



NEWSLETTER

Genealogy and Local History Section

Newsletter Number 4 / June 2004

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Section Report

We are pleased to be issuing our fourth newsletter from the Genealogy and Local History Section.

Since its beginnings as a discussion group in 1999, we have advanced in our goal of raising the awareness of the importance of local and history and genealogical sources in libraries. As a regular section at the IFLA congress in Glasgow in 2002, the section has proven its significance as indicated by the high quality of the papers presented and by the well-attended Open Sessions in Glasgow 2002 and in Berlin 2003. Our study tours were well received by the attendees and the Institutions hosting them. The subjects we represent are close to their professional pursuits and interests.

Our recent activities have included a Call for Papers for the open session whose theme is "Resources for immigrant History: Their Origins, Lives and Contributions." This fits in nicely with the general theme of the Congress "Libraries: Tools for Education and Development". We will be making two off-site visits. We have made arrangements with the Historical Museum of Immigration and the National Archives. We hope to have an edifying day visiting these two institutions, which are of great importance to our section's interests.

The information brochure for our section is now available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian on our home page at: <http://ifla.org/VII/s37/s37sgen.htm>. Other language versions will follow soon. We encourage interested librarians to consult the brochure for a brief overview of the mission and activities of the section. We have also written a letter to IFLA about extending the multimedia facilities available to the lecturers. The necessity for using the Internet for our section is due to the proliferation of websites on genealogy and local history. The use of the Internet would be useful for other Sections' presentations as well. Planning for a survey of genealogical resources available in national libraries is still on the agenda. But as you will see below national libraries' websites are beginning to include search possibilities. In our "Notes and Musings" section, we have included some useful descriptions of genealogical resources and of the meanderings of peoples through history.

We hope to see many of you in Buenos Aires.

Ruth Hedegaard, Secretary

For more information about the section and its activities, please visit our homepage at <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/s37sgen.htm>.

Resources for Immigrant History: Their Origins, Lives and Contributions-Papers and Abstracts: Lecturers and Abstracts of Papers

Paul Armony / President of the Association of Jewish Genealogy of Argentina/ " Private Jewish Settlements and Jewish Genealogical Research in Argentina".

Why did Jews choose Argentina? There are many possible answers; among them was their desperate need to escape from Russia and Turkey to any place that they were able to but with the hope to reach the United States, Canada and up until 1914 England. For various reasons they came to this country. My intention is to explain the reasons.

We will show how to research our Jewish ancestors and the resources available in tracing the immigrants and their descendants. By using the various databases and other sources in Argentina, including the large database the Jewish Genealogical Society of Argentina has created. This database contains names of the approximately 210.000 dead persons buried as Jews in Jewish cemeteries and more than 100.000 other records, including names of colonists, immigrants arriving by ship and marriage records, etc.

During the time period that the Jews could emigrate from Europe, Asia and Africa, Argentina received some 238.000 Jews from a total of more than 6.000.000 of immigrants of all origins that arrived to the country. Between 1865 and 1920, 5 1/2 million immigrants were registered, but about two millions and half returned to their countries. The Jews represented according to official figures 3.5% of that total, but many Jews entered as Catholic Protestants and even Muslims, as was the case of many Sephardim.

One of the most important immigration projects was the Baron Hirsch's "Jewish Colonization Association" that organized the settlement for Russian Jews to work as farmers. The success or the failure of this project is still under debate.

There are a lot of resources, Jewish or not available for researching immigration in Argentina as well as outside of the country but the matter is to know how to use these resources successfully. Our purpose here is to help in this search



George R. Ryskamp/ Associate Professor of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA. ryskamp@byu.edu/ "Where was my Immigrant Ancestor Born? Tracing Immigrants' ancestors in European Emigration Records"-Abstract

One of the greatest challenges that confront those who search for ancestors is to locate the birthplaces of immigrants. Of the 55 million Europeans who emigrated between 1820 and 1920 only about 14% can be found in passenger lists that tell their birthplace. Practically none of the 17 million who went to Latin America appear on such records. In the destination countries there are many possible records for identifying the place of origin of the immigrant

ancestor in all time periods, but the answer still escapes many who search. The best place to go to find those whose records, such as passport files, contracts, vestry minutes, consular records are rich in genealogical information. Most are accessible only by visiting the archives, municipal, church, provincial and national, containing the records and are rarely indexed or sorted.

This PowerPoint lecture will identify those emigration records in Spain, Britain, France, Italy, Portugal and Germany with which the author has become personally familiar, as a genealogical researcher for 30 years in Europe and as Director of the Immigrant Ancestors Project at Brigham Young University. Actual examples will show the richness of these sources not only for genealogical data, but also for the social history and human-interest material that are found in these records. Availability and accessibility will be emphasized with discussion on the IAP goals that center on identifying and extracting data into an Internet database allowing investigators to search for individuals in these hard-to-find emigration records.

Belarimina Benotez de Vendrell/ Librarian and Archivist Posadas, Misiones, Argentina/ venrell@iposadas.com.ar "De Europa a Misiones; Fuentes par el Estudio de la Inmigracion". -Abstract "From Europe to Misiones; Sources for Research on Immigration". The purpose of the paper is to bring to light a number of informative references on the history of European immigration to the Province of Misiones, Argentina. I will describe documents, testimonials and the artifacts of the immigrants. Collections in various institutions will be discussed, including those of universities, museums, cultural centers archives, public and private libraries, associations, and churches of different faiths, hospitals and commercial entities.

People will be another source, including historians, descendants of immigrants and landowners. Documents to be referenced include books, articles, films, videos, recordings, music, research papers, theses, translations, works of art and diaries. The physical description and population figures of the Province are provided as well as the countries of origin of those settling there.

A new colonization took place between 1870-1930 and cultural evidence has been preserved including building tools and domestic artifacts. I intend to show how all of the differing cultures came to be what is uniquely Misiones.



Belarimina Benotez de Vendrell

David McMenemy, Alan Poulter/ Lecturers Graduate School of Informatics, Department of Computer and Information Sciences and Cultural Services University of Strathclyde / Liz McGettigan/ Libraries and Information Services Manager Cultural Services East Renfrewshire/ contact david.memenemy@cis.strath.ac.uk "Holocaust Remembrance 2004 in east Renfrewshire, Scotland - Abstract

As the historic second city of the British Empire, Glasgow and its surrounding areas have seen much immigration in its history. As a consequence, east Renfrewshire just outside Glasgow is home to the largest Jewish Population in Scotland. As part of the commitment to the ethnic diversity in the local community, the local authority has build a site to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and will host the 2004 National Memorial Day event. The site can be found at the following link <http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk>

The site was developed with representatives from the Jewish community and has unique audio testimonies as well as links to a multitude of material on the Holocaust and on genocide. We also sought input from the disabled, homosexual and Romany communities to emphasize their barbaric treatment. This latter is frequently less documented. The reason for developing the site was so the community and in particular the young people will never forget and will be aware of the current genocides that are taking place. An accompanying CD-ROM was created to help support wide dissemination of the project to schools and other community groups.

Marija Vranic-Ignjacevic/University Library Svetozar Markovic, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro/ contact vale_b3@yahoo.com/

"Russian Refugees at Belgrade University from 1919-1945: their Contribution to Science and Teaching". - Abstract

This paper is the result of ongoing large-scale research connected with the forthcoming reference book entitled "Russian Refugees at Belgrade University since 1919--Who's Who". The book will encompass all Russians who worked at the University during that period including all academic levels. Short biographies of a personal and professional nature will also include the areas of professional interest.

After the Civil War in Russia ended in about 1921, many Russians emigrated for ideological reasons. This was one of the biggest emigrations ever and most was to arrive in Europe. The Kingdom of Serbs, Croatsians and Slovenians offered asylum to approximately 40,000-70,000 Russian émigrés, mostly high school and university graduates. The infusion of such a highly educated group found a place in an area decimated by WW I The analysis is centered on the contributions to the development of the sciences at the University. Results and conclusions are based on extensive work done in the archives of our Faculties as well as the Belgrade city archives.



Study Tours

The National Immigration Museum

The recently inaugurated Museo Nacional de la Inmigración is located on the site of the original Immigrant Hotel, which was built starting in 1906. Between 1911 and 1953, arriving immigrants would stay an average of five days at an immense complex of buildings where they received housing, medical

attention and orientation to the customs of their new country. Today, those whose ancestors arrived from Europe can obtain certificates from the museum with names, nationalities, dates of arrival etc. In addition to reviewing this important database of immigrant information, visitors can experience the ambience of the original hotel through photographs and building renovations, such as the dining area where as many as 3000 people were fed each day. For more information, see <http://www.mininterior.gov.ar/migraciones/museo/>

The National Archive of Argentina

The archive contains colonial and national documents for all of Argentina and the Viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata, including important immigration and census collections. Some of the more important collections are described in published and manuscript catalogues and the card index, both of which are available in the room adjacent to the Reading Room. For more information, see the official website at <http://www.mininterior.gov.ar/agn/>

Notes and Musings

We wish to remind you the "International Symposium on the Research and Utilization of the Local History and Genealogy" will be held in October, 2004 in Beijing.

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Scots Abroad: Databases on the National Library of Scotland

Scots Abroad: Databases on the National Library of Scotland Website

Over the centuries, many Scottish people have left their homeland to begin a new life elsewhere. They left for a variety of reasons, sometimes willingly, sometimes unwillingly, sometimes forced by hardships at home, sometimes encouraged by successes of friends and family in establishing a new life abroad. Whatever the circumstances, the diaspora of Scottish people is one of the largest in global history, and the number of people outside Scotland claiming Scottish descent has been estimated at approximately 40 million. Contrast this with the present population of Scotland, around 5 million.

At the National Library of Scotland we have always regarded this diaspora as very much part of the history of Scotland and the Scottish people. It is rare for Scots not to have links in their own family histories with those living in other countries. We have also been aware that interest in our collections, which relate to the Scottish people and their history, will always come very much from outside Scotland. This is especially true for genealogical researchers and family historians, for whom we try to provide on site reference works and relevant descriptive materials.

But when we think of the diaspora, and the whole subject of emigration, it is obvious that this experience, which is widely shared, would be of interest to genealogists, family and local historians too. Our collections are rich in terms of Scottish history, and they are especially rich in the area of Scottish emigration. As a legal deposit library for British and Irish publications since 1710, we have amassed over the years works on the need for emigration, guides specifically written for intended emigrants, personal published accounts of travel and emigration, research works, family and clan histories, creative writing, newspapers, emigration posters and other printed sources, all supplemented by the purchase of similar works published abroad. Our manuscript collections, concentrating as they do on the lives of Scots, include much that relates to the experience of emigration, whether it is individual correspondence, diaries and journals, collections of family correspondence, estate papers or professional correspondence. The variety of this material reflects the variety of the experience of the Scots who left their homeland for other countries.

Given the widespread interest in material that all reflects in some way the experience of emigration, and especially from North America and Australasia – the most concentrated areas of Scottish settlement over the years – how do we satisfy this interest, and allow better access to the material? We have begun, at the National Library of Scotland, to bring together information on our collections, as far as they relate to the activities of Scots overseas, in a series of databases that have been mounted onto a 'Scots Abroad' section of the website. The first databases there list *Emigrants' Guides to North America*, *Emigrants' Guides to Australia & New Zealand*, published personal accounts of *Scots in North America* and manuscript collections of *Emigrants' Correspondence*. Soon will be added published personal accounts of *Scots in Australia & New Zealand*.

Librarians may ask why, with an extensive and remotely accessible online catalogue that includes older retro converted records, we have found the need to extract this material? In fact, much of the material

would be very difficult for our website visitors to isolate themselves. First of all, many online records have been retroconverted from older catalogue cards without subject indexing, so could not be searched by subject. In the case of the published personal accounts by Scots, the nationality of the author has to be established from the outset, which requires a substantial amount of initial research. We have also tried to include information in the databases that allows the most meaningful searching. So for example we have included the date of publication for the emigrants' guides, but for the published personal account we have added information that documents the dates of the account itself (a 'date of coverage'), and we have added a field that allows browsing by decade. All the databases are also searchable by keyword, and the manuscripts database can be searched by place and personal name. We also produce copies of chronological printouts of the material for anyone who might like one, and these have proved popular with academics in particular.

The wealth of the material in the databases reflects the wealth of different experiences Scots have had abroad. As usual, there can be problems in definition: what is emigration, and does it include those who returned; what about those who never intended to emigrate, such as explorers and visitors, for example? In the end we decided to include works by any Scot who visited the foreign country and published an account of their visit, as there is a massive interest in Scots who visited, or worked briefly in, who explored in and who came home from other countries. The emigrant's guide was not an established form for many years, but we have decided to include any work that addresses an intending emigrant at some point.

So far we have had a good response to our databases from genealogists and family historians and from other personal and academic researchers. We hope to expand this section of our website to deal with guides to and Scots visitors to other countries and to link this material to information about our extensive holdings of family histories. We also hope eventually to provide some direct links to digitised versions of some of the more interesting material. In this way, we hope to provide a detailed umbrella, a kind of 'directed portal', that links to and groups together information on our holdings of interest to genealogists, family and local historians, as well as those with a wide interest in the history of Scots themselves, wherever they may have been.

Kevin Halliwell, Curator, US & Commonwealth Collections, National Library of Scotland

Familia, the genealogist's friend:

Another effective portal for the genealogist? For anyone researching family history in Britain, *Familia* www.familia.org.uk is a must! International researchers use it to work out where they can find genealogical resources in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Local studies librarian's access it frequently when a family history enquiry is out of their area and needs to be re-directed to a colleague in another county.

The site is an electronic directory of local studies centres, giving the contact details for around 180 public libraries in Britain and Ireland along with the addresses of their associated archives offices. In addition, under the section for each contributing authority, the web pages list the family history resources belonging to that library service. It is a gateway to local studies collections together with links to other relevant genealogical information.

There are guides on how to read the website and gain the greatest use from it. One such, *Maps and Places*, explains the concept of UK local authorities and gives advice to those people who, knowing only the name of the place their ancestor came from, need to know which of several options they could pursue – and whether boundary changes have made a difference to where historical information is held. Users can therefore discover relevant contact details very easily, should they only have genealogical clues relating to a particular place – often the case with foreign enquiries!

Each local authority library service can contribute as much detail or as little to the site as it wishes, but it is easy enough to send in the appropriate listings held on Council local studies websites for uploading. The entries for Kent, North Yorkshire and West Sussex are examples of this.

Familia was established in 1997 as a web-enabled aid for family historians. The site has grown and last year it was given an enthusiastic review in the *Good Web Guide to Genealogy*. By the end of 2003 there was a monthly average of over 300,000 hits to the site, an average of 50,000 visits and an average of 21,000 unique visitors accessing the pages.

There is a national *Familia* Task Group of committed librarians, which meets regularly to consider updates, the integrity of the information and future developments. This Group includes the present co-ordinators, Linda Berube and Joanne John of the Co-East consortia of public libraries in Eastern England and a representative of the National Archives in London. There are plans to upgrade the site with family

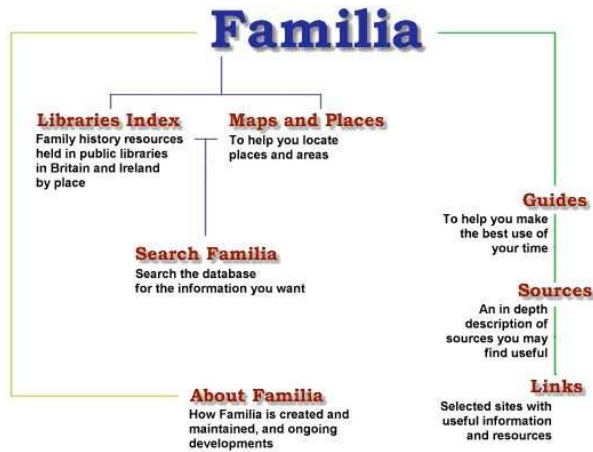
history tutorials, illustrations of common sources and the addition of more fields to accommodate descriptions of archive materials.

Comment is welcomed. So, if you haven't accessed the site yet, do so and send back your impressions and suggestions through the feedback form.

www.familia.org.uk

Elizabeth Melrose

On behalf of the UK *Familia* Task Group



Welsh Dream in the Desert

In May 1865, a party of around 160 Welsh emigrants, under the leadership of Reverend Michael D. Jones left the Principality on board the bark *Mimosa* to found a Welsh-speaking community in Patagonia. Their passage cost massive 48 pound sterling per had. In an arid, inhospitable environment, quite unlike the damp of mountainous Wales, and with only one farmer among their number, they set about creating an agricultural oasis in the narrow Chubut Valley. The Argentinean government granted Land free and the settlers founded communities at Trelew and Puerto Madryn. Captain Fitzroy of the HMS *Beagle* had surveyed the coastline nearby. The Welsh language still thrives in the area alongside Spanish and English.

The story of this episode in Welsh history is told in "The Desert and the Dream" by Glyn Williams published by the University of Wales Press Roger Bowen, Blaenavon, Wales

National Libraries Online with Genealogical Access.

IFLANET contains the "National Libraries of the World: Address List". This is useful list for lots of reasons but it also serves to track the inclusion of online addresses. From there we can do our own survey of genealogical resources online.

The following is a varied list of websites I have come across that exemplifies the trend toward access to genealogical sources in national libraries, as they appear online. One recent example of this trend can be found in the recent integration of the National Library of Canada with the National Archives.

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca> The Library of Congress, which is really the library of the U.S.

Congress, has come to encompass characteristics of the national library and national archive. The Local History & Genealogy Reading Room is probably as good an example of the genre as is possible today.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/>

The National Library of Australia is a good model of what a national library should have in its collections as well as access to them online or at the Libaray.

First you get www.nla.gov.au and do a search ie.family history and you are at the page that is entitled "Family Historians". This is a friendlier name than genealogical research but nonetheless a good description of the process.

The page is divided as follows: *Visiting the Library, Major Resources held include: Electronic Family History; Guides to the Collections, and Other Australian Institutions that may hold material relating to your family history includes.*

Some of the valuable collections such as birth, death and marriage indexes, electoral rolls, immigration and passenger lists, British government records relating to the Australian colonies indexes to probate records, parish records, biographical archives etc are not online yet but the fact that one can locate the information online is the crucial gateway to facilitating genealogical and local history research. The Electronic Family History section indicates that the Library subscribes to many online resources relating to family history. There is an index to these resources. There are guides or what is known sometimes as finders' aids to the collections. In addition there are newspapers, archival material, pictures, maps and oral history. May all our national libraries have this information soon online and accessible. This is a goal surely worthy of our Section.

