



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle • Volume 19, Number 1 • Spring 2013

## In This Issue

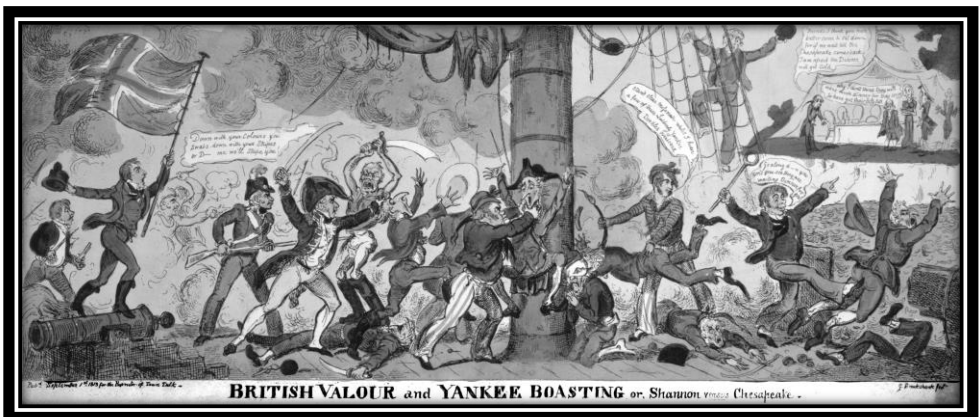
*Prize-making in the War of 1812, Relatively Speaking*

*The Search for James Lightbody  
and the Magnet's Passenger List*

*In Search of Hugh*

*Genealogy: the Motivations, the Investments, the Rewards*

*Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting*



## ***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: Barbara Tose

Proofreader: Anne Renwick

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

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

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO  
or its officers, nor are commercial interests endorsed.

We invite readers to submit family history stories, illustrations, letters,  
queries and similar items of interest, preferably in electronic format using  
MSWord-compatible software, to [acreditor@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:acreditor@bifhsgo.ca)  
or The Editor, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 3Y7.  
Please include a brief biographical sketch and a passport-type photograph.

Authors are asked to certify that permission to reproduce any previously  
copyrighted material has been acquired and are encouraged to provide  
permission for non-profit reproduction of their articles. The Editor reserves  
the right to select material that meets the interest of readers and to edit for  
length and content.

### ***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](mailto:queries@bifhsgo.ca)
- [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca)

# Contents

## COLUMN

*From the President/2*

**FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**  
*Prize-making in the War of 1812,  
Relatively Speaking*

*Faye Kert/3*

*The Search for James Lightbody  
and the Magnet's Passenger List*

*Amanda Lightbody/12*

*In Search of Hugh*

*Christine Woodcock/19*

*Genealogy: the Motivations, the  
Investments, the Rewards*

*Leighann C. Neilson and D.A. Muise/22*

## TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

*The Cream of the Crop*

*John D. Reid/30*

*The Bookworm*

*Betty Warburton/33*

*Irish Volunteers Help*

*Family Historians*

*Phil Donnelly/35*

## BIFHSGO NEWS

*Notice of the 2013 Annual General  
Meeting and Minutes of  
the 2012 AGM*

*Anne Sterling/37*

*Membership Report*

*Kathy Wallace/42*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Back cover*

*Cover Illustration:*

*A contemporary cartoon pokes fun  
at both combatants in the War of 1812*

*Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/  
File:British\\_valour.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:British_valour.jpg).*

## *From the Editor:*

This issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* focuses on the exciting experience of finding records that can reveal long-sought details about our ancestors.

Our lead story reprises Faye Kert's account of little-known military and genealogical privateering records from the War of 1812, which she had described at the November 2012 BIFHSGO meeting.

Because of Faye's talk, Amanda Lightbody was able to answer some questions about her great-great-grandfather that had eluded her for years. She shares her excitement here.

Christine Woodcock tells how she also managed to break down the brick wall surrounding her great-uncle Hugh, and uncovered a potential murder mystery.

And you may recognize yourself in the intriguing results of a survey by Leighann Neilson and Del Muise that studied the reasons family historians take up the pursuit and the satisfactions they derive from genealogy research.

Jean Kitchen

## From the President



### Spring is in the air

I attended the “Who do you think you are” fair in London in February and I was simply amazed at the variety of resources available to family historians and genealogists. Not too many years ago, our research followed some well-defined trails—census returns, passenger lists, church registers, land records, local histories and so on. I was impressed with not only the technologies that are making our research easier, but also the many kinds of records that are being uncovered in archives and museums, digitized, indexed and made available online. Research possibilities are far more comprehensive than we would have even imagined a few short years ago.

And we work together now more than ever before. The Internet opened the door in the 1990s, social media are essential tools now and the value of DNA testing—I recently did my own—has been proven over and over again as a means of deepening our understanding of our past history. Family history is now a collaborative effort and for this, we can be thankful.

Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal and is my favourite time of the year. I hope that our Society will continue to adapt and that members will continue to explore new technologies and resources that will ultimately enhance our family histories and genealogies.

We face challenges, however. We have been actively searching for a new venue for our monthly meetings; remaining at LAC is simply not viable in the long term because of costs. In many ways, we are victims of our own success. I know of no society that regularly attracts more than 150 members to a monthly meeting and we do so consistently! Regardless of what the future holds, we will survive. Experience the re-awakening that comes with spring, pursue your research and enjoy your family, both past and present.

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

Glenn Wright

# Prize-making in the War of 1812, Relatively Speaking

BY FAYE KERT



*A War of 1812 historian, Faye spoke at the November 2012 BIFHSGO meeting about privateering during the war, some Irish immigrants captured on the ship Magnet, and how the prize court records available at Library and Archives Canada may help genealogists.*

**T**here are things about the War of 1812 that we either never knew or have forgotten. One thing that has certainly been overlooked, if not forgotten, is the collection of Vice-Admiralty Court records held by Library and Archives Canada (RG8, IV, Volumes 73 to 150), which contain genealogical research gems. These files hold documents relating to the capture and court processing of 726 prize vessels and/or cargoes that were captured by Royal Navy vessels and privateers from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia during the War of 1812.<sup>1</sup> They reveal a fascinating aspect of the war in what is now Atlantic Canada, but was then of course part of British North America.

To explain why these files are so useful to genealogists, I want to put the Vice-Admiralty Court into perspective. To do that requires a very brief recap of not just why the War of 1812 happened, but why it happened when it did.

### Why War?

Like most conflicts, the War of 1812 should not have occurred in the first place. A recent article in *The New Yorker* quotes a British bureaucrat as comparing the dispute to two men holding their heads in a bucket to see who would drown first.

Financially, neither side could afford to go to war. The U.S. Treasury was nearly empty as the country struggled to pay off the debt left over from the American Revolution as well as the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Great Britain was likewise deeply overextended from 25 years of battling Napoleon in Europe.

Militarily, the U.S. had no standing army and the navy created in the Revolution had not been maintained, leaving only 17 ships and some generally despised gunboats at its disposal. Britain, meanwhile, was engaged in a “life or death” struggle in Europe and could not afford to send enough troops or naval vessels to adequately defend her North American colonies.

On a personal level, relations between the inhabitants of the border states and their provincial neighbours were generally collaborative and congenial. Goods passed across borders, legally or otherwise, and most people seemed to get along.

But things were different at sea. Under the banner of “Free Trade and Sailors’ Rights,” the War of 1812 was ostensibly fought against British interference with American trade on the high seas and the impressment of American sailors into the British navy. Impressment had a long tradition in the British Navy, but it had increased steadily during the Napoleonic Wars. Loudly condemned by local newspapers and pro-war Republicans, the impressment of American-born sailors by the Royal Navy was a source of public outrage.

By 1812, the U.S. had been a nation for almost 30 years. Americans were proud of their hard-won independence and high-handed British behaviour at sea was deeply

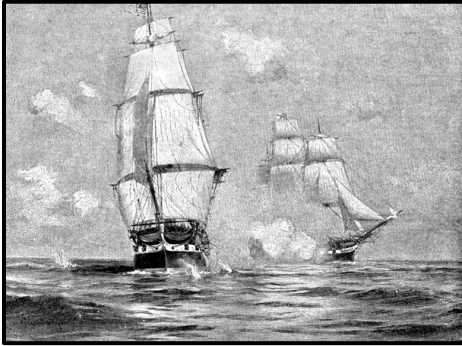
resented. It did not help that life aboard a British warship was considered a “floating hell” and impressed men often spent years at sea with no possibility of release.

On the other hand, as far as Great Britain was concerned, everyone born in the U.S. over the age of 30 was born a British citizen, and any Englishman who had emigrated to the U.S. before or after the Revolution was still British. Thus, virtually anyone aboard an American ship who looked or sounded British was a candidate for impressment.

Nor were the numbers insignificant. Although figures vary, it is probable that between 1795 and 1812, some 10,000 nominally American seamen were impressed into the British Navy. Although many U.S. sailors carried papers testifying to their citizenship, these were so often forged or stolen, that most British officers viewed them with understandable skepticism.

If impressment had been the sole issue, war could have erupted five years earlier, after the Chesapeake-Leopard Affair in 1807. The forcible removal of four American seamen from the USS *Chesapeake*, three of them previously pressed men considered British deserters, created an international incident. When His Britannic Majesty’s ship *Leopard* (50 guns) halted the U.S. frigate *Chesapeake* (38 guns) at sea, the American captain refused to allow a

search. The British fired a broadside, more than a dozen Americans were wounded, and the sailors were taken. Yet a settlement was eventually reached, the two surviving sailors returned, and war was averted—for a while.



**Figure 1: The Chesapeake and Leopard**

Source: ushistoryimages.com

As a neutral nation, the U.S. took full advantage of any trading opportunities by carrying cargoes to both French and English ports on the continent as well as to North America and the Caribbean. Meanwhile, France and England attempted to bring each other's economy to its knees by means of a series of on-again off-again trade embargoes and restrictions. Regulations changed so often that U.S. merchant vessels often paid the price for trading with the wrong side. Between 1806 and 1812, about 400 American ships were seized by each side and several thousand American sailors ended up as prisoners of war in French and English jails. If inter-

ference with American trade had really been an issue by 1812, France was as likely an opponent as England.

But the same year as the Chesapeake–Leopard Affair, England imposed the first of several Orders-in-Council forcing American ships to stop at British ports and pay duty before proceeding to trade with France or any other continental port. Americans objected but continued trading. The orders were finally revoked less than a week before the U.S. declared war, but by the time the news reached Washington, it was a case of “too little, too late.”

Those who supported the war claimed impressment was an affront to American sovereignty that could only be resolved by taking up arms—again. Thus, the War of 1812 became a second War of Independence. For Great Britain, the need to man the multitude of naval vessels required for the job superseded any political considerations. Patrols, blockade duty, convoys, and actual combat required the services of thousands of men and hundreds of ships.

Even with impressment on both land and sea, resources were so tight that only 25, mostly elderly ships were allotted for the protection of British properties in the Maritime Provinces and the Caribbean.

Despite the steady deterioration of diplomatic relations with the U.S. the British government never really expected war, as it had neither the resources nor the energy to spare for what appeared to be a relatively minor difference of opinion in North America. As for the Americans, most of New England and the northern U.S. states (the ones with the financial resources to actually fight a war) were ambivalent if not outrightly opposed to it.

What about American designs on Canada, the conquest of which was supposed to be a “mere matter of marching” according to former president Thomas Jefferson? If such a plan was ever part of U.S. military strategy, it is unlikely that Canada would have ever been more than a post-war bargaining chip to be used in negotiations with England. American territorial ambitions lay to the west, rather than the north.

But . . . 1812 was an election year and the War Hawks from the Southern and Western states were agitating for more land . . . which happened to belong to the native Americans who were allied with the British fur traders west of the Mississippi. And the British were not above using the Indian threat as a way of keeping settlers out and retaining the lucrative fur trade for themselves.

A combination of pride, stubbornness, greed and overconfidence

pushed both sides into an unpopular, unplanned and unnecessary war. On 16 June 1812, when the U.S. decided to wage war against Great Britain, it was the closest vote on any formal declaration of war in American history, with the Senate ratifying the decision 19 to 13. Nevertheless, the die was cast. Even though Britain tried to defuse the situation, it finally declared war on the U.S. on 13 October.

### **Prize at Sea**

Once war was declared, it was necessary to employ every means available to fight the naval conflict. So to bolster the sea defences, privateers were authorized by both sides. Over roughly six centuries, privateering had developed into a legal, tightly regulated practice that involved the licensing of privately-owned vessels to capture enemy shipping during wartime. By 1812, the laws and court procedure governing privateering were clearly understood by ship owners, sailors and merchants involved in maritime trade.

Privateering was governed by the ancient English law of prize. In an era before national navies or international law, the protection of property belonging to citizens of one nation from seizure by citizens of another nation was almost impossible. For example, a party of English merchants journeying to Germany for a trade fair might be



robbed by French brigands along the way. If the robbers fled, the victims had no way of obtaining justice, since they were not citizens of either the robbers' country or the place where they were robbed.

The solution was for the English victims to petition their king for a "letter of marque" (from *marcha* or border), which entitled them to make up only the value of the goods they had lost by taking them from a citizen of France. The innocent French victim would then appeal for restitution from his own lord, who could chase and punish the original thieves or compensate the victim from his own treasury. It was a bit cumbersome but a more acceptable form of cross-border conflict resolution than continually going to war.

When this same sort of random robbery occurred at sea, it was known as piracy. As pirates denied allegiance to any sovereign, they were considered enemies of all mankind and could be captured by the ships of any nation and hanged without trial. When two countries were officially at war, however, the ships of one legally became fair game for the other. Because England did not really begin to create a national navy until Henry VIII, the protection of merchant shipping fell to the merchants themselves. Since most of their ships carried one or more cannon to protect themselves against the ever-present pirates, the

transformation from peace to war did not require a major investment in weaponry. And the incentive was a share in the prize.

To obtain these letters or commissions, ship owners applied to the Crown and in return for agreeing to abide by certain laws and paying a bond for good behaviour, they were permitted to capture enemy vessels. Privateers (the name applies to both the ships and the crews) had two options. They could set off on a trading voyage and use their commission as an insurance policy in case a likely prize happened by, or they could replace the cargo with extra guns and more men, and cruise solely for enemy prizes. The former vessels were usually known as letter of marque ships, while the latter were considered privateers.

Once the prize was brought in and judged to be good, it was "condemned" to the captor, who was entitled to sell both ship and cargo. The proceeds were shared: usually half to the owners or investors and half to the captain and crew according to previously agreed-upon percentages. The Crown and the court also received a share, making the adjudication of prize an all-round lucrative prospect from the first.

Needless to say, the process took some years to evolve as the regulations and administration of the laws required constant vigilance. For ex-

ample, once a privateer sailed out of sight of land, it was reasonably easy to capture a ship, enemy or not, throw the crew overboard, and sail the prize home. It soon became obvious that one or more members of the captured crew had to be brought in with the ship to testify that it had indeed been enemy property and fairly captured. It was also important to protect the cargo from pilfering before it reached the auctioneer.

At the same time as private armed warfare was evolving, the Royal Navy was becoming a full-time national maritime force. To make naval service more appealing, especially during the many wars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, navy ships were also entitled to prize money from the capture of enemy ships, whether they were military ships or merchantmen. Usually bigger and more heavily manned and armed than privateers, naval vessels could capture larger, more valuable prey; captains and crews alike looked forward to being able to earn prize money on top of their wages.

While privateers were required to work with the navy as necessary, they did not often collaborate. Inevitably, the navy and privateers found themselves competing for crews, ships and prizes.

When war came, shipowners often refused to risk their ships for trade,

and fishing became too dangerous; there were not many options for seafarers who had families to feed. But for many merchant seamen, the threat of being pressed into naval service was far worse than the danger of being shot or captured by the enemy. Privateering offered employment, the potential of valuable prizes and protection from impressment. No wonder it was popular.

### **The Vice-Admiralty Court**

Although it has occasionally been confused with piracy, sometimes by the people who were actually doing it, privateering required both a declaration of war and a commission from a belligerent state in order to make it legal. Over the years, the process had been continually refined to the point where matters of prize were dealt with in a specialized court by lawyers and judges who were trained in the practice of civil rather than criminal law. The Nova Scotia court in Halifax, for example, was established in 1749, the same year as the city.

Unlike regular courts of law, vice-admiralty courts had no juries. Because of the international complexities of maritime cases, it was felt that a jury of ordinary citizens would not be able to make an informed decision. Moreover, the lawsuit in a prize case was unique in that it was against the ship rather than the owners, since they were

unlikely to be on the ship at the time of capture. Accordingly, the prize was actually the plaintiff and the evidence was the documents pertaining to the ship and cargo that were on board when the ship was seized. These papers were so important that any tampering with them meant automatic condemnation.

### **Genealogical Treasure in the Records**

Once a ship was captured, all the papers on board, including any permits, licences, logs, or letters the vessel might be carrying became part of the prize case and joined any documents prepared by the court as part of the Vice-Admiralty Court process. The judge's decision was usually noted on the back of the Definitive Sentence and all the papers returned to the court for filing. Thus, when the Vice-Admiralty Court documents from Halifax were transferred to the custody of Library and Archives Canada, they were virtually intact.

When I began researching privateering and naval prize, I found a treasure trove of information in Record Group 8, Number IV, which very few researchers had ever used. Box after box of prize records, stored alphabetically by year, along with additional boxes of material relating to court costs make up the War of 1812 material. Every folder tells a story, and the capture of the *Magnet* is one of them.

### **The Capture of the *Magnet***

The spring and summer of 1812 were unusually cold and rainy in Ireland, perhaps part of the reason why farmers like Henry Linton, John Henderson, his son John Jr., Robert Irwin, Alex Graham, Will Walkinshaw, John Russell, George McMenamy, Sam Sloane, Rob Patterson and their families decided to emigrate to New York. Those men on board not identified as farmers (like Will Gamble, Richard Taylor, James Lightbody and Sam Coburn and his brother Will) were classed as labourers, and all the unmarried women, even 12-year-old Jane Allison, were called spinsters. There was only one merchant in the group, 42-year-old Qualler Richols of Bridgenorth.

In all, 100 "poor distressed people" from small villages around Belfast booked passage aboard the *Magnet*, a 372-ton ship owned by William Davis of Plymouth, New Hampshire, Nathaniel Carver and William Davis of Duxbury, and Timothy Drew of Middleborough, Massachusetts. Built in 1811, *Magnet* had two decks, three masts, a square stern and a figurehead at the bow. There were no guns on board except for "a musket or two."

*Magnet's* captain, Timothy Drew, had left New York the previous November and sailed south to St. Mary's, Georgia, for a cargo of timber which he delivered to HM Dockyard at Portsmouth in March.

The ship's next port of call was Belfast, where Captain Drew boarded his passengers. Along with the Irish immigrants and their meagre belongings, *Magnet* carried 132 documents. These included ship-related papers such as a Sea Letter or passport, the Articles of Agreement between the owners and crew, port clearances for Liverpool and New York, a cargo manifest for New York, and documents from the Port of Belfast.

The *Magnet* file is also full of letters from individuals in Ireland to friends and family in the U.S. Some were all business but others were personal and it is sad to think that none of them reached their desired recipients.

On 18 June 1812, *Magnet* and her 15-man crew cleared Belfast Customs House. That same day, President Madison signed the American declaration of war against Great Britain. Completely unaware that the passengers and crew were suddenly on different sides, *Magnet* sailed for New York. Four weeks later, and roughly 120 nautical miles due SE of Halifax, she encountered HMS *Ringdove*, under Captain William Dowers.

At 384 tons, *Ringdove* was a cruiser class sloop-brig, roughly the same size as *Magnet*, but with a crew of 121 men as well as sixteen 32-pounder carronades' and two 6-pounder guns' worth of persuasion.

Outnumbered and outgunned, Captain Drew wisely surrendered and was carried into Halifax under prize master John Atkinson from the *Ringdove*. The unfortunate passengers found themselves disembarking in Halifax, not New York.

*Magnet* was *Ringdove*'s second prize of the war, and her newness and relatively roomy conditions prompted the navy to petition the Vice-Admiralty Court to have the ship transferred to His Majesty's Service as a floating prison ship for prisoners of war. After an appraisal by Halifax merchants, *Magnet* was valued at £2,900, which would be shared out once court costs of £232. 13. 8 were paid. On 24 March 1813, however, the *Halifax Gazette* published a public notice of auction for *Magnet* and about 30 other prizes "to be held at noon on Wednesday, April 7, 1813." So perhaps she escaped her fate as a prison ship.

### **Searching LAC's Court Records**

What else remains to be discovered in RG8 IV? In my journey through the files, the *Magnet* folder in Volume 125 was the only one I found containing such a long list of passengers. Clearly, once England and America were at war, it was no time to immigrate. Although a few ships were captured with one or two passengers aboard, there was nothing else on the scale of *Magnet*. Even so, a search through the collection might uncover a long-lost ancestor.

The staff cutbacks and reductions in service at LAC are making access to research materials quite problematic, especially when researchers are required to have an LAC staff member watching them at all times. Yet if you can't find evidence of a person's immigration or have ancestors who were sailors, the Vice-Admiralty Court records may provide information unavailable anywhere else.

The War of 1812 was not a major war for either side, government propaganda notwithstanding. In terms of casualties, there are no accurate records, but total American deaths on land and sea might have reached 20,000, while British casualties are about half that and Indian deaths about 7,500. Compared to the single Civil War battle at Antietam fifty years later, where nearly 25,000 men were killed in one day, the War of 1812 was relatively minor. And in the end, when the Treaty of Ghent was signed on Christmas Eve 1814, no territory exchanged hands and none of the original grievances were resolved. Despite claims of victory on both sides, no one really won the War of 1812.

## Reference Note

<sup>1</sup> Virtually every file in RG8 IV will carry one or more of the following documents:

Prize Master's Affidavit: The prize master was appointed by the capturing captain to sail the prize into port. He had to present all the papers

seized with the ship to the local registrar of the Vice-Admiralty Court and confirm under oath the details of where and when the ship was taken and any other pertinent information, including a numbered list of all documents handed over.

Petition for Monition: This was a request for the court to issue a Monition for the prize. There could also be other petitions requesting various actions on the part of the court, such as removing a fragile cargo.

Monition: This printed document was usually nailed to the ship's mast or on the Customs House door if only cargo was involved. It was a public notice advising or "admonishing" anyone with an interest in the capture to appear before the court 20 days from the date of the monition to show why the prize should not be condemned to the captors. There is usually a handwritten note on the document indicating when the monition was executed and what the judge's decision was.

Allegation in a Prize Cause: Also known as the Libel, this document was submitted by the Crown and stated the details of the capture, listed the reasons for alleging that the prize was enemy property which should be condemned and finally, that all the premises on which the case was based were "true, public and notorious."

Standing Interrogatories: These were a series of 34 questions designed to solicit as much information as possible about the ownership of the ship and cargo, the original port and destination of the vessel, whether the vessel was chartered, insured or

armed and whether they had ever entered a blockaded port or been taken as prize before. In *Magnet's* case, Captain Drew was the respondent, but one or more passengers or crew could also be questioned. Their answers were given under oath and the documents written out by hand and presented to the judge. You might find ancestors among the respondents.

**Definitive Sentence:** Once the judge heard the arguments from both sides and read the documents he made his decision. Because delays diminished the value of captured cargoes and cost both the captor and the original owner time and money, the Vice-Admiralty Court always tried to deliver swift and efficient decisions.

Because of the delay in declaring war, *Magnet* was not condemned to the Crown until 13 January 1813 and not transferred to the *Ring Dove* until 26 May. **Miscellaneous Commissions:** Once the prize case was heard, the court could issue various documents requesting court-appointed persons to unload the cargo to prevent spoilage, appraise the vessel for sale or repayment purposes, survey it for potential reuse, as in the case of *Magnet*, continue custody in one port or transfer it to another, and a variety of other court requirements.

**Decree of Delivery:** This was the final document of the prize court process that indicated the disposition of the prize and concluded the action.

---

## The Search for James Lightbody and the *Magnet's* Passenger List

BY AMANDA LIGHTBODY



*A Halifax resident, Amanda found the Magnet passenger list when she saw Faye Kert's lecture advertised on the BIFHSGO website. It was information she had been hunting for decades.*

I only knew my grandfather Hugh Lightbody for the first five years of my life, but those years would define a lifelong passion and drive for me. I did not know that I would spend some 30 years of my life looking for his ancestors, nor the connection they had to one of the

more famous events in recent history, the War of 1812.

I have a "relationship" with my grandfather's grandfather, James Lightbody—one that I am sure he could never have imagined possible. I have always referred to him as "my James" as a way to distinguish him from the dozens of men over the generations called James Lightbody in my family.

Family researchers develop images of ancestors from the scraps and bits of information, pictures or stories available and keep them alive on some level, creating relationships with them. With this information we imagine their hopes, dreams, and fears when we learn of births, marriages, and deaths. We try to imagine what it was like . . . what they were like. On some levels there can be almost a palpable energy which exists or is created when you look into the past. This has been my experience and now is part of my story for the search for James Lightbody and the *Magnet's* passenger list.

### **Early Discoveries**

When I was about 13, a woman came to visit my family with several copies of an 1871 census record from Colchester County, Nova Scotia. On those pages were a dozen families named Lightbody. They were my relatives. I was hooked. When I began to search through old family photos and papers, I found charts my grandfather had started. He was looking for his ancestors too. It was then I made the decision (most likely a subconscious one, but nonetheless a decision) to find those ancestors for my grandfather. It was my way of staying connected to one of the most influential men in my life, whom I missed very much.

Nothing would stop me. I rode my little 10-speed bicycle along major highways and up hills and down

country roads to long-forgotten cemeteries. I had my "Graveyard Kit" of chalk, brushes, gardening tools, camera, film, notepaper and pens. I searched row after row of half a dozen cemeteries, cleaning the headstones, documenting the names and dates and taking pictures. I could match some of the names to the census records . . . I was beginning to put some pieces of the puzzle together. It was a little collection of papers, nothing significant, yet it was the world to me.

It was not until my high school years when I joined our Genealogy Club at school that a whole new world opened for me. Archives, microfilms and lots of published books. There was one book in particular, *Scotia Heritage* by Edith L. Fletcher. I met with Edith and had her sign my copy of the book, which is now in tatters from all the reading and rereading. It was at that time I discovered it was her sister who had come to visit us years before. It would be years later that I would talk with Edith's daughter and begin to compare notes. We are still friends today.

It turned out Edith was my third cousin twice removed. I learned from her research that the Lightbody family was heading to New York from Ireland and then left New York for land in Nova Scotia. She talked about the Lightbody brothers that came to Nova Scotia. There were Maine state connections

but that was it. Nothing more! I needed to add to my line and the search for the Irish and New York connections became an unquenchable thirst.

I collected vital statistics, census records and land transactions. I cold-called people all over North America, from the deep U.S. south to the west coast of Canada and in New England; anyone I thought might be related. I began corresponding with Lightbody people in Scotland and throughout the U.S. This is when I received three legal-sized pages, each with a family chart for one of the three Lightbody brothers: James, William and Hugh. These were the three that Edith had mentioned in her book. Now all the research I had done on my own could be neatly placed with the right lines.

### **The Family Takes Shape**

A picture was forming of who these people were. They were Irish, Presbyterian, farmers and merchants with dozens of children and descendants. Some family generations had their children all die young from disease; others had 13 or more children. The question still remained unanswered . . . How did they get here and where in Ireland were they from? And why did all the family lore I could find—from my grandfather's notes to the stories from other long-distant relatives—keep saying we were Scottish?

For this and other reasons, I believe the Lightbody name and family are Scottish and they left for Ireland after the Catholics were forced out by the English Crown. This family of mine was beginning to be connected with a lot of historical events. I even learned that the original beginnings of the family name were French; it probably looked something like LeBaudy. They most likely were French Protestants who fled Catholic rule in France during the late 1500s.

Over the years I was able to extend outward on my family. I met relatives in Maine and some in Illinois. I learned that descendants of William and Hugh lived in Nova Scotia locations like Londonderry, Debert, Masstown, and Onslow in Colchester County, right in my back yard. There was a sister Jane who married and had many children and lived in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. I knew my James travelled between Maine and Nova Scotia, was a merchant and ran a boarding house. Still there was no place name in Ireland and no ship records of the family's emigration. Ireland was a huge brick wall.

Years went past and I looked for a ship or passenger list that would hold the truth, but there was nothing. All I knew was that on the best speculation of family experts and my research, the Lightbody family was headed for New York. How did



they end up in Nova Scotia? I could only guess to fill in the blanks.

I did know James was married in Nova Scotia in 1817, so that helped me narrow down my search, but not until about 2001, when a random email from someone gave me a great lead. I was emailed a copy of a land transaction for my James dated 1813! Finally I could narrow the search: ship records for 1812 and 1813.

### **A Dead End?**

Once again, I came to a screeching halt! There was that brick wall again: no records. It was like no one sailed for the entire years of 1812–1814. WAIT, hold on . . . Wasn't there a war on then?

I went to the history books. I should have paid a bit more attention in school. I have learned more about history researching my family than I ever could in school, but there were still more questions and no answers. Then a few years later I ran across some research on a family called McCulloch from Ireland. No big deal, except the wife's name was Ann Lightbody and they lived in Nova Scotia.

This was my first introduction to the ship *Magnet*. The research indicated Ann and her husband Hugh McCulloch were on a ship called the *Magnet* that was seized by the British in 1812 and taken to Halifax. Then the light bulb lit up! Hugh McCulloch was a witness on the

land deed of James Lightbody in 1813. Strike one to the brick wall, because if that was the same person the research papers indicated, Hugh and Ann had a daughter Charlotte born in Killinchy, Ireland, in 1812.

Well (big sigh) I looked at more land transactions, but this time those of Cumberland County, just a bit east of Colchester; and there they were, the pieces of evidence I needed to link the McCulloch and the Lightbody families. Several land transactions with both names. I also located land transactions in 1817 for William and Hugh Lightbody, James' brothers, and some with the Angevine name of Jane's husband. All of this and still no record of the *Magnet*.

I contacted the Public Archives of Nova Scotia and they said they no longer had anything for the *Magnet* of 1812 but that I should check with Ottawa. I contacted Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa and they said sorry, nothing here, you will have to check with London, England. Contacted London . . . nothing! (Only now do I realize why Ottawa said they had nothing: they most likely had no idea they even had the list or could access it.) And Ottawa and Nova Scotia are too far for a weekend trip to look for something you don't know even exists.

Since the *Magnet* record was nowhere to be found, I did even more lateral research. I did not resign

myself to never knowing where the family originated. I always felt I would know. After years of studying Irish Lightbody families, where they lived, historical events, time frame etc., I had a good guess: Kilmore or Killinchy in County Down, Northern Ireland. Yet I could not find any Lightbody records in County Down before 1700 at all and very little before 1785. Back to the history books I went, and this time I focused on the Ulster Scots or Scotch-Irish. A link with Scotland ticked all the boxes for this family. Another clue: I knew James Lightbody's firstborn son arrived in New York in 1819, so there was something drawing them there. I decided to do some back research; there were other Lightbody families in New York, and most were of Scottish extraction. I thought I was on to something.

Meanwhile, in the past six years I have never stopped looking for the *Magnet*. I had all this information, which just needed one tiny little confirmation. I kept doing Google searches for *Magnet* . . . *Ringdove* . . . War of 1812, but the same things I already knew kept coming up.

Then it was 2012, the 200th anniversary of what I believed to be their arrival in Halifax. The city was bustling with the War of 1812 reenactments and memorials. I now live here, and I walked the waterfront trying to imagine what they wore, how they felt, what the city was like. I was here in the same

places 200 years to the day! I thought this was an appropriate time to try searching again.

*(Fade in . . . Bright lights flashing, crowds cheering, tickertape blowing on the wind, the sounds of a brick wall crumbling . . .)*

## The Breakthrough

In early September, I Googled the ship yet again. Suddenly there were search results showing Faye Kert . . . presentation . . . *Ship Magnet* . . . PASSENGER LIST! WHAT?!?!?! Where? How? Who? When? It was an ad on the BIHFSGO website. In November Faye would be giving a presentation, but I couldn't wait for that. I emailed the society but didn't even wait for a response. I Googled Faye, tracked down her email address and wrote her, explaining who I was and what I thought and was looking for.

Sometimes things work out and this was one of them. Faye was on a cruise, but fortunately with her laptop and data. In a short time I received a reply with the words, "Meet your long lost Irish relatives."

There was James Lightbody, age 22, from Killinchy! Yes—OMG. I actually cried. Then I tilted my head. What? No, that's not right. James did not have the wife Ann, age 23, or the two children listed after his name! Or did he? Seriously . . . someone must have marked it wrong. But after all this time, to find the actual ship list and it was WRONG?

Fortunately, all was well—I figured things out. With the birth, death and census records I already had, I was able to determine the most likely error made when the passenger list was written.

The wife named Ann and the two children, James and Charlotte, were actually James Lightbody's sister and his niece and nephew. They were the wife and children of the Hugh McCulloch listed above my James' name, along with the other McCulloch daughters, Anne and Mary. James had come to Canada along with their family.

As well as finding James' arrival, I finally had an Irish place name! I later also discovered a reference to a *Magnet* passenger's letter to the *Belfast Commercial Chronicle* reporting the events in June and July. He said this new land seemed like a great place for an adventure. I guess my ancestors felt the same way too.

I contacted my relatives with the news. I even knew of descendants of the Henderson and Irvin families on the *Magnet* passenger list, so I passed the information to them. To my knowledge, about 15 to 20 people on that list have descendants who are actively looking for them. I am sure there are many more.

### **An Unexpected Detour**

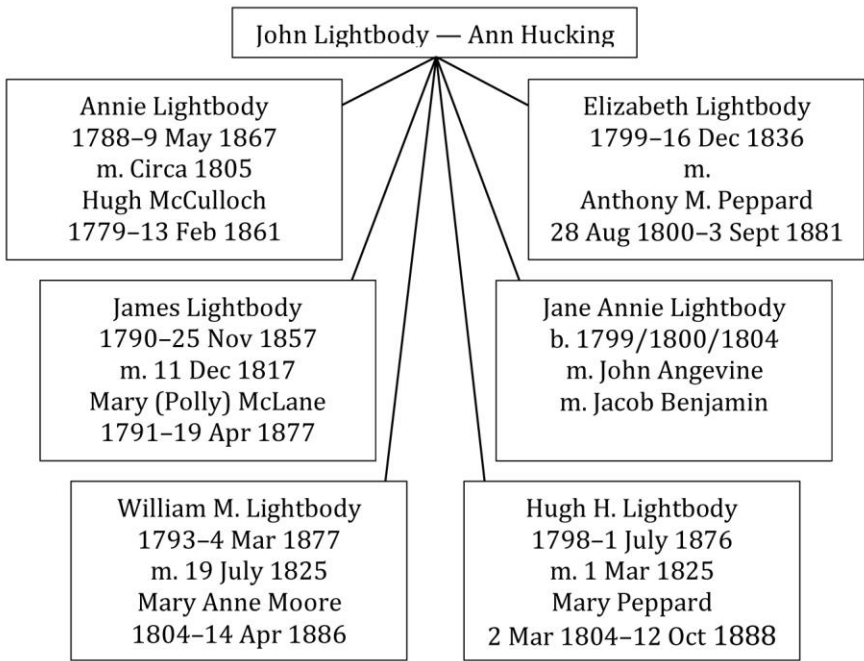
So what did the unexpected detour to Halifax lead to in the end? Well, James decided to stay in Nova Scotia. He married Mary McLane in

1817, bought land and at one point had a wharf. While the *Magnet* passengers were for the most part poor, I do know James paid a good price for the land he bought a year after his arrival. There had to be some kind of family money when they left Ireland—to make money you need money.

I have a theory about where the family money may have come from. I still have not been able to confirm any vital statistics data on James' parents, John Lightbody and Ann Hucking, but there is a John Lightbody living close to Killinchy mentioned in the Flax Seed Grants of 1790, which were given to farmers to encourage production. Only speculation, but that is sometimes what we need to do, make an educated guess then try to prove or disprove it to get at the truth.

James divided his time between Maine and Nova Scotia. He had nine children, most of whom settled in Maine and Massachusetts, and their descendants are primarily American now. My great-grandfather, James' son Hugh, settled in Truro, Nova Scotia, and had four children. I grew up in the house he built in 1874.

James' brother Hugh married Mary Peppard and his sister Jane married John Angevine in a double wedding in 1825, the same year William married Mary Ann Moore. Another sister, Elizabeth, married Anthony Peppard, the brother of her sister-



**Figure 1: The children of John Lightbody and Ann Hucking**

Source: Amanda Lightbody

in-law Mary Peppard, but she died at the age of 36 in the same part of the province.

As for Ann Lightbody-McCulloch, she had a dozen children who married into Ulster Scot families who had arrived a generation or two earlier. Most of the family in the first generation remained in Nova Scotia, but as the 1850s and 1860s came along some began to travel. By the late 1890s most of the Lightbody descendants had moved to western Canada or the U.S.

The name is almost a ghost now in Nova Scotia. There are only two of us with this last name left. While the Lightbody name may no longer be

prevalent, there are dozens and dozens of families who have Lightbody DNA in central Nova Scotia. There is still a road in Belmont, Colchester County, Nova Scotia called Lightbody Road.

### **The Search Continues**

After 30 years of searching I now have a big piece of the puzzle solved. I don't know if or when I would have ever learned this information, so I am grateful for the time and energy Faye Kert spent to bring this list into the open. I am blessed to be given this chance to tell you about my family and its interesting and wonderful history.

In the months since I heard from Faye, I have done more research to see what other information I could find about the family's arrivals in the New World. James' siblings emigrated either before or after him, but did they come to Halifax or New York? It's a matter of trying to find the route the rest of the family took

and the exact Lightbody connection to Scotland. I have finally found the answers to some burning questions and it has led to more questions. I like that kind of thing. It means the hunt is not over; there is more searching, and looking, and speculating, just what a good mystery needs!

---

## In Search of Hugh

BY CHRISTINE WOODCOCK



*Christine is the editor of the BIFHSGO e-newsletter. Here she describes the search leading to a breakthrough in her knowledge of a hard-to-track ancestor.*

**I** have two brick wall ancestors: both in my maternal line and both named Hugh Crawford.

Father and son. While the father, my great-grandfather, still eludes me, I have managed to break down the walls of mystery surrounding the younger Hugh, my great-uncle.

Hugh Crawford and Agnes (Fowler) Crawford had four sons. Following the Scottish naming pattern, the third son, born 6 September 1894, was named for his father. Young Hugh married Kate McDonald on 17 July 1914. Hugh and Kate had two children, Mary Livingston McDonald in 1914 and Hugh Daniel McDonald (Danny) in 1919. Like his father and

brothers, Great-Uncle Hugh was a coalminer.

### Off to the New World

Hugh left Scotland and headed for Canada, arriving in St John, New Brunswick, on 26 January 1920 at the age of 25. He lists himself on his immigration papers as being single, although he left his wife and their two children at home, son Daniel being only a year old at the time. Hugh states that he is destined to his employer, the Ridge Coal Company in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He further states that it is his intention to settle in Canada.

At some point, however, Hugh made his way to the United States. He remarried in Michigan on 23 October 1922 to Janet Dick, who was originally from Fifeshire in Scotland.

Hugh was a butler and Janet a cook; they worked for various families.

Hugh and Janet can be tracked a number of times re-entering the border at Windsor. Hugh had a cousin in Michigan who worked for Ford and Janet had a brother in the Windsor area.

By 1936, Hugh is in Oakland, California, where he manages Bayme's Turkish Baths, Dry Cleaning Business and Barbershop. Hugh uses the name "Doc" Crawford and appears to be doing well in his business. The enterprise itself is state of the art for the times. It obviously caters to the elite businessman, in that each of the 14 barber chairs is equipped with a telephone for the customer to use while he is being groomed.

### **An Early Death**

Hugh was dead nine years later—in 1947. I wrote a letter to the coroner in Alameda County where I knew he had lived in 1936, attaching a \$10 bill to offset the cost of copying and mailing the information to me. A few weeks later, the money was returned along with a note saying Hugh died in San Francisco County. So from San Francisco I obtained his death certificate, which makes note that there was an autopsy and coroner's report.

Hugh was buried at Cypress Lawn Cemetery, and a letter sent to them yielded little information. However, Cypress Lawn staff did suggest that the funeral home, Halstead & Company, might have more information to share.

A letter to Halstead & Company ended up being more productive than the funeral director had thought. From his records, I learned Hugh's Social Security Death Index number; up to that point, no research had elicited this information.

The records also listed the date, time and cost of the funeral (Thursday, June 12, 1947 at 11 a.m. with the Reverend Vogt officiating, price \$250 including a \$10 fee to the Reverend). There were even copies of the obituary, which was published in both the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

### **The Breakthrough**

Again I wrote a letter—this time to the coroner in San Francisco—and attached the \$10 bill to it. Another few weeks later, the money was returned with a note telling me that the archival records were now held by the San Francisco Public Library. One more letter and the same \$10 bill went to the San Francisco Public Library; lo and behold, the next envelope from California held the autopsy report, the pathology report and the coroner's inquest verdict!

The death was ruled accidental. According to the Coroner's Register, Record of Death,

The deceased resided with his wife at 970 Chestnut St. On the afternoon of May 30th, 1947 the deceased drank from a whiskey bottle which supposedly contained cleaning fluid,

thinking it was Gin. Shortly after he drank the liquid, his wife came home and he complained of being ill. On 6-1-1947 she called Dr Vance Strange and he sent the deceased to St Francis Hospital where he was admitted at 8:30 pm 6-1-47 treated for cirrhosis of liver and died at 9:15 am 6-10-47. Deceased had supposedly been drinking all day May 30th, 1947.

The witnesses to the death are listed as "Jenny Crawford, wife," "Dr V. Strange, attended," and "Officer G.F. Crofton, Northern Station." The death is listed as a "supposed accident or suicide," the nature of which is "Ingested Cleaning Fluid." Hugh is described as being 5'4" tall, 194 lb. with blue eyes and balding gray hair.

Included on the Record of Death was the autopsy surgeon's report. Hugh died at 9:15 on the morning of June 10th and his autopsy was conducted at 4:30 that same afternoon. The pathologist's diagnosis, which is also the cause of death listed on the original death certificate, is "acute toxic atrophy of the liver. Cloudy swelling of the liver and kidneys. Primary pulmonary infarction. Early pancreatitis."

The result of the inquest conducted on 26 June 1947 is by jury verdict, which states that "said death was accidental." The necropsy surgeon's report to the coroner was that the death was possibly the result of poisoning from the ingestion of

cleaning fluid 10 days prior to the death.

### **Was It an Accident?**

One can only surmise whether in fact Hugh's death was "accidental" as the coroner ruled or whether the "accident" of drinking cleaning fluid poured into a gin bottle was premeditated murder on Janet's part. Perhaps today, the ruling would have been quite different and the outcome for Janet would have meant charges and jail time.

Hugh left Scotland and headed to America looking for the great white dream. In reality, he met that dream when he was in Oakland, California, managing the Turkish bath, barber-shop and dry cleaning business. Yet by just two years later, Hugh had fallen on bad times and moved to San Francisco. He was, apparently, a heavy drinker and we will never know how that changed his behaviour.

He might have been nasty and abusive, and that could have motivated Janet to fill his gin bottle with cleaning fluid before she left for the day. If so, she likely anticipated that the poison would kill him instantly rather than slowly rotting his organs over a 12-day period. Surely there was lots of time for regret while he lingered in the hospital. But would that regret be that she had attempted to kill him in the first place, or that he had not died immediately? We will never know.

## Perspectives on Hugh's Fate

From a genealogical perspective, all it took was \$10, three U.S. stamps and a bit of perseverance to break down a brick wall and learn that "the wife likely did it in the kitchen with a gin bottle!" From a social history perspective, one can also only imagine the anguish that Hugh's mother, Agnes, felt back in Caldercruix when she learned of her beloved son's death.

He had been her golden boy, who went to America to make something

of himself. My relatives have told me she was fiercely loyal to him and protected him from his first wife, Kate, by never disclosing his whereabouts. She showed off his photo and newspaper article with pride. Then a few short years later, he was dead. Gone from her forever. Agnes' health started to slide downhill after the death of young Hugh. She died on 2 February 1951, just 3½ years after the death of her beloved son.

---

## Genealogy: the Motivations, the Investments, the Rewards<sup>©</sup>

BY LEIGHANN C. NEILSON AND D.A. MUISE



*Leighann Neilson, an Associate Professor at the Sprott School of Business, Carleton University, has been pursuing her family's history since returning to the Ottawa area in 2006. Del Muise is Professor Emeritus with the Department of History, Carleton University, where he was director of the MA program in Public History.*

**I**n a 2006 survey of adult Canadians' engagement with the past, just over 20 % of respondents said they had undertaken some level of family history activity in the previous 12 months. Extrapolating from the sample group to the adult Canadian population at the time suggests that about four to five million Canadians are involved in family history research—a remarkable number. The survey also found that these family

historians account for an inordinate amount of Canadians' engagement in historical activities. They read more books, visit more museums and historic sites, utilize archives and travel to places associated with their pasts substantially more than those who do not undertake genealogical research.

Family historians are an extraordinary group of historical activists. They are likely to think of the past of their own families and communities of origin as being more



important than that of their region or nation, though it also appears they are quite likely to link their own personal histories to that of larger movements or political histories.

Largely middle-aged or more and somewhat better educated than the general population, they comprise a group of heritage activists whose impact on the Canadian heritage scene has been dramatic and extensive over the past 50 years. It is a rapidly growing community of practice that deserves study in its own right.

We were interested in knowing more about what motivated Canadians to explore their family history, the investment of time and money they made, and ultimately, what researching their family history meant to them. In the Summer 2012 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, we reported some preliminary results of our Canadian Genealogy Survey, an online survey of family historians we conducted during the late summer and early fall of 2011. In this second article we focus on why and how people do family history research, what benefits they receive from the practice, and what they do with the results.

### **Reasons for Researching**

We asked people to identify the primary reason that they started researching their family history; the responses were many and varied.

The top four reasons provided by the just over 2,000 Canadian residents who responded to the survey were:

- *To learn about my family, my ancestors, myself.* This reason was reported by 22% of people completing the survey. The following quote from a 53-year-old man from Springhill, NS, with 25 years of experience doing family history, is typical of the answers provided. “I wanted to know more about where my ancestors came from and who they were.”
- *Because of a family member’s influence.* For 13% of respondents, the influence of a family member was the primary reason they started researching their family history; 5% identified their parents as the source of the influence. A 51-year-old man from Thornhill, ON (20 years of family history experience) said, “My father asked me to continue the research he started.” Other family members (e.g. cousins, aunts/uncles) were identified as the source of the influence by 3.1% of respondents, while children or grandchildren were named by 2.9% and grandparents by 2.3% of respondents.
- *Out of curiosity.* “Just curious” or “curiosity” was the answer provided by 7.5% of respondents.
- *To research a specific person or family line.* This response was

given by 6.5%. A 64-year-old woman from Trenton, ON with 20 years of family history experience said, “[I] started with curiosity about my mother’s ancestry.”

These results are similar to those found in previous research. For example, in the Canadians and their Pasts survey, people were asked which past (family, provincial, national or ethnic) was most important. Their answers revealed a strong disposition toward the past of the family as being the most important, irrespective of whether or not the respondent had undertaken any genealogical research. When asked why family history was so important, the responses mirrored those of our survey of family historians, with knowing where one came from dominating the responses.

Some of the reasons that scholars think typically motivate family historians also appeared in our data, but with much less frequency than the reasons provided above. For example:

- *To qualify for ancestral society membership.* This, for 2% of respondents, was the primary reason they began their family history research.
- *To find medical information.* For 1% of respondents tracing the existence of a medical condition in their family or learning

whether such a condition existed was their reason for doing family history research.

- *Religious reasons.* This motivating factor was reported by 0.6% of respondents.
- *Preparing for and attending family reunions.* Family reunions provided the impetus to begin family history research for 0.6% of people.
- *Finding links to rich or famous people.* This was a motivating factor for only 0.3% of the family historians who took part in our survey.

Remembering that the Canadian Genealogical Survey was conducted in the lead-up to the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, we probably had more responses dealing with establishing United Empire Loyalist ancestry than we would have received if we had conducted the survey at another time. But it is interesting to note that the motivations commonly attributed to family historians, such as seeking membership in exclusive ancestral societies or discovering a link to royalty or some other distinguished persons, were some of the least mentioned reasons for beginning family history research.

Some informants spoke of “trigger events,” such as the death of a parent or planning for a family reunion, that stimulated their interest in family history. One woman from Toronto stated, “After the death of my

parents I found scattered notes and bits of info on my grandparents and their siblings and decided to sort them out so as to leave them for my children, if they were interested.”

A 67-year-old woman from Innisfail, AB said, “I wanted to pass along the stories I grew up with, and to learn more about the people who shaped my parents, and then me,” and a 58-year-old woman from Calgary identified her reason as, “To research and record our family history for posterity. Elders in the family were dying and with them the stories and knowledge of the history of our family.”

Societal changes may mean that the storytellers from previous generations are no longer living in the same home or location as their children and grandchildren. People, therefore, need to find another mechanism for keeping the family’s story alive. The family history, organized and recorded, provides a bridge from past to future family members.

Often, people provided more than one reason for beginning their family history research, and it appears that motivations are often quite complex. For example, a 58-year-old woman from Ottawa said, “There were two sparks for my interest in family history becoming less casual. A family reunion revealed that the keepers of the family history on one side were only documenting the

male lineage, and their work was riddled with minor errors, so I hoped to fact-check and augment their work before primary sources were lost. A planned trip to Europe was the second spark; I hoped to compile a list of the towns where my ancestors had lived and add as many as I could to my trip itinerary.”

Although it was not one of the top reasons for beginning family history research, 2.1% of respondents noted that the impetus behind their decision to research their family history was a general interest in history. This is an intriguing point that we will return to later.

### **Time and Money Spent**

We were also interested in quantifying the time and financial investment family historians were making. Results of the survey revealed that the average number of hours spent on family history in the month previous to the survey was 39; i.e. the equivalent of one work week per month.

Survey respondents also indicated that they attended 12 family-history-related events, on average, per year. This is quite a commitment of time, especially when we consider that many family history societies do not hold regular meetings over the summer months.

We also asked about travel for the purpose of family history research. On average, Canadian family histo-

rians made nine trips within their country of residence in the previous year. Considering the entire period of time they had been involved in conducting research, survey respondents indicated that, on average, they had also taken nine trips outside their country of residence where the primary purpose of the trip was family history research.

While these numbers may seem high, they are supported to some extent by results from the Canadians and their Pasts survey. In that survey, 73% of people who had worked on their family history in the past year said they had visited sites associated with their family's history (compared to just 56% for those who had not worked on their family history in the past year.)<sup>2</sup>

Finally, we asked survey respondents to estimate the amount of money they spent on family history research in the previous year. The average amount spent was \$756. British Isles Family History Society members in attendance at the September 2012 meeting where these findings were presented commented that this number seemed somewhat low, based on their own experiences. They suggested that it may not include small amounts that tend not to get itemized, such as the expense of travelling to attend an average of 12 family history functions per year.

## **Family History Plays Many Roles in Researchers' Lives**

Given the time and financial investment many family historians are making, it was interesting to explore the role that family history played in their lives. For some, it's simply a nice hobby (5.3% of people who completed the survey provided this response), or an activity that "fills up the time" (2.2%). A 64-year-old woman from Ontario who has been doing family history research for seven years summarized this point nicely by saying, "Basically it is a challenging hobby."

But for others, researching their family history is quite a meaningful activity and in many ways has become central to their identity, both as individuals and members of larger family networks. When we asked survey respondents to identify the main difference that doing family history has made in their lives, some people couldn't stop at just one outcome. The figures below capture only the very first thing they wrote down.

- A "sense of connection and belonging" within an extended network of kin was identified by 9.6% of family historians.
- A feeling of gratitude and deep respect for the life experience of their ancestors was the second most frequent difference, mentioned by 8.3% of respondents.
- A new or increased interest in history was reported by 7.5%.

- A better sense of “who I am” (as an individual) was noted by 6.7% of family historians.
- Knowing more about family, in terms of the typical birth, marriage and death information recorded in family trees, was the difference recorded by 5.3% of respondents.

While a wide range of responses was received, it seems appropriate to say that the impact of doing family history research is felt as much, if not more, with the heart as in the head. Typical comments include, “It has given me a great deal of pleasure in knowing who I am, [and] where I came from. And an appreciation of my ancestors whose hard work and personal sacrifices made it possible for me to be here!!” (a 62-year-old man from Amherst, NS). “It has been a journey unlike any others I have made and opened vistas beyond what I had dreamed possible” (a 62-year-old woman from Pictou County, NS).

A 41-year-old woman from Delta, BC said, “[It] makes me feel more connected to my family which is spread around the country and also to my family that I never got to know because they were gone before I was born.” Her thoughts were echoed by a 52-year-old woman from Toronto who commented, “I feel part of a greater whole and have experienced feelings of endurance, resolve, and diligence in handling life.”

Earlier, we pointed out that around 2% of people said they started doing family history because of a broader interest in history. It seems that somehow the process of doing family history research gets people even more interested in history; 7.5% of respondents indicated this was the most important outcome of doing family history research. Here, the type of history most frequently mentioned was the history of Canada and then of various home countries. A woman from Hamilton, ON with 25 years of experience researching her family history summarized her feelings this way: “[Doing family history] made me more aware of Canada's history and how my ancestors were part of the founding of this country.”

There were, of course, some outcomes that might be considered negative, depending upon your views about getting housework done and marital harmony. For example, a 54-year-old woman from Judique, NS said, “Using my time for family history means less time spent housekeeping and it's much more stimulating . . . My husband feels it takes up too much of my time.” Some people even called it an addiction or obsession, although usually they phrased the comment in a humorous way. A 54-year-old woman from Campbell River, BC confessed, “It has become an addiction and I spend a huge amount of time on it,” while a woman of the same age

from St. John's, NL said, "It is an obsession! It takes up a huge amount of time."

## **Sharing the Results of Their Labour**

We asked, "What do you plan to do with your research?" and allowed respondents to indicate more than one option. The most frequent response, given by 79% of respondents, was that they plan to pass their research on to their children. Many people also noted that they were unsure whether their children would carry the research forward. Just over half (57%) said that they hoped to publish it, in some form, to be shared within the family. Almost one-third (29%) of respondents expressed a desire to share their family history information online, while 26% said they wanted to publish their research in book form.

Another interesting response was that they planned to donate their research to a local history or genealogy society. A woman from Nova Scotia said, "What do I plan on doing with it eventually? Having no children, I haven't figured that out yet. Some of the information I've found has gone to archives [and] it's been shared with other family members."

Following up on the idea of sharing family history research results online, we asked if people had already posted their family tree on the Internet. While 40% of respondents responded "Yes" to this

question, the majority (57%) said they had not. The primary reason given for posting information online was "to give back." Respondents who said they had not posted their family tree online said either the information was "not ready yet" or "I don't know how."

A man from the Ottawa Valley who uses the Internet daily to research his family history and communicate with family members said, "There is a mild personal antipathy to doing it [posting his family tree on the Internet] and the other [reason] is what you would call technological ineptitude, I wouldn't even know how to go about doing it. But I'm not happy about doing it because what happens is people lift that, which doesn't bother me particularly, but the day after they lift it I may put in a whole bunch of corrections and so they are promoting incorrect versions, misinformation and I think that's a problem."

We asked Ontario Genealogy Society members attending the Ottawa Branch meeting in October 2012 to comment on privacy issues surrounding the posting of family history information online. The general opinion seemed to be that managing information privacy is no longer an issue for them, since many online family history websites use software that allows people to keep information about living relatives private. Others commented that

they perform this function manually; they take the information about living relatives out before posting or request permission from relatives to post their information.

Given the dependence of family historians on written records, and their desire to collect all forms of information about family members, we asked, "Have you recorded reminiscences of your own life?" The response was somewhat ironic. While 42% said they had recorded their own memories, an almost equal number (41%) said they had not done so yet, and a further 17% said they did not plan to do this.

## Conclusion

It seems that time spent researching one's family history is deemed to be "time well spent" and provides a great source of personal satisfaction. Respondents discussed this satisfaction in terms of both intellectual outcomes—new skills learned, the gratification of solving a "puzzle" or "mystery," keeping their mental processes sharp—and social outcomes: meeting new friends with similar interests, forming bonds with extended family members, and creating something of value to be passed along to future generations.

Given all the changes that we've seen in our society, it is interesting to see how central the family still is today. As identity issues become

more complex it will be important to see how the genealogy and broader heritage communities respond to the challenges of an increasingly multicultural society in Canada. Whatever intersections might exist between an upsurge of interest in family pasts and the boom occurring in Canadian heritage awareness is yet to be explored.

It would seem logical that there might be close connections between family history and community heritage activism, and there are many hints of this in the two surveys discussed here. But the causal relationship might not be as direct as one might imagine. This is one of the areas to be explored more fully in analyzing the material we have available; as well as a way to integrate our survey results with that of other scholars examining the emergence of genealogy.

## Reference Notes

<sup>1</sup> All statistics cited regarding Canadians and their pasts are derived from a national sample of 3119 Canadians taken during 2006 and 2007. The project is the subject of a monograph scheduled to appear in the spring of 2013. M. Conrad et al., *Canadians and their Pasts*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press) forthcoming

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

Copyright 2013 Leighann C. Neilson and D.A. Muise

## Techniques and Resources

### The Cream of the Crop

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

BY JOHN D. REID



The early months of the year, with the garden and many other outdoor activities not much of a competing attraction, make

for a good time to dedicate to family history. Did you sit down to compile what you already know into a form likely to be of interest to relatives and found you needed more information? I did.

There are always new resources coming along. How do you balance the need, even compulsion, to find that extra bit of information with the desirability of producing a family history people will want to look at? Some of those new resources for this year are mentioned below.

To come, as I write, from *findmypast* are millions more British newspaper pages, a new collection of crime, court and convict records in partnership with The National Archives, electoral rolls 1832–1928, India

Office records in partnership with the British Library, and thousands of new parish records every month. *Ancestry* will have records for engineers in the U.K., further U.K. BMD and divorce records, and Lord Morpeth's roll from Ireland. For Canada, *Ancestry* promises more military records, ships' muster rolls and pay lists, and passenger lists from the St. Lawrence Steamboat Company.

Library and Archives Canada will be providing free access to Canadian census records previously indexed through cooperation with *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch*. The 1906 and 1916 censuses for the Prairies were made available in January. We should see a start on online provision of digital microfilm of some of LAC's more popular records now that its interlibrary loan service is curtailed. Its most sought-after new database will be the 1921 Census of Canada due out of embargo in June.

*Canadiana.ca* will be adding a Genealogy and Local History collection, details unavailable, as well as First World War and Cookbook collections.



## Scotland: Another Year of Civil Registration

*Scotland's People* ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)) came out promptly as 2013 dawned, with indexed images from statutory registers of births for 1912, marriages for 1937 and deaths for 1962. The BIFHSGO 2012 conference speaker Chris Paton mentioned on his *British Genes* blog to keep an eye out for the 1905 Valuation Roll for Scotland, which was released 29 January 2013.

## UK: Outbound Passenger Lists, 1890–1960

*Ancestry* got the year off to a good start with this major database of 23,768,544 records taken from series BT27, "Records of the Commercial, Companies, Labour, Railways and Statistics Departments, Records of the Board of Trade." Previously online, and still available from [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk), this is one where *Ancestry* is playing a welcome catch-up. The original records are with The National Archives at Kew.

The indexed database is drawn from passenger lists recording the names of people leaving from U.K. ports for destinations outside of Europe and linked to the original colour images, which still have an imprint crediting *findmypast's* previous corporate name, *1837online*.

Of the 23.8 million people in this database, 5.3 million were destined to Canadian ports; this does not in-

clude those trans-shipping through a U.S. port to Canada. Among the 5.3 million, 236,709 left the U.K. for Canada in 1913. That was a century ago and the peak U.K. emigration year. That constituted a remarkable 3.2 per cent of Canada's population; compare that to today's immigration rate of 0.8 per cent of the population. The amount of detail in the records increased over time. You will usually find: name, age at departure, gender, profession, port of departure, country of departure, date of departure, port of destination, country of destination, ship name, shipping line, and ship master's name. After 1920, the last address in the U.K. is given, although this may be a hotel or ticket agent. The information on these lists is generally less than in the corresponding incoming lists at LAC, also on [ancestry.ca](http://ancestry.ca). Coverage extends to later years than in the incoming Canadian records and for the first decade includes Canadian ports for which no incoming lists were kept. You may also find the outgoing lists easier to read, giving you a lead on the Canadian incoming list to consult, especially as the passenger number, often easier to read than the name, is the same on both lists.

## Border Crossing Databases

In January *Ancestry* updated these databases: "Border Crossings: From Mexico to U.S., 1895–1957," which now has 5.4 million records, and

“Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895–1954,” with 4.9 million records. You may find your snowbird and emigrating ancestors. For those returning, check “Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908–1935.” These are either individual cards or passenger manifests. Also updated on *Ancestry* is “U.S. Records of Aliens Pre-Examined in Canada, 1922–1954.”

### **The Ottawa Journal, 1885–1980**

Immediately after adding the U.K. outgoing passenger lists *Ancestry* did it again, with a database containing 687,002 page images of “The Ottawa Journal, 1885–1980.” The images are chronologically indexed, in the early years to the half-year and later in the coverage to the month, for browsing much like with the physical version of the paper.

Some papers are not available: for 1909, July–December is entirely missing; for October 1963 and also for January and May 1970, the original film was damaged and certain days or pages may be missing or illegible.

*Ancestry* will be launching a World Archives Project: volunteer indexing of the birth, marriage, and death notices. In the meantime a card index of births, marriages and deaths reported in the *Ottawa Journal* from December 21, 1885 to January 10, 1922 is at the main branch of the Ottawa Public Library. You can also

use Ontario civil registration records, available on *Ancestry* to 1913 for births, 1928 for marriages, and 1938 for deaths as a guide on where in the images to look. For obits use burial records for Beechwood cemetery on *Ancestry*. For Pinecrest and some other local area cemeteries try the Canadian Gravemarker Gallery at [www.gravemarkers.ca/](http://www.gravemarkers.ca/).

You might also want to try the collection of the *Ottawa Citizen*, kludgy as it is, through Google at <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=QBJtjoHflPwC/>.

The *Ottawa Journal* images were from microfilms donated to the City of Ottawa when the paper folded and now in the collection at the city archives. This is another good example of a local archives taking advantage of a partnership with a commercial organization, in this case *ancestry.ca*, to make a resource more widely available without in any way taking away from the free access available at the original depository. In this case the free access is even enhanced through *Ancestry* library subscriptions, widely available at public libraries.

### **Canada, Merchant Marine Agreements and Accounts of Crews, 1890–1920**

Following on Brian Glenn’s Great Moments presentation at BIFHSGO about British merchant marine crew agreements, *FamilySearch* has added Canadian records covering ports

in British Columbia, primarily Victoria. There are also some records from ports in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and a few foreign locations. The documents are organized by ship and include, among other information, the signatures of crew members, their ages and

birthplaces. I found agreements for whaling ships operating between April and November off the east and west coasts of Vancouver Island and up to the Queen Charlotte Islands, as well as for coastal vessels plying along the U.S., Canadian and Alaskan Pacific coasts.

---

## The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON



My last column listed books in the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library that might be useful in searching for World War I an-

cestors and learning more about the history of the period. This column deals with World War II.

### Research

Tomaselli, Phil. *Tracing Your Second World War Ancestors: a Guide for Family Historians*. Pen and Sword, 2011. Offers guidance in your search for ancestors who served in the British armed forces or lived in Great Britain during this period

### History

Wilmot, Chester. *The Struggle for Europe*. Collins, 1952. Written by a journalist and Australian broadcaster who broadcast daily reports during the war.

Bryant, Arthur. *The Turn of the Tide: a History of the War Years Based on the Diaries of Field-Marshal Lord Alanbrooke*. Doubleday, 1957.

Alanbrooke, Field Marshal Lord. Alex Danchev and Daniel Todman, editors. *War Diaries 1939-1945*. University of California Press, 2001. The war diaries of General Sir Alan Brooke, later Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, Britain's Chief of the Imperial General Staff and Winston Churchill's principal military adviser, present a day-by-day account of the war.

Montgomery, Bernard Law, Viscount. *The Memoirs of Field-Marshal the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein*. Collins, 1958. Recounts his campaigns in North Africa and in Europe.

### Campaigns

Jackson, Robert. *Dunkirk: The British Evacuation, 1940*. Rigel, 1976.

Stafford, David. *Ten Days to D-Day: Soldiers and Civilians on the Eve of*

*the Invasion*. Little, Brown, 2003. A social history of those important few days before D-Day.

Fowler, T. Robert. *Valour on Juno Beach: D-Day, June 6, 1944*. General Store Publishing House, 1994. Covers Canadian participation in the D-Day landings.

Brooks, Stephen and Eve Eckstein. *Operation Overlord: the History of D-Day and the Overlord Embroidery*. Ashford, 1989. Like the famous Bayeux tapestry that tells the tale of the Norman invasion of England in 1066, the Overlord Embroidery tells the story of D-Day and the invasion of Normandy in 1944.

### **Aerial Operations**

Harris, Arthur. *Bomber Offensive*. Stoddart, 1990. A former Air Chief Marshal describes in detail the bomber offensive against Germany. This is a reprint of the original 1947 edition published by Collins.

Bishop, Patrick. *Bomber Boys: Fighting Back, 1940–1945*. HarperCollins, 2007.

Bishop, Patrick. *Fighter Boys: Saving Britain 1940*. HarperCollins, 2003.

Frankland, Noble. *Bomber Offensive: the Devastation of Europe*. (Ballantine's Illustrated History of World War II). Ballantine, 1970.

The following three books deal with the personal experiences of Canadian airmen:

Rogers, Hartley. *Flying for King and Commonwealth: the Adventures of a Canadian Pilot with the RAF in WWII*. Trafford Publishing, 2007.

Currie, Jack. *Lancaster Target: the Story of a Crew Who Flew from Wickenby*. Paperjacks, 1977.

O'Toole, Norma Lucille (Roberts). *A tribute to Norman Johnston, 405 (City of Vancouver) Pathfinder Squadron*. Published by the author, 2008.

### **Civilian Life in the British Isles**

Gardiner, Juliet. *Wartime: Britain 1939–1945*. Headline Book Publishers, 2004. Describes life in Britain during six years of war.

Levine, Joshua; Imperial War Museum. *Forgotten Voices of the Blitz and the Battle of Britain*. Ebury Press, 2006.

Wicks, Ben. *No Time to Wave Goodbye*. Stoddart, 1988. An account of the evacuation of children from London and other cities to the countryside.

Baker, Howard Butlin. *German Occupation of Jersey, 1940–1945: Reference Maps With Supporting Text and Comprehensive History*. Published by the author. Describes life in the Channel Islands during the German occupation.

Gilbert, Martin. *The Day the War Ended: VE-Day 1945 in Europe and Around the World*. HarperCollins, 1995.

# Irish Volunteers Help Family Historians

BY PHIL DONNELLY

*Phil is the Ireland Reaching Out international volunteer for Rideau Valley.*

## Introduction

Ireland now offers yet another resource for the family historian trying to track down the origins of that elusive Irish ancestor. The service, named “Ireland Reaching Out” or “Ireland XO” for short, is a multi-award-winning Irish government sponsored non-profit initiative established to help people of Irish heritage all around the world connect with the parish from where either they or their ancestors first originated in Ireland.

The program was founded in 2009 by parish volunteers in Loughrea, County Galway. The network now includes several parishes in other counties, and the target is to expand to all 2,500 parishes in Ireland’s 32 counties. The service has two primary objectives. The first is to create a virtual network for the Irish diaspora around the world—estimated at 70 million people—to share their genealogical information and strengthen cultural ties. The second is to throw out the welcome mat for new streams of family history tourists when they return to the townlands of their ancestors to see the old house where a great-grandmother was born or visit the unmarked grave of a great-great-grandfather.

For the family historian who is just starting out, and even for the seasoned researcher, Ireland XO is a network that has unique and appealing characteristics.

## Connecting You to Ireland

There are two ways that Ireland XO can connect you with your ancestral community. Local Irish communities, largely through volunteer effort and with the support of Ireland XO, endeavour to locate the worldwide living descendants of those who emigrated from their parishes. The parish then reaches out by inviting the descendants to become part of a new virtual global Irish community. Alternatively, you can register online with Ireland XO and actively search for your relatives by visiting [www.IrelandXO.com](http://www.IrelandXO.com) and joining your parish (or county) of origin.

You can also sign up for the Ireland XO Newsletter and fill in the simple form that puts you on the mailing list. This enables you to follow up on any genealogical research leads that may interest you. At a later stage, you can create an account (it's free) to facilitate your further research.

Whether your ancestral community finds you, or you find them, you can seek direct genealogical research advice and assistance at no cost.

In addition, trained local volunteer community teams are ready to meet and greet you should you choose to visit Ireland.

### **The Benefits of Ireland XO**

Ireland Reaching Out offers:

- the chance to discover your roots through free access to parish volunteers who will guide you in your search for information on your ancestors and their parish or townland;
- the means to contact people in your ancestral parish or county—you can post messages and engage with the local community online;

- access to local community knowledge of the history, folklore, genealogy, culture and heritage of your parish;
- invitations to events, reunions, and special “welcome weeks”;
- the opportunity to become part of a global Irish network where individuals, businesses, and towns connect, opening up new possibilities for social, cultural and economic development.

A recent edition of the Ireland XO Newsletter, together with links to social media, can be accessed at:

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=29d7977e07fcc55b8a42f0d93&iid=292b23543c>

## **Update on South African Research**

BY HELEN GARSON

Further to my ACR Autumn 2012 article “A Mystery Solved in South Africa,” I can offer an update: some excellent research sources. The largest online archive of South African records pertaining to genealogy is <http://www.ancestry24.co.za>, a website similar to [ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), which many of our members access on a regular basis.

Here you will find links to various societies and contact email addresses for further enquiries. The site’s manager, Heather MacAlister, has contributed greatly to South African research for many years. She can be credited for its great advances and the development of forums and lists that are now posted on the Web. These forums can be accessed through <http://forums.ancestry24.com>. Also of interest is the *Rootsweb* mailing list at [south-africa-cape-town@rootsweb.com](mailto:south-africa-cape-town@rootsweb.com).

**Notice of the 2013 BIFHSGO  
Annual General Meeting  
Saturday, 8 June 2013, 9:00 a.m.**

Take notice that the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa will take place on Saturday, 8 June 2013, 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 2012 Annual General Meeting
3. Summary of the Directors' reports
4. Presentation of the financial statement for 2012
5. Report of the Auditor
6. Approval of the financial statement for 2012
7. Appointment of the Auditor for 2013
8. Amendments to the bylaws
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 18th Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa 9 June 2012

The 18th Annual General Meeting (AGM) began at 9:00 a.m. on 9 June 2012, in the Library and Archives Canada auditorium at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario. The notice of the meeting and the 2011 AGM minutes had been published in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Spring 2012 issue.

A quorum of at least 25 was declared, with attendance estimated at approximately 180. Anne Sterling was appointed the Recording Secretary.

## **Call to Order and Opening Remarks:**

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

## **Approval of the Agenda of the 2012 AGM:**

The Agenda was given to members at the meeting. It was duly noted and corrected by the President that election of the President needed to be added to the Agenda between items No. 10 and No. 11. It was moved by Ann Burns and seconded by Jane Down *that the revised Agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.*

## **Approval of the Minutes of the 2011 AGM:**

No comments or corrections were received either prior to, or at, the 2012 AGM. It was moved by Gerry Glavin and seconded by Chuck Taylor *that the minutes as published be approved. MOTION CARRIED.*

## **Reports of the President and Directors:**

These reports were published and distributed as a yellow booklet handed out to members as they arrived at the meeting.

The President summarized the past year's highlights. Firstly, there were numerous strides made in reaching out to members. The website was improved and we embraced social media such as Facebook and Twitter. We now have podcasts of interviews with speakers and founders on our website; also our monthly e-newsletter keeps members informed.



Reaching out to the community was also a priority. Our publicity director, Margaret Gervais, continually employs numerous ways of increasing the community's awareness of our activities. Our focus on British Home Children continues. We are still looking for records to enhance our research into this area.

Our greatest challenge is accommodation for our annual September conference and our ten monthly Saturday meetings. The 18th Annual Conference, which focused on England, was a huge success, due to the program, its publicity, and the many volunteers.

The President noted that our Society is healthy and we have loyal and spirited members. He saluted all volunteers, and added that we need still more members to come forward to lend a hand.

### **Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2011:**

The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement of the Society for the fiscal year, being from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011, were included in the yellow booklet handed out at the meeting.

#### ***Treasurer's Report:***

The Treasurer drew attention to each major category, explaining the slight increases and decreases (i.e. changes) from the year before. Publication sales, for example, have increased from 2010 but the conference profit was lower. There were new expenses to overhaul the website and to buy a laptop for monthly meetings. Costs were involved in changing the format of the ACR. Fewer outside speakers for monthly meetings resulted in Program expenses being less than the year before. Research expenses dropped when we published the St. Andrews book.

Our library collection asset was valued at about \$14,000. Funds for research were greater than 2010 due to the receipt of more donations; however, there were fewer donations for the library. Membership was up from 2010.

For the first time in many years we operated at a very slight loss. We are in the red \$558.47.

The total assets of the Society are \$81,490.27. Total liabilities amount to \$30,561.84. Our net 2011 equity therefore is \$50,928.43.

A question was asked about specifics regarding Society donations. Treasurer Marnie McCall replied that details about our donations of \$2,066.34 would be provided after the meeting.

It was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Mary Anne Sharpe *that the financial reports be accepted*. Before the vote, the auditor provided his report.

### **Auditor's Report:**

The Auditor, Darrel Kennedy, identified several minor corrections to the Treasurer's report. (These minor errors are being corrected.) He stated that he had been given thorough access to the financial records for 2011, and that he had finished his audit by April 11. From these records 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 2011 prepared by the Treasurer represented a fair statement of the financial status of BIFHSGO.

The motion regarding the financial reports was amended. It was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Mary Anne Sharpe *that the financial reports, with the corrections suggested by the Auditor, be accepted*. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Appointment of Auditor:**

Darrel stated that due to changes in government legislation, 2012 would be the last year he could qualify to be our auditor. He had indicated to the President his willingness to continue in this position for the final year. There being no other nominations it was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Tara Grant *that Darrel Kennedy be nominated as the Society's auditor for the 2012 fiscal year*. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Awards and Presentations:**

**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 7 January 2012 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 the BIFHSGO photography. She volunteered in different capacities at the Fall Conferences, made meeting presentations and wrote articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

**Carol-Anne Blore** was awarded a *Citation of Excellence* for her work as layout specialist for ACR and all our book publications, as well as our Fall Conference brochures. For most of her time as a volunteer she worked from Victoria, British Columbia. Her award will be mailed to her with a cheque to purchase a document frame.

**Chris MacPhail** was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of his contributions to family history through outstanding service to the Society and the advancement of its 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.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee:**

Mary Anne Sharpe, Vice-President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, noted that some Board members' two-year terms were at an end. Coming up for renewal in 2012 were: Marnie McCall (Treasurer), Susan Davis (Communications), Margaret Gervais (Publicity), and Tara Grant (Membership). The President noted that all four directors had indicated their willingness to remain in their positions for two more years.

Further nominations were solicited three times from the floor for the four positions. There were no further nominations. All four incumbents were therefore declared elected by acclamation.

### **Other Business:**

No other business was raised at the meeting.

### **Adjournment: 9:40 a.m.**

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

*Prepared by Anne Sterling, Secretary, 21 June 2012*

# Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 27 Oct 2012—10 Feb 2013		
Member No.	Name	Address
1565	Graeme Walker	Newmarket, ON
1566	Heather Darby	Ottawa, ON
1567	Margaret Tait	Ottawa, ON
1568	Kathryn Parchelo	Ottawa, ON
1569	Bonnie Ostler	Ottawa, ON
1570	Sheila Faure	Ottawa, ON
1571	Marcia Schulz	Ottawa, ON
1572	Margaret Ann Amoroso	Ottawa, ON
1573	Mary Parsons	Kars, ON
1574	John Tucker	Kemptville, ON
1574	Anna Tucker	Kemptville, ON
1575	James F.S. Thomson	Toronto, ON
1576	Helen McKay	Ottawa, ON
1577	Louise Henson	Deep River, ON
1578	Patricia Grainger	Ottawa, ON
1579	Leanne Templeton	Edmonton, AB
1580	Joan Terris	Kars, ON

## In Memoriam

**Fern Small**, 12 January 2013; member No. 1; a 1994 co-founder of BIFHSGO and 2004 nominee to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame; an avid historian and genealogist, she was also a life-long member of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Monarchist League of Canada.

**Robert Campbell**, 4 December 2012; member No. 5; another co-founder of BIFHSGO, he was its first Vice-President, Membership, and was named to the Hall of Fame in 2006.

**Gordon Morley**, 18 November 2012; member No. 195, he also joined at the founding of BIFHSGO and had been researching his family since the late 1960s.

# Great Moments in Genealogy

*A preview of the stories to be told at the BIFHSGO June meeting—*

## **Boom and Bust in Saskatoon**

Andrew Frowd's English grandparents tied the nuptial knot in Montreal in 1912 and embarked on a whirlwind voyage to settle in booming Saskatoon. After starting a family, their fortunes were reversed in the Saskatoon "bust" of 1913 and they returned to the U.K. only a month before the outbreak of the First World War. The why-and-wherefore of their reappearance in a small town in the English county of Suffolk provides ongoing fascination.

## **Trailed Rich Man to Italy**

Susan Davis describes a discovery found in a newspaper: when Waymer S. Laberee recorded facts about his uncle Oscar in the Laberee Family History, he quoted from an article in the *New York Tribune*, which highlighted Oscar's successful business career as a capitalist and railroad president. What he didn't record was the fact that his uncle had married twice, and a *Los Angeles Times* article published in 1920 probably explains why.

## **The Henderson Boys: They All Died at Sea**

Duncan Monkhouse reveals how he investigated the eight children of John Henderson Junior (1840–1906). Each one represented a set of challenges, such as the family tale that the boys had died at sea. By looking at the stories of the Henderson family children, Duncan will highlight the brick walls that he encountered and the great moments that cracked them.

## **They Weren't All Heroes**

While researching her cousin's family, Myra Conway came across unusually complete documentation in the Burnt Records of WWI British servicemen. Two brothers joined up to serve their country, but then their paths took very different routes. One died in the trenches of Flanders and the other never left the British shores. One is memorialized and the other was found in dereliction of duty. Rabbits, bastard children and farmers all form part of this story of two brothers.

*Celebrate Your  
Anglo-Celtic Roots!*



---

19<sup>th</sup> Annual BIFHSGO

## Family History Conference

Featuring

# *Ireland*



- ◆ Expert Lecturers
- ◆ Seminars & Workshops
- ◆ Research Room
- ◆ Marketplace

Plus the latest in family history research —

*Something for everyone!*

**20–22 September 2013**

Library and Archives Canada  
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

---

**For registration information**

[www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca)  
[conferenceregistrar@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:conferenceregistrar@bifhsgo.ca)  
613-234-2520 (voicemail)

## **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	Mary-Lou Simac	613-837-8256
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 2013	Jane Down, Gloria Tubman

## **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 2013 calendar year fees for membership are \$40 for individuals, \$50 for families, and \$40 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 April 2013

*Maps and Mapping for Twenty-First Century Genealogists*—James F.S. Thomson will reveal remarkable new online mapping sites that allow genealogists to create unique, personally tailored maps and plans, incorporating data derived from different sources.

11 May 2013

*Building a One-Name Study: The Influence of Computers, the Internet, and DNA*—Bill Arthurs will describe how he constructed his Titus study: its inception before the computer era, its progression with the advent of the Internet, the addition of a website and now the use of DNA research.

8 June 2013

*Great Moments in Genealogy*—“Boom and Bust in Saskatoon” by Andrew Frowd; “Trailed Rich Man to Italy” by Susan Davis; “The Henderson Boys: They All Died at Sea” by Duncan Monkhouse; “They Weren’t All Heroes” by Myra Conway. See details on page 43.

### Schedule

9:00–9:30	Before BIFHSGO Educational Sessions: check <a href="http://www.bifhsgo.ca">www.bifhsgo.ca</a> 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](http://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](mailto:acreditor@bifhsgo.ca). The deadline for publication in the next issue is 20 April 2013.