



# NEWSLETTER

**Genealogy and Local History Section**

*Newsletter Number 11 / January 2008*



*Members of the IFLA GENLOC Committee in Durban August 2007*



*Durban seafront*

## Table of contents

Melvin P Thatcher : an appreciation.....	1
GENLOC Committee Members	
Change of Officers.....	2
Annual Report 2006 - 2007	
-including items on IFLA GENLOC Durban and IFLA GENLOC Quebec.....	3
In celebration of Judith, North Carolina.....	5
Visiting the Welsh in Ohio.....	7
Discussion on FAIFE.....	8
Family history the Australian and New Zealand way: The State Library of S Australia, Adelaide.....	9
News from Elsewhere	
GENLOC Durban presentation for IFLA Journal.....	11
Italian Genealogy Research.....	12
Australian celebs to trace Family Tree.....	12
Conference papers publication - update.....	12

## Melvin P Thatcher

Melvin P Thatcher, Genealogical Society of Utah, has retired from the position of Chairman of the IFLA Genealogical and Local History Section. Mel had been the driving force in setting up and promoting a Discussion Group on Genealogy and

Local History, inaugurated in 1999. It was due to his tenacity and enthusiasm that this Group transformed itself into an official IFLA section at the IFLA Glasgow Conference in 2002. Since then he has worked continually to promote the significance and appeal of family and local history to all librarians and libraries – and thereby to all those with an interest in the subject.

Among his many particular activities for GENLOC, Mel spearheaded joint sessions with other Sections at IFLA Conferences, initiated a survey of genealogy and local history facilities in national library associations, and encouraged the collection of guidelines for genealogy and local



*Melvin P Thatcher*

history collections and services. A great interest was in bolstering co-operation between GENLOC

and the IFLA FAIFE Committee in drafting a document on data privacy and libraries.

At a GENLOC dinner at IFLA Durban, the incoming Chairman, Ruth Hedegaard, presented Mel with a photograph frame to thank him most sincerely for all the effort he had put into making Genloc a viable Section and to remind him of his many colleagues from around the world who have been grateful for his advice and friendship.

Thank you, Mel, from all of us for all you have accomplished for the Section - and thereby for IFLA. We are looking forward to seeing you in Quebec with word of your future publications on the history of ancient China.

### **GENLOC Chairman 2007: Ruth Hedegaard**



*Ruth Hedegaard*

Since 1983, Ruth has worked as a librarian at the Historical Archives at Vendsyssel Historical Museum, Hjoerring, situated in the north of Jutland in Denmark. She is presently Head of the Historical Archives and the reading room of the Museum and Archives. She is responsible for the registration of photos and printed matters.

She has a great interest in co-operation between archives, libraries and museums and has been involved with the national NOKS/ARBIMUS and DANPA digital databases. She has given papers on the issues of partnership at several international conferences. She has also published papers and articles on the subject. Last year she adopted the role of joint-editor of a volume of the IFLA GENLOC Conference presentations to be published by Saur in Spring 2008.

Ruth was an original member of the IFLA Discussion Group on Genealogy and Local History. She then joined the interim Committee

and has been a member and Secretary of the IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section since its inauguration in 2002.

### **GENLOC Treasurer 2007: Janice McFarlane**



*In Durban, counting the money*

Fortunately for the Section and the Standing Committee, Janice agreed at the Committee Meeting in Durban to continue as the super-efficient Treasurer of the Section.

### **GENLOC Secretary 2007: Russell Lynch**



*Russell Lynch*

In Durban, Russ, a staff member at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, accepted the exacting role of GENLOC Secretary, taking over from Ruth Hedegaard. One of his first duties was to prepare the Annual Report.

## Annual Report 2006-2007

The Genealogy and Local History Section had 35 section members at the end of the year 2007.

The Standing Committee consists of:

**Chair:** Ruth Hedegaard  
**Secretary:** Russell Lynch  
**Treasurer:** Janice McFarlane  
**Information Coordinator:** Janet Tomkins  
**Editor of Newsletter:** Elizabeth Melrose

**Committee members 2005-2009:** Richard Huws, Elizabeth Melrose, Paul Smart, and Juergen Warmbrunn.

**Committee members 2007-2011:** Anne Burrows, Lijing Chen, Ruth Hedegaard, Antonio Lechasseur, Gerard Long, Russell Lynch, Janice McFarlane, Wayne Metcalfe, Mattye Laverne Page, Janet Tomkins, Gui Won Lee, and Hsiao-ming Yu

**Corresponding members:** Gu Yan, Marie-Louise Perron, Susan Lugo

During the year we have been working on various activities and services, including the following items:

### Open Session Program

The theme of the IFLA 2007 Conference program in Durban was *Stories without writing: local and family history beyond the written word*. The Audiovisual and Multimedia section joined with us to sponsor the program held in two sessions. These sessions had 7 speakers and one video presentation with a combined total of more than 400 attendees. The speakers delivered wonderful presentations! Zhang Hongxia's paper on salvaging the vanishing Li culture was chosen for publication in the IFLA Journal.

### Study Tour

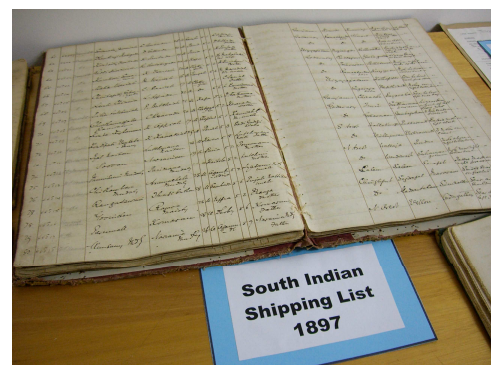
Like previous years, our section provided our own study-tour that Mel Thatcher organized. The Genealogy and Local History Section and the Audiovisual and Multimedia Section sponsored an all-day tour on Wednesday, August 22, 2007. The tour included three locations: the Durban Archives Repository, the Killie Campbell Africana Library, and the Hidden Years Music Archive. Forty people

participated in the tour, which also included lunch at the Indian Connection Restaurant.



*Entrance to the Durban Archives*

The Durban Archives Repository is one of three repositories for the Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Archives. The Archives are the keepers of the official records of Kwa-Zulu Natal, dating from colonial government to the present. These include the archives of magistrates, local authorities, and provincial government. The three repositories, situated in Pietermaritzburg, Ulundi, and Durban, are responsible for the preservation of archives and their use by the public. The archivists explained the records that are useful for family history research and answered questions about preservation, ethnic communities, and oral histories.



*Original documents from the Archives*

The Killie Campbell Africana Library and William Campbell Museum is part of Natal University. Killie Campbell (1881-1965) gathered books, manuscripts, and artifacts to preserve for posterity the history of Zululand and Natal. The old Cape Dutch-styled Campbell home *Muckleneuk* stands

looking out over spacious gardens with indigenous shrubs and trees, high on Durban's Berea. The enthusiastic guides showed the artifacts, beadwork and paintings which were displayed - the beautiful treasures of South Africa in an absolutely magnificent setting.



**Guides at the Killie Campbell Museum**



The Hidden Years Music Archive is at the Eleanor Bonnar Music Library at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

They participate in two projects: the South African Music Project (SAMAP) and the International Library of African Music (ILAM). SAMAP aims to create an online resource on indigenous South African music and associated cultural heritage so as to promote multidisciplinary research into the field of popular music and culture.

Visiting these libraries and repositories allowed



**The University of Kwa-Zulu Natal**

WLIC participants to see in person the fascinating collections and services in the Kwa-Zulu Natal area. The exciting developments in South Africa will benefit researchers worldwide.

### **Section Committee Meetings**

The minutes can be seen on the Genealogy and Local History Section page on the IFLA website. [www.ifla.org/VII/s37/annual/s37-2007-minutes.pdf](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/annual/s37-2007-minutes.pdf)

The Standing Committee also reviewed each item in the strategic plan during a spring discussion via e-mail.

### **Section Review**

The Professional Committee recommended new divisions for IFLA this year. The committee originally recommended that GENLOC be in the Library Types Division. We recommend moving GENLOC to the Library Materials and Services Division instead. This was approved, and our Section has been moved to this division, that may end up being called Library Collections

### **Membership drive**

One important goal of the Section is to get more members in order to continue as a Section Committee. We were pleased that the Professional Committee reduced the required minimum number of members from 50 to 40. After contacting hundreds of libraries with a written invitation, we believe the best approach is still through personal contact.

### **Committee Leadership Change**

Mel Thatcher ended his eight-year term as section chair. Mel represented the section very well and kept the committee moving forward. The standing committee members honored Mel at a dinner in Durban for his tremendous work and wonderful accomplishments.

### **Communication**

Elizabeth Melrose continues to produce excellent newsletters. Copies of the newsletters are available on [www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm)

## GENLOC

Unfortunately we still have not succeeded in making GENLOC our listserv into a discussion forum, but we use the listserv to send information from the Section, our minutes, newsletter etc.

### Publication of conference papers

The Section decided to compile and publish the GENLOC conference papers from 2001 to 2005. Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Melrose became editors and had the sometimes hard work of getting the papers from the authors and editing them into the same format. Several Standing Committee members helped with proof-reading, and the manuscript was handed over to IFLA headquarters at the conference in Durban. The manuscript is now sent to K.G. Saur Verlag for publication and will be published in the first half of 2008.

### Survey

The Section is continuing to survey genealogical sources in national libraries and national archives through the following questionnaire.

[www.llgc.org.uk/ifla/holiadur\\_ifla.htm](http://www.llgc.org.uk/ifla/holiadur_ifla.htm)

The response to date has been good, and the information collated has been very useful in assisting our membership and publicity drives. Relevant institutions can still respond to the questionnaire, as it will remain on IFLANET for the foreseeable future.



*The port of Quebec City in the 19<sup>th</sup> c (Wikipedia)*

### Open Session

The theme for the Open Session is *Access to Genealogical Records: Data Protection versus Unlocking the Records*. GENLOC will hold a joint session with FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression). Janice McFarlane is organizing the session with Paul Sturges from FAIFE.

### Study Tour

The Section is planning a study tour to Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site in Québec. This is the Canadian equivalent of New York's Ellis Island. Grosse Île was a quarantine station from 1832 to 1937.

**Russell Lynch**  
**Secretary, GENLOC Standing Committee**

---

## In Celebration of Judith – Oral Tradition, Museums and Libraries Keep the Story Alive

Come July, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Wilkesboro, North Carolina will host a two-day family reunion celebrating the life of Judith Barber, originally Judith Williams. Judith was an enslaved woman who was originally owned by Fannie Williams and later became the house slave with her 13 daughters. She shared the period of the 1850's until emancipation with the Barber family, where Fannie stayed with her sister Mary. Reverend R. E. Barber was the Episcopal minister of St. Paul's Church congregation and Judith and her daughters carried out the difficult work that enabled the socially prominent wife, Mary Taylor Williams



## GENLOC at IFLA Quebec

10<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup> August 2008

### GENLOC Open Session

*Access to Genealogical  
Records: Data  
Protection versus  
Unlocking the Records*

Barber, to entertain the many guests at their home at Cedar Lawn.

Judith Williams Barber was born in 1820 and died in 1912. Her descendants will not let her time on this earth go unnoticed nor unappreciated. The oral history is alive and well in the family with enough information about her to be the subject of many documentaries, plays, books, etc.



**Judith Williams Barber 1820 - 1912**

Where does this source of information come from? Two descendants of hers were key in the passing down of her 'story' to the rest of the world. In many ways two women descendants in different generations served as 'griots' and united the family with stories of Judith's legacy, her dignity, and spirituality (after all Judith was a midwife and healer, and according to African traditions cured the body **and** the soul). The first was Ms. Annie Jones, Judith's first granddaughter, and Judith's great-great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Grinton (1916-2001) who began the family reunions that the Barbers and the community enjoy today.

I personally knew Elizabeth Grinton when she was in her elderly years. She was a charismatic retired educator and community activist. I taught library science classes at Appalachian State University. When I met her I realized that Elizabeth Grinton's years were numbered and that according to the African proverb, *When an old*

*person dies, a library is burned.* How to document the incredible life of Judith Barber and the mesmerizing mission of Elizabeth Grinton to unite her large extended family and let them understand that though enslaved, through no fault of her own, Judith was a woman to be proud of, someone to honor, someone to inspire coming generations. Elizabeth Grinton, five years before she died, published the family book called *Treasure Troves*, documenting the family history. It included pictures of the tombstones of the early Barber family in the cemetery of Old Damascus Baptist Church, an early place of worship after slavery ended.

Betsy Barber Hawkins, also a retired educator and former resident of Wilkesboro, came up from Florida one summer. In her mission to document her ancestors, the Williams and the Barbers, she revisited Elizabeth Grinton, whom she had heard about in her youth. The two began sharing stories and came out with more information than either ever thought they could have achieved. Slave owner and enslaved...their lives had meshed pre and post civil war. Rev. Barber became the first Wilkesboro public school superintendent after the Civil War, and by then several of Judith's grandchildren prepared themselves for teaching. Records show them on the rolls of those rudimentary schools for blacks.

A university grant and assistance of several university departments resulted in a 55 minute documentary called *I Go There in My Dreams: New Memories of An Old South*. I completed it in May 2001, just days after Elizabeth Grinton died. The documentary features Elizabeth Grinton and Betsy Barber Hawkins walking through the home where the slaveowners and enslaved women had lived. It was a true reality show with no script but the sharing of two deeply committed individuals giving testimony to their connection to family.

But no such work exists in a vacuum. Museums and libraries lent their support. The Appalachian Cultural Museum at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina lent artifacts from its exhibit on the Barber family for filming. These artifacts came from a donation of Elizabeth Grinton several years earlier, and to the university's credit was fashioned into a telling of the contributions that African Americans made to the Appalachian area. There were pictures of 'Mammy Judith', as the family called her, pictures of her children and extended family, plates that she used, kettles, quilts made by her daughters and pictures of her extended family - and the documenting of some of their migration into the coal-mines of West Virginia. Recently, while a new museum is being

planned, the exhibit was lent to the Wilkes Historical Museum in Wilkesboro and local citizenry are learning about the early presence of African American women and families.

Wilkes Community College's Learning Resource Center under the leadership of Dr. Fay Byrd provided and still provides a wealth of information on the Barber family, both the black side and the white side. Master copies of videos taken by videographer, the late Bob Pate, have been meticulously preserved for future researchers, and this researcher is planning a second documentary about Elizabeth Grinton's life using many of these archival videos. Ms. Grinton's niece, educator Jane Wilborn, has also shared many of the Grinton films taken over a span of 25 years. The Learning Resource Center has vertical files documenting family activities through the years. Recently Betsy Barber Hawkins has been filmed sharing the research she has spent years doing about her family for the Wilkes County Save Our History Committee.

Though each community focuses on the recovery of their heritage, giving particular attention to those in their jurisdiction, the IFLA Conference in Durban, South Africa moved all of us toward the realization that collectively recovering the heritage of each community leads all of us in library institutions to better understand the diversity and richness of the world's heritage.

**Dr. Linda Veltze, Appalachian State University Library, US.**



**Gomer Welsh Community Museum, Ohio**

## Visiting the Welsh in Ohio - more from Ohio and the National Library of Wales

During Autumn 2007 a research officer from the National Library of Wales visited the towns and villages in the state of Ohio that were founded by Welsh emigrants in the nineteenth century.

Dr Menna Morgan, the Wales-Ohio Project officer, travelled to places such as Shandon, Oak Hill, Gomer, Venedocia and the Welsh Hills to promote a new bilingual website that was launched recently by the Library. The Wales-Ohio website [www.ohio.llgc.org.uk](http://www.ohio.llgc.org.uk) chronicles the history and the experiences of many hundreds of emigrants who flocked to the heart of North America to seek a better life.

*'We have collected and interpreted the materials in the Library dealing with the history of the Welsh in Ohio and presented them on a website for audiences in every part of the world,'* said Menna Morgan.

At present the website displays around 5,000 digital images of archives and manuscripts, printed materials, photographs, maps and pictures.



**Menna Morgan, Elizabeth Davis, Jeanne Jindra (Madog Centre) and Evan Davis**

*'The response to the website has been excellent so far,'* she said. *'We have received messages from people in every part of Wales, and from Ohio and beyond expressing their surprise at the history and at the amount of information that is available on the website.'*

During the journey Menna also looked for more materials to digitise. The first phase of the Wales-Ohio Project was financed by Evan E and Elizabeth F Davis of Oak Hill, Ohio. Further sponsorship has been received from them to continue with the digitisation work and to extend and enrich the present website.

*'It was a pleasure to visit places I had heard so much about, especially in the south-east where a large number of people from Cardiganshire had*

*settled. While I was there I had the opportunity to attend the annual Singing Festival at Nebo, which has been a tradition there for 135 years! Several people came up to me after the Festival to present materials that we could digitise for the project.'*

*'I was also surprised that the two Welsh Museums – at Oak Hill and Gomer – had collected so much material during the years recording the history of the Welsh people of Ohio, and their customs and traditions. We look forward to co-operating with them and to digitising some of the most important items in their collections.'*

Menna visited the Madog Center at the University of Rio Grande, the Welsh-American Heritage Museum in Oak Hill, the State Archives at Columbus and the Gomer Welsh Community Museum to find appropriate materials for digitisation during the second phase of the project.

From now until the end of March 2009, it is intended to develop the present website by:

- adding transcripts and translations of the materials that have been digitised already
- developing the present education section
- publishing the contents of *The Cambrian* on-line
- digitising further suitable items including materials in archives and private collections in America.

For further information about the Wales-Ohio Project visit: [www.ohio.llgc.org.uk](http://www.ohio.llgc.org.uk) or send an e-mail to: [ohio@llgc.org.uk](mailto:ohio@llgc.org.uk)

**Menna Morgan, National Library of Wales**

## **FAIFE**

### **- Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression**

#### **Resolution on Access to Personal Data**

Mel Thatcher of GENLOC asked FAIFE to draft a resolution on access to personal data - a difficult issue because on the one hand, society needs to protect personal privacy; but on the other, scholars and public policy makers need to have access to some of this data in order to do research and make social changes. Barbara Jones, FAIFE Committee Member and Acting Secretary, developed a draft in 2006. The FAIFE committee did not have time to address the issue in Seoul, but did so in The Hague in April 2007. Barbara put the resolution on the IFLA FAIFE agenda wanting this to be agreed as a resolution.

**Alex Byrne: *The politics of promoting freedom of information and expression in international librarianship: the IFLA/FAIFE project.* Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Maryland, 2007**

The FAIFE Committee had been concerned at their April meeting with access to personal data from official records, touching on issues such as adoptees and their 'right' to trace birth parents, and the need/desire of people from communities with multiple heritages to trace ancestry through a range of national records.

At the second GENLOC Standing Committee meeting in Durban, members, including Antonio Lechasseur of Library and Archives Canada, agreed to help on a committee concerned with data privacy and access – and, if viable, with a conference in South America in 2008.

In **Victoria, Australia** there has recently been an announcement that public access to Victorian birth and change of name records will increase from 75 to 100 years. An exact date has not been set for this change.

#### **Revised policy effecting access to Victorian records**

A revised *Access Policy* will come into effect in the second half the year governing the access to records held by the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The *Access Policy 2007* defines:

- who may be eligible to access Registry records
- the conditions of access
- the format in which information will be released
- the time period for which records are restricted

One of the key changes to policy is that restriction periods on public access to birth and change of name records will increase from 75 to 100 years.

The *VicHeritage* CD and microfiche products containing records that are in breach of the 100 year restriction period will no longer be available for purchase from the date of release of the *Access Policy 2007*. These products include:

- *Edwardian Index, 1902 to 1913* on CD Rom and microfiche
- *Great War Index, 1914 to 1920* on CD Rom and microfiche

Policy changes are driven by a number of factors:

- a need to better protect an individual's identity
- an increase in life expectancy

*'Ultimately it is my responsibility as the Registrar to ensure all records held and released by the Registry are done so in accordance to strict standards that do not compromise an individual's security and personal identity', said Ms Helen Trihas, Registrar, Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. 'We recognise and value the role we have in family and historical research and remain committed to supporting and working with all members of this community in their work'.*

Further information and the policy itself will be added immediately to the Registry's website [www.bdm.vic.gov.au](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au) on release. Information will also be passed onto various genealogical societies for dissemination as soon as it becomes available.

**Anne Burrows, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne**

There are a couple of examples here in **Canada** regarding increasing constraints on public access to genealogical information:- here in British Columbia, birth records were until recently open to the public, without restriction, after 100 years. But in 2003, that was changed to 120 years. So now, the public can access birth records from 1903 and earlier, but will not have ready access to any later records until 2025, when 1904 records will be released.

There was a long battle between Statistics Canada and Library and Archives Canada regarding release of 1906 and 1911 census records. This was based on a supposed assurance given to people enumerated in those years that their records would not be released in the future, although no documentation was ever produced to support the contention that such an assurance was given. This was recently resolved, and 1906 and 1911 census records are now in fact available. But in the most recent (2006) census, the form specifically asked people to opt-in if they wanted to consent to having their records released after 92 years. In the case of those who did not opt-in, their records will never be released to future generations.

**Janet Tomkins, Vancouver Public Library, Canada**

## Family history the Australian and New Zealand way

In the second of a continuing series of articles on major Australian and New Zealand libraries and

how they provide services to genealogists, we focus on:

## The State Library of South Australia in Adelaide (SLSA)

The State Library of South Australia underwent major redevelopment between 2000 and 2003. The 1960s Bastyan Wing of the Library had been built before the advent of computers, therefore it needed to be drastically updated to enable an upgrade of our information technology capability and to make the building compliant. What used to be a dark building with very little natural light and offices and corridors everywhere was transformed into wonderful light, bright, open plan areas.

The Bastyan Wing is now named after Catherine Helen Spence, Australia's first truly professional female journalist and the first female political candidate in South Australia. She was a fearless social and political reformer. Largely due to Catherine Helen Spence's influence on suffrage, South Australia became the first place in the world to give women the right to stand for Parliament. Her role in Federation was recognised nationally by her placement on Australia's Federation five-dollar note.



**State Library of South Australia in Adelaide  
Family History area**

The magnificent glass foyer, which forms the entrance to the building, connects the two heritage wings of the Library without overshadowing them. One of the heritage buildings, the beautiful Mortlock wing, which opened in December 1884, is now the home of a variety of permanent exhibitions. The other, the Institute Building originally built in 1860, now contains an exhibition of items from the Library's Sir Donald Bradman collection.

On the ground floor of the Catherine Helen Spence wing is the Adelaide City Council Lending Library, the State Library Café and the Flinders University Gallery.

Upstairs is the Library's main information point, which now houses all our many and varied collections. This includes the Family History Collection, which is co-located with the newspapers on microfilm. Family Historians are the greatest users of the newspapers. They are absolutely invaluable not just for providing personal notices relating to births, deaths, and marriages but are also wonderful for learning about the social history of the times people's ancestors lived.

We have about a 90% coverage of all the newspapers published in South Australia, beginning with the **Register** which was the very first newspaper in the colony. In fact, the first edition was published in London in 1835 before the travellers set out to establish South Australia. The collection includes regional papers, not just those published in Adelaide. Those that we do not have tend to be the early sports papers. Included in the collection is one newspaper from every State, from the first edition to the present day, but we also keep a number of shorter runs of papers for the other states.

Access is provided to the Times Digital Archives on the Library public access computers and we have microfilm copies of the paper itself from 1834 onwards. Once again, reading the Times can put ancestors' lives in context.



*Microfilm Readers in the Family History area  
State Library of South Australia*

In the Family History Area there are 15 digital microfilm readers and 8 of these are attached to printers so anything of interest can be copied.

Included among the Libraries public access computers are 28 which people can use without

booking. On these, many of the most heavily used family history electronic resources have been networked. This includes various birth, death and marriage records for each state and Ancestry Library Edition. There are also 4 family history dedicated computers, which people can book to ensure that they can get access to the resource they need at a time that suits them.

We do understand that generally people are not greatly interested in the Dewey System. They are only interested whether a book will help them with their research. So the hard copy South Australian family history resources are not shelved amongst the interstate and overseas books and are all kept together on separate shelves.

In the Library we are the custodians of the Anglican, Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Church records. Many of the Anglican records have been microfilmed and are in the Family History Area. These include the records of Trinity Church, the very first, and for a long time the most prominent, church in South Australia. Given that civil registration did not begin until 1842 in South Australia, the early church records are very important for family historians. This may be the only way to find out about an event which happened in the family.

Between 10 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday there is a staff member on duty in the Family History Area. Outside these times the service is operated from the main Information Desk.

Alongside the Family History Area is the collection of government publications. This includes the electoral rolls, which are very useful for finding out where people lived, and the early ones may also give a person's occupation. The Library has an incomplete set for South Australia beginning in 1863, and incomplete sets for all other States from 1938 until the present day.

The collection also contains the Government Gazettes which are invaluable to family historians as they give so much information about individuals as well as what was going on within the State.

There are various links on the State Library web page at [www.slsa.sa.gov.au](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au) under **Family Historians** to help with family history research. From here it is also possible to print off Library Factsheets.

The Library's South Australiana catalogue, which is also available at the above address, contains biographical information relating to South Australians and over 70,000 photographs. Of course there are many resources which help family historians in other collections in the Library.

This is especially true of the South Australian Collection which contains things like already published family histories, school year books, police gazettes, local histories and company histories.

The Library has an impressive map collection. It would be difficult to find a place in the world for which we do not have a map. Our maps are not on open access but during our core opening hours there is always a map-trained librarian who can retrieve relevant maps from the collection for customers. Arrangements can be made for maps to be retrieved for use outside our core hours.

The Library offers a number of courses to help people with their family history research and we also offer sessions via public libraries. A new initiative this year enables customers to book in to have one on one half hour sessions with a Family History Specialist prior to the Library opening on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

A large number of people coming to the State Library of South Australia do so to research their family history. It is anticipated that the numbers will continue to grow as more and more 'Baby Boomers' retire and have the time to trace their roots. At the moment we are undertaking a review to decide how we can best accommodate these new Library users.

**Marie Maddocks,, State Library of South Australia, Adelaide, South Australia** [www.slsa.sa.sa.gov.au](http://www.slsa.sa.sa.gov.au)

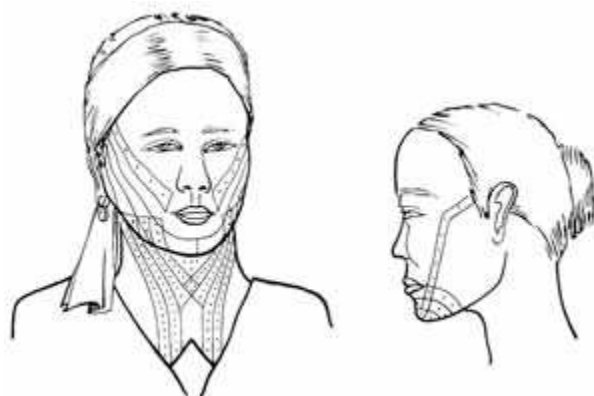


*The State Library of South Australia*

## News from Elsewhere

Congratulations to Jenny Zhang Hangxia, and Zhan Changzhi of Hainan University Library, China, whose joint Durban presentation '**A library's efforts in a journey of salvaging the vanished culture**' has been chosen for publication in the IFLA Journal.

This fascinating paper told of the efforts of Hainan University Library in documenting the rapidly vanishing culture of the Li people of Hainan Island in the south of China. This ethnic group have no writing script, only a spoken language. Their traditional culture, fast disappearing, includes folk songs, weaving and a unique tattooing culture – in co-operation with Global Memory Net (GMNet) and other international scholars, Hainan University is salvaging the Li culture in multimedia format so that it can be studied and preserved.



*Meifu Li facial tattooing c1930*

**Elizabeth Melrose, Editor of the IFLA GENLOC Newsletter has been awarded the UK Local Studies Group Dorothy McCulla Memorial Prize 2007 for Local Studies Librarianship. Her work as part of the IFLA GENLOC Committee contributed to the citation. The award presentation will take place at a UK Local Studies Group Meeting in April in Scotland.**

## Italian Genealogy Research

**Foerster, Robert Franz:** *The Italian Emigration of Our Times*  
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1919. 556p.

This thorough book should be read by all genealogists interested in Italian family history. It describes the emigration from Italy not only to the US, but to Switzerland, Argentina etc., and in turn the second migrations to other countries and those returning to Italy.

Foerster discusses the migration from Italy from the earliest times, but his focus is the pace of migration from each of the regions of Italy from 1876 to 1909. He gives charts and tables throughout the text. Note the useful table on page 529 showing the numbers of migrants from 1876-1886, 1887-1900, 1901-1909.

**Conti, Marcello:** *L'Argentina come paese di-immigrazione e dicolonizzazione agricola.*  
Florence, Italy: G. Ramella, 1908. 19p.

A scarce item about Italian migration to Argentina and the impact the Italians had on the agricultural economy and practices there.

**Rotellini, Vitaliano:** *La legge di immigrazione e colonizzazione per lo stato di San Paolo.*  
*Messaggio, legge, commenti; una lettera al "messaggero" di Roma.*  
Sao Paulo, Brazil: Fanfulla, 1901. 30p.

This title is a very scarce and unusual manual for Italian immigrants. Written in Italian and published in Sao Paulo, Brazil, it briefed them on the law and on what they could expect in Brazil. Sao Paulo encouraged migrants to build their economy.

Tom Kemp email: [thomas.j.kemp@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.j.kemp@gmail.com)

Other book titles with descriptions can be seen on *Genealogy Librarian News* blog

<http://genlibrarian.blogspot.com/>



## Australian celebs to trace family tree

Following the success of the UK series 'Who do you think you are?' an Australian series has been under production, tracing the family history of celebrities. Now details have been revealed as to who the Australian celebs will be. For more information:

[www.tvtonight.com.au/2007/09/aussie-celebs-to-trace-family-tree.html](http://www.tvtonight.com.au/2007/09/aussie-celebs-to-trace-family-tree.html)

I am interested in strategies that other libraries might have developed to cope with increased demand on genealogy services caused by the screening of the 'Who do you think you are?' television program. The Australian version goes to air on 13 January 2008.

Anne Burrows, *Genealogy Librarian*,  
State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
Victoria 3000  
email: [aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au)

## Publication of GENLOC Conference papers 2001–2006

The volume of GENLOC Conference Papers 2001-2005, edited by Ruth Hedegaard and Elizabeth Melrose, is in the hands of the Publishers KG Saur Verlag and the collection should appear in print this Spring, 2008.

## For more information about the Section and its activities, please visit our website:

[www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm)

A leaflet promoting the work of the Section is available in the following languages: Afrikaans, English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Please email the Editor, GENLOC Newsletter at [elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.melrose@btinternet.com) with any comments on the Newsletter