



NEWSLETTER

Genealogy and Local History Section

Newsletter Number 14/ June 2009





The new IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section Website front page 2009
www.ifla.org/en/genealogy-and-local-history

Contents	
GENLOC on the Web.....	1
Words from the Chair.....	1
Russell S Lynch, GENLOC Secretary.....	2
MILAN 2009: GENLOC programme.....	3
Wales's debt to Milan.....	4
<i>History is impossible without us: Family History at the Russian State Children's Library</i>	6
Godfrey edition UK historical maps.....	8
<i>Step by step: exhibition at the National Library of Wales</i>	9
<i>Preserving the Past for the future: 12th Australasian Congress, Auckland</i>	10
Videos on <i>Roots Television</i>	11
Chinese-Canadians: Profiles from a Community.....	12
Genealogical Societies and Archives: anniversaries.....	12
Index to Newsletters 1-13 on the web.....	12

GENLOC on the Web
www.ifla.org/en/genealogy-and-local-history

In the past months, Janet Tomkins, GENLOC Information Co-ordinator, has been especially active building the new GENLOC web pages for our Section on IFLAnet. These pages include information about the Section and its officers; events; publications - including the Annual Report and the Newsletter; conferences; mailing lists; minutes of the Standing Committee and upcoming events. Please look at these pages and send any comments and possible additions to:

janettom@vpl.ca

Words from the Chair

This year has been an election year for members to the Standing Committees of the IFLA Sections.

I am happy to present a couple of new members taking their place on our Committee.

Susan Laura Lugo CA, Territorial Co-ordinator for Archives, Government of the Virgin Islands, Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands



Susan Laura Lugo CA
pictured in the Territorial Archives
www.virginislandpubliclibraries.org/usvi/archives.asp

Susan has been a corresponding member on our committee, and gave a very interesting paper presentation on Caribbean genealogy at the IFLA conference in Quebec. As a Dane, I have a special interest in the whereabouts of Susan. She is living in one of the three old Danish Virgin Islands that Denmark sold to the United States in 1917 for 25 million dollars. I have visited her in St. Thomas and seen there lots of old Danish archives – a great experience.

Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Librarian at the Bose Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. Arun is our first member from India, and I am looking forward very much to working with him.



Dr Arun Kumar Chakraborty
bic.boseinst.ernet.in/akc/

Fortunately we have also had some re-elections and members that have been elected for the period 2007-2011.

Information about all the committee members can be seen on the GENLOC Section website: www.ifla.org/en/node/559

Geographically the committee represents Asia (with China, India, Korea and Taiwan), Australia, Canada, Europe (with Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England) and the USA.

Professionally there is a great breadth of knowledge in our Committee as the members include archivists, reference librarians, fine art and history librarians etc. This wide-ranging knowledge base within our Section is another significant sign that genealogy and local history are subjects of growing interest, and it is a good omen for the future. I am looking forward very much to being a member of this Committee, and its Chairman, for the next two years.

Russell S Lynch, GENLOC Secretary



It is a great honor to serve on the IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section Committee as the GENLOC Secretary.

I grew up in the Salt Lake City area in Utah. I received an Honors BA in French from the University of Utah in 1987 and studied for a semester in Lisieux, France. I have a Masters of Library and Information Science from Brigham Young University. I am an Accredited Genealogist researcher in Midwestern States, and have served as President of the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) and in other leadership positions. UGA

presented me with a distinguished service award. Also, I am a member of the National Genealogical Society, based in Arlington, Virginia.

I have worked at the Family History Library since 1985 - as a reference librarian, database technician, and reference secretary. I have been involved with very many databases for the *FamilySearch.org* website. I have taught classes on record sources, software products, and research methodology at local, state, and national conferences. Currently, I work on the Collection Management Team.

I serve as Chair of the RUSA Local History Committee of the American Library Association (ALA). I have lectured at and arranged many large conferences for libraries and genealogy.

I have been married for over twenty years and have one daughter. Beside genealogy, I enjoy singing, playing the piano, photography, and gardening.

Russell S Lynch: lynchrs@familysearch.org

IFLA World Library and Information Congress Milan, Italy, 23-27 August 2009

Libraries create futures: building on cultural heritage

www.ifla.org/en/node/566



*Duomo di Milano – Milan Cathedral
(Wikipedia)*

The IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section presents an Open Session each year at the annual World Library and Information Congress. The 2009 conference will be held from 23-27 August 2009 in the Fiera Milano Convention Centre, Milan.

The theme of the GENLOC Open Session on Thursday 27th August will be ***Opening Up Our Cultural Heritage through Digitisation and Collaboration.***

Four presentations will be featured:

- ***Developing services for local history research through a digitization project: a public library case study:***

Bogdan Trifunovic (Public Library Cacak, Cacak, Serbia)

- ***Newcomers to Europe sharing their untold stories: digital storytelling using Web 2.0:***

Lone Hedelund (Citizens' Services and Libraries Aarhus-Gellerup and Hasle Libraries Aarhus, Denmark)

- ***Using Web 2.0, Open Source Technology and Social Networking Services to facilitate collaboration and access to Genealogy and Local History information:***

Ransom H Love (Strategic Relationships, FamilySearch International, USA)

- ***Creating the Blackfoot digital library: the challenge of cultural sensitivity:***

Marinus Swanepoel (University of Lethbridge Library, Alberta, Canada)



*A 19th century depiction of the Teatro alla Scala, Milan
(Wikipedia)*

IFLA GENLOC Field Trip, Milan

The annual IFLA GENLOC Field Trip takes place on Wednesday 26th August and will comprise an all-day walking tour, with visits to the Milan State Archives and the National Library Milan Braiden.

Please watch out for more details in the Conference programme and on the GENLOC web pages: -

www.ifla.org/en/events/milan-field-trip

IFLA Poster Sessions

At each Annual Conference IFLA presents a Poster Session alongside the Section programmes. For the first time GENLOC will be taking part with a poster depicting aspects of family history and genealogy. The aim is to encourage participation - ***Heredity and environment – genealogy and local history for all.***

Poster Sessions take place at lunchtime on Tuesday 25th August and Wednesday, 26th August.

Wales's debt to Milan



Emeritus Professor Dr. R. Geraint Gruffydd held the Chair of Welsh Language and Literature at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth from 1970-79, prior to being appointed Chief Librarian of the National Library of Wales. In 1986 he became the Director of the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies, and after his retirement in 1993 he served as President of the International Congress of Celtic Studies until 2003. He has published widely and is an eminent academic. During his period as Librarian of the National Library, he attended several IFLA conferences.

Milan has a Celtic name (Latin *Mediolanum* < Celtic* *Mediolanon* 'the central plain'). Indeed, there was another *Mediolanum* on the Welsh Border in Roman times, now Whitchurch in Shropshire. However, we are here concerned with a somewhat later period.

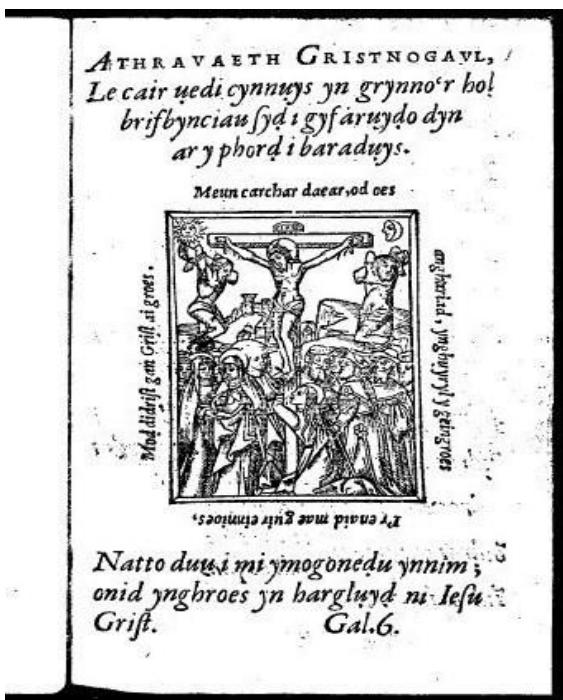
Perhaps surprisingly, Milan played a significant part in the history of Welsh printing and writing during the latter sixteenth century. This was ultimately due to the overwhelming presence at the duomo of the great reforming archbishop of Milan, San Carlo Borromeo (1538-1584). An Italian aristocrat and a nephew of Pope Pius IV, he early became a Cardinal-deacon and was consecrated Archbishop of Milan in 1565. A gifted administrator, he set himself the task of enforcing the decrees of

the Council of Trent throughout his Archbishopric: these included the establishment of a seminary to train priests. His heroism in sick-visiting during the 1576 visitation of the plague endeared him to his flock; less endearing was his exacting oversight of all that went on in his diocese. '*The demands he made on himself made him harsh and demanding to others*' (D. McCulloch, *Reformation* [2003] p 412).

When England, together with Wales, reverted to Protestantism with the accession of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558, the new religious order was enforced through the Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity of Elizabeth's first Parliament. Clergymen who refused to take the Act of Supremacy and accept the Book of Common Prayer were summarily deprived of their benefices. Among the Welsh clergy so deprived were the Bishop-nominate of Bangor Morys Clynog; the Archdeacon-nominate of Anglesey Gruffydd Robert; and a Fellow of New College, Oxford, Owen Lewis (an expert on both civil and canon law). Clynog and Robert were natives of western Caernarfonshire; Lewis came from Anglesey. Both Clynog and Robert had been members of Christ Church, Oxford, and Clynog in particular had enjoyed the patronage of Cardinal Reginald Pole. After their deprivation, all three churchmen made their way to the Catholic Low Countries, where they were made welcome by the University of Louvain. Eventually, however, they reached Rome and were given succour at the English Hospice, set up to provide hospitality for English and Welsh pilgrims to Rome.

Clynog remained in Rome, becoming Warden of the Hospice by 1565, and when the hospice was converted into a missionary college (The English College) in 1576, he became its first Rector. He was a persistent advocate of invasion plans to bring about regime-change in England and Wales. Student unrest – more precisely a revolt by English students against Welsh rule – forced his removal as Rector in 1579. He apparently planned to return to the Welsh mission-field and set sail from Rouen for Spain with that end in view, but was drowned *en route*, probably in 1580. Robert, on the other hand, was summoned to Milan by Borromeo in 1567, becoming Canon Theologian at the duomo and confessor to San Carlo. He was removed from his post as Canon Theologian around 1584, perhaps because of some illness which had affected his power of speech, but was found less exacting work within the Milanese Church; he appears to have died shortly after 1605. Lewis' career followed a rather more exalted trajectory. Having found favour in the papal court because of his administrative

abilities, he was in 1579 invited to Milan as Borromeo's Vicar-General, a post which he held until Borromeo's death (in Lewis's presence) in 1584. Lewis then returned to Rome as secretary of the Congregation of Bishops (among other offices). In February 1588 he was nominated Bishop of Cassano in the Kingdom of Naples, and was consecrated within the month. Soon, however, he was recalled to Rome to undertake various administrative tasks and was thought to be in serious contention for a Cardinal's hat; however, this was not to be. He died in Rome on 14th October 1594 and was buried in the chapel of the English College.



Athrawaeth Gristnogawl
one of the Welsh books printed in Milan.

None of these three eminent men forgot their native Wales during their long Italian exile. Clynnog produced one of the dozen earliest Welsh printed books to have survived. This (as has recently been shown) was an adaptation by Clynnog of a catechism by Diego de Ledesma SJ entitled in Italian *Dottrina Christiana* and in Welsh *Athrawaeth Gristnogawl*. Clynnog's version seems to have expanded Ledesma's original significantly and would repay detailed analysis. It was printed in Milan in 1568, probably by Vincenzo Giradoni, possibly at the Milan Diocesan Seminary; Robert contributed a foreword. The sole surviving copy is in the Newberry Library, Chicago and used to belong to Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte. It must have reached Wales in some numbers, however,

because a rebuttal of it (now lost) was published by Lewis Evans in 1571. It was reproduced by type-facsimile by the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion in 1880 and photographically by the Scolar Press in 1969.

Gruffydd Robert produced no specifically Counter-Reformation book; an adaptation ascribed to him of Fr. Robert Persons SJ's hugely popular *Book of Christian Exercise*, the first part of which was printed on a secret press in a cave in the Little Orme near Llandudno, north Wales, in 1587 (but the imprint says at Rouen in 1585!) is not now thought to be by him. He did, however, write and publish in six parts the first humanist grammar of the Welsh language. This is cast in the form of a quasi-Platonic dialogue located in a Roman vineyard, the interlocution being 'Gr' and 'Mo.', who were, of course, Robert and Clynnog thinly disguised. Robert was obviously well-versed in current Italian linguistic theory, particularly the writings of Claudio Tolomei and the Sieneese school of philologists. The first part of Robert's grammar dealt with orthography, the second with accidence, the third with metrical ornament, the fourth with metrics proper; the fifth and sixth parts, however, consisted of an anthology of Welsh verse and the beginnings of a translation of Cicero's *De Senectute*. Robert was the first great master of Ciceronian prose in Welsh, and his grammar has been compared in importance, as a model of humanist prose, with William Morgan's superb Welsh Bible of 1588. Considered strictly as a grammar, however, it was fairly soon superseded by Dr John Davies of Mallwyd's more scientific *Antiquae Linguae Britannicae - Rudimenta* of 1621. There is some mystery about the printing history of Robert's grammar, but all six parts were probably printed by Giradoni at the Seminary between 1567 and 1594. It was reproduced in type-facsimile by the University of Wales Press in 1939 and photographically by the Scolar Press in 1972.

Owen Lewis, as far as is known, published nothing in Welsh. In August 1579, however, he wrote twice to the Vatican Librarian, Cardinal Guglielmo Sirleto, asking him to use his influence with Pope Gregory XIII in order to secure a grant of 100 or 200 gold pieces so that three Welsh Counter-Reformation books could be printed and distributed: a version of St. Peter Canisius SJ's catechism *Summa Doctrinae Christiana*, a treatise on the Church and the primacy of the Pope, and another treatise on the Eucharist and Sacrifice of the Altar; these were to be sent to Milan to be printed under Robert's supervision. As far as is known, nothing came of this request, although a Welsh version of Canisius's catechism was printed at Paris in 1609

and 1611. However, Lewis's request shows clearly that he shared the convictions and aspirations of his more productive colleagues.

Bibliographical note: There are excellent articles on Clynog, Lewis and Robert in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

R. Geraint Gruffydd

History is impossible without us: the renaissance of family history

In 2008 Russian children's libraries organized a contest, 'My family'. The jury received about 200 entries from different parts of the country. Most of these were of a very high quality, as they were the best as selected at the local level. The young participants in the contest got a lot of help from their teachers, librarians, and parents. The children's essays used unique documents and photographs, memoirs of their relatives, and they also expressed their own thoughts about their families and the country.



Oksana Kabachek, Project organizer



'I come back to my family...': the exhibition in the Russian State Children's Library

Here are some extracts from the participants' essays:

Leonid (13 years), Archangelsk (a town in the north of Russia): - *'Where does my family come from? Where does my surname come from? Knowledge of your history defines your future life'*.

Daniel (14 years), Ulyanovsk (a town on the Volga): - *'It was even dangerous to have your family history. That's why some documents and family relics were lost. This, as I have known, was in my family too. The renaissance of family history in our time is very real'*.

Among the entries are many very interesting stories, and not just about Russia.

Vladislav (12 years): - *'The forefather of our family was a Turkish officer, who had been taken prisoner during the Russian-Turkish war (1768 – 1774). He got married to a Polish girl and adopted Catholicism. He was given a surname, Kobez. Then Russians and Ukrainians joined the family, and they adopted Orthodoxy'*.

Among the participants there were descendants of the sister of the famous Russian scientist, Michail Lomonosov, and of the German Baron Delvig, but unknown (so far) peasants' families predominated. And it was no less interesting to read about them.

In the children's essays the symbol of both the affluent and the impoverished years is certainly – food: pies and goose-food. (The first – an image of feasts and wealth; the last – a frightful sign of sorrowful times). The heroes, the great dreamers, the villains, the saints and devotees appeared on the pages of the children's work.

Raisa (11 years), Volgograd: - *'Tichon thought, thought and decided to plait wings from birch bark. And he plaited and flew, a peasant living in the last century, from the height of 8 meters... He stayed alive, but 'didn't try to fly anymore, only kept often looking at the sky'*.

Here is another character:

Darya (13 years), Sverdlovsk district (in the Urals): *'When he (the great-grandfather) came back from the war, his future wife was disappointed that he hadn't brought any gift. Then he bought a long cotton cloth and spread it from the village edge up to the wood'*.

Many essays told about Stalinist repressions.

Ivan (16 years and first prize winner in the older group for the nominated Family Story), Tver district (near to Moscow): - *'The question was: either to go to Siber, or to give everything to the commune. The family decided to give. They were*

driven out of their own house. On that day little Manya first saw her father cry. He said proudly to the authorities: "Take everything, leave only a dog!"

Some families had dealt with genealogy for five to ten years, so the level of the entries was very high. Nearly all of them told about difficult fortunes, and had details of everyday life and customs - interesting not only for historians and sociologists.

A book of the collection of the children's work is going to be published. The best essays were also presented in an exhibition in the Russian State Children's Library, with the title *'I come back to my family...'* (3rd February – 21st April 2009). This was a great success.



Visitors and children looking at the exhibitions

It was not an ethnographical exercise and not a 'collection of recipes' of how to survive in difficult times, not a sum of the methods of genealogical research, not an illustration for history textbooks - in spite of having much of all this. It was the impression of souls. Whose souls? The souls of the participants, the children and the adults, their ancestors and their descendants.

Different kinds of charts and family trees, including 3D trees using leaves for all the ancestors, were presented in the exhibition together with the extracts from the essays and illustrations. There were also some objects, for instance, a bag with embroidery showing a family tree.

One of the posters was headed *'What I have learned by researching my family?'*

Here are some children's answers:

'I have learned that there were no TV and computers and children played now forgotten ball games in the street'

'During the bombing it's more terrifying in the sea than on the land'.

'It turned out that my relatives lived in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Georgia, Turkey and even in France! All of them lived very long, up to 100 – 110 years old!'

What did the children realize in the process of these difficult genealogical searches?

'This is all my family!!! How many people!!! That's fine!'

'History is impossible without us.'

'The life was complicated, but it is worth being proud of it'.

'I wonder where they got the energy, optimism, the strength'...

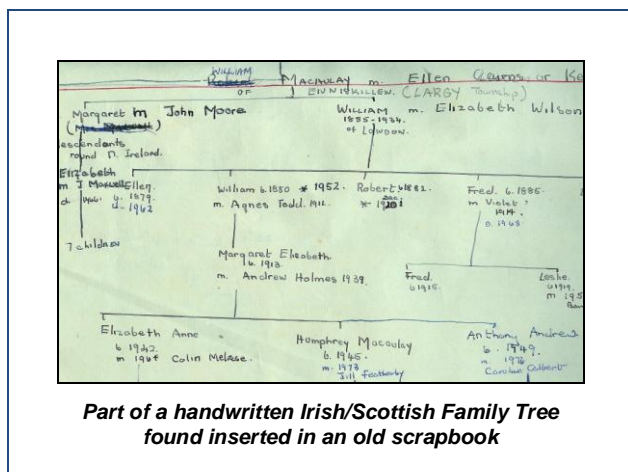
Alexandra (15 years), Vladimir district (near to Moscow) makes an unexpected conclusion: - *'I have taken roots on our Earth'.*

Having felt themselves the links of a chain, children, naturally, start to realize that they are not only somebody's descendants but also somebody's ancestors. They take responsibility.

Zoe (17 years): - *'I'll try to pass to my children this feeling of belonging to my family history'.*

We organized a Round Table for librarians during the exhibition and also held a lot of guided tours for children, students, teachers and other visitors. People often asked if it is possible for them to find some information about their ancestors, or if it would be better to leave this to professionals – historians, genealogists, local lore specialists. The work of our Project persuades us – it is possible to find your ancestors and it is necessary.

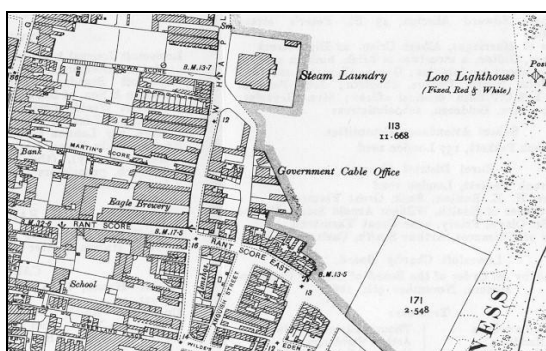
Oksana Kabachek, D.P. Russian State Children's Library
Translated by Olga Andreeva www.rqdb.ru



Old UK historical Ordnance Survey maps for family historians and genealogists – the Godfrey Editions

Alan Godfrey Maps have been publishing reprints of old UK Ordnance Survey Maps since 1981, and now have a title range of more than 2,200 maps. The majority of these maps are taken from the 1:2,500 (ie 25" to the mile) maps and reduced in scale to about 14" to the mile, meaning that they fit neatly onto an A2 sheet, are more compact than the originals without losing any of the fine detail and, neatly folded, can be slipped into the pocket for research in the field. We are also publishing a complementary series of Inch to the Mile reprints, with full coverage of England (Wales is already covered) by the end of 2010, and some larger scale 1:1,056 maps for major cities, reduced in scale to 1:1,760, or a yard to the mile.

These are, of course, paper maps and, after some initial fine-tuning, the format has changed little since the early 1980s. It may, at first glance, seem perverse that a series begun more than 25 years ago should so completely have ignored the development of computers, CDs and the internet, yet I believe that has proved to be its strength, as we have not been distracted by the latest fashion but been able to concentrate on essentials. It also – whisper it quietly - means that some of the slower selling maps published in the 1980s still look quite at ease with their more recent companions.



Extract from the UK Lowestoft (North) map
www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk/lowestoft.jpg

Our strength has always been in the major UK conurbations: London, of course, where we have published something like 400 maps, Manchester, Sheffield and so on, not to mention the Tyneside where it all began. There is no correlation between the affluence of a town and its success in our series; indeed, quite the reverse is often the case, and relatively unfashionable towns such as Burslem, Hartlepool, Rotherham or South Shields – not to mention the East End of London – have

always been far more popular than the maps for, say, Brighton or Oxford, despite what might be thought of as a serious handicap in the reluctance of booksellers to set up in the former towns. We have no bookshop here in Consett, (north-east England), or, indeed, in the whole of Derwentside.

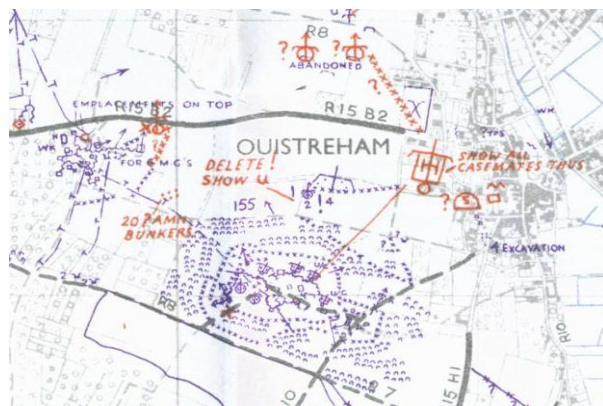
The reason behind this success, especially over the last few years, has been the popularity of the maps with family historians, who must now account for around half our sales. To this has been added the one area where we have truly adopted modern technology, the internet, for almost 40% of our sales are now made online through the website www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk - while several dealers who sell on eBay or other internet channels also do very well with the maps. Couple this with modest prices – the maps are just £2.25 each – and their handy size, and you have a series of paper maps which genealogists can buy and put to good use. You simply cannot open up a full map on a computer screen, something that seems to have escaped the notice of some, especially in our universities, who believe that there is now little need for the paper map. Many map libraries in Britain are now closing, and one geography map library is rumoured to have put its excellent map collection into the skip. Several academics believed, in a friendly way, that we were doomed a few years ago but that is definitely not the case.



Stall selling the range of Alan Godfrey historical maps at a UK Family History Fair 2008 ©alangodfreymaps

It is not so many years ago that genealogists were regarded as something of a nuisance in many libraries and record offices, possessed of a tunnel vision that can be tedious to the onlooker. Of course, some family historians – like many local historians – have limited horizons, and we do sometimes have to conceal our impatience with those who want us to check whether a map has a particular street before they fork out their £2.25. But over recent years I have been impressed with the high standard of articles in the various genealogy magazines, and with the talks and presentations at the fairs. Many of our genealogy

customers are indeed interested in the wider picture, reflected in the range of maps they buy, hopefully exploring the places where their ancestors not only lived but worked, were educated, socialised – or even fought. This latter is shown with the three D-Day maps we have published, which have proved very successful.



Map prepared for the Allied Invasion of Normandy, France, 1944, here covering the area around the bridge now known as Pegasus Bridge - the scene of the glider landings that have been called 'the greatest feat of flying of WWII'. The map is double-sided and covers the area from Ouistreham in the north, southward to Herouville, and westward to Cazelle. see: www.alangodfrey.com/dday.htm

We are now producing a group of 18 maps for the Ruhr in 1944, and these are selling both in Britain and Germany. Research in Germany is an enjoyable diversion for me, of course (and an excuse to visit the opera in Essen from time to time!) but our main work continues to be the urban areas of the UK.

The excellence of articles in genealogy magazines sometimes casts a dimmer light over local history, where too often in recent years – at least, during the 1990s - material has become polarised between collections of photographs with captions and the highly specialised PhD type article. We are trying to right this balance with fuller, 3,000 word essays on the back of our maps and feel this fills a major gap. Where else today, can you find on your shelf historical introductions for places as diverse as Edgware, Heathrow, Mirfield, Penarth, Trentham, to mention just a random handful of recent titles. Nevertheless, there must be concern that most of those writing about local history are in their 60s or upwards; where are the local historians of tomorrow?

We work hard, publishing around 125 maps a year and doing all the editing, camerawork, packing and world-wide distribution in-house, with a staff of just

four (including myself). I am often asked whether I will ever complete the task and the answer, of course, is *No!* We have only just, for instance, started work on maps for the 1930s. I believe the paper map, at an affordable price, has a great future and this is confirmed in the generous comments made by so many of our readers. We hope the library world will continue to support us!

Alan Godfrey, Alan Godfrey Maps, Prospect Business Park Leadgate, Consett, DH8 7PW England

alangodfrey.com Newsletters see: www.alangodfrey.com/newsletter-may.htm

Exhibition at the National Library of Wales



Step by step

**14 March 2009 -
5 March 2010**

'I wish I'd started earlier...' A familiar sentiment among family historians when they first start the journey of tracing their ancestors. Once the process of creating your family tree has begun, it's like a drug, which gets into your blood. During the process of researching your ancestors, it's likely that you may have to visit many local record offices as well as The National Library of Wales. The Library is the main repository for family history research in Wales, holding a vast number of records from all over the country. Useful material for the family historian such as printed books, paintings, maps and manuscripts can be found at the Library. Census returns, nonconformist records and tithe maps, to name but a few, are useful sources, to help all family historians at some point during their research.

The aim of this exhibition is to give a step-by-step introduction to the process of tracing your family tree by displaying some of the main sources available, which are constantly used by family historians.

Please email the Editor, GENLOC Newsletter, at elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com with any contributions for or comments on the Newsletter - both are welcome

Preserving the Past for the future:

**12th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry, Auckland, New Zealand
17th – 20th January 2009**

From 17th to 20th January 2009, representing the State Library of Victoria, I was fortunate enough to join more than 400 genealogists at the major tri-annual Australasian genealogy congress held under the auspices of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations and organised in 2009 by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. The Congress was held at King's School, a boarding college about thirty minutes from downtown Auckland in the suburb of Otahuhu, close to Auckland Airport. About 150 Australians traveled across the Tasman to the Congress.

Three Australian State Libraries (Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria) and the National Library of Australia were represented. There were also staff from a number of major New Zealand libraries, including the National Library of New Zealand and the City Libraries of Auckland and Christchurch. I took the opportunity to promote membership of GENLOC to the libraries present.



**Auckland War Memorial Museum
(Wikipedia)**

The Congress was very well-organised and the speakers were of a high standard covering a range of Australian, New Zealand and overseas topics, including some of the newer and evolving fields of genealogy, such as use of DNA. A number of these overseas speakers, such as Dick Eastman, the technology specialist, and John Grenham, the Irish expert, had never before visited Australia or New Zealand so this was a bonus.

One of the highlights was the pre-congress bus tour on Friday 16th January to four major Auckland repositories with holdings of genealogical relevance – Archives New Zealand (Auckland Regional Office), the Library of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, the National Maritime Museum and the Family History Section of the Auckland Research Centre in the Auckland City Library. The

latter was of special interest as it is in many ways similar to this Library's Genealogy Centre. Once a year the Auckland Library holds a 'lock in' for genealogists from 8pm when the Library closes until 8am the next morning. This has proven to be immensely popular despite the NZ\$40 per person charge. Their publicity is already being circulated for 2009 with the slogan '*Have you ever dreamed of spending the night in our research library?*'



Real Gold: treasures of Auckland Library

This digital exhibition shows the range of Auckland Library's collections, beginning with the donation of rare books and manuscripts by Sir George Grey in 1887
[0-www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/www.elgar.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/virt-exhib/realgold/real-gold.html](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/www.elgar.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/virt-exhib/realgold/real-gold.html)

A few major themes emerged over the four days of the Congress :

❖ **Use and adaptation of existing technology for genealogical purposes**

In his presentation *Resources, research, results in the 21st century*, Dick Eastman demonstrated how genealogical research methodologies have changed over the past fifty years. In earlier years genealogists had to travel in order to look at many records or find publications by others who had managed to see the records, both expensive and dependent on whether somebody had actually transcribed them. In a later presentation, *Grandpa in your pocket*, Eastman showed how genealogists today are adapting common technology to their own research needs; *GPS*, for example, is being used by some to track down hard to find cemeteries. In his paper on *Catalog 2.0* as detailed below, Paul Allen told of a German genealogy company that has a software package with an iPhone version for \$5.

❖ **Genealogy becoming more 'social', less isolated, with genealogists collaborating and working together (user generated content)**

In a fascinating paper, *Catalog 2.0 – Begin every Genealogy Search here using the Family History Library Catalog to bring genealogy into the 21st century*, Paul Allen concluded that 'Through technology, family historians are transitioning from an 'old' way to a 'new' way to do genealogy...' He continues '...In many cases, the 'old' way was through individual effort, or countless hours of researchers' and librarians' time. The shift is from the dedicated sacrifice of these individuals to open source or crowd sourcing where groups collaborate – where individual users collaborate and work together using Web 2.0 tools...'

❖ **Use of DNA testing for genealogy purposes**

American genealogist Megan Smolenyak, in her paper *DNA: which Test is right for you?*, gave an easy to understand summary of the current state of play in genetic genealogy which is basically DNA testing that is done specifically for the purpose of learning about your heritage. Megan emphasised that these tests do not shed any light on your predisposition to medical conditions.

❖ **Importance of preservation of current life stories**

Increasingly, genealogists are being encouraged to not only write the histories of their families but also to document their own stories for the future. Queenslander Jennifer Harrison outlined this biographical approach in her presentation *Days of Our Lives: preserving our own life stories*. Why is this so important? '...every single person matters and even fleeting reminiscences will be of interest to descendants, relatives, or friends, simply because we are all essential members of families and communities.' Harrison concluded that 'Not only will [this] demonstrate every person's place within a family group but hopefully will result in a summary which will amuse and delight...'

The 13th Australasian Congress with the theme *Your Ancestors in their Social Context* will be held from 28th to 31st March 2012 in Adelaide, my home town and will be hosted by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the 2009 Congress proceedings for your library this is available from the New Zealand Society - www.genealogy.org.nz - for NZ\$ 50.

The Auckland Congress provided me with an excellent learning opportunity at Australasia's major genealogy congress only held every three years. It also gave me the chance to network in person with staff from other major Australian and New Zealand libraries and to discuss shared issues and experiences relating to collections and services for genealogists. On a lighter note, as the venue for the Congress dinner, I saw Eden Park, the home of the All Blacks team, and the setting for the Rugby World Cup 2011. It was also wonderful to see rain, not something that we have seen much in Melbourne of late...

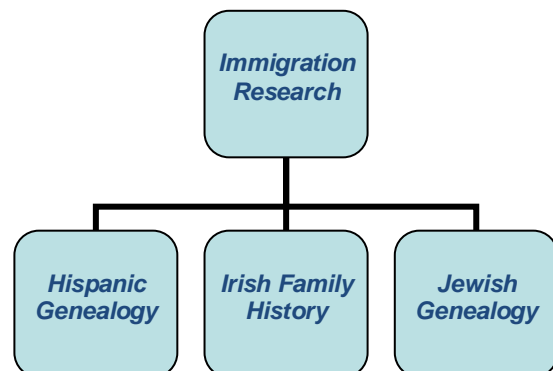
Anne Burrows, Genealogy Librarian
State Library of Victoria
ABurrows@slv.vic.gov.au

Free Genealogy and Family History Videos on Roots Television



www.rootstelevision.com
for genealogists and family history students

Roots Television offers free genealogy and family history video clips. Topics include conferences, how-to start researching your ancestry, information on DNA and African, British, Irish, Hispanic genealogy, libraries, archives, reunions, and photographic restoration and much more.



There are links to material on: African American genealogy; Ancestors Television Series; Cemetery Research; DNA and Genetic genealogy; Jewish genealogy; Military genealogy... and more.... see: www.rootstelevision.com/about_us.php

Chinese-Canadians: Profiles from a Community

<http://ccqwiki.vpl.ca/>

In partnership with Library and Archives Canada, Vancouver Public Library has produced a new resource of special interest to genealogists with Chinese-Canadian roots. This project also demonstrates the use of wiki technology for genealogy-related purposes.

The goal of this wiki-based project is to create a portrait of the early Chinese-Canadian community in Canada by collecting and sharing the stories of individuals who were born in Canada to parents of Chinese origin before the year 1901.

The wiki reflects the long [history of the Chinese community in Canada](#) which dates back at least as far as the late 1850s, when the first Chinese migrants arrived in British Columbia, by way of California, attracted by the discovery of gold on the Fraser River. Among them was Won Ling Sing, the father of [Won Alexander Cumyow](#), who was the first baby of Chinese origin born in Canada. He was born on March 17, 1861 in Port Douglas, B.C.

In 1885, the federal government imposed a head tax on Chinese immigrants, the amount of which was raised in 1900 and again in 1903, creating a major financial obstacle to would-be immigrants from China. The head tax was followed in 1923 by comprehensive legislation designed to exclude Chinese people from entering the country and regulate those already living there. Under Section 18 of the Chinese Immigration Act, all Chinese in Canada were required to register, including those born in Canada to parents of Chinese origin.



Chinese Canadian Soldiers from Vancouver serving in the 2nd World War – descendants of the many Chinese emigrants settling in Canada (Wikipedia)

As a result of this registration, a listing of Canadian-born Chinese was produced. The *Chinese Immigration List* forms the basis of this wiki. The core is separate profiles corresponding to each of the first 461 individuals listed in the *Chinese Immigration List*. All of these individuals were born in Canada prior to 1901. The profiles are designed to capture basic details concerning the lives of these individuals and to provide space in which, using these basic details as building blocks, the stories of their lives can be told. In many cases, little is yet known. Even basic details are scarce. For this reason, the wiki also provides resources for those who would like to help search for the stories of these early Chinese-Canadians in both online and offline sources. As information is gleaned from these various sources, it can be added to individual wiki entries, gradually building stories over time

This explanatory text has been taken from the website. see: ccqwiki.vpl.ca/index.php/ccq_wiki/User_Resources:Project_Overview/

Genealogical Societies and Archives

75th Anniversary: National Archives, Washington DC, USA
www.archives.gov/dc-metro/events/june.html

50th Anniversary: Ohio Genealogical Society, USA
www.ogs.org/about/presmsg.php

50th Anniversary: Birmingham (US) Genealogical Society
www.birminghamgenealogy.org

40th Anniversary: Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, Canada
www.luxegen.ca/

30th Anniversary: Western Australia Genealogical Society, Australia
wags.org.au/o/news/news/wags-30th-anniversary.html

30th Anniversary: Virginia North Carolina (VA-NC) Piedmont Genealogical Society
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vancpgs/Index.htm

10th Anniversary: Bay St. George Genealogical Society, Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada
www.bsgqs.ca/

10th Anniversary: Mayerthorpe Genealogy Resource Centre, Alberta, Canada
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~abmgrc/new_page_4.htm

INDEX TO THE NEWSLETTER

The Index to the Genealogy and Local History Section Newsletter (issues 1-13, November 2002 – January 2009) has been compiled by Richard Huws, Section Committee Member..

www.ifla.org/files/genealogy-and-local-history/genloc-newsletter-index_issues1-13.pdf