



Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle

Volume 15, Number 3

Fall 2009

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The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally-incorporated society, and a Registered Charity (Reg. No. 89227 4044 RR0001). 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; hold 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 who submits an application for admission as a member accompanied by payment of the applicable fees or dues. The 2009 calendar year fees for Membership are: \$35 Individual; \$45 Family; \$35 Institutional. Membership benefits include: the year's four Issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; ten family history programs, each of two hours' duration; up to six free queries a year; friendly advice from other members; participation in a special interest group that may be formed.

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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. Preferably, articles should be submitted on both paper and MS Word compatible diskette, and addressed to: The Editor, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 3Y7.

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.

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 stamped envelope if you wish a reply or return of material or, for out-of-country contributors, equivalent International Reply Coupons if you wish a reply or return of material.

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Berks Cemetery Extension at Ploegsteert, Belgium, is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground for the dead of World War I located in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front. The cemetery grounds were assigned to the United Kingdom in perpetuity by King Albert I of Belgium in recognition of the sacrifices made by the British Empire in the defence and liberation of Belgium during the war. Source: Wikipedia

Message from the President, Mary Anne Sharpe

We have had an amazing summer, with record rainfall, tornadoes and high winds, but also sunny, lazy days that sometimes make us regret the advent of autumn's cooler weather. On the other hand, there's more incentive to stay indoors and do research.

BIFHSGO's fifteenth year has resulted in a harvest of successful programs, courses, and awards. Chris MacPhail journeyed to Raleigh, North Carolina, to attend the National Genealogical Society's national conference, and to accept the NGS award for best newsletter. Congratulations to Chris and the ACR team for giving us an outstanding publication!

The report of June's Annual General Meeting is in this issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Four new directors stepped up to assume positions on the Board. I thank them sincerely for volunteering to work actively on making this Society what it is—busy and successful.

There is a lot of less visible work to be undertaken. We always need people to help out—please consider becoming a more active member of BIFHSGO and volunteering. Among other things, we need refreshment servers, voice-mail and e-mail answerers, and people to assume the duties of Librarian, Publicity Director and ACR editor. If you would like to shadow a current volunteer, in preparation for assuming full duties at a later date, please consider it. “Many hands make light work,” as I have said before.

By the time you read this, our Annual Fall Conference is either a few days away or already underway, its focus this year on Scotland. Based on the planned agenda and speakers' list, it's going to be another runaway success, starting with Charlotte Gray's Don Whiteside Memorial Lecture. Also by this time, the ground will have been broken at the new City of Ottawa Archives, where BIFHSGO's library will move in spring 2010.

We have built a society recognized for the work it does. BIFHSGO's regular monthly meetings and educational programs are well organized and attended. Our publications, both in the traditional media and in the newer media of CD and Internet, are highly regarded by our peers and by our members. People come to us for research and genealogical advice, because we are seen as credible and thorough. Other organizations, such as Library and Archives Canada, are pleased to partner with us.

We want the next 15 years to be as successful. We need our members to become, and to continue to be, active in the business of the society—organizing, promoting, teaching, speaking, writing and researching. Please step up and do your part.

Note from the Editor, Chris MacPhail

This issue features an article by Betty Warburton about the experiences of her father in World War I, based on his diary and a taped interview some 70 years later. While the diary describes the tedium and futility of the day-to-day activities of the average soldier, the interview offers a perspective on some of the unrecorded events, softened by the passage of time. The article illustrates the challenge of refining a wealth of detail while retaining a sense of history.

As an introduction to the theme of the 2009 Fall Conference, Lucille Campey provides an explanation of both the social pressures in Scotland and the attractions of the New World in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that lead to widespread immigration and the resulting influences on Canadian society. In a somewhat lighter vein, John Reid discovers some interesting facts about a black sheep in his family, while Caroline Herbert discovers the rewards that come from digging deep for family roots.

The Fall Conference will feature a workshop conducted by the Writing Group for those who wish to begin writing their family history but are unsure of how to go about it. A list of relevant examples and guides that will be used as references in the workshop may be found under BIFHSGO News.

Bert Morris's War

BY BETTY WARBURTON

This account of her father's participation in World War I is based mostly on his diary, written in a very cryptic style that, of course, made sense to Bert but left his daughter struggling to fill the gaps. An online history of the 7th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment (1914–1915) provided background and coherence to the diary account. A taped interview with his grandson Ronald Warburton added further details to this account. Quotations are copied unedited from this diary and contain many errors in punctuation, grammar and spelling.

In the early years of the twentieth century, with Germany and its Kaiser rattling swords, the War Office and the British Army were reorganized. The army was provided with printed official manuals, known as *Field Service Regulations*, which laid down in detail staff responsibilities and procedures. Regular Army battalions would provide garrison troops for the British Empire; troops garrisoned in the British Isles would provide a British Expeditionary Force in case of war. A Territorial Force would replace the Volunteers and Yeomanry and remain at home to defend the British Isles.

To become a member of the Territorial Force, or "Saturday Night Soldier," the recruit needed to be between the ages of 17 and 35, have a minimum chest measurement of 33 inches, be at least five feet, two inches tall and be willing to enlist for a minimum of four years. He was obliged to attend 40 drills in his first year of enlistment; one hour for two days each week was set aside for recruit drill. Also he was required to take a course in musketry, i.e. training in firing a modern rifle, held on two afternoons through the summer months. The recruit was issued with a uniform—jacket and trousers of khaki serge, a stiff-topped peaked cap, puttees, leather-soled and studded "ammunition" boots, a greatcoat, a waterproof cape and 1908 pattern webbing (woven canvas straps and pouches). A blue stiff cap, blue frock tunic and trousers, with boots, buttons and badges polished to a brilliant shine, was the Territorial soldier's best parade or "walking out" dress.

Herbert Charles Morris, my grandfather, had served with the British Army in India prior to his marriage to Edith Jones in April 1895. Therefore when in 1908 the



7th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment was organized in Kidderminster, his hometown, he did not hesitate to join. Since, at 40, he was really too old to be a Territorial, he deleted a few years from his age. His eldest child, my father Herbert (Bert) Basey Morris, three months shy of his 13th birthday, added a couple of years to his age and on 22 February 1909 signed up as "a boy soldier."



Figure 1: Herbert C. Morris and Herbert B. Morris
Source: Author's collection

One inducement to join the Territorial Army could have been the shilling a day a private received while embodied or on duty. (A corporal received 1s 8d, a sergeant 2s 4d and a colour sergeant 3s 6d. For those who attended camp there was an additional three shillings "for wear and tear of boots.") Herbert Charles

Morris was a tailor, and as one of his granddaughters euphemistically remarked, “He was a good tailor, but he drank the profits.” He always attributed his alcoholism to his experiences with the British Army in India. In 1909, with six children to raise and another one expected that spring, the Morris family welcomed any additional income. As soon as young Bert Morris turned 13 in the spring of 1909 and was eligible to leave school,¹ he was expected to look for work. He quickly found employment as an errand boy in the showroom of the carpet factory of Charles Harrison & Co.

The reason Bert always gave for joining the Territorial Army was that it offered him and his father a holiday—two weeks under canvas. The men in camp lived eight to a tent under the command of a non-commissioned officer. A typical day in camp began with reveille about 5:30 a.m. with biscuits and coffee or tea, followed by drill or lectures until 8:00 a.m. After breakfast, served at 8:30 a.m., there were field and physical exercises until 1:30 p.m. The midday meal was served at 2 p.m. and at 3 p.m. there was an inspection of rifles and tents. Unless assigned a special duty the rest of the day belonged to the soldier. The food was good and hearty and varied from day to day. Breakfast might include sausages, fried bread, butter, jam, coffee or tea. Tea was bread, butter, jam and tea. Dinner could include roast beef, potatoes and fruit pies. Some holiday!

Camp life offered new places and new things to do and see. I am sure in their free time the soldiers availed themselves of whatever amenities nearby towns had to offer. During the summer of 1912, the 7th Battalion was stationed at the resort town of Swanage on the south coast. Unless he had been assigned a special duty such as peeling potatoes for dinner or cleaning latrines, I can imagine Bert heading for Swanage’s beautiful sandy beach and a swim in the English Channel.²

Both men had been members of the town band and became members of the battalion’s band, with Herbert Charles playing the clarinet and young Bert the cornet. Bert, with his keen eyesight and steady hand, soon established himself as a marksman. It was not long before he left the band, which he considered boring, and became a member of a machine gun section. By the time he was 16 he had qualified as a Machine Gunner First Class. During the summer of 1914, he was eagerly looking forward to participating in the world-renowned shooting competitions at Bisley³ in Surrey. However the assassination of Archduke Franz

Ferdinand in June and Britain’s declaration of war on Germany in August meant the cancellation of the shooting competitions for the duration of the war.

Training

When Great Britain declared war on Germany and Austria on 4 August 1914 the battalion was enjoying its annual camp at Minehead on the Bristol Channel. The troops returned to Kidderminster by train the next day, then began to move eastward by stages towards Essex and Suffolk to join the army gathering to defend England from invasion via the North Sea. Both Bert and his father were among the eager volunteers for overseas service when invited to do so on 11 August while the battalion stationed at Swindon. His father attempted to keep Bert out of the war by reporting to his commanding officer that his son had lied and was really two years under the required age. He was reported to have said to his son, “You can stay and look after your Mother.” Young Bert’s reply was, “No, that’s your job,” and promptly reported that his father was overage. The result was that his father was assigned to a new “Second Line” battalion named 2/7th Worcestershire, which remained in England to defend against invasion. Young Bert joined his comrades in the 1/7th Battalion, moving by way of Stoney Stratford, Brentford and Danbury to Maldon in Essex. On arrival there on 19 September, the troops were assigned billets in the town and began training for battle.



*Standing: Sgt. R. Grove, Sgt. A. Oliver
Kneeling: D. Selby, B. Mallard, H. Porter, H. B. Morris, T. Bayliss, H. Pope
Lying down: T. Tipler, A. Elcock, W. Lewis, M. Mole*

Figure 2: Training Camp at Swanage

Source: Author’s collection

At first, although most of Europe was involved in the conflict, the British public was optimistic that the war would be over by Christmas 1914. The German army advanced quickly into Belgium and northern France. By October, the war had spread to the Middle East

when Turkey declared war on the Allies (Britain, France and Russia). The 2nd Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment had been involved in the bitter fighting around the town of Ypres in Belgium. On 31 October 1914, the battalion received orders to retake the village of Gheluvelt. Fighting was fierce and there were many casualties; of the 370 men who participated in this action, 187 were killed or wounded. The counterattack was successful; Gheluvelt was retaken and the German advance on Ypres blocked.⁴ Casualties grew; the Territorial Force was called upon to reinforce the army in France.

During the autumn of 1914 the Territorial Battalions adopted the four-company organization of the regular army, replacing eight small companies. Bert Morris was assigned to "A" Company with R. W. Hoare as his Lieutenant. At that time the 1/7th Battalion was part of the Gloucester and Worcester Brigade, South Midland Division; in April 1915, the battalion was attached to the 18th Brigade; then in May 1915 it became part of the 144th Brigade, 48th Division.

While he was stationed at Maldon, young Bert started to keep a diary. The first brief entry on Saturday, 16 January 1915, read:

Joined Company this morning & went on attack at Woodham Mortimer. Ration orderly today.

I surmise that Bert had just returned from leave in Kidderminster, since he notes the following Wednesday that the "rest of the [machine gun?] section went home on leave." If so, it was the last he saw of his family and his last leave until February 1916.

The entries for the next few weeks record routine activities that included route marches, church parades, practice drills and sick leave.

On 26 January he noted, "Turned all lights out in Maldon in expectation of Zeppelin Raid." Everyone must have been feeling a bit edgy because, on 10 January, German aeroplanes had been sighted over the English Channel and on 19 January, there had been a German air raid over Norfolk.

A great deal of time was spent cleaning equipment—rifles, machine guns and limbers.⁵ Because the success of operations and the lives of everyone depended on equipment being in good working order, everything was inspected carefully by officers. Bert wrote about route marches, bayonet drills, firing on the rifle range, digging trenches and field operations.

Some concerts were arranged to entertain the young soldiers in their spare time. Twice Bert wrote about taking out a boat to explore the Blackwater River and its estuary on which Maldon was located. However their chief entertainment appeared to be prowling the town looking for girls, then walking or "rushing" them around the nearby villages of Beeleigh or Langford.

Letters and parcels from home were important to Bert, and in his diary he noted each one he received and each one he answered. In late February a letter from home informed him that "Dad was home for 5 days leave." It is evident, in spite of what his father said to Bert, that neither one was at home to look after Bert's mother. Edith Morris was probably receiving a regular allowance from the pay of both her husband and son and coping very well in their absence.

To France

About the middle of March, "A" Company was subjected to a medical examination and new webbing equipment and boots were issued. Bert spent 29 March packing limbers all day. He took time to weigh himself and his kit and notes that he weighed "10 stone⁶ 10 lbs. and kit weighs 60 lbs." At 4:30 a.m. the next morning, transport (limbers, horses, and men, including Bert Morris) entrained at East Maldon Station for Southampton. There they boarded the *SS Archimedes* and left that evening for Le Havre, France. It was not a comfortable voyage. The only place for the men to sleep was the rusty iron deck. The channel was rough and there was concern about attacks by German submarines. Bert discovered he was one of those fortunate souls not affected by seasickness.

After landing early the next morning, they left Le Havre by train in cattle cars, finding what comfort they could by sitting on "saddlery." They ate whatever rations they carried in their kit and whenever the train stopped at a siding they got coffee and biscuits. Late the next day they were joined by the rest of the battalion, which had travelled by way of Folkestone and Boulogne. They arrived at Cassel about 8 p.m. and from there marched to Hardifort, which they reached at 1 a.m. Bert Morris and the 1/7th Worcestershire Battalion had arrived in France.

Ploegsteert

They marched the 21 miles from Hardifort to La Becque over cobblestone roads in the pouring rain. They were now close to the front, and Bert comments that he "saw fireworks at night from trenches and heard rifle fire." He also notes in his diary that he

suffered a bit from sore feet. In fact, he admitted years later that his new boots were full of blood and he was so tired he fell asleep on the barn floor and woke up hours later to discover he was still wearing his pack. It was another five days before they moved from La Becque to Armentières and found billets in the old barracks.

During this period, soldiers who had endured the winter in the trenches initiated the newcomers into the routine of trench warfare. On Sunday, April 11, “no. 3 and 4 [machine gun?] sections and ½ of each Co. went to the trenches at night.” The next day it was the turn of the rest of the battalion to move to the trenches. Bert wrote:

[C]arried 200 rounds of Mark VII kit on over overcoats. Made us sweat like the devil, stopped at DZI billets for guide, arrived at trenches at 8.



We can only guess at his thoughts and feelings as he moved into the trenches. Was he excited that at last he would be doing what he had trained for? Did he finger, in his pocket, the small black elephant attached to the lucky horseshoe—his lucky piece—and wonder if his luck would hold and he would return home safely? Bert’s diary dealt more with facts than emotions.

His account of that memorable first week in the trenches is brief:

Tues., 13th. Went on another gun about 1 o'clock in morning with D.Z.I. gun section & slept in cellar of a farm that had been shelled, sniping going on all night, stood to for 5 mins. at 4. Our artillery started shelling the Germans about 9 a.m., up in observation post for ½ hr. at 1 p.m., fired 7 rounds from a short rifle during afternoon, sniping very good towards night, left trenches at about 7.30 for billet.

Wed., 14th. Messed about all day. Leuit. Armstrong shot thro the wrist.

Thurs., 15th. Fetched guns & tripods at 9 a.m. for Instructing Reserves, did nothing rest of day. 100 men per Company went trench-digging at night.

Friday, 16th. Did nothing only resting roll call at 8 p.m.

An infantry soldier’s kit included:

- Webbing (consisting of a belt and braces with many buckles and clips) with two multipocketed carriers to hold 150 rounds of ammunition
- A haversack containing rations and cutlery
- A bayonet scabbard
- A waterbottle
- An entrenching tool
- A pack containing the greatcoat, mess tins, washing and shaving equipment, spare clothing (boots, tunic, trousers, shirt, socks and underwear) and a ground sheet.
- And a rifle.

Tin helmets were not issued until 1916.

The 1/7th Worcestershire Battalion went into the trenches for the first time as a complete unit on Saturday, 17 April. The South Midland Division had been assigned a definite section of the front line between the River Warnave and the Wulverham–Messines Road including Ploegsteert Wood, with the 144th Brigade taking over the right-hand section. Bert wrote:

Sat., 17th. Packing up during morning, marched to Plug Street in afternoon. No. 1 team went into position on extreme left & 2 & 4 on right did no firing during night, heard French 75 firing a lot.

Sun., 18th. Stand to at 3.15 a.m. had no sleep all night, breakfast about 6 a.m. built latrine during morning Goodwin & myself, sniping going on during afternoon stood too between 7 & 8, passed the night doing sentry, had no sleep.

Mon., 19th. Very quiet till 3 p.m. only sniping going on about 3 we were shelled with 120 pounders but nobody hurt & no damage done, 26 shells dropped after that, an attack expected but did not come off. Sergt. Parkes was bad, so Tip relieved him. Dick Boots killed, bullet in the brain.

Tues., 20th. Heavy sniping going on all day, heavy artillery firing towards night. Tip went to have a look at the barbed wire & had a narrow escape from being shot, rest of night only sniping.

Wed., 21st. Same as Tuesday, our aeroplanes busy. Germans shelled buildings on our left during afternoon, have not had a wash in 4 days, relieved by the 8th Worc & marched to Nieppe to seed growers, Victor Pouchain, & billeted in a greenhouse arrived about 1 a.m.

“Plug Street” is the name the British Tommies gave to the Belgian town of Ploegsteert, which lies about two miles north of Armentières and about eight miles south of Ypres. It was part of the Ypres salient that was so fiercely defended by British, French and Canadian troops throughout the four years of the war. In late 1914 and the spring of 1915 there was considerable action around Ploegsteert. Thereafter it saw no major action and became a quiet sector where troops were sent to recuperate and retrain.

In a taped conversation with his grandson in 1986, Bert admits that on the second day in the trenches he experienced shell shock when a shell exploded near him and, as a result, he had trouble sleeping whenever there was gunfire. In that same conversation, he speaks of the death of one soldier. Bert says that he had been sniping from behind a steel plate with a small hole through which he could fire his rifle. He had been using a periscope to locate a German sniper hidden in a tree and had stopped because the German shot away his periscope, indicating that his position had been located. He relates that a chap came by and stopped to poke his rifle through the hole. Bert warned him, “Don’t do that, the German can see your shadow from 50 yards away.” The man ignored his warning and died with a bullet in the brain. Bert was covered with the man’s brains and blood. This gruesome episode was not included in the diary; the experience was probably too awful to record. Many years later he could talk about it. In some accounts of this episode, Bert says he turned his machine gun on the tree in which the sniper was hiding and fired until he saw the body fall to the ground. Never did he mention his dead comrade’s name, but in his diary, Bert records several soldiers who died from head wounds.

On 22 April 1915, the Germans used gas for the first time against Canadian troops at Ypres. Several times the troops were warned of gas attacks but Bert, thank goodness, never experienced one. On 1 June, the soldiers of the Worcestershire Regiment received their first respirators. They were very primitive—cotton batting soaked with some chemical and wrapped in a bandage to be tied over the mouth and nose. By September the battalion had been issued with respirators that Bert called tube helmets. They were hoods with eyepieces that were pulled over the head and covered the shoulders. They were hot, uncomfortable, visually restricting and probably muffled officers’ orders. Better gas masks were developed and distributed later in the war.

Bert remarked to his grandson that if the Germans had attacked his sector of the front on that memorable day in April they would have broken through easily. All that the troops in this sector had to stop them with were old Boer War rifles and machine guns. Most of the British infantry units were equipped with obsolescent machine guns in 1914. They were heavy,⁷ difficult to manoeuvre, prone to overheating and required up to six men to operate. On one occasion, while firing at a German working party, Bert’s machine gun would fire only single shots owing to the cold weather. Later they acquired a “.303 converted gun.” Gradually, as the war continued, the more efficient Vickers gun and the much lighter Lewis gun replaced these old guns.

Usually they spent a week or ten days on the front line before moving into reserve and having a break behind the lines. Bert mentions sniping, firing the machine gun and being fired at by the Germans, digging trenches and building dugouts. He was particularly unhappy when:

Mr. Hoare came along & made us build gun position 1st using wet sandbags from mine to build it with, got wringing wet and covered with mud, when built had to leave as we could not fire from it, took up another position near Essex Central Farm, about sick of the job & then had to go back for the other equipment, got to bed about 12.

This sector of the Western front was relatively quiet during May and June. Total casualties for the battalion in April and May were five officers and 11 men killed and 42 men wounded. Among these casualties was William Ernest Parkes, the sergeant in charge of Bert’s machine gun section:

After breakfast we had to change our gun for Sergt. Parkes gun, when up at his position we were told he had been killed whilst building a new gun position in the advanced trench in front of Central Farm. The bullet struck him on one side & came out on the other side, going through his lungs. All he said was “I am hit” & gave a sort of cough & then sank down, he was buried in the cemetery⁸ in the afternoon.

Usually the trenches had about 18 inches of water in them that, Bert stoically said, “we had to get used to.” When it rained the water could be waist deep. It was not easy to remain clean. Arrangements were made for the troops to bathe:

Paraded at 8.20 to go to Nieppe for a bath & a change. When we got to the baths we took our clothes off & took the khaki to be disinfected &

went into bathroom in shirt, pants, socks & shoes & then handed in the shirt pants & socks & jumped into a big vat with the others. When we came out they gave us clean pants, socks & shirts & we then marched back to Plug Street.

On one occasion, they were visited at the baths by the Prime Minister Asquith, and “we showed him how soldiers bathed.”

They say an army marches on its stomach. Bert Morris certainly did; he enjoyed the healthy appetite of a normal adolescent. (He celebrated his nineteenth birthday that May.) In his daily accounts he usually mentions breakfast and often dinner (the midday meal) and occasionally tea and supper (a late evening meal). He grumbled if he missed dinner and on one occasion remarked, “Must say A Co did not give us too much food all the while.” The logistics of ensuring that over

a million men spread out over several hundred miles had adequate food, ammunition and other necessities must have been difficult. Occasionally the system broke down and Bert and his fellow soldiers found themselves on short rations “with one loaf of bread and a one pound of meat to be shared among seven men for a day.” They solved that problem by buying bread for tea. On the other hand, Bert really appreciated good food and he wrote with relish of this memorable breakfast:

We had a good breakfast this morning. Coffee, Cold Ham & eggs & we had had to laugh at the novelty of what the people at home would say if they could see us sat in a bivouac of oilsheets sandbags & branches eating a breakfast like that on active service it is more like a pic-nic.



Figure 3: Map indicating key locations

Source: Google Earth

Moving south

The Worcestershire Battalions were on the move. It had been decided that this section of the line would be taken over by the new 12th Division and the 48th Division would move south to join the First Army. The better part of 26 June was spent cleaning guns and packing up. At 11:30 that night the Battalion marched eight miles to Bailleul, arriving there dead tired at 2:00 a.m. For the following four days the troops marched

south, departing usually in the evening and arriving at their destination after dark. Was it to avoid observation from enemy aircraft that these large troop movements took place at night?

At noon on 27 June, Major-General Sir William Pulteney, Commander of the 3rd Corps, inspected the troops and thanked them for the work they had done. That evening, the Brigade marched the seven miles to Le Bleu. Bert remarked that “owing to it being a

Brigade march we had to stop a lot en route.” The second evening, they marched 12 miles to Robecq, arriving “at 10 p.m. with sore feet and done in & billeted in a barn.” They were on the move the next day at 5 p.m., marching through Lillers to Burbure where they were billeted in a barn “among rats.”

The following two weeks the battalion rested with daily physical drills and inspections, and further training. The first week of July was hot and A and D Companies marched six miles to a colliery for a shower. “But we also wanted one when we got back owing to sweating,” Bert observed. The troops were issued with shades to protect their necks from the sun.

On 11 July, the 48th Division received orders to relieve the 47th Division at Grenay. The next two days the 144th Brigade marched east through Hesdigneul and Noeux-les-Mines to the coal-mining area around Grenay.

The men of the 7th Battalion spent their free time next day talking to soldiers of the 7th City of London Regiment about their experiences at Festubert.⁹ Bert noted four German observation balloons overhead and all day long the artillery on both sides continued to fire, increasing to a heavy bombardment towards evening. The afternoon of the following day Bert and his fellow soldiers

[W]ent to some houses & knocked down the floors & roofs in front of the Reserve trenches to make them unfit for use as cover for machine guns. After tea we went & dug five trenches near the same houses & finished them about 8.

Hébuterne

Back at headquarters, decisions had been made that British forces in France had expanded sufficiently to warrant the formation of a third army. This new Third Army would take over from the French the battlefield in the open country of Picardy around the River Somme and the 48th Division would be one of the units in this army. As a result, orders were issued for the 144th Brigade to return to Burbure before moving south. This meant a 20-mile march at night over bad roads in heavy rain. After two days rest, the brigade boarded a train at Lillers station for the six-hour journey to Mondicourt followed by a seven-mile march to Vauchelles-L-Authie. The brigade marched the next day another three miles to St. Léger-lès-Authie and bivouacked in a nearby wood (Bois de Warnimont) for the next 10 days. That Tuesday night the temperature dropped. Bert wrote:

I had no sleep all night it was too cold so got up at 330 and assisted Sergt Parkes¹⁰ make a fire. At 6 I pulled down the bivouac, to make it warmer. Rest of the morning spent in inspections. In the afternoon I went down the wood & stood talking to the French & exchanging souvenirs & one of the Frenchmen made a Hurdle¹¹ for me.

The weather continued cold and wet and the only shelter the troops had was what they could construct from brushwood. Many fell ill and some, including one officer, died from exposure.

On 30 July, it was the turn of the 144th Brigade to move to the front line trenches near Hébuterne, where the opposing lines were far apart. The Germans occupied the village of Serre about three miles south-east of Hébuterne. Except for shelling there was little action during the autumn. Bert’s diary reflects this. Often the daily entry reads “quiet all day” with the occasional reference to firing at German working parties or at a low-flying aeroplane. Also he writes about cleaning the guns, building gun-pits, digging saps, sniping, etc. When in reserve, Bert was billeted in the nearby village of Courcelles-au-Bois. While buildings in the villages near the front lines were heavily damaged by shelling, casualties among the troops were light.

It is evident that morale remained high, when Bert wrote in mid-September:

[W]e marched from Courcelles to Soustre in the worst thunderstorm we have ever been in, & we were wringing wet when we arrived at billets. The more it rained on the road the more row we kicked up, they all seemed happy as mudlarks although wringing wet.

Anticipation probably rippled through the ranks on 25 September, when “Officers told us we were to expect an attack at any minute, owing to great British and French advance.” This advance was taking place at Loos¹² just east of Grenay, where Bert’s battalion had been stationed for two days in July. By 19 October the British and French advance had been beaten back by superior German forces. The front at Hébuterne remained quiet.

Between 11 and 16 October nothing is recorded in the diary. I think this may be the occasion when, for Bert, something snapped. When given an order, Bert told his sergeant to go to hell. It could be that he had had no dinner on 10 October. He was sentenced to fourteen days field punishment. For two hours each day he was tied spread-eagled to a tree near the front lines. One can imagine the thoughts that may have flashed

through his mind when, hearing six shells exploding nearby one day, he waited helplessly for the train-like roar of the next shell, thinking that it could be meant for him. The rest of each day he was required to perform his duties on the double. I suspect this was another experience too painful to write about at the time. Bert described it on the tape he recorded with his grandson 70 years later.

The diary resumes with the following entry:

Sun 17th Cooking. Had a scrap with Westbury in the morning over bucket. At night turned out at alarm at 6 p.m. marched through Bus & back home.

For the rest of October through December, Bert and his good friend Bert Loney undertook (or were assigned) the job of cooking for the machine gun section. Bert enjoyed it because the cook could fry his bread in the bacon fat while preparing breakfast. He wrote about making rice pudding and plum duff for dinner. If they could not cook in the trenches, they brought rations in a "dixie" from another company's cooker.

Heavy rain in November, especially on the 9th, 10th and 11th, meant bringing the machine gun into the gun pit at night. It also devastated the trenches:

Friday 12th It rained all last night & it made a mess of our dug-out which rained in on both sides & also in the middle & we had to make sump holes for the water, but our fireplace somewhat compensated us for that inconvenience, anyway it did not stop us sleeping. It played the devil with the trenches causing the trench walls to fall, blocking up the trenches & in other places up to our knees in water. Ox & Bucks relieved us at 10 a.m. but it rained all the while from Stand-to till we got to Courcelles & were covered with mud & drenched but felt better after changing clothes & receiving 2 parcels from home.

The arrival of cold weather the following Tuesday and snow on Wednesday ended the deluge, but work on digging mud out of the trenches continued.

December was uneventful. The 16th Manchester Regiment arrived in Hébuterne on 8 December for practical instruction in trench warfare. Bert thought they were "a decent set of chaps." Newly arrived in France, the men of the Manchester Regiment had plenty of news from England and Bert remarks they "had plenty of brewings when off sentry." To provide some diversion, a football tournament with a Divisional Challenge Cup was organized. And there

were concerts and picture shows (movies) to attend, as well as the celebration of Christmas. Christmas Day was celebrated with a special feast.

Monday, 20th. Observed as Christmas Day by the Battalion. Loney played in football team & so had to do most of cooking myself, had usual breakfast, for dinner, Turkey stuffed with sausage, Roast Beef boiled potatoes plum pudding beer followed by cigarettes, apples & oranges, for tea we had tea & rum in it Cake bread & butter Sardines Tinned pears chocolate & then went to concert at night at School of Instruction by R.A.M.C. Troupe, we had a good day.

The major military event of the month, on 29 January, was a night bombing attack by the 144th Brigade.

[B]ut was not an entire success as Glosters did not get into the German trenches, the attack was covered by our artillery fire, after the attack the German artillery started but did not hurt anybody & next morning our chaps had hundreds of shell noses.

Going home

When Bert enlisted in the Territorial Force in 1909, he agreed to serve for seven years. His period of enlistment would end on 22 February 1916. Therefore the morning of February 6, Lieutenant Southon gave him a pass for the Base. Bert drew his pay of ten francs and in the afternoon walked to Louvencourt. Frank Ison, a member of the machine gun section, accompanied him part of the way. After tea at the Leave Barn in Louvencourt, he spent the night in an "estimenet." Early the next morning, after receiving a movement order, he boarded a train to Gezaincourt, where he had to wait until evening when he found a place in a cattle car on a train bound for Abbeville. He spent the night in a rest hut and next day hung around Abbeville until evening when he boarded a third class carriage for Harfleur and Le Havre. Arriving at Harfleur Station at 11:00 a. m. the next morning, he reported to No.18 Base Camp and "was put in a tent with other time expired men & given 3 blankets." The highlights of the following day were a bath and a change of clothing and a visit to a cinema in the evening. And the next day he enjoyed the luxury of another bath. Ah-h-h!!

Sunday, 13 February, and Monday, 14 February, he was assigned fatigue duty in the officers' mess. It ended abruptly when Bert was given the task of washing glasses. This was probably the first time in his life that he had handled fine crystal and, after nearly two years of digging trenches and lugging

around heavy equipment, his work-hardened hands made short work of the wineglasses. When the sergeant in charge of the officers' mess saw the pile of broken, stemless glasses, Bert was summarily dismissed. With no fatigue the following day he "swung the lead" and attended a Lena Ashwell¹³ concert at the YMCA in the evening. There was more fatigue next day—gardening. And finally:

Thursday 17th. Stood by for home at 8 a.m. handed in Blankets at 9.30 & drew rations, paraded at 11am went to General Base Camp depot. At 12 marched to Docks & went on board SS. Archimedes the same boat I came out on & were served out with lifebelts.

This was the last entry in Bert's diary. Once home in Kidderminster, Private Herbert Morris was discharged on 23 February 1916 with the commendation "This man bears an excellent character in every way."

Many years later, in a 1987 interview with a reporter with *The St. George Lance*, the local newspaper, Bert said that the war for him was a lot of waiting around in the mud. He said as well, "I'm certain other men have more exciting stories of the war, but I could only tell them my story."

Endnotes

- ¹ During the 1870s, the Kidderminster School Board exercised its option of enforcing compulsory school attendance and made it compulsory for children under the age of thirteen. *A History of Kidderminster*. p. 115.
- ² Bert Morris has two certificates for swimming.
- ³ The hamlet of Bisley gained world renown when the National Rifle Association championships of the United Kingdom moved there from Wimbledon in 1890. Bisley hosted most of the shooting events of the 1908 Olympic Games.
- ⁴ *The Worcestershire Regiment*. pp. 79–81.
- ⁵ The detachable forepart of the carriage of a field gun, consisting of two wheels, an axle and a pole, etc.
- ⁶ One stone equals 14 lbs.
- ⁷ When the battalion moved to new location the machine guns were packed on limbers probably drawn by horses.
- ⁸ Calvaire Essex Military Cemetery.
- ⁹ Festubert is north of Grenay. The Battle of Festubert, 13–26 May 1915, began with a heavy British artillery

bombardment of the German front line. Many British shells failed to explode. A shortage of artillery guns and ammunition continued to hamper them. After two weeks of fighting the British had advanced one kilometre at a cost of 16,000 casualties. The scandal over the shortage of artillery and shells and the high casualties caused a split in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Asquith's Liberal Government on 25 May 1915. Asquith became the head of a new coalition government.

- ¹⁰ I think Bert meant to write Sergeant Cooper, who replaced Sergeant Parkes.
- ¹¹ A hurdle is a movable rectangular frame of interlaced twigs, crossed bars, or the like, as for a temporary fence.
- ¹² The Battle of Loos, 25 September–18 October 1915. French and British Armies launched a major assault on German forces on 25 September. Six British Divisions were involved in the attack between Grenay and La Bassée Canal. On the first day of the assault the British used poison gas for the first time and, despite heavy casualties, met with considerable success near the villages of Loos and Hulluch. The battle took place on ground not of Britain's choosing and before British stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery were sufficient. Reserve troops stationed too far from the front line failed to exploit early successes and on succeeding days the battle bogged down. Gains were minor. John Kipling, the son of author Rudyard Kipling, was one of the casualties. His death led to his father's involvement in the creation of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- ¹³ Lena Ashwell (1872–1957). British actress and manager known as the first to organize large-scale entertainment for troops at the front during World War I.

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A Discovery in Brompton Cemetery, London, England

BY CAROLINE HERBERT

Caroline describes how persistent digging for family roots can have its rewards.

Brompton Cemetery is one of the older cemeteries established by an act of Parliament in 1840. The original name was the West of London and Westminster Cemetery. It is situated near Earl's Court and managed by the government agency called the Royal Parks, the original land being owned by the Monarch. Though it is one of the older cemeteries, there are still interments today.



In May 2001, I visited the cemetery while searching for the burial place of my maternal great-grandparents William and Sarah Gough. My godmother had taken me there in 1989 to show me the family plot, but was unable to locate it. I happened to be at the cemetery when there was a curator on duty in the office. From his computer records he was able to give me the location of the family plot; however, I was again unable to find it and had to return to the office to ask for his help. We had to copy the names of a few gravestones near where the plot was supposed to be, return to the office to check the location and again return to the area. No sign of any family gravestone. This area of the cemetery had been bombed during World War II and many of the gravesites have sunk into the ground.

The actual gravesite was under a huge tree—the curator and I kicked around the leaves, twigs and soil until our feet hit something solid. He had to return to the office after having given me permission to continue searching for the gravestone. A nearby cemetery grounds keeper lent me a trowel, and with the help of twigs and sticks I was able to reveal some of the stone. The stone was covered in damp earth, so I had to wash this away and wait for it to dry before identifying the inscriptions. Finally I was able to read enough of the inscriptions to identify the names of the family members.

Meanwhile various people who were out for a walk in the cemetery park kept telling me that there were signs stating that no one was allowed to disturb the gravesites. The groundskeeper assured everyone that I

had permission to search the plot. There are also signs asking people not to feed the pigeons and squirrels but this did not seem to deter people from feeding them! In fact a grey squirrel chewing on peanuts came and sat on a nearby headstone and kept me company for an hour or so.

The groundskeeper told me not to re-cover the stone and thanked me for returning the borrowed water bottle and trowel.



Figure 1: William and Sarah Gough's gravestones

Source: Photo by the author

When I returned to the office I was given copies of the Register of Burials for each person and a copy of the cemetery records showing the grave depth for each one and was informed that there was space for one more person.

From the gravestones I discovered that William Edward Gough was buried on 5 December 1882, and his wife Sarah was buried on 20 February 1888.

William and Sarah Gough were my great-grandparents; one of their three daughters, Charlotte Emily, married my paternal grandfather John Richards. A son, William Gough Richards, was born 3 December 1897, according to his birth certificate, and was buried 3 February 1901, aged three years. On the burial record his age is recorded as 13. My father, Cyril Gough Richards, was born in June 1900 and had no recollection of this brother.

The Royal Parks do not allow names of people buried in their various cemeteries to be included in the National Burial Index. At Brompton Cemetery some records were lost in World War II due to the bombing. There has also been some vandalism, and badly damaged headstones have been removed and stored in a safe area. Tours of the cemetery are led by both parks staff and local historians.

My First Genealogical Post-nominal

BY JOHN D. REID

John is a Past-president and member of BIFHSGO's Hall of Fame. He continues to research genealogical sources and post them on his blog <http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/>.

One of the first family history presentations I ever gave was at a BIFHSGO Great Moments December meeting. I talked about looking for the birth registration of my great-grandfather, whose name I knew was Robert Reid. It was only because my grandfather, my father and I share the same middle name that I was able to single him out, registered as Robert Digby Reid, from other possibilities.



After that I made unspectacular progress in learning about him. He seemed to have led an unremarkable life in north London.

I obtained the civil registration certificates for his birth in January 1851 in Islington, Middlesex; his marriage to Eliza Lee in January 1879; the birth of their eight children, two of whom died in infancy; and the registration of his death in May 1899 in Edmonton, Middlesex.

In successive censuses from 1871 to 1891, his occupation is described as clerk-bank, traveller for pottery, and mineral merchant's clerk.

From the censuses I could also follow his moves from Islington to South Hackney while growing up, and from Bethnal Green to Stamford Hill to Tottenham as an adult.

The last trace I had of him was a burial record on 13 May 1899 from Tottenham Cemetery, aged 48.

Despite having gathered complete tombstone information however, I still didn't have a feel for my great-grandfather as a person; all I had were just barren facts. My grandfather, orphaned at age seven, never mentioned his father; nor did he have any family objects or documents.

Things changed late in the evening of Tuesday, 23 June 2009. What I learned led me to contact my brothers and tell them about one of the disadvantages of being the family historian: sometimes you uncover things people would rather not know. I asked how they felt about that and whether they would want to know. The reactions were a brief "I'm intrigued" and a reasoned but unenthusiastic "I guess if you'd found a hero or a Nobel Prize winner in the family, I'd want to know about that, so, to be consistent I should know about the bad hats as well. I look forward to your reply with a mixture of intrigue and trepidation."

What happened on the evening of June 23rd?

I'd been preparing an article on using online British newspaper archives for family history. One of the best is the British Library archive of British Newspapers 1800–1900, at <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>. It contains 49 local and national titles—over two million pages, soon to grow to three million. You can search and view keywords in sometimes tantalizing snippets for free, but you have to subscribe (£6.99 for 24 hours) to see the complete article—and up to 99 others.

It was late. I was starting to get sleepy but decided to try a few family names on the database before calling it an evening. I entered "Robert Digby Reid" without any great expectations. But there were two hits, both in the same week in July 1879, in two different London newspapers.

In the free snippet from the *Pall Mall Gazette* I read: “police-court, Robert Digby Reid,” “London and County Bank, was c” and “is employers. From the evidenc.” From a *Lloyd’s Weekly Newspaper* snippet I read: “BANK ROBBERY BY A CLERK,” “named Robert Digby Reid, a clerk,” “street branch of the London and Co” and “charged at Bow-street police court.”

I was no longer sleepy! And I wasn’t likely to get any sleep until I’d read the full story.

Robert Digby Reid had been charged with embezzling £30 from the bank branch on Oxford Street where he’d worked as a teller for 10 years. While he was on vacation, it was discovered that 20 bags of silver coins for which he was responsible were each short 30 shillings. A letter was presented in evidence in which he admitted the crime and implored the mercy of his employers, stating that he had “unhappily lived beyond his means and had hoped to replace the sum by installments.” The prosecution asked for leniency in the sentence. He had an otherwise good employment record and was recently married with a child on the way. Although the magistrate said he believed the defendant was showing real contrition, nevertheless it was a very serious offence and he had to sentence him to four months imprisonment.

You can’t judge history by present-day standards. According to the article, he had an annual salary of £155—his theft was about 20 percent of that. Living beyond his means to that extent today, he’d likely be dealing with the consequences of maxing out his credit cards.

Thanks, I think, to digitized newspapers, I now have a better picture of one episode in my great-grandfather’s life. As there’s no further mention of him in newspapers, I’d like to think he learned his lesson. But just like an indiscreet Internet posting today, online digitized newspapers from a bygone age mean that long-forgotten sins, and triumphs, may be unexpectedly resurrected.

If there’s a silver lining to the story, it’s that I’m now eligible to become a member of the International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists, <http://ibssg.org/blacksheep/>, which includes the right to add IBSSG to my post-nominals in genealogical correspondence!

[Ed. note: Post-nominal letters, also called post-nominal initials or post-nominal titles, are letters placed after the name of a person to indicate that the individual holds a position, educational degree, accreditation, office, or honour. Source: Wikipedia].

Push, Pull and Opportunity: Why Scots Emigrated to Canada

BY LUCILLE CAMPEY

In this article Lucille Campey presents some of the material used in a lecture to BIFHSGO in May 2008. It uses information from her recently published book, An Unstoppable Force: the Scottish Exodus to Canada.

From the late eighteenth century a growing number of Scots sought the better life that Canada offered. In doing so they had to resist the criticism of the ruling classes, who argued that Scotland's labour force and armed services would suffer if people emigrated in large numbers. They also had to survive a gruelling and hazardous sea crossing in the hold of a sailing ship. They then faced great privations as they adjusted to the rigours of pioneer life. And yet despite these difficulties, Scottish emigration to Canada surged ahead, becoming an unstoppable force.



Scotland's elite never appreciated the extent of Canada's appeal. In a nutshell, Canada offered poor and oppressed people an escape route to a better life. By emigrating, people could enjoy greater prosperity and aspire to owning their own land. There was no pecking order in the New World. There were no landlords demanding high rents and no factory owners paying starvation wages for labour. They could be free-thinking individuals seeking what was best for their families, rather than serfs and wage slaves living under an oppressive regime. People could gain materially while enjoying the freedom and benefits of a more egalitarian society. And by emigrating in large groups and settling together, they could transfer their way of life and traditions to their new communities. Poor economic prospects in Scotland, combined with

this heady mix of rewards, fuelled the zeal to emigrate. That was why it became an unstoppable force.

Highlanders were particularly well-represented in the first major influx of immigrants from Britain that began in the late 18th century. A major catalyst was the disruption caused by the introduction of large sheep farms. Evictions or the threat of evictions, together with the added problems of increasing rents and oppressive landlords, caused many crofters to take their chances in the wilds of Canada rather than face a bleak and uncertain future in Scotland.

Major population centres began taking shape, first in Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton and Nova Scotia. The famous ship *Hector* brought nearly 200 Highlanders from Inverness-shire, Sutherland and Ross-shire to Pictou, Nova Scotia in 1773 and 30 years later 800 people from the Isle of Skye suddenly arrived in Prince Edward Island where, under Lord Selkirk's direction, they founded the important Belfast communities. By the 1820s Scottish settlers dominated much of Prince Edward Island, the eastern side of Nova Scotia and nearly all of Cape Breton.¹ By then Nova Scotia really could live up to its name!

Upper Canada (later Ontario) had to await Britain's defeat in the American War of Independence before it attracted appreciable numbers of Scots. Fearing further loss of territory the British government moved large numbers of Loyalists from the United States to strategic areas of what would become Upper and Lower Canada. A key group were the Inverness-shire Loyalists from New York State, who began arriving in eastern Upper Canada from 1784. Their success as pioneer farmers attracted continuing streams from Inverness-shire over many decades. The communities that they founded in Glengarry, a place named after their homeland estate in Scotland, would become one of North America's most important centres of Highland culture. But, although Highlanders dominated the early Scottish influx to Canada, they were quickly dwarfed numerically by the much larger numbers of Lowlanders, who came after 1815 when the Napoleonic Wars ended.

Conditions were particularly desperate in the Clyde region's textile districts. With the invention of the power loom, hand-loom weavers in the Lowlands of Scotland were having to cope with redundancy and extreme destitution. Emigration was an obvious escape route, but such was the poverty of the people that they had no hope of financing their own removal costs. But, Britain's near defeat in the War of 1812–1814 gave

them a lifeline. Fearing another American invasion the government dropped its opposition to emigration and took the previously unthinkable step of actually endorsing a limited amount of assisted emigration. The Rideau Valley in eastern Upper Canada was selected as the prime area that had to be defended. Providing a garrison of regular soldiers was out of the question for cost reasons. The authorities opted instead for the cheaper measure of bringing loyal settlers to the region. If present in sufficient numbers they could act as a civilian defensive presence to help safeguard Britain's interests.

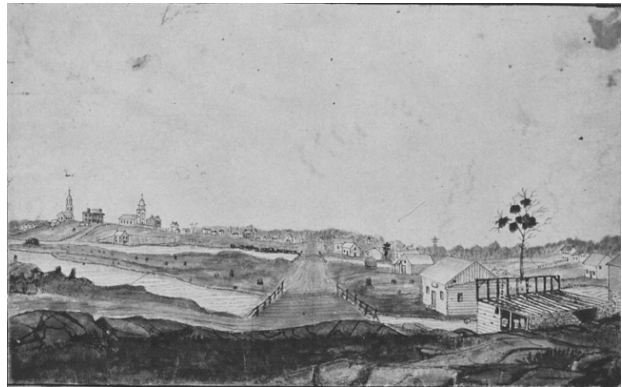


Figure 1: Perth on the River Tay, 1828 (artist Thomas Burrows). The Perth military settlement in the Rideau Valley, spread across Bathurst, Drummond and Beckwith townships in Lanark County, attracted large numbers of Lowlanders from Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

Source: Courtesy of Archives of Ontario C1-0-0-22

Given the long-standing enthusiasm for emigration in the Highlands and the fast-growing interest in the northwest Lowlands it was inevitable that the government would look first to Scotland to find the necessary recruits. Under the first emigration scheme, launched in 1815, 700 Scots were assisted to relocate to eastern Upper Canada. Other schemes followed, but by 1821 Upper Canada's prospects were considered to be sufficiently secure for the policy to be reversed.² Hence, in the following years all requests for subsidized emigration were refused. Despite the catastrophic decline of kelp manufacture in the Western Isles, the government never relented.³ Hundreds of begging letters and petitions flooded into the Colonial Office but the answer was always the same. People seeking to emigrate had to find the necessary funds themselves.

As economic conditions in the Highlands and Islands deteriorated, landlords who had previously resisted the loss of people from their estates suddenly became receptive to the advantages which emigration could

offer. And with the approach of a compulsory Poor Law by 1845 which, for the first time, made them legally responsible for destitute people on their estates, apprehensions grew. When famine conditions struck in the mid-1840s estate tenants had to rely on external food aid to avoid starvation. In these dire circumstances most landlords opted for evictions and assisted emigration. Inevitably, this action led to the accusation that Highlanders were being forced to leave against their will. But most people would have appreciated that to escape their appalling and hopeless conditions they had to emigrate. Countless reports from family and friends told Highlanders of the better life that Canada could offer. Thus estate tenants had a positive motivation for accepting their landlord's financial help to emigrate.



Figure 2: The emigrants sculpture located at Helmsdale in Sutherland (by Gerald Laing). It commemorates the people from the Highlands and Islands who emigrated to the far corners of the world.

Source: Photograph by Geoff Campey

Far from regarding themselves as hapless victims, Scots had a remarkable knowledge of Canada's opportunities and were highly selective in where they settled. Although the spotlight has fallen mainly on the emigration which followed in the wake of the Highland Clearances, Lowlanders actually dominated the overall exodus to Canada. Highlanders accounted for only 25 % of the total number of Scots who came to Canada between 1825 and 1855. And yet the story of Scottish emigration to Canada is preoccupied with wicked landlords, forced expulsions and emotional horror stories. This distorted picture owes much to the machinations of Highland politicians like Alexander

Mackenzie, who heaped great odium on emigration in pursuit of domestic land reforms.

As editor of various newspapers and a prolific author, Alexander Mackenzie had enormous influence in the Highlands. Having visited Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1880 he was aware of the great financial benefits being enjoyed by fellow Highlanders who had emigrated:

Imagine nearly 200 carriages, four-wheeled, scattered all about outside the church. It was such a sight as I never saw and never could have seen in the Highlands; yet here there is hardly a family which does not drive to church and market in a nice light wagon or carriage; but in spite of all this, mistaken people at home will advise the poor crofter not to emigrate to a country where such things are possible to those who came out a few years ago in a state of penury and want.⁴



Figure 3: Scottish immigrants on a train heading west in 1911

Source: Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, William James Topley, PA-010391

And yet when he returned home to Scotland he mounted a fierce campaign to halt any further emigration from the Highlands. He wrote his *History of the Highland Clearances* and in it gave emigration its many monstrous demons and sorry victims.⁵ Why did he do this?

Mackenzie allied himself to the new political thinking, which argued that the government should help people to become self-sustaining in the Highlands by giving them greater security of tenure over their land and offering publicly funded rejuvenation schemes. This was felt to be preferable to the large-scale clearances of the 1840s and 1850s. But as various crofter schemes came and went, the age-old problems of overpopulation, poor soil and chronic poverty remained insuperable. By the early 1900s Highland emigration once again resumed its steep upward climb.

When faced with a bleak and hopeless future, people voted with their feet as they had done over the previous decades. This time they headed for the prairie provinces which, with the completion of the railways, were attracting a growing number of British immigrants.

In modern times John Prebble has drawn heavily on Mackenzie's writing and produced his version of wretched happenings in his book on the Highland Clearances. But Highlanders were not the downtrodden victims of landlord cruelty as portrayed by Prebble and Mackenzie. A few evictions were carried out brutally, but landlords do not deserve the abuse that has been hurled at them. Highland landlords and their tenants were overwhelmed by the growing humanitarian crisis that enveloped them during the famine years of 1846 to 1855. The landlords faced bankruptcy while the tenants endured appalling poverty and near-starvation. Canada was the tenants' only realistic hope of a better life and most would have grasped the chance to emigrate. Although they faced enormous hurdles, privations and difficulties, the majority became highly successful settlers.

Scots came with traditions and customs that were often centuries old. Highlanders committed their Gaelic poems and songs to memory and passed them down from generation to generation. Pipe bands and Highland gatherings perpetuate their memory, but they are modern interpretations of these ancient traditions. Although the Gaelic language lived on in many parts of Canada, and still does in some areas, it was in a general state of decline by the late nineteenth century. It survived the longest in much of Cape Breton, in Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, and in Bruce County, Ontario.⁶

Scots had their most stunning cultural success with curling. Being "essentially democratic and traditionally open to all classes," curling had immediate appeal in the New World.⁷ Scottish culture continues to captivate people across Canada, as evidenced by the plethora of St. Andrew's societies, Burns suppers, pipe bands and other Scottish groups that are enjoying increasing support in modern times. Most Canadian provinces even have their own official tartans, which are registered in Scotland. Set free from the stifling economic and social constraints that held

them back in their homeland, Scots prospered in Canada. The combination of dire conditions in Scotland together with Canada's known benefits created the cocktail of influences that became an unstoppable force. The Scottish culture that they brought with them continues to enrich present-day Canada.

Endnotes

- ¹ For the Prince Edward Island Scots see Lucille H. Campey, "*A Very Fine Class of Immigrants*," *Prince Edward Island's Scottish Pioneers, 1770–1850*, Toronto: Natural Heritage, 2001. For the Cape Breton and Nova Scotia Scots see Lucille H. Campey, *After the Hector: The Scottish Pioneers of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, 1773–1852*, Toronto: Natural Heritage, 2004.
- ² The later schemes brought Lowlanders to Lanark, Dalhousie, North Sherbrooke and Ramsey townships where they founded the Lanark military settlement. For further details of the Upper Canada military settlements see Lucille H. Campey, *The Scottish Pioneers of Upper Canada, 1784–1855—Glengarry and Beyond*, Toronto: Natural Heritage, 2005.
- ³ Made from burnt seaweed, kelp had been used in the manufacture of soap and glass, but by the mid-1820s it had virtually been wiped out by foreign alternatives, causing widespread unemployment and extreme poverty in the Hebridean Islands.
- ⁴ Alexander Mackenzie. "The editor in Canada series," *The Celtic Magazine*, Vol. V, Inverness: A & W Mackenzie, 1880, p. 72.
- ⁵ Alexander Mackenzie. *History of the Highland Clearances*, Edinburgh: Mercat Press, 1991, [originally published in 1883].
- ⁶ When he toured Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and Ontario in 1880, Alexander Mackenzie was surprised that Gaelic was still widely spoken in Scottish communities. Alexander Mackenzie. "The editor in Canada series", Vol. V, pp. 75, 106; Vol. VII, pp. 306–9.
- ⁷ Curling's popularity is greatest in the west, with Manitoba now being Canada's principal curling centre. Gerald Redmond. *The Sporting Scots of Nineteenth Century Canada*, London and Toronto: Associated University Presses, 1982, p. 121.

BIFHSGO NEWS

Report on the BIFHSGO 2009 Annual General Meeting

BY ROY THOMAS

This report on our 15th AGM complements those of the President and Directors contained in the yellow insert of the Summer 2009 *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. A draft of the official minutes of this AGM will appear in the Spring 2010 *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

Awards

John Reid was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in view of his contribution not only to the Society but much wider communities of genealogy and heritage. As an innovative leader, John Reid served the Society well as Past President, President, and Director of Education, as well as co-chair for programming for the 2008 Fall Conference and Marketplace Coordinator for 2006 Fall Conference. He was also the project leader for the *Sharpshooter* book published by BIFHSGO. Beyond BIFHSGO he served on the Library and Archives Canada Services Advisory Board and was Chair of the City of Ottawa's Arts, Heritage and Cultural Advisory Committee. John Reid also shared his knowledge by resurrecting the Beginner Genealogy Courses in partnership with OGS while serving frequently as an instructor not only for BIFHSGO but other societies. John organized county interest groups as well as initiating the BIFHSGO electronic newsletter and establishing co-operative relations with other genealogy and heritage organizations. A lecturer and author on genealogical topics, he operates an internet blog called Anglo-Celtic Connections.

Valerie Monkhouse (member number 14) received a Certificate of Excellence for consistently volunteering

from the inception of the Society, starting with the very first informal conference held by the Society in the Old City Hall to, at the time of writing, helping distribute name badges at the monthly meetings. She has volunteered across a wide range of BIFHSGO activities from the Welcome Desk at Fall Conferences, to the BIFHSGO library, to greeting newcomers and helping with the Middlemore project.

Stan and Kathleen Magwood were awarded a Certificate of Excellence for their efforts in producing name badges for the BIFHSGO monthly meetings and then distributing them in a friendly welcoming manner for over half a decade. They have been the "face" of BIFHSGO for many newcomers arriving for their first meeting. They also produced name badges for the Fall Conferences.

Carol Annett received the Award for the Best Article in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* in 2008 for "*Remembering Brockville's Scottish Orphans*" that appeared in the Fall 2008 issue.

Alison Hare received the Award for the Best Presentation by a member at the monthly BIFHSGO meetings, September 2008–May 2009 inclusive for her talk, "*The Time of Cholera*" delivered at the 14 February 2009 BIFHSGO meeting.

Chris MacPhail, as editor of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, was invited to accept a framed copy of the journal's National Genealogy Society 2008 First Place Award for best newsletter in the major genealogy society category.



John Reid



Valerie Monkhouse



Stan and Kathleen Magwood



Carol Annett



Alison Hare



Chris MacPhail

New Board

President. Acclaimed at the 2008 AGM, Mary Anne Sharpe continues the second year of her term as President.

Directors. Acclaimed at the 2008 AGM, Cliff Adams, Treasurer, Betty Burrows, Communications, and Sharon Moor, Membership, all continue in the second year of their second term as Directors. Margaret Gervais and Roy Thomas, from the 2008–2009 Board, did not stand for another term, being acclaimed in the 2007 AGM and due for re-election at this AGM. Brian Glenn, also acclaimed at the 2007 AGM, agreed to stand again for election to serve on the Board, now as Director of Research. Lesley Anderson agreed to return again to the Board for a term as Director of Education after having served previously in that position. Jane Down and Ron Elliott agreed to stand

for election for the first time and were acclaimed. Jane will serve as Director of Programs and Ron as the Recording Secretary. The Society's Bylaws specify that only four Board members can be elected in any one year. The Board will consider appointing someone to fill the vacant Director of Publicity position.

Auditor. Darrel Kennedy reported that he found that the financial statement prepared by the Treasurer (in the ACR Summer 2009 issue yellow inserts) to be a fair statement of the financial status of our Society. He was approved again as auditor for 2009.

Thanks. The President made a point of thanking the many volunteers who give freely of their time and effort, often without much recognition, and who are ultimately responsible for making BIFHSGO the vibrant community that it is today.

First Steps Beginners' Course

BY BRIAN GLENN, DIRECTOR (EDUCATION)

Exhibition Hall "A" at Library and Archives Canada was packed with 64 budding genealogists at the 2009 edition of the First Steps Beginners' Course, held on 21 March and co-sponsored by the Ontario Genealogical Society, Ottawa Branch (OGS) and the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO).

John Reid, Glenn Wright, Alison Hare and Terry Findley kept the crowd entertained and educated with inspiring talks on the basic rules every genealogist must know, census records, civil registrations and places to go in the Ottawa-Gatineau area to conduct their research.

Unlike other years, the vast majority of the participants (73%) were not members of either BIFHSGO or OGS. But with the opening addresses given by Mike More,

Chair of the Ottawa Branch, OGS, and Mary Anne Sharpe, President of BIFHSGO, we know the attendees are now well aware of both organizations and hope our respective societies will gain some new members.

A good number of the participants were members of the Ottawa Irish Society who had attended a short introductory course on Irish genealogy the week before, which was presented by Mike More, Lesley Anderson and Brian Glenn.

To paraphrase one of the enthusiastic participants: "It was a great crowd—and they were so attentive! All had pens and notepads and they were like busy little beavers, taking notes all over the place. There was very little talking among the crowd, usually a sure sign things are going well."

The feedback from the evaluation forms was also very positive, with comments such as:

I found the info excellent and perfect for me a novice;

Terrific presentations—wealth of information. Congratulations on your format, keeping to time schedule; and

I liked everything - the microphones and being able to hear the questions was the best. Very professional.

Many of the participants indicated that they were keen to follow up this course with the Next Steps program being offered during the BIFHSGO Fall Conference. We look forward to seeing them!

The next First Steps Beginners' Course has been scheduled for 20 March 2010 at Library and Archives Canada.

Photographs are courtesy of J.M. Lapointe, CD



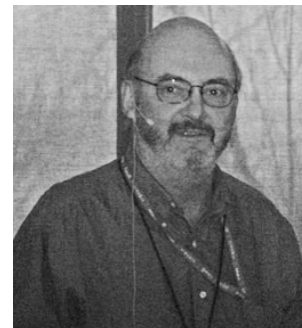
Terry Findley



Alison Hare



John Reid



Glenn Wright

Touchstones for Family Historians

BY MEMBERS OF THE BIFHSGO WRITING GROUP

In planning for a presentation on writing family history for the pre-BIFHSGO conference program in September, Carol Annett, Marg Burwell, Wendy Croome, Margaret Turner, Irene Ip and Betty Warburton agreed that one can get some very good ideas from published genealogical accounts. The group, therefore, compiled the following list of family stories, which comprises a variety of approaches to the challenge of presenting the results of one's research. Some of these authors began with only the barest facts about their ancestors, while others had to deal with almost too much material. All of them, however, enriched their stories with historical, geographical and social context.

Amato, Joseph A. *Jacob's Well: A Case For Rethinking Family History*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2008.

Joseph Amato, professor emeritus of history and rural and regional studies at Southwest Minnesota State University, writes, "In this book, I seek to expand the historical imagination of those who wish to write family histories that have significance for national, economic and social history." Amato traces the

migrations of his ancestors from Acadia, England, Ireland, Prussia and Sicily, linking their lives in the United States to a 250-year history of the American poor.

Colletta, John Philip. *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy*. Washington, DC: Direct Descent, 2000.

Dramatically written, meticulously researched and well-documented, this page-turner, by popular American genealogy lecturer and author John Philip Colletta, focuses on the author's great-great grandfather, who died in mysterious circumstances in a fire in Mississippi. Drawing on a variety of sources, the author recreates the time period in detail. Colletta writes, "For family historians, therefore, this book represents a case study of how to build historical context around an ancestral event."

Kean, Hilda. *London Stories: Personal lives, public histories*. London: Rivers Oram Publishers Limited, 2004.

Hilda Kean is a tutor in history at Ruskin College, Oxford. In *London Stories*, Kean creates portraits of

selected ancestors, most of whom lived for generations in the same neighbourhoods in East London, where she still resides. "This book is about personal lives but also about the process in which they came to be included within this book," writes Kean. For example, one ancestor grabbed her attention as "the first family illiterate I had found."

Munro, Alice. *The View from Castle Rock*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2006.

In this collection of stories, Canadian author Alice Munro combines ancestry and fiction, following generations of her Laidlaw forebears from Scotland to Canada. Though it is not a typical family history, the book illustrates how a skilled writer can bring family stories and ancestors vividly to life.

Shown Mills, Elizabeth. *Isle of Canes*. Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc. 2006.

Professional genealogist and author Elizabeth Shown Mills has crafted 30 years of historical and ancestral research into a fictionalized account of four generations of free people of colour in the Cane River area of Louisiana. Focusing on a key person from each generation, the author skillfully weaves her characters' French, Spanish, African and Indian heritage together with the tumultuous history of Louisiana to tell the story of her husband's forebears in an entertaining and informative way.

Tademy, Lalita. *Cane River*. New York: Warner Books, 2001.

Cane River is set around the same time period and in the same area in central Louisiana as *Isle of Canes*. Tademy gave up a successful career in business to research her family history and then study creative writing. The book she wrote about her slave ancestors is a highly readable, well-written novel that became a New York Times best seller and an "Oprah's Book Club" choice. The author used family stories, photos, family trees, historical data and her writing skill to recreate the lives of four remarkable African-American women through years of slavery, Civil War and emancipation.

Moore, Christopher. *Louisbourg Portraits: Life in an Eighteenth-Century Garrison Town*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 2000.

As a researcher working at Fortress Louisbourg National Historic Park during the reconstruction of that eighteenth-century town, Christopher Moore gained much insight into the lives of its citizens and the customs of that period from the well-preserved archives of Louisbourg. He brings five of those

citizens to life by combining two or three facts from their lives with his knowledge of Louisbourg's history. For instance, a letter written in April 1731 by Marie-Joanne Renaut in Normandy to her fisherman-husband Charles in Ile Royale (Cape Breton) gave the author the opportunity to speculate on the life-style of the couple and to delve into to the economic importance of the fishing industry to France. Unfortunately the letter never reached Charles, for he drowned in the frigid waters off the island of Scatarry in December 1730, and Marie-Joanne's letter found its way into the Louisbourg archives and Christopher Moore's history.

Bell, Quentin. *Virginia Woolf*. London: The Hogarth Press, 1973.

Virginia Woolf's nephew, Quentin Bell, faced a monumental task in editing his aunt's diaries and letters, as well as numerous papers of the Bloomsbury Group, in order to present a readable biography. While this two volume opus is likely to be far beyond the scope of most family historians, those who have inherited diaries and letters from their ancestors can benefit from Bell's technique in combining narrative and excerpts.

Grenville, Kate. 1. *The Secret River*. Toronto: Harper Collins, 2007; 2. *Searching for the Secret River*. Toronto: Harper Collins, 2007.

These two books record a journey through research, reflection and writing. The first book tells the fictional tale of a London waterman, transported to Australia for theft in the early nineteenth century. In the rough and ready life of the colony, he is able to gain his freedom and lay claim to the 100 acres of land he desires. In the second book, Grenville tells the story of the research behind her novel, starting with her quest for the true history of her ancestor in London and Australia. She then describes how she went about turning her findings into a narrative.

Johnstone, Bernice Monrath, edited and annotated by Patricia Ruth Roberts. *Not a Pioneer! a Memoir of Waipa and Raglan, 1871-1960*. Hamilton New Zealand: Patricia R. Roberts, 2004.

When Patricia inherited her grandmother's memoirs, which described life on New Zealand farms from 1871 to 1960, she knew she had to do something with "this treasure-trove of family stories." After transcribing and arranging them in chronological order, Patricia researched the events and times described in the narrative. The result is a fascinating story narrated by Bernice Johnstone and supplemented by illustrations, sidebars, footnotes, references and an index.

FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

Exploring the location where your ancestor was born and lived adds another dimension to that person. Slowly over the years, through donations and purchases, the number of British local histories at the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library has grown. These are recent additions:



London

Leapman, Michael, editor. *The Book of London: the Evolution of a Great City*. New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1989. 942.1 LEA

Stow, John. *The Survey of London*. H. B. Wheatley, editor. London: J. M. Dent, 1987. 942.12 STO A history and description of London written in the Elizabethan era.

Jerrold, William Blanchard, and Gustave Doré. *The London of Gustave Doré*. Ware: Wordsworth Editions, 1987. 914.21081 DOR First published by Grant & Co. in 1872 as *London: a Pilgrimage*.

Borer, Mary Cathcart. *The Story of Covent Garden*. London: Robert Hale, 1984. 942.12 BOR

Hibbert, Christopher. *London; the Biography of a City*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1969. 942.21 HIB

Fiddes, Angela. *The City of London: the Historic Square Mile*. Cambridge: Pevensey Press, 1984. 942.21 FID

Phillips, Hugh. *The Thames about 1750*. London: Collins, 1951. 942.1 PHI

Milford, Anna. *Ring the Bells of London Town*. Lavenham: Terence Dalton Ltd, 1978. 942.1 MIL

De Mare, Eric. *London's River: the Story of a City*. London: The Bodley Head, 1964. 942.1 DEM

Cox, Jane. *London's East End: Life and Traditions*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1994. 942.15 COX

Thornbury, Walter. *Old London: the Tower and East End*. London: Alderman Press, 1986. 942.15 THO

Maps of London

London Maps Through the Ages. Cinderford: Archive CD Books, 2001. CD-ROM 001056.

Deptford, Kent

Kenny, John. *"A Part of Deptford" Past and Present: the Parish of Our Lady of Assumption*. Deptford: [The Parish], 1992. 942.163 KEN

Mills, Jennifer. *St. Paul's Church, Deptford*. London: Lewisham Local History Society, n.d. 942.163 MIL

Steele, Jess. *Turning the Tide: the History of Everyday Deptford*. London: Deptford Forum Publishing, 1993. 942.163 STE

Poole, Dorset

Cullingford, Cecil N. *A History of Poole*. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 1988. 942.337 CUL

Miller, A. J. *The Story of Poole: an Outline History from Earliest Times to the Present Day*. Poole: The English Press, 1984. 942.337 MIL

Photographs of Poole

Ashley, Harry. *Poole Then and Now*. Newbury: Countryside Books, 1991. 942.337 ASH

Beamish, Derek. *An Album of Old Poole*. Poole: Poole Historic Trust, 1975. 942.337 BEA

Hawkes, Andrew. *Memories of Old Poole – Broadstone and Canford Magna: Compiled From Postcards of Poole and District*. Poole: The Author, 1982. 942.337 HAW

Hillier John. *A Portfolio of Old Poole*. Poole: Poole Historic Trust, 1983. 942.337 HIL

Map of Poole

Great Britain. Ordnance Survey. *Old Ordnance Survey Maps. Poole 1900*. Gateshead: Alan Godfrey Maps, 1990. 912.42 ORD 43.16

Jersey, Channel Islands

Glendinning, Alex. *Did Your Ancestors Sign the Jersey Oath of Association Roll of 1696? A History of the Roll and Many of the People Who Signed It*. Jersey: Channel Islands Family History Society, 1995. 942.341 GLE

Stevens, Joan. *Old Jersey Houses and Those Who Lived in Them. Vol. 2*. Chichester: Phillimore, 1977. 942.341 STE Vol. 2

The Printed Page

BY GORDON D. TAYLOR

After a brief hiatus while we changed our living arrangements and made some concessions to health problems, I am back examining the ever-growing complexity of the sources of genealogical information. The number of databases available seems to expand at the rate of one or more a day. Not only are there more bases but also there are more suppliers. Access to the online files varies from supplier to supplier. Some allow free access, others allow a free search but charge for details, and a third group charges from the first stroke of the keyboard.



Another factor that I have observed is the growing number of digitized databases and the fewer appearing as a more traditional printed page. It should be noted, however, that the printed page is itself being digitized as we see many examples of historic newspapers being offered in the new format. The ability to search for family members in newspapers decades-old is a great step forward. This trend is certainly related to the role of the computer as a key factor in the finding, recording, analyzing and writing of family history. A link between the classical printed page and the new digitized page is that the former has become the source of information on the “what and the where” of the digitized material. Hence access to the printed word will remain an important element in the family historian’s search for information. In a trial search of old newspapers I found an article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* of 23 September 1897 that described the role of a family member at a battle in India. In another database, *19th Century British Library Newspapers*, I found a funeral report from 1 February 1894 for another family member. This article was in *Freeman’s Journal and Daily Commercial Advertiser*, Dublin, Ireland, on 2 February 1894.

The censuses of Canada from 1851 to 1916 provide an excellent example of the relationship that exists with the provider of the data, the need to index the data, the indexing itself and the online source for the indexed material when it is available. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is both the provider of the census data and the repository for the original documents. Ancestry.ca has become by agreement with LAC the repository for the indexed data. That organization also played a major role in the indexing of the census data. Access to the data, except for an initial browse, is by

subscription to Ancestry.ca. The long-term plan is that the indexed data will be available from Library and Archives Canada without charge.

An article in the *Ottawa Citizen* of June 15, 2009, “Database unveils forest of family names” by Randy Boswell, provides a description of the agreement between LAC and Ancestry.ca and gives some examples of how the data can be used. The article appeared on pages A1 and A2 of the *Citizen*.

While I am on the subject of Ancestry.ca I would like to commend them for opening the database of Canadian Passenger Lists 1865–1935 free to Canadians on July 1, 2 and 3 to mark Canada Day. This database consists of the names, arrival date in Canada, name of ship and port of arrival and of departure. I spent the better part of a day searching the data and I found many entries that filled gaps in my records.

I found the reference to the access to the passenger list in a newsletter from *Family Tree Magazine* of July 2. Several other databases were discussed briefly in the same issue.

A source of similar passenger data was described in an article “UK Immigration to Canada” by Sherry Irvine in the March 2009 issue of *Genealogists’ Magazine*. Passenger lists are one of the topics that the author discusses. The UK data cover a shorter period of time than do the Canadian data, with UK departures starting in 1890. The UK data do not cover all passengers. They exclude tourists and returning Canadians as well as individuals whose final destinations were in the USA. It is possible and interesting to do some comparative research.

Considering the amount of information that is becoming available on passenger travel between Canada and the United Kingdom, we must be vigilant and attempt to influence the next step in the passenger process, which should be a standardization of terms, methodology and access. In this process of proposed forward planning we should be fully aware of other sources, Ellis Island and Pier 21 (Halifax) to mention a couple.

In the article in the *Genealogists’ Magazine* referred to earlier there is a reference to the work of BIFHSGO in connection with the Home Children database (page 330).

I would be interested to learn what those who have worked with these new databases think of their usefulness.

BIFHSGO LISTINGS

Members' Surname Search

BY ELIZABETH KIPP

These tables enable BIFHSGO members to share in common research. If you locate one or more of the names you are researching in Table A note the membership number (Mbr. No.). Contact the member

listed in Table B (match Mbr. No.). Each member may be searching several names (please be specific when communicating with them). Good luck.

TABLE A (Names being searched)							
Name Searched	Location (Chapman Code)	Year	Mbr No.	Name Searched	Location (Chapman Code)	Year	Mbr No.
Corley	Wicklow IRE	1880s	1267	Hunt	ENG	1800s	1267
Grant	Charlottenberg Twp Glengarry County, ON CAN	1700s-- 1800s	1236	McDonald	Charlottenberg Twp Glengarry County, ON CAN	1700s-- 1800s	1236

TABLE B (Members referred to in Table A)			
Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address
1267	C M Cornelisse, 1407 Minto Street Regina, SK S4T 5J5 carcornelisse@sasktel.net	1236	D McDonald, 369 Oxford Street Winnipeg, MB R3M 3H9 dmcd@mts.net

Occasionally, due to a lack of space, names published in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* may be restricted to six per individual. If this should occur, the remaining names of interest will be published in a future edition. If the members have Internet access and they give permission, all of their names of interest are published on the BIFHSGO web site at: www.bifhsgo.ca.

Many BIFHSGO members belong to genealogy societies that cover the areas detailed in this Members' Surname Search list. If you would like to loan your quarterly journals or other pertinent documents to members with an interest in the same geographical area that you are researching, please contact them directly and arrange to exchange information at the monthly meetings.

Membership Report

BY SHARON MOOR

New BIFHSGO Members from 31 March to 31 July 2009

Mbr. #	Name	Address	Mbr. #	Name	Address
1276	Sue Campbell	Ottawa, ON	1282	Donna Oldfield	Holland Landing, ON
1277	Catherine Burton	Ottawa, ON	1283	Diane Bourgault	Hawkesbury, ON
1278	Anne Westcott	Warkworth, ON	1284	David Falconer	Nepean, ON
1279	Wayne Ferguson	Kemptville, ON	1285	Tania Jones	Ottawa, ON
1280	Janet Baker	Fredericksburg, VA	1286	Diana Thomson	Toronto, ON
1281	Robert Woodland	Ottawa, ON			

Our membership as of 31 July is 474. This is down a little from previous reports, as we have now removed from our list any persons who did not renew for 2009.

This will increase again as new people join with their registration for the Fall Conference. Please extend a warm welcome to our new members if you see them at a meeting.

LOCAL RESEARCH FACILITIES**BIFHSGO Library**

The Brian O'Regan Memorial Library includes genealogical research materials and guides; political, social and local history texts; selected census indexes; British, Canadian, Australian and American family history society journals – and more.

Location: The City Archives, Bytown Pavilion, 1st floor, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 580-2424 ext. 13333

Website: www.bifhsgo.ca/library

Library and Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) collects and preserves Canada's documentary heritage, making it accessible to the public. LAC has a large collection of books on genealogy as well as microfilms of many Canadian newspapers, census records, ship passenger lists, directories and other materials relevant to genealogists. Reference specialists are available to assist with research, to help use the collections and to answer questions.

Location: 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 996-5115

Website: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

Family History Center (LDS)

The Family History Center provides access to the extensive genealogical collections and databases of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City using microfilm, microfiche, computers and volunteer advisors.

Location: 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 224-2231

Website: www.ottawastakefhc.on.ca

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) collects, preserves and provides public access to Québec's published, archival and film heritage, including civil and church registers. Archivists specialising in genealogy are available to assist users.

Location: 855, boulevard de la Gappe, Gatineau, QC

Tel: (819) 568-8798

Website: www.banq.qc.ca/portal

Hours

Readers are advised to contact the resource centres directly to confirm hours of operation.

Parking

Parking is available at each research facility. Phone or check the website for parking locations and costs, if applicable.

In Memoriam

Sandra Magee, Friday, 24 July 2009. BIFHSGO Member #546, Sandra enjoyed travel and researching family history; many of her trips after retirement were related to searching for elusive ancestors.

**BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
OF GREATER OTTAWA
Calendar of Events**

Saturday Morning Meetings

at

**Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa
Contact: 613-234-2520**

Free parking on the east side of the building only

12 September 2009	<i>Circling the Wagons Around Jack Fraser?</i> —Brian Glenn This talk picks up the search for Brian's maternal Grandfather - a search he first explored at a Great Moment talk in 2004
17 October 2009	<i>I Never Thought of That: A Second Look at Problems</i> —Lady Mary Teviot Involved in family history research for over 35 years, Lady Teviot is President of the Federation of Family History Societies and has undertaken lecture tours in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A and South Africa.
14 November 2009	<i>Ships, Masters and Mates</i> —Barbara Tose Based on her research of the British Crew Agreement records held at the Maritime History Archives at Memorial University, St. Johns, Barbara will show how a seaman's career can be reconstructed from these records.
9 December 2009	<i>Great Moments in Genealogy</i> —BIFHSGO Members

Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Workshops: Check our website for up-to-date information.
9:30 a.m. Discovery Tables
10:00–11:30 a.m. Meeting and Presentation
12:00–1:00 p.m. Writing Group

For up-to-date information and news of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), visit the website www.bifhsgo.ca

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please contact: The Editor, acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for publication in the next issue is 17 October 2009.