



W.I.S.E. WORDS

The Newsletter of W.I.S.E. Family History Society

WALES - IRELAND - SCOTLAND - ENGLAND

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July, August, September 2014

Touring Mystical Ireland

Very early Irish ignite our passions, our imagination and our intellect

—Thyria Wilson

Prehistoric Ireland, as we see it today, teems with mystery and myths, and those of us fortunate enough to visit its famous sites leave with a sense of wonder and appreciation. I have visited twice and here is my story.

The earliest people in Ireland were Mesolithic hunter-gatherers around 8000 B.C. They were short and dark and probably from the Mediterranean. Next were agrarian people who settled during the Neolithic times from 4000 to 2500 B.C. Many megalithic monuments date from this period, including rectangular burial chambers called court tombs that are found in the north of Ireland.

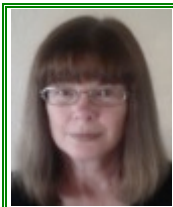
Four great Neolithic “cemeteries” lie in the valley of the Boyne River, the most famous being Newgrange. It was built about 3200 B.C. and is older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Giza. On the winter solstice, the first rays of the sun shine through a light-box above the entrance and illuminate the burial chamber at the center of the monument. Dolmens are a type of portal tombs with a single chamber and consist of three or more upright stones that support a large flat horizontal capstone. The most common of the tombs are wedge tombs with sloping roofs and narrowing walls in the west and southwest Ireland.

After the Neolithic arrivals came the Bell Beaker people around 2500 B.C., whose name reflects their distinctive pottery vessels. They brought metallurgy with them from the European continent. During the copper and bronze ages, copper mines flourished in Ireland and craftsmen began to work with gold, making beautiful ornaments. The last of the early settlers were the tall, blond Celts who began arriving around 300 B.C., during the Iron Age.



The entrance to the burial chamber at Newgrange.

—Continued on page 38



President's Message

I just love questions. They show me that as members you are very aware of our society and care about what we participate in. Lately you have been asking me about what societies we belong to, what dues we pay to other institutions, and why. Since so many have asked I thought I would take the time to review our memberships and dues paid to institutions in W.I.S.E. Words so that all members could be reminded.

First is CCGS or Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies. Our dues are \$75 per year based on our membership. I will use the words from the website to explain what we receive for those dues; "The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS) was established in 1980 as a non-profit organization to facilitate cooperation among heritage-related organizations." The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS) addresses the needs and interests of the Colorado genealogical community through cooperation and support of member organizations. It posts news of our events and registration forms, maintains a Speaker's Bureau, spearheads genealogy projects, i.e. indexing Colorado probate records, and helps to educate new societies on how to get started and stay afloat. Its web address is <http://www.cocouncil.org/>.

Second is the Scottish Genealogy Society Edinburgh. Our dues are around \$40 depending on the current exchange rate. They offer research assistance to anyone and are staffed by volunteers. We subscribe to *The Scottish Genealogist*, a journal that we donate to the Denver Public Library so that all may enjoy. Its web address is <http://www.scotsgenealogy.com/>.

Third is British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa or BIFHSGO. Our dues are around \$40, again depending on current exchange rates. Like the Scottish Genealogy Society Edinburgh we belong to BIFHSGO to receive its journal *Anglo-Celtic Roots* that is donated to the Denver

Public Library so that we may all enjoy it. Its web address is <http://www.bifhsgo.ca/>.

Fourth is The Irish Ancestral Research Association or TIARA. Our dues are \$25. We are members of TIARA to receive the newsletter to donate to the Denver Public Library. Its web address is <http://tiara.ie/index.php>.

In each of these cases the newsletters and journals are very helpful to us in our research and in learning about the history of our ancestors. So I encourage you to go to the fifth floor of the Denver Public Library and take a look at the newsletters and journals. You will be very happy that we have spent our dollars WISEly. In addition, if you search these websites you might even find some excuses to travel to areas you hadn't thought about.

—Barbara Fines Price □

Membership Report

—Sandy Breed

Welcome to those who joined the W.I.S.E. Family History Society recently:

February 2014: Barbara Smith

March 2014: Sharon Brennan, Debbie Harrison, Karen and James Hart, Patrick Kowaleski, Kay Laughlin, Annette Lyttle, Shauna Mariska, Sandra Mitchell and Sharon Jenkins, Dori Nelson, Denise Quintana, Gail Smith, Albert Thompson

April 2014: Ken Shaver, Pat Wales. □

Treasurer's Report

—Laurie Ramos

Beginning cash	
as of January 1, 2014	\$7,895.88
Deposits	\$5,132.54
Checks Cleared	(\$2,881.06)
Ending Cash Balance	
as of April 30, 2014	\$10,147.36
There were no outstanding deposits or checks as of May 20, 2014. □	

W.I.S.E. Family History Society

W.I.S.E. Family History Society is dedicated to research in Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Attention is also directed to the emigration and immigration of these peoples as well as heraldry and one-name studies. Monthly meetings are generally held the fourth Saturday of most months at the Central Denver Public Library, 7th Floor. Membership is open to anyone with interest in family history and genealogy. Membership dues for the calendar year are \$12 for an individual or \$15 for a family living at the same address. The W.I.S.E. Family History Society publishes W.I.S.E. Words four times per year, and a subscription is included with membership dues. Add \$5 to the dues if you want a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to you.

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New Members Interest Coordinator

Terence Quirke has retired as the Members Surname Interest coordinator and Megan Koepsell has assumed this position. Thank you, Terry, for your service and welcome, Megan. Read about Megan in the member profile section of this newsletter. □

Help Wanted

W.I.S.E. is seeking your talents to fill the following five positions:

Technical Resource Editor: Writes a quarterly article for the W.I.S.E. Words newsletter. The articles will give tips on searching for British Isles websites and/or technical information for navigating these websites. Contact Barbara Price at familyhistorygeniedenver@gmail.com.

Salt Lake City Trip Organizer: Coordinates and plans annual research trip to Salt Lake City. Zoe Lappin is retiring from this duty after 11 years as the organizer. Contact Zoe Lappin at zlappi@hotmail.com or Barbara Price at familyhistorygeniedenver@gmail.com.

Country Leads for England, Scotland and Wales: These are new positions. Contact Barbara Price at familyhistorygeniedenver@gmail.com. Please see the job description below. The Ireland Lead position has been filled. □

New Positions at W.I.S.E.

—Barbara Fines Price

One of the key things that a board of directors does as a society grows is to assure that members' interests and needs are being met. We have certainly grown over the last few years. As a result we have decided to add four new positions to those that exist in getting things done in our great society. They will be called Country Leads, not to be confused with Country Editors.

A Country Lead will represent either Wales, Ireland, Scotland or England to assure that members' interests from those countries are being met, i.e. if we have an influx of new members with ancestors from England we might want to have a get-together social so that they can meet and find out if they share common ancestors, or we might need to have special research classes to help them along the way finding their ancestors. The skills most needed for these positions are organizational ability, creative thinking, and a willingness to drink a pint or two. The president of W.I.S.E. will be the chairman of this group so the leads will

not need to attend board meetings (unless you want to) and we will need to get together about once a quarter. So come one come all and lead your country. □

Volunteers Still Needed for the 2014 Irish Festival

—Bill Hughes

W.I.S.E. has provided volunteers at the Irish genealogy booth for the last five years. You do not have to be an expert on Irish genealogy to volunteer. We provide Irish historic and genealogical information for the 40,000 festival patrons. We have all the maps, books and information to help the patrons begin their family search. Our materials will make you appear as an expert on Irish genealogy. These include: northern and southern county genealogy center information, county histories, surnames and coat of arms information.

Please bring your enthusiasm, knowledge, smart phones and I-pads that have Internet connections and any personal items and research results you think might be helpful. You get free access into the festival and the volunteer tent. You can enjoy the dancing, the bands and the exhibits when not on duty. We will be part of the cultural village.

Time and Location:

Friday July 11, 2014, 5 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, July 12, 2014, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, July 13, 2014, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We will need at least 20 volunteers for a minimum four-hour shifts.

The fair is within the Denver metro area at Clement Park, just east of the southeast corner of Bowles and Wadsworth Boulevard in south Jefferson County.

I can guarantee that you will have fun and gain more from the experience than you ever expected. Please contact Bill Hughes at 303-989-8560 or hughes.w@comcast.net and include times you will be available, your phone number and your email address. □

Touring Mystical Ireland

—Continued from page 35

In 1992 and 1994, I took bike trips in Ireland and saw many mystical places created by the early

people. The first went from Galway to Westport in Connaught and after it ended, I drove alone around the island. On the second trip a friend joined me in driving around Ireland after we biked around County Cork.

The first mystical place I toured was the Dun Aengus ring fort on the Aran Island of Inishmore. The fort, a series of concentric circular walls, sits more than 300 feet above the crashing waves below. It was exhilarating to look over the Atlantic from a place built in the second century B.C.

The Hill of Tara, near the Boyne River in County Meath, was the seat of the High King of Ireland. At the top of a hill is an oval Iron Age enclosure that was known as Raith na Riogh (Fort of the Kings). In the middle is a standing stone which is believed to be the Lia Fail (Stone of Destiny) at which the High Kings were crowned. According to legend, the stone would scream if a series of challenges were met by the would-be king, and at the victor's touch the stone would let out a screech that could be heard all over Ireland.



Mellifont Abbey

After exploring the Hill of Tara, I drove down narrow roads to Mellifont Abbey in County Louth, the first Cistercian abbey to be built in Ireland. It

is very large and is near a round tower. Round towers are narrow and tall (up to 110 feet), taper to a conical roof and primarily were erected near monasteries. The entrance is usually a doorway 10 to 15 feet above the ground, reached by a wooden or rope ladder that could be pulled up for safety.

The traffic roundabouts, so common in Ireland, were difficult to navigate alone, but at Mellifont, a friendly bus driver invited me to follow his bus full of school girls to Newgrange in County Meath. We drove down more narrow roads and arrived at the ancient burial chamber. This large structure was constructed of two types of stones brought to the site from many miles in different directions. In front of the entrance, there are large stones with beautiful designs of double spirals, triangles, zigzag lines and the sun symbol. There are three separate chambers with cremated remains in the main chamber. The guide demonstrated how the light reaches the main chamber at the dawn of the winter solstice. The Clannad (family) Irish music group has a song *Newgrange* that generates images of ancient druids creating their magic in standing stone circles.

In County Sligo in the is the tomb of Queen Mabd (Maeve), a mythical warrior queen who may have had a historical basis. She ruled from Cruachan (now Rathcroghan, County Roscommon) and is best known for starting the Tain Bo Cualnge (the Cattle Raid of Cooley) to steal the King of Ulster's prize stud bull. Fionn mac-Cumhaill (Finn MacCool) who had supernatural powers and who could become a giant, defeated the Queen's army from Connaught for the Ulster king, but Queen Mabd managed to steal the bull anyway. Medb (Maeve) is buried in a 40-foot high stone cairn on the summit of Knocknarea in County Sligo. I climbed up the long trail and could see the green hills of Eire for miles and miles.

Going north to County Donegal, originally part of Ulster but now in the Republic of Ireland, I drove to the bar owned by the father of Celtic singers Moya Brennan of the musical group Clannad and Enya. The Brennan family sang as a group throughout Ireland before the four Brennan daughters became professional musicians. Donegal is a lovely land that reaches to Malin Head, the most northern point on the Island of Eire. I drove

through Mamore Gap and came upon the Grianan of Aileach stone ring fort. A soft blue mist surrounded me as I walked alone into the “fairy fort,” and I could feel the mystical presence of the Tuatha De Danann — people of the goddess Danu, a mythological race of supernaturally gifted people.

Going south, I visited Killarney National Park in County Kerry, the Republic of Ireland’s first national park. The 25,000 acres were given by an American couple to their daughter and son-in-law who donated the land to Ireland in 1932. Inisfallen Abbey was founded in the seventh century and the ruins are on an island in the Lough Leane, Lake of Learning. From the 11th to the 13th century, monks at the abbey wrote *The Annals of Inisfallen*, a history of early Ireland. Outside of the park is a leprechaun crossing that leads to the magnificent Ladies View, so named after a visit by Queen Victoria’s ladies-in-waiting.

The mountainous Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry has more than 2,000 prehistoric monuments with corbelled dry-stone huts – also called clocháns – among the most prevalent. Corbelling consists of laying courses of flat stones so that each course projects slightly inwards beyond the one below until the sides almost meet at the top and the roof can be closed by a single stone. Because they resemble beehives, they often are called beehive huts. These small structures were occupied by the Irish monks who created the Book of Kells and are credited with saving Western culture in the Dark Ages. Also in Dingle are almost 70 Ogham standing stones whose edges display the form of writing used by the Irish, known as Ogham, that was developed in the fourth century. It uses a 20-character alphabet derived from Latin and the letters are represented by varying strokes and notches and are read from the bottom up.

On my second trip to Ireland, we bicycled around County Cork. One day we came upon the Drombeg Stone Circle (also known as the Druid’s Altar). Solar events, such as solstices and equinoxes, were marked with Celtic ceremonies at circles such as this one. Standing stone circles exist all of the W.I.S.E. countries, Stonehenge being the most well-known. Some circles have tombs at their center. Many visitors say they have felt

the mystical power of the past within these circles of stone.

Near the city of Cork are Blarney Castle and the famous Blarney Stone. The castle has not been restored and features small dark rooms and the steep steps of castles of the 1400s. The castle is a very special place that creates a step back in time. From the top, you can survey a vast landscape. By lying on your back with your head hanging down, you can kiss the Blarney Stone and be granted the gift of eloquence, or so goes the legend.

One of the last mystical places I visited in Ireland was the Giant’s Causeway in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Its most famous feature is the 40,000 interlocking basalt columns that were created when lava flows hit the sea. The mostly hexagonal columns form high cliffs and reach far below the ocean surface. The tops of the columns form stepping stones that lead from the cliffs to the seashore. In one legend, the Ulster hero Finn MacCool was challenged to a fight by the Scottish giant Benandonner. Finn accepted the challenge and built the causeway across the North Channel so that the two giants could meet in the middle. Perhaps the story is true, for the lava formations at Fingal’s Cave on the Scottish Isle of Staffa match the Irish side of Giant’s Causeway. □

Ulster Historical Foundation Speakers Brought Ireland to Denver at W.I.S.E. Seminar

—Sandy Ronayne



Ulster Historical Foundation speakers, Gillian Hunt and Fintan Mullan, were introduced by James Jeffrey of Denver Public Library.

W.I.S.E. hosted a large crowd of enthusiastic researchers at its 2014 seminar on March 8th. One hundred seventy-three people registered for this exciting event. Colorado was well represented at this seminar. Attendees came from Denver and its suburbs and distant areas of the state, including Alma, Byers, Castle Rock, Estes Park, Fort Morgan, Grand Junction, Palisade, Parker and Westcliffe.

Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast, Northern Ireland, presented four programs on *Tracing Your Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors*. Denver was the first of 10 cities at which they presented seminars. Their Denver programs were for both beginners and active family historians and included:

Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research gave a broad overview of Scots-Irish and Irish research.

The Ulster Plantation: Sources for 17th Century Families looked at sources that can throw light on Ulster families in this time period.

Records Related to the Different Churches in Ireland included details about the church records available for the main Christian denominations in Ireland: Church of Ireland (Anglican), Presbyterian and Roman Catholic.

Solving Your 'Brick-Walls' – a Q&A and Practical Internet Tutorial was an interactive session in which Fintan and Gillian quickly researched and answered questions from many attendees.

Seminar handouts were also fantastic. Some attendees put the handouts in binders and said these detailed documents were “everything needed to do Irish research – a total educational package.”



Gillian Hunt at the table displaying the books for sale on Irish research.

Additionally, Fintan and Gillian brought books on Irish research. Attendees bought about a third of their inventory. W.I.S.E. also bought several books, chosen by James Jeffrey, to donate to the Denver Public Library

Special thanks to the seminar volunteers: Pat Bishop, Sandy Breed, Karen Campbell, Sandy Carter-Duff, Nyla Cartwright, Susan Clasen, JoAnn DeFilippo, Marilyn Elrod, Bill Hughes, Milly Jones, Marilyn Lyle, Sharon Mahler, Laurie Ramos, Beth Marcheschi, Renee Naughton, Elaine Osborn, Thyria Wilson, Lura Williams and Sylvia Tracy-Doolos.

Also, thanks, as always, to Denver Public Library for partnering to make this seminar great. We are especially grateful to Jim Kroll, James Jeffrey and Janice Prater of DPL for all their efforts. Finally, thanks to Sandy Carter-Duff, Nancy Craig, Zoe Lappin and findmypast.com for providing door prizes. □

Letter to W.I.S.E.

The following letter was sent to Sandy Ronyane from Fintan Mullan after the Ulster Historical Foundation's seminar at W.I.S.E.

March 25, 2014

Dear WISE,

We got back to Belfast on Sunday afternoon and Gillian is having a few days off to recover. Unfortunately as we have a big conference starting here tonight I have had to come in to work for a couple of days before getting a break.

We want to thank you for all your help in making our visit to Denver such a big success. It was definitely the highlight of the trip not just in numbers attending or book sales – which were excellent, but the overall feel of the day, it was great fun to be there.

As a start to her North American tour career, Gillian was thrilled and I had to remind her that not all events can be as good as Denver, but it was excellent to make such a good start.

We owe a great debt of thanks to you for all your skill in arranging and organizing the event. We are very grateful. We enjoyed meeting all the members of your team, and the folks who came to dinner with us, as well as James Jeffrey etc. at the event itself. We enjoyed spending some time with you in checking our boxes and making up our packs on the Friday afternoon, and a lot of people enjoyed the photos of our boxes in the back of the van.



Gillian Hunt and Fintan Mullan with boxes of books and materials in their van.

On the whole it was a very successful tour with good crowds and healthy book sales wherever we went, and I am pleased to say we met very nice people at all the venues. Thankfully too we managed to avoid the bad weather that was predicted, e.g. there was a snowfall in Chicago when we were on the way there but thankfully by the time we arrived the roads and paths had all been cleared.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone who helped make the event such a success and who helped in the planning. In particular we'd like to thank the ladies who helped out on the book table during the seminar. We did not expect them to leave so soon after it ended and we had hoped to say thank you to them in person. Please pass on our best wishes.

We hope WISE will have considered the event to be worthwhile, and we appreciate being asked back to speak to a highly respected group like WISE.

Best wishes,

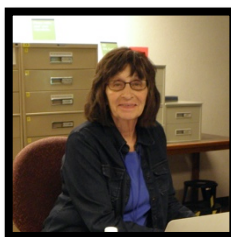
Fintan □

W.I.S.E. Researchers Tell Tales of Discovery

— Zoe von Ende Lappin

W.I.S.E. travelers to Salt Lake City in April, as usual, came up with delicious details about their ancestors – counties of origin in Ireland, a Cherokee in the family, elusive surnames of females, family members suing each other, a photograph of a relic dating to 1813 – and enthusiastically took advantage of the high-tech offerings at the Family History Library.

Or not. Some met with discouragement and, for now, have decided they have reached the end of their lines. We can hope that these are mulling an anonymous genealogist's advice: Keep at it. There's no such thing as a brick wall.



Nyla Cartwright's discovery in Tennessee ranks as the most curious. It was an account written about a third great-grand-uncle, David Morris, in *Reflections, a History of McNairy County Tennessee,*

1823 -1996. "He married Cebe Hurst in 1856. Her father opposed the marriage because David was from a 'poor and unknown, undistinguished' family and worst of all, was part Cherokee. During the Civil War, guerrillas, as well as armies, would steal meat and food, leaving the family at times to search for nourishment in roots or other edibles that could be found in the ground. After the Civil War, David began stealing from neighbors and one neighbor stated that he intended to kill David for stealing. When the Morris family became ill during a meal one day, David decided that neighbor had poisoned them so David shot and killed him."



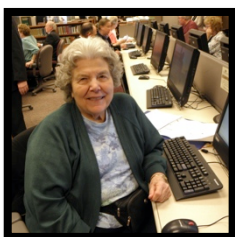
Terry Sweetman, on her first visit, researched an Irish branch, the Tiernans, and discovered that her great-great-grandmother used two first names, Delia and Bridget. “I was able to look at an

1824 original tithe applotment book on microfilm for a Galway parish where the Tiernans lived in 1855. It didn’t show any Tiernans. They moved from somewhere else between 1824 and 1855 to the Galway parish.”



Judy Phelps: “I mostly tried to fill in a pedigree chart as far back as I could go and did identify a lot of names from New England, mostly ending around 1600s and being from England.

Some came on the *Planter*; some came on *Mayflower* or other ships. When I get that all organized, I’ll reassess and see where I stand and then will be ready to have a serious look at merrie olde England.”



Alice Sveum spent many hours viewing microfilm verifying information on the Wall, Vincent and Wallace branches of her family. She found a film for 1863 Wisconsin marriages that included

the names of her German great-great-grandparents Heinrich and Louisa Bremer and Heinrich and Johanna Helmke. She enjoys doing research at the FHL.



David Sveum performed a short genealogic research project with big discoveries for his daughter-in-law. Her mother was unable to tell her much about her grandparents, John

Bremner and Mary Thain, who came from Wick, Caithness, Scotland. David was able to identify

them and their families in Scotland and also their immigration trip to Chicago. The information also included names of siblings of her grandparents, both sets of great-grandparents and one set of great-great-grandparents.



Ron Jepson, on his second visit: “By using the books and free FHL websites, my best discovery was that two of my Irish lines (Flannelly and McHale) could only have come from County Mayo. And

there is reason to hope I can narrow their locations down to one or two parishes! I also discovered that for some other Irish lines, like Ryan and Kane, that without family lore or some other yet-discovered significant source of information, I likely will not be able to discover even their home county. While maybe not the best news, it is nonetheless very valuable. And of course, there were still the very lovely walks to the LDS cafeteria for very reasonable and good lunches. The journey continues onward.”



Zoe Lappin: “I have begun researching my daughter-in-law’s mostly English paternal line, and at the FHL, I worked in areas rich in genealogical records where I have never researched before, Hamilton

County, Illinois, plus Kentucky and Tennessee. This research eventually will take me into other areas new to me, colonial Carolinas and Virginia, as well as Wales. The Wales discovery is especially exciting because it means that my grandsons have ancestors from all four of our W.I.S.E. countries.”



Dorothy Coltrin: “My most significant discovery was the mother’s name of John G. Lane of Houston County, Georgia, (1814-1893). It was Rebecca, and the father’s name was Bryant. Actually I found Rebecca on the day before

the trip. While in my PJs at home, I was looking online at the court records of Houston County, and learned that John G. plus his three brothers-in-law were applying to be administrators for Rebecca's estate. (I couldn't find a will or probate for her husband, even though he supposedly had 80 slaves, according to the 1840 census.) Unfortunately I couldn't find much more about the couple at the library. I think they were from Wayne County, North Carolina, and a possible estate for Bryant's father was not filmed by FHL. I guess I am off to North Carolina archives."



Duane Duff wanted to add details to the lives of his Quaker and Jamestown ancestors. He worked in Henrico and Caroline counties, Virginia, using order books, wills and deeds. He found his people serving as jurors, sheriffs, judges and surveyors. He also found they bought and sold land to each other and sued each other.



Sandra Carter-Duff's goal was to break through her roadblock on her ancestor William Jones who died in Patrick County, Virginia, in 1819. By studying Patrick and Henry County land records and wills at the Denver Public Library, she had learned that William and one Ambrose Jones bought neighboring tracts of land in the Beaver Creek area of Henry County, Virginia. At the Family History Library, she found a Henry County land record naming Ambrose's wife, Winny. She took a cue from family trees posted at Ancestry.com that show Ambrose as coming from Essex County, Virginia. Sandy studied Essex County wills and found proof confirming un-sourced information at Ancestry.com family trees, which suggested that Winny was the sister of a man named Waters Dunn who also settled in Henry County. Further research in Essex County named the parents of Waters Dunn, William and Winifred Waters Dunn. Sandy is still looking for proof that, as she suspects, William and Ambrose Jones were brothers

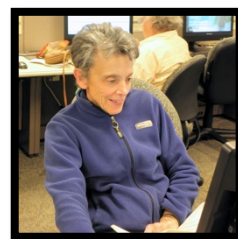
or father and son, but her FHL discoveries put her nearer to her goal.



Pat Jakel researched a man with the romantic-sounding name of Valentine Hart. "The only thing of significance was finding a will for Valentine Hart mentioning a son Christian. I'm pretty sure this Christian is my third-great-grandfather. So that is a positive. Still can't find the birthplace for my elusive Cherokee, who, family tradition says, was my third great-grandmother. The trip is always great. Good group of people to travel with and lots of helpful hints.



Warren Pearce, writing about his and his wife **Linda's** discoveries: "As we have been going to the LDS library for over 10 years, we didn't expect to find any new information. However, we did find an interesting picture in a book, *Churches of South-East Wiltshire*. It has a picture of an iron strong box that was built in 1813 by an ancestor in Mom's lineage. That was really neat and we hope to travel there some time and see the real thing."



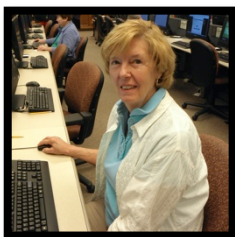
Beth Marcheschi: "My greatest find was to learn that if you spend long hours looking at films from the United Kingdom, you can find miscellaneous parish records that can reveal a gold mine of information. In some parishes, this amounts to a list of every family who lived there, often covering the years before the 1841 census." Patience is the researcher's most important tool, Beth emphasized.



Like many of us, **Pamela Irwin** – making her first visit – found walking to the library through the flower-filled Temple Square was a great start to her day of research.

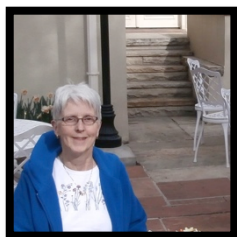
“Since I am a bibliophile, the endless rows of books apropos to ancestor search called me. The 18th and 19th century volumes opened doors and made my New England people come alive as their names leapt off the pages.”

Two of our group, **Karen Zink** and **Ginny Haen**, worked mostly on non-British Isles families.



Karen came upon a couple of generations back on her maternal grandfather's Norwegian father's line. “Now to prove! Also found the books on the part of Norway he is from. My

cousin in Norway has the set and I photographed some when I was there. This time at the FHL, I made use of the great book copier and made really good copies. Still haven't found the ‘French Connection’.”



Ginny Haen: “I believe I may have discovered the most difficult film to read in the whole library! I began the week looking for early and later connections to a German branch of my mother's Barnstein family in

Hörstgen, Rheinland, Prussia. After searching the Evangelische church records there, I was about to give up. I knew there were should be some family members there from FamilySearch.org indexes, but this film was very dark, the pages were filmed in a confusing order and though there seemed to be a few related names, I could not find a Barnstein. The family didn't seem to leave any trace in civil records either, so I went on to other things. On the last day (of course), I went back to searching the original film and found that using the computers with flash/zip drive connections

near the access window allowed me to lighten/darken/change contrast so the film was much easier to read and decipher. With the added ability to scan it to my flash drive, it made things a whole lot easier and I did find some of the people I was looking for plus some earlier family that I knew existed. I finished the research week a much happier researcher but anxious to come back to complete the film.”

Mary Jo Collins and **David Irwin**, also on his first visit, met with mostly frustration.



Mary Jo Collins: “After my second visit to the FHL, I have come to accept that I am at the end of the line for many of my families. Lack of complete town information, burned down courthouses and no records

recorded in my time period are some of the reasons I have accepted ‘the end.’ I am OK with that and can now go on with other things in my life.”



David Irwin saw a bit of humor at the end of the day. He had tried to research his fourth great-grandfather, Robert Irwin, and his wife, Mary Condon, in Ireland. “After due diligence by both myself and numerous

gold badge librarians, I can positively state the two appeared as parents of my third great-grandfather, James Irwin, from thin air; nothing, nada, none. How and why is a mystery we mortals cannot at this time unravel. Looking in the mirror each morning, I do believe they did exist, for if they had not, there would not be anyone looking back at me; or, so I believe.” □

Locating Scottish Testaments

—Diane Barbour PLCGS

Where do you look to find information about testaments in Scotland? Previous articles have talked about the history and format of the court system in

Scotland. We then went through a timeline discussion of the different laws that were passed governing testaments in Scotland. But where are some of the places you can look to find information about those testaments?

We talked about the differences between testamentary, written will of the deceased, vs. a testament dative where there is no will written by the deceased. Primogeniture being in effect until 1868 determined where real property was left. After that time it could be left to anyone designated by the deceased.

After a person died, the relatives would petition the commissary clerk for an Edict of Executry. This was then posted on the church door, much like banns of marriage were posted on the church door. It would contain the name of the next of kin or the executor selected by the deceased in his testamentary or by the commissary clerk in the case of a testament dative. This allowed creditors notice of the death, so they could submit any bills that were owed. Sometimes that was the end of the process by the family. The family paid the bills and did not complete the legal process. Thus there would be no listing in the testament indexes, leaving these edicts as the only evidence of an estate. These records have not been microfilmed so you will have to check with the county commissary court for your area. Listings for the commissary courts are available at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk. Also, Kathleen B. Cory has written a book called *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry*, 3rd edition, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co. 2004). In this book you will find a complete list of the counties and commissariat courts in appendix III, p. 157.

After 1823 this notice had to be printed in the *Edinburgh Gazette*. After 1858 the notice was no longer posted on the church door but on the door of the Commissary Court House.

Next step was this: If there was a written testament the executor would take it to the court where it was registered in the Register of Testaments. The original document was copied into the Register of Testaments. The originals are called warrants. These would also include an inventory. Sometimes

these are still available at the courts. Prior to 1804 you will find both the testaments and inventories in the same register. That makes it easier. Between 1500 and 1925 you can find these documents on Scotland's People website. Searches of the indexes are free but if you want to see the originals it will cost you £5 – a small price for what you get. I downloaded one of my ancestor's wills and found so much information that was not available to me anywhere else.

So what do you do if you can't find a testament? It is possible there was no testament. Check the name and spelling and make sure you have covered all possible spellings. Maybe you are looking in the wrong court. Remember that jurisdictions changed and it may be filed in a neighboring court. There is always the possibility of an indexing error. It could just be missing in the registers. Human error is always a possibility. Sometimes testaments are still with the families. As a last effort check the registers of deeds.

A final word about handwriting: You might find it difficult to read some very old documents. Writing and spelling were not always the same as today. There is a really great tutorial at www.scottishhandwriting.com. This will also help you with any old records Scottish or otherwise.

I hope this series was a help to you and you have more understanding of the system in Scotland. Good luck researching. Next in line will be Scottish law as it affects the inheritance of land and buildings. □

Researching in England, a Cautionary Tale

—Elizabeth Marcheschi

I am writing this at an altitude of 33,003 feet somewhere over Canada. Where I am matters little; it is my destination that makes me swoon. According to the map on tiny screen in front of me, in 6 hours and 37 minutes, I will be in England.

No matter where we are in our research, we descendants of British Isles immigrants know

that our hearts lie across the pond. Researching our lines, in person in England, is a huge step, but one you will never regret. It is also rather daunting, especially that first time. Consider this a cautionary tale, for what I learned can be applied to research anywhere your ancestors lived.

Accounts of my first attempt at research in England now sound like the act of an over-optimistic newbie or one who was just so clueless that I sometimes must laugh at my former self. Why? Because I thought that, in the six weeks I had set aside for my trip, I would be able to do vast amounts of research. In some circumstances, that could be true.

But that time, my four then-teenaged children were with me. Granted, their father was along for part of the trip, but once his feet hit British soil, he was as disinterested in genealogy as my kids were. Thus, I learned Rule Number 1: If you are going to England to research, do not let anyone who is not a proven, dedicated, English researcher go along. The only possible exception is a spouse who is content to wait for you in a variety of pubs and is blissful at the possibility of watching “real football” (a.k.a. soccer) on the pub’s telly.

Fortunately, my trip was not a complete wash. During the prior decade, I had located and befriended many cousins whose ancestors, my great-aunts and great-uncles, had never left the British Isles. Plus, they were also interested in genealogy.

They understood my situation and jumped in to help salvage my research plans. They also gave me fabulous tips on where to go, what to do, and helped me work around my debacle. My cousins and I were able to join forces to find distractions for my teenagers so I could research at a few of the Public Record Offices (PROs or the PRO). Thus, Rule Number 2: Locate family in England if possible, and if you cannot, make friends there with people with common interests by subscribing to Rootsweb email lists covering counties where your family came from, or by joining groups on Facebook with English genealogy interests.

Though my teenagers were challenging, and my cousins gave me more help than I could

ever begin to explain here, they and friends helped me even more by explaining how to negotiate my way through the local idiosyncrasies of researching genealogy in the U.K. Thus, Rule Number 3: When researching in England realize that there is a protocol for everything, and therefore you must research the rules, regulations and procedures for each and every archive, library or record office that you wish to visit. For instance, many require you to schedule an appointment, and these facilities often are booked solid for weeks or even months in advance, particularly during the summer. These same repositories are also closed on bank holidays and often on Saturdays. Plus, some are closed for a week or so each month to tidy up the collections or to add documents. That takes me to Rule Number 4: Check the website of each and every repository, archive, library or record office that you plan to visit and carefully review their calendars, including holidays.

Also, since many of these records have been around longer than many American records, their depositories have reached a point where buildings need renovation. The busiest months for researchers are also the most popular times to renovate not only the buildings but parking facilities and even adjacent roadways. Rule Number 5: Always plan ahead, particularly in the areas that do not directly affect the repository, but in the places that you need to access in order to reach the place where your records are kept.

During my first trip with my four teenagers, I accessed fewer records than I had hoped but, thanks to my lively kids and helpful cousins, I was able to settle in and really learn about the places where my ancestors lived, worked and played. Oddly, this taught me more than I would ever have learned studying names, dates and places, and it ultimately trained my eye to discern between what looked like plausible records and those that didn’t fit my families. This in turn changed me from a casual researcher to one who had a valuable understanding of how my ancestors lived and why they made the choices they did. Without that firsthand knowledge, I would have been lost on the wrong trails for months or even years.

Thus, Rule Number 6, my final one: Anyone coming from another country needs to spend time on the ground, getting to know as much as possible from the people who still live there, studying the history of the land going back centuries. This will help you make the best judgments possible as you uncover correct ancestral details and avoid huge mistakes along the way. □

**Book Reviews –
Summertime
and the Reading is Easy**

--Nancy McCurdy, Thyria Wilson,
Elizabeth Marcheschi and Zoe Lappin

Enough with tedious lists and genealogical details, it's time to run barefoot in a sunny field and fly a kite. Start your jolly holiday reading with the original story of *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll in the *Annotated Alice*, loved by adults and children. Can you distinguish between Tweedledee and Tweedledum? Grab your waistcoat, top hat and pocket watch and follow the white rabbit down the rabbit hole. We'll see you at the tea party.

Yes, it's time to relax, and W.I.S.E. editors suggest these books set in the British Isles, past and present, for leisurely reading this summer. They're certain to broaden your understanding of the culture that formed us as well as stir your emotions and perhaps send your mind in new directions.

Nancy McCurdy, Wales editor: *Great Granny Webster*, by Lady Caroline Blackwood, 2002. A finalist for the Booker Prize, this gothic tale describes the wearing down of a manor house, near Brighton, its servants and the relationship between Granny and her granddaughter. Guests sleep between the floorboards and old dusty rugs to keep warm because Granny won't allow fires to be lit. Suffering and propriety are virtues to Granny. In the end the old buzzard dies in a surprising and redeeming whirl of Mother Nature. Lady Blackwood, the author, is a member of the Irish Guinness family.

The magical saga of the women behind King Arthur's throne, *The Mists of Avalon*, by Marion Bradley, 1982, is a monumental mystical reimagining of the Arthurian legends. It's an epic novel of enchantments, Morgan of the faeries, Merlin, Lancelot and Guinevere. Bradley finds a new approach to the legend with particular relevance to the culture of the day. If you haven't read it, this may be your go-to getaway book for this summer.

The dramatic first line of *Hamlet* reads: "Who's there?" The first dramatic line of Dorothy Dunnett's *The Game of Kings*, 1961, reads: "Lymond is back." It's the first in the series of the legendary Lymond Chronicles set in feudal Scotland of the 16th century when the freedom of Scotland may depend on a scapegoat nobleman who is accused of treason. This extraordinary anti-hero fights to redeem his reputation even at the risk of his life. Other characters include the Earl of Angus and Mary Queen of Scots as a child. Next in the Lymond Chronicles is *Queen's Play*.

Thyria Wilson, Ireland editor: *Dubliners* by James Joyce, 1914, 15 sketches of Dubliners who skirt the middle class. Some of the characters appear in other Joyce novels including *Ulysses*. Later in life, Joyce wondered if he had been too harsh on these Dubliners, although he wrote that his "intent was to write a chapter of the moral history of my country, and I chose Dublin for the scene because that city seemed to be the center of paralysis."

In the Woods by Tana French, 2007, is this Irish author's first novel. It's the story of two police detectives – Cassie Maddox and Rob Ryan – of the Dublin Murder Squad investigating the murder of a young girl and also solving the 22-year-old mystery of the disappearance of two boys. It's long, dark and moody, perfect escape reading while effortlessly learning about modern Ireland.

Trinity by Leon Uris, 1976. The author follows Catholic and Protestant families from the Irish Potato Famine to the rise of the Irish Republican Army. A classic story that teaches as it absorbs you.

The Parish and the Hill by Mary Doyle Curren, 1948, is the story of an Irish immigrant family in New England in the 1920s. A reviewer in *Commonweal* called it a “candid account of mill town life in 1920s New England (that) illuminates the often dear cost paid by poor immigrants to a nation that both needs and despises, lures and rejects, promises and abandons.”

The Irish R.M. books by Edith Somerville and Martin Ross gently and humorously contrast the native Irish culture with the Anglo-Irish gentry. The authors were part of a prominent Anglo-Irish family and wrote their first book, *Some Experiences of an Irish R.M.*, featuring Major Sinclair Yeates, a frequently perplexed resident magistrate, in 1899. The books formed the basis of a PBS television series in the 1980s.

The Irish Country series by Patrick Taylor is set in Northern Ireland in the 1960s and features Dr. Fingal Flaherty O'Reilly. The first in the series was *An Irish Country Doctor*, 2004. Patrick Taylor was born in Northern Ireland and practiced medicine in Belfast before immigrating to Canada.

Thyria adds these authors and books, which cover Wales, Scotland and England: Robert Louis Stevenson, born in Edinburgh, wrote many novels set in Scotland. *Kidnapped*, 1886, is a historical story based on events after the Jacobite rising. Many characters are based on real people and the politics of the time are a large part of the adventure story.

Diana Gabaldon has written the romance time-travel *Outlander* series that follows a nurse who goes back to the Scottish Highlands of the mid-eighteenth century. The first is *Cross Stitch*, 1991.

Philippa Gregory writes historical fiction set in the Tudor era in Wales and England. *The White Princess*, 2013, for instance, is about Henry Tudor and Elizabeth of York and the reuniting of England after the War of the Roses.

The Green Years by A. J. Cronin, 1944, tells the story of an Irish Catholic orphan who is sent to Scotland to live with his maternal Presbyterian

Scot relatives. Cronin was an Irish Catholic who grew up in Scotland.

How Green Was My Valley, 1939, by Richard Llewellyn is set in a Welsh mining town. It was made into a movie in 1941 that won five Oscars.

Beth Marcheschi, England editor: Agatha Award-winning author, Rhys Bowen's *Royal Spyness* series is historical fiction laced with humor and tells the story of Georgie, a.k.a. Lady Victoria Georgiana Charlotte Eugenie, 34th in line to the throne, the daughter of a late duke and the sister to an obnoxious, living one, who finds herself penniless and in need of work. In Queen Victoria's England for a girl of Georgie's social standing, the very mention of w-o-r-k, is forbidden. Yet, work is precisely what Georgie must engage without letting Victorian society know anything about her situation. To make matters worse, this must be done with haste, as the poor girl has to eat. Along the way, Georgie finds that she is adept at solving Bowen's well-crafted mysteries, which are written with grace and humor. Begin with the first book, *Her Royal Spyness*, 2007, and by the time August rolls around you'll be standing in line to pick up eighth in the series, *The Queen of Hearts*, the minute that it's released on August 6. Bowen, a most prolific author, also writes about a Welsh detective, Constable Evan Evans, with such titles as *Evans Above*, 1997.

Zoe Lappin, book review editor for W.I.S.E. Words, recommends a series of three novels set in Northern Ireland during the depth of The Troubles in the late 1970s and early 1980s by Adrian McKinty. The stories are told in the first person by Sean Duffy, a Catholic officer in the Royal Ulster Constabulary, a rare bird indeed. The titles are *The Cold*, *Cold Ground*, 2012; *I Hear Sirens in the Streets*, 2013; *In the Morning I'll be Gone*, 2014; with a fourth, *Sixteen Shells From a Thirty Ought Six* promised for next year. Each offers a raw and unsettling glimpse of these worst of times by a Northern Ireland native who at one time lived in Denver, even setting a novel with a Northern Ireland angle in our city, *Hidden River*, 2004. □

Member Profile



I'd like to introduce myself. I am **Megan Koepsell** (pronounced Meegan) and I am the new Members' Surname Interest (MSI) administrator, which means I will be updating surnames and re-

gions that W.I.S.E. members are researching. I'll have big shoes to fill in taking over the wonderful job that Terry Quirke had done previously for several years on the member interest database. Thank you, Terry!

I have been an addicted genealogist since 2010 and currently serve as the president of the Highlands Ranch Genealogical Society. During the past two years I have been scanning thousands of old family slides and photos dating back to the mid-1800s that I brought home with me after my mother moved into a senior apartment. Nothing pleases me more than being able to attach photos to my tree in Ancestry and then to receive an email from a distant relative thanking me and saying

they had never seen what their ancestor looked like prior to my posting the photo. To me, that is what genealogy is all about. □

In Memoriam



John Mossman, former WISE president, died on March 26, 2014, at age 83. He served as president in 2002 and 2003 as well as program chairman, editor of W.I.S.E. Words and Scotland editor. Profes-

sionally, John worked as an engineer for Martin-Marietta Denver Aerospace, now called Lockheed Martin. He was born in Huntington, West Virginia, and had resided in the Denver area since 1959. He was survived by his wife of 64 years, Bettie, plus a daughter, three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Coincidentally, John and James K. Jeffrey, genealogy collections specialist at the Denver Public Library, were graduates of the same high school, Barboursville, in West Virginia. □

W.I.S.E. Program Schedule

<p>Sept. 20, 2014 1:30 p.m. Denver Public Library 7th Floor</p>	<p>Searching for Your Irish Roots Marylee Hagen Marylee will share her knowledge and experiences in Irish research. Note: This is the third Saturday of the month. □</p>
<p>Oct. 25, 2014 1:30 p.m. Denver Public Library 7th Floor</p>	<p>All I Know About Genealogy I Learned from Charles Dickens and Jane Austen James Jeffrey James will share his genealogy gleanings from British literature. □</p>
<p>Dec. 6, 2014 1:30 p.m. Denver Public Library 7th Floor</p>	<p>Scottish Christmas and New Year Harry Ross Harry will discuss Scottish traditions while we feast on traditional holiday treats. □</p>