



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

# NEWSLETTER

March/April 2009

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, 22 March 2009**

#### **GENERAL MEETING (1:00–3:00 PM) Southern California Genealogical Research Opportunities**

How will you research while the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center is closed during construction (see President's Message, page2)? Nancy Ellen Carlberg, our recently installed First Vice President (Programs), will advise us about what records can be found at area libraries, Family History Centers and other depositories. Her information will certainly keep us going until the LARFHC reopens.

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#### **STUDY GROUP (3:30–4:30 PM)**

#### **Royal Irish Constabulary: National Inventory of Documentary Sources of Trinity College Dublin**

Jim McNamara, Irish Study Group Leader, will tell us about some of the records that have been filmed by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. He has prepared a notebook entitled "Royal Irish Constabulary Records in Family History Library and Records available at LARFHC" (941.5N2ric) that provides LARFHC film and fiche numbers of items. There is much more to be found in these sources than just Irish records. If your ancestor is from Lancashire, England, you, too, will want to review Jim's notebook.

### **SUNDAY, 26 April 2009**

#### **GENERAL MEETING (1:00–3:00 PM) Using the British Records at the Orange Regional Family History Center**

Beth McCarty will expand on what Nancy Ellen Carlberg told us in March, providing more details about what is available at the ORFHC.

Beth McCarty is the Director at the ORFHC, where she has volunteered for several years. She frequently speaks at area genealogical societies about British research.

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#### **IRISH STUDY GROUP (3:30–5:00 PM)**

#### **Using the New Online Family Record Search for Irish Records**

Jim McNamara will show how to search the new pilot site for indexed and transcribed films at the FamilySearch.org site. He will provide helpful hints for locating Irish resources. You can also use this site for United States, United Kingdom & other research.



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

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



### **President's Message**

As many of you will already be aware, it is now official that the Society will be without a permanent home for much of 2009. We have known for some time that the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center would close for renovation and extensions, but we didn't know when. Thought we still don't know the exact date, it now it seems likely that the Center will close in May and remain closed for most of the remainder of the year. The research center cannot re-open until the entire building project (including the Visitors' Center) is completed. The good news is that this affords the Society the opportunity to explore other collections in the L.A. area. Nancy Carlberg, our 1st Vice-President for Programs, is organizing a series of visits to libraries that have collections relevant for British and Irish genealogical research. I think this could be most productive for all of us.

Although I hate to be the purveyor of doom and gloom, I feel that I must also mention our financial situation. Membership is down, and income from dues is consequently reduced. The review of our annual income and expenses at our last Board meeting revealed that we are operating at a loss. As the receipts and disbursements related to the canceled Queen Mary seminar spanned two years, it is perhaps best to look at 2007 and 2008 together. For those two years taken together our expenses exceeded income by \$1,192.03 — meaning that we lost approximately \$600 per year for the two years. We are looking into ways to cut our expenses and have already eliminated one monthly expenditure (storage unit rental) that will cut our annual spending by \$562.47. We're looking for other ways to cut costs as well as ways the Society might make money — and we welcome your suggestions.

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

### **Co-Editors' Message**

In March and April, three of the four patron saints of the countries of the British Isles are celebrated. Whether we are Irish or not, on March 17 most of us will observe St. Patrick's Day, the patron saint of Ireland, and very possibly wear a shamrock. The recently past St. David's Day on March 1<sup>st</sup> could have been observed by wearing a symbol of a leek or a daffodil in honor of the Welsh patron saint. If you are so inclined, you can honor England's St. George on April 23 (same day as William Shakespeare's birthday) by wearing a rose in your buttonhole.

Lydia's Quiz: Who is Scotland's patron saint and why have we not mentioned him in this issue?

This month the newsletter is brought to you by the efforts of Annie Lloyd, Jessie Tait, Joyce Dillard, Nancy Kipp, Jim McNamara, Terry McVeigh, Julie Chedgzoy, Gail and Ivan Johnson and our "publisher," Nancy Ellen Carlberg. Our thanks for their submissions and assistance.

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

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

### Exchange Journal Updates

[www.bifhsusa.org/journal/exchange](http://www.bifhsusa.org/journal/exchange)

The Tables of Contents of recent journals from the following societies were added to the BIFHS–USA website in February: Bedfordshire FHS, Birmingham and Midland FHS, Bristol and Avon FHS, Cheshire FHS, Cleveland FHS, Dorset FHS, Glamorgan FHS, Herefordshire FHS, Huddersfield FHS, Shropshire FHS, and Wiltshire FHS. The journals themselves are housed at the L.A. Regional Family History Center. As always, thanks to Terry Brown for scanning the tables of contents and to Gail Said Johnson for updating the web pages.

### BIFHS–USA Table at the SCGS Jamboree

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

Mark your calendars for the Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree that will be held 26-28 June at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Burbank, California. Several sessions this year will focus on topics related to the British Isles and Colonial America. Among the many speakers will be Ivan Johnson, who will present, "Constructing the Lives of Our Ancestors in 19<sup>th</sup> Century England," and Peggy Wishon, who will give an updated version of "Expect the Unexpected" (presented for the BIFHS–USA English Study Group in 2008).

Be sure to stop by the BIFHS–USA table in the exhibition hall, or better yet, volunteer to staff the table for an hour or two. It is a great way to meet and talk to other genealogists. On Saturday, SCGS is offering a roundtable discussion, which many of our members are already planning to attend. There will be more information in our next newsletter, but for registration materials and news about the event, check out the website above.

### Pennsylvania Researchers

[www.users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm#Discussion](http://www.users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm#Discussion)

The People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access (PaHR-Access) are seeking help from family historians in their grassroots effort to make older death certificates more accessible and available online. They request researchers to write Pennsylvania state officials, asking for the creation of an Internet accessible database of death records that are fifty years or older. Several other states already make their death records available online. Discussion about this issue and other issues regarding changes in restrictions and accessibility of Pennsylvania records can be found at the above website. Also found on the website are sample letters, contact information, progress reports and other news on the subject. As noted on the site, Pennsylvania's new Open Records Law that took affect in January improves access to certain state government records. However, according to PaHR-Access, changes are still needed in the Vital Records Law to make birth and death records more accessible.



**BIFHS–USA  
JOURNAL**

**Your articles needed for the  
next issue (Vol. XXII, No. 1)**

Please send to  
[journal@bifhsusa.org](mailto:journal@bifhsusa.org)  
**by April 30, 2009**

**Annie Lloyd Wants You (to "Check Out the Map Room")**



"How many of our members use the Map Room at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center? How many of you know what is contained within the Map Room?"

"Do you know that the British Isles FHS-USA bought and paid for a complete set of LANDRANGER MAPS of ENGLAND, WALES and SCOTLAND? Some of you are going to say "what is a Landranger map?" These maps are to the 1:5000 scale which means approximately 1 inch to the mile. They are very detailed.

"GAZETTEERS:

I hear this all the time – what is a gazetteer? It's a Dictionary of Place Names. We have quite a few in the Map Room at the LARFHC, not only on England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland but on the USA as well. Did you know that there are many place names in Scotland that are Welsh in origin?

"TOWNSHIP VS TOWN:

We are lucky in the LARFHC to have several books on all the townships in the USA.

"How many of you know the difference between a town and a township?"

"There are two kinds of legal land descriptions in the USA. (England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland have a different system entirely.)

- 1) State land states where the state made the land grants. The 20 states included are the 13 original states, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and West Virginia. The legal land descriptions for these states are in *metes and bounds*. The land is plotted in the terms of the location of trees, streams, rocks and neighboring landowners.
- 2) Public-domain states where the Federal Government made the land grants. It includes all the other 30 states -- even California. Land is described in the Federal *township and range system* which uses a surveyed system of meridians, baselines, townships and ranges. Public domain land was generally obtained by: Federal Land Grants that were purchased or homesteaded and military Bounty Lands from the American Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and other wars up to 1858 when it was discontinued.

"So understand, if your ancestor died in a township, don't look in a town for him, because you won't find him there.

"So please stop in and visit the Map Room at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center. It's a fun place to go."

*Annie Lloyd*

**FamilySearch International Has Released the 1900 U. S. Census for FREE**

See their website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). "I went looking for my grandfather in the 1900 census and found him in Quincy, Adams Co., IL....." *Annie*

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

### **Irish Architects**

[www.dia.ie/](http://www.dia.ie/)

A Dictionary of Irish Architects is available online. It contains information about architects, builders and craftsmen who were born or worked in Ireland from 1720 to 1940 and also details about the building upon which they worked. Ann Martha Rowan compiled the information. The project has not been completed and is updated periodically. It is supported by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. The information provided is free.

### **Artists' Paper Registry**

[www.apr.ac.uk/artists/searches/artistrecs.asp?ARID=GB/NNAF/P43959](http://www.apr.ac.uk/artists/searches/artistrecs.asp?ARID=GB/NNAF/P43959)

The website is a location register of the papers of artists, craftspeople and designers held in publicly accessible collections in the United Kingdom and Ireland. A user can search by name, location of collection, artist type (i.e., needleworkers, sculptors, shoemakers, typographers, glassworkers, goldsmiths) or a word found in the person's biography related to his activities. Companies and guilds are indexed, as well as individuals, and entries often provide a brief personal and professional biography.

### **Ports and Harbors of Britain**

[www.ports.org.uk/index.asp](http://www.ports.org.uk/index.asp)

The website lists over 900 ports, harbors, jetties and piers around the coastline of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, and provides historical and current information about each location. A location can be accessed by typing its name in a search box or clicking on a map of the UK. An advanced search allows the user to choose a type of port (Trust, Municipal or Private) and the ports' usage (Leisure, Fishing, Commercial, Ferry Terminal). There is also an area dedicated to former harbors.

### **Victorian Military Society**

[www.victorianmilitarysociety.org.uk/](http://www.victorianmilitarysociety.org.uk/)

You will want to review the website of the Victorian Military Society if your ancestor was in the British Military during the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. The society has several groups including special interest groups of India Burma, the Sudan War and the Anglo-Boer War. A project of the Anglo-Boer War Special Interest Group is to record the memorials of the Anglo-Boer War throughout the world. This group also has a very large database with over 200,000 entries of individuals who served in the Anglo-Boer war. The database is a pay as you view system and has records from the Official Casualty Rolls, the Gazetteer of the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, Medal Rolls, Anglo-Boer War Memorials Projects and Winifred Scott's Anglo-Boer War Index.

### **A Newspaperman of the Anglo-Boer War**

[www.roll-of-honour.com/Boer/BoerWarChurchillWinston.html](http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Boer/BoerWarChurchillWinston.html)

Winston Churchill who is usually remembered as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II also experienced the Anglo-Boer War first hand. He was a reporter for the London Morning Post. He was captured in November 1899 when the train on which he was traveling was derailed when it hit a large rock placed upon the tracks. He was able to escape after a few weeks by hiding in a coal train. He left the train to seek food. He knocked on the door of an Englishman who hid Winston Churchill from the troops searching for him. He arrived in Mozambique and safety on 21 December 1899.

**1911 Census Online Update**

[www.1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk)

We wrote in past issues that the 1911 census of Ireland was going online. Thanks to FindMyPast and The National Archives, we can now report that portions of the 1911 English census are also accessible online. A search is free, but it costs to see the results. It is a pay as you view system. You may use your FindMyPast user name and credits for viewing the 1911 census but not the subscription service of FindMyPast. However, the 1911 census may be available with a subscription service in the future. Most counties of England have been completed. The four counties that are not yet available are Durham, Cumberland, Northumberland and Westmorland. None of the counties of Wales are currently online. Other areas planned to be added to the site in the future are Isle of Man, Channel Islands, and Royal Navy and military personnel who were at sea or assigned overseas.

*Thanks to Jessie Tait, Annie Lloyd and Ivan Johnson.*

**You Ask, "What About Scotland?"**

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?1263](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?1263)

You will have to wait until 27 March 2011 to view the 1911 census of Scotland, according to ScotlandsPeople. The website reports, "Scottish legislation (Section 38 and 58 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002) exempts personal Census records from disclosure until after a 100 year closure period." Is that really the case? We heard someone wonder, "Has the Scottish government determined that it will be able to collect more funds with a release date in 2011?"



**The Migration of the Scots-Irish to Southwestern North Carolina**

[www.albanach.org/ulster.html](http://www.albanach.org/ulster.html)

Spanning the time period from the 16<sup>th</sup> century until just after the American Revolution, this article follows the Scots-Irish from southern Scotland to Ulster, to Pennsylvania, and down the Great Wagon Road to North Carolina, where many abandoned their Presbyterian faith in favor of the Baptist and Methodist movements that were flourishing. The author of the article is Matthew Newsome, a kilt maker and curator of the Scottish Tartans Museum (US extension) in Franklin, NC, and a member of the Guild of Tartan Scholars.

**The British Postal Museum and Archives**

[www.postalheritage.org.uk/](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk/)

The museum's search room is located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London. The museum's website has many features, among them, a history area that contains a list of PDF files containing information on subjects like mail coaches, official cats and other animals in the post office, design and history of pillar boxes, and other historical topics related to the postal system. There is also a section devoted to family historians (Click on the dropdown marked "Visiting"). According to the site, the post office was one of the largest employers in the country. The site provides several useful articles about family history and a downloadable PDF document called Family History Guide.

*Thanks to Annie Lloyd for this item.*

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

**Australia Cemetery Indexes**

[www.cemindex.arkangles.com/inscriptions.php](http://www.cemindex.arkangles.com/inscriptions.php)

If you have ancestors in New South Wales, you might check out this index of tombstone inscriptions (note that it is not an index of burials, so information about grave sites without a monument will not be found here). The site allows searching on full or partial surname, and retrieves the name, the information on the tombstone, the name of the cemetery and, in some cases, a photograph of the tombstone. This is a work in progress that originally focused on New South Wales, but has been expanding beyond that area. At present, 399 cemeteries in NSW have been indexed, 48 in Queensland, but only six cemeteries in other regions.

**New Zealand Records**

[www.bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz/Home/](http://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz/Home/)

Some death, birth and marriage records of New Zealand may be searched online, although not all records. Records available to website searchers are those births that occurred at least 100 years ago, stillbirths that occurred at least 50 years ago, marriages (and eventually Civil Unions) that occurred at least 80 years ago and deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago (or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago). The search is free. A printout of a pre-1875 record costs \$26 and a post-1874 record costs \$20, both in New Zealand dollars. Certified legal documents cost more. One New Zealand dollar is currently equal to slightly more than fifty USA cents. Good luck with finding your New Zealand cousins.

**Crowded Genealogical Facilities in Scotland**

[www.rampantscotland.com/let090207.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/let090207.htm)

Wear comfortable shoes when you make your next genealogical trip to Scotland. You may be standing in long lines. The 7 February 2009 issue of *Scottish Snippets* reports that Scotland's People Center at West Register House in Edinburgh is frequently "full to capacity." *VisitScotland*, the national tourist organization of Scotland, advertises that twenty percent of visitors to Scotland pursue genealogy while in the country. The crowded People Center at the West Register House was designed to have many resources at the same location along with staff to help. The General Registers of Scotland is encouraging more family history centers to be opened in local libraries, as the city of Dundee has recently done at its Central Library. Hopefully, the new centers will have more researching spaces.

**Celebrate the Culture of Wales at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival**

[www.folklife.si.edu](http://www.folklife.si.edu)

If your vacation plans take you to Washington, DC this summer, check out the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, held on the Smithsonian mall (National Mall) that is held for two weeks around Independence Day weekend (June 24-June 28 and July 1-5, 2009). One of the themes in 2009 will be the language, literature, crafts, music, cooking, occupations, and arts of Wales. The festival is free, entertaining, educational and a whole lot of fun. The ultimate folk fair, according to Fran, a veteran of these festivals.

*Thanks to Annie.*

**British Isles Family History Society - U.S.A.**  
**Descendants of Colonial Tavern Keepers**

[www.flagonandtrencher.org](http://www.flagonandtrencher.org)

According to this site, someone back in 1962 noticed that there was a lineage society for just about everybody's ancestor, except for tavern keepers. This problem was soon remedied by creating The Flagon and Trencher society. The group's main purpose is to establish "a good repute for Colonial tavern keepers" through: "Collecting information about taverns and tavern keepers, their customs, recipes, menus and other historical data; Disseminating the information to members and other interested people; Building a body of genealogical records showing descent from tavern keeper ancestors; and Creating a feeling of good fellowship through meetings." The meetings are held at Colonial taverns still in existence that serve authentic meals.

It sounds to us like they have a good time. To join this society, one must prove that an ancestor "was licensed by the local authority to conduct the business of keeping an ordinary, hostelry, inn or hotel or licensed to sell spirituous liquors." According to the site, not all taverns in the old days had quaint names, as they were usually located in the home of the owner. Taverns were given names in larger municipalities, in order to distinguish them from their competitors. The society has published biographies of Colonial tavern keepers and lineages, and has begun an extraction project, in which they are identifying all the keepers of taverns, inns and ordinaries before July 4, 1776 in the areas that would later become the original thirteen states. Even if you are not eligible to join, you may find the society's website interesting. The website has a page for children, and in the References and Links Section, there is a list of sites with historical information on related topics. The society's site also provides information on the art and history of toasting. The Flagon and Trencher's Traditional Toast is one any genealogist can relate to:

"Here's to our ancestors! Without them where would we be?"

**Two Other Colorful Lineage Societies**

**Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters:** [www.ancientplanters.org/about.htm](http://www.ancientplanters.org/about.htm)

The purpose of the Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters is to honor and perpetuate the memory of the Ancient Planters; to promote historical and genealogical research; to inspire patriotism; and to enhance fellowship among those of similar interests. The term "Ancient Planter" is applied to those persons who arrived in Virginia before 1616, remained for a period of three years, and paid their passage. They received the first patents of land in the new world as authorized by Sir Thomas Dale in 1618.

**The Order of Descendants of Pirates and Privateers:** [www.piratesprivateers.org/](http://www.piratesprivateers.org/)

This hereditary organization was created to honor the memory and deeds of pirate and privateer ancestors. One must prove lineal descent from officers or crew of pirate ships, American privateers, coastal raiders, or certain other related persons during the period of 1609–1865. Members of the society refer to themselves as "Shipmates."

**News from Northern Ireland**

[www.news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk\\_news/northern\\_ireland/7848697.stm](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/7848697.stm)

Jim McNamara sent in this story found on the BBC News website that reports on a controversial proposal to pay £12,000 to families of all those killed during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. The article can be found at the above URL.

*Thank you, Jim!*

## **Occupation Lists**

Colonial Occupations, a list by Sam Behling: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rigenweb/ocupaton.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rigenweb/ocupaton.html)

Old Scottish Occupations on ScotsFamily: [www.scotsfamily.com/occupations.htm](http://www.scotsfamily.com/occupations.htm)

Ranks, Professions, Occupations & Trades: [www.homepage.ntlworld.com/hitch/gendocs/trades.html](http://www.homepage.ntlworld.com/hitch/gendocs/trades.html)

Attention, all descendants of belly builders, whitewings, yatmen, limners and ranselmen! Find out what your ancestors were up to, by checking out the above lists. According to a "Colonial Occupations" list compiled by Sam Behling, a belly builder was a person who built and fitted the interiors of pianos (and not a person who did a lot of sit-ups, as we were tempted to believe). A whitewing swept the street and a yatman was the man at the gate. A ranselman in Scotland, according to "Old Scottish Occupations," was allowed by the court to search houses for stolen property. The GenDocs site, "Ranks, Professions, Occupations and Trades," states that a limner was an illuminator of books or painter.

### **Ireland Civil Registration Indexes 1845-1958 Now Online**

[www.wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ireland Civil Registration- Vital Records](http://www.wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ireland%20Civil%20Registration-Vital%20Records)

Recently, FamilySearch added a new database, an index of Ireland civil registration records, which includes:

Births (1864-1958)

Marriages (1845-1958)

Deaths (1864-1958)

Searching the database is simple. Just enter the name, select the life event (birth/christening, marriage, death/burial), enter a year and place and click the Search button. While the results are not linked to actual images of the certificates, they do provide clues (such as estimated birth year, age at death for a death record index) so you can order the actual certificate.

Once you have obtained the index information from the database, you will want to look at the original record. FamilySearch's new Research Wiki at the URL above explains how to do this.

*Thanks to Terry McVeigh*

### **Icelanders and Their mtDNA**

[www.plosgenetics.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pgen.1000343](http://www.plosgenetics.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pgen.1000343)

Iceland was settled at about 900 AD, approximately 1100 years ago. Massive immigration to Iceland did not take place after the early settlements. The individuals who went to Iceland were from Scandinavian countries, Scotland and Ireland. The Y-chromosome analyses of the Patrilineal ancestry of current Icelanders indicate a 75-80% origin in Scandinavian areas. It appears that 37% of the population traces mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) to Scandinavian nations and the remainder mostly to Scotland and Ireland. DNA was obtained from the teeth of ninety-five skeletons of individuals who died in Iceland prior to 1000 AD. The mtDNA of the early settlers was compared to the current populations of Iceland, Scotland, Ireland and Scandinavian countries, along with other European nations. Sequences reveal a closer relationship to contemporary populations of Scandinavian regions, Scotland and Ireland than to the population of Iceland. The genetic drift of the mtDNA of the descendants of the settlers occurred more quickly than the rate of genetic drift of the descendants of the ancestral origins. See the full report, *Sequences From First Settlers Reveal Rapid Evolution in Icelandic mtDNA Pool*, at the website above.

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

**Library and Archives of Canada**

[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html)

In February 2009, the Library and Archives of Canada added to its website the 1891 Canadian Census, increasing the size of its databases. The records are searchable, and digitized images may be viewed free of charge.

**Time of Birth on English Birth Certificates**

[www.ffhs.org.uk/ezone/articles/birthtimes.php](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezone/articles/birthtimes.php)

A time of birth on a British birth certificate does not always indicate a multiple birth. A warning appeared in an article of the February 2009 email magazine of Federation of Family History Societies. The article noted that a time of birth may be added to the birth certificate near a significant dates. The first baby born in a New Year would be an example. The article also suggested that a time of birth may be recorded on a certificate for no apparent reason. See the complete article at the website above for more details.

**See the Magna Carta**

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

[www.reaganfoundation.org/pressrelease.asp?press\\_id=137](http://www.reaganfoundation.org/pressrelease.asp?press_id=137)

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is exhibiting one of the original copies of the Magna Carta that was issued in 1215. Only four original copies still survive. The copy at the library is on loan from the Lincoln Cathedral, Lincolnshire. The exhibit will end on 20 June 2009. One of the witnesses of the signing was Hugh of Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, who returned with the copy to Lincolnshire. The Magna Carta was not considered to be an important document when it was signed. Hopefully many if not all of us will remember from our days in school that the Magna Carta became the basis of the rule of law for England and later the United States. (See also the report in the Los Angeles Times, Business Section, Consumers Briefs, Sunday, January 25, 2009, page 3)

*Thanks to Julie Chedzoy*

**Finding of the HMS Victory**

[www.cnn.com/2009/US/02/02/sunk.ship/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/02/02/sunk.ship/index.html)

[www.shipwreck.net/pr176.php](http://www.shipwreck.net/pr176.php)

The HMS Victory sank in 1744. Odyssey Marine Explorations has filed papers seeking salvage rights to the historic warship in U.S. District Court, Tampa, Florida. A representative of Odyssey believes that the ship sank during a violent storm. It was found in the English Channel approximately sixty-two miles from where it was thought to have gone down. Nearly 1,000 individuals lost their lives, 900 sailors and additional marines and volunteers. By the way, the flagship of Admiral Horatio Nelson sixty-one years later at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 was also called the HMS Victory.

**Be a BIFHS–USA Reporter**

[newsletter@bifhsusa.org](mailto:newsletter@bifhsusa.org)

Have you found an interesting or useful site that might help other family historians? Send it to Fran and Lydia at the above email address for publication in the newsletter.

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

### Calendar of Events

**14 March 2009: The Culinary Historians of Southern California**, Carol Penn-Romine will speak on "History of Irish Cookery." The meeting will begin at 10:30 AM at the Mark Taper Auditorium, Los Angeles Central Library. [www.culinaryhistoriansofsoutherncalifornia.org](http://www.culinaryhistoriansofsoutherncalifornia.org)

**14 March 2009: Annual Seminar of the Genealogical Society of North Orange County California**, "One-Step Webpages: a Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools" by Stephen Morse, Ph.D. [www.gsnocc.org/gsnocc/seminar09pg1.html](http://www.gsnocc.org/gsnocc/seminar09pg1.html)

**21 March 2009: The National Archives, Kew**, "Tudor Power, Pageantry and Propaganda" is the title of the one day conference. The coronation of Henry VIII was 500 years ago in 1509. Elizabeth I was crowned 450 years ago in 1559. See [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/conferences/tudor.aspx](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/conferences/tudor.aspx)

**22 March 2009: BIFHS–USA**, General Meeting, "Southern California Genealogical Research Opportunities" by Nancy Ellen Carlberg, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, and Study Group, "Royal Irish Constabulary: National Inventory of Documentary Sources of Trinity College Dublin" by Jim McNamara, 3:30 to 4:30 PM. [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org)

**26 April 2009: BIFHS–USA**, General Meeting "Using the British Records at the Orange Regional Family History Center" by Beth McCarty, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, and Irish Study Group, Using the New Online Family Records Search for Irish Records." By Jim McNamara, 3:30 to 5:00 PM. [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org)

**3 May 2009:** Federation of Family History Societies Family History Event with lectures & exhibits at Barbicon Centre, London [www.thefhevent.com](http://www.thefhevent.com)

**23 & 24 May 2009: Orange County USS Scottish Festival and Highland Games**, at the Orange County and Event Center, Costa Mesa, California. [www.scotsfest.com](http://www.scotsfest.com)

**24 May 2009: BIFHS–USA**, General Meeting at the Los Angeles Public Library and Genealogy Room, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. You always wanted to go, but have postponed the visit. **NOW** is the time! [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org)

**20 & 21 June 2009: Great American Irish Fair**, Irvine Meadows Fairground, Irvine, CA. [www.irishfair.org](http://www.irishfair.org)

**June 24-June 28 & July 1-5, 2009: Smithsonian Folklife Festival**, featuring the culture of Wales. [www.folklife.si.edu](http://www.folklife.si.edu)

**26 June 2009: BIFHS–USA**, No General Meeting. Visit our table at the Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree and attend sessions featuring British Isles research. (See next entry.)

**26 to 28 June 2009: Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree**, Plan to attend, and visit the BIFHS–USA table. Speakers include Ivan Johnson, President of BIFHS–USA, and Peggy Wishon, another BIFHS–USA member. Roundtable discussion will be held on Saturday, and BIFHS–USA members are encouraged to participate. [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com)

**26 July 2009: BIFHS–USA**, General Meeting at the Research Library of University of California Los Angeles, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Come and discover the wonderful genealogical resources at UCLA. [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org)

**23 August 2009: BIFHS–USA**, General Meeting at Southern California Genealogical Society's Library, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org)

**2 to 5 September 2009: Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference**, *Passages through Time*, Little Rock, Arkansas. [www.fgs.org/2009conference](http://www.fgs.org/2009conference)

**21 to 24 September 2009: International Genealogy Festival**, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland. [www.strathclydegenealogy.co.uk/](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. [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/magical/](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime/exhibitions/magical/)

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**Quiz Answer:** St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. St. Andrew's Day does not occur until 30 November when it will be appropriate to wear a thistle.

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



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

March/April 2009 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

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