Message from the Chair

I am pleased to write this message as the GENLOC Chair for 2011-2013. I look forward to serving as Chair to represent the Section at the Library Collections Division and because of the wonderful work in libraries for local history and genealogy. Libraries, archives, and museums continue to gather historic materials important to those searching for families and social history.

We welcome the new members of the Standing Committee: Xie Dongrong from the National Library of China, Beijing, China; Terry Dahlin from the Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA; Michael J. Hall from FamilySearch International, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA; and Randy J. Olsen from the Church History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

I appreciate the fabulous service of Standing Committee members who completed their term of service this year. Ruth Hedegaard from the Frederikshavn City Archives, Denmark did marvelous work as Chair from 2007-2011. Janice McFarlane from the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK was our Treasurer. Janet Tomkins from the Vancouver Public Library, British Columbia, Canada was our Information Coordinator. We’ll also miss Standing Committee members Lijing Chen (China), Gerard Long (Ireland), and Gui Won Lee (Korea).

Our Section sponsored a fantastic Satellite Meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Susan Lugo and Annice Canton were Coordinators for the activities. They did so well. Approximately 35 people attended the three-day sessions. The presentations covered the Information Diaspora in the Virginia Islands and its impact on family history users. There was a cultural evening,
sessions at the University of Virgin Islands, and a walking tour. Libraries from all three islands attended the meetings. The last day included a round-table discussion that a local television station recorded and aired later on the islands. The Lieutenant Governor attended the round-table. [a lot more could be said about the meetings; each presentation could be its own article]

The Programme from the Congress in Puerto Rico included four wonderful presentations. The papers are available in many languages on the IFLA website.

During the Congress, our Section held a study tour in Old San Juan with the Puerto Rico Genealogical Society (Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Genealogía). This was the first study tour where we have combined with a local society. Collaborating with them was a great experience. They were very gracious hosts, especially their President Norma Feliberti Aldebol.

**Russell S. Lynch - Chair of Genealogy and Local History Section**

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**Upcoming Conference**

The 2012 World Library and Information Congress will take place in Helsinki, Finland from 11-17 August 2012. The Genealogy and Local History Section will be pleased to join with the Newspaper Section to co-sponsor an open paper session around the theme: “The electronic re-evolution”: news media in the digital age - digital newspapers for local history and family history.

**Study Tour**

Information on the 2012 Genealogy and Local History Section’s annual study tour will be posted on the GENLOC website soon.

**Call for Papers**

To submit a paper proposal for the session to

Terry Dahlin - Newsletter Editor

GENLOC Satellite Meeting in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands
August 2011

Overview

The IFLA Genealogy and Local History sponsored a three-day conference with the St. Thomas – St. John Library Association (STSJLA; see also http://sites.google.com/site/stsjla/) in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Twelve people presented papers or lectured. Forty-one people participated in the Satellite Meeting. The participants came from the follow countries or islands: USVI (St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix); Denmark, USA, Curaçao, and the British Virgin Islands.

The theme of this fantastic Satellite Meeting was “The Information Diaspora: innovating research and records custodianship for family history users.” Susan Laura Lugo and Annice Canton co-chaired the program.

Wednesday’s Presentations

The first day’s programs introduced the challenges that archivists and librarians face in the Caribbean including distance between islands, climate factors, natural disasters, political changes, and records moved from the Caribbean to other continents.

Max Scriwanek of the National Archives of Curaçao presented “On Common History and Sharing Common Sources of History.” (See also http://www.nationalarchives.an) He talked about their archive and their island’s government separation in August 2010 from the Netherlands Antilles.

The participants enjoyed a recorded presentation from Melanie Clifton-Harvey called “From the Brink: Identifying, collecting and digitizing records of the Turks and Caicos Islands after Hurricane Ike.” She answered questions via Skype from England.

Poul Erik Olsen of the Danish National Archives presented “Take it or leave it: archives of a shrinking monarchy.” He discussed the colonies of Denmark and traumatic post-colonial archive experience. Also, he described the records from the Virgin Islands that are now in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The afternoon session at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI). The Information and Technology Services Department, St. Thomas
Campus of UVI hosted a tour of the Ralph M. Paiewonsky Library. Glen Kwabena Davis and Nadine Marchena Kean discussed the collaborative funeral booklets digitization project between UVI and the Government of the Virgin Islands Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. (See also http://webpac.uvi.edu/imls/project2002/booklets.shtml) They showed examples of funeral booklets and emphasized their value to genealogists and local historians. The two presenters shared aspects of their amazing culture and heritage.

We also visited the Enid M. Baa Library & Archives in Charlotte Amalie. (See also http://www.librarysample.com/usvi/index.asp) The weather during that week was extremely hot but all tours were worth the time.

**Thursday’s Presentations**

George F. Tyson, Director of the St. Croix African Roots Project, discussed the St. Croix Population Database, 1734-1917, created by the Virgin Islands Social History Associates. (See also http://www.visharoots.org)

Susan Laura Lugo, Territorial Coordinator for Archives, Government of the Virgin Islands discussed CARBICA’s MIGAN Project: Access to Caribbean Memory. The Memory of the Islands: Gateway to Archive Networking (MIGAN; see also www.carbica.org/migan) is a project of the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA). Funded by the European Union through its INTERREG Caribbean facility, the project links Caribbean born-digital and digitized archival resources and collection. One example of a collection is the Sailing Letters on the National Library of the Netherlands website. (See also http://www.kb.nl/sl)

Gayle Williams, Co-Director, Digital Library of the Caribbean (DLOC), Florida International University presented “DLOC: Electronic Custodianship through a Distributed Model.” (See also http://www.dloc.com) The dLOC project was launched in 2006 to create an electronic repository in which regional partners share collections. Organizations from Jamaica, Haiti, US Virgin Islands, and Venezuela founded the cooperative.

Ross Harvey, visiting professor at Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, discussed “New Custodians and New Practices: Digital Curation for Family History Materials.” He shared technical challenges and concerns for digital information. He discussed best practices and guidelines to ensure that digital materials are available for use in the future.

**Friday’s Panel Discussion**

The session on Friday was held in the Administration and Conference Center on the St. Thomas Campus of the University of the Virgin Islands. The case study presentation discussed the Virgin Islands with a theme “The Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Digitizing the Historical Records of the Danish West Indies 1672-1917.” Panelists were Asbjørn Hellum, National Archivist, Rigsarkivet, Copenhagen, Denmark; Jeannette A. Bastian, Acting Dean, Professor and Director of the Archives Program of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts; and Vernon Paul Rood, Project Archivist, National Archives
and Records Administration of the United States of America, College Park, Maryland.

The Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands, the Honorable Gregory R. Francis, attended this session. He reiterated his support for the Virgin Islands’ history and for GENLOC. A local television company taped the session for future broadcast to the territory.

**Other Events**

1. Welcome reception on Tuesday evening at the Windward Passage Hotel hosted by STSJLA.
2. Cultural evening on Wednesday at the Virgin Islands Cultural Heritage Institute (VICHI). The staff presented an evening of traditional Virgin Islands music, dance, art, shared history, and food.
3. Walking tour by the St. Thomas Historical Trust on Thursday afternoon to see Blackbeard’s Hill, the 99 Steps, Government Hill, Roosevelt Park, and the Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church.
4. Optional excursion on Friday, August 12, 2011: Historical Walking Tour of Cruz Bay Town, St. John
5. Optional excursion on Saturday, August 13, 2011: Tour of St. Croix by the Landmarks Society and the Virgin Islands Ancestry Discovery Group.

**Outcomes**

The Lieutenant Governor made plans to meet with archivists in the United States to address needs of and concerns for government records from the Virgin Islands.

Librarians and archivists on St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix have a better working relationship because of this Satellite Meeting. They don't often get an opportunity to meet together and realize the benefits of working together. Participating libraries recognize the value of IFLA membership.

GENLOC thanks Annice Canton and Susan Laura Lugo for coordinating the satellite meeting. GENLOC thanks STSJLA, the presenters, UVI, VICHI, the corporate sponsors, and the local societies for their support. All of the presentations were informative, well organized, and contributed to the theme. Many presentations are accessible from the Caribbean Genealogy Library website http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vicgl/IFLA.dwt. The Co-chairs provided an amazing experience and fabulous memories for everyone who attended.

**Russell S. Lynch - Chair of Genealogy and Local History Section**
GENLOC Meetings in San Juan

The Genealogy and Local History Section held Standing Committee meetings at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on August 13 and 16, 2011, to conduct necessary section business. New section officers were elected during the first Standing Committee meeting: Russ Lynch, USA, Chair; Elizabeth Melrose, United Kingdom, Secretary; Randy Olsen, USA, Information Coordinator; and Terry Dahlin, USA, Assistant Information Coordinator/Newsletter Editor. A more complete description of the actions taken in the Standing Committee meetings is available at the following link: http://www.ifla.org/files/genealogy-and-local-history/minutes/Minutes-San%20Juan%20Conference%2037-2011%20-%20Final.pdf

The Genealogy and Local History Section sponsored an open session focusing on the theme “Dispossessed Persons: Preserving Culture in an Age of Migration.” Poul Erik Olsen, Chief Consultant at the Danish National Archives in Copenhagen, spoke on “The Palestine Refugees Records Project.” Olsen noted that refugees, displaced persons, or victims of political or military conflicts are rarely among the well documented. As an archivist, he was often frustrated by not being able to assist individual former refugees in tracing or documenting their origins, leaving them with unfulfilled existential needs. In some cases the documentation was once available, but had not been preserved.

Olsen’s paper dealt with an example where a very rich archival documentation of a special group of refugees has been preserved for future research, namely the Palestine Refugee Records Project of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) As an effect of the prolonged mandate of UNRWA a meticulous registration process has, for over a period of 60 years, produced a comprehensive historical-genealogical archive on paper about the Palestine refugees, the Family Files. The purpose of the Family Files was never to create a historical data bank on the Palestinian refugees, but was purely administrative, namely to document who was eligible for the services of the organization and who was not. Heavily used in the day-to-day activities of the Relief and Social Service Section of UNRWA, the records in the Family Files were, after 50 years of service, deteriorating badly; simultaneously, researchers became increasingly conscious about the unique information on the Palestine refugees that the Family Files represented. UNRWA reacted to this situation by initiating a preservation project that went hand-in-hand with the transition from paper based to digital administration.

A presentation on “Preserving and Promoting Ethnic Heritage, Identity and Representation in the U.S.: The Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives” was given by Sonia Pacheco, Librarian Archivist at the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives; Gloria de Sá, Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Director of the Portuguese-American
Archives; and Judith Farrar, University and Special Archives Librarian and Archivist for the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives. All of the speakers were from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, USA.

The presenters explained that, despite being largely concentrated in a few urban industrial cities of the Northeast where they have been the major ethnic group for over a century, Portuguese-Americans have remained largely invisible and powerless until recently in their communities of settlement. The presenters explored how the establishment of the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the programs and initiatives it has undertaken are contributing to an enhanced sense of empowerment and identity among the Portuguese in the U.S. while preserving and connecting them to Portuguese-American heritage.

Ketty Rodriguez Casillas, Information Literacy Librarian at the Business Library, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA, read a paper on “Life experiences of Puerto Ricans in New York from 1950 to 1960: A Research Project.” Rodriguez Casillas expressed, however, that with this proposal her final objective was to create the motivation for fostering a large-scale oral history project on the experiences of the Puerto Rican diaspora. She said that these experiences will be published through the media, particularly on a web page that will serve as a link between all Puerto Ricans, wherever they live. It was her hope that this flow of information between all Puerto Ricans would be able to help Puerto Ricans understand themselves better as members of a single Puerto Rican nationality. For this purpose, she will establish partnerships with institutions interested in this topic, such as the Puerto Rican Collection of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus; the Digital Library of Puerto Rico; and CUNY’s Center for Puerto Rican Studies.

Rebecca Nedostup, Associate Professor, Department of History, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, USA, presented a paper on “Wartime and Postwar Burial Practice in China and Taiwan: Floating Between Displacement and Community.” Nedostup provided insights into how burial practices in postwar China and Taiwan reflected social acceptance.

_Terry Dahlin - Newsletter Editor_
Australian History Collections

The State Library of Victoria's Australian History collections contain a wealth of information just waiting to be discovered by intrepid family historians. The collections will help you to find information about Australian people, places and cultural institutions, breathing life into the names and dates that you have collected.

Our online catalogue is the best place to start your search: http://search.slv.vic.gov.au If you’re lucky it will contain direct references to your family, from our collection of family histories that have been published in Victoria. Search the catalogue for your family name and the word genealogy to see what you can find.

Other topics you might like to search for include histories of industries, occupations, clubs, and institutions like hospitals or asylums. These can help you to understand the context in which your ancestors lived and worked, and many include lists of relevant personal names.

Histories of individual schools will tell you what school life was like at the time your ancestor attended, and will often include photographs of classes, teams and special events. Many list names, like winners of academic and sporting prizes, school captains, and dramatists, singers and musicians. We hold histories of public, private, independent, and special schools. The Library offers access to several other online sources. The first of these is a set of digitized Victorian government gazettes dating from 1836-1997 http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au Gazettes are the government’s method of notifying the general public of its decisions and activities. They contain information on everything from government appointments and bankruptcies, to patent applications and lists of unclaimed letters. Entries may be as brief as five-line reward notice, or as comprehensive as a 200-page list of everyone who was registered to practice medicine in Victoria. You can search the official indexes to the gazette on the website, but they tend to lists topics, not personal names. The ‘Help’ page on the website describes how you can search the full text of many of the gazettes using Google, which is a better way of finding entries that mention your family name.

In conjunction with the Veterans Unit, Department of Planning and Community Development, we have also been digitizing World War I unit histories. These books include descriptions of battles, listings of soldiers, letters and photographs relating to various military units. In some cases you will be able to view the table of contents, and in others you will be able to read and download the whole book.

The Australian History collection includes a lot of material that isn't accessible online, full of unique genealogical data. For example, our in-house Biography Index includes thousands of references to books, trade-related journals, newspapers and in-house clippings files. These include information about Victorians and other prominent Australians, in sources like:
- Birth, death, marriage and anniversary notices
- Interviews
- Portraits and group photographs
- Biographical articles (including obituaries)

Four generations of the Cole family, West Cloven Hills Estate, Victoria.
The material referenced dates from the 1840s to the 1990s, and is organized by surname. You can access the index on microfiche in the La Trobe Reading Room, and in the Genealogy Centre.

Similarly, the Local History Index references information about Victorian towns, residences, pastoral properties, businesses and clubs that your ancestor might have been involved with. The index is divided first by place name, and then subdivided by topic, for example the entry for ‘Darlington. Vic. Pastoral runs. West Cloven Hills’ refers to a book which includes images and a history of the property. This index is available on microfiche in the La Trobe Reading Room.

Recently we have been transferring some entries from these indexes to our online Australiana Index, and adding additional references: http://australiana.slv.vic.gov.au/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB-local&PAGE=First

If you’re having trouble wading through all these fabulous resources, try our online research guides: http://guides.slv.vic.gov.au They list key resources and guide you through tasks like researching buildings or early census records, and finding images and articles in historic newspapers. Hopefully they will help you to find the elusive fact that’s been keeping you awake at night!

Katie Flack
Collections Coordinator
Australian History & Literature Team

SCOTTISH POST OFFICE DIRECTORIES

Fascinating information from more than 700 historic Scottish Post Office Directories has been made available online by the National Library of Scotland (NLS). They cover most of Scotland and date from 1773 to 1911. The directories can be viewed and downloaded for free at http://www.nls.uk/family-history/directories/post-office with unlimited access worldwide.

Scottish Post Office Directories open a window into the past and are a rich source of information for researching Scotland’s family, trade, and town history. They were published annually by the Post Office or more intermittently by private publishers and are a valuable resource especially for the years not covered by the census.

What information was included?
All directories within the NLS digital collection include a general directory which is an alphabetical list of a place’s or area’s residents by their surname. This makes it very easy searching people without having to know exactly where they lived. In many cases these lists also record information on each person’s profession and address. In 1890 the general directory for Edinburgh was the first in Scotland to include telephone numbers which, in those days, were only three digits long.

General directory in Edinburgh Directory for 1797-98

To a large extent, the three major sections within a directory include entries for the same...
people, simply arranged differently. The general, street and trade directory can then be used for cross-referenced research, starting with broad information before going into detail or vice versa.

If, for example, the general directory revealed that an individual was a hat maker, the trade directory could be used to identify how many other hat makers would be registered at the same time. The street directory would also show which other professionals worked or lived in the same street.

While early directories mainly focus on these three major lists, later publications also include information such as local history, descriptions or statistical details of towns, villages and parishes. Coastal directories can feature shipping lists, tidal schedules, and regulations on fees for harbour workers or lists of shore duties.

Directories for larger towns and cities often have extensive lists of stamp and legacy duties. These were taxes on licenses, deeds and certificates, for money lending, property transfer, mortgage agreements, or settlements.

Added interest comes from advertisements which, while covering only a few pages in the early 19th century, could expanded to almost a quarter of the entire book in the late 1800s. Mostly being very text-based, their difference in size and later in ornamentation, illustration and even coloration vividly depicts business hierarchies and art fashion alike and provides a fascinating insight into the local trading and business community.

Other sections that may feature in the directories include:

- **Bank directory** - usually provided for larger towns and cities, it can range from simple lists in the early years to extensive directories on banks and banking companies as well as their agents, staff and branches towards the late 19th century.
- **Church directory** – usually gives information on places of worship grouped by denomination as well as lists of clergymen, church officers, bible women or missionaries. Occasionally it may also give details on church graveyards, including prices for individual burial grounds or rates for burials.
- **Educational directory** - mainly provides information on public and private schools, training colleges, academies, universities, industrial schools, reformatories or asylums. It often also gives lists of teachers, professors or lecturers, grouped by their subject.
- **Insurance directory** – can vary from simple lists with brief details to extensive advertisements, sometimes covering several pages per company. These would often list a company’s staff members, describe its areas of coverage and state its capital or annual investments.
- **Law directory** - mainly provided for larger towns and cities, it usually gives lists of advocates, law agents, writers to the signet, accountants and other legal persons, as well as juridical institutions such as courts, legal firms and law offices.
- **Maps** - some of the directories for Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Paisley, Perth, and Portobello include maps, drawn specifically for the directories.
• Medical directory - by the late 19th century, directories often list medical and surgical institutions, general and special practitioners as well as veterinarians and pharmacists.

• Parliamentary directory – this can range from simple lists of parliamentary voters to extensive information on the Peers of Scotland, Chief Officers of State, Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Commons, and others.

• Postal directory – already included in the 18th century directories, it is dominated by a list of post towns with details on the postage to be paid for sending mail to these towns. Most postal directories also give mail delivery schedules, post office staff lists and information on letter carriers and their districts. Information on overseas mail and foreign telegram services is included in later versions.

• Public Conveyance directory - very early directories would give lists of carriers and ferries across Scottish rivers while lists of mail and stage coaches, railway routes and steam vessels would be featured later.

• Public Departments and Institutions directory - usually contains information on national bodies and organisations such as the police, prisons, fire brigades, town councils, public parks and cemeteries, or school boards. Scientific societies, lodges, missionary societies, literary associations, benevolent societies, nursing associations, musical societies, and local clubs can also be included.

Who published them?
The earliest of the digitised directories were compiled and issued by private publishers such as John Tait for Glasgow or Peter Williamson for Edinburgh. For smaller towns and more rural areas, the directories continued to be published privately well into the 19th and sometimes even the 20th century. The Post Office took over publication for larger towns and cities with the first volume for Edinburgh being issued in 1805 and Glasgow in 1828. The information contained in these directories was usually collected by letter carriers issuing forms to be filled in when they delivered the mail.

Who was included?
The content of the directories varied significantly between the different publishers and local areas. Until the mid 19th century, most directories would only list the principal inhabitants of a location, leaving others, particularly the poor, unmentioned. Usual practice was to record only the head of a household, resulting in very few entries for women.

People usually had to pay a small fee to be recorded in the directories. That meant that while the gentry, clergy, major tradesmen, manufacturers, shop owners and other professionals are included, their employees, small traders, craftsmen laborers and servants are hardly recorded at all. There are exceptions however, such as the extensive lists of farmers in Perthshire or of female householders in Forfar.

What areas did they cover?
While the early directories were only issued for a few major towns, by the mid-1800s they covered almost all Scotland. Towards the end of the 19th century publishers such as Isaac Slater started to produce national directories, including all Scotland in one book. However, most of those volumes concentrated on alphabetical lists for trades only and did not include a general and street directory.

How up to date was the information?
Information in some directories may have been taken from the previous year's publication or from elsewhere and may not always provide the most accurate or up to date picture. In addition,
information was gathered over several months and, by the time of printing, residents may have moved, changed their business, or died. Most directories published by the Post Office contain short notice addenda, errata or corrigenda to try to overcome this problem.

Depending on the map-maker, time period, and production process, maps would be more or less up to date with town developments. Around 1800, a delay of about two to three years would be normal but by 1900 maps could depict the latest changes within six months.

Making searching easier
In spring 2012, NLS plans to launch a new website which will enable the entire Post Office Directory collection to be searched by year, place and surname of people listed in the general directories. With free and unlimited access worldwide the new website will offer much more flexible research options where search terms can be applied to all directories at once and interlinked freely.

Credits
The extensive coverage of the digitised Scottish Post Office Directories available on the NLS website has only been possible by working in partnership with the following Scottish Libraries:

Hazel Stewart and Ines Byrne
National Library of Scotland