



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

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Quarterly Chronicle

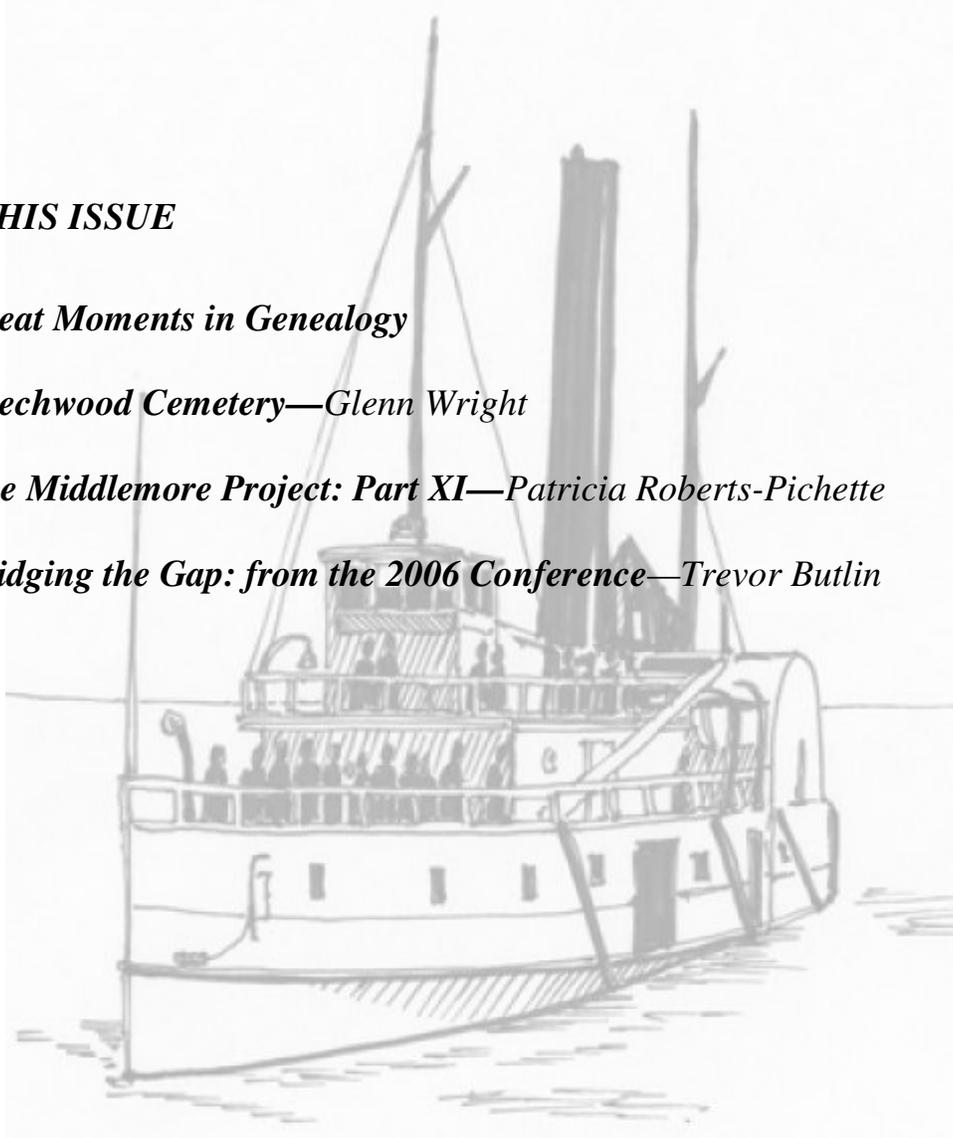
Volume 13, Number 2

Summer 2007

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### The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally-incorporated society, and a Registered Charity (Reg. No. 89227 4044 RR0001). The purpose of BIFHSGO is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into and publication of family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles.

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

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

Membership in the Society shall be available to persons interested in furthering the objects of the Society and shall consist of anyone who submits an application for admission as a member accompanied by payment of the applicable fees or dues. The 2007 calendar year fees for Membership are: \$35 Individual; \$45 Family; \$30 Institutional. Membership benefits include: the year's four Issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; ten family history programs, each of two hours' duration; up to six free queries a year; friendly advice from other members; participation in a special interest group that may be formed.

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We invite readers to share family history articles, illustrations, letters, queries and similar items of interest by submitting them to *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Manuscripts should be written in the style of story-telling or letter-writing, leaving it to the editor to adjust. Preferably, articles should be submitted on both paper and MS-Windows compatible diskette, and addressed to: The Editor, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 3Y7.

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

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO or its Officers. The Editor reserves the right to select material to meet the interest of readers, and to edit for length and content. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish a reply or return of material or, for out-of-country contributors, equivalent International Reply Coupons if you wish a reply or return of material.

# Anglo-Celtic Roots

Summer Issue 2007

Volume 13, Number 2



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Steamer *St. Lawrence* arriving at Murray Bay (Pointe-au-Pic), Québec.  
William James Topley collection, Library and Archives Canada PA-008775.

Sketch by Andrew MacPhail.

### ***The President's Corner***

As I have said on several occasions, we are a Society that depends on volunteers for its success. We are also in a competitive environment as many other organizations are looking for volunteers as well. As a new initiative this year we have created the position of Volunteer Coordinator as an Associate Director reporting directly to the President. Eric Moore has agreed to fill this position. It is hoped that this initiative will improve our ability to identify potential volunteers and to better utilize them.

On February 15, the Archives Relocation Steering Committee presented its report to the City's Community and Protective Services Committee. The report recommended the construction of a new Archives facility adjacent to the transitway station in the Centrepointe area. Supporting presentations were made by about 20 individuals and organizations, including BIFHSGO. However, the decision was that the report would not be presented to City Council at this time. The Steering Committee was instructed to continue its work and to report back in September. Specifically, the option of co-locating with a new Central Public Library is to be investigated further. Betty Warburton is our representative on this committee.

On April 4 Betty Warburton, John Hay and I participated in the Regional Historical Fair at the War Museum. We assisted in the judging of some 140 displays/presentations prepared by Ottawa area students from Grade 4 to Grade 8. Your Society provided a prize for the best entry related to family history. The winner was Katherine Davidson, a French immersion student at All Saints Catholic High School in Kanata for her presentation of "La Famille Davidson-McCabe." It's very encouraging to see young people taking an interest in their roots.

I hope everyone has a good summer and maybe even a productive one in advancing your family history. Good luck and see you in September.

**Willis Burwell**

### ***Notes From the Editor's Desk***

In the Winter 2004 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Patricia Roberts-Pichette began what became a series of eleven articles on the Middlemore Project—the emigration of over 5,000 children from Birmingham to Canada, the majority of whom were settled in the Maritimes. Irene Kellow Ip, who acted as Patricia's editor throughout, has summarized the series which exemplifies the Society's objective "to research, preserve and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family history for the benefit of current and future generations."

We continue our coverage of the Saturday meetings with articles by Marg Burwell on a chance discovery prompted by an article in *The Ottawa Citizen*, and by David Roger on dealing with an abundance of inherited family history material. Glenn Wright introduces us to the Beechwood Cemetery and its wealth of historical information and Trevor Butlin concludes our coverage of the Fall Conference with a report on David Webster's presentation on searching for relatives in modern-day Scotland. This issue includes a letter to the editor from Donald Read. We welcome your written comments and hope that Donald's letter will prompt more submissions in future.

The appeal for volunteer help that accompanied the last issue has yielded results, and several members, both old and new, have come forward with offers of assistance. This member response is most encouraging, and we look forward to their involvement in our publication activities.

As noted elsewhere, *Anglo-Celtic Roots* has been awarded first place in the 2006 Newsletter Competition of the National Genealogical Society. This exciting success is due to the efforts of the many volunteers on the Editorial Team and to the contributors of the interesting and informative material. Thank you all.

**Chris MacPhail**

**BIFHSGO SATURDAY MEETING REPORTS**

# The Citizen Casts New Light on Family History

BY MARG BURWELL

While I was growing up, I heard the story of my Dad's aunt many times. She was a nurse and served in the army during the First World War. Before leaving Canada, she stopped to visit her brother's family in Kingston. Because of the train schedule, she didn't arrive until late in the evening. My father, seven years old at the time, had already been sent to bed and when she went to say goodbye to him, he could not be roused. The family story was that she later "went down with the ship." Just the way the story was told, I'm certain that my Dad was made to feel guilty about missing that farewell for the rest of his life.



That was as much as I knew until I started doing family history research. I found a newspaper obituary of another of my father's aunts. The obituary said that Aunt Isabel was buried in Beechwood Cemetery, and

so one Sunday afternoon I drove over and asked in the office for directions to her grave. Unexpectedly I found a family plot. Although eight people are buried in that plot and two others in another nearby plot, there is only one headstone, that of my great-grandfather, John Gallaher. There is, however, also a small stone set flush to the ground that is inscribed, "Nursing Sister Minnie K. Gallaher Drowned in the Sinking of Hospital Ship Llandoverly Castle June 27, 1918," confirming the family story that she "went down with the ship" and I now knew the name of that ship.

My next step was to visit Library and Archives Canada to obtain a copy of her military record and those of her sister—also a nursing sister—and her youngest brother, Oscar, the only member of that generation whom I actually met. Minnie joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1915 and shipped out shortly thereafter. After serving in hospitals and casualty stations in England and France, she was posted to the Hospital Ship *Llandoverly Castle* on March 25, 1918.

I was able to have a copy of *The Sinking of the Llandoverly Castle*<sup>1</sup> sent to my local branch of the Ottawa Public Library through inter-library loan. In it I was able to read of the deaths of 14 Canadian nursing sisters who were serving on that ship when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat while on a return trip from Halifax to England. With this information I was able to tell the story of Minnie at the most recent tour of Beechwood Cemetery.

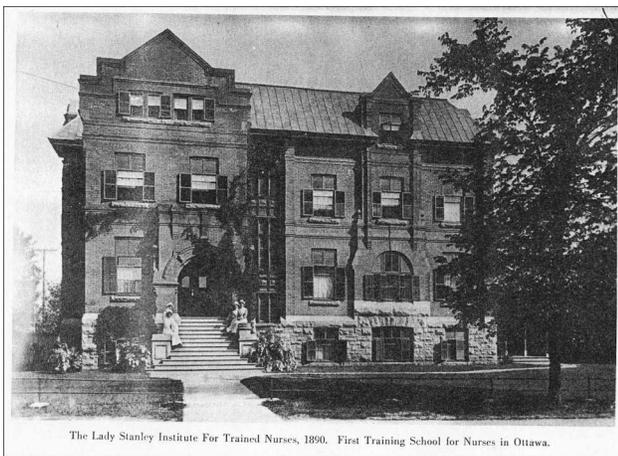
My great moment came when, on Friday, November 10, I got up and my husband Willy said to me, "Your great-aunt is in the paper." He handed me *The Ottawa Citizen*<sup>2</sup> opened at the page headlined "Selfless nurses died 'unflinchingly'" (Figure 1).



Figure 1: *The Ottawa Citizen* November 10, 2006

Prominently displayed in the article was a picture of Minnie Gallaher. Shivers went down my spine when I saw her face for the first time. I had seen a photograph of her father at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg Township, Ontario where he had preached for close to 25 years. The same piercing eyes were unmistakable.

I read that article in about 10 seconds flat and immediately reached for the telephone. Luckily I was put straight through to Bruce Ward, who had written the piece. He was able to give me the URL of the Department of Veterans Affairs website<sup>3</sup> where I could download a copy of the picture. When I asked if he could put me in touch with the person who had contributed the picture, he told me that he had only been told that the person lived in Port Alberni, B.C. Nevertheless he gave me the phone number of a person in Port Alberni who had the same initial and the same last name as the person who had donated the picture. I called that number and left a message. As I have had no reply, I have no idea if I reached the right person or not. Several hours later I did receive a phone call from a woman here in Ottawa. In the course of the conversation, it emerged that she is my first cousin once removed. Once I had established who she was, I knew where she fit in my family tree. She is the youngest daughter of Oscar Gallaher, Minnie's youngest brother. It turned out that her niece is very interested in family history. We, therefore, plan to get together soon to exchange information.



**Figure 2: Lady Stanley Institute**

I also discovered from the article that Great Aunt Minnie was a graduate of the Lady Stanley Institute for Trained Nurses in Ottawa (Figure 2), which sent me back to the Internet. After downloading the picture from the Department of Veterans Affairs website along with the two death notices I found there, I did a

Google search for Lady Stanley Institute. It revealed a reference to a book about the school<sup>4</sup> and so I searched for that title on the Ottawa Public Library website. It is held at the main library and is for in library use only, necessitating a trip downtown. Not totally dismayed, I asked at the Beaverbrook branch in Kanata if it would be possible to get a copy sent there to eliminate the need to struggle with downtown parking. It was and in the last week in November I was able to spend several hours with this slim volume. Minnie Catherine Gallaher was indeed a graduate in the class of 1901.

Where do I go from here? First of all, I intend to sit down with my newly found cousin and her niece in the hope that they have some more family photographs and information to bring that branch of my family tree up-to-date.

In my conversation with Bruce Ward, he told me that he found most of his information about Minnie Gallaher from contemporary newspaper accounts of the sinking of the *Llandoverly Castle* and from newspaper obituaries. I want to search for those accounts and see if they hold any additional information.

*The Citizen* article said that Minnie had taken a job at a hospital in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. I will try to follow that lead as well as a reference in an obituary in *The Toronto Evening Telegram* that said she had been "in charge of a model hospital set up on the Exhibition Grounds."

Whatever more I learn, I will always be grateful to that reporter who accidentally steered me in the right direction.

## References

1. *The Sinking of the Llandoverly Castle*, Anonymous, Ottawa: Director of Public Information.
2. *The Ottawa Citizen*, Friday, November 10, 2006, p. C3.
3. [http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/cvwmuploads/published/4021532\\_1.jpg](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/cvwmuploads/published/4021532_1.jpg)
4. Macbeth, Madge: *The Lady Stanley Institute for Trained Nurses*, Ottawa: Lady Stanley Institute Alumnae Association, ca 1959.

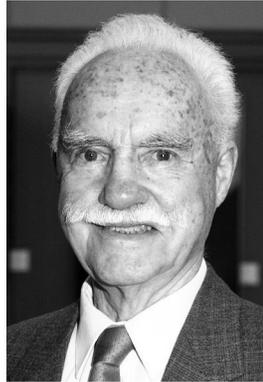
## Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the cooperation of Bruce Ward, reporter for *The Ottawa Citizen*, for permission to quote from his article and to refer to our phone conversation.

## Scottish House of Roger

BY DAVID ROGER

There are many great moments in genealogy. An important one for me occurred when I was lying in bed one Saturday morning in 1995. I heard the radio mention a meeting of BIFHSGO. I attended, joined as No. 89, and have enjoyed it ever since.



I think my genealogical background is suitable for the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa; 50 percent from Scotland, but also from Manchester and Kent in England, Welshport in Wales, and Sligo in Ireland. And ancestors came to Greater Ottawa: g g g grandparents, Thomas and Mary (Sprague) Wright and family, to Hull Township in 1800; g g grandparents, William and Sarah (Wood) Smith, (later spelled Smyth) to Gloucester in 1821; and great grandparents, Charles and Dorothy (McRobie) Roger, and family, and William and Elizabeth (Laing) MacFarlane, to Ottawa about 1860.

But the great moment I want to write about was when I found there was so much genealogy in the many books and family papers I inherited from my uncle in 1963 and from my parents in 1977. I will concentrate on those written by, or providing information about, the family name Roger, although I also have many interesting records of others of the family.

Most of you probably have had to hunt for much of your family information. I have had so much information come to me that my work has been mainly to organize or compile it. This was started, as a complete amateur, long before I was exposed to the expertise of others at BIFHSGO. When my uncle died in 1963, much of the family information was in an old suitcase and in cardboard shirt boxes of size to take legal length documents. There were hundreds of books in a room which once had been a dining room, piled high on chairs, table and in the cabinets and on the floor everything from a recent paperback or travel book, back to some printed in the 1600s. I took them home in cardboard cartons and gradually sorted them when I could make time. Among the books were many that had come down in the family, some by, or providing information about, members of the family. When my parents died in 1977, their books and documents were well organized in a library-office

room. Still much sorting and culling was needed, which I did gradually after I brought them home. Some had to be discarded, such as all the letters my brother and I had sent home from overseas during the war, which my mother had saved. One of my daughters salvaged some of those.

Some genealogical tables were made with my old computer and FamilyTreeMaker™, but I found it much more satisfactory to make tables by hand for longer lines of more generations on a page. And more information kept turning up from many sources.

My father had started genealogical records of living and some deceased family members, and had obtained extra copies of *Four Perthshire Families* by the Rev. Charles Rogers DD, LLD, printed in Edinburgh in 1887. I gradually collected the information about present and earlier members, and segregated original or photocopied documents into separate file-folders and labelled sections in a large loose-leaf binder. There are so many items, including the cable my brother sent home to tell my parents he was to be invested with the MBE by King George VI, for the original work he had done in restoring or replacing parts of terribly wounded jaws and faces. The most notable of the books is *Four Perthshire Families* (Figure 1).

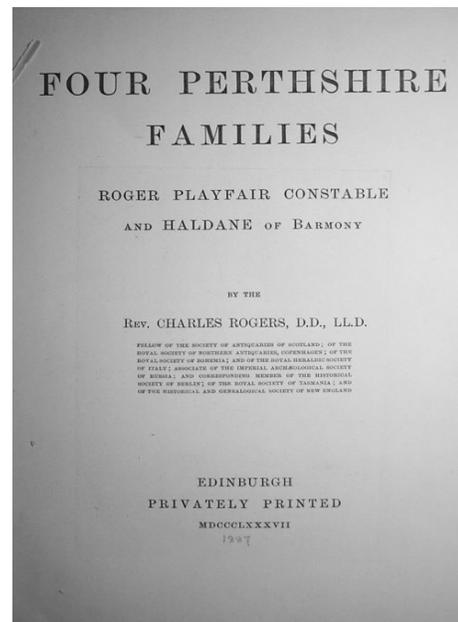


Figure 1: *Four Perthshire Families* book cover

It is a genealogical record of families Roger, Playfair, Constable, and Haldane of Barmony. The author was my great grandfather's cousin. While not in my direct ancestral line, he has made much genealogical information available. He indicates that he added the final "s" to his name, perhaps because others were inclined to mis-spell it, especially when he was in London, or USA. I still have this problem and say "no 'd' in the middle or 's' on the end; the Scottish version with minimum letters for economy's sake."

After his studies at the University of St. Andrews he was ordained Chaplain of Stirling Castle in 1855, and later achieved LLD of Columbia College and DD of the College of William and Mary. So he evidently spent time in the USA. He must have been a prolific writer. The Internet, from the "Scottish National Library, Scottish History in Print," lists publications from the Grampian Club including 38 works edited or written by Charles Rogers.

Before adoption of surnames, Roger was a first name; later it came into use as a surname. There are references to "Roger the Clerk" and "Roger the Chaplain," sometimes as witness to documents, and in wills, leases, lawsuits, and other documents. The account of the Roger family comes forward to the birth of my father in 1882, and is well documented back to before the year 1500; other records dating back to the time of the Norman Conquest are quoted, the author saying they may or may not be relevant. Some of the documents shown are in Latin, some in old Scottish-English. I have been able to partially interpret some of these with the aid of my Winston Dictionary which has a Glossary of Scottish Words and Phrases in addition to standard English.



Figure 2: Coupar-Angus location map

The documents provide insights into activities and property in early times in Scotland. In 1454 the lands of Cupar Grange were leased to twelve "husbandmen" of whom one was William Roger. Each tenant should

have under him not more than 2 cottars (sub-tenants) who were not allowed the aid of neifs (knaves, i.e. servants or underlings) or serfs. Each cottar was provided with yards for kale (cabbage) and fuel and could keep a single pig. When the lease was renewed it was provided that each tenant should plant trees, ash (for spear handles) and osier and sauch (for basket-making), prepare peat from the marsh, and provide certain personal services.

The Rental Book of the Abbey of Cupar-Angus in 1542–43 is quoted as showing that David Roger is one of four tenants paying teind (tithe) of "one-quarter eleven bolls two firlots of meal, and five bolls two firlots of barley." (Boll and firlot are dry measures of about 6 and 1 bushel). He died in 1581 leaving "moveable estate" valued at £504. There is mention of Lord Saltoun as "maister of the grund" (feudal superior), which confirms the feudal arrangement. The inscription on a stained glass window of the kirk at Dunino, Fifeshire, where the Rev. James Roger was minister for 40 years, states "PRESENTED BY JAMES CRUIKSHANK ROGER OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE ESQUIRE IN MEMORY OF HIS GRANDFATHER PETER ROGER AN ELDER OF THIS PARISH AND OF HIS ANCESTORS TENANTS AND HERITABLE PROPRIETORS OF PART OF THE GRANGE OF CUPAR ABBEY FROM A D 1454." (*Middle Temple* is one of the ancient London Law "Societies," dating at least from 1404.)

It is difficult to follow a direct ancestral line, as there is much divergence to include the distaff side, recording ancestry of women and men who married Roger sons and daughters, of whom there were many, in large families. There was much intermarriage with members of the other families included in the book, and of other tenants of Cupar Grange, or from elsewhere. An example is George Roger, baptized at Bendochy, 28 January 1649. He married Katherine Bisset. She is shown as descendant of "Byset brought into Scotland by William the Lion on his return from his captivity at Falaise." "Henry Byset witnessed a charter of William the Lion prior to 1198." The husband of George and Katherine Roger's second daughter, Katherine, in 1719 gave George a receipt for 200 merks dowry.

George and Katherine Roger would be my ancestors about six generations back. Their great grandson Peter Roger rented the Laws farm in Forfarshire. At a period when intemperance prevailed largely among Scottish husbandmen, owing to the prevalence of illicit distillation, his sobriety was conspicuous. His two immediate predecessors in the farm of Laws were toppers, the first being known as "Whisky Laws," and

the second as “Porter Laws;” in contrast he was known by the appellation of “Water Laws,” his beverage consisting of water only.

Peter and Katherine Roger’s oldest child was James Roger, father of the author of *Four Perthshire Families*, and brother of youngest son Charles Roger, my great-great-grandfather. Both sons became well educated and were achievers. James was considered fit for university and enrolled at St. Andrews in his fourteenth year, the youngest in his class. He won several prizes and bursaries. He developed expertise in languages and theology, became a clergyman in 1791, but also had varied interest and expertise in newspaper work, writing, agriculture and mineralogy.



**Figure 3: Charles Roger, 1819-1889**  
Topley photograph in author’s collection.

The youngest son, Charles, was born in the Parish of Bendochy, 5 November 1780, and became a prominent citizen of Dundee. A book compiled by W. Norrie, *Dundee Celebrities of the Nineteenth Century*, printed in Dundee in 1873, includes biographies, mostly brief, of 400 prominent citizens already dead, and includes four pages about this Charles Roger. It mentions one of his publications, *Two Genealogical and Historical Trees of the Kings of Scotland, from Achaius who began to Reign AD 787, to the baptism of the Princess Royal, 10<sup>th</sup> February 1841*. He was a merchant burghess of Dundee, served as Town Councillor, had interest and expertise as an antiquarian, historian, numismatologist, genealogist and philologist. After studying the various English translations of the Scriptures, he published *A Collation of the Sacred Scriptures* comparing four translations of the Old Testament and six of the New Testament where there are discrepancies. I have a copy of this book. In the front of the book there are eleven pages listing more than 1,200 prepublication subscribers, from most of the cities of Scotland, also Belfast, New York, and 33 from the City of Quebec. Among the latter is the name of his son, “Mr. Charles Roger, superintendent, Quebec Library Association (*three copies*).”

This younger Charles Roger, my great-grandfather, was born in Dundee in 1819 (Figure 3). He enrolled in the University of St. Andrews, first in Theology, then transferred to Medicine, but left that and joined the Royal Artillery. The Artillery brought him to Canada, to Halifax and then to Quebec City, where he obtained his discharge. His career in Canada and a temporary return to Scotland will be reviewed in a subsequent article.

*Anglo-Celtic Roots* has been awarded first  
place in the  
National Genealogical Society’s  
2006 Newsletter Competition  
for  
Major Genealogical or Historical Societies!  
Watch for details in the next issue.

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

## Great Brits of Beechwood

BY GLENN WRIGHT

*Glenn Wright, who recently retired from Library and Archives Canada, brings his extensive knowledge of national and local history to what is intended as a series of articles on the Beechwood Cemetery.*

### Introduction

In September 2005, Roger Boulton, Assistant General Manager of Beechwood Cemetery, spoke to our monthly meeting and gave a delightful illustrated talk on the heritage value of the cemetery. Given the general research interests of our members, he focused attention on a number of prominent individuals from the British Isles. This article and others to follow will continue this theme and examine individuals or groups with British connections who are now found at Beechwood Cemetery.

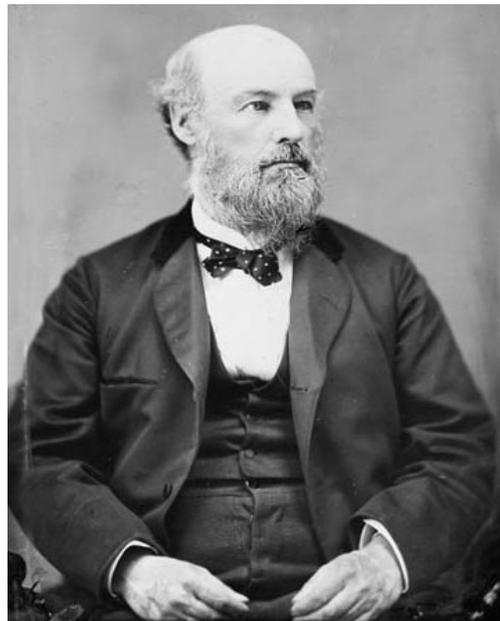


### Historical background

Early in 1873, Ottawa city officials decided that the cemetery, which had served the city since the 1830s, was nearing capacity and was a threat to public health. A bylaw was passed forbidding any new burials within the city limits after 1 May 1873. The search was on for a new location and a group of civic-minded citizens incorporated themselves as the Beechwood Cemetery Company, their first objective being to acquire sufficient land for “a quiet and permanent resting place for our dead.” A parcel of land, amounting to about 139 acres, was found northeast of the city and was bought from its owner, Hector McPhail (b.ca 1790–1885), a Glasgow-born Scot who had immigrated to Canada many years before. McPhail, his wife, Mary McNichol (d.1870), and members of their family are buried at Beechwood. Following the McPhail purchase, some 20 acres of additional land was acquired from the estate of Thomas Mackay in August of the same year.

The inaugural meeting of the Company’s subscribers was held on 14 April 1873; a Board of Directors was elected and by the end of the month a set of bylaws was approved. The board consisted of Joseph M. Currier (1820–1884), (Figure 1) a Vermont-born lumber merchant and Member of Parliament, who

served as president of the cemetery company in its formative years, Benjamin Batson (d.1897), treasurer, John Durie (1813–1895), secretary, and William Cousens (1815–1885), assistant secretary. Early board minutes also record that Sheriff John Sweetland (1835–1907) and Henry (later, Sir Henry) Bate (1828–1917) attended meetings on a regular basis. Given the city’s decision to close the old cemetery in Sandy Hill, the board was anxious to prepare the new grounds as quickly as possible and met weekly throughout the spring.



**Figure 1: Joseph M. Currier, M.P.**

Topley Studio Fonds / Library and Archives Canada / PA-025502.

One of the board’s first acts was to engage English-born Robert Surtees (1835–1906), a civil engineer, to determine the boundaries of the cemetery property, prepare a topographical map of the area and lay out the cemetery. On May 30, Surtees led the directors on a tour of the grounds, where road-building and fencing were well underway. Surtees was confirmed as the cemetery’s first superintendent, and an architect was hired to draft plans for the gates at the eastern and western entrances, dwellings for the gate-keepers and

a greenhouse. At the end of July, the directors visited the cemetery again and, pleased with the progress that had been made, offered plots for sale two weeks later. On the afternoon on 21 August 1873, four young children, the first interments in Beechwood Cemetery, were laid to rest in Section 24.

### Historical resources

Long before computer technologies and the availability of vital statistics records, researchers interested in genealogy and family history recognized the value of cemetery records. For this reason, the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) embarked on an extensive and province-wide program to record monument inscriptions. OGS branches embraced the project and now an index to these records is available online. Officials at Beechwood Cemetery have long been aware of the historical resources represented by those interred in the cemetery and the records created about them since the 1870s. The cemetery cooperated with the Ottawa Branch of the OGS to compile and publish an index to interments and monumental inscriptions in the early 1990s. A nominal index to interments, now available online at the Ottawa Branch website ([www.ogsottawa.on.ca](http://www.ogsottawa.on.ca)), is a valuable resource for researchers interested in individuals associated with Ottawa and the surrounding area. The Branch publications include a multi-volume interment register (with name, date of death, date of burial and cemetery registration number) and a volume of monument inscriptions, all of which are now available on CD-ROM. The cemetery encourages family history and genealogy by maintaining a research room on site.

To increase community awareness about the heritage value of the cemetery, historical walking tours have been held annually since the mid-1990s. Each year, a specific theme and people to illustrate the theme are chosen. In the past, tours have focused on such topics as military history, law enforcement, sports, arts and literature, and the history of Ottawa. The tours are a perennial favourite and attract huge crowds.

Like any large urban cemetery, Beechwood has evolved with the community. It is now a reflection of that community and the countless men and women from all walks of life who have contributed to Ottawa and the surrounding region since before Confederation. Beechwood's heritage value was recognized in July 2001 when the cemetery was designated a national historic site. In 1944, the

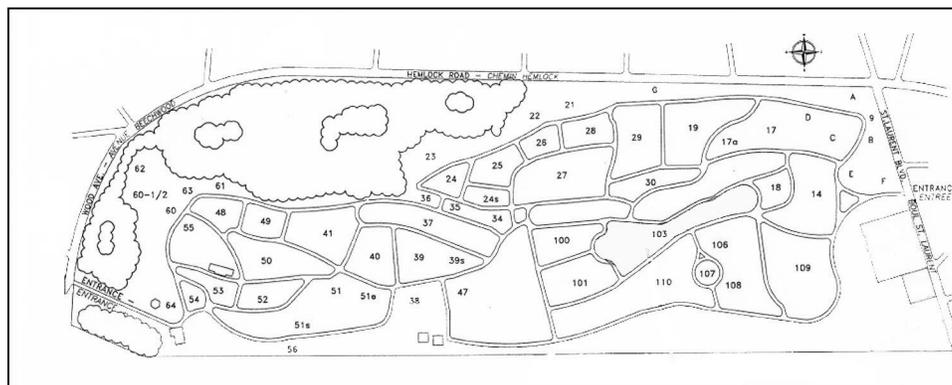


Figure 2: Beechwood Cemetery map

Department of Veterans Affairs purchased a large area (now Section 27) (Figure 2) for the interment of veterans. With its Cross of Sacrifice and standardized head-stones, the section is reminiscent of Commonwealth military cemeteries in Europe and elsewhere in the world. An additional eight acres has been set aside, and together these adjoining portions of the Beechwood Cemetery constitute the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces. This is only one example of the way in which Beechwood Cemetery reaches out to the communities it has served for over 130 years. The full extent of the cemetery's involvement with the Ottawa community is described on the Beechwood Cemetery website.

### What's next?

This article will serve as a brief introduction to the history of Beechwood Cemetery. In the future, I will focus on an individual, group of individuals or subject. With over 70,000 possibilities, the task of selecting suitable subjects to research and describe is a daunting one. I hope that each article will inform, entertain and reinforce the fact that Beechwood Cemetery is a local heritage resource of immense value to family historians and genealogists, not only in the Ottawa region, but for anyone researching the men, women and children who now rest in this beautiful cemetery.

## The Middlemore Project: Part XI

### The End of Middlemore Activity in the Maritimes<sup>©</sup>

BY PATRICIA ROBERTS-PICHETTE

*This article is the last in a series and describes the final years of settlement of Middlemore children in eastern Canada and the closure of the Home at Fairview Station.*

Then we arrived in Halifax, where we met Mr. Rae (sic) who finds us our places out there. We went to his home [Fairview] which is three miles from Halifax we went in three motor cars through roads overhung by nature's green mantle. When we reached the home we found it situated on a small hill overlooking a part of the sea called the Bedford Basin (Figure 1). Our first words were 'What a lovely spot' but better still at the back it was surrounded by forests where foxes run wild. We stayed there till Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, and then we each came to our new home. (Annual Report #53 for 1925)



**Figure 1. Fairview site looking across Bedford Basin**  
A motel now occupies the site. Both the road and railway are between the site and the water. The container docks are recent. Photograph courtesy of Brenda Franklin, May 2006.

This evocative description of an arrival at Fairview (Figure 2) was written by a 14-year-old, one of 10 children brought from Birmingham in the 1925 party. Such a small group could be conveyed in three cars from the docks to Fairview. The sharp reduction in numbers from the 55 originally expected can be explained by the Bondfield Report and the Canadian Government's reaction to its recommendations.



**Figure 2. Fairview Home ca 1905**  
Drawing courtesy of Penny Armstrong.

### The Bondfield Report

After six weeks in Canada, Miss Bondfield and her team (the British Oversea Settlement Committee (OSC) delegation) left for England on 5 November 1924. In December, their 20-page report was presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament at Westminster." By today's standards, one can only gasp at the rapidity of its release.

The team's broad mandate meant members had to visit the 16 receiving homes of 11 agencies located across Canada and interview such people as children and their receiving families (visits were not by appointment), government officials, government and agency visitors, home children who were on their own, representatives of social workers, Children's Aid Societies (CAS), Trades and Labour Council (some of these at conferences) and "any private individual who might be in a position to furnish us with information." The report was organized under 12 headings: the present system; selection; outfits for children; arrangements on the voyage; reception and distribution; placing; inspection and supervision; age of entry; wages; welfare; testing and training; and general observations. In general, the report lauded the success of the juvenile emigration system as practised in Canada saying, "[O]n the whole, the present system works satisfactorily, and...prospects for the boys and girls in Canada are better than they would have been had they remained in the United Kingdom."

Among the concerns of the team was the low level of cooperation among the agencies themselves and between the agencies and the different administrative authorities. It made many suggestions including: a reduction in the number and size of the receiving homes; visiting of homes of potential receiving families before placement of a child; increasing the number of girls emigrated; making a first visit to a child one month (instead of three) after placement; and adoption of a system similar to the CEH—pairing children with receiving families before they left Birmingham, thus allowing them to go directly to their new families from the ship (not feasible for most agencies).

There are both corrections and contradictions in the report. To counter the impression that British Authorities selected the children and used Canada as “a dumping ground for British children of an unsuitable type,” the report emphasized that Canadian officials selected the children. In England, children were medically inspected and individually interviewed by Canadian medical specialists (to satisfy themselves about general mentality and character) before being accepted for emigration. Strangely, given the influence of CAS, the team found that the Canadian children whom CAS placed out were “known as ‘shelter children’ and were...marked off in this way from other Canadian children.” In contrast, the team found that the term “Home Child” was regularly used in Canada (though some receiving families disliked it) and commented “we did not find it was used in any derogatory sense, and so far as we could ascertain, there was no prejudice against these children.” Because of the implied prejudice, the team recommended against giving CAS visitors responsibility for visiting immigrant children.

The team’s greatest concern was the child’s “age of entry,” i.e. age when emigrated. The related discussion, which covered three pages, was the longest in the report and appears ambivalent, as if trying to please two different groups. Although the team recognized that many agencies agreed that younger children adapted better than older children (especially to rural life) and were more likely to be taken into a family for reasons of affection, it discounted this reason because of the rarity of legal adoption. (Note that legal adoption of juvenile immigrants was unlawful in the Maritime provinces; agencies were legally required to retain guardianship.<sup>1</sup> Further, name changes were rare, as explained in the Nova Scotia Industries and Immigration Annual Report for 1914<sup>2</sup>.) The team listed additional concerns: the comparative helplessness of younger children, making abuse more

likely; the danger of overwork; the lack of education (compulsory in both countries but inferior in Canada and not always available in rural areas); and reduction in the number of homes available to CAS for Canadian children. On the other hand, the report stated:

The majority of the young children...were satisfactorily placed and we see no objection to migration of young children in the future provided that they are placed in homes where there is a genuine desire without regard to the work which the child may be able to perform.... We think that this desire might best be proved by...the applicant [contributing] towards the cost of bringing the child to Canada, and [accepting] responsibility of legal adoption. In our opinion it is only in such circumstances that children of tender age and unaccompanied by their parents should be allowed to go to Canada.

We are satisfied from our observations that excellent homes are found for young children, and that in only a very small proportion of the cases can any exception be taken to the conditions in which they are brought up. Nevertheless, we feel that, however excellent the placings, *the migration of young children is open to objection in principle.* (Italics added.)

The team then dropped its bombshell. It recommended that societies only emigrate children between the ages of 14 (school-leaving age in Great Britain) and 17 to Canada. In fact, the team called on the agencies to work harder at finding emigrants of that age group. Given that the children were city-raised and that Canada wanted to increase its rural population, it is surprising that the team did not consider whether such 14 to 17-year-olds would want to be settled in rural areas.

Reaction was rapid. Representatives of juvenile migration agencies met on 7 January 1925 and, on January 10, the OSC organized a meeting with the agencies. Mr. Plenderleith (CEH secretary) made notes on both meetings (Middlemore Correspondence (MC) A-1997 Vol. 115 undated ca. late January). Of the January 7 meeting, he noted that “no representative present...thought that the immigration of children under 14 years would be discontinued.” At the January 10 meeting, the advantages of migration before age 14 were stressed. Children in the Homes were liable to be reclaimed by their parents at 14 because of their earning capacity but at 18 were likely to become unemployed, replaced by school-leavers.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Plenderleith further noted that nothing was said at the OSC meeting about prohibition of children under the age of 14 landing in Canada, although delegates

agreed that age should be determined by the Canadian government, not OSC. The UK Secretary of State intimated that he would be guided by the unanimous recommendation of the delegates. There must have been subsequent discussions with officials of the Canadian Department of Immigration and Colonization (DIC) in Ottawa and London because he later changed his mind. The Secretary of the OSC, in his covering letter for the minutes of the January 10 meeting, wrote:

With regard to [age of emigration], I am to inform you that the [UK] Secretary of State accepts the recommendation, of which the Dominion Government have approved, as a guiding principle of policy. Only, therefore, in very special circumstances would the Committee feel themselves justified in considering the Grant of assistance to proceed to Canada to children who are below the school-leaving age, other than those accompanied by or proceeding to join their parents. (MC A-1997 Vol. 115)

The Canadian Government also responded rapidly. On 12 February 1925, Circular No. 12 by W. R. Little, Director, European Emigration, DIC, in London, England, was distributed to the emigration agencies. It dealt with travel costs, grants and minimum age of juvenile immigrants. The last paragraph read:

I have to add...assistance can only be granted in respect to children under the age of fourteen in exceptional circumstances, for example, if they are proceeding to join parents in Canada. In such cases, each application will be considered on its merits. If the application is approved, the above mentioned grants will be payable. (MC A-2094 Vol. 112)

In acknowledging the Circular on 14 February 1925, Mr. Plenderleith wrote to Mr. Little,

[I]t is with regret I notice the proposal to make a grant (except in special circumstances) only for children between the ages of 14 and 17 years. This must tend to diminish the number of children being sent out to Canada, and in my opinion is an extraordinary proposal when one remembers that the grant for aftercare is conditional upon the numbers being increased. (MC A-1996 Vol. 111)

The child welfare community in Canada was no doubt pleased with the Canadian government's response to the Bondfield Report recommendations. It expected that the age restriction would increase availability of foster homes for CAS children—both the Bondfield report and the agencies rejected this conclusion.

Unlike Barnardo's Homes and a number of other agencies that had facilities for long-term care or had paid boarding-out arrangements for its children, the CEH accepted children for emigration only (maximum

stay normally less than 12 months). Not expecting the age restriction to apply to the 1925 party, Mr. Plenderleith notified the Canadian Emigration Agent in Birmingham, on March 13, that he planned to leave Liverpool on May 16 with a party of children on the *Carmania* bound for Canada and asked him to set the inspection date. The next day he sent Mr. Ray the particulars of the proposed 55 children for the 1925 party. Mr. Ray, however, was not sure he would be able to place all the under-12s because financial conditions among farmers throughout the Maritimes were bad and among miners in Nova Scotia were so severe that all were economizing and some were starving (MC A-2094 Vol. 112 & 113).

Then began a Kafkaesque sequence among Canadian government officials in Ottawa and London, with conflicting messages to Mr. Plenderleith about age restrictions. On 31 March 1925, Andrew O'Kelly, Assistant Director, European Emigration, DIC, informed Mr. Plenderleith that, while the Department "had decided to discontinue the immigration of children under 14 years of age for three years, (t)hey are prepared to make an exception with regard to any child who is going to be virtually adopted in Canada." Mr. Plenderleith responded by telephone to Mr. O'Kelly, seeking the definition of "virtual adoption" and explaining that receiving families and children were matched before a party left Birmingham, i.e. children were virtually adopted. A week later, Mr. O'Kelly informed Mr. Plenderleith that Ottawa could make no exception and Mr. Plenderleith immediately cancelled the 1925 party. Masses of telegrams and letters flew between Halifax and Ottawa and Ottawa and London on the matter of virtual adoption and conditions for bringing younger children. At the same time, Mr. Ray was meeting officials in Ottawa to explain CEH guardianship as virtual adoption. On April 22, Mr. O'Kelly, wrote Mr. Plenderleith that "virtual" adoption was not "legal" adoption, that settlement of children as members of the family in homes known to Middlemore staff would not be refused, but that the migration expenses would have to be born by the Society (MC A-2094 Vol. 112). On April 27, a frustrated Mr. Plenderleith wrote Mr. Ray:

By the time you get this letter, I hope to have heard either from you or from the Canadian Government Officials in London something definite about the children under 14....We do not know two days together what is going to happen. The [Homes] Committee intend to do all possible to get a party, including some under 14, out to Canada this year. We never lived in such times as we are passing through at the moment. (MC A-2094 Vol. 113)

Finally, on May 8, Mr. O’Kelly wrote Mr. Plenderleith that “the Department has felt obliged to discontinue the term “virtual” adoption and replace it with “legal” adoption.” He added that he was prepared “to consider on their merits individual cases, such as the reunion of younger children with older brothers and sisters” (MC A-2094 Vol. 112).

On June 12, 10 children in charge of Miss Riley left from Southampton for Halifax on the *Andania*. Included in the group were three children under 14 years, for whom special permission had been granted to enable them to join siblings. Settlements were to be arranged so that siblings would be close to each other, preferably in the same home (MC A-2094 Vol. 113).

Despite the uncertainties and presumably with confidence in the future, on 6 May 1925, the participants in the CEH annual meeting bade farewell to the departing children. At the same meeting it was unanimously resolved that Middlemore Emigration Homes (MEH) be the new name of the institution (MC A-1997 Vol. 114).

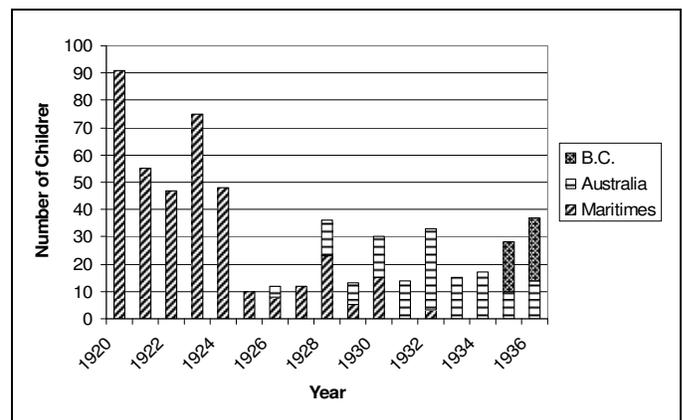
**The search for a solution**

With the Canadian Government’s decision to apply the new rules for three years, juvenile emigration agencies started to search for new outlets for their children and ways to have the rules changed for 1928. Clearly, the age restrictions would affect MEH operations, since children normally had less than 12 months residence before emigration—arrangements for the care of young children in residence would have to be made if older ones were to be taken in. Options included: return children to their parents or guardians, arrange adoptions, place them in orphanages, asylums, industrial schools, or workhouses, etc., or find another program that would take young children. Mr. Cadbury concerned himself with solving these problems, especially in light of the planned new building and the adaptation difficulties of many of the older children. He met and corresponded with the OSC and the Canadian European Emigration office, describing the challenges presented and requesting information. He was successful in obtaining appointments with visiting politicians (Prime Minister Mackenzie King excepted) and kept in contact with other juvenile emigration agencies.

When he learned that Barnardo Homes emigrated children to Australia, Mr. Cadbury enquired of Percy Roberts, the Chief Migration Officer, on 2 June 1925, whether 1) Middlemore children younger than 14 years could be included in a party for Australia and 2) a conference of child migration agencies should be

held. The answer was that Barnardo took only 14-year-old and older children to Australia and that, indeed, a meeting should be organized (MC A-2094 Vol. 112). Then, in September, Mr. Plenderleith learned of the activities of the Child Emigration Society (CES), headquartered in London. It supported the Fairbridge Farm School for English immigrant children at Pinjarra, Western Australia, in commemoration of Kingsley Fairbridge.<sup>3</sup> Further enquiries revealed that Australia had no age restrictions and CES preferred children of eight to ten years and not over 12 years. Children lived in cottages on the farm in a familial situation, attended school to the age of 15 years and received training in farming, some trades and domestic work. Work was then found for them in Western Australia but, if unsatisfied with their situations, the children were free to return at any time, as Fairbridge was their home (A-2094 Vol. 112). In October, Mr. Plenderleith learned that Percy Roberts was a member of the CES Executive Committee. With support of the Homes Committee, Mr. Plenderleith asked the CES, on 27 November 1925, whether there would be room for four boys in the next party to Australia. In early 1926, the first two Middlemore boys (under 12 years) sailed for Australia and were followed later in the year by two more. Thus started the association of MEH and CES (later Fairbridge Society) that lasted until 1945.

The Canadian restrictions severely limited the number of MEH children available for emigration because few 14-year-old children entered the Homes. Consequently, the annual numbers of MEH children emigrated to Canada dropped dramatically (Figure 3).



**Figure 3: Numbers of children emigrated by the Middlemore Emigration Homes 1920–1936**  
 (Sources: MEH Annual Reports, Homes Committee Minutes, House Committee Minutes 1920–1936)

### Meantime in the Maritimes...

As in England, the emigration agencies in Canada met and corresponded but with little positive result. In the Maritimes, however, changes were coming—Nova Scotia preferred no immigrant children (with the exception of 16 and 17-year-old boys). New Brunswick wanted some under-14s, while Prince Edward Island did not seem to be concerned, as few Middlemore children had been settled there in recent years.

In July 1925, Nova Scotians elected the first Conservative government after more than 40 years. Edgar Nelson Rhodes became premier. Major changes that directly affected the MEH followed and most involved Ernest H. Blois, Superintendent, Neglected and Delinquent Children. The Departments of Agriculture, Public Health and Industries and Immigration, with several bureaus, were combined into the new Department of Natural Resources and Provincial Development (NSNRPD). The minister, the Honourable J.A. Walker, was on record as being strongly against juvenile immigration (though his deputy was not). On 30 September 1925, Judge J. Johnstone Hunt of the Juvenile Court of Halifax County (who had replaced Judge Wallace in 1918), died in office and, on November 25, was replaced by Mr. Blois (Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia 1925–1930 Part 2).

On 15 March 1926, the Nova Scotia Child Protection Act was again amended. The name of the office in the Department of the Attorney General was changed from “Neglected and Delinquent Children” to “Child Welfare” with a director (rather than a superintendent), who could also be a judge of the Juvenile Court. Thus, Mr. Blois—Judge in the Juvenile Court, Director of Child Welfare and a one-person CAS—became advocate, judge and jury of children in Nova Scotia. Two days later, *The Canadian Gazette* announced that the Nova Scotia Provincial Government had taken over the Dakeyne Farm (in Falmouth not Yarmouth as indicated in Part X) and, after another two days, amendments to the Nova Scotia Act Respecting Immigrant Children proposed by the Attorney General were passed. (Mr. Ray had no knowledge of the amendments until first reading or that Mr. Blois had prepared an accompanying memo, which detailed every incident damaging to MEH over the previous 15 years). Under the new law, all juvenile emigration agencies (except for the excluded Dakeyne Farm, which remained with NSNRPD) came under the control of the Office of Child Welfare. Judge Blois

now had the legal responsibility for Middlemore children that he had so long sought. In future, for example, despite inspections in England, any person settling “children whose parents have been mental defectives, habitual criminals, lunatics; or idiots, or feeble-minded or defective or confirmed paupers, or diseased” on summary conviction could be fined up to \$200. All resettlements in Nova Scotia would require Judge Blois’s approval. As only two institutions, the Dakeyne Farm and MEH, were bringing young immigrants to Nova Scotia in 1926, the law was interpreted as discriminating against MEH. The Salvation Army had been settling children in Nova Scotia and, reputedly, was in conflict with Judge Blois. Perhaps guessing the future, it terminated operations in Nova Scotia in December 1925 (Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia 1925–1930 Part 2, Nova Scotia Statutes 1926, MC A-2094 Vols. 112, 116).

Mr. Ray, seeing great difficulties with the Act, immediately contacted all people he thought should know, starting with Mr. Blair, Assistant Deputy Minister, DIC and Mr. Plenderleith. Of particular concern, were provisions that Mr. Ray considered unfair to the children. With 90 children ranging in age from five to 15 under care in Nova Scotia, undoubtedly some would require resettling. There was no clause describing procedure if permission to resettle a child in Nova Scotia were refused. Mr. Ray reported to Mr. Plenderleith on October 22 that he had been unable to settle or resettle any child under 16 and, in consequence, settled the 1926 party in New Brunswick as well as all children in Nova Scotia needing resettlement (MC A-2094 Vol. 112, A-1997 Vol. 116). Mr. Cadbury met with Mr. Blair in London in November and, in a letter to Mr. Walker, MEH chairman, on November 12 reported that Mr. Blair had told him in confidence that the restrictions were aimed at Barnardo’s and suggested that if the Maritimes approached him, perhaps exceptions could be made—not likely given Judge Blois’s attitudes (MC A-1997/116).

Judge Blois was not finished protecting Nova Scotians from mental defectives, whether immigrant or native born. In November 1926, the Rhodes government appointed a five-member Royal Commission chaired by Judge W.L. Hall, with Judge Blois as Secretary, to investigate the social dangers facing Nova Scotians from the mentally deficient. The Commission’s report closely resembled a 1916 Royal Commission on the same subject, with which Judge Blois had been associated. A major finding was: “the social, moral and economic welfare of the Province is gravely

menaced by the presence of...large numbers of mentally deficient persons.” The report came to the quaint conclusion that mental deficiency problems had two causes: the steady stream of Nova Scotians leaving the province and a disregard for past problems. The main recommendations called for education, teacher training, establishment of a provincial Training School for the mentally deficient (opened November 1929) and need for a Provincial Psychiatrist (appointed October 1927). From 1930, reports of the Provincial Psychiatrist replaced those of the Director of Child Welfare in the Journals of the Legislative Assembly.

Nineteen twenty-seven was to be the last year of Canada’s age restriction program for agency juvenile immigrants. In February 1927, with some evidence in London and in parts of Canada that there was sympathy for limited numbers of under-14s, Mr. Cadbury called on officials in Ottawa, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He was certain of federal-level support for limited under-14 emigration, if requested by a province, and New Brunswick officials supported some under-14 immigration. Mr. Rhodes, premier of Nova Scotia, wrote to Mr. Cadbury, on March 7, following their meeting in February:

The chief difficulty has been created by an amendment to the [Child Immigration] Act last year which gives Mr. Blois jurisdiction. I may say that this is the first time the matter had been brought to my attention, and there appears to be very much in your contention. It is, however, too late to amend the Act this Session but with the understanding that it will be amended next year and in the hope that a modus vivendi can be affected whereby Judge Blois will not exercise his jurisdiction in the meantime I hope your wishes will be met.

Although changes were drafted (reputedly with the assistance of Mr. Cadbury at Mr. Rhodes’s invitation), the law remained unchanged.

Negotiations continued throughout the summer on both sides of the Atlantic. In a memorandum, dated 3 October 1927, to Mr. Egan, Deputy Minister, DIC, on continuing the age restrictions, Mr. Blair wrote that he personally disapproved of lifting them because that would mainly benefit the emigrating societies. He continued:

[W]e are securing a movement of older boys through such schemes as BICA [British Immigration and Colonization Association]...I think it will not be any loss to Canada if ultimately we succeed in developing a scheme of migration which will attract boys from private homes rather than children from institutions.

For both Canada and the immigrant boys, the BICA proved a terrible failure, collapsing in 1931. One reason was that there was little or no qualified supervision or care once the boys arrived in Canada.

In 1928, Mrs. J. Breckenridge McGregor (a Nova Scotian) published *Several Years After*, a report for the Canadian Council of Child Welfare on 311 juvenile immigrants settled in Canada in 1910 and 1920. Among the findings were that the best work was done by the smaller agencies, that the larger agencies were responsible for most of the criticism, that only 82 of 228 boys were on farms (most boys preferred industrial work) and that, between 1910 and 1920, standards had improved. There were six main recommendations, perhaps the most important being the call for clarification of the legal status of guardianship of children in Canada.

On 16 January 1929, following a 1928 conference, Mr. Ray reported a surprising about-face by Judge Blois. He “had changed his mind and attitude towards juvenile immigration,” considered that Nova Scotia’s juvenile immigration trial (presumably the Dakeyne Farm) was “a sad mess of [an] undertaking” and appeared “anxious to cooperate” with Mr. Ray (MC A-2095 Vol. 119).

Despite the outcome of the Bondfield Report, Mr. Ray’s main concerns were the children—visiting, counselling, resettling and, on occasion, returning some to England.<sup>4</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Ray were even involved in weddings, funerals and memorials, particularly those at St. John’s Church, Fairview (Figure 4). A poignant example was the case of a young girl dying of tuberculosis in early 1925, which prompted Mr. Ray to write to Mr. Plenderleith on January 8 that he had procured a four-grave lot for the Home, at St John’s Church. A Middlemore lad, who had died just before landing in Halifax, was buried in the cemetery in 1923. There was no marker because the authorized \$25 covered the stone only, not its erection or inscription. Mr. Ray had the boy’s remains moved to the new plot and planned to raise a single large stone on which all names could be inscribed (MC A-2094 Vol. 113). In 2007, Cecil Verge enquired at St. John’s Church, and learned that three Middlemore children were buried in Section QA Row 14 lot 137, but the stone was never installed (Figure 4). Another initiative by the Rays, after 1925, was to keep children for up to a year at Fairview before being settled in the spring. This gave the children a chance to adapt to Canadian ways and to receive training before going to their new families.



*Nova Scotia Archives*

**Figure 4: St. John's Church and Cemetery, Fairview**

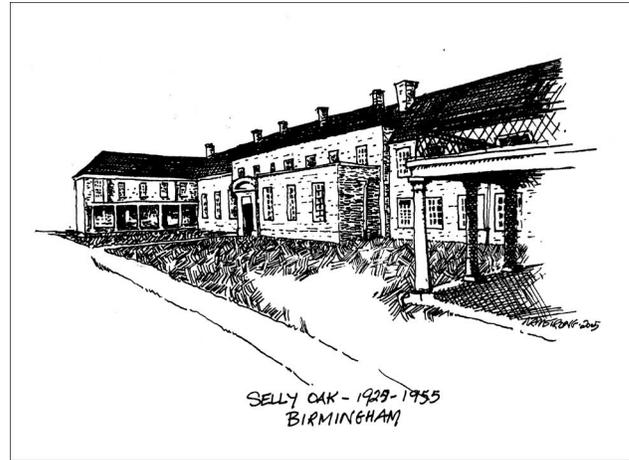
Middlemore staff and children attended services and Sunday School at St. John's and it was often the scene of Middlemore weddings. The church building was razed in 1960. Source: courtesy Nova Scotia Archives.

### From Middlemore Emigration Home to Middlemore Home

The Canadian age restriction continued but some opportunities for limited immigration of younger children remained if a province made the request. In England, the construction of the country home (Figure 5) on the Selly Oak 25-acre site was delayed for about two years, in the hopes of change in Canada. Transfer from St. Luke's Road to Selly Oak was during the week of 19 August 1929 so that children could start at Raddlebarn School's on August 26, the first day of term. Children under seven were taught in the Home or St. Mary's Church school. Elementary farm training started with the acquisition of a pony, chickens and other farm animals, and with the production of vegetables. By 26 June 1929, the Canadian High Commissioner, the Honourable Peter Larkin, had accepted the invitation to open the Home on October 23 but, being ill on arrival in England on October 22, was replaced by his deputy, Mr. Pacaud (Homes Committee Minutes May–November 1929, MC A-2096 Vol. 119). Mr. and Mrs. Ray attended and brought back five boys when they returned.

The future MEH activity in the Maritimes was doomed as a result of age restriction, an added height restriction for boys (minimum of 5 feet), scarcity of unemployed 14-year-olds and the onset of the Great Depression. New Brunswick continued to request a limited number of under-14s each year but made no more requests after the Federal government stopped all

juvenile immigration for 1931. The last juvenile immigrants were three boys brought to Fairview in June 1932. Two were settled in New Brunswick the following year and one returned to England because he kept running away.



**Figure 5: The new home at Selly Oak ca 1930**

Drawing courtesy of Penny Armstrong.

Meanwhile, a close working relationship developed between MEH and CES, with Mr. Cadbury agreeing that Fairbridge children could receive training at MEH before their departure for Australia. In October 1931, the CES raised the idea of establishing a farm school in British Columbia with DIC (C-4732 file 2869 part 7). In 1935, British Columbia approved the proposal and Fairbridge Farm School at Prince of Wales became a reality. For both Pinjarra and Prince of Wales Farm Schools, Mr. Cadbury anonymously (but in the name of MEH) donated a cottage, each of which was known as Middlemore Cottage (Homes minutes 25 May 1932, 27 June 1934). In 1936 the first Middlemore children were taken to British Columbia. By the time the Fairbridge Farm School closed in British Columbia, over a hundred Middlemore children had passed through its doors. In 1945 MEH became Middlemore Homes, which established a program of helping families rather than children alone. The organization continues to this day, working with disadvantaged families.

What happened to the personnel? Mr. Ray died 9 November 1931, Mrs. Ray was appointed "Lady Superintendent" and, with her son Eldon, visited all the children annually and cared for any in need at Fairview. In 1941, with all children beyond care, Fairview was closed and sold while Mrs. Ray retired to live in Fredericton, caring for the records until she returned them to Birmingham after the war (RG74 C-4371 part 7, 1945).

Mr. Jackson also died in 1931 (October). He had served the Homes since 1895. In recognition of his long service, a playground shelter and a sand pit, constructed in the grounds of Selly Oak, were dedicated to the memory of George Jackson. He had resigned in 1927 and in 1930 he and his wife had celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He was well loved by the children, many of who wrote congratulatory letters.

Perhaps there could be no better way to end a history of Middlemore Home at Fairview Station than with a congratulatory letter written by an old boy who had been settled in Canada in 1904 (Annual Report #58):

‘Dear Dad’

After all why not, for I remember you as well as any dad I have ever had. My own Dad died when I was yet a baby and my mother a few years later. You see I am one of your five thousand children here in Canada and I was sure tickled all over to read in Thompson's Weekly News of Mrs Jackson and yourself celebrating your Golden Wedding. Please accept my heartiest congratulations and my sincere hope that you live to enjoy many more years together of happy life.

I came here in 1903 or 1904 with my sister. She was 9 and I was thirteen. Now my sister is married and lives on the next farm, only eight miles from the first place we had in this country. My sister has always lived around here and still goes to see the people who first took us, in fact they use her like one of their own.

I spent a good deal of the time in the west, until the War broke out and then I joined up and went to France, got rocked to sleep and came home totally deaf and broken in other ways. I left three older brothers in our family when I first left England but they were all killed in the War. I did not have a chance to see any of them while I was there. I called at the Middlemore Home to see you but sorry to say you were away. However the Matron was very kind and showed me through the Homes which I enjoyed immensely for all the old memories it brought back to me. Not Mrs. Irving but a new Matron, I would have liked to see Mrs. Irving and yourself to make the visit complete.

Well, after I came back from the War, I bought a farm after resting up a bit, got married to the best woman in the world and now have a family of seven, four boys and three girls and we are all happy and contented. My sister did not have any children of her own but adopted a baby boy, and is happy, also has a fine husband and a good home. I have a beautiful farm and intend to build a new house next summer. We have lived on this farm for sixteen years...

Well I will conclude hoping both you and Mrs. Jackson will have a Merry Christmas.

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## Endnotes

1. In Canada, children could still be reclaimed, if costs were covered, but most refused to return to England. Children often saved money to bring their parents or siblings to settle with them in Canada.
2. The law in each Maritime province contained the same statement: “The committee or managers or representative of such committee or managers of any charitable institution, refuge or home, engaged in settling immigrant children in this province, shall be deemed the legal guardian of all the children brought into the Province by such Institution, refuge or home, and shall retain all the powers and privileges of a guardian in the case of males, until they attain the age of 21, and in the case of females, until they attain the age of twenty-one unless sooner married.” (e.g., Provincial Statutes). When Nova Scotia rewrote its law in 1926, the other two provinces did not follow suit.
3. In his annual report, Arthur S. Barnstead, Secretary Nova Scotia Industries and Immigration, noted that Middlemore authorities seldom allowed legal adoption—any change in the child’s name required the consent of the Fairview Manager (Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, Part 2, 1914).
4. Kinsley Ogilvie Fairbridge (1885–1924), born in South Africa, was a Rhodes scholar in 1908, when he developed the idea of juvenile emigration to farm schools in the colonies. This idea was fulfilled in Western Australia, when he purchased the Pinjarra site in 1912. The first children arrived in 1913 (Fairbridge Farm Pinjarra).
5. Most visits ended at 18 years, but oversight of Middlemore children was continued until they reached the age of 21 (at a distance for successful situations). Until they were 21, children who did not adapt were returned to Birmingham at MEH expense. In a few cases, some over-21s were returned.

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## Tackling the Middlemore Project

BY IRENE KELLOW IP

Part XI of the Middlemore Project in this issue concludes the series that began in the Winter 2004 issue. It also brings to an end my partnership with Patricia Roberts-Pichette but not the friendship that has developed during our cooperation. Shortly after I became editor of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* in 2003, Patricia asked me to take a look at the research that she had already done on the Middlemore Home Children. She had made a number of presentations and

written some articles but, because there was so much more material, she wondered if any of it could be used in the Society's publication. We agreed to meet after a Saturday BIFHSGO meeting and it did not take me long to see that she had already accumulated enough research for a series of articles. We planned for four initially, beginning in the Winter 2004, realizing that there might be more. Little did either of us realize how many more.

With her typical thoroughness, Patricia began to search for answers to the many questions that arose as she began the articles. Spending hours combing newspapers, minutes and other records at Library and

Archives Canada, she unearthed all kinds of new information about the founder, the people who were involved with his work as well as the politics and attitudes of the times. In addition, she covered many miles investigating the history of Guthrie Home in London (traveling as far as Schoharie, New York, the home of its builder) and Fairview Home in Halifax. Caroline Herbert was often along for these trips, which Patricia says were a lot of fun. More fun, I am sure, than the hours of scrolling through microfiches.



Patricia and Irene

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this project is that, no matter what other commitments she had, such as coordinating the 2005 Conference, she always managed to get her article to me on time. After Christmas, she was under particular pressure as she prepared for a trip to New Zealand and not a day went by that she did not spend time researching or writing. The result is an impressive piece of research on an important episode in Canadian history, which gives the descendants of the Middlemore Home children a means of understanding their ancestors' story.

## FROM THE 2006 CONFERENCE

## Bridging the Gap

### Searching for Present Day Relations in Scotland

*A Report on a lecture delivered by David W. Webster to the Fall Conference, September 2006.*

BY TREVOR BUTLIN

#### Introduction

This subject required a discussion of three aspects: the emigrants themselves; the linking of them to places and families in Scotland; and the discovery of living relatives of those that may or may not have emigrated. It also gave considerable information on various aspects of place-names.



We were also reminded that, while there are many reliable sources, we should always remember these rules of family history:

**Rule No.1:** As in classical mythology, family history stories never diminish, they only ever become bigger and better. This is closely analogous with the phenomenon known as “death certificate promotion,” whereas it’s rare to find a death certificate showing someone as a fireman, but there are an awful lot of engine drivers!

**Rule No.2:** There is always some element of truth in stories handed down in families, but events and personalities never become smaller or less important (see Rule No.1). The connection with an aristocratic family may well have been through employment rather than blood, the name having been acquired from the employer or the name of his estate.

**Rule No.3:** Challenge assumptions and learn to place events in the correct historical and geographical contexts.

#### The Emigrants

The National Archives of Scotland (NAS) has various records including those of the Highland and Island Emigration Society (NAS reference HD 4/5), formed in 1851, relating mainly to emigrants to Australia between 1852 and 1857. Also, contained within AF/51 at NAS is a large collection of emigration files, including information relating to a government aided

emigration scheme to Australia between 1866 and 1889. A catalogue of all Scottish archives, including the NAS, is searchable at [www.scan.org.uk](http://www.scan.org.uk), the Scottish Archive Network.

Although not considered emigration in the same context, the various NAS holdings regarding the Plantation of Ulster should not be ignored. Much research has been carried out regarding the movement of people in “colonizing” North America in particular, some of the main publications being the books of Dobson, (now available on an Ancestry CD) Whyte, Donaldson, and the Immigration Indexes of Philby et al (see the references).

And then there are the Ellis Island records that came on line a few years ago at [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org), relating to the records of 22 million immigrants. Within days of these records becoming available, a client was able to establish from a ship’s manifest that a number of previously unknown close relations travelled together on the same ship. Ancestry.com now has New York entry records for earlier periods, pre-dating Ellis Island.

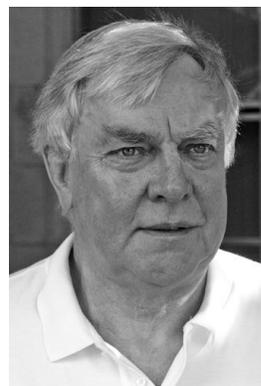


Figure 1: David Webster

There is also the possibility of records existing back in Scotland concerning emigrants. Any property, moveable or otherwise, still owned back in Scotland, may have been dealt with by the relevant processes there. Many British newspapers carried stories from emigrants in general, as well as recording births,

marriages and deaths, particularly the latter. In North American newspapers of the time, it is quite common to find a death notice concluding with a phrase like “Inverness papers please repeat,” and a member of the emigrated family may themselves have written back home.

### Procedures for tracing emigrants

OK, so you know you have Scottish roots and, if you’re fortunate, you already have some information on generations that lived in Scotland, or at least were born there. But what if you don’t? Let’s look at the possible difficulties.

Firstly, realise that if your Scottish ancestors emigrated before 1840 they won’t even turn up in the 1841 Census; and if they emigrated before 1855, when Scotland started recording BMD events, they can’t be found there either. If you have information on relatives who didn’t emigrate, however, that may open up possibilities. Therefore, you must first do proper and detailed genealogical research at the North American side of the family, although there may be some shortcuts that can get you back to Auld Scotia quicker than you imagine.

### Scenarios

There are several strategies, depending on the starting point or scenario:

- If your ancestors were Scottish and you have no other information, the only solution is to begin by developing the tree in North America. An excellent starting guide is Sherry Irvine’s *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry: A Guide for North Americans*. Also, unless the surname is so uncommon that the number of occurrences is very small, or a very unusual place name is involved, consult naturalization records and the 1881 census.
- If you know your ancestors were Scottish, you probably have some information on names, places or dates relating to their origins, and tracing them can be easy. But it can also be very difficult, depending on the names and place names involved. For example, to trace a John Brown in Glasgow is extremely difficult, whereas to find an Ouchter MacIsaac in the Outer Hebrides is easier!
- In small rural parishes a frequently occurring surname may not be too much of a problem, depending on other information. Even in towns the problem posed by a frequently occurring given name and surname can be overcome if there is reasonable certainty about the birth date, especially if it is known exactly. (Obviously it

helps if the birth was in 1855 or later.) With this level of information, the 1881 and earlier censuses can be extremely useful.

- If your ancestors were Scottish and you have high quality information on names, dates, or places, there will most often be no problem, and you will very quickly be tracing the Scottish connection. But it can still be difficult if information has become corrupted over the years, especially the spelling of surnames and place-names. Then the investigation of alternative spellings, even name changes, together with an examination of the detailed geography can assist the situation.

But you may still come up against a brick wall.

### Pitfalls

Emigration from Scotland to North America wasn’t always direct; it quite often took place via other countries, e.g. England, Ireland, and even Australia and New Zealand; sometimes with a stay of several years in the intermediate destination.

If a Scottish census enumerator could have a problem with an unfamiliar accent, imagine how much worse it could have been for a North American census enumerator, registrar, etc. (The official recorders at immigration points, e.g. Ellis Island, were probably more reliable.)

In other words be particularly careful about the accuracy of information, especially in the first generation. A particular problem can relate to the recorded place of birth, as many officials didn’t realise that Scotland was a separate country and may have recorded a place of birth as “England.”

The “Auchenshuggle Effect” comes into play whereby people tended to give as the name of their place of birth or origin the name of somewhere that they thought the listener might know. For example, if I came from the small village of Auchenshuggle, some miles outside Glasgow, I am most likely to tell an official in another country that I come from Glasgow. You will even find people who came from 20 or 30 miles away from Glasgow, or Edinburgh, or Dundee, or Aberdeen, giving those cities as their place of birth or origin.

### Tracing living relatives in Scotland

Having traced your family back to Scotland, you will probably want to find out whether you have living relatives there. To find them is surprisingly easy, as long as there are some statutory and census records to start from, although it can be time consuming.

When tracing your own tree, the only correct way to do it is to start with your own birth, and work back, generation by generation, being careful not to make any unreasonable “leaps of faith” as regards a connection with a very attractive looking record but where there is a generation gap. Exactly the same principle, but in reverse, applies to tracing living relations; i.e. you have to trace forward in a very logical and structured manner, generation by generation. However, if the surname is so unusual that it only occurs a few times in modern telephone directories, direct contact can produce quick results.

There are two other factors that can alter this basic rule:

- You may find someone in Scotland, via an Internet discussion group, or the Genealogical Research Directory, for example, who is the descendant of a common ancestor;
- You may know of a certain person, now perhaps deceased, who was probably a relation.

In such cases, you will need to trace both backwards, and then forwards.

If none of these direct sources provide any shortcuts, then you have to go directly to the Scottish censuses and statutory records, working forward from births to marriages to deaths, generation to generation. Most often, the most effective search sequence is birth to death, before looking for a marriage, as a Scottish death certificate should give the names of the spouse(s), if any, and the informant, who most likely will be a relation. If that relation is a married daughter, then you are immediately forward another generation.

Having found a relative, it's then a matter of making contact by whichever means seems appropriate. For instance, you can:

- write to the informant shown on, say, a 1990s death certificate, either at the address shown for the deceased or the address shown for the informant, if different;
- write to possible relations who turn up on a birth certificates as parents, or on a marriage certificate as bride, groom, or witness;
- trace people of the correct name and address in a telephone directory, and then write or telephone. But be aware that the latter can have drawbacks, especially with elderly people.

### Statutory certificates

The information on Scottish statutory certificates helps the situation greatly. These are indexed and can be

searched at the ScotlandsPeople website, [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) (for a fee).

- A birth certificate gives names of parents, including the mother's maiden name
- A marriage certificate includes names of all four parents, plus any previous surname for a divorced or widowed woman, or indication that a man was a widower.
- A death certificate has the name(s) of spouses and both parents, together with the informant's name and relationship, if any.

The so-called cross-check searches that are possible in the computerised indexes at New Register House for marriages and female deaths are also available on the ScotlandsPeople website, but only for the period up to 1900 for marriages and up to 1925 for deaths.

If you can get forward to the late 1930's, and there are further descendants, then it is just a matter of a little extra effort to complete the connection. From 1936 and thereabouts—it varies a bit from parish to parish—the birth indexes show the maiden surname of the mother. From 1976 onwards the death indexes show the maiden surname of the deceased's mother.

### Difficulties

- There is probably no starting information on many people who would have appeared in the 1841 and later censuses, or in the early statutory records. An 80-year-old dying in 1855 means that you are coming forward from a birth in 1775.
- You may have difficulty getting past the First World War in the male lines.
- Many informants signed with an initial only, and their handwriting was probably less than ideal.

### Scottish place-names

There are many influences on Scottish place-names, including P-Celtic (Welsh/Breton/Cornish—aka Brittonic), Q-Celtic (Irish and Scottish Gaelic/Manx), English, French, Flemish/Dutch and Scandinavian. But no matter the origin, the same name or very similar ones, can appear in many places, even within Scotland:

- Internationally, an origin of Aberdeen could be in one of about twenty locations in six countries.
- Dalry is to be found in five different places just within Scotland!

And of course, there can be many spellings of the same name, according to the knowledge and whim of the registrant, informant, census collector, etc.

However, place-names are one of the longest surviving elements of language, especially rivers, hills, etc. and there's a wide range of excellent resources, many now on CD, and increasingly Web accessible. On the other hand, there is an evolution of name renditions over time, known as "distortion". Distortion can, for instance, change the place Fochabers into Fohaberts, as it came down through one family. If you get stuck on a place name, without a detailed knowledge of Scottish accents and the etymology of Scottish place-names it's difficult to know what to recommend. Possibilities are to find a discussion group or newsgroup covering Scotland or the UK and post a query with your problematic place-name, or find someone with a Scottish accent.

The "Auchenshuggle" effect, already described, can result in an origin appearing to be in the wrong county. For instance, a person who said she was from Aberdeen actually came from Banchory, only 20 miles from Aberdeen but in Kincardineshire not Aberdeenshire.

The "England" effect, even today, confuses place names, whereas many people don't distinguish properly between Scotland and England. It's not impossible that a census-taker, registrar or other official assumed that Glasgow or wherever was in England, perhaps using this as synonymous with Great Britain or the United Kingdom. To clarify, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of:

- The Kingdom of Scotland
- The Kingdom of England
- The Principality of Wales
- The Province of Northern Ireland

### Three scenarios

Tracing or identifying place-names can:

- be straightforward, and you will readily locate the place of interest in one or other of the sources referred to later;
- require some research using the sources recommended to get you there, but involving the investment of a little effort over a period of time;
- be problematic, in which case you must be prepared for an even longer period of research and greater effort.

While discussing problems, be very aware that the final data and entry work for the 1881 Census CD was carried out by people with no detailed knowledge of even the simplest and high-level place names in

Scotland (or England). For instance, all places in Sutherland were originally entered under Sunderland, Co. Durham, and several entries for Leith were shown under Middlesex, probably confused with Midlothian.

### Place-name resources

These, of course, include books, gazetteers, Google, statistical accounts, and genealogical discussion groups. Some specific and significant resources are described below.

### Ordnance survey

The on-line index of places is based on the current 1:50,000 series maps, but there is also a current 1:25,000 series.

Between 1846 and 1899 a 6 inch to the mile series was produced (approx 1:10,500). This is accessible on the Internet at [www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk), and shows details down to individual buildings.

### General Register Office for Scotland

GROS has several valuable listings of place-names, one of which at least is based on every place-name listed in the 1881 census. At this time it is unclear if this is available on the web.

### Understanding place-names

#### What is *Quoad*?

- A *quoad sacra* parish is a parish that derives from the ancient organisation of the church in Scotland, and which may no longer exist on its own for civil purposes, being incorporated into another *quoad civilia* parish, e.g. Tarland and Migvy in Aberdeenshire.
- A *quoad civilia* parish is one that exists for civil purposes only, from 1855 onwards.
- A parish which combines secular as well as ecclesiastical functions can be referred to as a *quoad omnia* parish.
- A *quoad sacra* parish can also be a *quoad civilia* parish (in which case it may be a *quoad omnia* parish), but a *quoad civilia* parish does not always have *quoad sacra* equivalent.

#### Part place-names

Often you can only make out part of the place name, and most commonly this will relate to a problem with the capital letter, especially in handwritten records. This is a major problem as most search engines do not allow leading wildcards, e.g. \*marnock.

## Geographical influences

Once you have the correct location for your Scottish ancestors then it is recommended that you invest some time and effort in developing a better understanding of the local geography both in the sense of how the location fits into the larger Scottish picture, but also the more local situation.

## Parishes

While one generation may have come from one parish, other generations may have come from neighbouring parishes. In fact your ancestors may have lived close to the border of a parish and may appear in the records of that parish and the neighbouring parish with equal frequency.

Furthermore, precise parish boundaries have varied over the centuries, so that a family that has actually remained in the same place may appear to have moved. Also, historically many parishes were not contiguous, with parts of the parish separated by quite some distance.

Over the centuries such “anomalies” have been progressively resolved, and it is impossible to divorce the geography from the history and vice versa.

## Mobility

The lie of the land affects natural directions of local movement and travel, and this, together with historical factors, affects the likely movement of ancestors and the development of roads, canals, and railways.

Until the 18th century, it took ten days to travel from Inverness to Edinburgh. The Government’s need to police Jacobite areas led to General Wade’s programme of military road building from the 1720s (which the Jacobites used to hasten their successful advance in 1745).

General Wade’s military roads vastly improved communication in the Highlands, and private ‘turnpike’ companies improved main roads in the Lowlands. These were allowed to charge tolls, which limited their use due to the expense.

Canals, beginning with the Forth-Clyde Canal in 1790, provided a cheaper alternative for heavy goods. The Highland Canals—Caledonian (1822) and Crinan (1801) shortened sea routes but their many locks meant new, bigger steam powered ships still found the old route faster. However, after the opening of the Crinan Canal it was much easier for someone living in the Hebrides to travel to Glasgow, attracted by greater employment opportunities, and the same applied to the

movement of labour down the Caledonian Canal between Inverness and Fort William.

## Military roads

Major General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief Scotland in 1724 with responsibility for disarming the rebellious clans and subduing the Highlands. Between 1725 and 1740 he built 238 miles of roads almost all in or leading to places of military importance. He used local stone and unskilled military labour, using Roman road building techniques. A typical military road consisted of a base layer of large boulders with broken stone packed into any spaces and an upper layer of at least 600 mm of gravel, resulting in a total thickness of up to two metres. Although the roads were often criticised for being steep, uneven and poorly drained, they inspired a flurry of road building in England.

Wade appointed Major William Caulfield as his Inspector of Roads in 1732 and it was he who succeeded Wade when he left Scotland in 1740. Although less well known than Wade, Caulfield oversaw the construction of a further 748 miles of road between 1740 and his death in 1767.

## Geographical websites

These websites were correct at time of publishing. Unfortunately, URLs for particular county maps cannot be reliably quoted because of the rapidly changing Internet environment. Most of those supplied by David Webster in 2006 are already defunct.

### Gazetteers

- [www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz](http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz)
- [www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteers.html](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteers.html)

### General maps

- [www.rootsweb.com/~sctayr/counties.jpg](http://www.rootsweb.com/~sctayr/counties.jpg)
- [www.nls.uk/collections/maps](http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps)
- [www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)
- [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com) for present day street maps

### County maps

Maps of many counties of Scotland can be accessed through the general map sites listed above.

County identification and location is available at Genuki: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/#Counties>

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## FAMILY HISTORY—TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

### The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

Many of you have been following the story by Patricia Roberts-Pichette of John T. Middlemore and the children he brought to Canada in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The last installment of this series will be appearing in this issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Now seems an appropriate time to remind those readers who wish to know more about the Middlemore children and other Home Children that the BIFHSGO Library contains several books that they may consult.



#### General

Bagnell, Kenneth. *The Little Immigrants: The Orphans who Came to Canada*.

Bean, Phillip, and Joy Melville. *Lost Children of the Empire*.

Kohli, Marjorie. *The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada*, an excellent overview of Home Children in Canada.

Lorente, Dave, comp. *Bibliography re Home Children*.

Parr, Joy. *Labouring Children: British Immigrant Apprentices to Canada, 1869–1924*.

#### Dr. Thomas Barnardo and His Homes

Corbett, Gail H. *Nation Builders: Barnardo Children in Canada*.

Wagner, Gillian. *Barnardo* a biography of Dr. Barnardo.

#### Annie Macpherson

Gilchrist, James S. *Marchmont: Distributing Home, Belleville, Ontario 1870–1925*. Marchmont was one of the distributing homes run by Annie Macpherson.

#### Quarrier Homes

*The Orphan Homes of Scotland: Consumption Sanatoria and Colony of Mercy for Epileptics, Glasgow and Bridge of Weir*.

## Biographies of Home Children

Several of the books listed above also contain brief accounts of individual children.

Harrison, Phyllis. *The Home Children: Their Personal Stories*.

Pettit, Mary. *Mary Janeway: The Legacy of a Home Child*.

Price, William R., as told to Eillen Sheila Hill. *Celtic Odyssey*.

Staples, Michael Anthony. *Middlemore Memories: Tales of the British Home Children*.

## Lists of Home Children

*Alphabetical List of Boy Emigrants to Canada 1886 to 1915* a list of boys sent to the Gibb Home in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

McEvoy, Patricia, and Joyce Carrol, comps. *A List of Roman Catholic Home Children (Child Immigrants) Whose Records are at the Father Hudson Society Archives, Coleshill, Birmingham, UK*.

For readers who would like to know more about the background of these children and the condition of poor people in the British Isles, the following books are recommended:

Longmate, Norman. *The Workhouse: A Social History*.

May, Trevor. *The Victorian Workhouse*.

Mayhew, Henry. *London Labour and the London Poor: Volume 1, the London Street-folk*.

McLaughlin, Eve. *The Poor are Always With Us: The Victorian Poor and After*.

## The Printed Page

BY GORDON D. TAYLOR

Rural mail was one of the most important services provided by government to the rural settlers of Canada and the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries. My interests in the subject are twofold—one, my family has been involved with the rural mail service in the Municipality of Delta, B.C. since 1905, and two, the recognition of the importance of the mail service to the rural resident.



My current interest was stirred by an article, “The Rural Mailman” by Len Fourney in *Our Canada* May–June 2005. A more recent article in *NGS NewsMagazine*, January, February, March 2007, “The nineteenth-century postmaster and his duties” by Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, stirred my interest even further. The author presents a very thorough picture of the role of the rural postmaster. The article describes the situation as it developed in the United States. The Canadian experience was very similar. That experience is well described in a book *Country Post, Rural Postal Service in Canada, 1880 to 1945* by Chantal Amyot and John Willis, and published as Paper 1, in the Mercury Series of the Canadian Postal Museum, 2003. On page 72, there is a very thorough description of the postmaster’s day. A short item in *The Delta Centenary 1879–1979* and headed “Alfred deRupe Taylor (Postal Service)” confirmed dates and

people from the early days of a post office in Ladner, B.C.

The article on the 19th century postmaster hit a very responsive chord as I read it. Members of my Taylor family—my grandfather (Figure 1), my father and my mother—held the position of postmaster at Ladner, B.C. (now known as Delta, B.C.) from 1905 to 1961. I served in The Canadian Postal Corps during World War II and worked in the Ladner office before and after the war, so I have personal experience. The rural mailman article was also of great personal interest as my father was the mailman on Rural Route 1, Ladner, B.C. from 1924 to 1935 when he was appointed postmaster. Since these events other family members have been connected with the rural mail in British Columbia for many years. With few breaks, if any, there is a record, by all family members involved, of over 100 years of providing mail service to that part of rural B.C.

These articles describe the many and varied roles of the rural mail service. They point out the very great importance of rural mail in both Canada and the United States as a communication means for the early settlers. In a description of the postmaster’s day on page 72, *Country Post* lists thirty duties, some more complicated than others. The rural post office was a social and economic meeting place for the residents within the community and for contact with relatives,

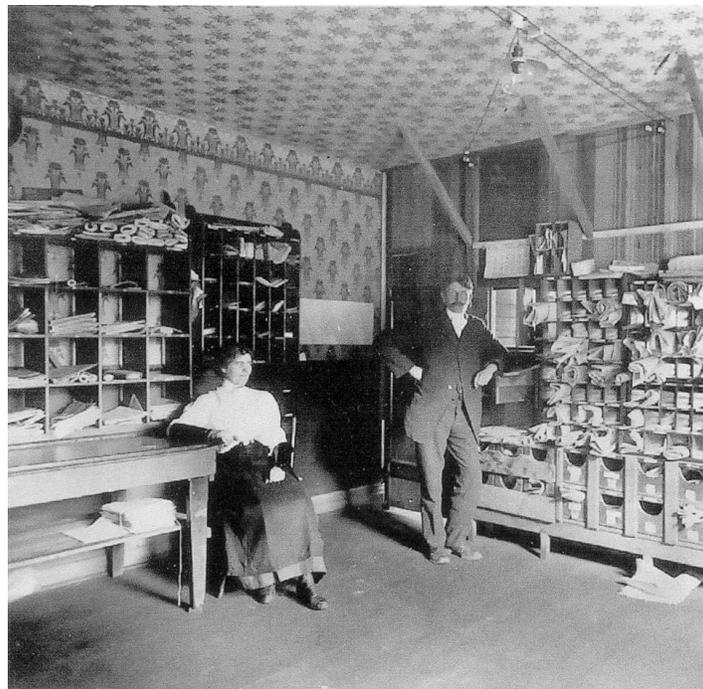
friends and businesses beyond the community. In a way the post offices in rural areas could be thought of as an early form of shopping mall—many services required and used by the community were provided under one roof. The post office made shopping at the big mail order stores like Eaton's and Simpson's in Canada possible. The arrival of the catalogues from these stores at least twice each year was a highlight of the incoming mail. It marked the beginning of many evenings spent pouring over the catalogues and making decisions on what needed to be ordered. The catalogues provided a colourful lexicon of the great variety of goods and services that could be ordered and delivered by mail. They also provided the rural resident a look at what was new in farm and household equipment and a look at the latest in clothing styles. Specialized catalogues including several for an early form of pre-fabricated housing were also received as mail. Any houses purchased this way were delivered by freight and not through the post office.

The post office provided a money order service for the remittance of funds almost worldwide. When the mail order goods arrived the parcel was delivered to the customer at the post office or at the rural mailbox at the end of the farm road. The post office offered bank

accounts, customs clearance for incoming foreign parcels, secure mail in the form of registration and many more. It also served as a local social event each day as the residents assembled to await the opening of the mail wicket after the incoming mail had been sorted.

The post office is but one example of the many services that the early settlers needed and used. As family historians we should be aware of the services that were available, how they functioned and who were the people involved in providing the service. Some level of service developed in each rural community. The first settlers had few, if any, services readily available; as the community grew so did the variety of services.

The post office, in particular, was an important adjunct to the settlement of rural Canada and it is a very necessary part of our study of families in rural areas to understand the services the post office provided and how well they worked. The articles and book that I have mentioned provide an excellent starting point for any such study.



**Figure 1: A. DeR. Taylor, Postmaster, and Miss Florence Lord, clerk, Ladner, B.C. Post Office ca 1910.**  
Courtesy Delta Museum and Archives, Delta, B.C.

## BIFHSGO NEWS

## Mull Genealogy Group Gathering 2006

BY CHRIS MACPHAIL

The Mull Genealogy Group (MUGG) gathered from 13 to 20 May 2006 for a celebration of its shared heritage of ancestors from the Isle of Mull. The event took place at several sites on Mull as well as on the neighbouring islands of Iona and Ulva. Born of the Internet and the Website <http://www.mullgenealogy.co.uk/>, a common interest in the island and its people—to borrow from the title of an authoritative book by Jo Currie—brought together close to 80 people from Canada, the U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand, as well as the U.K. BIFHSGO was represented by Eleanor Lilloco and Dorothy Pratt, in addition to myself. This first-time event was organized by Elaine Robinson and Ida King, both from Canada; Ian Phillips, Webmaster from England; and a local committee in Mull. The overwhelming success of the event is to their credit.



Figure 1: Map of Western Scotland

Mull is one of the Inner Hebrides, lying off Scotland's west coast, some 120 kilometres northwest of Glasgow. Historically, it was the ancestral land of Clan MacLean, although the Campbells assumed control of much of the island in the 18th and 19th centuries. At its peak, the population was in excess of 10,000 and consisted primarily of tenant farmers serving absentee landlords. Over time, the economic base shifted to raising sheep and cattle, activities that required fewer and fewer tenant farmers. As an alternative, the tenants took to kelp harvesting, but the kelp market failed in the early 19th century. This together with wide-spread crop failures in the 1850s resulted in large scale emigration; the population today

is approximately 2,500, and is supported by seafood cultivation and tourism in addition to sheep and cattle.

The organizers presented an informative and entertaining program that included:

- Lectures by University of Glasgow professors on historic influences on Mull development,
- Talks by archivists and researchers on living conditions and oral histories of the people,
- Guided tours to historic sites on Mull and to the neighbouring Isles of Iona and Ulva,
- Tours of castles conducted by the present owners: Moy Castle and House (former home of the Maclaines of Lochbuie); Duart Castle, still in the family of Sir Lachlan MacLean, Chief of Clan MacLean; and Torosay Castle. The Tour of Duart Castle included a special talk by historian Jo Currie on the Clan MacLean.
- One-on-one workshops at the Tobermory Museum with museum staff, and
- A ceilidh—a dinner and evening of entertainment by story-tellers, a Gaelic choir and of course the bagpipes.

Reflecting the cooperative nature of the exchange that had already taken place on the Mull Genealogy website, an important aspect of the gathering was the sharing of the results of individual research. Most of the attendees appeared to have done a great deal of homework before the event, and came prepared to exchange information freely. In addition, many took full advantage of the advice and information available at the local museums. There they found local histories and family records that do not exist elsewhere and help fill the gaps in census records and in the Old Parish Records of the Church of Scotland. For example, although the Duke of Argyll, who had broad control of Mull for many years, commissioned a census in 1779, some parts of the island were excluded. Among these was the estate of Maclaine of Lochbuie, where my ancestor McPhails had been located. The only known records of this area are the private papers of the Maclaines that have been transcribed by Jo Currie and made available in the Tobermory Museum. I was fortunate to spend an afternoon there in a one-on-one consultation, perusing her notes and asking questions.

Although there was great detail about things such as rents paid, sheep lost and letters to crofters cautioning them to keep the peace, there was no mention of my McPhails. Either they were upright law-abiding tenants, or they were below the laird's radar.

Every bit as important were the informal, serendipitous happenings of people coming together to share information and stories and to help one another in searching out information on what could be common ancestors. There were several "great moments," only a few of which are recorded here.

- Speaking at Duart Castle of the Clan MacLean, Jo Currie illustrated her talk with a family tree showing that one of the MacLean descendants had married a MacKenzie-Grieve. Amazingly, Dorothy Pratt knew this family in Victoria, B.C. She reported this to Jo Currie who was both excited and delighted to learn of their whereabouts!
- Moira MacPhail (Christchurch, New Zealand) and Bob Murray (St. Andrews, Scotland) are related and met at the gathering to pursue their common ancestors. They had made contact with a distant cousin, Cathie Fletcher, who gave a description of their car to her brother Alex who was working on the construction of the single-track road approaching the ferry terminal. Bob and Moira were on the road near the ferry and reported that the flagman suddenly waved them off the road. As Bob said later, "Wondering what on earth was wrong I wound down the car window just in time to hear this large fellow with a big black beard and size 13 feet say into his walkie talkie 'Right Willie, my cousins have arrived so we will chust (sic) stop the traffic at both ends for a wee while so that I can have a chat with them.'"
- Christine Leach, a local woman who had taken on the job of establishing and maintaining a collection of historical information and artefacts for a particular area of the island, made a presentation about her work. She noted in passing that there was a missing link in her personal family history, concerning an ancestor who had emigrated and disappeared from sight. Whereupon an arm went up and a member of the group shouted out that that was her family from Western Canada—which left the two of them embracing amid tears of surprise and joy.
- Eleanor Lillico and Dorothy Pratt share a great-grandfather Donald Gillies who was born on Mull in 1818. The gathering had received advanced

publicity on the island, and a local man, Iain Robertson, came to the gathering especially to meet the "two ladies searching for Gillies." He volunteered that he knew the last of the Gillies on Mull, a Colin Gillies who died in 1990. Eleanor established that Colin would have been a second cousin once removed. Eleanor and Dorothy were then taken by another local volunteer to Dervaig and Calgary Bay on the north coast where they were met by Christine McPhail (no relation, I'm sorry to say), a neighbour of the Gillies. She took them on a tour of the local cemetery overlooking beautiful Calgary Bay where the Gillies are buried, and provided a wealth of information about the family. She noted that there was a photograph of Colin Gillies at the Tobermory Museum, and on the last day of the gathering, Eleanor was able to obtain a digital photograph.



**Figure 2: Eleanor Lillico and Dorothy Pratt**  
Photographed at Tobermory, May 2006.

- Several members of the group provided transportation to and from the various sites. One of these was Murdo MacDonald, retired archivist for Argyll and Bute, who gave a talk on living conditions in the 19th century. It took place at Bunessan near the west coast, and afterwards he offered my wife Elaine and me a ride back to our hotel at Glenforsa, near the east coast. As we drove along the single-track road, pausing now and then to make way for oncoming traffic, there was ample time for conversation. We passed the monument to Dugald MacPhail, "the Bard," who is credited for composing Eilean Muileach, (The Isle of Mull), considered to be the "national anthem" of Mull. We talked of Dugald and my optimism that I will one day find a definite link. Perhaps as consolation, Murdo, who has a fine voice, sang the ballad in Gaelic as we drove

along—a fitting accompaniment to the sunlit hills and seascapes of this beautiful island.

While I was not able to make any positive connections myself, many connections were made by other attendees and the lasting impression is that we are all members of a larger family with a shared heritage. At the ceilidh that brought the gathering to a close, the choir ended the evening with Eilean Muileach and

“Haste ye back.” The new-found friends (and perhaps relatives) and fond memories of the gathering will be a strong incentive to return.

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### Endnote

<sup>1</sup> Currie, Jo: *Mull: the Island and its People*, Birlinn Ltd., 2000. (Copy in BIHSGO Library)

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I wish to comment on a statement by David Webster in his article “Scottish Statutory Records” in ACR, Spring 2007, page 23—“Up until the early 1700s it was common for a man to be known not just by his father’s name but also those of his grandfather and great-grandfather.”

Reciting one’s patronymic line, or sloinneadh as it is known in Gaelic, did not cease in the early 1700s. This custom was continued by Scottish emigrants in Gaelic speaking communities in Canada. For example, my maternal grandfather Lachlan McDonald (1874–1952) of Bornish, Ontario was referred to as Lachlan mac Iain mac Lachlainn mac Dhomhnuill mac Aonghais—

that is, Lachlan son of John son of Lachlan son of Donald son of Angus.

Webster, in his example, incorrectly translates Dhomhnuill as the genitive form of Duncan. The genitive form of Duncan is Dhonnchaidh.

Today, in the Gaelic speaking areas in the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland, patronymics (sloinnidhean) and nicknames are used to distinguish individuals who bear the same names in the same locality. This practice is also followed by Gaelic speakers in Cape Breton Island.

Thank you.

Donald Read (BIFHSGO #206)

### *Coming in the next issues ...*

- More Delightful Irish Discoveries: Part II—*Terry Findley*
- Publishing Your Family History: A Case Study—*John Townesend*
- Ottawa’s Beechwood Cemetery—*Glenn Wright*
- Visiting an English County Record Office—*Wendy Croome*

**BIFHSGO LISTINGS****Members' Surname Search**

BY ELIZABETH KIPP

These tables enable BIFHSGO members to share in common research. If you locate one or more of the names you are researching in Table A note the membership number (Mbr. No.). Contact the member

listed in Table B (match Mbr. No.). Each member may be searching several names. Please be specific when communicating with them. Good luck.

TABLE A (Names being searched)							
Name Searched	Location (Chapman Code)	Year	Mbr No.	Name Searched	Location (Chapman Code)	Year	Mbr No.
Arnold	Nepean Carleton ON	1851+	1110	Harbard	Eton BKM	1850+	24
Atkins	Sault Ste Marie ON	1900+	839	Hill	Staverton DEV ENG	1600+	1091
Ball	GLA WAL, CHS ENG	1800+	1091	McCrea	Antrim IRL	1830-1834	1108
Bates	Amersham BKM	1800+	24	McFaul	Ballintoy ANT NIL	Pre 1820	1109
Brooker	High Wycombe BKM	1800+	24	Miles	Auchtermucty FIF SCT	Pre 1870	1109
Buckland	Windsor BRK, Eton BKM	1850	24	Mines	Downley BKM	1800	24
Carroll	Sault Ste Marie ON	1900+	839	Munns	LND, IOW ENG	1750+	1091
Cassels/Castles	Marlborough Carleton ON	1830+	1110	Nixon	Marlborough Carleton ON	1845+	1110
Cornwall	TIP IRL	1825+	1098	O'Halloran	TIP IRL	1826-1855	1098
Downey/Downy	Carleton ON	1830+	1110	Perry	Clerkenwell LND, Farnham SRY	ABT 1850 AND 1890	24
Emberley	Montreal PQ, NL	1918	1039	Pitcher	Wycombe BKM	1890+	24
Fox	Denham BKM, Uxbridge MDX ENG	1750+	1091	Sloan	Nepean ON	1871 -	1039
Gemmell	Ayr SCT, Lanark ON	1750+	1091	Spears	IRE, SCT, Gloucester Twp ON	Pre 1828 (GB)	1098
Glover	London ENG, St Mary's ON	1899-1912	251	Strange	IRE (KIK?), Gloucester Twp ON	Pre 1830	1098
Goldswain	Grt Marlow BKM	Pre 1800	24	Tucker	Sault Ste Marie ON	1900+	839
Gordon	KGD SCT, Perth ON	1800+	1091	Walker	IOW ENG	1550+	1091
Green	Richmond ON	1818-1901	1039	Wright	SCT; PEM, GLA WAL	1750+	1091

<b>TABLE B (Members referred to in Table A)</b>			
<b>Mbr No.</b>	<b>Member's Name and Address</b>	<b>Mbr No.</b>	<b>Member's Name and Address</b>
24	Frank Stanley Perry Amesbrooke Drive, Ottawa ON K2C 2E8 <i>fsperry@magma.ca</i>	1098	Carol Scott 119 Ruskin St, Ottawa ON K1Y 4B5 <i>cb.scott@rogers.com</i>
251	A Patricia Bedford 16 Jordan Ave, Chatham ON N7M 1 A2	1108	Ann B Harris #222, 318 Lorry Greenberg St., Ottawa ON K1T 2R5 <i>hara215@aol.com</i>
839	Heather Acton, Menai, 29 Pentrosfa Rd, Llandrindod Wells Powys Wales LD1 5NL UK <i>sidneyacton@onetel.com</i>	1109	Neil E Miles 1951 Garfield Ave., Ottawa ON K2C 0W7 <i>nmiles0305@rogers.com</i>
1039	Evelyn Leroux 24 Poole Creek Cres, Stittsville ON K2S 1T6 <i>lashleroux@sympatico.ca</i>	1110	Jeanette Duranceau Michalets W380 N6041 State Rd. 67, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin USA <i>novlidea@sbcglobal.net</i>
1091	Tina Gemmell P.O. Box 214, Wellington ON K0K 3L0 <i>gemmell.ancestors@sympatico.ca</i>		

<b>ERRATA (ACR Research Interests – 2007)</b>			
<b>Mbr No.</b>	<b>Member's Name and Address</b>	<b>Mbr No.</b>	<b>Member's Name and Address</b>
1090	Joan Eleanor Banks 1475 Forest Valley Drive, Orleans ON K1C 5P5 <i>jebanks5@ncf.ca</i>		

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 web site at [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://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.

## Membership Report

BY SHARON MOOR

### New BIFHSGO Members From January 20 to April 26, 2007

Mbr. #	Name	Address	Mbr. #	Name	Address
1109	Neil MILES	Ottawa ON	1114	Shirley-Ann PYEFINCH	Ottawa
1110	Jeanette MICHAETS	WI, USA	1115	Not assigned	
1111	Anna DEHART	Manotick	1116	Rebecca GRANT	Calgary, AB
1112	Robert PRICE	Ottawa	1117	Loretta DAVIS-TRUDEL	Perth-Andover, NB
1113	James PREVOST & Sandra MACPHERSON	Ottawa	1118	Ronald SHANNON	Prescott

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members if you see them at a meeting. Current membership is 476.

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## Annual BIFHSGO Family History Conference

### 14-16 September 2007

Offering something for everyone—with a special focus on IRELAND. Featuring Catriona Crowe and Aideen Ireland of the National Archives of Ireland, and Dr. Bruce Elliott of Carleton University.



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395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

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

## BIFHSGO Fall Conference Program 2007

### Friday, 14 September

#### Pre-conference Seminars

Rick Roberts and Doug Hoddinott      Family Tree Maker and Ancestry.com

OGS and BIFHSGO      Beginning Genealogy: Using Library and Archives Canada Resources

Tour Library and Archives Canada

Conference Opening      Meet and Greet

Conference Welcome      Willis Burwell and Representative, Library and Archives Canada

Whiteside Lecture      Catriona Crowe      The Irish Census Digitization Project

### Saturday, 15 September

09:00–10:15      Catriona Crowe      Counties in Time: A Showcase of the 32 Counties of Ireland 16th to 20th Centuries.

John D. Reid      Ancestors on Board: UK Outbound Passenger Lists

10:45–12:00      Aideen Ireland      Resources: National Archives of Ireland, Part 1

Elizabeth Taylor      Who's Afraid of Anglican Archives?

13:00–14:15      Aideen Ireland      Resources: National Archives of Ireland, Part 2

David Jeanes      Tracing the Victorian Engineers and Architects Who Built Canada's Railways and Canals

14:45–16:00      Myriam Lavallée      Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial Historic Site

Louise St. Denis      Tips For Your Genealogical Trip Abroad

16:15–17:30      Willis Burwell      Crossing the Atlantic During the Great Age of Sail

Karin Keyes Endemann      Building on the Legacy: The Keys Family Reunion, Northern Ireland, 2007

### Sunday, 16 September

09:00–10:15      Patty McGregor      Canadian Immigration: Land and Sea Arrivals and Records

Betty Burrows      Finding My Leitrim Roots

10:45–12:00      Karin Keyes Endemann      Copyright Law For Genealogists

Vic Johnson      Socio-economic Aspects of the Irish Famine 1800–1850

13:00–14:15      Dr. Bruce Elliott      Records of Squatters, Labourers and Tenants on the Rideau Canal

Lesley Anderson      Looking For Treasures in the Parish Chest

14:45–16:00      Terry Findley      Signposts to Your Irish Ancestors

John Hay      The Paper Trail Left Behind Two Brothers: 1840s Scots Emigrants to Lanark County

16:10–17:00      Conference Closing

*Program subject to change*

**BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
OF GREATER OTTAWA  
Calendar of Events**

**Saturday Morning Meetings**

at  
**Library and Archives Canada  
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa  
Contact: 613-234-2520**

***Members are encouraged to arrive at 9:30 a.m. when the Discovery Tables open.  
Free parking on the east side of the building only***

8 September 2007, 10:00–11:30 a.m.	Genealogy Competitions and the Biography of Robert Down— <i>Jane L. Down</i>
6 October 2007, 10:00–11:30 a.m.	Colonel William Marshall, Superintendent of the Lanark Settlement— <i>Max Sutherland</i>
10 November 2007, 10:00–11:30 a.m.	In My Father's Footsteps on the Western Front— <i>Mary Anne Sharpe</i>

**13th Annual Fall Conference**

14–16 September 2007  
Library and Archives Canada  
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

**Local Research Resources**

**BIFHSGO Library:** The City Archives, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON 613-580-2424 ext 13333  
Tuesday to Friday: 9 a.m.– 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays June, July & August

**Library and Archives Canada:** 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON 613-996-5115

Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration Desk, Reference Services & Reference Collection (2nd floor) and Self-serve Digital Copying Room (3rd floor)

Daily: 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. Textual Documents and Microforms Consultation Rooms and the Canadian Genealogy Centre (3rd floor)

**Family History Centre (LDS):** 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, ON 613-224-2231

Tuesday to Thursday: 9:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.– 9:30 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

2nd & 4th Saturday: 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Call to confirm.

**Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec:** 855, boulevard de la Gappe, Gatineau, QC

Monday–Friday: 8:30 a.m.– 12 p.m., 1 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 7 p.m.– 10 p.m. 819-568-8798

**Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots***

Articles, illustrations, etc., for publication in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* are welcome. Please contact: The Editor, [acreditor@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:acreditor@bifhsgo.ca). The deadline for publication in the next issue is Saturday, 21 July 2007.