



Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle

Volume 17, Number 2

Summer 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

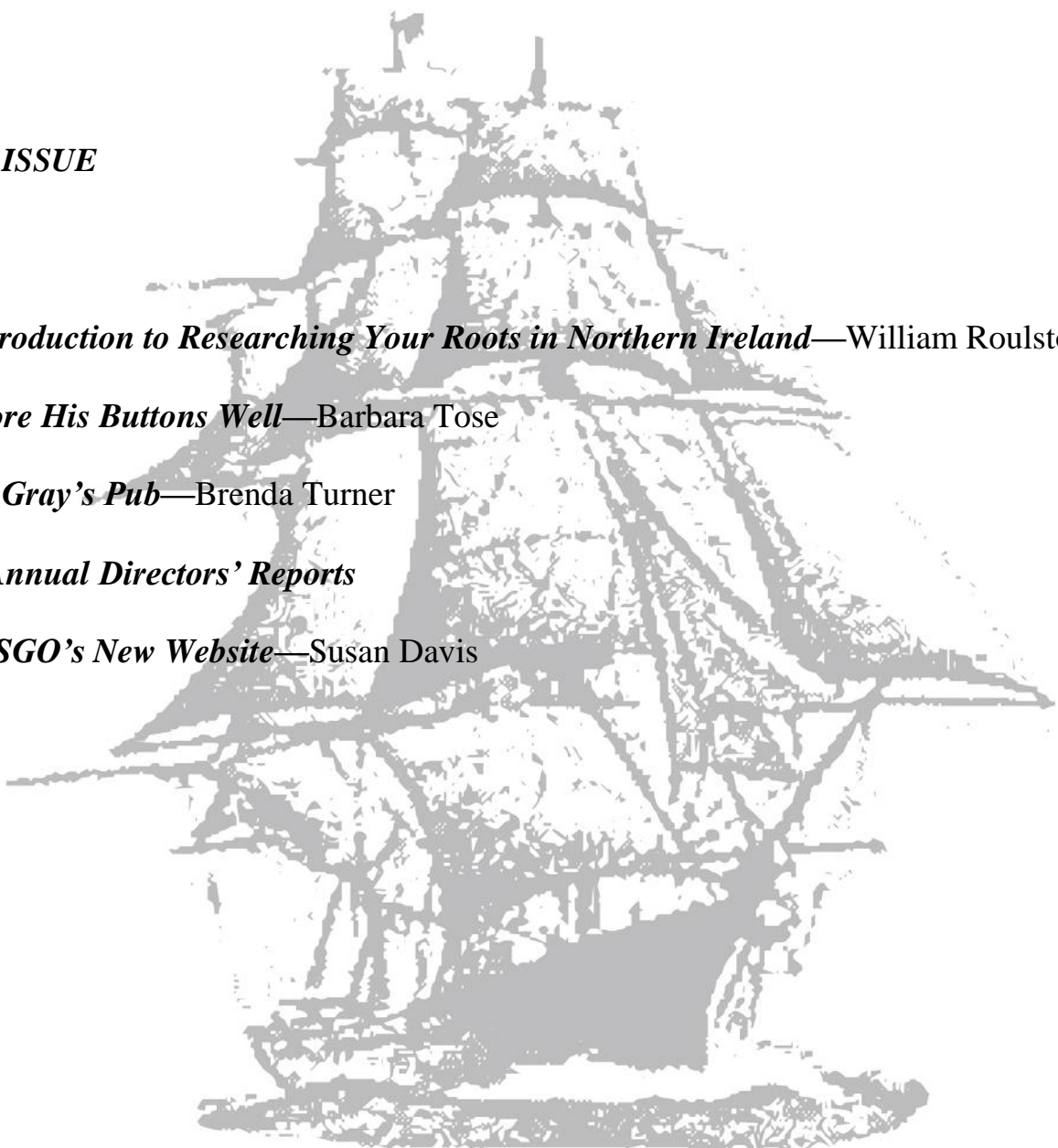
An Introduction to Researching Your Roots in Northern Ireland—William Roulston

He Wore His Buttons Well—Barbara Tose

Harry Gray's Pub—Brenda Turner

2010 Annual Directors' Reports

BIFHSGO's New Website—Susan Davis



British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa
Founded and Incorporated in 1994 • Telephone 613-234-2520 (Voice Mail)
Mailing Address: BIFHSGO, PO BOX 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 3Y7 CANADA
Email: queries@bifhsgo.ca • Website: www.bifhsgo.ca
Charitable Registration No. 89227 4044 RR0001

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2010–2011

President	Glenn Wright	613-521-2929
Recording Secretary	Ron Elliott	613-820-0285
Treasurer	Marnie McCall	613-736-1101
Research & Projects	Brian Glenn	613-830-2948
Membership	Tara Grant	613-230-9778
Director (Communications)	Susan Davis	819-568-0081
Director (Publicity)	Margaret Gervais	613-829-4192
Director (Programs)	Jane Down	613-741-1463
Director (Education)	Lesley Anderson	613-447-6477
Past President	Mary Anne Sharpe	613-562-4570

Associate Directors 2010–2011

Function	Name	Associate to:
Editor <i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i>	Chris MacPhail	Director (Communications)
Webmaster	Vacant	Director (Communications)
Publication Sales	Brian Chamberlain	Treasurer
Librarian	Betty Warburton	Director (Education)
Conference 2011	Brian Watson John D. Reid	Director (Programs)
Auditor	Darrell Kennedy	

The Society

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). Its purpose 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 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 2011 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 2, Summer 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: Chris MacPhail; Copy Editor: Jean Kitchen;
Assistant Editor Layout: Carol-Anne Blore; Assistant Editor Photography: Ken Wood

Canadian Publication Mail Sales Product Agreement No. 40015222

Unless otherwise stated, permission to reprint for non-profit use is granted to organizations and individuals provided the source is credited.

Articles accompanied by the copyright symbol (©) may not be reprinted or copied without the written permission of the author.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO or its officers.

Commercial interests in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by BIFHSGO or its officers.

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.

Anglo-Celtic Roots

Summer Issue 2011

Volume 17, Number 2



Contents

COLUMNS:.....	ii
★ Message from the President	★ Note from the Editor
2010 FALL CONFERENCE	
<i>An Introduction to Researching Your Roots in Northern Ireland</i> —William Roulston.....	25
GREAT MOMENTS	
<i>He Wore His Buttons Well: Discovering the Details of an Epic Rescue at Sea</i> —Barbara Tose.....	32
<i>Harry Gray's Pub</i> —Brenda Turner	37
2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
<i>Directors' Reports</i>	Insert
BIFHSGO NEWS	
<i>Stars of the BIFHSGO Conference</i> —John D. Reid.....	41
<i>Society's Website Undergoes Renovations</i> —Susan Davis.....	43
FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES	
<i>The Bookworm</i> —Betty Warburton.....	44
<i>Brian O'Regan Memorial Library</i>	45
BIFHSGO LISTINGS	46
★ Members' Surname Search— <i>Elizabeth Kipp</i>	★ New Members— <i>Tara Grant</i>
<i>Memories for Sale</i> —Gipp Forster	47
BIFHSGO CALENDAR OF EVENTS	Back Cover



Cover image: Logo of the Ulster Historical Foundation, reflecting its links with the Irish diaspora around the world. Courtesy UHF.

Message from the President, Glenn Wright

A year ago, when I assumed the presidency of our Society, I knew that we had something special: an active and enthusiastic membership, and an excellent program month after month, a first-class annual conference, an award-winning journal and so much more. We have built on that success and this past year has been one of most successful yet.

Our monthly meetings and “Before BIFHSGO” sessions continue to attract large numbers, members and visitors alike. While reluctant to tamper with success, we will be looking at enhancing the educational element of our monthly program. Last September, we had a wonderful conference with close to 300 registrations. Ever conscious of our accomplishment, we are in the process of putting together another conference that will have wide appeal to both members and non-members. *Anglo-Celtic Roots* has been recognized for the third time by the National Genealogical Society in the United States as one of the finest newsletters published by a family history society. And recently, we have refurbished our website to better manage and communicate with our membership.

None of this is possible without the dedication of dozens of volunteers. As we head into summer, some of us take a break from our family history, others use the time to travel and research, and to visit family who share our passion. Whatever you choose to do, do it safely and mark your calendars now for the resumption of Society activities in September with our 17th annual conference. And think about volunteering; our strength is in our members.

This edition of the ACR includes reports from your Board of Directors. Please take the time to read them. The Board is determined to provide you, the membership, with the best possible of everything we do; I hope you agree. Have a great summer!

Note from the Editor, Chris MacPhail

Members researching ancestors in Northern Ireland will find useful William Roulston’s summary of his presentations as a key speaker at the 2010 Fall Conference. His description of Ottawa connections will be of special interest.

A tale of a dramatic rescue on the high seas has been provided by Barbara Tose, who describes how she used a variety of sources, including newsreels and epic poems, to compile the story of her uncle, the captain of the ill-fated *Antinoe*, and the heroic rescue efforts of the captain and crew of the SS *President Roosevelt*.

Our genealogical searches are generally focussed on finding people, but Brenda Turner has provided an interesting account of her search for a place, which in turn gave her added insights into the experiences of a great-uncle in London during the Blitz of World War II.

This issue marks the end of my term as Editor. When I assumed the role in the fall of 2006, I expected that it would be for the normal two-year term. How time flies when you’re having fun! There have been awards, thanks to the high quality of the material provided by you, the members, but more valuable have been the rewards in the form of a learning experience and of the many friendships that have developed. Thank you all.

2010 FALL CONFERENCE

An Introduction to Researching Your Roots in Northern Ireland

BY WILLIAM ROULSTON

Dr William Roulston is Research Director, Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast, specializing in genealogical research and heritage consultancy. Author of several books, as noted below, he has worked with the BBC on radio and television programs relating to family history and has participated in international conferences, including the BIFHSGO 2010 Fall Conference.¹

In the old graveyard at Muckamore, near the town of Antrim, formerly the site of a pre-Reformation religious establishment, a large grey obelisk commemorates a local man, James Johnson, who was to have an interesting career on the other side of the Atlantic.

The inscription reads:

James Johnson, Journalist, born in Antrim, 1st June 1844, died at Bexhill on Sea, England, 4th December 1905, formerly Editor of the 'Kingston News', and of the 'Ottawa Citizen', Ontario, Canada, this stone was erected in affectionate remembrance by his many Canadian and English friends.

Johnson was the son of William Johnson, a merchant in the town of Antrim. Like his father, James pursued a career in business, entering the firm of Pine & Sons in Belfast. In 1866 he emigrated to Canada, to where two of his brothers had already moved. Enlisting in the 14th Battalion, the Princess of Wales Own Rifles, Kingston, he saw active service during the Fenian troubles. His interest in literature and print led to his becoming involved in journalism and he accepted the position of editor of the *Kingston News*. In 1883 he became editor of the Ottawa newspaper, the *Daily Citizen*. Some time prior to 1898 he moved to London, England, though he continued to contribute articles of European interest to Canadian newspapers.² Johnson clearly left an impression on those whom he knew and worked with, and the memorial in Muckamore is a tribute to the regard in which he was held by his friends and colleagues. The memorial to Johnson also stands as testimony to the many links that exist between Ireland and Ottawa.



Interest in researching Irish ancestors has never been greater. Given Ireland's history of emigration, it is hardly surprising to find that around the world tens of millions of people have family connections with the island. What follows is a basic introduction to researching ancestors in Northern Ireland. I am conscious, of course, that Northern Ireland did not come into existence until 1921 and that most of the records referred to here predate Partition.

The counties that now comprise Northern Ireland are Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. It will be on this area that I will be focussing, though some of the principles outlined can be applied to the whole of Ireland. In presenting this information, I have included a number of illustrations relating to Ottawa to highlight the links between Canada's capital city and the north of Ireland.

The difficulties

As those who have begun looking for their roots will no doubt be aware, searching for Irish ancestors is not without its difficulties. These can be summarized below:

- Civil registration of all births, deaths and marriages did not commence in Ireland until 1864. Non-Catholic marriages were registered beginning 1 April 1845.
- Before these dates one is dependent on local parish registers for information relating to family history. However, for a variety of reasons relatively few of these predate the nineteenth century.
- There are no complete census records for Ireland prior to 1901. Earlier census records were almost completely destroyed, either accidentally or deliberately.
- There are also no official records of emigration prior to the late nineteenth century (that is, of people leaving the British Isles.)

These difficulties are not designed to put you off searching. It is one of the great genealogical myths

that researching Irish ancestors is a pointless exercise due to the loss of so many records in 1922 in the destruction of the old Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin. There is no denying that the loss of so many records was a catastrophe as far as historical and genealogical research is concerned. Of the many records destroyed at this time, among the greatest losses were census returns for 1821–51 and the registers from over 1,000 Church of Ireland parishes. However, not destroyed in 1922 were the registers from some 600 Church of Ireland parishes as well as church records for all the other denominations in Ireland. Neither were official records of births, deaths and marriages destroyed. Since 1922 the work of archivists to gather records of historical importance has resulted in a vast amount of material becoming available for the genealogical researcher to peruse.

The Internet

The Internet has transformed genealogy around the world and Ireland is no exception. There are hundreds of websites that can help you find out more about your ancestors. Some sites focus on a particular county or district and contain extensive lists of digitized sources, while others concentrate on a particular family. Two important Irish genealogical sources that are now available free online are early twentieth-century census returns and Griffith's Valuation.

Census records

Many people have become interested in their family history for the first time through finding an ancestor in the 1901 and 1911 Censuses, both of which are now available online thanks to a joint initiative between the National Archives of Ireland and Library and Archives Canada (www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

Although the first true census was held in Ireland in 1821 and thereafter every ten years until 1911, unfortunately, the earliest census that survives in its entirety for the whole of Ireland is the 1901 Census. In addition to the almost complete loss of the 1821–51 census returns in 1922, the 1861–91 census returns were completely destroyed by government order, many during the First World War, as scrap paper.

The 1901 Census, taken on 31 March, included information listed under the following headings: name, relationship to the head of the household, religion, literacy, occupation, age, marital status, county of birth (or country if born outside Ireland), and ability to speak English or Irish. The 1911 Census, which was taken on 1 April of that year, contains additional

information, including the number of years a wife was married, the number of children born and the number still living.

Griffith's Valuation, c.1860

This Primary Valuation of Ireland, better known as Griffith's Valuation after the Commissioner of Valuation, Sir Richard Griffith, is the earliest comprehensive listing of property in Ireland. It is particularly useful if you are trying to locate where in Ireland your ancestor was living in the mid-nineteenth century. It is of especial interest to anyone wishing to trace their family tree, due to the fact that so little of the nineteenth-century census returns has survived. The printed version of Griffith's Valuation for County Antrim was issued around 1860.

Griffith's Valuation gives a complete list of occupiers of land, tenements and houses. Arranged by Poor Law Union, it includes the following information: the name of the townland, the name of the householder or leaseholder, the name of the person from whom the property was leased, a description of the property, its acreage, and finally the valuation of the land and buildings. It includes the most palatial of mansions as well as the humblest of labourers' cottages.

In recent years a number of free indexes to the information contained in Griffith's Valuation have been made available online. The most useful of these websites is called *Ask About Ireland* (www.askaboutireland.ie), which provides a free search facility. You can search by surname and/or first name or limit your search by county or parish. Not only does the website include scanned images of the original printed version of Griffith's Valuation, it also includes the annotated valuation maps, which allow you to pinpoint the precise location of every property in Ireland at that time.

Irish Family History Foundation

If one wishes to access Irish church and civil records online, the website with the most extensive collection of records is that of the Irish Family History Foundation. The foundation is the coordinating body for a network of county-based genealogical research centres in Ireland. These centres have computerized millions of Irish genealogical records, including church registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, and civil records of births, deaths and marriages. Most of these centres have now made their records available online (www.rootsireland.ie). The index is free, but the full details of a record can only be checked on a pay-

per-view basis. A new Advanced Search facility has been made available, which gives greater options in trying to narrow down the correct record. All of the counties in Northern Ireland have made their records

available online through this website. However, the comprehensiveness of the coverage varies and not every available church or civil record is available.



Figure 1: Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

Opened 30 March 2011

Photo courtesy PRONI

Exploring family history in Northern Ireland

Having discovered that you have ancestors from Northern Ireland, what resources are there on this side of the Atlantic that can help you find out more? Visitors to Northern Ireland intent on learning about their Irish and Scotch-Irish ancestors in the north of Ireland are fortunate in that most of the archives and libraries that they need to visit are within the city of Belfast—in fact, many of them are within walking distance of each other. Contact details for these archives and libraries (as well as the major institutions in Dublin) are listed at the end of this article.

In the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), Belfast has one of the best—possibly even the best—regional archives in the U.K. There are centuries of records relating to Northern Ireland. At the time of writing, PRONI has just reopened after its move to new premises in Titanic Quarter, Belfast, and the move is an exciting one for archivists and

researchers. The new building is spacious and welcoming. The search room and reading rooms have many more spaces for researchers than was the case in the previous building. There is also an auditorium for public lectures and there will be an exhibition area. Some of the most useful categories of record that can be found in PRONI are as follows.

Church records

PRONI has an unrivalled collection of church registers for the entire province of Ulster and covering all the main religious denominations. Most of these registers are available on microfilm, though there are original records as well. Prior to the 1864 commencement of civil registration the main sources of family history information are church registers. The availability of these varies from congregation to congregation. Some, mainly Church of Ireland, date from as far back as the seventeenth century, but many others, especially Catholic registers, start no earlier than the 1830s.

Landed estate records

Until the early part of the twentieth century, most of the land in Ireland was possessed by landowners whose estates ranged in size from 1,000 acres or less to, in some cases, over 100,000 acres. Nearly all of the farmers in Ireland were tenants on such estates. The records generated by the management of landed estates are a major source of genealogical information. The best collection of Irish estate papers is housed in PRONI. These records include leases, lease-books, rentals, maps, surveys, and valuation.

Wills and testamentary papers

Prior to 1858 the Church of Ireland was responsible for administering all testamentary affairs. Unfortunately, nearly all original wills probated before 1858 were destroyed in Dublin in 1922. However, indexes to these destroyed wills do exist and are available at PRONI. The testamentary authority of the Church of Ireland was abolished by the Probate Act of 1857. Testamentary matters were brought under civil jurisdiction and exercised through District Probate Registries and a Principal Registry in Dublin. PRONI holds the transcripts of wills created by the district registries from 1858 to 1900, and then from 1900 on has original copies of wills.

School records

A state-run system of education was established in Ireland in 1831. National Schools were built with the aid of the Commissioners of National Education and local trustees. The records of over 1,500 schools in Northern Ireland are held at PRONI. Of particular interest are the enrolment registers. These record the full name of the pupil, his or her date of birth (or age at entry), religion, father's address and occupation (but unfortunately not his name), details of attendance and academic progress and the name of the school previously attended. A space is also provided in the registers for general comments, which might tell where the children went to work after leaving school or if they emigrated.

Valuation records

The importance of Griffith's Valuation has already been mentioned. This Valuation was updated on a regular basis and the revision books for Northern Ireland are available in PRONI. When a change of occupancy occurred, the name of the lessee or householder was crossed out and the new owner's name written above it, while the year was noted on the right-hand side of the page. The years in which changes in occupancy took place help to establish

significant dates in family history, such as dates of death, sale or emigration. On rare occasions there can even be a comment to the effect that a family had emigrated or that an individual had died.

Emigrants' letters

Letters back and forth across the Atlantic kept family and friends informed of what was happening at home and away. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has an excellent collection of emigrants' letters that can reveal much about the circumstances in which people lived and provide a window on the worlds they inhabited. The following letter of 6 November 1897, written by the publisher and entrepreneur A. S. Woodburn of Ottawa to Mrs Annie H. Mayne in Belfast, serves as a good illustration of this. The author begins by reminiscing on his early life in Belfast:

My brother Thomas, who visited Belfast twice, often spoke of cousin William, who seemed to follow closely the footsteps of his honoured father. I think I remember seeing him (William) in his father's house in Belfast before our family sailed for Canada. He was some years younger than me (now in my 66th Year) and my recollection is that in 1841, the date of our leaving for Canada, Uncle had but two children, the eldest, I think, being your dear respected husband William Erskine Mayne ...

He goes on to reflect on his early days in Canada and the changes he had witnessed in Ottawa:

We lived in a new country where the people lived generally a mile apart, separated by great forests ... Not [one] family in perhaps twenty even got either letter or paper and the *Belfast News Letter* and the *Northern Whig* were loaned and read in whole settlement. Fancy the postage on a letter in those days fifteen pence and to-day five cents! At date spoken of we had to travel eight miles to the tower and post-office, to-day the postal system in the country is excellent ... while in Ottawa (then Bytown) our mail is delivered at the door. Bytown in '41 had about 4,000 inhabitants and now the figure is 53,000 – and as your doubtless aware our city is the Capital of the Confederated Provinces of British America – half a continent and having the small Province of Newfoundland which has so far kept out of the Union. Ottawa is now a very progressive little city and is not a bad place to live in, although when compared to your Queen city of the North our Washington of the North is but a small place. One feature of progress ... the general use of electricity. Most of the houses are lit by that light, our street cars run all over the city and much of our mill and shop machinery is driven by that subtle power.³

Electronic resources

PRONI has a number of electronic resources. One of these is its eCatalogue, which contains the information from the hundreds of very detailed paper catalogues—the product of the excellent work of archivists such as Brian Trainor, Bill Crawford and Anthony Malcomson—that can be searched manually in its Public Search Room. A search of the eCatalogue reveals several hundred references to Ottawa, though not all of these are to the Canadian city. The greater portion of these records are from the Dufferin collection and relate to the period that the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava was Governor-General of Canada.

Among PRONI's other online databases is an online index to entries in the will calendars relating to the three district registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry covering the period 1858–1919. Here too it is possible to find out about family members who emigrated overseas. For example, the entry in the printed will calendar for James Thomas Scott, a bank clerk, reveals that he was “late of 3 Easton Crescent, Cliftonville, Belfast, and of Mill Street, Monaghan, County Monaghan,” but that he died in Ottawa on 13 April 1908. His effects were valued at £280 and probate of his will was granted to his widow Eliza Jane Scott and Forster Dunwoody, an estate agent, at the Armagh District Registry on 2 July 1908. What James Thomas Scott was doing in Ottawa at the time of his death is not known, but a copy of his will can now be read on the PRONI website. Other resources that can be consulted on the PRONI website include the databases of registers of freeholders (naming those qualified to vote), nineteenth-century street directories (particularly useful if looking for a Belfast ancestor) and the Ulster Covenant of 1912 (naming those who were opposed to Home Rule for Ireland).

General Register Office of Northern Ireland

What PRONI does not hold, and it is important to be aware of this, are births, deaths and marriages. As mentioned above, the official keeping of all births, deaths and marriages began in Ireland in 1864. Prior to this, non-Catholic marriages had been officially recorded, but only since 1 April 1845. The General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) is located in Chichester Street in Belfast and has records of births, deaths and marriages for the six counties that now make up Northern Ireland. At GRONI it is possible for members of the public to book an index search (with verification of entries by staff) or an assisted search, which allows for a general search of

records for any period of years and any number of entries.

Libraries

Belfast also has several excellent libraries. The Linen Hall Library in Donegall Square North was founded in 1788 as the Belfast Reading Society and is the oldest library in Belfast. The Irish and Local Studies Collection is particularly strong on published material for Belfast and Counties Antrim and Down. Its genealogical collection is unsurpassed in Northern Ireland for the sheer numbers of published family histories on its open shelves. In all, the library houses more than 250,000 volumes and 75,000 pamphlets, plus significant holdings of periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, maps, microforms, photographs, films and recordings. Among its useful resources for genealogists is the card index to birth, marriage and death notices in the *Belfast Newsletter* covering the period from 1800 to 1864.

Opened in 1888, the Belfast Central Library in Royal Avenue is the city's principal library and houses some 1 million volumes. Special collections include the 10,000-volume Natural History Collection, a rare book collection, and the Irish Collection. The last of these is the largest in Northern Ireland, and includes the 4,000-volume Francis Joseph Bigger Collection. The Bigger Collection is complemented by the Bigger Archive, with 10,000 items of archaeological, historical and biographical interest. Francis Bigger (1863–1926), the grandson of United Irishman David Bigger, was a successful lawyer and member of the Gaelic League who assembled an impressive collection of books, pamphlets and bound manuscripts of Irish historical, archaeological and antiquarian interest. A section within the Central Library is the Belfast Newspaper Library, which has almost complete runs of the *Belfast Telegraph*, *Belfast Newsletter*, *Irish News* and *Northern Whig*.

Newspapers can be a fascinating place to discover the past. The news items that appear in them can also provide interesting sidelights on history and transatlantic connections. One of those with an Ottawa theme is the letter that James Johnston of Drumaweir House, Greencastle, County Donegal, penned to the *Belfast Newsletter* not long after arriving back in Ireland from Canada, which was published on 15 May 1900. “In one particular, at any rate,” Johnston wrote, “Ottawa resembles Belfast, if small things may be compared with great—it is progressive.” Johnston noted that among the city's inhabitants “Ireland is well

represented ... and I am pleased to say all classes in the community get on harmoniously.” Reflections such as this can help us to understand why Canada, and Ottawa in particular, proved attractive to prospective emigrants from Ireland.

The birth, marriage and death notices in newspapers regularly included information about emigrants. For example, in the *Newsletter* of 9 August 1876 there was an announcement of the marriage in Larne 1st Presbyterian Church of Daniel Donaldson of Ottawa and Catherine, daughter of Martin Hunter, of Carrduff, near Larne. His actual marriage certificate states that he was of Carrickfergus, not far from Larne, which was probably his family home.

The Presbyterian Historical Society was created in 1906 to promote public awareness of the history of the various strands of Presbyterianism in Ireland. The Library of the Presbyterian Historical Society contains some 12,000 books and pamphlets. These are mainly concerned with ecclesiastical history and in particular Presbyterian history. The collection includes a large number of congregational histories. Manuscript materials include session minutes, baptisms and marriages from individual churches as well as some presbytery minutes, some of which date from the seventeenth century. The Society also has a duplicate set of the microfilm copies of Presbyterian Church registers held by PRONI covering the vast majority of Presbyterian congregations in Ireland.

If looking for Methodist ancestors, researchers might wish to contact the Wesley Historical Society at Edgehill Theological College. Elsewhere in Belfast we have the LDS Family History Center on the Holywood Road and (exclusively for members of the North of Ireland Family History Society) the Research Centre in Park Avenue (www.nifhs.org).

The Ulster Historical Foundation is now based at 49 Malone Road and here it has its library and resource centre. Among the foundation’s electronic resources is a large database of civil and church records, mainly relating to counties Antrim and Down, including the city of Belfast. One interesting record with an Ottawa connection from the foundation’s resources is the marriage in Dunmurry Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church on 20 August 1857 of Edward Griffin and Maria Major. Edward Griffin was a merchant and his address was given as West Ottawa, Canada. Maria Major was from Lisburn and her father George was a merchant. That a merchant in Ottawa should have married a young woman from Lisburn seems

remarkable. In fact the Workman family seems to have been the connection. Edward Griffin was in partnership with Alexander Workman, who was originally from Ballymacash, near Lisburn, while Maria’s father George Major had a farm of land in that same townland.

Researchers should also be aware of the resources available through the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, County Tyrone (www.qub.ac.uk/cms). The CMS has been responsible for creating the Irish Emigration Database, which contains some 33,000 primary source documents on all aspects of Irish emigration from the early 1700s to the 1900s. Types of documents include ship passenger lists, emigrant letters, family papers and diaries of emigrants, shipping advertisements, newspaper reports, death and marriage notices of former emigrants, birth notices of children of Irish parentage, government reports and statistics of Irish emigration to North America. At the end of March the DIPPAM (Documenting Ireland—Parliament, People and Migration) project was launched. This is freely accessible at www.dippam.ac.uk and includes the Irish Emigration Database.

Useful books

Numerous books on Irish genealogy have been written. Probably the best general guide is John Grenham’s *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2006), now in its third edition. Grenham discusses the principal sources available for those wishing to find out more about their family history. Other volumes deal more closely with a specific area, period or theme. Ian Maxwell’s *Tracing Your Ancestors in Northern Ireland* (London: HMSO, 1997) is primarily concerned with PRONI records. He is also the author of two county guides published by the Ulster Historical Foundation: *Researching Armagh Ancestors* (2000) and *Researching Down Ancestors* (2004).

William Roulston’s *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: the essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, 1600–1800* (2005), also by the Ulster Historical Foundation, provides a comprehensive overview of sources for studying family history in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including a summary listing of sources for virtually every parish in Ulster. A more detailed account of sources that can be used to study Belfast’s families consult is *‘My Roots’: Tracing your Belfast Ancestors*, which can be downloaded for free from the website of the Ulster

Historical Foundation (www.ancestryireland.com). An indispensable book is the foundation's *Guide to Irish Libraries, Archives and Genealogical Centres* by Robert K. O'Neill (2nd edition, Belfast, 2007) which provides contact details, as well as summary information on collections held by the main archives in Ireland.

Administrative divisions

The following are the main units of administration in Ireland:

Barony

This was a unit used in Ireland between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries for administrative (census, taxation, and legal) purposes. Often drawn on pre-existing Gaelic divisions, baronies consisted of large groupings of townlands within a county. The 1891 Census is the last to use the barony as an administrative unit.

County

There are 32 counties in Ireland, six of which are now in Northern Ireland. The county system as a form of territorial division was introduced into Ireland shortly after the Norman Conquest in the late twelfth century. The creation of counties or shires was gradual, however, and the present arrangement of county boundaries was not finalized in Ulster until the early seventeenth century. In 1898 local councils based on county divisions were created. County councils remain the principal administrative body of local government in the Republic of Ireland but were abolished in Northern Ireland in 1973.

Parish

This territorial division refers to both civil and ecclesiastical units. Civil parishes largely follow the pattern that was established in medieval times. Ecclesiastical parishes do not always coincide with civil parish boundaries, however. Following the Reformation in the sixteenth century, the Church of Ireland more or less maintained the pre-Reformation arrangement. Church of Ireland parishes are, therefore, largely coterminous with civil parishes. When the Catholic Church began its institutional re-emergence in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it constructed a new network of parishes, which did not necessarily follow the civil parish network.

Poor Law Union

Under the *Irish Poor Law Act* of 1838 commissioners were empowered to "unite so many townlands as they think fit to be a union for the relief of the destitute

poor." A Union was a group of parishes, usually centred on a market town, where a workhouse might be built, with parishes and townlands as subdivisions. Rates, land-based taxes, were collected within these areas for maintenance to the poor. They were named after a large town. The same districts later became used as General Register Districts.

Province

Provinces are composed of groups of counties. There are four provinces in Ireland: Ulster in the north, Leinster in the east, Munster in the south, and Connacht or Connaught in the west.

Townland

This is the smallest administrative territorial unit in Ireland, varying in size from a single acre to over 7,000 acres. Originating in the older Gaelic dispensation, townlands were used as the basis of leases in the estate system, and subsequently to assess valuations and tithes in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They survive as important markers of local identity.

Archives and libraries

The following is a list of the most important archives and libraries in Ireland. Note: it is vitally important that you make contact prior to your visit to ensure that the institution in question is open. Some of the archives and libraries listed here are only open at certain times.

General Register Office of Northern Ireland

Oxford House
49/55 Chichester Street
Belfast, BT1 4HL
Telephone: (028) 9025 2000
Email: gro.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk (Birth, death and marriage certificate enquiries)
Website: www.groni.gov.uk

General Register Office of Ireland

(Administrative headquarters)
Convent Road,
Roscommon
Telephone: +353 (0)90 6632900
Website: www.groireland.ie

(Public research room)
Irish Life Centre
Lower Abbey Street
Dublin 1

Linen Hall Library

17 Donegall Square North
 Belfast, BT1 5GD
 Telephone: (028) 9032 1707
 Email: info@linenhall.com
 Website: www.linenhall.com/Home/home.html

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

2 Titanic Boulevard
 Belfast, BT3 9HQ
 Telephone: (+44) 028 90 534800
 Email: proni@gov.uk
 Website: www.proni.gov.uk

National Archives of Ireland

Bishop Street
 Dublin 8
 Telephone: (01) 407 2300
 Email: mail@nationalarchives.ie
 Website: www.nationalarchives.ie

National Library of Ireland

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Telephone: (01) 603 0200
 Email: info@nli.ie
 Website: www.nli.ie

Ulster Historical Foundation

49 Malone Road
 Belfast, BT9 6RY
 Telephone: (028) 90661988
 Email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk
 Website: www.ancestryireland.com

Reference Notes

- ¹ I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the BIFHSGO 2010 autumn conference for the invitation to speak. I was warmly welcomed and appreciated the hospitality shown to me, especially from my hosts Willis and Margaret Burwell.
- ² J. Morgan, *Canadian Men and Women of the Time: a Handbook of Canadian Biography* (Toronto, William Briggs, 1898), pp 509–10. I am grateful to Glenn Wright for assistance in tracking down this reference.
- ³ PRONI, T2284/9.

GREAT MOMENTS

He Wore His Buttons Well: Discovering the Details of an Epic Rescue at Sea

BY BARBARA TOSE

Barbara descends from a long line of Scottish farmers and teachers and English merchant seamen. She has been a BIFHSGO member for the last three years, and currently works as an archaeological conservator for Parks Canada in Ottawa. This paper was originally given as a talk at the “Great Moments in Genealogy” BIFHSGO meeting 11 December 2010.

In late January 1926, a storm hit the North Atlantic that wreaked havoc on the ships in its path. The *Halifax Herald* reported that the storm was holding ships in port and interfering with shipping movements, not only of the smaller vessels but also of the great ocean liners.¹



Transatlantic liners of 11,000 tons or more, like the *Leviathan* and the *London Commerce*, crept into harbour days late and covered in ice after facing 75-

foot waves and gale-force winds.² Smaller vessels barely stood a chance against such conditions.

The SS *Antioe* was one such freighter, weighing in at only 3,747 gross tons. She sailed from New York on 14 January for Queenstown, Ireland, with a cargo of wheat in bulk.³ The captain was my great-uncle, Harry Tose.

My father mentioned this event to me when I first began my family research in 1982. He knew only that E.J. Pratt, the Canadian poet, had written a poem called “The Roosevelt and the Antioe” and that Harry was mentioned in it. Although I looked intermittently for the poem or any information on the *Antioe* and Harry over the years since, it is only recently, with the

boom in historical materials going online, that I have finally had some luck. In November 2006, by entering “Harry Tose and Antinoe” into Google, I got my first real break.

Genealogy Images of History was selling two articles on the *Antinoe*.^{4, 5} The owner, Tom Russell, sells collected “articles from newspapers, magazines and books featuring photos of people from the past that made the news.” He has an extensive catalogue and it is well worth a look if you suspect your ancestors ever made the news.

When I contacted him to purchase the items, he informed me that he had two additional articles related to the *Antinoe*, Captain Tose and Captain Fried, the captain of the rescuing vessel, the SS *President Roosevelt*.⁶ I purchased the lot for a very reasonable price. They arrived within the week—flat, intact and enclosed in clear plastic protective sleeves that made handling much easier. The articles gave me the details of the epic tale and labelled photographs of my uncle and his wife.

In 2007 while researching British merchant marine records at Memorial University’s Maritime History Archives, I found an entry in Lloyd’s Captains Registers for my great-uncle Harry outlining his career from the time he received his Master’s certificate in 1912 to mid-1940, when we believe he died. The entry for the *Antinoe* gave the following details:⁷

Antinoe—Reg. No. 115657
 Voyages: 25-4-24 M [Mediterranean]
 9-9-24
 16-12-24
 1-8-25 EI [England Ireland]
 3-11-25 EI-US [England Ireland to US]
 14-1-26 US-UK
 In distress Lat. 46N, Long. 40W, Jan. 25, 1926
 Abandoned in sinking condition Lat. 48N, Long. 36W, Jan. 29, 1926
 “The abandonment was not caused by the wrongful act or default of the Master or Officers” (Court of Inquiry No. 7834)
 (L.L. [Lloyd’s List] April 1, 1926, p.11, col.1)

This gave me the Board of Trade Inquiry Report number 7834. I was thrilled to find the *Antinoe* record online at *PortCities Southampton*, where a PDF file can be downloaded for free.⁸ The report is thorough, giving details of her construction, size, ownership, refits, voyages, insurance and changes made to her

hold to accommodate her last cargo of wheat. It also provides the details of the sinking and the measures taken to mitigate the damage as it occurred. The conclusion of the Inquiry was that no blame could be attached to any of the parties involved. It also noted deep appreciation for the captain and crew of the SS *President Roosevelt* and their “admiration for the courage and excellent discipline displayed by all aboard the S.S. Antinoe.”

The wreck report told me the *Antinoe* had been built in Sunderland. This led to the discovery of *The Sunderland Site*, a website devoted to ships built at Sunderland and their builders. It is an extensive site of over 150 pages with details on probably thousands of vessels and over a hundred builders. Anyone looking for a ship should check out this site. I found *my Antinoe*, for there are two listed, on page 25.⁹

I contacted Peter Searle, who operates this website out of Toronto, with additional information I had on the *Antinoe*. I mentioned the E.J. Pratt poem that I had not yet found. He promptly located a copy at the Metro Toronto Library in the first volume of Pratt’s “Complete Poems.” It is not a little poem, as I had thought it would be, but numbers 990 lines—30 pages of the book! Pratt, too, was thorough, retelling the story in almost as much detail as the newspaper articles. And the mention of Harry that my father had told me of is one of my favourite lines.

Twelve of them, then Tose, the captain, who had worn his buttons well.¹⁰

It’s such a lovely turn of phrase to describe how Harry behaved under the strain of the situation!

A Google Book called *Yankee Skippers to the Rescue: A Record of Gallant Rescues on the North Atlantic* by Felix Riesenberg surfaced online.¹¹ This book gives a rather sensational, one might even say fictionalized, account of the rescue and refers to my great-uncle as “Little Captain Tose.” However, it provided details of letters Captain Fried received from passengers urging him to abandon the rescue instead of “fooling around to save a bunch of Hindus.”¹² Having seen the oil-blackened faces of the *Antinoe*’s crew, the passengers had assumed that the ship carried a white skipper and mate and an Indian crew. They later learned, of course, that all hands were white. Fortunately, the colour of the men made no difference to Captain Fried.

Corroborating details came from contemporary newspapers from New Zealand and Singapore to New York and Halifax and various magazines online, most

of which discussed technologies or new developments that had been used in the rescue attempts.^{13, 14, 15, 16} These included articles from *Popular Mechanics* on the radio compass and the latest in lifeboats;¹⁷ *Popular Science* on innovations devised on board the *Roosevelt* for the Lyle guns, used to shoot lines to the distressed ship;¹⁸ and *The Children's Newspaper* on the "conversation by lamplight" that took place between the two ships once the *Antinoe's* radio was no longer operational.¹⁹ In England, at the library in Whitby, North Yorkshire, I found not only news of the *Antinoe's* ordeal on the Atlantic but also an incident that took place just prior to her leaving port.²⁰

It seems that due to a rat problem, the ship had been fumigated a couple of days before she was to depart New York. Although the ship had been cleared for the crew's return and despite all ports and ventilators

being kept open, the Chief Steward, a Whitby man named John Clark, was found dead on the floor of his cabin 36 hours after the fumigation. He was buried, with shipmates in attendance, in Brooklyn's Linden Hill Cemetery on 13 January. The *Antinoe* sailed from New York the next day.²¹

On 23 January, the winds increased to gale force and the waves began to crash over the deck. One wave seriously damaged the starboard lower bridge and washed the starboard bridge lifeboat overboard. Further heavy seas damaged the steering gear, essentially leaving them rudderless. At 3 a.m. on the 24th, the tarpaulin covering No. 3 hatch was washed off and water penetrated the hold. The cargo of wheat started to swell and shift, causing a list to starboard of 10 degrees. Although the tarpaulin was replaced, this was the beginning of the end.

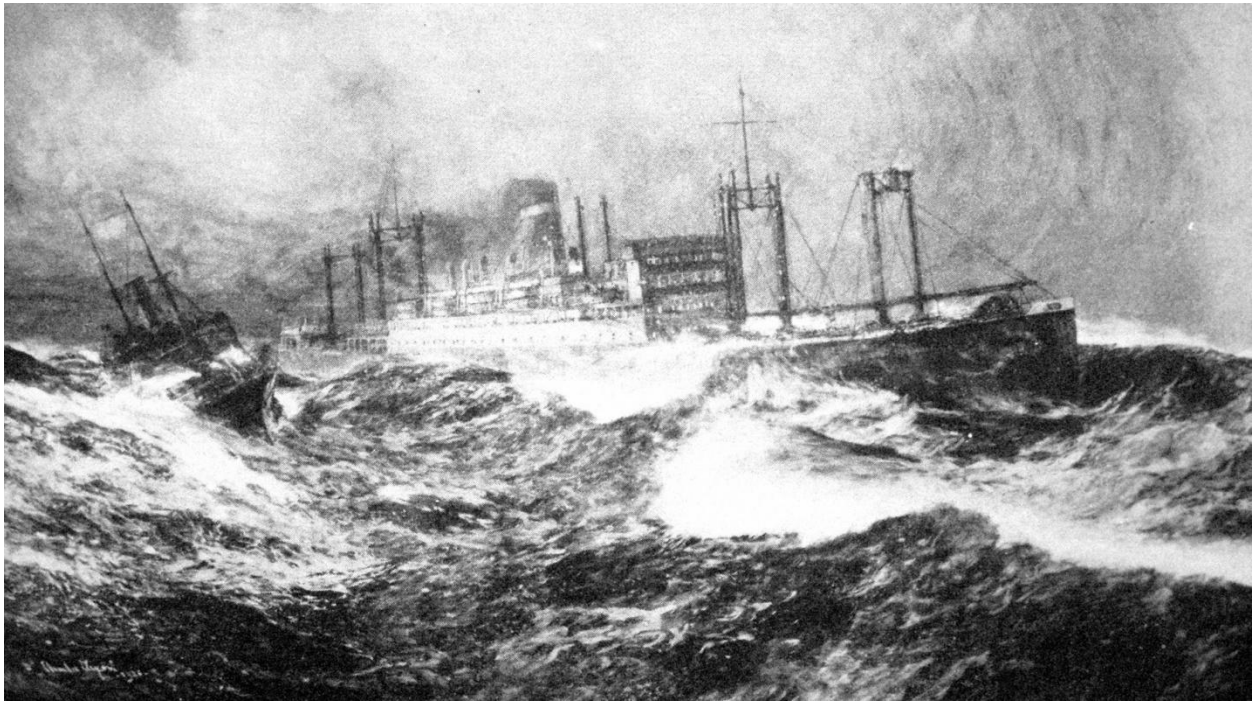


Figure 1: The *President Roosevelt* stands by
Source: Painting by Charles Dixon 1926 (Macmillan New York 1930)

The *Antinoe* radioed an SOS at 2 a.m. on 24 January giving the captain's best estimate of his position. With nothing but stormy skies above him, Harry could only determine his position by dead reckoning.²² A passenger liner, the SS *President Roosevelt*, responded and immediately steamed as fast as she could for the position given. On the way, however, the *Roosevelt's* Captain Fried asked his radio operator to use their radio compass, a new device that had only been in use

on ships for three years. Not all ships had one; the *Antinoe* was lucky that the *Roosevelt* did.²³ This recent innovation allowed the *President Roosevelt* to determine the correct position of the *Antinoe* by pinpointing exactly where her radio waves were coming from. Use of the radio compass determined that the *Antinoe* was actually 100 miles distant from the position given in her SOS. Captain Fried was able to make adjustments to his course en route. In fact,

without the radio compass they would have had little hope of finding the *Antinoe* at all.

That evening the *President Roosevelt* indicated that they would have to wait for the weather to moderate before attempting anything further. Fried asked “can you keep afloat til weather moderates?” The reply was “Captain very doubtful.”²⁵ Later the *Antinoe* signalled “listing more heavily and shipping more water.” Around 1 a.m. on the 27th the *Roosevelt* attempted to float another boat to the *Antinoe* crew but again it failed. By 3 a.m. the *Antinoe* was listing 35 degrees, the starboard bunkers were flooded and there were eight feet of water in the stokehold and engine room. The crew was exhausted from lack of sleep, food and water, their stores having been ruined early in the storm.

At daylight on the 27th, the *Roosevelt* again tried to float a boat to the *Antinoe* but again failed. At 1 p.m. they finally succeeded in getting a line across the deck of the *Antinoe*, but the wave action placed too much strain on the cable and it soon broke and the boat floated away. By 5 p.m. the *Antinoe* was listing further and her lee bridge deck rail was level with the water, but luckily the weather began to moderate. The *Roosevelt* signalled that they would attempt another manned boat and to be ready to jump. Harry gave the orders for the men to keep cool and arrange themselves, married men first, on the foredeck.²⁶ The boat came alongside about 7:30 and 11 men and the Second Officer jumped and were taken to the *Roosevelt* without further incident. Captain Fried, however, did not think it prudent to send the boat back directly and so it was midnight when the *Antinoe* signalled a list of 40 degrees and the fear that she might capsize and go down at any moment. The weather had cleared significantly and the *Roosevelt* got another lifeboat away and picked up the remaining 13 men under brilliant moonlight. By 1:35 a.m. on 28 January all the crew of the *Antinoe* were safely on board the *Roosevelt*. Harry, who had to be carried aboard in an exhausted state, insisted that he be taken immediately to the bridge so he could thank Captain Fried for all he had done. They abandoned the *Antinoe* in a sinking condition at 48° N and 36° W. The logbooks and ship’s papers went down with the ship. The *Roosevelt* arrived in Plymouth on 31 January to a hero’s welcome. (Figure 2)



Figure 2: Captain Tose's reception at Plymouth (Captain Fried second from right)

Source: An Epic of the Sea Maclean Hunter

In September 2010, I was contacted by Harry’s grandson, Michael Tose, who had found the outline for the talk I gave at the December 2010 meeting on the BIFHSGO web page. He too had been researching the *Antinoe* rescue. We exchanged information enthusiastically by email and phone; then in October I visited him during a trip to England. He had many things to show me and documents to add to my collection on the *Antinoe*. Among them were photographs of the *Antinoe* taken from the *President Roosevelt*. He also had purchased on eBay the original Protest Papers filed by Harry, the Chief Officer and the Chief Engineer following their arrival in England. This is a legal document outlining details of the damage and abandonment of their vessel, which would be used later at the Board of Trade Inquiry.

I discovered through a newspaper article that Captain Fried and Captain Tose spoke on the BBC shortly after they arrived in England to relay the story of their ordeal and to raise money for the families of the two men from the *Roosevelt* crew who had lost their lives when the first lifeboat capsized.²⁷ According to a Singapore newspaper, five million people listened to them tell their story.²⁸ Michael and I had hoped the BBC might have a copy of this broadcast in their archives but unfortunately, they do not have anything that early. I have, however, found a newspaper account of the broadcast online at the National Library of New Zealand. The article outlines the story from start to finish, provides the text of two letters of thanks written by Harry to the *Roosevelt*’s Chief Officer Miller and Captain Fried, and informs us that “the tough, sturdy sailor almost broke down” as he read them on air.²⁹ My cousin Michael found something even more exciting. From the site for British Pathé films he purchased a copy of the short newsreel made when the

President Roosevelt landed at Plymouth.³⁰ Unfortunately, there is no sound, but it was still thrilling to see Harry and his wife Lizzie moving around the deck of the *Roosevelt*.

In conclusion, may I pass on two things I have learned from great-uncle Harry and the *Antinoe*:

1. Never give up and never stop looking. On the Internet, new information is made available every day.
2. Give a talk or write an article for BIFHSGO. You never know whom you might meet simply by telling one of your family's stories!

Reference Notes

- ¹ Halifax *Herald*, Saturday, 23 January 1926, Vol.51, No. 20, p. 1.
- ² Halifax *Herald*, Tuesday, 26 January 1926, Vol. 51, No. 22, p. 1.
- ³ *Protest of the Captain and some of the Crew of the Steamship "ANTINOE"*, Cheeswright & Casey, Notaries, London (original document, personal files of Michael Tose).
- ⁴ "This Generation's Most Stirring Epic of the Sea," *Mid-Week Pictorial*, "A Magazine of News Pictures," Vol. XXII, No. 26, p. 8, New York, 18 February 1926, *Genealogical Images of History*, database (<http://www.genealogyimagesofhistory.com/>)
- ⁵ "An Historic Month of Sea Perils and Rescues," Personal Glimpses, *The Literary Digest*, 27 February 1926, pp. 38, 40, 45 & 48., *Genealogical Images of History*, database (<http://www.genealogyimagesofhistory.com/>)
- ⁶ "It's Only One of Those Little Things That Happen at Sea," Personal Glimpses, *The Literary Digest*, 13 February 1926, pp. 74-81; and "Captain Fried's Second Victory over Davy Jones," *The Literary Digest*, 9 February 1929, pp. 8, 9.
- ⁷ Lloyd's Captains Registers, MS 18569 1885-1948, Reel 53, Vol. 38, Thorburn-Vyvyan 1885-1948, Maritime History Archives, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland.
- ⁸ No. 7834. "ANTINOE" (S.S.). *The Merchant Shipping Act*, 1894. Report of Court. *Port Cities Southampton*, database (<http://www.plimsoll.org/resources/SCCLibraries/WreckReports/14002.asp>)
- ⁹ The Sunderland Site, (<http://www.searlecanada.org/sunderland/sunderland025.htm#antinoe>)
- ¹⁰ Sandra Djwa and R.G. Moyles, editors, *E.J. Pratt - Complete Poems. Part 1*, (Toronto, Ontario: University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division, 1989, 1st edition), p. 219.
- ¹¹ Felix Riesenber, *Yankee Skippers to the Rescue: A Record of Gallant Rescues on the North Atlantic*, Chapter 6, "A Yankee Ship Stands By," U.S.A., 1940. Digital images Google books: (<http://books.google.ca/books>)
- ¹² *Ibid*, p. 101.
- ¹³ "Antinoe's Story," *The Evening Post* (New Zealand), Tuesday, 2 February 1926, p. 7. (<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=EP19260202.2.49>)
- ¹⁴ "The Atlantic Storm," *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser*, 30 January 1926, p. 9; "Atlantic Rescuers," *The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser*, 1 February 1926, p.9; and various articles, *The Straits Times*, 29 January to 26 February, 1926. Digital image The National Library, Singapore: (<http://newspapers.nl.sg/Digitised/Article.aspx?>)
- ¹⁵ "Disabled British Ship Lost in Snows at Sea with Help at Hand," *New York Evening Post*, Monday, January 25, 1926, p. 1, digital image New York State Digital Library, (<http://fultonhistory.com/newspaper>)
- ¹⁶ Various articles, Halifax *Herald*, various dates from January 23 to February 4, 1926.
- ¹⁷ "Robbing the Sea of its Terrors," *Popular Mechanics*, May 1926, p. 715. Digital images Google books: (<http://books.google.ca/books>)
- ¹⁸ "An Untold Story of the Greatest Sea Rescue", *Popular Science Monthly*, May, 1926, p. 11. Digital images Google books: (<http://books.google.ca/books>)
- ¹⁹ "The Talk with a Sinking Ship", *The Children's Newspaper*, 20 February 1926, p. 2. (Look and Learn Magazine, Ltd., www.LookandLearn.com.) (<http://www.lookandlearn.com/childrens-newspaper/CN260220-002.pdf>)
- ²⁰ "Deaths," *Whitby Gazette*, 29 January 1926, p.7; and "Tragic Death of the "Antinoe's" Steward," *Whitby Gazette*, 5 February 1926, p. 2. (Whitby Library, Whitby, North Yorkshire, England)
- ²¹ *Protest of the Captain and some of the Crew of the Steamship "ANTINOE"*, Cheeswright & Casey, Notaries, London (original document, personal files of Michael Tose). Also newspaper articles and articles listed above in Reference notes 4, 5 and 6.
- ²² Dead reckoning is a navigational method of estimating a current position based on the last known position and estimated direction and speeds over elapsed time. Accuracy of such calculations can vary greatly and decreases with time.

- ²³ “Robbing the Sea of its Terrors”, *Popular Mechanics*, May, 1926, p. 715. The Popular Mechanics article describes the radio compass in detail. It also contains several useful illustrations. Digital images Google books: (<http://books.google.ca/books>)
- ²⁴ “Heitman Did Not Die in Antinoe Rescue”, *New York Times*, March, 1926. Digital image (preview) New York Times Article Archives, (<http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html>)
- ²⁵ *Protest of the Captain and some of the Crew of the Steamship “ANTINOE”*, Cheeswright & Casey, Notaries, London (original document, personal files of Michael Tose).
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ “Liner’s Captains Will Broadcast Story of Rescue,” *Halifax Herald*, 2 February 1926, p. 1.
- ²⁸ *The Straits Times* (Singapore), 26 February 1926, p. 8. Digital image The National Library, Singapore: (<http://newspapers.nl.sg/Digitised/Article.aspx>)
- ²⁹ “Heroism at Sea,” *Evening Post* (New Zealand), 15 March 1926, p. 10. Digital image The National Library, Singapore: (<http://newspapers.nl.sg/Digitised/Article.aspx>)
- ³⁰ British Pathé. A preview version can be found at its website (<http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=24606>)

Harry Gray’s Pub

BY BRENDA TURNER

Brenda Turner is a retired public servant who has been researching her family history for about a dozen years

There had long been a mystery in my mother’s Gray family about the name and location of a pub which her father’s younger brother, Harry Gray, had supposedly run on Fleet Street in London, England, during the Second World War. Fleet Street, at that time, was the prime location of newspapers and print journalism in London. I had heard about this pub from my mother, Harry’s niece, and from my Uncle Johnnie Gray, Harry’s nephew. Uncle Johnnie had even visited the pub, once, when he was overseas, but had no record of the address, or the name of the pub. Uncle Johnnie, then aged 80, urged me to see if I could locate any information about Harry’s pub.

But, where was I to begin? Of course, there was no census information available for the nineteen forties, and I knew that Harry Gray would have long since passed away, as he was born in 1899.

However, early in 2008 I had corresponded with a cousin, Jim Teron, of Windsor, Ontario, who was descended from another of Harry Gray’s siblings, his sister, Harriet. Jim had told me via email that he had travelled to England with his mother one summer when he was a boy in the 1960s, and they had visited Uncle Harry Gray and his wife, who he said they called Kit, at their pub. Being just a child then, however, he did not record and could not tell me the name or address of the pub. Jim also related what he remembered of that trip, though, and said that he found the pub an interesting place, as Harry and Kit had lived upstairs from the pub itself. Jim had never seen such

an arrangement before. He found it interesting that their flat had no telephone, but the pub downstairs had one. He also recalled being fascinated by a framed photograph hanging on the wall of the flat showing Uncle Harry Gray being presented something by a man in an elaborate costume. He could not recall what this presentation had been about, though.

I have always tried to read as much as possible about the locations and times where my ancestors lived, to help me understand the circumstances of their lives. Then by sheer chance, and the cussedness of a blocked researcher, I came across and read the book *Blitz, The Story of 29th December 1940* by M.J. Gaskin.¹ It was a fascinating read about the conditions of that ghastly night, when thousands of high explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped on London, causing huge firestorms. That night even St. Paul’s Cathedral was bombed and could have burned to the ground. The area around the Cathedral had been leveled. That was when it struck me: Gaskin had spoken of the network of firewatchers. One of the biggest problems in central London had been that most people left it at the end of their workdays and commuted out to their homes in the suburbs, just as we do today. That left nighttime central London at severe risk from fires started by incendiary bombs dropped on unoccupied buildings.

But Harry and Kit Gray lived over the pub! They stayed in central London all night! So there was a very good chance that Harry Gray could have been on fire watching duties! Perhaps his efforts had resulted in

some presentation of an award which could have been photographed, and become that photo with which Jim Teron had been so fascinated.

I researched all the Blitz material I could find on the Internet, which led me to discover that the ancient Guildhall, in central London, had offered the Honourary Freedom of the City of London to all firewatchers during the Blitz, and that even Winston Churchill had been awarded that honour for his personal efforts which saved poor old London. The Guildhall website told me about the tradition of the Freedom of the City, which was granted to members of trade guilds which trained, controlled, and maintained work standards for their crafts.² Recipients of previous Honourary Freedoms included Lords Nelson and Wellington, Benjamin Disraeli, Florence Nightingale, and Lord Montgomery of Alamein. This was heady stuff! Honourary Freedom of the City has only been awarded three times to a group of men such as the firewatchers. Presentation of Honourary Freedoms are usually made in the Guildhall's Great Hall before the Lord Mayor of London, its Aldermen, Common Councillors, and distinguished guests, with a full spectacle of costume and ceremony, and is generally followed by a banquet at Mansion House. This could definitely have been the source of that mysterious photograph.

I wrote off to the Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court of the Guildhall, telling my story with my suspicion that Harry Gray may have received such an award. I received the answer a few weeks later, a letter from Murray Craig, the Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court, confirming that Harry Gray had been awarded the Honourary Freedom of the City of London on 5 September 1945, for his work as a Fire Guard Commander of the City. Wonderful!

Just think about the situation of those firewatchers. In that part of old London the buildings are jammed tightly together, and any fire started on any roof would immediately risk all connected buildings in any block. The rooftops would have presented a continuous landscape. When a night air raid started and warning sirens went off, most London residents headed down to the deepest shelters which could be found, from basements to underground Tube stations to purpose built deep shelters. But Harry Gray and his chums would have headed onto the rooftops to patrol for fires. There was nothing between them and the German bombs falling on them but tin helmets and cold clear skies. They were not military men, and not

even highly trained career firefighters. They were ordinary men who worked full time at their day jobs, and who spent their nights during air raids on rooftops, armed with the primitive tools of buckets of sand and water and foot operated stirrup pumps, trying to keep their homes, their businesses, and their churches from being burned out from under them.

But I still did not know the name or address of the pub!

In May of 2010 I was finally making an extended visit to London to do some weeks of on-site research on my family's residence there since at least the 1830s. One of my research stops was at the Metropolitan Archives of the City of London, the LMA. I brought along a copy of the Clerk's letter which confirmed that Harry Gray had received the Freedom. I showed that letter to an archivist who located a file folder for me. Inside was a copy of an application made by Harry Gray for the Award of the Honourary Freedom of the City of London, which showed his own and his father's names and addresses.³ Harry Gray had lived "over the shop" alright, at 178 Fleet Street, London EC4! The archivist explained that the Guildhall had announced in *The Times* that all firewatchers were eligible for the award of the Honourary Freedom of the City, but that individuals still had to make application for it, and their credentials had to be verified before any such award would be made. That was exactly what this document was.

A fast taxi to the address showed me that the building there now was quite modern and could not possibly have been Harry Gray's pub. The building was right at the corner of Fleet Street and Fetter Lane, just a short stroll to the east to the house of Dr. Johnson, the compiler of the first English language dictionary, in Gough Square behind the famous pub the Cheshire Cheese, and to St. Paul's Cathedral, and a shorter walk west to Chancery Lane and the Royal Courts of Justice. The pub no longer existed. Now how could I find out what it was called?

A few days later I was at the Society of Genealogists in the Charterhouse Buildings, where I consulted the old directories of London. Now that I had an address for Harry Gray, perhaps I could find the pub. In the 1920 publication of Kelly's Directory I located a listing of pubs and found YES! Peele's Hotel, listed at 177 and 178 Fleet Street and 1 Fetter Lane, EC4.⁴ Oddly enough, the listing also said that it was the location of the Pioneer Catering Company. What was that? Could that company have been the owner of

Harry Gray's pub? No one had ever said that Harry owned the pub, just that he had run it.



Figure 1: Peele's Coffee House

Courtesy City of London, London Metropolitan Archives

I checked the 1947 London Post Office Directory which again showed Peele's Hotel at the same address, along with the Pioneer Catering Company.⁵ Whatever had happened during the Blitz, it appeared that Harry Gray's hotel had survived it, probably because Uncle Harry had been such a good Fire Guard Commander! The listing also showed a section entitled Peele's Chambers, and listed solicitors, accountants, and a newspaper representative. It would seem that, rather than operating completely as a hotel, the clients of Peel's had become professional and journalistic businesses. A double listing for a solicitor would even suggest that he was also living at the hotel. It made sense that after the destruction of the Blitz, when commercial premises and housing were in short supply, prime locations such as this hotel, with its

proximity to the law courts and the newspaper offices, would change its role.

In the same directory there was a listing for the Pioneer Catering Company Ltd. at 17 Gordon Square, WC1.⁶ The Commercial Section of the directory showed the same listing for the Pioneer Catering Company, and a listing of about 200 pubs the company owned, including Peele's Hotel at the Fleet Street and Fetter Lane address, and including its telephone number.⁷ That was the telephone the pub had that Jim had mentioned, while Harry and Kit Gray living upstairs had none!

By the time of the 1970 directory, there were no longer listings for the Pioneer Catering Company or Peele's Family Hotel.

I started an Internet search. Using Google.ca, I entered "Peele's hotel fleet street london uk," and located a site which recorded London pubs in 1818.⁸ This site recorded Peele's as a Coffee House and Hotel. Another Google enquiry of "London coffee house history" located a Wikipedia site which spoke about the development of coffee houses in the seventeenth century in England, when they became places where businessmen could exchange news and discuss business.⁹ I read that originally, the enormous Lloyd's of London insurance business had begun at a coffee house, as had the internationally known auction houses Christie's and Sotheby's. I located another website which also said that a portrait of Dr. Johnson had hung on the mantelstone at Peele's, said to be by Sir Joshua Reynolds.¹⁰

Back at the MLA, I spoke to an archivist and explained my findings, asking if they had any information about the private company, the Pioneer Catering Company. I didn't think it likely that any information would be available. The archivist came back a few minutes later, carrying two large files.¹¹ These folders contained the Director's Meetings Minute Books of the company, from 1914 to 1961, and included lists of all the pubs owned and operated by Pioneer.

These minute books made fascinating reading. There were alphabetized subject headings which showed every reference to all establishments or topics, so all references to Peele's Hotel could be easily located. In the minutes of a meeting held on Monday 27 October 1930, it was reported that a letter of resignation from the then manager of Peele's Hotel, Mr. J. J. Fleming, had been received, and that the manager of another

company-owned establishment would be transferred to Peele's.¹² No name was given, but that could have been when Harry Gray started working there! In a much later meeting dated in 1960, it was reported that a "public convenience" in Fleet Street outside Peele's may be removed and a plan was established to consider the installation of inside toilets.¹³ Despite my best attempts, I could not locate any mention of Harry Gray's name.

Form 27 August 1949 at No. 1, Keme Villas, Richmond Road, Wimbeldon, Surrey.

To The Chamberlain of London,
Guildhall House,
21-27, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(full name) I, the undersigned, Henry Gray

(full address) of 178 Fleet St, London E.C.4

(full name) (son of Samuel Rowbotham Gray (Deceased))

(full address) of London 36a, Kensington Road, Raynes Park, Surrey

being a British subject, am desirous of being admitted to the Freedom of the City of London in accordance with the Order of the Court of Common Council dated the 12th day of July 1945.

H. Gray
14 Sept. '45

N.B. - This form of application should be completed and produced personally by the applicant, together with Birth Certificate, at the Chamberlain's Court at the above address by appointment. (Telephone No. Clerkenwell 2011, Extension 610.)

Figure 2: Application for Award of Honourary Freedom of the City of London

Courtesy City of London, London Metropolitan Archives

I spoke to the archivist and explained my delight at the findings so far, but also spoke of my disappointment that I had not been able to find out what Harry's pub looked like before it had been demolished. The archivist directed me to one of her colleagues, and I repeated my story once more. This nice gentleman asked me to wait, and returned shortly with a large leather-bound book. I gasped when he opened the book to display a beautiful watercolour of 177/178 Fleet Street, Peele's Coffee House and Hotel, painted

by James Findlay in 1820.¹⁴ Once this was copied, the family could finally know what Harry Gray's pub looked like.

My Uncle Johnnie, the last of his generation of the Gray family, and my cousin Jim were tickled pink to receive copies of the application for Honourary Freedom of the City, of website pages, of pages from the Pioneer Catering Company during which business of Peele's was discussed, and of the 1820 watercolour. Uncle Harry Gray had played a small part in the story of this historic pub, defending his small patch of London in wartime, and I can only feel proud that he had.

Reference Notes

- ¹ M.J. Gaskin, *Blitz; the Story of 29th December 1940*, (London: Faber and Faber, 2005.)
- ² www.guildhall.cityoflondon.gov.uk Accessed 24 April 2011
- ³ MLA COL/CUD/FR.02/2936
- ⁴ Kelly's Directory, City of London, 1920, Vol. 2, MX/D 1947, page 2437
- ⁵ Post Office London Directory, 1947, MX/D 1947 page 281
- ⁶ Ibid. page 308
- ⁷ Ibid. page 1589
- ⁸ www.Londonancestor.com/leighs/coffee.htm Accessed 24 April 2011
- ⁹ www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coffeehouse Accessed 24 April 2011
- ¹⁰ www.gutenberg.org/files/31412/31412-8.txt Accessed 24 April 2011
- ¹¹ LMA/4444/F 1914-1961 and LMA/4433/01/006 1955-1961
- ¹² LMA/4444/F 1914-1961, vol. 1, page 168
- ¹³ Ibid. vol. 2, page 260.
- ¹⁴ MLA Collage 2540, q4029271, Pr.236/FLE

BIFHSGO NEWS**Stars of the 2011 BIFHSGO Conference**

BY JOHN D REID

A member of the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame, John is Co-chair (Program) for this year's conference. He blogs on family history at www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com.

The 200-plus of us attending the Society's monthly meetings are becoming accustomed to stellar presentations. Expect no less during September's conference. Many of those speaking are our hometown stars. Others you may only know by reputation. Here, in alphabetical order, are vignettes on the speakers coming from beyond Ottawa's city limits.

Audrey Collins

Currently Family History Specialist at The (U.K.) National Archives, Audrey has been researching in English records for more than 20 years. She has a particular interest in the history of the General Register Office. In 2001 she was engaged as official Census Historian for the bicentenary census of that year, and was on TV and radio as part of the publicity surrounding this year's U.K. census. She is a frequent speaker at local and national conferences and other events in the U.K., Ireland and the U.S.A. as well as at the Archives. This will be her first visit to Canada in 20 years.

She is currently working with co-author Dave Annal on a book entitled *Births, Marriages and Deaths* to be published in 2012. She also writes a popular blog at <http://thefamilyrecorder.blogspot.com> containing "things that interest or amuse me, and that I think are worth sharing ... they all have something to do with genealogy."

Audrey, who will be between speaking engagements at the (U.S.) Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference the previous weekend and a Monday evening session with OGS Toronto Branch following our conference, will present three lectures.

Sherry Irvine

Our conference theme speaker in 2008, Sherry Irvine makes a return visit from Vancouver Island to wind up the conference with a special plenary lecture. Her presentation will reveal the techniques she has developed over her genealogical career that permitted her to meet the challenge of unravelling her ancestry in Essex.

President of the Association of Professional Genealogists, 2002–2003, and a member of its board of directors for six years, she was lauded as "a consummate professional," an "exceptionally effective" leader and a "skilled logician" when presented the APG's Smallwood Award of Merit for services to the organization and to genealogy.

Sherry's publications include *Your English Ancestry* (2nd ed. 1998), *Scottish Ancestry: Research Methods for Family Historians* (2003) and as co-author, *Finding Your Canadian Ancestors* (2007).

Sherry will be available in the conference marketplace to answer questions, especially those about the online courses offered by British-based Pharos Teaching and Tutoring — www.pharostutors.com — in which she is a partner.

Helen Osborn

Managing Director at Pharos, and member of the U.K.'s Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA), Helen has been teaching and lecturing on local history, historical records and genealogy for more than 18 years.

She has spent most of her life in London and was for many years the Archivist at Young & Co's Brewery PLC. Eleven years ago she established a successful genealogy research company, Helen Osborn Research Ltd. While her professional research work originally concentrated on census and civil registration she is mainly to be found nowadays at The National Archives, Kew, where she is one of their independent researchers.

An occasional contributor to family history magazines, the author of three books relating to public houses and brewing and currently writing a book on genealogy methodology, Helen's three talks at the conference will focus on London.

Linda Reid

A retired librarian who lives in Toronto, Linda has been researching her British roots for 25 years and has

14 years of experience as a volunteer in the Toronto Family History Center.

Linda is active in the Toronto Branch of OGS, including teaching genealogy courses and workshops for the Branch and for OGS. BIFHSGO is taking advantage of this experience to have Linda offer a pre-conference workshop on the basics of English and Welsh family history research as well as two presentations during the conference.

Gary Schroder

Long-time President of the Quebec Family History Society, Gary is making a return visit to the BIFHSGO

conference. He has vast experience in teaching family history courses in Montréal and lecturing at various genealogical societies across North America.

Gary has been a frequent guest on Canadian radio and television answering genealogical questions and promoting the educational value of family history research. His primary research interests are Canada, England, Ireland, and Military Resources for Family Historians.



Celebrate Your Anglo-Celtic Roots!

**Annual BIFHSGO Family History Conference
September 16–18, 2011**

Featuring *England & Wales*

- ⊗ Expert Lecturers ⊗ Marketplace
- ⊗ Pre-conference Seminars ⊗ Research Room

With a focus on *London & the Home Counties*

Something for Everyone!



**Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St, Ottawa
www.bifhsgo.ca ⊗ conference@bifhsgo.ca ⊗ 613-234-2520**

Society's Website Undergoes Renovations

BY SUSAN DAVIS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu on the left and a main content area on the right. The navigation menu includes links for Home, About Us, Meetings, Conference, Research & Projects, Home Children, Library, Publications, Education, Members Only, Join Us, and Contact Us. The main content area features a red header with the society's logo and name. Below the header, there are several sections: 'Since 1994' describing the society's mission, 'Next Monthly Meeting' for May 14, 2011, 'Before BIFHSGO: Tips on Using PowerPoint for Genealogy Presentations' by Brian Glenn, 'Unravelling the Anglicization of an Irish Family' by Irene Ip, 'Great Moments in Genealogy' for June 11, 'Fancy Railway Stations in Westmorland' for September 10, 'BIFHSGO Fall Conference' for September 16, 'Watsons of Woadale' for October 8, 'Moonrakers at Peace and War' for November 12, and 'Meeting Information' for monthly meetings. There is also a section for the '17th Annual BIFHSGO Conference' celebrating Anglo-Celtic roots in England and Wales.

When the World Wide Web opened up new frontiers in the 1990s, BIFHSGO took its first steps to establish itself in this new world. Online since late 1995, our web presence has continued to evolve and grow and win prizes along the way. A new web era began for BIFHSGO with the launch of its revamped site in March 2011.

If you were to think of our website (www.bifhsgo.ca) as a house, it has been given a facelift: a new foundation, a modified floor plan and some new features.

During this renovation project, a dedicated group of web volunteers have been working behind the scenes using the site's new web management tool, EasyNetSites, to add, edit and update content on the site. As the dust settles, we continue to unpack content from the old site and return it to the renovated site.

Keep your eyes open as you tour our renovated site; we may have moved the furniture and fixings to new locations. For example, navigation now takes place from the left-hand menu and submenus.

Some features to explore:

Events: This section provides you with information on upcoming and past BIFHSGO events, including monthly meetings, "Before BIFHSGO" educational lectures and BIFHSGO's annual conference, as well as special interest group meetings.

Library: Our online library catalogue is a handy way to discover the thousands of resources available in the society's library. You can search for content by author, subject, location and more.

Links: The number of websites available to research family history can be daunting. Check out our updated Links section, which is divided by subject and reviewed by our Education and Research directors.

Home Children: Those of you conducting Home Children research may find the updated version of the Middlemore database worth exploring.

Surname List: One of the benefits of membership is being able to post the surnames you are researching to this section. While the information you are researching is displayed to all, your contact information is kept private. Interested researchers contact you through an email query.

Members Only: Another benefit of membership is access to the password-protected Members Only side of our site. There, you will find back issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* and the e-newsletter, handouts from meetings and most importantly your personal profile listing your contact information and membership status.

The site is a work in progress. As with many renovation projects, we have discovered some unforeseen repairs that needed to be done along the way. We have also discovered some interesting features that we want to build into our renovated site, including an image gallery for our photo collection and maybe even a web version of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

Tell us how we are doing! If you have a question, idea or comment you want to share, visit the Contact Us section and the email directory to find whom to contact about what.

RESOURCES

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

I have not written much about the journals and magazines that form an important part of the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library collection. Perhaps a quick review of recent additions to the collection may give readers some idea of the scope and variety to be found there.



The Spring 2011 issue of *Connections*, the quarterly journal of the Quebec Family History Society, has two articles about Alexander Parker Willis, an important businessman of nineteenth-century Montréal. In *My Great-grandfather and Me*, self-styled amateur historian Mark D. Gallup writes about researching the life of Alexander Willis for a biography for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. The second article, *Reminiscences of the Family Business*, written about 1950 by John James Willis, Alexander's son, deals with his father's life and the piano business he founded. Another article of interest, *Unravelling Quebec Land Records* by Sharon Callaghan, should be helpful to researchers seeking to understand property registration in the province.

The *Bulletin* of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society celebrates 2010, the Year of the Home Child, by devoting the December issue to stories about Home Children.

The *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* usually publishes scholarly papers about researching family history in the United States. The December 2010 issue has an article by Ronald A. Hill about the flawed 1851 Boucherville, Quebec, Census. With pages out of order and misnumbered, families not continued on the succeeding pages and newborns not enumerated with their parents, it required a careful study of other contemporary parish records to sort out the *Enigmas of the 1851 Boucherville, Québec, Census*.

Its sister publication, *NGS Magazine*, keeps members up to date on contemporary events in the world of genealogy. In the October–December 2010 issue, Ken V. Garney reviews in his article, *Libraryland: Strategies for Navigating Repositories*, the different

types of repositories—public, academic and special libraries (such as the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library) and archives. He also explains what type of information you can expect to find in each.

The Ancestral Searcher, the quarterly publication of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra, deals mostly with Australian matters, but occasionally has articles about the British Isles. Its December 2010 issue has an interesting account by Miriam Benn, titled “Nosy Neighbours and the Bawdy Courts”, about the Archdeacons' Courts, one of the many English church courts. The Archdeacons' Courts were obliged to make regular Visitations to ensure that the church and churchyard were in good condition and that incumbents and parishioners obeyed the Injunctions and Act of Uniformity of 1559. Their records offer insight into the lives of ordinary people between 1560 and 1741.

The library has publications from many of the smaller British family history societies that are useful for local information. Some articles may describe a local parish and what records may be found at the county record office; another may extract notices of births, marriages and deaths from a regional newspaper. For instance, the *Cleveland Family History Society Journal* (covering Cleveland, North Yorkshire and South Durham) has in its January 2011 issue an article titled *Looking for These? A Collection of People Who Strayed*. Culled from many different sources, this list includes several people who immigrated to Canada. This issue also includes a list of churchwardens (1739–1800) for the parish of Richmond, North Yorkshire. The February issue of the *Tay Valley Family Historian* has a new format. Its glossy pages and numerous coloured illustrations encourage the reader to explore further—from Alistair Macdonald's article on the history of the game of golf to a discussion on old domestic irons sparked by a mystery photo.

Recent Additions

Recent additions to the bookshelves of the library are:

Floate, Sharon Sillers. *My Ancestors Were Gypsies*. Society of Genealogists Enterprises, 2010.

Jenkins, Phil. *Beneath My Feet: the Memoirs of George Mercer Jenkins*. McClelland and Stewart, 2007.

Punch, Terrence M. *Some Early Scots In Maritime Canada, Vol. I*. Genealogical Publishing, 2011.

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, compiler. *British Home Children: Their Stories*. Global Heritage Press, 2010.

Thomson, William P. L. *The New History of Orkney*. Birlinn, 2008.

To our growing collection of books about our ancestors' occupations, we have added the following books:

Hardy, Frank. *My Ancestor Was a Railway Worker*. Society of Genealogists Enterprises, 2009.

Horn, Pamela. *My Ancestor Was in Service*. Society of Genealogists Enterprises, 2009.

Wade, Stephen. *Tracing Your Legal Ancestors: A Guide For Family Historians*. Pen & Sword, 2010.

Wilcox, Martin. *Fishing & Fishermen: A Guide for Family Historians*. Pen & Sword, 2009.

Members struggling to write their family history may find these additions of interest:

Douglas, Althea. *Time Traveller's Handbook: a Guide to the Past*. Dundurn Press, 2011.

Leclerc, edited by Michael J. and Henry B. Hoff. *Genealogy Writing in the 21st Century: a Guide to Register Style and More*. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2006.

Cullen, Mark. *The Cullens of Templeton: a Two Hundred Year Journey; a History of John Cullen and Elizabeth Carolan and Their Descendants*. Vancouver, M. Cullen & Co., 2011. ISBN 978-0-9868532-0-3. With its wealth of maps, illustrations and background material, this is an interesting example of a well-written family history.

Brian O'Regan Memorial Library

New Location:

Ottawa Central Archives
 Reference Room (3rd Floor)
 100 Tallwood Avenue
 (corner of Woodroffe Avenue and Tallwood)
 Ottawa Central Archives telephone: 613-580-2857

Hours for the Ottawa Central Archives:

Tuesday–Friday: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (except on holiday weekends and from June 1 to Labour Day)
 Closed Sunday and Monday

Access:

Buses using the Southwest Transitway offer frequent service, especially the # 95 bus to and from Fallowfield.
 Parking behind the building is free. You will be asked to register the license plate number of your car with the commissionaire in the lobby and record it in the Reference Room when you register.
 There is no cafeteria. Bring a lunch or visit a nearby restaurant.

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.
Abb(e)s	NFK, ENG	1500–1830	132	Fitzpatrick	CAV, IRL	1830+	1085
Abbs	ON, CAN	1830–2011	132	McGrath	KIK, IRL	Pre-1847	1085
Baildon	WRY, ENG	1500–1640	132	Morgan	LND, ENG	1820+	1085
Brennan	KIK, IRL	Any	1085	Rathbun	Ditton, LAN, ENG	1500–1675	132
Byrne	WIC, IRL	Pre-1847	1085	Sunderland	YKS, ENG	1841+	1085
Chapman	Aylmerton, NFK, ENG	Any	132	Walsh	LEX, IRL	Pre-1847	1085
Core	YKS, ENG	1825+	1085				

TABLE B (Members referred to in Table A)			
Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address
1085	A. Burns 905-2760 Carousel Crescent Gloucester ON K1T 2N4 Ann.burns@rogers.com	132	Edward Kipp 6242 Paddler Way Orleans ON K1C 2E7 ekipp@rogers.com

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 website, www.bifhsgo.ca.

BY TARA GRANT

Membership Report

New BIFHSGO Members from 11 January to 12 March 2011					
Member No.	Name	Address	Member No.	Name	Address
36	Ronald GARDNER	Nepean, ON	842	John & Kathleen McCONKEY	Nepean, ON
1390	Tom WHITE	Orleans, ON	1414	Susan MACKENZIE	Ottawa, ON
1415	Glenn RIVARD	Ottawa, ON	1416	Ralph MANNING	Ottawa, ON
1417	Claire & Philip SHEEN	Ottawa, ON	1418	Allan & Jadwiga STEAD	Ottawa, ON
1419	Ron KRUPOVICH	Carleton Place, ON	1420	Susan SMITH	Orleans, ON
1421	Louise COOPER	Greely, ON	1422	John & Kathryn BOSHER	Ottawa, ON
1423	Judith HERSEY	Orleans, ON	1424	Richard DARE	Nepean, ON
1425	Mary DONNELLY & Michael FOSTNER	Russell, ON	1426	Bryn & Diane HOLMES	Ottawa, ON
1427	Brenda TURNER	Orleans, ON			

WELCOME to ALL our new and returning members! Please extend a warm welcome if you see them at a meeting.

Memories for Sale

By Gipp Forster

Reprint courtesy March 2011 *Senior Living Magazine*, Vancouver Island

It was Saturday afternoon at the Imperial Theatre in Ottawa. Two feature films, a newsreel, a cartoon and an ongoing serial that left a 10-year-old boy (along with another 150 or so kids) clinging to the edge of our seats, anticipating how our brave hero could be saved from what appeared to be certain death! Come back next Saturday afternoon to see if he or she manages to escape and live. Oh, it was grand - all for 12 cents.

Films were in black and white then. You had to imagine the colour. Roy Rogers was Roy Rogers, Johnny Weissmuller was Tarzan, and Lassie would come home. The Dead End Kids were becoming The Bowery Boys and we were getting older day by day without realizing it.

Life was a game then - a game we thought would never end.

And now, well over half a century later, there is little trace of the "once was." The memories are blown about the winds of change and like dust settle on ancient minds. It's hard to believe now that those times even existed. What a story to relay to our children and grandchildren, if only they wanted to hear.

Some do but most don't. Too busy, I guess, planting the seeds of their own memories to harvest later in the fields of time.

My dad tried to tell me about his boyhood experiences, but I wasn't interested. I was far too busy, too selfish, to journey back with him. So, he went the course alone. He had great stories - true stories. One I vaguely remember of him watching a native Sioux family crossing close to his home on the plains of South Dakota, seeking some unknown destination.

My dad used to say that I'd be sorry I didn't listen. He was right! I am sorry. So many treasures that could have been gathered were left to become dust in one man's mind. I don't know if my own memories of the past could be considered treasures or not. Many could be discarded, I know, but there are others worth keeping and sharing. Sometimes the road of memory can be a lonely one: like cooking a great dinner but having no one to share it with.

I know none of my memories are covered in tattoos. None where I had my skin punctured with a ring in my nose, my eyebrow, my navel or any other body part willing to get lost in a fad. But I guess there are different memories for different times. Our youth will gather theirs just as we did and do. God bless them!

What should we do with our memories now that we are old and getting older? It's too bad we can't have garage sales for old memories and stories that once meant something. Even memories and stories need a beginning, and we were there to get them going on their way. We don't get very much for things we put in garage sales. A mere pittance for what they are worth. But a pittance is better than nothing at all, I guess.

Sometimes I feel like walking down the street shouting, "Memories and stories for sale. Very reasonable. Get memories and stories here!" People don't even have to buy them. Heck, I'll give them away free.

Even if few who are younger are interested in our journey, we, you and I, can still wander back to the days of 12-cent movies, nickel ice-cream cones, one-speed bicycles, milk bottles made of glass, twist doorbells, vestibules and 10-cent hot dogs.

Solomon said it best, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity." And maybe that's so. But those long-ago times had a softness and sweet innocence about them that challenged us to dream our own dreams, never once thinking that one day we would be part of the past.

Most of it was black and white, but oh, how the memories burst with colour!

In those times, when there was so little past and so much future - in those times, when thoughts were young.

**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

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 10 September 2011 | <i>Fancy Railway Stations in Westmorland</i> —Tom Rimmer. Tom's great-grandfather was absent from home according to the 1871 Census of Rainford, Lancashire. Tom eventually found him, building railway stations in the Lake District. Tom's grand-daughter, Anne Rimmer, will present the talk.

BEFORE BIFHSGO — Glenn Wright: Browsing for books online |
| 8 October 2011 | <i>The Watsons of Weardale</i> —Brian Watson, co-chair of the 2009 and 2010 BIFHSGO Fall Conferences and former member of the Canadian foreign service, examines the lives and times of his ancestors in Durham, north-east England, and their mass emigration to the New World in the early nineteenth century.

BEFORE BIFHSGO — TBA |
| 12 November 2011 | <i>Moonrakers at Peace and War</i> —Brooke Broadbent, training consultant, author and workshop leader, traces the lives of four families that emigrated from the U.K, settled in the Peterborough area and sent soldiers to serve in two world wars.

BEFORE BIFHSGO — TBA |

Schedule:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 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 and news of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check the website www.bifhsgo.ca

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 15 October 2011.