



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

# NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2008 Happy Holidays

Editors: Lydia Davis Jeffrey & Fran Smith

## Meetings and Study Groups

Unless otherwise specified, BIFHS–USA meetings are held at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. (enter from Eastborne Ave. at Manning), Los Angeles, CA 90025; (310) 474-9990. There is plenty of free parking. All meetings and workshops are offered free of charge and are open to the public.

### SUNDAY, 23 Nov 2008

#### Sharing Your Family History Experiences and Holiday Potluck

(1:00–5:00 PM)

Speaker will be...**YOU!**

Tell us about your genealogical successes and other uplifting experiences in your family history research. In the past, we have seen wonderful family photos, documents, quilts, and many other items. Perhaps you have a recent research success story to share with the group. Start thinking now about what you would like to present. Everyone has something to share, and your story may be an inspiration for someone else's research.

**Holiday Potluck lunch!** Bring a dish - hot or cold. It can be from the country of your origin. BIFHS-USA will supply the beverages and paper products. Fill your plates full with good food and come, sit, and listen to family history experiences. You can always go back for seconds.

**Bring your election ballot to the meeting if you have not yet mailed it in.**

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**No meeting in December**  
Family History Center will be closed.

Genealogists concentrate so much on their ancestors who lived in the past. The holidays provide an opportunity to be with family and friends who live in our own time.

However, genealogy does not stop for the holidays! This is the perfect opportunity to interview your relatives, young and old, for stories and family lore, anecdotes, recipes passed down and favorite songs, flowers and books, because everyone has something to add to the family story.

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#### Mark Your Calendars

**Next meeting:  
25 Jan 2009**

We look forward to seeing you in January, when our New Year's Resolutions will include tearing down brick walls and crossing the ocean.

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**BIFHS–USA Election will be held at the 23 November meeting.  
Mail your inserted ballot (Must be received by 22 Nov) or bring it to the meeting.**

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Questions? Please contact a board member (email addresses on back page).

Visit the BIFHS–USA website at [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org)

## President's Message

The November meeting is both our **"Show and Tell"** meeting and the annual business meeting when we **elect members to the Board of Directors**. The ballot to elect a new Vice-President for Programs and three members-at-large is included with this issue of the newsletter. Thanks again to the nominating committee (Don Hirst, Jim McNamara, and Mike Owens) and to those who have agreed to serve if elected. BIFHS members are encouraged to exercise their right to vote either by bringing completed ballots to the November meeting or mailing them to the society's mailing address, making sure that mailed ballots arrive at our mailbox by Saturday, November 22.

This holiday season, we have decided to follow the precedent we set last year — to augment our **"Show and Tell"** with a potluck meal. Details of this meeting appear elsewhere in the newsletter, but I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to think about how you might participate in this event, both in terms of the potluck dish you might contribute and the anecdote you might share about your findings while researching your own (or even someone else's) family history. The meeting has always been a great favorite, and always brings us fascinating stories about the research that is being done by our own membership.

Happy hunting, and — seeing as this is the last newsletter before the New Year — Happy Holidays!

*Ivan C. Johnson*  
[president@bifhsusa.org](mailto:president@bifhsusa.org)

## Co-Editors' Message

We would like to thank the following people for their input or assistance in the creation of this issue: Nancy Carlberg, Terry Brown, Gail Said Johnson, Ivan Johnson, Terry McVeigh, Jessie Tait, Peggy Wishon, George P. Coulter and Annie Lloyd.

As our ancestors would say—

Happy Thanksgiving! Nadolig Llawen! Beannachtaí na Féile! **Happy Hannukkah!**  
Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ur! *Happy Christmas*

*Happy Holidays!*

*Fran Smith and Lydia Davis Jeffrey*  
[newsletter@bifhsusa.org](mailto:newsletter@bifhsusa.org)

## Quiz

1. Who compiled several hundred years of Welsh genealogies?
2. What is the most commonly used vowel in old Scots documents?
3. Where can information about occupations in the 1800s be found?
4. What organization is attempting to preserve graveyard memorial inscriptions in the West of Ireland?

**While waiting for the holiday goose to cook, take a gander at**

**Our Society's Website**  
**[bifhsusa.org](http://bifhsusa.org)**

### **Expecting the Unexpected: Peggy Wishon's New Website**

[www.GenNotes.com](http://www.GenNotes.com)

During her presentation at the BIFHS – USA October meeting's English study group, Peggy Wishon announced that her new website, listed above, should be up and running some time in early November. [As of 3 November, it is not yet up.] The site will include her outline of less-used English resources.

### **England's Outbound and Inbound Passengers**

Outbound Passenger Lists, 1890-1960: <http://www.ancestorsonboard.com>

UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>

One of the sites Peggy discussed in her presentation was Ancestors Onboard's BT27 outward-bound passenger lists of travelers leaving England. Peggy noted that the database has been expanded to include travelers up to 1960. At the meeting, it was also brought to our attention that Ancestry now offers a database of passengers traveling to the UK for the years 1878–1960. This is a good resource for researchers tracing immigrants from other countries, who traveled from the continent to the new country via England. Both of the above sites are fee-based.

### **Holiday Traditions in the British Isles**

<http://www.christmasarchives.com>

According to this website, the Scots enjoyed Christmas celebrations prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, but (talk about Scrooges) the leaders of the Reformation in Scotland put a damper on Christmas spirit. Bakers were fined for making Yulebreads and the General Assembly in Edinburgh attempted to terminate the occasion. Knowing that a joyful celebration, Hogmanay, awaited them, the Scots kept a solemn face at Christmas and instead celebrated the New Year. They welcomed the first footer, a stranger who entered the home early New Years Day bearing food or fuel for the fire. The origins of the word Hogmanay may have come from the French phrase, "Homme est né" (Man is born.).

Three traditional customs in Wales are Plygain (the Cockcrow Mass early Christmas morning), Mari Lwyd (entertainment by disguised men who accompany a decorated Grey Mare) and Calenigg (a good luck apple adorned with three twig legs, almonds and evergreens, which children carried and gave as a gift, while singing for pennies or small cakes).

In some places in Ireland, residents still place a lighted candle in a window on Christmas Eve to welcome strangers. In times past, all buildings on the farm would be whitewashed to cleanse everything in honor of the Christ child.

The traditions of St Nicholas began on mainland Europe prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> century, but came to England later. The Saxons had a King Frost. The Vikings had their god, Odin. You can thank the Normans for bringing St. Nicholas to England. The Puritans under Oliver Cromwell ended the frivolity of St. Nick, but one hundred years later, Father Christmas began to appear in England and is still making annual visits!

## Annie's Pages

### Occupations of Glamorgan

[www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/GLA/](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/GLA/)

(then click "occupations" to find many links)



Annie Lloyd directed us to the Genuki website for Glamorgan, Wales and the occupation links for this shire. This website is wonderful, even if your ancestor is not from Glamorgan. Most of the links are about the mining industry. However, there is much more. The Archive section of the South Wales Police Museum has historical information about police in Glamorgan. Many individuals have contributed information and links to the occupation section. One link has a list of Railways of Carmarthenshire, Glamorgan and Monmouthshire. Another link is about Agriculture in 1837 and provides information about the cost of running a farm in 1790, 1813 and 1833. One contributor provided a searchable list of Glamorgan photographers from 1850 to approximately 1930. Another person reviewed parish records of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and provided a list of names and occupations. If your ancestors worked in mines, the links at Glamorgan occupations are valuable and must not be overlooked. The links, "The Employment Commission report of 1842 on Children in Mines and Factories" and "Report (1842) by Rhys William Jones, Esq., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons," have names and ages of children working in mines. The children were interviewed and frequently there is a paragraph containing information about them, as in one example, in which a boy stated he was twelve and had worked in the mine for three years. The link for the Report of Rhys William Jones, Esq. contains not only reports on Glamorgan, but also other counties in Wales, along with England, Scotland and Ireland. Tears may come to your eyes as you read the report of Ireland. There, women and children worked for the mining companies above ground, while the men worked in the tunnels below. Their food was mostly potatoes. Some reported that their families would have bacon or fish on rare occasions, but these were too expensive to have every day. It is sad to realize that five years later, in 1847 or "Black '47," even the potatoes, a necessity, would be scarce.

### Australian Newspapers

<http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

This website has a search function of various Australian newspapers from 1803 to 1954. You may do a general search or narrow the results by date, newspaper or state. A general search for "Gallipoli" resulted in over 10,000 articles, but a column on the left divided the hits into various categories. Lydia limited the time period to 1910–1919 and requested that only "family notices" be retrieved. This reduced the 10,000 plus results to a do-able 659. The articles are digitized and may be viewed at no cost.

### New Zealand Newspapers

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Several newspapers and periodicals from 1839 to 1920 have been digitized and are available for viewing online. Articles from over one million pages are accessible. You may search by date, region or title of publication.

### Scottish Handwriting

<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com>

This website offers hints for reading 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> century handwriting. It contains tutorials and coaching material for both letters and numbers, and provides an explanation of the calendar and money. Also included is a one-hour basic tutorial on Secretary Hand.

## Manchester's 1851 Census

<http://www.1851-unfilmed.org.uk/into.htm>

The enumeration books of the 1851 Manchester Census were damaged by a flood after they were transferred to London. Some books were so badly damaged that they were never filmed, and the films that were made were often illegible and useless. The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society began a fourteen year project in 1991 to transcribe as much information as they could from the original records. This website reports that ". . .82% of 217,717 persons. . ." have been recovered from the enumerations books. The website provides a free name search and information as to how to view the transcriptions. The registration districts include Manchester, Chorlton, Salford, Oldham and Ashton-Under-Lyne.

## Peter Clement Bartrum

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/pc-bartrum-scholar>

As George P. Coulter mentioned at the October meeting and as the British newspaper, *The Independent*, reported in its Saturday 20 September 2008 issue, Peter Clement Bartrum died on 14 August 2008 in Hertfordshire, England at age 100. Mr. Bartrum will be remembered for his 26-volume Welsh Genealogies AD 300-1400 and Welsh Genealogies AD 1400-1500, published by the University of Wales Press and the National Library of Wales in 1974 and 1983. The works are currently being put into an electronic database, thanks in part to a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. It will be an important genealogical and academic source when it is completed in 2009. "When asked to say why he was prepared to spend so many years in the meticulous labour of collecting and deciphering medieval manuscripts, Bartrum modestly explained that 'he liked to put things in order[.]' "

*Thanks to Annie Lloyd for the items above.*

## Add a little *Mystery!* to Your Genealogical Studies

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/whodoyouthinkyouare/new-stories/david-suchet/>

Those of you who enjoyed watching *Poirot*, the British mystery series, may also be interested in reading an article summarizing an episode from the genealogy series, *Who Do You Think You Are?* In this episode, David Suchet, the British actor who portrayed "Hercules Poirot," pursues his own ancestors and learns that one of them is a master mariner whose ship sank and another, a French photographer who was born in Russia. Film clips from the show are provided throughout the article.

## *Orders of Love* a 10-minute Film on the BBC Genealogy Site

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/filmnetwork/A3813680>

A short film examines hidden influences that past generations exert on its descendants. Prompted by the birth of his son who he hopes will rise above a troubled family legacy, Jes Benstock begins to research his family history, meets living relatives, learns about long deceased ones and develops a sense of belonging. The site requires either Windows Media Player or Real Player to view.



BIFHS-USA  
JOURNAL

Journal submissions  
welcome — and encouraged!

Send your article to  
[journal@bifhsusa.org](mailto:journal@bifhsusa.org)

## Colonial Sources



### Royal Colony of Georgia Wills

<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/cwb.php>

Georgia became a royal colony in 1754. This site of the Georgia Archives contains facsimiles of 351 wills probated in the Royal Colony of Georgia, dated 1754–1779. According to the website's description, each will includes the name of the testator, his date and residence when the will was written, and bequests and instructions regarding the estate of the decedent.

If you have ancestors in Georgia, this source, which is part of the state of Georgia Archives' Virtual Vaults, is worth exploring. It also contains another set of Colonial wills, dated 1733–1778, Confederate pension applications of Georgia veterans, facsimiles of headright and bounty plats and death certificates from 1919–1927.

Also at this site is a General Name File, a digitized version of index cards of personal names found in state, local and personal records housed in the archives, which were compiled by the Archive's staff in the 1920s. Whether handwritten or typed, the cards reference records (land, military, marriage, death) in which the name is found. Fran found a card for her ancestor, Zachariah McGuire, a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant from Coweta County, that referenced his 1837 military record. A card for Arch'd McHair summarized a land record dated 1773 and stated that he migrated with his four children from North Carolina to Georgia and received 100 acres. A third card contains an actual 1928 newspaper clipping of an obituary for Jerry McGuire.

### Early Massachusetts Vital Records, 1600–1849

<http://www.ma-vitalrecords.org/>

Published in the early 1900s and commonly known as the "Tan Books," this source was a compilation of town, clerk and court records, as well as private records, such as Bibles and gravestone records. Now transcribed by the Massachusetts Vital Records Project, they can be searched by surname or town. Eventually, many of the transcriptions will be linked with digitized images from the books, but images of the documents that only appear as transcriptions on the website can be ordered from the project.

### Colonial Connecticut

<http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/>

The contents of the complete, fifteen volumes of the Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636–1776 have been scanned and are now accessible by volume, then by an alphabetical index.

Believing that a Samuel Shepard lived in Connecticut around 1730, Fran clicked on volume 7 (which covered May 1726 to October 1735), then on S and scrolled down until finding "Shepard, Samuel." There she read that Samuel was mentioned on page 369 as being commissioned to be ensign of the north company of the town of "Midletown."



## Canadian Sources

### From the Library and Archives of Canada

[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html)

Library and Archives of Canada – Canadian Genealogy Centre has many records searchable online. Information is provided so that you can locate the film at the Library and Archives of Canada to review the original records. The list of records provided below just might amaze and cheer you:

Citizenship Registration Records for the Montreal Circuit Court (1851-1945)  
Courts-martial of the First World War  
Divorce in Canada (1841-1968)  
Federal Census of 1871 (Ontario Index)  
Gaspé Land Commission (1626-1841)  
Home Children (1869-1930)  
Immigrants at Grosse-Île (1832-1937)  
Immigration Records (1925-1935)  
Lower Canada Land Petitions (1626-1865)  
Montreal Emigrant Society Passage Book (1832)  
Port of New Westminster Register of Chinese Immigration (1887-1908)  
Soldiers of the First World War - CEF (1914-1918)  
Soldiers of the South African War (1899-1902)  
Russian Consular Records/LI-RA-MA Collection  
Upper and Lower Canada Marriage Bonds (1779-1865)  
Upper Canada and Canada West Naturalization Records (1828-1850)  
Western Land Grants (1870-1930)  
Ward Chipman, Muster Master's Office (1777-1785)

[www.automatedgenealogy.com](http://www.automatedgenealogy.com)

Automated Genealogy has indexed several of the Canadian censuses that the Library and Archives of Canada has digitized.

An update on the status of the indexing is given below:

1901 Census – Transcription completed and proofreading is 60% complete.

1911 Census – Transcription completed and proofreading has begun.

1906 Census of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba – Transcription completed, but proofreading has not started.

1851/2 Census – Indexing for the 1852 Census of Quebec and Ontario has begun. Indexing of the 1851 New Brunswick Census is almost 66% completed. Indexing of the 1851 Nova Scotia census will begin in the future.

*Thanks to Annie Lloyd for the above.*

[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland/index-e.html)

While you are checking for information at the Library and Archives of Canada you may want to visit "The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf" section and see for yourself that the Irish made their mark in Canada, as well as the United States.

## Irish Sources

### **Kabristan Archives of Old Irish and Indian Graveyards**

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

The Kabristan Archives, a non-profit organization founded by Eileen Hewson, is dedicated to preserving graveyard memorial inscriptions found in the west of Ireland and the Indian subcontinent. The searchable website contains an archived index of thousands of memorial inscriptions and photographs. The full inscriptions can be purchased from the archives for a minimal fee. Hewson, who became interested in finding the graves of Irishmen who died abroad and were buried in foreign soil, has also written several publications dedicated to cemeteries and graveyards.

### **New Irish Resources from Familyrelatives.com**

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

Several new Irish sources are being added to the Familyrelatives.com, which, according to the website, will result in ten million more records by the end of 2008. This new collection will contain:

Indexes to Irish Wills 1536–1857 (5 Volumes), Irish Genealogical Guide, Quaker Records, Dublin Abstracts of Wills, Alumni Dublinense 1593-1846, Ireland Topographical Dictionary, Land Records Ireland, Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy, 1660-1815, Irish Names and Surnames, MacDonald's Directory – 5 counties and the Medical Register for Ireland 2 Volumes.

### **Irish Census Project**

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/about/futureplans.html>

The above URL links to a page showing the order that the 1911 Irish censuses will be placed online. So far, County Dublin is on their website, and Counties Kerry, Antrim and Down are scheduled to go online in Dec 2008.

### ***Bunachar Logainmneacha na hÉireann*: Placenames Database of Ireland**

<http://www.logainm.ie/>

The goal of this project, which was begun in early 2007, is to provide simultaneous Irish-English and English-Irish translations of place names in Ireland. Sound files providing pronunciation of names and other information will be included in some entries.

*The above four items submitted by Terry McVeigh*

### **Quiz Answers:**

1. Peter Clement Bartrum
2. According to the tutorial in Scottishhandwriting.com, the most commonly used vowel in Scots documents is the e.
3. The Genuki website for Glamorgan, Wales
4. The Kabristan Archives founded by Eileen Hewson

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

### Calendar of Events

**23 November 2008: BIFHS—USA**, Sharing Your Family History Experiences, Potluck and Election, 1:00-5:00 PM.

**25 January 2009: BIFHS—USA**, General Meeting, 1:00 to 3:00 PM TBA, and Study Group, 3:30 to 4:30 PM Colonial American Study Group with Nancy Ellen Carlberg.

**22 February 2009: BIFHS—USA**, General Meeting, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, Jean Wilcox Hibben will be featured with "Appalachian Ancestors: Their Lives, Legends and Lyrics." Among the possessions our ancestors brought to this country was their music. This presentation explores the many well-known folksongs of the USA that were originally British or Irish. Study Group, 3:30 to 4:30 PM.

**22 March 2009: BIFHS—USA**, General Meeting, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, Study Group 3:30 to 4:30.

**26 April 2009: BIFHS—USA**, General Meeting, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, Study Group 3:30 to 4:30.

**24 May 2009: BIFHS—USA**, General Meeting, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, Study Group 3:30 to 4:30.

**20-21 June 2009: Great American Irish Fair**, Irvine Meadows Fairground, Irvine, CA.  
<http://www.irishfair.org/index.html>

**26-28 June 2009: Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree**, Plan to attend and visit the BIFHS—USA table.

**2-5 September 2009: Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference**, *Passages through Time*, Little Rock, Arkansas.  
<http://www.fgs.org/2009conference/index.php>

**21-24 September 2009: International Genealogy Festival**, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.  
<http://www.strathclydegenealogy.co.uk/>

**Now through 27 September 2009. Merseyside Maritime Museum's Magical History Tour**, A journey of discover through 800 years of Liverpool history. Albert Dock, Liverpool, England.  
<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/magical/>

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### Are your dues due? Here's how to find out:

Your membership expiration date is on the mailing label of every newsletter and journal. Please check it and see if it's time to pay your dues (\$35 individual, \$40 family). If your email address has changed, or if you didn't have one when you first joined the society, please email it to [vp-membership@bifhs-usa.org](mailto:vp-membership@bifhs-usa.org). Even if you're not sure, email it anyway so our records will be up to date. — *Terry Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Membership)*

### Online Genealogy Courses

[www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com) or [www.isbgfh.org](http://www.isbgfh.org)

Three online courses in British Isles genealogy are being offered between October 2008 and September 2009 by The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) in Salt Lake City and Pharos Teaching and Tutoring, a British company. For more information, see above addresses.

*Thanks to Carleen Foster for this information.*



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

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

Nov/Dec 2008 Newsletter

**FIRST CLASS**



See membership expiration date on mailing label. Please renew promptly. Individual membership \$35; family \$40; individual life \$350; family life \$400. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

**BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY – U.S.A.**

*Mailing Address:* 2531 Sawtelle Blvd. PMB#134, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124

Be sure to use "PMB#134" and Zip+4. (We use the "#" instead of "Box No" to receive UPS deliveries.)

When sending mail, include: Attention: *person/position you wish to receive the correspondence.*

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