

BIGWILL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2007

President Peggy Gleich called meeting to order at 10 AM.

The Nippersink Library where our collection of research material is housed has given us 90 days to vacate, citing space restrictions. A search will be conducted to locate a suitable new repository. If you know of any facility which might be willing to accept our collection please advise any Board member. This won't be easy – your help is needed.

A new book on the Calvin Cemetery in Aurora, Illinois was circulated. The author has researched not only the stones, with photographs, but also the death notices/obituaries for the people as well.

Prudy Sullivan thanked members Nancy Holder and Fran Higgs for their assistance with refreshments and requested volunteers to bring baked goodies or beverages to the March meeting on St.Patrick's Day.

March meeting will (naturally) concentrate on the Irish.

Members were reminded of the DuPage Genealogical Seminar on 24 February, information sheets on the back table.

And mark your calendars for the Illinois State Fall Conference which will be held October 20th. Joliet and Glen Ellyn are being discussed as possible locations.

Dues are due. Please send them in promptly – ensure continued steady receipt of the newsletter; and help us save the costs associated with follow up mailings and calls. Remember Queries are welcome from all members – send in your requests along with your dues – take advantage of all the benefits of your membership. Another benefit, currently under-utilized: our own on-line discussion group! Discussed on page 2 of the last newsletter, the address is: wiiibig@yahoogleroups.com. Check it out. The more who log in, the greater the value of this resource. We've all got questions – and some other member has likely already solved it or has great ideas about it. Let's share the knowledge and expertise we have all accumulated among ourselves.

Maureen Brady shared a new website she has recently found. The English Public Records Office (National Archives) is releasing a full Index of passenger lists for all ship departures from England from 1890 to 1960 in conjunction with findmypast.com. URL: www.ancestorsonboard.com. Only 1890-1899 currently available. Fees are very reasonable.

Family History Centers and their collections were highlighted. An information sheet on the Naperville, IL FHC was distributed. In April they plan a class on Scottish Research. They have a patron mailing list which provides access to listings of their short term and long term/extended loan collections, and other information.

A potted history of the Scots-Irish was discussed briefly, generated by commentary on the Book "Albion's Seed" which is not only an excellent reference work but also a very readable and entertaining volume on the causes and effects of the dispersal of Scots to Ireland, then onward when they were shipped out of Ireland as well. One of the less frequently heard destinations was Barbados. An excellent resource is "Tracing Your Ancestors in Barbados" by Geraldine Lane, published by Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc. - \$18.95 list price. It was reviewed in Everton's Genealogical Helper, Jan/Feb 2007 edition on page 108.

There will be NO MEETING September 22nd. All members are instead encouraged to participate in our Conference with Sherry Irvine on September 29th in Rockford.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

NEXT MEETING – Saturday, March 17th, 10 AM.