold Schoffemeer died in March of 2011. They had shared a very tight bond in a short period of time. I don't know all the stories that Dad and Father shared, but Dad was honored to speak at his memorial service. A very special moment in time for my dad.



ALLAN WOOD (1921-2017) AND FATHER ARNOLD SCHOFFELMEER (1922-2011)



# Notes from the President

## Change Is Coming

It's September and summer is fading into autumn. Our August hiatus is over, and BIGS activities are back on the calendar. Of course, BIGS volunteers have been at work on all the behind-the-scenes tasks - signing up future speakers, evaluating our hybrid sessions, developing our membership committee, and so on. We recently established a **"Website Refresh Team"** to keep our website as fresh, relevant, and useful as possible. So, over the next several months you can expect to see some changes and we will make sure to tell you about them as they happen. We want to make bigenealogy.org the place you go for BIGS news, information and resources. One of our first additions will be an online pay option so that folks who wish can renew, join, or donate online. Watch for more on that next month.

## Zooming In

After holding two monthly meetings using a hybrid format, both virtual and in-person, the Hybrid Team has recommended that we resume holding our meetings using Zoom only. The demands of the hybrid set-up took something away from both the virtual and in person experiences. Also, we had hoped to see more members taking advantage of the in-person option than actually did. **At this time, we are planning to hold our September, October and November monthly meetings via Zoom only.** We are investigating the possibility of having an in-person only get-together for our December meeting. More details to come.

## Capturing Family Stories

One of the challenges that comes with uncovering your family history is - what do you do with the information? Along with creating pedigree charts, family group sheets and photo albums, maybe you've been thinking about writing stories to share your finds with future generations. To help you start shaping these stories, BIGS will be offering two sessions of our monthly Skill Building SIG aimed at writing your family stories. **On Friday, September 9th, Carla Maitland will be our speaker,** providing prompts and strategies to inspire you to put pen to paper. And then, **our October 14th Skill SIG will offer a discussion with fellow BIGS members exploring the various ways folks are capturing their family stories.** This could be your chance to get started!

Andy Hoskins  
President

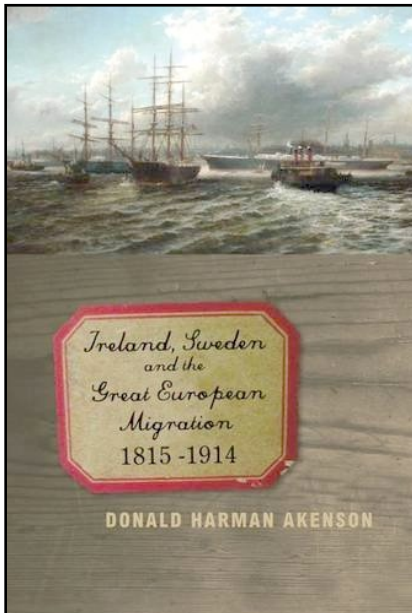


## BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Mary Ferm

### ***IRELAND, SWEDEN AND THE GREAT EUROPEAN MIGRATION 1815-1914***

By Donald Harman Akenson, McGill-Queen's Univ. Press, Montreal (2012)



When I first picked up this book at a conference, I was familiar with the Great Irish Famine (1845-49), although my Irish ancestors had left Ireland by 1800. However, I had never heard of the Swedish Deprivation of 1867-1869, and I knew my husband had ancestors who immigrated to the US from Sweden in 1868 (Augusta Mathilda Anderson, changed to Slattengren) and in 1880 (Olof Wilhelm Ferm). Always looking for historical background other than that of royal or military leaders, I hoped this would tell me more about the lives of the Fermes and Andersons. I was not disappointed.

In Sweden, for at least two generations after the event, the Great Deprivation of 1867-1869 was clearly marked in personal memories. However, it was not an easily defined regional or national phenomenon. It was severest in the five administrative counties of historical Norrland, and also in parts of Dalarna and Smaland, and these geographic pieces do not fit well together.

While they were not famine years in the Irish sense, they were known by the Swedes as “the wet year, the dry year, the hard year”. These were the descriptions given by people, used to year after year of barely scraping by, to three years that were really difficult. The agronomist for one county travelled around in 1868 teaching how to make bread with mosses and lichens. The most common survival food was bread made from the layer just under the bark of pine, spruce, elm and birch. In Finland, one twelfth of the population died in one year. Written by an academic in search of a comparison with which to examine Ireland’s “exceptionalism”, it can be a little heavy in the early chapters on assumptions used in past historical studies. However, even the author’s explanation of why he chose Sweden as a comparator is illuminating, pointing out, among other things, that in the mid 19th century, both countries were part of the “poor European periphery”, and both only indirectly affected by wars. While growing up in Ireland meant “preparing to leave it”, Sweden had a parallel situation in which almost one fifth of Swedish males born 1861-75 had emigrated by the early 1890s. (O.W. Ferm, born 1853, left 1880.) Even the discussion on the difficulty of arriving at reliable numbers of immigrants notes helpful facts, such as the rates of re-immigration, labor immigration to Europe, and the reminder that immigration from both countries was part of a Great European Migration (1815-1914). (Akenson contends this was one of the “truly freak phenomena

in human history”—the pain experienced by migrants at home and the pain they inflicted, even indirectly, in their new land, is continually “an ever present drone-bass in our consciousness.”) The book is quite readable, and even amusing at times—for example he notes that Swedes allegedly preferred sex to alcohol as a primary means of social diversion, in contrast to the Irish.

In both countries, once out-migration began, it became part of everyday experience for the entire population.

There is much that is useful to a genealogist, including an explanation of the history of boundary changes in Irish and Swedish counties, discussion of poverty, population trends, and slow rates of industrialization. (O.W. Ferm’s ancestors had been blacksmiths and ironworkers. Akenson states that the Swedish mining and iron industry shifted from household economies to more modern production, partly accomplished by the

mid-1860s.) While my interest was mostly in the Swedish situation, all comparisons between the two countries illuminate life in Ireland as well.

Perhaps the statement that struck me most, as a genealogist, was in the introduction: “Some knowledge that is common in one generation becomes virtually unknown in the next.” Every day things such as making a living were not considered worth even writing about at the time, so we don’t hear about them. Re-imagining every-day lives of ancestors is hampered by this attitude, and this book helps counter that.



## Skill Building Special Interest Groups Members Only

Zoom link information will be sent to all members by email. Watch for details before each meeting.

### Writing Our Family Stories Friday September 9, 2022, 10:00 am via Zoom only

Guest Speaker Carla Maitland, President of the Tennessee Genealogical Society, offers ideas, prompts, processes and words of encouragement to get us started on writing family stories.

## Monthly Meetings

### Open to the Public - No membership necessary

Zoom links will be sent to all members and posted on our website the day before the meeting.

[All events can be found on the BIGS website at https://bigenealogy.org/events/](https://bigenealogy.org/events/)



#### WPA Historical Records Survey and YOUR Genealogy

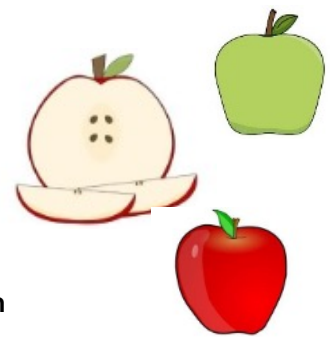
**September 16, 2022 - 10:00 am via Zoom**

Presenter: Gena Philibert-Ortega

Between 1935 and 1943 the WPA (Works Progress Administration) employed more than 8 million people, most in construction but also in the arts and cultural areas. Perhaps one of your ancestors was involved. In this presentation, we will explore the WPA and specifically the Historical Records Survey and what genealogically relevant content you can find in books, archival collections, and online.

Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author, researcher, and instructor who has published two books and many articles as well as six editions of the Tracing Your Ancestors series from Moorshead Publishing. Her current research includes women's repatriation and citizenship in the 20th century, foodways and community in fundraising cookbooks, and women's material culture.

A Zoom link will be available on our website the day before the meeting. Everyone Welcome! No membership necessary.



#### A Special Diahna Doubleheader

**October 21, 2022 - 10:00 am via Zoom**

Presenter: Diahna Southard

**"DNA Ethnicity in 2022"** to be followed by **"Me and My 1,000+ DNA 4th Cousins"**

We are celebrating Family History Month with a special two-presentation program by Diahna Southard, a leading voice in the field of consumer DNA testing and author of Your DNA Guide. Program details to follow. A Zoom link will be available on our website the day before the meeting. Everyone Welcome! No membership necessary. Save that date!

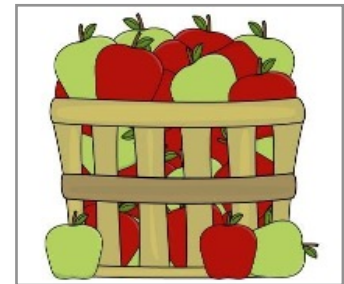
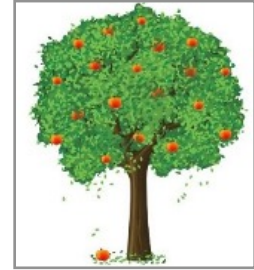
## Make It Quick

From Joleen Aitchison

### Cemetery Sites - [Find a Grave](#)

*"Find a Grave's mission is to help people from all over the world work together to find, record and present final disposition information as a virtual cemetery experience."* (Find a Grave)

Powered by volunteers, Find a Grave was initially created in 1995 by Jim Tipton who liked to locate graves of famous people. It has grown to include people from all walks of life and is an amazing source of information about some of them. Find a Grave became a subsidiary of Ancestry® in 2013. A quick look at the collections available through Ancestry® yields a total of nearly 220 million memorials! This site is free, easy to use, offers iOS and Android apps, memorial search, cemetery search, and other options. It is absolutely worth becoming familiar with Find a Grave. You never know what you might find to assist you in furthering the information about your family.



## Zooming Around

### [SGS 2022 Fall Seminar with Judy Russell](#)

Saturday, September 17 through  
Sunday, September 18  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Meeting via Zoom Registration  
Required

### [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

Delivering the Mail: Records of the  
United States Post Office  
Fri, Sep 9, 2022: 8:15 AM MDT

## DNA Ditties

### WHAT IS A SUBCLADE?

"In genetics, subclade is a term used to describe a subgroup of a subgenus or haplogroup. It is commonly used today in describing genealogical DNA tests of human mitochondrial DNA haplogroups and human Y-chromosome DNA haplogroups." (from ISOGG Wiki)

...in the [Genetics Glossary](#) at ISOOG



**Pat's prompt for this month:**

*What recipe do you wish you could re-make to taste just like it did when you were a child? Or perhaps you have saved the recipe and your family enjoys it today.*

*To which relative do you give thanks?*



**Pat shares this 'sweet' memory with us.**

**Already, we can almost taste some of our own family favorites!**

*"Recently I had a family recipe in Suquamish at Sully's Bistro and Bar:*

*<https://www.sullysbistroandbar.com/>*

*Through our migration years during World War II, my mother made a Pineapple Upside Down Cake in a black iron griddle pan on top of a wood burning stove.*

*It was our favorite dessert: Sully's baked the restaurant version as a large cupcake, baked in an oven, but, oh, it evoked so many wonderful memories!"*

**Larry Noedel sent us this great response to last month's questions:**

*"Which childhood vacation memory would you like to relive?*

*Where would you be? Who would be with you?"*

*First, I'm both happy and lucky to be able to say that Pat's Prompt made me dredge up dozens of happy vacation memories that I hadn't thought about in many years. I'm going to tell you about a series of events from when I was aged 9 or 10.*

*We lived in the City of St. Louis and had a "clubhouse" on the Big River about an hour's drive southwest of the metropolitan area. On most every weekend in the summer we'd leave for the river on Friday evening or Saturday morning and return on Sunday night. Often, my dad tied my bike to the front of our two-tone 1941 Dodge so I'd have personal transportation once we arrived. The first thing I'd do is pedal perhaps a quarter of a mile to my pal Georgie's place. That meant biking*



*across a steel bridge with a wooden plank roadbed that shivered and rattled so much when a car passed that you'd think it would fall down. Georgie would hop on his bike and together we'd begin a 2-day long adventure within the square mile or so that surrounded us. Just the two of us.*

*We'd bike the entire area. We'd swim (mostly paddle around in the shallows). Maybe look up other kids we knew. Occasionally do a little fishing (mostly fiddling with throwlines). Row boats (if one was available). Throw rocks in the river. Play catch. Study tadpoles. Stop at "the store" for a chocolate soda or a candy bar. Maybe climb a mountain (about 400 feet). Go home only to eat and sleep.*

*During those days we were in charge of our own world. This was the period immediately after WWII when parents and kids still had their own worlds. Those weekends were about extraordinary freedom.*

*Our parents were well aware and warned us about the local dangers (drownings, bicycle accidents, snakes, etc.). But unlike when in the city, in the country they allowed us the freedom to really be on our own and make our own rules. The result was a set of exceedingly happy memories that are as clear now as if they had happened yesterday.*

*I recently visited the area, which as you might imagine has changed almost beyond recognition.*

*Nevertheless, I could draw you a detailed map of the entire area exactly as it was back then, every road, every building, every landmark. So, thanks Pat for reminding me of some fun times that happened some 75 years ago. Hard to believe.*

**We would love to hear your responses to these questions. Please write them up and send them to us at [bonnefamille@gmail.com](mailto:bonnefamille@gmail.com) or [got2boys@hotmail.com](mailto:got2boys@hotmail.com).**




---

Your newsletter was edited by Joleen Aitchison and Susie Wood and designed by Lori Gibson