



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

# Newsletter

Nov/Dec -2007

Editor: Jim McNamara

## **GENERAL MEETINGS:**

**This Month:** Sunday, Nov 25th, 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
*BIFHS-USA - General meeting*

*Sharing Your Family History Experiences*

Traditionally, this program has been one of the best of the year. Come prepared to share keepsakes, successes and other uplifting experiences in your family history and in your research. In the past, we have seen wonderful family photos, documents, quilts, and many other items. Perhaps you have recent research success story to share with the group. Start thinking about what you would like to present now. Everyone has something to share.

*Holiday Potluck*

See special message from Programs Chair on page 4

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**Next Month:** No Meeting in December

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### **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>

The palest ink is better than the best memory. Chinese Proverb. <sup>1</sup>

**Editor's Note:**

I always liked doing this newsletter. When I first started doing the newsletter, I had this idea that I could just tell my story, as it evolved, and the rest would take care of itself. I did have a lot to learn.

I never thought this day would come, the day I would be able to think of anything I would rather do than the BIFHS-USA newsletter. However, that day is here, the January 2008 edition will be the six-year anniversary of being newsletter editor for me, and that issue I am sad to say, will be my last one.

One thing I have always liked is the latitude the BIFHS has given me to make the newsletter my own. No matter what, the BIFHS has always supported my concept for this newsletter, and many people have helped provide excellent content.

I need to thank all those that have helped me with this task starting with Nancy Carlberg. Nancy willingly took on the task of proofreading, copying, labeling, and mailing all the newsletters. As I was working full time and commuting 300 miles a week, the only thing I had time to do was the actual layout, editing, writing of some pieces, and printing a master copy. Nancy has been here with me these six years and I cannot thank her enough for all her great help.

I also need to thank all that have provided content over the years. I am sure I will miss someone so please forgive my poor memory. Nancy Bier has provided many good articles, book reviews, and genealogical news. Nancy also had the inside scoop on what was going on at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and shared what she could. Annie Lloyd provided many leads and articles about Welsh, UK, Irish resources, news, and Internet content. Thanks Annie, I smiled every time I opened each of your mails. You never got tired of filling my Inbox with your mails. Thanks to Terry Brown for sending the new member lists and other articles. Thanks to Webmaster Bruce Hamilton for storing all the newsletters on our site, and fixing any of the problems I created. I am sure I have forgotten many others, so will just say thanks to all my unnamed supporters these six years.

I put this newsletter together in MicroSoft's Word, and even though that is not any kind of requirement, I can teach anyone with computer skills or not, how to proceed with the newsletter editor's job. It is a rewarding position, and anyone who takes it on will surely enjoy it as much as I have. It is a great opportunity to learn and grow. Anyone with an interest in contributing to the BIFHS-USA in the newsletter editor position, please contact me or any other board member.

I look forward to working on as Irish Study Group Leader for our society. I will be working on a project to provide our members and the LA RFHC reference binders for all of the Irish Genealogical Sources that are among their holdings, mainly films, but also books, CDs, etc. One binder on Civil Registration has been completed and is already shelved and available for any of our members and library patrons to use.

I also look forward to holding more Irish Study Groups sessions. Although I do have a good idea on what topics to cover, (the various record groups as I finish documenting them), please send any suggestions or requests to me.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you as BIFHS Newsletter Editor.

Sincerely,

Jim McNamara

Any and all comments welcome: [JPMTCC@yahoo.com](mailto:JPMTCC@yahoo.com)

<sup>1</sup>*The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations is licensed from Columbia University Press.*  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

There's good news and bad news this month. The good news is that we have a strong list of candidates for our annual election; the bad is that there will soon be an increase in membership dues.

The November meeting is our annual business meeting when we **elect members to the Board of Directors**. The ballot to elect all officers and four members-at-large is included with this issue of the newsletter. Please exercise your right to vote. Bring your completed ballot to the November meeting or send it to the society's mailing address (must reach our mailbox by Saturday, November 24). A huge "thank you" to those who have agreed to serve if elected.

We have decided to do things a little differently for the holiday season this year. There will be no meeting in December, but instead of our usual party, we will extend our **November "Show and Tell" meeting** to include a potluck meal. Details of this meeting appear elsewhere in the newsletter, but please think about how you might participate, both in terms of the food you could bring, and in what you might tell us that illustrates your interest in family history. Show and Tell always brings us fascinating stories from our members' research, and gives us a chance to know each other better. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

Now to the bad news: higher costs and reduced membership have inevitably led us to an obvious conclusion. We are losing money, and the Board has reluctantly decided that the dues must be raised. The **new dues will come into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008** (amounts listed separately in the newsletter). The timing does leave everyone a small "window of opportunity" to renew their membership before the increases take effect! Regardless of when your dues are due, you may extend your membership now at the old prices (see back page). However, the crisis is real. We must increase our membership and raise more money if our Society is to continue its work. The Board is doing its best to solve this problem, but if anyone has any ideas about how we can do this, we would most certainly like to hear from you.

Happy Holidays!

Ivan C. Johnson  
icj@socal.rr.com

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES TO INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2008, BIFHS-USA membership dues will increase as follows:

Individual membership:	1-year = \$35	3-year = \$100
Family membership:	1-year = \$40	3-year = \$115
Life membership:	Individual = \$350	Family = \$400

Please see the **President's Message** for additional information.

## Message from Program Chair Annie Lloyd:

As you know, December is probably the busiest month of the year. Everybody has shopping to do, parties to attend, and family and friends to visit with.

It is for that reason that BIFHS-USA has decided not to have a Holiday potluck in December of 2007. However, since we meet in November, we decided to combine a holiday potluck with our "Sharing of Experiences" meeting. This November meeting is always the most exciting one of the year because of YOU – our members and friends – are on center stage telling us all about YOUR adventures in doing YOUR genealogy, showing us YOUR family heirlooms and telling YOUR family stories. Actually, that is what genealogy is all about – sharing of experiences.

And so this year, as YOU take center stage, WE, in the audience can sit back and "nibble." So please bring something to eat to the potluck. The Society will supply the drinks and the paper goods.

The meeting and the potluck will start at 1 PM with an election of officers and a short business meeting.

SEE YOU ON SUNDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 1 PM!!!

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## Searchable Index online for "The Cambrian" (Index covers 1804 through 1902)

Go to: <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/>

Click on "L"

Click on "Libraries"

Click on "Swansea Virtual Library"

Click on "Cambrian Index"

Click on "Cambrian Index Search"

***Editor's note:** I used this index prior to traveling to Wales and brought the printouts with me to access the newspaper films at Swansea Library with no delay.*

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## From Wales to Ohio

The National Library of Wales has launched a new bilingual website which chronicles the history and experiences of the Welsh who emigrated to Ohio in the nineteenth century. Project officer, Menna Morgan, described the project: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/mid/sites/national\\_library/pages/wales\\_ohio.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/mid/sites/national_library/pages/wales_ohio.shtml)

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## BBC Family History

Companion to the BBC series "Who Do You Think You Are?", this site has history articles, research advice, users' ancestor photos and message boards.

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory)

## Family Tree Maker's sponsored BLOG: *Genealogy Insider*, by Diane Haddad

This is a good blog with significant articles appearing almost daily about new resources and genealogical news. See: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/insider/default.aspx>

Here are the titles of the current postings:

- Nov 1st: *College Yearbooks on World Vital Records* [a partnership with E-yearbook.com]
- Oct 31st: Spooky ancestors stories at Creative Gene Blog, Gettysburg Ghost Stories, Haunted Cemeteries and Haunted Houses sites.
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup>: *Research Ancestors Accidents and Calamities at GenDisasters.com*
- Oct 29<sup>th</sup>: StoryCorps: Capturing Oral History
- Oct 26<sup>th</sup>: *Social Networking Meets Genetic Genealogy* at Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation
- Oct 25<sup>th</sup>: *Find WWII Ancestors in Just-Opened Records*: National Personnel Records Center has opened official military personnel files for all service branches who were discharged, retired or died prior to 1946
- Oct 24<sup>th</sup>: *Mustaches of the Nineteenth Century, in pictures*: a fun blog about mustaches
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>: *Civil War Widows' Pension Files to be Digitized*: a partnership has been formed with FamilySearch, NARA, and Footnote.com to undertake this project
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>: *Ancestry.com and NewEnglandAncestors.org Offer Joint Discount*: Extracts follow
  - "You can join both TGN's Ancestry.com and NEHGS' NewEnglandAncestors.org for a special annual price of \$155.40, a savings of \$75. (\$155.40 is the regular price of Ancestry.com's US Deluxe records collection.)
  - "The price, which gets you access to Ancestry.com's US records as well as NEHGS' vital, church, court and other New England records, is good until Dec. 31 and isn't open to those who already belong to both groups."
- Oct 19<sup>th</sup>: *Resources for African-Americans, British Researchers and Facebook Fans*: Free database AfriQuest and other free resources
- Oct 17<sup>th</sup>: *The Generations Network Bought for \$300 Million*: Extracts follow
  - "A private equity firm has purchased a majority interest in The Generations Network (TGN, formerly MyFamily.com), parent company of Ancestry.com, DNA Ancestry, Genealogy.com, RootsWeb and others."
  - "Spectrum Equity Investors, already a partial stakeholder in TGN, will pay \$300 million for its majority interest. Two of its partners will join TGN president and CEO Tim Sullivan on the new board of directors. Other terms of the purchase weren't disclosed."

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## Free Welsh Language Translation Services

This is a handy site for Welsh researchers. Apparently they will email you the answer to any questions about words or phrases quite promptly.

See: <http://www.llinellgyswllt.com/eng/croeso.html>

Monday-Friday 9am-1pm 2pm-5pm (GMT)

The Link Line to Welsh is a unique service providing general information on Wales and the Welsh language. Specifically, the Link Line:

- Translates up to 30 words
- Edits up to 75 words
- Translates menus of every kind
- Provides information on all aspects of Wales and the Welsh language
- Advises on place names in Wales
- Enquiries about education in Welsh

**Editor's Note:** Thanks to Lyn Nunn for the above article on Welsh translation services.

## Belfast City Directory Images Now Online and Searchable, from 1819 - 1900

See: <http://demo.aetopia.com/streetdirectories/index.html>

The following description and list are directly from the URL above:

The street directories featured on this website consist of original volumes held by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) covering the years 1819 to 1900. PRONI does not have copies of all the street directories that were published before 1852 and even when the main run of the "Belfast and Ulster Street Directory" commences in 1852 there are gaps in the series up to 1900. These volumes which were on open access in the Public Search Room in PRONI are very heavily used while the paper in some of the volumes is very fragile. They were therefore at risk to the extent that pages or parts of pages have already been lost or damaged and any further handling would seriously endanger their long term preservation. It was therefore decided to have them scanned and at the same time to provide a search facility which will enable users to find key words in a section of a directory, in a particular directory or in any of the directories.

### LIST OF DIRECTORIES SCANNED

- Bradhaw's General and Commercial Directory for 1819
- Belfast Directory 1831-32
- Matier's Belfast Directory 1835-36
- Martin's Belfast Directory 1839
- New Directory of the City of Londonderry and Coleraine, including Strabane with Lifford, Newtownlimavady, Portstewart and Portrush
- The New Commercial Directory of Armagh, Newry, Londonderry, Drogheda, Dundalk, Monaghan, Omagh, Strabane, Dungannon, Lisburn, Lurgan, Portadown and neighbouring towns
- Martin's Belfast Directory 1842-43
- Henderson's New Belfast and Northern Repository 1843-44
- Henderson's Belfast Directory and Northern Repository 1846-47
- Henderson's Belfast Directory and Northern Repository 1850
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1852
- Henderson's Belfast Directory and Northern Repository 1852
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1858-59 Volume 4
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1863-64 Volume 6
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1866
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1870
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1877
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1880
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1884
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1887
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1890 Volume 13
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1892
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1895 Volume 16
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1896
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1897
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1899 Volume 20
- The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory 1900

**Editor's note:** A substantial bonus for online researchers having Belfast ancestors not able to travel to PRONI.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**November 10, 2007: Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch** Exploring Scottish Ancestry This seminar includes the following lectures: *Scottish Emigration and Canadian Settlement: An Historical Overview* (Kevin James), *Building a Scottish Family Tree Using ScotlandsPeople* (Marian Press, MLS, MA), *Scotland's Other Congregations and Churches: Looking for Records* (Sherry Irvine, BA (History) MSc., CG, FSA Scot), *Scottish Pedigree Analysis: From the Late 19th Century Back Over 100 Years* (Linda L. Reid, BA, MLS), *A Survey of Scottish Family History Resources in the GTA* (James F. S. Thomson, B.A., LL.B.), *Valuation Rolls in Scotland* (Sherry Irvine, BA (History) MSc., CG, FSA Scot), *General Registry Office for Scotland* (Paul McGrath) For more information see: <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/scottish.html>

**November 10, 2007: The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies**, (Canterbury, Kent, England) Lectures on Wills and Probate: *Intro to Probate Records, Post 1858 Wills and Admins, Pre 1858 Wills and Admins, Inventories and other Probate Records, Transcription and Practical Exercise*. More information at: <http://www.ihgs.ac.uk/contact/contact.php>

**November 24, 2007: Hull Family History Fair**  
Staff House, Hull University Cottingham Road, Hull  
10 AM to 4 PM

**November 25, 2007: BIFHS-USA General Meeting**  
Sharing Your Family History Experiences  
Traditionally, this program has been one of the best of the year. Come prepared to share keepsakes, successes and other uplifting experiences in your family history and in your research. In the past, we have seen wonderful family photos, documents, quilts, and many other items. Perhaps you have recent research success story to share with the group. Start thinking about what you would like to present now. Everyone has something to share.

**27 January 2008: BIFHS-USA**, General Meeting, TBA

**23 February 2008: WAGS, 25th Annual Seminar with Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck**; At Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, CA. Four lectures: *243 Years of Migrations: 1607 – 1850, Before Civil Registration: Using Church Records, The Power of the Press: Newspaper Genealogy, Finding Maiden Names of Female Ancestors*. Contact Judy Poole, 909 985-6657; [judypoole@verizon.net](mailto:judypoole@verizon.net) or John Hergesheimer 562 941-3184; [hergwerk@earthlink.net](mailto:hergwerk@earthlink.net)

**24 February 2008: BIFHS-USA**, General Meeting, TBA

**23 March 2008: BIFHS-USA**, General Meeting, TBA

**29 March 2008: Family History Fair**, 10 AM to 4 PM  
Beginner level, Venue: Plymouth, Devon  
Host Societies: Devon FHS & Cornwall FHS  
Type of Event: AGM / GM  
See: [www.devonfhs.org.uk/fhfair2008.pdf](http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/fhfair2008.pdf)

**27 April 2008: BIFHS-USA**, General Meeting, TBA

**May 14 – 17, 2008: NGS Conference** (Kansas City, MO)  
– *Show me the Nations Records*,

For further information:

- To request a brochure: [conference@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:conference@ngsgenealogy.org)

- For information on exhibiting at the NGS Conference

contact: [Lund@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:Lund@ngsgenealogy.org)

- By mail: National Genealogical Society  
3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22204-4304

- By phone: Phone: 703-525-0050  
Toll-Free: 800-473-0060

- By Fax: 703-525-0052 attn: NGS Conference in the States 2008

**June 27 – 29, 2008: SCGS Jamboree** in Burbank, CA  
At the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505

Contact SCGS at:

417 Irvine Drive, Burbank, CA 91504-2408

Phone: 818 843-7247

Fax: 818 843-7262

Email: [jamboree@scsgenealogy.com](mailto:jamboree@scsgenealogy.com)

**29–31 Aug 2008: The Way We Were?**,

Venue: University of Essex, Colchester

Host Societies: Essex Society for FH & Suffolk FHS

Three-day National Family History Conference

Contact: [chairman@esfh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@esfh.org.uk)

See: [www.esfh.org.uk/conference2008.htm](http://www.esfh.org.uk/conference2008.htm)

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**English Heritage**, (Daily events listed here)

With the largest historical events programme in Europe, English Heritage offers something for everyone - from great family days out with the children to events of interest to the real history buff.

See:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.884>

British Isles Family History Society - USA

From:

**British Isles FHS – USA**

2531 Sawtelle Blvd., PMB #134  
Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124

Nov/Dec – 2007 Newsletter  
**“First Class”**

To:

Please look at mailing label for your membership expiration date. Renew promptly to save the Society money. Individual membership is \$25, (3 years: \$70); family membership is \$30, (3 years: \$85); individual life \$250; family life \$300. Credit card payments okay. Thanks, Editor

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**BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY – USA**  
2531 Sawtelle Blvd. PMB#134, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124

ALL MAIL MUST BE ADDRESSED TO: British Isles FHS-USA,  
attention: person you wish to receive the correspondence.  
“The PMB#134” and Zip+4, must be used.

(We use the “#” instead of “Box No” in order to receive UPS Deliveries)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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