



Anglo-Celtic Roots

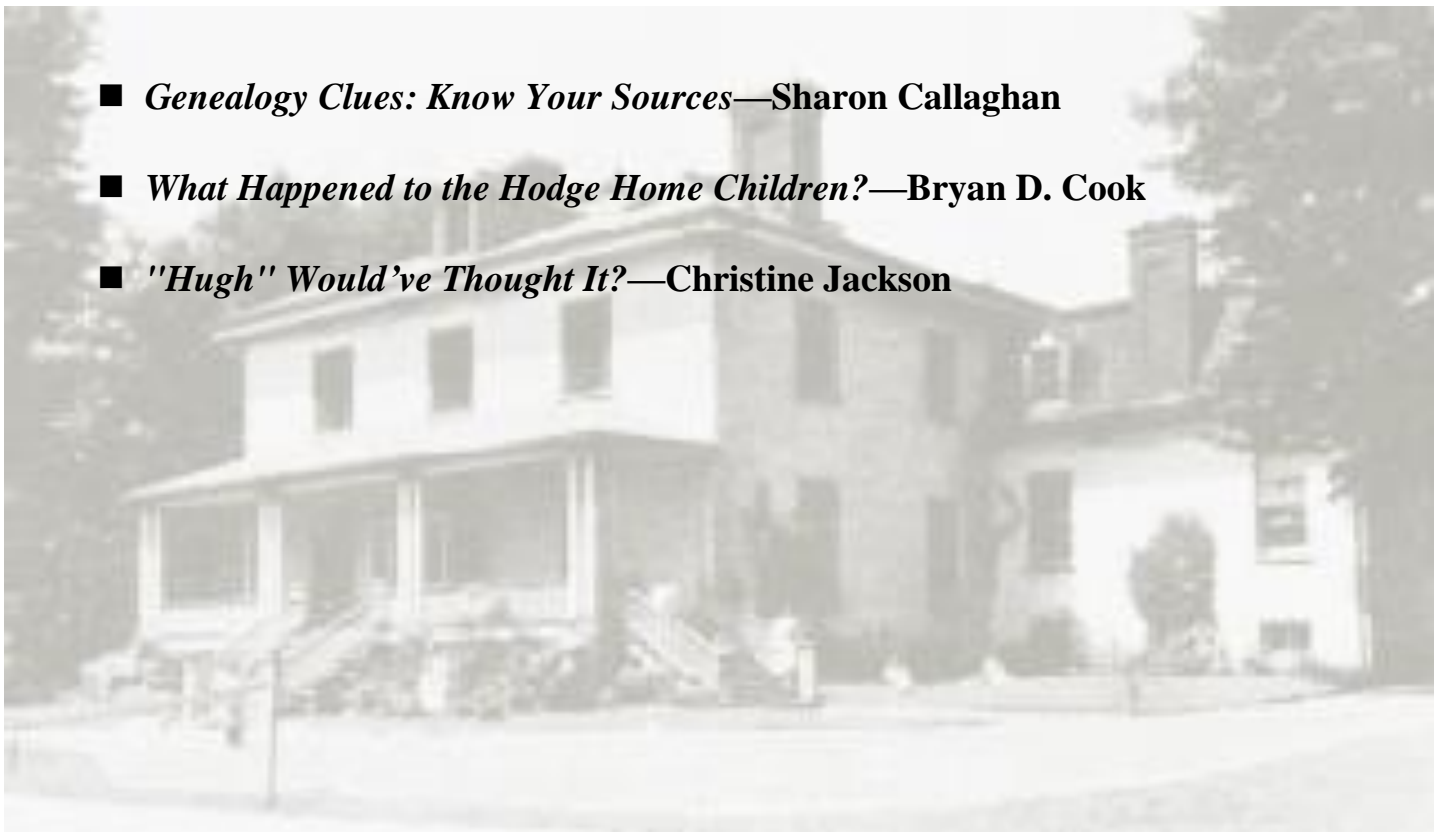
Quarterly Chronicle

Volume 17, Number 4

Winter 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Genealogy Clues: Know Your Sources*—Sharon Callaghan
- *What Happened to the Hodge Home Children?*—Bryan D. Cook
- *"Hugh" Would've Thought It?*—Christine Jackson



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The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally incorporated society and a registered charity. Its purpose is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into and publication of family histories by people who have ancestors from the British Isles.

The objectives of the Society are two-fold: 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 this 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 is available to all those interested in furthering its objectives and consists of anyone who submits an application for admission as a member accompanied by payment of the applicable fees or dues. The 2012 calendar year fees for membership are \$35 for individuals, \$45 for families, and \$35 for institutions. Annual 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 special interest groups that may be formed.

Anglo-Celtic Roots, Volume 17, Number 4, Winter 2011, ISSN 1201-3072

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

Indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI).

Editor: Jean Kitchen
Assistant Editor Layout: Carol-Anne Blore

Canadian Publication Mail Sales Product Agreement No. 40015222

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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 in electronic format using MSWord-compatible software and addressed to acreditor@bifhsgo.ca, or 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 asked 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.

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Contents

COLUMNS:	ii
★ Message from the President	★ Note from the Editor
SATURDAY MEETINGS	
<i>Genealogy Clues: Know Your Sources</i> —Sharon Callaghan.....	69
FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH	
<i>What Happened to the Hodge Home Children?</i> —Bryan D. Cook	74
<i>“Hugh” Would’ve Thought It?</i> —Christine Jackson.....	80
2011 CONFERENCE	
<i>A Look at the Seventeenth Annual BIFHSGO Fall Conference</i>	84
RESEARCH SOURCES	
<i>The Cream of the Crop</i> —John D. Reid	87
<i>The Bookworm</i> —Betty Warburton	89
BIFHSGO LISTINGS	90
★ Membership Report— <i>Tara Grant</i>	
BIFHSGO CALENDAR OF EVENTS	Back Cover



The Quarriers Fairknowe Receiving Home in 1910
Copyright© 1998 Quarriers, Scotland

Message from the President

Once again this fall, our Society is off to a wonderful start: our annual conference was successful and our monthly meetings have been well attended. I salute all those who make it possible, not only at our annual conference, but every month and dare I say, almost every day.

Our success as a family history society is based on our consistently excellent program, our award-winning journal, the writing group, our contribution to several special interest groups and our collective willingness to share our expertise with others at monthly meetings, at our social hour and in “one-on-one” meetings. Our website, library and *Anglo-Celtic Roots* are as good as they are because of the incredible dedication of fellow members.

I suspect there are few, if any, societies similar to ours that can attract almost 200 members to a monthly meeting. We are successful because we are a collaborative society; everything we do is done by volunteers who invest time and effort and skills to ensure that the entire membership feels part of the BIFHSGO family. As we approach 2012, please think about devoting some time to one of our activities—assist us with the website, visit our library, write for our journal, lend a hand where needed.

In late September, I had an opportunity to visit the original homestead that my grandfather farmed from 1914 to about 1925. Any evidence of human occupation has long since disappeared, but with my feet firmly planted on the prairie, I experienced a real sense of connection to those who preceded me. It was an extraordinary feeling and I realized, not for the first time, that this is what family history is all about.

At this season of the year, I encourage everyone to make those connections—to enjoy their families in the present and to remember all those who came before us. As we continue our research, our writing, making contact with others, let us be truly grateful for what we have, thankful for the past and hopeful for the future.

Glenn Wright

Note from the Editor

This issue offers a variety of topics, ranging from practicalities to coincidences. Sharon Callaghan reprises her Saturday morning lecture on the value of using lesser-known research sources. Bryan D. Cook offers an account of the research he did on behalf of Home Child John Hughes and his family. On a more personal note, Christine Jackson was intrigued enough by faded newspaper clippings to investigate her family’s claim to royal fame.

In addition, John D. Reid has kindly agreed to contribute a monthly column of notes on new and notable family history resources available on the Internet—databases, podcasts, webinars—and his first column appears this month. He welcomes readers’ tips on Web sources, and I welcome both suggestions for improving ACR and contributions to future issues.

Jean Kitchen

SATURDAY MEETINGS

Genealogy Clues—Know Your Sources[©]

BY SHARON CALLAGHAN

History and research enthusiast Sharon Callaghan, whose roots in Canada go back to 1600s Québec, became interested in the Montréal setting in which her Irish immigrant ancestors lived. Her research led Sharon to write a book on the topic; she also writes and lectures on genealogy subjects. This article summarizes her April 2011 talk to BIFHSGO.

My foray into a wider range of sources stemmed from a desire to expand my knowledge of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century life in Montréal. During 30 years of genealogy research I had accumulated a lot of personal data and statistics on my ancestors, entering them on charts I'd created. Time-consuming, yes, but I do love research, so it was an adventure. However, I wanted to build a better picture of the life and times of my Callaghan great-great-grandparents, an Irish Montréal immigrant couple and their family. So I continued looking and it ultimately resulted in my book *Paths of Opportunity*.



I uncovered the information for the book by investigating historical as well as genealogical sources. Some of these are probably familiar to many genealogists, others perhaps not. Due to my area of research, of course, several resources mentioned here are specific to Québec. That being said, each region would have its own particular sources; the trick is to become familiar with them.

More common searches

Most very familiar resources searched by genealogists tend to be those that help identify our ancestors. Getting to know the record variations in your particular search locale of interest could prove very helpful. Let's consider some well-known examples I've searched, with a few interesting finds in my case.

Birth/baptism, marriage, and death/burial

In using mainly Catholic records for my Irish ancestors in Québec, I noticed a common pattern that helped fill out my family tree. In birth/baptism registers, which run from the 1600s to 1941, the mother's maiden name is always given. Having both

parents' last names was beneficial in confirming their marriage. In the marriage registers for the same time period, the parents of the couple are routinely shown, including their mothers' maiden names. This is very useful for tracing back family lines; right away you have access to all four names of the previous generation.

Searching death/burial registers over the same years, I would see the name "Ondoyé" regularly recorded with a family name. This happened so often that I began to think it had to have been a very popular name at the time. In fact, more than popular, as it seemed to occur over long periods of time. So I decided to check this out and in looking at actual entries in the church registers I was surprised to see these were burials of very, very young children. I made enquiries at the Montréal archives centre of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ), where I discovered that the word *ondoyé*, or *ondoyée* for a girl, meant the child was baptized just before death. There is no direct translation into English, but the dictionary refers to the word as meaning an emergency baptism. When a child was born and its death seemed imminent, certain individuals, like the midwife, were authorized to baptize the child, if a priest were not present.

In these cases, no first name was given, only the term *ondoyé(e)*, but with the child so baptized the family was assured of its burial in sanctified grounds. This posed a very interesting question in my mind and I went back to looking at burials for family names I was researching. Sure enough, I discovered many references and was able to add quite a few children to family charts. I would never have known otherwise, as there is no reference to these children in birth/baptism records. Granted they did not live long, but still they were the children, and siblings, of my ancestors and should be recognized as such in my family tree. Another intriguing note to this is that it led to making some sense of an early death of a great-great aunt of

mine; she died in the 1880s within a day of the *ondoyé* burial of a child of hers.

Directories and censuses

These have long been among the sources familiar to genealogists. They can provide very useful information on family structure, location, work, etc., but I've also learned that anything transcribed has potential for error. Keep in mind, the data is only as good as it was reported or how it was written down. In a Lovell's Directory for my Callaghan family, they are shown on George Street in the western Griffintown area of Montréal. They were, in fact, living on Saint

George Street, closer to the centre of Montréal, based on land records and parish affiliation. Something along the way between the handwriting of the information gatherer and the printing apparently got mixed up.

A much more fascinating mystery for me had to do with census data, the 1901 Census to be specific (Figure 1).¹ Sometime after the 1880s death of my previously mentioned great-great-aunt Bridget, her widower John remarried. In tracking his family, I located them on the 1901 Census, though John unfortunately appeared to have died.

114	Burns Rosana	F	Head	W	Oct 4	1849	51
114	Burns Mary	F	Daughter	S	Dec 4	1875	25
114	Burns Francis	M	Son	S	Apr 23	1879	21
114	Burns Martin J	M	Son	S	Mar 24	1881	19
114	Burns Marguerite	F	Daughter	S	Mar 9	1883	17
114	Burns John	M	Son	S	Jan 9	1877	23

Figure 1: 1901 Census record for Burns family

Source: Automated Genealogy

The census entry showed the second wife Rosana, reported as a widow, living with the children of John and his first wife. However, something didn't ring true for me, so I dug back through data I had that was related to Bridget. Sure enough, there was a note concerning the death of her husband. Surprisingly, it was a 1921 death, for which I found actual proof. Twenty years after this census, how could that be? Was there some marital intrigue going on or a recording error? Well, recording error it was indeed. Because not only was John still alive, to appear on the 1911 Census with some of the same children, but his supposed widow Rosana was actually already dead herself at the time of the 1901 Census, with proof placing her death in 1899.

Websites

Nowadays the Internet, which wasn't always available, has become an increasingly popular genealogy resource. When I first accessed websites in search of family lines, I didn't have much success. Of course, I realized it wasn't magic: for something to be on the Internet someone had to have put it there. Remember, though, the potential for error in transcription. Because when I did start finding family trees and such, more than a few inaccuracies cropped up in comparison to the actual proofs I had already obtained. For example, there was the case of one of my great-grandfathers who, based on his birth date as shown on the family

chart, would amazingly have already had two children by the time he was 8 years old. From my experience, I've learned to be wary of some websites, or parts of websites, especially when created by individuals. Something found on the Internet, or not on the Internet for that matter, should not stop one's own search process. Websites can hold many clues to our ancestors, but researchers should rely more on those that state their sources or, even better, have images of proofs.

Less common searches

After many years of research I still wanted to find more than mere names and dates for my ancestors—putting labels on charts wasn't enough for me. So I looked to other sources for additional information on my family. Some of these may be familiar to many, but surprisingly are not as frequently used.

Obituaries and coroner's reports

Obituaries can provide obvious details on an ancestor, like the date of death, next of kin and, in the past, even the address of the deceased. Some can provide background on an unknown aspect of an ancestor's life. That's how I discovered that a great-great-grandfather was a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis of Assisi and a great-grandfather was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

These obituaries can also point the way to other resources. One great-great-great-uncle's obituary mentioned that funeral arrangements would be announced following a coroner's enquiry. Ah ha, I thought, so I checked the BAnQ for the appropriate coroner's report. It gave the cause of his 1902 death: he had been run over by a tram. That wasn't all: one of the witnesses at the enquiry was identified as a brother of the deceased, therefore confirming the existence and Montréal residence of another great-great-great-uncle. I might never have known of this, as both had been born in Ireland, but there they were in Montréal.

Wills

Other important, and desirable, searches would be for ancestors' wills. Searching for probated wills is something most genealogists would know about. But if I had not informed myself of the specifics of Québec records, I would have never found the wills I now have. That's because by far the majority of wills in Québec, to this very day, are produced by notaries. So I turned to their records archived in the BAnQ first and foremost. Québec notaries are members of the legal profession and the International Association of Latin Notaries, and as such their notarized wills do not require probate through the courts. It does pay to know your sources; I would never have located these wills in probate records. That is not to say there are no probated wills in Québec, but they are few in comparison and not the best place to start.

Places



Figure 2: The quarantine shed at Grosse Île

Source: Author

To get a better sense of your ancestors and their community, an illuminating route to take is to investigate places personally known to them. Many of those in my ancestors' Irish Montréal community had a connection to the Grosse Île Quarantine Station. Situated on an island in the Saint Lawrence River, east

of Québec City, it is now a historic site run by Parks Canada. I still have the image in my mind of the refurbished interior of one of the quarantine sheds, in which some of the thousands of 1847 Irish Famine immigrants died (Figure 2).

I've also visited the site of the "Irish Stone" in Montréal, a boulder raised from the riverbed after Victoria Bridge workers found mass graves. In 1859 it had been inscribed and dedicated to the estimated 6,000 who'd also died a dozen years earlier in the quarantine sheds of Montréal. Both these sites would have been well known to my ancestors and those in their community. Paying a visit to them gave me more of an appreciation for what these people had gone through, so their family and descendants like us could have a better life.

Uncommon searches

At a certain point, I realized I had a lot of personal data on my ancestors. But I thought that there had to be resources other than the usual ones, to tell me more. Many used to be more associated with genealogical research, while others are not particularly connected to it. Though they are not routinely checked, I was surprised at what some of these resources were able to tell me.

Groups and institutions

With the advent of the Internet, people have strayed somewhat from consulting various societies, but we shouldn't forget to continue to check on collections held by genealogy and historical groups. For example, the Québec Family History Society has several donated collections holding hundreds of files, maps and books. Family histories, charts and documents abound in these.

Don't discount either any studies and projects done by universities, museums and institutions in the area you are searching. These can give an idea of local activities and the possible personal involvement of one's ancestors. On more than one occasion, I found write-ups on mine in histories of, and references to, churches and hospitals.

Maps and books

I went on to check books with descriptions of settlement in given areas. Many parish and county histories provide details on residents, especially early ones. I also found early maps through archives and libraries, national down to local, which were extremely useful in situating my ancestors. I already had

addresses from directories, but the maps graphically presented where they were physically located and what was around them, even displaying the type and placement of structures on their land lots.

Photographs

When I began looking at old photographs it was mainly with the intention of gaining a sense of life and events at the time of my ancestors. Little did I imagine what I could gain until I noticed something on one of a multitude of Montréal flood photos. The title included the name of a street on which I knew my great-great-grandfather held land. Across the foreground of the shot was a portion of a flooded street, with another flooded street running off at an angle into the background. Buildings were clearly shown, and I wondered if one could be that of my ancestor. But which street was which and in what direction had the photo been taken? Then I spotted the name of a company on a building of the foreground street. So I did some investigation, finding the address in a Lovell's Directory and locating it on a map from the period. Now oriented and knowing where my ancestor's lot was positioned, I counted buildings along the street running into the background. There it was—the front of a building and the lot my ancestor owned in 1886! Now, all I can wonder is if one of the men pictured in the boats might be him.

Most uncommon searches

I was also curious about what my ancestors personally experienced. I suspect that anywhere genealogists search there are resources that are not often, if at all, checked. In my quest, I came across some in Québec that most do not consult but that can offer intriguing clues to ancestors.

Newspapers

Many things we know of as “history” were “current affairs” to our forefathers. Imagine them reading newspaper accounts about an infamous beheading murder in the city's large Irish neighbourhood of Griffintown. Or, what would the many Irish immigrants of the day have thought on reading reports of potential incursions of Fenians from across the border with the United States? No doubt the very descriptive newspaper articles would have intrigued them, and some news stories might have also had a much closer personal connection to these ancestors. I was to discover that, when I read up on one of Montréal's many devastating fires. This particular one

was in 1852 and referred to by many as “The Great Fire.”

This was a conflagration that covered a large area of the city. Reports put the destruction at approximately 1,000 structures, which left 12,000 to 15,000 homeless people. I had heard of that fire and also figured my Callaghan ancestors living in Montréal at the time would have been aware of it. Only when I read details of the event in older newspapers, and saw sketches of the fire's spread, did I realize how deeply that family of mine was probably affected. Montréal was not large in 1852, and the eastward spread of the fire crossed a large portion of the street on which they lived that year. Their address in the following year's city directory was to the west of the fire's devastation; in all likelihood they'd been among the thousands of homeless.

Notaries

Notaries, I found out, played an in-depth and unique role in Québec life, and their records can provide researchers with many clues. Virtually all documents related to Québec ancestors' personal and civil lives were produced by notaries. When I began researching these, I learned all documents up to 1899 were open to the public at BAnQ archives centres; since then the date has reached into the mid-1900s. I've collected an immense amount of personal data on my ancestors and their lifestyle through a multitude of documents such as marriage contracts, inventories, wills and deeds.

Court and land records

Many Québec court records are also available at BAnQ archives centres—criminal and especially civil records—and offer many personal details on ancestors. For instance, there are *curatelles* (curatorships) used to authorize someone to be responsible for another in unusual circumstances. A *curator/curatrice*, for example, could be appointed to act on behalf of missing or unreliable relatives. In one process, one of my great-great-grandmothers became responsible over all things related to the family and its holdings, when her husband was determined to be negligent in caring for them. Another common civil court document is the *tutelle* (tutorship), in which someone like my previously mentioned great-great-grandmother is appointed responsible for the welfare and belongings of orphaned minors. Both proceedings involve a council of family members being called together by the court to agree on the appointment. The resulting documents contain a lot of personal data related to all

the people present and named, including their relationships to each other.

One source rarely searched in Québec genealogy is that of land records. These include sets of documents from Québec's three separate land registration systems over the years—Seigneurie, Township and Cadastre. Depending on the system, records are held by either BAnQ archives centres or the Department of Natural Resources and Fauna (the Québec ministry responsible for lands). Checking into any of these can produce many clues for family researchers, as they contain an abundance of personal data. Records are available up to the present, so they are of great benefit to researchers for a time period in which many other types of records have not yet been opened to the public.

Conclusion

In my research, covering the most to the least commonly used sources, I gained a view into the past in which my ancestors existed. By thinking outside the box, I was able to obtain insightful data, which I hadn't been able to locate through conventional means. For instance, I might never have had the thrill of seeing what an ancestor's building looked like in the 1880s. Nor would I have discovered through land

records that one great-great-grandparent couple had married in Ireland, not Montréal. In addition, the document even provided the actual Irish parish of the wedding.


Taking time to know and become familiar with any and all possible sources in your research area could provide you with a wealth of newfound information. I've learned that lesson, even to the extent that I believe the sources mentioned above are certainly not all-inclusive. There could be others out there waiting to be found. Don't discount anything—when you think you've looked everywhere, check again. Based on my experience, I'll keep looking around for sources. There could be clues anywhere; if we don't look, we'll never know for sure.

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Reference Note

- ¹ "1901 Census of Canada," database, *Automated Genealogy*, www.automatedgenealogy.com), entry for Rosana Burns, Québec, Montréal City 175, Subdistrict: Ste-Antoine Ward A-67, p. 11; citing LAC Schedule 1 Microfilm T-6534.

Celebrate Your Anglo-Celtic Roots



The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa is seeking proposals for presentations at its 18th annual conference, 14 – 16 September 2012 in Ottawa, Canada. The focus this year will be on Scotland. Proposals for other presentations likely to hold the interest of members are also invited.

Details may be found at www.bifhsgo.ca under the Conference heading.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

What Happened to the Hodge Home Children?

BY BRYAN D. COOK

In August 2008, Quarriers' Research requested Bryan's advice on accessing Canadian records to assist Mr. John Hodge in his quest to discover the fates of two of his sisters. Thus began an exhaustive search of Scottish, English, Canadian and American records, which eventually involved a team of dedicated volunteers linked by the Internet.¹ Inevitably, the search went beyond the stories of the sisters; this summary tells of what was learned to date, while edited to be sensitive to those living and relatively recently deceased.

The Voyages to Canada

In 1901, Stuart Hodge and his wife Christina (née Macdonald) were running a hairdressing business in Edinburgh, Scotland.² But in 1908, as the result of the premature deaths of both parents, their son John (b. 25 December 1904) and his siblings—brother Frances Stewart (b. 2 July 1895) and sisters Elizabeth Sinclair (b. 25 February 1897), Christina Victoria (b. 16 December 1900) and Christabel (birth date not established)—were admitted to the Orphan Homes of Scotland (now known as Quarriers).³

John had an older brother, Alex, who was of reputedly dubious reputation but about whom little is known.

Christabel remained in the Orphan Homes until 1918, when she left to become a maid in the Consumptive Sanatoria, which William Quarrier had founded. John was able to contact her descendants.

John remained in the care of Quarriers until 1922, when he left to apprentice as a shoemaker and cobbler in Glasgow. After a successful career, during which he hand-made football boots for Glasgow Rangers players, John cut down his hours in his late seventies but only finally closed his shop in his eighties!

We learned that Frances Hodge, known as Francis, arrived in Canada in 1910, age 14, on the SS *Hesperian* from Glasgow to Halifax in a Quarriers party of 100 children.⁴ Two Hodge sisters, Elizabeth (age 16) and Christina, known as Christian (age 12), emigrated on the SS *Grampian* in 1913 from Glasgow to Québec as part of a Quarriers party of 89 girls under the charge of a Mr. D.J. Findley.

They were all destined for the Fairknowe Receiving Home in Brockville, Ontario.⁵

The children were traditionally seen off on their voyage from the Orphan Homes by all the other children singing “*Don't forget the Orphan Homes of Scotland.*” They were each given a trunk stamped with their initials.

Frances' trunk would have contained three suits, two pairs of boots, four pairs of socks, five shirts and a box of collars, two neck ties, braces, handkerchiefs, a cravat, fur and Balmoral caps, and a straw hat, long boots and topcoat for the winter, writing material, a Bible, a copy of *Pilgrim's Progress*, a pocket knife, darning materials and a brush and comb.

The girls were similarly provisioned. Their ladies' wear included a nicely trimmed dress and hat for the Sabbath and a “wincey” dress and dark hat for winter, a liberal supply of underclothing both for summer and winter, three pairs of boots, four pairs of stockings, ties, gloves, collars, aprons and pinafores, a warm ulster, hood and cravat, a sewing kit, thread and bobbin, a tin of pins and some ribbons.⁶

Unless the Atlantic was particularly stormy or the weather too cold, the Quarriers parties of children typically passed a lot of the voyage up on deck trying not to be too seasick and singing hymns. They may well have seen some icebergs at that time of year. The passage got easier as they sailed up the calm of the St Lawrence River to Québec City.

Upon landing in Canada and passing through medical detention, the children travelled by train to Fairknowe; a somewhat uncomfortable journey of nearly 300 miles on slatted wooden seats in carriages warmed by wood stoves. They got their first glimpses of their adoptive country with its log houses, hedgeless fields, vast tracts of forest, wooden sidewalks, and French and English languages and cultures.

Fairknowe and indentures

A short history of Fairknowe might give a flavour of the Hodges' early experience of Canada.⁷

William Quarrier had opened the “The Village” at Bridge-of-Weir in Renfrewshire on 17 September 1878; it had soon become the primary Quarriers refuge for children in need of relief from the poverty, hunger

and despair of industrial Scotland.^{8,9} He had been using other receiving homes in Canada but, realizing the increasing demand to accommodate children from The Village, he purchased his own Canadian distributing home, called Fairknowe, on First Street in the easterly end of Brockville, Ontario.

Finished in about 1847, the home had previously been owned by George Crawford, who became a Canadian senator in 1867. Quarrier's daughter Agnes and her husband James Burges became the first superintendents of Fairknowe. Alexander Burges, James' brother, was the first of the "visitors" for the home. These monitors travelled hundreds of miles across Ontario and Québec on bad roads, in slow trains and in extreme weather to make sure that the children were being treated properly according to the terms of their adoption or indenture.

This visitation process continued after William Quarrier's death on 16 October 1903. His daughters Agnes and Mary had reopened the child immigration process to Fairknowe that their father had closed in 1897, as he protested the discrimination embodied in the Ontario Government's *Act to Regulate the Immigration into Ontario of Certain Classes of Children*.

Between 1872 and the end of the 1930s, more than 7,000 children went overseas from Quarriers to new lives in Canada. This out of a total of nearly 100,000 such child migrants from charitable and religious foundations from all over Britain, who used what came to be known as the Golden Bridge of 1833–1939 to journey to Canada during the ages of the agricultural and industrial revolutions.

We can be reassured that the Hodge children found Fairknowe welcoming and pleasant, though perhaps a little overcrowded and plain. Their Quarriers guardians made every effort to ensure their wellbeing, fair treatment and proper religious and secular education.

A visitor to Fairknowe and advocate for child migration, Walter Cranfield, wrote in 1912:

The situation of Fairknowe home, at Brockville, is even more delightful, being separated by a roadway only and a grassy slope, studded with handsome residences, from the beautiful St Lawrence. This property also comprises an adapted private residence, of good size, though none too large for the purposes it has to serve, the usual outbuildings and sixteen acres of land, of which a considerable area is timbered.



Figure 1: Fairknowe Home ca. 1910
Copyright©1998 Quarriers, Scotland

Although clean and wholesome in every sense, these premises are somewhat in need of renovation, an effect emphasized by the extreme plainness of the furnishings and equipment. The general environment of the two hundred boys and girls who, in gradually diminishing numbers, stay here until they are all distributed is homelike and beneficial in regard to both health and discipline. The Rev Robert Grierson, an ex-Chinese missionary, who with his wife, has been in charge for the past five years or more, is a jealous [zealous? ed.] guardian of the children's interests, especially in regard to education and the payment of wages.¹⁰

It is indeed a shame that although Fairknowe still stands today it is not protected and preserved for the important historic role it has played in Canadian history.

After being placed, Elizabeth was visited three times and Christina eight. The number of visits might give some indication of the length of each indenture, less one visit for initial placement—Elizabeth two years and Christina seven years, until both reached their nineteenth birthdays. Unfortunately the reports of these visits no longer exist in Scotland, as they were destroyed when the Canadian end of the organization closed in 1934.

We do know that all receiving families went through a thorough initial vetting process in addition to the subsequent visitations. They were also held to the terms of the Quarriers' Indenture, which for children over 12 years of age stipulated rates of monthly and annual pay with annual increases; regular attendance at church, Sunday and day schools; accurate keeping of accounts of wages spent on the child's upkeep, with the balance deposited in a savings bank or equivalent; notification of sickness; and encouragement to

correspond with friends. Also, both parties retained the right to return the child only to the Home in case of unsuitability or unfulfilled conditions.

Placements

Christina and Elizabeth

As a consequence of the loss of the Quarriers records, we have been unable to trace the families with whom Elizabeth and Christina were placed. There are no clues whatsoever to the location and family of indenture for Elizabeth.

The last early address from Christina is in February 1919, when she wrote to Miss Quarrier at Bridge-of-Weir. She was then c/o W. H. Collins, Bank of Commerce, Kitchener, Ontario, and almost at the end of her indenture.

She might have been indentured in Exeter, Ontario, to the banker, Walter Henry Collins, to help his wife Mary with their young son Walter and then perhaps moved with them to Kitchener, Ontario.¹¹ The Collins's had left Kitchener by 1927.

Alternatively, she may have held her Quarriers Savings Account at the Bank of Commerce and was indentured in the hinterland of Kitchener in south-west Ontario or as a maid in one of the large homes adjacent to the bank.

Frances

We learned that Quarriers last heard from Frances (or preferably, Frank) in October 1910, when he was c/o a Mr. Robert Gould, of Dunmore, Ontario; he wrote requesting his birth certificate. He would have turned 15 years old by October 1910. Robert Gould, a farmer, had at some time between the 1901 and 1911 census dates employed a migrant boy, George Thomas Chessman, from Dr. Barnardo's Homes.¹² Presumably Robert had an established reputation for fair treatment, which would have been checked in the Quarriers vetting process. The 1911 Census finds Robert Gould and his servant George Chessman working the farm in Bromley Township (location of the Dunmore Post Office), North Renfrew, Ontario, but Frank had apparently departed.¹³

Subsequent lives and legacies

Elizabeth

The next we hear of Elizabeth is that she married 30-year-old Norman Richard Down in Winnipeg, Manitoba on 24 February 1922.¹⁴ Six years older than Elizabeth, somewhat slight and tanned with blue eyes,

he was one of nine children of Enoch Down and wife Emma Jane of Calstock and later Plymouth, England.¹⁵

In October 1917, Norman had enlisted as a Private in the Canadian Army Service Corps Overseas Training Depot in Calgary and was transferred to the equivalent Ottawa depot in February 1918. He contributed his trade as a butcher to serve the Forces. He contracted "epidemic influenza" twice and was hospitalized in Winnipeg and Ottawa before being discharged as an Acting Sergeant.¹⁶

His intended place of residence after discharge was Calgary, Alberta, so it is not beyond reason to suspect that he met Elizabeth when he was sick in Winnipeg or Ottawa (perhaps she was a wartime nurse's aide), came back from England, married her and moved to Calgary.

After about six years, Norman settled on a job as a cook on a "bridge and building gang" (known as B&B gangs) extending and consolidating the Canadian National Railway's network, presumably throughout Western Canada. It must have taken him away from home, Elizabeth and their new daughter frequently over the next 25 years, but we assume the Down family base was in Calgary.



Figure 2: Down Grave, Ocean View Cemetery, Burnaby, B.C.

Source: RootsChat member "Lynwen"

They later moved, when Norman retired in 1953, from the wild-rose foothill country to cross the Rocky Mountains and live near the Pacific Ocean in Vancouver, British Columbia. There Norman died of heart disease at 65 years of age. We learned that he was buried on 11 January 1958, in the Ocean View Cemetery at Burnaby, B.C.¹⁷

Elizabeth, known affectionately as Betty, lived from 1961 to 1982 in Burnaby and then on Cambie Street in Vancouver. She died on Tuesday, 4 November 1997 in

a senior citizen's home in Burnaby. Her cremated remains were laid to rest with Norman.

Elizabeth had lived a long and apparently fulfilling century of life, according to her daughter, who now lives in California. Thirty-six of those years were spent in a happy marriage to Norman, a kind and loving husband and father. Quarriers fortunately has discovered Elizabeth's birth certificate, which John and the family sent with a letter to her daughter in fitting closure.

Christina

In a United Church of Canada wedding in Toronto, a domestic called Christina Victoria Hodge married a carpenter named James (Jimmy) Lawrence Posgate on 14 February 1927. The bride was born in Scotland to Stewart Hodge and Christine MacDonald. She is most certainly our Christina, a 23-year-old spinster living at 42 Elm Avenue, Toronto. The groom, age 27, was born in Scotland to Alfred Posgate and Mary Isabel Brown.¹⁸

Jimmy had emigrated to Canada, as did other family members. He was the black sheep of the family and a bit of a roustabout—seeking and losing his fortune in various schemes, which may have included prospecting.¹⁹

Jimmy and Christina had a son, John Lawrence Posgate, who died on 11 May 2001 at age 66 years and is buried with his mother.²⁰ They also had a daughter, Eleanor Fairles Posgate (b. 24 March 1930). We have subsequently traced and informed their living descendants of the results of this study.²¹

Jimmy and Christine separated before the 1950s, though whether there was a proper divorce needs verifying. Jimmy then lived, probably in common law, with a French-Canadian girl called Jeanne with whom he had another daughter.²²

Jimmy died of cancer in 1958 at age 58 and was interred in Pine Hills Cemetery, Toronto.²³

Christina Victoria Posgate died on 30 October 1983 at 82 years of age and was interred in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Scarborough.

I think the linked hearts on Christina's stone speak to the strong bond of love between her and her son, John. The inscription "A great little soul with a big heart" can only be a Hodge sister!

So Christina's early married life was somewhat more chaotic than that of Elizabeth. However, in the three

decades or so after the "divorce" and Jimmy's death, she doubtless loved and guided her young children. They lived to care for her in her old age as she became a proud grandmother.



Figure 3: Grave of Christina Victoria Posgate (nee Hodge) and her son, John Lawrence Posgate in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Source: RootsChat member "KarenM"

Frances (Frank)

Frank's request to Quarriers for his birth certificate turned out to be significant.

The rigours of Ottawa Valley farm life may not have been to Frank's taste or perhaps he was simply homesick! There was talk of war in Europe. He returned to Scotland and took up residence at 11 Cumberland Street in Edinburgh. He must have then apprenticed for several years to become a motor mechanic.

In October 1915 at age 19, he enlisted as a private in the Motor Transport Army Service Corps (ASC) and served throughout the rest of the First World War in a few different ASC companies (657, 621, and 27).^{24, 25} He seems to have been in Mobile Repair and Tyre Press units most of his time, all of which is in keeping with his trade. He spent three months in East Africa and contracted malaria in 1917.²⁶

He gave his next of kin as Miss Elizabeth Hodge, c/o Fairknowe Home, Brockville, Ontario, Canada. This corroborates Elizabeth's daughter's memory that Elizabeth was very close to and fond of her brother Frank.

In November 1916, his commanding officer reported that Frank was a "Wheeler" in the "D" Mobile Tyre Press, a teetotaler, very steady and hardworking and

possessing sound first-hand knowledge of mechanical engineering.²⁷ He was commended for Gallant Conduct in an extract from 2nd Army Routine Orders dated 31.8.16:

On the occasion of the explosion of a 4.5 inch shell at an Ammn. [Ammunition] Railhead on 14.8.16. Showed the greatest promptitude at great personal risk in the rendering assistance to the men injured, or in extinguishing the fire caused by the explosion.

Such commendation was given out to “Tommys” to recognise a brave deed, even though a medal was not awarded.

On 26 June 1926, a 29-year-old Frank married Gertrude Collins, a 22-year-old spinster clerk, the daughter of a coach painter. He was still a motor engineer, living now at 180 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh.²⁸ Frank died in 1978 at 83 years of age, maintaining the Hodge children’s tradition for longevity.²⁹

At this point we ceased our search for Frank and Gertrude’s family, knowing that members may well still be living in Edinburgh and leaving the choice of further research and contact to John and his family.

Postscript



Figure 4: John Hodge (103 years old) at Bridge-of-Weir, 12 September 2008

Source: Josie Bell, Quarriers

On 12 September 2008, John Hodge officiated at the dedication of the refurbished Quarriers’ Maple Cottage at Bridge-of-Weir. This was an original family cottage that was given to former residents for their use when they returned to visit the homes they were raised in. It had been closed for renovation and now contains four self-catering flats accommodating between two and four people. John died in June 2010. His life had come full circle, content in knowing about the successful journeys of his sisters and brother.

Acknowledgements

This research and its successes could not have been possible without the support and dedication of Josie Bell of Quarriers, the *RootsChat* team, Dale Posgate and Gordon McCallum. My deepest gratitude to you all for realizing the dream of John Hodge.

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ACR Needs Help

The ACR team is looking for two new members. One is a volunteer to oversee the distribution of each quarterly issue. The role consists of picking up the copies at the printer, overseeing the distribution at monthly meetings and organizing the packaging by a volunteer team of the remaining copies to be mailed out.

The second volunteer is a computer-savvy person to do the layout of each issue. The volunteer receives the edited stories and fits them into a Word template, shaping the text and illustrations into an attractive whole, and then prepares a pdf version for printing. A sound knowledge of Word formatting and troubleshooting is key to success here.

Get the satisfaction of contributing to BIFHSGO’s success—and help us out!

“Hugh” Would’ve Thought It? ©

BY CHRISTINE JACKSON

Christine has been researching her family history for over 30 years. Born and raised in Brighton, Sussex, U.K., she is a retired federal public servant. Christine has been a member of BIFHSGO since 2002 and has served on both the BIFHSGO Board and the BIFHSGO Conference Planning Committee.

Sorry about that title, but it was suggested by a friend when I told him about a rather uncanny series of coincidences I had encountered recently while researching my family’s only claim to fame (and that only by marriage). I didn’t know how to start writing about it and thought a title might get me going.



The scene was set some years ago when a friend from university days retired to a lovely old townhouse in Hugh Street in the Pimlico district of the City of Westminster, in central London. It is Hugh Street that is the focus of this story.

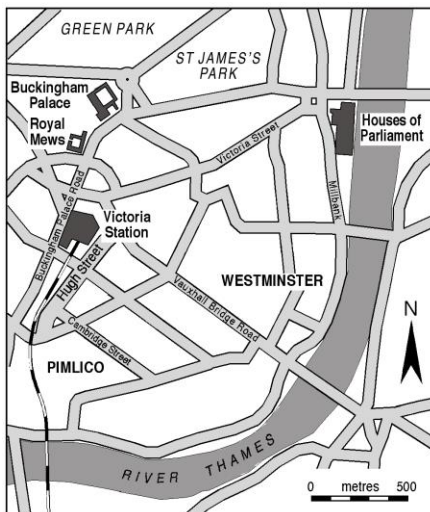


Figure 1: Map of Pimlico, London

Source: Susan Rowland, former cartographer, Geography Department, Sussex University, U.K.

Geographically, Hugh Street is just around the corner from Victoria railway station in what is now a very trendy and desirable district of London that has been the home of many famous people over the years.

Figure 1 shows Pimlico in relation to some well-known points of interest. *Wikipedia* gives a good potted history of the area, which includes over 350

Grade II listed buildings and several Grade II listed churches.¹

Events began to unfold in 2003, when I received an email from my friend saying that he had looked up his current London address, 63 Hugh Street, in the 1901 Census and had found a Mary Durrant living and working there as a domestic. Aged 23, she had been born in Lewes, Sussex. (Figure 2 shows 63 Hugh Street as it looks today.)

Knowing that my maiden name was Durrant and that I had come from Brighton, which is only eight miles from Lewes, my friend asked me if I thought I might be related to Mary. Although my own Durrant family came from a village only three miles from Lewes and I *did* have a great-aunt named Mary from that village, I told him that I didn’t think there was a connection—and promptly forgot about it for eight years.



Figure 2: 63 Hugh Street, Pimlico
Source: Clive Aldenhoven

Then in the winter of 2010–11, with time on my hands, I decided to find out more about my family’s only claim to fame—Edwin Miller, who according to family lore had been Queen Victoria’s state coachman, and was my great-great-uncle. At the time I had little information about Edwin’s life, with the exception of two things given me back in the 1970s by a cousin of my father—faint copies of mostly undated newspaper clippings about Edwin, including an informative one based on an interview he gave in 1898 on his impending retirement from royal service, and a poor copy of a copy of a photograph of Edwin in his full coachman regalia (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Edwin Miller, Queen Victoria's State Coachman 1890–1898
Source: author (undated)

Edwin Miller was a brother of my great-grandmother, Mary Miller. Edwin and Mary were born in 1836 and 1842, respectively, in Ringmer, Sussex, the children of an agricultural labourer, William Miller and his wife Charlotte, who also had four other Ringmer-born children.

Mary Miller married my great-grandfather, John Durrant of Ringmer, an unskilled manual worker who worked as a shoemaker and a gardener. Together

they had two sons, the younger being my grandfather, and three daughters, the eldest being Mary—known in the family as Polly, presumably to distinguish her from her mother.

Ringmer is a village located just three miles from Lewes, the county town of East Sussex. The village is part of the Glyndebourne estate—since 1934 the site of the renowned annual Glyndebourne Festival Opera. When Edwin Miller was a very young man, the population of Ringmer was nearly 1,400. By 1901, in spite of rural–urban migration in the second half of the nineteenth century, it was little changed at almost 1,500, but by 2011 had reached 4,642.^{2,3}

On his retirement, Edwin Miller claimed to have been in royal service for 40 years. I was curious to know how the son of a poor “ag lab” from Sussex had found his way to London and into the royal household, working his way up to become the Queen’s head coachman.

While checking all the censuses from 1841 to 1911, I also decided to search the Internet for anything on “royal servants.” As a result, in January 2011 I discovered the relatively new official website of the British Monarchy (www.royal.gov.uk/) and, in the FAQs section, the following sample question and answer:

Q18. *My great-grandfather worked at Buckingham Palace. Can you help me find out more about him?*

A. The Royal Archives has references to people employed in the Royal Household from the 18th century, and indexes to names of people

employed from 1660 onwards. Please put your enquiry in writing, including as much detail as possible, and send it to: The Royal Archives, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1NJ

This seemed like a great lead, so I immediately wrote to the Royal Archives asking them if they could tell me anything about Edwin’s service with Queen Victoria. A few weeks later I received a letter from the Registrar of the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle detailing Edwin’s service dates and history.⁴ It stated that he had retired on 1 January 1899 with a pension, which, as of 1901, the Government’s Paymaster was paying to him at—62 Hugh Street!

Recognizing the address as being next to or across the street from my friend’s house, I immediately emailed him asking for a photo of number 62 Hugh Street and for any other comments. He replied that, sadly, the house no longer exists. The row now stops at number 56, the rest having been bombed during the last war and replaced by council flats.

Then I remembered our email exchange of some years before regarding the Mary Durrant who, in 1901, was living in my friend’s house. It would not be a surprise to find a man and his niece, both originally from the same rural village, living in the same street in London. So perhaps this Mary was my great-aunt after all?

I therefore went straight to *Find My Past* and downloaded the 1901 Census image for 63 Hugh Street, London.⁵ There were two households living at number 63. Sure enough, one of them was headed by a Mary Durrant, a single female, age 23, born in Lewes, Sussex, a domestic “working at home” and living there with three boarders.

While I did not have the precise birthdate of my great-aunt Mary Durrant, I knew that her birth had been registered in early 1877 in the registration district of Lewes, which includes the village of Ringmer, where her parents had lived all their lives.⁶ So Mary’s age and birthplace as given in the 1901 Census were close but probably not totally accurate—not a surprise, as inaccurate information was often supplied to census enumerators by other household members who were not fully informed, and sometimes people just wanted to be recorded as younger than they actually were.

To avoid ordering a birth certificate to confirm or deny my hypothesis, I thought I would try one more line of research to see if I could pin down whether or not this Mary in the 1901 Census was in fact my great-aunt. I knew that my great-aunt Mary had married a Charles

Oliver New and that after their marriage they had lived in Greater London, so I set about trying to find Charles in the 1901 Census. I quickly found him, a bank cashier, aged 24, living with his mother and siblings at 98 Cambridge Street—literally just around the corner from Hugh Street!⁷

This was all the confirmation I needed. I like to think they met at the local pub, which today would be *The Clarendon*, at 52 Cambridge Street. Mary and Charles Oliver New married in 1905, not in her home parish of Ringmer, but locally in the registration district of St George Hanover Square, which included both Hugh and Cambridge streets.⁸ Figure 4 is the wedding photo of Mary Durrant and Charles New; Mary looks far too petite and young to have been running a boarding house in London.



Figure 4: Mary Durrant and Charles New, 1905
Source: Author

So I was convinced that my great-aunt, Mary Durrant, was living on Hugh Street in 1901. While it seemed possible that her uncle Edwin was already living on Hugh Street when Mary moved to London and was instrumental in finding her a place to live, rather the opposite was likely the case. At the time of the 1901 Census, on 31 March, Uncle Edwin Miller was retired from royal service and was enumerated on Portsmouth Street, where he was running a pub (called *The Crooked Billet*) near the Law Courts and Lincoln's Inn. The records of the Royal Archives, however, had shown that his pension was being sent to him in Hugh Street during 1901.

Some of the newspaper clippings I have about him refer to the expropriation of his pub by the London County Council as part of the Strand Improvement

Scheme and to the compensation he was subsequently awarded in the London Sheriff's Court. The Strand Improvement Scheme was undertaken in the first few years of the twentieth century and resulted in the creation of the existing roadways of the Aldwych and the Kingsway, just to the north of the Strand in central London. So it is quite likely that in 1901 Edwin had to move out of his pub and that it was his niece, Mary Durrant, who found him a new home opposite her own in Hugh Street. It is unlikely that Edwin ran another pub after that, as he died a few years later.

I wondered when Edwin Miller had died and if he had left a will, and so I was pleased to discover Linda Reid's presentation on *Solving Genealogical Problems Using English Probate Records* on the program of the September 2011 BIFHSGO Conference. Linda's talk gave me what I needed to find out if Edwin Miller had left a will and how to order it. So at the first opportunity after her presentation, I went into the Conference Research Room and looked up Edwin Miller in the England and Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1861–1941 on *Ancestry*. I found that indeed he had left a will and that he had died in 1907 at—31 Hugh Street!

Using the links provided by Linda Reid, I was later able to download an order form from the website of *HM Courts and Tribunals Service* and order the will by mail from the U.K. at the modest cost of £6.⁹ When the will arrived three weeks later, I was interested to find that Edwin's niece Mary (Durrant) New was one of only two named beneficiaries outside of his own immediate family. Obviously the two of them, uncle and niece, had a special bond—and Hugh Street had a lot to do with it!

But if you are thinking that's the end of the coincidences involving Hugh Street, there's yet another peculiar one to come.

While pursuing the above lines of enquiry in February 2011, I decided to do a Google search on the Internet for "Edwin Miller coachman"—something I had not previously done. A page of hits came up, and the last item was the archived record of the sale by auction in September 2008 of the Royal Household Faithful Service Medal, V.R. (*To Mr Edwin Miller, State Coachman, for Faithful Services to The Queen during 36 Years.*)

When I clicked on the link, I found that Edwin Miller's long service medal (plus three other medals he had received during his career) was sold in September

2008. What's more, there was a wonderful photograph of Edwin's medals on the website (Figure 5), so now I know what they look like!¹⁰



Figure 5: Edwin Miller's medals

Source: Dix Noonan Webb website

What really caught my attention, however, was the fact that that the medals had been sold as part of the collection of long service medals of a man who had written to me in 1995, after having read a short item I had written about Edwin for the *Sussex Family Historian* journal, both of us being members of the Sussex Family History Group at that time. The man had claimed to be "interested in royal servants" and had asked me if I had more information regarding the newspaper clipping from 1898 that I had used as a basis for my article. Pleased that someone else was interested in Edwin, I had sent him a copy of everything I had.

Out of curiosity, I dug out the letter that my correspondent had written to me in 1995. It was typed on personal letterhead. The collector's address was—wait for it—10 Hugh Street!



Figure 6: General view of Hugh Street, Pimlico

Source: Clive Aldenhoven

As someone said at the BIFHSGO monthly meeting the very next morning, "the story never really ends." So stay tuned for more on the life of Edwin Miller, Queen Victoria's state coachman. In the meantime, Figure 6 shows part of Hugh Street as it looks today.

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2011 CONFERENCE

A Look at the Seventeenth Annual BIFHSGO Fall Conference

This year's conference was held on 16–18 September 2011, once again in Library and Archive Canada's main building. It highlighted England and Wales, with a special focus on London and the Home Counties. Attendance was excellent, at 254 registrants, and the Marketplace filled up with 33 vendors and exhibitors.

The pre-conference activities also drew healthy numbers of interested participants.

Conference opening

The well-attended Don Whiteside Memorial lecture speaker this year was local writer **Phil Jenkins**. His entertaining talk, entitled "Thanks for the Memories," examined the idea of an ancestral and familial memory, which not only determines our physical traits but motivates us to undertake genealogy research to explore our heritage. The evening concluded with a dessert and coffee reception.



Lecture topics

Parallel sessions were run throughout the conference, covering both British research and wider topics.



Audrey Collins, a family history specialist at England's National Archives, spoke first on the vast array of records available in that institution, which are also becoming more accessible online. Her second lecture introduced the Fleet Registers, which recorded clandestine marriages performed, notably in the area of London's Fleet prison, between 1667 and 1754. On Sunday Audrey described the information available, online and free, from *The London Gazette*, published since 1665.

Retired Toronto librarian and researcher **Linda Reid** outlined the many records she was able to use to research an ancestor who she discovered, much to her surprise, had left Scotland and undertaken the long journey to Utah as a Mormon pioneer. Her final lecture used case studies to explain how to locate and use English probate records to solve genealogical problems.



Helen Osborn, from conference sponsor Pharos Teaching and Tutoring, introduced registrants to the specialty libraries and archives that offer London visitors a wealth of interesting and relevant genealogical material. Her second lecture shed light on the different communities making up the London metropolis, especially those settled by immigrants. On Sunday afternoon she described working-class life in Lambeth at the time of the 1911 British Census, including the efforts of social campaigners to improve the shocking living conditions prevalent at the time.

Gary Schroder, a Québec-based researcher and lecturer, explained how to find Québec ancestors using church, land and notary records, as well as twentieth-century data such as statistical returns. He then switched to his knowledge of British records, explaining in his second lecture the many British Army records now available on the Internet and at Kew.



BIFHSGO member and public speaker **Hugh Reekie** described how Welsh dairies grew up and operated in London during Victorian times, a life his London-born grandfather experienced first-hand.

BIFHSGO's resident computer expert **Doug Hoddinott** lectured on "Family Tree Maker 101," helping registrants exploit the improvements recently made to this popular genealogy software, including its enhanced ability to mesh with *Ancestry* data.



The Society's Director of Communications, **Susan Davis**, offered a behind-the-scenes look at BIFHSGO's new website, Facebook page, blog and Twitter account. Using her own family tree project as an example, she also explained how social media can assist with family history research.

Barbara Tose, who discovered 20 years ago that her paternal ancestors included many British merchant seamen, drew on her experience researching them to discuss the types of records available and how they can be used to recreate a seaman's career.



The closing lecture was given by another Pharos educator, **Sherry Irvine**, whose teaching and research experience formed the basis for her discussion of four aspects of advanced research: evidence orientation, thought processes such as reasoning and analysis, correct record selection, and trailblazing with alternate records.

Pre-conference sessions

Friday's activities began with a lecture by BIFHSGO's Director of Education, **Lesley Anderson**, called "I can't find them anywhere!" Lesley explained how to use all the latest features of *Ancestry* to research your family, post a family tree online, and collaborate with other *Ancestry* members.



Professional conservator **Kyla Ubbink**'s workshop covered another important aspect of genealogy—preserving family artifacts. She described how to clean paper, deal with photographs, repair existing damage to artifacts and avoid future deterioration

Conference speaker **Linda Reid** also gave a Friday talk on English and Welsh family history records, summarizing census records, the civil registration data available, the useful information found in pre-registration parish records and wills, and the value of sources such as newspapers. **Helen Osborn**, another conference speaker, gave a master class on London research, focussing on attendees' specific problems in doing London-based genealogy.

Special facilities

The Research Room was a popular aspect of the event, as always. Coordinator Ann Burns had lined up a full selection of resources, both British and international, for attendees to try out. They ranged from the subscription sites *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch* and *findmypast* through census databases and newspaper archives to CD collections.



The Research Room was well attended



Bobby Kay collected donations for the silent auction



Carleton's Canadian Genealogy Survey is explained to registrants

The overflowing Marketplace offered such useful information as historical publications, CDs, research guides and historical society membership; it was a busy area throughout the conference. Attendees also enjoyed the lunches served in the LAC cafeteria and the traditional Saturday dinner at the Bay Street Bistro.

The 2012 conference

Next year's conference is planned for 14–16 September 2012 and will focus primarily on Scottish genealogy. Planning will begin soon, and volunteers for the conference committee are always appreciated.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

The Cream of the Crop

Top items from recent posts on the Anglo-Celtic Connections blog

BY JOHN D. REID

The blog

On 14 March 2006, when I started the *Anglo-Celtic Connections* blog, it was out of frustration. BIFHSGO's monthly email newsletter was originally a simple announcement of the next monthly meeting. As the email was being sent anyway, why not include a few news items in the package? Members liked the additions.

A lot happened between emails. Often by the time it was to be sent several items were stale news. Not everyone wanted more frequent emails; the answer was to take advantage of blogging and post items as they came along. Folks could choose to visit the site or subscribe to a regular email feed.

I also wanted to be free to express my opinions, not always those of BIFHSGO, so I made it a personal initiative. As it states on the masthead, it's "an independent view of family history resources and developments with a British-Canadian perspective from Ottawa, Canada's Capital for more than 150 years."

As of mid-October 2011 the blog has more than 2,900 posts with two added each day. More than 1,000 comments have been published, not counting those I rejected from people in Nigeria and Russia anxious to quickly make me rich by helping them. The blog has 134 followers.

When ACR Editor Jean Kitchen approached me to write this column she suggested it "reproduce for ACR the most interesting half-dozen website postings you have put in your blog each quarter." Websites were something past-president Gordon Taylor had been covering in his "The Printed Page" column, sadly now terminated by his death.



I told Jean I'd give it a try. Your help is needed. Tips on new family history resources can be sent to johndreid@gmail.com and will usually find their way into the blog at www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/. The cream of the crop will appear here.

New resources at *findmypast*

In this issue the spotlight is on new records from subscription site *findmypast* (FMP) at www.findmypast.co.uk/, which can be accessed without charge at LDS Family History Centers.

In cooperation with various county family history societies, and the Federation of Family History Societies, FMP is adding transcribed parish records. More than 730,000 Berkshire records—641,050 burials from 1538 to 1961, 97,081 marriages to 1925—were recently added from parishes across the county.

Census data

FMP now has Scottish census records for 1841 and 1851 transcribed, and will eventually have transcribed all available Scottish censuses. The company, which claims its transcription accuracy is well over 98 per cent, more accurate than any other online family history company, is playing catch-up with *Ancestry* on Scottish censuses. *Ancestry* has transcribed every census page available from 1841 to 1901. Also, the database of *Free CEN* at <http://freecen.rootsweb.com/> already has quite good coverage of early census transcriptions for Scotland. At www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk, a subscription site, you can see the original census images. On all these, watch out for missing pages.

Crew lists

Another interesting dataset from FMP is crew lists for 1881 (70,475 individuals; 1,981 vessels) and 1891 (70,747 individuals; 1,524 vessels). The lists are indexes to original documents, not online, which hold the employment details of individuals. These are part of a set of crew lists 1861–1913 containing indexes to around 33,500 lists of crew members and around

413,500 records of individual crewmen. FMP has no plans to make crew list indexes available for other years.

Original crew list documents are held by various repositories across the U.K. and in Canada:

- 70 per cent are at the Maritime History Archive in Newfoundland
- 10 per cent are at The National Archives, Kew
- 10 per cent are at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
- 10 per cent are at local record offices or archives

Merchant Navy records

For the twentieth century FMP has added one million Merchant Navy seamen records, online for the first time. These (U.K.) National Archives records are for crew members of U.K. merchant ships from 1918 to 1941, some including rarely seen photos of the mariners. The most complete have extremely detailed descriptions, including hair and eye colour, height, and distinguishing marks such as tattoos.

Ancestry and FamilySearch additions

Not all the action has been with FMP. *Ancestry's* new records, often featured on the blog, include some nice additions, especially for Liverpool, West Yorkshire and Ireland. You can always visit <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/reccol/default/> to check out *Ancestry's* new and updated databases.

FamilySearch (familysearch.org) also continues to be very active in placing records online. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police obituary card index and notices 1876–2007 came online in October. The file contains:

- RCMP obituary card index, 1876–2007, Abbott–Jacobs
- RCMP obituary card index, 1876–2007, Jacobsen–Striker
- RCMP obituary card index, 1876–2007, Stringer–Zubick

These are images of index cards with name, rank, registration number, date of death and a page reference for further information. The latter reference is usually to further information in the other files. The available data include:

- the 1876–1971 honour roll from S. W. Horrall's RCMP history book, pp. 250–53
- *Pony Express*: Staff Relations Branch newsletter obituaries, 1976–1994, vols. 1–19
- *Scarlet and Gold* magazine obituaries, 1919–1997, vols. 1–78
- *The Quarterly* magazine obituaries, 1933–1979, vols. 1–44
- *The Quarterly* magazine obituaries, 1980–2005, vols. 45–70
- *The Quarterly* magazine obituaries, 2006–2007, vols. 71–72

These complement the Library and Archives Canada North-West Mounted Police records at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/nwmp-pcno/index-e.html>.

Other new resources

Finally, there is an ever-increasing number of family history-related podcasts, talks and webinars, many free, available on the Internet. One of the pioneer series, still going strong and with an impressive archive of talks, is from The (U.K.) National Archives. A talk on searching for British records in the new *Family Search* website was given last May by Sharon Hintze, the Director of the Family History Centre at South Kensington. The presentation is exceptionally clear, especially if you follow along in your own browser at www.familysearch.org/ as, like all the TNA podcasts, none of the visuals used for the live presentation are reproduced online. If you want to know what happened to the IGI, get a heads-up on forthcoming content under “Trees” from the main *Family Search* page, and learn some of the issues with the new website. I highly recommend this podcast at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/podcasts/familysearch.htm/

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

In my last Bookworm column I promised to review the holdings of the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library that relate to the counties of Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.



History

Hunter, Judith. *A History of Berkshire*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd., 1995. (942.29 HUN)

Rook, Tony. *A History of Hertfordshire*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd., 1997. (942.58 ROO)

Edwards, A. C. *A History of Essex*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd., 2000. (942. EDW)

Nicolson, Adam and Peter Morter. *Prospects of England: Two Thousand Years Seen Through Twelve Towns*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1989. (942 NIC)
Contains a brief history of the Hertfordshire town of Letchworth.

Maps (Reprints of 1610 maps)

Speede, John. *Old map of Berkshire 1610: an Antique Parchment Replica*. The Olde Map Company, 1990. (911.4229 SPE 1610)

Speede, John. *Old map of Hertfordshire 1610: an Antique Parchment Replica*. The Olde Map Company, 1990. (911.4258 SPE 1610)

Ordnance Maps (Reprints of the first edition of one-inch Ordnance Survey maps of Great Britain)

Great Britain. Ordnance Survey. *Brentwood and East London. Sheet 72*. David and Charles, 1970. (911.4217 ORD O.S.72)

Great Britain. Ordnance Survey. *London and Windsor. Sheet 71*. David and Charles, 1970. (911.422 ORD O.S.71)

Great Britain. Ordnance Survey. *Oxford and Reading. Sheet 70*. David and Charles, 1970. (911.4257 ORD O.S.72)

Descriptions of towns and villages

Jarvis, Stan. *A View into Essex*. Terence Dalton, 1979. (914.267 JAR)

Mee, Arthur. *Hertfordshire: London's Country Neighbour*. Hodder and Stoughton, 1940. (914.258 MEE)

Directories

As well as listing businesses and inhabitants, directories often offer a brief description and history of places in the area.

Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography; Essex, Herts. Middlesex. Michael Winton, 1994. (914.20025 ROY) Facsimile text edition of the original publication by Pigot and Co., 1839.

Pigot's Essex 1832-3 Trade Directory. Stepping Stones, 2001. (CD-ROM 001041)

National Commercial Directory: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire. Michael Winton, 1994. (914.20025 NAT) Facsimile text edition of the original publication by Pigot and Co., 1830.

Guides to finding ancestors

Blanchard, Gill. *Tracing Your East Anglican Ancestors*. Pen & Sword, 2009. (929.1072 BLA)

Raymond, Stuart. *Essex: Genealogical Sources*. Federation of Family Historians, 1998. (929.3417 V. 1)

Raymond, Stuart. *Essex: Family Histories and Pedigrees*. Federation of Family Historians, 1998. (929.3417 Ray V. 2)

Ancestors

What family historian can resist scanning a list of people for a possible ancestor?

Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation Returns and Taxation Assessments 1641-2. Banbury Historical Society, 1994. (942.57 OXF)

English Parish Records: Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk. Ancestry.com, 2001. (CD-ROM 001040)

Poole, Eric, compiler. *Followers of John Cade's Rebellion in 1450 in Kent, Sussex, Essex and Surrey*. Kent Family History Society, 1985 (Fiche 001003)

Church of England. Coggeshall, Essex. *Parish Registers of Coggeshall 1558-1796*. Essex County Record Office. (Film 001001)

Church of England. Coggeshall, Essex. *Parish Registers of Coggeshall 1796-1812*. Essex County Record Office. (Film 001002)

Independent Meeting House. Coggeshall Essex. *Baptisms, Births and Burials 1752-1837*. Public Record Office. (Film 001003)

BIFHSGO LISTINGS

Membership Report

BY TARA GRANT

New BIFHSGO Members from 24 July 2011 to 1 November 2011					
Member No.	Name	Address	Member No.	Name	Address
1445	Susan Howell	Ottawa, ON	1446	R. Howell Jones	Ottawa, ON
1447	Nigel Whiteley	Orleans, ON	1448	Jack Adams	Nepean, ON
1449	Lorri Busch	Whitby, ON	1450	Laurence Latourneau	Odessa, ON
1451	Christine Reaburn	Westmeath, ON	1452	Mary-Lou Simac	Orleans, ON
1453	Lesley Kirk	Nepean, ON	1454	Ellen Maki	Toronto, ON
1455	Joan Living	Ottawa, ON	1456	Elizabeth Leslie	Ottawa, ON
1457	Shirley and Duncan Monkhouse	Ottawa, ON	1458	Bette Smith	Kitchener, ON
1459	Catherine Hauck	Stittsville, ON	1460	Anne Rimmer	Ottawa, ON
1461	Barb Bowes	Winnipeg, MB	1462	Barbara and Ross Williamson	Powassan, ON
1463	John Murray	Ottawa, ON	1464	Jean Farrell	Ottawa, ON
1465	Patty Sullivan	Gloucester, ON	1466	Sharon Henthorn	Dunrobin, ON
1467	Madeline Northey	Ottawa, ON	1468	Kindra Oneson	Ottawa, ON
1469	Jo-Ann Rogers	Saskatoon, SK	1470	Miriam Barry	Deep River, ON
1471	Susan Tulusso	Ottawa, ON	1472	Dianne Hall	Ottawa, ON
1473	Michael Jordan	Ottawa, ON	1474	Susan Peters	Morrisburg, ON
1475	Heather Thomson	Gatineau, QC	1476	Robert and Shelia Surridge	Ottawa, ON
1477	Carrie-Ann Smith	Halifax, NS	1478	Penny Skehan	Cambridge, ON
1479	Shelley Rouble	Ottawa, ON	1481	Leslie McWhinnie	Ottawa, ON
1483	Janet Berkman	Toronto, ON			

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Stuart, 7 September 2011, member No. 90 since 1995; author, historian, and a founding member of both the Osgoode Township Historical Society and BIFHSGO, she was active into her 105th year.

Mary Wedge, 5 October 2011, member No. 319 since 1996; was remembered as a keen genealogist and gardener.

Heather Hughes, 7 October 2011, family member No. 71 since 1995; she is survived by her husband Doug, a former BIFHSGO webmaster.

Donald Treble, 30 October 2011, member No. 415 since 1997; Don was active in multiple BIFHSGO special interest groups and the OGS, and he recently donated his genealogy research collection to the BIFHSGO library.

LOCAL RESEARCH RESOURCES**BIFHSGO Library**

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

Location: Ottawa Central Archives, Reference Room (3rd Floor), 100 Tallwood Drive (corner of Woodroffe and Tallwood)

Ottawa ON

Tel: (613) 580-2857

Website: www.bifhsgo.ca/library

Library and Archives Canada

LAC offers genealogists access to census, church, land, military, estate and immigration records, microfilmed Canadian newspapers, city directories, national biographies, transcribed parish registers and published family histories. To use the Reading Rooms you must have a free research pass, available at the LAC front desk weekdays during office hours.

Location: 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 996-5115

Website: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

Family History Center, Ottawa Stake

The Center is your portal to the extensive genealogical collections of the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City, offering microfilms, microfiches, CDs, books, and free access to both LDS and commercial genealogy databases.

Location: 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 224-2231

Website: www.ottawastakefhc.on.ca

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

This institution collects, preserves and offers access to Québec's published, archival and film heritage, including civil and church registers.

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

Tel: (819) 568-8798

Website: www.banq.qc.ca/portal

Opening Hours

Please contact the organization directly to confirm hours of operation, as they are subject to change.

Parking

Parking is available at each research facility, but may be subject to fees.

**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

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|-------------------------|---|
| 7 January 2012 | The Tooley Street Fire: a 9/11 Moment for Victorian Londoners —Myra Conway will describe the spectacular fire that both led to changes in how fire insurance was managed and produced a mammoth funeral. |
| 11 February 2012 | The Hanging Hales —Gail Roger will regale us with some of the intriguing tales of triumph and downfall she discovered among a rather eccentric branch of her family in Victorian England. |
| 10 March 2012 | Doing Family Tree Research in Your Pajamas —Ken McKinlay will cover key aspects of using the Internet to locate and record information concerning your ancestors: websites that are treasure troves of information, good ways to record and preserve what you find, and tips for breaking through brick walls. |
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Schedule:

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| 9:00–9:30 a.m. | “BEFORE BIFHSGO” Educational Sessions: 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 on meetings of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check the BIFHSGO website.

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please email the Editor, acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for publication in the next issue is 13 January 2012.