



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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In This Issue

Perhaps Love

Little Girl Lost

The Yacht Armide

Eleanor, Ellen and Frances



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Back cover

Cover Illustration:

A charming postcard sent in 1914 that Glenn Wright came across in 2011.

From the Editor:

This issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* introduces our new format, designed to bring BIFHSGO in line with the size and style of publication used by most other genealogy societies.

Our updated look is enhanced by the range of family history stories our members have contributed to ACR.

BIFHSGO president Glenn Wright tells a poignant tale of a soldier's note to his perhaps-sweetheart, to whom he never returned.

Anne Renwick used BIFHSGO teachings to help her study some mysterious photos she found, while Chris MacPhail has enjoyed tracking down some yachting pictures in an album that possibly belonged to a relative.

And Carolyn Emblem discovered that her great-grand-aunt had a much more adventurous life than one would have expected.

We hope you enjoy our 2012 look!

Jean Kitchen

From the President



Our Society continues to thrive. We are attracting new members and retaining those we have—we must be meeting expectations and delivering on promises!

Our Society, however, is only as strong as its members and their willingness to contribute both time and talent. Much has been accomplished in the past year. Great efforts have been made to renew and refresh our image.

Last year, we launched a new look to our website and embraced social media; with this issue, we are launching a revised *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. This is all in an effort to provide members with the means to learn more about family history developments in Canada and abroad, to communicate amongst ourselves, to share information, to improve our collective experience. Many of your fellow members have devoted countless hours to providing these improvements. They deserve our thanks for a job well done.

Accommodation for our monthly meetings continues to top our agenda. For 2012, there is no change and no charge, but if we remain at Library and Archives Canada for 2013, rental of the auditorium and foyer will cost approximately \$2200, including the assistance of our faithful technician. Rental fees for Room 154, used for Board and Conference planning meetings, will also be in effect; fees for these rooms and others for our annual September conference would bring our total cost to approximately \$4500 in 2013, a figure that will increase by 25% in each succeeding year until market rates are reached as determined by the government. We will ask the Minister of Public Works for a waiver or reduction of these fees, but the question remains—can we afford this: do we stay or do we go? If you have thoughts about this, please let me know; I am interested in learning how members feel about this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Wright". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Glenn Wright

Family History Research

Perhaps Love—A Postcard Story from the Great War

BY GLENN WRIGHT

Current BIFHSGO president and long-time volunteer Glenn Wright is a well-known military history writer—the author of several books, encyclopaedia contributions, and magazine articles—as well as a researcher for CBC and History Television shows.

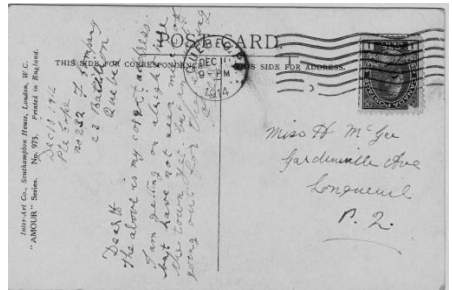
How the Search Started



For many years now, I have been in the habit of buying old postcards at book sales and flea markets. I am not a real collec-

tor by any stretch of the imagination, but given my interest in the First World War, I have bought more than a few postcards relating to that great conflict.

In October 2011, at the Ottawa Antiquarian Book Fair, I purchased for \$4 the postcard shown here. In this case, I liked the card itself, and did not read the message or the address till later.



The card is addressed to:

Miss H McGee
Gardenville Ave
Longueuil P.Q.

The message reads:

Dec 10, 1914
Pte Cope
No 232, F Company
23 Battalion
Quebec



WILD OATS—A LATE SOWING.

Dear H

The above is my correct address. I am getting on alright here but have not seen much of the town yet, but I am just going out for the evening.

Fred

Being the inveterate researcher that I am, I began to ponder the possibilities this message contained. Would it be possible to identify the soldier and Miss McGee? Was she his sweetheart or just a friend? And, I wondered, is there a story behind the card?

The regimental number on the postcard meant nothing, but with his name, I thought a search of the “Soldiers of the First World War” database on the Library and Archives Canada website might answer my question—and it did.

Finding Fred and his Family

Frederick Cope, regimental number 63214, was born at Berkley, Gloucestershire, England, on 14 July 1887 and now lived at 26 St. Charles Street in Longueuil, Québec, with his mother, Eliza Cope. Fred was a 27-year-old painter when he volunteered with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at Montréal on 2 November 1914.¹

My curiosity was piqued: did Fred Cope survive the war? I checked the Commonwealth War Graves Registers on *Ancestry* and my worst fear was confirmed. Private Fred Cope, serving with the 3rd Canadian In-

fantry Battalion, was killed in action on 14 August 1915. He is buried at Ploegstreet Wood Military Cemetery in Belgium.²

I now wanted to know more about the Cope family. Given the fact that Fred was born in England, would it be possible to determine when they arrived in Canada? I hoped that I would be able to locate the family on a passenger manifest on *Ancestry*. I did, but surprises continued.³ Eliza Cope, age 54, arrived at Québec on the SS *Royal George* on 29 June 1910 with two of her sons, William and Ernest, and stated her intention to reside in Montréal with a married daughter. Although she described herself as a widow on the passenger list and in the 1911 Census, Eliza’s husband, William, was very much alive and still residing in England. Emigrating to Canada must have been her escape from an unhappy situation.

But where was Fred? I searched again and discovered that he arrived in Canada in April 1911 on the SS *Corsican*; he too was destined to Montréal. Now certain that the Copes were in Canada at the time of the 1911 Census, I searched the index on *Automated Genealogy* and found the family: Eliza Cope, and four of her sons, William, Freddie, [Albert] John and Ernest.⁴

A search of the Longueuil section of the Montréal City Directory for 1914–1915 and 1915–1916 con-

firmed that Mrs. Eliza Cope resided at 26 St. Charles Street with her sons.⁵

I now had a good sense of the family profile: mother Eliza and sons Albert John, William, Ernest, and Fred. Did any of Fred's brothers also serve in the CEF? I was almost reluctant to look, but then I quickly discovered that Albert volunteered on 29 June 1915 and the youngest brother, Ernest, in April 1916.

Did they survive the war? Albert John Cope, regimental number 457702, serving with the 60th Battalion, was killed in action on 9 October 1916, a mere two months after his brother. Eliza Cope had now lost two of her sons. Fortunately, Ernest was deemed "inefficient" and discharged soon after volunteering in April 1916.

Turning to the McGees

I now turned my attention to the McGee family. The postcard was addressed to "Miss H. McGee" – could I identify her with a surname and an address? Again, the Longueuil section of the Montréal City Directory for 1914–1915 provided the first part of the answer. James McGee, a shirt-maker, lived at 17 Gardenville.

Next stop, the 1911 Census: there I found the McGee family—James, his wife Melita and four children at home, including 23-year-old Hazel. James had been born in Ireland in 1862, but his wife and their older children, Willie and Hazel, were

born in Ontario. Eleven-year-old Melita and 4-year-old James were both born in the province of Québec.⁶

I turned to the Ontario birth and marriage records on *Ancestry* and was once again rewarded. James McGee, a native of Belfast, Ireland, married Melita Jane Kennedy on 23 April 1886 at Toronto. James's profession is recorded as a "cutter." Their son William was born the following year and in the next year, Hazel—17 December 1888.⁷

Her brother William (actually Hilton William) also served in the CEF. He was living in Toronto at the time and volunteered on 3 February 1916; he served with the Canadian Engineers in France and survived the war.⁸

So Much in a Postcard

I turn the postcard over in my hand. So few words, such a touching story. I try to imagine the impact that the news of Fred's death would have had on the Cope and McGee families. Eliza Cope, a grieving mother; Hazel McGee, perhaps broken hearted at the loss of her future husband.

Fred Cope was one of many thousands of British immigrants to serve in the CEF. When the first contingent sailed from Québec in October 1914 slightly more than half were British-born; not until 1917 did native Canadians outnumber their British cousins in the CEF. Fred came to Canada as a young man,

eager to be with his family, to start a new life in a new land and by the fall of 1914, perhaps, just perhaps, he had found the love of his life in Hazel.

His future—and maybe hers—were cruelly erased on a Belgian battlefield. One question remained: did Hazel ever marry? Neither the Drouin Collection of Québec vital records nor the Ontario marriage records produced any reference to a marriage of a Hazel McGee. And then, looking at the “Décès du Québec” database (an index to deaths from 1926 to 1997), I discovered that Hazel McGee died at Longueuil, Québec, on 26 January 1976.⁹

The story that emerges from this single postcard is far more complex and moving than that expressed in the few words found written there. I can only assume that the card was kept for many years—by Hazel, perhaps—only to be discarded or sold after her death in the 1970s, and then to be found again at an antiquarian book sale in Ottawa in 2011.

Reference Notes

- 1 Attestation paper for Frederick Cope, regimental no. 63214, Canadian Expeditionary Force personnel files, RG 150, accession 1992-93/166, box 1982, file 27; LAC.
- 2 Frederick Cope, regimental no. 63214, killed in action 14 August 1915, CEF Commonwealth War

Graves Register, 1914-1919; digital image, *Ancestry.ca* (<http://www.ancestry.ca> : accessed 26 October 2011), citing RG 150, accession 1992-93, box 58, LAC.

- 3 Elizabeth Cope and family, passenger list, *SS Royal George*, arrived at Québec 29 June 1910, page 2, lines 36-38; digital image, *Ancestry.ca* (<http://www.ancestry.ca> : accessed 27 October 2011), citing microfilm reel T-4768, LAC.
- 4 Eliza Cope household, 1911 Census of Canada, Québec, Chambly-Vercheres (district 3), ville de Longueuil (sub-district 10), division 150, page 19, family 186.
- 5 Annuaire Lovell de Montréal et sa banlieue, 1914-1915, p. 2146; 1915-1916, p. 2142; digital image, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (<http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell> : accessed 28 October 2011).
- 6 James McGee household, 1911 Census of Canada, Québec, Chambly-Vercheres (district 3), ville de Longueuil (sub-district 10), division 150, page 31, family 296.
- 7 Hazel McGee, Ontario birth registration 042523 (17 December 1888); digital image, *Ancestry.ca* (<http://www.ancestry.ca> : accessed 26 October 2011), citing microfilm MS929, reel 97, Archives of Ontario, Toronto.
- 8 Attestation paper for Hilton William McGee, regimental no. 799932, Canadian Expeditionary Force personnel files, RG 150, accession 1992-93/166, box 6830, file 14; LAC.
- 9 Décès du Québec, 1926-1997; database, LAC, *Canadian Genealogy Centre*, (<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy> : accessed 28 October 2011).

Little Girl Lost—and Found

BY ANNE RENWICK



A BIFHSGO member who comes to events all the way from Pincourt, QC, Anne credits her research success to the skills learned through the Society. She works full time in aircraft records (the genealogy of an airplane) and in her “spare” time is pursuing an online genealogy course and the story of a great-aunt.

In 2009 my stepmother and I found two pictures of a little girl, about 2 years old, at our family cottage in the Eastern Townships of Québec. The pictures were about three inches high by two wide, in joined oval tin frames. No one knew who this little girl was, but I felt she must be connected to our family as the photos were at the family cottage. So I took them home.

Two years later I was focused on tracing my Great-Aunt Alma Dancy's story. (It was her sister who had owned the aforementioned cottage). I had gathered all kinds of new research tips through the BIFHSGO and Quebec Family History Society conferences. Advice from one of the lectures particularly struck a chord: the importance of “putting yourself on the ground” and trying to get a feel for the life of one's ancestor. I chose Alma to start with, as I knew very little about her except for these tantalizing tidbits: she was a Nursing Sister in the First World War and during that time met Uberto Casgrain. They married

in Egypt. When the war was over, they lived in Uberto's home city of Montréal and had a daughter named Margie.

I decided to start by seeing if there was a copy of Alma's Attestation paper at Library and Archives Canada.¹ Sure enough, Alma's was there, and Uberto's too, and these first documents became the foundation for my great-aunt's story.



Figure 1: The mystery pictures

Source, all photos: author

As I live just two hours away from Ottawa, my next step was to order Alma and Uberto's service files and go take a look at them personally. Serendipitously, the day I had arranged for the visit was the same

day of a BIFHSGO meeting and the launch of Glenn Wright's book *Canadians at War 1916–1919*. The topic seemed apropos for my research, so I picked up one of the few copies "just in case" before heading upstairs to view and take pictures of the files.

It is, as all family historians must know, a surreal feeling to be holding and reading original documents that record first-hand a part of an ancestor's life. Wearing white cotton gloves and handling the documents very carefully, I tried not to get too distracted by reading everything. With the help of a patient friend, I proceeded to photograph with a digital camera all the pages I thought would be of most significance. (From my work in an art gallery at one time, I knew not to use a flash as its light breaks down the integrity of an artifact).

Later, in reading through Glenn's book, I learned I had made some significant choices: one of the documents I had photographed from both Alma's and Uberto's files was the *Casualty Form–Active Service*. By comparing them, I was able to put both Alma and Uberto in the same location at the same time: 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital, West Mudros, Lemnos (a Greek island). Uberto had been admitted as a patient at first, but was also the hospital Quartermaster at the time. I believe this is how they met, but the wedding in Egypt?

I couldn't find any record of their marriage via various websites, and even went so far as to write to the library in Goderich (Alma's home town) asking if they had the local newspaper on microfilm and if so, could they possibly look for a marriage announcement. Meanwhile, it was time to seek some help: at the next BIFHSGO meeting I could attend, I introduced myself to Glenn Wright and posed my puzzle about finding proof of the wedding in Egypt.

Glenn was very open to the challenge, and came up with a gem from Uberto's service file that I had missed: a document called *Separation Allowance*, an allowance that was given to a spouse in the soldier's absence. The form is annotated: "She was married by permission of Lt. Col. Commanding Nov. 19, 1916." (Interestingly, the Lt. Col. had the same last name as Uberto—but that's another mystery to pursue.)

The story of Alma and Uberto continued to unfold, but what does this have to do with the little girl in the picture? One day it suddenly came to me: Alma and Uberto had a daughter whom my family knew as Margie. The picture was found at Alma's sister's cottage. Could the little girl be Margie?

First, where and when was she born? Census information isn't yet available to show a family during

the war years, so a search of birth records on *Ancestry* was tried. No matches for Margie or Margaret Casgrain. I was fairly sure she would have been born in Montréal where her parents lived, but nothing came up.

At that point I received an email from the Goderich Library responding to my earlier query about a wedding announcement. Alma's family (the Danceys) was prominent in Goderich, and I thought surely there would be something about the wedding. The bad news was that there was none; the good news was the discovery of a *Goderich Signal*



Figure 2: The mystery girl a bit older

The clipping also went on to say that Mrs. Casgrain "will return to England to rejoin her husband who is on active service." Cross-referencing to Uberto's service record showed that he was at that time posted to King's Canadian Red Cross

Star social note from December 1916 stating that "Mrs. Casgrain (formerly Miss Alma Dancey) arrived on Wednesday on a visit to her parents..." and "was married in Egypt to Captain U. Casgrain." The marriage location seemed to be confirmed.

Hospital, Bushey Park, England. A check of U.K. incoming passenger lists revealed Alma's return on 24 July 1917, with the address "Red Cross Hospital, Kempton Hill, London."²

Could the little girl have been born in England? I went to *FreeBMD* and typed in "Casgrain."³ One Casgrain was listed in the second quarter of 1918. The transcription indicated a baby girl named Ella, mother's maiden name transcribed as [R_]a[m_]sey. This didn't seem right, except for the last name; then I recalled that transcriptions can sometimes be erroneous. I looked at the .pdf of the original, which was fortunately available. Sure enough, though blurry, the mother's maiden name is definitely Dancey. Success!

But how did we get from Margaret/Margie to Ella? While pondering this, I went back to my response from the Goderich Library (always revisit one's notes). Not only did the helpful librarian provide the clipping regarding the marriage, but as a "by the way" he added information about Uberto's father, including the fact that he "married Ella..." The baby was named for her grandmother!

I then went on a tangent to find out more about Uberto, as his father was quite a prominent person.⁴ I found a newspaper article in *The Montreal Gazette*: "Joseph U. Casgrain Dies Unexpectedly."⁵ At the end of the article was the revelation

“Surviving are his widow, the former Alma Dancy [sic]; one daughter Miss Mary Ella Marguarite Casgrain.”

Time to try some of the picture sleuthing tricks I’d learned at BIFHSGO.



Figure 3: Cupids on the frame backing

The September after Ella/ Margie was born, she and her mother and father came back to Canada to settle in Montréal.⁶ (Yet another interesting tidbit: they returned on the SS *Olympic*, sister ship to the *Titanic*). The little girl in these pictures seems to be around the right age for her parents’ return, which would be the 1920–22 period. If I could prove the pictures were taken around this time, then perhaps I’d have a match.

The first step was to take the photos out of their frames. Sure enough, treasures! Behind one of the photos was another picture of what appeared to be the same little girl about a year later. Written on the back of that picture was the caption “Our Baby.”

This wasn’t the only new discovery. Used as backing for the pictures were two prints on thin cardboard, numbered and titled *Cupid Awake* and *Cupid Asleep*, published by *Taber Prang Art Co.* A quick search on the Internet revealed a website with the exact pictures I had! They were available in the early 1900s at five and dime stores, and very popular at that time (and in keeping with the theory of the little girl’s age).



Figure 4: Proof of the time period

Next came a close look at the details in the backgrounds of the pictures. In my collection I have a photo of Alma as a young woman sitting with her family on the front porch of their home in Goderich, Ontario. Further success—the background in one of the pictures of the little girl was the same background in that of the Dancey family. The little girl’s photos were taken at Alma’s parents’ home.

Then I looked carefully at the clothing for any dating clues. How to proceed? Another search on the Internet, this time for children’s clothing designs in the 1920s. It yielded strong evidence: one 1920s outfit for a little girl was a smock-

like dress with bloomers (matches Figure 1).⁸ The later picture shows a rather generic dress that could indicate almost any time frame, but very distinctive shoes. Looking up 1920s children's shoes I found that at this time the fashion for "shoes for young girls included T-strap shoes...with small button attached to one side, near the ankle."⁹

All the pieces seemed to come together: Alma had a daughter born in 1918, the fashions indicate the right time frame for the little girl's approximate age, the background was Alma's family home, the pictures were found in Alma's sister's effects (and, by the way, the sister's children were all boys).

I do believe the little girl lost has been found; she is most likely Ella Marguerite Casgrain, Alma's daughter.

Reference Notes

¹ "Soldiers of the First World War" database, Library and Archives Canada (www.collectionscanada.gc.ca); entry for Alma Dancey, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 2283- 1.

² "UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.ca); entry for Alma H. [sic] Casgrain 24 Jul 1917.

³ "Births 1917-1918," database, Free BMD ([www.FreeBMD.org](http://www.freebmd.org)); entry for Casgrain, Ella [R_]a[m_]sey.

⁴ Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org), entry for Joseph Philippe Baby Casgrain.

⁵ "Prominent People of the Province of Quebec, 1923-24, Montreal, Biographical Society of Canada, Limited," Marianopolis College database, (<http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/encyclopedia/JosephPhilippeBabyCasgrain.htm>), entry for Joseph Casgrain.

⁶ "Joseph U. Casgrain Dies Unexpectedly," *The Montreal Gazette*, 17 January 1942, p. 22.

⁷ "Taber Prang Art Co.," entry in *Yesterday's Magazine*, (<http://yesterdaymagazine.wordpress.com/cupid>).

⁸ "Children's Costume History 1910-1920," database, Fashion-era (www.fashion-era.com/childrens_clothes/1910_1920_girls_costume_pictures.htm).

⁹ "Children's Formal Clothes in the 1920s," database, eHow (www.ehow.com/info_7907283_childrens-formal-clothes-1920s.html).

Yorkshire Family History Fair

Saturday, 30 June 2012

York Racecourse

Knavesmere Exhibition Centre

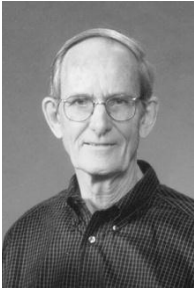
"All the Usual Stalls with Such a Major Event"

www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com

The Yacht *Armide*

BY CHRIS MACPHAIL

Chris, a retired engineer and former editor of Anglo-Celtic Roots, has been pursuing his family's origins in Scotland.



With an interest in both genealogy and sailing, I was intrigued by the small album of tattered photographs that arrived one

morning via Canada Post.

The album was inscribed:



and the first photo was of three men who could well have been the owners or crew of the yacht.



Who was this Donald McPhail? Who were the men in the photo? What was the *Armide*? And where did all this take place?

These questions were to occupy me for the next several months, and at the time of this writing, I still don't have all the answers.

The album was sent to me by a cousin who knew of my interests in family history and thought it might contribute to my story. He discovered it in a collection of memorabilia that he sorted through after the death of his father. The source of the album remains a mystery.

The album contains over 20 photographs, some of which show of a group of people, perhaps a family shown here welcoming someone, somewhere, and another taken on

board a sailing yacht, possibly the *Armide*.



My McPhail ancestors emigrated from the Isle of Mull in 1822; some were said to be related to the Clan Maclaine, inheritors of Moy castle on Lochbuie on the south coast, but my research suggests that the McPhails were cottars or itinerant farm labourers. Judging by legal documents drafted here in Canada in later years the patriarch Alexander could neither read nor write. Perhaps it was wishful thinking that there might have been a wealthy yacht-owner in my lineage, but I assumed optimistically that the locale of the photos may have been off the west coast of Scotland. Since the inscription in the album is 1903, and my McPhails emigrated in 1822, there seemed little hope of establishing a direct link. However, my curiosity

was piqued, both by the McPhail reference and the yacht, and I decided to try to learn more about the *Armide* and the people who sailed her.



My first action was to resort to Google for “*Armide*,” but this failed to produce any meaningful results. I did learn that *Armide* was a sorceress in the epic poem *Jerusalem* Delivered by the Italian poet Tasso in 1580, and later the heroine in two operas, one by the French composer



Lully in 1686 and the other by Gluck in 1777. Interesting to opera buffs, but not relevant to genealogists.

The club sweater offered a clue, and I then looked up all the websites I could find for sailing clubs in the U.K. The club letters on the sweater are “?CYC”, but it turns out that there are no clubs in existence today that would match, even substituting letters for the “?”. I subscribe to the sct-isleofmull-request discussion forum on RootsWeb, and so I posted an enquiry. The forum’s host offered to display some of the photos, which I then forwarded. The host also put me in touch with the Mull Museum in Tobermory. Olive Brown and Alastair Garvie of the Museum determined that the letters were RCYC, standing for the Royal Clyde Yacht Club, long since merged with the Royal Northern Yacht Club.

From them I learned the *Armide* was in the Lloyds Register of Yachts 1921 as:

Auxiliary yawl built of wood; length 49.3 feet; beam 11.07 feet; sail area 2500 square feet; built and designed by Stow & Son of Shoreham in 1883; home port Glasgow; owner W. F. Stewart.

I then wrote to the archivist for the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club, who advised that the records of the RCYC had been lost in a fire, but that the Lloyds Register of Yachts 1903 listed the *Armide* with a displacement of 21.24 tons, and its port of registration as Campbeltown

in Kintyre. The archivist did not provide the name of the owner.

Another response came through the Mull website, this time from Jill Dakin in Australia, who sent an excerpt from a book *Memories of Mull* published by Colin Houston in Inverness. The book is a transcription of childhood memories of his grandmother, Iona McVean Houston, who lived at Kilfinichen House on Loch Scridain, Isle of Mull. ¹

In her diary, Iona wrote:

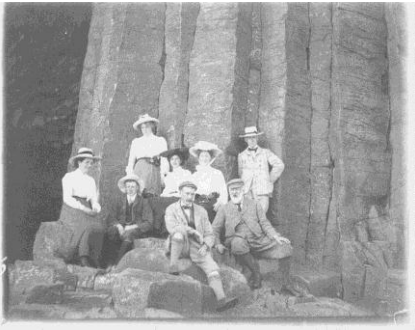
A great friend of ours, Mr Klein, came regularly for many years in a lovely sailing yacht and spent about a month every summer with us. He lived on board the yacht, which was anchored in our bay. The first time he came he had quite a small yacht, but the following years the yachts were much longer. First the *Brunette* and then the *Armide* both of these were lovely boats particularly the *Armide*. We had many glorious sails in them. ... Naturally we all loved those days spent sailing in the *Armide* and we had many glorious sails often to Iona, Staffa, the Dutchman's Cap, Inch Kenneth, Ulva, etc. Sometimes the boys went off for a trip in the yacht with Mr Klein for a week or so, perhaps to Skye or even further afield.

I then corresponded with Colin Houston and sent him copies of the photos. He had not seen these and was delighted to receive them. In return, he sent me a complimentary

copy of his book, as well as additional photos from his own collection.

He went on to add that the *Armide* was on the west coast of Scotland in 1903, and was owned by a Mr. Klein, a mill owner from Yorkshire and a friend of the Colin McVean, Iona's father.

McVean was a civil engineer, retired after a long and interesting career. He had been involved in surveys of the Hebrides as well as railway projects in Bulgaria, and in 1868 was appointed Surveyor-in-Chief to the Emperor of Japan. He travelled across North America and spent several weeks living with Sioux Indians, preparing an article for *The Graphic* in London. He settled at Kilfinichen, renting the estate from the Duke of Argyll.



The 1901 British Census records that Colin Alexander McVean, civil engineer and farmer, was 65 years of age. His wife Mary was 63, and they had five grandchildren living with them, two of whom had been born in Japan.² The Census also notes that they were supported by servants and labourers, who

with their families added another 26 people on the estate.

Other photos from the album include scenes of the family group on Staffa, site of Fingal's Cave.

The welcoming occasion referred to earlier was the return of Colin and Mary McVean's son Donald, known as "Dondo," and daughter-in-law Elsie following the young couple's honeymoon. The yacht was suitably decorated for the occasion as well.



Returning to the group of three men, I again solicited the help of Colin Houston, who identified the one on the left as "Tom," a member of the crew. The one in the centre was "Skipper," who was the skipper of the yacht and went by no other name. The man on the right was identified as "Donald," perhaps our Donald McPhail, the owner of the album.



Donald's role and station in life remain a mystery, but at least we know that he was acquainted with the McVeans and shared some of their leisure pursuits.

And, I am happy to know that my first assumption, that the locale for the album was Mull, was correct. I continue to correspond, although less frequently, with others in Scotland and elsewhere who may yet have clues as to the identity of Donald.

The trail has gone cold and I have met another brick wall. But although it shows how easily one can get sidetracked, it has been an interesting

diversion, and has provided an insight into a level of society that stands in sharp contrast to that of my ancestors, the emigrants who chose to leave the Isle of Mull not so many years earlier.

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Eleanor, Ellen and Frances[©]

BY CAROLYN EMBLEM

Carolyn Emblem is a happily retired former civil servant living in Ottawa. She and her sister, Sheila, have been combining a love of travel with family research for the last 15 years.

For most of the last decade, my great-grand-aunt, Eleanor Emblem, had one of the shortest entries in the family tree. We knew only her birthdate, her emigration date to Australia and the date of her marriage in Sydney. And nothing else. We didn't even have one faded, tattered photograph. That leaves a lot of gaps.

Eleanor Emblem was born on 3 December 1814, in Stratford, West Ham, Essex, about five miles from London.¹ She was the seventh child of what were to be 12 children of the

Reverend John Emblem and his first wife, Mary Ann Dobee. That December, the weather in London was unseasonably mild; then early in the New Year the temperatures dropped sharply and the Thames froze over. Entrepreneurial Londoners set up stalls on the ice and sold food and drinks.

Early Life in England

Life in rural West Ham was different than in the bustle of London.² But still, it had a large baking industry and a distillery called the Three Mills, which operated until the twen-

tieth century. In 1811, records show that 360 people were still employed in making calico, which had taken over from the silk industry. There was a lime industry, to supply the calico makers, and a mill manufacturing paper. At the end of the eighteenth century the agricultural land was being farmed, mainly by immigrants from Ireland. A few short years later, the large homes of the past were giving way to smaller, middle-class, narrow terraced houses. With better transportation into London, professional and business men could live in West Ham and work in the city. It was becoming a bedroom community and was on the brink of expansion.

Eleanor's father, the Rev. John, was a Congregationalist minister. But he and his family were not alone in being nonconformists. West Ham had had a long tradition of nonconformity and was well represented by the different branches of Methodists—Wesleyan, Primitive and Associated—and Baptists. There were some 10 nonconformist churches by mid-century, and all for a population of approximately 9,000. And that didn't count the more traditional churches.

The Rev. John had grown up in Reading and had become known as the "boy preacher" when still young. He attended the Blue Coat School (a charity school) followed by divinity school at the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion at Cheshunt.³ By 1810, the Rev. John was confirmed

in the Chapel at Brickfield in land off Jackass Lane, now known as Vicarage Lane. (It is not known if the Reverend appreciated or suffered the irony, or whether he was instrumental in having the street name changed.) When the Rev. John arrived at Brickfield Independent Chapel in 1810 the number of people in the congregation stood at 36. By 1820, the Sunday school itself boasted 120 children with 6 teachers.



Figure 1: Rev. John Emblem

Source: The Congregational Year Book, 1858

According to *British History Online*, the previous minister had instituted the Brickfield Independent Chapel School for Girls, sometimes called a charity school, in 1802 and it continued to grow under the Rev. John. It appears that he was at the forefront in education for girls and equal rights for women. When his church drew up a new constitution for "Cal-

vinistic Independents," in 1836, "it provided ... that women were to have a voice in choosing the minister."

Eleanor and her sisters would have gone to school there, learning to read and write. (For most English children, unlike the Emblem girls, school didn't become compulsory until after 1880.) Life could not have been very luxurious with 11 children, though, if they were dependent upon a congregation of 36 to support a living. With a father who was a minister, albeit a dissenting minister, and an education, the Em-

blem children would have had some small standing in the community, but not enough to successfully cross the barriers into a real middle-class existence. Some of the Emblems learned trades like bookbinder, dressmaker, or lithographer. Sometimes the women married tradesmen.

In October 1827, just before Eleanor turned 13, her mother Mary Ann died giving birth to her twelfth child, a daughter, Sarah.⁴ The Rev. John wrote poignantly in his parish records,

Figure 2: Rev. John's own words

Source: Brickfield parish records, LDS microfilm

I find it too much—to be under the necessity of entering the following name—it being the name of one who was dear to me—for five & twenty years viz.—Mary Ann Emblem—who died Oct. 14th—and was buried on the 23rd. Alas! What must I do?

It was a household that was about to undergo some significant changes, and not all for the better. Sarah died a few months after her mother, adding to the family's sorrow.⁵ On 12

May 1830 the Rev. John took a pious woman named Ann Burles, a widow of some property, as his second wife.⁶ By late August 1833, Eleanor's eldest brother, John, had twice de-

serted from the army, and been brought before the courts on charges of petty theft, the proceeds of which he said were to buy food. He was found guilty and served three months.⁷ It may not have been John's first, and it wasn't his last, run-in with the law before he disappeared from the records.

Emigration

About two weeks before John Jr. was arrested and charged with theft, the 18-year-old Eleanor boarded the *Layton* at St. Katherine's Wharf on 14 August 1833 for the four-month journey to Sydney, Australia.⁸ She was leaving behind all her sisters and brothers, including her next youngest brother, Henry Mumm Emblem, my direct ancestor. She was to arrive in Australia just days after her 19th birthday. Her next oldest sister, Harriet, was to make the same journey to that part of the world, but to Tasmania, the following year.

On board the *Layton*, a 19-year-old three-masted barque with 306 emigrants on board (250 of which were women), the petite, 4' 11½" young lady with dark hair and hazel eyes was embarking on a new life to become one of the early pioneer women of Australia. Between 1833 and 1837, the London Emigration Committee sent 14 ships to Australia.⁹

Eleanor was among the first of some 2,700 single women to make the

voyage. As a free woman immigrating to Australia and as a minister's daughter, she would have been considered a "respectable" woman. On arrival, she was to work for the Rev. Pinkerton at £10 a year.



Figure 3: Eleanor's sister Harriet

Source: Courtesy of Louise Davies

Eleanor, or Ellen as she was shown on the *Layton's* masthead and probably known to friends and family, chose to go to Australia. Life there would be different than in the Reverend's household, possibly difficult, but it would certainly be an adventure for the young dressmaker.

When Ellen stepped off the boat at Port Nicholson, Sydney, she entered a different world. She arrived just before Christmas, the height of summer, probably to sunshine and a temperature of about 25°C in a month that would have more than 200 hours of sunshine. It was a defi-

nite contrast to the grey, rainy, smoggy, foggy London, where the average temperature was around 8°C and in a month that would have fewer than 40 hours of sunshine. And she left behind a bustling metropolis, well on its way to approaching 2 million people, for a place that had fewer than 40,000 people (1850 figures).

When Ellen arrived, Sydney was starting to make major improvements—buildings, roads, bridges, wharves and public buildings were being built by British and Irish convicts. It already had banks, markets, established roads and a police force. Less than 10 years later, Sydney was declared Australia's first city. The first of the country's gold rushes was less than 10 years away, and they would bring an influx of people from around the world

Searching for Evidence

For more than 10 years, my sister and I tried to find out what happened to Eleanor between her arrival in 1833 and her marriage to one Richard Eagar on 10 June 1843 at the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in Sydney.¹⁰

There were no clues and making contact with Lorraine, an Australian relative, and a descendant of Eleanor's sister Harriet, produced no further information about the elusive Eleanor. In fact, Lorraine had also been looking for Eleanor for a long time.

But, as is often the case, some days you get lucky. New information is becoming available every day, and this particular day, I entered Eleanor's married name of Eagar on *Ancestry*, and up popped a record—and a real record it was—Eleanor F. (note the "F") Eagar was in Darlinghurst Gaol in Sydney!¹¹ She had been arrested on 12 June 1846 and bail was set. It was discharged at the Quarter Sessions in early August of that same year. The Entrance and Description Books for Darlinghurst Gaol on *Ancestry* were particularly helpful, as they provide information such as physical descriptions and characteristics of inmates, although unfortunately they didn't start taking photographs until the 1870s.

Newspapers of the day had sections devoted to Police Courts and Quarter Sessions. They listed names, dates, crimes, and punishments for many of those crimes. What tended to go unnamed were "domestic issues." They were often anonymous, often just listed as domestic issues, or the breaking of a peace bond.¹²

The Entrance Book at Darlinghurst Gaol did not state what the charges were; nor did *The Sydney Morning Herald* report Eleanor's arrest, bail hearing or the later Quarter Sessions. It was most telling that her husband Richard did not pay her bail, at least not immediately, and possibly not at all. We believe Eleanor spent about six weeks in jail. We hired a researcher to comb through

the court records, but there were almost none surviving for 1846 and none on Eleanor. Nor does she appear in the Criminal Court books.

And from there Eleanor disappeared again from the records. Where was she between her arrival in 1833 and her marriage in 1843? Where was she between 1843 and 1846, when she was arrested? And what happened to her after that?

Searching through an Eagar family tree on *Ancestry*, I came across a copy of the 1841 Census for New South Wales.¹³ It is an extremely detailed census, providing information on the number of people living in a house, what type of house it was, their ages, their religion, their occupation, number of servants, whether free or a convict, whether born in the colony or elsewhere. But it was extremely lacking in one thing: there were no names of the occupants, except for the head of the household, in this case Richard. However, the information it contained was helpful. Richard said that he was married, that he and his “wife” were between the ages of 21 and 44, that his wife (and the servant girl) had arrived free, and that Richard and his wife had two sons between the ages of 2 and 6. Sooo tantalizing, but definitively anonymous and distinctly lacking in proof.

We did know that Richard Eagar and Eleanor were married in 1843, so it seemed likely that she was the

“wife” listed on the 1841 Census and the two young boys were hers. But that and about \$2 will get you a cup of coffee and not much credibility in genealogy circles.

Correspondence with an Australian writer had already produced much the same tidbit—that Eleanor had two children. A Henry Francis Eagar spent much of his life in New Zealand and, according to the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, his father was Richard Eagar.¹⁴ However, there was no mention of Henry Francis’s mother. And although a Geoffrey Eagar, an accountant, also lived in New Zealand near Henry Francis, there is not much public information on him, except an appearance on the voters’ lists and a passing mention in one or two newspaper stories.¹⁵ Now we had two possibilities for names for Eleanor’s sons, but still no proof.

Shortly after Richard and Eleanor’s marriage in June 1843, they moved to New Zealand, crossing the Tasman Sea on board the *Scotia*, arriving at Port Nicholson (Wellington) in July 1843. The passenger list includes Mr. Richard Eagar, Mrs. Eagar (no first name) and family (no names). There are mentions of Richard as a merchant during the next three years in and around Wellington, but nothing on Eleanor. Then in March 1846, again on the *Scotia*, Mr. Richard Eagar and Mrs. Eagar (again no first name) travelled back to Australia. With them were Henry,

Geoffrey and Jemima and another relative, also Henry, all listed as being born in New South Wales. I assumed Jemima was Richard's mother and the second Henry, another of Jemima's sons and Richard's half-brother. I was probably right about the second Henry, but I was wrong about Jemima.

As ships' records of the time are, at best, incomplete, it is also possible that Richard Eagar and his family travelled back and forth between Australia and New Zealand a number of times. However, newspaper stories seem to suggest that the Eagars spent a few years in New Zealand before returning to Australia.¹⁶ Less than three months after returning to Australia Eleanor was in jail in Sydney. What really happened? We can't know for sure. And then Eleanor disappeared from the records again.

Another New Life— and an Early Death

Searching through the records for New South Wales and Victoria (where Eleanor's sister Harriet then lived), I thought—how many people could have died in the early decades of the emerging colony of Australia? Would a “first name only” search be the ultimate folly? With not much to lose, I entered “Ellen” under Name, ticked the box for Deaths and, with tight time frames for deaths, hit the Enter button. The fifth record listed an Ellen Bott, whose father's name was John Emblem; she had died in

1856 at Kilmore, Victoria.¹⁷ My fingers could not fly fast enough over the keys, doing search after search to find out what happened to Eleanor/Ellen. I requested the death certificate. The Victoria archives said that the record was missing, and only the date and place of death were available. I was momentarily crushed, but undeterred.

Now that I had the new last name of Bott, I searched further and found a birth record for a Charles Bott, born 2 January 1855 in Duneed, Victoria.¹⁸

Australia only started compulsory registration in 1855, so much of the early information on births and deaths is unrecorded. But ordering Charles's birth certificate was a bonanza. His father was listed as John Bott, a shoemaker, also born in London, England, aged 37 years. There were two other sons listed: John Jr., 6 years old, and Joseph, 3 years old. And as for Charles's mother? One Eleanor Bott, formerly Emblem, born in Stratford, Essex, London, aged 36. No mention of her married name of Eagar. (John also said that he was married in 1836 at Sydney. There was a John Bott married in Sydney in 1836, but it wasn't to Eleanor.) John Bott provided this information and signed the certificate in his own hand.

On a whim, I tried the Victoria record office again, and they now had Eleanor's complete death record.¹⁹

And it contained another wealth of information.

Eleanor died 16 March 1856 in Kilmore, Victoria, some 57 km north of Melbourne. She is buried in the Kilmore General Cemetery. Her grave has no headstone.²⁰ One year after she was listed as 36 at the birth of Charles, the death certificate said that she was 44. (She was actually 41.) The cause of death was described as anaemia arising from a diseased abdominal viscera and protracted suckling. Her father was listed as John Emblem, Minister of the Independent Church. Not much doubt that this was my Eleanor!

But the column that really packed a punch was the list of her children, in order by birth, as given by John Bott. And, again, he signed the document in his own hand. They were Henry, Jemima, William, John, Joseph and Charles. We already knew about John, Joseph and Charles from Charles's birth certificate. We knew that Richard Eagar had a son, Henry, but now we had confirmation that Henry was also Eleanor's son. The Jemima on the boat I had originally thought was Richard's mother was actually Richard and Eleanor's daughter! And I had never heard about a William. There was no mention of a son named Geoffrey (later confirmed as Richard's son in his will of 1866).

I have still found nothing on Jemima or William. It is possible that Wil-

liam was an error and that it should have been Geoffrey. And as for Jemima? She might have been born after the census in 1841 and died after their return to Australia in 1846, but before compulsory registration began in 1855.

The Botts lived, at least for a short while, in both Duneed and Kilmore. Both areas were close to the gold fields and it is possible that John Bott was part of the influx of people searching for gold. On Charles's birth certificate John Bott's occupation is shoemaker, but on Ellen's death certificate he is listed as a labourer.

At the time Ellen Bott lived in Kilmore the area had thousands of acres of wheat, and the town had or was building three mills, churches, hotels, a jail, a courthouse, banks, a hospital, mills and breweries and a newspaper. Permanent buildings were beginning to replace the tent cities. Kilmore was prospering and it became a crossroads where those on the way to search for gold met the settlers heading for other towns on the Murray River.

In a matter of two months I had found out a tremendous amount about Eleanor's life, not all of it comforting.

Eleanor's Descendants

I believed I had as much information as was currently available on Eleanor, and so turned to the New Zealand records to search for her

descendants. There I found that both Henry Francis and Geoffrey had returned to New Zealand and had died there. Of course, I ordered up their death certificates, and found that Eleanor had more surprises for me.



Figure 4: Henry Francis Eagar

Source: New Zealand Electronic Text Centre

Geoffrey Eagar, who never married, had converted to Catholicism and was buried at the age of 92 in Karori Cemetery in Wellington in 1929.²¹ His mother's name on the death certificate was Frances (not Eleanor) Eagar. But it was Henry Francis's death certificate that was the shocker.²² His mother was not only listed as Frances Emblem Eagar, it contained another piece of information I had overlooked, but my sister noticed: Frances Emblem Eagar was

formerly Frances Redfern! Searches so far have not produced confirmation of this.

Henry Francis's death certificate showed that he had married and had one daughter, but no names were mentioned. He died in 1911 at age 74 and is buried at the Maori Mission Cemetery in Otaki, New Zealand. He and Geoffrey were therefore both born in 1837 and must have been twins!

I found no further information on John Bott Jr. Charles died at the age of 17 in Deniliquin, New South Wales of hydatids (tapeworm), one of more than 500 to do so at the height of an epidemic. On his death certificate, his parents were named as John Bott and Ellen Frances Emblem.²³ A Joseph Bott married a Catherine Murphy and had 10 children.²⁴ I haven't located either a birth or death certificate for him, but am fairly confident that he is John and Eleanor's son. Five of Joseph and Catherine's children bear familiar names: John, Charles, Ellen Frances, Alice and William. (John Bott had had another son, William, with an Alice Gibbs three years after Eleanor's death). And Joseph had one of those children in Deniliquin, New South Wales, where Charles died.

A Challenging Search for an Elusive Woman

Eleanor Emblem lived a traditional, probably quite strict life in England.

Her life turned out to be much more adventurous than she could possibly have ever imagined when living in rural West Ham as a preacher's daughter. She moved to Australia, stepped off the boat as a free, independent woman and shortly thereafter changed her name to Frances, changed it back to Ellen, lived for a time in New Zealand, suffered hardships, a prison term, broken relationships, possibly the death of her only daughter and an early death herself.

We have found out a great deal about Eleanor (Ellen) Frances Emblem Redfern Eagar Bott in a short period of time. It was particularly challenging as she used three first names and four surnames. Who would have thought Eleanor (Ellen), would become Frances in Sydney? Who would have thought the preacher's daughter would have two informal relationships (or as-yet-undiscovered marriages), one before and one after a formal marriage?

There are still gaps in my great-grand-aunt's story. Intriguing questions remain. Did she maintain a relationship with the three, possibly four children she had with Richard Eagar after her incarceration in Darlinghurst Gaol? Who paid her bail? What happened to Jemima? Who was William? Did she ever see her sister Harriet again? There is still some sleuthing to be done and the thrill of the hunt for new infor-

mation will keep us going. With all these questions remaining, it seems like we have only just begun. Let's call it Chapter One.

If you have any questions, or better yet, any answers, please contact me at carolyn.emblem@gmail.com.

© Carolyn Emblem

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The Cream of the Crop

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

BY JOHN D. REID

London, England, Electoral Registers, 1835–1965



With nearly 140 million entries, this major database which came online in the second week of January is the ninth biggest in the whole Ancestry collection. For the U.K. it's second only to the "British Phone Books, 1880–1984" database. Yet despite its drawing from holdings at the London Metropolitan Archives, it still isn't complete.

Give it a try. Just enter your name of interest and see what the search finds, especially if the name is distinctive. Many of the entries show the same person. Providing you can identify them, not so easy for common names, you can follow their movements. If you don't hit paydirt, and even if you do, it's worth understanding the contents and limitations of the database.

First, ask yourself if your person of interest had the right to vote. Proper-

ty requirements restricted the vote to male property owners at the start of the period. Gradually the franchise was extended to a broader base of men, and property-owning women were given some rights to vote in local elections. The general franchise was extended in 1918 to include most men age 21 and older and some women over the age of 30. In 1928 the voting age was lowered to 21 for both men and women.

Second, going through year-by-year there are no data before 1847, for 1850, 1854, 1855, 1863, 1864 or after 1961. During the war years of 1915–1917 and 1940–44 the lists were not compiled.

Third, look at specific boroughs and parliamentary districts and you'll appreciate the geographic patchiness of the coverage. There's detail on the original holdings at the LMA at <http://goo.gl/vfFLe>. I searched for my grandfather, who was living in Hendon in the 1930s. He has a distinctive middle name and I was fortunate that it was included in his

listing from 1930 to 1936. There was nothing after that. I wondered if he'd dropped the middle name, moved to a different area, or if perhaps the districts were changed. I checked the browse collection for Hendon and found it only had content from 1918 to 1930, even though the searchable database went to 1936. The situation was even more marked for Harrow, where I found my other grandfather in the database to 1936 but the browse file only went to 1899.

Putting these factors together, voters in the database with the surname Smith first exceed 1,000 in 1886 then jump to 14,694 in 1890, remaining fairly steady to WWI. Numbers increased to 32,208 in 1918 and reached 52,919 in 1929. Voter numbers drop from the late 1930s as fewer lists are included in the database.

Another issue with this database turned up while searching for mention of my Northwood ancestors. Northwood is also a London place name. I found numerous examples of the surname Northwood with unusual first names like Ruislip, Own, Pinner, Parsonage, Farm As, Farm As Occupier Green-Lane Farm, Rickmansworth. These were all in the Ruislip parliamentary district. View the original records and you'll find the person's name is in a column not transcribed. It appears the transcription was done by machine with overly loose quality control and seemingly no checking against a

name dictionary, which would surely catch that type of error. Just because you don't find your person doesn't mean they aren't in the original list.

If your ancestors were not in London, and you're feeling hard done by, you won't have too much longer to wait. Ancestry already has Dorset, England, Electoral Registers, 1839–1922, with over 19 million entries. *Findmypast* has a project in cooperation with the British Library to digitize its voter list holdings, due to be online this year.

In the meantime, if you want to see whether there is any hope for your area and time of interest, you can consult the small publication *Electoral registers since 1832: and burgess rolls*, a Gibson Guide. There's a copy in the BIFHSGO library. A newer version is also available.

British Newspaper Archive

This much-anticipated archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) is now online. A cooperative commercial venture between the British Library and brightsolid, the parent company of *findmypast*, it boasts about 3.4 million pages as of the end of January, with a promise of adding 8,000 pages every day. In 10 years' time, up to 40 million pages are promised, and if history is anything to go by that will be achieved sooner.

I was interested to find out what's available, and how likely you are to

find what you're looking for—if it was printed.

Availability is well documented. As of late January there were papers from 1711 to 1950, with most issues for the nineteenth century, and all parts of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. London is well represented, including long runs of *The Morning Post* (1801–1900), *The London Daily News* (1826–1900), *The London Standard* (1827–1900), and *The Morning Chronicle* (1801–1849).

There are 25 London-based papers in all. Other major collections are for the *Caledonian Mercury* (Edinburgh), *Western Times* (Exeter), *Dundee Courier*, *Freeman's Journal* (Dublin), *Belfast News-Letter*, *Manchester Courier* and *Lancashire General Advertiser*, *Glasgow Herald*, *Birmingham Daily Post*, *Leeds Mercury*, *Manchester Evening News*, *Sheffield Independent*, *York Herald*, *Liverpool Mercury*, *Nottingham Evening Post*, *Aberdeen Journal*, and *Bristol Mercury*.

Several are duplicates of those in the nineteenth century British Library newspaper online collection available without charge at LDS family history centres.

As with all digitized papers, this collection is plagued with errors on the automated transcription (OCR). Here are two examples of the snippet view you can view for free as a result of a search, showing the quality of the text recognition.

f Mr. Robert Digby, of Barrow ;
Mrs. Briggs, wife of Mr. Henry
Briggs, of the Plumber's Arms,
Denston ; Mrs. Webb, wife of Mr.
Webb, a respectable farmer, of
Brebberham. Corn Returns. —
Prices of wheat made at the Corn
Exchange. Week ending July 6 ... ?
-oit Marmon..oad Sonhec; orof .
K.Up-stree holserer Quen-
steetPortea, unnigham
HATEROYAL, COMMRIJ OD Iy as
IESEE.Aim MANAGER, MR. H. L
Authorised to Perform the Pieces
of the D ,oue Authors' Society. .
LAST WEEK OF MR. J.CLARE - of
wales's, Ad hi, S ... ?

As yet there is no study of the quality of the OCR. It varies from paper to paper and issue to issue as found in a study of the nineteenth century British Library newspaper collection. On average there was about a 2 in 3 chance of a proper name being correctly recognized. If you like those odds it's a database well worth exploring.

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON



It is time to look at what is new and interesting in journals received recently at the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library.

Most of the articles in the January issue of *Chinook*, the quarterly journal of the Alberta Family History Societies, are dedicated to ethnic roots apart from the U.K. Starting in the April issue the editor is planning a new section, called "Young Genealogy Detectives," featuring the work of young people.

Members who are researching ancestors in Saskatchewan may find this article in the December issue of the *Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin* helpful.

"Go West Young Man: Understanding Saskatchewan Homestead Records" by Bonnie Dahl, Reference Archivist of the Saskatchewan Archives Board, explains the historical background and the types of documents in the records, as well as how to access the records online.

To commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of his death 27 November 1811, the December issue of *The Scottish Genealogist* features a lengthy account of the life of "An-

drew Meikle—Civil Engineer and Millwright" by Joy Dodd. She describes his many contributions to the development of agriculture in the eighteenth century, such as improvements to sails for windmills and the development of a threshing machine.

The December issue of *Genealogists' Magazine* has a carefully researched article on "Tracing Anglican Clergy Ancestors Online" by Henry Long.

For anyone looking for Australian ancestors, the September issue of *The Ancestral Searcher*, quarterly publication of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, offers "25 Websites for Australian Family Historians" compiled by Leanne McMahon.

The February 2011 issue of the *Tay Valley Family Historian* contains a brief history of golf, titled simply "The Game of Golf," by Alistair Macdonald. It is a follow-up to *Gowfers and Golfers*, by Caroline Makein in the previous issue (October 2010), in which she describes the lives of some well-known nineteenth-century Scottish golfers.

I found the article "World War One Ships Chart Past Climate" in the *West Middlesex Family History Journal* (March 2011) intriguing. It describes a project organized by the

Joint Information System Committee to inspire colleges and universities in the innovative use of digital technologies.

The project involves volunteers transcribing weather information, as well as information about the crews and the voyages found in the hand-written logbooks of World War I Royal Navy ships. The aim is to create a historical

record of weather at sea, 1905–1929, which can be useful to scientists and historians.

While life in the trenches during the Great War has been well documented, little is known about life at sea. The site <www.oldweather.org> is still a work in progress, but someday you may wish to visit it to see what the weather was like during the Battle of Jutland.

Podcasting BIFHSGO to the World

With initiatives spearheaded by the indefatigable John Reid and Research & Projects Director Brian Glenn, BIFHSGO is becoming a go-to source of genealogy podcasts. Between them, 21 Fall Conference speakers and Market Place vendors were interviewed, resulting in 362 downloads by the end of January 2012, with Don Whiteside lecturer Phil Jenkins being the most popular choice.

Interviews with BIFHSGO members are posted on the website as well. Anne Sterling's account of how photographs triggered her foray into researching family history has attracted many researchers, as has Patricia Roberts-Pichette's discussion of her book on J.T. Middlemore.

Brian has been interviewing BIFHSGO members and Saturday speakers since last summer, hoping to give listeners a behind-the-scenes look at their interests and talks. Brooke Broadbent recently joined Brian in the project, and they are looking forward to their planned interviews with Simon Fowler in April and later, some of BIFHSGO's founding members, leading up to our June celebration of volunteers.

So check out the selection. Under "BIFHSGO News" on the Home page, www.bifhsgo.ca offers previews of upcoming meeting lectures, members' recently published books, and more.

The Elusive Ancestor

I went searching for an ancestor. I cannot find him still.
He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.
He married where a courthouse burned. He mended all his fences.
He avoided any man who came to take the U.S. Census.

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame,
and every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.
His parents came from Europe. They should be upon some list
of passengers to U.S.A., but somehow they got missed.

And no one else in this whole world is searching for this man.
So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can.
I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed;
but the weather took engraving, and vandals took the rest.

He died before the county clerks decided to keep records.
No Family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts.
To top it off this ancestor, who caused me many groans,
just to give me one more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.

By Merrell Kenworthy

*Found on the Rootsweb Freepages site
(http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ruthptb/Genealogy_Quotes_and_Poems.html), along with a variety of amusing and heartwarming quotations from the famous and not-so-famous.*

Notice of the 2012 BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting Saturday, 9 June 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Take notice that the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa will take place on Saturday, 9 June 2012, at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, to receive and conduct business in accordance with articles 37–41 of the bylaws. Members are reminded that, in accordance with Article 40 of the bylaws, they may appoint a proxy to attend the meeting and act on their behalf. The proxy holder must also be a member.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting
3. Summary of the Directors' reports
4. Presentation of the financial statement for 2011
5. Report of the Auditor
6. Approval of the financial statement for 2011
7. Appointment of the Auditor for 2012
8. Amendments to the bylaws (if any are proposed)
9. Awards and presentations
10. Report of the Nominating Committee
11. Election of Directors
12. Any other business
13. Adjournment

The normal monthly meeting will follow after a short break.

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa 11 June 2011

The 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) began at 9:00 a.m. on June 11, 2011, in the Library and Archives Canada auditorium at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario. The notice of the meeting and the 2010 AGM minutes had been published in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Spring 2011 issue.

A quorum of at least 25 was declared, with attendance estimated at approximately 115. Ron Elliott was appointed the Recording Secretary.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

The President, Glenn Wright, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2010 AGM:

No comments or corrections were received either prior to, or at, the 2011 AGM. It was moved by Chris MacPhail and seconded by Roy Thomas *that the minutes as published be approved*. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Reports of the President and Directors:

These reports were published and distributed as a yellow insert in the Summer 2011 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. The President summarized the past year's highlights, noting that the year was incredibly busy and productive. The Annual Conference, which focused on Ireland, was a huge success, due to the program, its publicity, and the many volunteers.

BIFHSGO's membership has remained steady at just over 500 members, with recent monthly meeting attendance averaging 200 members, demonstrating that our program was solid and offered value. The Before BIFHSGO presentations and courses were also well attended. The Society has produced two books during the past year—*British Home Children: Their Stories* and *St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Baptism, Marriage and Death Records 1829–1949*, both of which have been well received.

The President stated that BIFHSGO thrives on two things: communication and volunteers. This year the website was revamped and is now more dynamic and informative than ever before. In addition, *Anglo-Celtic Roots* maintained its excellence as our Society publication and has been recognized for its quality. But it all comes together through volunteers, from members of the Board to the ACR team, to those who serve coffee, hand out badges, sell books, collect mail, maintain our library, set up tables, and much more.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2010:

The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement of the Society for the fiscal year, being from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010, were included in the Summer 2011 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* distributed at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer drew attention to the fact that BIFHSGO assets consist of both financial and physical assets, totalling (for 2010) \$82,687.49. Our library collection asset was valued at \$13,833.19, but this is balanced by an identical amount in the Liabilities section of the Balance Sheet, which includes prepaid membership fees for 2012 and 2013. Our net 2010 equity was \$51,955.58.

Membership fees totalled \$17,895.00, essentially the same as 2009. Donations to BIFHSGO in 2010 totalled \$2,252.74, a little less than in 2009. The Society's 2010 Annual Conference generated a surplus of \$183.40, effectively the "break even" point that BIFHSGO plans for as a non-profit society. Net income from courses was \$1,576.03, while the sale of publications netted \$1,547.10. Other income (e.g. bank interest and GST rebates as a charitable society) generated \$1,152.05 for a total (net) income of \$24,696.32. The Treasurer also noted some Administration and General Expenses items, pointing out that the production and mailing costs for *Anglo-Celtic Roots* were the highest component at \$4,338.58. Overall, 2010 expenses totalled \$20,504.63, leaving a net positive balance of \$4,191.69.

The Treasurer reminded members that as a charitable organization the Society was required to make contributions with a percentage of surplus monies. The total contributions for 2010 were \$3,400.00. A list of donations was provided to attendees after the AGM. It was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Cliff Adams *that the financial reports be accepted*. Before the vote, the Auditor provided his report.

Auditor's Report:

The Auditor identified two minor corrections to the Treasurer's report. He noted that "less" expenses was recorded in four items under "income," and that "less" revenue had also been reported under "expenses." While this is a valid approach to financial reporting, the Totals columns under Income and Expenses should be shown as Total NET Income and Total NET Expenses. He then reported that he had been given thorough access to the financial records for 2010. From these he determined that the funds he expected to have been available were found to be available. The Auditor concluded that the financial statement for the fiscal year 2010 prepared by

the Treasurer represented a fair statement of the financial status of BIFHSGO. The motion was amended to state *that the financial reports, with the corrections suggested by the Auditor, be accepted.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Appointment of Auditor:

The Auditor had indicated to the President his willingness to continue in this position. There being no other nominations it was moved by Patricia Roberts-Pichette and seconded by John Reid *that Darrel Kennedy be nominated as the Society's auditor for the 2011 fiscal year.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Awards and Presentations:

Chris MacPhail was presented with a National Genealogical Society Certificate awarded to *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, which received an Honorable Mention at this year's NGS Conference. As outgoing Editor of the journal Chris was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from BIFHSGO in recognition of his contribution to the success of ACR as Editor from 2006 to 2011.

Heather Boucher Ashe won the award for the Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Article of 2010–11 for her article entitled "The Irish Registry of Deeds for Genealogists," which appeared in the Summer 2010 issue. As she was not present at the AGM, Heather received her award at the Fall Conference.

Naomi Ridout was presented with the award for the Best Presentation by a Member at the monthly BIFHSGO meetings, for the 2010–11 season. Her talk, entitled: "Shearman Godfrey Bird and Amoui Chun Bird: from Colonial Canton to Pioneer Ontario," was delivered at the September 2010 meeting.

Willis Burwell and his wife Margaret were jointly named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of their combined contributions to family history through outstanding service to the Society and the advancement of BIFHSGO objectives:

- with Margaret agreeing at the founding meeting of the Society to be the Internet Group Coordinator, growing into the Associate Director (Webmaster) position in 2001 and being involved with introducing and refining online registration in 2008–09; while Willis continued his service by joining the Board in 2001, serving as Secretary for six years, then President and Past President, ending in 2010;
- with both offering additional services as developers of the original conference website, with Margaret also taking on the responsibility of Registrar for the 2007, 2008, and 2009 conferences, and of doing publicity for the 2010 conference, and Willis serving as the Conference Chair in 2007 and Co-chair for the 2008, 2009, and 2010

conferences; with starting in 1997, as presenters, both giving many genealogical talks at monthly meetings, annual conferences, and educational events;

- and as authors, both preparing several articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.
- Both are still keen on sharing their insights with BIFHSGO members in formal and informal ways. These contributions are quite significant, and demonstrate a long-term commitment by both recipients to BIFHSGO. Both are well deserving of their award.

Willis accepted the Hall of Fame award on behalf of himself and his wife, as Margaret was unable to attend the meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

In the absence of the Chair of the Nominating Committee, the President briefly reviewed the Society's bylaws for President and Directors. Board members are elected for a two-year term. Coming up for renewal this year are: Lesley Anderson (Education), Jane Down (Program), Brian Glenn (Research and Projects), and Ron Elliott (Secretary). The President noted that the first three directors had indicated their willingness to remain in their positions for a further two years. However, Ron Elliott would be leaving his position and moving to British Columbia for family reasons, and Anne Sterling had volunteered to undertake the secretary's position for the next two years.

Three times further nominations were solicited from the floor for Secretary. No further nominations were made. Then, three times, further nominations from the floor for the three other positions were solicited. There being no other nominations for those positions, all four nominees were declared elected by acclamation.

Other Business:

No other business was raised at the meeting.

Adjournment: 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business it was moved by Brian Glenn and seconded by Jane Down *that the meeting be adjourned.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Prepared by Ron Elliott, Secretary, 15 June 2011



*Celebrate Your
Anglo-Celtic Roots!*

**18th Annual BIFHSGO
Family History Conference**

Featuring

Scotland

- ◆ **Expert Lecturers**
- ◆ **Pre-conference Workshops**
- ◆ **Research Room**
- ◆ **Marketplace**



Something for Everyone!

14–16 September 2012

Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

For registration information

www.bifhsgo.ca ◆ conference@bifhsgo.ca ◆ 613-234-2520

Accessing the “Members Only” Section at www.bifhsgo.ca

If you are having trouble entering the “Members Only” section of the BIFHSGO website, here are a few tips for getting access to all the useful information there.

Forgotten login name

To retrieve your login name, click on the question mark symbol found after the login name field shown below. You will be prompted to enter your email address (the one you use for BIFHSGO). Within several minutes, you will receive an email with your login name.

Login Name: ?

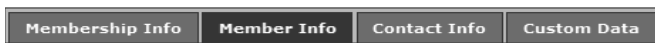
Forgotten password

If you have forgotten your password, click on the question mark symbol found after the password field. You will be prompted to enter either your email address or login name. A link and code number will be sent to your email address which will allow you to reset your password.

Password: ?

To reset your login name or password

To reset your login name or your password, log in to the Members Only section. Once there, select “Profile” from the drop-down menu found on the left-side of the page. Your personal profile box will open up with four tabs. Select the Member Info tab.



Within the lower portion of this page you will find your Site Login displayed, but your Password will not be displayed for security. Select either Change Login or Change Password. Be sure to save your change after each step.

If you are still unable to access the Members Only section, contact membership@bifhsgo.ca for assistance.

9 June 2012 Great Moments in Genealogy

Finding Uncle Percy's Naval Record—Betty Warburton broke through a brick wall to locate the service record of her ancestor, who was missing from LAC's index.

My Journey to the Middle of Nowhere—Judy Thamas confirmed a family rumour, and even walked the ground where her ancestors lived.

William Smyth Militiaman of 1812—Dave and Jean Roger uncovered an ancestor's illustrious career, including his service in the War of 1812.

Scottish and English Architects of the Chateau Laurier and Union Station—David Jeanes used uncommon sources to reveal the backgrounds of the architectural team that designed these two Ottawa landmarks.

Membership Report

BY TARA GRANT

New BIFHSGO Members 02 Nov 2011–10 Jan 2012		
Member No.	Name	Address
1482	Mary Taylor	Orleans, ON
1483	Janet Berkman	Toronto, ON
1484	Anne Doyle	Ottawa, ON
1485	Brian Latham	Yellowknife, NT
1486	Susan Lahey	Toronto, ON
1487	Gillian Leitch	Gatineau, QC
1488	Jack Smyth	Kanata, ON
1489	George McCabe	Ottawa, ON
1490	John Beedell	Ottawa, ON
1491	Brian LeConte	Ottawa, ON
1492	Alison Warlow	Ottawa, ON
1493	Catherine Corbett	Ottawa, ON
1494	Judith & Peter Hawkins	Ottawa, ON
1495	Joan Smith	Ottawa, ON
1496	Maureen Major-Lloyd	Nepean, ON

Welcome to all our new members.

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2011–2012

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	Tara Grant	613-230-9778
Communications	Susan Davis	819-568-0081
Publicity	Margaret Gervais	613-829-4192
Programs	Jane Down	613-741-1463
Education	Lesley Anderson	613-447-6477
Past President	Mary Anne Sharpe	613-562-4570

Associate Directors 2011–2012

Editor <i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i>	Jean Kitchen
Web Manager	Susan Davis
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 programs, each of two hours' duration; up to six free queries a year; friendly advice from other members; participation in special interest groups that may be formed.

BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

Saturday Morning Meetings

Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

- 14 April 2012** *A Brick Wall Chisel: The Cluster Research Project*—Ruth Blair will explain how to organize and start a cluster research project to help you break down a brick wall in your family history search.
- 12 May 2012** *ROOTS: a Genealogical Snapshot of a Sandy Hill Congregation*—Dr. Glenn J. Lockwood and Janet Uren will describe this emerging neighbourhood as it existed around 1867, using the congregation of the newly built St. Alban's church as a focal point.
- 9 June 2012** *Annual General Meeting, followed by Great Moments in Genealogy*—see p. 40 for Great Moments details
(Note that the AGM starts at 9:00 a.m.)

Schedule

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

For up-to-date information 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 13 April 2012.