



Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle • Volume 18, Number 3 • Autumn 2012

In This Issue

Bound for Canada

The Rowe Family Bible

Searching for Uncle Percy

A Mystery Solved in South Africa

Discover the War of 1812

It's Your Library: Use It or Lose It!



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement No. 40015222
Indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)
Editor: Jean Kitchen
Editor Emeritus: Chris MacPhail
Assistant Editor Layout: Vacant

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British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

Founded and incorporated in 1994
Charitable Registration No. 89227 4044RR0001

To contact BIFHSGO:

- PO Box 38026
Ottawa ON K2C 3Y7
- 613-234-2520
- queries@bifhsgo.ca
- www.bifhsgo.ca

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Cover Illustration:

Augusta Mary Oates in later life

From the Editor:

In this issue one of BIFHSGO's newest members, Andrew Frowd, introduces us to his grandmother, Augusta Mary Oates, whose letters home reveal both her personal story and the emigrant experience.

Then Robert Woodland transports readers to Newfoundland, where family members found an ancestor's bible that illuminated their past.

Betty Warburton updates her Great Moments presentation with new discoveries about the naval history of Uncle Percy Bliss and First World War maritime bases.

We travel to South Africa with Helen Garson, as she recounts how her lost relatives turned up among the immigrants to that country in the early years of the last century.

Glenn Wright offers a timely guide to the many resources available about the history of the War of 1812.

And we reprint a timely op-ed piece from *Internet Genealogy* magazine supporting the importance of archives and libraries in collecting and preserving historical resources.

Jean Kitchen

From the President



A new BIFHSGO year is about to begin. We have another exciting program that will unfold over the next ten months, featuring more Before BIFHSGO educational sessions, excellent monthly meetings and notable Great Moments presentations. However, a shadow hovers over our activities.

The recent budget cuts and restructuring taking place at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) have served to remind me of the value of archives to every one of us. We are all users of archives, whether we access documents

online or walk into an archival repository to consult a government document, a photograph, a map, a diary.

Sir Arthur Doughty, our Dominion Archivist from 1904 to 1935, devoted his career to the preservation of Canada's past, which includes photographs, art, maps and objects such as Sir Isaac Brock's uniform from the Battle of Queenston Heights, Canadian Corps trophies from the Great War, and a dress Queen Elizabeth wore during the 1939 Royal Tour of Canada.

In 1916, Doughty penned these words: "Of all national assets, archives are the most precious; they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization." These same words are engraved on his statue, which stands on the back terrace of the LAC building. First established in 1872, our national archives has enriched our cultural life and provides the resources that allow us to explore our history and heritage.

In June, I wrote to the Minister of Canadian Heritage expressing concern about the budget cuts at LAC and those affecting the larger archival and heritage community throughout Canada. To date, I have received no reply.

I believe that we should continue to convey to our political leaders the value of archives and heritage throughout Canada, although it seems mere words will not alter the situation or restore the funding. Our cultural expression is rooted in the archival record and is found in books, documentary films, art, plays and yes, in our family histories and genealogies.

May the coming season enhance your research and broaden your knowledge of your ancestry; may we never forget that the archival record, in whatever format or media, is essential to all of us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Wright".

Glenn Wright

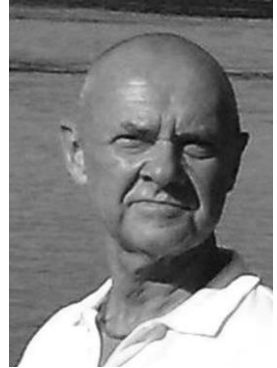
Family History Research

Bound for Canada[©]

BY ANDREW FROWD

Andrew's genealogical research is enhanced by a treasure trove of delightful letters written by his grandmother while en route to and living in Saskatoon in 1912–14. In this Part 1 of her story, she recounts highlights of her journey to the Canadian West, giving the reader a vivid picture of the times.

Two Londoners, Leonard Frowd Crook and Augusta (Gussie) Mary Oates, knew each other for some time before 1910. In that year, Leonard marked his 21st birthday and travelled to Canada, setting up a business in booming Saskatoon. Gussie, his future wife and several years his senior, crossed the Atlantic in June 1912, just two months after the *Titanic* disaster, to join him. The couple were married on Gussie's arrival in Montréal and embarked on a fast-paced journey to Saskatoon. There, Gussie encountered the challenges of prairie living 100 years ago that she found so very different from her cultured life in pre-First World War London.



On board R.M.S. "Teutonic" Saturday, 1st June 1912

My dearest Mother and Father,

It is nearly 9 p.m. and quite light. I am sitting on the deck feeling as right as ninepence. I do not know if the triumph is due to the little pink tablet I took at Euston or to the native good sense of my inside. Still it is early days to rejoice yet, much may happen ere the 8th [the ship's arrival in Montréal]. Dinner was a toothsome meal and I did it justice. My seat is at the head of a table and next to the Odegardes, the people we travelled with to Liverpool. He and his old father are Norwegian and Mrs. O is Scotch. I like her—and him too. My cabin companions both seem agreeable, one I have only just spoken to, and the other—about 39½—is innocent and harmless.

I have just been parading the deck with a friendly but rather foolish young Canadian girl, she says all the stock things which slightly vulgar American heiresses are supposed to say, you don't often find a girl who talks like a person in a short story. The scene now is lovely, the sea quite a blue and the sky with the delicate pinks and blues and greens of an opal.

I am wearing my golf coat and it is such a comfort, I'm sure I shall be subconsciously blessing Mrs. Streeter all this voyage, with pats on the head for you for sewing it up for me and Cooee [probably a family servant] for putting on the buttons.

Goodnight my dears, I keep thinking of you.

Sunday, 2nd June

... Much happened...

... Draw the curtain...

Monday, 3rd June

... More happened. Curtain still necessary.

Tuesday, 4th June

The curtain may now be raised and discloses me at 11 o'clock on the deck wrapped in my Harris coat, my jersey and my rug, gazing languidly on the Atlantic. The lunch table beholds me partaking (successfully) of soup, cracker biscuits and an apple. Dinner was still more venturesome. But my daring was again justified—thus far. Oh, but I'll so far lift the curtain as to say that Sunday and Monday were awful, I'll never go on an ocean journey alone again except under extreme pressure. The stewardess was very kind and suggested calling the ship's doctor, but this morning I found to my joy that I could lift my hand to my head without feeling that the action had overstrained me. And now I begin to live again! I've just been talking to a woman who is crossing for the sixth time and she has never been sick till this journey—we really have had a big swell on.

Wednesday, 5th June

We have been simply crawling along for the last nearly 24 hours, we are surrounded by a sea-fog and the fog-horn emits frequent inharmonious snorts like a weary prehistoric beast blowing its nose. I'm longing to hurry up but at the same time I am of course extremely

grateful to the captain for not bonking us into anything.

You will like to know how I get on with my meals. From Saturday night till Tuesday morning they were an unmeaning blank, but since then I have imbibed nourishment with much satisfaction. I am attended by a fatherly waiter who beamed when I appeared (as though he had been looking for me) and seems delighted when I choose anything to eat. Unfortunately I cannot eat enough really to please him—you know my limitations. This morning I remarked that I had had a good breakfast. He shook his head and said it wasn't very big. "Now those", he said indicating the three Frenchmen who sit on my other side, "can work right through the menu and begin again, but then they're foreigners!" My ideas of waiters are quite changing. I used to think they liked you to eat a lot to mount up the bill, but I perceive that they really like it for its own sake.

I have not met anybody very interesting yet, I like the Odegardes best. There are several brides on the boat. I must confess that I find the life rather dull, but perhaps that's partly because I am so longing to get to the other side. There is going to be a concert tonight and I have promised to recite, but unfortunately I don't feel much enthusiasm for it. I shall do "Quaker Maiden" and then see how the spirit moves me.

Miss Taylor, one of my cabin mates, has crossed several times and she told me that she had never seen anybody as ill as I was with sea-sickness recover so quickly. I look fine and well now. Oh, I did wish Father was with me on Sunday and Monday though, I thought of how he looked after me that time going over to Budapest. Never mind, I shan't be alone much longer now, and perhaps it's rather good for me to have no-one to make a fuss of me for a bit—though I don't like it much!

My other room-mate, Miss Clapshaw, is a curious creature, she is the essence of good nature, but I never saw a traveller more simple and helpless, she follows Miss Taylor and me like a lamb—or rather a sheep.

Thursday, 6th June

More sea-fog today and the fog-horn was going through most of the night. It is very cold to-day and in the night I heard loose ice slithering against the side of the ship. We have seen two or three icebergs to-day, but they appear distant and it is too dull and foggy to see them to advantage.

I am getting to know a few more people. I spent a most enjoyable time this morning in the music room, listening to a very good violinist and a man with an excellent baritone voice. I have also met a nurse—such a bright little woman—who is coming over for the summer to Toronto and possibly to settle; and a Canadian girl, a missionary invalided home from China.

(Later) It has cleared up beautifully, the breeze has got up and we are steaming ahead. I've just had a fine swinging promenade on deck with Miss Taylor—my cabin mate. I feel tired now and not very interesting so I'll continue to-morrow. Goodnight Kisses to you both.



Figure 1: Mary Augusta Oates in later life

Source of all photos: author

voyaging traditions. The thing I enjoy most is a good swinging walk on deck when the promenade is clear. I am splendidly well but the fact is I am restless.

Instead of getting to Montreal to-morrow the boat may not get there till Monday, though I hope it will be Sunday; some horrid pessimist has suggested Tuesday. This I will not contemplate. It is very unfortunate that the boat is delayed as it arrests my moral development and engenders the vice of impatience. This is a great pity; I am wondering how the delay is affecting Leonard and hoping that it will cause his character to blossom with the beautiful flower of patience.

Friday, 7th June

We have been going full speed all the night and this morning we sighted land. Somehow I cannot work up the letter-writing mood, it seems mean of me, but there it is. In fact I cannot work up any kind of mood. I have done a little embroidery but not much. I have tried to read about six books, but none of them grip. There is quite a good library on board.

The food is excellent, I couldn't wish it better and I am always ready for my meals. But I feel no enthusiasm for them—which state of things I know is sadly out of keeping with the best ocean-

I forgot to say that the recitations went off all right the other night, I did "Paddy's Courting" for the second.

I don't think I said that my cabin is beautifully airy and both my companions like the portholes open. Except on deck the cabin is the freshest place on the ship, the other places are rather stuffy. The dining-hall (where the piano is) smells and people smoke a lot in the lounge and the reading-and-writing room. I should never take an ocean voyage merely for pleasure; it's a means to an end with me. I get tired of from deck to lounge, lounge to dining-hall, and reading room to cabin. I like variety; don't think I'm complaining, I don't mean that, but I know some people choose this life as a form of pleasure. And the cabin is so small there's no room to splash or to be comfortably untidy in. I have a few handkerchiefs strewn about but really hardly anything else. My bed is remarkably comfortable, quite as much so as the little wooden bed at home; that as you know is not a very high standard of comfort, still it's good enough for me. "Anythink that nobody else don't want..." etc.

It is curious that although we are in the ice region, we have had two thunder-storms. It is raining now and still very cold.

Really, I haven't done so badly this morning, considering the epistolary mood was not upon me!

Saturday, 8th June

5.15 p.m.

We have had a perfectly glorious day. I have been on deck most of the time. We are steaming down the Gulf of St. Lawrence and can see land on either side, with chapels dotted here and there, trees, homesteads, a few factories, etc.

We are having another concert tonight and I am again commandeered to recite against my inclination I regret to say, but it seems mean to refuse. I shall do the "Watermill" and the "Street of Peace". I don't think you've heard the latter.

To-day the sunshine was so brilliant and the breeze so invigorating that I began to understand people's enthusiasm for life on board ship. One man who crossed in April said that they had much better weather and not so cold then as now.

We expect to reach Quebec late tonight and Montreal tomorrow night.

Now I'll make another move for the cabin, hoping that my good watch-dog [Miss Clapshaw] won't follow me. She's an awfully kind sort and does various little things for me in the way of fetching and carrying.

Quebec. Sunday, 9th June

Hurray and hurrah (multiplied infinitesimally) Leonard is here. I got up about 5 o'clock this morning because he had told me to expect a letter at Quebec and I knew the mail was probably in. So I went down to the dining saloon and tried to get it from the steward. After waiting about for a little the letters came in but there was none for me. I went on the deck feeling very depressed and as if nothing was certain. Had I but known it, Leonard was watching me from the shore, and they wouldn't let him come on board. But at 6 o'clock lo and behold there he was! He's just the same as ever (only nicer) and he says I'm not changed either. Oh, we're so happy!

I do wish you could come to our wedding, I think it's going to be at 5 tomorrow (Monday). We expect to be at Montreal about 8, I'm going to sleep at the Griffins and we start off again on Monday evening. We're going to see Niagara. We'll cable to-morrow after we've done it (got married). I can't write properly because Leonard is such a disturbing influence and he has the bad manners to look over my shoulder and laugh at my efforts. Oh, he has a nice little flat with three rooms and a bath-room. Goodbye my own dears, you needn't feel anxious about me anymore. I'm in good keeping now.

Very very much love.

Ever your loving child.

Gussie

[*In Leonard's writing*]

Passed by the editor (L.F.)

We are enjoying ourselves immensely steaming up the St. Lawrence to Montreal. It was tantalising to see Gussie on the boat and not be able to get to her. But we are very happy now and I am so glad these lonely days are over.

Yours,

Leonard

* * * * *

161 Second Avenue
Saskatoon
Monday, 17 June 1912



Figure 2: Leonard Frowd Crook

My dearest Mother,

I have so much to tell you that I hardly know how to get it all told. I did not get my baggage till this afternoon and my pen and this book were in it, or I might have managed to write before—though I have been very busy. But now I'll go straight on with my tale from arriving at the Griffin's on Sunday night.

On the Monday morning, Leonard and I went into the town and bought the marriage license, it was quite a little business, at one solicitor's they were sold out of them! But finally we fixed it up all right. We had lunch at the G's and after then I rested and dressed.

We had a cab to the church—Leonard and I, Mrs. G. and the two children. We

met Mr. G. there and Mrs. Wright and her boy Eric (whom Leonard knew). Mrs Griffin and Mrs Wright were our witnesses. Mr. G. conducted the wedding service beautifully, there were just 8 people in the church all told. Of course it was very quiet, we both felt we would have liked music, but as it was it was very sweet and still. His prayer at the end of the service was beautiful, just as if he understood all we had gone through and what we want to live in our marriage. It seemed to us both the best we had ever heard, and we shall always remember it. Afterwards he showed us all over his lovely church.

We went back partly walking and partly by tram (Mrs. G. had lent me a long cloak). Then we had a real dandy wedding dinner—ice-pudding and strawberries and cream and a wedding-cake!—the remainder of which is in my trunk. A cab called to take us and our luggage to the station and we boarded the train at 10 p.m. The trains are splendidly appointed and the sleeping accommodation very comfortable. The upper berths fold right up by day and look like a beam slanting from the top of the train, the lower berth (we had lower all the time) makes up

into seats by day. Curtains are drawn across them by night, these are numbered, one night I forgot my number and went to the wrong berth and found a baby asleep inside. Lucky the misadventure was not more disconcerting!

We arrived at Toronto at 7.30 a.m. on Tuesday, had breakfast at a hotel and took steamer for Niagara. We were on Lake Ontario for about 2½ hours then had a lovely tram-car ride of about an hour. We did Niagara in style—had a carriage and pair, and a most amusing driver. He knew the ground thoroughly and took us just where we ought to go and told us to take our time. We saw the falls from the American and then from the Canadian side, we saw the Three Sisters (three islands) and Goat Island. We went under the Falls dressed up in rubbers and overalls—heard the roar and were dashed by the spray, and we saw the beautiful rainbow afterwards which the sun throws on the falls.

Altogether we did the thing well and we both feel that we don't want to go again. The whole thing is wonderful, almost overwhelming, but it is rather too much like going to a "show" to yield quite that inner experience which nature gives at her very best. Still we are both very glad to have been there on our honeymoon.

We returned by boat to Toronto and slept there that night, catching the 8 train to Chicago on Wednesday morning and meaning to arrive at Chicago that evening. We asked the train man if we were in the right car, he said "yes", but later they shunted without telling us and lo and behold we found ourselves at 2 o'clock stuck up at a little place called Sarnia on Lake Superior and here we had to stay until 10 p.m., arriving at Chicago the next morning early. We spent the morning in Marshall Field's store—a glorified Harrod's and one of the largest stores in the world. We looked at a number of things and Leonard was as interested as I. We chose, among other things, our dining-room furniture. We had lunch there and in the afternoon visited the famous stock-yards and went over Libby's factory (they are an American Crosse and Blackwell), it was not very attractive, the thing we liked best was watching the tins being turned out by machine.

We found Chicago a dreary depressing place, the immense skyscrapers pen the streets in and make them seem dark, and there is an overhead railway (which we rode in) that adds to the noise and discomfort. We were not sorry to board the train at 6 p.m., have a nice dinner there, and tumble into our berth early. The next morning we reached Minneapolis at 7.30 and spent a particularly happy day. I

posted Father's letter from there, telling you how we visited the Falls of Minnehaha—Laughing Water, rightly called, for they are clear and beautiful and their name describes them exactly. We enjoyed wandering by the Mississippi afterwards and clambering up and down the river's banks. Saturday, spent at Winnipeg, was also very enjoyable. W'peg is a lovely town with wide clear streets and there we got our first breath of fresh prairie air. We had cold fine weather during the whole of our honeymoon and it was not until we reached Saskatoon at 8 on Sunday morning that the sun began to burn strong. The last two days (it is now Wed. 19 June) have been a good bit hotter than I care for, still it is cool at nights and in the early morning.

We slept at Mrs. Haddock's—Leonard's former landlady—on Sunday and Monday and had most of our meals there. Last night we slept here at our rooms for the first time and we are very glad to see our own clean white bed erected, it is nice to be in our own little place. Oh, we have been busy. We hardly knew which way to turn at first.

8.15 p.m.

I think I will mail this to-night or you will be wondering why you don't hear. We are busy sending the wedding cards to-night. It has been almost impossible to manage to do so before. How I would love a talk with you, you must be in Scotland now, I do hope you will enjoy yourself. I know there is a heap I have not told you but I will go straight on with it to-morrow.

How I would love a talk with you. I am not very homesick and try hard to gulp down the malady when it threatens. I am as happy as a lark when Leonard is with me, but I can't help home-yearnings at intervals. Goodbye my own dear Mother, the separation won't be for ever and not longer than we can help. I am very well and Leonard says getting fat already!

Very much best love to all.

Mary

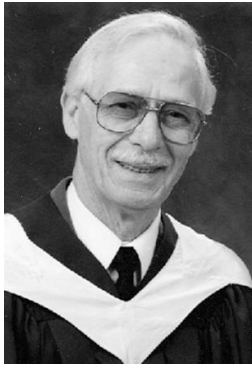
P.S. The first lot of household goods came beautifully packed on Tuesday.

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The next issue of Anglo-Celtic Roots will continue Gussie's story, with descriptions of her life in Saskatoon.

The Rowe Family Bible—a Link to Their Newfoundland History

BY ROBERT P. WOODLAND



Robert is a member of BIFHSGO and a retired public servant (Queen's Printer). He has been researching his and his wife Melendy's family histories for some years, and has had a book published titled Our Children's Families.

This title refers to a focal point of my research into the genealogy of the Rowe family of Yeoville, Somerset, England, who settled in Trinity, Newfoundland, in the mid-1700s. It is important both as an extremely fortunate twentieth-century find and as a prime source of information for the family of my great-great-great-grandfather, James Rowe of Trinity and Heart's Content, Newfoundland.

James was brought over to Trinity by his father, Edward Rowe II, about 1745.¹ He grew up in Trinity, where his father was a planter and small merchant-trader. (The term "planter" in Newfoundland at the time referred to the owner of a fishery plantation, or "fishing room.") Edward was also appointed a Justice of the Peace for the area in 1750. In 1773, James married Ann Sheppard

of nearby Carbonear. They had six children born in Trinity, some of whom were baptized in Trinity and others in the Conception Bay town of Harbour Grace.

In 1783 James moved his family to Heart's Content on the other side of Trinity Bay, where he and Anne had five more children born. Here he established a shipbuilding operation on a waterfront property obtained from his brother-in-law, Joseph Burridge. This venture proved to be very successful—James, his sons and grandsons, who also became shipwrights, built many schooners, barques, barquentines, brigantines and ketches, over a period of more than a hundred years.²

A Fortuitous Discovery

In the mid-1950s, almost two centuries after James had moved to Heart's Content, a descendant of his, Alex Rowe, together with other relatives commenced the task of demolishing the old Rowe home-stead on Rowe's Bank in the town. When the men were about to take down the chimney, one of them came across a book hidden in a little

alcove behind the chimney. It was dry and brittle, covered in dust and soot; the pages were all scorched around the edges. However, when the book was cleaned up, it was in relatively good condition and the text was found to be quite legible.

It turned out to be James Rowe's Family Bible or Church of England *Book of Common Prayer*. Most exciting was what the Rowe descendants found in the heart of the book: the names of James and Anne together with the names and birthdates of all their eleven children, hand-written apparently in James Rowe's own hand.

Some years ago Alex Rowe donated the Bible to the Anglican Archives in St. John's. I was fortunate enough to be able to view it at the city's Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and was even permitted to photograph the book through the glass of its protective case. A copy of it is shown here but unfortunately, it is not clear enough to read the names.



Figure 1: the Rowe Family Bible

Source: Author

Newfoundland's Unusual Records...

The Rowe Family Bible provided me and other Rowe researchers with confirmation of some genealogical information we had already obtained from other sources. It also helped us correct several errors we had previously made. Such family Bibles were and still are, to some extent, important sources of family records in many parts of Canada. However, because of its rather unusual settlement methods and patterns, other sources exist in Newfoundland and Labrador that may be unique to that area.

There are a number of commercial or private censuses dating back to 1675, for example. The *Newfoundland Grand Banks Genealogical Site* describes these censuses as "Official Lists," but I believe they were originally compiled for or by the merchant trading companies of the era, as formal government services, other than those of law and order, were almost unknown in Newfoundland during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They appear to have been the forerunners of the business directories issued in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. James Rowe's father, Edward Rowe was listed in one such census for Trinity South in 1753, which also showed he had one mistress (wife), four male and two female children.³

Another rather unique type of record was the lists of “fishing rooms.” These too date back to 1700 and form a type of census, as they registered all the inhabitants of each plantation, including servants or employees. One such listing for Heart’s Content for 1800–01 provides the following information for one James Rowe: “Occupier and Proprietor, married, inhabitants: 1 man, 1 woman, 0 boys, 3 girls.”⁴

...And Unusual History

The origins and means of settlement of Newfoundland and Labrador from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries were somewhat unique as well. Settlement was slow and intermittent for about two hundred years after John Cabot’s landfall near the end of the fifteenth century. For many years it was discouraged by the English West Country merchants, who financed the cod fishery.

England had no desire to colonize the island and bear the expense of a civil administration but simply chose to extract the wealth of teeming fish resources in the waters surrounding it. Salted and dried, the codfish would keep for some considerable time and was shipped to many parts of the world, particularly Europe, creating an excellent source of wealth—particularly for the West Country merchants. In the eighteenth century, these merchants dealt through smaller traders located on the island, such as Edward Rowe of Trinity.

An excellent source of information on settlement and population, with their origins, patterns and dispersion, is given by W. Gordon Handcock, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland, in his book, *Soe longe as there comes noe Women: Origins of English Settlement in Newfoundland*. This title was based on a quotation from a Captain Francis Wheeler, R.N. in 1684: “soe longe as there comes noe women they are not fixed,” meaning that men who had wintered over in Newfoundland need not be considered permanent settlers.⁵

In the early years, the cod fishery was largely a migratory operation, by which fishermen came over from England in small sailing ships called “byeboats.” These men were in addition to the crew who sailed the boats. The ships then sailed back to England with their catches at the end of the season.

As time went on, many of the fishermen stayed ashore, not wanting to return to England, where they had little prospect of a satisfactory livelihood. As the numbers of inhabitants increased, they gradually gained more control of the fishery over the migratory operators, and settlement expanded.

By the end of the Napoleonic wars (1815), the resident fishing industry had largely supplanted the migratory fishery. However, it was 1832 before the resident population reached the point where the island

was granted colonial status. Most of these early settlers were servants and apprentices of byeboat keepers and planters. Many were Irish, picked up by the English boats and brought over for the fishing season; most of them settled along the southern shore of the island. Over time, these servants married the daughters of other settlers and so increased the resident population.

So we can see that very few of the migrants who populated Newfoundland and Labrador came to our shores as passenger-immigrants. Some, who had some wealth and status at home in England, emigrated as entrepreneurs, but most were mariners and members of the Mother Country's poor, who were offered an opportunity for employment and a fresh start. At the same time, they provided the West Country counties with some mitigation of their relief rolls.

How to Learn More

There are numerous records and

publications available, which I and others have made use of in our quest for knowledge of our Newfoundland ancestors and their English and Irish antecedents. I found a great deal of information at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, which now contain all the parish as well as civil records. The *Newfoundland's Grand Banks Genealogy Site* (<http://ngb.chebucto.org>) has been especially helpful, as it has a tremendous wealth of genealogical information gathered from various sources, transcribed and posted by teams of volunteers.

Another very helpful source was John Rowe of London, Ontario, whose website (<http://www3.sympatico.ca/john.rowe>) holds a wealth of vital statistics on the Rowe families of Newfoundland. I have also visited some of our ancestral home counties in England and drawn on their genealogical resources.

Reference Notes

- ¹ Dr. E. R. Seary, *Family Names of the Island of Newfoundland*, (St. John's, NL: Memorial University of Newfoundland, 1977), 423–24.
- ² Melvin Rowe, *I Have Touched the Greatest Ship*, (St. John's, NL: Town Crier Publishing Ltd., 1976), 69–70.
- ³ "NFGenWeb Census Data, 1753, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland," *Newfoundland's Grand Banks Genealogy Site*, (<http://ngb.chebucto.org>).
- ⁴ "NFGenWeb Census Returns, 1800–1801, Trinity Bay Region, Newfoundland," *Newfoundland's Grand Banks Genealogy Site*, (<http://ngb.chebucto.org>).
- ⁵ Dr. W. Gordon Handcock, *Soe longe as there comes noe Women: Origins of English Settlement in Newfoundland*, (Milton, ON: Global Heritage Press, 2003), 21, 62, 69, 74–75.

Searching for Uncle Percy's Naval Records

BY BETTY WARBURTON



Betty first told this story about confirming Uncle Percy's naval service at the BIFHSGO Great Moments session in June 2012. Further research has now enhanced her knowledge of First World War naval history, which she shares here.

My husband's family knew that his uncle, John Percival Bliss, had served in the navy during World War I, but little else. Among the old family pictures that we inherited after my husband's parents died were several of his mother Edna and his Uncle Percy, both dressed in naval uniform. Her son Edwin Warburton said that his mother, as a young girl, liked to dress up in her brother's clothes. From the twinkle in their eyes and their broad grins, it is obvious that Edna and Percy were having fun; perhaps celebrating the fact that Percy was home in Toronto. Even big sister Maud pulled one of her brother's jerseys over her dress and joined the fun, posing with Edna.

Curious to know the name of his ship, I spent several hours with these old pictures and a magnifying

glass, trying to decipher the letters on the caps they were wearing. I was able to read the letters "H.M.C.S. - - - BE." I wondered whether Uncle Percy had served on the cruiser *Niobe*, one of the two ships transferred from the British fleet to the Canadian Navy when it was created in 1910. *Niobe*, based in Halifax, was being used as a training ship. Confident I would soon know all about his war service, I asked at the Genealogy Centre of Library and



Figure 1: Maud and Edna
Source, family images: author

Archives Canada for the World War I records of John Percival Bliss.

Imagine my surprise when I was told his name was not in the index. And puzzled! Those old photographs told a different story. How did Uncle Percy acquire naval uniforms and two naval caps that suggested he had enlisted in the Canadian Navy? All kinds of possibilities passed through my mind. Were the caps souvenirs? Did he transfer to the British Navy after being trained in Canada? I even spoke to Glenn Wright about my problem; he double-checked the records at Library and Archives Canada and came up with the same result—there was no record of John Percival Bliss in the index.

Had he made his way across the Atlantic to enlist in the British Navy? Knowing how poor the family had been in his early years, I doubted it. On a visit to Toronto, I remember sitting on the balcony of his 25th floor apartment, high above the Don Valley Parkway, while he reminisced about his early life and the difficult time his mother had raising four small children after his father, Thomas Bliss, died in 1896.

While I frantically took notes, he also talked about his grandparents and his uncles and aunts. Many of his family worked for the railroads, he said. He told us about standing on a box as a child while he curried the horse of the butcher for whom he worked, and mentioned visiting the Methodist Book Room to further his education.

In the 1901 Census of Toronto, his widowed mother Rebecca gave her occupation as washerwoman. In the 1911 Census, the family (listed under the surname Parker) was living with Rebecca's widowed brother, Edward Parker, and his two children. Rebecca was probably keeping house for Edward; her three younger children, still living with her, were all employed: Percy (age 17) as a printer's apprentice and the two girls, Edna (15) and Maud (20), as operators. Matilda (Tilly), Rebecca's eldest daughter, had married Joseph Forster in 1907.

If Percy's naval records were in Great Britain, I knew that I needed the name of his ship to find them. I began asking questions. My brother-in-law Fred, who had served in the Canadian Navy during World War II, was sure that Uncle Percy had served on the *Nairobi*. Nairobi sounds much like Niobe, but it does not account for the "BE" on the cap. I was doubtful. Years went by, and I continued to ask questions.

Last Christmas, I asked the right person—Uncle Percy's grandson David. He emailed to say he had inherited three medals from his grandfather: the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and one commemorating the 1916 Battle of Jutland. He speculated whether his grandfather had participated in that battle.



Figure 2: the WW I British Victory Medal

Source: Wikipedia

But his most important information concerned this inscription, engraved around the rim of the first two medals: "R.C.N.V.R. LEADING STOKER J.P. BLISS 419." Again I emailed Glenn Wright for help. This was his reply:

Well, the number sealed the deal for us. While there is no personnel file, there is a "service ledger" which details all of your grandfather's service in the RCNVR. I ordered in the relevant box today and tomorrow, or Friday, I will take a digital image of the two pages. They are large, folio size but I should be able to capture the essential information for you.

A few days later Glenn emailed me photos of the documents he had found. At the top left corner of the page was the number 419.

I learned that Percy was five feet, six inches tall, had dark hair and grey eyes and was born 10 February 1892. He was still a printer in 1914, and he gave his mother Rebecca Bliss as next of kin.

The records listed the dates of his postings and the names of five

ships: H.M.C.S. *Diana*; H.M.C.S. *Niobe*; H.M.C.S. *Margaret*; H.M.C.S. *Stadacona*; H.M.C.S. *Seagull*.

As I read the documents, I knew I needed more background material and help in interpreting some of the abbreviations and terms used. I turned to the Internet for that information. I learned that naval bases were named as if they were ships: H.M.C.S. *Niobe* referred to the land base in Halifax as well as the ship, and H.M.C.S. *Lansdowne* was the name of the naval base at Sydney, Nova Scotia.

I found information about some of the ships on which Percy had served, but nothing at all about H.M.C.S. *Diana* and very little about H.M.C.S. *Seagull*—except, on the *Great War Forum* website www.1914-1918.invisionzone.com, there were comments by frustrated seekers of information.

Excited about breaking through my brick wall and anxious to get my thoughts on paper, I began to write about Percy's career in the navy. And that was the talk I gave as my Great Moments presentation.

It was well worth my while, sharing my problems with the members the society. After my Great Moments presentation, member Ken McKinlay kindly suggested I look at *The Venture Story* website, www.venturestory.com, where I found this information:

The Royal Canadian Navy came into being as a result of the Naval Service Act of 1910. In the same year, the Royal Naval College of Canada was established in Halifax and a year lat-



Figure 3: John Percival Bliss

er, it acquired the schooner *Advocate*, renamed HMCS *Diana*, and the sloop *Venture* as a sail and seamanship training tender. She was attached to HMCS *Niobe* in Halifax and was employed until 1917 when the Halifax explosion probably ended her career as it did the *Diana*. Many Canadian Flag Officers first learned the seaman's art in these vessels....

In addition, my research revealed that the name *Seagull* might have referred to a RCN RNCVR base established at Sydney, Nova Scotia, for coastal patrol ships from 1 May 1918 to 10 Dec 1920. The name was

also used for tug number CD74 in the same time period.

Suddenly phrases used in Percy's records, which had previously puzzled me, made sense: i.e. "*Niobe* for *Margaret*," "*Lansdowne* for *Margaret*" and "*Seagull* for *Stadacona*" was shorthand for "*Niobe* base for the ship *Margaret*," etc.

Furthermore, I found an online article by historians Brian Tennyson and Roger Sarty titled *Sydney, Nova Scotia, and the U-Boat War, 1918*, at www.wlu.ca. It provided me with a history of the naval base at Sydney and events in the waters off Nova Scotia during 1918, as well as insight into the duties of patrol ships of the Canadian Navy.

Halifax, with its large, deep and protected harbour, had served as a base in Nova Scotia for the British fleet since 1749. In 1906, the Canadian government took over the base and the Royal Canadian Navy was established with two ships from the British Navy. H.M.C.S. *Niobe* was based in Halifax and H.M.C.S. *Rainbow* in British Columbia.

When Britain declared war on Germany in 1914, Canada's small navy needed to expand, and several private American yachts were purchased and fitted out as armed patrol boats. During the war, German U-boats threatened British and Canadian merchant ships crossing the Atlantic and it was the practice to gather convoys of Canadian and British merchant vessels in Halifax harbour. As well as patrolling the

Gulf of St. Lawrence and the coasts of Newfoundland, the smaller Canadian naval ships helped escort the convoys to the Grand Banks, where the British Navy took over escort duties across the Atlantic.

When the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917 and German U-boats moved closer to the shores of North America and even entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a second Canadian naval base, named H.M.C.S. *Lansdowne*, was established at Sydney, Nova Scotia. Sydney's large and protected harbour would serve as a gathering place for slower-moving convoys of Canadian and American ships.

I needed to revise my summary of Percy's career in the navy.

John Percy Bliss enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy "for war" on 6 August 1915 as an able seaman, probably in Halifax. He was posted to the schooner *Diana* to introduce him and other landlubbers to the ways of the sea and seamen. He transferred to *Niobe* for further training on 6 September 1915. A year later, on 31 July 1916, his training completed, he was posted to H.M.C.S. *Margaret*.

Margaret, I learned, had been built in Canada as a customs cruiser for the Department of Customs and delivered in April 1914. She was

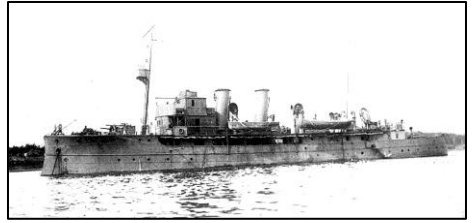


Figure 4: HMCS *Margaret*

Source: Wikipedia

transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy shortly after the declaration of war with Germany, on 3 August 1914, and commissioned in 1915. During the war she served as an escort and patrol vessel. In 1916 *Margaret* was based in Halifax and on 17 May 1917 she was transferred to H.M.C.S. *Lansdowne* at Sydney. By December, she had returned to Halifax. On 6 December 1917, *Margaret* was moored in Halifax Harbour at Dockyard Jetty 2 when a tremendous explosion devastated the city. *Margaret* broke her moorings and suffered minor damage; two of the crew were killed ashore.

Percy was not on board *Margaret* on that disastrous day in December, as he had already been posted to H.M.C.S. *Stadacona*, one of the American private yachts the Royal Canadian Navy had recently acquired. Percy was promoted to the rank of leading seaman on 25 January 1918 and on 1 April 1918 became leading stoker.



Figure 5: Edna and Percy

Shovelling coal into a boiler must be hot and dirty work—a miserable job—even without the knowledge that, if an enemy torpedo struck, he would likely be trapped in the bowels of the ship. But the job was important and someone had to do it. And Percy did it to the best of his ability; his performance, according to his naval records, was assessed as very good.

A month after his appointment to leading stoker, *Stadacona* was transferred to H.M.C.S. *Seagull*, a second base for coastal patrol vessels in Sydney harbour. *Stadacona* returned to H.M.C.S. *Niobe* and Halifax on 1 February 1919. A month later, on 5 March 1919, Percy was demobilized. He returned to Toronto, to his family and to his former trade as a printer.

If I want to know more about Percy's career in the navy, I realize I will need to consult documents held by Library and Archives Canada, such as the logbooks of *Margaret* and *Stadacona*. Right now, thanks to David and Glenn, I am satisfied to have broken through my brick wall.

A Mystery Solved in South Africa

BY HELEN GARSON

A long-time BIFHSGO member and family history researcher, Helen has taken to writing up her findings for the benefit of her descendants. Here she outlines some tips for locating "lost" ancestors.

I would like to share with the membership a rather surprising discovery, which set my research off in a direction that was totally unexpected. My husband and I emigrated from Aberdeen, Scotland, to Canada in 1954 and eventually settled in Ottawa in 1969. I kept in

close touch with my immediate family back home and with a second cousin who, although she was some eight



years my senior, became more like a sister.

She had become very interested in family history and had made notes on the data she collected. Much of her research would have been done in the 1970s while coping with cancer, and I believe she was determined to find as much information as possible before the cancer claimed her life.

When she died, I felt compelled to take up the task of completing or at least adding to what she had amassed over those last years. But where to begin? I was already living on this side of the ocean, far removed from the offices in Scotland where I could avail myself of the various sources of information.

My first task was to familiarize myself with organizations in Ottawa that might be able to guide me in my search. I became a frequent visitor to the LDS Ottawa Family History Center and found a remarkable group of volunteers ready to help all new members in tracing their ancestors. I was also grateful to the LDS researchers who collected and organized all the data available on the databases we have today. Without them, I could still be in the dark as to where some of my ancestors had settled.

In researching my Watson ancestors in Scotland and in particular in the Aberdeen area, I hit a brick wall when trying to trace three members

of a large family: George, Alexander and Elizabeth Watson. They all appeared in the 1871 Census for Aberdeen. Alexander also appeared in its 1881 Census, aged 24 and single, but George and Elizabeth were missing.

In the 1901 Census for Aberdeen, Alexander, now aged 44 and still single, is listed with the family, while George apparently was not living in the city. Elizabeth had returned to Aberdeen and she too resided with the family. She was described as a widow, age 35, married name Lockley. The name Lockley is not a common name in Aberdeen, and this proved to be a key factor in my search for these Watsons.

I searched for death records and was able to find data for the remaining members of that family, but there was nothing on these three in any repositories in the U.K. My first thought was to search for passenger lists of vessels sailing between Britain and North America, but I came up with a blank there. I was sure I had hit a brick wall. So I continued to work with the data I had.

Then I began to think back to the years when visits to my grandparents in Aberdeen were quite frequent. I recalled the times when my grandmother and I would stop on the street to talk with a very pleasant gentleman, who was in every way a gentle man. At the time,

I assumed he was merely a friend of the family.

My grandmother never failed to ask him if he had heard from Connie. Who was this Connie? Obviously she did not live in Aberdeen. I began to recall many of the conversations I used to catch snippets of while waiting patiently for us to say our goodbyes and be on our way. Although I set aside the question for a while, from time to time I found my thoughts returning to the puzzle.

The real break came when I noticed that the name Garden kept appearing as a witness in the marriage and death registrations I had gathered during my research. This witness was Richard Connon Garden, who I discovered was married to another Watson sister.

I began researching the records for his family and came across Herbert Garden, the gentleman I had met so often with my mother and grandmother! Herbert was Richard Garden's son. How I wish I had known the relationship at that time. He spent three weeks with my family in the 1960s, and he could have given me so much information on the Watsons. Unfortunately Herbert passed away before I made the South African connection.

Herbert had a brother, Douglas, who had married in Aberdeen, but he too disappeared from the records after his first marriage in 1930.

I decided I had gone about as far as I could go. It was time to take a break!

Quite some time passed before I decided to pick up the challenge once more. I have no idea as to just what triggered the thought, but I began asking myself, where did folks emigrate to other than to North America? The answer came very quickly—South Africa! Why had I not thought of that before?

I recalled families that had sons and daughters who had emigrated from Aberdeen to South Africa. In my very early teens, I had a close school friend whose brother and sister emigrated there. Was it possible that this was where I might find my missing Watsons?

I turned to the Internet for some clues as to the availability of vital records in South Africa and found a link to NASA, the National Archives of South Africa. There I came across a link to the National Automated Archival Information Retrieval System, or NAAIRS, a database of all archives, repositories and national registers of non-public records.

It was very simple to use. You can search specific databases or you can apply a search to all databases, which is very useful in the early stages of research, when you might not know where your ancestor happened to reside. You can search using the full name or surname only

and a date range. I found it very user friendly and versatile.

Before beginning a search for a specific person, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the various types of records and the different repositories. To obtain a copy of a record, you must contact someone who can visit the archives and obtain the information for you. The website for the Archives provides the names of those providing such a service. There will be a fee for this, but I found that the system works well.

By beginning with a query against the database containing information for all provinces, I was able to determine which one I should be accessing. I have to admit to being elated when on my first general search for a particular name, I came up with results. In the end I was able to find a researcher who was excellent and had the authority to access the records directly, selecting information pertinent to my particular query.

To learn more about the Archives, check their website at www.national.archives.gov.za/. There are links to the database of repositories and further links to assist you in your search of NAAIRS. I have listed them at the end of this article.

I was successful in finding all three of my missing Watsons in South Africa. I obtained copies of wills and

marriages. These proved to be of great interest, in that they revealed the presence in South Africa of other Aberdeen families—the Millars and the Donaldsons—who were connected to the Watsons by marriage and may have wanted to join them.

In summary, if you are having a problem tracing ancestors in the U.K., do widen your research to include those countries to which many of its residents emigrated throughout the centuries. After the First and Second World Wars, countries other than Canada, such as New Zealand, Australia, Tasmania, India and South Africa are probably the major ones where you will find a large number of immigrants from the U.K.

I would imagine areas where there were tea plantations or British regiments present could also have been areas where many U.K. citizens settled. The Colonial Service was still in operation well into the twentieth century, and I can recall a number of university graduates who joined the Colonial Service as late as the late 1940s and early 1950s. My brother-in-law went to Nyasaland, now Malawi; one neighbour emigrated to Nigeria and another to the Far East as manager of a tea plantation.

I found that my second great-grandmother was born about 1815 in Malta. Why Malta? Her father was in the British Army and was sta-

tioned there at that time. I was able to obtain copies of his enlistment papers in the U.K. and the pay lists for his regiment, as well as the reference to her birth.

In conclusion, if you find you have hit a brick wall and have given up your search, broaden the search to include a wide range of possibilities. I was fortunate in many ways, but I have to say that the excellent retrieval system available in the South African Archives was a surprising find and very helpful. Without it, I doubt that I could have come up with all the information I now have.

Useful Websites

http://www.national.archives.gov.za/aboutnasa_content.html

http://www.national.archives.gov.za/naairs_content.htm

<http://www.national.archives.gov.za/naairsdb.htm>

<http://www.national.archives.gov.za/reposit.htm>

http://www.national.archives.gov.za/naairs_help.htm

http://www.rampantscotland.com/placenames/placename_cape_town.htm

<http://www.sagenealogy.co.za/Links.htm>

Techniques and Resources

Discover the War of 1812: Websites, Archives and Books for the Discerning Researcher

BY GLENN WRIGHT

Glenn used his researching skills to unearth a selection of resources pertaining to the historic conflict everyone is talking about this year.

Rarely in Canada has there been such an outpouring of information about an historical event, and we are only in the first year of the war! Supported by federal government funding, commemoration of the war through

community events, conferences, re-enactments, stamps and coins has also served to draw attention to the resources available



for those interested in researching family ancestors who may have taken part in the war or been affected by it as a civilian.

The Ontario Genealogical Society, for instance, offers a certificate and membership in its War of 1812 Society for those who identify and document a War of 1812 ancestor. Archives, libraries, historical societies and museums, especially in Ontario, have joined the commemoration trail by preparing special exhibitions and by highlighting holdings relating to the war.

From a genealogical perspective, researching those who served in the war presents unique challenges. The defenders of British North America included members of the British Army, the Canadian Militia and the First Nations.

Those serving in the British Army are the least difficult to research, especially officers; for other ranks, muster rolls and other records provide a good starting point. Members of the Canadian Militia can often be identified through muster rolls, but surviving records are incomplete and uneven. First Nations generally supported the British side in the conflict, but researching individual participants is virtually impossible.

Determining who took part in the war is a daunting challenge, and is essential information in any research strategy, but fortunately,

one can rely on the work of others. For instance, John Kitzmiller's *In Search of the Forlorn Hope* (1988) is a comprehensive guide to locating British regiments, when and where they served in the world between 1640 and the Great War. Books by Don Graves, such as *Where Right and Glory Lead! The Battle of Lundy's Lane* (1997) and *Field of Glory: The Battle of Crysler's Farm, 1813* (1999), also include a list of the British regiments and Canadian militia units involved in these conflicts.

Online Resources

The bicentennial has encouraged the creation of numerous websites dedicated to the war. While it is not possible to list all of them, the following is a selected list of the most informative and helpful:

Commemorating the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the War of 1812 (www.archives.gov.on.ca)

The Archives of Ontario (AO) has created a comprehensive website that includes a history of the war, a detailed chronology, maps, artwork, brief biographies of key people, descriptions of important places and links to other War of 1812 resources. Note that the site also includes the AO's *War of 1812 Research Guide* (no. 213), an extensive list and description of fonds and collections at the AO relevant to the war, its aftermath, history

and commemoration over the past 200 years.

War of 1812–14 Bicentennial
(www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) hosts a website that includes extensive coverage of news and events relating to the war. For researchers, the educational resources include a bibliography, plus brief reviews of the books from the Society journal, *Ontario History*.

In addition, the site offers digitized articles and book reviews from OH and from the proceedings of the Women’s Canadian Historical Society. While the digitized articles can only be accessed by OHS members, a list of them is available to non-members.

The Society has also published a special issue of *Ontario History* (Vol. CIV, No. 1, Spring 2012) featuring ten articles: seven previously published in OH, plus three new articles on various aspects of the war.

1812 History
(www.1812history.com)

Although not updated in recent months, this site is worth a visit because it features artifacts and documentary art from the war, a collaborative online exhibition prepared by a number of archives and museums located in the Niagara Peninsula.



Figure 1: Battle of York

Source: schoolworkhelper.net/2011/05/the-war-of-1812-summary-analysis/

War of 1812
(www.eighteentwelve.ca)

Sponsored by the Historica Dominion Institute, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and Parks Canada, the site has an excellent timeline of events and a list of “topics”: short, but authoritative articles on battles, forts, historic sites and personalities, complete with illustrations and further references.

The maps on this site are especially noteworthy and will be helpful for anyone who wants to further his or her understanding of the war. There is also a link to the Canadian Atlas Online website, which features an interesting illustrated history of the war.

War of 1812 Casualty Database
(www.1812casualties.org)

A searchable database of British casualties—I do not think it in-

cludes Canadian or American soldiers—that includes the following information: name, rank, regiment, company number or officer, county or country of origin, occupation, manner of death, place and date.

War of 1812 in the Western District
(www.windsorpubliclibrary.com/digi/war1812)

Aside from the Niagara area, the war had a significant impact on the old Western District of Upper Canada (primarily the present-day counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton). The Windsor Public Library has created an educational website to draw attention to events in this area and specifically to the American invasion (the Battle of the Thames) in 1813. The site includes a brief overview of the events and people connected with the war, illustrated with artwork and documents.

Library and Archives Canada
(www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/military)

LAC has digitized documents relating to the War of 1812, including the Board of Claims for Losses, 1813–1848, Upper and Lower Canada Militia nominal rolls and pay lists and what are described as “miscellaneous” records. These are in reality far from miscellaneous and consist of correspondence and diaries from over a dozen private fonds and collections relating to the war. The site also includes

about three dozen relevant portraits and images from LAC’s documentary art collection.

Oddly enough, the site does not reference the British Military Records (Record Group 8, “C” Series), which include a considerable amount of documentation on the war and are available in digitized format on the LAC website. For more information about these records, see below.

For those who reside in or near Ottawa, the War of 1812 exhibition at the Canadian War Museum, “One War, Four Perspectives” is a “must see.” Developed by curator Peter MacLeod, the exhibition tells the story of the war from four very different perspectives: American, British, Canadian and First Nations. MacLeod is also the author of a book with the same title.

Research Resources

For an overview of the sources available for researching a War of 1812 ancestor, a good place to start is David A. Norris’ *Tracing your War of 1812 Ancestors: Resources for USA, Canadian and British Research!*, a special issue published in the spring of 2012 by Moorshead Magazines. Norris is especially strong on American sources, but his description of Canadian and British records is good, too.

Archival records relating to the war in British North America have long been of interest. The first major ac-

quisition of our national archives in 1872 was several tons of British military records created from the fall of New France in 1759 to the withdrawal of the army in 1871. A large proportion of these records relate to the War of 1812 and are now found in what is referred to as Record Group 8, "C" Series (reference: R11517-0-6) at LAC). The LAC website now offers an extensive card index to the collection, as well as digitized images of the documents themselves, consisting of 82 reels of index and 484 reels of documents.

This series is not easy to use, but LAC staff provide a good introduction and description of the records. LAC has also digitized militia nominal rolls and pay lists for Upper Canada (reference: R1022-11-6, reels T10379-T10392) and Lower Canada (reference: R1023-6-X, reels T10369-T10378); these records are not indexed.

LAC has other War of 1812 treasures. From the 1870s through the 1980s, archives staff copied and later microfilmed records in Britain relating to Canada. In doing so, they made available a large collection of War Office and Admiralty records on microfilm that may contain documentation relating to the war. For example, an Archives Search using the term "War Office" will return information on a number of classes of War Office records such as Muster Books and Pay Lists, Artillery

(WO 10), Muster Books and Pay Lists, General (WO 12), Headquarters Records (WO 28), Depot Description Books (WO 67), Royal Hospital Chelsea, Soldiers' Documents (WO 97) and Regimental Registers (WO 120), as well as a series of Birth and Marriage Certificates (WO 42). In all these classes of records, one will find material relating to the War of 1812. The records are described in Finding Aid 90, which is only available for onsite consultation at LAC. They are not indexed in any fashion.

Researchers should note that LAC only filmed records directly relating to Canada. In the case of War Office 97, for instance, a complete nominal index is available at The National Archives (TNA)(www.nationalarchives.gov.uk); researchers interested in the British Army should also consult TNA's Army Personnel Research Guides on its website.

American resources are more extensive and accessible. David Norris' book, described above, provides an excellent summary of the most important records and how to access them. Service records, pension applications, some muster rolls and published books are available on *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com), although the site does not have a specific link to its 1812 sources. Many of the same records and more are available on the Internet Archive (www.archive.org) including military bounty land

warrants, indexes to the pension lists, compiled service records, various state records, muster rolls and a variety of published books. These records have been digitized from microfilm held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C., and can be read online at no cost.

On *Ancestry's* Canadian site, there is one small database, "Miscellaneous Canadian Records," that draws upon a number of sources, published and archival. Commemorating the war is long from over; more Canadian and British related records will be added to *ancestry.ca* this year and next.

Civilians in the War

The major land battles of the War of 1812 took place in what is now the Niagara Peninsula of the Province of Ontario and along the north shore of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Settlers throughout the region were subjected to constant harassment by the military on both sides of the conflict as soldiers searched for food, transport animals, firewood and accommodation. In other words, land and crops and houses were often damaged or destroyed.

Following the war, a commission was established to hear claims for compensation and fortunately, these records are available to researchers.

The records of the War of 1812 Claims Commission are found in

the Finance Department records at LAC (reference: R200-112-9, reels T1122-T1144) and offer a fascinating glimpse of the impact of war on the civilian population of Upper Canada. These records have been digitized and are available on the LAC website; they include a finding aid and advice on the use of the records. Unfortunately, there is no nominal index to these records.

For those interested in this aspect of the war, George Sheppard's *Plunder, Profit and Paroles: A Social History of the War of 1812 in Upper Canada* (1994) is a well-researched and written account of the war from this perspective.

Further Reading and Research

The books described here are the proverbial tip of the iceberg; literature on the War of 1812 is extensive, as it has long been the subject of academic and popular historical interest.

Several of the websites described above include bibliographies, and on the LAC website one will find an extensive military history bibliography, "From Colony to Country: A Reader's Guide to Canadian Military History" (www.collections.canada.ca). While no longer updated, the War of 1812 portion of the bibliography is an excellent point of departure for exploring its history.

For an introduction to the war, Vic Suthren's *The War of 1812* (1999)

is excellent and includes numerous illustrations and maps. Pierre Ber- ton's two-volume history, *The Inva- sion of Canada, 1812–1813* (1980) and *Flames Across the Bor- der, 1813–1814* (1981) are both readable and informative.

More recently, American academic Alan Taylor's, *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels & Indian Allies* (2011), explains the war from vari- ous perspectives, is thoroughly documented and places the war in its broader historical context.

On the military events associated with the war, some excellent books have been published in recent years. For example, the books by Don Graves noted above, as well as his *Red Coats & Grey Jackets: The Battle of Chippawa, 5 July 1814* (1994) and his revised and updat- ed edition of J. Mackay Hitsman, *The Incredible War of 1812: A Mili- tary History* (2006), include excellent bibliographies of both published and archival sources re- lating to the war.

Robert Malcomson is another pro- lific author who has published several important books about the conflict, including *Lords of the Lake: The Naval War on Lake Ontario, 1812–1814* (1998), *A Very Brilliant Affair: The Battle of Queenston Heights, 1812* (2003) and *Capital in Flames: The American Attack on*

York, 1813 (2008). More recently, well-known genealogist and re- searcher Janice Nickerson published *York's Sacrifice: Militia Casualties of the War of 1812* (2012), which includes some very useful hints on researching a War of 1812 ancestor.

On the Canadian Militia's role in the war, Richard Feltoe's *Redcoated Ploughboys: The Volunteer Battal- ion of Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, 1813–1815* (2012) and Winston Johnston's *The Glengarry Light Infantry, 1812–1816: Who were they and what did they do in the war?* (1998; revised 2011) are both detailed and informative. Wil- liam Gray's *Soldiers of the King: The Upper Canada Militia, 1812–1815* (1995) is an index to the militia nominal rolls.

Personalities loom large, but none as large as Sir Isaac Brock. Wesley Turner's *The Astonishing General: The Life and Legacy of Sir Isaac Brock* (2011) pays appropriate trib- ute to this iconic figure.

First Nations played a critical role on the side of the British and no single man was more important than Tecumseh. His story is well told in James Laxer's *Tecumseh & Brock: The War of 1812* (2012) and in John Sugden's *Tecumseh's Last Stand* (1985).



Figure 2: Sir Isaac Brock

Source: LAC MIKAN no. 3849094

Many documents relating to the war have been published, the largest collection being Ernest Cruikshank's *The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier, 1812–1814* (1896–1908), now available once again in hardcover or on CD from GlobalGenealogy.com Inc. William Wood edited four volumes, *Select British Documents of the Canadian War of 1812* (1920–1928); this latter collection has been digitized and is available on the Society website (www.champlain-society.ca).

Visiting the War of 1812

For those who live in Ontario, the War of 1812 is still very visible on both sides of the Canada–United States border in spite of the pas-

sage of time and the apparent neglect by the public. Two guidebooks have been published to assist the historical tourist: Gilbert Collins' *Guidebook to the Historic Sites of the War of 1812* (2nd edition, 2006) and Patrick Carstens and Timothy Sanford's *Searching for the Forgotten War—1812* (2011).

Commemoration of the war will be with us for two more years. American and British negotiators reached a peaceful settlement at Christmas 1814, although word did not reach North America until late January 1815. For family history and genealogy, more resources will find their way online at *Ancestry*, at LAC and at other websites dedicated to the war.

Conclusion

Never again will the War of 1812 be referred to as the “forgotten” war. For those of us interested in researching an ancestor or the war itself, there are all kinds of resources—published, archival and online—that will satisfy the hunger for historical knowledge and understanding of this seminal event in Canadian history.

If more Canadians finally discover the war, the key personalities, the battles, the politics, the heroes and heroines, then all the publicity has been worth the investment.

It's Your Library: Use It or Lose It!©

BY DAVE OBEE

The following is reproduced with the permission of the author and Internet Genealogy magazine, where it first appeared in the July/August 2012 issue.



It's odd, in a way. At a time when governments around the world seem committed to cutting funding for libraries and archives, family historians are using the resources from those government-funded institutions more than ever. There's a catch, though. We are using material that has been collected and preserved by these institutions—which were funded using money from taxpayers—without leaving our homes.

That's one of the benefits of the Internet age, this chance to update our family trees while wearing slippers, listening to music and quenching our thirst. And we can do this whenever we want; our work is not confined to the opening hours of the libraries and archives the way it once was.

Who needs the hassle of leaving the house, dealing with traffic and finding parking? We can find what we want on the Web, on sites run by government agencies or by commercial interests. We are living in a digital wonderland, and our family trees have never been easier to expand.

But there is a downside to this, and it's a big one. We are sending the message that these venerable institutions, the sources of so much information for us, are no longer needed.

Check the reading rooms, and you'll see what I mean. Not that long ago, it was next to impossible to find a spot to sit, and we had to reserve time on the microfilm machines. Now, the crowds are gone, and the machines are gathering dust.

Even the greatest family history library of them all—you know, the one across from Temple Square in Salt Lake City—has seen a significant drop in traffic, and has cut its hours. We're finding so much online, it seems, we don't see the need to head to Utah.

Many libraries and archives have cut hours and reduced service. And if the politicians have their way there will be even more cutting—and that will translate into reduced access to not only the records these institutions hold, but also the trained professionals who know how to use them properly. But no government has an unlimited pool of money and there are hundreds of competing demands from taxpayers. What's easier to cut than services that seem to be fading anyway?

The irony is that the material we use online would not be available if not for the efforts of dedicated librarians and archivists. They fuelled that wave of Internet resources, that wave that is looking more and more like a tsunami aiming straight for the very same libraries and archives.

Keep in mind that much, much more could be in digital form—but money is needed to make it happen.

What can we do?

Let's start with a commitment to devote some research time to the physical resources, even if it means taking time from the virtual ones. Let's go back to some of the libraries we used to haunt, and make more visits to the archives and their rich storehouses of documents.

This will show that we care, but it might also help our research as well. As much as we'd like to think it's all on the Internet, it's not. We still have a lot to gain by showing our faces in libraries and archives.

We need to make it hard for anyone to justify cuts to libraries and archives. So let's get back in the habit of using these places from time to time.

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The Cream of the Crop

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

BY JOHN D. REID



The Diamond Jubilee year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II will be memorable for many, (including BIFHSGO president Glenn Wright, who travelled to London in connection with RCMP involvement in the celebrations). Of longer-lasting benefit is a digitization program to make historical documents from the Royal Archives widely available for the first time.

There are more than 75,000 records, including Establishment Lists for various royal departments: the Master of the Household, 1835–1924; the Royal Mews, 1717–1924; the Royal Household, 1854–1924 and 1526–1920; the Lord Chamberlain, 1837–1924; and the Master of the Household, 1835–1924. There is also an incomplete collection of index sheets of household employees from 1660 to 1901, known as the Household Index. These are accessible at findmypast.co.uk.

Also newly available is the complete collection of 141 volumes of Queen Victoria's private diaries, which can be accessed at www.queenvictoriasjournals.org.

England and Wales Probate

Ancestry updated its England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) database, originally released in August 2010. It now contains 12.7 million summaries, the vast majority of probate cases in England and Wales between 1858 and 1966. That's an expansion from the original period, 1861–1941. Name indexed, the calendar typically includes: probate date; full name of the deceased; death date; death place; value of the probate and executor, often with relationship to the deceased.

About three-quarters of probates are granted in the year of death, over half within three months of death. The percentage of deaths leading to probate increased from 7% in 1870 to 18% in 1920 and to 43% in 1950.

London Land Tax

From *Ancestry's* ongoing collaboration with the London Metropolitan Archives, coincidentally also 12.7 million records, comes a database of land tax records for various areas in London from the years 1692 through 1932. Survival of records is best for the early nineteenth century. They often list both property owners (proprietors) and tenants, placing them in both a parish and a year. You can search or browse. *Ancestry* informs me that all available years have been indexed.

UK, Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538–1893

Ancestry's new database, UK, Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538–1893, has 4.6 million records. It's a miscellaneous collection from the London Metropolitan Archives, although not just for London. I found records for Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Black Country ancestors. Poll books list those who actually cast a vote and the person(s) they voted for. Only freeholders and those who owned property above a certain value were entitled to vote. You may find the voter's occupation given—weaver, smith, etc.

Midlands and Various UK Trade Directories, 1770–1941

Although the data is usually sparse—typically last name, initials and address—and in the early years only covers those prepared to pay for inclusion, directories are especially useful for filling in between census years to explore when addresses change or someone is no longer listed.

This collection from *Ancestry* contains 8,555,301 records from trade, city, and other directories, primarily from the Midlands area. For Birmingham the

earliest volumes included are *The Streets and Inhabitants of Birmingham in 1770*, and *Birmingham 120 Years Ago* (1770). Also available are *Wrightson's Triennial Directory of Birmingham* for 1815, 1818, 1823, 1830, 1833, and 1839. There are single issues of Pigot's, the Post Office's, White's, Slater's, and Dix's directories, then a series of 46 Kelly's directories for between 1872 and 1939. For Wolverhampton the Red Book is included, with good coverage between 1892 and 1941. The index for this database was created using text recognition software. Images of the originals are linked.

The Children's Newspaper

If you grew up in Britain you likely remember *The Children's Newspaper*. Published weekly from 1919 to 1965, it presented "The Story of the World Today for the Men and Women of Tomorrow." You can browse digitized copies at www.lookand-learn.com/childrensnewspaper/browse.php?i=190322 and search if you register. It's free. What news were children reading the week you, or your parents, were born?

Ontario Civil Registration Update

By the time you read this, the 2012 annual update to Ontario civil registration records should be available, and for the first time, the release will be online in digitized and indexed form, free on the Archives of Ontario website. The added years will be 1915 for births, 1930 for marriages and 1940 for deaths. There is no announcement about earlier years, which are available on *Ancestry*, where else!

Canada WWI Death Cards

These card images, previously only available to Library and Archives Canada staff, originate from Veterans Affairs Canada, which compiled them when notified of the death of a First World War veteran to the early 1960s. Approximately 130,000 cards arranged alphabetically in 99 cabinet drawers were digitized as a batch with the name on the first card in a drawer used as the title of that batch. There is no name index; move through the images one by one, or skip ahead by entering a new page (image) number in the page navigation box.

This collection includes death cards for

- many veterans of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who died after discharge or who died in Canada during the war;
- some veterans of the British Forces who died in Canada after the war;
- some members of the militia who died in Canada during or after the war;

- some navy veterans who died after the war; a few veterans of the Newfoundland Forces who died after the war;
- a few veterans of Allied Forces (e.g. Indian, French and American armies) who died in Canada after the war;
- a few veterans of the North-West Mounted Police who had military service;
- a few veterans of the South African War and the North-West Field Force (1885 Rebellion).

It does not include cards for members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who died overseas during the war. There is additional information at <http://goo.gl/kEmdY>. Begin the search at <http://goo.gl/9wYRZ>.

You might also try searching in the Canadian *Legion Magazine* Last Post database of 195,906 names at www.legionmagazine.com/en/lastpost/.

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON



We are all aware that 2012 is the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Members will be interested to learn that the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library has several books about the war. If you have an ancestor who participated in that war, these books may be helpful in understanding his role in it. Some of them are recent acquisitions.

Hitsman, J. Mackay. *The Incredible War of 1812: a Military History*. Robin Brass Studio, 1999 971.034 HIT.

Experts consider Hitsman's book as the best one-volume history of the War of 1812. Donald Edward Graves has updated and revised this scholarly book, which was originally published in 1965 by the University of Toronto Press. As well as dealing with battles and campaigns and the causes and aftermath of the war, this history describes the life and role of both regular and militia soldiers. It also discusses the difficulties of waging war in territory where the main means of transport were by rivers and lakes. Well illustrated with maps and illustrations, it is a handy reference if your ancestor was enlisted in a British regiment or in the Canadian militia.

Collins, Gilbert. *Guidebook to the Historic Sites of the War of 1812*. Dundern Press, 1998. 971.034 COL

This book covers sites in Canada and the United States. For each site there is a brief account of events that occurred there between 1812 and 1815, as well as many maps and illustrations.

Perkins, Bradford (editor). *Causes of the War of 1812: National Honor or National Interest?* Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1962. (American Problem Studies) 973.5 PER

This collection of essays by several authors presents opposing American points of view of the causes of the War of 1812.

Berton, Pierre. *Flames Across the Border, 1813–1814*. McClelland & Stewart, 1981. 971.034 BER

In this rousing popular history of the final two years of the War of 1812, Pierre Berton draws on contemporary accounts, diaries, letters and memoirs to capture the horror and feel of the war. At the same time, he introduces the reader to many interesting characters among British, Canadian and American military personnel, as well as politicians and settlers. The book includes maps, illustrations and an index, and all sources are well documented.

The Evolution of Discovery

BY BRIAN GLENN



Since the first days of the Society the Discovery Tables have been a popular staple of our meetings. While the three current members who staff the tables are “relatively” new (John Sayers—England, Jim Lynn—Ireland and Hugh Reekie—Scotland), they have displayed their books and answered our questions for longer than most of us can probably remember, and for this we owe them a great deal of thanks.

Recently, however, these members have indicated their desire to step away from the monthly program, and so the Board will be introducing a new Discovery program, starting in September, called "Discover Your Genealogy."

The program will consist of three parts, one part each month on a rotating basis:

1. Discover Your Genealogy

- one or two members will do a "show and tell" of their own family history research and documentation;

2. Discover Your Library

- a sample of the books from the Brian O'Regan Library will be on display with one of the Library volunteers available to answer your questions; and

3. Discover Your Roots

- one of the traditional Discovery Tables will be set up and/or an interactive display from one of the special interest groups associated with OGS (Scotland, Ireland or DNA).

This new program will run from between 9:15 and 10:00 a.m., overlapping with Before BIFHSGO (which will now be happening every month), giving everyone a chance to mingle, enjoy a tea or coffee and interact with the Discovery program before the main meeting.

One of our Discovery Tables and hopefully the DNA Special Interest Group will kick off the new program in September, followed by the Brian O'Regan Library in October and one or two members in November. As the program is developed, it will be posted on the BIFHSGO website.

As with any and all programs and activities offered by the Society, volunteers are needed to make this a success. So if you have a well-documented family history that you would be interested in displaying and discussing with your fellow members, please contact either the Director of Research & Projects (Brian Glenn) at research@bifhsgo.ca or the Director of Programs (Jane Down) at program@bifhsgo.ca.

We will welcome your comments and observations on this new endeavour throughout the year.

Report on the BIFHSGO 2012 Annual General Meeting

BY ANNE STERLING

This report on our 18th AGM complements those of the President and Directors contained in the yellow booklet given to members at the 2012 AGM. A draft of the official AGM minutes will appear in the Spring 2013 *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

The meeting was held on 9 June 2012, in the Library and Archives Canada auditorium, with a quorum present.

Awards and Presentations

Chris MacPhail was elected to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of his contributions to family history through outstanding service to the Society and the advancement of BIFHSGO objectives. Chris was Director of Communications from 2004 to 2006, then Editor of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* from 2006 to 2011, when the publication was awarded First Place in the National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition in 2009 and 2010 and named runner-up in 2008. He was a member of the team that produced the BIFHSGO book *British Home Children: Their Stories*, served as program co-chair of the 2009 Fall Conference and has been a regular contributor to both ACR and monthly meeting lectures.

Patricia McGregor was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for the *Best Anglo-Celtic Roots Article of 2011–2012* for her article entitled “A Mother for Albert Edward Weir,” published in the Spring 2011 issue.

Myra Conway was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for the *Best Presentation by a Member at the Monthly BIFHSGO Meeting* for the 2011–2012 season. Her talk, entitled “The Tooley Street Fire—a 9/11 Moment for Victorian Londoners,” was delivered at the January meeting.

Ken Wood was presented with a Citation of Excellence for his work as BIFHSGO’s photographer from 2007 to 2011. It was noted that he photographed monthly meeting and conference activities, as well as ACR authors and award winners.

Betty Burrows was presented with a Citation of Excellence for her many contributions to the Society. She was Communications Director from 2006 to

2010, which involved managing the award-winning *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, the award-winning BIFHSGO website, the newsletter and BIFHSGO photography. She volunteered in different capacities at the Fall Conferences, made presentations and wrote articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

Our Founders who started BIFHSGO in 1994 were honoured. Five of the seven founders are still living. Those who were able to attend and enjoy a special reception with us were: **Fern Small, Alan Rayburn, Gary Bagley and representatives from Jim Heal's family.**

Board of Directors 2012–2013

President:

Glenn Wright was acclaimed as President for a second two-year term. Mary Anne Sharpe agreed to continue as Past President.

Directors:

Four positions were filled by acclamation this year (the maximum allowed by the Society's bylaws in any one year). Elected by acclamation for two-year terms on the Board were: Tara Grant (Membership); Marnie McCall (Treasurer); Susan Davis (Communications); Margaret Gervais (Publicity). The continuing Board members are: Brian Glenn (Research and Projects); Jane Down (Programs); Anne Sterling (Secretary); Lesley Anderson (Education), each of whom is a member of BIFHSGO in good standing.

Auditor:

Darrel Kennedy reported that he found that the financial statement prepared by the Treasurer (in the yellow booklet given to members at the meeting) to be a fair statement of the financial status of our Society. He accepted the appointment again as auditor for 2012, while noting that a new auditor would have to be found for 2013, when government changes in auditor qualifications will take effect.

President's Remarks:

The President made several poignant remarks. He emphasized that we have reached out to members more than ever this past year by embracing social media, improving our website, having a monthly e-newsletter, and posting numerous podcasts to the website. We continued to excel at reaching out to the community through Margaret Gervais' publicity efforts. Our focus remains the British Home Children as we look for records to enhance our research. Our greatest challenge is accommodation issues at LAC. The President saluted all volunteers and stated that we need more members to come forward to lend a hand.

Membership Report

BY TARA GRANT

| New BIFHSGO Members 14 April 2012—25 July 2012 | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Member No. | Name | Address |
| 1506 | Pauline Doggett | Stittsville, ON |
| 1507 | Linda Beun | Ottawa, ON |
| 1508 | Trudy MacDonald | Ottawa, ON |
| 1508 | Winston MacDonald | Ottawa, ON |
| 1509 | Frank Berry | Ottawa, ON |
| 1510 | Susan Mary Jensen | Ottawa, ON |
| 1511 | Mary Joan Dunn | Ottawa, ON |
| 1512 | Claudia Mesaroch | Reading, MI |
| 1513 | Jane Ryder | Ottawa, ON |
| 1514 | Inga Siple | Kanata, ON |
| 1514 | Michael Siple | Kanata, ON |
| 1515 | Leanne Derochier | Kanata, ON |
| 1516 | John Cordes | Halifax, NS |
| 1517 | Barbara Bennett | Cambridge, ON |
| 1518 | Alan Lewis | Nepean, ON |
| 1518 | Grace Lewis | Nepean, ON |
| 1519 | Carol Nichols | Toronto, ON |
| 1520 | Margaret Morris | Rosses Pt, Ireland |
| 1521 | Linda Sheshko | Pte Claire, QC |
| 1522 | Gordon Catterson | Sarnia, ON |
| 1523 | Andrew Frowd | Gatineau, QC |

In Memoriam

Jean Elizabeth O'Regan, widow of the first president of BIFHSGO, Brian O'Regan, passed away on 19 July 2012 in Ottawa. In March 2000 the BIFHSGO Library was dedicated in memory of her husband, whose donation of his extensive collection of genealogical resources formed the basis of its holdings.

Tour of Montréal's Mount Royal and Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemeteries

Date: Sunday, 21 October 2012

Time: 10:00 to 15:00 (Rain or Shine)

Donation: \$20 payable when you arrive

No reservations are required. Please bring a lunch.

These are two of the largest cemeteries in Canada—over a million people are buried in Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery alone. Both cemeteries opened in the 1850s and are located next to each other on Mount Royal in Montréal.

The tour will be given by Gary Schroder, long-time President of the Quebec Family History Society, genealogist, lecturer, author, and well-known speaker on a wide variety of historical topics. He has been giving these tours for over 20 years.

As these cemeteries are so large, this is not a walking tour. You will go by car to the different parts of the cemeteries to learn about their histories and their architectural differences. And, of course, you will see the final resting places of victims of the *Titanic*, Canadian Prime Ministers, and famous historical figures like Joe Beef and Anna Leonowens of *The King and I* fame, as well as famous criminals, musicians and authors, along with some strange and magnificent tombstones.

The tour starts at the front gates of Mount Royal Cemetery, 1297 Chemin de la Forêt, Outremont, QC, at 10:00 a.m. For further information contact Jackie Billingham at 514-428-0236 or Lesley Anderson, BIFHSGO Director of Education—education@bifhsgo.ca.

December Meeting: Great Moments

The Depths of Crew Lists

Brian Glenn takes a backwards walk through the merchant seaman crew lists at the Maritime History Archives at Memorial University of Newfoundland in order to put "meat on the bones" of a family story.

New Insights into the Parentage of Jesse Strang, Loyalist

Arthur Owen explains how a Y-DNA test provided some new insights into the parentage of his ancestor Jesse Strange, a result of the surprise Arthur had when DNA testing revealed a non-paternal event in his lineage.

Pozzi, Turton, Glavin—or Why My Son Can Claim Italian Ancestry

Gerry Glavin's son, an artist, adopted the name Possi in his website profile because he claimed an Italian connection and liked the name. Gerry reveals what happened when he set out to support this claim or find the "truth."

A Very Insolent Old Man

An 1851 census record with a scathing note on it from the enumerator gave Sandra Adams the first indication that her three-times great-grandfather was not a happy man near the end of his life. This presentation tells how she was able to learn why Henry Creswicke was so angry with the world.

Upcoming "Before BIFHSGO" Sessions

- 13 October *Using the U.K. Access to Archives (A2A) Database—*
Glenn Wright
- 10 November *Organizing It: Systematic, Safe, Accessible (Part 1)—*
Jane Down
- 8 December *Organizing It: Systematic, Safe, Accessible (Part 2)—*
Jane Down

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2012–2013

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President | Glenn Wright | 613-521-2929 |
| Recording Secretary | Anne Sterling | 613-596-2955 |
| Treasurer | Marnie McCall | 613-736-1101 |
| Research & Projects | Brian Glenn | 613-830-2948 |
| Membership | Kathy Wallace | 613-746-6796 |
| Communications | Susan Davis | 819-568-0081 |
| Publicity | Vacant | |
| Programs | Jane Down | 613-741-1463 |
| Education | Lesley Anderson | 613-447-6477 |
| Past President | Mary Anne Sharpe | 613-562-4570 |

Associate Directors 2012–2013

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Editor <i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i> | Jean Kitchen |
| Web Manager | Laura Griffin |
| Publication Sales | Brian Chamberlain |
| Librarian | Betty Warburton |
| Conference 2012 | Ken McKinlay, Brian Watson |
| 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.

BIFHSGO's objectives 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 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 is available to all those interested in furthering its objectives and consists of anyone who submits an application for admission as a member accompanied by payment of the applicable fees or dues. The 2012 calendar year fees for membership are \$35 for individuals, \$45 for families, and \$35 for institutions. Annual membership benefits include the year's four issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, ten family history meetings, friendly advice from other members, and participation in special interest groups.

BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

Saturday Morning Meetings

Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

- 13 Oct 2012** *Itchy Feet: Understanding the Emigrations of the Paulin Family*—Gillian Leitch will use the example of the Paulins to explore why families emigrate, how they choose a destination and how they forge their new lives.
- 10 Nov 2012** *Prizemaking in the War of 1812, Relatively Speaking*—Faye Kert, who studies War of 1812 privateering, will describe how Irish emigrants to New York City were caught up in the naval skirmishing of the war and ended up landing in Halifax as part of a prize ship capture.
- 8 Dec 2012** **Great Moments in Genealogy**—Presentations by BIFHSGO members. See page 44 for details.

Schedule

- 9:00–9:30 “Before BIFHSGO” Educational Sessions: see page 44. Check www.bifhsgo.ca for up-to-date information.
- 9:30 Discovery Tables
- 10:00–11:30 Meeting and Presentation
- 12:00–1:00 Writing Group

For up-to-date information on meetings of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check 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 12 October 2012.