

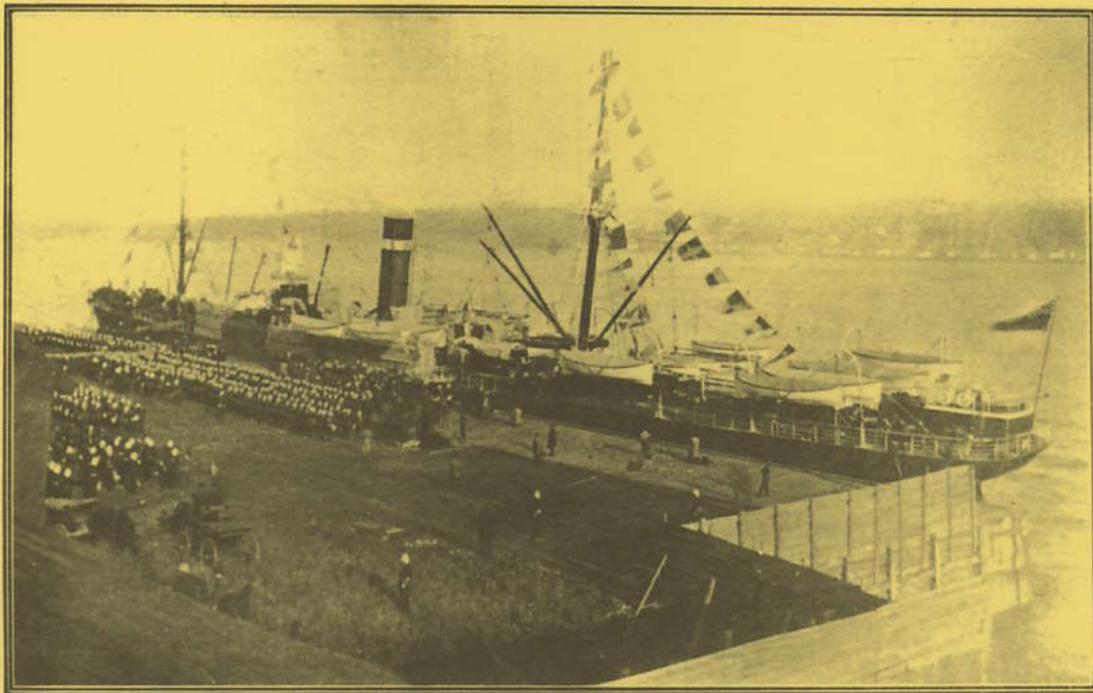


# Anglo-Celtic Roots

*Quarterly Chronicle*

*Volume 6, Number 1*

*Winter 1999*



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*British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa*  
 Founded and Incorporated in 1994 • Telephone 613 224-9868 (Recording Device)  
 Mailing Address: BIFHSGO, PO BOX 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 1N0 [CANADA]  
 Charitable Registration No. 89227 4044 RR0001  
 WEB Homepage: <http://www.cyberus.ca/~bifhsgo>

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*Cover Picture—Troops Ready to Embark. The First Contingent embarking on the Sardinia at Quebec City bound for South Africa, 30 October 1899. Artist: XXX From the National Archives Collection [C12276]*

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Winter Edition 1999

Volume 6, Number 1



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### The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally-incorporated society, and a Registered Charity (Reg. No. 1033463-50). The purpose of BIFHSGO is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into and publication of family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles.

The objectives of the Society are: to preserve, research and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family and social history for the benefit of current and future generations; and to promote genealogical research through a program of public education that teaches people how to do research and how to preserve their findings in a readily accessible form.

The activities of the Society are to: publish and disseminate genealogical research findings, as well as information on research resources and techniques; holding public meetings on family history; maintain readily accessible reference facilities; encourage volunteer participation in family history and genealogical research activities; and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership in the Society shall be available to persons interested in furthering the objectives of the Society and shall consist of anyone whose application for admission as a member has received the approval of the Board of Directors of the Society. The calendar year dues for Membership are: \$25 Individual; \$30 Family; \$20 Institutional.

Membership benefits include: the year's four editions of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; ten monthly family history programs, each of two hours' duration; a discounted Fall Conference registration fee; up to six free queries a year; discounts from publishers of family history references by citing their BIFHSGO membership and member number; friendly advice from other members; participation in a special section, the Internet Users' Group; and discounted registration for the Society's course *Tracing Your Family Roots*.

The Society works in close co-operation with the Ottawa Ontario Family History Centre, a Branch Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1017, Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa ON, K2C 3K1, tel 613 224-2231.

### Anglo-Celtic Roots

We invite readers to share family history articles, illustrations, letters, queries and similar items of interest by submitting them to *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Manuscripts should be written in the style of story-telling or letter-writing, leaving it to the editor to adjust. Articles should preferably be submitted on both paper and IBM-compatible diskette, and addressed to: The Editor, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 1N0.

Contributors of articles are asked to include a brief biographical sketch of up to 10 lines, and a passport type and size photograph. They will be invited to certify that permission to reproduce any previously copyrighted material has been acquired. Authors are encouraged to provide permission for non-profit reproduction of their articles.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO or its Officers. The Editor reserves the right to select material to meet the interest of readers, and to edit for length and content. Please enclose a self-addressed Canadian-stamped envelope (SASE) if you wish a reply or return of material. Out-of-country addressees may provide loose national stamps of equivalent value to the mailing cost, or International Reply Coupons.

### The President's Corner . . .

The 1999 Fall Conference was the best BIFHSGO conference ever in terms of numbers of participants and, according to many people, in terms of speakers and shared knowledge.

Kyle Betit amazed everyone with the depth of his knowledge of Irish genealogical sources. Kyle makes frequent trips to Ireland to do research for clients and he has personally investigated records and sources that most genealogists only read about. His message on Ireland was very positive. While some of the traditional records are not available, there are many other ways to trace your Irish ancestors and some of the most useful records are right here in Canada.

The starting point is the information you already have. But now look more closely. When did your ancestors come to Canada? Have you looked at immigration records and ships' passenger lists? Were they married in Canada? Have you seen the church register? Have you checked burial records and newspaper death notices? All of these may identify a place of origin in Ireland, a county and a townland and that is the key to tracing earlier generations.

Mariana O'Gallagher struck a responsive chord with her stories of the Irish who fled the famine only to die on Grosse Ile. Most poignant were the stories of the residents of Quebec who left the safety of their homes to help the sick and dying on Grosse Ile. A doctor's child was infected by handling her father's clothes. Within 10 days, the child was dead. Grosse Ile was not only the place where the Irish died, it was the place where many Canadians shared their sufferings. That is why Grosse Ile is now a national historic site and a place you may want to visit next summer when the grass is green again.

Another popular speaker, Gary Schroder, President of the Quebec Family History Society, says that the Montreal Branch of the Quebec National Archives has just closed for two months because they are moving to a new location in Old Montreal at 535 Viger Street, near the City Hall.

At our Conference, Gary spoke of the Salle Gagnon and the knowledgeable staff in the Montreal Municipal Library. (See his article on page 11) After the National Archives Montreal branch re-opens next year, perhaps we could organize a day trip in the spring. If enough members are interested, we could make up car pools or form a group to go by train or bus for the day to do research with Gary Schroder in Montreal.

In my last column, I mentioned a wonderful photo of a 1908 wedding in Scotland that I had received with no names. I sent a copy to cousin Bessie in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, and she has now replied. "That was a photo which I brought on my visit to Canada in the 1970s." Bessie was able to identify all the Shearons in the photo; but I am still trying to name the others. My mother used to say half a loaf is better than nothing!

Jim Shearon



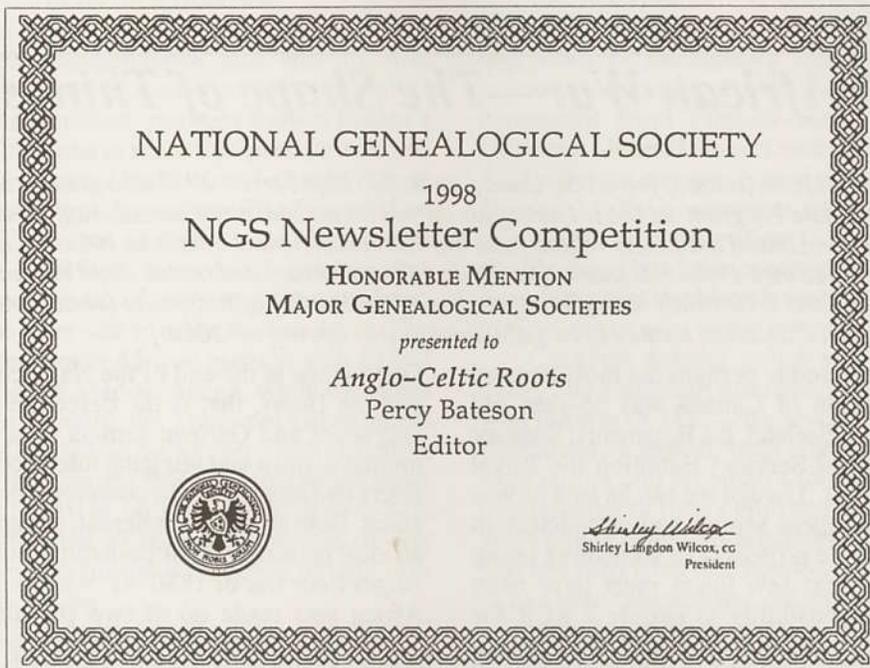
## Editorial

In July the National Genealogical Society published the results of their Newsletter Competition, a copy of which is shown below along with Honorable Mention certificate awarded to *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (ACR). Needless to say the staff of ACR were more than pleased to be awarded this honour and as editor I wish to congratulate June Coxon and May Garson for the

excellent quality and constancy of their work as well as all the other regular columnists and contributors without whose contributions this Journal would not publish. In addition many other members who provided articles also share in this award and last but not least I owe a special thanks to John Townesend without whose capable instruction and unstinting assistance ACR would simply not exist. The original certificate will be framed and hung in our new library for all to see.

Receipt of this award should, not be looked upon as an end in itself but rather as a spur to further improve the quality of ACR. In this respect I appeal to all members to consider sharing their knowledge and experiences with us all and try their hands at writing an article for publication. For my part, I have already incorporated some of the suggestions of the competition judges to improve the presentation of the Journal.

A new venture, designed to make ACR more relevant and provide researchers with ready access to articles and information, is the Index to Volume 5 which appears in the form of a four page pull-out in the centre of this Issue. I would have preferred to present this in



the form of three separate indexes; one for names of persons, one for names of places and one for articles, however I could not induce my computer program to conform. If I ever discover a way to produce separate indexes I will do so but for the time being future indexes will be in the same format as this one.

It seems appropriate that this Issue devote some space to

remembrance and even more appropriate that we remember an almost forgotten war in which Canada participated and which so shaped Canadian outlook for much of the twentieth century. I refer to the South African War or Boer War as it has become more popularly known and we were fortunate in having Brian Reid as a speaker on this subject at a special meeting held on the one hundredth anniversary to a day of

the departure of the first contingent of Canadian troops ever to leave the shores of North America. Brian gave us such an interesting and insightful description of the organizational, political and military difficulties and how they affected future Canadian developments in the two subsequent world wars that I decided to reproduce it in its entirety.

This article also seemed to fit in with the publication of the *Index to Participants of the South African War* which has just been published by the Society. Our thanks go to all the volunteers and the members of the National Archives and the Canadian War Museum for their generous and dedicated effort

Percy Bateson

## Newsletter Winners

## NGS Newsletter Competition Winners

By Russ Henderson, newsletter@ngsgenealogy.org

<b>Major Genealogical Societies</b>	
<b>FIRST PLACE</b>	
<i>Generations</i>	Marilyn R. Natchez, Editor
Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan	
<b>RUNNER-UP</b>	
<i>Der Blumenbaum</i>	Shirley J. Riemer, Editor
Sacramento German Genealogical Society	
<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b>	
<i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i>	Percy Bateson, Editor
British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa	
<i>El Coqui de Ayer</i>	Lisette Gonzalez, Editor
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Genealogical Society	
<i>Archives Tidbits</i>	Terry E. Manning, Editor
Friends of the National Archives, Southeast Region	
<i>New Mexico Genealogist</i>	Patricia Black Esterly, Editor
New Mexico Genealogical Society	
<b>County and Local Genealogical Societies</b>	
<b>FIRST PLACE</b>	
<i>Mission Oaks Genealogy Club Newsletter</i>	Elizabeth Kohler, Editor
Mission Oaks Genealogy Club	
<b>RUNNER-UP</b>	
<i>The Monmouth Connection</i>	Candy Bennett, Editor
Monmouth County Genealogical Society	
<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b>	
<i>Kindred Spirits</i>	Jane Ravenberg, Editor
Prince William County Genealogical Society	
<i>DGS Newsletter</i>	Pat Mutzabaugh, Editor
Dallas Genealogical Society	
<i>Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society News</i>	Richard Hutchinson, Editor
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society	
<b>Family Associations</b>	
<b>FIRST PLACE</b>	
<i>The Apprill Family Newsletter</i>	Doris Ann von Dammerau Gorman
The Apprill Family Association	
<b>RUNNER-UP</b>	
<i>The Times Stiddem Society Newsletter</i>	Richard L. Siedham, Editor
The Times Stiddem Society	
<b>HONORABLE MENTION</b>	
<i>Mendrell Matters</i>	Dean Leonard, Editor
Mendrell Family Association	
<i>Edmondson Family Association Bulletin</i>	Orvan David Edmondson, Editor
Edmondson Family Association	
<i>Lay of the Land</i>	Bettie Lay Rehling, Editor
Lay Family Genealogical Association	
<i>Garrett Folklore and Fact</i>	Cathy Wood Osborn, Editor
Garrett Families Association	

## The South African War—The Shape of Things to Come

BRIAN REID

*[Lieutenant Colonel Brian Reid (retired) joined the Canadian Army (Regular) in 1957 as a gunner. He was commissioned through the Officer Candidate Program in 1961. During his career he served in regimental, staff and liaison appointments in Canada, Europe and the United States. He retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 1994. He and his wife, Patricia, have resided in Kemptville since 1984. His interests include military history and travel. Reid has authored two books and several magazine articles and is currently completing studies of the Battles of Ridgeway (1866) and Leliefontein (1900) as part of a book on seven Canadian battles to be published in the Spring of 2000.]*

One hundred years ago today perhaps the most worried man in the Dominion of Canada was 35-year old warrant officer David Borland, the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR). Though we can be sure he was doing his level best to appear serene and completely in control of the situation, the prospects of something going horribly wrong in the next few hours must have been daunting. It was his responsibility to parade 2 RCR for review by the Governor General, then march the men through the streets of Quebec to the docks, embark them on the troopship and then steam off to confound Her Majesty's enemies in South Africa. Mister Borland would also have had to ensure: the baggage, rations and stores were safely loaded and secure; the men were each assigned a place to bed down; and a myriad of other details were all properly attended to. For those without experience of the army, the Colonel would have considered his duty done once he uttered the magic words; "look after that, RSM." Given the battalion had existed for no more than 10 days and its British Columbia contingent had just arrived at dawn the day before, he may be excused a twinge or two of anxiety. On the centenary of this event, I will try to explain why and how this member of Canada's tiny regular army found himself in this predicament, I will revisit the South African war of 1899 to 1902, and Canada's place in it, and I will tell you something about the men from Eastern Ontario of D Company, 2 RCR. But first, back to the big picture.

What was the South African war? Was it a war to decide who would dominate the southern part of the African continent? Was it a war fought to secure the rights of English-speaking white men groaning under the heavy heel of Boer oppression? Was it a war fought to expand the British Empire, and increase the fortunes of the City of London? The short answer is; it was all of these, and it was none of these, at least as far as Canada was concerned. For Canadians, and English-Canadians in particular, it was an opportunity for a taste of Victorian manly adventure and a chance to prove the ties to

the Empire. Indeed, the South African war was perhaps, the wild west we never had. Whatever the war was, in it we can find features, both good and bad, of the Canadian way of war.

From the time the British took possession of the Cape of

Good Hope at the end of the Napoleonic wars, the British and the Boers, that is the descendants of Dutch, French Huguenot and German settlers, had existed in a state of mutual distrust and grudging tolerance. The British and the Boers had much more in common than either would care to admit. Both could be intolerant, arrogant and rude—hardly an ideal prescription for co-habitation. After the nasty little Anglo-Boer war of 1880–81, what we understand as South Africa was made up of two British colonies, the Cape Colony and Natal, and two landlocked Boer republics, the Orange Free State or OFS and the South African Republic, otherwise known as the Transvaal.

The European populations of the colonies and the republics were made up of people from both races and, indeed, the Boers formed a majority of the Europeans in Cape Colony as well as in South Africa as a whole. Despite the inherent tensions, all still might have resolved itself in time had it not been for the discovery of gold in the Transvaal. What had been a bankrupt mini-state was transformed almost overnight into, crudely put, the Beverly hillbillies on the veldt. To exploit the riches, the Transvaal government was forced to accept a large influx of foreign, largely English-speaking workers, the "Uitlanders," who by 1899 actually outnumbered the Boer population. While the Transvaal government was quite prepared to tax the fruits of the Uitlanders' labour, it was all too aware that the Uitlanders could conceivably vote the Transvaal into the Empire. As a consequence, the privileges of Transvaal citizenship grudgingly extended to outsiders did not include the franchise. This became a cause celebre for the British, although it is not clear just how many Uitlanders would have opted for Transvaal citizenship.

While the British government claimed redress of the grievances of the Uitlanders as its own issue, some very influential people inside and outside the government had other fish to fry. Opinions vary on the relevance of these various factors, depending, I suppose, on how deeply one subscribes to the "perfidious Albion" school of international affairs. Whatever

their relative importance, these factors included: the strategic importance of South Africa to the British; the declining performance of the British economy and hence a desire, perhaps a need, for the tax revenue from the Transvaal mines; the "imperial imperative"—bringing enlightenment

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**For Canadians it was an opportunity for a taste of Victorian manly adventure and a chance to prove the ties to the Empire. Indeed, the South African war was perhaps, the wild west we never had.**

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to what many saw as degraded semi-savages; and an urge to avenge the humiliation of the first Boer war.

The Boers' motivation was more straight forward—a wish to retain their independence and way of life. Unfortunately the Transvaal Government believed that its diplomatic influence and military prowess rivalled Britain's and convinced itself that one or more European powers and perhaps the United States would join in on their side. If there was a catalyst, it was the Jameson raid into The Transvaal on 27 December 1895. From then on, things went from bad to worse, until in mid-1899 both sides concluded war was inevitable. It was now a case of preparing for hostilities, while waiting for the other side to make the first move. The British reinforced their South African garrison with 10,000 troops from India and the Mediterranean, while the Boers stockpiled munitions. Finally, the Transvaal Government expelled the Uitlanders and on 9 October 1899 issued an insulting ultimatum that warned that if a satisfactory reply was not received by 5:00 p.m. on 11 October, "it will, with great regret, be compelled to regard the action of Her Majesty's Government as formal declaration of war." No such reply was forthcoming.

Few Canadians, in and out of government, had any real knowledge of South Africa and the issues involved. Instead events were viewed with a combination of ignorance and imperial zeal that manifested itself as wide-spread support for the British cause. There was a barrage of pro-British propaganda, although it probably was a case of preaching to the choir, and English-Canada was swept up in an imperial tidal wave. In Quebec, where the example of small non-English speaking nations being bullied by the British did not go unnoticed, there was some support for the British cause, although it stopped well short of sending troops to South Africa. As in the UK, a vocal minority across Canada was opposed to the war.

Nowhere was the opposition to sending troops to South Africa more influential than within the Quebec wing of Prime Minister Laurier's liberal party. In July 1899 the Governor General neatly summed up the political landscape when he advised Sir Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, that Canada on the whole was enthusiastic, but that Laurier would cite the costs involved, rather than the lack of support in his Quebec power base, as justification for not sending Canadian troops to South Africa. While Canada had not offered an official contingent, there had been a number of offers of troops, the majority coming from commanding officers of militia regiments. On 3 October the details of a leaked department of militia and defence plan for a Canadian contingent appeared in the press. On the same date a telegram was received from the Colonial Office thanking Canada for its offer of volunteers and suggesting that Canada should provide four independent companies each 125 men strong for service in South Africa. The wire trumped Laurier's too expensive excuse by offering to pay all the bills once the troops arrived in South Africa. If the wire was intended to goad the government into action, it failed. Laurier publicly stated that there were no plans to send Canadians to South Africa and left for a visit to the

Chicago World's Fair.

The outbreak of war saw Laurier scurrying back to Ottawa for a hastily called cabinet meeting on the 12th. The objections of the Quebec liberals notwithstanding, the government was faced with overwhelming demands for a contingent from English-Canada. Two days later the Governor General wired London: "My government offers 1,000 infantry on organization proposed in your telegram of October 3." The government, which had been adamant in its opposition to participation in the war, was prepared to double the size of the contingent—eight companies, not four. Now that the liberals had flip-flopped onto the high ground, let us turn to the state of Canada's defences.

Canadian defence policy was based on the mistaken belief that Canadian militiamen, not British regulars, had won the war of 1812—the so-called militia myth—which had powerful appeal, both emotionally and practically. A local militia unit provided a focus for community spirit—a combination of rotary club and volunteer fire department, and a militia commission conveyed considerable prestige. It was not surprising that many members of Parliament were or had been commanding officers of militia regiments. This, of course, perpetuated the myth, and kept the tiny permanent force, with a role of training the militia, in its place. Rather than use the defence budget for military purposes, successive governments used the militia, with its presence in virtually every community in the seven provinces, to spread political largesse. The fiscal mismanagement and abuse of process perpetrated by both liberal and conservative governments

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**My government offers 1,000 infantry on organization proposed in your telegram of October 3—The Earl of Minto, Governor General**

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must have been very frustrating to the series of British officers seconded to Canada as the General Officer Commanding the Canadian Militia. Any general, who was not completely comatose, was destined to cross swords with the incestuous cabal of militia officers and politicians, especially if he was so naive as to place military requirements ahead of politics. Three decades after the Fenian raids had

exposed the militia's shortcomings, Canada's army was capable of little more than parading and strike-breaking.

There was another military force in Canada, the North West Mounted Police. The Mounties provided the only "military presence" in the presentday Alberta and Saskatchewan, and despite 25 years spent policing the territories, continued to train as mounted infantry. Indeed, the force could field more mounted troops than the regular army. The mounted police was in a strong position to demand a role in any Canadian contingent.

Now that the decision was taken, how was the contingent to be raised? Today's National Defence Act authorizes the creation of a "Special Force," recruited for a limited period, a feature lacking in the militia act of the time. Indeed the militia act made no provision at all for service outside Canada. To get around that technicality, the troops would be considered to be members of the British regular army upon their arrival in South Africa. As for recruiting the companies, an obvious solution was to mobilize troops from eight militia regiments. Instead, and despite the established defence policy, it was decided to create units of the regular

force Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, probably to minimize militia in-fighting and to avoid angering voters with a federal election due in 1900.

On the 14th orders went out to recruit the non-commissioned members of the eight companies. One company was from Nova Scotia, another was shared between PEI and New Brunswick, two were from Quebec and three from Ontario. The last company was split between Manitoba and British Columbia. The great lone land between Brandon and the Crow's Nest Pass was excluded. The Permanent Force provided a cadre of about 15 percent of the men. While Canadian popular lore has it that selected

recruited in Eastern Ontario, that is in Military Districts (MD) 3, headquartered in Kingston, and 4, headquartered here in Ottawa. The original planned strength of the company was four officers and 121 non-commissioned members. In fact, D Company consisted of four officers and 126 men while an additional Canadian, private W Doxee from Campbellford, Ontario, enlisted in South Africa. Why the discrepancy? Well, the first contingent was made up of more than just the battalion. Among the others were four officers to be attached to the British army. One of these was Lieutenant Colonel Charles Drury who commanded the Artillery School in Kingston. Two permanent force gunners,

his batman and groom, were included in the D Company list while two militiamen from the Cobourg area found themselves performing the same duties for Lieutenant Colonel Sam Hughes, the outspoken conservative defence critic, who, much to the relief of the Minister, accompanied the contingent, albeit on a unofficial basis. As for the rest of the men, 63 were from Ottawa, that is 21 from the Governor General's Foot Guards, 35 from the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles (now the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa), five from the Princess Louise's Dragoon Guards and two from the 2nd Field



Volunteers from Prince Edward Island. Courtesy National Archives Collection. Negative C7983

militia units provided drafts, the companies included members from as many militia units as possible.

Let's look at D Company from Eastern Ontario for an example of the policy in action. Contrary to what Sandra Gwyn wrote in her highly entertaining book, *A Very Private Capital*, D Company was not based on the Governor General's Foot Guards. Indeed half of the company was not from Ottawa at all.

First, a word about demographics, although these data are for the first contingent as a whole. The men were predominantly Canadian-born (71%), protestant (80%) and between 20 and 29 years of age (85%). As for their civilian employment, three-quarters were split almost evenly between white and blue collar occupations, 16% worked in service industries and nine percent were farmers, loggers and the like. The majority were of British stock although seven French-Canadian and two German names—Schwitzer and Wendt—appear on the D Company roll.

Now, to be a bit more specific. The company was

Battery. Another ten were drawn from: the 41st Brockville Rifles; the 42nd Lanark and Renfrew; the 56th Leeds and Grenville; and the 59th Stormont and Dundas battalions. Twenty-nine were from MD 4 and, last but not least, were nine regulars, including company colour sergeant Thompson, of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry. The company was made up of men from 18 different units—not a good start for an organization that depends on cohesion.

There was really only one choice for command of the contingent—Lieutenant Colonel William Dillon Otter, the Commander of Military District 2 in Toronto. On 17 October he was offered command of the contingent, still made up of independent companies, and accepted by return mail on the 18th. On the same day, the government offered the British a battalion commanded by Otter instead of the original eight companies. With the chips down, the government relied heavily on the Permanent Force for the officers of the first contingent. Of the 41 officers in the battalion, which was accepted by the British on October 21,

13 were regulars, while another was a British regular officer posted to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa

On 30 October the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry marched through the streets of Quebec city and filed on board the troop ship, SS Sardinian, a converted cattle boat. It was a battalion in name only, capable of little more than marching without getting out of step too often. Otter estimated that a third of the men had no prior military service and fully half were no better than recruits. This was as true for D Company as any of the others. For example, Private Richard Rowland Thompson was listed as a member of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton rifles. However, the Ottawa citizen of 18 October 1899 stated, "the recruit Thompson is a medical student from Buffalo." It goes on to note that he attempted to enlist at Toronto but was sent to Ottawa as he had a number of friends in this city. As for his officers, the colonel believed that they were the weakest part of the unit. It all seems to have been rather too hurried and amateurish, but it worked out in the end.

On 2 November, with the Sardinian barely out of Canadian waters and already nicknamed the sardine because of the cramped living conditions, the government offered a second contingent of four squadrons of mounted riflemen and three batteries of field artillery. The British politely thanked Canada, but declined the offer unless the situation was to change for the worse. In December, and smarting under the humiliation of the triple defeats of Magersfontein, Colenso and Colesberg in black week, the British accepted the offer, adding; "it is indispensable that men should be trained and good shots and should bring own horses." The call for trained men caused some difficulty, until it was decided this could include men who could ride and shoot, rather than drill.

The source of the four squadrons was the cause of some dissension. On the one hand, the militia felt that it deserved at least three of the squadrons, plus of course, the command positions in the regimental structure. On the other hand, the Mounted Police, supported by the Governor General, wanted a larger chunk of the action than one squadron. Eventually it was decided to provide two battalions, each only two squadrons strong, one battalion drawn from the militia cavalry and the other from the North West Mounted Police. The tactical limitations of a two squadron battalion were of little concern to a government that had finessed itself out of another controversy.

Like the first contingent, the units were extensions of the Permanent Force and the NWMP. C, D and E Batteries were units of The Royal Canadian Field Artillery, while the 1st Battalion, CMR was based on the regular force Royal Canadian Dragoons, and The 2nd Battalion on the Mounted

Police. For convenience I will call the 1st battalion the RCD and the 2nd battalion, the CMR. The government drew even more heavily on regular officers than was the case in the first contingent, 9 of 20 gunners and 8 of 19 dragoons, while 13 CMR officers came from the Mounties.

Command of the three units reflected their permanent force antecedents. Lieutenant Colonel Francois Lessard of the RCD was appointed to command the 1st Battalion. He was already in South Africa, attached to the cavalry division and would be in on the Relief of Kimberley. Mounted Police Commissioner Lawrence Herchmer would command the 2nd Battalion. He had served in the British army as a young man, but had seen no active service then or since. He was rather keen on leading the force into action before he retired. In 1896 he had asked Laurier to send the Mounties to the Sudan—the idea, like the force, went nowhere—and in December he had submitted an application to raise three companies of mounted rifles made up of picked police, ex-



Three Canadian Rough Riders [Courtesy The Canadian War Museum]

police and cowboys. Command of the artillery went to a regular gunner, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Drury. Like Lessard, he had travelled to South Africa with the first contingent. Drury had seen action at Magersfontein with Methuen's 1st division. In an effort to jump start cohesion the Department of Militia and Defence directed that troops and sections should be recruited from selected cavalry regiments and field artillery batteries. In the west, the CMR was recruited at Mounted Police Posts in the present day Alberta and Saskatchewan and formed around a strong NWMP cadre. While the regulars formed a troop in each of the two RCD squadrons, the gunners mixed regulars and reserves throughout the batteries. The mobilization order was issued in late December, and the first ship carrying D and E Batteries sailed from Halifax on 20 January, to be followed a week later by the CMR. An outbreak of typhoid

among the crew of the troopship delayed the departure of the RCD and C Battery until 21 February.

The mobilization of the second contingent went far more smoothly, in part because of the extra time taken, and the more closely focussed recruiting. The units were able to go into action shortly after their arrival, perhaps due to the insistence on being able to ride and shoot.

The next contingent officially was not even a Canadian unit. Lord Strathcona, the Canadian High Commissioner in the UK, had offered to provide the British with a regiment of two, later increased to three, squadrons of mounted rifles recruited in western Canada at his own expense. As he was paying all the bills, the Canadian government readily agreed to assist him in raising, equipping and transporting the unit to South Africa. Superintendent Sam Steele of the North West Mounted Police was appointed commanding officer, because of his reputation, Herchmer had described him as the best man in Canada, and because he was owed big time. since he had been named to command the CMR, until Herchmer pulled rank on him. The regiment, named Strathcona's Horse, was recruited and organized in the depths of a western Canadian winter and sailed for South Africa on St Patrick's day 1900. It says much about the Department of Militia and Defence that the most sensibly organized Canadian unit of the first half of the war was conceived and raised by a private citizen.

By the early spring of 1900 the Canadians most of us associate with the South African war, the men of Paardeberg, the Relief of Mafeking and the desperate rear guard action at Leliefontein, had sailed to South Africa. Two different approaches had been used, first a call for volunteers from as wide a base as possible, and second, a more directed approach that targeted specific audiences in terms of both location and skills. Both worked, although, in the case of the first contingent, only perhaps because the battalion spent six weeks training on the lines of communication. There were inequalities in pay, soldiers in the first contingent were paid much less than the others, and Canadians were the lowest paid colonials overall. The most serious failing, though, was in the terms of service. The troops had enlisted for six months, with the possibility of extension to a year. Given the time spent on ship and in training, this limited the time on campaign to nine months for the RCR, CMR, and D and E Batteries, seven months for the RCD and C Battery, and six months for the Strathcona's. The government largely ignored the troops in South Africa, except to take credit for their successes in an election year. As a result the units soon were sadly under-strength, for example the Royal Canadian Dragoons had shrunk to 160 effectives out of an establishment of 375 after six months in the field. What few realized at the time, and later, was that these were the last truly Canadian units raised for the war.

With the war seemingly won, efforts in early 1901 were devoted to recruiting Canadians to serve in Baden-Powell's South African Constabulary. Given the publicity accorded Canadian exploits and the very liberal rates of pay, interest was high. The officers included Sam Steele, who commanded B Division of the Constabulary as a full colonel and a number of other veterans. Over 100 returned soldiers decided they were not quite ready to settle down in Canada yet, and signed on for three years in the ranks. The



Canadians in South Africa [Courtesy The Canadian War Museum]

contingent sailed in April, but unfortunately was split up on its arrival, rather than being employed as Canadians. Another unit, made up primarily of members of the second contingent who opted to stay in South Africa, was the Canadian Scouts. The Canadian reputation was so high that the unit's commanding officer, GAT Howard of North West rebellion fame, was able to convince Kitchener to pay a premium in terms of rank for their services. In January 1901 the unit mustered a major, a captain, four lieutenants, a regimental sergeant major, two quartermaster sergeants, five sergeant majors, 92 sergeants and five troopers, 109 in all. While the inflated rank structure did not last long, the unit did retain its Canadian character and its status as an elite unit throughout the war.

When the Canadian government had raised the possibility of providing another contingent in early 1901, the British, with the war seemingly won, had replied that there was no further need for troops. In November the British reversed themselves and requested another contingent, this time a four squadron mounted rifle regiment that would be titled the 2nd Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Evans, who had gained a reputation as the best Canadian commander of mounted troops after he had replaced Herchmer in command of the CMR, would command the Regiment which would be raised as a unit of the British, not Canadian army, with the British paying all the bills from the start. In previous contingents, the Canadian government had paid the bills until the troops arrived in South Africa. Instead of the one year enlistment that had caused some embarrassment, men

would sign on for the duration. When the government realized that there would be surplus space on the troopship, it offered to raise another two squadrons, still at British expense. The resulting six-squadron regiment, along with the accompanying 10th Canadian Field Hospital, sailed for South Africa in January 1902. The unit's six squadrons nearly matched the combined seven Squadrons of the RCD, CMR, and Strathconas. It included a healthy proportion of veterans, two thirds of the officers and 22 percent of the troops. In its three months in action, the Regiment saw considerable action and did very well. It is unfortunate that its accomplishments are nearly forgotten. The Canadian government accepted a proposal to raise another 2000 troops on the same basis as the 2nd Regiment CMR. The contingent was raised in April 1902 and organized into four battalions, the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Regiments, Canadian Mounted Rifles, each of four squadrons. That these, the most tactically balanced Canadian units, arrived after the shooting was over, sends a symbolic message about Canada's approach to the war.

Let us take a look at the record. Canadians had adapted easily to the conditions on the veldt and quickly mastered the tactics needed in an environment so different from that envisioned in the training manuals. There was little to fault them as fighters and a number of officers who would achieve high rank in the Great War had shown their mettle. It was not all good news: Canadians were acknowledged as the most accomplished at living off the land, looting in other words. Not only did they loot from the Boers, they eagerly stole from anyone else who was handy, and on one memorable occasion, the CMR stole their brigade commander's horse. Too many officers and NCOs were indifferent disciplinarians and leaders, there were incidents of drunkenness, insubordination and worse, that makes the Airborne Regiment look like the Vienna Boys Choir. Many observers, including Rudyard Kipling, remarked on the foul language that passed for normal Canadian conversation; and Canadian mounted officers were considered tactically inferior to their comrades. Still, Canadians had little reason to feel inferior. After having been constantly told, in the haughtiest of terms, that no colonial, no matter how adept, could possibly equal the standards of the British regulars, the reality of South Africa provided a boost to Canadian self-confidence. The notion began to grow that, come the next

war, Canadians would fight in a Canadian division.

Before I sum up, we will take one last look at D Company, which suffered casualties of six killed in action or died of wounds, three dead from disease and 13 wounded. As well, 53 men were stricken by fever at one time or the other and 42 men were evacuated to the United Kingdom as a result of wounds or disease. The majority of these did not return to South Africa, but were sent on to Canada and discharged. For most of its tour D Company must have operated at about half strength. The men were tired, filthy, ragged, lousy, hungry and physically run down most of the time. They trudged across the veldt carrying 60 pounds of equipment, they choked down dry hard tack and greasy bully beef and swilled polluted water, they slept under the stars and chased the Boers from Paardeberg Drift to Pretoria and beyond and, by the way, won every battle they fought and all for 50 cents a day. No one in D Company got a medal for his gallantry, in fact 2 RCR was the only Canadian unit that fought in South Africa that failed to even recommend a non-commissioned member for a gallantry award, although private Richard Rowland Thompson, the medical student from Buffalo mentioned earlier, received one of the four scarves crocheted by Queen Victoria. To the end of their days, they were fiercely proud of what they accomplished. Today's soldiers could do far worse than try to meet the very high standard set by D Company.

After the war the British army engaged in an orgy of self-flagellation and reform that would not be equalled until the post-Vietnam era in the United States. In Canada, it was a different matter. The absence of any war aim on the part of the government other than to win the next election was and is very Canadian. We left strategic thought and the development of organizations and tactics to the British, a situation that would persist for another five decades. If the war provided a dose of reality, although few could have realized that a butcher's bill that averaged less than 10 dead a month would seem insignificant within two decades. One can argue that some false lessons, such as the superiority of amateurs over professionals, reinforced the "militia myth." However, training became more realistic and the need for discipline was recognized. The order of battle was expanded to include units of engineers, signal corps, army service corps, ordnance corps and the corps of guides. The foundation of a modern army had been laid. ■

## Did Your Ancestor Fight in the South African War?

In conjunction with the one hundredth anniversary of Canada's entry into the South African War, the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) has published a 160 page book entitled *Index to Canadian Service Records of the South African War (1899-1901) held in the National Archives*.

The alphabetical index of some 6,000 Canadian men who participated in the South African War or Boer War, as it is often called, lists the surname, given name, regimental number, regiment, volume number of the National Archives record and the number of the microfilm reel on which you can see the service file.

In addition to the service records of the men who served in the war, the book also contains an index of names of men who served in the South African Constabulary whose records are held in South Africa.

The book also contains instructions on how to consult and obtain copies of both sets of records, a short history of the war by Cameron Pulsifer, Historian, Canadian War Museum with recommendations for further reading, and the names and the citations, as far as known, of the four Canadian participants awarded the Victoria Cross.

The book sells for \$10 plus \$3 postage and can be ordered from BIFHSGO, Box 38026, Ottawa ON K2C 3Y7 ■

## The Irish Featured at BIFHSGO's Conference'99

JUNE COXON

*The Irish* was the theme of BIFHSGO's Annual Fall Conference which attracted 205 people. "It was the largest number of paid attendees we've ever had," Jim Heal happily announced a few weeks later at the society's regular monthly meeting in October.



Dr Marianne Scott welcoming conference attendees

Held at the National Library of Canada September 24-26, the conference offered a multitude of choices for family historians. Dr. Marianne Scott, National Librarian, welcomed conference attendees with "..... As Canada's legal deposit library, we are pleased to receive the full range of genealogical publications prepared by societies such as BIFHSGO as well as by individual genealogists and family historians....." She also pointed out that 30 percent of the National Library's on-site clients are genealogists.

Keynote speaker, Kyle Betit, of Salt Lake City, Utah, spoke numerous times throughout the two-day event. He gave the Don Whiteside Lecture on Friday evening, speaking about *Finding the Place of Origin of Your Ancestors in Ireland*. Other Betit sessions were: *Griffith's Evaluation of Ireland*, *Using the Internet for Irish Research*, *Irish Estate Papers and Wills*, and *What's New in Irish Records*.

Presentations geared to Irish research included one by Gary Schroder, president of the Quebec Family History Society, on *Irish Records in Montreal*. Marianna O'Gallagher, a former a history and geography teacher who has been sharing her knowledge of Irish roots for more than 25 years, spoke about *Grosse Ile —An Irish Island*. She was also the Saturday evening banquet speaker.

Those looking for relatives in other countries were not forgotten. *Doing English Research*, *Finding Your Scottish Ancestors*, and *Searching In Wales* were presented by John Sayers, John Hay, and David Jeanes, respectively, while

more general themes included Bob Dawes' *Computers in Genealogy*, and *Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid* by Keith Hanton.

Margaret Burwell's two-part talk on *Creating Your Personal Genealogy Home Page on the Internet* covered why you might want to publish your family tree and related information. She suggested that you might use the server space already likely allocated to you by your Internet Service Provider, or one of several other server alternatives. "Whether your Website is simple or more elaborate you'll require equal attention in two areas. First, the use of the HTML conventions in writing the Website's code; second, attention to such ethical matters as copyright," she said. Burwell also provided her audience with helpful handouts which covered her presentation.

Other sessions included an explanation of Family History Resources at the National Library of Canada (NLC) by Mary Bond, Senior Reference Librarian at the NLC; *Genealogy and Military Collections at the National Archives of Canada* by Mary Munk, Genealogical Consultant, NLC; *Home Children History* by David and Kay Lorente; a demonstration of "Family Tree Maker" by computer and family history hobbyist Doug Hoddinott; and a slide show and presentation of *The Master Genealogist* by Mike More, former chair, Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society. The ever-popular Marketplace was



Keynote Speaker Kyle J Betit

also a feature of the conference.

Conference dates for the year 2000 have been set for September 22-24. When your year 2000 calendar arrives reserve those dates for more inspiring days of genealogy discovery. ©

## Gleanings from the National Archives of Canada

MARY M. NASH

[The eighth in a series of descriptions of selected pamphlets and brochures from the Catalogue of Publications in the Public Archives of Canada, published in 1931 and commonly known as the Casey catalogue. The numbers at the beginning of each entry refer to their numbers in the Catalogue. The Catalogue and the materials described in it may be consulted in the Special Collections Reading Room on the fourth floor of the National Library at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa.]

Note for those interested in South African War materials: The Casey catalogue contains quite a few items on this topic. These are the numbers in Casey II: 2458, 2551-2567, 2730 and 5445.

**Casey II—Gaetz, Leonard (Rev.), Alberta, NWT. Report of six years' experience of a farmer in the Red Deer District—Ottawa, 1892, 31 pages plus maps. Published by the Dept of Agriculture of the Government of Canada, Ottawa: printed by S. E. Dawson, Printer to the Queen's most excellent Majesty.**

This former Methodist minister, forced to give up his ministry due to ill health, took up farming in the Red Deer region of Alberta and appeared before the Select Standing Committee of Agriculture and Colonization. He told the committee that he saw great potential for mining in the region. He talked about southern Alberta being suitable for grain and ranching; and northern Alberta, around Red Deer, the garden of Alberta, good for cattle with plenty of water but lacking in timber. He brought grain samples to show the Committee and suggested a vigorous immigration policy for the North West to beat out the competition from the US and central America. Coal, beef and railways were said to be the answer and the Experimental Farm in Ottawa was said to be of great value to the development of crops and farming methods. After the presentation, Committee members questioned Mr. Gaetz and answers are recorded such as, there were at that time no grist mills in the district. He has high praise for the ability of women to survive and work in the district, saying: "A woman who cannot do as much as a man and a half is not much of a woman" and he adds: "I am worth little, but my wife is worth ten times as much as I am." The appendix contains a copy of the NWT School Laws and the Timber regulations.

**Casey II - 3764, 3765 and 3766. Opportunities in Alberta, 1910. Extracts from Heaton's Annual. Heaton's Agency, Toronto. Copyright by Ernest Heaton, Toronto. 32 pages.**

This is laid out as an ABC of everything one would want to know about Alberta, in a nutshell. 'A' stands for Agriculture and sub-topics here include the Agricultural College, Barley, Beekeeping and Cattle. Agricultural lands are sub-divided into central Alberta, cultivable areas and Dominion lands with a discussion of homestead registrations. Under Agricultural Land Announcements it mentions Alberta farm lands with reference to the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Co, Alberta Securities Ltd., Bush and Co and CPR irrigated lands.

The alphabetic divisions continue with Finance, Fisheries, Mining with a sub-division of Brick Clay and under Publications there is the sub-topic of government publications. Sports are sub-divided into Hunting and Game Laws, further sub-divided into Bag limit, Export, Hunting etc Under Townsites the CPR townsites are mentioned.

The publication concludes with an alphabetic list (and some pictures) of towns with populations over 400 in the province. As an example, Gleichen, now a ghost town, had a population of 600 in 1910. It was on the CPR line, 55 miles E of Calgary and had 2 hotels, an elevator with a capacity of 30,000 bushels, 3 lumber yards and livery stables. Stated opportunities were for a flour and feed mill, creamery, a lawyer, and a dentist.

Opportunities in BC for 1911 (72 pp) and for Ontario for 1910 (72 pp) are bound in with the Alberta volume. **Casey II - 5485. The Houseworker in Canada, opportunities for success, work and wages, where to go and what to take. Issued by Direction of the Hon Robert Forke, Minister of Immigration and Colonization. Ottawa, 1928, 25 pages.**

This publication was advice to British women coming to work as domestics in Canada in the 1920s. It begins with a description of Canada and describes the demand for houseworkers. The difference between working in the city and a country home is outlined as well as the hours of duty. The writer notes that housework in Canada is lighter than in the UK due to fewer fires because of the convenience of central heating and the availability of washing machines.

The demand for houseworkers in various provinces, together with an indication of wages is noted. In the Maritimes a cook could expect \$18 to \$35 per month and a maid could get \$25 per month. In Quebec a good cook-general would get \$20 to \$45 per month and in Ontario wages were slightly higher, the same job getting \$25 to \$45 per month. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta the wages ranged from \$18 to \$30 in the country and \$20 to \$35 in the cities. In BC employment was slightly more difficult to obtain because oriental males were often hired rather than inexperienced females but it was attractive as a place to work due to the similarities of climate with Britain.

The publication goes on to discuss passage assistance, emigration forms and regulations, the medical examination, women officers and conductresses, the trip and what to take. On the latter topic the advice was not to take too much and not to pack the goods in tin trunks since these tended to bend out of shape.

One hundred and twelve (112) pounds of luggage was carried free on the British railways and steamships would accommodate 20 cubic feet of baggage for each passenger in first and second class and 15 cubic feet for third class passengers. Settlers' effects which could be brought in duty free included most household items as well as wearing apparel. Suitable clothing was felt to be warm but not heavy, work clothing including aprons and no heavy underwear was

advised because of the central heating.

The exchange rate at this time was given as £1 equivalent to \$4.86.

Travelers were advised as to who and who not to speak to; and not to go into places of amusement with strangers.

The section on advice on arrival in Canada outlined embarkation procedures and advised that meals en route on the trains were expensive and that the cheapest was the lunch basket available from the Immigration Building in the port

of arrival.

Hotels were discussed with the Canadian women's hostels offering free accommodation to arrivals for limited periods. It was important to make the right sort of friends and social opportunities were recommended such as the YWCA and the Catholic Women's League.

The publication concludes with advice as to whom to write to if the traveller should be in any difficulty, a table of distances in Canada and a few points deemed to be worth remembering complete the publication. ©

## *Public Library's Genealogist-in-Residence Program a Huge Success*

JUNE COXON

A new program at the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) has reinforced the suspicion that there's a growing interest in genealogy, and delighted many local residents as well as library staff.

Last Fall the OPL introduced a program untried in any other Canadian public library. They hired Alison Hare as a Genealogist-In-Residence for a two-month period. The program proved so popular that by the time I interviewed her on 25 October her time was fully booked.

As genealogist-in-residence she was available, during October and November, to answer genealogical questions from her 3rd floor office. The way it worked was people wanting help with their family history search scheduled time to meet with Alison when she'd advise them about their questions or problems. It was similar to the library's Internet tutorial program.

As part of her genealogist-in-residence role Alison also took part in a lecture series. This aspect of her job took her to most of the OPL's branch libraries where she spoke about genealogy for beginners. The free lecture series included topics such as "How to Start Your Family Tree", "In Your Ancestor's Footsteps: Basic Sources for Genealogy", and "Genealogy on the Internet". She was pleased with the turnout for the lectures. "They attracted many more people than expected," she pointed out. For instance, 30 people were on hand to hear her speak at the Carlingwood branch when only about 15 people were expected. Other branch libraries drew equally impressive crowds: South, 28; Alta Vista, 26; West, 23, and St. Laurent, 10.

"By the end of the two months I will have given 69 one-hour interviews with people and 10 lectures," noted Alison. The first talk she gave at the Main Library attracted 45

people, 77 attended a later one.

"If there's enough demand for it the program might return this year," noted Diana Hall, reference librarian responsible for genealogy at OPL, "perhaps with a genealogist-in-residence who specializes in French Canadian genealogy." Meanwhile, there will soon be another aid for family history buffs. By the time this article goes to print the Main branch of OPL expects to have one computer dedicated to genealogy, which will include seven CD ROMs and selected websites. For further information about this, call the library's reference department at 236-0301 extension 6.

Alison was well qualified for the genealogist-in-residence job. A journalist by profession, she had been delving into genealogy as a hobby for about 18 years before she made genealogy a profession. "It's been my prime job for the past few years," she says. In addition to personal experience and an obvious passion for the subject Alison is a Certified Genealogical Record Specialist (CGRS) a qualification she earned from the Board for Certification of Genealogists in the United States. She specializes in Ontario research.

A member of BIFHSGO since 1998, Alison also belongs to the OGS and has been editor of their publication, *Ottawa Branch News* since 1997.

Although it's impossible to take advantage of Alison's expertise at the library now, you can see her privately. Unlike the free service offered when she was genealogist-in-residence, she must charge the usual professional researcher's fee. Of course you could always call the library ( at 236-0301, ) and ask to have her return as writer-in-residence again next year. ©

### **Ontario Genealogical Society—Seminar 2000**

Seminar 2000 will be held May 12-14, 2000 in the Ottawa Congress Centre, Ottawa, Ontario. The theme of the Seminar will be *Migration Mosaic: Those who came, Those who stayed, Those who left*. There will be 40 speakers offering a series of 8 workshops and 45 seminars in five concurrent sessions. In addition there will be a Family History Competition, a Wall of Ancestors, a Marketplace and a Computer/Research Room. For detailed information contact: OGS Seminar 2000, Merivale Postal Outlet, PO Box 65087, Nepean ON K2G 5Y3. Or e-mail <ogsottawa@cyberus.ca>, or web site <<http://www.cyberus.ca/~ogsottawa/sem2000.htm>> Note there will be no Gene-O-Rama in 2000.

## *The Montreal Municipal Library: "Salle Gagnon"*

GARY SCHRODER

[Reprinted from *Connections: The Journal of the Quebec Family History Society* © 1996 QFHS]

The Salle Gagnon, located in the main branch of the Montreal Municipal Library, has one of the finest genealogical collections in North America. After many millions of dollars spent on renovations, the main branch of the Montreal Municipal Library, and more important to genealogists, the Salle Gagnon reopened its doors to the public in April, 1996.

**Location:** The Salle Gagnon is located on the bottom floor of the Montreal Municipal library, at 1210 Sherbrooke Street East, Montreal, QC across the street from Lafontaine Park, near the Sherbrooke Metro station.

**Hours:** It is recommended you confirm hours of operation by contacting the Montreal Municipal Library. At the time of writing this article, the hours were as follows: Monday, to Thursday 9:00 am. to 10:00 pm. Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Closed, Saturday and Sunday

**Ambiance and Decor:** It has been re-painted, has new carpets, newly varnished chairs, tables and bookshelves and freshly painted microfilm and microfiche cabinets. The former lunchroom of the library has been taken over by The Salle Gagnon for its microfilm and microfiche machines. There is also a new arrangement of tables and chairs which make the new Salle Gagnon much more comfortable for research.

**Staff:** The members of The Salle Gagnon Library team led by their energetic Director, Daniel Olivier, have always been extremely courteous and helpful to the public. If you have any questions or problems, the staff will be happy to help you in English or French. The staff regrets that they cannot respond to written requests for genealogical research. You must visit the library yourself or hire a genealogist to assist you.

**Finding Aids:** The old card index to books has been replaced by the Merlin Computer System which appears to be relatively easy to use if you have a slight knowledge of French. The finding aids to microfilms and microfiche are to be found in the traditional red binders of The Salle Gagnon. They are very easy to use and even the neophyte family historian will have no difficulty in finding the correct microfilm or microfiche.

**Machines:** Photo-copier, 2 Microfiche Viewers, 6 Microfilm Readers, 2 Microfilm/Microfiche Reader-Printers, and 1 CD-ROM Player

The City of Montreal has always placed its library system on a low priority as compared with other major North American cities. The Salle Gagnon needs more viewers and especially reader-printers so that the hundreds of people who use The Salle Gagnon each week will have access to their magnificent collections.

### **The Salle Gagnon Library Holdings:**

The following is only a partial list to give some idea of the variety of their genealogical holdings that relate, not only to Quebec, but also to the United States and Europe.

**Books:** Over 15,000 on site with a further 35,000 located in

a warehouse which can be brought to The Salle Gagnon on short notice. The Salle Gagnon has purchased nearly every book that relates to genealogy in Quebec that has been published in Canada during the past 25 years as well as thousands of books that relate to family history outside Quebec.

**Quebec Marriage Indexes:** These include the following large marriage indexes which contain over a million marriages: Loiselle, Pontbriand, Houle, Fabien, Drouin, etc.  
**Quebec Index to Statistical Returns of Marriage and Death:—1926–1991**

**Quebec Statistical Returns of Marriage Registrations:—1926–1991**

**Quebec Censuses:—1825–1901**

**Quebec Parish Registers:** All Catholic Registers prior to 1900 and many Non-Catholic Registers prior to 1900.

**Montreal:** Computer printout from the Notre Dame Des Neiges Cemetery of all persons buried in plots from the first burial in 1855 to 1988.

**Ontario:** Index to Civil Registrations of Births 1869–1897; Index to Civil Registrations of Marriages 1869–1912; Index to Civil Registrations of Deaths 1869–1922, Selected Catholic Parish registers for the dioceses of; Ottawa, Pembroke, Sault Sainte-Marie, Timmins, and Thunder Bay

**New Brunswick:** Catholic Parish registers for the dioceses of: Bathurst, Edmunston and Moncton

**Prince Edward Island:** Master Name Index containing over 300,000 entries of people living there prior to 1882 from censuses, cemeteries, newspapers, etc.

**Canada:** Lower Canada Land Petitions 1760–1850; Collection of City and Provincial Directories published prior to 1900, 464 titles on 4136 microfiche; The Canadian Expeditionary Forces 1914–1918, Muster Rolls [on microfilm]. This list is arranged by battalion for over 600,000 soldiers who served in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War I.

**England and Wales:** National Probate Calendars of wills and letters of administration covering the period 1858–1935 commonly known as the Somerset House Wills Indexes [on 5670 microfiches]. Indexes to Wills and Letters of Administration probated in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1853–1858 [on microfiche].

**Ireland:** Indexes to the Griffith's Land Evaluation. Indexes to the Tithe Applotment Books [available on microfiche]. Griffith's Land Evaluations [available on microfiche]. Tithe Applotment Books [available on microfilm]

**United States:** Census Indexes; a 500 volume collection in book form. Maine: Civil Registrations of BMD 1760–1955. Massachusetts; Civil Registrations of BMD 1841–1895. Vermont; Civil Registrations of BMD 1760–1954

The following major collections are available:

**Canada:** Censuses excluding Quebec 1825–1901 (800 microfilms). Passenger ship Manifests 1865–1921 for numerous ports. Customs Records 1908–1918 US Border

## Points of Entry

**Nova Scotia:** Indexes and Civil Registrations of Birth, Marriage and Death 1864–1918

**United States:** Census Records with available Soundex Indexes 1850–1920 [4573 microfilms] for the following states: Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, [New York, selected counties only]. Index to New England Naturalization Petitions 1791–1906

US Customs Records for Canadian Border Entries 1895–1952 arranged in Soundex order on cards, on microfilm

The above lists simply give you some small idea of the vast holdings of The Salle Gagnon.

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## Notarial Records—An Overlooked Resource

MARLENE SIMMONS

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As we piece together our family trees, we tend to consult the most familiar sources—family members, bibles, church records, census returns and newspapers—resources common to all. But here in Québec we have an additional and very unique source which is often overlooked—Notarial Records.

These records exist because Québec, being a colony of France, ran under the principles of French law and all civil or non-criminal matters were handled by notaries. They drafted many commercial transactions such as land sales/purchases, mortgages, leases, powers of attorney and loans. Notaries also were responsible for papers of great interest to genealogists, such as marriage contracts, wills, discharges of bequests and also applications for tutorships for insane individuals or minor aged children, among others.

One would expect that after the British took over Québec they would impose the British legal system on their new colony. However, with dissent brewing in their American colonies to the south, the British decided to try to keep peace in their northern colony and so the Québec Act of 1774 was born. Under the Act, the old French civil law (and the important role of notaries) was restored, with the exception of land grants which were to be made under English free-hold tenure instead of the old French seigneurial system. English criminal law, milder than the French laws, was instituted and freedom to practice the Roman Catholic faith re-emphasized.

I should warn you that mining notarial records for the nuggets of information they hold takes time and patience because parts of them are written in legalese, a language unto itself. Still, it is well worth the effort and can provide many insights into the lives of our ancestors. It would seem to make sense to focus on documents such as wills or marriage contracts, but even land transactions should be scanned because they sometimes note a familial link between the seller and purchaser. Married women were almost always referred to under their maiden names, making notarial records often the only source for this all too rare information. Some notaries even made a practice of referring to previous husbands if a widow was remarried, sometimes proving a link which is very difficult to establish through church records. Thus, you might see a land sale referring to a woman as Mary Smith, wife of John Baker and widow of Thomas Best.

It is important to read the little scraps of paper salted in among the legal documents. For instance, among the notarial

papers of Samuel Gale which cover the years between 1802 and 1819 is a land sale by a Silas Gardner. Under it is a tiny note written to the notary saying that Mr. Gardner has disappeared and left a wife and eight children with no means of support.

Surprisingly, notarial records also give us a glimpse into the day-to-day lives of people. Did you know that some early settlers were so poor they could only afford to lease a milk cow, not own one? Or that men often gave dowries to their wives under early marriage contracts, and that if the marriage did not go through they were obligated to pay out the money, often a substantial sum? It's all there to be read.

Today we take pensions for granted, but for the elderly who lived before our modern social safety net was cast, the deed of donation (often to their eldest son) created the security our governments now provide. Under these deeds, the parents would give everything they owned to the son in return for the right to a home, clothing, food, heat, medical care, care of any minor aged children still at home, and at their death a decent burial. The deeds usually also stipulated cash bequests to be paid to siblings after both parents were dead. The deed could be revoked (and in a surprising number of cases was) if the stipulations, often detailed down to changes of clothes, bushels of corn and cords of wood were not met. Thus, not only do you get detailed genealogical information in these donation deeds, listing parents and children, you also get a sense of the standard of living the family enjoyed.

Québec was a very patriarchal society and this is reflected in the civil code and notarial papers. Between 1866 and 1931 a married woman was legally inferior to her husband, sharing the same status as a minor child and people deprived of their civil rights because of mental disability. I won't go into the very strict limitations put on women in a short overview such as this, but if you'd like to find out more I recommend you read a chapter entitled *The Status of Women in Québec, A History 1867–1929* by Paul-André Linteau, René Durocher and Jean-Claude Robert (translated by Robert Chodos).

So, where do you go to get your hands on notarial records? Most pre-1900 notarial records are available to researchers on microfilm at the regional branches of Les Archives Nationales du Québec, grouped under the old system of districts just as church records are. However, you should keep in mind that just because your ancestors lived in a District, doesn't necessarily mean they always patronized

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a notary who practised in that District. It's best to start with the notaries who served the area in which your ancestors settled, but you may have to check out notaries in surrounding districts as well. For example, I have seen transactions involving individuals in Vaudreuil, Chambly, Wickham Twp., and Compton (to name a few places that come to mind) handled by notaries in the District of Bedford.

As reported in an earlier article in *Connections*, notarial records are being indexed, which will take away some of the "needle in a haystack" feeling we get as we begin to try to track our elusive ancestors' legal footsteps. The project has begun with the very earliest records and is moving forward chronologically so it may be some time before the years that interest you are available through the "Parchemin Project."

In the meantime, why not take a look through these records yourself? Sources to locate Notarial Records:

**The Parchemin Data Base [computer] Index** currently includes records from 1635-1765. Available for consultation at regional branches of Archives Nationales du Québec (ANQ) and other locations. Refer to Parchemin S'Explique at QFHS library, book review in *Connections*—December 1994. Actual records are in regional branches of Archives Nationales du Québec (ANQ). Other sources are: *Chamber of Notaries Index Book* (QFHS library; reference section); *City and Town Directories*; and for Notaries practising in the Montreal area *Lovell's Directories*. Archiv-Histo, located at the Montreal regional branch of ANQ, will do research for a fee. ■

## NOTARIES PUBLIC

This extract from Lovell's Directory 1844-1845 page 252 is of Notaries who practised in the Judicial Districts of Montreal and Joliette, Québec and was compiled by Joan Benoit, Secretary, Quebec Family History Society. All files are deposited at the Montreal Regional Branch of Les Archives Nationales du Québec.

Bagg SC	Exchange Court-St. Paul St	1842-1856	Montreal	Remarks
Baby Joseph	76 Wafer Street	1835-1852	Joliette	
Beaudry P	Visitation St	1843-1867	Montreal	
Bedouin Thomas	31 St Gabriel Street	1808-1857	Joliette	
Belle Joseph	12 St Lambert Street			
Bleakly William	19 Queen Square	1833-1857	Montreal	
Brault Charles A	3 St Joseph Street	1835-1874	Montreal	
Cadieux GH	204 Notre Dame Street	1836-1853	Montreal	
Crawford WN	29 St Gabriel Street	1826-1850	Montreal	
Desmarais A	18 St Vincent	1835-1869	Montreal	
DeBellefeuille JL	2 Little St James Street			
Doucet NB	49 Great St James Street	1804-1855	Montreal	
Gauthier A	Ste Catherinet	1839-1846	Joliette	
Gibb & Easton	Little St James Street	1835-1867	Montreal	
Griffin Henry	26 Little St James Street	1812-1847	Montreal	
Guy Etienne	2 St Franois Xavier Street	1829-1863	Montreal	
Guy Louis	off St Lewis Street	1801-1842	Montreal	
Guy PM	115 Craig Street	1831-1875	Montreal	
Jobin JH	83 St Paul Street	1833-1881	Montreal	
Lacombe I	Lagauchetière, near St. Urbain Street			
Labadie JA	14 Little St James Street	1826-1882	Montreal	
Lamothe P	164 Notre Dame Street	1840-1883	Montreal	
Lappare H	24 St. Franois Xavier Street	1835-1873	Montreal	

Leblanc Ovide	27 Little St James Street Beauharnois Beauharnois	1822-1842 1822-1842 1842-1870		Files at ANQ, Montreal Files destroyed by fire
Lefevre FX	opposite Viger Market	1839-1845	Montreal	

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 TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES  
 COLUMNS
 

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**Your Publishing**—John Townesend #6
 

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[Editor's Note: The objective of this continuing series is to assist the Reader to produce a professional-quality self-published computer-generated, hard-copy manuscript ready for the printer; and to then market and distribute the resulting book. This is Number 6 of the series, which commenced in the Fall, 1998 Edition of Anglo-Celtic Roots.]

### 3. Drafting the Manuscript.

In the Fall edition, we started to look at *Context*, the second of three mutually-dependant elements that comprise the manuscript of a quality family history: *Genealogy*, *Context* and *Graphics*. This quarter we conclude *Context*—locating the lives of the people depicted in the *Genealogy* in terms of their times, geography, socio-economics, religion, politics, and so on.

We spoke of three spreadsheets that have proved helpful in organizing materials for drafting a manuscript: a *Binders* spreadsheet which identifies hard copy reference materials within a set of three-ring binders; a *Persons/Events* spreadsheet that locates individuals and life events within the reference materials; and a *Timeline* spreadsheet that provides a chronological listing of those life events. All toward making your life easier piecing together your material into a "good read", while also accurately foot- or end-noting your information sources as you proceed.

There are other tools that can help in integrating your family information for publication as well. The first is the *map*. This is a primary research tool; it can also help you in drafting your manuscript. The map can tie together locations of events displayed in your *Timeline*, providing a new level of detail that can add colour to your story. For example, The *Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* contains maps locating parishes within counties, and shows which counties and which parishes share borders, as well as the configuration of those borders. This may help you relate tales from adjacent parishes, but the scale is pretty small.

Obtain the Ordnance Survey *Pathfinder* Map (2½ inches to the mile) for your area of interest, however, and experience a significant increase in information. Among many other features, the *Pathfinder* maps show current Civil Parish boundaries; for some counties, they show remarkable consistency with the old; but not necessarily for all. You can highlight these parish boundaries with a red marker by following their passage along the streams and footpaths of old, but be ready for an aching head afterwards. It's painstaking work!

Or you can work at the individual street level of detail. My Victorian ancestors were located in south London. Some sources spoke of Camberwell, some of Peckham, others of Dulwich. A *Street Plan of Victorian Camberwell* made it

clear that they are all one and the same; Camberwell embracing the other two. As parishes, however, they were and remain distinct; important for locating Census streets. And interactions with family branches in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe became more understandable, when it became evident that they are located right next door to Camberwell. The *Godfrey Edition* of Old Ordnance Survey Maps is helpful if you wish to piece together family history. The Bermondsey map enabled me to build an account of a forebear's daily walk from his home to his place of work, public houses and pillar boxes included.

*Graphics* are the third element to be included in your family history. Maps, charts, photos and line art are all graphical images. They all help your reader to navigate through your text, and make it much more interesting. Your information sources might have graphics as well, so it saves time to capture them at the same time. Be sure you seek copyright clearance where necessary though.

There are two ways of inserting graphics in your publication. The first is to read the electronic graphical images into your computer file. That will increase the size of your file enormously and, depending on your system's capacity, may slow it down. Navigation will become slow and tedious, as you wait for the file to react.

The second way is to insert the box for your graphic into your text, with its border, caption and source information; and later manually insert the graphic in the space, before your camera-ready heads for the printer. Or better, have your printer half-tone your original photos, etc. and then put them in position. A commercially half-toned image is significantly better in appearance than a scanned image; although with black and white images from black and white originals (line art for example) it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference.

If you are photocopying an image for reproduction, if possible use a colour photocopier rather than the more readily-available black and white. The first recognizes shades of grey; the second, black and white only; and assures pasty faces.

You will need to store your original images and copies (perhaps reductions) systematically while you are completing your research and preparing the manuscript. Shoes boxes and envelopes have their place, but may be too small for some originals. Plastic page protectors in a three-ring binder are more commodious, made less "floppy" by inserting a sheet of paper—on which (top, right) you can write the salient details. You may find it helpful to cross-reference to the subject's unique identifier, discussed last quarter. Sometimes it is useful to have more graphics available than you actually need, and leave the selection until you know how much space is available once the text is written. Then you can fine-tune between them.

Some final comments on your draft manuscript in

general. As you prepare your draft, constantly test yourself. Does it clearly demonstrate that quality research underlies your product? Is it clear, concise, and complete? Are the text and graphics attractively presented? Are they understandable to the non-genealogist? Are technical terms properly explained? Don't be afraid to draft and re-draft. What you prepare when tired will become very apparent to you the

following morning. You will want to try again. And as you re-work your text, it will become tighter and more readable. Edit against your standards as you go, but always have a fresh set of eyes undertake the final edit.

Next time we move to the next "step"—preparing your book, from cover to cover. ■

### *The Printed Page*—May Garson

**1847 Grosse-Île: a Record of Daily Events**, by André Charbonneau and André Sévigny. Published by Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada. 1997. vii, 276pp. Illustrations, maps. Soft cover. Purchase from Group Communications Canada, 45 rue Sacré-Coeur, Hull PQ K1A 0S9, \$29.95 + \$5.40 p&h + GST.

In 1847 over 98,000 emigrants, most from Ireland, were quarantined on Grosse-Île. 18% died either during the voyage or while in quarantine or upon landing in Quebec City or Montreal. The book chronicles their day to day existence. The book is full of references to the various statistics, such as the number of ships, passengers, deaths at sea and those who were ill on landing. The authors provide a detailed description of the conditions that awaited the immigrants at Grosse-Île and the attempts of the Canadian authorities to cope with the situation.

**A Register of Deceased Persons at Sea and on Grosse-Île in 1847**, by André Charbonneau and Doris Drolet-Dubé. Published by Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada. 1997. x, 108pp. Illustrations, maps. Soft cover. Purchase from Group Communications Canada, 45 rue Sacré-Coeur, Hull PQ K1A 0S9, \$16.95 + \$3.50 p&h + 7% GST.

This book complements the above book. If you are researching immigrants who died aboard ship and were buried on Grosse-Île or landed there in 1847, this book will be of great interest to you. There are over 8,000 emigrants named in this book along with the names of staff who died.

The book's introduction outlines the events which led up to the disaster and the ensuing crisis faced by the authorities. The book provides names and ages of the emigrants, names of vessels, the ports and countries of departure, dates of

departure and arrival, and dates of death both at sea and on land. It also gives information on the sailors and employees who died as a result of the typhus epidemic. The lists cover more than 8000 immigrants, employees and sailors, the majority being immigrants. The authors have provided an alphabetical list of the vessels, their countries and ports of origin, dates of departure and arrival, volume of passengers for each vessel and deaths at sea, in quarantine and in hospital and the total number of deaths.

**Carleton's Loyalist Index: A Database of 54,658 Records**. These records come on three 3.5 diskettes. The cost of the diskettes is \$25 + \$2.50 p&h in Canada, other countries \$US25 + \$US2.50 p&h. To order and obtain information on computer and software requirements, e-mail <ds082@freenet.carleton.ca>.

Strictly speaking, this does not belong in the Printed Page column, but I felt that it might be of great interest to some members. The British Headquarters Papers, New York 1774-1783, which are known as the Carleton Papers, contain information that will undoubtedly be of great interest to those with a Loyalist background or those who had ancestors involved in the American Revolution, serving with the British Army. The papers contain records which were kept by the Commanders-in-Chief of the British Army. 30,000 pages of manuscript document the suffering of the Loyalists of every class including those on Manhattan Island and adjacent territory on the mainland where the British were in command. The manuscripts also contain lists of the loyalist soldiers as well as civilian refugees and many British and German soldiers who at a later date settled in Canada. This sounds like an excellent resource. ■

### *Family History Events*—May Garson

January 14-16, 2000. **The West Valley Genealogical Society of Arizona** (formerly the Sun Cities Genealogical Society) is sponsoring their annual seminar. Topics will be British Isles and Colonial US Research. Linda Jonas, President of the British Isles Family History Society-USA will be the main speaker. For further information, contact <pruemeader@aol.com>.

January 17-21, 2000. **The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy 2000** will be held in Salt Lake City, UT. Eight courses will be held this year. A unique feature of the Institute is its close proximity to the Family History Library. More information and a registration form are available at <<http://www.infouga.org/institut.htm>>.

January 28-29, 2000. **GENTECH**, a non-profit volunteer organization, and the **San Diego Genealogical Society** will host **GENTECH2000 Bridging the Centuries: Bringing Genealogy and Technology Together** in San Diego, CA. A

large program is planned. For information, write to San Diego Genealogical Society, 1050 Pioneer Way, Suite E, El Cajon, CA 92020-1943, or call voice mail 619-588-0065, fax 619-588-0056, e-mail <[sdgs@genealogy.org](mailto:sdgs@genealogy.org)>, web site <<http://www.gentech.org/~gentech/2000home.htm>>.

March 6-10, 2000. **Genealogy Computer Week 2000** will be held in Galesburg, IL. It will feature day-long sessions of Windows, Internet, Online Library Catalogues, Exchanging Information and Issues and Concerns in the context of Genealogy. For information, contact Michael Neill, Carl Sandburg College, 2232 S. Lake Storey Rd, Galesburg, IL 61401, or visit the web site <<http://www.misslink.net/neill/home.html>>.

March 25, 2000. **The 23rd Annual Conference of the North West Group of the Federation of Family History Societies** will be hosted by the **Catholic FHS (North West)** at Hope University, Liverpool. The title of the conference is *From Parchment to Website—Parish Records in the Second Millennium*. For information write to Maureen Fitzgibbon,

Pinewood, Hawley Lane, Halebarns, Altrincham WA15 0DY ENG or telephone 0161-9039567.

May 12-14, 2000. The Ontario Genealogical Society will hold Seminar 2000 at the Ottawa Congress Centre in Ottawa. 45 lectures in five categories, Migration, Resources, Basic and Intermediate/Advanced levels, and Tools. Details are available by contacting OGS Seminar 2000, Merivale Postal Outlet, PO Box 65087, Nepean ON K2G 5Y3, or send an e-mail to <ogsottawa@cyberus.ca> or visit the web site at: <<http://www.cyberus.ca/~ogsottawa/sem2000.htm>>

May 31-June 3, 2000. The National Genealogical Society Conference in the States, to be held in Providence, Rhode Island, will be hosted by the New England Regional Genealogical Conference. Contact NGS, 4527 Seventeenth Street North, Arlington VA 22207-2363 or call 703-525-0050 or e-mail <conference@ngsgenealogy.org> or visit the web site <[www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)>.

July 20-22, 2000. The Allen County Public Library and

its Foundation will host a seminar of more than 90 lectures covering research methodology, technology in genealogy and research sources, at Fort Wayne IN. Major vendors will include printers, publishers and software producers. To receive a registration brochure in mid-1999, e-mail [Cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us](mailto:Cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us) and show "Millennium Conference" in the subject field with your name and address in the message, or mail a postcard with your name and address to Millennium Conference, c/o Historical Genealogy Department, ACPL, PO Box 2270, Ft Wayne IN 46801-2270.

September 6-9, 2000. The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their National Conference, *A World of Records*, in Salt Lake City. Information will be available from FGS Business Office, PO Box 200940, Austin TX 78720-0940, or call toll free 888-FGS-1500, fax toll free 888-380-0500, or e-mail <[fgs-office@fgs.org](mailto:fgs-office@fgs.org)> or visit web site <[www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)>. ■

### News from 395 Wellington – Mary M. Nash

The National Library has recently added to its web site an updated pathfinder for doing genealogical research at the Library. It includes descriptions of National Library Collections such as city directories, parish registers, newspapers, etc. as well as providing links to services such as our online catalogue on the web, resAnet, and links to other useful genealogical web sites. You can visit the pathfinder at the following url: <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/genealogy/gnology-e.htm>>.

<<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/genealogy/gnology-e.htm>>.

Also of interest to genealogists is the *Checklist of Indexes to Canadian Newspapers Held by the National Library of Canada* now available on the National Library's web site at the following url: <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/services/checklist/introe.htm>>. The checklist comprises indexes to Canadian newspaper titles received by the Library's Reference Collection. ■

## Census Campaign

In his report on the National Archives and Library, John English, historian and professor at the University of Waterloo opposed the position of Statistics Canada; that the 1911 and subsequent census returns should never be released on the grounds that it would violate the guarantee of confidentiality made when the data was collected. In fact, he recommended Canada adopt the US rule of release after 70 years rather than the current Canadian rule of 92 years.

He also supported the proposal by the National Archives to create a Family History Centre for census, military and other records similar to the British model which employs only 11 persons and serves over 70,000 clients annually, more than twice as many as the National Archives. Such a centre would offer better service to over 60% of the clients of the National Archives and 35% of the National Library

Senator Lorna Milne of Ontario in a recent speech in the Senate made a plea for the release of the 1911 census report in which she examined the guarantee of secrecy made at the time the data was collected. It was included in the Regulations and required the enumerators to give assurances that the facts and statistics collected would not be used for "taxation and other purposes." This and newspaper articles written at the time indicate that it was the enumerators who were sworn not to divulge any information collected and that information such as possession of a radio would not be communicated to other government departments for the purpose of checking up on unpaid radio licences.

Senator Milne went on to point out that the intention was the immediate protection of personal information and no one in: debates in the Commons; the Regulations; and newspaper articles appeared concerned with total and everlasting secrecy. Destruction of these records would entail the loss of a valuable source of material fundamental to the understanding of 20th century Canada.. She ended her plea with the words of Althea Douglas, "...do not close forever the century that was said to belong to Canada.." [From the *Ottawa Branch News*] ■

## *Solving Some Common Family Research Problems*

WILLIS BURWELL

[Editor's Note: Willis Burwell is a frequent contributor to the Society's proceedings. This article is an almost verbatim printing of a talk he gave on Saturday 11 September 1999. Willis describes himself as a space systems consultant with ADAG Group in Ottawa. He has been a member of BIFHSGO since 1995 and has been researching his British Isles ancestors for the past ten years.]

The purpose of my presentation is to discuss a few methods for solving five common problems you may run into in your family research. One of the keys for successful family research that I have discovered is to be convinced that somewhere there is an answer to your problem. If you start to doubt that it exists, you will probably never find it. Why? Because you will stop seriously looking for the answer. This is just human nature. I will illustrate some of the methods by describing how I solved the problems in my research concerning my great-grandmother, Elizabeth Crozier.

### **How Do I Identify Her Family?**

Sometimes the first record you have of your ancestor is after he or she has left home. The challenge is to identify her parents and siblings. The most obvious solution is to find an earlier record. For example, if you find your ancestor in the 1861 census as a recently married 25 year old, chances are good that in the 1851 census you will find her living with her parents. Of course, the family may have moved during that period or there may be several families with the same names. For a woman you may not even know her maiden name.

Another good source would be the marriage record, if you can find it. Often it gives the parents' names and even if it doesn't it should provide the bride's maiden name. Also note the names of the witnesses. They could be a brother or sister. Death records can also be a good source of family information. Obituaries may give the names of parents or brothers and sisters. If you think you have identified the family but are not certain, check their obituaries to see if your ancestor is mentioned. The father's will may identify his children. The grave marker of your ancestor will normally give the woman's maiden name. If you cannot find positive proof for his or her family, you then have the problem of how much circumstantial evidence is enough!!

**Elizabeth Crozie:** The first record I found for Elizabeth Crozier was in the 1851 census for Horton Township. She and a John Crozier are shown residing as servants in the same house as John Burwell. Elizabeth is 16 years old and John Crozier is 19. The census says that both Elizabeth and John were born in County Fermanagh, Ireland so it is a fairly safe assumption that they are brother and sister. A search of Horton Township in the 1842 and 1851 census records showed that there were no other Croziers in the township.

A search of the 1851 census in the neighbouring townships uncovered one Crozier family from Ireland living in Ross Township. Is this the rest of Elizabeth's family and how can I prove it? The ages of the Croziers seem to fit so

it is possible. The map of Renfrew County shows Horton Township is adjacent to Ross Township. Although the Croziers and Burwells lived in different Townships, their homes were actually separated by only about 10 kilometers. Checking the 1842 census record there is no Crozier family in any of the other adjacent Townships so I was not able to find a record prior to 1851.

In the 1861 census John Burwell and Elizabeth Crozier are married and have several children. From the ages of the children I concluded that the marriage probably took place in 1852 or 1853. This was well before civil marriage registration began in Ontario and I was unable to find any parish records for the area around Renfrew.

The next step was to look through the area cemeteries. I was able to find grave stones for most of the Croziers and from these I was able to get dates or at least years of death. With this information I then started going through old copies of the *Renfrew Mercury* at the National Library to look for obituaries. Elizabeth's obituary in the *Renfrew Mercury* provided a possible clue. It includes a little story that Elizabeth Crozier, on arrival in Canada, walked past the Burwell house on the way to visit her aunt, Mrs Johnston. There are two possibilities, Mrs Johnston's maiden name could be Crozier which wouldn't help or it could be the same as Mrs Christopher Crozier. From her gravestone in the North Horton cemetery I knew her maiden name to be Beatty. The Johnston's, however, were not buried in the North Horton cemetery. A check of area cemeteries found James Johnston and his wife buried at Haley's Station in Ross Township. Mrs Johnston's maiden name was Margaret Beattie. Although there is a slight difference in spelling, I am now certain that Elizabeth and John are the children of Christopher and Mary Crozier.

The death notice for Roland Crozier provides the final proof since it clearly states that he is survived by a sister, Mrs Burwell of Renfrew. It also provides another interesting bit of information in that it said that he was born in Enniskillen, Ireland. A check of the map of Ireland shows that Enniskillen is in County Fermanagh where Elizabeth and John were born.

In the book *The Founding Families of Admaston and Horton Townships and the Village of Renfrew*: the Crozier family is listed and Elizabeth and John are shown as children of Christopher and Mary Crozier, although no source or proof is given. Although a publication like this is not to be considered proof, it is encouraging to know that another researcher has reached the same conclusion as myself.

### **Where Did She Come From?**

Another common problem with our immigrant ancestors

is that many could not write and if they could any records or letters they may have kept have long disappeared. Family memories have dimmed through the generations. Even if you find a location given in some family history document, it may not be entirely accurate. It may be the nearest large town or city that people would recognize or it may be the port from which they sailed. The Canadian census records are also a poor source. In general they only give the country of birth although in the case of the 1851 census of Horton Township the county is also given. This is unusual and certainly a big help. If your ancestor was still alive for the 1901 census, it also gives the year the person arrived in Canada. Death records, obituaries and grave stones sometimes provide additional information but not often. By the time the person has died, the surviving family seldom remembered the place of birth.

For England and Scotland the IGI is probably the best source of baptism and marriage information. If you can find your ancestor in this data base you will find out the county and parish where they lived prior to coming to Canada. You may even be able to get more information by ordering the microfilm of the Parish record from the LDS library in Salt Lake City. For Ireland the situation is quite different. The IGI is very limited since many of the Irish parish records where they exist are held in the local parish and were not made available to the LDS church. Since there is no searchable data base, you really have to know what parish your ancestor came from to go very far. To make matters even worse, most of the pre 1900 census records for Ireland were destroyed by fire. Fortunately two sets of tax records have survived, the Tithe Applotment Rolls from about 1830 and the Griffith's Valuation from about 1860. To aid in your research, a Householder's Index has been created to tell you in which Parishes a surname is found in each of these sets of records. Then when you look in the parish you will find the first name of each individual and the Townland in which they lived. While there is no other genealogical information to give you proof that you have found your ancestor, these records can narrow your search down significantly.

**Elizabeth Crozier** For Elizabeth, I knew that she came to Canada as a young girl in 1848, that her father was Christopher Crozier and that they had come from around Enniskillen in County Fermanagh. A promising start but could I actually find Christopher in Ireland? As anticipated, a check of the IGI provided no possible candidates for Elizabeth or the rest of her family. Since the family had left Ireland prior to 1850, I was left with the Tithe Records as the only real hope of locating Christopher Crozier. The Tithe Applotment records for County Fermanagh were made in 1835 and the Family History Center has these records on microfilm. I used the Householders Index to locate about ten Crozier families in County Fermanagh. Going to the actual records I found that only one was a Christopher Crozier. He was found living on 11 acres of land in the Townland of Drumarkey in the Parish of Derryvullan. The sketch map provided with the Householder's Index showed that the Parish of Derryvullan has the Town of Enniskillen on its western border. Since this seemed to be a very good possibility I started to read up as much as I could find on the Parish of Derryvullan. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland are an excellent source of information about the area

in the 1830s and makes excellent reading. I also found out that the parish records for Derryvullan North exist and are held locally. Finally to my surprise, the parish of Derryvullan is one of a handful of Parishes in Ireland for which the 1821 census record has survived and the Ottawa Family History Center has it on microfilm.

The census of the Parish of Derryvullan was taken on 28 May 1821 and is recorded by Townland and gives the full name, age and occupation of each head of household. It then provides the names of all persons resident in the house, their age and their relationship to the head of household. The records are well preserved, clear and the handwriting is superb. It is sad that so little of this source has survived. I easily found the Townland of Drumarkey but there was no Christopher Crozier living there. Instead I found the young family of Andrew Crozier, aged 32 and his brother John Crozier aged 17. I would expect Christopher to be in his mid 20s at this time and it was disappointing to not find him. However, I continued to look through the census records and in the Village of Lisnarrick, I found a Christopher Crozier, age 23 living with his mother and a young niece. Living next door is the family of John Crozier, age 29. Mary is probably their daughter and John is Christopher's brother. What also caught my attention was the name of the youngest of John's children, Rowland. This is a somewhat unusual name and years later my Christopher would also name a son Rowland. This convinces me that I have located the correct family. My last check was with a detailed map of the area. Here I found the village of Lisnarrick on the Eastern shores of Lower Lough Erne about 11 miles North of Enniskillen and right next to the village is the Townland of Drumarkey. I now know exactly where Elizabeth Crozier came from and I look forward one day to visit the area and hopefully get access to the local parish records.

### **When Was She Born?**

Our ancestors didn't have birth certificates or passports. Many of them couldn't read or write. As a result, even though there are lots of sources that give ages, there can often be wide differences. Whether people just forgot how old they were or they changed the number to suit the situation is difficult to tell. Finding an exact date of birth can be even more challenging as the number of sources for this information, prior to civil birth registration, are very limited. The best source is a baptism record although even here many do not give the actual date of birth. The baptism may have occurred a week later, several months later and in some cases years later. Note that the IGI gives only the date of baptism. If you get the microfilm of the parish record, the exact date of birth may be included in the baptism record.

Another excellent but relatively rare source is a family bible. Since the birth was usually entered when it occurred, the date should be quite reliable. Gravestones can also provide exact dates of birth but since these are produced long after the birth event, the accuracy of the information must always be questioned. Another source is the 1901 census. If your ancestor was still living in 1901 there is a good chance that their exact date of birth is recorded. Again if the person is very old, the accuracy of the information must be questioned. For these last two sources, I would expect the date of the birth to be relatively reliable but the year could be wrong.

**Elizabeth Crozier** Again I will use Elizabeth and her family to illustrate the problems. I created a table from the ages given for members of the Crozier family in each of the census records and on their gravestones. The differences were so great that it was impossible to reach a satisfactory conclusion concerning the year of birth of any of them, only Elizabeth seemed to be relatively consistent. Elizabeth's mother, Mary Beattie must have been some woman. She raised seven children in Ireland during a large part of the famine years, brought her family to Canada when she was about 50 years old, started a new home in a largely unsettled area of the country and still lived to be a very old woman, even though I don't have much confidence that she actually lived to be 103.

Finally, what do you do with the information given me a couple of years ago by my aunt who was married to a descendent of one of Elizabeth's brothers. She had had it for many years and didn't know where it came from. Although it would seem to be the answer to a genealogist's prayer, I viewed it with a lot of scepticism. Even Mary's date of death was different than on the gravestone and her age at death is also different. I suspect that this was produced for some sort of family reunion and when the person who created it didn't have a real date, they just invented one.

### **Where Were They Married?**

In the mid 1800s there were not very many churches in the pioneer areas of Canada and there were even fewer newspapers. As a result finding the record of a marriage can be a challenge. On the other hand most of our ancestors did seek out a minister to marry them and ministers did keep good records. First you need to find out what religion your ancestor belonged to. This is recorded on each census record. Try to find the one as close as possible to the wedding as that is likely to tell you what denomination of church they were married in. They may change religions later as more churches are built. On the other hand, don't restrict your searches to the religious denomination on the census record. Your ancestor may have been married in a more convenient church. Next learn as much about the history and geography of the area as possible. When were the churches built? Where were they located? Where did people go to purchase supplies? What roads existed? After that it is a matter of locating the church records and searching through them. The task may be easy or it may be very difficult and lengthy.

**Elizabeth Crozier** In the 1861 census John Burwell and Elizabeth Crozier are married and have a eight year old son. It, therefore, seemed likely that they were married about 1852 or 1853. Their religion was stated as Church of England. From the *History of Horton* I found out that the first Anglican church in the Renfrew area was not built until the 1863. In fact there were relatively few settlers from England, most being Scottish or Irish. The closest Anglican Church I could find for this time frame was in Pakenham but a search of their records failed to find the marriage. In fact there were very few Horton Township names in the record. Where did these people go to church?

Then in reading through some books I learned that there was a large Anglican Church in the Parish of Clarendon on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. I thought that the river would be a barrier since there were no bridges or ferries but

I went to the National Archives and started to go through the Clarendon Parish record anyway. To my pleasant surprise, I found a record of the marriage of John Burwell and Elizabeth Crozier. Noting the February date it finally came to me that for ten months the Ottawa River would be an obstacle but in January and February the ice would form a natural bridge. Going through the parish record I found that there would be a Sunday in this time period each year when a number of Horton families would show up to get married or have their children baptised. Whereas today brides plan a June wedding and hope the weather is warm and sunny, these people planned February weddings and hoped that it was cold enough for the river to be well frozen!! I am sure the parties that went along with these occasions also gave a welcome break in the middle of the winter!!

Later I found out the Anglican Archives here in Ottawa has many of the old parish registers from the Eastern Ontario area and has created a searchable electronic index that covers not only this area but also many of the neighbouring Quebec parishes as well. I could have used these facilities and found this marriage with ease.

### **Who Are The People In This Picture?**

All of us like to have pictures to go along with our family history. A good picture is a real treasure. On the other hand, finding a good picture but with no idea who is in it can be disappointing and frustrating. How do you identify the people? The first thing to try and find is where the picture came from? If it came from one of your grandparents or a relative, it is likely to be a picture from that branch of your ancestry. This will narrow your search a bit and you can also check with other people researching that branch.

Is there any kind of a story that goes with the picture? Any clue will be a help. Start a file for the picture so you can keep a record of your search. This is especially important if you have several pictures you are researching. The next important bit of information is where and when was the picture taken? If you are lucky the picture will have the name of the studio and possibly even the date on it. If the studio still exists they may be able to help establish the date from the background in the picture. You may also be able to get a rough idea of the date from the clothes the people are wearing. The next step is to compare this picture with all of the other pictures you may have of your ancestors to see if there is any resemblance between individuals in pictures you have identified. This can be difficult as people change as they get older. Another potential clue is the age/sex distribution in the picture. If it is a family you can identify the parents, how many children of each sex and even the order of the children by age. You can now compare this with the family groups in your research to see if you can find a match. Remember that another child may have been added to a family later or a child may have died before the picture was taken. This can be a tedious search but can lead to success.

**Elizabeth Crozier** A few years ago my uncle gave a picture to my brother who passed it on to me. My aunt had apparently taken it from her mother's house (my grandmother Burwell) when she died in 1946. Now my aunt had died and the only thing my uncle knew was that it was a Burwell picture. He wasn't sure if his wife had ever known who the people in the picture were. The picture is a group of

adults ranging from, I would guess, 20 to 60 years of age. There are four men and five women in the picture. From the clothes I would think that the picture is from the early 1900s.

The first thing I noted was the Hanford Studios imprint on the frame. This studio was located in Renfrew, Ontario. Although I am certain it was still operating in the 1950s, it is no longer listed in the Renfrew phone book. My first thought was that this was a family group with the parents and seven children. I sorted them out as best as I could and started looking through Burwell families in the early 1900s. I came up with no possible matches. Maybe there was more than one couple in the picture. The possibilities seemed too numerous to consider. And then maybe my uncle was wrong after all.

My first breakthrough came when I was contacted by a second cousin who was also researching my grandmother's family. She sent me a photograph of my grandfather and grandmother Burwell taken about the time of their marriage in 1900. I happened to have the two pictures out at the same time and to my amazement I realized that one of the men in the larger picture was my grandfather and that he was about the same age in both pictures. Grandmother was not one of

the women in the picture. At this time I realized that the family of John Burwell and Elizabeth Crozier consisted of four sons and five daughters and that my grandfather was the youngest of the children. This matched perfectly with the group in the picture. Since then I have been in contact with descendants of three of the other members of the family and each has identified their grandfather/grandmother in the picture. Not only that but each has sent me a picture of their family from about the same time. All pictures have the same studio background so it is quite possible that they were all taken the same day.

All of a sudden a relatively worthless picture has turned into a family treasure. At the same time it has raised the question of why everyone got family portraits made at the same time and why was Elizabeth Crozier not in any of the pictures even though she was very likely living at the time. Could it have been a gift for her 65th or 70th birthday? Another family mystery to solve!!



Figure 1

## Let Your Imagination Soar

JUNE COXON

*[Dave Brown joined the Ottawa Journal as a reporter in 1960. In 1978 he joined the Ottawa Citizen and began writing his "Brown's Beat" column. That column is about 600 words in length. After his experience at Vimy Ridge, he found he had written 8,000 words and hadn't quite finished—with no place to publish it. Then another coincidence—the newspaper changed ownership, the Citizen introduced the Sunday, magazine section, giving him an outlet for his story. His article appeared in the Citizen in July 1997 (it's on microfilm at the Citizen). Since then he has written a book called Faces of War and a series on Vimy which won him an award from the Legion.]*

On November 13, nearly 100 people gathered at the Kent Street Legion to hear newspaper columnist Dave Brown speak about how a series of coincidences led him on a search for Rudyard Kipling's son. He reminded us that there's more than one way to conduct research. Sometimes it's best to let your imagination take over—an approach that often works for him. "In the work I do as a journalist, I write daily," he said. "I think of it as fishing. I fish in a stream of consciousness for something interesting for the newspaper. I also search in a pond where there's no time—a place of unconsciousness. In that world of imagination anything can happen."

The audience listened attentively as Brown explained how, in 1997, when he was covering the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge he went to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to look for the names of some soldiers. "When I got involved in this I realized I couldn't do it in the stream of consciousness because all the people I wanted to talk to were dead. I had to go to the pond to get the names of the people I wanted to talk to. I could either sit at their graves, consult my muse, or communicate."

He expected this task would take a fair amount of time so asked his taxi driver to return in two hours, but because the office was computerized he found the names in minutes. Having time before his taxi returned, on a whim, he typed the name John Kipling on the computer keyboard. What he read on the computer screen sent Brown on his search from Vimy Ridge, to England and eventually to Barrhaven. Although Brown recalled that Rudyard Kipling had spent years and a fortune trying unsuccessfully to find his son's grave, the computer immediately gave Brown the location of John Kipling's grave. Wondering how it came to be listed now Brown asked the administrator who explained that Norman Christie of Maidenhead had located the grave in 1995. Brown tried to contact the man but he was no longer living at Maidenhead and no one knew where he had gone. Was it a coincidence that Brown realized later that he hadn't known the name of Rudyard Kipling's son when he had typed his name on the keyboard?

Back in Ottawa, Brown gathered all the information he could about the Kipling family. He learned that Rudyard Kipling had had a terrible childhood and his adult life was filled with sadness. His young daughter died during the flu epidemic and his son, John, died on the battlefield at Chalk

Pit Ridge during World War I, just two weeks past his 17th birthday.

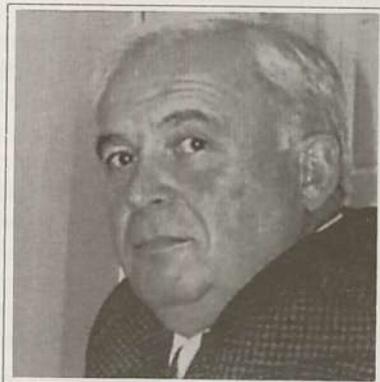
Kipling and his son were as close as any two people could be. The short time his son was at war they exchanged so many letters they filled a book. Rudyard Kipling had been one of the Commonwealth's biggest supporters of World War I. Believing the war would be short, he had encouraged his son to enlist. He had even pulled strings to get his son accepted in the Irish Guards, in spite of his very poor eyesight. After John's death his father suffered terribly, blaming himself for his son's death. In 1917 he wrote: "Ceaselessly tossed in stale mutilation from crater to crater, From this we must seek expiation." Brown believes Kipling was writing about himself, seeking atonement for his son's death.

Brown also tried again to contact historian, Norman Christie, and found him living only a few miles away—in Barrhaven. Was this another coincidence? When speaking with Christie he learned that he had found the grave of an Irish lieutenant at St. Mary's cemetery. He explained that with evidence and logic he had little difficulty convincing the War Graves Commission that this is, indeed, the grave of John Kipling.

Next, Brown found two lines written by Rudyard Kipling published in *The Times* of London in 1934. He thinks Kipling wrote them to be inscribed on his son's tombstone. They were: "If any question why I died, Tell them my father lied." Was this a coincidence too?

Rudyard Kipling had been one of the founders of the War Graves Commission. At his insistence part of the agreement the Commission had with families of those who died in action was that the family could add four lines on their loved one's gravestone. There's no inscription on John Kipling's tombstone and only a family member can authorize such an inscription. When John was killed the Kipling family line died too as the only living daughter never married. But there is still a Kipling Fund that operates in England. Brown wonders if it could authorize the inscription on the tombstone.

Dave Brown concluded his compelling talk with: "If anyone in this room can accept the idea that it's possible to go fishing in a stream of unconsciousness or has any connections that can help Kipling achieve that expiation. That's why I'm here." ■



Dave Brown

## Wealth of Copyright Facts

JUNE COXON

During her talk to BIFHSGO members on October 9, Wanda Noel, a lawyer specializing in copyright law, offered a wealth of useful information about Canada's

new copyright regulations, how copyright law regulates the use of photocopiers, and copyright rules you need to know when you use the Internet.

Noel began her presentation by listing the following basic elements of copyright: 1. Copyright protects things referred to as "works" and "other subject

matter" which are divided into seven categories. 2. Copyright protection is provided to "authors," a term best understood as a synonym for "creators." 3. Creators are provided with legal "rights" over their works. 4. There are generally recognized uses of these works which are permitted without the consent of the owner of the rights or payment of royalties. These are called "exceptions." 5. The rules provide protection for a limited period of time. After the term of copyright protection expires, protection ends. This event is referred to as a work falling into the "public domain." 6. There are penalties for not following the rules set out in the Copyright Act. 7. Breaking any of the rules is referred to as an "infringement."

Noel simplified the complex subject of copyright by taking a fictitious example of a genealogist who has written a family history, pointing out that the Copyright Act provides legal protection to the family history under the category of literary works for the text and the artistic works ie for the photographs. "The author of the family history under the rules of the Copyright Act, is the owner of the copyright," she pointed out. The law provides the owner of the copyright of the family history with a number of legal rights which include—among other things—the right to



Wanda Noel

publish and right to make photocopies of all or part of the family history." She went on to explain that, subject to any applicable exceptions, the owner uses these legal rights to control publication and sale of the family history. Without these rights anyone could copy the family history, or even sell it in competition with the genealogist who wrote it.

"When you work on your family histories you use quite a number of things that are protected by copyright," Noel continued. Examples she listed included: computer software, photographs, letters, and genealogy magazines. "The articles, books and reports you produce as genealogists, no matter how informal, are also protected by copyright."

"The legal rights of the author are subject to exceptions that permit certain uses that otherwise would infringe upon the rights of the owner—such as using a photocopier to make copies which would otherwise infringe on a copyright owner's exclusive right to make copies."

She pointed out that on 1 Sept 1999 a new exception became law. It allows the making of a single copy of an unpublished work deposited in an archival institution as long as the copy is made for research and private study purposes. But she cautioned, "the exception only applies to unpublished works. Although it won't allow copying of a published family history, it will allow copying of things like unpublished basic research materials such as photographs, records, and certificates. Now a researcher can legally copy these things and take them home and do research there. Under the old law this was widely done but it was often a copyright infringement."

Noel mentioned two publications genealogists might find useful: *The Staff Guide to Copyright*, which soon will be published by the National Archives, and the newsletter produced by Friends of the National Archives. You can receive the latter for the membership cost of \$15 when you become a "Friend." The Guide also costs \$15. Call 613-995-1555 to place your order.

Noel also discussed copyright regulations and copyright on the Internet, before inviting questions from the audience. In answer to some of those questions, she explained that: copyright is generally for the life of the author plus 50 years; the copyright law of Canada applies to items from other countries; that as a rule of thumb, if you are only copying one or two percent of a "work" you're probably not infringing; that copyright also excludes paraphrasing a work and; that copyright permission should be in writing. ■

The *Genealogy Websites Worth Surfing* column in the January/February 1999 edition of Family Chronicle, page 53, features Young Immigrants to Canada, a website providing profiles, histories and contact information for all the organizations involved, including various religious bodies, societies, reformatories, industrial schools, and groups—especially for women.

The site also includes names of some of the children, and a list of queries related to the children, as well as a helpful list of links to further information. The webmaster is Marjorie P. Kohli. She is researching all of the organizations that brought children and young women to Canada between 1933 and 1935. The URL is, <<http://www.dcs.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/homeadd.html>>

The site well designed for content and links. It has links to: organizations; ships; books; libraries with special collections; archives of interest; late news; and publications by the author; including articles in the Waterloo Historical Society periodical, and two books.

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**Meet Your Board** – A Bernice Severson

In this column and my next I shall introduce you to the Society's publishing team.

**John Townesend** is BIFHSGO's Director responsible for Society publishing. His job is to encourage, advise and assist BIFHSGO's Publishing Team members in all aspects of their work; based upon BIFHSGO's *Publishing Standards*. John also provides a single point of liaison between BIFHSGO and the commercial printer, assuring a quality return in the Society's greatest area of expense.

John was born in London, England. His first memory is of war being declared in 1939. His family spent the War years in Hampshire and Hertfordshire. Peace saw its return to the London area, where John completed his O and A levels at Dulwich College. The Boy Scouts movement was his consuming interest during his teen years.

His first taste of working life was with BOAC at London Airport, in Cargo and Aircraft Reception. In 1954 he travelled to Canada for his sister's wedding, and liked what he saw. In 1957, he emigrated to BC where he attended university, spending his summers as a compassman in the woods.

After graduation, he worked with juvenile delinquents in Moose Jaw, Sask. Later, he became a parole officer in Vancouver and in 1961 first met Frank Miller, then a Member of the National Parole Board, on the back lawn of New Haven Borstal School. They are now, of course, fellow BIFHSGO members.

John moved east to study at Carleton University, but fell sick and had to drop out. He joined the National Parole

Service's Ottawa Headquarters staff. On educational leave, he completed his Masters in Correctional Administration at Ottawa University. His career then evolved in providing and managing statistical advice in the federal justice policy sector; as well as in federal-provincial liaison in developing Canada's criminal justice statistics overall. He retired in 1995.

In 1986, in browsing the memoirs of an ancestor, John discovered that he had been among the founders of the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1804; that is, had had a hand in framing exactly the words that John was at that time updating in the Canadian Bible Society's Constitution. His interest was sparked in family history.

John was at BIFHSGO's first meeting, and not long after took over developing standards and team building for the Society's publications. On the Board, he proposed the creation of BIFHSGO's Internet Users' Group, and drew up its draft Terms of Reference. He has just completed a year as its Coordinator. John enjoys preparing his *Your Publishing* column in *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, and giving talks on publishing family history at BIFHSGO Conferences. He is scheduled to speak at the OGS Seminar 2000 on using the computer in publishing family history.

John is a Deacon at Alta Vista Baptist Church; co-ordinates the Bible Society's annual *Proclamation* bible-reading project; and is the Ottawa representative for the Christian Salvage Mission, which sends sea containers of surplus Christian materials overseas.

A "thank-you" to John and his team for producing our now prizewinning Quarterly, as well as *Annals*. ◻

**The BIFHSGO Library**—Judith Madore

Resource is an apt description of Barbara.

When Jim Shearon discovered last May that BIFHSGO was eligible for a federal government summer student grant, events moved quickly. The grant was



approved at the end of May, and the advertising, interviewing and selection were underway. The surprise was that no library students applied, a great disappointment—until Barbara appeared on the scene.

Barbara has a BSc and part of a BA in History. Further, she is now in her final year of the Archives Technician

program at Algonquin. To cap it, she has worked as an Information Specialist and EDP Records Technician for the Canadian Museum of Nature. This combination of

education and work, as well as database design expertise, suggested the appropriate mind-set for library cataloguing and trouble-shooting.

Some of Barbara's accomplishments during the summer of 1999 include:

- ◆ Immediate organisation and entry into word processing, for easy updating and record retrieval;
- ◆ Rapid absorption of the principles and practice of Dewey Decimal Classification and subject-heading;
- ◆ The ability to work with minimal, but close attention, to direction—an invaluable asset to the Library Committee—in particular, Betty Warburton and Valerie Monkhouse;
- ◆ The ability to suggest solutions to any challenges that arose.

Now in her final year at Algonquin, Barbara's Autumn Work Placement is with Library Committee member Bernadette Primeau, at Bell Canada Regulatory Information Services. BIFHSGO and the Library Committee are grateful for Barbara's effective and creative approach to the establishment of the Library, and wish her all the best in the future. ◻

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
COLUMNS

*From Near and Far* – May Garson

**F**rom *Between Friends*, Spring 1999 edition, Vol 4 No 2.

An article in this publication, written by Terry Cook, Archival Studies, University of Manitoba, entitled *New Public Policies on Privacy and Electronic Records May Adversely Affect Archives and Researches*, deals with the subject of withholding access to not only census records but also all manner of records which relate to governmental activities, corporate businesses etc. There are five main topics discussed in the article; The Archival and Historical Value of Personal Information; Archival Preservation and Historical Research; Archives, History and Informed Consent; Electronic Documents; and the Conclusion.

We are all familiar with the various applications that are now made under the Access to Information Act whereby individuals can obtain access to documents which may in some way be relevant to an individual or group of individuals, such as minutes of board meetings, records and reports on the various activities of governments, corporations etc. The author discusses how the changes in privacy rules will impact on access to such documents. In recent years we have seen the increase in the number of cases where groups of individuals have sought compensation from governments and institutions for the wrong doings of their predecessors. If in earlier years, those seeking compensation had been confronted with a questionnaire which gave them the choice to withhold consent to the release of the information on these forms, how many of them would have denied future access to them? Perhaps most would have opted to withhold consent. Without access to such records, the ability to seek compensation would be almost impossible. It is difficult for any one generation to say with absolute certainty whether or not that information which they would seek to protect while alive, could at some time be valued by future generations.

The author also points out that the release of such information to the researcher, whether it be the historian, the archivist, the genealogist, or the statistician, in no way contradicts the original purpose in collecting such information. If the law is not changed, all Canadians will lose. The ability to hold governments and corporations accountable for their actions and the ability of citizens to seek redress for past injustices will be lost. Their right to do so will still exist but there will be little data to back any future claims. Future generations will be unable to delve into the past and discover their personal roots. The professional and amateur historians and the academics all lose and as a result, the ability to reflect on, update or shed new light on the history of this country will be lost to future generations.

At the October meeting, our president, Jim Shearon, urged the membership to lobby those individuals who are in a position to affect change and he circulated a list of their names and addresses to those attending the meeting. If you would like a copy of this list, contact BIFHSGO.

From the *Ancestral Searcher*, Journal of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, June 1999, Vol

22 No 2.

*Researching Connections in South Africa: Where are they now?* is a program from Johannesburg English Language Radio Service. It is not often that I come across a reference to South African Genealogy. For the Fall issue of ACR I found reference to a journal and book on the subject. Here we have another reference to South African Genealogy. Part of this radio program is devoted to tracing missing relatives. Requests from overseas family researchers with South African connections are welcomed. I have four such missing relatives who left Scotland for South Africa in the late 1800s and early 1900s and I for one welcome such an opportunity. The address is Saturday Light, SAFMPO, Box 91162, Auckland Park 2006, Johannesburg, South Africa.

In this same journal, a contributor provided an excellent tip for those who spend much of their time scouring graveyards for the stones of their ancestors. Frequently the gravestones are weathered and it is extremely difficult to read the markings. The hint is to choose a day when there is sufficient sunshine to cast a shadow. Go armed with a small pocket mirror. Place the mirror on the stone in such a way that it reflects the light from the side of the stone and across the inscription. The effect is to cause shadows in the faint inscriptions making them readable without having to touch the crumbling stone which causes further damage. I wonder if a flashlight might serve as well on those days when the sun does not shine?

From the *National Library News* July–August 1999 Vol 31 No 7–8

André Charbonneau, a Parks Canada historian, presented a paper on the National Historic Site of Grosse-Île and the Irish Memorial. The *National Library News* contained an article, *Grosse-Île and the Irish Emigration to Canada*, based on his paper. From 1832 to 1937, Grosse-Île, one of the many islands in the St Lawrence, served as a quarantine area for those emigrating from Britain and Ireland. Many Irish left their homeland at the time of the Great Famine and set sail for Canada. In 1847 alone, close to 100,000 set sail from the ports around Great Britain and Ireland bound for Quebec. Only 90,000 reached Quebec. The outbreak of typhus aboard the ships forced authorities to establish an area where immigrants could be screened and when necessary treated for typhus prior to entering Quebec. Many died aboard ship, others died on Grosse-Île. Six out of seven of the dead were Irish. The numbers held in quarantine exceeded the capacity of the island.

Thirty heritage buildings, in excess of one thousand archeological remains, five thousand ethnological collection pieces, three cemeteries and several commemorative monuments are now to be found on this historic site. André Charbonneau would like to see more Canadians visit this site. Perhaps some enterprising historian or genealogist could look into the possibilities of a genealogical trip to the Island. For further information on the site and the Irish Memorial, call 1-800-463-6769 or visit Parks Canada web site at <[www.parcscanada.risq.qc.ca/gross\\_ile/index.html](http://www.parcscanada.risq.qc.ca/gross_ile/index.html)>. Archives of Ontario.

The Archives of Ontario have released microfilm of the

Ontario Vital Statistics extending the periods covered. The periods now covered are; for births, 1869–1902, marriages, 1869–1916, and deaths, 1869–1926.

#### From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

(The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1999 by Richard W. Eastman. It is republished here with the permission of the author.)

#### New Brunswick Vital Records (and more) Online

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick is busily making valuable records available online. Most of the holdings are for the period from 1784, when New Brunswick was made a separate province of British North America. However, some materials relating to the earlier exploration, Acadian and pre-Loyalist periods have also been acquired.

I had a chance to use the site this week and was impressed. The search methods are easy to use. The only thing that I disliked is that the site is divided into several different databases, depending upon what years are involved and where the records were recorded. You have to search each database individually; there is no master search capability for the entire site.

Here is a typical marriage record that I found on the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick site:

NAME: EASTMAN, ANNIE EVELYN  
MARRIED: WHEELLOCK, FRANK  
COUNTY: CH (Charlotte)  
YEAR: 1889  
MONTH: 01  
DAY: 14  
FILM# F13388

#### Family History Queries—A Bernice Severson

**S**ister Shirley A. Jepson. Convent St John's Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex ENG RH19 3 LE. Wishes any information on **George Matthews** who was Lieutenant Governor of Ontario during or before WW II. George's father was **Ezra Matthews** of Lindsay born 1805 or 1806. George's wife was **Ann Smithson**. Wishes to investigate the family tradition that Ann was related to **James Smithson** who founded the Smithsonian Institute.

**Member 259 John Malcolm Graham** 361 Glenwood Avenue, Kelowna BC V1Y 5L7 e-mail <ojgraham@home.com>. Wishes to find two Societies (1) Rutherglen Union Emigration Society which reports Graham's wife age 30 and two female children to have been assigned to the ship *Commerce* and states that **A Graham** is "already in Canada & wishes to have the grant" (2) St John's Parish Emigration Society reports that there may have been an oversight. Age of **Alexander** forty seven and 1 female child for a total of six. The latter appears to be in error as family oral history is that Alexander traveled by himself with four male and one female children. Alexander's signature appears in application for Government Grant with both these Societies. **Mr Graham** wishes to examine entries for both societies, and if possible obtain copies.

**M. Tyers** e-mail <mtyers@home.com>. Wants information about his grandfather **Joseph Edward Tyers**. Believed to have come to Canada between 1860 and 1890. May have come via a lady called **Annie McPherson**. May

CODE: B2b  
NUMBER: 42  
PAGE:

Obviously this is a reference to an entry found on microfilm. To read the original entry you will still want to obtain a copy of the microfilm from the LDS Family History Center.

The databases available today include:

- \* New Brunswick Late Registration of Births, 1810–1904
- \* New Brunswick County Birth Registers Index, 1801–1899
- \* Index to New Brunswick Marriages, 1887–1916
- \* Death Registration of Soldiers, 1941–1947
- \* Records of the Surveyor General of New Brunswick
- \* Correspondence of the Provincial Secretary

While the big news is the searchable databases, I did find another valuable resource for genealogists: County Guides. Each guide is an online booklet available in Microsoft Word format. You can download any of them to your computer and then read them on-screen or print them at your leisure.

All in all, this is an excellent online resource for anyone researching New Brunswick ancestors. You can search the databases in English at <<http://www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives/english/index.htm>> or in French at <<http://www.gov.nb.ca/supply/archives/francais/index.htm>>.

My thanks to **John D Reid** for letting me know about this valuable resource. ■

have gone to Muskoka or Pacin area of Ontario. His mother was still alive when he came. Her name was Ann and she lived in or near London. His father's name may have been **Belton** or **Edward Belton** and he may have been born in Leicester ENG. Hope to find this individual on a ship's list of Home Children.

**E. Jack Langstaff** 2060 Kingsgrove Crescent Gloucester ON K1J 6G1, E-mail <[frack@intra.net.ca](mailto:frack@intra.net.ca)>. Looking for **George Longhurst** involved in Petworth Project 1832 to 1837 ships called *Lord Melville*, *Evaline* and *Enfaid*.

**Carol** e-mail <[No3gc@aol.com](mailto:No3gc@aol.com)>. Wishes to have information about the Grenfell Association.

**Lilla Ross** e-mail <[lillaross@sprintmail.com](mailto:lillaross@sprintmail.com)>. Looking for information about the **Pink** family. The Pink family came to Hull in the 1830s from County Down IRL. Believed to be related to Pinks who settled in Chicago and Iowa. Family lore is that **John Pink** was the first of six brothers to arrive in the USA. He arrived at the beginning of the American Civil War, and was promptly drafted. Believed to have gone to some relatives in Canada for money to pay someone to serve in the army for him. He was refused and it is assumed that he stayed in Canada. His brothers did not come to America until after the war. Wants any information and suggestions about where she should search.

**Vicki Profit** e-mail <[RubyofOz@aol.com](mailto:RubyofOz@aol.com)>. Looking for a book *Royal Rebels* published in 1988. Cannot find this book in any library. Can anyone help her? ■

**BIFHSGO NEWS**  
 LISTING

## NAME SEARCH

Louise Jutras

*[Locate the name you are researching in Table A and note the membership number [No] in the last column; using this Membership Number, contact the member listed in Table B. Please note each member may be searching up to five names so be specific when communicating with them. Good luck.]*

TABLE A (Names being searched)							
Family Name	Location	Year	No	Family Name	Location	Year	No
Alfred	ENG, NFK, & SFK.	1750-1850	123	Kavanagh	IRL, WEX & CAR.	1840-1850	76
Anderson	ON.	1830	553	Cavanach			
Argent	Sudbury, SFK.	Pre 1900	26	Kavanaugh			
Bain	SCT, Halkirk, CAI.	1800	416	Kennedy	IRL, WEX & CAR.	1850	76
Blandford	ENG, Farnham.	1813	295	Knight	ON, Muskoka Area.	1880-1900	46
Borland	IRL Co Antrim.	Pre 1839	428	Lennon	IRL, Borris, CAR.	1850	76
Boyd	IRL, Co Cork.	1750-1830	242	MacGovern	ON, west region.	1850 to now	473
Bruce	SCT, St Ferfus, BAN.	1825	345	Moran			
Buchanan	SCT, Kilmarnoch Parish.	1800	446	McAlister	IRL, Bullymena, ANT.	1800-1900	413
Butler	IRL, Weyford.	Pre 1791	551	McCallum	SCT, Edinburgh.	1875	295
Carney	IRL.	pre 1810	446	McKay	SCT.	all	328
Catterson	SCT, Barrhead RFW.	1800-1900	413	McClean	SCT, Isle of Mull, Greenock, Lanark.	1821	465
Chapman	ENG, West Norfolk.	Pre 1800	26	Merrill	NB, Fredericton.	1783 to now	473
Chrysler	ON, Cardiff Twp.	1900-1905	46	Mills	IRL, Marlborough Twp.	1830	276
Code/Codd	IRL, Shilleagh, WIC.	Pre 1786	551	Mitchell	ENG, STS & CHS.	1800-1891	123
Collins	ENG, NFK & SFK.	1750-1880	123	Morrish	ENG, Westputpopp, DEV.	1800	416
Cunningham	IRL Kinkeel, Co Down.	1855	76	Moss	ENG, CHS & STS.	1750-1850	123
Curtis	IRL TYR, Kenaghan, Leckpatrick Parish.	1750-1840	242	Nagle	CAN, ON, Tottenham.	1900-1930	473
Davis	ON, Muskoka Area.	1880-1900	46	Naegele			
Dawes	ENG Uckfield, SSX.	1825	345	Nugent	IRL.	Pre 1792	551
Dean	ENG, Chester, CHS.	36389	483	Oldham	ENG, St Helen, Lancaster.	1740	295
Dohoo	SRY. GLS.	Pre 1738 Pre 1670	392	Palin	ENG (Salop) Shrewsbury, Whitchurch.	36389	483
Down	ENG, Broadwoodwider, DEV.	1800	416	Parker	SCT.	all	328
Dunbar	IRL. CAN, Stratford, ON.	1783	553	Parker	ENG, LIN.	1800	446
Foley	QC, Montreal. ON, Toronto.	1900	553	Polley	USA. ON, Simcoe. NB.	1788	553
Fowler	SCT.	all	328	Ponsford	ENG, Torquay, DEV.	1830	454
Gardner	ENG Brighton, SSX.	1825	345	Pope	ENG, Etchingham, SSX.	1820	483
Gilmour	SCT, Barrhead, RFW.	1800-1900	413	Porter	NB, Cross Creek.	1900 to now	473
Green	IRL, Mallow & Castletownroche, COR.	1800	276	Richards	ENG, Birmingham.	1862	454
Harris	IRL.	1829	465	Rishworth	ENG Keighley, Skipton, YKS.	Pre 1850	253
Haslum	ENG, Winchcomb, GLS.	1700	483	Robb	Scotland, St Fergus, BAN.	1825	345
Hearty	IRL, ARM.	1840-1850	76	Ross	SCT.	all	328
Hempsall	ENG, NTT, YKS & Lancaster.	1800-1850	123	Saunders	IRL, Castlewarren, Tiscoffin, KIK.	1750-1825	242
Hesson	IRL. ON Stratford,	1820	553	Sharpe	SCT Dumfries.	Pre 1810	446
Hunter	SCT, Barrhead, RFW.	1800-1900	413	Simpson	ON, Napanee, Toronto.	1920	473
Huston	ON, Cardiff Twp.	1800-1905	46	Staddon	ENG, London, MDX.	Pre 1890	26
Jewell	ENG, Sutcombe, DEV.	1797	416	Stanley	IRL, TIP. QC, Pontiac.	1830	465
				Stewart	ENG, Sunderland, DUR.	1800	295
				Stickler	SCT, Orkney, Co Glengarry.	1830	465
				Symons	ON, Toronto.	1850	553
				Taman	ENG, Buckingham.	1820	276
				Tarman	Goulbourn Twp.		

Theobald	ENG.	1875	454	Ward	IR. ON, Toronto.	1800	553
Thomas	Montague/Woolford Twp.	1800	188	Warren	IRL, Camolin, WEX.	Pre 1723	551
Turnbull	ENG, Newcastle upon Tyne.	1786	295	Wood	ON, Pt Hop, Toronto.	1825	553
Tussock Tyzack	ENG Newcastle. Lanark Co.	1817	276	Woolridge	ENG, Germansweek, DEV.	1800	416
Vance	ON Toronto. IRL.	1800	553	Wray	ENG, LIN.	1800	446
Wakeford	ENG, Falmer, SSX.	1825	345				
Walter	ENG, Marden, Thorn, KEN.	1730	483				

Table B (Members referred to in Table A)

No	Member's Name and Address	No	Member's Name and Address
026	Frederick John Chapman 10 Meadowbank Dr, Nepean ON K2G 0N9 fchapman@intranet.ca	92	Roy McGregor Dohoo 2092 Woodcrest Rd, Ottawa ON K1H 6H8
046	Ralph & Marilyn Davis 20 Glacier St, Nepean ON K2J 2N1 mdavis@cyberus.ca	413	Dr Jane H Catterson 22—2 Montcalm St, Ottawa ON K1S 5K9
076	John Cunningham 1221 Maitland Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 2C4 jcunn@intranet.ca	416	Jane L Down 1843 Burfield Ave, Gloucester ON K1J 6S9 marble@travel-net.com
188	Mrs Jean M THOMAS PO Box 129, Merrickville ON K0G 1N0 jthomas@intranet.ca	428	Mary Boland 456 Forged Rd, Russel ON K4R 1E5 bolandm@pwgsc.gc.ca
123	Mrs Laurie Cox 2361 Cheshire Rd, Ottawa ON K2C 1G2	446	David Thomas Carney 55 Marble Arch Cr, Nepean ON K2G 5S7 dcarney@emr.ca
242	Ronald & Laurie Curtis 2793 River Rd, RR3, Manotick ON K4M 1B4	454	Brian Chamberlain 162B Craig Henry Dr, Nepean ON K2G 4M6
253	Carolyn Cameron 1772 Laxton Cr, Ottawa ON K2C 2N3 carolyn-cameron@ocdhe.edu.on.ca	465	Rowena STICKLER 212-310 Southgate Rd, Ottawa ON K1V 8X4 dh659@freenet.carleton.ca
276	Gerard & Virginia Green 1279 Albany Dr, Ottawa ON K2C 2L7 vgreen@synapse.net	473	Wende Ann Collins 3772 Autumnwood St, Gloucester ON K1T 2K8 rwcollins@cyberus.ca
295	Brian & Gail TURNBULL 1350 Kintem Dr Greely ON K4P 1E2 bturnbull@compuserve.com	483	Roseada & William Henri Dean 17 Haggart St, Perth ON K7H 2Z5
328	Mrs Nancy Creelman 92 Starwood Rd, Nepean ON K2G 1Z5 bfowler@travelnet.com	551	David Ernest Code 456 Hillcrest Ave, Ottawa ON K2A 2M7
345	Barbara & Bob Dawes PO Box 29, Wooler ON K0K 3M0 rdawes@reach.net	553	Mrs M Joan Bawden 121 Hidden Valley Rd, Rochester NY 14624 jajobawd@aol.com

## Membership Notice

Have you enjoyed reading this Issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. If so and you want to make sure you do not miss the next one due 8 January 2000 check and make sure you have renewed your membership for the year 2000. Send your subscription of \$25 for an individual membership or \$30 for a family membership to

Membership, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, Ottawa ON K2C 1N0

## Ottawa Family History Centre—Hours of Operation

Tuesday to Thursday	9:30 am–3:30 pm 6:30 pm–9:30 pm
Friday and Saturday	9:30 am–12:30 pm
Telephone	224-2231

## BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

### Dedication of the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library

by

Mrs Jean O'Regan

In conjunction with the

Regular 8 January Saturday Morning Meeting

### Saturday Morning Meetings

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa.

at

The Montgomery Branch, Royal Canadian Legion,

330 Kent Street

Contact: Gerald M Glavin, (613) 567-2880

*Members are encouraged to arrive at 9:30 am when the Discovery Tables open*

8 January 2000, 10:00–11:30 am	Computers, the Internet, and the Family History Centre— <i>Richard St John</i>
2 February 2000, 10:00–11:30 am	A Few Ottawa Founding Families— <i>Randall Kent</i>
11 March 2000, 10:00–11:30 am	Publishing My Irish Family History— <i>Garvin Boyle</i>

## Other Family History Events

17–21 January 2000	The Salt Lake City Institution of Genalogy 2000 Salt Lake City UT
31 May–3 June 2000	The National Genealogical Society. Conference in the States. Providence RI
12–14 May 2000	The Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar 2000 Ottawa ON