



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

Newsletter

Jan/Feb-2006

Editor: Jim McNamara

GENERAL MEETINGS:

This Month – Sunday, Jan 22, 2006, 1:00 to 3 PM

BIFHS-USA - General meeting.

Join us for an informative question and answer session with our expert panel of Nancy Bier, Nancy Carlberg, Annie Lloyd, Kay Devonshire, Jill Kirby. They will answer your family history questions and will help you knock down those brick walls. Email or bring your questions to all speakers and they will sort out who will answer. Email addresses are: n_carlberg@hotmail.com, nbierirish@aol.com, kaydevonshir@earthlink.net, and cardi2@aol.com This should be a lively and fun program. It has been several years since we have done this program, but it has been a wonderful and helpful program in the past.

Irish Study Group, 3:30 to 5:00 PM

Newspaper Research, what you will find, and how to do it - Nancy Bier & Jim McNamara

Next Month - Feb 26, 2006 Saturday – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

BIFHS-USA - General meeting.

Genetics, Migration and Family Lines by **Norma Storrs Keating, RN, BSN**

Genealogists are adding a new tool to their already bulging toolbox - genetics. They will be using DNA to track and prove family lines and relationships, to trace the movement of people and in One Name Studies. Norma will discuss what DNA is and how it is inherited, as well as how genetics can be useful in proving family relationships. What the genealogist needs to know to participate in, or even start, a family surname project will also be covered.

English Study Group, 3:30 to 5:00 PM

Parish Registers and the IGI, Part II

Led by **Janet Thomas**

This program on Parish Registers and IGI is the 2nd in a series of Beginning English programs. Church of England parish registers are one of the 4 major sources and the backbone of English research. The IGI coverage of extracted parish registers is extensive and the place to begin your search of parish registers.

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>

Editor's Note:

It been a historic New Year's Day, the first time its rained on the Rose Parade in over fifty years. Its also the first time in the 117 year history of the Rose Parade that a woman has been president of the Rose Parade endeavor, and president Elizabeth Evans Wright selected the first woman justice of the US Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor, to be the Grand Marshall of the parade.

Some things are inevitable, all of us will eventually die and leave behind our families and friends, our work and accomplishments and our legacies. What will yours be?

To me, there is no time like the present, what can I accomplish?, what can I do today? What will make me happy? I would like to issue a challenge to our membership. It is two-fold. What is it that you want the society to accomplish? Please let us know. What can you offer to improve our society? How do we compare to other societies? What do you like or dislike about the society's newsletter and journal? How many of you would like to work on a joint transcription project? Would anyone like to have electronic distribution of the newsletter and/or journal?

During our last board meeting we realized that our members all have very interesting lives, whether you know it or not. We would like to take this opportunity to request our members share their stories. Whether one page, a half page, or more. We can publish these in the newsletter or in the journal. Obviously, the shorter ones belong in the newsletter. I can give you an example from my own experience, or just review some of my past editor's notes.

Some of the stories we heard at November's Show and Tell Program would be perfect for this. Consider that we have nearly 300 members, and not all attend our meetings. This would be a small way to share your stories, discoveries, experiences with the rest of us. Consider that you will just be sitting down with your best friend, and telling him-her about your latest research discovery. It doesn't have to be a heroic tale or about a war hero, but that wouldn't hurt either.

If you need any help at all, please email me or Gail Johnson, we will work with you to help you develop your piece.

Best regards to all,

Jim McNamara -Any and all comments welcome – JPMTCC@yahoo.com (please note new email address)

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR YOUR SOCIETY.

British Isles Family History Society –USA is in need of three volunteers for the following board positions:

- 1) Treasurer – Disperse funds, balance accounts, report expenses and income to the board.
- 2) Corresponding Secretary – Pick up mail, report items to board, return correspondence of BIFHS-USA business.
- 3) Publicity – Make flyers, write articles for newspapers, publicize events.

Positions start in January 2006. Please report to the January board meeting (@ 11:30 AM) or to any current board member, or to your new president.



British Isles Family History Society – USA

Welcomes new president, Ivan C. Johnson

You may know Ivan from any of the Queen Mary Seminars, of which he was BIFHS-USA's outstanding Master of Ceremonies. Ivan always makes this look so easy and effortless. I can tell you all, it is not a simple thing. Ivan does his homework, works hard but also has a rare gift in this capacity. Ivan has also made several presentations for BIFHS-USA programs, and is also a very capable family history researcher. If you happen to see Ivan, please take a moment to congratulate and thank him on being our president for the next two years. It is a difficult job, and takes a special talent to make it all work. Congratulations Ivan !

President's Message:

January 2006 is the month that I begin my term as President of the Society. To those of you who voted for me: thank you for your confidence; I hope I can live up to your expectations. At the beginning of a new year, most people look forward, but genealogists are always looking backward, so I will begin by expressing appreciation to my predecessor, Nancy Carlberg, for admirably continuing the traditions of leadership that our Society has been fortunate to enjoy. As a founder-member of the Society, I can look back over the list of extremely capable people who have led us and only hope that I can come close to matching their accomplishments.

Those of you who know that I have spent all of my working life in the teaching profession will not be surprised to hear that my orientation regarding our Society is towards education. This does not mean that I want to turn the Society into one engaged in highly academic pursuits; far from it. Most of us do genealogy because it's fun, and I want to keep it that way. There is, however, an important reason for having genealogical societies rather than everyone trying to go it alone: there is much that we can learn from each other. We are a social group of people with common interests who come to meetings to hear speakers expound on different topics, but more than that, we come to interact with each other and to ask around among those who may have tackled the same problems we face. None of us knows everything about genealogical research, but there are people in our society who know things that the rest of us do not. For this reason, I place great emphasis on our study groups. We already have four: one for each of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and I am hoping that their leaders will be able to organize workshops on topics relating to their specific countries at least twice during the year. We may also arrange special workshops on other relevant topics like computing, and web-searching.

Apart from me as President, the Board of Directors includes: 1st Vice President (Programs) Annie Lloyd, 2nd Vice President (Membership) Terry Brown, the two immediate Past Presidents Sharon Ford and Nancy Carlberg, the elected Members at Large, and several appointed officials. I hope to introduce them all at our first meeting. As a group, we will strive to run the Society to the advantage of the membership, but we cannot do everything alone. We also need your input. Please do not be shy at making suggestions to any member of the Board, and Happy Researching during the coming year.

Ivan C. Johnson - icj@socal.rr.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Saturday, Jan 21, 10 AM to 12 PM

BIGRA - Irish Interest Class: Evelyn Bayna will give a program on her recent trip to Ireland and the detailed help she received at the Valuation Office in finding the family farm. Evelyn will also tell about the grand time she enjoyed at the 50th Mahoney Clan Gathering. Family History Center, 4195 Camino del Rio South, San Diego. Non-visitors welcome. Watch for news of other special interest presentations which will replace some of BIGRA'S programs at Joyce Beers Center. Both the Wales/England interest Group and the Scottish Interest Group will have programs scheduled during the winter season, so watch your e-mail or the CGSSD website for notification of times and dates. Events will also be announced at the North County Society

Sunday Jan 22, 1-3 PM

BIFHS-USA - General meeting.

Our program will be an expert panel to address members' questions. The panel will consist of Nancy Bier, Nancy Carlberg, Annie Lloyd, Kay Devonshire, and Jill Kirby. Please think of any research problems that you may have and email them to Janet Thomas at: janetthomas@sbcglobal.net prior to the meeting. We will take questions at the meeting, written on cards, but if you submit them ahead, the panel will be able to give them more consideration. We have had a similar panel in the past and it was really fun and informative. Be prepared to participate. Who knows? You may even be able to break down a brick wall.

Saturday Feb 25, 8AM – 4 PM

Whittier Area Genealogical Society
23rd Annual Seminar w/ Lloyd Bockstruck
BIFHS-USA & Carlberg Press will have a sales table here.

Sunday, Feb 25 - Redding, California: The Redding Stake Family History Center of the Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will present its 17th annual Heritage Faire, an all day genealogy seminar featuring 20 different classes. Subjects include topics from beginning research to Internet and genealogical research using DNA. Other classes include: British, Irish, German, Scandinavian, and Native American research. Additional information can be obtained by e-mail to:

ehomewood@charter.net

Sunday Feb 26, 1-3 PM

BIFHS-USA - General meeting.

Program Norma Keating, DNA Tracing Family Lines

March 5 – 12, Nancy Carlberg will be in SLC with the California African American Seminar, and will help any BIFHS-USA member who happens to be in the library when she is during this period.

Sunday Mar 26, 1-3 PM

BIFHS-USA - General meeting.

Program How to Protect your PC and properly maintain your PC, how to deal with viruses, mal-ware, spy-ware, and ad-ware. And some New Uses for your PC
By Jim McNamara

April 30 - London, England: The Society of Genealogists' annual Family History Show will include free beginners' lectures; an advice centre; computer software demonstrations and a wide range of exhibitors, including family history societies, booksellers, and local record offices and repositories. A special pre-show afternoon conference suitable for beginners will be held on April 29. This is the UK's largest family history show, probably the largest in the world. Details are available at <http://www.sog.org.uk/events/fair.html>

September 25-30, 2006

Join us in a fantastic celebration in Northern Ireland! It is the 50th anniversary of the Ulster Historical Foundation and there will be a five day celebration at the end of September.

Join myself and others as we gather for the lectures, discussions, fun and celebration. Our trip will include the all the festivities and you will have the opportunity of meeting incredibly friendly people from around the world. All will be interested in Northern Irish Genealogical Research and Irish History.

Details are still in the works and for further information contact Nancy Bier at email nbierirish@aol.com or 310-375-6149 or Ginger Aarons at Time Travel at www.timetraveltours.com after December 10. 2005 Dates? Ulster Historical Foundation September 25-30. Our Research trip? September 25 through Oct. 15 (dates are approximate at this time) will include the celebration, time for research in PRONI, and a week in Ireland for research in Dublin and sightseeing. We will also endeavor to provide individual research needs as we have done in the past.

You might want to ask those who have been on previous trips if they found them to be productive and fun..

Thanks to Annie Lloyd for the following:

www.islandhistory.org.uk

- Isle of Dogs lies in a loop in the River Thames in the East End of London between Limehouse and Blackwall, opposite Greenwich on the South Bank.

It is the site of the old West India and Millwall Docks and of the new Canary Wharf office development.

It is not a real island, but takes its name from a tiny island in the river which disappeared long ago.

www.pensear.org

- based on a 1908 database of Irish pension applications gives names, ages, locations, spouses and so on.

www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk

- Electoral registers for Belfast 1841 - searchable (pay as you go) index for voters. Tells you if they voted Conservative or Liberal.

www.military-genealogy.com

- Find an ancestor in the military (World War One/The Great War). It's a pay as you go site. It covers Naval and Military soldiers who died between 1914 and 1919.

www.myhousehistory.co.uk

- My House History - Did you wonder what is the history of the house you live in? You supply the postcode (obviously you would have to have to lived in Britain) and you will receive a portfolio of A4 sized maps, dating from the mid 19th century to the present, centered on that postcode with a red 'X' marking the spot for your home. The packet usually contains about 10 maps in a special binder. It's not cheap, but for the person who has everything, it might be fun. Cost is 39.95GBP plus postage.

www.maps-maps-maps.com

- Maps for fee of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales

Thanks to C. Etter for the following:

<http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/lws.htm>

- A new message board on Rootsweb.com for Lancashire. The site author has made a database for Wills of Lancashire and links them to the LDS films of them.

From the RootsWeb message (Lancashire Board) - Lancashire Will Search is a free, non-commercial web page that allows a person to search for their ancestor's will from the mid 1500s to 1837. The resource is set up to point you towards the microfilm number, which contains the will, that can then be looked up at the LDS Family History Library or a local center.

<http://www.hereshistorykent.org.uk/>

- Another recent site, it has a nice collection of photos, maps, biblio, & links for parishes in Kent.

<http://www.irelandseye.com/aarticles/culture/talk/myths/lir.shtml>

- The legendary story of the Children of Lir.

**INFLATION HITS
THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Library (FHL), based in Salt Lake City, will raise its microfilm rental fees Jan. 15. New loans and renewals of current loans will rise from \$3.25 to \$5.50. The fees, last raised in 1997, include return postage. Rates vary outside the United States.

You can rent FHL microfilm through one of the 3,400 branch Family History Centers (FHC) around the world. To find one near you, use the Find a Family History Center Near Your Home feature on the FamilySearch home page. You can get more information on FHCs at: <http://www.familysearch.org/>

***Last chance to order at old price is
13th Jan 2006 !!!***

Thanks to Nancy Bier for the following:

For those traveling to Ireland with an interest in **Co. Donegal** be sure to investigate the lure of the Seat of Power, Visitors Center at Lifford. The old courthouse was built in 1746 by a famous Dublin architect, Michael Priestly. It was last used as a courthouse in 1938 and has been completely refurbished and is open to the public as of 1994. Lifford in the Plantation period was the home of English and Scottish planters as well as the home of the native Irish. The courtroom scene re-enacts court cases from the 18th century including the Napper Tandy Trial and the Lord Leitrim Murder.

For details phone: 074-41733 or visit the website at: www.infowing.ie/seatofpower

Scotland:

A quote from an article titled *Making Waves in Scottish History: The Early Scottish Maritime History Project* by Eric Graham. This was recently published in history Scotland Vol. 5 No. 6 Nov/Dec 2005. "Scottish history comes in two forms, old information re-explored and new information presented for the first time. The second is by far the most exciting to a scholar but....."

The same is true for history of the places a genealogist searches.

In the same publication an article Saints Wars - "Ninian" v. Columba the author Bridget Paterson writes on error and misinformation the following: Feature writers trained in 'sound-bite' journalism churn out piece after piece for the heritage industry without checking facts. In this article she explains some differences in what is written and what is true history. It should be enough to make genealogists wary of using materials just because they appear in print. Do read both articles.

The magazine is very good and articles are extremely well written and interesting. In this issue The Stirling Raid; 3rd & 4th September 1571, The Whiskey Wars in Scotland, and Publishing, Education & Presbyterianism are other leading articles of great interest. Each article is beautifully illustrated with appropriate materials such as paintings, photographs, maps, illustrations of articles and diagrams.

I buy a copy each time the new issue appears. Mine comes from the racks at Borders for \$7.50 every other month.

For English researchers the December issue of Your Family History at a cost of \$14.95 includes a CD containing the program READIRIS PRO 7 which allows one to scan from old books and convert them into digital text with optical character recognition technology. In other words, you can scan a book you own or borrow from the library into your own computer CD-ROM.

Also included is a wonderful article on how to best utilize the information found on the 1851 English census that has just been made available on Ancestry.com. Just finding the information is not enough....you need to understand what you find and how to use it to go to the next step in finding ancestors. For instance did you know that the 1851 census revealed more people were living in the towns than in the country?

Do you realize that Oxfordshire was the same shape for a thousand years till 1974? Would you like to know what changed?

Do you know about the 1789 virtual census for Bozeat, Northants?

Do you know about the registers of the Lying-in Hospital in Holborn that begin in 1749 and how to find them?

These are just a few of the questions that can be answered by a copy of Your Family History. Published each month this magazine is always one of the best buys on the market to help researchers.

Origins UK

www.originsuk.com

A fee per use site with various options of fees:

- £5 – 72 hours
- £7 – monthly membership
- £15 – quarterly membership
- £40 – annual membership

This site is developing a large section on the Irish in especially Liverpool, Manchester and Wales and Ireland.

Thanks to BIFHS-USA Member Terry McVeigh for the following:

[Below is an excerpt from the November 23rd RootsWeb Newsletter about the history of English accents.]

1b. TIPS FROM READERS

English Dialects Challenge to Genealogists
By Christine Buckley in the UK

English accents fall into several broad groupings, depending on historical influences in the regions, and 'received pronunciation.'

[A pronunciation of British English, originally based on the speech of the upper class of southeastern England and characteristic of the English spoken at the public schools and at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Until recently it was the standard form of English used in British broadcasting].

The latter doesn't belong exclusively to any one place and national broadcasting has reinforced its status. (Our distorted 'posh' accent seems an aberration.)

Dialect changes regularly began in London and moved up a language corridor, the physical route north -- Roman Watling Street, and later our A1 - and spread outwards. Physical barriers to movement, such as major rivers and hills, also affected the development of an area's dialect.

Some rural and northern accents retain a clearer pronunciation of 'R', also preserved by some north American accents, dating back to the pre-industrial age, because some changes never reached them. In industrial areas, accents changed faster.

Different features were retained in different places, some predictably, some not. Where I now live, in the highly industrial Black Country part of the West Midlands region, the dialect still retains pretty much the Anglo-Saxon pronunciation of 'you' and 'your' -- 'yow' and 'yower.'

So there may be two current ways of saying place-names: local, and 'received pronunciation.' The educated version may be (unfairly?) regarded as 'correct,' but the local version may be more relevant to understanding old documents.

Name forms in written records depend on who's writing them. This applies even, I'm afraid, to transcripts; the LDS' 1851 census CD for Warwickshire, Devon and Norfolk, which is riddled with (to my eye) obvious errors, whether of reading or keying, because the transcriber didn't know the areas. (Of course, they weren't tempted to introduce 'corrections' of their own, either.)

Genealogy is an art rather than a science.

Thanks to Internet Friend Kate Hudson for forwarding the following from ArcaMax Publishing:

YEAR: 1981

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe
3. Australia lost the Ashes tournament.
4. Pope died.

YEAR: 2005

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe
3. Australia lost the Ashes tournament.
4. Pope died.

In the future, if Prince Charles decides to remarry, somebody please warn the Pope!

See: <http://www.arcamax.com/cgi-bin/news>

Irish Ancestors -- from The Irish Times site
<http://scripts.ireland.com/ancestor/index.cfm>

This site will do a Matheson's distribution (1890) of births for a surname and then for a fee, you can view the number of households of that surname in each parish of one county. The fee to find the number of NASH households in Clare parishes was \$8 USD.

NEW HIGHLANDER BOOK DUE FOR PUBLICATION MAY 2006

Editor's Note: The following is a press release from past commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macpherson McCulloch (1993-96) of The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada, of a new Highlander book:

Three proud Highland regiments fought in North America during the Seven Year's War - the 77th Foot (Montgomery's Highlanders), the 78th Foot (Fraser's Highlanders), and the famous Black Watch, more correctly known at the time as the Royal Highland Regiment. Undoubtedly, the exploits of the 42nd, 77th and 78th Highlanders in some of the most bloody and desperate battles on the North American continent were a critical factor in transforming the overall image of Highlanders from Jacobite rebels to Imperial heroes in the latter half of the 18th century.

Sons of the Mountains: A History of the Highland regiments in North America during the French & Indian War, 1756-1767, is a two-volume set due to be co-published Spring 2006 by Purple Mountain Press and the Fort Ticonderoga Museum. It chronicles the Highland regiments' fighting performance and experiences from the time they were raised in the Highlands and stepped ashore in North America, to their disbandment in 1763; or, as in the case of the 42nd, reduced in establishment and left on lonely garrison duty in the American wilderness until their recall and return to Ireland in 1767.

Volume One of *Sons of the Mountains* follows all three regiments on their various campaigns in the different theatres of war. As they range from the wilderness of the Ohio Forks to the wind-swept crags of Signal Hill in Newfoundland, and from the waters of the Great Lakes to the torrid swamps and cane fields of the "Sugar Islands", the reader will be exposed to all the major conflicts and actions of the "Great War for Empire" as seen through the eyes of the Highland soldier.

Cluny, the 27th Hereditary Chief of Clan Macpherson, writes from Blairgowrie, Scotland:
As a direct descendant of a Clansman who was present on the Heights of Carillon and at Fort Ticonderoga in July 1758 I feel that I understand now far better how my forebear and his fellow

Highlanders must have felt and lived and fought, and relate much more closely to those "Sons of the Mountains" of long ago. I warmly commend Lt. Colonel McCulloch's book to readers across the Atlantic and here in Scotland. He has done a great service to the memory of those who fought and died with these distinguished Regiments.

Volume Two of *Sons of the Mountains* will appeal to all families of Scottish descent and serious genealogists. It features comprehensive biographical histories of every regimental officer from all the major clans (over 350 entries) who served in North America. Also included in the glossaries are regimental muster rolls and land petitions of discharged Highlanders. Marie Fraser, editor of *Canadian Explorer*, newsletter of the Clan Fraser Society of Canada, writes:

Besides being compelling Highland history, SOTM is a valuable genealogical resource for all of Scottish heritage. With over 350 officers' biographies, career details and genealogical notes in the annexes, McCulloch has identified the complex ties of kinship, marriage and friendship that bound the most prominent Scottish families of the day together during the Seven Years War between Britain and France fought in North America, known to some as the French & Indian War.

Lavishly illustrated with artwork by Robert Griffing, Steve Noon, Peter Rindisbacher, Gary Zaboly, Charles Stolz and John Buxton, as well as with contemporary prints, maps and portraits from the collections of the Black Watch Museums of Scotland and Canada, the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, the Fort Ligonier Museum, the William L. Clements Library, the National Army Museum, Chelsea, the David M. Stewart Museum, Montreal, the National Archives of Canada and the Library of Congress, *Sons of the Mountains* is a visual delight.

Without a doubt, *Sons of the Mountains* is the most complete and informative work on the history of early Highland regiments of the British army in North America to date and will be published in Spring 2006. For further details on pre-ordering and prices, see Purple Mountain Press website at :

<http://www.catskill.net/purple/order.htm> or write for details at: Purple Mountain Press, Ltd., PO Box 309, Fleischmann's, NY, 12430-0309. Phone: 1-845-254-4062.

North San Diego County Genealogy Society Announcement:

John Colletta to Speak at Spring Genealogy Seminar

The North San Diego County Genealogy Society is honored to present John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. as its featured speaker at its Annual Spring Seminar to be held on 18 March 2006 at the Carlsbad Senior Center. Dr. Colletta is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Entertaining, knowledgeable and experienced, he is based in Washington, DC, where he conducts workshops for the National Archives and teaches courses for the Smithsonian Institution and local universities. He also lectures nationally and is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University (Birmingham, AL) and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (Salt Lake City). His publications include two manuals—*They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Records* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans*. His latest book—*Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath*—is a history of the German-speaking merchants of the Mississippi Delta during Reconstruction. It is receiving rave reviews from the genealogy community. Dr. Colletta has appeared on local and national radio and television. His Ph.D. in Medieval French Literature is from The Catholic University of America.

The theme of this seminar is "Making Dead Ancestors Come Alive." John Colletta will be speaking on the following subjects:

- Turning Biographical Facts into Real-Life Events: How to Build Historical Context
- What the Old Records Really Say: The Fun and Challenge of Understanding Archaic English
- Discovering your Ancestors' World through Maps and Gazetteers

- Private Archives: What They are and How to Use Them

Registration starts at 8 a.m. with the program beginning at 9 a.m. The cost of the day-long seminar is \$25 for Members and \$30 for non-members. Advance registration is advised. Lunch may be ordered at a cost of \$5.75 when you register for the seminar. For more information, contact Fred Spong, 858-453-8469 or fspong@san.rr.com or visit the North San Diego County Genealogy Society website: <http://www.cagenweb.com/nsdcgs/>. Information is also available at the Genealogy Desk at the Cole Library in Carlsbad.

Editor's Note:

If you go, pick up your free library card at the Carlsbad Library to get free home access to Heritage Quest.

BIGRA Announcement:

At the Irish Interest Class January 21, Saturday, 10 AM to noon, Evelyn Bayna will give a program on her recent trip to Ireland and the detailed help she received at the Valuation Office in finding the family farm. Evelyn will also tell about the grand time she enjoyed at the 50th Mahoney Clan Gathering. Family History Center, 4195 Camino del Rio South, San Diego. Non-members welcome.

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Project Gutenberg Online Book Catalog

<http://www.gutenberg.org/>

There are 17,000 free books here that can be downloaded. These are all expired copyright books or books donated by authors for electronic publishing

Editor's Note:

Thanks to Richard E. Black, Director of Godfrey Library for permission to reprint his letter on Godfrey Library features for 2006.

**ATTENTION CURRENT AND FUTURE
GODFREY SCHOLARS!**

THERE ARE big CHANGES COMING IN 2006

- **NEW PREMIUM SITES!**
- **MORE FREE SITES!**
- **A NEW LOOK TO OUR HOME PAGE!**

New subscribers will now be directed to our 3079 Portal where they will find new exciting materials. Veteran subscribers may keep using the 2079 Portal but they will be switched to the 3079 Portal as their subscriptions are due to be renewed, or they may switch to the new Portal anytime before that date.

We will be using the funds that have become available as a result of losing Heritage Quest to add new and exciting sites, many free, and many that we will pay contractual fees in order to obtain them.

Heritage Quest is available from many of the state and local public libraries at no cost. Quoting a recent comment from one of the Heritage Quest officials, "...we have over 2600 subscribing libraries with every state having several, if not all, public libraries having access.."

As of January 1, 2006, we will not provide HeritageQuest material as part of the 3079 Portal. As mentioned earlier, those that have already subscribed will be allowed to continue to use the Heritage Quest material until the end of their current subscription or December 31, 2006.

We have added over 40 new sites to the 3079 Portal with many more scheduled to be added in the next few days. We are in negotiation to add additional sites. Two sites that we expect to complete contractual negotiation are listed below.

We are saddened by the loss of Heritage Quest but we expect that our site will continue to be impressive with the thousands of resources that

are available and with those that will be added in the future. We appreciate your continued support

- **Introducing two new features you'll soon find on www.godfrey.org**

American National Biography Online: This is the premier biographical work on people from all eras who have influenced and shaped American history and culture. You'll find profiles of more than 18,000 men and women from all walks of American life, the well-known to the infamous to the obscure.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Online: Winner of the 2005 Dartmouth Medal, this work is an authoritative collection of 50,000 engaging, well-written biographies of the people worldwide who have shaped all aspects of British history. Highlights from this collection include both ancient and modern, from the explorer Pytheas of the 4th Century to the end of the year 2000 and the life of Princess Diana.

Thank you for your continuing support

Richard E. Black - Richard@godfrey.org

Director, Godfrey Memorial Library

134 Newfield Street
Middletown CT 06457

(860) 346-4375

The contents of this e-mail and any attachments are intended solely for the use of the named addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any unauthorized use, copying, disclosure, or distribution of the contents of this e-mail is strictly prohibited by the sender and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this e-mail.

Godfrey_news mailing list
Godfrey_news@auto-graphics.com
http://lists.auto-graphics.com/mailman/listinfo/godfrey_news

**BIFHS-USA Sends
Condolences to Members:**

- Mary McKinnon on the loss of her Husband Chuck
- Jill Kirby on the loss of her sister
- Sharon Ford on the loss of her brother-in-law

**Thanks to Jean Rice for this article
on Anne Sullivan**

SNIPPET: Remarkable Anne SULLIVAN was to give Helen KELLER her cheerful spirit and perseverance as well as teaching her Braille and guiding her to understandable speech. (See Ms. KELLER's letter below). Their relationship is explored in the extraordinary film, "The Miracle Worker." Afflicted with poor sight herself, teacher Anne SULLIVAN (1866-1936), daughter of immigrants from Co. Limerick, arrived from Boston to meet the extremely wild and unruly 7-year-old Helen Adams KELLER (1880-1968) to help her conquer her physical handicaps. A serious illness, which was diagnosed as brain fever, had destroyed Helen's sight and hearing before she was two, leaving the beautiful little girl unable to communicate with others. (Helen was born in Tuscumbia, AL). Anne SULLIVAN was able to make contact with the girl's mind through the sense of touch. She worked out an alphabet of sorts by which she spelled out words on Helen's hand. Gradually, the child was able to connect words with objects. Helen also "listened" to others speak by putting her middle finger on the speaker's nose, forefinger on the lips, and thumb on the larynx. Helen learned to speak herself and by the time she was 16, she could speak well enough to go to preparatory school and to Radcliffe college, from which she was graduated in 1904 with honors. Anne SULLIVAN stayed with Helen through these years, interpreting lectures and class discussions to her. The two women remained companions even after SULLIVAN married John A. MACY. When Anne died, Mary Agnes "Polly" THOMSON (1885-1950), who had been Miss KELLER's secretary, took her place.

After college, Helen KELLER became concerned with the conditions of the blind and deaf-blind and became active on the staffs of the American Foundation for the Blind and of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. She appeared before legislatures, gave lectures, and wrote books (including autobiographies) and articles and traveled

to 25 countries promoting better conditions for the handicapped. During WW-II, Helen worked for soldiers who had been blinded in the war and received many honors from governments all over the world.

Helen wrote a letter to an acquaintance in November of 1935 describing her meetings with two renowned operatic tenors - John McCORMACK (1884-1945) of Co. Westmeath, and Enrico CARUSO (1873-1921) and "hearing" them sing by feeling the vibrations of their voices.

Excerpt from letter -- "Once we happened to be at the hotel where McCormack was staying. His publicity man arranged to have him sing "My Wild Irish Rose" for me. A number of the singer's friends and ours were gathered in the sitting-room for the performance. I was all expectation and excitement. My fingers were on his lips, but no sound came from them for several seconds. Then he cried, "I can't, I can't" his tears wet my hand, and turning away he ran into his bedroom. I loved him for that tenderness which seemed to me the flower of the Irish heart. How different Caruso was when we met under similar circumstances! ... When I entered his room, Caruso was being shaved. A pretty girl was manicuring his nails... "Ah! you have come," Caruso said, and seized my two hands and clapped them on his great chest, which was bare, and with almost terrifying intensity burst into Sampson's lament over his blindness. I never dreamed that a human chest could expand as his did, nor that a throat could emit such a volume of sound.To come back to "My Wild Irish Rose," I love it because I remember my teacher as a wild Irish rose when she came to me. It is no hyperbole to say that when I touched that rose, happiness skipped to my side. The wild-rose tells a wondrous story in my life of growth and beauty. Its perfume is the fragrance of God's Goodness and of a Love that passeth knowledge... Helen"

IMPORTANT !!!

Don't forget to email your family history research questions to our expert panel for the January meeting.

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