



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

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## In This Issue

*Finding the ~~Fitzpatrick~~s Fennells*

*A Story About My Dad*

*Postcards from Around the World—  
Part II*

*Manchester Life in the 1930s—  
Part IV*

*A Great Little Great War Story*

*We Shall Remember Them*



## *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

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

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# Contents

## COLUMN

*From the President/2*

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

*Finding the ~~Fitzpatricks~~ Fennells*

*Ann Burns/3*

*A Story About My Dad*

*Barry Wheeler/9*

*Postcards from Around the World—Part II*

*Barbara Tose/12*

*Manchester Life in the 1930s—Part IV*

*Charles Morton/16*

*A Great Little Great War Story*

*John D. Reid/21*

*We Shall Remember Them*

*Lynne Willoughby/25*

## TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

*The Cream of the Crop*

*John D. Reid/29*

*New Scottish Books in the OGS Ottawa Branch Library*

*Pam Cooper/33*

## BIFHSGO NEWS

*Report on the 2018 AGM*

*Kathy Wallace/37*

*Membership Report*

*Kathy Wallace/40*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Back cover*

## Cover Illustration:

*Gunner John Daniel Wheeler circa 1916*

## *From the Editor*

Ann Burns' Great Moment in Ireland, when she found an ancestor's early home, leads off this wide-ranging issue.

Barry Wheeler tells of a family mystery that, even if not solved, led to a wonderful connection with the past.

More postcards that Barbara Tose's grandfather sent his sweetheart from exotic locations appear in Part II of her story.

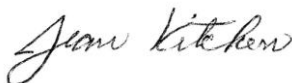
England and the Morton family prepare for war in the fourth excerpt from Charles Morton's family history.

John Reid relates the WW I research story first told as a Great Moment in June.

Pam Cooper launches a series of book reviews covering new books in the OGS library collection.

Lynne Willoughby researched the life of WW I soldier Victor Bristow, who died at No. 1 CCCS.

And the 2018 AGM is summarized for attendees and non-attendees alike.



Jean Kitchen

## From the President



Hello—my name is Duncan Monkhouse, the newly elected president of BIFHSGO. As I step into the shoes of Barbara Tose, ones that I hope I can fill, I

am excited about the status of BIFHSGO and the direction that the Society is taking.

A new season of BIFHSGO is starting: we have an stimulating program about to begin that will inform and educate us all. To learn more, keep an eye on the BIFHSGO website. In addition to this program, the Board has decided to develop a Strategic Plan for BIFHSGO. With this goal in mind, 14 members met on June 23 with facilitator Maria Lahiffe of Volunteer Ottawa to start the process of strategic planning.

*Connect, educate, share* ... these are of some of the words describing the benefits of BIFHSGO that we heard over and over during the day-long session.

We discussed why we volunteer for BIFHSGO (helping others, part of a community, learning) and the things that BIFHSGO does well (monthly meetings, conferences,

*Anglo-Celtic Roots*, the *eNews*, special interest days and groups). While we each had individual reasons for joining, it turns out we share many of them in common. The long list of things we do well surprised us all.

We identified BIFHSGO's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and the actions we will take to address them. I am grateful to all who participated and to have their help setting priorities for BIFHSGO over the coming years.

We've struck a strategic planning ad hoc committee to produce a report outlining what we discussed and our objectives, and to set timelines for achieving these objectives. More to come about this in future ACRs.

Again, this fall we are running our annual conference; the main topics this year are Scotland and DNA. There is still time to register for what is sure to be another excellent event!

I look forward to meeting you all at the upcoming monthly meetings.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Monkhouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Duncan Monkhouse

# Family History Research

## Finding the Fitzpatricks Fennells



BY ANN BURNS

*Ann first told this story as a Great Moment talk at the June 2018 BIFHSGO meeting.*

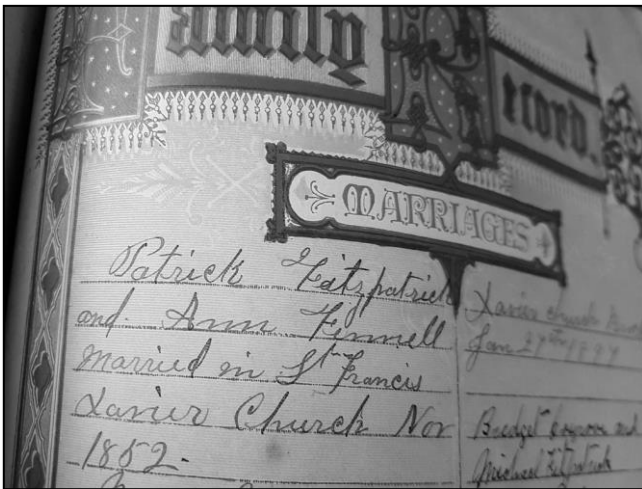
One of my long-time brick walls has been the unknown parents of my great-great-grandfather Patrick Fitzpatrick. Whenever I search for more about him, the melody of “The Impossible Dream” starts playing in my head.

Patrick married Ann “Annie” Fennell in Brockville, Ontario. They chose their wedding date very care-

fully, to slip into the seven-year gap in the records of St. Francis Xavier Church. The Fitzpatrick family Bible, purchased 25 years after the event, has their wedding date recorded as November 1852. Had the church records been available, I would have learned the names of their parents, but alas they were not mentioned in the Bible.

I made a little trip to the Leeds and Grenville branch of the OGS in the Brockville Museum, where they had copies of births, marriages and deaths from the local newspaper dating back to that time. There was nothing there either. I decided I’d try further searching on Irish soil, but there was much to do to get ready.

What I did have, included a Canadian census record from 1861<sup>1</sup> for Patrick and Annie, by then the



**Figure 1: Family Bible showing marriage of Patrick Fitzpatrick and Annie Fennell**

Source: All photographs by the author

parents of four children, and two lengthy obituaries: Patrick's dated 1899 and Annie's, 1904.<sup>2</sup> According to these obituaries, Patrick and Annie were pillars of the church, respected by many and loved by their children.



**Figure 2: Tombstone for Patrick Fitzpatrick and Ann Fennell**

The helpful news gleaned from the obituaries was that Patrick came from County Cavan and Annie was from County Queen's, now renamed Laois. Patrick arrived in Canada and worked first in the vicinity of Bytown, later moving to Elizabeth-

town, now Brockville. Annie's family settled in Elizabethtown circa 1849. Her father had died sometime between their arrival and the 1851 Census. He must have simply evaporated, as no record of his death can be found. No mention was made in either obituary of their parents or siblings.

In the Canadian Census of 1851 there was no Patrick Fitz-anything, anywhere in Canada, that could be my guy. With the search feature not producing results, I started to browse the images for Elizabethtown, looking for clues to his existence. I had no luck at all in finding him, but I found a Fennell family that included an Ann.<sup>3</sup> She had a lot of siblings, with what turned out to be helpful names. They were Catholic. Their mother's name was Bridget, and she was a widow. It was a start.

Finding that family had been both accidental and tedious. The enumerator had written "Fennel," omitting only the final "l," and the transcriber had interpreted that as "Fennie." That variant wasn't found on a Soundex search. They'd been kept hidden by a transcriber's error, which I imagined as collusion in their attempt at anonymity. At this point I gave up on Patrick and switched completely to seeking the Fennell ancestors.

I've been able to follow Annie and Patrick's family in subsequent censuses, and other records, up to the present day. What about the Fennells? Annie's mother and siblings were still living together in the 1861<sup>4</sup> Census, and then they were gone. Bridget must have simply ascended directly into heaven, in the same fashion as her late husband! Two of the siblings slipped across the U.S. border into New York State, to elude my prying eyes (although I did find them), and the rest entered the "genealogy protection program."

I continued searching assorted online databases. I'd started mining the Catholic parish records that had become freely available from the National Library of Ireland<sup>5</sup> not long before. They weren't indexed, but if you knew the parish you could possibly demolish a brick wall or two by browsing images of the church registers, if they predated emigration of the family. I didn't know the Fennell's parish.

Hoping the record collections had been expanded, once again I searched rootsireland.ie. I was looking for the baptism of an Ann Fennell, circa 1827, with a mother named Bridget. Result—nothing. But when I got smarter and searched without her first name, I found a Nicholas Fennell.<sup>6</sup> That was the name of her older brother, born at the right time to be the guy in the

Canadian Census, from Co. Laois, with a mother named Bridget Whelan. His father was Michael Fennell. Annie's second son was Michael. Things were looking up.

This new record named their townland, Barrowhouse, and a Catholic parish, St. Michael's, in the town of Athy. Imagine my happy dance at this information. That alone was a great moment. More importantly, I could now browse the correct parish records, and I found baptisms for a few of Annie's other siblings, but of course Annie's record remains undiscovered.<sup>7</sup>

Could I possibly find the marriage of Michael and Bridget? Yes. No parents were named. I had not exactly struck the motherlode. So I went backwards through the images, looking for baptisms. I got lucky here; that church's records<sup>8</sup> went back to the mid-eighteenth century.

I found Michael Fennell's baptism in 1796.<sup>9</sup> His parents were Nicholas and Ann. And then I found what I believe to be Bridget's in 1805.<sup>10</sup> Her parents were James and Catherine Whelan. Neither mother's maiden name was included. They still share the temporary surname "Unknown" on my tree. The Fennells had pretty well followed the Irish naming pattern, and while they continued to choose from that short list of suitable Irish first names, it was all good news. I browsed

backwards in the parish records, first among the baptisms and then the marriages, which were recorded separately. Michael was the youngest of (at least) five siblings and in not a single one was the mother's maiden name mentioned. All had names matching Annie's siblings, and Annie used them again for her children. It was time for that trip to Ireland and now I knew where to go.

A few years before, I had used the Ireland Reaching Out website ([www.irelandxo.com](http://www.irelandxo.com)) to search for information on other ancestors—whose parishes I knew for one reason or another. It's a much more useful site when you can identify the parish. There were many responses from helpful genealogists, professional and amateur, and they provided information on sources to check out. Sadly, none had really led to new sources up to that time; but hope springs eternal.

At that point in my research, armed with my laptop, assorted other electronics, a smartphone, a GPS and some clothes, I flew to Dublin, picked up my rental car and made my way to Moss Cottage in Bunclody, Co. Wexford. That location is central to most of my known Irish ancestors' original townlands, including the Fennells.

I had also emailed St. Michael's Church three times and asked very politely if I could see their records.

Not a single message was answered. Apparently they are just as responsive to local professional genealogists. No news was NOT good news in this case.

Once on Irish soil, I posted a message on [www.irelandxo.com](http://www.irelandxo.com),<sup>11</sup> seeking information about my Fennells. A helpful Irish genealogist replied and put me in touch with Melanie, who ran a pub near Athy. Melanie said I should look into Burtown House in Kildare. That got my hopes up; it was owned through the years, and still is, by a rather wealthy Fennell family. Yay!

But hold on a minute. Those Fennells were and still are, Quakers. Mine were Roman Catholic. Wrong religion. Wrong county—but just across the river from Co. Laois. It was in the same county as the church. Melanie said I should also talk to Frank O'Brien in Athy. I'd find him in his pub on Emily Square.

The Burtown House lead ended with no connection. My last hope of finding wealthy relatives went up in smoke.

Now I had a destination, though, a 45-minute drive away, Athy in Co. Kildare. The parish church was on the Kildare side of the River Barrow. The Fennells lived a couple of miles away, on the other bank of the Barrow, in the townland of Barrowhouse, in Co. Laois.



I found Frank O'Brien's pub easily and had a nice chat with Frank, age 94. He told me wonderful stories; one in particular that I hope somebody is recounting somewhere as a Great Moment. But he didn't know of any Fennells. When I told him they were from Barrowhouse he said that it was on the other side of the two bridges. He was only familiar with everyone on his side of those bridges.

I knew that Barrowhouse was very near those aforementioned bridges. Back at Moss Cottage I delved into the databases again and some local history sources, to begin preparation for another visit. I learned that the name Fennell was associated with Barrowhouse in a few different references. I had to go and see it for myself. I also learned that a lady named "Miss Fennell" had donated land around 1820, at Shanganagh More, for a church now known as St. Mary's. That church is still there, and it has a cemetery. And so I had my next destination.

Shanganagh More is a townland, adjacent to Barrowhouse. It's where my Fennells were listed at the time of the Tithe Applotments in 1824. A list of those living at Shanganagh More includes "Miss Fennell," as well as Michael (my g-g-g-grandfather) and his mother, Widow Ann Fennell. It is my belief that as the townlands were side by side, whoever compiled the tithe lists simply

bunched folks together, in or near the right townland. The baptism of Nicholas Fennell was concurrent with the Tithe Applotments and that record had placed my Fennells at Barrowhouse, as did the records of marriages and other family baptisms.

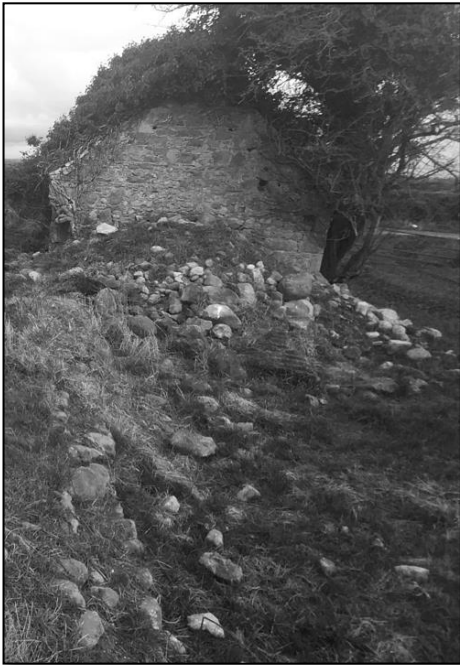
On my second visit to the area, I wandered around the small cemetery beside St. Mary's chapel. There was one Fennell headstone and yet another townland was named on it: Moneybrook. There's no such townland, but there is a Monebrock nearby. Locally it seems to be known as Mount Brook. I had to see this place for myself.

I was blessed with yet another good day for a drive. Having pored over townland maps I thought I could find Monebrock, which I did. There were no Fennells at the ends of driveways, just waiting for me to show up for tea.

I met a woman who was out for a walk. She was happy to chat and confessed that she wasn't a local as she had only been there 40 years. She hadn't heard of any Fennells. But, she said, straight up the road at St. Mary's Church, I'd find Noel Burke, a local historian who might be able to help. At the church there was no sign of Noel, but it only took a couple of minutes of my walking around the cemetery for him to find me. A conversation broke out!

Noel said that yes, there had been Fennells in the area but that they had been gone for a very long time; all that was left was the ruins of their home at Barrowhouse. Who would want to see that? Well of course I did. He said to follow him with the car.

After a few turns over about a mile, Noel pulled over beside what looked like a few trees in the open space of pasture. When we got out and had a closer look, I saw the remains of a house. Noel explained that the original Fennell house had extended to that “pile of rocks.” Trees were growing up through the rocks and



**Figure 3: The Fennell family home in Ireland**

there was no way to get to what had been the interior of the ruins. I thanked him profusely and he took off.

Oddly, I had the same sensation as when I had stood on the piece of land once occupied by another g-g-g-grandfather, Arthur Byrne. I felt like I was home. I can't explain that—but I was sure I'd been brought to the exact place I was looking for. It was indeed a Great Moment.

Research into the Fennells continues. Maybe one day I'll find out who the “Miss Fennell” was who donated land for the chapel, and whether she has any relationship to my family. That's a question for another day.

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- <sup>1</sup> [https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/1570/4391941\\_00385/798679079?backurl=https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/13929358/person/20331548/facts/citation/3130471058/edit/record](https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/1570/4391941_00385/798679079?backurl=https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/13929358/person/20331548/facts/citation/3130471058/edit/record)
- <sup>2</sup> *Brockville Evening Recorder*, Thursday, October 26, 1899, entry for Patrick Fitzpatrick, and *Brockville Evening Recorder*, Monday April 11 1904, entry for Ann Fennell Fitzpatrick
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/1061/e095e002356691/386177?backurl=https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/13929358/person/28025683948/facts/citation/140050890950/edit/record>
- <sup>4</sup> [https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/1570/4391941\\_00040/798668416?backurl=https://www.ancestry.ca](https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/1570/4391941_00040/798668416?backurl=https://www.ancestry.ca)

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<sup>5</sup> <https://registers.nli.ie/>

<sup>6</sup> [http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/view\\_detail.php?recordid=148097&type=bch&recordCentre=kildare&page=1](http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/view_detail.php?recordid=148097&type=bch&recordCentre=kildare&page=1)

<sup>7</sup> <https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0459>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/61039/06479\\_02\\_0200/9820861?backurl=https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/13929358/](https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/61039/06479_02_0200/9820861?backurl=https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/13929358/)

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<sup>9</sup> [http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/view\\_detail.php?recordid=147683&type=bch&recordCentre=kildare&page=1](http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/view_detail.php?recordid=147683&type=bch&recordCentre=kildare&page=1)

<sup>10</sup> [http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/view\\_detail.php?recordid=147683&type=bch&recordCentre=kildare&page=1](http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/view_detail.php?recordid=147683&type=bch&recordCentre=kildare&page=1)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.irelandxo.com/ireland/laois/athy/message-board/fennell-and-whelan-barrowhousetankards-town-area>

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## A Story About My Dad—A Canadian Soldier: Gunner John Daniel Wheeler



BY BARRY WHEELER

*Barry has been researching his British and Irish roots since long before computers. This is the story of one wonderful discovery he made some years ago.*

**M**y father, John Daniel Wheeler, known as

“Jack,” was born on 25 December 1895 in Stonehouse, Stroud, Gloucester, England. He came to Canada in 1912 with his family. On 12 October 1915 John joined the Royal Canadian Artillery Corps, and after a brief stay in England entered the war in France on 24 March 1916. He served with the 5th Brigade, 4th Canadian Divisional Ammunition Column. After the war was over he was stationed in the Mons area of Belgium with the occupational forces until the end of 1919.

I knew little of his time in Belgium until I found some old letters (dated December 1920 from Cuesmes, Belgium) addressed to my dad, and that got me really interested. One letter was from a gentleman called Fernand Finet. He was 18 or 19 years old, not much younger than my dad was at the time, and they had become good friends.

Fernand had a sister named Aurore who was 14 years old. She wrote a letter to my dad as well, saying that she missed him and when was he coming back. Fernand and Aurore also had a cousin named Madeleine Delaunois. She was 24 years old,

and I think that my dad and Madeleine became quite close.



**Figure 1: John Wheeler**

Source: all photos from the author's collection

I wasn't sure what to do about the letters until one day I heard about a Belgian group called "Thank You Canada 2002" that was appearing at a car show in our area of the city. They were dressed in World War II military uniforms, had WW II cars, and were here to thank Canada for helping free Belgium during both world wars.

With letters in hand I hurried over to see them, and with great luck I found in the group an American gentleman named Tom Larscheid,

who was from the same area in Belgium where the letters came from.

He said he would look up the names and see if he could find anything interesting. When he got back home I mailed all the information to him and hoped for the best. Wouldn't it be great if some of the children of the main characters were still around and I could make contact with them and find out what they know.



**Figure 2: Madeleine**

Tom looked up the addresses of all 16 Finets in Cuesmes, wrote a letter of assistance that others translated into French, and mailed off 16 packages with copies of my letters and photos. To my great pleasure he hit pay dirt: he found Aurore's daughter Huguette and her husband Albert.

(Aurore had grown up, married Cyrille Andre and had a daughter named Huguette. Huguette had married Albert Roch—a famous Belgian cartoonist who used the pen name Beoc.)



**Figure 3: Aurore**

other than a folder of Ottawa postcards with his name on it.

We kept in touch for many years, and he sent me many hand-drawn original cartoons made for me, until the letters stopped coming. I fear that Albert may have passed away.

I was also able to make contact with Madeleine's son Fernand Riche and her grandson Fabien. Fernand told me that his mother spoke very little about the war, though he knows that she lived in a house where a

shoemaker repaired boots for Canadian soldiers.

It's been almost 100 years, and to think I was able to find the daughter whose mother knew my dad. My search could not have turned out better; I was so lucky. Not all my questions were answered; the mystery of whether Madeleine was romantically involved with my father may never be solved. But after all that time I was able to make contact with new Belgian friends.



**Figure 4: Huguette and Aurore**

Quite a few soldiers have met young women and started dating . . . Time has gone by and many things have happened since 1919. If Madeleine and John were in love, let's leave them their eternity. May the mystery keep their memories and dreams hidden for all.

This is what we should remember: in 100 years, two world wars, thousands of victims and what is left? In some faded letters kept in a drawer, a romance sleeps for eternity. Love will always prevail.

# Postcards from Around the World: Part II<sup>©</sup>



BY BARBARA TOSE

*In the Summer 2018 issue Barbara first introduced readers to the postcards her grandfather sent his sweetheart (later wife) while travelling worldwide on a merchant ship.*

We left my grandfather, Tom Tose, arriving in Cardiff on 3 July 1912. His ship the *Gloriana* was to spend a time in dry-dock, but instead, Tom signed on for another voyage the next day. The Crew Agreement<sup>1</sup> states that the men engaged have signed on for a voyage “not exceed-

ing one years duration to any ports or places within the limits of 75 degrees North and 60 degrees South latitude, commencing at Cardiff proceeding thence to Archangel, and/or any other ports within the above limits, trading in any rotation, and to end at such post in the United Kingdom or Continent of Europe



**Figure 1: Map showing Cardiff and Archangel**  
Source: Google Maps

(within Home Trade limits) as may be required by the master.”

This was a pretty standard agreement. One of Tom’s earliest voyages lasted almost four years before he returned home. Twenty-four men, in addition to the Master, signed the agreement but one failed to show and another had his agreement mutually cancelled before sailing.

The *Gloriana* sailed from Cardiff on 4 July and arrived in Archangel (See Figure 1) on 14 July 1912. The agreement papers were handed in to the British Vice-Consulate the following day, as was the custom. Any events of note, like a sailor’s desertion or illness causing him to leave the ship, would be noted by the consular officials. This was an uneventful voyage, so no notes were made. The dated and stamped papers were returned to the Master just before they left port on 25 July.

During his time in Archangel, Tom sent several postcards to Olive. No doubt Russia would have been an exotic place to someone from Adelaide Village in Ontario, and a

location that far north would have added to the intrigue.

The first card shows a view of “the elite part of Archangel. Most of the houses are built of wood and cobbled stone streets in the foreground is the pleasure gardens. we spent a couple of hours there last night. lady’s orchestra from eleven to three. late hours eh. of course daylight all the time. love yours Tom”



**Figure 2: View of Archangel**

Source: All postcards from the author’s collection

This note was written in Tom’s usual backwards writing, which perhaps explains his lack of punctuation and capitalization. Notice that he is now sending “love” to Olive.

The second card is a photo of a typical Russian Catholic church, which has huge paintings above the entrance. Tom explains that “All the principle ones [churches] have paintings on similar to the

picture.” He then jokes with her to get St. Ann’s, the Anglican Church in Adelaide Village, “done likewise.” Although he wanted to see inside he was unable as it was “under lock and key.” He ends by telling Olive to “be good nice girl.”

saying that “today was proper tropical weather. actually had to put sun helmet on.” He signs off with a romantic “au revoir Sweetheart.”

All three cards were mailed, presumably from Archangel (I can’t tell



**Figure 3: Archangel Church**

The third and final postcard sent from Archangel shows an indigenous group, “habitants de la nouvelle Zemle.” Novaya Zemlya is an archipelago north and east of Archangel between the Barents and Kara seas. The three men, three women and four children are in their typical apparel and accompanied by three dogs. Tom suggests that their clothing would be ideal for a Canadian winter but ends by

because I don’t read Russian) on 12 July 1912, which would suggest that they arrived in Archangel prior to the 14th as indicated by the Crew Agreement papers. Perhaps their papers did not have to be presented until they were ready to unload or load cargo. Tom did not date his cards, so we have no way of knowing exactly when they arrived in Archangel. However, his reference to spending a couple of hours listen-



ing to the ladies' orchestra "last night" would imply that they were there at least as early as the 11th, if not before.

year on 16 August 1912 in Portishead, where he had left the ship. This time they were bound for "Portland via Bristol Channel &



Figure 4: Novaya Zemlya residents

The Crew Agreement indicates that they departed Archangel on 25 July and, instead of the year-long voyage they signed on for, on 8 August they arrived at Portishead, where the men were discharged. Tom was paid the balance of his wages owing: £11.

Tom had a few days off before his next voyage and I presume he would have taken the opportunity to visit family in Stockton and Whitby. He signed on with the *Gloriana*, in a similar contract, for another

Fowey." It was a much longer trip and his last before coming to Canada to marry Olive. We'll cover that voyage and the postcards sent during it in the next issue of ACR.

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- <sup>1</sup> BT 99 Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Agreements and Crew Lists, Series II, *Gloriana*, Ship No. 119869, 1911–1913, Maritime History Archives, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland.

# Manchester Life in the 1930s—Part IV



BY CHARLES MORTON

*In this extract from Charles' memoir of his childhood in Manchester, we learn how the family coped with the onset of World War II.*

**A**s the country drifted unwittingly towards war, the employment situation

seemed to be easing a little, and men who had not had a proper job in years began to drift back into work, jobs that were not always very desirable but at least brought money into the family. Things were slowly beginning to look up.

By 1938, the talk of war among the adults was causing much concern and the possibility loomed closer.

Events over the past few years had seen international tensions rise; Mussolini had invaded Abyssinia, Hitler had occupied the Rhineland; after incorporating Austria into Greater Germany, he was threatening Czechoslovakian independence. A civil war was in progress in Spain. In England, Oswald Mosley's Black-shirts had been preaching Fascism, and among their favourite local meeting places were the Holy Name Church on Oxford Road and St. Augustine's, another Roman Catholic church. There were stories about protesters at meetings on church property being badly beaten while being ejected, and, religious feeling

being what it was in those days, many local people, my father among them, saw the use of a Catholic church for such purposes as part of an Irish anti-British conspiracy. Indeed, the parts played by the Church in Spain and Italy left no doubt as to its support of Fascism.

After the Prime Minister had visited Hitler in Munich in 1938 and returned home declaring "Peace in our Time," the preparations for defence (which continued) made it seem that the government was not entirely convinced by the Prime Minister's assurances. During that time, gas masks were issued to the entire population (I was fitted for mine at Ducie Avenue School after queuing for several hours). Later, air raid shelters in the form of deep sandbag-lined trenches were dug in Whitworth Park. These provided a realistic backdrop for my friends and me when playing soldiers! It has occurred to me since that if Mr. Chamberlain was really convinced of "peace in our time," the expense of issuing gas masks and the building of air raid shelters in peace time must have posed a great political risk at a time when the Depression still lingered.

## Preparing for War

In 1939, with the deteriorating international situation, the Morton family got ready for war. Dad went to the 8th (Ardwick) barracks on Ardwick Green to volunteer his services and was told that at 45 he was too old. Belle, however, joined the Auxiliary Territorial Services (ATS), the women's army corps, at the same barrack and was posted to the Royal Corps of Signals.

Doris joined the Air Raids Precaution (ARP) Organization where she was taught how to drive an ambulance—really a small commercial van with just enough space for one horizontal patient and an attendant in the back. The makeshift ambulances used by the ARP were originally marked with a large white circle with a red cross in it. However, the British Red Cross raised an objection to the use of their symbol by other organizations and the pattern was reversed to a white cross on a red background.

As 1939 progressed into summer and the situation gradually deteriorated, plans were drawn up to evacuate children to safe areas in the event of war starting. In the weeks leading up to the war, parents attended a meeting in St. Chrysostom's school, and those who agreed to their children taking part in a voluntary evacuation scheme met several times afterwards to discuss the requirements and implications.

Two types of haversacks were offered for sale: one, coloured bright green and really just a canvas bag with a drawstring and shoulder straps, cost sixpence; while the other, khaki coloured with a flap and strap fastened pockets, cost one shilling. The value of the shilling type was immediately obvious; to boys whose street games were mostly military in nature, the haversack bore some resemblance to a soldier's backpack and would make a realistic accessory, as well as being adaptable for hiking. Still, despite my arguments in favour of the more expensive type, my parents did not hesitate in choosing the lower-priced green bag.

Both haversacks came complete with emergency rations: a tin of corned beef, a tin of condensed sweetened milk, a package of very hard biscuits and a large bar of equally hard chocolate, which was later discovered to be so bitter as to be practically inedible. Strict instructions were given that the rations were not to be touched by anyone, adult or child, unless under the instruction of the proper authority.

In addition to the items issued, each parent was handed a list of items the child was expected to provide, to be packed ready in the bag. These included things some of the children had never known: pyjamas, carpet slippers, toothbrushes, facecloths,

dressing gowns and various items concerned with hygiene. Cash being as scarce as it was, it is doubtful that many of the prospective evacuees had many of the requirements in their haversack. I know that my mother, with her sewing skills, had little difficulty in running up numerous pairs of pyjamas out of cloth remnants for some of the less fortunate boys. In the last week of August 1939, each child was obliged to bring his packed haversack to school each morning and to return home with it each afternoon.

During that week, while I was playing with my friend Ivor Levy outside his house in Spring Street, two large men, dressed in the brimmed hats and beige raincoats that were almost the uniform of plainclothes policemen (and readily recognized as such by most children in the area), arrived at Ivor's door and asked for his father. Within half an hour, Ivor's dad left with the men, carrying a small suitcase, while Mrs. Levy, a Scottish lady whose hair was plaited in circles over her ears like headphones, stood weeping in the doorway. It later transpired that Mr. Levy was considered an enemy alien, despite being Jewish, and was being removed for internment.

In that week leading up to the declaration of war, our headmistress Miss Taylor used the portable gramophone that generally accompanied our English country dance

lessons to play, several times a day, "There'll always be an England," a song that made our hearts swell with national pride!

## **Evacuation**

On Friday, September 1st, I was taken to school by my mother, who had alternated with my father in accompanying me that week. Turning the corner from Blackstock Street onto Clarendon Road, the sight of a red Manchester Corporation double-decker bus foretold that this was the day of evacuation.

The bus was loaded within minutes, with little time for any exhibitions of emotion or changes of heart, and, with a quick peck on the cheek from my mother, I boarded and went to the upper deck. As the bus drove away, I was able to see my mother through the rear window waving to us, although she could not have known if we could see her.

St. Chrysostom's being an elementary school, the ages of the pupils ranged from 3 to 11, and mothers of infants were included in the ranks of the evacuees. (Among this group was the same Mrs. Jervis whose husband had dealt with the priest from St. Augustine's the previous year. She was evacuated with her baby daughter.) None of us knew when we would see our homes or parents again, and many were totally bewildered by the whole affair.

After a short drive, the bus arrived at Longsight train station, where we disembarked onto the street under the railway bridge. We climbed the steps to the station platform, haversacks on our backs, gas masks slung over one shoulder and labels affixed to our coat buttons. At the station, we learned that our destination was to be Wilmslow, in Cheshire, just a far-away place to most of us.

Because there were no parents at the station, other than those mothers being evacuated with infant children, there was a great concern that our parents wouldn't know where we were; they had in fact been told of our general destination immediately after our bus left the school.

In 1939, before cars were common and before the introduction of the motorway, Wilmslow was considered to be a long way from Manchester, and to city children like us, it might as well have been the end of the earth. As the train left the industrial outskirts of Manchester, we watched green fields slide by, the occasional glimpse of cows causing a good deal of excitement.

The train itself was a novelty that many had not previously experienced. We crowded at the windows as the train pulled into Wilmslow station with its platform of greeters, mostly women, some wearing armbands or the hats and badges of women's voluntary associations.

Miss Taylor was among those on the platform; she had driven directly to Wilmslow as soon as the train had left Longsight station. She was busy sorting out the children and allocating them to various individuals who had cars waiting to take them to their new homes, and all the children, especially the younger ones who were just too old to be accompanied by their mother, were becoming increasingly upset.

I was placed in Miss Taylor's own car with another boy and driven from the station, past the King's Arms, along Knutsford Road, through Fulshawe Park with its huge houses reminiscent of those in Victoria Park, to Croft Road. The other boy, Bernard Snell, was taken to No. 19, where the Wilsons were to become his foster parents.

Mr. Wilson was, I believe, a German language teacher at Manchester Grammar School; I have since wondered how he regarded Bernard, a poor scholar even by the standards of St. Chrysostom's. Bernard was a small undernourished boy, of the type that always had cotton wool stuffed in his ears because of earache and whose school-clinic-issued glasses always had one lens blacked out because of a lazy eye.

Surprisingly, to me at least, boys like Bernard who came from the most deprived backgrounds were the first to become homesick, a phenomenon that I was to notice

many times later in life when I went to sea. I remember Bernard breaking into tears one day when Gracie Fields sang "Goodnight Children Everywhere" on the radio, a song specifically directed at evacuated children. It must be said, however, that Bernard was not alone in his melancholy; it seems that so many children and their parents were becoming upset that the BBC banned the song from its broadcasts.

I was taken next door to No. 21, a house named in the English way as "The Croft," where I was met by Mr. and Mrs. Wood, a childless couple in their 70s and 60s, respectively. Mr. Wood and his brother from Gravel Lane had owned a barber shop, which had the good fortune of standing in the way of a highway bypass being built around the village. The construction of this roadway luckily coincided with the retirement plans of the Wood brothers and enabled my new foster parent to purchase the well-appointed house where I had now been deposited.

Prior to going into the barbering business, Mr. Wood's brother had been a postman, and so he subsequently rejoined the post office, delivering letters door to door in replacement of the regular postman, who was now a soldier.

After a hot bath and a late snack of oatmeal biscuits and milk, I went to bed and slept fitfully, wondering

what was in store. The next day, I was taken around the area by Mr. Wood and shown the golf links at the end of the Croft Road, Lindow Common with its large pond and peat diggings, a poultry farm and the school I would now attend. It was a great surprise to be able to walk by the golf course and pick as many wild blackberries as I wished without being chased by the owner, and to see apple trees heavy with fruit growing in gardens.

Mr. Wood himself had a magnificent garden; from the back of the house a perfect weed-free lawn reached a low rockery filled with small flowering plants. Behind the rockery was a garden from which a large variety of flowers were cut regularly for the house; behind this, a vegetable garden produced enough for the Wilsons and some of their neighbours. Vegetable marrows were Mr. Wood's pride and joy, being of a prize-winning standard.

For plants that were difficult to grow outdoors and for new plants in the spring, Mr. Wood had a greenhouse that could be heated, and at the rear of the garden, several apple and pear trees (immediately pronounced off-limits to me) bore a variety of fruit types. In fact, when I did get to taste one of Mr. Wood's apples, I found it very woody in texture and sour in taste!

The following day, Sunday, September 3rd, I was allowed to go out by

myself after breakfast to post my new address in a pre-addressed stamped postcard that my mother had packed in my haversack. On the way back, I approached Croft Road, where the occupants of the corner house had placed a radio in their garden, and where a small group of neighbours had gathered to hear the

Prime Minister's speech. I heard the words of Neville Chamberlain telling the country that as of eleven o'clock that morning, we were at war with Germany. That certainly put the top hat on any hopes I had of going home in the immediate future!

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## A Great Little Great War Story

BY JOHN D. REID



*John, well known to many through his Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections blog, recounted this tale as a Great Moment at the June 2018 BIFHSGO meeting.*

**T**his is not a story of Tom, Dick and Harry,

though I wish it were. It's Tom, David and Harry. It begins with a CWGC headstone for Harry Benjamin Little—the first Canadian casualty of the Great War. I wrote about him in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* a few years back, but now there's more to the story.

According to Harry's Commonwealth War Graves Commission file, he was with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, died on 14 August 1914 at age 26, and was the son of Fanny and the late David Benjamin Little from Stroud, Gloucestershire. There was a combination there that twiggled something in my mind: an Ottawa connection.

Stroud is where Ottawa-born impersonator Rich Little has deep roots. His ancestral home back to the early eighteenth century is at Pitchcombe, only 3 km from Stroud. Little is a name strongly associated with the Border Reivers in Cumberland; that being well outside the Stroud area in Gloucestershire, I thought, "Wouldn't it be a Great Moment to find a family connection." So I searched Harry's ancestry.

There is an eight-page Canadian Expeditionary Force service file for Harry Little at Library and Archives Canada, with meagre information.

There's more on the front page of the *Edmonton Journal* for Friday 14 August, reporting that Harry died from heart failure at Hughenden, Alberta, about 100 km from Edmon-

ton. His body was removed to the care of the Royal North West Mounted Police.

The article mentioned “he had considerable military experience,” and “he was once a soldier in the 14th Hussars.” When researching it’s important to note the regiment. The newspaper had reported that “no man without previous military experience is being accepted and on that account the entire regiment will be composed of men who are accustomed to warfare and know only too well the comforts and discomforts of war.”

These days, why not start with a compiled genealogy if one exists? Find documents conveniently linked so it’s a quick start—but do your own evaluation.

*Ancestry* has such a file for Harry Benjamin Little with three censuses, along with birth and baptismal information, all in Stroud, Gloucestershire. He’s there in the 1911 Census, age 23, working as a jobbing gardener. His father was David, his mother Fanny, just as in

the War Graves Commission information.

I was puzzled by the comment, “once a soldier in the 14th Hussars.” It seemed a bit odd that he was a jobbing gardener at age 25 with that military background. There’s nothing about a military record in the compiled genealogy.

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**GOOD MARKETS** for all produce.  
**Profitable DAIRYING. Unexcelled FRUIT.**

Figure 1: *Stroud News and Gloucestershire Advertiser* advertisement

Source: Newspaper Image © 'British Library Board'. Image reproduced with kind permission of *The British Newspaper Archive* ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)) and *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk))



Not everything is on *Ancestry*. On *Findmypast* in the “Military Service and Conflict” database I found him enrolled with the British forces, the 14th Hussars (check), in 1906. Harry was age 19 years, 5 months, and was discharged after 88 days as **not likely to become an efficient soldier**.

How did that square with them only recruiting men “who are accustomed to warfare and know only too well the comforts and discomforts of war”?

I formulated in my mind a picture of him, struggling in England, looking for opportunity, perhaps having attended an information session or seeing advertisements in the *Stroud News and Gloucestershire Advertiser* promoting immigration to Canada in the years before 1914; he decided to try his luck. He had no Canadian roots, so it was a place for a fresh start.

Edmonton had seen a real estate boom in 1906 as the capital of the new province of Alberta. By the time Harry arrived, though, it was over. The city was in a slump. Did enlisting provide him a meal ticket?

The compiled genealogy had David Benjamin Little, Harry’s father, dying in 1917. There’s an entry in the index to probate records for a David Little living on Horns Road, Stroud with a wife Fanny. It shows him with two middle names—Benjamin Beek.

David’s compiled genealogy has a big gap after his birth in 1835. Why?

I went back to the 1911 Census. It shows that David was an army pensioner. Being out of the country might account for the gap. Then a search for David B. Little born 1835 in *Ancestry*’s “Chelsea Pensioner” records turned up one hit, with the middle name Berak, who served with the 1st Batt, 17th Regiment of Foot. It’s important to note the regiment, remember.

One of the original record images at Fold3.com for his Chelsea Pensioner discharge shows Sergeant David Benjamin Berak Little crossed out in favour of David Berak Little. He had nearly 21 years’ service. That included five years and nine months in North America. His conduct was good. He’d bounced back and forth from corporal to private before attaining the rank of sergeant late in his career.

The final page of the Chelsea Pensioner document is a summary showing David as being born in Edinburgh, a Chandler by trade, attesting with the 17th Regiment in September 1859 at age 24. Where did he attest? Montreal!

According to the book “The Service of British Regiments in Canada and North America” by Charles H. Stewart, the regiment was in Canada, including Montreal, from 1857 to 1868. David attested in 1859, so he

was in Canada before joining the military. So much for the theory that Harry had no previous connection to Canada! David even requested to be discharged in Montreal, though that was struck out and changed to Birmingham.

For years I've told people the General Registry Office holds civil registration BMD records starting in

1835, his father being with the 71st Regiment of Foot. I had to order and pay for the certificate online; it came in the mail, giving Harry's grandparents' names: Thomas and Jane Little.

So then I went back to the *Findmypast* military index for Thomas Little. By examining each entry, I found one with the 71st Regiment

(check). This Thomas was born in the parish of Barony, part of Glasgow, in 1806. It didn't look like the Little family had any connection with Stroud; it's just where Harry's mother Fanny was born.



**Figure 2: Harry Little's grave at Czar Lutheran Cemetery**

Source: author's collection

1837 for England and Wales. What I hadn't appreciated is that the GRO also holds some birth records for Scotland prior to 1837. **Some** of them—only for the military. It's not just for Scotland, actually, and covers a wider range of dates. The index on *Findmypast* has David Little with a birth in Edinburgh in

The 71st Regiment was garrisoned in Canada between 1834 and 1854. Thomas Little's 1845 discharge document includes the surprising information "Colour Sergeant Thomas Little wishes to reside and receive his pension at Sorel, Canada East."

And he did. Drouin Collection records show "Thomas Little, late sergeant in Her Majesty's Seventy First Regiment of Highland Light

Infantry, aged forty-two years, died on the twenty-first and was buried on the twenty-third day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.”

So Harry lies buried far from home at Czar Lutheran Cemetery in Czar, Alberta. He had no connection to Rich Little—you can’t always get what you want. He did, however,

have a substantial Canadian background through his father’s and grandfather’s military service in Canada.

My great little Great War theories were blown out of the water. But I did learn about British military ancestor research along the way, which I hope might be helpful to you too.

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## We Shall Remember Them

### Lance Sergeant Victor Edwin Bristow

**Regimental number: 192452**

**16th Battalion, Canadian Infantry**

BY LYNNE WILLOUGHBY

**O**n 31 August 1915, Victor Bristow enlisted with the 92nd Overseas Battalion in Toronto, Ontario. He was just over 22 years of age and was living with his parents at 72 Armand Avenue in Toronto. Victor was 5 feet 10 inches tall with grey eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. He worked as an electrician and had served with the Sharpshooters Militia prior to enlisting.<sup>1</sup>

Victor Bristow was the only child of Edwin James Bristow (b. 1866) and Eleanor Eliza Rogers (b. 1869).<sup>2</sup> He was born on 14 June 1893 and was baptized in his Parish Church in Hackney, London, in April of 1894.<sup>3</sup> Victor grew up in London.<sup>4</sup> Victor’s parents were both natives of Lon-

don, and were married in St. John’s Parish of Hackney in the summer of 1892.<sup>5</sup> Victor was born a little less than a year later.<sup>6</sup> As of 1911 Victor, age 17, was living with his parents at 10 Mount Pleasant Mansions, Upper Clapton, London.<sup>7</sup> He was employed as a stock exchange clerk, while his father, Edwin, worked as a commercial traveller.

In April 1913 Victor and his mother Eleanor sailed on the *SS Ionian* from Le Havre, France, for Quebec, Canada, where they joined his father Edwin and settled in Toronto, Ontario.<sup>8</sup> They were still living there in August 1915, when Victor enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).<sup>9</sup>

After his enlistment, Victor received training in Canada. On the Casualty Form – Active Service found on his CEF file, is a statement that says he was promoted to lance corporal by December of 1915 and in February 1916 to a full corporal. There is a line through these two entries and in May 1916, that same form indicates that Victor boarded the *SS Empress of Britain* in Halifax and sailed for England with the 92nd Battalion. It is uncertain what this signifies, but on his arrival in England Victor's record indicates that he "arrived in England as an Acting Corporal" on 30 May 1916. At that time he was posted to the East Sandling Camp at Shorncliffe, Kent.

By October of that same year, Victor was again promoted, this time to lance sergeant.<sup>10</sup> A lance sergeant was a rank in the armies of the Commonwealth given to a corporal so that he could fill a post usually held by a sergeant. It is now only retained in the Foot Guards and the Honourable Artillery Company in the British Army.<sup>11</sup>

In January 1917, Victor transferred to the 5th Reserve Battalion. In mid-March, Victor was admitted to hospital, where his tonsils were removed. He was discharged a month later and returned to duty. In August, Victor reverted to the permanent rank of private in order to be posted to the front.<sup>12</sup> He was then posted to France and arrived in

the field at the end of September 1917.<sup>13</sup>

On 9 February 1918, Victor was wounded in an accident when one of his comrades discharged his rifle while cleaning it. This occurred in a dugout in the front line of Hill 70 near Lens. Victor was given immediate attention and evacuated to the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he was admitted.<sup>14</sup> He was treated there, but died two days later on 11 February 1918 of that gunshot wound.<sup>15</sup>

Information found in the files on his gunshot wound is conflicting. The Chaplains' log from the Casualty Clearing Station says he was wounded in the chest and abdomen, while the Casualty Report and other documents found on his CEF file say he was wounded in the thigh and back.

Whatever the case, he was 24 years of age when he died on 11 February 1918. He was buried later that same day. His father was advised of his death and his grave can be found in the Barlin Military Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France, in Plot 3, Row E, Grave Number 13.<sup>16</sup>

During the war the Barlin Cemetery was often in disputed territory. The extension was first used by French troops in 1914, then by German forces and later for Commonwealth burials. The Extension contains 1,094 Commonwealth burials of the



**Figure 1: Newspaper notice for Pte. Victor Bristow**

Source: Canadian Virtual War Memorial, Veterans Affairs Canada, <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/469709?Victor%20Bristow>

First World War and a number of French and German war graves. The current Barlin Cemetery Extension was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens after the war ended.<sup>17</sup>

Victor was posthumously awarded the Canadian Overseas Service Scroll and memorial plaque and his mother Eleanor was given the Memorial Cross.<sup>18</sup>

Victor's parents remained in Toronto. Eleanor took a trip home to England in 1920.<sup>19</sup> Edwin Bristow died at 65 years of age (on 20 April 1931) in Toronto of coronary thrombosis. He is buried in Mount

Pleasant Cemetery and was mourned by his wife Eleanor.<sup>20</sup> After her husband's death, Eleanor returned to live in London, England,<sup>21</sup> where she died on 2 December 1942, aged 73.<sup>22</sup>

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## Techniques and Resources

### The Cream of the Crop

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



BY JOHN D. REID

#### Surnames

Curious about the surnames in your family tree? There are lots of resources, especially from the Guild of

One-Name Studies <one-name.org> now that DNA surname studies are well established. Retired University of Winnipeg geographer Howard Mathieson’s *Geography of Surnames* website (geogenealogy.ca) is devoted to the study of English, Scottish and Irish surnames. After the introduction, which shows his pedigree as a geographer, there are sections on place and occupational surnames. Under “Surname Themes” find sections on distinctive Cornish, Welsh and Border Reiver surnames, and for Ireland, names of Ulster and

Norman origin. “Recommended Reading” has 14 useful references.

Most interesting as we near a Scottish-themed BIFHSGO conference, under “Odds and Ends” is The Scotland Parish Atlas, a Google Earth research tool that brings together finding aids for Scottish genealogy. You download a .kmz file, which opens as a Google Earth overlay. It shows county and parish boundaries and over 2,000 links to external web pages relating to Scottish genealogy. Also check out the sections on the Highland Clearances, The Monastic Atlas and Gazetteer of Ireland (another Google Earth download) and Population Change in Ireland—famine maps.

#### A Century Ago

About 4.5% of Canada’s population died during the 1918–1919 Spanish flu pandemic. Unlike other influenza

outbreaks, this pandemic particularly affected young, otherwise healthy adults in their 20s and 30s. It was American military recruits on their way to support the Allied offensive in Europe during the last weeks of September, and delegates to a religious gathering in the Eastern Townships, that were a major factor for influenza spreading into Canada.

Most deaths in Ottawa occurred in October, with Tuesday the 15th having the most deaths reported. Of those who died that day 16 were buried at Beechwood cemetery and 30 at Notre Dame. We think of the final 100 days of the First World War as particularly deadly. Yet there were as many Canadian deaths in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database [cwgc.org](http://cwgc.org) that day in Canada as in all of Europe.

Notable was the number of deaths in the 20–35 age range. Typically in Ottawa there were about half as many deaths in that age range than deaths of infants less than 6 months of age, but in October 1918 there were 5.5 times as many.

Ottawa's mayor at the time was Harold Fisher, who closed schools and theatres; reduced the hours that stores could be open; even closed churches. He realized the city's hospitals were inadequate. His statue outside the Civic Hospital, known at the time as Fisher's Folly, recognizes his contribution to its

construction on the then outskirts of the City.

## **Genealogy Goes More Online**

Do you want more than BIFHSGO has to offer? Here are four recent initiatives that may help fill the gap.

The Virtual Genealogical Association, founded on 27 April 2018 as the Virtual Genealogical Society, aims to provide a forum for genealogists to connect, network, and mentor with genealogists around the world through online monthly meetings, webinars, social networking, annual conferences, and in-person meet-ups at conferences, institutes and events around the world. Active since June 2018, the VGA is offering three webinars a month, a three-day virtual conference at the start of November (extra cost, discount for members) and other benefits for US\$20 annual fee.

The Quebec Genealogical eSociety, launched in January 2018, provides a virtual environment enabling members to:

- participate and share in their genealogical research
- network with other genealogists
- pursue their growth as genealogists, either by coaching others or by being coached
- conduct continuous improvement and development of best practices in the discipline of genealogy



There is a monthly webinar and access to the BMS2000 and the PRDH databases. A one-year membership is C\$45.

DNA Central was created in 2017 and 2018 by Blaine Bettinger to help educate the millions of people taking DNA tests every year. Present offerings are:

- 10 self-guided DNA courses, with more coming soon
- a biweekly newsletter with the latest news and developments
- a growing webinar and short video library

DNA Central aims to become the premiere location for DNA education of all kinds, with articles, newsletters, videos, webinars, and much more. Annual Membership is US\$99.

Active since October 2014, so not as new an initiative, The Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research offers courses on a wide variety of genealogical subjects, consisting of:

- six hours of instruction from a (US) nationally recognized expert
- extensive syllabus material
- practical exercises

Also offered are occasional webinars. There is no membership fee; each course or webinar is individually priced.

Don't overlook online resources available free or as part of the

membership of more established organizations—you may already be a member. BIFHSGO's archive of recorded monthly meeting presentations is just one example.

### **Ottawa Time Traveller App**

The City of Ottawa's Archives presents the new Time Traveller app for mobile devices; it's now available in the Apple and Google Play stores. Presently 70 stories of all types, from 1867 to 2014, from disaster to Elvis Presley, are available—there's bound to be something new to you. Did you know Ottawa had a Flying Saucer Research Station? For each item there's a description, a map and a list of sources. City Archivist Paul Henry tells me more items are coming. Access is through a timeline, map or lucky-dip. Find out more at <https://ottawa.ca/en/news/power-travel-back-ottawas-history-now-your-hands-new-time-traveller-app>.

### **Ireland**

John Grenham, author of the best-selling book on Irish genealogy, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, has been nose to the grindstone for a year tackling the backlog of census corrections suggested to the Irish National Archives. He dealt with about half of the 100,000 emails that had arrived by the end of June; they included about a quarter of a million suggested changes. Half turned out to be accurate, a third are duplicates, and only 15% are

downright inaccurate. Corrections are incorporated in monthly batches on [census.nationalarchives.ie](http://census.nationalarchives.ie). They do not get included in the census versions on commercial sites.

## DNA

On *YouTube*, Maurice Gleeson has posted a two-part presentation he gave in Auckland, New Zealand ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzmgvyKojOM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzmgvyKojOM)). The first part deals with autosomal DNA, with the take-away that any serendipitous match over 100 cM is worth exploring. You can reap more relatives by looking for shared surnames and places in your family tree. The part second deals with Y-DNA.

In July, British genetic genealogy companies *LivingDNA* and *Findmypast* announced a partnership which will bring together the strength of *LivingDNA's* high-resolution ancestral origin analysis with *Findmypast's* growing database of family trees. Worth watching.

## Library and Archives Canada

By the time you read this it's likely LAC will have got to their Zs. Posting the final images of "Personnel Records of the First World War" at <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/personnel-records.aspx>, surnames beginning with Z, will likely be stage-managed to coincide with

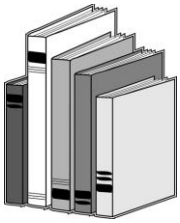
the centenary of the Armistice. After that there's a backlog of corrections to address. With the equipment and staff freed up will there be another major digitization initiative? Newspapers, anyone?

The official day for transfer of the 1926 Census of the three Prairie Provinces to LAC, 92 years after it was conducted on 1 June, 1926, came and went. We hoped it would be immediately released. Sadly, that didn't happen, and the only information posted is "we are currently developing an index and plan to make the data from the census available on our website; in the coming months we will be in a better position to estimate a release date."

## Searching Blogs

Only a fraction of the material posted on my *Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections* blog ever gets into this column. With over 9,000 posts dating back to 2006 you can use the search function in the left-hand column at [www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.ca](http://www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.ca) as a resource for finding all kinds of information that has been posted recently or over the years. The same is true for many other blogs, including Gail Dever's *Genealogy à la carte* (<http://genealogyalacarte.ca/>) (except that her search box is in the right-hand column).

# New Scottish Books in the OGS Ottawa Branch Library



BY PAM COOPER

*Pam is a BIFHSGO volunteer with the OGS Ottawa Branch Library, with her research interests focused on Scotland.*

## **Scottish Genealogy, 4th Edition, Revised and Updated**

by Bruce Durie

*Soft cover, ISBN: 978 0 7509 8422 5*

*The History Press, 2017*

*Index, Appendices, Tables, Lists, Chapter End Notes to Further Reading resources*

## **Understanding Documents for Genealogy and Local History**

by Bruce Durie

*Soft cover, ISBN: 978 0 7524 6464 0*

*The History Press, 2013, Reprinted 2016*

*Index, Tables, Lists, Chapter End Notes to Further Reading resources*

Bruce Durie, the well-known Scottish genealogist, will be one of the invited speakers at the 2018 BIFHSGO conference to be held September 28–30. Two of his books were recently donated by BIFHSGO to the OGS Ottawa Branch library, which incorporates the BIFHSGO collection. He was the founder and director of the Professional Postgraduate Program in Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow until 2011. He now

teaches at the University of Edinburgh.

His classic textbook, *Scottish Genealogy*, is now in its fourth edition in a fully revised and expanded version. It deserves a place on the bookshelf of any Scottish family historian. It is comprehensive, well organized, informative and highly entertaining to boot! He has also written a similar book, *Welsh Genealogy*, which is on the shelves as well.

*Scottish Genealogy* is an excellent beginner's and advanced genealogist's text at the same time. The first chapters deal with the most familiar records: the Scottish censuses of 1841 to 1911, the Statutory Registers of births, marriages and deaths (required since 1855), as well as the Old Parish Registers used for baptisms, marriage banns, and burials prior to statutory registration. He also discusses other church and religious records, including the Catholic records that are now available on the *ScotlandsPeople* website at <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>.

Worked examples with images are used to illustrate the records, extracting all of the information and clues that can be gleaned from

them, as well as warning of the traps for the unwary. Different ways to access the records are discussed, with images and examples updated to reflect the significant changes to the *ScotlandsPeople* website that were made in September 2016.

The chapter on statutory registration gives the clearest explanation I have seen on the registration districts used to classify statutory registrations, census records, and, retrospectively, the Old Parish Registers—the key to understanding where the records were from.

Beyond these basics, the book moves progressively through the kinds of records that a researcher would look to next: census substitutes, including valuation rolls, poll taxes, hearth taxes and other taxes, electoral registers and poor law records; trades, crafts, professions and offices; courts and the legal system; charters (outlining how they might be used in family history research); and local records, including burgh and parish records.

The next tranche of chapters deals with the related issues of Scottish wills and testaments, land and maps, and the system of feudal land tenure, baronies and titles. Finally, the last set of chapters includes an introduction to palaeography; DNA, genetic genealogy and “Scottishness”; clans, families, crests and tartans, and heraldry and coats of arms.

The chapter on DNA in Scottish research is substantial and was updated for the fourth edition, although the rapid pace of change in this field may mean that it is useful initially as a primer, but chiefly for the six detailed pages of references and links. A final chapter of resources adds information on money and coinage (including the differences in Scotland), old Scots weights and measures, and a glossary of Gaelic terms.

Whether you are a beginner in researching your ancestors in Scotland or a more advanced researcher, this book would be a worthy addition to your bookshelf—as an introduction, or as a reference text. There are detailed additional resources listed at the end of each chapter when you are ready to go further.

*Understanding Documents for Genealogy and Local History* is a terrific toolbox for researchers when they have mined what they can from census documents and statutory registrations, and are ready to work back into the murkier waters of the period from 1560 to 1860. This book aims to assist readers in not only reading earlier documents but also understanding them, their context, and the laws influencing how and why they were written as they were. The author describes the book as a “handbook-cum-reference-cum textbook,” and it ably

fills all three roles, useful both for researchers wanting to understand a single document, as well as for those wanting to develop their skills in this field more generally.

The book is divided into three parts: a guide for reading the documents; a guide for understanding the context of these older documents, including early nineteenth-century and earlier documents useful for genealogy research in Scotland, England and Wales; and several glossaries, including Latin and Scots terminology relevant to understanding legal documents for genealogy, a Latin glossary of first names and surnames, and a Latin glossary of place names.

The chapters in the first major section focus on the knowledge and skills needed to read the documents, covering transcription and palaeography, the basics of Latin, dates and calendars, money, coinage, weights and measures, inscriptions and gravestones, a primer on heraldic documents and artefacts, and Gaelic words in Scots and English. The information presented is detailed and comprehensive, with explanations of why understanding these things matters to understanding the documents we may find.

The section starts with the basics of doing transcriptions as well as the styles of handwriting going back to the Court and Chancery hands used

in England and the Secretary hand used in Scotland. Throughout this section there are plenty of examples, which help considerably. Further reference lists of both books and online sources extend each chapter.

The second major section of the book outlines the origin, nature and evolution of the various kinds of documents that you will find in researching the period from 1560 to 1860 in Scotland, England and Wales, noting the peculiarities of each legal system, since they differed. The various kinds of legal documents are described in detail, along with how the requirements to collect certain information, or the underlying laws themselves, changed over time. Each chapter includes images and transcripts, with explanations or commentary on the texts.

The chapters in the second section cover Old Parish Registers and entails in Scotland, England and Wales; Scottish wills and testaments, trust dispositions and settlements, sasines, retours, tacks, assedations, mails and the long-promised (and unfortunately still eagerly awaited) Kirk session records; and, for England and Wales, wills, fines, recoveries, final concords, manorial documents, indentures, deeds and land records.

While some of these terms are familiar, others are less so, although

most of us will recognize the concepts from our research in more recent periods. Conditions placed on the inheritance of an estate or lands to keep estates intact were known as entails, with Durie illustrating this concept with the well-known scenarios from *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and *The Master of Ballantrae* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Sasines in Scotland record transfers of land through deeds, while retours deal with the transfer of land or real property through inheritance. Tacks, in England and Wales, are leases on land, often with associated contract conditions, including their duration (assedaitions) and rents (maills, from which the term black-mail is derived). Indentures may deal with indentured servants and with apprentices. In explaining these documents, their significance and where to find them, Durie

equips us to understand the significance of them for our family history research.

Finally, rounding out the book are glossaries of legal and genealogical terms in Latin and Scots, and Latin glossaries of names for people and places.

The book is very well organized and clearly presented so researchers can readily find the information relevant to the document they are trying to read and understand. The additional references provided in each section equip the reader to go deeper as needed.

Durie's book could be considered an excellent tourist guide to the foreign country that is the more distant past, enabling family historians to understand what they may have turned up, whether their ancestors are English, Welsh or Scottish.

**Join Us!**

**At the 24th Annual  
BIFHSGO Conference  
28-30 September 2018**

**Register: [conference.bifhsgo.ca](http://conference.bifhsgo.ca)**

**Info: [conference@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:conference@bifhsgo.ca)**

**Voicemail: 613-234-2520**



# Report on the 2018 BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting

This report on our 24th AGM complements those of the President and Directors delivered to members in advance of the 2018 AGM. A draft of the official AGM minutes will appear in the Spring 2019 *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. The meeting was held on 9 June 2018 in The Chamber at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointhe Drive, Ottawa, Ontario. A quorum was present.

### Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by BIFHSGO President Barbara Tose, who welcomed attendees to the AGM.

### Approval of the 2017 AGM Minutes

Barbara requested any questions or changes to the Minutes of the 2017 AGM. There being none, she asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was proposed by Darrel Kennedy, seconded by Ann Burns, and was carried.

### Summary of Directors' Reports

The President presented a summary of the Annual Reports. She urged members to read the full reports to get a full understanding of what the directors have been working on in the past year.

Barbara stated, "Although this year has been another successful one for BIFHSGO, it has not been without its challenges. Key positions on the Board remained vacant for several months, which caused an increased workload for the remaining board members or forced the postponement of important tasks until the position could be filled. New directors had a steep learning curve and a backlog of issues to deal with. We now have a full slate of directors. The Board has also scheduled a strategic planning session for the end of June to ensure we are unified in our goals.

Yet despite the difficulties of the past year, we have accomplished much. Our conference was well attended; our second Ulster Historical Foundation Day sold out with record attendance and highest book sales of their tour. Our special interest groups are strong and well supported by the volunteers who organize them; the groups continue to grow.

The Ottawa Public Library showed how much they value their partnership with us by asking us to co-sponsor the first “Discover your Roots: Family and Local History Fair.” This was deemed such a success that we are now planning for next year’s event.

We were asked to provide introductory genealogy talks to a local group and have been approached by another group for speakers, allowing us to reach out to the community beyond our society.

Of course, there are challenges yet to be met. We can always use more volunteers but we continue to be blessed with active members.”

Barbara went on to thank Glenn Wright for his eight years of service on the Board and the many other things he has done over the years. Glenn has agreed to act as our archivist. Barbara thanked all the volunteers that she has worked with for their assistance, understanding, patience and hard work.

### **Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year 2017**

Marianne Rasmus, Treasurer, spoke to her report, already circulated to members and reviewed the society’s financial position. The key points were as follows:

- 2017 Revenue: Operating \$57,123, designated donations \$855, total revenue \$57,978
- 2017 Expenses: Operating \$59,314, donations to outside organizations \$1,800, library fund \$2,115, Research \$94, total expenses \$63,323

FY 2017 resulted in a net loss of \$5,345; however, there were three extraordinary expenses:

- the pub night hosted by BIFHSGO during the 2017 OGS Conference
- a substantial donation to the Ottawa Public Library for the purchase of genealogical books and e-books
- the loss incurred by the 2017 Conference

The total of these expenditures was \$5,867.

The financial position at 31 December 2017 was as follows:

- Total assets \$109,634, total liabilities \$23,796, net assets \$85,838

In response to a question, Marianne explained that the \$6,800 in interest income was from an investment that gave only one payout at maturation. Another question related to \$512 in amortization. Marianne said it was the amortization of computer equipment costs over the past three years. When asked if the membership approves the financial statements, she explained



that the Board approves the statements and then it is presented to the membership. The members do approve the appointment of the public accountant.

### *Appointment of Public Accountant for 2018*

Marianne Rasmus moved that the firm of McCay Duff LLP be appointed as the BIFHSGO public accountant for 2018. The motion, seconded by Andrea Harding, was carried.

## **Awards and Presentations**

Several awards were presented to the following individuals.

*Cliff Adams* received a Certificate of Recognition in appreciation of his ongoing and significant contributions to BIFHSGO as Conference Treasurer and his invaluable assistance to the Treasurer of the Society.

*Father Edward J.R. Jackman* was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his life-long interest in, and encouragement of, family history and genealogy and with special appreciation of his generous sponsorship and support of our Society and its activities.

*Sheila Dohoo Faure* received the award for the Best Before BIFHSGO Talk by a Member for her presentation on the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station project.

*Darrel Kennedy, Brian Laurie-Beaumont, Marianne Rasmus and Susan Davis* earned the Best BIFHSGO Talk by a Member[s] for their talk on Salem, "Where were you in 1692?"

*Christine Jackson* won the award for the Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Article of 2017 for her article "The Queen's Coachman: Our Only Claim to Fame!".

*Jane Down* was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation for her many services to the Society and genealogy in general.

## **Nominating Committee Report**

Past-President Glenn Wright, Chair of the Nominations Committee, noted that several positions were at mid-term this year. These were: Research, Lynda Gibson; Secretary, Gillian Leitch; Director-at-Large, John McConkey.

### *Election of Directors*

Glenn stated that five positions were up for renewal: Communications, Membership, Program, Publicity and Treasurer. The following directors had agreed to continue on for another term: Andrea Harding (Programs); Marianne Rasmus (Treasurer); Mary-Lou Simac (Publicity, final term allowed); Kathy Wallace (Membership, final term allowed).

In addition, Lynda Gibson joined the Board as Research Director in fall 2017 after Dave Cross resigned; that term ends in June 2019. John McConkey, whose term also ends in June 2019, replaced Lisa Dawn-Crawley. Susan Davis returned to the Board in early 2018 to replace Anne Moralejo, whose term ended in June 2018. Susan agreed to serve a new full two-year term.

Barbara Tose completed her term as President and moves to the role of Past President. Duncan Monkhouse had agreed to stand for President of BIFHSGO. Glenn solicited further nominations from the floor. As there were no further nominations, Duncan was acclaimed as President.

### Other Business

Gloria Tubman, as a user of the Pontiac Archives, passed on the Archives' appreciation of BIFHSGO's donation to them and mentioned that many BIFHSGO members use the Archives. Duncan Monkhouse introduced himself and thanked Barbara with a small token of appreciation. Members were reminded of the upcoming conference "Voices from the Dust" at the LDS Genealogy Centre on Prince of Wales Drive.

The President then adjourned the meeting for conversation and viewing of the Discovery Tables before the regular monthly meeting.

## Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 14 May 2018–31 July 2018		
Member No.	Name	Address
1934	Barbara Anne LeBeau	Ottawa, ON
1935	Robert Dawes	Trenton, ON
1935	Barbara Dawes	Trenton, ON
1936	Maureen Kitchen	Mississauga, ON
1936	Doug Stephen	Mississauga, ON
1937	James Dukes	Sault Ste Marie, ON
1938	Beverley Gilbertson	Val Morin, QC
1939	Cheryl Levy	Belleville, ON
1940	Judith MacDonald	Orleans, ON
1941	Anne Trueman	Chelsea, QC

## **BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2018–2019**

President	Duncan Monkhouse	president@bifhsgo.ca
Recording Secretary	Gillian Leitch	secretary@bifhsgo.ca
Treasurer	Marianne Rasmus	treasurer@bifhsgo.ca
Research & Projects	Lynda Gibson	research@bifhsgo.ca
Membership	Kathy Wallace	membership@bifhsgo.ca
Communications	Susan Davis	communications@bifhsgo.ca
Publicity	Mary-Lou Simac	publicity@bifhsgo.ca
Director at Large	John McConkey	video@bifhsgo.ca
Programs/Education	Andrea Harding	programs@bifhsgo.ca
Past President	Barbara Tose	pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca

### **Communications**

<i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i> Editor	Jean Kitchen	accreditor@bifhsgo.ca
<i>eNews</i> Editor	Wanda Quinn	newsletter@bifhsgo.ca
Webmaster	Vacant	
Queries	Sheila Dohoo Faure	queries@bifhsgo.ca
Photographer	Dena Palamedes	

### **Conference 2018**

Jane Down, Duncan Monkhouse

### **Public Accountant**

McCay Duff LLP

## **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). Our purpose is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into, and publication of, family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles.

We have two objectives: to research, preserve, and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family and social history, and to promote genealogical research through a program of public education, showing how to conduct this research and preserve the findings in a readily accessible form.

We publish genealogical research findings and information on research resources and techniques, hold public meetings on family history, and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership dues for 2019 are \$45 for individuals, \$55 for families, and \$45 for institutions. Members enjoy four issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, ten family history meetings, members-only information on [bifhsgo.ca](http://bifhsgo.ca), friendly advice from other members, and participation in special interest groups.

# BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

## Saturday Morning Meetings

The Chamber, Ben Franklin Place,  
101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa

- 13 Oct 2018** **Establishing Mitochondrial DNA Signatures of Early Immigrant Mothers**—Annette Cormier O'Connor will explain how this research is done using Quebec DNA as an example. Confirmed mtDNA signatures help people with record gaps find their immigrant ancestor.
- 10 Nov 2018** **TBA**—In keeping with past November meetings, this talk will focus on an aspect of our military history.
- 8 Dec 2018** **Great Moments in Genealogy**—BIFHSGO members will describe how they made wonderful discoveries that were breakthroughs in their family history research. For details go to [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca) and check Meetings & Activities. A social hour to launch the BIFHSGO 25th Anniversary celebrations will precede the meeting.

## Schedule

- 9:00–9:30 Before BIFHSGO Educational Sessions: check [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca) for up-to-date information.
- 9:30 Discovery Tables
- 10:00–11:30 Meeting and Presentation
- 11:30–4:00 Writing Group

For 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, at [acreditor@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:acreditor@bifhsgo.ca). The deadline for submissions to the Winter issue is 26 October 2018.