



British Isles Family History Society
Of
Greater Ottawa

Tracing and Sharing British Isles Family History

The purpose of the Society is to encourage and facilitate research and its publication by people with ancestry in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.



BIFHSGO Newsletter (March 2010)

NEXT BIFHSGO Meeting

March 13, 2010 10:00 AM at Library & Archives Canada, Auditorium, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

Speaker **Gibson Glavin** Topic: Constable George Johnston's Road to Recognition

This talk will describe the journey of oral and documentary research taken by the great grand nephew of Constable George Johnston (NorthWest Mounted Police) to see the tragic death of Constable Johnston, in 1882 at Fort Walsh, officially recognized by the RCMP.

Constable George Johnston was born near Billings Bridge, Ontario in 1860. He was one of the Johnston(e) clan who had immigrated to Ontario from Northern Ireland a few years earlier. He joined the NorthWest Mounted Police in 1879 and was posted to Fort McLeod, NWT. He lost his life after the accidental discharge of a rifle in the hands of another Constable. His death went unrecognized by the Mounted Police until 2009.

About the Speaker

Gibson Glavin is an Inspector within the RCMP with 23 years of service both in Canada and in Europe. He is currently posted to the RCMP's National Headquarters in Ottawa as a Staff Officer in the Office of the Senior Deputy Commissioner.

Are you going to renew for 2010? It is time now... Links to forms are [here](#) - or see the Membership Desk at the next meeting.

If you have renewed your membership recently your card will be available at the monthly meeting and can be found in the back of

your name badge holder. Out of town members who renewed will receive their cards in the mail.

Note: A Beginners Course in Genealogy will be held on March 20 - see details below under Upcoming Events.

Meeting Tips: Enjoy the Discovery tables, refreshments and chat with friends. **Renew your membership** and / or pick up your membership card. Free parking in lots to the east of the building. Please treat Discovery table materials with care, as if your own valued collection. Keep coffee and other drinks away as spills will damage them. When materials are covered during the presentations in the auditorium it's a sign they should not be disturbed.

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Note: Some of the information included below is part of extracted posts in blogs / newsletters and should not be attributed to BIFHSGO as a whole.

Privacy Policy

Please Note:

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa has adopted a Privacy Policy to help protect the personal information it collects from members and others who also participate in its activities. Only information necessary to conduct the affairs of the Society is collected and is not shared with other organizations. The Policy can be found on our website. In order to comply with the spirit of the Privacy Policy, the Board is requesting that all members who are no longer conducting business on behalf of the Board destroy all paper and digital copies of personal information they still have in their possession.

1 - UPCOMING GENEALOGY EVENTS

15 March 2010, 7.00 p.m.

Scottish Genealogy Group - room 154, Library and Archives Canada

There will be a Silent Auction of some Scottish books.

Future dates (same location and time) 19 April, 24 May and 21 June

2010. For more information please contact webmaster@bifhsgo.ca.

16 March 2010 7:30 pm

Ottawa Branch OGS meeting - room 156, Library and Archives Canada

Speaker: Alison Hare Topic: The Time of Cholera

Alison Hare, researcher, lecturer and editor with 29 years of experience, professional genealogist, certified by Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, extensive research experience, active member of Ontario Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Alison is also a member of the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame.

London's cholera epidemic of 1854 is best known as the story of Dr. John Snow, a water pump and a map. But who were the people who died? A genealogist whose ancestor died in the epidemic describes her quest to identify the forgotten victims.

20 Mar 2010, 9 a.m - 12:00 p.m.

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) and the Ontario Genealogy Society - Ottawa Branch offer a **Beginners Course in Genealogy**.

When: Saturday 20 March 2010 - 9 a.m. to Noon

Where: Exhibition Hall A, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. Free parking in lots east of the building.

Syllabus: Seven Golden Rules, Census Records, Civil Registration, and Local Resources.

Speakers: John D. Reid, Glenn Wright, Alison Hare and Lesley Anderson

Cost: BIFHSGO & OGS members, \$20; Non-members, \$25.

Information and Registration Form at http://www.bifhsgo.ca/pdf/BEGINNING_GENEALOGY_webform_2010.pdf.

March 26-27, 2010

Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society - **Gene-o-Rama**

Library & Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

Check this site for the latest details: <http://ogsottawa.on.ca/geneorama/> .

Gene-O-Rama 2010 will feature a theme of **Researching Female Ancestors** and will include lectures by **Lisa Alzo**, **Lesley Anderson** of Ancestry.ca, **Marthe Séguin-Muntz** of the Canadian Genealogy Centre and **Marie Careau** of la Société de généalogie de l'Outaouais as well as **Doug Hoddinott**, **John D. Reid** and **Rick Roberts**. **Glenn Wright** will speak at the banquet on ***Sex, Lies and Archives: Behind Closed Doors at the Public Archives of Canada, 1900-1950***

On-line registration is available at https://www.ogs.on.ca/forms/conference_order_template.php?confid=3 . For more details on the program, check out the website at: http://ogsottawa.on.ca/?page_id=101

April 10, 2010 9:00-9:30 a.m Library and Archives Canada auditorium
"Before BIFHSGO" meeting - Lesley Anderson Topic - Why you should visit the Ottawa Family History Center.

10:00 a.m.

BIFHSGO April meeting

Speaker: **Jane Down** Topic: Getting Them Back to England – What I did on my “Somers” Vacation

When Jane started to search for her great-grandmother, Mary Jane Somers, she knew very little about her. This talk will describe the journey of discovering Mary Jane’s family and where they came from in Ontario and in England using various genealogy tools such as tombstone inscriptions, the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid, census records, Ontario vital records, Rootsweb World Connect, Find My Past, Devon Family History Society databases, parish records, newspaper obituaries, and communications with new-found cousins.

About the Speaker

Jane Down, current Program Director for BIFHSGO, has been researching her family roots in Ontario and England since 1975. She has won several genealogy contests and awards including the Seminar 2007 OGS Photo Contest, 2006 OCAPG Essay Contest, 2001 OGS Marion Keffer Award (Honourable Mention) for her article on the Richmond Ledger for the Ottawa Branch News, and the 1994 Ottawa Branch OGS Gen-O-Rama Ancestor Exhibit Competition for her book on the Bradfords of Eastbourne. In real life, Jane is a Senior Conservation Scientist at the Canadian Conservation Institute where she carries out research on adhesives that are used to conserve works of art.

April 10, 2010 9:00 - 4:00

The Ontario Genealogical Society Region VIII, Annual General Meeting & Family History Fair

at The Nick Smith Centre 77 James St., Arnprior

Speakers: Ron Shannon, Mary Lynn Benz, Shirley Mask Connolly

Cost: \$ 20.00 includes lunch

Register before April 1, 2010 by sending a cheque or money order to:

U.O.V.G.G., P.O. Box 972, Pembroke, ON, K8A 7M5

or see them at Gene-O-Rama! The Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group Inc.

20 April 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Ottawa Branch OGS meeting - room 156, Library and Archives Canada

Speaker: John Reid Topic: Researching Early 20th Century British Immigrant Ancestry

Using case studies, and focusing on 20th century English and Welsh immigrants pre-WW I, the period of greatest emigration, this presentation shows how to use Canadian and British records together to track down that elusive ancestral family.

Friday April 30, 2010 1:00 pm

Ottawa Historical Society meeting -- at the Routhier Community Centre at Guigues and Cumberland Street, Ottawa

Speaker: Lorraine Reoch on "The Quarrier Home Children and the Reoch Connection."

May 8, 2010 10:00 a.m.

BIFHSGO April meeting - Library and Archives Canada auditorium

Speaker: Patricia Roberts-Pichette Topic: Changing Canadian Attitudes to the Settlement of British Home Children, 1869-1928.

Canadians generally welcomed the home children settled in Canada by the British volunteer agencies starting in 1869. The first British (Doyle) report, released in 1874, criticized Canadians for their treatment of children. It was publicly rejected in Canada, although it spurred some governmental changes. In 1924, after about 85,000 children had been settled in Canada, the second and positive British (Bondfield) report on home children in Canada was released. In 1925, the restriction of juvenile immigrants to ages 14-17 and long-standing pressure from primarily urban-based and educated leaders meant massive program changes for the agencies. This presentation will discuss how world events, the Canadian policy change for juvenile immigrants (medical inspection, selection in England and inspection in Canada), and the evolution of social understanding, provincial education and labour laws, signalled the program's demise.

About the Speaker

In 2001, Patricia Roberts-Pichette (B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.) began indexing the Middlemore documents at LAC. As coordinator of the Middlemore project and with the help of about 50 volunteers, the basic Middlemore microfilms were extracted and an index of children brought to Canada was prepared and put on the BIFHSGO website. Patricia has served as BIFHSGO Director of Research and Projects, Co-chairperson 2005 BIFHSGO Conference, BIFHSGO Vice-President, and coordinator of the Writing Group. She is a member of the Hall of Fame and has made presentations at BIFHSGO meetings, OGS seminars, several OGS branches, and genealogy meetings in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and internationally. Patricia has written a series of articles on Middlemore and his Children's Emigration Homes for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, and is currently working on a book on the subject.

May 14-16 2010

Ontario Genealogical Society Conference 2010, Toronto

Essentials, Innovations and Delights

Registration is now open.

www.ogs.on.ca/conference2010

conference2010@ogs.on.ca

18 May 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Ottawa Branch OGS meeting - room 156, Library and Archives Canada

Title Rideau Township Archives - 20th Anniversary

Speakers: Owen Cooke, Carol Lindsay, Susan McKellar, George Tupper

Presentation by four volunteers focusing on the history of Rideau

Township Archives, Branch of City of Ottawa Archives, on genealogical

resources and published works in the library, original documents and

community outreach programs.

June 19, 2010 10:00 a.m.

BIFHSGO June meeting (Great Moments and AGM) - Library and Archives Canada auditorium

Speaker: Shirley-Ann Pyefinch -- Topic "Miracles Do Happen!"

A quest for paternal ancestors led Shirley-Ann to a miraculous discovery!

They say timing is everything and it certainly was for this Great Moment!

About the Speaker: Shirley-Ann Pyefinch is an Information Management Specialist who graduated from the Archives and Records Management Program at Algonquin College. She serves as Director for the Ottawa Ontario Stake Family History Center for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She enjoys doing genealogical research, travelling with her family and listening to Great Moment talks at BIFHSGO meetings!

Speaker: George Swift -- Topic "Finding Uncle Bernard or How NOT to Do Genealogy",

This talk concerns the author's search for his maternal grandmother's missing brother and all the missteps he made on the way to finally uncovering his story.

About the Speaker: George Swift has been doing genealogy for 25 years, concentrating on his Irish and Belgian roots. He has been a member of BIFHSGO for 10 years and given previous talks to our group on his research.

Speaker: Carol Annett -- Topic "Lily, Thistle, Fur and Feather: The

Ancestry of Flore Couvrette".

A search for French-Canadian roots turned up ancestors who were Scottish fur traders - and more.

About the Speaker: Carol Annett joined BIFHSGO in 2006. A member of the Writing Group, she enjoys telling the stories of her ancestors.

Speaker: Chris MacPhail -- "The Importance of Being Ernest".
The search for a great-aunt has led to some surprising revelations.

About the Speaker: Chris MacPhail is a semi-retired engineer whose interest in genealogy was sparked by learning that his grandfather had been a Home Child. He is the current editor of Anglo-Celtic Roots and past Program Chair for the BIFHSGO conference.

Speaker Patricia McGregor -- Topic "Albert Edward Weir, Adopted Son - The Search for his Parents"

Research on the Weir family of Cobourg and Peterborough began in earnest about 15 years ago and has unearthed descendants in Ontario, British Columbia, Wisconsin, North Dakota, California, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. A wealth of information has been uncovered and while some mysteries remain, many great genealogy moments have occurred. The focus of this talk will be on the family of Patricia's great great grandparents, Robert Weir (ca 1830-1905) and Mary Ann Brooks (ca 1832-1910), and the methodology and sources used to identify the biological parents of the adopted son listed with them in the 1891 census.

About the Speaker: Patricia McGregor has been addicted to genealogy for close to 20 years. In addition to tracing her own roots, she has developed the course material for the advanced course in Canadian Immigration Records offered by the National Institute for Genealogical Studies and has spoken on the subject at both BIFHSGO and OGS annual conferences. She operates a small business in antiques and collectibles with a specialized focus on Canadiana books and ephemera. She also works full time as a Human Resources Officer in the federal government.

July 11-17, 2010

Semaine de généalogie/Genealogy Week

Semaine de généalogie/Genealogy Week will bring out-of-town family historians to Canada's capital for an intensive one-week hands-on program, modelled after the Toronto Branch OGS's successful Genealogy Summer Camps. Researchers will travel with the group to a resource centre to participate in tutorials and optional lectures on specialized topics. The rest of the day will be devoted to research. Evenings may be used for further research, when facilities are open, or enjoying the Ottawa/Gatineau sights. The group will be kept small to allow for lots of

help from the local experts. Registration is limited! Deadline for applications will be 14 May 2010.

Check for details at: <http://ogsottawa.on.ca/> .

For details in French, visit: <http://www.genealogieoutaouais.com/>

For more information e-mail: geneweek@ogsottawa.on.ca

Future BIFHSGO Meetings at Library & Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

Conference: 10-12 September 2010

25 September 2010

9 October 2010

13 November 2010

11 December 2010

9 January 2011

12 February 2011

12 March 2011

9 April 2011

7 May 2011

11 June 2011

2 - BIFHSGO Notices

BIFHSGO 2010 Conference Sept 10-12, 2010 - Call for Presentations

Anyone interested in making a presentation at the fall BIFHSGO conference should send Willis Burwell a message at wburwell@rogers.com providing a short description of the proposed talk.

Speakers Needed

We are fortunate that BIFHSGO has a lot of talented people and we'd like to hear from you! There is an ongoing need for speakers for our regular monthly sessions (Before-BIFHSGO and the main meeting) and our "Great Moments" presentations in December and June. Don't be shy! There's lots of help available. If you would like to give a talk or know of a good topic/speaker, please contact Jane Down - email programs@bifhsgo.ca .

BIFHSGO is looking for volunteers for several positions. Information is posted on the the BIFHSGO website pages [here.](#)

3 - THIS MAY BE NEWS TO YOU

Volunteer at the Ottawa Family History Center

Your Newsletter Editor and at least a couple of other BIFHSGO members are volunteers at the Family History Center on Prince of Wales Drive. You

need not be a member of the LDS Church to volunteer and will work with at least one Church member experienced in the Center's operations. They find it helpful to have experienced genealogists help clients. The Center's website is at <http://www.ottawastakefhc.on.ca/>. There have been some changes in volunteer staffing levels this year and more volunteers could be used. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours a week (shifts are for 3 hrs) please contact Shirley Ann Pyefinch at shirleyann@pyefinch.net - or 613 823 8740.

Victorian London

Issue 92 of the National Archives Ancestors magazine is a special London themed issue. The article gives a taste of Lee Jackson's encyclopedic knowledge. You can see more of it in his Dictionary of Victorian London at www.victorianlondon.org, and even more so on his intriguingly titled blog, which he calls an appendix to the dictionary, at <http://catsmeatshop.blogspot.com>.

Attention Human Genetic History Buffs

John Reid reports: for those interested in their deeper roots -- more anthropology than genealogy. It's not for everyone. Here for them, via the 23andMe blog, The Spittoon, is a nice collection of technical review articles. <http://spittoon.23andme.com/2010/02/23/attention-human-genetic-history-buffs/>

Deceasedonline.com Adds Record for Cambridge, Wembley and Willesden

UK site deceasedonline.com has just added approximately 220,000 records for: Cambridge City, Gainsborough (in the county of Lincolnshire) and two cemeteries in London, Wembley and Willesden. You can do a free search without payment.

Findmypast Launches London Collection

[Findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) launched their London Collection last week. The content is mainly index information, some that's been on the site for a while, such as the City of London Burials Index. Some is new to the site. The complete list is:

- * City of London Burial Index – records from all the churches in the City of London from 1813 to 1890
- * West Middlesex Marriage Index – detailing 84,863 marriages in 61 parishes from 1538 to 1837
- * London Docklands Baptisms – comprising 407,558 baptisms for London's docklands areas 1712 to 1933
- * London and West Kent Probate Indexes – mainly detailing wills and administrations from 1750 to 1858

* The Matchworkers' Strike – listing participants of the strike of over 700 men, women and teenage boys and girls working at the Bryant and May factory in East London in 1888, the same year as the Jack the Ripper murders.

Ancestry Adds Lists of Aliens Arriving in England Between 1810 and 1869

[Ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) have added a data collection containing lists of aliens (non-British citizens) arriving in England between 1810 and 1869. These records were primarily created as a result of various acts passed by parliament to regulate immigrants and other incoming individuals.

Better Competition in UK On-Line Genealogy

Brightsolid, parent of FindMyPast.co.uk has won regulatory approval to buy Friends Reunited and Genes Reunited, with the regulator seeing the acquisition as adding a stronger competitor for Ancestry.co.uk. Read more via Chris Paton's Scottish Genealogy News and Events blog at <http://scottishancestry.blogspot.com/2010/02/brightsolid-can-complete-purchase-of.html>.

Familyrelatives.com update

The Familyrelatives.com site has recently added more than five million UK parish register records from around 60 parishes across all areas of England, plus one from Abergavenny in Wales and records from Dunblane in Perthshire, Scotland. Records range from 1538 to 1900 and are scanned and indexed from existing printed transcriptions of the originals. They cover a mixture of baptisms, marriages and burials.

Also in the collection are fully searchable sets of Phillimore Marriage Registers (transcriptions published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries) for 26 English counties, with more data expected in due course. Among the records already included are birth registers for William Shakespeare and his children, and the marriage of Mary Walpole, sister to Britain's first prime minister, Robert Walpole.

Familyrelatives also has recently added a collection of Victorian Scottish trade directories plus a collection of UK military records.

170 Years of UK Vital Records Are Now Online

Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter points out that the England and Wales BMD records have been updated on www.ancestry.co.uk. Full details are at <http://landing.ancestry.co.uk/intl/uk/bmd/>. More than 318 million names of everyone who was born, married or who died in England

and Wales between 1837 and 2005 are now fully name-searchable online for the first time on Ancestry, following a four year project in partnership with FreeBMD.

UKBMD - the new UKMFH site

Chris Paton's blog mentioned the Feb 2010 release of a new web site at www.UKMFH.com - related to UK Military Family History. Service Records, Photographs, War Diaries, Militia Rolls, Muster Rolls, Medals, Memorials etc. are just a few of the categories available as links. The web site has ties to UKBMD, set up several years ago as a means of making it easy to find all the web sites that were placing original registrars' BMD indexes online. Over the years UKBMD has grown and now has over 1,400 links to web sites with online data.

One year ago UKGDL was introduced as a companion web site to UKBMD. The aim of UKGDL is to fill the gaps between the dates collected on UKBMD by helping you find out more of the family history and inking you to web sites with all manner of online data relating to tax lists, trade directories, electoral rolls, passenger lists, old photographs etc. There are now over 1,000 links to web sites with online data on the UKGDL web site.

As with UKBMD and UKGDL, UKMFH is free to use -- although some of the web sites that they link to will charge or are subscription based.

All three sites are regularly updated to add more links.

UKBMD www.UKBMD.org.uk

UKGDL www.UKGDL.org.uk

UKMFH www.UKMFH.org.uk

Who Do You Think You Are? - NBC

Beginning Friday, 5 March 2010 at 8/7c on NBC

While it is not all UK related - Who Do You Think You Are? will take a personal look into the family stories of seven celebrities, while helping people everywhere understand what they could discover about their own family history.

Ancestors in the Attic

History Television Canada completed the season of Ancestors in the Attic on February 4 with two new half-hour episodes. This was the final showing of new episodes of Ancestors in the Attic. History Television Canada declined to commission a further series last fall. If you enjoy the type of personal investigation human interest stories featured in the

series let History Television Canada know. Go to www.history.ca/history/faq.aspx, scroll to the bottom, and leave a comment.

Some of the items in "This May be News to You" are adapted from: [Anglo-Celtic Connections](#) and other blogs. Notices of upcoming meetings that should go into the newsletter can be passed to the Webmaster or can go to Kathy at kathyw@magma.ca .

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