Anglo-Celtic Roots

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The President's Column

For my first 10 years I lived at Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk. Our house was near the lifeboat station, just in from the mouth of the River Yare—a rich environment to stimulate the imagination and curiosity of a child. Freighters, herring drifters, shrimpers and, during the summer, day-tripper pleasure boats were constantly in and out of the harbour. Occasionally, I'd get a ride and marvel at the difference the change in viewpoint made. More often I'd be on the quay watching the water lap on a slipway. Rhythmic rising and falling tides changed the perspective—barnacle-encrusted pilings at low tide; water testing the river bank at spring tide. Once, in 1953, there was a major flood, with water two feet deep in our home.

BIFHSGO should be a bit like that experience—but not the barnacle-encrusted part. It should be a rich environment to stimulate our approach to family history; a change in perspective as we hear and interact with people from a variety of backgrounds; a rhythmic cycle of high and not-so-low points—the annual conference, arrival of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* and monthly meetings. Occasional extremes, special workshops, should happen—except we always keep our heads and homes above water! The program for the next few months will again demonstrate how we live up to the promise.

Later in life, I appreciated another aspect of the River Yare—although the river water looked much the same, the water molecules were continually being replaced as the river flowed past the lifeboat station. It may be stretching the analogy but, like the river, your Society needs continuous renewal. Next September several of our directors will finish their terms of office. Two key positions, without which the Society cannot function, will become vacant: treasurer and membership director. We will also need a director for programs and conferences. Continuity in roles is important. Becoming an associate director now, in preparation for taking on one of these responsibilities next September, is a good way of easing the transition.

A happy and healthy New Year to all.

John D. Reid

Notes from Editor's Desk

An important mandate of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* is to publish the research of the Society's members. Over the years, a number of members have used the Great Moments in Genealogy program to tell their stories, many of which were later reported in this publication. Beginning in December 2004, we have encouraged the presenters to plan an article at the same time that they plan their presentation. In this way, we have skirted the problem of insufficient reporters while encouraging members to hone their writing skills, which will surely be of help in the writing of their broader family stories. Even when reporters are available, it is very difficult to convey the true experience of the quest and the excitement of the discovery on behalf of the researcher. It may well be that fewer Great Moments will end up in our publication, but we feel that this loss is more than offset by the better quality of the stories that do appear. I hope that members will agree, when they read the four Great Moments that are included in this issue—100 per cent of the presentations at the June meeting. Hopefully, all future presenters will be encouraged to write up their own Great Moment for publication.

In this issue, the report on the Annual Conference has been enlivened by a centrefold of photographs taken by Bert Hayward during the weekend. Chris MacPhail had a fun time, creating an interesting collage that tries to capture the key aspects of a very successful event.

Part V of the Middlemore Story follows the children on their voyage across the Atlantic. Perhaps some of the descriptions would fit similar voyages taken by your own ancestors at that time. As usual, there are articles on family history sources and resources that may be new to you, news stories, a report on membership and a list of members' name searches—enough material to fill 36 pages.

None of this would have been possible without the help of the team, which included one who made his contribution from Edmonton—John Crookshanks. John, who has been helping out at *Anglo-Celtic Roots* for at least three years, left Ottawa this fall and leaves BIFHSGO in December. We all wish him well in his new endeavours and hope that he soon finds another genealogical society to join.

Irene Kellow Ip

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS

BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting

BIFHSGO held its Annual General Meeting on 10 September 2005 at the Library and Archives Canada facilities at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. Approximately 135 members of the Society were present.

John Reid, president of the Society, welcomed everyone to the meeting and made some opening remarks regarding the very successful year that the Society had enjoyed, including the move of the monthly meetings from the Montgomery Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to larger and more comfortable facilities in Library and Archives Canada. He also noted that membership in the Society is a record 467 and still growing.

Reports of the president and directors were published in the fall issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. The president summarized some of the highlights of these reports. The treasurer, Tom Rimmer, summarized the financial status of the Society, noting that the Society had a surplus of \$1,144.60 during 2004. The auditor, Linda Gloss, reported that she had examined the financial statements for 2004 and found them to be a reliable representation of the financial status of the Society as of 31 December 2004.

Amendments of the bylaws

The Board of Directors proposed three amendments to the bylaws of the Society. The first amendment was intended to widen the definition of a Life Membership. The second will require that directors be members of the Society. The third amendment will allow the Board of Directors to appoint any director as a vice-president, thereby giving the Board greater flexibility in assigning duties to directors. All three amendments were approved.

Hall of Fame appointments

Two members of the Society were appointed to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame, namely Bruce Elliott and Jim Shearon.

Bruce Elliott is member #11 of BIFHSGO and was the featured speaker at the Society's first annual conference. He is a professor of history at Carleton University and has published numerous articles and books related to immigration and family history. He

also delivered the Don Whiteside lecture at the 2004 Fall Conference.

Jim Shearon served on the Board of Directors of the Society for many years and as its president for two consecutive terms. He led the establishment of the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library and made many contributions to Society education, research and publications.





Jim Shearon

Bruce Elliott

Presentations

John Reid announced that Alison Hare's presentation on "The Not-So-Impossible John Smith" had been selected, by a vote of the members at the June meeting, for the best Saturday morning talk by a member. John presented Alison with a certificate.







Alison Hare

Chris MacPhail, director of communications, announced that Terry Findley's article "An Irish Fling, Delightful Discoveries! Part 1" had been selected by a committee for the best article in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* written by a member. Chris presented Terry with a certificate.

John Reid noted that Caroline Herbert was retiring as associate director of research and projects. He noted her many years of volunteer contribution to the Society as researcher for the Middlemore project, on the organizing committee for several fall conferences and, most recently, as a co-chairman of the 2005 Conference organizing committee. He presented Caroline with a Citation of Excellence certificate on behalf of the Society.

Election of directors

Gerry Glavin, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that there are four vacancies on the Board of Directors to be filled. Christine Jackson, Willis Burwell and Doug Hoddinott were elected to the Board in September 2003 and their terms of office are ending.

Christine and Willis have agreed to stand for reelection for additional two-year terms. Doug has agreed to stand for election for one more year. In addition, Lesley Anderson has agreed to allow her name to be placed in nomination for the Board for a two-year term. There were no further nominations from the floor resulting in the election of these nominees by acclamation.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by an excellent presentation by Roger Boult on "The Greatest Canadian and other Great Brits at Beechwood Cemetery."

Reported by Willis Burwell

BIFHSGO SATURDAY MEETING REPORTS

Great Moments in Genealogy

The following four articles are based on presentations made at the June 10 meeting.

Looking for Family Homes in 18th Century Scotland

By John Hay

y Great Moment was the pleasure of walking in the footsteps of my ancestors, seeing the homes where they had lived as identified in the records, learning something of the social conditions and the surprise of finding a house where least expected—in a museum.

In Slamannan parish, at the southernmost part of the county of Stirlingshire, the land is mostly high, boggy moorland and

agriculturally not very productive. My family had been weavers there in the 18th century and I was looking for an old farm called Drumcrie, mentioned in the Testament¹ or will of James Hay—maybe a relative, maybe not.

The social history uncovered was tremendous: the customs; the material things; the legal procedures; the funeral arrangements; even the futile medical treatment given to him. He was the tenant farmer there and died in 1774 after falling from his horse, leaving behind his wife and two young children. The inventory of the farm listed all the animals, the carts, tools, strange



things such as an iron rigwadie, a plowt kern, some household items (puther plates, a pint decanter, candlestick, a Bible, a clock, his clothing and quantities of gray cloth, blue cloth, linen, chack, harn and twilling); many items are noted plus who bought them in the roup, or auction sale, and for how much money. I spent a day in the Edinburgh Public Library researching the meanings of the Scots names of these old things.

Drumcrie was shown on an 1806 parish map² but had disappeared by the time of the 1865 Ordnance Survey map.³ Nearby was another farm called Burnhead, which is clearly shown on the current ordnance survey map; at this farm I would inquire of the place called Drumcrie.

Burnhead farm is marked on Timothy Pont's map⁴ made in the 1590s. William Tennant and eight others were named at Burnhead on the 1640 parish communion roll. As I approached from the south I puzzled out what I might ask the people at Burnhead farm, but in the distance I saw Burnhead—now just a

roofless ruin. There would be no inquiry about Drumcrie.

The farm was isolated, the nearest neighbour perhaps a mile away. A local farmer, Robert Paton, appeared as I was about to trudge along the muddy track to see what I could find. He drove me to the Burnhead ruin in his truck but didn't know about Drumcrie or the story of Burnhead, although he was working the land there. An 1880 Stirlingshire history lists Burnhead, valued then at £106; the owner was James Gowan, Esq. of Edinburgh.

The view from Burnhead house was comforting, looking south towards distant hills and, close by, a stream called the Drumtassie Burn. The horse stable was on the west, the cow stable, or byre, on the east. The roof was gone and the second floor had collapsed. There had been a garden in front of the house. It would have been a lovely place when it was new. A terracotta-tiled staircase led to the upper floor and there were several fireplaces, beautiful stone window frames and an ornate lintel over the front door. The roof had been slate.

In the byre my host pointed out the row of cow stalls and the row of smaller stalls opposite, for heifers. One could imagine the sounds and smells of the animals. I took many pictures of Burnhead and then walked to the spot where I expected to find the remains of Drumcrie, about 900 yards to the east, but nothing seemed visible, no doubt as a result of many years of ploughing.

As one might spot Roman roads and forts on an aerial photograph, in a distant view taken from across the burn I believe the outline of the old buildings of Drumcrie is visible. The 1806 map showed a house and detached barns—the barns close to the stream and the house up the slope—reverse in plan from Burnhead. This was a perfect place for growing flax—fields on a stream with an adjacent bog called Tinlorsyke, as mentioned in a 1788 land record called a sasine. Such a bog was needed for retting the flax to produce linen. Linen was used to make Scottish cloth before raw cotton was imported from America; there had been lint (flax) mills on many of the streams in the parish.

I moved on to the adjacent parish of Cumbernauld, in the eastern part of Dunbartonshire. An ancestor, John Hay, a weaver, lived at the Mains of Cumbernauld in the early 1700s but that farm is now part of a commercial garden nursery. Cumbernauld House is the estate of the Earl of Wigton, the major landowner in this part and a very wealthy man. Some of the Hays were the baillies or magistrates for this part and they would be appointed by this Earl. Cumbernauld House, built in 1731, was designed by William Adams, father of Robert Adams, the architect of Register House in Edinburgh—the much admired home of the National Archives of Scotland.

The west wing of Cumbernauld House is built on the site of a 14th century castle destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. In that castle, in 1640, in the early days of the English Civil War, the Earl of Wigton met with a number of important Scottish nobles to sign a pact known as the Cumbernauld Bond—an agreement to support King Charles 1 against the Duke of Argyll and the extreme Covenanters. Cumbernauld House now houses the offices of the electrical and mechanical engineering firm, D.H. Morris Group Ltd.

Another day I visited the Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street in Edinburgh, especially to visit the third floor displays from the Industrial Revolution—items from the Jacobite risings, life during the Enlightenment, displays from the church (cups, plates and communion tokens). I came to see the looms, since my ancestors were handloom weavers. Behind the handloom displayed was a Jacquard loom with a chain of cards punched with holes to automatically select the setting of the threads in a pattern for weaving fine damask cloth. Other exhibits showed the making of Paisley shawls and tartan fabric.

Nearby, my wife spotted something else and this was totally unexpected. There was a partial reconstruction of an old thatched house, called a cruck house. The sign said:

The house of Over Croy was probably owned by John Hay, a minor or bonnet laird who held the farm under a feudal superior. A hearth like this was the only source of heat and the means of cooking, and it helped to light up the room. In the evening members of the family gathered round it.

The large oak timbers—known as CRUCKS or COUPLES—supporting the roof were recovered from a house which dated from the 1720s at OVER CROY-DUNBARTONSHIRE. When it was first built these timbers were assembled on the ground and then hoisted into place and the walls were raised around them. The roof timbers plus some of the smaller rafters on which the turf and thatch sit are also from the same house. The clay mortared and lime washed rubble walls were of stone from a building in the CARRON valley but the thatch, the section of clay

TABLE 1

Duties Levied in Scotland on Houses and Windows, 1747-1768, Whitsunday to Martinmas 1758

Cumbernaulo	d	No.	10-14	15-20	>20	Surveyer
Parish		House	Windows	Windows	Windows	Charge
Charles Elph	instone	1	-	-	-	3.0.6
Wm Hay	Arrybog	1	-	-	-	0.0.6
John Hay	Croy	1	-	-	-	0.0.6
John Hay	Auchinstary	1	=	_	_	0.0.6

and floor and the heather are all modern representations of features which were typical of rural houses in different parts of Scotland until the 19th century.

The CANOPY chimney or "HANGING LUM" is made of wattle plastered with clay and lime washed. It represents a type which may have been in use where sawn timber boards were not available. Most surviving HANGING LUMS are rectangular and are made from such boards. This one is "CONE-SHAPED."

I knew this house—John Hay of Croy! I had found it before in the window tax records in the archives in Edinburgh (Table 1), as well as in the hearth tax records that I had seen at the Family History Centre in Ottawa (Table 2). The feudal superior was the Earl of Wigton of Cumbernauld House. Croy is in Cumbernauld Parish, Dunbartonshire.

This John Hay was listed in a sasine dated 15 March 1746:

In presence of me notary public compeared personally upon the ground of the lands after mentioned John Hay of Croy, Baillie in that part. In presence of Andrew Hay portioner of Auchenstarie granted by Right honourable John Earl of Wigton, Lord Fleming.

Table 1 is a much condensed window tax list from 1758. The first house on this list is Cumbernauld House with 80 windows, at that time the seat of the Earl of Wigton's successor, Charles Elphinstone who had married Clementina Fleming, the daughter of John Fleming, the last Earl of Wigton. Further down the list is the house of John Hay of Croy with fewer than 10 windows.

Table 2 is a much condensed hearth tax list from 1694, showing the Hays living in this parish. We find John and Robert Hay living in Croy.

This part of Scotland has been settled for millennia—Neolithic burials at Cairnpapple, the Roman Wall of Antoninus Pius, the motes of the Norman invaders at Slamannan, medieval monasteries, post-reformation farming, 19th century coal-mining, and the Glasgow overspill of today, all evident.

Much of this land has been converted to new housing estates but there is still a fort on the Roman Wall at Croy. A 1781 sasine tells that John Tennent, late of Burnhead, was then gone to the Island of Jamaica. The parish records show that Elizabeth Miller, relict of James Hay in Drumcrie, was remarried. Today Drumcrie is gone, left only to a few old records.

TABLE 2

Hearth Tax, 5th Aprile 1694 Dunbartonshire, Parish of Easter Lenizie (now Cumbernauld Parish) ⁸

No. Hearths

Earl of Wigton his Lands There	
Mathew Hay in holl	1
David Graye in Croy	1
Gavin Graye there	1
John and Robert Hays there	2
Wm Layng there	1
Mathew Hay in Eastwood	1

Seeing the thatched house from Over Croy and Cumbernauld House made the 1758 window tax record and the hearth tax registers come alive. I was fortunate to have entered the living space used by my ancestors in the 18th century.

Endnotes

- 1. National Archives of Scotland (NAS): CC21/6/71
- 2. NAS: RHP 466/1
- 3. www.old-maps.com
- 4. National Library of Scotland: www.nls.uk
- 5. NAS: RS3/471 pp. 188R 192R
- 6. NAS: RS10/7 p.376R
- 7. NAS E.326/1/30
- 8. LDS microfilm 0559524, NAS E.69 repertory.

The Ragman's Children

BY CHRISTINE JACKSON

In the fall of 2003, a chance remark to our now-president, John Reid, led me to embark on an adventure I could not have dreamed possible when I started researching my family history over 25 years ago.



I always knew that my father's mother, Rebecca

(Becky) Goldsmith, was Jewish and of Dutch extraction, and that her family had migrated to London, England, from Amsterdam sometime in Victorian times, possibly in the 1880s. Becky was born in 1884 but I didn't know if that was in the Netherlands or London. Neither did I know anything about the history of the family in the Netherlands. Becky's father was reportedly a cigar manufacturer who had lived in Maida Vale (a posh part of London) and the family was "in the diamond business." Seemingly this was a prosperous family.

About 1903, my great-grandparents and some of their younger children had moved to Brighton, on the South Coast of England, where I was born and raised—but in very modest circumstances.

There, in 1909, Becky became the first of three of nine surviving siblings to marry out of the Jewish faith. The family story is that she was never allowed inside her parents' house after her marriage to my grandfather, a non-Jew, who died of peritonitis a few months after my father, their youngest child, was born in 1914. In the early part of the 20th Century, it was hard raising three children as a single parent, especially being Jewish and having no profession or trade. Even if she herself was ostracized, however, Becky's children were allowed to see their grandparents, who lived in Brighton until their deaths.

With the passing of my Dutch great-grandparents in 1930 and 1932, it seems that our Jewish heritage was not a common subject of discussion either outside or even inside the family, although I later came to realize that my aunt practised some Dutch-Jewish traditions that she had inherited from her mother Becky. Also, all

contact with our Dutch cousins in Amsterdam ceased with the Second World War, which led to the extermination of 75 per cent of the Netherlands' resident Jewish population. We never heard from them after the War and assumed they were all lost in the Holocaust, although a family story did suggest that one young cousin had made it to safety in the United States.

The search begins

In the mid-1970s, I started working on my family history. An accidental contact with an English, Jewish genealogist led to a discussion of my Jewish heritage. But this man had left me with the distinct impression that I would have no luck tracing my Jewish ancestors in the Netherlands because the Nazis had destroyed all the synagogue records during the Second World War. I resigned myself to the belief that the most I could achieve would be to sort out the details of the family history after their arrival in London.

In retrospect, I wonder at my naivety. What about civil records? How did the Nazis do such a thorough extermination job if they didn't have access to records of the Jewish population?

So I talked to my aunt and my father. I collected some basic information from them about the last two generations, drew a skimpy family tree and promptly turned to researching the other three lines of my family, all the members of which were English, Church of England types of humble origin, and Sussex-based.

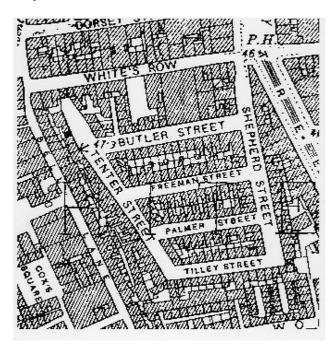
About 10 years ago, after years of inactivity on my Jewish line, I was pleasantly surprised to receive from my father a family tree prepared by a second cousin, David, whom I did not know, who had also been curious about his Jewish heritage. Our grandmothers were sisters.

Prompted by his membership in the Church of Latter day Saints, David had earlier set out on a voyage of discovery. One day, he and his daughter left their home near Worthing, Sussex, for a day trip to Amsterdam. Speaking no Dutch, David found the Gemeentearchief—the Amsterdam City Archives—and a helpful archivist who spoke English. Using an LDS pedigree chart to record his findings, and with only a

couple of hours at his disposal, David was able to locate birth and marriage dates for our great-grandparents and their parents as well as the names of the previous generation.

He had also assumed that the naming of preceding generations had followed the Jewish naming tradition of giving males and females their father's forename as their second name. (Also, among Dutch Jews and Sephardim, the first-born son is traditionally named with his paternal grandfather's first name.)

While happy to have David's pedigree chart, I still assumed that I would not be able to go beyond the bare bones of that "tree." But I wasn't taking the Internet—or my cousin Rod—into consideration.



Tenterground, Spitalfields, late 19th century

So how did John Reid enter the picture?

Then John Reid entered the picture when, at a BIFHSGO meeting in September 2003, I mentioned to him that I had Dutch-Jewish ancestors. As director of education at the time, John referred me to a paper he had previously found on the Internet about the history and context of the Dutch-Jewish community in the East End of London. The site was no longer operational but John found the paper again by using the Internet Archive Wayback Machine (web.archive.org/collections/web.html). It made for absolutely fascinating reading and led me to a second, even more interesting, paper by Aubrey Jacobus, who has set up his own website in an attempt to establish a database about Dutch Jews in 19th Century London. Dutch Jews are a significant, but historically largely

neglected, element of London's East End Jewish community.

Suddenly I knew something about the social, cultural and economic conditions under which my immigrant ancestors lived in Victorian London, as well as the virtual ghetto in the Spitalfields sector of Whitechapel—known as The Tenterground—which shaped their lives. Among other things, I discovered that the Tenterground—an area of six streets inside the Shepherd Place Arch—was occupied mostly by Dutch Jews working in the cigarmaking trade. Suddenly my ancestors were springing to life!

Around about the same time, I had my first phone conversation with my second cousin David over in England. He subsequently sent me a photograph of our great—grandfather by e-mail and told me that our great—grandparents had migrated to London in 1867—much earlier than I had previously believed. He had gleaned this information from his research at the Amsterdam Archives, where he had found a pencilled note against our great—grandfather's family entry in an 1853 population register: "Left for London 20 August 1867" (translation).



I was thrilled and moved by the receipt of the photo of my great—grandfather shown here in December 2003. I saw the kindly face of an aging gentleman and immediately noticed a family resemblance. This was Mozes Goudsmit or, as he was known in England, Morris Goldsmith. I had to know more.

Times had changed since my first feeble attempts to research this family, so this time I turned to my computer for help. It didn't matter that we were by now in the doldrums between Christmas and New Year. After all, the Worldwide Web doesn't close for the holidays! So, armed with the photo, and an arrival date in London—1867, I set about tracing my great–grandfather and his family in Victorian London.

The first place to which I turned was the U.K. censuses, and I found that things have changed in the last 25 years. When I first started my family history, I searched censuses on microfilm at the Public Records Office in London and in the county records offices in

England. Nowadays, we can do some searches from our own homes, thanks to the World Wide Web.

First I searched the on-line 1881 and 1901 Censuses, followed by pleas of help (successful) through the email forum of the Sussex Family History Group (of which I am a member) for look-ups in the 1871 and 1891 Censuses. Immediately, information came tumbling out of my computer. I was successful on all counts. In a matter of days, and in spite of the holiday season, I was able to collect names, ages, residential addresses and occupations of family members.

Most confusing, however, was the naming of the children, which took a relatively long time to sort out and was solved only when birth certificates were ordered from the GRO. My cousin Rod in England, whom I had roped in with an innocent question about Jewish naming traditions, was able to maintain the momentum by ordering birth, marriage and death certificates locally from the GRO. Using his own considerable knowledge of Jewish traditions and history, he plunged into the business of genealogical research with great enthusiasm.

Not previously into family history but with time available, Rod became a regular on FreeBMD. (This site is organizing the transcription of, and giving free Internet access to, a rapidly increasing number of the entries in the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales in the period 1837 to 1983.) He also made use of 1837online.com (www.1837online.com/Trace2web/), which, for a fee, provides scanned or database images on the complete set of births, marriages and deaths in the GRO's Index for England and Wales up to 2002. In an effort to identify all of our great-grandparents' children, I went through the microfiches of the same Index at the LDS Family History Centre, here in Ottawa.

Rod ordered what seemed like dozens of birth, marriage and death certificates, which he later scanned and sent to me on a CD-ROM. We learned some fascinating stuff: Morris, our great -grandfather, was illiterate and signed his name in the Jewish tradition with an 'O', so his wife, Margaretha—known as Kitty in England—registered most of their children's births and deaths. Morris and his surviving sons all worked in tobacco business—as cigarmakers, manufacturers. travelling cigar salesmen tobacconists' assistants.

Morris and Kitty married in the Great Synagogue in Duke's Place, London—a full year after the birth of their first child, whom we eventually found registered in the GRO Index under Kitty's maiden name. Marriage in the Great Synagogue at Duke's Place meant that our great–grandparents were Ashkenazic Jews, originating from Eastern Europe—as opposed to the Sephardic Jews, who had originated in Spain and Portugal centuries ago. This distinction is something we had been wondering about and it was to play an important part in tracing the family's history.

It became clear that most of their children were known by more than one name—their Jewish religious name, a civilly-registered English name and, sometimes, a pet name. Any one of the names could have been recorded by census enumerators and often were—meaning that it was difficult to keep track of some of the children from census to census because they were enumerated under different names. The last one to get sorted out was Great Uncle Louie, whose registered birth name turned out to be Levy Samuel, but who was listed in the 1891 and 1901 Censuses as Samuel, while his marriage certificate reads "Louie Levy Samuel."

We had found our great-grandparents' marriage (preceded by the birth of their first child), and the births and deaths of their children. (Nine of 12 known children born survived.) Their rise in society was obvious from their move out of the Dutch-Jewish East End to several more salubrious London neighbourhoods, eventually ending up in the posh Maida Vale area, before moving to Sussex. This family was obviously upwardly mobile.

The day after New Year's Day 2004 I was pondering the address of Morris's family in Amsterdam, where his father had worked as a humble diamond polisher before leaving for England—17 Joden Houttuinen (Jewish wood gardens). Idly I did a Google search and brought up the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam. From there, I followed a link and eventually hit on the *Dutch Jewish Genealogical Data Base* at the site of the Center for Research on Dutch Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Eureka!

This was to be my lucky day! There in the database I found the person we had so far thought to be our earliest known ancestor—*Nehemias Salomon/Shalom Goudsmit*—the earliest ancestor named on my cousin David's pedigree chart. Except that from there I was able to follow back, with many details, two more

generations, to a birth in 1702 in Rotterdam and an assumed marriage in approximately 1700.

Oh the joys of the Internet! I had stumbled upon an inventory of Ashkenazi-Jewish inhabitants Amsterdam in the 18th century available http://dutchjewry.huji.ac.il/maineng/upload/genealogy/ Moshe.html. This database has been compiled from a variety of local rabbinic and civil sources and includes important information on the dates on which our ancestors had adopted their surname—Goudsmit—by the process of compulsory "naturalization" required by Napoleonic law in the early 1800s. Before that, many Jewish citizens of the Netherlands had been known as "the son of" and had no formal family surname; hence, before naturalization in 1826, Nehemias had been known as Nehemia ben Salomon (meaning son of Salomon Jochem) and grandson of Lang (Tall) David. In fact, before compulsory registration, Jewish ancestries are difficult to trace because they rarely recorded family names (even where they existed) and it is rare for old rabbinic records to have survived to the extent they did in Amsterdam.

What's more, I discovered that our 18th century Dutch Ashkenazi ancestors had been among the poorest of the poor—rag men, or buyers and sellers of old clothes, who were included on the 1809 Poor List as being eligible for food provided by the community. (Rag man is the American version of a U.K. rag-and-bone man—a buyer and seller of old clothes or other household items) Others in the family were hawkers and pedlars, also on the Poor List. There was no sign of successful merchants—at least in the male line of Morris's family.

End of an era

Until the 20th century, Morris and Kitty Goldsmith were a classic story of economic migrants working their way out of the slums. They left the constraints of the Amsterdam Jewish community to take advantage of opportunities in London, and they developed an impressive family business. But they never departed from their origins. Morris knew only one trade—cigars—and the business eventually collapsed together with demand, around the turn of the 20th century. They now rest side by side in very humble graves high on the South Downs in Brighton's Jewish Cemetery. With hindsight my family can see that these great-grandparents passed on their idiosyncratic ways to influence the lives of the subsequent generations even if they did not leave them economic riches.

Their short-lived economic and social success would doubtless have been soon forgotten had it not been for this research, which has inspired my cousin Rod to continue researching our Jewish family and its earlier history. He has since found that there is indeed a basis for the illustrious family tales, including those of diamond merchants. That success however originated from Kitty's ancestors—her Sephardic ancestors who, it seems likely, can be traced back to the 1550s in Faro, Portugal.



Print (etching) of the Jewish Rag Man (juif d'Amsterdam) by M. Plonski circa 1800, Collection of the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam. Reproduced here with permission.

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Following Great Uncle John

BY JOHN D. REID

randmother's
younger brother John
lived in Sussex and
was blinded in the First
World War. That much I got
from the family; the rest was
mystery. A search for him in
First World War soldiers'
records at the Public Records
Office, Kew, had been
unsuccessful.



I had found him in the 1891 Census at the Rectory in Quernmore, Lancashire—full name John Alfred Derby Barnett, three years of age, born in Saltley, Warwickshire—with his father the Rev. Henry Barnett and three servants. His mother, the former Eva Marion Allcroft Northwood, and sister were not at home. Rev. Henry Barnett died in 1900 and his wife remarried. Her second husband was Oswald Henry Cochrane, a prosperous solicitor and local coroner in Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire.

Early this year, a free one-week trial offer of The Times Digital Archive—a full text searchable version of 200 years of *The Times* of London—was an opportunity not to be missed. Looking for an announcement of Eva's second marriage, I searched for Cochrane and Barnett together. Although the marriage announcement was elusive, the search did find several items for Cochrane—Barnett:

- In the Court Circular, *The Times*, 13 November 1953, p. 10, col. B: Captain and Mrs. J.A. COCHRANE-BARNETT have moved from Lodge Hill, Chichester, to Bayards, Steyning, Sussex which will be their permanent address.
- Reproduced from The London Gazette, 1 January 1954: Captain John Alfred Derby COCHRANE-BARNETT, Alderman, West Sussex County Council, Chairman, Southern
- Regional Association for the Blind, was appointed OBE
- Reproduced from *The London Gazette*, 10 February 1970: Captain John Alfred Derby COCHRANE-BARNETT, O.B.E., Bayards, Steyning, Sussex, was commissioned Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Sussex.

 Notice of a memorial service for Captain John Alfred Derby COCHRANE-BARNETT held Saturday 12 December 1970 at Chichester Cathedral.

The forenames "John Alfred Derby" combined with an involvement with the blind convinced me that the subject of these announcements was Great Uncle John. In addition, there were several birth announcements following his death—likely of his descendants.

A Google search of Cochrane-Barnett yielded an e-mail address in the second hit, so I wrote:

Hello: I would be interested to know if you are descended from John Alfred Derby Cochrane-Barnett (1884–Abt 1970), son of Rev. Henry Barnett and Eva Marion Allcroft Northwood. My grandmother, Eva May Allcroft Barnett, was sister of John.

Eighteen hours later, the reply arrived:

Yes, and my father's name (d. 2000) was John Norman de Northwood Cochrane-Barnett. I never knew my grandfather had a sister, or where my father's Northwood came from.

In a later e-mail, I learned that "Grandfather was blinded in 1916 at Somme" and "He was a sniper and got sniped." But it was the line between that stunned me: "serving in the Canadian Army." What was he doing in the Canadian forces?

Turning to the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website, I called up his attestation paper. Everything was consistent with what I knew, with the additional information that he was a clerk and had enlisted in the 28th Battalion at Fort William in October 1914. What was he doing there, pre-empting my role as the family pioneer in Canada? I needed to know more about his life.

His service file at LAC revealed more of the story, including the fact that he was a corporal when injured but was soon commissioned lieutenant. He was rehabilitated at an institution called St. Dunstan's, in Sussex, and was promoted to honorary captain on resigning his commission in 1918. The file had no later information, except a note of his date of death.

Detailed information on the 28th Battalion's movements was in a book at LAC, part of it available online. It mentioned John being injured, but differed in the detail on when he was commissioned.

Another piece of the puzzle came from the last Fort William city directory before the war, which listed him as a clerk with the CPR.

There were two more surprises in my research. I found him arriving at Ellis Island, New York, aboard the *Aquitania* on 22 August 1918, bound for Tysdale (Tisdale), Saskatchewan, to visit a friend, Mr. J. Weber. He used the last name Barnett.

My new-found second cousin sent scans of several documents—including John's marriage license—from Los Angeles, California. In March 1920, he had married Joan Mary Layton, whom he met while recuperating. At that time, and in the 1920 U.S. Census taken on January 1, he used the last name Cochrane-Barnett.

This research isn't over. I want to know how long he lived in Canada and why he came. The 1911 Census should give his year of immigration. Will I ever know why he emigrated? Was it for the same reason that I, unknowingly, followed him to Canada, perhaps sixty years later?

Jerome and The Gallaghers: or How I Found (maybe) A Link Between A Rural Legend and An Ancestral Family

BY GEORGE SWIFT

The legend of Jerome is told in many sources: books. websites. magazine and newspaper articles with many variations with (that is. many inaccuracies). This, summary, is the story as I have reconstructed it from all the sources I have been able to find.

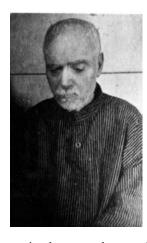


Early in the morning of 8
September 1863, two fishermen were gathering rockweed along the shore of the Bay of Fundy—to be precise, near Sandy Cove on Digby Neck, Nova Scotia. In the distance, they noticed the dark figure of a man sitting on the beach. It soon became apparent why he was sitting—he had no legs.

Beside him were a jug of water and a tin of biscuits. On closer examination, they observed that his legs had been amputated skilfully and that the stumps were healed and bandaged. But the man was suffering from cold and exposure.

The fishermen recalled that, the day before, a ship had been seen passing back and forth a half-mile offshore in St. Mary's Bay. They surmised that the man must have been brought in from the ship after dark and left on shore.

The castaway was carried to the home of a Mr. Gidney in Mink Cove where he was wrapped in warm blankets and given hot drinks. Through his moaning and muttering the locals could understand only one word, "Jerome". So they called him by that name.



Jerome, shown here, did not have calloused hands and his clothes were cut from fine cloth. These details and the lack of any other evidence led to the creation over the years of many fanciful rumours: he was Italian; no Portuguese; he was of noble birth, abandoned by his family to avoid a scandal; he was a pirate set adrift by a mutinous crew or perhaps a deserter from the U.S. Civil War. None of these

stories has ever been substantiated. It seems to me that, when we humans can't find the answer to a mystery, we tend to invent one—or two.

Jerome was taken to Meteghan and the home of Jean Nicholas, a native of Corsica, who spoke several European languages. Mr. Nicholas tried to break Jerome's silence but failed. As a matter of fact, Jerome spoke very few words from the moment he was found on the shore until he died. He spent seven years with

Mr. Nicholas and the remaining forty-two years of his life with the family of Didier Comeau in the little Acadian village of St. Alphonse de Clare. The government of Nova Scotia was persuaded by local officials to provide \$104 a year for his upkeep.

Many attempts were made to find the identity of this mystery man but no one ever succeeded. Jerome died on 19 April 1912 and took to his grave the secret of his mutilation and of his mysterious arrival on the Bay of Fundy shore. Eighty-eight years later, in the year 2000, a stone marker bearing the name Jerome was unveiled in the Meteghan parish cemetery where he had been buried.

One more detail to store in your memory banks for later: Jerome is, in most accounts, described as, at best, eccentric and at worst as paranoid (he was afraid of being left alone with women) and he was often depressed or, in today's terms perhaps, bipolar (he would brood and sulk for days for no apparent reason).

The mysterious posting

On 13 March 2003, there appeared on the RootsWeb [CAN-NB-QUEENS] message board a request for information from the descendants of three Oueens County, New Brunswick families. The first family was that of a "well-regarded surgeon-Dr. Peters-who would have operated out of Gagetown in the 1840 — 1850s." The second was of a pair of Conroy brothers who "ran a lumber operation in Queen's County in the 1840–1850s." The third family name was Gallagher "a family who lived in Chipman in the 1850s." This lastmentioned name grabbed my attention. I had no knowledge of Dr. Peters or the Conroy brothers, but my maternal grandmother was indeed a Gallagher from the village of Chipman, Queen's County, although I knew little of this Gallagher family before my grandmother's generation. I was, naturally, curious to know what someone using what appeared to be a Nova Scotia provincial government e-mail address would want to know about this family.

I hastily posted a reply to the query and quickly received this response:

I am actually doing some research on a foreign 'drifter' who may have lodged with a Gallagher family in the late 1850s. I believe this fellow—

probably Italian—came to New Brunswick to work in the woods. After an unfortunate spill through a frozen pond, he had both legs amputated by a Dr. Peters of Gagetown. The poor fellow—probably in shock—was quite uncooperative and did not speak much. I think the local folks called him 'Gamby' (which is Italian for 'leg'). He went to live with a Gallagher family for a few years before he was shipped off to Nova Scotia and left on the shores of Digby Neck in 1863. In Nova Scotia he was called 'Jerome'.

To say the least, I was intrigued by this reply and used my old friend "Google" to search for more on the subject of this mysterious Jerome. I was both horrified and fascinated by what I found. So I replied to my correspondent telling him that I knew little about the Gallaghers before my grandmother's generation except for what I could find in public records. There are no descendants of the family still living in the area and at that time I was not aware of any descendants living anywhere (except for my very ill mother and some cousins whom, up to that time, I had never met). But I expressed great interest in the story and asked him to keep in touch if he was ever able to find any more of the story.

Needless to say, I heard no more from that gentleman.

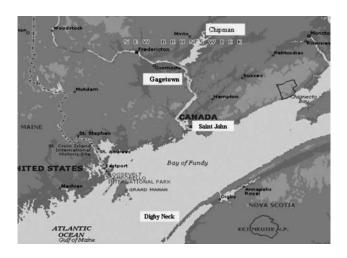
The search

The fact that one of my ancestral families might have had some part in this amazing story intrigued me, but I had no idea how to pursue the matter, so I let it rest. At the June 2004 BIFHSGO meeting, I related the story to local genealogist, David Agar, who was a guest consultant at that month's session. He expressed great interest in the story and encouraged me to pursue the matter. I followed his suggestions to contact the Nova Scotia archives and write to the Nova Scotia newspapers. The latter strategy proved fruitless but the archives came through with a list of newspaper articles and books on the subject. Obviously someone else was, or had been, researching the story. (My mysterious e-mailer perhaps?)

The next few months were spent in a sporadic search, winding and unwinding reels of microfilm at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). The result is a dreary

story of false leads, missing issues of relevant newspapers, and all the roadblocks with which we family researchers are all too familiar. I was on the verge of giving up when, quite by accident, I discovered a contemporary newspaper account of the New Brunswick part of this saga.

In Saint John's *Morning Freeman* dated 15 September 1863 (remember that Jerome was found on the morning of 8 September 1863) a story with the headline "Savage Barbarity" appeared with the following elements:



- An Italian employed in a lumber camp in Chipman, Queen's County had his legs so badly frozen that they had to be amputated.
- He was made "a charge on" that community.
- The ratepayers of the parish became "impatient of this burden."
- One citizen "deliberately proposed to do away with the Italian for five pounds."
- Although the ratepayers "entertained the application, they did not accept so dark-looking a proposal."
- They eventually conspired to have the man shipped to Saint John where he was to be transported to the Italian consulate in Liverpool but the actual intention was that he be simply abandoned in the city of Saint John.
- The good citizens of that city, apparently, were no more willing to bear this burden and "the poor, miserable, hapless creature was put on board a coasting vessel in Saint John and taken down the Bay, and he was put ashore on a lonely spot somewhere near Little River in the State of Maine,"

where he was found by some children "else all who were concerned in this brutal outrage might now have been in prison charged with the crime of murder...but it will be a shame to the Province if such inhuman wretches be suffered to go wholly unwhipt of justice."

Over the next few months, I found other tantalizing snippets of the story: confirmation of sorts that there was a Dr. Peters in Gagetown, the first doctor in New Brunswick to administer an anaesthetic by means of ether, who amputated the legs of a man in Chipman; the fact that, at one time, the Gallaghers had owned land next to people named Conroy.

But the most important clue that I found was among my own files. As I was checking to make sure that I had all the possible census data for all the families that I am researching, I came across my copies of the 1861 Census for Queen's County, New Brunswick. There I rediscovered the mysterious "lodger" living with my great-great-grandmother Jane Gallagher and her son Phillip, my great-grandfather. The name of the lodger is illegible, the only unreadable entry on that otherwise well-written page. In the "Race" column is simply the letter "F". And in the columns reserved for comments are check marks indicating that the lodger is "sick and infirm," "cripple" and "insane." Could this mean that he was a mentally ill "F"oreigner who could not walk because he had no legs?

For a few brief moments I thought I had solved the mystery of Jerome. But I soon realized that this evidence was far from conclusive. I knew I needed more.

A few more months passed. On reviewing my research notes on Jerome, I noticed the e-mail address of one Germaine Comeau, a Nova Scotia playwright and author who had written a play about Jerome. Could she be a descendant of the family that sheltered Jerome all those years?

My e-mail was soon answered. Yes, she had written a play based on much the same Nova Scotia information that I had found,

I do not remember if I came across the information referring to the disappearance of a man in Chipman before or after I wrote and produced the play, but I do remember reading about it and thinking that there was a strong possibility that this was the same person. This studied this path seriously. [And no she is not a descendant of that Comeau family.]

After the exchange of a few more e-mails, Germaine wrote that she had discovered an old newspaper clipping with the above-mentioned information. With the name and date of the newspaper, I quickly scampered off to LAC, found the relevant microfilm reel and started winding until I found the 5 June 1909 issue of The Daily Telegraph of Saint John. There it was: an anonymous letter to the editor signed by "Amphibia" of Chipman, New Brunswick. He proceeds to tactfully correct some of the errors in a previous letter from a Judge Savarys of Annapolis Royal, who stated categorically that Chipman's "Gamby" and Metaghan's "Jerome" are one and the same person. "Amphibia" then goes on to give some hitherto unknown details of Gamby/Jerome's stay in Chipman. After he had had his legs amputated by Dr. Peters "he then remained a parish charge and was housed and fed by the late Philip Gallagher for six years."

There is not the least insinuation that the Gallagher family had any part in the plot to dispose of their unfortunate charge. In all honesty, "Amphibia" does not explicitly state that they didn't but he does name two men who were complicit in the plot to abandon Gamby/Jerome.

There are a lot of other interesting facts in this letter but, suffice it to say, I was now certain that I had found the connection between the mystery man of Nova Scotia and my Gallaghers. For me, now, the real mystery in all this is not who Jerome is, or where he information was gathered from an old New Brunswick newspaper article. As far as I know, nobody has really came from, but the difference in the reactions to this unfortunate man. Why did the people of Queen's County and the city of Saint John, New Brunswick, abandon him to the elements, while the people of Meteghan, Nova Scotia, took this eccentric, difficult man into their care for almost fifty years?

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FROM THE 2005 CONFERENCE

Tools for the Travelling Genealogist

DAVID A. WALKER

avid Walker's paper described a number of tools that any travelling genealogist should consider using while planning, and then making, a genealogy research trip. His display of all

these tools covered a sizable table, which was completely surrounded by the



enthusiastic audience after the talk.

The main tool for planning the research trip is a good mapping program. For online use, the preferred software is Map Quest, but this is best used only with a high—speed Internet connection. For off line use (with your PC while you are travelling), the preferred software is Microsoft's Streets & Trips for North America, or Microsoft's Autoroute for the British Isles and the rest of Europe. Both programs can locate cemeteries and other major centres (libraries, archives)—just enter the name and select the right one from the resulting list. The best route can also be displayed and all maps can be printed.

Many tools to be used during the research trip were discussed. The first was a light-weight, portable, personal computer, currently available in notebook or subnotebook size. A portable PC is useful for reviewing and adding to database information, wireless e-mail (if you are using a hotmail account), and other applications discussed later. Since AC power will not be available in some archives, cemetery plots, etc., you may want to bring along an external battery pack, which will extend the usable on-time of your PC to a whole day.

A good location-and-mapping tool is a global positioning system (GPS) receiver. A GPS receiver determines your current latitude and longitude within about six feet from signals received from many U.S. government navigation satellites. One option is a handheld GPS receiver, which can give the position readout and, for some models, a compass arrow showing how to get to any location whose co-ordinates you know. A second option is a GPS antenna connected to a PC through a USB port. The associated mapping software can display your location on a map and also plot a course to a known destination. At a cemetery, you can record the position of the front gate and then the location of each tombstone of interest, making it easy to find those stones on a return visit.

You can "record your trip digitally" using a scanner and a digital camera. A portable scanner can be used for copying records found in archives, and old photos found while visiting distant cousins. Some scanner models are sufficiently thin and light-weight that they fit into a computer bag. When scanning multipage documents, a separate image file is created for each page. These multiple pages can be put into a single PDF file, using ScanSoft's PaperPort Deluxe / Pro v.10.

A digital camera can be used for images of tombstones and their inscriptions, photos of paper documents (if no scanner is available or if scanning or photocopying fragile books is not allowed), photos of any relatives visited along the way, and photos of original homesteads, etc. To store large numbers of photos, you can either take extra photo storage cards with you, or use a storage card reader connected to your PC to transfer images. The Sandisk Multi Card Reader reads all popular digital media and connects to your computer through a USB port. David recommends using the ACDSee Photo Manager software. It can control your scanner, download images directly from your camera, edit and sort images, create a searchable image database, create PDF files, and copy images directly to CD or DVD.

Under the category of Miscellaneous Accessories, the speaker included binoculars (for scanning rows of tombstones), two-way radios (for cemetery searchers to stay in touch), a digital voice-recorder with a USB connection to your PC (for notes to yourself or recording interviews), a magnifying glass (for examining maps or old documents), and a handheld personal digital assistant, such as a Palm device. On his Palm Tungsten T2, he uses GedStar Pro to store and view his database of 80,000 people, including images.

The key factor in acquiring all these tools is to have spousal approval for the acquisitions! Fortunately for David, his wife Suzan likes tools as much as he does. David Walker may be reached at dawalker@magma.ca or 821-5089.

Reported by Douglas Hill

The First and Only Family History Writers' Retreat in Ireland

is scheduled for 8-15 April 2006. For information go to www.enchantingireland.com/Groups/040806.asp or to www.youririshgenealogy.com.

BIFHSGO ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORTS

BIFHSGO Conference 2005: Celebrate Your Anglo-Celtic Roots!

BY IRENE KELLOW IP





Patricia Roberts-Pichette

Caroline Herbert

Reflecting the months of careful planning by the Committee, headed up by Patricia Roberts-Pichette and Caroline Herbert, the Conference delivered all that it promised and with virtually no hitches. It took place over the weekend of 23-25 September at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Almost 200 people registered for the whole weekend and an additional 37 people registered for part of the program. (In total, 300 people wore badges, taking into account everyone associated with the Conference-vendors, speakers and spouses, and volunteers helping with the Conference but not attending the lectures.)

There were two pre-conference seminars scheduled for Friday. "Beginning Genealogy," was given by the Ottawa Branch, OGS, led by Heather Oakley and attended by 18 people, while 57 people took part in a Family Tree Maker[©] workshop, given by Rick Roberts, to help people get the most out of whichever version they use. In addition, a tour of LAC attracted 21 people.

BIFHSGO President John D. Reid officially opened the Conference on Friday evening and read a welcoming letter from the Librarian and Archivist of Canada Ian Wilson. The Don Whiteside lecture followed, given this year by David Phillips. His topic "Weather and Family History" is reported below.

A new initiative, this year, was One-on-One consultations during Saturday and Sunday. Betty Warburton had brought the National Burial Index and other CDs from the BIFHSGO Library to help conference participants to locate their ancestors. Betty

was successful in helping Bert Haywood find information for which he had been searching for some years. Using a computer hooked up to the Internet, Tom Rimmer helped people to search on-line for information in the 1901 Census for England and Wales and, in addition, information in Lancashire records. Using his own collection of CDs, David Walker was available to help people search the Index of Vital Statistics from New Brunswick newspapers 1784–1896. Though not all searches were successful, most of the participants in the consultations found answers to some of their questions and leads to additional records to search.

As always, the Marketplace was a popular browsing and shopping area in between presentations. This year there were 21 registered vendors. BIFHSGO had a corner to sell *The Ottawa Sharpshooters* as well as clearance books and CDs from the Library.

The key speaker at this year's conference was Else Churchill, the genealogy officer of the Society of Genealogists, who has over 20 years of experience as a professional genealogical librarian and researcher. She gave five presentations covering various topics including, "Family history resources in British local and special libraries," "What did my ancestors do?" and "Church court records." Twelve other presenters filled out the two-day program. Another professional genealogist gave two presentations on topics related to those of the featured speaker. Three BIFHSGO members talked about the results of their own family research. Two presenters focussed on aspects of Canadian history and one dealt with transportation developments. Other presenters talked about aspects of the collections of LAC. A presentation on technology dealt with tools for the travelling genealogist (reported elsewhere in this issue).

Before the conference closed late afternoon Sunday, there was a draw for prizes donated by exhibitors and BIFHSGO members. Ninety evaluations were received from participants, who almost universally expressed pleasure and delight with their experiences at the 2005

Conference. This consensus was nicely summed up in a letter sent by a new member from New York State, who said that she had discovered the Conference by accident on a website. She "found the speakers helpful, the marketplace a treasure of offerings and the facilities outstanding. Meeting some friendly and helpful and interesting people was an added plus."

To top it off, even the Commissionaires indicated that they enjoyed being on duty during the Conference. They complimented Conference participants and organizers on their courtesy and consideration and their careful following of the LAC rules.

Weather and Family History

The Don Whiteside Memorial Lecture given by David Phillips

The BIFHSGO conference opened on 23 September with the annual Don Whiteside Memorial lecture. Although Don Whiteside died before BIFHSGO was formed, he was instrumental in its inception. David Phillips is senior climatologist with Environment Canada. He is frequently interviewed on weather and climate issues, is author of Canada's best-selling Weather Trivia Calendar, and was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2001.

n Friday evening a blizzard of information on weather blew into the Library and Archives (LAC) auditorium courtesy of David Phillips, Canada's weather guru. He gave us a glimpse of what our ancestors might have experienced, weather-wise, when they arrived in Canada in the nineteenth century. For them, the weather they faced made the difference between poverty and prosperity; it also shaped our history. It is no wonder that Canadians have such a love-hate relationship with our weather. As David explained, we are simultaneously disgusted with and proud of our weather.

Did you know that between 1450 and 1850 the world went through a "mini" ice-age? For example, in Canada the winters between 1800 and 1850 were so cold that they resulted in double the mortality rate that was the norm before 1800. The "year without a summer"—1816—resulted in massive kill-offs of birds and livestock. With about two thirds of our population living in rural communities, one can imagine the hardships our early ancestors faced!

The immigration program in the 1800s, which David talked about, must have been a hard sell. Just imagine 200,000 people a year arriving in Canada thinking the winter weather would be "bracing" and finding out what the Canadian definition of that word was! David explained that it took about two years for our ancestors to adapt to the Canadian climate. For the most part, they arrived in this country totally unprepared for the weather that they were to encounter.

We have been told by other speakers not to try and superimpose today's conditions on those that our faced. David ancestors certainly reinforced that. He told us that there wasn't much of a difference in the "average" yearly temperature if we compare the 20 years from 1890 to 1910 with the last 20 years. However, we heard that there were some



important differences. In the earlier period, there were more hot days, 30° C plus, in the summer and more cold days in the winter. There was also 25 per cent more snow in the winter and 12 per cent less rain in the summer. As David pointed out, the simple truth was that if you survived another winter you and your family would survive another year.

So did our ancestors glue themselves to the TV every night to see what the weather would be the next day? Oops, no TV and no climatologists! David explained that our ancestors were keen observers of the weather. They learned by experience what the different cloud formations meant, what that chill in the air was bringing them, and they passed their weather knowledge down from generation to generation. When we finally did get weather forecasters, Canadians apparently disdained them just as much as they seem to now!

As much as we love to pick on our weather forecasters, people were much more at risk from bad weather before the advent of weather forecasting. This is especially true for mariners and travellers. Six times more people died as a result of bad weather in the first part of the nineteenth century than today.

As quickly as the blizzard blew into LAC it ended, leaving the audience of 160 plus people with a much

more informed understanding of the weather conditions that our forebears faced. I guess David was right: we are proud of our weather, as we can be proud of the hardy ancestors that braved their weather. Many thanks to David Phillips, our weather guru.

Reported by David Kent

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Middlemore Project: Part V Voyage to Canada

BY PATRICIA ROBERTS-PICHETTE

This article is the fifth in a series. It describes how children travelled between Birmingham and their destinations in Canada. It is told partly through the eyes of the persons responsible and partly through the eyes of children. The next article will tell the story of Guthrie Home in London, Ontario.

n June 5, 1899, at 10:45 a.m., four charabancs (open carts with four or five forward-facing high-backed benches, usually drawn by four horses—really horse-drawn buses) drew up in front of the Homes in St Luke's Road, and these were soon filled with [98] children waving their handkerchiefs and singing "We are out on the ocean sailing," &c., which attracted the inhabitants of the road to their doors and windows, and they in turn waved their handkerchiefs and bid us hearty goodbye (George Jackson¹, Annual Report for 1899).

This scene was probably the norm at the time of the annual departure of the children for Canada² Preparation for this departure to Canada had been going on for each of the children from the day they entered the Home, but it would have speeded up about a month before the actual sailing date. First there would have been the medical inspections of all the departing children by the Middlemore doctor. (There may have also been an inspection by the Canadian-appointed doctor.) For the Homes' children, the reality of the approaching departure was probably the arrival of the workhouse children who would be joining the party. These children all had to pass their health inspections before they were accepted by Middlemore. Then the children were taken to the annual meeting of

the Homes' supporters at City Hall or the Masonic Lodge, with the Lord Mayor as master of ceremonies. Imagine the excitement of being taken to that meeting and seeing the Lord Mayor in his glorious robes with other dignitaries, many probably in uniform or robes. No doubt the speeches were boring, but there were songs and character recitations given by the children as part of the entertainment. Some children received prizes and all received a medal. According to various Birmingham newspaper reports, the ceremonies were followed by treats as well as special attention from the adults. It is probable that many of the people who had supported individual children were there to see them. A week or two later they would have been on their way.

There was always excitement at the New Street Station, Birmingham, as the departing group waited with their friends and relations who had been specially invited by Mr. Middlemore for the occasion. In 1899 Mr Jackson, on his first departure with a party of children, reported: "The relatives and friends of the children [were] crowding the platform to such an extent that it was with difficulty we were able to get into the saloon carriage provided for them." (Annual Report for 1899). Then the London and North-Western train departed for Liverpool and the docks, where their trans-Atlantic ship awaited them. Whenever Mr.

Boy's Outfit (1907)

1 cord suit (on his back)

1 cloth suit

1 overcoat

2 flannel vests

3 shirts (flannel preferred)

2 prs. boots (without nails)

3 prs. socks or stockings

3 collars

2 ties

3 handkerchiefs

brush, comb, toothbrush

2 caps

scarf

mittens

Bible

Canvas bag to contain same, plainly marked with his name in letters from 1 to 2 inches in size.

Source: George Jackson letter dated 15 February 1907.

Figure 1

Middlemore was present there were fun and games. Emily Christabel, his daughter, tells of one occasion when her father, aged about 70, asked her to accompany the group to Liverpool to see the children aboard. She arrived at the station in good time to catch the train with the departing children. Suddenly, there was a noisy disturbance in one of the saloon carriages ordered for the children. She hurried in to calm things down. There she found her father playing an imaginary violin with his tightly-rolled city umbrella, dancing in the middle of a large group of the younger children, who were bouncing around him and squealing with delight. Looking on and doubled up with laughter were the matrons and the station officials (Hughes, n.d.).

Photos were sometimes taken of the departing groups, boys and girls separately, each one with his or her new clothes packed into a canvas carry-all bearing his or her name stencilled in large letters. The children would all have been dressed similarly, and would have appeared as if they were part of a well-dressed school group. The clothing lists for boys (Figure 1) and girls (Figure 2) are taken from Jackson's 2 May 1913 letters to those Unions that were planning to send children with the Middlemore party.

Reverend Clement Price was in charge of the party in 1891 and described the departure scene:

Girl's outfit (1913)

3 dresses

2 top petticoats

2 flannel petticoats

1 pair stays

1 coat

2 pairs draws

3 chemises

2 flannel vests

4 pairs of stockings

3 handkerchiefs

1 wool hood

1 scarf

1 pair mittens

2 pairs of boots

1 straw hat

garters

brush & comb

tooth brush

Bible

2 night gowns

Canvas bag to contain same

Source: George Jackson letter dated 2 May 1913.

Figure 2

There was the usual sporadic fits of crying on the part of the relatives and friends of the children but only in one or two instances did we notice children affected in a like manner; then when the whistle blew and the train started, the platform was alive with the waving of hands and handkerchiefs, &c. Before we reached Wolverhampton the children seemed to have forgotten about their leave-taking, and were making varied enquiries as to how long we should be before we were on the ship, how large the ship, &c. (Annual Report for 1891).

No doubt the children would have been excited and rather awed by the unknown. Most would never have been on a train or even seen the sea, let alone an Atlantic steamer, though all would have been familiar with canal boats.

Rev. Price reported that once at sea:

It was interesting to notice that neither the young nor older children had any misgivings whatever about their Canadian future, or any regrets about leaving England. All was expectation and enthusiasm, They understood clearly—those at least who were capable of reflection—that they would have to work as hard in Canada as at home, or perhaps even harder, but there was not any symptom of fear or drawing back. From one point of view only this good heart was rather saddening, for one could not but gather that those ties must have been very unnatural which they were breaking with so little regret. Some of them indeed were not slow to tell this (Annual Report for 1891).

To further emphasize that the children were not unhappy to leave England, Irene B. in a letter to Matron [Miss S. E. Bradbury] in 1921 [January], wrote about Christmas in New Brunswick and the presents she received, thanked Matron for her letter and went on to say:

I ham (sic) so glad to have the YWCA papers and books. It makes me think how gracious God is ... I see you have only 19 girls. I bet they will be glad when the times comes for the party as we girls allways (sic) was" (Annual Report for 1921).

Henry C. wrote to Mr Jackson in 1919 from Nova Scotia and finished with the following:

I thank the homes for they have made a farmer of me. I am a lot better than being in England, my father wants me back but I don't think I can go because I am clean and I don't want to get them nasty lice on me again (Annual Report for 1920).

Travel arrangements were usually made with the Allen Line. It was, in the 1880s, reputed to have the fastest ships, with an average crossing time of 10-11 days and, therefore, one of the Royal Mail carriers. The company was at the cutting edge of ship design, being the first on the Atlantic run to go from paddle to screw-driven ships, to put up deck covers, to increase the height between decks to allow more air circulation, to build with steel and experiment with stabilizers. The S.S. Parisian (in which Middlemore children travelled in 1881, 1884, 1891, 1896) went into service in 1881 and, in 1886, was considered the best passenger ship on the Atlantic run. Special arrangements were always made for the Middlemore children with respect to both their accommodation and areas for play. The support of the Allan staff was often commented upon by the person responsible for taking the children to Canada. In April 1908, George Jackson sent the following instructions to Allan Bros. & Co Ltd, Liverpool, concerning the accommodations:

- (1) The girls' Matron to have a specially fitted up compartment equal to saloon with porthole, in the girls' quarters.
- (2) Two stewardesses to be set apart entirely for our young children—that is—one for the girls compartment and one for the boys. They must devote their whole time to our children & have no other duties.
- (3) Girls quarters must be supplied with a wardrobe room, 8 washbasins about 2 feet high, with plentiful supply of soap and towels and a good supply of water. Also there must be good W.C. accommodation close to their quarters and a night commode.
- (4) Boys quarters must be supplied with a wardrobe room, 12 wash basins about 2 feet high with plentiful supply of soap & towels & a good supply of water. Also there must be plentiful W.C. accommodation close to their quarters & a night commode.
- (5) Must have a good supply of milk for our younger children.

Their quarters should be as light as possible & not more than one flight of steps from the deck.. (Correspondence of George Jackson, Library and Archives Canada microfilm A-2090)

While the accommodations on some of the crossings were not exactly as described above [during the earliest years, the quarters were always in steerage but always separated from other steerage passengers], in general the children were well-cared for, and special arrangements were made for them by the Allan staff. The sailors set up play areas on deck, complete with swings and skipping ropes. Mr. Middlemore preferred to be on a ship without other groups of children aboard and, although this was not the case in the early years, it usually was from about 1890 onward.

Sometimes the ship originated in Liverpool, sometimes in Glasgow; sometimes the voyage was direct, other times there were calls in France or Ireland and then, perhaps, a direct voyage to Quebec City, or an indirect one to Halifax via St John's, Newfoundland.

Whether the children were warned about seasickness or not has not been disclosed, but they were always sick and the staff was always prepared. The seasickness generally lasted one to three days—longer if the weather was bad. Then everyone was able to spend time on deck, watching the sailors, telling each other stories about the lives they had lived before entering the Homes, how they had played tricks on Matron or other staff members, asking innumerable questions and speculating about their future. They likely wondered about sunsets, the passing ships, shoals of porpoises, a spouting whale and, no doubt, especially marvelled at icebergs, as these were the things they wrote about in their letters.

In 1925 Lily S. wrote to her teacher Miss Thompson at the Sherbourne Road School about her voyage to Canada:

In the channel the sea was very calm also after we left Sherberg (sic) in France, but when we came in the Atlantic it began to be stormy and windy. One boy's cap blew off into the sea I was [sea]sick four times, especially when we were near Newfoundland, where it was very stormy. Oh how I wish the girls could have been there and seen the spray from the waves as they came dashing over the deck, no wonder poets have called them white horses, I should say they were like fiery chargers, if the girls could have seen the clouds they could have written you as many essays as you wished on clouds or blankets of the sky.

Often as I gazed on the boundless Atlantic, I could not help thinking of the wonderful works of God, I saw the most glorious sunset I have ever witnessed. We stood at the rail of the deck, and saw His Majesty set in the west gradually the sky changed to a flaming red and a path of red appeared on the sea, instead of the foam being white it was a lovely red. (Annual Report for 1925).

The first year that the party was taken directly to Halifax was 1893 with an expected saving of about £200. On board the *S.S. Siberian* was Rev. John G. Hopkins in charge of the 86-member Middlemore party and Father Seddon with 30 Roman Catholic children. Rev. Hopkins reported that a fight broke out one day, over a game of pitch-and-toss for money, involving one boy from each group. The Middlemore boy was ordered to bed immediately, but not before he had had a straight talk with Rev. Hopkins about the evils of gambling. That year, the *Siberian* put into St John's Newfoundland to unload 600 tons of hewn stone for rebuilding purposes, an activity that took the whole of the next day. Advantage was taken of this delay to give the children a chance to stretch their legs in a

good long walk through the town and neighbourhood. Rev. Hopkins continued:

It was just this time in the year before that the disastrous fire³ occurred, which in one morning destroyed two-thirds of the city. The rebuilding had not long re-commenced, and we saw one street above the another running up the sides of a steep hill, in process of being filled with wooden houses in all stages of completion. We were allowed to go into the ruined and roofless [Anglican] cathedral; the nave was full of debris up to the spring of the arches, and every inch of wall and arch and column left standing scarred and furrowed by the flames. A truly pitiable sight, for this cathedral was the only building of distinction on the island, and in some points the best ecclesiastical structure on the West side of the Atlantic (Annual Report for 1893).

Descriptions of the voyage up the St. Lawrence River to Quebec City or along the southeast coast of Nova Scotia to Halifax is a composite made up of observations from several annual reports. After land came into sight, children and adults delighted in watching the coniferous forests that lined the sides of the St. Lawrence or the shores of Nova Scotia. The coasts were dotted with occasional fields, farm animals and wooden, not stone or brick, houses and outbuildings that might have been separate farms or collected in villages. Landing preparations were in full swing in the final part of the voyage, with matrons sewing on buttons, repairing clothes and generally occupied in motherly duties. In the St. Lawrence, the pilot was taken on board at Farther Point and, in 1891, he brought the news of the death of Sir John A. MacDonald. Arrival in Quebec City that year was spectacular: "On Saturday morning, in bright sunshine, in face of certainly the most beautiful scene which the children had ever beheld, we landed right under the magnificent rock of Quebec." (Rev. Clement Price, Annual Report for 1891)

Whether landing at Quebec or at Halifax, a large room in the Immigration Office was usually reserved for the exclusive purpose of dealing with the children's landing formalities and medical examinations. Then, when time permitted in Quebec City, the group would spend time "walking around this strange city where medievalism seems contending with the onrush of the nineteenth century," (Rev. John G. Hopkins, Annual Report for 1892) before going to the railway station for

the next leg of the journey. They would go by the Grand Trunk to London (or Stratford between 1889 and 1892) or, for some of the children, by the Inter-Colonial Railway to Riviere du Loup on their way to Fredericton, New Brunswick (1883-1892). From 1893 to 1930, entry to Canada was through Halifax, except for the groups arriving after the First World War, between 1920 and 1923, when the entry was through Quebec City because the port facilities had been destroyed by the Halifax explosion. So, at last, the children were in Canada and on their way to London, Stratford, or the Maritimes and the beginning of a new life with a new family. What excitement and fears they must have had as they watched the passing scenery from their carriage windows.

Rev. Price, in summing up his experience of taking a party of 29 children to Fredericton from Quebec City in 1891 (the matrons took the other 45 children by train to Stratford), wrote about the special value of the training at the Homes and the emigration work:

The effect of that training is very remarkable and complete; the discipline is exact and almost military; and obedience, at the word of command, is implicit. It frequently crossed my mind that I should have had much more trouble in conducting through Canada an equal number of sixth-standard [average age 16] children from my own parish schools than I had with these poor whilome (sic) street nomads of Birmingham.

The whole difference is to be put down to the special training of the Homes. There were one or two boys who gave more trouble than the others, and had to be particularly reckoned with. I was not surprised to find that they had been a comparatively short time in the Homes. Too much importance cannot be laid upon the necessity of this training. The Canadians do not want our bad boys; they can do no more good with them than we can, and they are naturally jealous that every precaution should be taken to secure them from getting such, and many were the questions asked about the method of treatment these children received at the Homes, and its duration. A gentleman from Ontario, who crossed with us in the "Parisian," told me that for a long time he had shared the prejudice, which he described as common to a good number in that Province, against children from England, on the ground that Canada would only get the "impossibles" of England; but that, on his recent visit, he had been induced to change his mind entirely, from a visit to Miss Macpherson's Home in London, where, he said, he saw real *bonâ-fide* training, designed specially to fit children for their change of life, and applied as long as was necessary for that desired effect.

Nothing can give a clearer idea of the immense value and the extreme hopefulness of the work done by the Homes and similar agencies, than a visit to the children in Canada, and the comparison it compels between their circumstances in England and those in the land of their adoption ... You go to Canada and you see at once, by the evidence of visible facts, each detail of these outstanding circumstances [in England] is reversed. The life is healthy and simple, the special temptations are far removed, the homes are homelike, the employers are kind and sympathetic, and the children hopeful and enthusiastic. Thus they have not only a fair but an advantageous field for exerting all those nobler qualities which will issue in making them good men and useful citizens; you come back with the feeling that here at least, there is an opportunity of doing good without the depressing doubt, so often felt, that your charity is but the lesser of two evils. It is, in fact, essentially a work of "removing offences," of rolling away the stones with which human weakness and sin have fenced in and imprisoned these lives, and setting them free to all the best influences with which God blesses mankind (Annual Report for 1891).

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Hughes, Emily Christabel (Middlenore). Sir John Throgmorton Middlemore. n.d. Typescript of a letter given to BIFHSGO by the Groom family and used with their permission.

Jackson, George. Copy letterbook. Library and Archives Canada, Reel A-2090

Endnotes

1.George Jackson was secretary to the Middlemore Homes Committee (equivalent to a Board of Governors), and also the day-to-day manager of the Homes. He took a great interest in all the children and was held in high esteem by them. He brought his first party to Canada in 1899 and he continued to bring parties to Canada until 1920. He was the person in charge of the party of children coming to Canada, settling many of them and visiting others. He was often invited to weddings, to have meals or to stay with Middlemore children who had passed from care.

2. It was usual for there to be only one party to Canada per year, but in each of 1887 and 1888 there were three groups. Occasionally during the 1880s, groups of 2–5 older children were sent to Canada in the care of the ship's captain. There

were no children brought to Canada at all in 1917, 1918 or 1919. The last, large party of children was brought out in 1924

3.. The fire at St John's started at 5 p.m. on 8 July 1892 in a stable in the east part of the city. 12, 000 people were made homeless, \$20,000,000 damage was done. The destruction of the cathedral was a shock as people believed that stone buildings were safe. "The cathedral of St John the Baptist, a gem of gothic architecture, the masterpiece of Sir Albert Scott and pride of so many Newfoundlanders was a seething mass of flame. With a crash heard even above the din of the elements the roof fell in and the result of the labours and offerings of generous thousands for many years vanished in a cloud of smoke and dust." (Anonymous)

BIFHSGO News

The Third Annual Reunion of the British Home Children and Descendants Association

BY PATRICIA ROBERTS-PICHETTE

he reunion was held at the United Church Hall, Rockingham, Nova Scotia, on 25 August 2005. The meeting started promptly at 9:50 a.m. with the singing of the old version of "O Canada," the version that the Middlemore children would have sung. Cecil Verge, the organizer, then welcomed the participants and spoke briefly. Between 110 and 120 people attended, including two Middlemore children—Gwen Pottie and Elsie Hatheway—both in their eighties. (See Photo)



I was introduced by Mr. Verge, who acknowledged with thanks BIFHSGO's support. I had been asked to speak about the conditions in Birmingham during the late 1800s and early 1900s and was very pleased by the attention which was paid. There was no time for questions, but after I had sat down, people came over to talk. A man sitting across the table from me leant over and said, "You have completely turned me around in my attitudes." In fact, any time I was at my seat someone was there to talk, to ask questions, and to give me information.

My talk was followed by a business meeting, during which I was interviewed for half-an-hour by Atlantic Television—the local variant of CTV. It also filmed the whole presentation. I did not see the report, which I understand was broadcast that evening.

Before lunch, the anniversary cake was cut by Gwen Pottie, a sprightly and highly entertaining lady, who had been settled in Cape Breton in 1924. The sandwich and desert lunch was preceded by the Grace used in all the Middlemore Homes. During the lunch period, we were entertained by Clary Croft, a local singer,

songwriter and entertainer who had studied maritime folk songs with the late Helen Creighton.*

After this lunch break, I gave my second presentation, the subject of which was the Middlemore indexing project. This was mostly a question and answer session, during which I took the opportunity to explain the problems that have to be worked out in getting copies of Middlemore documents. I explained that staff members of at Library and Archives Canada are working on new procedures. The next item was a "pass the mike" session, when those around the table were invited to describe their connection with a home child and to give a brief overview of the child's life. I had been warned that, in previous years, people had become angry and highly emotional during a similar interchange—no such reactions were evident this year. Someone said to me afterwards that the whole tenor of the reunion had changed. She put it down to the fact that most people had no idea how awful the conditions were from which most Middlemore children came. Nor did they know that Middlemore required the parents or guardians to agree to the emigration, otherwise the children could not be taken into the Homes. I was a little embarrassed when one lady, whom I had recently helped and whose "home-child" had a most unpleasant background, spoke glowingly of the help she had received from BIFHSGO volunteers. She was glad to have found one more boy in the family about whom they knew nothing and, despite the nastiness of the conditions, was glad to know the details. She was proud to be a member of a family that was brought to Canada and that was able to overcome its difficult beginnings.

At 3:00 p.m., after the closing remarks, everyone gathered outside for the walk down to the Centennial Park, close to the old Fire Hall, where the Middlemore plaque was to be unveiled. The group was led by someone with the Union Jack and escorted by the RCMP. Elsie and Gwen unveiled the plaque. Cecil Verge welcomed everyone, and the president of the Rockingham Local History Society and the City Councillor for the area addressed the crowd. The weather was wonderful and many more came than were attending the meeting.

I had brought four posters with me: one on Middlemore; one describing the project; one on the

Birmingham workhouse; one on the children's first settlement locations in the Maritimes between 1884 and 1900. These generated much interest and many questions. I also displayed some transcriptions and photocopies of children's letters (surnames blanked out) and BIFHSGO brochures. All the brochures disappeared, so I expect that there may soon be some new members from Nova Scotia. I left the reunion feeling that the work of BIFHSGO and its volunteers was well appreciated.

*Internationally recognized pioneer folklorist and collector of folk music in the Maritimes for the National Museum of Canada

Date: Sep 21, 2005 7:43 PM

Subject: Reunion August 27th. 2005 Rockingham, NS

Dear John D Reid:

On behalf of our Board members I would like to thank BIFHSGO for making it possible for Dr. Patricia Robert-Pichette to attend our reunion and unveiling of the "Fairview Home" Interpretative Panel, as our special speaker, on August 27th. 2005.

Her talk on conditions in industrial England in the late 1800's early 1900's was most informative and took the audience back to the times of their Home Child relative. This made the people realize what their BHC had to contend with and the situations in which they lived.

Following her presentation several of our members came to me and indicated that they had a complete change in their way of thinking toward the Home Child Movement. They now felt that the children had a much better opportunity by coming to Canada, even though some were mistreated here, and that a good percentage of them would not have survived had they remained in England.

Dr. Patricia's session on the Middlemore indexing brought us up to date on the project and our members look forward to completion and availability for research.

Attached are a number of photos re the event.

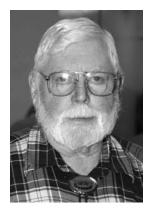
Once again thanks to you and your Board for supporting Dr. Patricia's visit.

Sincerely, Cecil M Verge, Chair, British Home Children and Descendants Association

Clifford John Quince

With great sadness we learned of the death of member Cliff Quince, who passed away on Monday, November 14 in his 81st year, two days after having attended the November BIFHSGO meeting. Cliff was well known to members for his service at the name badge table, together with his wife Joyce, during our monthly meetings.

Clifford John Quince was a WWII naval veteran, retired employee of Bell Canada



and graduate of McGill University. He was a past-president of the Bell Telephone Pioneers, one-time editor and contributor to *Square Time Magazine*, and contributor to *Up the Gatineau*. He was a 19-year volunteer at the Museum of Nature and a 15-year volunteer at the Museum of Civilization. Doug Hoddinott represented BIFHSGO at the service held in Wakefield on November 19.

FAMILY HISTORY TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

uring the One-on-One consultations at our recent conference, a client and I spent a very frustrating half-hour checking the 1902 Kelly's London Suburban Directory: Northern Districts for addresses in Islington, Holloway and Tottenham that she had found in her research. We could not find any of them. Talk about serendipity! Three days later, Irene Ip e-mailed me to tell me about a book that she had discovered while visiting England. It was about London streets, giving the date they were made official and the history of their frequent name changes. That made me consider what else was available in our library that might help our members find their way around London.

Greater London is made up of towns and villages in Middlesex and the surrounding counties that were swallowed up by the city as it expanded. It might be helpful to start by looking at a history of the county of Middlesex. The library has an excellent one—*Middlesex* by Michael Robbins.

Besides several directories and histories of small towns in Middlesex, the library has the well-known street guide with maps *London A to Z Street Atlas and Index*. Unfortunately, I could not find a date of publication but would guess it was printed between 1985 and 1995. Another interesting pocket-sized guide, published in 1961, is *London for Everyman*—a revised edition by John Freeman of William Kent's earlier book. It includes historical maps of London from Roman times

(Londinium) to the present day, with a street index to the maps. The author gives a short history of London before taking the visitor on several walks through London streets, describing the architecture and history of the area. In Search of London by the popular travel writer, H.V. Morton, describes his visit to London in the early 1950s. Victorian and Edwardian London is a fascinating view of a bygone era. It was first published in 1910 and is beautifully illustrated by paintings of London streets from that period. The author, A.R. Hope Moncrieff, introduces his city with an essay titled "What Is London?" Then he takes the reader on walks through the City of London, Westminster and other areas of the metropolis. At the same time, his reminiscences and anecdotes bring to life the experiences of a Victorian gentleman.

A different picture of London streets is found in London Labour and London Poor: The London Streetfolk (partial) by Henry Mayhew. This is the first volume of a survey of the sub-culture of poverty in 19th century London, first published in 1861. This volume describes in detail, not the streets, but the lives and occupations of street-sellers.

These are only a few of the books, CDs and fiches about London and Middlesex that you will find at the library. For more information, visit the library's catalogue at www.bifhsgo.ca to view approximately one hundred items about the area.

London Streets and Neighbourhoods

BY IRENE KELLOW IP

nce my father's family arrived in London in the 19th century, they seemed to be constantly on the move. As I try to piece their history together, one of the challenges has been to locate residences, during my visits to London, when the street is missing from today's A-Z of London Streets. (Did it disappear into a new development or was the name changed?) My sister had suggested that the missing Church Street in Camberwell was the same one as Camberwell Church Street. As London had taken over more and more suburbs, there may have been too many Church Streets. But we had no way of checking. No way—until we happened on the Greenwich Heritage Centre where, while browsing their interesting collection of local history books, I found The Oxford Dictionary of London Place Names by A.D. Mills. This book gives the history of all London streets, places and areas, including the date of origin and name changes, if applicable. (The most recent paperback edition was published in 2004 and sells for about £8.)* I was able to confirm that my sister had guessed correctly.

While I was checking street names, my sister was perusing a book that described what kind of people inhabited those streets around the turn of the century—
The Streets of London, The Booth Notebooks edited by Jess Steele and published in 1998. Charles Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, had begun a survey of London streets in 1889, which resulted in 12 maps of London neighbourhoods, colour-coded according to

social class. Ten years later, he commissioned a team to walk around the streets with the local policemen, who described the class of people living on each street, the types of occupations they had and how much drunkenness, crime or prostitution went on. The results were incorporated in his 12-volume study of the people of London (1889–1903). My sister and I were able to look up some of the streets where our grandparents had lived to see what life was like at the end of the 19th century. Since my return to Ottawa, I have located the website of the London School of Economics http://lse.ac.uk/booth, on which one can examine these maps and their modern counterparts, as well as read the handwritten notes about them.

If you have ancestors who lived in London and you are planning a visit there, I recommend locating the local history centre for the borough in which you are interested. (Check http://homepages.gold.ac.uk/genuki/LND/boro-lib.htm.) They are now the deposits of local archives including maps, Kelly's directories, census returns, old electoral registers, newspapers etc. The staff members are well-qualified and extremely helpful. You don't have to have a library card to use their services.

*Betty Warburton has purchased a copy for the BIFHSGO library and it should now be on the shelf.

The Printed Page

Family History News And Digest

The Official Journal of The Federation of Family History Societies Vol. 14, No. 4, September 2004

REVIEWED BY GORDON D. TAYLOR

This journal, one of many received by the BIFHSGO library, came to my attention as we were preparing to welcome two officials of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) to Ottawa to present a seminar on British Family History.

I decided to review the publication on the basis of the nature of its contents, as an introduction to the work of the FFHS, for myself and for the members of BIFHSGO. *Family History News and Digest* is published twice a year and it appears just before the spring and autumn general meetings of the society.

The content of the issue that I received can be classified into five main categories:

- 1. Articles
- 2. Society publications
- 3. Member society reports
- 4. Family history digest
- 5. Reviews of books and other publications.

Each of the five will be considered as separate units.

Articles

There are five items in this category. The articles are listed by title and author.

"Copyright" by David Lambert. This article is part 2 of a two-part paper. It provides an overview of a complicated subject.

"Civil Registration Reform" by Richard Ratcliffe. The writer provides an update on an ongoing process of civil registration reform.

"British Music Hall 1850 to 1950" by Max Tyler. The establishment of the British Music Hall Society and the rise and fall of the British Music Hall is discussed.

"The Sampler Index" by Jill Wye. The author explains how she took over and now runs the Sampler Index. The article will be of particular interest to people in needlework.

"Gunmaking Index" by Stan Cook. This paper deals with the development of an index of gunmakers and allied trades.

Society publications:

The release of the National Burial Index for England and Wales, second edition, is announced. This edition includes 13 million records on four CDs. The type of data included and the geographic coverage are described. This index will be a major information source on burials in England. It does not include details of death registrations or of monumental

inscriptions but concentrates on forenames and surnames, date of burial, age, details of place where event occurred, and the recording society, group or individual.

Member society reports

This section is divided into two parts, English Societies and others. The other category includes Wales, Ireland, Australia and Canada as well as one-name societies. The English societies are county or locality oriented. The section provides up-to-date information on the activities and interests of the listed societies.

Family history digest

This is a separate section, bound within the journal but with a separate page number system. It is a descriptive listing of articles and books of interest to genealogists as submitted by volunteers. In this issue there are 400 items listed and a note by the co-coordinator indicates that there is room for 600 per issue. Each item is numbered and they are classified into three types: Topical; Counties of England; Countries (Other British Isles, World). A system of cross-referencing shows where an article belongs in more than one category.

Reviews of books and other publications

There were 23 reviews in this issue, written by inhouse experts and guest reviewers.

Family History News and Digest contains a great many references to family history information and covers a wide range of interest, data, techniques, results and current legislative and administrative actions that impact upon research. Any family historian with an interest in the British Isles would do well to scan each issue as it appear.

FamilyHistoryOnline—An Enhanced and Better Service

By Geoff Riggs

Since the service started on Christmas Day 2002, the number of records available on the **FamilyHistoryOnline** website (at www.familyhistoryonline.net) has grown from 4,000,000 to over 58,000,000. These include the 1881 Census for England and Wales (free of charge) and the majority of the National Burial Index. The system passed the 5,000,000 paid searches mark in June 2005!

The site has recently had an overhaul and sports a cleaner look and there are also a number of new search features Knowing how to use these features will make it easier for you to look for that elusive ancestor.

Searching for surnames using a "wild-card"

Many of the capital letters normally used at the beginning of a surname can easily be confused with another when the name is being transcribed—for example, "Kitchen" might be read as "Hitchen", "Francis" as "Trancis", "Raker" as "Baker", or "Sawyer" as "Lawyer" (applying equally to occupations of course, as well as forenames and places of birth).

Using a single question mark (?) to substitute for a potentially doubtful letter as above, enables you to enter "?aker" to search for Raker and Baker. (This would also detect all other "?aker" names such as "Laker", of course.) You can also use these wild card characters elsewhere in a name. For example, "Sm?th" will search for "Smith" and "Smyth".

The asterisk (*) comes in handy, if you think the person you're looking for might be shown as "Smythe" or "Smyth", because you could then enter "Smyth*" as the name to be searched for. Entering "Smith*" on the other hand will enable you to search for names including "Smith", "Smithers", "Smitherman", etc.

You can use them in combination with each other, such as "Sm?th*" (but the system will complain if that results in it finding far too many records).

Searching for forenames

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The new system of searching now allows you to search using a forename without any surname (provided the forename is not too common, of course – the system would complain again if you tried to look for "Mary" or "John" without any surname).

And you can use one or more "wild-cards" when entering the forename you're looking for. So "Mar*" would look for "Mary", "Marie", "Maria", (those two are often confused with each other) as well as "Marian", "Marianne", "Maryann", "Margaret", "Margaretta", etc. "*anna*" would look for "Anna" and "Hannah" (and Pollyanna!).

Multiple forenames

If you're looking for a "Mary Anne" or a "Sarah Jane", the new system allows you to enter multiple forenames as part of your search terms. And the results of free searches now show the full name of the person rather than a single forename and surname. This should also help you pin down your relative more quickly and cheaply.

But be warned when searching! Both names must be present in the record for it to be found, although they could be in any order—searching for "Elizabeth Jane" will also find "Jane Elizabeth".

Also, remember that most census records include only one forename or perhaps a forename and initial. So you might then have to search for "Eli?abeth J*" and, if that doesn't succeed, then try searching for "Jane E*".

Including variants

Illiteracy, regional accents, or phonetic spelling may mean the name entered into the original records isn't the one you'd expect. And even expert transcribers can be mistaken when the records are written in difficult handwriting or the record is not very legible.

Because of this, many surnames (but not all) have been grouped into "clusters" of related surnames, or variants. For example, both "Jonson" and "Johnson" are in the same cluster as variants of each other. Using these clusters generally gives a better chance of finding what you want than "sounds-like" or "Soundex" coding.

Similarly, many forenames have frequently used diminutives or abbreviations. For example, "John" may be called "Jack" and also written down as "Jno"—both these variants (and others) can be clustered together with "John".

However, you cannot ask to include variants as well as using wild-cards when searching for a name.

Records before or after a certain year, or between two years

You can now specify a start year and/or an end year as part of your search. For example, if you want to look only at records before say 1837, leave the start year blank and enter "1837" as the end year.

Many people have said they prefer the extra flexibility this provides, rather than having to enter a range or a single year.

Searching for John Jones in Glamorgan?

Many surnames are very common in one part of the country and you can easily find too many records when you search. For example, there are 1727 entries for John Jones in the Glamorgan 1851 Census. That would be too expensive to pay for, even at the very low rates which FamilyHistoryOnline charges. (It would be cheaper to buy Glamorgan FHS's CD-ROM!)

To overcome this, you now have the option of paying a small premium to add the place names to the records shown in your initial search (see Figure 1). That may help to narrow down the possibilities considerably, enabling you then to choose to pay in order to see only the entries for the places of interest to you (see Figure 2).

Why can't you search by place to start with? This is because many places have more than one spelling or arrangement of words, and because the place may not be what you expected, e.g. Roath instead of Cardiff. (Roath was a parish and suburb within Cardiff.)e.g. Roath instead of Cardiff. (Roath was a parish and suburb within Cardiff.)

Est. Birth"

What does the "Est. Birth" checkbox do? Census records from 1851 onwards usually include both age and birthplace. This allows FamilyHistoryOnline to create index entries for the year and place where a person is stated to have been born. If the box is checked, these index entries will be included in the search.

This can be helpful if you want to find where your relative moved to in later life (though bear in mind, of course, that ages weren't always accurately stated, and place of birth can vary—back to the example of Roath and Cardiff).

What databases are included?

FamilyHistoryOnline is always pleased to add large databases, such as marriages or baptisms, but it also welcomes small and unusual databases. Examples of some already added are the Somerset hemp and flax growers, the tithe awards around Wakefield, and the Freemen of Ipswich.

There is a page on the website listing all the databases currently added, arranged by county. Clicking on the name of any of these databases will take you to a Web page describing that database and giving you free information about the places and dates covered, what information is contained in the records you receive from paid searches, and any abbreviations you might encounter. New databases are added on a monthly basis, so if you can't find what (or who) you want immediately, call back from time to time to check on what's new.

How to get started if FamilyHistoryOnline is new to you

If you haven't used the FamilyHistoryOnline website before, you need to sign on as a new user, with a password. But, before

you do that, we suggest that you find out how to use the service, and what databases are included (as above). There is a special page giving a step-by-step guide on how to use the service, and a page of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

You only pay for what you choose to view, from the results of free searches. You do so by voucher, either a "virtual" voucher paid for by card in a totally secure section of the site (for £5, £10, £25 or £50), or a physical voucher (for £5 or £10), which is available from some Family History Societies or on GENfair (www.genfair.com)—the e-commerce shop also run by FFHS (Publications) Ltd.

In either case, the credit the voucher buys you can be spent at any time up to six months from when you enter the details of your voucher on the system. This is the longest credit period offered by any "pay-per-view" system for comparatively small amounts such as these.

FFHS (Publications) Ltd

The FamilyHistoryOnline service is provided by FFHS (Publications) Ltd, the wholly-owned trading subsidiary of the Federation of Family History Societies, and it is run primarily to enable FFHS member societies to make their data available on the Internet in this way. Surplus revenue after covering operating costs is returned to the data providers, with each one receiving a royalty for every paid search a user makes on its data.

If you are involved in running such a society, or similar organisation, and have data you think might be of use to researchers in this way, why not learn more details by contacting the Project Administrator, at fhol.admin@ffhs.org.uk?

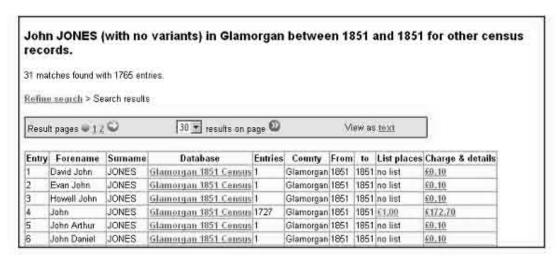


Figure 1



Figure 2

Library and Archives Canada Launches New Website

Library and Archives Canada will soon launch *Moving Here, Staying Here: The Canadian Immigrant Experience*, a website that will tell the story of immigration to Canada from the early 19th century to the outbreak of the Second World War. This story will be presented through government of Canada policy records as well as manuscript and published material that document public views of immigration and the immigrant's experience. Visitors to the site will not only see first-hand the trials and triumphs of immigration through diaries, letters and official documents, they will be encouraged to research their own family history in a large collection of digitized material that will include the passenger lists for several ports of entry, including Quebec, QC, Halifax, NS and Saint John, NB, among others.

The Scottish Family History Service

The Scottish Family History Service Project is a joint initiative between the key official genealogical information providers in Scotland—the National Archives of Scotland, the General Register Office for Scotland and the Court of the Lord Lyon—to create a unified family history centre based in Princes Street, Edinburgh. The new Centre—to be called "ScotlandsPeople"—will provide a single point of access to the key genealogical records in Scotland with new public search rooms, a seminar and exhibition space and improved retail and reception spaces. The Centre is due to open December 2006. Visit www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk"

BIFHSGO LISTINGS

Membership Report

By Doug Hoddinott

Membership Summary as of 6 November 2005

he British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa was founded and incorporated in the Fall of 1994. Membership in the Society has picked up considerably in recent years, reaching a

record 480 at the end of the current 2005 year. The following table summarizes the annual membership statistics:

BIFHSGO Annual Membership (to 6 November 2005)

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Individual	210	257	267	276	278	272	287	300	317	359	377
Family	45	60	51	69	79	75	73	83	88	75	95
Institution	7	10	5	4	6	7	4	5	8	10	8
Total	262	327	323	349	363	354	364	388	413	444	480
Growth		24.8%	-1.2%	8.0%	4.0%	-2.5%	2.8%	6.6%	6.4%	7.5%	8.1%

New BIFHSGO Members to 6 November 2005

Mbr#	Name	Address	Mbr#	Name	Address
974	Ronald JUNKIN	Toronto, ON	990	Ms Mary Jane Aileen	Ottawa, ON
975	Trisha STEWART	Nepean, ON	991	Mrs. Judy GAUTHIER	Ottawa, ON
976	Mr. Andy COATES	Richmond, ON	992	Mrs. Helen WHYTE	Ottawa, ON
977	Ms Janie BEST	Ottawa, ON	993	Carol EMOND	Ottawa, ON
978	Ms Ruth Gleave ALLEN	Navan, ON	994	Tony KENNARD	Ottawa, ON
979	Mr. & Mrs. Norman & Joan BOURNE	Toronto, ON	995	Cynthia CORISTINE & Ian BROWNESS	Ottawa, ON
980	Mr. Robert Alexander	Fanny Bay, BC	996	Jennifer HANEY	Ottawa, ON
981	Mrs. & Mr. Catherine & Kennedy SOMERTON	Ottawa, ON	997	Mr. Vernon C & Mrs Linda D. ROBERTSON	Orleans, ON
982	Keith DINSDALE	Peterborough, ON	998	Pat STEELE	Ottawa, ON
983	Elwood JONES	Peterborough, ON	999	Barbara LANCE	Ottawa, ON
984	Joanne PAYNE	Orleans, ON	1000	Mildred BRANDT	Burnt Hills, NY
985	Roger BOULT	Ottawa, ON	1001	Mrs. Shirley Anne HODGSON	Westbury-On-Trym, Bristol, England
986	Ms Judy HILLIKER	Ottawa, ON	1002	Mrs. Jane WILSON	Ottawa, ON
987	Alan Lane SANGSTER	Ottawa, ON	1003	Mrs. Dorothy MEYERHOF	Gloucester, ON
988	Helen McKELLAR	Cumberland, ON	1004	Mrs. Norma Elizabeth WHITE	Dartmouth, NS
989	Catherine DEDPEDRO CHARLTON	Ottawa, ON			

Members' Surname Search

BY ERNEST M. WILTSHIRE

hese charts are provided to enable BIFHSGO members to share in common research. If you locate one or more of the names you are researching in Table B, note the membership number

(No.) in column four. Using this Membership Number, contact the member listed in Table A. Please note that each member may be searching several names. So be specific when communicating with them. Good luck.

	TABLE A (Members referred to in Table B)						
Mbr #	Member's Name and Address	Mbr #	Member's Name and Address				
392	Roy McGregor Dohoo	919	Fred Gamester				
	1535-1695 Playfair Ottawa ON K1H 8J6		11 Home Place Chatham ON N7L 5P4				
537	Rosemary Davis		Margery Toner				
	3477 Southgate Rd. Ottawa ON K1V 7Y5		1201 Beaverwood Rd. Manotick ON K4M 1A3				
			mtoner@vif.com				
557	E. Jack Langstaff	947	Lorna Boyko				
	2060 Kings Grove Cr. Ottawa ON K1J 6G1		Apt 108, 400 McLeod St. Ottawa ON K2P 1A6				
	prach@rogers.com		elboyko@rogers.com				
697	Jeanette E.C. Logan	950	Michael Anthony (Tony) Bernard				
	650 O'Connor St. Ottawa ON K1S 3R8		1496 Caton St. Ottawa ON K1H 6J4				
	jeclogan@hotmail.com		sharon-tonybernard@sympatico.ca				
738	David Walker	952	Gil Croome & Wendy Croome				
	1972 Yorks Corners Rd. Edwards ON K0A 1V0		869 Melfa Cr. Ottawa ON K2C 0P6				
	dawalker@magma.ca		gil.croome@sympatico.ca				
			wendy.croome@sympatico.ca				
859	Peter V. Lyons	978	Ruth Gleave Allen				
	2449 Heaton Ave. Ottawa ON K1G 1J1		3580 Calvin Court Navan ON K4B 1N4				
	peteandnora@yahoo.com		rg3allen@alumni.uwaterloo.ca				
863	Lesley Anderson	1000	Mildred Brandt				
	1161 Grenoble Cr. Orleans ON K1C 2C5		2 Townley Drive Burnt Hills New York 12027 USA				
	anderley@sympatico.ca						
871	Wendy Carriere	1003	Dorothy Meyerhof				
	624 Melbourne AveOttawa ON K2A 1X1		1 Honey Gables Dr. Gloucester ON K1V 1H5				
	we_carriere@hotmail.com		meyerhof@magma.ca				

Occasionally, due to a lack of space, names published in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* may be restricted to six per individual. If this should occur, the remaining names of interest will be published in a future edition. If the members have Internet access and they give permission, all of their names of interest are published on the BIFHSGO website at: www.bifhsgo.ca.

Many BIFHSGO members belong to Genealogy societies that cover the areas detailed in this Members' Surname Search list. If you would like to loan your quarterly journals or other pertinent documents to members with an interest in the same geographical area that you are researching, please contact them directly and arrange to exchange information at the monthly meetings.

	TABLE	B (Na	mes	being searched)			
Name Location		Year	Mbr		Location	Year	Mbr
Searched	(Chapman Code)		No.	Searched	(Chapman Code)		No.
Alexander	Ottawa, Gloucester ON	1830–	557	Logan, James Marshall		Pre 1883	697
		Pres			ON CDA	1883 +	
Anderson	Antrim IRL	1800 +	863	Lyons, John	GAL IRL	Pre 1851	859
Baillie	Ottawa, Gloucester ON	1840-1880	557	Mark	Matlock ENG	1750 +	863
Bernard	KEN ENG	1850 +	950	McAllister, Daniel	Isle of Arran, SCT	1808-1892	947
Birch	STS ENG	Pre1850	952	McKelvie, Flora	Isle of Arran, SCT	1816-1888	947
Boulger, Thomas	WEX IRL	1813	859	Morrison, Sarah or Catherine	Hopetown QC CDA	Pre 1848	947
Bown	Matlock, ENG	1750 +	863	Morton, Hugh	AYR SCT	Pre 1940	697
Chisholm, Christian	FIF SCT	Pre 1880	697	Parkin	YKS ENG	1840 +	863
Cook	SCT	1850 +	1000	Platts	DBY ENG	1750 +	863
Cook	ON CDA	1884 +	1000	Quantrill	NFK ENG	1800 +	863
Crofts	DBY ENG	1800 +	863	Ramsden	MDX, KEN ENG	Pre 1740 1900 +	871
romie	Londonderry NIR	Pre 150	952	Reney	IRL	Pre 1850	1003
Croome	Stroud? GLS ENG	1750 +	952	Ross, John	Hopetown, QC CDA	1784	947
Curteis	KEN ENG	Pre 1900	950	Roycroft	LND ENG	1850	859
Doho, Thos.	IRL	1825 +	392	Schofield	LAN ENG	1800-1900	978
Dugan, Alice Jean	Plantagenet ON Dover Lake Township, Michigan Plantagenet ON	1845 1880 1881	930	Schofield	MB CDA	1910 +	978
Fagan, Terrence	DOW IRL	1862	859	Seaman	NY, Halifax, Cumberland Co. NS	1780 +	738
Fenn	LND ENG	1860-1890	978	Shreve	ENG	1600s	1003
Freeman	Hastings SSX ENG	1850 +	863	Stewart	Ottawa, Gloucester ON	1830-Pres	557
Gamester	HAM ENG	Pre 1750	859	Tate	IRL	Pre 1830	1003
Gleave	CHS ENG	1832-1900	978	Taylor, Edward	SLI IRL ON CDA	Pre 1830 1830 +	697
Griffith, Thomas Evan	FLN WAL ON CDA	Pre 1816 1816 +	697	Taylor, Matthew	HAM, LND ENG	1720 +	392
Guy	Leeds YKS ENG	Pre1850	952	Thomas	CAE WAL	1850 +	1000
Hartshorne	LIN ENG	1600s	1003	Thurgood / Thorgood	CAM, SFK ENG	1800 +	863
Henshall	CHS ENG	1780-1900	978	Veal	BKM, LND ENG	1860+	950
Hill, John	Plantagenet ON Dover Lake Township, Michigan Plantagenet ON	1845			UK	Pre1900	537
Houlton	LND ENG	1872	859	Weskett, Henry Herbert	Brighton, SSX ENG	Pre1901	537
Hugg, Paul	Kingston, Ottawa ON CDA	1849 +	_	Williams	CAE WAL	1850 +	1000
Jacobs	?	1600s		Willoughby	WYK ENG	1820-1900	
Jecks	LND ENG	1874		Withey	SOM ENG	1860	930
Jones	HAM ENG	1800-1900	_	Wooland	KEN ENG	Pre 1900	950
	FIF SCT		697				