



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

# NEWSLETTER

May/June 2009

Editors: Lydia Davis Jeffrey & Fran Smith

## **The Research Roadshow Has Arrived!**

The Los Angeles Regional Family History Center is now closed for renovations. We look forward to its reopening. Meanwhile, the search for our ancestors will continue. We of Irish, Welsh, Scottish and English descent will

### **“Hit the Road” to Follow the Research Roadshow!**

**SUNDAY  
24 May 2009**

**DIFFERENT LOCATION  
DIFFERENT TIME  
Los Angeles Central Library  
630 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
(1:30–4:30 PM)**

The first stop on the **Research Roadshow** will be the Los Angeles Central Library.

We will be meeting in the History and Genealogy Department located on Lower Level Four (-4) of the Tom Bradley Wing.

Librarian Michael Kirley of the Historical Section will give a quick explanation of what is available, and where to find it. The rest of your time is yours to search the stacks and review the wonderful materials in the Central Library.

**SEE IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS  
on pages 3 and 4!**

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY  
26–28 June 2009**

**SCGS 2009 Jamboree  
Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel  
And Convention Center**

Instead of holding a general meeting, the second stop of the **Research Roadshow** will be the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree. This year, the British Isles is the special emphasis of the Jamboree. Details about this three-day event and its cost are available at [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com).

Be sure to stop by the BIFHS–USA table in the exhibition hall. Better yet, volunteer to staff the table for an hour or two and participate in the roundtable discussions on Saturday evening. Among the many speakers will be two people well-known to BIFHS–USA members: Peggy Wishon will give an updated version of her talk, “Expect the Unexpected,” and our president, Ivan Johnson, will speak on “Constructing the Lives of Our Ancestors in 19<sup>th</sup> Century England.” We hope to see you at the Jamboree.

**Mark your calendar for another important date, 10 October 2009, for the BIFHS–USA Seminar. Judith Eccles Wight will present information about poor laws, estate records and more! Stay tuned...detailed information will be provided in the next issue.**

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

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

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

### President's Message

With our April meeting our use of the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center unfortunately came to an end — at least for the time being. So we thank President McBride and his staff for allowing us the opportunity to meet in such a great venue, and we look forward to returning in the not too distant future to what we all anticipate will be a new and improved facility.

In the meantime, Nancy Ellen Carlberg, our Vice-President for Programs, has made arrangements for us to take advantage of this enforced hiatus in LARFHC visits. During the coming months we will be using our usual meeting times to visit many of the local repositories of genealogical and historical records, giving us an excellent opportunity to find out exactly what helpful material is available on our own doorstep. If you have never been to these other libraries, I hope you will take advantage of this chance to go on what we might call "supervised visits." As explained elsewhere in this newsletter, our **Research Roadshow** will begin in May with a visit to the central branch of the L.A. Public Library.

There will be no regular meeting of the Society in June as our meeting time coincides with the Southern California Genealogical Society's **Genealogy Jamboree**. In lieu of our meeting, I hope that many of you will attend the Jamboree. The "ethnic emphasis" this year is on the British Isles, so it's our time to make our presence known and to interest others in our area of expertise, and in our Society. Come and be part of the fun!

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

### Co-Editors' Message

The upcoming months promise interesting travels and new discoveries for BIFHS–USA members! Please read pages 3 and 4 for important information about the different location, time and parking instructions for our May meeting. On page 5 there is information about BIFHS–USA's participation in Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree. Please help by staffing our exhibitor table and joining in the informal Saturday night roundtable discussions.

Thanks to Annie Lloyd, Jessie Tait, Joyce Dillard, Terry McVeigh, Gail Johnson, Ivan Johnson, Kathy Smith and Kay Devonshire for their help with this newsletter. To Nancy Ellen Carlberg, who has printed, folded, stapled and mailed the newsletter for the past several years, we extend a very special thank-you.

For their considerable help in "publishing" this issue, we are very grateful to Dolores Anderson and her "boss," Michael Horner of Tom Sawyer Camp, where young, future genealogists can have outdoor adventures similar to those many of their ancestors had.

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

### Lydia's Quiz

1. Where can you find the ancestors of half of the people of Britain?
2. Where will you be on 24 May?
3. How will you get to Los Angeles Central Library?
4. When should you arrive there?
5. Why will there be no June meeting?



**BIFHS–USA Research Roadshow  
2009 Meetings with Research Opportunities at Regional Archives**

You've heard the saying, when a door shuts, a window opens. Starting in May, a window of opportunity will open to explore new libraries and resources that are specific to British Isles research and available right in our own back yards. While LARFHC undergoes its renovations, the society will travel to new locations, and with the help of knowledgeable people, discover what genealogical treasures are there.

We are calling our upcoming series of meetings our **Research Roadshow**, because BIFHS–USA is going on the road. Each month we will visit a different location and learn what it has to offer for British Isles family historians. The first stop on our tour of local genealogical repositories is the Los Angeles Central Library. It contains more than 40,000 genealogy-related books (among them, 10,000 family histories), in addition to one of the largest map collections that can be found in a public library. The map collection includes topographical maps for all over the United States and areas of Mexico, Canada and Great Britain. The library also has in its newspaper collection *The Times* of London on microfilm.

How many times have you heard about good resources available at a library or archive and either gone there alone and struggled to find what you need, or just not bothered to go at all? For the next few months, take advantage of this chance to discover these local facilities in the company of friends and with the help of a knowledgeable guide who will direct us specifically to British Isles research materials contained therein.



**Important Information About the 24 May Meeting  
Nancy Ellen Carlberg, Program Chair, Sent This Message**

Hi, We are all set to go to the Los Angeles Central Library on 24 May. The librarian, Michael Kirley, is expecting us and will give an overview of what is there. He has been there almost forever and knows the department well. Michael suggests that, before coming to the meeting, we check the library catalog online ([www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)) and also check the online resources under Genealogy and History, as they are adding the older card catalog to the computer as well. They have done England, and maybe Ireland completely, but Scotland and Wales will take a while. They are going alphabetically. The newer items have already been listed on there (so even for Scotland and Wales you should check it).

Because the parking lot doesn't let you park for the \$1.00 flat fee with library card validation **until after 1:00**, we are going to start our meeting at 1:30. Instead of dealing with parking logistics, you might want to take the train and Dot service in. If you do get there early, I will be at the Carl Jr.'s across the street to meet with anyone who wants help with their research. I, as your program person, also recommend that you bring your family group sheets and timelines and be prepared to jump into your research.

Remember, in June we are not having a regular meeting. Go to the Jamboree instead. Keep watching our website and your newsletter to see where we are going next. And be sure to put the 10th of October on your calendar for our seminar. There will be no regular meeting that month. See you at the Los Angeles Central Library on the 24th.

*Nancy Ellen Carlberg*

## Parking at Los Angeles Central Library

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

The following information is taken from the website of the Los Angeles Central Library: The Central Library does not own or operate a parking facility. It has negotiated a reduced parking rate at Westlawn Garage, 524 S. Flower Street. The parking rate is \$1 on Sunday between 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM with library validation. **If library patrons enter or leave Westlawn Garage when the library is closed (before 1:00 PM or after 5:00 PM), they will be charged the Market Rate for the entire visit, even with library validation. So, if you plan to park in this lot, arrive after 1:00 PM and leave before 5:00 PM.** Parking validation is available at the Library Information Desk (first floor) upon presenting a Los Angeles Public Library card which can be obtained at the Information Desk on a first visit to the Central Library.

### Directions to Los Angeles Central Library (as Provided on Their Website)

**From Long Beach:** Take the Harbor / 110 Freeway north; exit on Third Street, going east; follow the signs to Flower Street South; turn right (south) on Flower Street; continue past the Library and turn left into the 524 S. Flower Street garage.

**From Pasadena:** Take the Pasadena / 110 Freeway south; exit on 4th Street going east; turn right on Olive Street; turn right on Fifth Street. Continue west past the Library to Flower Street and turn left (south) to the 524 S. Flower Street garage.

**From Riverside / San Bernardino:** Take the San Bernardino / 10 Freeway west to the Hollywood (101) Freeway; exit on Grand Avenue (south). Turn right on Fifth (west) to the Library. Continue past the library to Flower Street, and turn left (south) to the 524 S. Flower Street garage.

**From Santa Monica / Westside:** Take the Santa Monica / 10 Freeway east to the Harbor/110 Freeway. Go north on the 110 Freeway, and exit on Third Street (east); follow the signs to Flower Street South; turn right on Flower Street; continue past the Library and turn left into the 524 S. Flower Street garage.

**From San Diego:** Take the San Diego / 405 Freeway north to the Harbor / 110 Freeway. Go north on the 110 Freeway, and exit on Third Street (east); follow the signs to Flower Street South; turn right on Flower Street; continue past the Library and turn left into the 524 S. Flower Street garage.

**From San Fernando Valley / Ventura:** Take the Ventura / 101 Freeway east to the Hollywood / 101 Freeway, then south to the Temple Street exit. Go straight off the exit south down Hope Street. Hope merges into Flower Street. Proceed to the 524 S. Flower Street garage.

**Public Transportation:** The Metro Blue Line (7th St./Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station) and Metro Red Line (7th St./Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station and Pershing Square Station) both have stops near Central Library. Most buses that come downtown stop near the Central Library. Check the MTA web site ([www.metro.net/](http://www.metro.net/)) for rates, routes and schedules.

**If you arrive before the library is open:** Nancy Ellen Carlberg will be at the Carl's Jr. at 444 S. Flower Street (not the one on S. Grand Avenue) and is willing to give personal help with research. Have your group sheets and timelines with you when you talk to her.

**JAMBOREE HELP WANTED!  
26-28 June 2009**

This year BIFHS–USA is a proud sponsor of the SCGS Genealogy Jamboree, offering **two talks**, staffing an **exhibitor's table**, and participating in **"It's a Small World" roundtable discussions** on Saturday evening (27 June, 6:00 to 7:00 PM). But we can't do all this without YOU! As a society specializing exclusively in British and Irish research, it seems appropriate that we participate as much as possible. We can use your help at the exhibitor's table. It would also be terrific if as many as possible could take part in the roundtable discussions. These are informal gatherings of people doing research in particular locales world-wide. When it comes to British and Irish research, we are the experts, so come and be prepared to share your knowledge.

**If you can help staff the Society's table, and/or participate in the roundtable discussions, please sign up at our next meeting or let a board member know.**

**For Jamboree information (cost, parking and schedule),  
see [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com).**

**In Memoriam Dan Wallace**

Our condolences upon the passing of Dan Wallace, husband of our member, Evelyn Wallace. In the 1980s, I can remember Dan and Evelyn attending LA Westside and later BIFHS–USA meetings. Dan always seemed to be so interested in his genealogy. God bless you, Evelyn.

*Annie Lloyd*

**In Memoriam William T. "Bill" Mooney**

We are saddened to report the passing of long-time BIFHS–USA member William T. "Bill" Mooney, Jr., on 19 February 2009. Some years ago Bill led the Society's Internet Interest Group, and, with Linda Jonas, he provided the Annotated List of Links for British Isles Family History and Genealogy for the BIFHS–USA website. He will be missed.

*Ivan C. Johnson*

**County Roscommon**

[www.roscommonhistory.ie/People/JohnHunter/jhunter.htm](http://www.roscommonhistory.ie/People/JohnHunter/jhunter.htm)

John Hunter, who has been researching County Roscommon, Ireland for many years, put his databases for the county on CD in 2004. A second CD followed in 2006 with a second edition in 2007. The third edition with enhancements and additional materials has been released. The website given above has an online sample of one of John Hunter's databases, an Index to Roscommon Townlands, and a link to purchase the CD. This may be a useful item if you are looking for ancestors in County Roscommon.

*Thanks to Terry McVeigh for suggesting this County Roscommon research tool.*

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

**Border Crossing from the U.S. to Canada, 1908–1935**

[www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca)

Jessie Tait writes: Ancestry recently added Border Crossings from the U.S. to Canada from 1908 to 1935. I used this information to track the movement of my father's first wife. She joined him in southwestern Saskatchewan in 1916. I had previously found her arrival in New York City but did not know where she crossed the U.S./Canadian Border. I found the record in which she crossed at Emerson (a border crossing in Southern Manitoba). I also found that they had been married in Winnipeg, Manitoba the day after she crossed the border into Canada.

**Lost Cousins**

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

The Lost Cousins website is wonderful for you to use to find your long lost British Isles relatives. The site is free to join and search. To make certain that connections made are truly "cousins" an individual enters information about their ancestor from the 1880 US census, the 1881 Canadian and Scottish censuses, or the 1841 and 1881 censuses of England and Wales. The "cousins" match is made based upon the census information of the ancestor. The 1880 US census and the 1881 Canadian, English and Welsh censuses are available free on FamilySearch. The 1881 Scottish census and the 1841 English and Wales censuses are available with subscription at findmypast.com.

*Thanks to Jessie Tait for the above two items.*

**New Members**

September 2008

Hal Horrocks, Costa Mesa, CA

January 2009

Frances B. Hall, Winnetka, CA

February 2009

Michael J. Dunn, Asbury, MO

March 2009

Donald Bentley, Claremont, CA

John Riley, Los Angeles, CA

April 2009

Mildred M. Buckner, Monterey Park, CA

We give a warm welcome to our new members. Donald Bentley is researching the surnames Alexander, Pendleton, Coldren, Lyon, White and Bentley and locations of Scotland, England, Ireland, New England, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois and Tennessee. John Riley is researching Riley (Reilly) and Crilly in southern County Louth. Mildred Buckner is researching Buckner in Berks/Oxfordshire, Mobley in Cheshire and Newby in Middlesex/London/Warwickshire.

**Take advantage of the BIFHS Bargain**

Terry Brown, Membership Chair, says: For every new member you introduce to BIFHS–USA and who joins our society, you get \$5 off your next annual dues. If you have friends who have been putting off their genealogical research, convince them to join us. Let us help them find their ancestors. Get seven friends to join and you get one year INDIVIDUAL membership free! The more the merrier! Notify [vp-membership@bifhsusa.org](mailto:vp-membership@bifhsusa.org) when your friend signs up.

**Factoid:** Many online databases of the Los Angeles Public Library system can be accessed from home. See <http://databases.lapl.org/>



## **Annie's page**

### **National Archives newsletter**

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)



Annie Lloyd reports that The National Archives in the United Kingdom sends out a monthly newsletter with all sorts of interesting websites and other information. This month they have one on the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII. She found that the portion on parchments was very interesting, showing how they made their inks, how they wrote it, etc. "Remember, all you Welsh people," Annie says, "Henry VIII came from the House of Tudor and had Welsh ancestry."

### **British Local History**

[www.britishlocalhistory.co.uk/british\\_local\\_history.html](http://www.britishlocalhistory.co.uk/british_local_history.html)

This site provides a place for members of the general public to contribute information, videos, stories and images about local history, genealogy, family trees, historic events and other history related articles. At present it contains over 200 links to history societies and a forum for every major town in the United Kingdom. In one article, a man who grew up in Holcot, Northhamptonshire reminisces about May Day celebrations when he was a schoolboy. Another article discusses cheesemaking and, another, The Dam Busters of World War II. Under the title of the website are several dropdown menus. The one marked "Regional History" has links to several different areas of England.

### **City of London Cemetery**

[www.newham.gov.uk/Services/ArchivesAndLocalHistory/AboutUs/ArchivesAndLocalHistoryCemetery.htm](http://www.newham.gov.uk/Services/ArchivesAndLocalHistory/AboutUs/ArchivesAndLocalHistoryCemetery.htm)

The above site provides a history of the City of London Cemetery. Among the thousands of Londoners resting there is Winston Churchill's nanny and World Cup winner Bobby Moore. Annie suggests that if you have ancestors buried there, you should note that the cemetery reclaims gravesites that are over 75 years old and reuses the gravesite and headstone. The process is explained in the article.

### **National Library of Wales Closure**

[www.assemblywales.org/index.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/index.htm)

The National Library of Wales closed on Saturdays as of 1 April 2009 because of a shortage of funds. The Federation of Family History Societies has requested that a petition be signed to keep the NLW open on Saturdays. To sign it, you need to go to the website of the National Assembly of Wales and sign the petition. Americans and Canadians are signing as well as people from the United Kingdom. Annie thanks you for your support!

### **Demolition of Calderdale Central Library**

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

The Calderdale Central Library and Archives of the General Registry Office may be demolished and replaced with a retail center. The Calderdale Council wants to move the library and archives to another location. The current location is in good condition, well used and built specifically for its purpose. The Federation of Family History Societies opposes the move. It believes that a new location would not be as functional, and encourages individuals to sign and forward the opposition petition on the website.

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

### Occupations

#### **Great Eastern Railway Society** - [www.gersociety.org.uk/](http://www.gersociety.org.uk/)

The Great Eastern Railway Society seeks to promote historical information and interest in the Great Eastern Railway (GER) along with other railways of the East counties and Northeast London. Employment records of the individuals who worked for GER are not found on this site, but, according to the genealogy link on the GER website, can be found at the National Archives ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/)). The GER site states that most staff records are in file, "RAIL227." A valuable service that the GER society offers to family historians is its archive of old issues of the *Great Eastern Railway Magazine* from 1911 to 1926. Upon request, a society member will review the magazines to look for a reference to a specific GER employee of that period. If your ancestor worked for GER during that time this offer might prove to be worthwhile.

#### **Women Workers in British Industrial Revolution** -

<http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/burnette.women.workers.britian>

The EH.net (Economic History Services) Encyclopedia contains an informative article by Joyce Burnette regarding the lives of women during the British Industrial Revolution, 1760-1830. It is not a genealogy tool to use to find names of your ancestors, but is useful to understand the environment where your 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother may have lived.

#### **Tracing your Pub Ancestors** - [www.pubhistory.freemove.co.uk/phs/ancestors.htm](http://www.pubhistory.freemove.co.uk/phs/ancestors.htm)

This website does not have information about specific pubs, its owners or workers, but it is a wonderful source for a quick overview of the history of pubs and it defines many pub related occupations.

*Thanks to Kathleen (Doyle) Smith for the occupation information.*

#### **GRO's new website**

[www.direct.gov.uk/gro](http://www.direct.gov.uk/gro)

As of April 2009, the General Register Office (GRO) has a new website address as given above. The old address ([www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)) is still in use. However, it would be wise to update your address book. The new website is part of "Directgov," that hosts information on all public services in one place. There are links to various topics, among them, registrations of birth, stillbirths, adoption, marriage, civil partnerships and deaths. The site provides suggestions for family history research and use of GRO birth, death and marriage indexes, along with links to order certificates online.

Annie writes: "I ordered a certificate from the General Register House in England. It took about two weeks to get the certificate. When the charge came through my credit card, it read "Passport Office" with a very small charge of only 9.94GBP, which I didn't think was bad."

*Thanks to Annie Lloyd and Ivan Johnson for this item.*

#### **Lecale, County Down, 1901 census transcription**

[www.lecalehistory.co.uk/1901/](http://www.lecalehistory.co.uk/1901/)

If your ancestors were from the barony of Lecale, County Down, Northern Ireland, see the website above, as the Lecale Historical Society has transcribed the 1901 census for that barony.

**BBC article about newfound World War I casualty records**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7940540.stm>

A historian, Peter Barton, has been commissioned to research ledgers and card indexes from World War I era, 1914–1918, that have been stored at the Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Records give information about the capture, death and burials of servicemen from thirty countries, providing lists of personal effects, home addresses and next of kin, locations of burial sites, as well as location of prisoners and their physical condition at the time of capture. Some of the information relates to mass graves. About \$2 million has been earmarked to digitize the information in a project that will begin in the fall of 2009 and involve specialists from several countries. The Red Cross expects to ask for volunteers in order to have the project completed by the centennial of World War I, in 2014.

*Thanks to Terry McVeigh and Annie Lloyd.*

**United Kingdom and Irish Police Forces**

Dublin Metropolitan Police (RIC)/Garda Siochana - [www.royalirishconstabulary.com/](http://www.royalirishconstabulary.com/)

Royal Irish Constabulary - [www.angelfire.com/mp/memorials/ric.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/mp/memorials/ric.htm)

U.K. Regimental Obituaries - [www.angelfire.com/mp/memorials/obits1.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/mp/memorials/obits1.htm)

Chronology of Irish History 1919-1923 - [www.dcu.ie/~foxs/irhist/index.htm](http://www.dcu.ie/~foxs/irhist/index.htm)

Roll of Honor - [www.policerollofhonour.org/Forces/IRELAND/NI\\_Roll\\_1800-1922.htm](http://www.policerollofhonour.org/Forces/IRELAND/NI_Roll_1800-1922.htm)

Belfast Harbour Police (RIC) - [www.britains-smallwars.com/ni/ric.html](http://www.britains-smallwars.com/ni/ric.html)

Garda Siochana Museum and Archives - [www.esatclear.ie/~garda/museum.html](http://www.esatclear.ie/~garda/museum.html)

Police Roll of Honor Trust - [www.policememorial.org.uk/](http://www.policememorial.org.uk/) and

Northern Ireland - [www.policememorial.org.uk/Forces/IRELAND/Northern\\_Ireland-Criminal\\_Acts.htm](http://www.policememorial.org.uk/Forces/IRELAND/Northern_Ireland-Criminal_Acts.htm)

Jim McNamara spoke about the “Royal Irish Constabulary: National Inventory of Documentary Sources of Trinity College Dublin” during the Study Group Meeting of March 2009. Terry McVeigh sent us a follow-up providing the links given above. Names and information about members of police forces in Ireland and the United Kingdom and the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) can be found on the websites. Terry wrote that her mother’s cousin, Sergeant John Bruin of the RIC, was killed during an armed robbery in Belfast City in 1922. His name is included on the last link. Sergeant Bruin’s name is also listed on the Memorial at St Paul’s Cathedral in London honoring the RIC who died between 1836 and 1922. Unfortunately, Terry was not aware of that fact when she visited London and saw St. Paul’s Cathedral.

*Thanks to Terry McVeigh for the websites as well as for sharing her personal connection.*

**Colleen Fitzpatrick featured in *Scientific American***

[www.sciam.com/blog/60-second-science/post.cfm?id=csi-alaska-air-crash-victim-identif-2009-03-26](http://www.sciam.com/blog/60-second-science/post.cfm?id=csi-alaska-air-crash-victim-identif-2009-03-26)

Those of you who attended a couple past BIFHS–USA meetings in which Colleen Fitzpatrick talked about DNA and about gleaning information from photographs may be interested in reading a *Scientific American* article about her efforts in identifying the remains of a serviceman found in the wreck of Northwest Flight 4422. She worked as the forensic genealogist on the project with the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL). There is also more about the subject on Colleen’s Identifinders website under Case Histories at [www.identifinders.com/index.php?id=16](http://www.identifinders.com/index.php?id=16)

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

**London Historical Records from 1500s to 1900s Now Online**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/lma](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/lma)

The City of London and Ancestry.co.uk entered a partnership to digitize documents from the London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Manuscripts. The documents will become available online and may be accessed at the website above. Eventually over 77 million records will be in the database of 1500-1900 London Historical Records. Josh Hanna, who is senior vice president of ancestry.co.uk, estimates that half the people in Britain will find an ancestry in this collection. The documents cover more than 400 years and include registers of more than 700 churches. Some of the first items to appear online were the Board of Guardians records, also known as the workhouse records. Other records that have or will become available include Parish Birth Registers from 1538 to 1906, Parish Marriage Registers to 1921, Parish Burial Records until the end of 1812, Bishops Transcripts, School Admissions and Discharges Records to 1911, Non-Conformist Registers, Electoral registers and poll books to 1965, Land Tax documents, Diocesan divorce exhibits containing evidence as to why the marriage failed, transportation records from the Middlesex Sessions of the Peace and some wills. Ancestry.co.uk is available at Family History Centers or under a subscription service with Ancestry.com.

*Thanks to Kay Devonshire*

**BIFHS–USA News**

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

If you find an interesting or useful site that might help other family historians, please send it to Fran and Lydia at the above email address for publication in the newsletter.

**Quiz answers**

**1. Where can you find the ancestors of half of the people of Britain?** In the London Historical Records from 1500s to 1900s. Josh Hanna, an executive of ancestry.co.uk, stated, "We estimate that half of Brits will be able to find an ancestor in this collection." See the website mentioned in the first news item on this page for more information.

**2. Where will you be on 24 May?** The Los Angeles Central Library's History and Genealogy Department where our next BIFHS–USA meeting will be held, of course!

**3. How will you get to Los Angeles Central Library?** Depends on where you live. See page 4 for instructions. If we see you at the library on 24 May, you've answered correctly.

**4. When should you arrive there?** If you come by train or bus, you can arrive early and talk to Nancy Ellen Carlberg at the Carl's Jr. See pages 3 and 4. If you are driving and plan to park in the lot rented by the library, you must enter the parking lot **after** 1:00 PM and be out **before** 5:00 PM in order to pay the \$1 flat fee. See pages 3 and 4 for special important instructions.

**5. Why will there be no June meeting?** Because we will all be at SCGS's Jamboree. Please join in the roundtable discussions on Saturday evening and help out at our society's table.

**Get your official BIFHS–USA merchandise at [CafePress.com/bifhsusa](http://CafePress.com/bifhsusa)**

## Calendar of Events

**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, 1:30 to 4:30 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, California. [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)

**28 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 and Peggy Wishon. Roundtable discussions will be held on Saturday, and BIFHS–USA members are encouraged to participate. [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com)

**27 & 28 June 2009: San Diego Scottish Highland Games**, at Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, California. [www.sdhhighlandgames.org/](http://www.sdhhighlandgames.org/)

**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)

**28 July to 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/)

**7 to 29 August 2009: Edinburgh Military Tattoo**, The performances near Edinburg Castle of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo will be its 60<sup>th</sup> season and will commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert Burns birth. Free lunchtime events will be held in Glasgow, West Lothian, East Ayrshire and Jedburgh. [www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk/tattoo-experience/index.html](http://www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk/tattoo-experience/index.html)

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

**28 to 31 August 2009: FFHS General Meeting**, "*Open the Door & Here Are the People*" is being hosted by Halsted Trust at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham. [www.halsted.org.uk](http://www.halsted.org.uk) and [www.openthedoor.org.uk/page855.html](http://www.openthedoor.org.uk/page855.html)

**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/)

**27 September 2009: BIFHS–USA** General Meeting at Santa Barbara Genealogical Society's Library. [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org)

**10 October 2009: BIFHS–USA Seminar**. Judith Eccles Wight will speak. Location, time and cost will be announced later. Watch [www.bifhsusa.org](http://www.bifhsusa.org) for more details. ***SAVE THIS DATE!***

**22 November 2009: BIFHS–USA**, General Meeting, "*Show and Tell*," Location TBA.

**29 June to 2 July 2011: Celts in the Americas Conference**, at Saint Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, presented jointly by the Celtic Studies Department of St. Francis Xavier University and the Centre for Cape Breton Studies at Cape Breton University. [www.stfx.ca/academic/celtic-studies/news.html](http://www.stfx.ca/academic/celtic-studies/news.html)

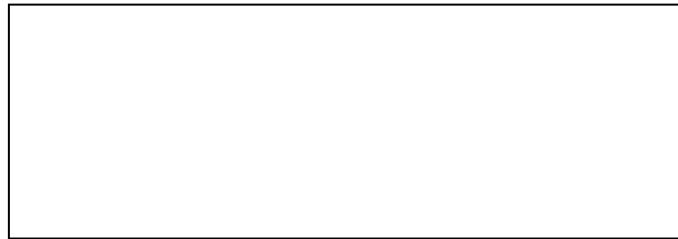


## British Isles Family History Society – U.S.A.

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

May/June 2009 Newsletter

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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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