



Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle

Volume 5, Number 4

Fall 1999



IN THIS ISSUE—

- *Lessons Learned in Researching English Ancestry*—KENNETH G AITKEN
- *Planning Your Research Trip*—MARGARET GIACOMELLI
- *Colonel By*—PERCY BATESON AND HERB SILLS
- *A Tale of Two Mothers*—A BERNICE SEVERSON

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa
 Founded and Incorporated in 1994 • Telephone 613 224-9868 (Recording Device)
 Mailing Address: BIFHSGO, PO BOX 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 1N0 [CANADA]
 Charitable Registration No. 89227 4044 RR0001
 WEB Homepage: <http://www.cyberus.ca/~bifhsgo>

BIFHSGO Board of Directors—1998-1999

	President:	Jim Shearon	(613) 592-4453
	Past President	Gordon D Taylor	(613) 521-5077
	Vice-Presidents:		
	<i>Membership</i>	Louise Jutras	(613) 831-1228
	<i>Programs and Conferences</i>	James A Heal	(613) 828-9569
	<i>Publishing</i>	John F Townesend	(613) 731-9814
	<i>Education and Queries</i>	A Bernice Severson	(613) 596-0550
	Treasurer (Finance and Funding)	Linda M Gloss	(613) 830-5765
	Executive Secretary (Records and Reports)	(Vacant)	
	Director, Research and Projects	Mary M Nash	(613) 225-3781
	Director, Communications	Anne Marie Johnson	(613) 738-7475

Associate Directors—1998-1999

Name	Function	Associate to:
Percy Bateson	Editor: <i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i>	Vice-President <i>Publishing</i>
Gerald Glavin	Programs and Conferences	Vice-President <i>Programs and Conferences</i>
Robert N Grainger	Editor: <i>Anglo-Celtic Annals</i>	Vice-President <i>Publishing</i>
Judith Madore	Librarian	Executive Secretary
Joseph B Johnston	Assistant Librarian	Executive Secretary
James Evans	Education and Queries	Vice-President <i>Education and Queries</i>

Auditor

Doris G Hope

Anglo-Celtic Roots, Volume 5, Number 4 Fall 1999, ISSN 1201-3072.

Published four times a year in December, March, June and September by the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, and sent free to Members.

Indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI). Percy Bateson, Editor. June Coxon, Associate Editor. May Garson, Editorial Assistant. Canadian Publication Mail Sales Product Agreement No. 0600245. BIFHSGO Sales Item QC97V5N4. Permission to reprint for non-profit use is granted to organizations and individuals, unless otherwise stated, provided the original source is credited. Articles accompanied by the copyright symbol (©) may not be reprinted or copied without the written permission of the author. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO or its Officers. Commercial interests in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by BIFHSGO or its Officers. (See page ii for further publication details)

Cover Picture—Colonel By Watching the Building of the Rideau Canal, 1826, Ontario. Artist: Charles William Jefferys. From the National Archives Collection [C 73703]

Anglo-Celtic Roots

Fall Edition 1999

Volume 5, Number 4



Contents

COLUMNS:	ii
★ The Society	★ Anglo-Celtic Roots
★ The President's Corner	
EDITORIAL PAGE	
Editorial	85
Techniques and Resources	
FEATURE: Lessons Learned in Researching English Ancestry— <i>Kenneth G Aitken</i>	86
ARTICLE: Preserving Family History—Making Sense of the Pile of Old Photographs— <i>Bruce Whitehead</i>	89
ARTICLE: My Visit to General Register House— <i>Willis Burwell</i>	90
ARTICLE: Appraisal of the Brian O'Regan Donation— <i>Alan Rayburn</i>	91
COLUMNS:	92-95
★ Family History Events— <i>May Garson</i>	★ The Printed Page— <i>May Garson</i>
★ Your Publishing— <i>John Townesend</i>	★ The BIFHSGO Library— <i>Judith Madore</i>
★ Book Review— <i>Judith Madore</i>	
SPECIAL INSERT	
Fourth Annual General Meeting—Directors' Reports	Between pages 96 and 97
SATURDAY MEETINGS	
ARTICLE: Planning Your Research Trip— <i>Margaret Giacomelli</i>	96
ARTICLE: Lt Col John By, RE— <i>Percy Bateson</i>	97
ARTICLE: John By, Hero without Honour— <i>Herb Sills</i>	98
ARTICLE: Soldiers of the Rideau Canal— <i>Norman Crowder</i>	100
BIFHSGO NEWS	
COLUMNS:	102
★ The Helping Hand— <i>A Bernice Severson</i>	★ Internet Users Group— <i>John Townesend</i>
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	
COLUMNS:	103-104
★ From Near and Far— <i>May Garson</i>	★ Family History Queries— <i>A Bernice Severson</i>
BIFHSGO MEMBER RESEARCH TOPICS	
ARTICLE: Kingston Holds First Capital Celebrations— <i>June Coxon</i>	105
ARTICLE: A Tale of Two Mothers— <i>A Bernice Severson</i>	106
ARTICLE: Books by Jean Portugal Tell Human History of World War Veterans— <i>June Coxon</i>	108
BIFHSGO NEWS: LISTING:	
COLUMNS:	110-111
★ Name Search— <i>Louise Jutras</i>	
BIFHSGO CALENDAR OF EVENTS	Back Cover

The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally-incorporated society, and a Registered Charity (Reg. No. 1033463-50). The purpose of BIFHSGO is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into and publication of family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles.

The objectives of the Society are: to preserve, research and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family and social history for the benefit of current and future generations; and to promote genealogical research through a program of public education that teaches people how to do research and how to preserve their findings in a readily accessible form.

The activities of the Society are to: publish and disseminate genealogical research findings, as well as information on research resources and techniques; holding public meetings on family history; maintain readily accessible reference facilities; encourage volunteer participation in family history and genealogical research activities; and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership in the Society shall be available to persons interested in furthering the objects of the Society and shall consist of anyone whose application for admission as a member has received the approval of the Board of Directors of the Society. The calendar year fees for Membership are: \$20 Individual; \$25 Family; \$15 Institutional.

Membership benefits include: the year's four editions of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; ten monthly family history programs, each of two hours' duration; a discounted Fall Conference registration fee; up to six free queries a year; discounts from publishers of family history references by citing their BIFHSGO membership and member number; friendly advice from other members; participation in a special section, the Internet Users' Group; and discounted registration for the Society's course *Tracing Your Family Roots*.

The Society works in close co-operation with the Ottawa Ontario Family History Centre, a Branch Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1017, Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa ON, K2C 3K1, tel (613)-225-2231.

Anglo-Celtic Roots

We invite readers to share family history articles, illustrations, letters, queries and similar items of interest by submitting them to *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Manuscripts should be written in the style of story-telling or letter-writing, leaving it to the editor to adjust. Articles should preferably be submitted on both paper and IBM-compatible diskette, and addressed to: The Editor, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 1N0.

Contributors of articles are asked to include a brief biographical sketch of up to 10 lines, and a passport type and size photograph. They will be invited to certify that permission to reproduce any previously copyrighted material has been acquired. Authors are encouraged to provide permission for non-profit reproduction of their articles.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO or its Officers. The Editor reserves the right to select material to meet the interest of readers, and to edit for length and content. Please enclose a self-addressed Canadian-stamped envelope (SASE) if you wish a reply or return of material. Out-of-country addressees should provide an International Reply Coupon.

The President's Corner . . .

A Treasure Chest of Old Photos

What could be sweeter than to receive a box full of old photos of your ancestors! And what could be more bitter than to look at a beautiful photo and realize that no one knows who the people are?

Such was the range of emotions I felt a few weeks ago when I visited my cousin Betty, who lives in Montreal. Betty had previously given me some names and dates of her husband's Drury family, so I decided to ask whether she had a photo of her mom and dad that she might loan me to have copied.

When I arrived, Betty led me to her husband's desk, where she had placed several boxes and albums. I spent an hour-and-a-half sorting through the photos, wearing white gloves, and picked out about 25 pictures of her parents, other uncles, aunts, cousins, and several photos of my father, which I carefully placed in clear, transparent sheet protectors.

I showed each photo to Betty and she was able to identify almost everybody. There was a photo from 1948, showing the head table at Cousin Helen's wedding, with Uncle Fred, Aunt Bessie, two more cousins and my brother Frank, when he was 16.

An immaculate brown folder marked Tivoli Studio, Montreal, opened to reveal Aunt Bessie on her wedding day in 1925, with her sister Mary, each carrying a bouquet of roses so big and perfectly formed they looked like silk. Bessie was a big, grey-haired woman with glasses when I knew her. Here in this photo she is young and beautiful.

The jewel of the collection was a sepia photo of a wedding party in a garden, 26 people in three rows. The men in front are sitting on a rug on the grass. All the women have large, elaborate hats, except the bride.

On the back is written, "Aunt Nellie's wedding in Stirling." That was my father's sister, Helen, who married John Peebles in Stirling, Scotland in 1908.

Looking at the picture, one can guess who are the bride and groom; but there is no way of identifying anyone else. One man resembles an earlier photo of the bride's father; but the other 23 are a mystery. My only hope is that someone in Scotland has this same photo, with the names written on the back. I am sending a copy of the picture to Cousin Bessie in Coatbridge and I am keeping my fingers crossed.

If you have a cousin who collects photos, call before it is too late.

Jim Shearon

Editorial

This page is a new venture for *Anglo-Celtic Roots* and is designed to encourage and provide inter-communication between the team that produces this publication and the individual members for whom it is produced. To start it off, I want to introduce to you the Editorial Team and for this purpose I have included photographs of the team members, not because any of us seek recognition but in the expectation that those of you who might be somewhat shy of contributing an article will be encouraged to approach a member of the team; we are all amateurs but are more than willing to help in any way any member who might aspire to see his or her story in print.

All three of the persons shown in the photographs joined the team in 1997, in response to John Townesend's urgent appeal for assistance. In my job, as editor, I am responsible for the content and layout of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Fortunately the content has, so far, not been a cause of concern, members have been more than responsive in providing articles and I wish to thank them for that. My greatest difficulty has been the preparation of the camera ready copy for the printer, in this regard John Townesend has been a tower of strength. I had no previous experience of the intricacies of fonts, columns, headers etc, in fact I had very little computer experience. John's patience and availability has rectified this and I am now close to achieving my

aim—to produce an Issue without having to call on his assistance. June Coxon is the only team member with previous writing experience and that has become obvious in the number and quality of the articles and columns she regularly contributes. She also doubles as staff photographer and has provided many of the excellent pictures to date. May Garson came to the team with no experience, she does a super job reading all the many journals we receive, selecting those items that may interest members and composing the brief but comprehensive abstracts. This service will be of more use to members when the library opens and the journals become readily accessible to members.

To be successful any journal must respond to the readers' interests and it is this area that we on the Team feel inadequate. To rectify this I am opening up this page to you the reader and am soliciting your concerns, comments or experiences in the form of Letters to the Editor. There is no pre-established subject, just write and tell us: what you like, or don't like; what you would like to see more or less of; any experiences you have had in the field of genealogy or any advice you would like to pass on.

You can contact me at Percy Bateson, 650 Southmore Drive W, Ottawa ON K1V 7A1 or at <bateson@cyberus.ca>. I look forward to hearing from you. ■

Anglo-Celtic Roots: Editorial Team



Percy Bateson: Editor



June Coxon: Associate Editor



May Garson: Editorial Assistant

Lessons Learned in Researching English Ancestry

KENNETH G AITKEN

[*Kenneth G Aitken is a well known and popular speaker and educator in Family and Local History in western Canada. He is the Prairie History Librarian at Regina Public Library. As well as a BA in linguistics and a Master of Library Science, he holds a Certificate as a Genealogical Researcher (Saskatchewan). He has served as President of the Hambrook Family History Society and editor of their journal and in various positions with the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. Articles by Kenneth Aitken have appeared in genealogical, family history and other scholarly journals in Canada, USA and England. He has a particular interest in helping genealogists expand their horizons through looking at the historical context of their ancestors' lives.*]

The purpose of this article is to summarize some of the research lessons I have learned, or should have learned, in the 20 years I have been researching English ancestry. The underlying principles of research strategy, and sources in English research I first learned through the works of David Gardiner and Frank Smith. Their three-volume set, *Genealogical Research in England and Wales* has been a favourite reference work of mine for 20 years. The 15 concepts reviewed in this article are drawn from this work. The reader will note numerous references to "we" throughout the article, this refers to a group of my **Hambrook** cousins who, with me, were learning the pitfalls of English research.

This article assumes the reader has some familiarity with concepts like; primary and secondary sources, and direct and indirect evidence. For those who need to brush up on these, see my article *Evaluating Genealogical Evidence*. References will be made to: parish registers, bishop's transcripts, censuses, probate records and other sources of English genealogical and historical data. Those not familiar with these should consult basic genealogical resource guides for England.

Genealogical and family history research seldom results in absolute proof of pedigree. Researchers devote much of their effort to sifting, sorting and organizing a variety of primary and secondary source information about their ancestors. The following 13 procedures are useful in strengthening or eliminating the acceptance of evidence, and clarifying what is truly a factual record of part of an ancestor's life.

1. Confirm the calculated or stated year of birth and birthplace from the clue document in at least two censuses. Let's say you have found a memorial card for your ancestor that was distributed at his funeral in 1924. From this you discover that he died at the grand old age of 88 years. You realize that this is indirect, circumstantial evidence of a birth, because there was unlikely to be anyone present at the death that had a perfect remembrance of his birth. But you have a clue. You do the mathematics, 1924 minus 88, and come up with a birth year of about 1836; the year before civil registration began in England. How can you confirm that 1836 is the correct year? A review of the census returns for 1841 through 1891 would prove most useful here. (A useful fact to note is that the 1841 Census for England rounded off the ages of those over 15 to the nearest

multiple of five years). The use of several census returns will also help narrow down the possible birth places.

2. Check the census of the stated place of birth in the clue document to determine if there are others of the same name, age and birthplace living there, who might be confused with the likely candidate. Among my **Hambrook** ancestors there is a problem with the name **Richard**; there seems to be one in every family, and they clog up the 1851 to 1881 censuses of **Kent**. Usually, by gathering all the **Richard Hambrooks** in the ancestral and contiguous parishes, I have been able to sort them out. In one parish in **Kent**, however, there were two **Richard Hambrooks**; born less than a year apart and appearing on the census with the same age. Because I failed to review subsequent census returns, I chose the wrong one, and proposed a line of descent from a boy who, I subsequently found in a nonconformist church burial ground, having died at age 11. Proceed with caution!

3. Compare ages in as many dated events as possible to see if they agree with the year of birth of the ancestor. In cases of wide variation, the earliest is likely to be the most accurate. When there is a potential for confusion of identities, and there always is to some extent, we need to widen our search to examine not just census returns but monumental inscriptions, baptism, marriage and burial records, and any other records that might verify birth dates. In my **Richard Hambrook** error mentioned above, if I had lined up all the monumental inscriptions for **Richard Hambrooks** in the parish, including those in the nonconformist churchyards, I may have spotted my error. Get the ducks lined up in a row chronologically, and value those records created earliest more than the later ones. That is to say, let later dated information be the support for the earliest data, and be hesitant to accept more precise dates that run counter to the early documented dates. From the Bible comes the notion we use in law even today; in the mouths of two or three witnesses shall the truth be known.

4. Search for birth or christening records from five years before the calculated birth year to the year of marriage for others with the same name and birthplace who might be confused with the likely candidate. This may puzzle the researcher, so let me explain. Let's assume you have discovered the marriage in 1821 of a **James Atkins** in a parish register in **Warwickshire**. The entry says he is a bachelor, but the age is simply given as, "of full age",

meaning he is not a minor. You want to find his christening date. In cases like this I assume the person was married at age 26 plus or minus five years. Thus placing his birth date between 1790 and 1800. However, as we are looking for a christening date, we need to allow for the fact that he may have slipped through the cracks and was christened as a young adult, or was a precocious young man who married a tad early. Consequently we should widen the search by beginning in 1790 and continuing to the actual marriage date in 1821.

I find this the hardest procedure to follow because there is a tendency, when we have found someone in the record being searched that fits our need, we cry, "Eureka!" and stop looking. Over the years I have found it best to continue plowing through the record, extracting and rounding up all the likely suspects. There can be some real surprises. While researching a family in Warwickshire last year, I found a christening in a Church of England parish register that perfectly matched the profile I was looking for. However, further down the page, about 13 months later, I found another one. Now I had two James Atkins with the same parents, that fitted the same time frame I was looking for. I continued, and another possible James Atkins appeared a few years later. He too fitted the profile. I added him to the list of suspects. I now had three possibilities.

5. Burial records must be searched to determine whether any person found in a birth or christening entry died as an infant or child. Search all local and neighbouring parish burial records of all churches. This is what someone once referred to as "killing off the impostors." I now had three James Atkins in the parish my James was supposed to be in. A search of the burial records of the parish church eliminated the first James. A search for burials in the nearest nonconformist church registers, as well as the registers of the contiguous parishes would have been the next step. In the present problem I had reduced the suspects to two possible entries. I had a favourite, but so far could not eliminate the other.

6. Searches should be made for births or christenings in the records of all adjoining or surrounding parishes within a five mile radius, for a period of five years before the calculated birth year to the year of marriage, for others of the same name and birthplace who might be confused with the likely candidate. I have found that the careful use of maps is most productive in solving these sort of problems. I have a small collection of Ordnance Survey maps for the county of Kent where most of my research is done, but even the small scale maps in *The Phillimore Atlas and Index to Parish Registers* can be used. Simply copy the relevant county map, and using a compass (do you remember these from your ninth grade geometry class?) measure off five miles. Then find the parish where you expected to find your ancestor, and scribe a five mile radius circle using that parish as the centre. When you do this with the parish boundary maps you can quickly see the parishes you should be searching. Map study may also reveal natural constrictions like mountains, or channels of movement like wide rivers, which may modify this strategy.

Ancestral connections to military installations may require an extension of the five mile radius. I have found that Kitzmiller's book, *In Search of the Forlorn Hope*, to be

a useful place to start to identify military camps in England.

Parishes or towns associated with a particular occupation should be included in a search if the occupation is known. A mine worker will most likely move to a place where there are mines, a stonemason to where there are construction projects. One genealogist couldn't find his stonemason in Devon, but learned from his research of other masons from Devonshire working in the Channel Islands, and searching there found his ancestor at a port where a harbour was being built.

7. In large, heavily populated industrialized parishes, check all the churches in the parish, not just the main parish church, and check the adjoining parishes. In a search for members of the Hambrook family who moved from east Kent to Middlesex, I searched the records of the main parish church in Islington without success. Another genealogist found the family by searching through all the daughter churches in the rapidly urbanized parish. I felt rather foolish! The challenge in larger urban areas where there are numerous churches is to figure out the most logical places to search first. Here again map work helps. Careful use of city directories can also be most helpful. I have found the best listing of British directories is, *Shaw and Tipper's British Directories*.

8. The economic conditions of the time and place should be considered. The closing of factories, mines, mills and local agriculture etc may cause emigration. A booming economy in a neighbouring centre may do the same. I am currently in a rather frustrating search for a Henry Augustus Thompson, a house painter who, though born in Bilton in Warwickshire, was attracted to neighbouring Rugby, then to nearby villages and then to Birmingham in search of larger markets for his "have paint, will smear" business. His children were born along the way and may even have been born in an adjoining county. The need to expand the search horizon exists in most research puzzles, but the impact of mobility in the latter half of the 19th century is a real challenge.

9. Check the marriage registers of the candidate's stated place of birth to see if a person of that name might have been "married off" to someone other than the known spouse. This check should extend from 15 years after the birth or christening to 40 years after. In the problem of the two James Atkins mentioned earlier, I found that a review of the parish registers in the region revealed several marriages that might account for one of the two men. This search, coupled with a search for the christenings of their wives in the parishes, assisted in eliminating one James. As Sherlock Holmes put it, after you eliminate the impossible, what is left, no matter how improbable, is the truth.

10. In the case of a male ancestor, careful watch should be kept for the possibility of a person with the same name and surname having children born or christened in the same or adjoining parishes. These conflicting possibilities need to be resolved. Over the past 20 years of doing research I have run into this problem many times. The problem can be complicated when the spouse's name is unknown or very common. I was searching for a Richard, son of Richard Hambrook who lived in the very early 17th century and found three possible suspects in the five mile radius. Two were married to Elizabeths! All three families

were gathered from the usual records. Later: marriage, christening, burial, tax rolls and probate records were examined and eventually we accounted for everyone; creating, in the process, three family groups, establishing relationships among numerous people, and discovering the two eldest Richards were cousins, and the other with an, as yet, unknown relationship. Solving the puzzle took years and the sorting of many wills and probate records but we are now more confident our Richard was the son of Richard and Margaret.

11. No matter what the religious denomination of your ancestor, check the records of all churches in the area eg Church of England, Methodists, Baptists, Quakers and Roman Catholic. Be aware that the areas served by nonconformist chapels and Quaker meeting houses were larger than the traditional Church of England parishes. Remember my proposed pedigree that was devastated by the discovery of the an 11 year old Richard Hambrook who was buried in the Methodist churchyard, thus preventing him from becoming the father of a large family of grocers!

12. When bishop's transcripts are examined, parish registers should be searched for any missing and illegible entries. In my most recent researches I have become even more conservative in my faith in parish registers and bishop's transcripts. I read both in their entirety. I have found, in some cases, the bishop's transcript is the original, and the parish register the copy; the reverse of what one would expect. There may be errors and omissions in both.

13. When a search for a birth or christening record fails, consider the possibility that the child was born out of wedlock and took the mother's surname, most likely totally unknown to you. Such a situation calls for listing all entries with the same given name, then matching these names against marriage and death or burial records to determine who might fit. There was a certain James Hambrook who owned an inn during the mid-19th century in one of the parishes along the Thames estuary. After his own wife had passed on, and his children grown and moved, James seduced the barmaid (or at least I suspect he did). Miss Moore came to live with him and bore him children. The children are listed in the 1851 census as **Hambrooks**, along with James and his common-law wife.

Based on the ages of the children in 1851 a search was made in the parish registers and the bishop's transcripts without success. Next a search was made of the index to civil registrations for children under the surname **Hambrook**. The search was again unsuccessful. At this point in the search, someone started to use his head and went looking for the marriage of Miss **Moore** to James **Hambrook** and when one was not found, the search began again assuming the children were christened or registered under the surname **Moore**. In the civil registration of that particular corner of Kent we found the children, most with the second given name of **Hambrook**, and the surname of **Moore**. Some of the children married as **Moores**, some as **Hambrooks** and one as a **Hambrook-Moore**. All credit for the discovery and the sound reasoning behind it go to my research colleague; I was the learner.

14. Although-naming customs among the English are generally undetectable, odd given names may be clues.

One needs to become familiar with the range of names commonly found in a county or area before you can determine whether a name is uncommon enough to be a significant clue. Occasionally surnames appear as given names, and this may help identify parents or grandparents.

Among my **Hambrook** ancestors and the vast local cousinage of **Hambrooks** that populate eastern **Kent County** in England, names like Richard, James, John, Elizabeth, and Mary abound. However, from time to time I have found the truly odd name. **Oddin Hambrook** of **Dover**, Kent was one such oddly named ancestor. A group of us were collaborating on gathering all 19th century **Hambrooks** and sorting them into families, a real challenge. **Oddin**, however, despite three or four marriages, numerous moves, and changes in religious faith, social status etc, was relatively easy to find, at least until he named a son **Oddin**!

15. When other conflicting birth or christening records are found in other records in the prescribed area, one needs to follow these individuals forward in time through marriage and burial records to eliminate possibilities. Probate records are also useful; check for wills of all fathers of these individuals. If the conflicting individual is found outside the parish of your first candidate, then the searches for marriage and burial information must be made within a five mile radius of the new parish.

Many readers will be horrified at the amount of work suggested by these procedures and especially this last one. There is indeed a lot of work involved. I am reminded of the work of a well known professional genealogist, now long deceased, who, when he ran out of the easily located records, made up the "facts" necessary to complete his project. His clients would find everything in order until they reviewed the critical link, and then they would be unable to find the record. Many of his fraudulent pedigrees were only discovered years later. Some still exist. If your ancestral research is worth doing, it is worth doing right.

Concerning probate records, it has been my experience that if a family has resided in an area for some time, it is fruitful to gather not just the wills of all the fathers of the suspects you have rounded up, but all those in that part of the county with the same surname, or if the name is an uncommon one, all wills and inventories, etc in the county or adjoining counties.

There were two **Richard Hambrooks** with wives named **Elizabeth** who lived in adjoining parishes, each having a son called **Richard**. (Readers will have noted that **Hambrooks** had very imaginative naming patterns). These sons were born within a year of each other. The problem was finding which was the **Richard** who married my known ancestor. We knew that our **Richard** the younger was residing in a particular parish several miles away. In the census there was a clue to his birthplace. We extracted all **Hambrook** baptism, marriage and burial records from the parishes contiguous to those the senior **Richard** lived in, and established burial dates. All the wills for **Richard Hambrooks** probated around the times of the burials were examined. Only one of the two suspected senior **Richards** had a will. His **Richard** junior was mentioned as residing in a location different from the one our **Richard** junior was known to reside in at the time. The evidence was not conclusive, but sufficient that we felt comfortable declaring

for one and not the other's christening and parentage.

I have found from experience in messing-up my own research, that there is a real value in extracting all instances of the surname you are searching for, particularly if the name is not common. For example, when researching members of the Atkins family in Newbold on Avon, Warwickshire, I would extract all the Atkins from the beginning of the register to the end, not just those in the decade of the event of the sought after ancestor. Similarly,

when examining the census, I would extract all Atkins in surrounding parishes on the same reel of microfilm as the census for Newbold. Many times this has made it possible when I find the missing link in the immediate puzzle, to push back one or two or three generations without returning to the same microfilm record. For a detailed discussion to this approach researchers should seek out another older book, *Family History for Fun and Profit*. ©

Preserving Family History

Making Sense out of the Pile of Old Photographs

BRUCE WHITEHEAD P ENG

Loose Photographs

All loose photographs should be put into protective transparent sheets. Comments can be written on acid free paper held in the same compartment. Use quotation marks to distinguish between original captions and your comments. Four compartment "Snapin" side-loading pages manufactured by Desmarais & Frere (#2956-10P) have 10 sheets, each suitable for holding eight 4"x 6" photos or postcards. Coin and stamp shops have four compartment sheets made of more rigid plastic, designed specifically for post card collectors, that will also suit many smaller photos. The larger Desmarais & Frere sheets will not fit properly into a regular three-ring binder unless you punch new holes. The page is about 12" high leaving about 1/2" projecting from the bottom of the standard binder. This projection would otherwise fold under the weight of the binder and its contents, thereby damaging the photos.

Other Identifiers, Photo Style, and Physical Characteristics

Many early photographs were not provided with a hand written caption. To establish the date, location, and the subjects in photographs, clues can be obtained by noting the physical characteristics of the materials.

Over the years, photo-finishing firms have changed the size and margins of copies. Early photos may have been mounted on cardboard with the photographer's name and address imprinted on the front or back. Even earlier photos, eg tintypes, photos on glass, etc were "one-off," and are equivalent to today's transparencies (positive slides). Later copies were either contact prints or enlargements.

Prints made at the same time from a single negative roll will usually be of the same size, and bear the same tint, ie sepia, black, or grey-black. When placed together, it may be obvious that the prints were made at the same time. Negative size and proportions are another good clue with contact prints. Some cameras took square images and others rectangular.

Once the photos are grouped by physical characteristics, you can look for other clues. For example, at a picnic, group photos will be missing one person unless a time-release camera feature was used. If two, almost identical group photos are found, look for the missing person in each, ie the photographer. Also look at clothing. Photos taken on the

same day will usually have consistent clothing for each person, with shadows in the same direction. Photos taken on different days may show different clothing and different backgrounds.

The processing date may appear on some photos from the 1950s and 60s. From this you can date the images within a few months. If all photos relate to the same event, the developing may have been done soon after the event. If images are of different events, processing would obviously have been after the last image was taken.

Another clue is the batch number for processing, often stamped on the back. Where a number of photos were taken at different events but all have the same format, the batch number will allow you to regroup the photos to a common negative strip.

If you are fortunate to have found negatives, you will be able to order additional prints or enlargements which may be of better quality than the originals. 35mm negatives will likely be numbered, proving the sequence of the events. Match up the negatives with the existing prints and arrange for the missing prints to be printed.

Benjamin Photo, a long-established company in Toronto, does custom printing and can handle odd sized negatives, treating them with the care they deserve. "One hour" photo shops may only be able to make prints from 35mm and other modern negative sizes. For valuable family materials, it is worth spending a little extra to ensure proper handling of the negatives.

Many other custom print shops exist, and a local wedding photographer or newspaper publisher can direct you to the better firms. Some firms even specialize in restoring old photographs during reprinting; removing scratches, dirt and creases, either mechanically by retouching, or digitally on a computer screen. Although this may be an expensive process, for the only known image of a great grandparent, the cost may be justified.

If you own a computer and scanner, you can do your own duplicating, and image clean-up, a process I have just begun to explore.

Copy Negatives

Many early photographs exist as single positives only, and to make accurate copies it is necessary to create an "inter-negative". I would recommend that you make several photocopies of the photograph as insurance, before

surrendering the original to a processor or photographer.

Professional photo shops are best equipped to do this work, however, the talented amateur can also create excellent quality negatives using a 35mm single lens reflex camera with automatic exposure, a tripod, and a zoom lens with macro feature or a closeup lens. Natural daylight, outdoor, colour, ASA100 film is recommended. Higher speed films may show too much grain when enlargements are made.

Place the photograph in full daylight but not in sunlight. An overcast but bright day will suit, as will a location just in the shade on the north side of a building. The high light intensity is necessary so that you can use a large f stop number, eg f16, since the small opening will ensure a good depth of field (ie a well focused picture). The tripod reduces camera motion and maintains proper framing, however, bracing the camera against a chair will also work.

Make sure the original photograph is parallel to the camera film, and try to eliminate reflections, if the original is behind glass. Frame the picture so that the largest image is created, ie one that fills the frame. Large group photos can be taken as an overview of the entire image, or as a closeup of one or two individuals. The fine grain of early slow speed films made many of these pictures far superior to many enlargements made today.

Order one set of standard prints as proofs (about 3" x 4") with film development, and then order multiple copies once the quality of the work has been established. I have

found that the local one hour photo shops do an entirely adequate job printing proofs from copy negatives, but enlargements are best done by professionals such as Benjamin Photo in Toronto.

Remember to keep the original prints away from light except for the very brief time that it takes to compose, focus, and take the picture, to minimize fading of the image.

Prints from Slides

Standard 35mm slides, half frame 35mm, and larger formats can be converted to prints by the same inter-negative process, at professional photo processing labs.

The Future of Computer Processing

The very low cost of 300 x 600dpi (dots per inch) computer scanners, eg under \$100, which have their own digital photo editing software, make the process of adding early photos to your family history documents much less expensive and more interesting. You will be able to take a face under 1/2" square from an old faded and scratched photo, enlarge it to 2" square, enhance the contrast and eliminate scratches, and print it along with captions and biography in your genealogy publications.

In summary, this type of work is done by archivists, historians, researchers, and police detectives in their various disciplines, however, you too can uncover the hidden secrets in your family photos, by using the simple techniques mentioned above and a little logic. Good luck hunting.

[Editor's note: This is the last of a three part article.] ■

My Visit to General Register House

WILLIS BURWELL

[Willis Burwell is a space systems consultant with the ADGA Group in Ottawa. He has been a member of the BIFHSGO since 1995 and has been researching his British Isles ancestors for the past ten years.]

For two weeks in March 1997 my wife, Marg and I visited the small villages and countryside of England and Scotland where our ancestors had lived and worked. In our hotel at Callander, Perthshire, on the ninth day of our trip, after a long day, we discovered that rain was forecast for the following day. As a result Marg decided to take a restful day with some local sightseeing and shopping and I decided to do some research in Edinburgh and pursue one of the optional activities in our schedule. I would drive the 80 kilometres to Edinburgh to visit General Register House for the research.

General Register House is one of two research facilities of the Scottish Registry Office and contains many records of interest to genealogists, such as; church records, valuation roles, early Court of Session records, Registers of Deeds and Sasines, and many private estate records. My primary interest was in the Kirk Session minutes. The Kirk Session is the lowest court of the Church of Scotland consisting of the parish minister and the elders. The minutes record communion rolls, lists of heads of families, details of illegitimate births, payments to the poor and other financial dealings of the parish church. In general the Kirk Session minutes have not been microfilmed and can only be read at General Registry House.

From the Kirk Session minutes for the parish of Old Kilpatrick in Dumbartonshire I hoped to unravel a mystery concerning the birth of my great-great-grandmother, **Agnes Bryson**. I had already obtained the microfilm of the parish registers from Salt Lake City. The actual record reads as follows: "Agnes, daughter lawful of James Bryson, farmer, Gateside and Mary Gilfillan, born Nov 5th and baptised 16 do 1808." This is a fairly standard record except that some time later it was changed. The term "lawful" was stroked out and 'natural' was written in above it and the mother's last name was stroked out and the name "**Filshe**" inserted. I believe that on November 16, 1808 **James and Mary Bryson** presented an infant for baptism stating that it was their child. Then on June 27, 1809, they presented another infant for baptism. The minister had a good memory and a basic knowledge of mathematics, and he concluded that Mary could not be the mother of both children. After some investigation he determined that Agnes was illegitimate. It was the record of this investigation that I hoped to find in the Kirk Session minutes.

I left Callander at 8:00am the following morning and arrived in Edinburgh an hour later when the General Registry House opened. After explaining the purpose of my visit to a receptionist, I was instructed to leave all my bags

and overcoat, including my camera, in a supervised cloakroom near the entrance. Only a pad of paper and pencils are allowed in the research room, although personal computers may be used by special arrangement. I then walked through a wide, multi-story hall to a staircase at the other end. At the top of the stairs I entered the main research room. The room contains approximately 25 desks for individual researchers. The walls are covered with dark oak panelling and shelves filled with books. At the main desk I was asked for my "ticket." I explained that this was my first visit and I was taken to a side room where personal details from my passport were recorded and a small green reader's ticket was given to me. There is no cost for this ticket which is valid for three years. Regulations for the research room were explained to me and I signed a form stating that I understood these regulations and agreed to observe them. I was also provided with a pair of disposable cotton gloves. A research assistant then showed me where to find the indexes to the parish records and how to fill out a document request form. Finally I was assigned one of the desks in the research room, ordered a book, and settled down to await its delivery.

The book arrived in about five minutes and now I found the reason for the pillow on the desk in front of me. A research assistant carefully set a large book on the pillow and opened it for me. To my surprise I was presented with the original Kirk Session record. The pillow protected the very old and intricately carved leather covers of the book from damage. The book which smelled old and musty was approximately 12" by 18" and 2" thick. The paper and ink had been of top quality since now, 200 years later the writing was still clear and easy to read. The edges of the pages had turned brown and were quite brittle thus care was required when turning the pages so as to prevent flaking.

I then spent six extremely entertaining hours reading about parish life in Scotland in the early 1800s. I found many interesting records and a few examples follow.

February 12, 1792

"The which day after prayer, sederunt the minister and elders, John Donald, James Houston, Robert Paul and others compeared Peter Bryson and Elizabeth Watson who acknowledged themselves irregularly married by a person not authorized by law the ___ day of ___ but had no marriage lines to prove. The minister did then exhort the said practice to live in line coming as husband and wife and they on paying a fine for the behalf of the poor of this parish were absolved from the scandal of their irregular marriage both of which sums are marked in the articles of collection."

March 24, 1803

"The which compeared John Filshie, Dalnottir, craving baptsim [*sic*] for a child—after some conversation concerning his irregular behaviour, the session agreed to refuse him church proveleges [*sic*] until he should manifest a reformation of life; but they were of the opinion that the mother might be taken as sponsor and this was accordingly intimated."

The list of young communicants in 1831 includes the following

"James Bryson, Vintner of Duntocher
Margaret Gilfillan, wife of do
Catherine Bryson, daughter of do do"

June 18, 1837

"After prayer, sederunt Revd Mathew Barclay Modr, J Stark, M Shirra, W Govan, A McPhee, G MacFarlane. The Kirk Session agreed to authorize the Moderator to petition Parliament against travelling on the rail roads on the Sabbath. Closed with prayer."

Unfortunately, I found no mention of the controversy that must have arisen concerning my great-great grandmother's birth. How James Bryson avoided the scrutiny of the Kirk Session may remain a mystery forever! I did, however, find the following record:

July 1827

"At Old Kilpatrick the first of July one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven—Sederunt Revd W McCartney, Moderator, W Murray, D McMurphy, J Ferguson, C Gray and M Shirra. Compeared James Black and Agnes Bryson confessing the sin of anti-nuptial fornication. They were admonished and absolved. Signed M Shirra, Session Clerk."

These are indeed my great-great-grandparents. Even considering the circumstances, I was ecstatic to see the genuine record as it was originally written in the Kirk Session minutes. In fact, the entire experience was so engrossing that when I looked at my watch it was already 3:30 in the afternoon and I hadn't even thought of stopping my reading for lunch. Reluctantly, I checked out of the building and drove back to Callander. I will never forget that day's experience

Post Note

James Black and Agnes Bryson emigrated to Canada about 1842 with six children and settled in Renfrew County near Forresters Falls. Another four children were born in Canada. Agnes Bryson died on March 29, 1902 at the age of 93 years and five months. ■

Appraisal of the Brian O'Regan Donation

ALAN RAYBURN

Before his death last February, Brian O'Regan said he wanted to donate his family history library to BIFHSGO. In June, Jim Shearon and Jim Heal, with the help of Brian's son James, collected nearly 1,100 items in dozens of boxes, and took them to the library in the Legion's Montgomery Branch.

With the help of Jim Shearon, Joe Johnston, George

Old, and Patty McGregor, I coordinated the appraisal of the 925 books, 91 runs of periodicals, 33 manuscripts and files, 23 maps and atlases, and 20 CD-ROMs, diskettes and tapes.

Brian's collection (which he only started to build in 1982, after retiring as a vice-president of Northern Telecom) is absolutely phenomenal in having over 100 books on Irish history, including some published in the early 1800s. Over

35 of his books are pre-1900, and 18 of them have been appraised at \$50 or more. He also acquired 35 books on Irish family history, and bought an equal number of books on Irish-Americans. There are several volumes on Scottish and English history and genealogy, as well as several Canadian books.

While Brian's collection will form the core of the library dedicated to his memory, contributions from others are encouraged. Jack Moody wanted to contribute some books and periodicals to the Society before moving in August from his house to an apartment in the west end of Ottawa. Jim Shearon picked up 125 books (including a full set of the 30 volumes of the 1871 Census of Ontario) and 28 runs of different periodicals. Among the latter are a complete set of the 36 issues of *Canadian Genealogist*, 85

issues of *FamilyChronicle*, 114 issues of *Family Tree Magazine*, 61 issues of *Irish Family (Heritage) Links*, and 57 issues of *Suffolk Roots*. Although Jack did not donate these materials in order to get a tax receipt, Mary Nash and I evaluated them, and a receipt will be provided.

If other members would like to donate all or parts of their family history collection, please contact Judith Madore (521-7770), who will arrange to determine those items that are duplicates. The books should be listed alphabetically by author, with the title, number of pages, and the year of publication, and where known, the price paid for them. The periodicals should be listed by publisher, title, and issues available by volume, number and year. If the library is unable to accept duplicates, addresses of other genealogical societies will be provided. ©

TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES COLUMNS

Family History Events—May Garson

September 17–18, 1999. The New England Historic Genealogical Society is hosting its **Fourth Annual Irish Genealogical Conference** in Randolph, Massachusetts. The conference will feature 19 lectures specifically on Irish genealogical topics. Details are available at: <<http://www.nehgs.org>>, or by calling 617-536-5740 extension 202 or fax 617-536-7307.

September 24–26, 1999. The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa will present their **Fall Conference** at the National Library of Canada, 395 Wellington St, Ottawa. The conference is sponsored by the **National Library of Canada**. The theme of the conference is *The Irish*. The keynote speaker is **Kyle Betit** of Salt Lake City, Utah. The Opening Ceremonies and Lecture will be held on Friday evening. There will be two morning and two afternoon sessions on Saturday and Sunday and a banquet on the Saturday evening. Although the main theme is Irish, there will be a choice of topic at each session. There will be a marketplace and continuous computer and genealogy demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday. For a program and registration form, write to BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, Ottawa ON K2C 3Y7, Canada, or call 613-224-9868, or e-mail: <bifhsgo@cyberus.ca>, or visit the web site: <<http://www.cyberus.ca/~bifhsgo>>.

September 25, 1999. **Norfolklore '99—Twenty-third Annual Genealogy Fair**, sponsored by the **Eva Brook Donly Museum**, will be held at Simcoe Composite School, **Simcoe**, from 10am to 4pm. 30 to 35 exhibitors from Southern Ontario will be there. The Museum will be open for research and lunches will be available. Phone Eva Brook Donly at 519-426-1584 or fax her at 519-426-1583 for further information.

October 7–9, 1999. The **Irish Cultural and Heritage Centre**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, is holding a conference, *Being Together*. Women's contributions to Celtic Heritage will be explored. There will be workshops and entertainment by Celtic musicians and singers. If interested in Celtic Culture and History, this may be the conference for you. Contact CWI President, Jean Bills, at 414-257-3770 or check out the web site: <www.cwiltld.org>.

October 16, 1999. An October Seminar will be sponsored by the **Genealogy Friends of Plano (Texas) Libraries, Inc.** featuring Helen FM Leary, whose topic is: *Clutching at Straws and Other Last Ditch Efforts: A Workshop in Genealogical Problem Solving*. Details are available at: <<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Estates/4167>> or e-mail: <GenFriends@aol.com>.

October 28–30, 1999. The **Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar**, hosted by the **Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society**, will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort, Acme MI. For further information, contact Gayle Grice, Registration Chairman, 3188 N Three Mile Road, Traverse City, MI 49686.

October 29–30, 1999. The **Florida State Genealogical Society** will hold its **Twenty-Third Conference** in Sarasota, Florida on this date. The featured speaker will be Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. For more information, send an e-mail to: <kleback@bellsouth.net>.

October 30, 1999. The **Family History Society of Arizona Seminar** will feature Richard L. Hooverson. The topics will be *Confusion on the Docks, Using Ship and Passenger Records; Time Traveler, Calendars & Dating Systems; Tricks of the Trade, Tried and True Research Techniques*. Contact Barbara Marshall, 8214 E Highland Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85251-1731; or e-mail: <Gmarsh8215@aol.com>; or call 480-945-5288.

November 14–21, 1999. The **New England Historic Genealogical Society** is offering its annual **Research Program to Salt Lake City**. This program brings the experience and knowledge of the society's research staff to The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, which houses the world's largest collection of genealogical data. For information go to: <<http://www.nehgs.org>>: or call 617-536-5740 ext 202 or fax 617-536-7307.

January 28–9, 2000. **GENTECH**, a non-profit volunteer organization, and the **San Diego Genealogical Society** will host **GENTECH2000, Bridging the Centuries: Bringing Genealogy and Technology Together** in San Diego, California. A large program is planned. Details are available at: <<http://www.gentech.org/~gentech/2000home.htm>>

May 31–June 3, 2000. The **National Genealogical Society**

Conference in the States will be hosted by the **New England Genealogical Conference** in Providence, Rhode Island. Contact NGS, 4527 Seventeenth Street, North, Arlington, VA 22207-2363, or call 703-525-0050, or e-mail: <conference@ngsgenealogy.org> or visit website: <www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

The Printed Page—May Garson

The London Ancestor, Issue 4, January 1999. ISBN 0966-1638 To subscribe to the journal, the cost is £9.60 surface mail or £12.40 airmail per issue (incl. p&p). E-mail: <longen@globalnet.co.uk> or write to BCM London Ancestor, London, WC1N 3XX, UK for more information. The journal is soft cover with a clear plastic protector and is well bound with a total of 147 pages. Normally this article might appear in the Far and Near column but as the *London Ancestor* is unlike most genealogical journals, and more like a historical reference, I thought it should be included in the *Printed Page* column.

The *London Ancestor* is a journal which will be of great interest to Genealogists, Historians and Archivists. It differs from most genealogy journals in that it has deliberately excluded subject matter that is normally found in genealogy journals. It does not include "how to" articles or sections dealing with "reader interests". The aim of the publisher is to provide source data for genealogists and historians. It provides insight into our ancestors lives by publishing transcripts and extracts from documents, deeds, directories, newspapers and various ephemera. The journal will contain items relating to people and places in **Greater London** mostly pre-1880 and when possible pre-1837. Ten percent of the journal will consist of items of interest from other areas of **Britain** and overseas. It will be published twice annually. From this description, one might think that such a journal would be of little interest to those who have no ancestral connections with **Greater London**. However this is not so. The journal seems to meet its objective by providing source data and at the same time provides the reader with a picture of society in the 19th century.

In this particular issue, there are seven chapters. The first is entitled *The Parish of Bermondsey* in which you will find a description of the Perambulation of the 'Parish on Ascension Day,' a custom which dated back to at least the 17th Century. There are letters to the editor, a description of **Kennington** and **Stockwell** in the 18th century, a copy of a will in which many family names appear and finally a Leasehold Auction. The following chapter of 18 pages is entitled *Crime and Punishment* and covers various crimes during the 18th to 20th centuries. There are entries from the *Police Gazette*, descriptions of criminals, their deeds and charges against them and their sentences. There are articles covering several Old Bailey trials and executions. It is interesting to compare the justice system of the 19th century to that of today. The third chapter is devoted to excerpts from the *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, 1830, and contains a wide range of news articles. One in particular caught my eye. It tells of an elegant opera house where the company was rehearsing the opera, *The Siege of Belgrade!* Yet another chapter is devoted to excerpts from *Guy's Hospital*

September 13-16, 2000. The FGS National Conference will be held in Salt Lake City. For information on the conference, contact FGS Business Office, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940, or call toll free 1-888-347-1500 or fax 1-888-380-0500, e-mail: <fgs-office@fgs.org> or visit website: <www.fgs.org>.

Gazette, 1872, which cost twopence! Various letters, notes on cases and staff appointments are included along with an appeal to all classes of students to share their experiences and interesting cases within *Guy's* for the betterment of the institution. The chapter devoted to overseas affairs contains articles and notices from the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 1825*. Here we have a collection of notices, shipping information, various name lists and public notices. The final chapter, entitled *Kent's Commercial Directory, 1794, of London, Westminster and Borough of Southwark*, is part four of five. It is an alphabetical list of the names and places of abode of the directors of companies, persons in public business, merchants and other eminent traders. This one issue alone contains over two thousand names from the directory. The journal ends with a *Surname Index* with the corresponding page numbers.

The publisher is currently working on an abridged edition for Issues 1, 2 and 3 which are now out of print.

Generations, a **South African Genealogy Book** produced by Anne Lehmkuhl. Soft cover, spiral bound, 200 pages, page 8.5in x 11in. To order, send a cheque for \$45 (includes airmail postage) to; and made payable to, Write Stuff Productions, at 1800 Atlin Avenue, Prince Rupert BC V8J 1E8. For further information, e-mail: <lkool@citytel.net>.

This book is a compilation of articles from a South African genealogy newsletter called *Generations*. The newsletter has been in existence for about two years and is produced by Anne Lehmkuhl, a well-known South African genealogical researcher and publisher. There is a wide variety of topics included in the book, many of which are typical of all genealogical newsletters eg; preservation of photographs, Family History Centre resources, publishing, family trees, formatting queries etc.

Many from the **United Kingdom** emigrated to **South Africa**, some after the end of WW11, others perhaps having fought in the **Boer War**. Others went to work in the diamond mines or to farm. I have seen little to help the researcher here in Canada trace those ancestors who emigrated to **South Africa** other than perhaps references to tracing **Boer War** soldiers. One chapter in the book deals with *Tracing Your European Ancestors* including immigrants from **France, Holland, Germany, Portugal, England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland**. Other topics, to mention just a few, are as follows; South African sources: a shipping list; genealogical societies in **South Africa**; genealogical terms in **South Africa**; Anglo-Boer War graves in **South Africa**; hundreds of South African queries; British Settlers in **Natal**, 1849-1851, with a listing of about 800 people; Genealogical Societies in **South Africa**; farm research; South Africa's people, a brief look at their history (covers Irish, British, French [with list of French Huguenots] as well as others).

This is the first publication I have come across which deals with genealogical research in **South Africa**. I have several relatives, both male and female, who left **Scotland** for **South Africa** in the late 1800s and I have been at a loss as to where to begin my search. This book may give me the answer. I am sure that there are others out there whose ancestors may have emigrated to **South Africa** from the

UK. They too may find this book of interest. Perhaps a query to *Generations*, the South African Newsletter, might generate a response. The newsletter is published monthly and varies from 12 to 16 pages per issue. Subscription rates are \$50 for 12 issues (one year), \$65 for 24 issues (2 years) including postage. Subscriptions should be sent to Write Stuff Productions as on page 93. ■

Your Publishing—John Townesend #5

[Editor's Note: The objective of this continuing series is to assist the Reader to produce a professional-quality self-published computer-generated, hard-copy manuscript ready for the printer; and to then market and distribute the resulting book. This is Number 5 of the series, which commenced in the Fall, 1998 Edition of Anglo-Celtic Roots.]

3. Drafting the Manuscript. (Continued)

In the Summer edition, we identified three mutually-dependant elements that comprise the manuscript of a quality family history: *Genealogy*, *Context* and *Graphics*. We considered *Genealogy*, and this quarter focus upon *Context*—locating the lives of the people depicted in the *Genealogy* in terms of their times, geography, socio-economics, religion, politics, and so on.

This is where we move from what your genealogy computer program will organize understandably and attractively for you, to narrative which you have to write yourself—organized, understandably and attractively!

So there you sit, fingers hovering over the keyboard—but where to start? If you have recorded your research effectively and clearly set your book's goals, read on. If not, backtrack to earlier editions of *Your Publishing*.

You need to write clearly, concisely and completely. To do this, you must write consistently; your reader will unknowingly pick up clues as to how your book is organized. This will add to the enjoyment of the reading. To be consistent, at the outset establish *Standards*. These are rules you set for yourself in such areas as punctuation, grammar, spelling, typography and layout. A good book on writing a family history will give you all kinds of ideas for these, and identify sets of professional standards that you base your own upon as well. Alternatively, we would be pleased to provide you with a copy of the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* standards.

You will need to consider a *Title*. Developed early, this will provide you with a writing target: if narrative is in doubt, cut it out. Or change the title. Manuscript content and title must be compatible with each other, and with the book's goal. The title should answer the questions, "Who? When? Where?" Its level of formality will reflect your intended audience. Puns and plays on words are better suited for the immediate family than for the public library shelf, and should be included only if they contribute to better understanding. They could cost you sales further down the road. Here are the prospective titles of four books that help keep me on track in writing: for the immediate family, *EJ Dennis Townesend (1896-1975) and His Family*; for a broader audience, *The Descendants of James Townsend of*

Newbury, Berks: From Civil War Times to the Present; for a biography, *John Townsend of Bermondsey: Georgian Philanthropist*; for a one-name study, *The Townsends of England, from Earliest Times to the Present*.

As fingers hover, eyes will focus upon your organized research. First, the *Binders spreadsheet*, which links hard-copy Binder Numbers to the citations of the sources each contains (Sample record: PLA 13 000 Salter, G H A *Watcher at the City Gate for Thirty-Eight Reigns*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1956). This translates: in the Binder called Places, the 13th part is a set of photocopied pages; there are no citation problems remaining to be clarified; and the pages (which include the title page and copyright information) are taken from a book by Salter, the details of which are provided.

This book actually covers the environs of St. Sepulchre's Church in the City of London, valuable context for ancestor James Townsend (unique identifier 1683a).

A *Persons/Events spreadsheet* then ties uniquely identified persons or events to the references containing information relative to them. A sample record: field 1, 1683a; field 2, PLA 13 000 Salter. When all the records have been entered, the spreadsheet is then sorted by field 1. This brings together all the references to a particular person, and where to find them. Nothing in your research gets forgotten and wasted. And inconsistencies among references are brought together for resolution. Endnote and Bibliography preparation are also assisted.

And all of this is what you need to have readily to hand as your fingers descend to the keyboard. Almost!

Is **James Townsend** (1683a) the best person to start out with anyway, as you commence your writing? Possibly, if you are locked into the Book preparation feature of some genealogical software. This will necessarily involve a person-by-person approach.

If you have the freedom offered by a fully-featured word processor, however, your approach to creating a book that captivates the reader might be first to examine the overall dynamics of the family over the generations. In this instance, James's son Benjamin (1722b) is a better point of departure: more is known about him and his context, and he is therefore a more colourful focus; a religion-based family schism that affected later generations centred on him and his father; and he is a good point of reference in reaching both backward and forward among the generations.

Having decided to start with Benjamin, what next? A *Timeline spreadsheet* gave him context. I keyed in the nature and dates of significant events that happened to and around Benjamin: family births, marriages and deaths; events in the life of his friend **George Whitefield**, the evangelical preacher, who so shaped Benjamin's life; significant world events (from Grun's *The Timetables of History*); and the reigns of the time.

Each date was then converted to a code in an additional column. For example, 16 Jan 1723 became 17230116, 1727 became 17270000, and Feb 1739 became 17390200. The spreadsheet was then sorted on this column, resulting in a chronological listing of events impacting directly or indirectly on Benjamin—the context of his life.

So, as fingers descend to the keyboard, the eye first alights on the *Timeline*, to see what happens next. Then attention moves to the *Persons/Events* spreadsheet to find

out where the relevant information is stored in the Binders. And next there is an array of Binders, opened to the appropriate content. Where there are relevant images, these are scanned on the spot, to avoid having to go back to the Binders again. Of course, there is still integration necessary, corners to be smoothed, and ambiguities to be reconciled. But at least it is less frustrating than not knowing where to start. ■

The BIFHSGO Library—Judith Madore

The dedication and expertise of volunteers and our summer student has been vital to the start-up of the new BIFHSGO library.

Society members will owe a great debt of gratitude in particular to Betty Warburton and Valerie Monkhouse, two of the librarians on the committee. Betty and Valerie have dedicated hours every week to sorting the collection, prioritizing items, conferring with me to develop policies to ensure consistency, and cataloguing books and series.

Our summer student, Barbara Kobolak, a BSc, and currently enrolled in Algonquin's Archives Administration program, proved a valuable asset, working with initiative and diligence.

The Site

Located in the lower board room of the Royal Canadian Legion, Montgomery Branch, 330 Kent Street, the library has two long tables for work and study. Jim Shearon has

quickly primed the purchase of shelving. In addition, the Legion staff have been exceptionally cooperative.

Progress

Periodicals were quickly organized, shelved alphabetically, and entered into the PC. Off-the-shelf library software was purchased. The software, ResourceMate, is designed to develop an electronic catalogue, which will also provide searching by author, title and keyword. Barbara concluded her summer's work by beginning the data entry from the cataloguing performed by Betty, Valerie, Barbara and myself.

We will continue to keep members informed of progress, and particularly, of when we feel we have established sufficient control systems to invite members to begin using the library.

We continue to welcome donations, however, as we have limited space, we would appreciate a list of items in order to identify duplication. ■

Book Review—Judith Madore

Letters to Muriel; a search for kin by Helen Deachman, 1999. Available: BIFHSGO Library DDC 362.82.98 DEA. Also available from the author at \$19.00—order forms available in BIFHSGO Library.

Adopted at birth in 1931, **Helen Deachman** decided, in 1994, to search seriously for information on her "birth mother". While happy and contented within her adoptive family, Mrs. Deachman was curious about disparities between her own aptitudes and interests and those of her adoptive family, and set off to find, in her own words: "...where the music came from." Immediately, privacy issues were encountered with such organizations as Ontario Social Services. Nevertheless, as we have all discovered, there are always alternative routes to obstructive bureaucracy. One thing led to another, and a portrait of Mrs. Deachman's Scottish mother, Liz, (by then deceased) began

to emerge.

This charming chronicle of a very personal search is in the form of letters to Mrs. Deachman's childhood friend, Muriel, between 1994 and 1998. The letters provide not only updates on the search, but also pithy and ironic comments on current events, eg: "I think the Conservative government has attended too many management courses..."

From the evidence of these letters, Mrs. Deachman is a born writer. She has the capability to illustrate how her unknown mother began to assume a personality.

This book is highly recommended to anyone about to embark on writing a family history and would like their ancestors to come alive on the pages. It is primarily a fascinating account of the "search for kin," however, there are details of interest to the researcher: reminders of the usefulness of city directories, Immigration records, voters' lists, communion rolls. ■

Join the BIFHSGO Publishing Team

An immediate vacancy exists for BIFHSGO's Publication Distribution Specialist. Full training is provided, and no previous experience is required. The Specialist: Maintains inventory of stock on-hand; Liaises with Canada Post on mass mailings; Updates and undertakes BIFHSGO mass mailings and other publication distribution; Conducts publication sales; Processes written orders and requests; Maintains related records; Liaises with BIFHSGO Publication Team overall. For further information contact John Townsend.

Planning Your Research Trip

MARGARET GIACOMELLI

[Margaret Giacomelli, a historical researcher and archivist with over ten years of professional experience, is currently working on her thesis requirement for a Master of Arts in History. A BIFHSGO member since 1998, Margaret was preparing to leave on yet another research trip the week following this talk.]

Introduction

This presentation is designed as a "how to session" which I hope will be useful to you in planning your next research trip/holiday. The techniques which I will discuss apply generally to historical research, and can be used anywhere—at home, in your own locale or while travelling. In some instances, points are illustrated with examples from my own research interests and refer to resources in Ottawa and Nova Scotia.

The Steps To A Successful Research Trip

I have found that there are four basic steps to a successful research trip: Step One, "Determine What It Is You Want To Know"; Step Two, "Familiarize Yourself With Your Topic/Individual"; Step Three, "Exhaust Your Locally Available Resources"; and Step Four, "The Plan". Always remember, however, that sometimes you have to take two steps backwards before you can go forward.

Determining what it is you want to know is not always easy, but by organizing yourself and making a list of questions the task becomes less daunting. When I speak of organizing yourself, there are three techniques which can be used. The first technique involves a log-book for research. This is simply a notebook that you use to record all the time you spend doing research and what you actually did. You would not keep your research notes in this log-book. A typical entry might read, for example, "24 August 1998, 9–10 am, National Library, literature search for all materials on Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, see computer printout, ordered fiche copy of publication by Yarmouth Steamship Company." Later on, when the material has been viewed, another entry might be added which evaluates the usefulness of the publication and records if you took notes and where you might find these notes. The purpose of such a log-book is to keep your research on track. The last thing you want to do is re-do research because you don't have a record of what you have already done. The second technique is to create a cardex file for sources. The 5 x 7 inch recipe cards are ideal for this project. On separate cards record each book, guide-book/directory, article, artifact, or archival collection that you have found in the course of your research. You may decide to include all sources or only those specific to your current research. On these cards be sure to indicate where you found the source. Did I find this family bible in the Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia or did Aunt Mildred have it at the cottage? This sort of question is easily answered when you have a general card file to refer back to. It also helps to remind us of the importance of citing and



keeping track of sources. The third technique is to compile a travel binder. In such a binder I find it useful to keep not only completed or in-process but also blank family group sheets. Biographies which are compiled on specific individuals are also valuable. Both the family group sheets and the biographies serve as a reminder of what is already known about the individual or family line. Any pertinent original documentation such as marriage certificates should be photocopied and placed in the binder. Do not include originals, as they should be kept in a safe place, not in a working file such as this. I find it useful to also include photocopies of family photographs, especially of unidentified relatives or family reunions. As you travel these photographs can be shown to others who may be able to help you.

So, with this first stage of determining what it is you want to know well underway, it is time to make a list of questions. These questions can start out to be broad but they will need to be narrow enough so that your research is focussed. Broad questions can be useful as they allow you to understand the historical period and context in which your ancestors lived. When you hit dead ends, it is often this historical context which can point you in other directions. However, in order to achieve results, you need to ask specific questions. These questions do not need to be complicated. They might be for example, What was my great-grandmother's date of death and what was her place of death? Historical context and a review of family group sheets can help narrow the possibilities for your search. If you know that she was buried in a specific cemetery, plan to visit that cemetery. You will likely find her death date on the monument or in cemetery records. If you run into complications, knowing something of the migration patterns of the time might be useful in tracking down the place of death.

This latter step has already led you to step two, that is, **familiarizing yourself with your topic/individual**, and some of the benefits of having an understanding of a broader historical context have already been discussed. The problem then becomes where do I begin to learn more about the time and place in which my ancestors lived. I have four suggestions which include; read, look at photographs, examine culture material and search the Internet. When I say read, I mean read. Readings should include general books on genealogical research, provincial histories as well as local histories, but also academic works, and journals. A few hours of searching the database of the National Library can help in pulling together a reading list. This can be done in person or through the Internet at <www.nlc-bnc.ca>. Getting

to know the time, place and the kind of records generated in that period will aid you in your research. And don't forget to include the local newspapers in your reading, not just for obituaries but for the news of the day. There are a number of older newspapers available on microfilm. The next suggestion of looking at photographs does not just apply to your own collection but to those that may have been published. Photographs can tell you things that are otherwise unrecorded. This is particularly relevant to the 1890s onwards when photography was becoming commonplace. Photographs are part of our material culture just as other artifacts which tell us about the past. Such things which may have personally belonged to our ancestors or served as a monument should also be examined as we familiarize ourselves with our topic/individual. Such items may include buildings, commemorative plaques, tombstones, wedding gifts, postcards, jewellery or tools of the tradesman. And finally, the Internet can be used for more than a way of posting questions on a genealogical bulletin board. Library databases, museum and archival catalogues, as well as historical records such as census and military indexes can be searched through the Internet

The resources found on the Internet, as well as those in your local library, archives and museums underscores, the importance of step three, **exhaust your locally available resources**. In Ottawa, we are fortunate to have the National Library and the National Archives of Canada, but there are also two university libraries. It is easy to overlook not only the importance of these resources but also those of the local Family History Centre (FHC) in the Church of Latter Day Saints. Since a wide variety of records have been collected and microfilmed by the Church, the local FHC should always be visited, at home and away. All listings of microfilm, available for order, should also be consulted.

Perhaps the most important step of all is step four, **the plan**. Wherever you decide to go, whatever you decide to do, there are three rules to keep in mind. I call these the "F" words, that is, be Flexible, be Focussed and have Fun. To be flexible you need to plan your time. Try to visit the local archives and museums first and then the larger provincial

archives. Use your log-book to take note of sources, complete with collection identification numbers, files and other relevant information that will help you recheck your research if necessary. Allow a budget for photocopying and book buying. Make sure you visit second hand book stores and the gift shops of the local historical societies for out of print and hard to get publications. Before you plan to visit any archives or museums, make sure you find out what days and hours the facility is open. Many smaller archives appreciate a call ahead so that they can better accommodate your requests. Planning your trip in a less busy time is an important consideration for you and the archives. Assess your progress and don't be afraid to alter your search strategy. Allow for time to walk in the locale you are interested in. For example, take in a walking tour or just stroll around town. Be realistic on the time restraints that you have. Remember, you may not be able to accomplish everything in one trip. Devising a plan, helps to keep you focussed. Determine where you are going to visit and stick to the plan. Arrange appointments when possible. Always remember that the facility may not be open everyday, and may have limited hours on the weekends and evenings. Note, local libraries often have longer hours of service than archives. These libraries may also have microfilm copies of early local newspapers. To make the most of your time plan around such considerations. Keeping focussed yet flexible is the underlying function of a plan. Research can be a lot of work, but it should also be fun. Take a break and take lots of photographs. Talk to people and take down their addresses, phone numbers and e-mails. Remember you are doing this because you want to. Always keep in mind the purpose of your trip and find a balance between work and play.

By taking one step at a time, a research problem can be a manageable and enjoyable project. I have found that these four steps work for me. That is, Step One, "Determine What It Is You Want To Know"; Step Two, "Familiarize Yourself With Your Topic/Individual"; Step Three, "Exhaust Your Locally Available Resources"; and Step Four, "The Plan". Good luck on your research, and find out what works for you. ■

Lt Col John By, RE

PERCY BATESON

On Saturday 12 June members were treated to a most interesting presentation by Herb Sills, Director and Past President of the Ottawa Historical Society. The subject of his talk was *John By, Hero Without Honour* and was illustrated with an excellent video with the same title produced by Mrs Josephine MacFadden. The video gave a graphic exposition of the building of the Rideau Canal by Col By. It told how in 1826 John By was recalled to duty and ordered to Upper Canada by the Duke of Wellington; to plan and construct a canal from the Ottawa River to Kingston to provide a secure supply route from Montreal to Kingston as quickly as possible because of the potential threat from the United States. It was initially estimated that it would take some six years to construct; Col By completed it in five summers.


The video illustrated, as near as can be done today, the

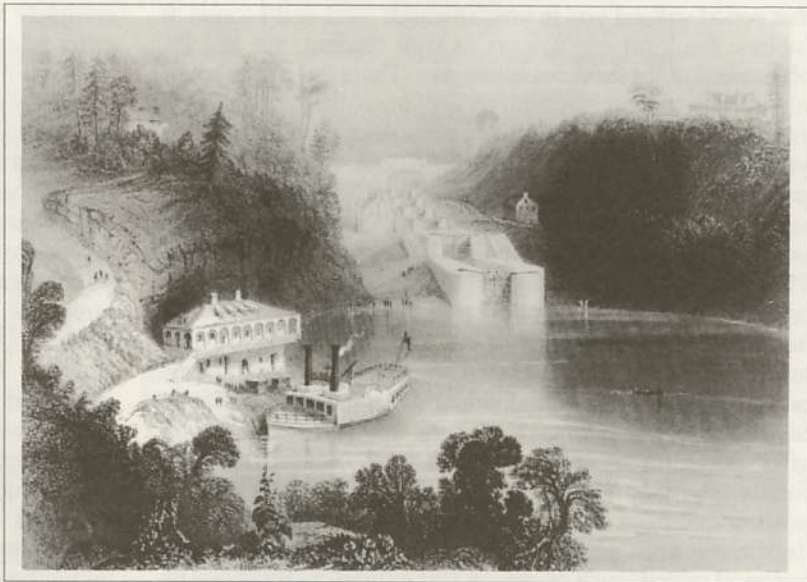
first of By's difficulties—surmounting the 68 foot drop of the Rideau Falls. Along with The Governor, Lord Dalhousie, he selected Entrance Valley where he constructed a magnificent flight of eight locks. The most difficult dam was at the Hog's Back. The contractor gave up and By employed members of the Royal Corps of Sappers and Miners who worked all winter but failed to realize the clay they used contained frozen water which, in the spring thawed, causing the dam to leak. By rushed to see the damage and narrowly missed being swept away when the dam failed. The dam was subsequently rebuilt and like all of Col By's works is standing to this day. Another great engineering achievement was the arch dam at Jones Falls on the Catarqui River where By took the unprecedented course of building a 60 foot high dam to close off the 90 foot gorge through which the river tumbled with a drop of 60 feet. This dam was

unique in that instead of relying on its weight for its stability the forces were transmitted to the bed rock on either side.

Col By had as many as 2,000 men working on the canal at any one time and naturally there were injuries and fatalities, the latter caused by falls and blasting but mostly by the dreaded "swamp fever" as it was called. Malaria, as we would call it today, was indigenous to the area, especially in the swamps, of which there were many. Col By himself became a victim and it probably contributed to his early demise after his return to England.

The video also described the dismay and depression induced in Col By when the Lord's of His Majesty's Treasury accused him of expending without authority £82,576, the consequence of which was the withholding of the expected promotion and honours which he so reasonably anticipated. Whether By was justified in maintaining he had authority, or the Treasury that he did not, is an unanswerable question which historians continue to debate. But we, like generations before us and generations

to come, have inherited an irreplaceable monument to his engineering skill and leadership. 



Locks on the Rideau Canal, Bytown (Ottawa), Ontario, before 1841. Artist: William Henry Bartlett. From the National Archives Collection (C-002367).

John By, Hero without Honour

HERB SILLS

[Herb Sills grew up in Saskatchewan, he joined the army in 1939, retired as a Captain, RCASC, then spent 16 years in the Public Service, ending his career with Consumer and Corporate affairs. He has two daughters and two sons. He has researched his family tree back to 1597, chiefly in Buckinghamshire, England, and is a member of that Family History Society.]

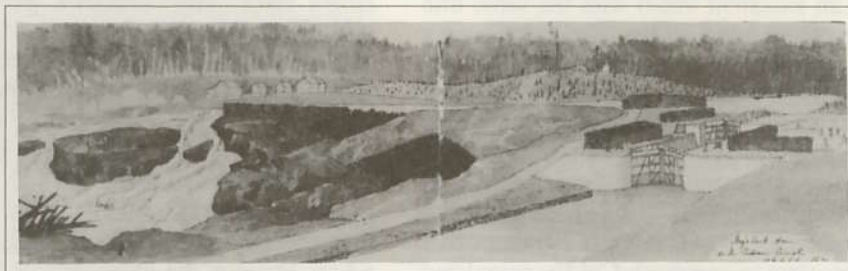
Lt-Col John By is honoured by The Historical Society of Ottawa as the builder of the Rideau Canal and as the founder of Ottawa. He laid out the first streets of the town which was then called Bytown. We have two very good biographies of Col By; one by Dr. Robert Leggat written in 1982 and a more extensive one by Mark Andrews published in 1998. No one has been able to find the personal papers of Col By and it is presumed they were destroyed following his death.

John By was the son of George and Mary By, baptised in the church of St. Mary at Lambeth, London on 10 August 1779. His father was a Thames waterman—a job which apparently included looking after customs duties—he was "Chief Searcher" in the London Customs House. It appears that his father had died before 1794 and at the age of 14 his

mother apprenticed him to follow in his father's footsteps and become a waterman. However, he did not continue in that trade but in 1797 was admitted as a Gentleman Cadet in the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. It has been suggested his mother Mary By, following the death of her husband, had obtained a position in the Royal household and was thus able to obtain her son's entrance to the Woolwich Academy.

John By was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on 1 August 1799. After some additional training he was transferred to the Royal Engineers. Only those at the top of the class were given that opportunity. His first posting was to Plymouth as an officer of 6 Company, Royal Sappers and Miners employed in improving the fortifications of Plymouth.

It was at



Hog's Back Dam on the Rideau Canal, Ottawa, Ontario, 1832. Artist: Henry Byam Martin. From the National Archives Collection (C-115005).

Plymouth that he married **Elizabeth Johnson Baines** on 12 November 1801, the daughter of Captain Cuthbert Baines, RN. The following year he was sent to Canada, arriving in Quebec in August 1802. There is no record that his wife accompanied him. However, she died in 1814 of cholera at the age of 34.

In Quebec, John By was employed constructing canals on the St Lawrence river at **Soulanges** and at the **Cascades at Montreal**. He was promoted Second Captain on 2 March 1805 and to full Captain on 24 June 1809. In addition to his work on canal building, with the help of a skilled surveyor and draftsman **JB Duberger**, he built a scale model of **Quebec city** including the **Plains of Abraham**. In November 1810 he requested leave to return to England and he took with him the model in 18 large crates for use in planning new fortifications for Quebec.

In February 1811 he was posted to Wellington's Army in Portugal fighting against Napoleon's Army. It is known that he was one of the RE officers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel **Fletcher** at the first siege of **Badajos** and also the second siege of that fort.

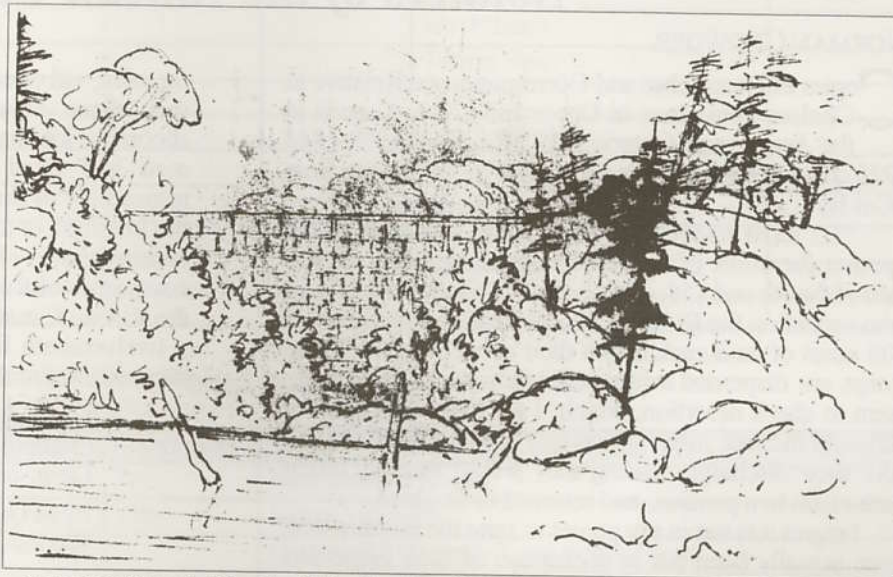
On 1 January 1812, he was appointed Officer in Charge of the Ordnance Establishment at **Waltham Abbey** just north of London. There he had to develop and increase the manufacture of gunpowder. A new factory was built to manufacture gun barrels. He was promoted to Major on 23 June 1814. With the victory at Waterloo against Napoleon in 1815, the need for armaments was reduced and on 21 January 1818, the factory was placed on a reserve basis and the workers discharged. Major By was placed on the retired list in August 1821.

Shortly after his promotion to Major in December 1814, his first wife died. She was buried at **Cheshunt** close to Waltham Abbey. He married again on 14 March 1818 to **Esther March** with the consent of her guardians. Esther had fallen heir to a fortune from her father. John By was 38 and she was 20 years old. With his retirement from the army and following the marriage John By and his wife purchased a property called **Shermfold Park** on the edge of the village of **Frant** in East Sussex. They had two daughters—**Esther March** born in early 1819 and **Harriet** in 1821. John By became a successful farmer, but kept in touch with the Royal Engineers and on 2 December 1842 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel while on the retired list. In March 1826 he returned to active duty and was ordered to Canada to build the **Rideau Canal**.

The idea of building the Rideau Canal as a defence project had been suggested several times after the war of 1812 and rough surveys had been done in 1815. Nothing was done until the **Duke of Richmond** arrived in August 1818 to take over as Governor in Chief. He recommended the building of the Rideau Canal and in the meantime he had canals built at the rapids on the Ottawa River between

Montreal and Chaudiere by the Royal Staff Corps.

The accusation by the Board of Ordnance that Col By had overspent his budget in the building of the Canal was caused by statements made by a young man named



Dam on Jones Falls on the Rideau Canal. Artist: Henry James Warre. From the national Archives Collection (C-31222)

Burgess. Burgess had been a clerk at the start of the works, however, he took to drink and was discharged in March 1830. He took copies of Col By's letters, reproduced them and accused him of falsification, using public funds for private work and other misdemeanours. He addressed vicious appeals to the Board of Ordnance and a Court of Inquiry was held in Bytown in November 1831. Burgess did not appear and other witnesses gave evidence in favour of Col By. By was exonerated but the damage had been done and he could only retire to his farm in the village of **Frant**.

Getting back to his arrival in **Wrightsville** he met with The Governor **Earl Dalhousie** and together on 26 September 1826, they chose Entrance Valley as the site for the first locks of the canal. The Governor also instructed him to lay out the first streets of a town which became known as **Bytown**. Those streets were Rideau and Wellington streets and Sappers Bridge over the canal joined them. Lots were surveyed for housing and businesses. Col By built his house in what is now called Major's Hill Park. Barracks for the troops and a hospital were built on what is now Parliament Hill. His Commissariat building is now the Bytown Museum and on the other side of the canal was built officers' quarters.

On 13 March 1832 Col By was in Kingston and there he bought 600 acres for £1,200 from a Mrs **Grace MacQueen**. It was scrub land in what is now downtown Ottawa from Laurier Avenue to Gladstone Avenue and from Bronson Avenue to the Rideau river. He never returned to Bytown to develop his land and it lay vacant for a number of years. Eventually it became the property of his nephew and was finally developed for him by lawyers in Bytown.

He suffered a stroke in October 1834 and died in his home in Frant on 1 February 1836.

Today we have a statue of Colonel By in Major's Hill

Park erected by the Historical Society of Ottawa in 1971.
The first Monday of August is Colonel By Day and will be

celebrated this year on 2 August in Major's Hill Park. ■

Soldiers of the Rideau Canal

NORMAN CROWDER

Copies of Despatches and Correspondence Relative to Chelsea Pensioners in Upper and Lower Canada in the Archives of Ontario MU 2108 Misc 1839-1844 F225 contains among other documents the following from LCol By

"I... most respectfully beg to state that I am of the opinion *the whole* of the non-commissioned officers and men of the 7th and 15th companies of Sappers and Miners who served on the Rideau Canal are entitled to a grant of 100 acres of land each, when their services in the Royal Corps are dispensed with; as the grant was held out to them to check desertion, which, I am happy to report, it certainly did; but many of the two companies would not take their discharge, fearing they would thereby forfeit their claim to a pension, and returned to England.

I regret it is not in my power to state the number who have actually been put in possession of their grant. His Excellency Sir J. Colborne having kindly offered to give

the men, either collectively or separately, any vacant lots they chose, created a delay, as the men took time to choose the lots; and when I left Canada, few, if any, of the men had fixed on their lots. I am therefore most respectfully of the opinion, that the best mode of bringing the business to a close will be to give notice to the non-commissioned officers and men, late of the 7th and 15th companies of Royal Sappers and Miners, who served on the Rideau Canal, that unless they claim their lots within a twelvemonth from the time of the date of the notice, they will forfeit their grant.

I have &c.
(Signed) *John By*
Lieut.-col. Royal Engineers.

Head Quarters, Royal Sappers and Miners
Woolwich, 28th July 1834.

Nominal List of Non-commissioned Officers, Privates and Buglers of the Companies of Royal Sappers and Miners disbanded at the Rideau Canal in December 1831

RANK	NAMES	COMPANY	RANK	NAMES	COMPANY
Serjeant	William Addison	7th	Private	John Smith	7th
Corporal	Thomas Jenkins			Samuel Patrick	
	William Clyma	15th		John Ayres	
2d Corporal	Archibald Sands	7th		Hugh Patrick	
	George Hog		Bugler	Thomas Duffy	
	Daniel M'Donald		Private	William Ardour	15th
	John Richard	15th		William Flowers	
	Jones Jones			Thomas Dickson	
	William Mitchell			Robert Peck	
Private	Thomas Jones	7th		Robert Snowdell	
	Alexander Burns			John Newman	
	Henry Hog			Phillip Clogg	
	John M'Donald			David Mitchell	
	Thomas Green			Thomas Newman	
	George Nebbs			William Smith	
	Charles Taylor			Michael Rowe	
	Robert Bray			Roderick M'Kay	
	Cornelius Conner			Henry Bullen	
	Andrew Gray			William Fielding	
	Walter Muchmore			James Dykes	
	William R Broad			Robert Clements	
	Thomas Finn			Edward Pascoe	
	Robert Gillvear			George Simms	

RANK	NAMES	COMPANY	RANK	NAMES	COMPANY
	Henry Lavis			Patrick Pullen	
	James Hume			Robert Jones	
	John Fraser			Stephen Simmonds	
Private	James Boundly	7th	Private	James Deovy	15th
	Thomas Little			John M'Laren	
	Joseph White			Thomas Smith	
	Robert Mitchell			James Coll	
	David Nesbitt			John Burgoyne	
	James Calloway			John White	
	William Fraser			George Hamilton	
	John Serjeant			John Porteous	
	William Fleming			Samuel Spry	
	James Murdoch				

The following Men returned to England on the Disbandment of the Companies

RANK	NAMES	COMPANY	REMARKS
Col-Serjeant	John Eads	7th	Now serving in Gibraltar
	John Johnston	15th	Ditto at Woolwich
Serjeant	Joseph Coombs		Discharged 9 March 1832, and gone to Canada
Corporal	George Raff	7th	Now serving at Chatham
	Denis Ryan	15th	Discharged 31 Jan 1832, and to reside at Thurles, Ireland
	Thomas Simmonds		Now serving at Purfleet
Private	James Burrel	7th	Discharged 31 Jan 1832, and to reside at Dumferline
	Andrew Kinross		Ditto - ditto - ditto - at Stirling
	Charles Turner		Ditto - dito - ditto - at Haywood
	Edward Council		Ditto - 31 March -- at Dublin
	William Smith		Ditto, 31 Oct 1832 -- at Forres
	William Bond		Discharged 31 Jan 1832, and to reside at Probus
	Thomas Edrington		Now serving at Woolwich
	James Burlace		Discharged 31 Mar 1832, to reside at Devonport
	George Cook		Ditto 14 Jan 1832
	William Kemshaw		Now serving at the Mauritius
	John Welford		Ditto - at the Cape
	Arthur Kelly	15th	Discharged 31 Jan 1832, to reside at Omagh
	William Trusk		Now serving at the Cape
	John Cook		Now serving at the Cape
	William Colwell		Ditto -- at Woolwich
	Owen M'Grath		Discharged 16 Jan 1832
	William Harris		Now serving at Woolwich
	Henry Solrey		Now serving at Woolwich
	John Baird		Discharged 7 Sept 1833
Bugler	William Cameron		Now serving at Bermuda

Erratum

In the article entitled *Canadian Participants in the South African War* on page 80 of the *Summer Issue*, the name of BIFHSGO member Charles H Bone, the sole volunteer who created the computerized data base, was inadvertently omitted.

BIFHSGO NEWS
COLUMNS

The Helping Hand—A Bernice Severson

All of us who are regular attendees at Seminars, Workshops and other Genealogical gatherings know that at each event persons from different groups bring materials for us to peruse. When I go to one of these events, I usually go early to have time to see what is in "The Marketplace", or in the booths which display wares for researchers to look over or buy.

Such was the case in June when I journeyed to **Adolphustown**, in the Bay of Quinte area, to attend the re-enactment of the Loyalists Landings at Adolphustown Bay. As usual I arrived early, and as usual, there was quite an array of booths displaying for the most part material relevant to the program of the day. Several booths however, were representing different genealogy companies and genealogical branches.

After walking around, I went to a booth from **Bowmanville** Ontario. I looked for a bit, walked on, and then returned. There was a display of books of several of the townships of **Durham County** including **Clarke**. Now I am interested in Clarke, because I am writing a family history for one of my grandsons and his father has roots deep in Clarke Township. There seems to be, in each family history, one or two family lines about which you can obtain very little. Such was the case in this one. The booth had a large selection of pictures and as I looked through them I thought I heard someone mention a family in the area that I have been researching. When an attendant was free I asked about

this. The family was not one I was interested in.

As I was turning away thinking that once more there was little for me, the attendant asked. "Are you interested in a particular Clarke family?" I told her I was and named the family. At once she gave me her full attention. "I know a man who is researching that family," she said. She added that she knew him well and asked for my name which she said she would forward to him. I also took his name and walked away thinking that when I got home I would follow this lead. The man lived in Toronto and I resolved to write or maybe phone. This happened on Saturday, and I returned home to Ottawa on Monday.

All week, at the back of my mind, was the idea that I must write, but I didn't. On going down for my mail on Friday I found a letter from this individual. Yes, he was researching this family—the one that had eluded me so long—and yes, he sent me a bit of information. He wrote about what he himself was looking for. Well, as it happened, I had all the information he was looking for and he had all the material I lacked. We are still in the process of exchanging.

So when next you are at an event such as a Seminar, a Generama, a Folk Fare, or any other place where genealogical materials are displayed, don't just look at the materials. Talk to the people manning the booths. After all they have been engaged for some time in gathering materials from their own area. Ask them about people you are researching. It certainly paid off for me! ■

Internet Users' Group News – John Townesend

National Library of Canada

At the April meeting, Mary Bond, who manages the National Library's Public Services was our guest. Among other things, Mary toured the National Library's Website, and if you would like a copy of her handout listing some of sites major genealogical attractions please ask me. Or boot up your machine right now and head for the National Library's site at <<http://nlc-bnc.ca/ehome.htm>>. That will take you to the English home page—a veritable smorgasbord of lines of enquiry to pursue.

Wondering what the National Library has published specifically for the Canadian genealogist? Well, click on *What We Publish* and you can download Mary's *Reference Sources for Canadian Genealogy* as a read-only document. It can be viewed if your browser is equipped with Adobe Acrobat viewer software or plug-in. This lists 212 reference works, national or provincial in scope, most of which are in the Library's Reference Section. So it is perfect for those of us fortunate enough to live in or around the Nation's capital.

Want to see whether the National Library holds a work of interest to you? On the Home Page, click on *NLC Catalogue* and up comes your access to *resAnet*, and search almost as though you were sitting at a Library terminal (the difference being that single searches of the holdings of other libraries are not available to you).

But hold on now. All is not lost! On the Home Page, under *Sources of Canadian Information*, click on *Canadian Libraries and Library Catalogues*. This lists, and provides links to all sorts of libraries; universities, public, you name it. (You will have to search each one separately). If you want to become an *Amicus* subscriber to get the whole show, *NLC Catalogue* tells you how. So thank you, Mary.

The season ended with Donna Dinberg's demonstration of Telnet, the other (other than the Web, that is) means to access library catalogues on your computer at home. You see some libraries, like the Ottawa Public Library, have websites for sure, but they don't provide access to their Catalogue. For this, you will therefore need Telnet. Based on Donna's presentation, a special article on this is planned. It will cover Telnet in all its temperamental dimensions.

So There You Have It.

The rooms were packed. The topics were of interest. The questions varied. But that's as far as it went.

The leadership challenge was spoken of at meetings, mentioned in this column, and referenced in e-mails as well. But the leadership spots stayed empty. Accordingly, your Board has suspended this Group activity, and the accommodations for next season have been cancelled.

At the same time, the Board extended thanks to Margaret and Willis Burwell as well as to Doug Hoddinott for their generous support over the three years that the Group has met. Yes indeed, thank you. We could not have done without you! ■

From Near and Far—May Garson**From Yesterday's Footprints, April 1999.**

In this edition of the *Journal of the Alberta Genealogical Society, Lethbridge and District Branch*, you will find a web page: <<http://www.mun.ca/library/colldev/irish.html>>. This site contains a wonderful collection for those who have an interest in all things Irish. You will find a collection of over 15,000 books, more than 60 subscriptions to magazines and journals, and Irish newspapers from 1737 to the present day, both National and Provincial. Also included is a section on Irish Demography and Family History which is quite extensive.

North Irish Roots, vol. 10, no 1, 1999, Journal of the North of Ireland Family History Society.

The following is a synopsis of an article from the above journal entitled *An Index of Nuns for Ireland?*, by Michael Gandy. This article gives us a historical review of the various religious orders, an outline of the social services provided by them and the various records available to the genealogist.

With the Dissolution of Monasteries in England and Wales in the early 16th century, many orders were forced to move abroad to carry on their work, helping the poor and the sick in orphanages, in schools and in hospitals. By the 19th century, with the acceptance once more of Catholicism, many of the orders returned to England and continued their good work. Archives for these orders have been published by the Catholic Records Society.

The Catholic Family History Society, whose help had often been sought tracing members of religious orders, determined there was a need for a central index. They approached various orders with a request for information and without exception received the utmost co-operation. Where records had not been properly assembled, a commitment was given to organise and supply all available information to the society.

The index includes records to the present day except where consent to publish was withheld. It is hoped that an index will be created for Irish nuns with the help of orders in America, Australia and Canada or in any country where Irish nuns worked. The author, Michael Gandy, has also thrown out a challenge for a similar index for Irish brothers.

It is both surprising and gratifying to know that so many orders kept excellent records and that these records have been preserved to the benefit of future generations. Again a most interesting article by Michael Gandy.

Journal of the British Isles Family History Society, USA, Winter 1998/1999.

Included in this journal was an article entitled *The Hector Society* by Mary A Russell. The author took a trip to Nova Scotia and used, as reference, a guide book to **Pictou County**. The author and company followed the trail to the *Hector Exhibit and Research Centre*. Here the Hector Centre Archives, which contain records from churches, cemeteries, family bibles, newspapers etc., can be found. The **Hector** was a ship which carried immigrants from **Loch Broom, Wester Ross, Scotland to Nova Scotia** in 1773 to settle land ceded to the British in the Treaty of Utrecht. Having grown up in

Scotland and having married someone from Easter Ross, I am very familiar with this most scenic loch on the west coast. This immigration was just the beginning. Many more were to follow. A model of the Hector is being built. Loch Broom Log Church, a replica of the one built by the immigrants, stands beside Loch Broom Bridge.

The author also makes reference to the Heritage Centre in **Antigonish County** where a large collection of records are housed. One notable set of records contains information on every house in Antigonish County built before 1914. The information includes a photograph of each house and lists every owner up to the 1950s.

Look for this article and if traveling in Nova Scotia, visit the Heritage Centre and the *Hector Exhibit and Research Centre*. The following are addresses for those who might want more information.

Pictou County Genealogy and Heritage Society, P.O. Box 1210, 86 Old Haliburton Road, Pictou NS B0K 1H0. Web site for this society is <www.rootsweb.com/~nspcghs/>.

Antigonish Heritage Museum, 20 East Main Street, Antigonish NS B2G 2E9

Ship Hector Foundation, PO Box 1772, Pictou NS B0K 1H0.

From The NGS Newsletter, vol 25, no 3.

How many of us have searched a cemetery for an ancestor's name and come away disappointed? Sue Ann Gardner Shreve, in her article entitled *Leave No Stone Unturned*, tells of just such an event. Armed with papers and records the author set out to find a family grave. The author visited the cemetery where one of her ancestors was supposedly buried. The Funeral Company, as named in the obituary, was still flourishing and a search of their records confirmed the burial in this cemetery. The gravestone could not be found. The cemetery records also indicated he had been buried there. Husband and wife would have been buried together and yet there was no stone for the wife and no record could be found at the funeral home for her death and burial. She had been buried elsewhere. After consulting family members it was discovered that due to a family dispute, the wife refused to be buried in the family plot and insisted that her husband should not remain buried there. His remains were removed and re-interred with the wife in another cemetery where the missing gravestone was found. Unfortunately, the cemetery staff were not informed of the 'move'. Should you be fortunate enough to have access to cemetery and obituary records and knowledgeable relatives, you too may be able to solve your mystery of the missing grave!

A second article from the above journal, *Quid Pro Quo*, written by David W. Dole, is both interesting and amusing. Many newspaper clippings on births, marriages and deaths lie tucked away with all our memorabilia. Such clippings rarely contain the name of the newspaper, date of publication and the location. It must be remembered that usually the place where the event took place, is only given if it differs from the locale of the newspaper. We may be aware of the place but future generations will not, unless it is written down. These notices will contain much information but often they lack the type of information

genealogists are looking for.

David Dole and his wife, having dabbled in coding systems, decided to look at the feasibility of devising a code for obituaries so that in years to come, it would be possible to use this code to determine the newspaper in which the obituary appeared and on what date. The code would be incorporated into each obituary thus providing the key to identifying the newspaper and the date on which the obituary appeared. Many local libraries as well as archives have collections of newspapers stored in various formats.

David Cole hopes that newspapers will co-operate with him in his project. It would involve a one time fee to be paid by the newspaper. The code would combine a 7 character identity code for the newspaper with an eight character date code eg A0000181998MY16. This identity code would be entered into a database. The database records would contain the identity code as search key, the name, address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address, where applicable, of the newspaper represented by that code. What a boon to genealogists!

To register support for this project, Publisher's Genealogical Coding Service, go to <www.obituarycoding.com> or write David W. Cole, 8102 Highwood Drive, B-125, Bloomington MN 55438 or e-mail <dwdole@fishnet.com>. Response to registering is in the form of a letter addressed to the publisher/editor of the newspaper to which you subscribe along with an application form and an explanation of the process, to be mailed by you on the date given on the form. For full information, visit the web site or write to the author.

Family History News and Digest, April 1999, vol 12, no 1. In the last issue of ACR, I wrote briefly on GENfair, the online Family History Fair which provides Internet shopping for genealogists. The above journal offers more information on this. The GENfair website is very user friendly. It works much the same as a visit to your local supermarket. You get a basket, select the items you wish to purchase and add them to your basket. You may then deselect some items, change quantities or empty the basket and begin again. When you wish to check out, you fill out a form with your name and delivery address. The total bill is then displayed, shipping charges are added and you enter your credit card details into what the article describes as a secure system. Once satisfied with the whole process, you press the send button.

GENfair validates and processes the card details and sends the orders to the various societies whose publications or services you have ordered, without your credit card details. The societies send out the goods and/or provide the services ordered. Have a look at this website, <www.genfair.com> and browse through the 'bookstalls.' You can also send an e-mail to <info@genfair.com> or you can write to GENfair, 9

Fairstone Hill, Oadby, Leicester, UK LE2 5RL or telephone 01144 116 2713494 if calling from Canada.

Newsflash, no 52, April 1999, Journal of The Federation of Family History Societies.

For those who may avail themselves of the services of the Principal Probate Registry, now known as the Principal Registry of the Family Division, at First Avenue House in t h e UK, you might want to note the new fees for service as detailed in the above journal. For example, to inspect a will, until recently, cost 25p. This charge has increased to a whopping £15. To obtain a copy document of a will now costs you £5 versus the previous price of 75p. Protests have been sent to the Lord Chancellor's Office regarding these excessive increases. You might want to note that if you receive a Literary Research Pass at First Avenue House as a family historian, you can avoid paying the inspection fee for documents which are 100 years old and which have been filed in the principal probate registry or in a district probate registry. For more information, check the website <www.courtservice.gov.uk>.

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

(The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1999 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.) Genealogists in the United States naturally assume that all governmental records are in the public domain. However, that is not the case elsewhere. In many other countries government records are considered copyrighted for 100 to 200 years. These records may not be reproduced and sold without permission from the government of that country. Now the Public Record Office in England has announced a major change:

Copyright at the Public Record Office

Guidelines for Those Who Propose To Reproduce Works Among Records Held in the Public Record Office

From 26 March 1999, the Crown will in future waive its copyright in Crown copyright material in public records that are available to the public and that were unpublished when they were transferred. This means that such material can be copied, indexed, transcribed, published and broadcast without formal permission, payment of a copyright fee or acknowledgment of copyright.

The change affects not only public records in the PRO but also those in all places of deposit outside the PRO, the National Archives of Scotland and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Material in private copyright, published Crown copyright material, and non-public records are all unaffected. A very detailed explanation of the new guidelines is available at: <<http://www.pro.gov.uk/about/copyright/default.htm>>. ©

Family History Queries—A Bernice Severson

Lee M. Fergusson e-mail: <Larfing_Boy@aol.com>. Wishes to find her aunt Alice Moore born circa 1922-1923 daughter of Stanley Stewart and Edith Mary Todd. Was evacuated from England during WWII and came to Canada. She is known to have married and possibly has five children.

Helene Taylor 7 Sloman Street Booval Queensland 4304 Australia. Is seeking information (birth, deaths and marriages) of Charles George Down Mayne born 3 March 1855, Exeter ENG, and his sister Elfrida Georgina Farant Down Mayne born 8 January 1858 in Newport Wales In 1886 they were living in Fogo Newfoundland, Charles was married, widowed and had a son shortly before his wife's death. Elfrida went to Newfoundland to help him. ©

BIFHSGO MEMBER RESEARCH TOPICS
ARTICLES

Kingston Holds First Capital Celebrations

JUNE COXON

Union Jacks fluttered in the breeze and the sun broke through the dark rain clouds to lend its support as Kingston celebrated, for the first time in 158 years, its place in history as the first capital of a United Canada.

On 15 June 1999 Kingston's town crier led the Fort Henry Guard, horse drawn carriages, a highland piper, local politicians, hundreds of school children from Kingston and Ottawa waving red, white and blue ribbons, and Kingstonians in period dress on a one mile walk from Frontenac County Court House through historic old Kingston to the Market Square and the City Hall.

Speaking from the steps of the City Hall, the town crier officially declared 15 June First Capital Day. His proclamation was followed by brief talks by numerous dignitaries, including: Kingston's Mayor Gary Bennett; Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands, Peter Milliken; MPP John Gerretsen; and Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson.

The event was made possible because of the efforts of the *Kingston—First Capital United Canada 1841* group, headed by local retired business man Ian Milne and historian and author Dr. Margaret Angus.

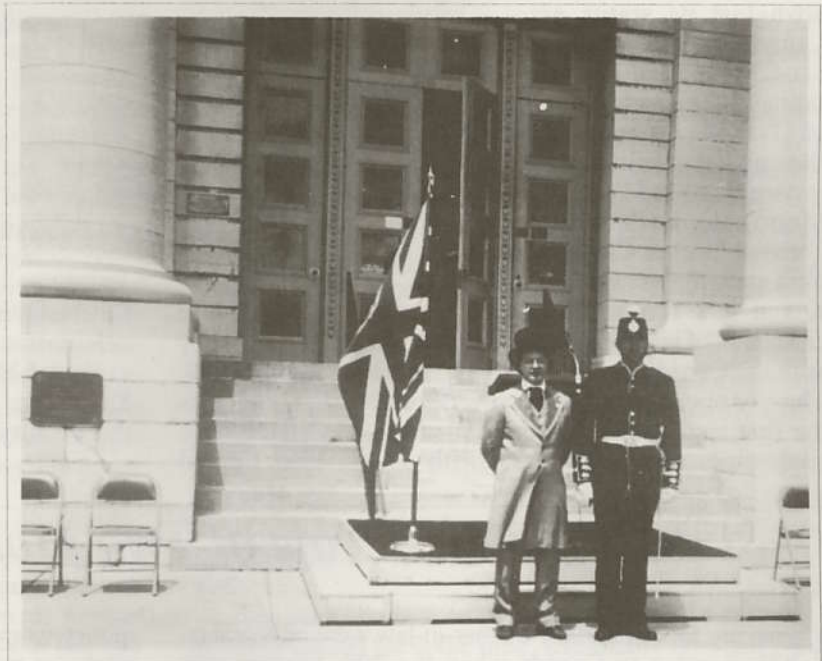
Kingston Ancestors

Also attending the festivities were a number of ancestors of people who lived in the Kingston area around 1841. After the formal program they attended a luncheon at the city hall along with the event organizers while others enjoyed music in the park across the road. Some of the Kingston family names represented were **Hales, Horsey, Smith, Van Order, Watkins, Wilmot, and Wright**. Prior to 15 June the ancestors were asked to send Mr Milne information about their Kingston forbears. "The interest and response was so great that we'll extend an even wider invitation to Kingston descendants next year," said Milne after the event. "The written information I received about their ancestors paints a vivid and interesting picture of what Kingston was like for the average family during the 1840s. It will be compiled in an official way at a later date."

As an off-shoot of the First Capital celebrations Kingston's school boards have a new project for their students. A 36-page book has been designed as a guide to take students on a trip of exploration through Kingston's past. It includes a combination of field trips, activities, and in-class projects. The guide focuses on the Kingston of 1841 when the City was designated Canada's first capital. It will become a permanent part of the school curricula in Kingston and is expected to be used, in modified form, throughout Ontario and in other provinces as early as next year.

Kingston History

When the United Province of Canada came into existence in February 1841 Kingston was named its capital. The Act of Union uniting the former Upper and Lower Canadas, brought together some 650,000, mainly French-speaking Upper Canadians and approximately 45,000 predominately English-speaking Lower Canadians. Renamed Canada East and Canada West, the two sections



The Mayor of Kingston in period dress and a Fort Henry Guard Officer on the steps of Kingston City Hall

had equal representation in the first Parliament. Although one of the oldest settlements in Canada West, Kingston had only been incorporated as a town in 1838, four years after Toronto had become a city.

On Friday, 28 May 1841, the mood in Kingston was festive and all shops and businesses were closed as Kingston citizens, dressed in their Sunday best, gathered at the Commercial Wharf to greet Governor Sydenham. When the steamer *Traveller* bearing Governor Sydenham arrived, the guns of Fort Henry gave a Royal salute. John A. Macdonald, members of the St. Andrew's Society, and the public followed the Governor's carriage to Alwington House, the official residence of the new Governor.

A few weeks later, on 15 June, the first parliament was opened by the country's first Governor General, Lord Sydenham. Kingstonians watched the impressive ceremony of the opening of Parliament in the converted hospital building which now forms part of Kingston General Hospital which was the only available interim accommodation. Lord Sydenham arranged to buy land, now

City Park, where he planned to erect the permanent Legislative Buildings.

But within three months a tragic event changed history forever. Lord Sydenham, severely injured in a riding accident, died in September 1841. He had chosen Kingston as Canada's capital and without his leadership strong opposition to that decision flourished and town lost its status as Canada's first Capital. Kingston served as the capital of Canada from 1841-1844. After 1844 the government was moved briefly; to Montreal, York (now Toronto), Quebec City and ultimately to Ottawa.

Kingston's claim to the distinction of being Canada's first capital was recognized by both the Canadian and Ontario governments late in 1998. The city plans to mark the anniversary of its designation as the first capital of the United Province of Canada on a continuing, year round basis with annual First Capital



Period buggy in Kingston's First Capital Day Horse Parade

Celebrations as the focus. "Our long term goal is to link the celebrations with July 1 Canada Day observances," explained Mr. Milne. "Official recognition and celebration of Kingston as Canada's first capital closes an important gap in this country's history." ■

A Tale of Two Mothers

A BERNICE SEVERSON.

Both my mother and my mother-in-law were immigrants. They came to Canada when the 20th century was young, and both in their own way helped to build a new nation.

My mother was born in a suburb of Glasgow in Scotland in the year 1893. When she was 2 years old her father died leaving his widow and six children ranging in age from two to twelve. My grandmother had no insurance, no social network, and no money. She tried different things to keep her small flock together. She opened a wee shop in her home and sold laces and other bits and pieces. This did not thrive. She had a beautiful singing voice and made a little money singing at weddings and parties. Her oldest child, a girl, my Aunt Nellie was sent out to work as soon as she was 14. The oldest son went to work in the railway yards when he too reached that age. A family story reflects just how poor they were.

On pay night, my mother remembers, her mother would sit and each of the earners and she herself would put the money in her lap. The mother carefully counted all the money and designated that which was for rent. She sent her second son over to the landlord, with the coins carefully wrapped in pound notes. On the way the boy threw away the paper money. He considered he was too big to have to carry

money wrapped up. I have heard this story told by different uncles as well as my mom, but no one ever said what the consequences of this "lost money" were.

Sometime before 1900 my grandmother "took up" with a man, and gave birth to a son. Her oldest daughter left home and moved into the "Y". Somewhat later my grandmother moved to the small village of Deanston and worked as a weaver. My mother was living in this village with her mother, and the young child, when she too became old enough to work. My mother worked as a laundry girl carrying baskets of laundry up the closes to customers. Her mother was concerned about the welfare of her youngest daughter Elizabeth. Consequently she would come to the places where her daughter was employed and make her quit as she considered the work too hard for "ma Wee Lizzie."

The rest of the family stayed in Glasgow. Each boy stayed in the school at Glasgow Green until 14 when they went out to work. The oldest son, William, came to Canada in the year 1906. He worked hard at various jobs, living in the new city of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He was able to save money and the plan was that, as soon as it was possible, the other three sons, Eben, Colin and John, together with their sister Nellie would join him in the new land.

In 1908 my grandmother heard that her children in

Glasgow were planning to emigrate. In spite of the estrangement with her older children, she journeyed to see them and pleaded with them to take Lizzie with them. My mother says her mother was worried that her younger daughter had a weak chest and might develop tuberculosis which was the disease that had carried off the father of this family at such a young age.

The family had a meeting, and it was decided that indeed Elizabeth should go to Canada. Two of the sons, Colin and John had to stay for a further time in Scotland in order that the young sister could go. In the spring of 1908, my mother and her mother carrying Elizabeth's trunk between them walked to the railway station in Deanston. Here my grandmother put her young daughter on the train for Glasgow.

Elizabeth never saw her mother again! She had just turned 15! In telling this story, my mother said that as she was crying on the train, a strange but friendly man came to her and said "Hush! We'll hae nae greetin on this train."

My aunt met her sister, and took her under her wing. She, a stranger to Elizabeth, was ten years older, about 25. My mom said she thought of her as very old. Mother remembered that in preparation to go, she had her long hair shorn. And she was bought a navy blue, serge, traveling suit which she disliked as it was very heavy and hot.

In June 1908 mom, her sister **Nellie Govan** and her second oldest brother Eben, left Glasgow at the Broomilaw on the Clyde bound for Quebec City and Montreal. The two sisters were in second class, while Eben traveled steerage. He however was more fortunate than the usual steerage passengers because he had many friends from Glasgow working on the ship. Uncle Eben slept in steerage but he ate with some of the crew.

Aunt Nellie was sea-sick, but mother remembers having a great time on the ship. One story was of her playing with a ball with a young boy about her own age. The ball bounded into the ladies' wash-room, and when my mother went in after it, a woman shouted at her. "We'll hae nae laddies in this washroom." Lizzie hastened to explain that she was not a laddie. Returning with the ball, she found the game was over. Mother's short cropped hair made her look like a boy but she was not. "I didn't a ken you were a lassie," the boy said as he walked away.

In due course the liner "Hisparion" on which they had traveled, reached Quebec City. There a telegram awaited to tell Uncle Eben to go directly to Saskatoon where his brother had found a job for him. The two sisters remained on the ship until it reached Montreal.

Before the ship left Quebec City, all the straw ticks that the steerage passengers had used during the voyage, were thrown overboard. One of mother's lasting impressions of the new land was seeing those straw ticks go bob-bobbing down the St Lawrence.

In Montreal Aunt Nellie and my mother boarded an immigrant train bound for Winnipeg. When they had purchased their tickets and food for the journey, mom remembers that her sister had two British "coppers" left. The coaches were equipped with wooden slat seats with no sleeping accommodation. If you had a blanket of your own, you wrapped yourself in it and curled up on your wooden bench. At both ends of the coach was a stove for the

immigrants to prepare their food. Mom remembers feeling a great wonder as the vast size of the country unfolded.

Eventually they reached Winnipeg where they left the train and began their adventure of living in their new country. Aunt Nellie had a job. She went into "service" as it was known back home. In Canada she became what we called a "hired girl". Mother a very young 15 year old went to stay with a Presbyterian minister, Mr **Weeks** and his family. Mom never knew how the Govans knew him but she spent a very happy year in their home. She stayed until she was 16 and in the spring of 1909, traveled by train to Saskatoon to begin working and contributing to her families' upkeep.

Mother went on to marry, and raise six children. She died in her one hundredth year, with her loving family around her.

In 1904, my mother-in-law also emigrated. She however spent several years in the United States before coming to Canada.

Olga Berg was born in **Oster Toten**, a small town in Norway not too far from Lillehammer where the 1994 winter Olympics were held. Among 8 children raised in a large and very poor family, Olga decided when she was very young that she would go to America. Her oldest brother, Martin had already made his way to the Norwegian community near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. When she was just 15 Olga set forth to the new land too.

She went to Bergen which was the nearest port. She never saw her parents again!. By ship she crossed the North Sea landing in Hull, England, where she boarded a train for Southampton. Olga never said, but I presume all the arrangements for her journey were made by an emigration company whose business was arranging passages for immigrants bound for the so called "promised land." In any case she was to sail from Southampton bound for New York.

The Boer War was on and the passengers had to remain in Southampton for some time. Eventually they sailed and after an enjoyable voyage, landed in New York. My mother-in-law remembers being quickly processed in Ellis Island and placed on an emigrant train bound for the Dakotas. She had been fortunate on the ship in that she met two Norwegian girls who had lived in the Sioux Falls' area for some time. They had been back to Norway for a visit and were on their way to South Dakota again. They had befriended this young girl and she visited Chicago in their company. A regulation among those in charge was that you could only get off in Chicago and sight-see for the day if you could speak English. Of course Olga couldn't. Her two companions, however, taught her what to say so she could leave with them. In their company she saw her first large city. She remembered two things in particular, the size of the city and the huge buildings and seeing, for the first time in her life, a black person.

Her journey resumed and eventually she reached Sioux Falls, South Dakota where she was to be met by her brother Martin. Unfortunately for Olga, Martin had left to go back to Norway. They had apparently passed en-route. So there she was, all alone thousands of miles from home with no money. Imagine at just fifteen!

Now my mother-in-law, in relating this story, never

talked about the next few hours. Where did she go? What did she do? None of us ever asked her this and I can't really think why we didn't, but when Olga next picked up the story, it was to tell of her first job. She was hired as a second cook on a cook car attached to a huge ranch. When asked what a second cook did, she told us that her duties were peeling potatoes, scraping carrots and cleaning dishes, floors and keeping the place tidy. She was paid six dollars a month.

Her first month's pay had to be used to buy the material for the voluminous black skirt and white apron that went over it. This was what respectable women in her situation wore on the frontier. The material took all her first month's pay, and she had to hand make these garments in her spare time.

Her second month's pay was sent back to Norway. Her married sister back home had a baby girl to be named Olga. Olga's money was for a christening gown.

Norwegian was the language of the close-knit community. The code governing the behavior of young unmarried women was very strict. One of the main concerns of the matrons of the community was to see these unattached women married as soon as possible.

Olga was fortunate to meet a young girl her own age who had been born near Sioux Falls. Her name was **Christina Severson**. Through this friendship Olga met her husband and was married at nineteen. "Everyone said I should marry Nels, so I did." A wedding picture shows her in an elaborate wedding dress. I remarked how pretty it was. "Yes," she answered, "That's what I was told I had to wear and I had to sew it all by hand."

Shortly after the marriage all the Seversons moved to Sentinel Butte in North Dakota to establish another Norwegian community on another frontier. Olga and Nels acquired a homestead and here their first child, a son was born and died.

A family quarrel led to Nels and Olga leaving the home and family in North Dakota and going to Saskatchewan. Accordingly they left without telling anyone their plans and virtually disappeared as far as their folks knew. This was in

1910. Contact was not established with those they left behind until 1958. My mother-in-law had to leave "folks" for a second time and go to another strange frontier. They made a life in Saskatchewan, and raised their children knowing of, but never knowing aunts and uncles and cousins. Shortly after they went to Saskatchewan, Olga's parents and most of her brothers and a sister came from Norway. They expected to see their daughter Olga but no one knew where she had gone. Many years later Olga's youngest brother told my husband and me that their father used to sit and watch down the road. "Maybe today we will hear from Olga" he said.

It was not until World War II had ended and just before her husband died that she saw her family again. Their family, back in the States, had advertised in a Lutheran magazine for anyone knowing the whereabouts of Olga and Nels to get in contact with a certain number. It paid off. Just as Nels was dying, his sister and brother reached him. Whatever the long ago quarrel was, they did not have time to resolve it with him before he died. Olga did however find her brothers and visited with them several times both at her home in Saskatchewan and at their places in Minnesota.

My mother-in-law raised a family of six children. She lost one son in the war, but was able to see the rest of her sons and a daughter grow up marry and have children. She was a wonderful grandmother. My husband and our family visited Norway in 1958 and visited the parts of her family who never emigrated. When asked why she had left such a beautiful country, Olga replied "Son you can't eat beauty." When asked why she did not defy her husband and let her family know where she was all those years, she replied, "In those days a woman did what her husband said she was to do and went with him where he went."

So ends my *Tale of Two Mothers*. They were strong women. At 15 both left their homes and parents and set forth into the New World. Both raised six children and played their part in helping to develop our country. In telling my tale I hope to give some understanding about the circumstances of emigration at the beginning of the 20th century. ■

Books by Jean Portugal Tell Human History of World War Veterans

JUNE COXON

In November 1998 author Jean Portugal completed a project she never thought she could do—*We Were There*, a seven-volume history of the second World War. But the custom-bound books she has written are not the usual kind of history about the Armed Forces. Portugal's books let the war veterans speak for themselves.

Over a period of more than 13 years she researched and interviewed veterans from across Canada who participated in events surrounding D-Day and the march to Germany. Her interviews with 750 vets has resulted in seven books, 1.2 million words, 3,500 pages and numerous photographs. The books include over 350 illustrations, including aerial photographs of the Normandy Beaches, captured German Maps, Regimental Mascots, scenes of soldiers, seamen and

airmen at work and play, soldiers before, during and after battle. Many have never been published before.

The books are arranged according to branches of the Armed Forces: volume one is about the Navy, Volumes two to six the Army, and Volume seven the RCAF and Others. Each book has an index listing the contributors' names; so if your ancestor was in the Armed Forces you can readily check to see if he or she is quoted in any of them.

Ms Portugal's interest in Canada's vets dates back to the early days of her journalism career at the *Peterborough Examiner* during World War II. Her job then was to write about young Canadians going to war, handle the long casualty lists and visit their families, and see those who returned. "I got the job because the newspaper's publisher,

Robertson Davies, was tired of training young men to be reporters and then having them leave to enlist in the forces," she said at a meeting of the Media Club of Ottawa in November 1998. "I'm not a military historian," she explained. "I call what I've done a 'human history'. It's the story of down-the-line men as they saw their war, in their own words, not mine."

The attractive books are published by the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI). The volumes about the Army have red covers, the one about the Navy has a dark blue cover, and the Air Force volume has a light blue one. The RCMI's Coat of Arms is embossed on each cover. The dust jackets feature dramatic wartime artwork by internationally renowned artist Jean Pierre Cagnat.


Although Portugal enjoyed a distinguished career as a journalist for 53 years she had no driving desire to write a book. Robertson Davies sent her to Normandy to visit the beaches where so many Canadians died in the D-Day invasion, yet the idea of a book did not occur until 1984 when she was attending the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Caen. "War photographer Gilbert Milne and I were standing outside the walls of the Abbaye d'Ardenne where, in 1944, 21 of our Canadian soldiers had been murdered while prisoners-of-war, and he suggested I write a book and said he would provide the photographs," she recalled. "I didn't think I could do it. But when Canadian Press manager Gil Purcell, who had been a war correspondent, and war historian Ross Munro added their weight I agreed." Initially it was going to be a one-volume book just taking the Canadians from D-Day to June 11. But as time went on it became a bigger project. Jean Portugal's 13-year project has been a labour of love. She has received no remuneration for her work. She has been sustained by her desire to provide a means of recording and publishing the veteran's own stories. She is convinced that the history of those years must be made available to those who have no personal memory of the war.

Although *We Were There* was published in November 1998 copies were not available at public libraries at the time

of writing. But they may be there by the time you read this article. If you'd like to buy your own copy each volume costs \$39.95, and a set costs \$249.95, plus GST and a small shipping fee. For more information about the books or to order a copy, write to the Administration Office, Royal



Jean Portugal. Photo by Jane Stuart Media Club of Canada

Canadian Military Institute, 426 University Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5G 1S9. Or you may telephone the RCMI at 416-597-0286 or fax them at 416-597-8919. 

New book marks 100th Anniversary of Start of South African War (1899-1902)

100 years to the day that the first Canadian troops sailed from Québec City for South Africa, Brian Reid, author of *Our Little Army in the Field*, will be guest speaker at a special meeting Saturday 30 October at 10:00am, in the auditorium of the National Library of Canada.

The special meeting marks the publication of a new BIFHSGO book, *Index to Canadian Service Records of the South African War (1899-1902)* held at the National Archives of Canada. The book was compiled by the BIFHSGO research team of Norman K. Crowder, Charles H. Bones and Norma Morrison.

The book indexes the names of almost 6000 soldiers whose records are in Canada and another 1000 men whose records are in South Africa, with information on how to obtain copies of soldiers' personal files.

Retail outlets are under discussion, meanwhile it will be available at BIFSHGO meetings at a costs of \$10, or by mail for an additional \$3, to cover for postage, from BIFHSGO, Box 38026, Ottawa ON K2C 1N0.

BIFHSGO NEWS
 LISTING

NAME SEARCH

LOUISE JUTRAS

[Locate the name you are researching in Table A and note the membership number [No] in the last column; using this Membership Number, contact the member listed in Table B. Please note each member may be searching up to five names so be specific when communicating with them. Good luck.]


TABLE A (Names being searched)							
Family Name	Location	Year	No	Family Name	Location	Year	No
Adams	ENG, Sturminster Newton, Dorset	1800	500	Holliman	ENG, London		134
Agar	ENG, Limehouse, London	1852	505	Jones	ENG, Lancashire and Shropshire	1865-1913	406
Allison	SCT, Penninghame and Wigtown	1798	505	Kent	ENG, London		134
Austin	IRL, Tipperary		073	Linton	IRL, Ballymoney	Pre-1850	179
Barrass	ENG, Durham and Northumberland Co	1750s-1890s	407	McCallum	SCT, Shropshire	1800	468
Bechtel	USA	1800s	073	McCallum	SCT, Edinburgh	1875	295
Birch	ENG, Skipton, Yorkshire	1772-1935	406	Mackrow	ENG, Tottington, Norfolk	1800	500
Blackie	SCT		134	McLean	SCT, Isle of Mull, Greenock and Lanark		
Blackwell	IRL, Tipperary		073	Miller	SCT, Shropshire	1790	468
Blandford	ENG, Farnham	1813	295	Millions	SCT, Fife	1700-1800	452
Boucher	IRL, Limerick	Pre-1850	201	Montgomery	IRL, Cavan and Swanlinbar	1840-1860	521
Bourchier	IRL, Clare	Pre-1850	201	Moore	IRL or ENG	1840	308
Bowers	IRL, Clonmore, Co Kilkenny	1716	505	Morgan	ON, Aultsville	Late 1700s	054
Boyd	SCT, Ruthwell, Dumfriesshire	1794	505	Murray	SCT, Sutherlandshire	1807	407
Brown	IRL, Fermanagh, Enniskillen	1800	521	Oldham	ENG, St Helen and Lancaster	1740	295
Burrows	ENG, Poole, Dorset	c1845	390	Parnell	ENG, Portsea, Hampshire and Kirkcaldy, Fife	1750	500
Cameron	SCT, Isle of Mull	1780	005	Patterson	SCT, Havvick	1840-1870	521
Campbell	SCT, Isle of Mull	1780	005	Payne	IRL, Killashee Parish, Co Longford	Pre-1850	201
Caryl	ENG	Pre-1900	452	Petch	ENG, Denby	Late 1700s	054
Chambers	ENG, Chelsea, Middlesex and Warwickshire	1750 + 1826 +	383	Potter	IRL, Co Cork	1800	005
Chippett	ENG, London	1799	505	Richardson	ENG, Devon and Cornwall		073
Clement	ON, Muskoka, Oso and Rawdon	1800s	382	Seawright	IRL, Co Down	1900	382
Connery	IRL, Co Down	1820	005	Seggie	SCT, Fife	1700-1800	452
Courtney	USA, Albany, NY	c1840	390	Service	ON, Athens	Late 1800s	054
Creswick	ENG, Bristol, Avon; and Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire	1750	500	Shearer	SCT, Glasgow	1700s	073
Croft	ENG, Wharfedale, Yorkshire	1800-1875	406	Shearon	SCT, Airdrie	1860	196
Davis	ENG, Worcestershire	1870	468	Shelverton	ENG, Burwell, Cambridge; and London	1850	500
Deery	IRL, Donegal	1890	196	Sherman	ENG, Essex	Pre-1700	179
Donaway Donaghy	IRL, Co Tyrone	c1830	390	Sluter	ENG, Chelsea, Middlesex	1826 +	383
Featherstone (Haugh)	ENG, Wharfedale, Yorkshire	Pre-1800	406	Smale	ENG, Devon	1840s	054
Fitzgerald	CAN, Montague Twp	1820-1880	521	Steward	ENG, Sunderland, Durham		
Flynn	IRL, Cork	1860	522	Stickland	CAN, Newfoundland	1800	407
Fullford	SCT, Shropshire	1800	468	Stickler	SCT, Orkney and Glengarry Co	1830	465
Gallagher	IRL, Co Donnegal	Pre-1850	179	Turnbull	ENG, Newcastle on Tyne	1786	295
Gibbon	ENG, Durham Co	1790	005	Volume	CST, Angus	Pre-1850	179
Harris	IRL	1829	465	Watson	ENG, Newcastle-on-Tyne	1900	468
Hickey	QC, Fieldville		466	Worth	ENG, Lancaster and Manchester	Pre-1900	406
Hoffman	ON, Renfrew County, Admanston Twp (N E Corner)	1840-1860	054	Yeats	IRL, Co Sligo	Pre-1850	179

Table B (Members referred to in Table A)			
No	Member's Name and Address	No	Member's Name and Address
005	Robert A Campbell 1875 Lauder Dr, Ottawa ON K2A 1A9 e-mail: <bcambel@cyberus.ca>	390	Elizabeth Ann Burrows 32 Scholars Crt, Nepean ON K2E 7S2 e-mail: <burrows@achilles.net>
054	C Fred Smale 73 Tiffany Pl, Kanata ON K2K 1W5	406	Monica Taylor 52 Kilmory Cr, Nepean ON K2E 6N1 e-mail: <mon.taylor@sympatico.ca>
073	Duncan Allan Shearer 1182 Gateway Rd, Ottawa ON K2C 2W9 e-mail: <duncanshearer@home.com>	407	G Robert Barrass 17 Nakota Way, Nepean ON K2J 4M3 e-mail: <rbarrass@omnisig.com>
134	Mrs Joyce Beaucaire 503 - 80 Sandcastle Dr, Nepean ON K2H 3E4	452	Alex C Seggie 942 Meadowlands Dr, Ottawa ON K2C 0K3 e-mail: <seggie@my-dejanews.com>
179	Willis & Margaret Burwell 19 Rockcross Gardens, Nepean ON K2G 5A8 e-mail: <wburwell@cyberus.ca>	466	Linda Bekkers 5966 Mitch Owens Dr, Manotick ON K4M 1B2
196	James Shearon 79 Tiffany Pl, Kanata ON K2K 1W5 e-mail: <shearonj@magi.com>	468	James Edward Stanzell 1139 St Moritz Court, Gloucester ON K1C 2B2 e-mail: <jimstanzell@sympatico.ca>
201	Heather Boucher W51-1500 Venetian Blvd, Point Edward ON N7T 7W4 e-mail: <hboucher@ebtech.net>	500	Ms Sandra Adams, 41 Barrhaven Cres, Nepean ON K2J 1E7 e-mail: <adamss@ca.ibm.com>
308	Pearl & Dan Beausoleil 2314 Elmira Dr, Ottawa ON K2C 1H4 e-mail: <pearldan@magma.ca>	505	Mr David Agar 1712A Lamoureux Dr, Orleans ON K1E 2N2 e-mail: <dagar@nfc.ca>
382	Alvina Seawright 2634 Ridgeway Cres, Peterborough On K9L 1M9 e-mail: <alvina.seawright@sympatico.ca>	521	Mr Douglas B Brown 610 Wavell Ave, Ottawa ON K2A 3A8 e-mail: <douglasb.brown@sympatico.ca>
383	Alice Joan Burnside 5468 West River Dr, Manotick ON K4M 1G7 e-mail: <ajburnside@hotmail.com>	522	Mrs Vera Sadie Campbell RR#3, Perth ON K7H 3G5

England-Surrey-Parish Records and Wills Index

Robert Wilsmore, PO Box 57, Avoca Beach, NSW 2251, Australia, having many years ago lived in Canada, has written offering to share with BIFHSGO members the benefit of his collection of Surrey records. He holds fully indexed transcripts of the 82 Surrey parish registers listed below, which unless otherwise stated go up to 1840, but many do not include marriages. He will be happy to search for burials and data without charge. He also holds the Surrey probate indexes of Wills from 1660 to 1858.

Abinger,	Byfleet	Long Ditton	Frimley	Headley	Mickleham	Peper Harrow	Walton on Thames
Albury	Capel	Thames	Godalming	Horne	West Molesey	Pirbright,	Wanborough
Alfold	Chertsey	Ditton	Godstone	Horsell	East Molesey	Putney (1813 - 1837)	Wimbledon,
Ash	Chiddingfold	Dorking	Guildford St	West Horsley	Morden	Pyrford	Windslesham and
Ashstead	Chipsstead	Dunsfold	Nicholas	East Horsley	Mortlake	St Martha's	Bagshot
Banstead	Chobham	Effingham	Guildford Holy Trinity	Kew	Newdigate	Sanderstead,	Wisley
Beddington	West Clandon	Egham	and St Mary (1813-	Kingston upon	Nutfield,	Shalford	Witley
Betchworth	East Clandon	Esher	1840)	Thames (to 1665)	Oakwood	Stoke near Guildford	Wonersh
Bisley	Compton	Ewhurst,	Hambledon	Leatherhead	Ockham	Stoke Dabernon	Wotton,
Gt Bookham	Cranleigh	Fetcham	Hascombe	Malden	Ockley	Tandridge,	Worplesdon.
Lt Bookham	Crowhurst	Frensham	Haslemere	Merrow	Oxted	Walton on the Hill	

When requesting a search, please make reference to surname and parish, and enclose a reply envelope and a postal reply coupon. 

Ottawa Family History Centre—Hours of Operation

Tuesday to Thursday	9:30 am–3:30 pm 6:30 pm–9:30 pm
Friday and Saturday	9:30 am–12:30 pm
Telephone	224-2231

BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

Special Meeting

at

The Auditorium of The National Library of Canada

30 October 1999, 10:00–11:30 am.	One Hundredth anniversary of the South African (or Boer) War— <i>Brian Reid</i> . See page 109 for more.
----------------------------------	--

Saturday Morning Meetings

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa.
Meetings at The Montgomery Branch, Royal Canadian Legion,
330 Kent Street
Contact: Jim Heal, (613) 828-9569

Members are encouraged to arrive at 9:30 am when the Discovery Tables open

9 October 1999, 10:00–11:30 am	Update on the Copyright Act— <i>Wanda Noel</i> (Lawyer)
13 November 1999, 10:00–11:30 am	Selected Military Topics— <i>Dave Brown</i>
11 December 1999, 10:00–11:30 am	Great Moments in Genealogy— BIFHSGO members recall great moments in their family history research

Other Family History Events

24–26 September 1999	BIFHSGO Annual Conference Featuring— <i>Kyle J Betit</i>
25 September 1999	Norfolklore '99—23rd Annual Genealogical Fair at Simcoe Composite School, Simcoe ON. (See page 92 for details)
31 May–3 June 2000	The National Genealogical Society Conference in the States. Providence RI