



British Isles Family History Society-U.S.A.

Newsletter

Mar/Apr-2004

Editor: Jim McNamara

GENERAL MEETINGS:

This Month – Sunday, 28 March 2004, 1:00-3:00 PM
You Can't Get There from Here, A Beginners Trip to Wales
By: Beth Uyehara

Study Group 3:30-5:00 PM
Simple Use of Power Point for Lecture & Family History Presentations
By: Jim McNamara (Feb. presentation re-scheduled.)

Next Month – Sunday, 25 April 2004, 1:00-3:00 PM
Short Cuts in British Genealogy
By: Nancy Carlberg

Study Group 3:30-5:00 PM
Open Workshop (Bring a problem)
By: General Discussion

Notice:

All classes and monthly meetings are free. There is plenty of free parking. Everyone is welcome. You are welcome to do your own research at any time. Unless otherwise stated, all events are held at:

Los Angeles Family History Center (310) 474-9990
10741 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Please contact a board member if you have any other questions.

Visit BIFHS-USA Website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa>

"Beautiful, glorious Scotland, has spoilt me for every other country!"

Mary Todd Lincoln (1818-1882), US First Lady Letter, 21 Aug 1869 (*published in the Mary Lincoln Letters*, 1956).¹

Editor's Note:

Having a few months to review my finds from our Salt Lake City research trip, I am appreciating more and more how much there is to know about life in the mid 1700s. One of my finds was a will for my sixth-great Scottish grandfather, made in 1758, which introduced a term I had never before encountered (Plenisor?), and has left me with a female name (Ampelald or Ampelale) unbeknownst to all I have queried. Thanks to Nancy Bier for the help with another word (worsted) a type of very tough fibrous wool fabric with a hard, smooth finish, which wears well. A practical cloth, to be sure. Likely some of these words were misspelled by our standards or out of usage long ago. Some additional research is now in order...

My other finds were for my Irish grandmother, Annie Marie (nee Cleary) McNamara. A naturalization record in 1927 included the birth dates of each of her four children, the naturalization date of her husband, her marriage date and place (1915 in Boston), the date of her arrival in Boston on the steamer Ivernia. Had Daniel and Annie naturalized in 1921, Annie would have received derivative citizenship, and none of this information would have been recorded. Annie seemed to wait for her last child to be born before she naturalized. Annie and Daniel both had to disavow allegiance to King George the V, and with this in mind, I think her special sense of humor led her to borrow the name George for my father's middle name. There were no Georges in either family.

The naturalization info led me to her passenger record, which lets me know about a married sister living in Boston in 1911, probably in 1910 as well. And now I await a marriage record from Boston, probably will be here via snail mail in a few weeks.

Perhaps the biggest lead I have received for my Irish is that my CLEARYs were from Kildare, and two brothers came to the HERBERT estate as grooms. Thanks to Linda Jonas for finding the detailed description of the HERBERT estate papers in the *Analecta Hibernica* number 15. I photographed the pages and have learned that at the time of publication the papers were in private hands. I should be able to track down these estate papers.

More leads, more information. Another successful research trip thanks to Nancy Bier and Linda Jonas. And even though the weather was supposed to be very cold, I found it easy to stay warm. Yes it was a bit cooler than Jan 2003, but I understand the weather became much colder the following week. It was nice to get home and back to work, back to the routine.

Please note, BiFHS-USA Newsletter will be adding some features, thanks to Nancy Bier and Annie Lloyd. This issue will have examples of these features, and it now becomes very important for BIFHS members to provide feedback and participation to make this a very successful newsletter. We want to make it a real asset to you, that you will gain information that otherwise would be difficult to obtain. 'Bookshelf' and 'Who's Got The Answer?' are two new columns among the new features being considered. Bookshelf will feature new and/or old books that Nancy Bier and her colleagues wish to profile as being noteworthy, important, and useful to the genealogical advancement of our members. Please read these initial columns and new features and let us know what you think of them.

Don't forget to have a great St. Patrick's Day!

Best regards to all,

Jim McNamara Any and all comments are always welcome. JPMTCC@aol.com

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President's Message:

Looks like the year is off to a great start. We had terrific meetings both in January and February. And the schedule looks great. Many thanks to those who brought refreshments. They are appreciated.

Jamboree is coming in April (16-17) so keep it on your calendar and come and help. We also need help in Salt Lake City (8-11 April if you'd like to go there.) If a female member would like to share a room with two other people, let me know. That person could even drive up with me on the 4th and do some research first.

Don't forget the recipes for the cookbook we are assembling. Send these to Nancy Bier at nbierirish@aol.com.

See you in March and April (especially since I am speaking in April).

Nancy Ellen Carlberg

Memberships and Renewals, (Proposed Changes, will be discussed at the April meeting):

We have been sending newsletters out for a couple of issues after your membership has expired, but we can no longer continue to do that because of the expense. So we are sorry but when your membership lapses, we will have to stop the newsletters. We are unable to send renewal notices because of the size of membership (and we don't have someone to do it either). Usually the date your membership expires is on the newsletter label. We will put a large print notice on the newsletter the month that you need to renew.

Your memberships will be dated as of the month the renewal is received. The newsletter cut-off date is the end of the month previous to the issue date of the newsletter because that is when labels are printed. You will receive the next issue of the newsletter to be printed after you sign up. For instance, if you sign-up in May, your first issue of the newsletter will be the July-August issue because the labels for the May-June issue are printed on the 30th of April, but you will receive issues through the May-June issue the next year.

Because of the need to know the number of copies of the Journal to make, the cut-off date for Spring-Summer issue will be April, for the Fall-Winter issue it will be October. Memberships after that time, will receive the next two journals (beginning with Fall-Winter if membership dates from May on, beginning with the next Spring-Summer issue if membership dates from November on.) If you want to order any issues that are missed, they can be ordered for \$10.00 each.

We do not have a Journal editor, so we are trying to catch up on the issues right now. If you haven't received issues yet, you will receive all of the issues you are entitled to when we can print them.

Family History Table: Please contact Glen E. Knoblock if you are interested in displaying your family history at any of the meetings. Glennark@worldnet.att.net

OCCGS & The Irish-Scottish SIG are hosting an Irish Seminar by **Kyle Betit** of Salt Lake City. Saturday, April 3, 2004, at 12:30 PM, [\$15.00 at the door, please bring correct change.]

Topics: Determining Your Place of Origin in Ireland, Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, Freeholders, Freeman and Voting Records in Ireland.

Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Street, Huntington Beach, CA, Room C – Lower Level

Contact: Muriel Fitzsimmons 714 962-4592 or genfitzvh@aol.com

Meet the Board [Nancy Ellen Carlberg]:

Nancy Ellen Carlberg has been a professional genealogist for 32 years, beginning when she discovered that her brother had muscular dystrophy. While attempting to find out if it showed up anywhere on the family tree, she became addicted to the research.

She worked in Salt Lake City for 2 ½ years as a professional genealogist for a company, and on her own. During this time, she had the opportunity to do research in the records of 25 different countries, in almost as many languages.

This was followed by 2 ½ years working for Alex Haley, which began just after *Roots* aired on television. She worked on gathering background material for *Roots II*, *Queen*, and a mini-series for television, *Palmerstown, USA*. During this period she traveled over 250,000 miles by air and drove all over the eastern part of the U.S.

For Alex she tracked down information on a family that came from Ireland, went to Philadelphia, then to Tennessee, and then to Alabama. By 1840, this was one of the richest families in Alabama. Alex was working on a mini-series that would take the family from 1780 Ireland, through life in the early days of Tennessee, through the Civil War and the Reconstruction. Because of his death before it was completed, the actual story as he envisioned it has yet to be completed. But it will be.

Alex Haley and his wife, Dr. Myron Elizabeth Haley, were sticklers for accuracy in the background information they presented. Nancy spent the time tracking down all the descendants of the family, locating furniture, the silverware, glassware, china, paintings, and even the family cookbook and the family Bible. In addition she spent nine weeks in the Library of Congress answering questions such as "What would an Irish washerwoman use to do her laundry in 1790?" and "How would you set the table for Irish gentry in 1780?" and "How far apart would you plant a row of cotton in Alabama in 1830?". She visited libraries and archives in 18 states tracing down information.

In 1985, she began to write books. She has written *Climbing the Family Tree With Nancy*, *Researching in Salt Lake City*, *Nancy's Easy Filing System*, *Becoming a Professional Genealogist*, *Beginning Census*

Research, *Beginning English Research*, *Teaching Genealogy*, *Beginning Danish Research (with Norma S. Keating)*, *Using 1992 IGI on Microfiche*, *Midwest Research*, *Traveling to England to Find Your Roots (Cheap)*, *Toy Making on a Budget*, *How to Survive the Genealogy Bug Without Going Broke*, *Writing a Family History*, *Writing a Non-Fiction Book the Easy Way*, *Using the Orange County Family History Center*, *Using the Family History Library Catalog on Computer*, *Getting a Quick Start Up Your Family Tree*, *Beginning Irish Research*, plus thirty-four more books and five family histories. She has 218 books started on her computer. In 1986 she started her own publishing company, **Carlberg Press**.

She takes tour groups to Salt Lake City, has been to England 15 times, to Ireland 10 times, Scotland 12 times, and to Wales 12 times. She actually prefers to use the time overseas visiting thrift shops and book stores.

In addition to genealogy, her hobbies include collecting information on the Home Front in World War II, collecting general homemaking information, reading British mysteries, needlepoint, and singing.

She is a member of Anaheim Evening Optimist Club, OCCGS, British Isles Family History Society, Son and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors (official compiler of survivors' list), and is active at church. She has been a Brownie Leader, Cub Scout Program Director, tour guide for High School students, and an advisor for the Camp Fire Girls.

She feels that genealogy research is very important, especially for young people, because by finding out how our ancestors actually lived, we will discover that life is getting better rather than worse and that there is not a single ancestor we would trade places with. Her advice to genealogists:

- Don't be in a hurry. What you don't finish, someone else will.
- Make sure that it is right and worthy of acceptance.
- It is better to do five generations correctly, than 20 generations with a lot of errors.
- Have patience. The record you need may not be ready for your use yet.
- Never give up. The answer will be there eventually.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Dorothy Losee for providing this article.

BIFHS-USA Welcomes new members:

Tammy Ashmore

Simi Valley, CA
Interests: England, Scotland

Eileen Cusimano

Los Angeles, CA
Interests: East London, Essex, Surrey, Aberdeen,
Durham

Thomas R Judd Jr.

Ontario, CA
Interests: IRE - Co. Tyrone, ENG - Warwickshire,
Staffordshire

Richard Kilbury

Monrovia, CA

Fred Spong

Interests: Eng, Wales, Ire
La Jolla, CA

Walter & Molly Coulson

Beverly Hills, CA
Interest: Yorkshire

Barbara B Freshwater

Sunland, CA
Sunland addr. is for Nov-Apr.
Interests: ENG - Worc, Warw, Staffs, Kent; SCOT –
Ayr; Ancient WALES

Jeanette Gardner

Placentia, CA
Interest: John Humphrey, 1607

Susan A Simons

Santa Rosa, CA

Editor's Note:

Thanks to my Internet Friend **Cathy Joynt Labath** for granting permission to print two shipwreck news articles below. Cathy spends much of her spare time posting her transcriptions of old Irish newspaper articles to several lists, such as Ireland-L@rootsweb.com, as well as to her own website Ireland Old News at: <http://www.IrelandOldNews.com>

THE CONNAUGHT JOURNAL
Galway, Thursday, May 3, 1824

“SHIPWRECK.

We are at length enabled to lay before our readers the following interesting particulars of the loss of the schooner Lively Kate, of Ballybriggan. This vessel sailed from Limerick on the 2d or 3d instant for Belfast, with a cargo of wheat and barley. On the 6th when off the Blaskets, the master, H. Lowther, was struck by a sea and carried overboard. Every exertion made to save him was fruitless. In consequence of this melancholy occurrence she put into Kilrush, where another Master was appointed, and, on the 8th instant, she again put to sea, but meeting with heavy and contrary gales, was obliged to take shelter in the harbour of Youghal. From there she sailed on the morning of the 13th instant, with a fair wind. Nothing particular occurred till about one o'clock, when in consequence of the wind dying away, and the tide running to leeward, she was driven on the Great Saltee Island. The Master and crew would, in all probability, have abated the fate of the former Master, were it not for the courage and humanity of John Parle, (a farmer who resides on the island,) and succeeded in bringing them from the vessel, when the sea was making a free passage over her. The Master, Daniel M'Mahon, assigned the wreck and cargo to S. Boxwell, Esq. (the proprietor of the island) who, by exertions the most active and unwearied, saved the greater part of the cargo, including several packages, the property of private gentlemen. We understand the vessel has become a total wreck. -- Wexford Herald.”

Freeman Journal - Dublin, Ireland

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1764

“IRELAND

Extract of a letter from Killybegs, dated Feb. 8, 1764. Last Thursday in a hard gale of wind, a ship bound from Leith to the East Indies, David Engle master, laden with salmon, &c. came into our bay in distress, having lost her boat, compass, and part of her rigging; but the weather being so tempestuous no boat dare venture out to her relief. In the evening she ran on Donegall bay and about 9 o'clock she foundered, and most of the Crew perished.”

Cathy Joynt Labath
Ireland Old News

<http://www.IrelandOldNews.com/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Mar-2004

- 4-7 **Celtic Studies Conference at UCLA**
13 Nancy Ellen Carlberg – “What I learned working for Alex Haley”, 1 PM at the SCGS Library, 417 Irving Ave., Burbank, CA 91504 (818) 454-8243
20 Nora Hickey of Cork, Ireland will lead a seminar, “How to Find Your Irish Ancestors”, at Carlsbad Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA, sponsored by BIGRA & North San Diego County Genealogical Society. Contact Marilyn Hoffman, 760-476-9289
28 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**

Apr – 2004

- 3 Orange County California Genealogical Society & Irish – Scottish SIG are hosting an Irish Seminar by Kyle Betit of Salt Lake City. Saturday, April 3, 2004 at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Street, Huntington Beach, CA – Room C – Lower Level. Registration begins at 12:30 PM, Seminar begins at 12:45. Topics include Determining your ancestors place of origin in Ireland, Griffith’s Valuation of Ireland, & Freeholders, Freeman and Voting Records in Ireland. Cost is \$15.00 at the door, no pre-registration is necessary. For additional information, contact Muriel Fitzsimmons at (714) 962-4592 or genfitznh@aol.com

April brings a fully guided genealogical and sightseeing tour of Ireland, England, & Wales. Brought to you courtesy of Nancy Bier, genealogist, and Ginger Aarons, of Time Travel Tours.
16-17 **Jamboree** in Pasadena, CA
25 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Shortcuts in British Genealogy – Nancy Carlberg, Study Group – General discussion, bring your problems.

May – 2004

Look for the guided tour for those studying the history and genealogy of the Scots-Irish in America. Travel through PA & VA up the Shenandoah and experience their lives as they struggle to settle the East Coast of our land. Tour led by Nancy Bier & Linda Jonas.

May (Cont’d.)

- 16 Sail on the QE2 with Nancy Bier and Ginger Aarons. Includes the Chelsea Flower Show, lectures on history on board the ship; then to Ireland for a week of fun, gardens filled with flowers, and history.
19-22 NGS Conference in Sacramento, BIFHS member, John Konvalinka is lecturing here, see URL: <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/>
23 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Topics, TBD

Jun-2004

- 27 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Topics, TBD

Jul-2004

- 25 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Topics, TBD
27 Cemetery Research – Nancy Carlberg, at Carlsbad Library, NSDCGS (see Mar 20th)

Aug-2003

- 22 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Topics, TBD

Sept– 2004

- 8-11 The Federation of Genealogical Societies, Texas State Genealogical Society, and Austin Genealogical Society will be holding a major conference. The theme of the 2004 conference is, "Legends Live Forever: Researching the Past for Future Generations." <http://www.fgs.org/>
BIFHS-USA will have a booth here and volunteers are needed.
26 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Topics, TBD

Oct-2004

- 24 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Topics, TBD

Nov-2004

- 28 **BIFHS-USA General Meeting**, Topics, TBD

Dec-2004

- 10 **BIFHS-USA, Holiday Party**

Thanks to Internet Friend Jean Rice for providing the following book review:

Gold Rush Women

SNIPPET: A fascinating book with many photos by **Claire Rudolf MURPHY and Jane G. HAIG** was published in 1997, (Alaska Northwest Books) called "**Gold Rush Women**". Several of whom had Irish roots and/or who married Irishmen, some of whom had had prior or subsequent connections to mining camps in the United States. Researchers interested in this subject may want to look for a copy at their local library.

Annie Hall STRONG wrote in "The Skaguay News" 31 Dec 1897: "Women have made up their minds to go to the Klondike, so there is no use trying to discourage them ... our wills are strong and courage unflinching. There are a few things, however, a woman should carefully consider before starting out on this really perilous journey. First of all, delicate women have no right attempting the trip. It means utter collapse. Those who love luxury, comfort, and ease would better remain at home. It takes strong, healthy, courageous women to stand the terrible hardships that must necessarily be endured. The following suggestions may be of some value to those who are contemplating making the trip next spring. My experience thus far has shown me the necessity of women being properly clothed and equipped for the trip to the Interior, and I can speak with some assurance, having been especially observant along this line. First and most important of all, by far, to be considered is the selection of footwear. It is not necessary to have shoes two or three sizes larger than one's actual last, simply because you are going on a trip to the Klondike. Get a shoe that fits, and if the sole is not very heavy, have an extra one added. The list that follows is the very least a woman should start with: 1 pair house slippers, 1 pair knitted slippers, 1 pair heavy-soled walking shoes, 1 pair arctic, 1 pair felt boots, 1 pair German socks, 1 pair heavy gum boots, 3 pair heavy all-wool stockings, 3 pair summer stockings. Moccasins can be purchased here of the Indians. The tall bicycle shoe with extra sole would make an excellent walking shoe. In the way of wearing apparel a woman can comfortably get along with: 1 good dress, 1 suit heavy Mackinaw, waist, and bloomers, 1 summer suit, 3 short skirts of heavy duck or denim, to wear over bloomers, 3 suits winter underwear, 3 suits summer underwear, 1 chamois undervest, 1 long sack nightdress, made of

eiderdown or flannel, 1 cotton nightdress, 2 pair arctic mittens, 1 pair heavy wool gloves, 1 cap, 1 arctic hood, 1 hat with brim broad enough to hold the mosquito netting away from the face, 1 summer dress, 3 aprons, 2 wrappers, 2 shirtwaists, snow glasses. Some sort of gloves for summer wear, to protect the hands from mosquitoes. Bedding: 1 piece canvas 5 x 14 feet, 1 rubber blanket, 2 or better 4 pair all-wool blankets, 1 feather pillow, a ready-sewed tick will be very nice to have, for it can be filled with dried moss and makes a good pioneer mattress. An old miner would no doubt laugh me to scorn for suggesting a little satchel or handbag, but the comfort derived from the hundred and one little extras a woman can deftly stow away in it will doubly repay the bother of carrying it."

The perseverance of many courageous women paid off as they established successful businesses -- some even making a fortune from their claims, such as Irish-born **Nellie CASHMAN** who had a mine of her own. She was 60 in 1905 when she headed out from Fairbanks for the remote Koyukuk. Nellie bought, sold, and traded mining properties like playing cards at an all-night poker game. Preferring to live on frontiers, she had followed the gold rushes and boomtowns from NV to AZ to CA and the Arctic. Toward the end of her life, when she was well-known for her spirited exploits and charitable deeds.

Beautiful **Josephine (Marcus) EARP** was an actress who ran away from her SF home and joined a traveling theater company. The daughter of respectable German Jewish immigrant parents, she moved to Tombstone, AZ in the spring of 1880, and began a relationship with **Wyatt EARP**, the Western lawman. They spent a few years mining and prospecting in CO, ID and MT, followed the gamblers' circuit around SW mining boom-towns and in 1897, hearing news of the Klondike gold strike, they set out from San Francisco.

Isabelle (Cleary) BARNETT, First Lady of Fairbanks, drove the golden spike for the Tanana Valley RR in July 1905. A pass through the Alaska Range, was named Isabelle Pass in commemoration of her courageous 1902 dogsled journey.

Born in Ireland, **Belinda MULROONEY**, grew up in PA, the daughter of a coal miner. Her husband, **Charles CARBONNEAU**, from Quebec, was indicted on embezzlement and skipped Dawson with Belinda's furs and jewels, never to return. Belinda established

the Dome City Bank in the Tanana District of Alaska with her sister **Margaret** in 1904. When she left the North, she bought property in Yakima, WA, and built a beautiful mansion, a local landmark that came to be known as **Mrs. Carbonneau's Castle**. She died in relative obscurity after her money ran out in Seattle in 1967.

In 1892, Irish immigrant **Bridge MANNION** was working as a cook for the wealthy **WEARE** family in Chicago. She was to go north with visitors **Bella and John J. HEALY**. The HEALYs established Fort Cudahay across the river from the Forty Mile settlement. Bridget married a successful prospector, **Frank ALWARD**, with a Kerry brogue and finally had enough money to visit her relatives in Ireland.

Mollie Walsh BARTLETT, a bright, industrious, diminutive Irish stenographer from St. Paul, MN, ran off with a friend to Butte, MT, one of the wildest mining towns in the West. When word of gold discoveries in the Klondike reached the miners in Butte in 1897, many eagerly set out for Dawson, including Mollie. After her arrival in Skagway, she got a job in a restaurant. She also became active in the church of **Rev. Robert M. DICKEY**, whom she had met on the boat coming north. Mollie soon risked her reputation when she came to the aid of a dying prostitute, a girl she had gone to school with back home in St. Paul. As a favor to Mollie, Rev. DICKEY risked scandal by holding the prostitute's funeral in his church. During the service, he urged the dead girl's compatriots to quit the profession. In attendance was a sea captain who was so moved by his speech, he offered free transport to Seattle for any prostitutes wishing to leave. Money was raised to provide funds for the girls to make a fresh start elsewhere. Many of them accepted the offer, and left on the "S. S. Shamrock" that very night.

Daring women from all background make up the story of the Gold Rush Women including **Kate CARMACK**, the Tagish Native reputed to have made the first gold discovery on the Klondike River; **Ethel BERRY**, who mined alongside her husband **Clarence**, becoming one of the first Northern gold rush millionaires; **Fanny QUIGLEY**, who hiked out to remote gold strikes and sold hot meals from a tent. **Mrs. Crystal (Snow) JENNE**, grew up on the stage, entertaining miners in Juneau, Forty Mile, and Circle City. As a young woman, she studied music and pursued a professional singing career. New Yorker **Frances FITZ** was a middle-class

stenographer before traveling to Nome in 1900 to make her fortune. **Mrs. SULLIVAN's** roadhouse on the Richardson Trail, c. 1915, 278 miles from Valdez, brought refinements of civilized life to the wilderness with fancy curtains, floral lampshades on oil lamps, rag rugs, homemade sofa with fancy pillows, big old-fashioned rocking chairs with flowered cushions, etc. Meals were a dollar or two, beds were \$1.50 a night. Dozens of other notable women, whether miners, madams or merchants, each made their own unique contribution and appear in this book. The stories of many other women appear in this well-researched book .

With the Klondike Gold Rush the biggest news in North America, major newspapers rushed their correspondents to Dawson to get firsthand reports. Three journalists included Flora SHAW of the "Times" of London, **Helen DARE** of the "San Francisco Examiner", and **Alice FREEMAN** writing as **Faith Fenton** for the "Toronto Globe." And **Emma KELLY** wrote several stories about her gold rush adventure which were published in "Outdoor World" magazine. The field of professional nursing was still new when the Victorian Order of Nurses sent some of their first members to the Klondike in 1898. Three members of the Sisters of St. Anne arrived shortly afterward. Thereafter nursing missionaries became the backbone of hospital staffs throughout the North. Professional women were well established in the north by the time of the Nome gold rush in 1900. Businesswomen in Nome included mine owners, stenographers, and insurance saleswomen.

Some were less fortunate - Per **Alice Rollins CRANE**, of the "Dawson Daily News, January 1902: "Many good and virtuous girls, who came to Dawson to seek honest work in order to better their impoverished condition from the slavish position they held elsewhere, braved to little purpose the heart-rending dangers which they nobly conquered along the trails, for unable to obtain employment they drifted into one of the too numerous dance-halls, and thence to ruin and disgrace."

While every man could get a job at the business end of a number-two shovel, any woman with enough stamina qualified as a dance hall girl or "percentage girl" in entertainment establishments or saloons. For a dollar, a lonely miner could spend a few minutes whirling a woman around the dance floor of a saloon or gambling house. The women received forty or fifty dollars a week, plus a percentage on the drinks they

sold. While the women on the dance floor wore the typically modest dress of the Victorian era, onstage dancers and variety girls like **Klondike Kate (Kathleen Eloise ROCKWELL** born in KS and raised by her mother and stepfather in Spokane, WA), wore more revealing costumes and after performing changed to fashionable Paris gowns to sell drinks. With so much money to be made, popular actresses and performers followed the gold seekers to Dawson. Prostitutes arrived in Dawson as early as the first gold stampeders in 1896. Prostitution was certainly not condoned, but it was tolerated as a necessary social evil, and the Mounties regulated the trade. The Dawson Board of Health instituted medical controls and inspections to prevent the spread of disease. Though prostitutes and dance hall girls were sometimes portrayed as lively and cheery, their fate often was more desperate. Their lives often ended in tragedy involving suicide, abuse, and sometimes murder.

FYI – From Genealogical Society of Ireland

The new Civil Registration Bill passed all stages in the Seanad (Irish Senate) with another success for the combined efforts of the Irish genealogical community as the Minister accepted that, in addition to the already achieved, "place of birth of the deceased", the "Forename(s) and birth surname of father of deceased" and the "Forename(s) and birth surname of mother of deceased" are to be entered on the Death Certificates recorded by the new Civil Registration Service of Ireland.

A large amount of credit for achieving this breakthrough for Irish genealogists goes to Steven ffearry-Smyrl of the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland.

Though, this legislation did not deliver everything the Genealogical Society of Ireland, the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland and the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations proposed, their combine achievements are very important to genealogists.

Further action is now required to ensure a good, reliable and modern "walk-in" search facility is maintained in Dublin City and that Internet access to Irish Civil Registration Records, as envisaged, will be both user friendly and generally affordable.

Our UNSUCCESSFUL proposals covered technical changed to the text, transfer of "historic records" to the National Archives / National Library, THE ISSUE OF "DUAL LANGUAGE" REGISTRATION and the establishment of a Users' Advisory Committee on a statutory basis.

The two Consultative Panels to be established by the Registrar will be the next focus for the organisations involved.

Kindest regards

Michael Merrigan
Hon. Secretary,
Genealogical Society of Ireland
www.gensocireland.org

Editor's Note: Dual language refers to having name in Irish and English on civil records, as Irish language is required course of study for all Irish children, 7-18.

Condolences:

BIFHS-USA is saddened to learn of the recent deaths of two members, and extends our deepest sympathies to the families of Jim Sharp and Janet Powers.

I held a Jewel in my fingers –
And went to sleep –
The day was warm, and winds were prosy –
I said " 'Twill keep " –

I woke – and chid my honest fingers,
The Gem was gone –
And now, an Amethyst remembrance
Is all I own –

-Emily Dickinson

Written c. 1861
First published 1891

WHO'S GOT THE ANSWER?

By Nancy Bier

Q1 - What is a 'hatchment'?

Usually made of wood, it is diamond shaped and is done for or after a funeral. It looks a bit like a smaller shield and the coat of arms of the deceased is beautifully painted upon it. Then it is hung in the church of the burial for all to see.

I was privileged to be in a church where a committee had arrived to record the hatchments hung in the parish church. One of the walls was virtually covered with the hatchments. I was told a survey was being made of the hatchments in as many churches as possible to help preserve the records of such articles.

From *The Family Historian's Enquire Within*, by Pauline Saul, 5th Edition, we learn that several books titled Hatchments in Britain by Peter Summers are being published by Phillimore.

- Nancy Bier

Q2 - Can you tell me what a 'Tithe' is?

This is an often asked question and really can come up if you are doing research in England, Scotland, Wales and even in Ireland.

I will answer the general question first. To most Americans, a tithe, is a percentage of your income (normally 1/10) that you willingly and voluntarily give to the church of your choice. To do research however, you must be aware of the differences in the tithes as seen in your research.

Tithes were the law of the land until they were abolished in 1936 in England. The tithes were a 1/10th part of the main produce of the land, and of the stock on the land as well as the labour. This was paid to the church, mainly by the poor. It was in its own way a tax levied upon people as it was not voluntary, nor in many cases was it willingly given. In many places these tithes were forcibly taken and many hardships were created. In 1836 English law changed this to a rent-charge based on the price of corn.

The records created can be most useful to trace ancestors and most of the records of tithe maps and apportionments are held at the National Archives,

Kew. Lists may be found in County Record Offices or at the National Archives (PRO) at KEW.

The system was begun prior to King Henry VIII by the churches. King Henry confiscated these monies and in 1704 Queen Anne created a fund to use the monies to benefit the poor of the clergy. Thus the tithe was sometimes known as Queen Anne's Bounty.

The tithe was always paid to the Church of Ireland and about 90% of the paying persons in Ireland were Catholic by religion. Although some of the funds were used to help the poor, most of the population was paying to a church that was not their own. In the same way tithes were paid in Wales, by mostly a non-conformist population, and in Scotland by a dominantly Presbyterian or non-conformist people. Tithes often created a focal point for dissent among the people.

- Nancy Bier

Q3 - What is PERSI?

PERSI stands for 'Periodical Source Index' which is the largest subject index to genealogical and historical periodical articles in the world. It was created by Staff of the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN. There are more than 1.8 million index entries from nearly 10,000 titles. Because of PERSI, I was able to find my great-grandmother's family (MANLOVE). It is an invaluable source for all genealogists and researchers.

- Annie Lloyd

From the Scottish Genealogy Society

- Do you know that the Scots are Canada's third largest ethnic group?

David Dobson's books are a "must" to use when doing Scottish research and looking for the connection between Scotland and the U.S. Look for his "Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America, 1625-1825 (5 vols).

- Vol I is based mainly on documents in British archives and some published sources.

- Vol II & III are based on published material.

- Vol IV has material from Services of Heirs and the Edinburgh Register of Testimonials.

- Vol V has Canadian material.

Lists of David Dobson's other books can be found on the Internet, through Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Willow Bend Books and others.

Bookshelf

By Nancy Bier

- Recommended for Beginners in Scottish Research

These books listed are in my personal library and I keep them nearby always. A copy can be found in the LDS Family History Center in Los Angeles, in many public libraries, and can usually be purchased through on-line bookstores as well as at one of my favorite places Willow Bend Books through www.willowbendbooks.com

If there is a special book you would like to bring to our attention, please email me at nbierirish@aol.com with your interests.

- Jonas, L. and Milner, P.

--- *Discovering Your Scottish Ancestors*

This book teaches how to trace your ancestors by using a case history of actual research. It was accomplished mostly through the films of actual Scottish records held by the LDS system of Family History Centers.

- Goldie, Douglas Bruce

--- *In Search of Hamish McBagpipes*

A wonderful book on finding ancestors through Scottish records. It is small enough for a handbag and one I often carry for reference while in Scotland.

- Scottish Record Office

--- *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors*

It was written by those who know the record office well and is the first book I pack to take with me to Scotland. The records are fully described and the system is explained.

- Carlberg, Nancy Ellen

--- *Beginning Scottish Research*

Nancy has written a number of books on various countries and this one explains how to use the Salt Lake LDS system to find Scottish ancestors.

JERSEY

In this year of 2004, Jersey celebrates its' anniversary of 800 years of independence. Still, many may need to know of the events that shaped the island, their ancestors, and the records available. The island is rich in history and culture. In 1204, Jersey had to make a decision following the fall of Rouen. They stayed loyal to King John and the

celebration all year includes the JERSEY REVELS THE 25TH – 27TH June.

For a full program of events visit www.jersey.com/1204. Ask for a Heritage Guide

Thanks to Annie Lloyd for the following:

The British Library: Oriental and India Office – very important if you have British ancestors who were in India and the Orient. Address: the British Library, 96 Euston Road, Website: www.bl.uk/collections/orientalindian.html

The largest Family History Centre in Europe is located in London in Hyde Park, 64-68 Exhibition Road. Website: www.lds.org.uk/genealogy/fhc. It is the only place in London where you can look at Irish birth, death and marriage indexes. Besides Civil Registration for England, Wales and Scotland, it also has Jewish records, records of the Caribbean and some Eastern Europe records.

The National Library of Wales, www.llgc.org.uk has a collection of databases on its website that you can pull up and look at. There is lots of good information contained within this collection so if you have Welsh ancestry be sure and look at it.

What do these names have in common: Chisholm, Gale, Corrin, Costain, Kelly, Corbett, Catlow, Christian, Moore, Cowley – they are Manx names.

I've just received a copy of the 2004 Catalog from the University of Wales Press. There are lot of books on history, including a "Gwent County History, Vol. 1: Gwent in Prehistory and Early History" edited by Miranda Aldhouse-Green and Ray Howell. For more information see their website at www.wales.ac.uk/press or for the USA, the Independent Publishers Group at www.ipgbook.com

If you have coal mining ancestors in Wales, you should look at the South Wales Coalfield Collection at the Library and Information Centre, University of Wales, Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA1 8PP. Website: www.swan.ac.uk/swcc

Very important website for finding the locations of all libraries in the UK: www.familia.org.uk

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Mar/Apr – 2004 Newsletter

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