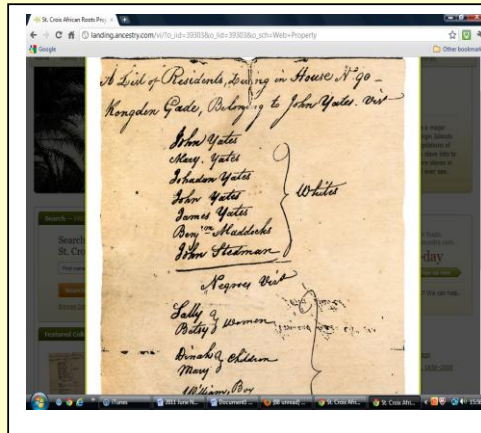




NEWSLETTER

Genealogy and Local History Section

Newsletter Number 18/ June 2011



Residents...belonging to John Yates...
from 1772-1821 St. Croix Slave Lists
landing.ancestry.com/vi/?o_iid=39303&o_lid=39303&o_sch=Web+Property

byenibyen.frederiksberg.dk/video/905102/ruth-hedegaard-frederikshavn

Video extract from the Paper of the City Archivist, Ruth Hedegaard (Frederikshavn City Archives, Denmark : 'Et samlet archivvæsen...At opbygge et archivvæsen i Frederikshavn Kommune' from the File Association and Frederiksberg Stadsarkivs Seminar 'Municipal and local archives - where are they going?' November 2010

Ruth Hedegaard is also Chair of the IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section

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Words from the Chair



Ruth Hedegaard, Chair of GENLOC,
at Fort Christianværn, St Croix, US Virgin Islands

As this will be my last *Words from the Chair*, I have looked through the Newsletters that have been produced regularly since the founding of the

Section. It has been a real pleasure to read about all the achievements of the Section since its start as a discussion group in 1999.

I have had the pleasure to work with Melvin Thatcher, founder of the Group and its first Chair. I succeeded him as Chair in 2007, after having worked with him for four years as Secretary of the Section. Incidentally, in 2008, Mel was awarded the IFLA Certificate of Merit, a recognition that we see also as an acknowledgement of the work of the Section.



Mel Thatcher, IFLA Certificate of Merit, with Janet Tomkins, GENLOC Information Co-ordinator at IFLA Quebec 2008

Looking back at the Conferences, I think it is amazing how many Open Sessions we have conducted, how many study tours we have arranged, and how many people have participated in our activities. At the open sessions, we have had from 80 - 400 participants. Some sessions have been organised in collaboration with other Sections, and these have been instrumental in making the IFLA delegates from other Sections aware of our special interests.

It is also amazing to see how many different subjects we have discussed, all relating to genealogy and local history - cooperation between archives, libraries and museums, immigration, oral history, maps, digitisation, data protection, often with the successful use of audiovisual and multimedia tools, and much more. Several of the speakers at our open sessions have subsequently been invited to speak at other international conferences, another sign that our subjects are of wide interest internationally.

Through the years, we have had a wonderful collaboration with members from the host nations of the IFLA congresses. One of the activities I remember particularly is our workshop in Seoul at the National Library of Korea. The workshop was arranged alongside our Open Session and our

study tour. The planning was made possible through the great help of our committee member, Dr. Gui Won Lee.



Speakers at the Genealogy and Local History Section Workshop at the National Library of Korea 2006. Organiser, Dr. Gui Won Lee, 2nd on the left

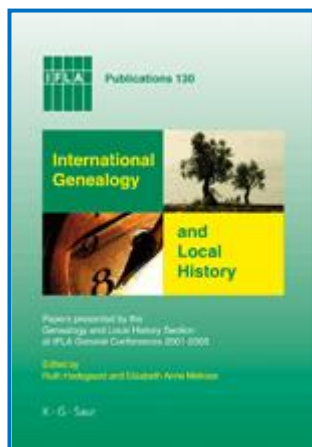
When we came to the library there was a gigantic poster on the outside wall publicising our Genealogy and Local History Section. The workshop had simultaneous interpretation, and the papers were printed in a bilingual volume. I still remember how proud we all were in the committee, with the banner, the organization and all.

Thinking back, our Study Tours during the Conferences are also one of my highlights. In general, we have one day with visits to places of special interest to us, and we have had a truly international attendance on these excursions. The travel between the meeting places means that there is time to talk informally to the participants. It has just been such a great experience learning about the way of life in other countries.



**Ships in quarantine anchored off Grosse Île
HH Manvers Percy (1817-77)**

In Quebec, we had a whole day visit to Grosse Île, the Canadian Ellis Island, with a most inspiring guide. I did not know about the place before so I really returned home with new information.



Another achievement of the Section that should be mentioned is the publication of the volume of the conference papers from the GENLOC Open Sessions of the IFLA Conferences 2001-2005. This very positive compilation was published in 2008 as *IFLA Publications nr. 130*.

In 2009, our Section produced the most wonderful genealogical poster for the Poster Session at the Conference in Milan. I still do not understand why we did not win the prize for the best poster. However, the poster that actually did win was very fine, I must reluctantly admit. Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia saw the poster later during a visit to the US Library of Congress and found two examples of his family tree. He was overjoyed and claimed that seeing the poster was the highlight of his visit.

A whole chapter can be written about our efforts to encourage membership of the Section. We have made several recruiting offensives and have tried personally to persuade colleagues and institutions to become members. This was even more important when IFLA started an evaluation of the Sections and ended up requiring that each Section should consist of at least forty Section members and 10 committee members. As we are such a young Section, it has been hard to get members quickly. In 2003, we had 22 members. We have worked to increase that number, so that we now have 41 members, one above the minimum. The struggle is not over yet. At one point, the required number was deemed to be fifty members, but we talked and wrote much against this rule. The required number of members was reduced from 50 to 40, we believe partly because of our work.

As a way of communicating among the committee members, we have tried a couple of email conferences. The first one was by email, where we decided to spend a weekend discussing various subjects and thus making good inputs for our committee meetings at the conferences. The next year we attempted the creation of a forum.

I must say that, over all the years, I have had a great time with so many good colleagues and friends. We have been so lucky to have had several

committee members serving for many years. This means that we all look forward so much to the next Conference, meeting all your friends again. I have made true friends, and have visited some of them independently, in the USA, the Virgin Islands, Ireland and Wales. I expect to keep many of you as friends in the time to come as well.

We have had an election for committee members for 2011, but in two years time it is election time again, and I can only urge you to think about going for a place on the Standing Committee. You will not regret it and it will make the conferences even more exciting.

Ruth Hedegaard, Chair of IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section ruth.hedegaard@gmail.com

77th IFLA World Library and Information Congress, San Juan, Puerto Rico
13th – 18th August



The IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section welcomes all IFLA delegates to

 **Pre-Conference Satellite Meeting in St Thomas, US Virgin Islands**
10th–12th August 2011

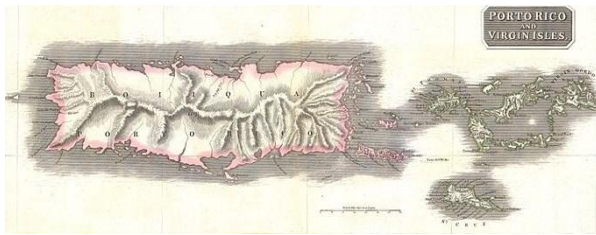
 **IFLA Conference GENLOC Open Session**
Monday, 15th August 13.45pm–15.45pm
Room 209

 **GENLOC Study Tour in San Juan, Puerto Rico**
Wednesday 17th August 8.15am – 17.00pm

The Study Tour will include visits to:
The Archivo Generale de Puerto Rico, the Archivo Militar and the castle, the Archivo Diocesano and a museum visit

Please contact ruth.hedegaard@gmail.com for further information

**Pre-Conference Satellite Meeting
10th-12th August 2011**



John Thomson: Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands...1815

GENLOC, in co-operation with St. Thomas - St. John Library Association, plans a Satellite Meeting at the Windward Passage Hotel (days 1&2) and the University of the Virgin Islands (day 3), St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.



The Windward Passage Hotel, St Thomas

The Information Diaspora: Innovating research and records custodianship for family history users.

www.ifla.org/files/genealogy-and-local-history/conferences/SatelliteRegistrationJune2011rev.pdf

Speakers include:

- Drs. Nolda Römer-Kenepa, Director, National Archives of Curaçao
- Melanie Clifton-Harvey, Independent Museum and Curatorial Consultant
- Poul Erik Olsen, Chief Consultant, Danish National Archives
- George F. Tyson, President of the Virgin Islands Social History Associates and Project Director, St. Croix African Roots Project
- Susan Laura Lugo, CA, Territorial Coordinator for Archives, Government of the Virgin Islands, and Executive Council

Member, Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA)

- Gayle Williams, Latin American and Caribbean Services Librarian and Co-Director, Digital Library of the Caribbean (DLOC), Florida International University, Miami, FL
- Ross Harvey, Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, MA
- Asbjørn Hellum, National Archivist and Director General, Danish National Archives
- Jeannette A Bastian, Associate Dean & Professor, Simmon College Graduate School of Library & Information Science
- Dr. Vernon Paul Rood, Project Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration of the United States

Two Study Tours – to the Ralph M. Paiewonsky Library, the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas Campus - and (in collaboration with the St. Thomas Historical Trust) to the Historic Homes of Blackbeard’s Hill and the 99 Steps Study Tour. There will also be a Cultural Reception.



Skjtsborg Tower built 1679



Statue of soldier on lookout

For more details, contact: **Susan Laura Lugo, Satellite Meeting Coordinator** susanlauralugo@gmail.com
340-690-0531 Also available via Skype ID: *diamtca*.



Libraries beyond libraries: Integration, innovation, and information for all

conference.ifla.org/ifla77

**The Genealogy and Local History Section
IFLA 2011 Puerto Rico
Open Session 15th August 2011**

**Dispossessed persons:
preserving culture in an age of migration**

The Palestine Refugee Record Project



Speaker:
Poul Erik Olsen,
Chief
Consultant,
Danish National
Archives,
Copenhagen,
Denmark

**Preserving and promoting ethnic heritage,
identity and representation in the U.S.: the
Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American
Archives**

Speakers:
Sonia Pacheco,
Librarian Archivist

Gloria de Sa,
Associate Professor
of Sociology/Faculty
Director

Judith Farrar,
University & Special
Archives
Librarian/Archivist

Ferreira-Mendes
Portuguese-American
Archives, University
of Massachusetts
Dartmouth, USA



**Wartime and post-war burial practice in China
and Taiwan: floating between displacement
and community**

Speaker:
Rebecca Nedostup, Associate Professor,
Department of History, Boston College, Chestnut
Hill, Massachusetts, USA

**Life experiences of Puerto Ricans in New York
from 1950 to 1960: a research proposal**



Speaker:
Dr Ketty Rodriguez
Casillas,
Information
Literacy Librarian,
Business Library,
University of Puerto
Rico, San Juan,
Puerto Rico, USA

Jesus Colon (1901-1974),
Puerto Rican author -
emigrated to New York 1917

The Call for Papers was promoted both in English and Spanish on the IFLA Conference website and the papers, Session 107, can be read at:

conference.ifla.org/ifla77/programme-and-proceedings-day/2011-08-15

The GENLOC Section plans a superb discussion and Open Session. All are welcome.

The IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section will be holding its Standing Committee meetings in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Saturday, 13th August 2011 and on Tuesday, 16th August 2011.

These meetings will discuss among other matters:

- The annual report of the Chair of GENLOC, Ruth Hedegaard
- The election of GENLOC Section Officers 2011-2013
- IFLA HQ & Division business
- The Financial report
- The report of the Satellite Meeting in St Thomas, US Virgin Islands
- The Open Session report
- The Strategic Plan 2011-2012
- The GENLOC web-pages and Newsletter
- Activities for the IFLA Conference 2012

Please send all comments for discussion at the Standing Committee Meetings to Russ Lynch, GENLOC Secretary: lynchrs@familysearch.org

The Institute Cervantes of Naples and the Local History collection

The Institute Cervantes in Naples is part of a worldwide organisation dependent on the Spanish Government. Its aim is to promote the culture of Spanish-speaking countries abroad. This significant task is accomplished by its libraries, which present the characteristic features of Spain and Latin America in all the foreign countries where the Institute's branches are located.



Instituto Cervantes Library

Special attention is paid to one particular section: the Local History Collection, which allows our libraries to establish a strong link with their nearest environment, generating a permanent cultural dialogue between the two realities.

The Local History Collection of the Institute Cervantes libraries includes documents connecting the two cultures in question:

1. Translations of literary works in Spanish into the language of the host country
2. Translations into Spanish of works by local authors
3. Books about Spain and Latin America published in the host country
4. Books about the host country written by Spanish-speaking authors
5. Books about the historical, political, economic and cultural relationship between Spain, Latin America and the host country

The particular features of Naples make our Local History Collection twice as significant. One of the reasons is that Italy is a country that is closely related to Spain, both due to its geographical proximity and to the cultural and political harmony that the two nations enjoy.

What is more, Naples is a city with deep Hispanic roots that are a fruit of a Spanish presence in its territory in three time periods. In 1443, Naples was incorporated into the Crown of Aragon. At the beginning of 16th century it was transformed into a viceroyalty dependent on the Kingdom of Spain – this lasted until 1734 when Charles III, the future king of Spain, became its first independent sovereign.

Due to these historical circumstances, the Spanish presence left a deep mark, not only in the way Naples was planned, but also in the mentality and culture of this unique Italian city. Moreover, some of the most important Spanish artists and men of letters of all times spent a part of their lives in Naples exerting their influence on the city and, at the same time, absorbing local cultural trends.

Such a situation produced a very rich bibliographical heritage that in its great part is housed in our library.



Library Leaflet – Biblioteca, Instituto Cervantes

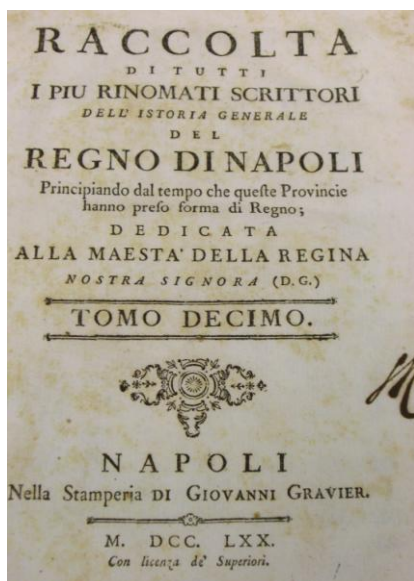
There are over 1,500 documents in the Local Collection of the Instituto Cervantes in Naples and the Collection includes translations of literary works as well as historical, political and cultural essays.

We also own a limited, but valuable, number of documents dating to before the 20th century. The majority of the texts belonging to this section were published in the last decades, above all in Spain - and we are particularly interested in placing at the Neapolitans' disposal the work carried out by Spanish-speaking researchers inspired by local culture and language.

To summarise, the Instituto Cervantes in Naples tries to make the Local History Collection reflect the

past experiences shared by the two communities, the Italian one that hosts us, and the Hispanic one. It proves that often a happy consequence of historical conflicts is a prolific bibliographical heritage.

Consuelo Álvarez Solís,
Head Librarian, Institute Cervantes in Naples
bibnap@cervantes.es



'Collection of all the most famous writers on the general history of the Kingdom of Naples 1770'

napoles.cervantes.es/es/biblioteca_espanol/biblioteca_espanol.htm

Nápoles: Blog de la Biblioteca del Instituto Cervantes:
bibnap.wordpress.com

Proposal for a GENLOC programme at the 19th Crimea 2012 International Conference IFLA Forum – Sudak, Crimea June 2012



The Genoese Fortress at Sudak

The 19th International Conference *Crimea 2012* will be held in June 2012 under the auspices of IFLA. It

will take place in Sudak in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine. Sudak was an important city, mentioned by Marco Polo (1254-1324). It is said that Ibn Batuta, the Islamic explorer (1304-1368/9) considered it one of the world's four great ports.

The main Conference topic for 2012 will be: *Libraries in the new decade of the Information Age: enhancing technologies and developing partnerships*

high.gpntb.ru/win/inter-events/crimea2012/eng/

The year 2012 is the 1,800th anniversary of the founding of the Greco-Roman colony which became the medieval Silk Road port and modern Crimean resort town of Sudak. The proposed first programme for GENLOC in the Crimea, in June 2012, could be on the local history of the town, and not least on its important role in medieval international trade as a Genoese entrepot on the route linking China and Samarkand to Constantinople and the West.

A GENLOC programme could possibly take place over one or two days within the framework of the Crimea 2012 Conference IFLA Forum.

As a permanent title for the Crimea Conference GENLOC Section I have proposed: *Libraries as memory: exploring the hidden archives, genealogy, local history and folk culture of the Silk Road and of the Russian and Ukrainian lands.*

The meeting facility to be used in 2012 and future years is a modern conference venue recently constructed within the Sudak Tourist and Health Complex, under the name of the Silk Road Conference Centre.

The primary organising committee for Silk Road 2012 in Sudak includes myself; Alan Hopkinson of Middlesex University, UK; the local librarians from Sudak, a local history librarian from Nikolaev in the Ukraine, and Mikhail Afanasiev and Oksana Dineeva from the Russian State Historical Library. I also have candidates for the committee from the Ministry of Culture in Kiev, and from local historians in Genoa, Milan, Rome and China. I will be communicating with them by listserver in the next month, so as to have more to report to GENLOC at the IFLA Conference in Puerto Rico in August.

Frank T Kirkwood, Ontario, Canada
Kirkwood.professional@sympatico.ca

An appealing blog, written by a Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to the Crimean Tatar Gasprinskiy Library in Simferopol, Ukraine, can be found at:
crimeantatarlibrary.blogspot.com/

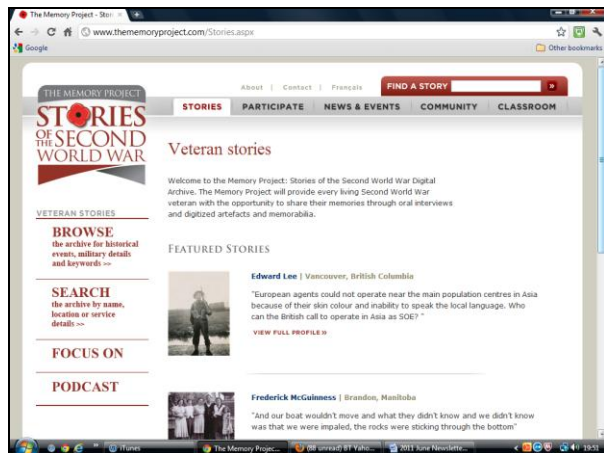
This blog includes reflections, commenting on: **The multiethnic society of Crimea** – ...This month [July 2010] the Gasprinskiy Library has mounted an exhibition in the Reading Hall of the library called 'Family Traditions of the Peoples of Crimea: Ethnicities and Cultures.' With books and photographs from the library's collection and examples of handicrafts, the exhibition highlights the customs, traditions, festivals and rituals of the diverse people of Crimea: Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, Armenians, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Greeks, Georgians, Jews, Azerbaijanis, and other peoples.

An oral history project at the Crimean Tatar Gasprinskiy Library – [This is] focused on building the library's capacity to record and archive Crimean Tatar oral histories.... [taking] down people's stories about the deportation, exile and return...



News from Canada

The Canadian Memory Project - Stories of the Second World War Digital Archive
www.thememoryproject.com/



The Canadian government is putting together oral histories, travelling to veterans' homes to record interviews and helping to share their stories.

The *Memory Project* will provide every living Second World War veteran with the opportunity to share their memories through oral interviews and digitized artefacts and memorabilia. Search the Archive by name, location, or service details.

Librarians Helping Canadian Genealogists Climb Family Trees
canadianlibgenie.blogspot.com/

This blog is a collaborative space for those Librarians who assist family historians with their Canadian genealogical research. It appears to be run by one or two librarians and is not updated very regularly because it is a labour of interest, not associated with any organization - that I can see. The last blog-post is October 2010. However, I have made contact with the librarian who writes for it, so perhaps we can revive it somewhat and encourage contributions.

Calgary Public Library Community Heritage and Family History Digital Library
www.calgarypubliclibrary.com/chpage.aspx

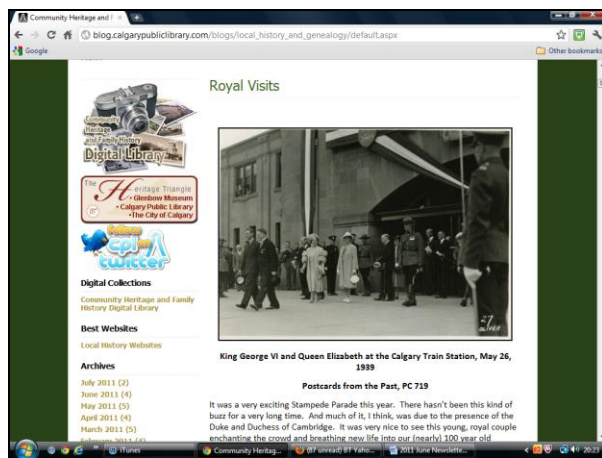


The Alison Jackson Photograph Collection, Postcards from the Past, and the Judith Umbach Photography Collection contain a wide variety of images of Calgary and Alberta. Along with the pictures, many of these images include Calgary Herald articles that give in-depth architectural and historic information about the locale.



Calgary c1885

Calgary Public Library Community Heritage and Family History blog
blog.calgarypubliclibrary.com/blogs/local_history_and_genealogy/default.aspx



This website is authored by the librarians. The Heritage Triangle is a partnership between the Glenbow Library and Archives, the Calgary Public Library, and the City of Calgary. It collects and preserves the heritage of Calgary and ensures its accessibility to local historians, genealogists and other interested members of the public.

blog.calgarypubliclibrary.com/blogs/local_history_and_genealogy/2008-2521%20heritage_triangle_apprvd.pdf

The Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta
www.glenbow.org/collections/search/

The website for the Glenbow Museum is a very good archives resource for southern Alberta. Along with much other material, the Archives Main Catalogue includes descriptions of unpublished archival records, such as diaries, letters, and minute books, for over 3,200 families, organizations, and businesses in southern Alberta. The Archives Photographs Catalogue contains 90,000 historical photographs, illustrations and cartoons, documenting the people, landscape, and development of the Canadian West from the 1870s to the 1980s.

Videoconference

For information, in our library system, we have videoconferencing available and I have put together a few genealogy videoconferences that have so far sparked a lot of interest. It is a brand new service to us. The text of Videoconference no.4 with many internet links and other relevant genealogical information is at risenetwork.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/GenealogyDec-6-questions-handout-2.pdf

Please let me know if you are searching for information on Canadian genealogy. I will help in any way I can.

Penny Allen, Vulcan Municipal Library, Alberta, Canada
penal176@gmail.com
<http://www.vulcanlibrary.ca/content/rise-genealogy>

A Sense of Place: local studies in Australia and New Zealand

The *Sense of place* conference, organised by Auslib Press, was held at the [State Library of New South Wales](http://www.auslibpress.com.au) on 5 and 6 May 2011 attracting more than 140 participants from all States (except Tasmania) and New Zealand. The theme was strategies and practices to improve local history services to communities in Australia and New Zealand.



General view of the State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

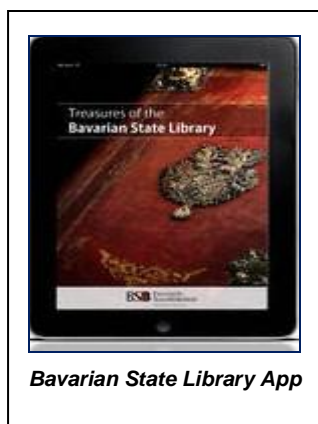
What of the connection between local studies and family history? There was a general feeling there are strong links with place in any family history research. Jan Richards from [Central West Libraries](http://www.centralwestlibraries.com.au) in Orange, New South Wales spoke of the 'intertwined nature of family and local history' while Carly Reimann of the [Tea Tree Gully Library](http://www.teatreegullylibrary.com.au) in Adelaide noted that 'people want to walk in the steps of their ancestors'.



John MacRitchie of [Manly Library](http://www.manlylibrary.com.au), New South Wales spoke of his successful [local studies blog](http://www.manlylocalstudies.blogspot.com) but he also emphasised that it is just one of a range of tools used to promote the collection along with their website and brochures.

There is potential for using apps for local history purposes, especially for cemetery walks. Ellen Forsyth of the State Library of New South Wales in her informative talk 'A R u feeling appy: augmented reality, apps and mobile access to local studies information' provided some examples including St Matthew's Cemetery (Quebec) which has an iTunes app compatible with the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad.

Also [Riverside Cemetery](#) in Asheville, North Carolina. Asheville Historic Tours has just released an app for the iPhone that allows visitors to take a tour of Riverside Cemetery guided by their iPhone. The virtual tour features twenty-five tracks and corresponding photos as well as a tour map and integrated GPS map. The app is available for download from the AppStore or iTunes for US\$8.99. For those who do not have an iPhone or iPod Touch, an audio tour is available for download as an MP3 file at www.history-at-hand.com for US\$8.99 or as a CD which can be purchased for US\$12.



Bavarian State Library App

A good example of an excellent collection related app is:

[Treasures of the Bavarian State Library](#)

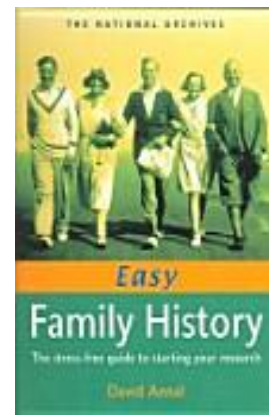
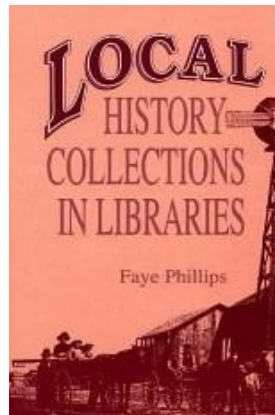
This features fifty-two collection highlights for downloading to iPads or iPhones.

The conference was very well organised with a good range of papers, some twenty presentations over the two days. It highlighted for me or perhaps reminded me again of the value of local history resources for family history research. The conference proceedings, edited by Alan Bundy, will be available in July this year and I look forward to rereading some of the papers. Keryl Collard, City Librarian, [Maitland City Library](#), New South Wales perhaps summarises the overall feeling that emerged from the conference 'Place is crucial, fundamental to our sense of community'.

Anne Burrows, Genealogy Librarian, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au



To counterbalance the UK Library cuts - a view from an English Local Studies Librarian



Over the last few years, I have put most of my energies into bringing the public on board - increasing awareness of the existence of the Local Studies Collection in the basement of the Central Library, and trying to ensure that those who come through the door have a positive experience. I have also tried to ensure that other departments and agencies can see the relevance of the service. So, as examples:

- I have trained volunteer historians in the use of resources to help our historic environment officer research the nominations for local listing
- Volunteers have helped to deliver events for Local History Month
- Volunteers have helped to create displays to enable branch libraries and other venues to participate in local history month, and the displays can then go out to homes and schools - further promoting the service and supporting reminiscence, education and quality of life
- I have initiated projects, to involve the volunteers and create links to fit in with regional and local priorities: - eg: *Played in Tyne & Wear / Played in South Tyneside - the heritage of local sport* - bringing involvement from the Sport Development team, and the head of Culture Services - while developing the collection and working towards the year of the Olympics, 2012
- The Map Collection has information value to planners and historians, but can also open up opportunities for reluctant readers to explore words and symbols in a different way - which can open up communication and inspire them to read. The experience of poring over a large map can silence a group as they start reading the past, and making their own journeys across it



Painting depicting the March in Jarrow (Wikipedia)

- - this year we also see the 75th anniversary of the Jarrow March, and various other notable centenaries

In this way, I hope that I have raised the profile of the service and increased understanding of the value and validity of the collection, and the diverse ways in which the resources are relevant to so many people.

It has been a challenge because under our old library structure I could not support the volunteers in the way a dedicated member of the Local Studies staff could do (or as well as). I have teetered very close to giving up, and had to focus on what was in front of me for a while. I have had support in that a professional colleague has covered the department when I was not there and for breaks, and has been very flexible during local history month. But, at the end of the day, they had their own work to do and could not support the volunteers in the same way as a member of the Local Studies staff. Also, I have not wanted to blur the role of the volunteer with the role of a library or senior library assistant. And so it has been extremely difficult to manage the Local Studies department, the customers and the resources in the round.

This is changing this summer. From the beginning of June, my part time member of staff became full-time, and we will be able to work across boundaries and with support when needed and available, to achieve shared library service objectives - within the bigger picture of course.

I could have done with her before and during Local History Month - but at least I can see a light at the end of the tunnel. This is giving me the will to keep going. Other library staff are also taking a more

proactive role in delivering local history and ancestry promotional events.

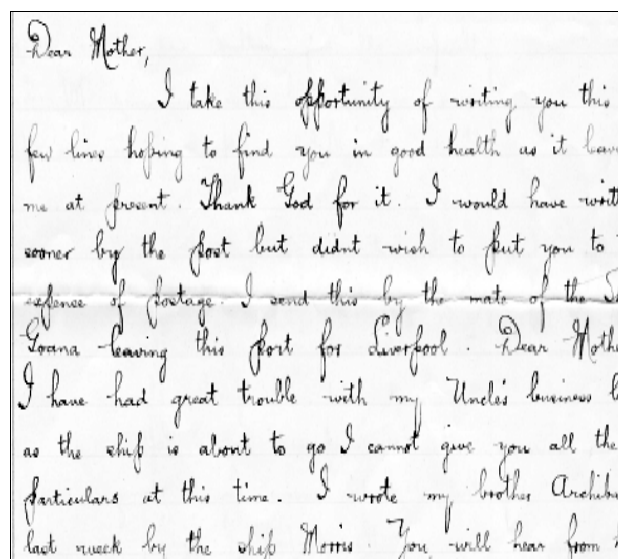
To be sure, we will continue to face issues and challenges, and we need to balance heritage with regeneration, but we have the strength for another chapter.

Anne Sharp, Community Librarian Heritage and Family Studies,
anne_sharp99@hotmail.com

Family History Series on Radio

Digging up your Roots - BBC Radio Scotland A mystery over an inheritance

In her later years, our aunt often chatted to my brother about the family on my grandmother's side, the MacLachlans, Colin and his nephew, Lachlan - the latter, it was rumoured, was murdered in the United States c1844.



Last letter from Lachlan MacLachlan from the United States

The family papers contain the last letter from Lachlan to his mother, indicating his disquiet. Wanting to find out if the stories he had been told about the possibility of a murder in the family were true, my brother agreed to take part in the 'Digging up your Roots' programme on BBC Scotland to find out how he could investigate this mystery further.

The story of the MacLachlan inheritance was one of five genealogical puzzles - *Convict ancestors; A tale of desertion; Adventures in Argentina; Surname change*. My brother's spot in the programme was headed *Missing Inheritances*, and he was recorded discussing the known evidence with the resident BBC family historian.

Colin MacLachlan had emigrated from Paisley in Scotland for North Carolina on receiving word that his uncle had died and left him heir to his farm estate in the States. In 1824, he left that farm in the hands of a friend, and moved to a further farm near Mobile, Alabama. He died in February 1842 leaving his estate to the family of his brother John, back in Scotland.

The heirs put matters into the hands of an Edinburgh Writer to the Signet (a private society of Scottish Solicitors). However, they privately suspected the dead man's neighbour as the latter had appointed himself administrator of the estate, and was helping himself to the proceeds of the sale of farm stock.

The dead man's nephew, Lachlan MacLachlan, travelled to Mobile and discovered his suspicions to be true. The matter proceeded to court. The administrator did not attend the court hearing but promised to do so a fortnight later. Lachlan suspected the administrator had designs on his life so decided to keep a low profile in New Orleans until the next court hearing. His last letter home was dated January 1844 but he was never heard of again.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00yhvy/>

Since the programme was aired, my brother has continued with his research and found more information under several different versions of the names of the protagonists in this US/Scottish drama (but no inheritance).

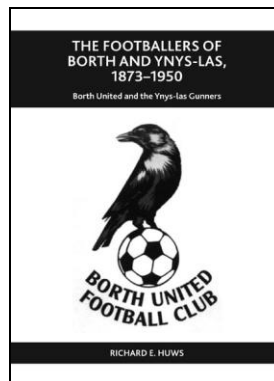
Elizabeth Melrose elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com



Sjoerd Koopman

The IFLA GENLOC Section would like to wish Sjoerd Koopman of IFLA a happy and productive retirement. Mr Koopman has been a good friend to GENLOC - and especially to Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Melrose, editors of *International Genealogy and Local History* – IFLA Publications 130 - the volume of papers presented by the Genealogy and Local History Section at the IFLA General Conferences 2001-2005.

PUBLICATIONS



The footballers of Borth and Ynys-las 1873-1950 by GENLOC Committee member, Richard E Huws

ISBN: 978-1-84771-396-4

Football history in Borth dates from 1873 when the first match was played in the village. This booklet contains a brief history of the various teams together with a list of the names and addresses of almost 200 individuals who played for Borth and Ynys-las teams. Most were Borth boys but many also came from Aberystwyth and Machynlleth and surrounding villages. The booklet also includes many photographs, and league tables



Newspapers: Legal deposit and research in the digital era. Edited by Hartmut Walravens

ISBN: 978-3-11-025325-2

IFLA Publications: Nr. 150.

How to acquire, preserve and make available digital files – issues that are the current hot topics in the world of monographs. In the newspaper world not only is the quantity of data vast, and the challenges more complex, but the rights situation requires much closer co-operation between the publishers-producers and the aggregators-libraries to establish realistic access conditions.

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