



Anglo-Celtic Roots

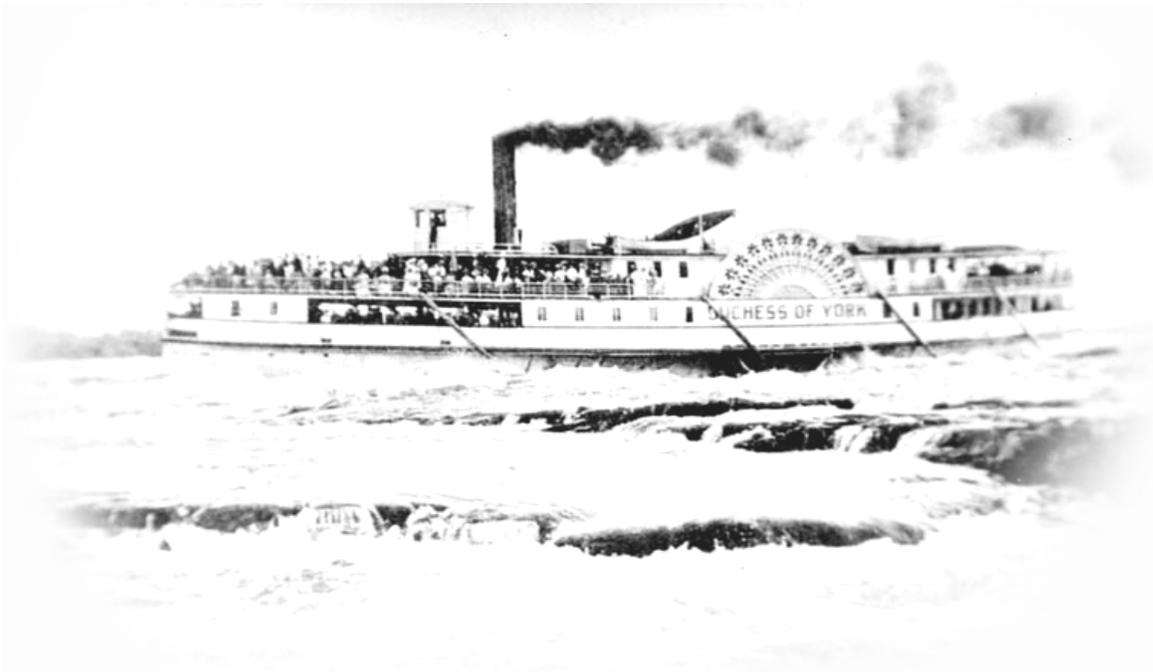
Quarterly Chronicle

Volume 13, Number 3

Fall 2007

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- *Beechwood Cemetery Part 2—Glenn Wright*
- *More Delightful Irish Discoveries—Terry Findley*
- *Publishing a Family History—John Townesend*
- *Some Offbeat Resources—Patrick Wohler*



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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

Fall Issue 2007

Volume 13, Number 3



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Steamer *Duchess of York*, Ottawa River Navigation Co., built at Montreal 1895, operated in excursion trade then on mail line between Montreal and Ottawa.
Source: Library and Archives Canada Mikan No. 3394039

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 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 Historica 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 you family history. Good luck and see you in September.

Willis Burwell

Notes From the Editor's Desk

Having authored, with Gordon Taylor, the BIFHSGO publication *Publishing Your Family History*, John Townsend took his own advice and published a book about a distant relative John Townsend. His presentation to the meeting of January 2007 has been recast with the assistance of Irene Ip, and describes the trials and tribulations of putting the advice into practice.

Advice on looking to unusual sources of information is provided by Patrick Wohler and is based on his presentation to the May meeting. Terry Findley's article is the second of two parts on delightful Irish discoveries. Glenn Wright has contributed a second instalment of the history of the Beechwood Cemetery and Wendy Croome describes her experiences in researching at an English County Records Office.

From our Great Moments meetings come articles by Bill Arthurs on using DNA analysis to help him see over a brick wall, and by David Roger on the challenges of sorting through family records.

Maintaining the schedule of publishing four issues a year means that one of them, namely the Fall Issue, must be prepared during the summer months. That we are able to meet our schedule is a tribute to the efforts of the volunteers who could be—and perhaps are—relaxing at the cottage or elsewhere on vacation. Thank you all.

Chris MacPhail

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BIFHSGO 2007 Annual General Meeting

BY ROY THOMAS

The thirteenth Annual General Meeting took place at 9:30 am, Saturday 9 June 2007 at Library and Archives Canada. This report complements those of Directors contained in the yellow pages of the Spring 2007 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

Patricia Roberts-Pichette was elected to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in 2007 in appreciation of her contributions as Director, Research and Projects, for four years, including: two years as First Vice-President: organizing and leading the Middlemore Home Children project; taking information about this project and the Society to Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Home Children Reunions; preparing a series of 11 articles about the Middlemore Home Children for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; co-chairing the 2005 Annual Conference; presenting at annual conferences and monthly meetings; and acting as coordinator of the BIFHSGO Writing Group.

Also elected to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in 2007 was Gerry Glavin in appreciation of his contributions during seven years on the Board of Directors: three years as Director, Programs and Conferences, two years as President and two years as Past President. He also chaired the Organizing Committee for the BIFHSGO Fall Conferences in 2000, 2001 and 2002. He has authored numerous articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots* and has spoken at monthly meetings. His organizational skills and attention to detail have been major factors contributing to the success of the Society during this period of time.

Alison Hare received the award for Best Presentation at the monthly BIFHSGO meetings, September 2006–June 2007, for her talk, “John Green: Whose Father Was He?” given at the April 2007 BIFHSGO meeting.

Robert Watts received the award for best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* article in 2006 for “Watts and Related Families of Dunfermline”, which appeared in the Fall 2006 issue.

Bert Hayward received a Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding contributions to the work of the Society as BIFHSGO Photographer from 2003 to 2007. Readers of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* benefited from Bert’s timely photos.



Patricia Roberts-Pichette



Gerry Glavin



Alison Hare



Robert Watt

Irene Ip received a Certificate of Excellence for her outstanding contributions to the work of BIFHSGO as the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* editor from 2003 to 2006 during which time it was twice awarded first place in the prestigious National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition, in 2004 and 2006. Chris MacPhail, your present *Anglo-Celtic Roots* editor, received a copy of the first place award.



Bertram Hayward

The President of BIFHSGO and chair of the AGM, Willis Burwell, thanked the outgoing Directors, Christine Jackson (Publicity), Lesley Anderson (Education) and Glenn Wright (Research and Queries), for their contribution to the Society. He also thanked the Associate Directors for their work. Eric Moore, who became responsible for BIFHSGO Volunteer Coordination, should be noted as a new addition, volunteering to assume that post.



Irene Ip

Three Directors were elected, Roy Thomas to continue as Recording Secretary, Margaret Gervais as Director of Publicity (although Christine has agreed to continue to help with the Fall Conference publicity), and Brian Glenn as Director of Education. Remaining vacant is the Director of Research as no one has come forward as a nominee for this post.

A by-law was passed which clarified that the Board would consist of eight members, four each elected in alternate years for two-year terms, and an elected President.

The auditor, Darrel E. Kennedy examined the Society's financial records and reported that he found these to be a good representation of the Society's situation at the end of 2006. He also advised that action on his recommendations, which included the amendment to the by-law above, were being undertaken by the BIFHSGO Board. Darrel was approved as Auditor for 2007–2008.

In Memoriam

Millicent Kavanagh passed away on 14 Jun 2007. A BIFHSGO member since 1996, her interests were in the surnames McRae and Kavanagh.

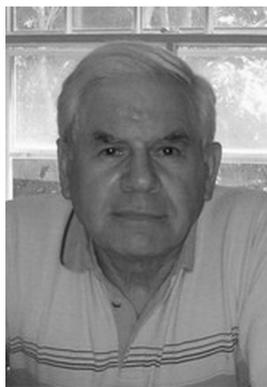
BIFHSGO SATURDAY MEETING REPORTS

The Trials and Tribulations of Publishing A Family History

BY JOHN TOWNSEND

What follows is based upon—and updates—my January 2007 BIFHSGO talk. Irene Kellow Ip valiantly undertook the first draft, and we have refined subsequent drafts together. All shortcomings remain with me.

BIFHSGO is all about encouraging and facilitating research into *and publication of* family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles. Thus, in 2003, BIFHSGO published—with member Gordon Taylor's help—a 24-page booklet entitled *Publishing Your Family History*.¹ This



publication, which condensed 13 articles that I had written for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, offered some steps to bring a family history from the research stage to a professional-quality publication. Later, I tried taking my own advice and this article is an unvarnished account of my experience—a roller coaster ride, in which victory was drawn from the jaws of disaster. Not so much, as it turned out, because of what the booklet recommended but because of the vagaries that always seem to surround the publication process.

The results of my labours surfaced in late 2006 when, with some trepidation, I paid my trusted commercial printer and drove away with 500 copies of *John Townsend: Champion of Georgian Charity*. They were packed in easily handled boxes of 30 copies each. The book was self-published through my sole proprietorship, *Verity Research*, as a soft-covered book, designed to achieve professional standards.

Rather than employing a publishing company, I had followed the six steps in the self-publication process that were identified in the booklet:

1. Researching Your Family History
2. Planning Your Publication
3. Drafting Your Manuscript
4. Preparing Your Book
5. Producing Your Book
6. Distributing Your Book

These steps, however, proved to be far from sequential. Rather, in today's computer world, they

were iterative and often overlapped one another. For example, as expressed below, while business savvy might theoretically be associated with book production and marketing, in reality it was essential during book preparation.

The quality standards for this work were not my own but, rather, drawn from Patricia Law Hatcher's *Producing a Quality Family History*.² She lists eight "Characteristics of a Quality Family History" as shown in the box:

- It presents research that is thorough, new, and based on a variety of primary sources.
- It is well-organized, understandable, and attractively presented.
- It uses a recognized genealogical numbering system.
- It documents every fact and relationship fully.
- It expresses information accurately, indicating the likelihood of conclusions.
- It goes beyond records, placing people in context.
- It includes illustrations such as maps, charts and photographs.
- It has a thoughtful and thorough index.

Had I been so inclined, adherence to these standards would have made my book eligible for entry into competitions, such as those for Members of the Society of Genealogists in London, or the National Genealogical Society in Washington.

I now turn to the way that each of the six steps was addressed, in the light of the eight standards, in the publication of the John Townsend book.

Researching my family history

Hatcher was right in saying that the research should be "thorough, new, and based on a variety of primary sources" and I certainly took my time in researching my subject. I began the research for the Townsend book in 1988, when I discovered *Memoirs of the Rev. John Townsend*, written in 1828. Eventually, I had accumulated about 120 context-related sources—

some primary and previously unpublished; some secondary and, therefore, previously published. They comprise a four-page bibliography list in the Townsend book.

Of the new and unpublished sources, the most significant were some 200 flimsy, tattered but original family letters, written in and around London in Georgian times by John Townsend's relatives (Figure 1). These letters refer to Townsend, giving first-hand accounts of his death and burial. They came to me via a distant cousin in Oxford, following an insertion in the *Genealogical Research Directory* by a third party.

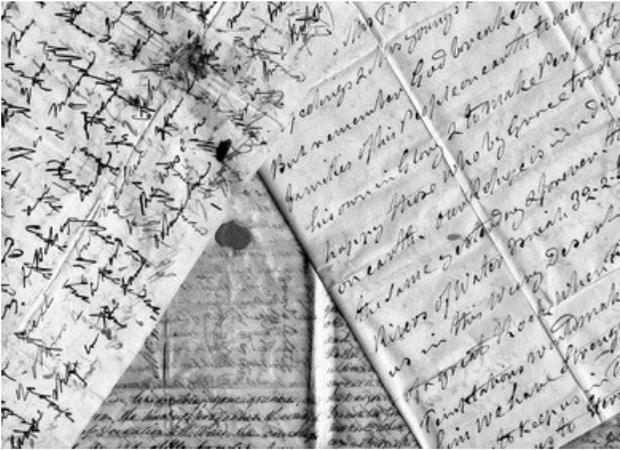


Figure 1: Letters

The book is primarily a biography, of greater appeal to the potential market than a genealogical litany of names, dates and places. The called-for “genealogical numbering system” record was, therefore, located in an annex. It identifies all genealogical sources, including oral tradition.

Almost as important as the research itself was how to store the research findings for later retrieval. It could have been enormously frustrating knowing that I had relevant information but being unable to locate it. A system that worked for me is detailed in the booklet.

Planning the publication

Planning a publication that is “well-organized, understandable, and attractively presented” occurs on two fronts. First, planning for the book itself and, second, planning for its impact on the author's own life, as other priorities have to be accommodated as well. For example, while plans to achieve the book's goal governed the shaping of the raw material into a “good read,” planning other factors—the book's schedule, location and resources—involved wider issues.

Goal

From the outset, my goal in writing the John Townsend biography was to have a solid base for my own family history. I am not descended from John himself but from his elder brother George. While both brothers were long and faithful Dissenting Protestant Ministers of the Congregational, or Independent, Church, it was John's career and achievements that had the higher profile and now the greater potential marketability. Nevertheless, it is also true that John and George shared the same ancestors, the same family circle and many of the same circumstances and challenges described in the book.

Schedule

In 2002, it became apparent to me that, if the book was ever to be written and published, I should start immediately. For the previous six years I had been absorbed in the life of BIFHSGO, and knew that I had to switch to my own priorities. However, what I had learned at BIFHSGO, particularly in publishing *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, was very helpful in tackling my own work but I was well aware that I did not have unlimited time to achieve my goal.

Location

Fortunately, my retirement plans involved living in Ottawa, where I had done my original research, mostly at Library and Archives Canada (LAC). I could have run into problems if I no longer had easy access to LAC. In drawing the raw material together, I found dozens of ambiguities and gaps that needed reconciling through, among other things, a return to the original sources.

Resources

Before getting started, I had to ask myself if I had enough interest, energy, time and money to see the project through. I knew that I would be negotiating a long learning curve. In the end, I decided to do the publishing work myself, rather than hire somebody else. I used four types of computer programs—*WordPerfect*[®], a full-featured word processor; *Quattro Pro*[®], a full-featured spreadsheet; *Family Tree Maker*[™], a fully-fledged genealogical package; and *Quicken Home and Business*[™] as my bookkeeping and invoicing program. However, I made sure that I had a fresh set of eyes for editing the manuscript and final copy.

Drafting the manuscript

Hatcher advises us that, in drafting a publication,

- all facts and relationships should be fully documented

- information should be accurate and conclusions weighed
- places and people should be in context
- lots of illustrations, such as maps, charts and photographs should be used
- there should be a thoughtful and thorough index, and
- a genealogical numbering system should be used.

Three mutually-dependant elements comprise the manuscript of a quality family history: genealogy, context and graphics.

Genealogy

While several charts throughout the body of the book depicted Townsend's relatives, past, present and future, the raw tombstone data—names, dates, places—were located in an annex, prepared using *Family Tree Maker*TM and printed out using *Family Tree Maker*TM's Register System. I also used annexes to detail family information that was too complex to be included in the main text.

Context

I planned to bring life to my account by situating people in terms of their times, for example, their socio-economic status, religion and politics. My research findings had, therefore, to be cross-referenced so that general background material describing the times could be related to specific family history, in such a way that the relevant data were at my fingertips at the right time. In this, a *Quattro Pro*[®] table, 1,200 lines long, helped a great deal. In preparing the text, I brought together earlier-transcribed information, preparatory to integrating it into text—with common footnotes, punctuation, grammar, spelling, typography and layout.

The book's original title, *John Townsend: Bermondsey's Georgian Benefactor*, identified the who, the where and the when. It was, however, correctly pointed out that the title was too parochial since Townsend's life played out far beyond the confines of Bermondsey. Moreover, he was not really a benefactor—although he did indeed contribute to his own good works—as most of the support came from others through his solicitations. Thus, the title became *John Townsend: Champion of Georgian Charity*.

Graphics

A picture really is worth a thousand words. To help my readers situate themselves in the book, I included various maps, such as one of John Townsend's

Bermondsey, scaled down from a map of the Bermondsey of the time. I used charts wherever possible, such as one of Major Religious Denominations in John Townsend's time, using a *WordPerfect*[®] table. I also made use of many text boxes, containing quotes from family letters, magazines and so forth.

Better than these maps and charts, however, were the many images that I was able to include. In the end, there were 16 pages in full colour. The sources of these various illustrations were books, websites and my own photos. Much time and effort was consumed obtaining the necessary copyright permissions.

Preparing the book

Physical attributes

A book has four parts that need to be prepared: cover, front matter, main text and back matter; and this book was no different.

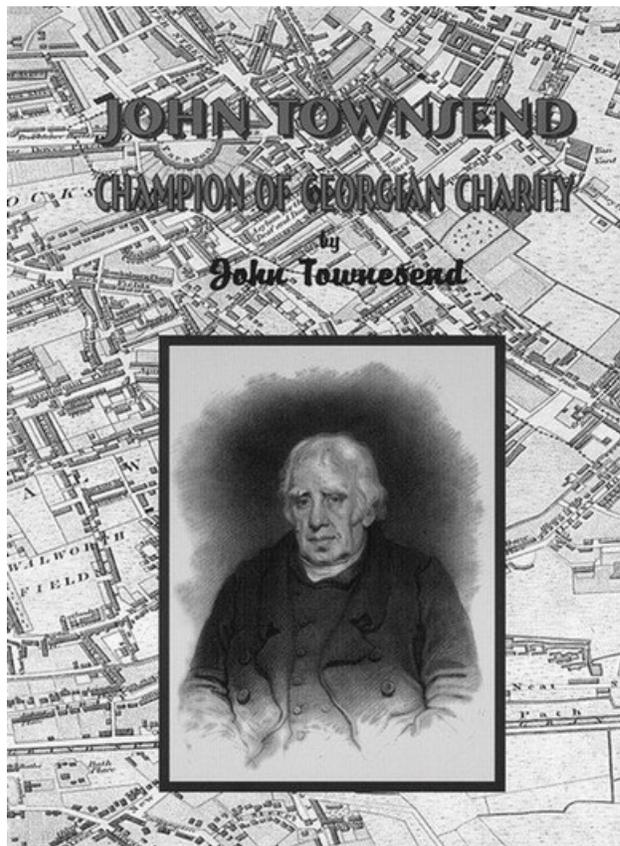


Figure 2: Book cover

Cover

The outside of the front cover is absolutely crucial for marketing, as a book really is judged by its cover. I consulted with my printer before choosing the final design (Figure 2). The inside of the front cover

included acknowledgments and details of images used on the outside of the front cover. The inside of the back cover carried an image of me as author and a biographical note. On the outside of the back cover, I was able to insert some kind words from a couple of sources. I included an ISBN number at the bottom, as booksellers use these numbers to keep track of their inventory. However, I did not bother with a barcode because I did not think that enough booksellers would be involved to justify the \$80 cost. Finally, I prepared three images of the spine, to accommodate three different widths, from which the printer could choose one once the book's thickness was known.

Front matter

This part of the book included: title page, copyright page, dedication, table of contents, list of figures, foreword and preface (which included acknowledgments). General details of each of these are provided in the booklet.

Main text

I used the page layout employed in *Anglo-Celtic Roots*: two columns with a header that includes the pagination. The column format has a number of advantages over the full-page layout. The shorter lines are easier to read and enable use of a smaller font size, which results in fewer printed pages—a welcome economy.

Almost all graphics (images, tables, text boxes, charts, maps, etc.) were sized to fit the columns. I chose Times New Roman as the typeface for the main text, it being easily read and, therefore, able to keep the reader's focus on the material, rather than how it is presented. Another serif font—Antigua—was used for the graphics captions, within the text boxes, and so forth, to make them distinctive from the main text. Throughout the text, special codes (kerning, leading and word and line-spacing) were used to give it a more typeset look. Text justification was full rather than left, which minimized the need for awkward hyphenation at the end of a line.

Back Matter

There were four components to the back matter:

Annexes, which provided greater depth than was possible in the main text, included,

- The Townsend family
- Grant of Arms
- Unique family history documentation
- A fully numbered genealogical descendancy record, with all sources identified

- A list of John Townsend's publications
- The wills of John Townsend and his wife

Bibliographical and other sources included a standard bibliography as well as identifying websites from which information had been drawn.

Image sources, which also included thanks for permission to use.

An index, which was designed to reflect Hatcher's standard of being "thoughtful and thorough." It was thoughtful because it annotated the relationship between John Townsend and indexed places and people, to remove ambiguity. For example, four different Cordelia Townsends are featured in the book—Townsend's wife, daughter, granddaughter and niece. The index is also an important marketing resource. In my case, it reminded me of organizations that could be interested in my book, such as trade guilds or universities that were part of the story.

Market considerations

The book's preparation extended over a lengthy time period. The flexibility of the computer enabled an iterative approach, once the book's main framework was established. I wrote, reviewed and re-wrote content many times, not only to improve expression and flow but also to integrate additional information where it became available.

The limited extent of market interest was evident from poor response to the first of the two pre-publication drafts that I mailed to likely interested parties in England. I heard nothing from the local family history society. The local historical society's quarterly publication carried a highly complimentary article, and provided one of the two testimonials that appeared on the back of the publication. The local history library expressed interest but was not able to publicize or host a book launch. Today's successors to three of the religious organizations that Townsend helped to found were uniformly disinterested. Following recommendations, I sent a copy to a leading U.K. family history journal—zero response there too.

All was not lost, however. Townsend founded two schools, which today are a minor U.K. public school and a leading school for deaf children with additional needs. The second school saved the day, for its Board Chairman was extremely interested in the book and we arranged to spend a couple of days together during his vacation in Pennsylvania. It was a singular and extraordinarily encouraging experience. His command of the book's contents and context extended to detailed nuances and turns of phrase. Uniquely qualified, he

clarified terms that would better express the interests of today's deaf community. He offered design approaches that added to the book's appeal. He performed the role of editor *par excellence* and contributed kind words for the back cover.

The Board Chair's recommendations found expression in Draft Two, copies of which went to both schools. Final changes were incorporated. I offered both schools a 50 per cent discount on 60 copies or more, so that they could re-sell at full price and keep the difference. They purchased a total of 180 copies which, supplemented by the stipend from an unrelated special project, fairly well covered the projected printing costs for a printer-required minimum of 500 copies.

Producing the book

Throughout the book's preparation, I had had to keep a steady eye on its production; for example, the book's specifications, the choice of a commercial printer, and print shop cost estimates.

Specifications

It was necessary to make decisions about:

- cover—hard or soft, glossy or matt, colours or not, whether to seek professional design
- paper quality—weight, sheen, white or colour
- binding—centre-stitched, perfect bound, or sewn for a hard cover
- printing—xerographic or offset

In the event, the book's cover was soft, glossy and designed by myself, with enhancements by the printer. The paper was a sheened, 24-pound, bright white. Sixteen of the pages were in colour (which, in the event, were too yellow); the book was perfect bound (glued); and the printing was offset. Selection was a compromise between market appeal and economy.

Commercial printer cost estimate

Fortunately, I already had a trusted relationship with a commercial printer but most first-time publishers will have to find one. The usual approach would be: to draw up a form identifying one's specifications, and to seek costing for alternative approaches to printing (as outlined in the booklet); to visit on-site maybe three or four printers in order to assess their interest, know-how, approach and projected cost; and to then size them up and make one's choice. In this, one may wish to consider how much other work the printer already has, which will influence the completion date of one's own job, and, of course, the quality of work he has done for other people.

The printer will be interested to see the quality of the files on your CD version of the book. My WordPerfect™ files were converted to a PDF Creator file using *Adobe Acrobat*™ and burned onto a CD, which was accompanied by a hard copy—carefully checked for page numbering and with possible colour pages identified. My chosen printer and I reviewed the cover proofs for design, bleeding and colours. Once we had reviewed the colour page proofs, grey scale being used otherwise, I signed off. (Newcomers to the field should be prepared to make an advance deposit at this point.) A couple of weeks later, the boxed books were ready for pickup.

Distributing the book

Geographically, there were two markets, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Each of these markets was again divided into the community potentially interested in Townsend's services to the deaf, and other communities of interest. The latter included libraries, local collections, religious organizations, trade guilds, schools and universities, and other places specifically tied to Townsend's story.

I designed and produced a three-panel colour brochure in eight editions, one for the two above-type communities, each having an edition containing pricing and ordering details for U.K., Canadian, Australian and United States markets.

The brochure, in a specially designed envelope highlighting the book, was mailed from Ottawa to potential customers in Australia, Canada and the United States. About 130 brochures went out; two orders were received. My cousin in England, who serves as my agent, posted the U.K.-directed brochure. About 15 were despatched and, to date, two orders have been received.

A related challenge was the shipping of the pre-purchased 180 copies to England as well as 60 copies for other potential U.K. markets. Included in the latter group was the Southwark Cathedral bookstore, since in March 2007 the Cathedral witnessed a Commemorative Service celebrating the 250th anniversary of John Townsend's birth. While I had budgeted to send these copies by surface mail, in the event they went by UPS's minimum air-rate. Time was not so much the issue as were minimizing potential for damage in transit, ease of customs clearance and—most especially—minimizing inconvenience in delivery arrangements at their final destination.

All relatives, and a good number of friends, received complimentary copies. Library and Archives Canada received their two Legal Deposit copies, since the

book was published in Canada. Copies have also been deposited in the Ottawa Public Library and BIFHSGO Library. Eventually, if no sales transpire, copies will be deposited in the main genealogy- and family history-related libraries in the United States and United Kingdom.

Endnotes

1. This booklet is available at any BIFHSGO meeting for \$5.
2. Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Producing a Quality Family History*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1996.

Some Offbeat Untapped Genealogy Sources

BY PATRICK WOHLER

Patrick Wohler CG (C) is the author of several books on history and the management of heritage resources and institutions, and contributes columns on genealogy to several newspapers. This is an outline of his presentation to the meeting of 12 May 2007.

Most of us have found sources of family history information that are a little out of the mainstream of research strategies. Whether we happen on them by good luck, serendipity, or research skills does not matter, but it is important to share them with our fellow travelers. Here are a few of mine.



investigate claims of losses. The files of that commission are filled with original documents proving property ownership, values of losses, information on relations, substantive testimony from witnesses, details of their life and history, accounts of rebel and loyalist activity, returns of judgements, and details of social life and local military history that are a joy to read.

The *fonds* has been incorporated into the Department of Finance *fonds* (RG19) at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa (LAC) and occupies 11.8 metres of shelf space. The new Reference Number for the series is R200-113-0-E. There is a computer-generated finding aid (#19-13) and a hard copy, listing claimants in alphabetical order, with the volume number of their file, in the Reference Room of the LAC. Ultimately it will be placed on-line.

The detailed claims made by residents of Upper Canada are included in an Appendix to the Journal of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada from 3 December 1839 to 10 February 1840; these are available on-line at:

http://www.canadiana.org/ECO/mtq?id=cbb2655eea&display=9_00942_17+0486.

There were thousands of claimants, so if you had ancestors anywhere near the scenes of action in the Rebellions, it might be worth checking these out.

Clues from Postage Stamps

Family correspondence, if you can find it, can provide a lot of leads to people's origins, distant family members, and significant events. Often, however, the old letters have been thrown out, but don't give up yet. Someone may have saved the envelopes or the stamps and if you can find a stamp collection in the family,

The Rebellion Losses Bill in the Service of Family History

The passage of The Lower Canada Rebellion Losses Bill has long been regarded as a milestone in Canadian History. Although one had already been passed in Upper Canada, to indemnify people who had suffered property damage and losses due to the Rebellion of 1837–38, the opposition to the one in Lower Canada was noisy, vituperative, and violent. The real significance of it is that having been passed by the Assembly of Lower Canada and despite all the agitation, Lord Elgin gave it Royal Assent on 25 April 1849.

This is widely regarded as the birth of responsible government in Canada—and what a birth! The labour pains included rioting in the streets, Bill supporters being hanged in effigy, the governor being pelted with rotten eggs, and the Parliament building in Montreal being looted and burned.

The bonus for family historians, however, is that the government set up a Commission of Indemnity to

especially with the envelopes intact (so that you know it was sent to your ancestor), you could be in luck.

The stamps themselves will be able to tell you the country of origin of the correspondent and a date range for the correspondence. The date of introduction for each stamp and the period in which it was used is known and published in such books as *Scott's Stamp Catalogue*, which may be available in your local library. If the catalogue suggests that there are variations of this stamp over time, you might want the help of a stamp-collecting friend who will be able to identify your stamp more easily.

The other thing to look for is the cancellation, and you may want a magnifying glass for this. There may only be a partial one on the stamp but, if you have several stamps from the same correspondent, you may be able to put together the post office of origin and then you will know what town or village or part of a city these letters were mailed from. If you knew only that someone was from Germany, and then found that the bulk of their German correspondence was from Brake, you would have a place to start looking for their origins.

School Records—an Often Overlooked Resource

Our immigrant ancestors were usually eager for their children to obtain an education as a criterion for a 'better life.' Some of the earliest schools were funded by the parents and some of the churches played a role as well.

In Ontario, there was legislation as early as 1807 to provide a grammar school in each district. The county boards of education were established in 1850, but compulsory attendance (age eight to 14) was not introduced until 1896.

One of the reasons that schools should be of interest to family historians is that they generated and maintained extensive records. Some of these were needed to support requests for government grants and some to record student progress. In later years, especially in secondary schools, students generated records themselves through school newspapers and yearbooks.

The Archives of Ontario (AO) holds papers from the various boards of education under the Ministry of Education records (RG 2), but most of these have to do with administrative and management material. They have very little in the way of student lists and such.

I checked with several local school boards and predictably there is no easy answer to "Where are the records?" A student's record follows him or her until

the end of high school. After graduation, the file is usually stripped down to its essentials and retained by the high school. Some records find their way to local archives; this is the case in both Lanark and Renfrew counties.

Many of the student records for schools that no longer exist are retained by the district boards of education. For private and church schools it may take a little more creative research to find the records.

While classroom registers may seem somewhat uninspiring, especially to former teachers, they can be valuable tools. They record, by day, who was there. If you are unable to pin down the arrival or departure of a family from an area between censuses, the school records may be able to help. Often they also have information on birth dates, occupation of parents, and other data that they felt was important to collect.

Sometimes you can find notations about health problems that you might not find anywhere else. One interesting feature I found was in a graduating class's register, where the teacher indicated what most of the students were planning to do: enter the family business, become a dentist, etc.

Some schools and school districts also conducted their own censuses in order to project their needs for the coming years and these can fill in the gaps between regular censuses.

There is too much potential help in school records to ignore them. Start with the school, if it still exists. The district Board of Education is the next stop. If neither of these has the student records you are looking for, then try your local archives.

Even if none of these works, local newspapers usually reported on school matters, especially on final exams and graduations, so be sure to check them out.

Company Newsletters

If your ancestor worked for a large company in the twentieth century, like the railroad or a large mill, or a government department, there is a good chance that the company had some kind of staff newsletter or magazine. These are narrowly targeted publications and can be less than stimulating reading if you are not part of their demographic, but do look for them.

You may well find that your ancestor was profiled when he or she reached a significant milestone, like twenty-five years' service or retirement. The publication will likely include information about your ancestor that may not otherwise be available to you

and will also help to give you a flavour of what their working life was like.

The public relations department of the company is the most likely to be willing and able to help you out. If the company no longer exists, don't despair. Usually when a company is bought out by another, its papers go with it, so the new parent company may have them in its archives.

Even if that fails, there is a fair chance that some archives have collected that company's papers. You can find out by going to:

www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/directory.html. This is a very useful search site, in fact it is a portal to archival holdings across Canada. Type the name of the company you are looking for in the search box and a list of archives that hold papers of that company will appear. The name of the archives is actually a hotlink; clicking on it will take you to a page with all the contact information to reach them, usually including e-mail addresses.

I used it recently and found the papers of a flour milling company at the archives in the University of Manitoba.

Like you, your ancestors spent a big portion of their life in the workplace—knowing a little more about that phase will help you to know them a little better.

Fraternal Organizations

Many of our ancestors belonged to fraternal organizations such as the Masons, Elks, Odd Fellows, Foresters, Knights of Columbus, or others, or they may have memorabilia bearing strange initials.

Rich Hertzog has created a website that lists hundreds of these organizations, with hot links to many of their websites. You can find it at:

<http://www.exonumia.com/links.htm>. It was really created for collectors of society emblems, but if you go to the bottom of the home page and select <society/fraternal> you will be taken to an alphabetical listing of the societies with their links.

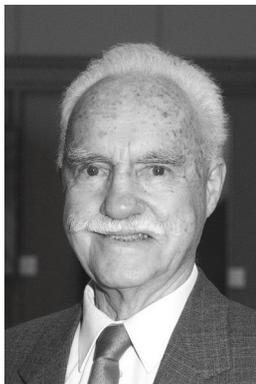
GREAT MOMENTS IN GENEALOGY

Scottish House of Roger

BY DAVID ROGER

This article will be a continuation or sequel to my article published in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* issue of June 2007. Both derive from a talk at the December 2006 meeting on “More Great Moments in Genealogy”, reviewing much information that came to me, requiring sorting and coordination rather than research for facts. The June article concentrated on how I learned by trial and error to do that, and on the information about the Roger family back through the centuries, provided mainly in the book *Four Perthshire Families* compiled by Rev. Chas. Roger(s) DD, LLD. This present article will follow the career of my great-grandfather Charles Roger FRHS after he brought the name to Canada and Greater Ottawa.

Among my father's papers were photocopies from three books not in my library, which provide biographies of my great-grandfather Charles Roger. I believe that these were from the National Archives of



Canada (precursor to Library and Archives Canada). The *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Volume X¹ provides a detailed biography of more than a page, which is most helpful. The edition of 1963 summarizes the biography in one small paragraph. Both give his date of death as “probably 1878”, rather than the date 29 July 1889 on his tombstone. *The Oxford Companion to Canadian History and Literature 1967*² also indicates 1819–1878, and summarizes his life from military service to newspaper work, then civil service. It mentions his authorship of *A History of Canada; its Rise from Barbarism to Wealth and Civilisation*, published in Quebec in 1856³ and *Ottawa, Past and Present* published in Ottawa in 1871⁴. *Four Perthshire Families* also gives a detailed account. On 27 February 1840 he married Dorothy MacRobie, daughter of John M'Robie of the Board of Ordnance at Quebec. One article¹ says five sons and four daughters; another says four sons and one daughter. The correct number seems to be five sons and one daughter, Anne. My father had penciled in a fifth son, his uncle George. The daughter, Anne Wright, is buried in the old family plot in St. James Cemetery, Blvd. Taché, Gatineau, with her parents and her brother Joseph and Louisa Jane (Smyth) Roger, my

grandparents. Anne's first husband was Andrew Muir who had come from Hamilton to Ottawa, so Wright was evidently a second husband but as yet I have not identified his family origin, whether or not descended from Philemon or Thomas Wright.

Charles Roger was born 14 April 1819 in Dundee, Scotland. In 1832 he Matriculated (enrolled) at St. Salvator's College in St. Andrews University in theology but changed to medicine. In 1835 he left his studies and enlisted in the Royal Artillery at Perth as a gunner. From 1836–39 he was at Halifax, N.S., promoted to bombardier. From 1839–1842 he was stationed at Quebec City, promoted to corporal; then he was discharged at his own request, his conduct shown as "exemplary", and allowed £25.

He became superintendent of the library of the Quebec Library Association. In 1849 he left this for newspaper work for *The Morning Chronicle*, then *The Quebec Gazette*, perhaps as an editor; then in 1854 he founded his own paper *The Observer*, which lasted about a year. In 1856 he was working again for *The Gazette* and published his *History of Canada*. I have two copies, one from the family records, and the other I found in a small antique store in South March, Ontario, while my wife was looking at antiques. He also wrote a book about Quebec City, and an historical guide to Quebec. He moved to Port Hope and in 1858 founded a newspaper, *The Atlas*, which did not last long. He moved to Millbrook in Cavan Township, Ontario, a few miles north of Port Hope and published a newspaper, again called *The Observer*. A booklet *Brief History of Cavan Township and Millbrook Village*⁵ mentions his newspaper activity there.

He moved the family to Ottawa where his activities included a position in the Post Office Department, and as an editor of *The Ottawa Times* and anglophone editor of the bilingual *Courier*. In 1871 he published *Ottawa, Past and Present*. In 1872–3 he made a trip to England where he was elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He sent accounts of the trip to *The Ottawa Times*, and later published them as a booklet, *Glimpses of London, and Atlantic Experiences*⁶. They described travel by train and by ship powered by both sail and steam, and visiting and sightseeing in 1873 London. There he visited his younger brother J. C. Roger FSA (Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians); an autographed book by this brother, *Journal of a Summer Tour in the Perthshire and Inverness-shire Highlands*⁷, contains a nice clear photo of the brother as author. His brother's letter of October 1872 of condolence on the death of Charles's wife has been

folded in the front of the book. Many such little items add to the detail of the family genealogy!

Of his own writings, the booklet *Ottawa, Past and Present* published in 1871 is most interesting. It reviews the development of the Greater Ottawa region from early times up to that date. Chapter 1 describes the difficult problems of building the Union Bridges over the Chaudière in preparation for construction of the Rideau Canal, the choice of the City of Ottawa as the Seat of Government for the United Canada before Confederation, and quotes and discusses much from Philemon Wright's own account of exploring for a suitable area to settle in Canada, bringing his group to Hull Township, and his progressive development of his settlement.

Charles Roger also describes development of other settlements along the Ottawa River: Louis Joseph Papineau at his seigneurie of La Petite Nation; and the McNab and his Highlander colony farther up the Ottawa near Chats Falls on the Upper Canada side. Both were rather controversial characters, but he writes favourably about them. There is mention of the Rebellion Losses Bill precipitating the Montreal Riot, which caused the relocation of the capital from Montreal, and the Riot of Stony Monday in Ottawa. (Another of my great-grandfathers, Wm. Smyth J.P., was appointed to a commission to investigate the latter.)

Other chapters discuss the building of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, with an increase in cost from an estimated £75,000 to a final £4,000,000; the building of churches, gaol, etc., some on land donated by Nicholas Sparks; and government development of timber slides and boom stations to facilitate the lumbering. Describing the water-powered mills and factories at the Chaudière, he lists the tremendous output of lumber, wooden articles, matches etc.

As a newspaper man he was particularly interested in the development of newspapers, especially in Bytown and Ottawa. The first in Bytown was in 1840; the 7th, in 1848, was *The Ottawa Citizen*, which is still publishing. By 1871 there had been 30 newspapers in Bytown and Ottawa, most of which had come and gone. His eldest son, John Charles Roger, was an Ottawa Alderman, a director of the firm of T. Sidney Kirby and Co. and partner in the firm MacLean and Roger, which had the government contract of Queen's Printer and owned the Times Publishing Company and *The Ottawa Times* newspaper.

A clipping of a dispatch dated Nov. 1, 1865 to the Editor of *The Quebec Mercury*, over Charles Roger's

pen-name “Cheops”, describes various matters in Ottawa, and includes an interesting description of a ferry crossing the Ottawa River from New Edinburgh to Waterloo, now Gatineau Point. It was a large platform on two “bateaux”, propelled by a team of horses on a treadmill turning a paddle-wheel, steered by two large “sculls” and carrying several carts and teams and many passengers.

In retirement, Chas. Roger returned to Scotland for a time. A response from the University of Edinburgh stated that “Charles Roger did matriculate here in 1876, in Medicine, giving his age as 57 years. I think that is possibly the oldest mature student of the 19th century! . . . he did not proceed to graduation . . .”⁸. I cannot find any other proof of qualifying, and suspect that M.D. after his name in the Ottawa City Directory of 1880–1, and title Dr. on his tombstone may not be justified. I have a framed certificate that he was in attendance at Prof. Turner’s Lectures on Anatomy at University of Edinburgh in the winter session of 1876–7, on 17 of 24 occasions. A small book he wrote, *Botanizing Excursions in High and Low Lands by Professor Balfour’s Pupils, During the Summer of 1877*⁹ refers to Professor Balfour as professor of botany and medicine at Edinburgh University. This was at a time when most effective medications were botanical and much less likely to do harm than those in use of mineral origin such as lead and mercury.

The extensive verbatim accounts from Philemon Wright’s journals in his book *Ottawa, Past and Present* show that Charles Roger was intrigued by Wright’s achievements. Whether or not that may have contributed to a genealogical relationship, it is interesting that on 25 February 1880, Charles’ youngest son Joseph married Louisa Jane Smyth, whose mother Lucinda Orilla (Sheffield) Smyth was a grand-daughter of Thomas Wright. The natural course of events led to them becoming my paternal grandparents. Thomas Wright and his family were part of the group with his brother, Philemon, who settled in Hull Township in 1800.

The grave of Lucinda’s grandfather, Thomas Wright (13 June 1759 – 18 September 1801) is carefully preserved in the Protestant Burial Ground (Municipal cemetery) at Old Chelsea, Quebec. My father had saved an *Ottawa Journal* article of 15 May 1971 with a picture of the Sheffield house on the Kingsmere Road and had noted on it that it was the home of his grandmother’s parents, who were Elisha and Mary Polly (Wright) Sheffield. The house is still inhabited, by subsequent owners.

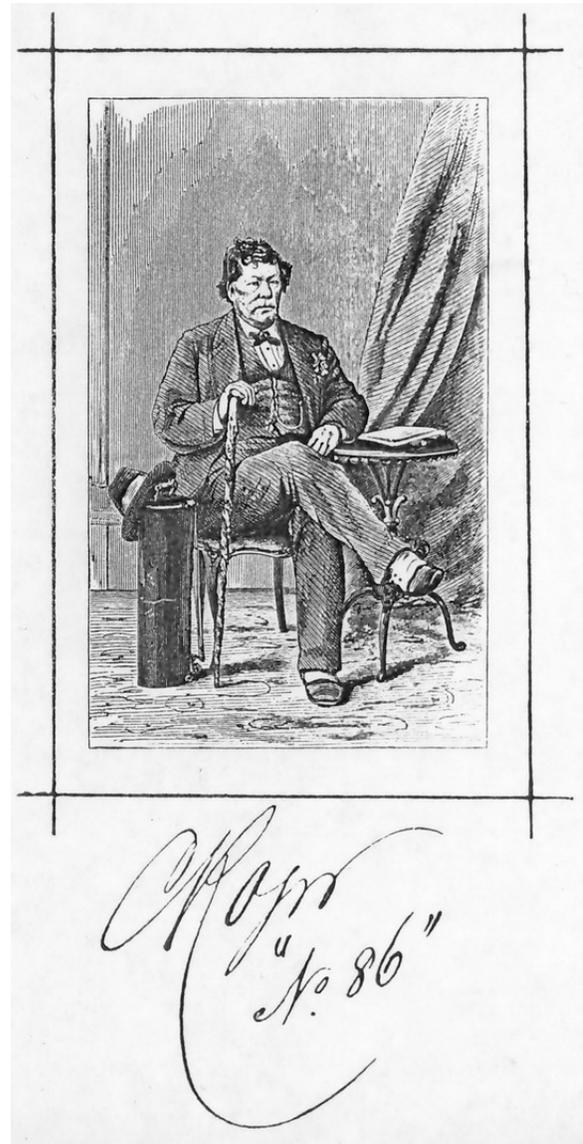


Figure 1: Chas. Roger No 86

Charles Roger returned from Scotland, probably after 1877. The account in *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography* says that what happened to Charles after his return is obscure but that he continued to appear as a correspondent of the Royal Historical Society until 1880. The Ottawa City Directory for 1880-1 records Charles Roger M.D. (!) at 288 Bay Street, the householder at that address being Andrew Muir, his son-in-law. My father, a 6 year old boy when his grandfather died, had an impression that the grandfather drank more than one should; but this may have been a prejudiced opinion from his mother, the daughter-in-law. My family documents include her signed “Pledge” of the *Rine Total Abstinence Club!*

The Oxford Companion to Canadian History and Literature confirms that he died in Ottawa. His

gravestone in St. James Cemetery, Boulevard Taché, Gatineau, indicates: In Memory of Dr. Charles Roger F.R.H.S. Journalist and Historian. Native of Dundee, Scotland. Died in Ottawa July 29 1889 aged 71 years.

References

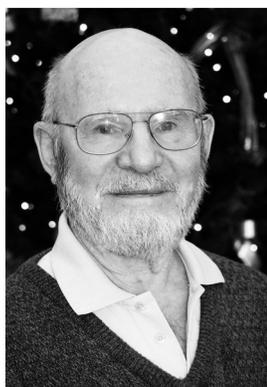
1. La Terreur, Marc, Editor *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Volume X 1871-1880*; University of Toronto Press; date unknown; photocopies of frontispiece and pages 627 and 628.
2. Photocopy of a page 723. No printed indication of author or title, but my father's handwriting at top writes "From The Oxford Companion to Canadian History & Literature, 1967, by Norah Story ass't to Dr. Doughty, Chief Archivist." (So she may have written the article, or may just have obtained it for him?). It is reasonable to assume it was obtained from the Dominion Archives, not Library and Archives, as it was before they were amalgamated.
3. Roger, Charles. *A History of Canada: The Rise from Barbarism to Wealth and Civilisation*. Vol. 1 1856
4. Roger, Charles. *Ottawa, Past and Present 1871* Times Publishing Company, Ottawa
5. Eakins, Mary Sloane. *Brief History of Cavan Township and Millbrook Village from the year 1816 to 1937*. Millbrook; Mirror Reporter Print. Page 10.
6. Roger, Charles, FRHS *Glimpses of London and Atlantic Experiences, in the Winter of 1872-73*. Ottawa. Printed for the author by Robertson, Roger & Co., "The Times", Wellington Street.
7. Roger, J.C. *Journal of a Summer Tour in the Perthshire and Inverness-shire Highlands* London MDCCCXCVIII.
8. Currie, Mrs. Jo, Ass't Librarian, Special Collections, Edinburgh University Library: letter in response to my enquiry.
9. "No. 86 Scripsit" *Botanizing Excursions in High and Low Lands, By Professor Balfour's Pupils, During the Summer of 1877*. (Opposite the frontispiece page, there is a seated photo and signature of C Roger "No. 86"; and hand-written at top of frontispiece "To Mrs. Muir with the best wishes of her affectionate father, the writer. C Roger 7/8/78")

Over the Brick Wall to Bannockburn

BY BILL ARTHURS

The Arthurs Family

Up until recently, the genealogical record of my Arthurs family in New Brunswick has been relatively sparse, and all my attempts to trace the family back more than four generations have bounced me off the traditional brick wall. From the 1851 Canadian census records for Kings County, NB we know that Joseph Arthurs "entered the colony" in 1833 from Ireland. The Canadian 1851 census is the earliest complete population survey undertaken in New Brunswick. Consequently, information that predates 1851 is sketchy and difficult to come by. A publication of *Passengers to New Brunswick, The Custom House Records 1833*, edited by Daniel F. Johnson and Ken Kanner (1987) lacks any reference to our Arthurs family. However, the passenger manifests



of many ships are missing. Perhaps they may be found at ports of embarkation in England and Ireland and at destinations such as Halifax or Quebec City, or even in Boston and Philadelphia.

If the note in the 1851 census is correct, and Joseph Arthurs arrived in New Brunswick in 1833, he would have been 14 years of age. It would therefore seem likely that he would have been accompanied by parents, and perhaps siblings. Unless, of course, he was brought to Canada under conditions similar to that of the later "home children." There also could be a connection with another Arthurs family, that of a Jacob Arthurs in the Parish of Simonds in nearby Saint John County, that goes back to the same era. According to Peter Murphy, author of *Together in Exile* (1990), Jacob and Sarah (Shillington) Arthurs of the Parish of Simonds line were natives of the Parish of Donaghmore, County Tyrone, Ireland.

Because Joseph was Protestant we have assumed that he came from Northern Ireland, rather than the Catholic south. However without a county, parish or townland to work with, and because of the destruction

of Irish documents in 1922, no progress has been made in establishing earlier origins. It is mainly because of this “brick wall” that I have spent most of my years of research on my mother’s ancestors, the Titus family.

All of this has changed and my genealogical world has shifted since I decided to have my DNA tested this last December. It has resulted in my “great moment” in genealogy, the discovery that my DNA is a 64 out of 67 marker match with that of a close relative of the current Duke of Abercorn, one of the male heirs of the Hamilton line. I will expand upon this connection below, but the basic fact is that Walter fitz Gilbert de Hambledon (b. ca. 1250–d. bef. 1336) was the heir of Gilbert de Hameldun, who is recorded as a witness to a charter of the gift of the church at Gragyn to the Abby of Paisley in 1271. According to the Wikipedia encyclopedia,

Walter fitz Gilbert was governor of Bothwell Castle for the English crown but during Wars of Scottish Independence he sided with Robert the Bruce, fighting with him at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Sometime between 1315 and 1329, Robert the Bruce knighted him and granted him lands in Renfrewshire, the Lothians and the Barony of Cadzow (now called Hamilton in Lanarkshire).

Of course, just how and when my Arthurs line became entangled with this particular Hamilton clan is a yet unanswered question. The fact remains that according to Family Tree DNA, the company that conducted my test, 35 of 37 identical DNA markers indicates a 95% degree of certainty that the “parental event” that created the relationship occurred within the past 14 generations.

The Hamilton Genealogical Line

The title of Duke of Hamilton was created in 1643 in the Peerage of Scotland. The holder of the title is considered to be one of the most enobled persons in the United Kingdom, holding nine subsidiary titles, including Marquess of Douglas, Earl of Angus, Earl of Arran, Lanark and Cambridge, Lord Abernathy, Lord Polmont, and Baron Dutton. However, the line stretches back even earlier in British history.

As mentioned above, from Walter fitz Gilbert, the first of the feudal Barons of Cadzow (ca. 1315), down to the present, the genealogical record is reasonably well documented. It extends through James Hamilton, the 6th Baron of Cadzow (d. 1479), James Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Arran (d. 1575), James Hamilton, 4th Earl of Arran (d. 1625), James Hamilton, 3rd Marquess of Hamilton (d. 1649), James Douglas-Hamilton, 4th Duke of Hamilton (d. 1712), and down to the current

heir to the title, Alexander Douglas Douglas-Hamilton (b. 1978).



Figure 1: Baronscourt, the estate of the Earl of Abercorn, County Tyrone, Ireland
Courtesy Baronscourt Estate

Of the above, James Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Arran, appears to have been especially generous with his DNA. He had five sons, three of whom settled in Ireland. From his third son, Claud (1546–1621), 1st Lord Paisley, descended the title of Earl of Abercorn. The family seat is Baronscourt, in County Tyrone, Ireland (Figure 1). Nothing is certain in all of this, but there is a strong possibility that the extra-parental event that created the Arthurs connection to the Hamiltons occurred in that area and timeframe.

Aside from the totally unexpected connection between my DNA test results and those of the present 5th Duke of Abercorn, I also discovered that the Hamilton family has been the focus of a comprehensive DNA surname study that allows a comparison of my test results with those of over 200 folks with the Hamilton name, plus thousands of others with different surnames. However, before I touch on that, I should outline, from my limited knowledge of the subject, the basics of the science behind genetic testing. Our past president, John Reid, has provided us with an excellent presentation of the genetic aspects of DNA testing in his recent article in *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, titled *Family Secrets Revealed by DNA Analysis*. However, some aspects will bear some repetition and others outlined below will relate more closely to my experience with the testing process and results.

DNA Testing Process

DNA is the abbreviation for the chemical deoxyribonucleic acid, otherwise known as the chemical of life. Chromosomes with encoded genes among them are made up of pairs of these DNA molecules. They take the shape of a right-handed twisting double helix, the discovery of which earned Doctors James D. Watson and Francis Crick of Cambridge University the Nobel Prize in "Physiology of Medicine" in 1962. Dr. Watson's book *The Double Helix*, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in the United Kingdom in 1968, is a good introduction for those who are stepping forward to participate in this new and fascinating scientific contribution to the world of genealogy.

In 1990, a further advancement was made in the field of genetics when the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health initiated an comprehensive project called *The Human Genome Project* (HGP), a 13 year program with ambitious goals, including the identification of all the approximately 20,000 to 25,000 genes in human DNA, and determination of the sequences of the 3 billion chemical base pairs that make up human DNA. Their goals also included the storage of the resulting data in databases, the improvement of tools for data analysis, and the transmitting of related technologies to the private sector. Happily, the project was completed on time, in 2003. Although it will take many years to analyse the data, it is already paying dividends in new medical applications. From all this pioneer work has also evolved the science involved in determining the markers for DNA testing and the art of comparing the results of the thousands who have already undergone the testing process.

Each cell in the human body contains DNA in the form of 22 pairs of autosomal (non-sex determining) chromosomes, plus two X chromosomes for females and an X and a Y chromosome for males, giving a total of 46. It is estimated that the length of all the DNA in a human body would reach to the moon and back *6000 times*.

For males, the Y chromosome is used for testing. This is ideal for genealogical purposes because only the Y chromosome is passed down from father to son. Because of the patrilineal naming system used in our society, surnames and DNA evidence can be tracked back together in time. Thus, this genetic record can be brought forward from many generations in the distant past.

The portions of the Y DNA sequence used in testing is contained in the approximately 98% of DNA for which no function has yet been determined. It is called "junk" DNA, as opposed to the remaining 2% for which there are genetic consequences. The key to the use of junk DNA for testing is the fact that those particular strings of DNA contain stutters, or sequences called short tandem repeats (STR). Occasional mutations of these repeats over relatively long timelines alter the markers that are used to differentiate one human individual from another. These mutations are harmless to the individual because they occur in the relatively non-functional parts of the DNA sequence.

Bryan Sykes, in his *Seven Daughters of Eve*, provides an excellent explanation of the principles of human genetics and evolution and the links from modern humans to our prehistoric ancestors. In his words:

Our DNA does not fade like an ancient parchment; it does not rust in the ground like the sword of a warrior long dead. It is not eroded by wind or rain, nor reduced to ruin by fire and earthquake. It is the traveller from an unique land who lives within us all.

Haplogroups

From the relatively recent beginnings pioneered by Drs. Watson and Crick, and by the Human Genome Project, geneticists around the world have conducted DNA testing programs to determine the origins of modern man out of Africa and to map the migration of various groups of *homo sapiens* through the Middle East to India and eventually to New Guinea and Australia, and also to Siberia and eventually to the Americas. Among these groups is a branch known as Haplogroup I. It is closely associated with the Gravettian Culture, named after the type site of La Gravette in the Dordogne region of France. The diagnostic artefact of the period is a small pointed blade known as the Gravette Point. Also indicative of this culture are some of the earliest examples of cave art and what are known as the "Venus figurines."

Current theories indicate that Haplogroup I first arrived in Europe around 20,000 to 25,000 years ago from the Middle East. Some of this paleolithic population appears to have weathered the last glacial period in a refuge somewhere in the Iberian Peninsula or Southern France. When the ice began to retreat from Northern Europe, many of them moved gradually north. Included among them is a subgroup of Haplogroup I, known as Subclade

11a. My test results have fit me firmly into that subgroup. This may explain why I have not been as worried as some of my friends and acquaintances at the prospect of global warming.

Subclade 11a can now be found in Scandinavia, with moderate numbers throughout Northwest and Eastern Europe. According to Wikipedia, "Haplogroup 11a displays a very clear frequency gradient, with a peak frequency of approximately 35% among the populations of southern Norway, southwestern Sweden, and Denmark, and rapidly decreasing toward the edges of the historically Germanic-influenced world." Bryan Sykes, in his *Saxons, Vikings and Celts*, gives a detailed analysis of 11a.

The Hamilton Surname DNA Study

I placed my order with Family Tree DNA on 30 December 2006. The kit arrived by mail on January 12th. I then completed the painless cheek swab procedure and returned the kit to the company. I was notified by e-mail that they had received the kit on January 24th. The 67 marker test was then completed and I received the results by e-mail on February 23rd, taking less than two months to complete the entire process. When I did a quick comparison with YSearch, an organization that coordinates Y DNA results online, I was surprised to find that, among a few others with different surnames, I had a 35 out of 37 match with several members of Hamilton families. I also learned that there is currently a substantial Hamilton DNA study underway.

According to Family Tree DNA, if a person has 35 out of 37 matching markers, there is a 95% probability that the time to the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) is no longer than 14 generations. They state: "that for the purposes of scientific discussion, our population geneticist feels that 20 years best expresses a typical generation prior to the Dark Ages and 25 to 27 years per generation for the years thereafter."

The basis of the Hamilton DNA study is an offshoot from the Hamilton National Genealogical Society, Inc. (HNGS) which initiated the study in 2002 due to the interest of several of its members. As of February of

this year over 200 men had been tested and the results listed in five groups. Group B, the second largest section, contains 42 of the Hamilton participants, and includes the close relative of the present Duke of Abercorn mentioned earlier. We are both one marker out from the modal 37 marker standard for Group B. My difference is at locus DYS 449, a 29 repeat instead of a 28. He has a 21 repeat value on marker DYS 570 instead of the standard 20, which I have. Below are two charts, taken from an analysis made by Gordon Hamilton, giving the allele values (repeats), at the two sites, the number of persons tested for each allele value, and percentages for each of the two markers. It can be seen that the values where we differ are both in the high percentage range of the charts and are therefore by no means rare.

DYS 449			DYS 570		
N = 1230			N = 802		
Repeats	Count	Percent	Repeats	Count	Percent
24	1	0.1	16	3	0.4
25	11	0.9	17	15	1.9
26	67	5.4	18	134	17
27	85	6.9	19	239	30
28	525	43	20	223	28
29	365	30	21	140	17
30	128	10	22	35	4.4
31	43	3.5	23	8	1
32	3	0.2	24	5	0.6
33	2	0.2			

The Hamilton study only considered up to 37 markers. When my 67 marker test is compared with the Hamilton descendant's 67 marker test there is only a three marker difference. The markers and allele values are illustrated in the chart below with the differences in bold type. I have not yet determined just how a 2 out of 37 difference compares to a 3 out of 67. However, I would assume that the latter would indicate a closer relationship. It should also be noted that the first 20 markers are identical.

User ID	Last Name	393	390	19	391	385a	385b	426	388	439	439-1	392	389-2	458	459a	459b	455	454	447	437	448	449	464a	464b	464c	464d
9CYVQ	Hamilton	13	22	14	10	13	14	11	14	11	12	11	28	15	7	9	8	11	23	16	20	28	12	14	15	16
3YXH4	Arthurs	13	22	14	10	13	14	11	14	11	12	11	28	15	7	9	8	11	23	16	20	29	12	14	15	16
		460	H4	YCAIIa	YCAIIb	456	607	576	570	CDYa	CDYb	442	438	425	444	446	531	578	395SIa	395SIb	590	537	641	472	40651	511
9CYVQ	Hamilton	10	10	18	21	14	14	16	21	34	37	12	10	12	14	13	11	8	15	15	8	11	10	8	9	9
3YXH4	Arthurs	10	10	18	21	14	14	16	20	34	37	12	10	12	15	13	11	8	15	15	8	11	10	8	9	9
		413a	413b	557	594	436	490	534	450	481	520	617	568	487	572	640	492	565								
9CYVQ	Hamilton	23	23	15	10	12	12	14	8	27	21	13	11	12	11	12	12	11								
3YXH4	Arthurs	23	23	15	10	12	12	15	8	27	21	13	11	12	11	12	12	11								

Conclusion

On March 17, I received an e-mail from Gordon Hamilton, the Project Coordinator of the Hamilton DNA Study, in which he stated:

I recently noted that your DNA profile matches quite closely, even at 67 markers, the DNA profile of those in our Hamilton group. This profile has some quite unusual marker values which in combination are unique for the Group B Hamiltons and are diagnostic for them. These are an 18 at YCAIIa, a 7 at DYS459a, and a 12 at DYS640. He goes on to say that: "You will note that a couple of those listed in the Group B table do not have the Hamilton surname but, because their profiles were so similar to the Group B Hamiltons and like you, are presumably derived from a Group B Hamilton, they were invited to join our DNA project. I would like to invite you to do the same.

Needless to say, I was pleased to join their organization.

This story is still in a dynamic and encouraging state of evolution, and answers must be considered as inconclusive until more people are tested. For instance, a recent e-mail from Gordon commented that:

A couple of days ago we received 12 marker results for Alex Hamilton who is a quite well documented descendant of the Hamiltons of Preston. This result ... clarifies considerably the derivations of the early Hamilton lines, especially as it pertains to Groups A and B. What this analysis then strongly implies is that Walter Fitzgilbert was a Group A Hamilton and not a group B Hamilton that we had tentatively concluded previously. The Group B Hamiltons, however, can still take heart since it was their ancestor who married Princess Mary Stewart and brought the Hamiltons close to the throne of Scotland in the 16th century

This is becoming a real adventure for me, and has been truly a great moment in genealogy. For one thing, it has provided me an opportunity to try to get reasonably up to speed with the science behind this exciting and emerging genealogical field. It has also allowed me to perch atop my brick wall and imagine, far away in the misty distance of the year 1314, the figures of Robert the Bruce with Walter fitz Gilbert de Hambleton, together on the field of battle at Bannockburn. It may take me a little while longer to get my mind back to the figure of an ancestor 25,000 years ago painting a woolly mammoth on the wall of a cave somewhere in France.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Hector McPhail's Enduring Legacy

BY GLENN WRIGHT

In this, the second of a series of articles on Ottawa's Beechwood Cemetery, Glenn Wright traces the history of one of the original landowners, Hector McPhail.

When municipal officials decided in 1872 that no further interments would be allowed within city limits, a search was launched for a large property to accommodate a new cemetery, one that would serve the ever growing population of Ottawa for decades to come. As noted in the first article in this series, the land was purchased by the Beechwood Cemetery Company in 1873 from Hector McPhail, a resident of Gloucester Township. But who was Hector McPhail and what is the history of his property that solved Ottawa's cemetery problem?



According to the International Genealogical Index (IGI), Hector McPhail was born in Argyll, Scotland in about 1793. On September 28, 1824, he married Mary McNicol in Glasgow, and in June the following year, Mary gave birth to their first child, Flora. Colonial Office records place the McPhails in Bytown prior to February 1829, suggesting that they probably arrived in 1828, if not earlier.¹ Why the McPhails chose to emigrate from Scotland to Upper Canada is a more difficult question to answer, complicated by the fact that Hector McPhail has left little, if anything, in the historical record. It has been suggested that he was a stonemason and that he came out from Glasgow to work on the Rideau Canal. In later years, family members claimed that McPhail worked on the Parliament Buildings and other fine stone buildings in Ottawa. The truth, however, is that little is known about Hector McPhail and his occupation. When asked by census enumerators, he replied "carpenter" in 1852 and "farmer" in 1861 and 1871.

Hector's occupation is not as important as the land he occupied, the east ½ of lot 3, in what was known as the Junction Gore. This was a large triangle of land that lay in Gloucester Township, bordered by the Rideau River to the east and Ottawa River to the north. It was part of a 200 acre Crown grant in May 1822 to George

Hoople, a resident of Osnabrock Township and the son of a United Empire Loyalist. By January 1825, Hoople had met all the requirements (clearing a roadway and erecting a dwelling) and the grant was formally approved.² He subsequently sold the land to a Richard D. Fraser.³ Hector McPhail occupied the land as early as 1830, but not until July 1834 did he purchase his half lot from Fraser. He erected a two-storey stone house and there he and Mary raised their family. After settling in Canada, Mary gave birth to three more children, Mary Ann, Malcolm and Duncan.

At census time, McPhail described himself as a farmer, although it appears from annual assessment records that very little of his property was cleared. In 1830, for example, he reported that only 2 of 100 acres were under cultivation and as late as 1840, a full 85 acres remained uncleared.⁴ This suggests that he was employed primarily in an occupation other than agriculture.

Like thousands of Scottish immigrants, Hector McPhail came out to Canada to make a better life for his wife and family. He appears to have led an unassuming life, raising his family as well as he could, but he made one decision that would forever affect Ottawa and its citizens. In 1873, he was 80 years old and a widower. His wife Mary had died on 6 May 1871 and was first buried in the Sandy Hill Cemetery that the city was about to close; she was subsequently reinterred at Beechwood Cemetery. For reasons unknown, Hector decided that it was now time to dispose of his property, and undoubtedly aware that the search was on for a large property to accommodate a cemetery for Ottawa, he decided to sell his land, all one hundred acres, to Joseph M. Currier and John Durie. They purchased the McPhail property in January 1873 on behalf of the Beechwood Cemetery Company for the extraordinary sum of \$11,120.⁵

In a curious twist, the McPhails were allowed to remain in their house on the property (in the south-east corner, near the St. Laurent Blvd entrance to the cemetery) for as long as they wished. Hector decided to live with his daughter, Flora McKinnon, and turned

the house over to his son Malcolm who had a large family.⁶

Hector died on 22 February 1885 at the McKinnon home on the Cyrville Road. He died unheralded in the local press and was laid to rest in Section 53 of Beechwood Cemetery, on a low hill in full view of the family home.⁷ He must have disbursed the funds realized on the sale of his property because his estate was valued at a mere \$1,100; it was divided amongst his surviving children, including Jessie Martin, an adopted daughter, Flora McKinnon, Mary Ann Lindeman and his son, Malcolm.⁸ By this time, Malcolm and his wife Ann (née Phair) and eight children occupied the house that stood inside the bounds of the cemetery. Malcolm was employed by the cemetery for 38 years (i.e. since it was established), serving in several capacities, including assistant secretary of the Cemetery's Board of Directors. He died of pneumonia on 25 February 1911; his wife Ann died on 11 July 1929, and was the last family member to live in the original McPhail home. The *Ottawa Journal* reported that she had resided at the cemetery for 60 years.⁹



Figure 1: Headstone

Many great men and women are buried in the cemetery, men and women whose lives tell the story of Ottawa and its history. But the cemetery is also the final resting place of the humble, those who struggled to survive, to raise families, to see life through with all its attendant vicissitudes. Hector McPhail did just that. He left a meagre paper trail in the historical record, but it takes nothing away from his real legacy, Beechwood Cemetery. For certain, another location would have been acquired in 1873, but one is left to wonder if any other property in the Ottawa area could surpass Hector McPhail's contribution to a cemetery that has become a heritage site of great local and national significance.

Endnotes

1. Library and Archives Canada, Colonial Office 384/22, folio 72 on reel B-945.
2. Archives of Ontario, Township Papers, Gloucester Township, Lot 3, Junction Gore, Location Ticket for George Hoople, "200 Acres, Gloucester on the Rideau," and minutes of the Land Board, Eastern and Ottawa Districts, 9 April and 25 July 1822 with notation that the settlement duties had been performed, dated 14 January 1825.
3. Carleton County, Land Registry Office, Abstract Index, East ½ Lot 3, Junction Gore, Gloucester Township.
4. City of Ottawa Archives, Assessment Roll for the Townships of Gloucester and Osgoode for the years 1830-1840 inclusive.
5. Carleton County, Land Registry Office. Deed of Bargain and Sale no. 1778, Hector McPhail to Joseph Currier and John Durie, registered March 2, 1874, and Deed of bargain and Sale no. 2019, Currier et al to Beechwood Cemetery Company, registered August 7, 1874.
6. Flora McPhail married Scottish-born Alexander McKinnon on January 30, 1862 (source: *County Marriage Registers, Carleton County and Ottawa City, 1858-1869*, published by Global Genealogy in 2005). Malcolm was married twice and had at least 5 children by his first wife and perhaps an additional 5 with his second wife, Ann Phair. I wish to thank Robert Serré for providing me with a copy of his history of the Malcolm McPhail families.
7. The McPhail plot is number 53 in section 14 and consists of a large stone with "McPhail" on both sides. Many family members from several generations are buried in the plot, and while there is no stone for Hector, his wife Mary McNickoll [sic] is remembered with a flat stone behind the monument.
8. Carleton County, Surrogate Court Records, Hector McPhail, Probate file 534, petition dated October 14, 1885.
9. On Malcolm McPhail, *Ottawa Journal*, February 28, 1911, pp. 5 and 11 and Ontario Death Registration 008822/1911. The latter is an interesting and perhaps unique death registration—for "residence" at time of death, the informant replied "Beechwood Cemetery". On Annie McPhail, *Ottawa Journal*, July 12, 1929, page 5.

More Delightful Irish Discoveries! Part II

BY TERRY FINDLEY

In Part I, Terry told the amazing story of his wife's Irish family connections in Trinidad; and he recounted how he went about tracing the townland of origin of his wife's Kayne ancestors. In the conclusion, he tells about his hunt for the parish of origin for three more of his early Irish ancestors – Moses Wilson, Thomas Dowser and William Haskett.

I'm often asked, "How did you get started doing your family history?" The answer is simple—I have always been interested in history and family connections for as long as I can remember. One day, about ten years ago, I was visiting my parents here in Ottawa and, as usual, we talked about how various family members were doing and the "good old days". But this day was different. After reminiscing for a while, my mother went over to the antique desk in the corner of the living room and retrieved a soft-covered manuscript titled "The Descendants of Abraham Wilson and Georgianna Bradley." She handed it to me and told me to keep it. From that moment on, I was inspired to learn more about my ancestors. Let me tell you now about what I found.



The manuscript was compiled by Georgina Myrtle (née Wilson) Craig for a Wilson-Bradley family reunion at Carp, Ontario in 1969. Therein, to my surprise, was the family tree for Moses Wilson, my g g grandfather and also Abraham's father. The good news was that I now had the family names and connections. The bad news was that there were no dates and no sources! The tree began under a simple banner: "Moses Wilson married Martha Bell and they immigrated [sic] from Fermanagh Ireland to Canada in the year 1819."¹ I couldn't believe my good fortune! Now I knew *when* Moses had come to Canada and *from where* in Ireland he had come. Or at least I thought I had.

To verify that Moses was indeed married to Martha Bell and that he had come from County Fermanagh in 1819, I began my search with his grave marker in the burial ground at Christ Church (Anglican), 3rd Line, Huntley, Ontario. Sure enough, the tombstone confirmed that his wife was Martha Bell. Although I had hoped that the grave marker would reveal his birthplace, I was disappointed to find no mention of

it. But at least I had his deceased date—22 January 1854. And that was a good thing because I could not find his burial record in the parish registers at the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Archives. So where should I turn next? Perhaps there might be something in a newspaper. Possibly but not likely. But I've also learned never to leave any stone unturned. So, I checked all the newspapers in the surrounding area and to my surprise, I struck pay dirt. Here's what I found on page three of the *Ottawa Citizen* for 18 March 1854:

DIED

On Sunday morning, the 22nd of January, 1854, in the 71st year of his age, MR. MOSES WILSON, of the township of Huntley, C.W. The deceased was a native of the Parish of Aunagh, in the County of Cavan, Ireland. In his youth he served in the Redhill Yeomen, in which he was a Sergeant. He was among the pioneers of the township of Huntley, where he settled on the 1st concession in the year 1820. He was a sober, industrious, loyal, honest man,—a good neighbour, and a true Christian.

I was so excited. This new information clearly would have been provided by someone who really knew Moses, perhaps by his wife, Martha, or a friend who had travelled with them from Ireland. I eagerly turned to my copies of a *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland, 1851* and *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* looking to find the location of the "Parish of Aunagh, County Cavan." Much to my chagrin, I could not find it. "No problem," I said to myself, and I started looking at every appropriate Ordnance Survey map that I could get my hands on but to no avail. Next, I spoke to a senior staff member in the Republic of Ireland embassy, who coincidentally was born in County Cavan, and explained to her the nature of my quest to find the Parish of Aunagh, which I carefully spelled out. She had not heard of it but said that she knew a family historian back in County Cavan who surely would. Astonishingly, the historian was not



Figure 1: Moses Wilson grave marker, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Huntley, Ontario, 2004

familiar with it either! I was approaching the end of my tether; however, I wasn't going to give up. Finally, I explained my problem to Kyle Betit, noted professional genealogist specializing in Irish research and keynote speaker at the 2004 BIFHSGO Conference. He too was stumped—at first. After some thoughtful introspection, he asked if I had looked for parishes that sounded like “Aunagh.” The light bulb came on. “Aunagh” is pronounced “Anna.” I felt like an idiot. “Aunagh” was simply “Annagh.” The mystery was finally solved: the Parish of Annagh, County Cavan really existed. But more important, I had learned the imperative of understanding that Irish place names could be spelled differently but pronounced the same.

My experience working my Moses Wilson family line also taught me another valuable lesson: to be sceptical of those early “pioneer” settlement dates. Moses may have left Ireland in 1819 and he may have settled in Huntley Township in 1820; however, I have yet to find other independent sources to corroborate these dates. Moreover, I uncovered the following bit of noteworthy guidance in the 1879 *Historical Sketch of the County of Carleton*, “We find, as a usual thing, that whenever any mistakes of date are made in regard to the early settlement or early history, by the early settlers themselves, they are apt to put the time of occurrence (whatever it may be) too far back.”² This observation was found in the chapter describing Huntley Township, the very one in which Moses Wilson had settled.

Before telling you how I was able to determine where more of my Irish ancestors came from, I need to highlight the role that Irishmen have played in the British Army. For example, between 1793 and 1815, in addition to the eight infantry and four cavalry Irish regiments in the British Army, some 150,000 Irishmen served in the remaining English units.³ So, if you have Irish male ancestors, there is a good chance that they served in the British Army or at least one of their uncles or cousins did. Here's how I traced two of my “army” ancestors back to their “parish of origin” in Ireland.

Early in my research endeavours at the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Archives, I found the burial record for Thomas Dowser (1808–1883), my g g g grandfather. Although gripped by euphoria, I did notice that his “Quality, Trade or Profession” was entered as “pensioner.”⁴ I had studied a lot of military history and so I knew right away that the only men who received pensions in the 1800s were retired soldiers. I had just become a member of BIFHSGO and so I knew that I should have a look at Norman Crowder's book *British Army Pensioners Abroad, 1772–1899*. Sure enough, under the pensioners' listing for the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment (a British Army regiment) was the entry for “Tho^s Dowser, pension awarded 1 October 1850.”⁵ This naturally took me to his military records on microfilm at Library and Archives Canada wherein I learned that he had been born in the Parish of Kilpipe, County Wicklow, Ireland.⁶



Figure 2: War of 1812 re-enactors, Chrysler's Farm Battlefield, Ontario, 2004

As for my second army ancestor, I would now like to walk you through how I determined where my ancestor, William Haskett, came from in Ireland. One should always begin at the beginning, so here goes. A noted Ottawa Valley historian informed me that the mother of Susannah Purcel (my great great-grandmother) was “Mary Haskett,” the daughter of a soldier, and she had died in 1854 in Eardley Township, Canada East.

Although I have not found any record to prove my next statement, I contend that Private William Haskett is most likely her father. The only known soldier with the surname “Haskett” who fits the time period and geography is “William Haskett,” a Private in the 99th Regiment of Foot (formerly known as the 100th) when it was disbanded at the end of the War of 1812. Knowing that disbanded soldiers from that war received pensions, I immediately turned once again to my copy of Norman Crowder’s *British Army Pensioners Abroad, 1772-1899*. Therein, I quickly found the entry for “Wm Haskett, pension awarded 18 April 1818.”⁷ Next, I ordered the Family History Library microfilm that would contain his “soldier document “. When I reviewed the microfilm, I learned that he was born in the Parish of Borrisokane, Tipperary County and that he had enrolled in the 100th Regiment of Foot at Borrisokane on 20 July 1804, aged 25 years.⁸ Finally, with the luck of the Irish, I have found out a lot more about William Haskett’s military service and what he experienced in A. Barry Roberts’ book *For King and Canada: The Story of the 100th Regiment of Foot During the War of 1812*.

Today, however, there is a faster way to find out the birthplace of British Army pensioners 1760-1872. And it can be done in a heartbeat online. Here’s how:

- Go to *The National Archives [UK]* website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- From the “search the Archives” pull-down menu, click on “> the Catalogue”
- When the next screen appears, click on “Search the Catalogue >“
- In the “Word or phrase (Mandatory)” box, type your surname of interest
- In the “Department or Series code (optional),” type “WO 97”
- Click on “Search >“

Here’s what a search using the surname “Haskett” produced: a list of four “Haskett” soldiers, one of whom was “William Haskett.” The listing for him reads: “Catalogue Reference: WO 97/1063/58; Content and Scope: WILLIAM HASKETT Born BORRISOKANE, Tipperary. Served in Borrisnafarney Yeomanry; 99th Foot Regiment; Discharged aged 36; Covering Date: 1818; Covering date gives year of discharge.” We can also search using a “birthplace” instead of a “family name.” For example, a search on “Borrisokane” yields 20 hits,

one surname returned being “Richardson,” a name familiar to Ottawa Valley historians because the Richardson pioneer family of March Township came from Borrisokane, Tipperary. This search process is an “exact” search, meaning that you will have to try different surname and place-name spellings. The potential for finding some ancestors and where they were born is high. At the very least, you should be able to see where there are clusters of your “surname of interest” which can help you to focus further research. Finally, this is a search method for British Army soldier pensioners and so is not limited to Irishmen but also includes Englishmen and Scotsmen who earned pensions.

Well there you have it. I have told you about some more delightful Irish discoveries which revealed more ancestral birthplaces in Ireland. I have also shown you another way to search out information about potential ancestors who may have served in the British Army in the 19th century. For me, the search continues.

References

1. Craig, Georgina M. comp., *The Descendants of Abraham Wilson and Geogianna Bradley*. ([Ottawa]: privately printed, [1969]), p. 1.
2. *Historical Sketch of the County of Carleton with a new introduction by Courtney C. J. Bond*. (1879; Reprinted, Belleville, Ontario: Mika, 1971), p. 257.
3. Bowen, Desmond and Jean Bowen, *Heroic Option: The Irish in the British Army*. (Barnsley, South Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Military, 2005), p. xiv.
4. Burial of Thomas Dowser, 13 March 1883, Burial Register 1865-1935 (original volume): p. 138, Metcalfe Parish, Ontario; Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Archives.
5. Crowder, Norman K., *British Army Pensioners Abroad, 1772-1899*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1995), p. 257.
6. Thomas Dowser soldier document no. 1187 Royal Hospital Chelsea Soldiers’ Documents, Manuscript Group (MG) 13, War Office (W.O.) 97, LAC microfilm B-5638.
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Visiting an English County Record Office

BY WENDY CROOME

In these days of easy Internet access and the availability of many genealogy records on-line or as data CDs, it is possible to do a lot of research much more quickly and easily than any of us could have imagined 40 years ago, when I began my research. Nevertheless, it is immensely satisfying to visit the place where your ancestors lived and to carry out research on the spot. Those who live where their ancestors lived are fortunate to be able to consult local research facilities whenever they wish. For people like me, whose ancestors lived in a different country, a visit to a local record office needs to be planned carefully to make the best use of the time available. For those who might be contemplating a research visit to a County Record Office in England, here are some tips based on my experiences.



I can't stress enough how important it is to prepare thoroughly before the trip. Decide which branch of the family you are going to focus on, and even which individuals are of particular interest. During my most recent visit, to the Lichfield, Staffordshire Record Office, there were several family lines I could have pursued. I knew that even with two of us working, one day would not be enough time to look for more than a few things, so I decided that this visit would focus on my Birch line, and specifically on the family of my g g g grandparents, William and Rosanna Birch. To prepare, I gathered as much information as possible on them and their children. Even though I already knew the basics, I spent a lot of time on my computer at home searching the IGI, censuses, and various CDs such as the British Vital Records Index and the National Burial Index, to make sure that I had thoroughly mined these sources and indexes. This gave me the information from which to prepare my questions – like “Were Hannah and Rosannah really the same person?” and “Was Mary mistakenly baptized with her sister's name?”

The other side of doing your homework is to research the County Record Office. A good place to start is the GENUKI website, <http://www.genuki.org.uk>. Here you will find links to each county, and under each county,

links to the record offices. In some counties there is only one record office, but in others there are branches in various locations. It is, therefore, important to use their websites to decide which of the locations has the most useful resources for your particular search. This step becomes even more important if your ancestors lived near a county boundary or if you are searching for church records. For example, I found when searching for Bishops' Transcripts, that Lichfield Anglican Diocese historically included the counties of Staffordshire, Derbyshire, northern Shropshire, and northern and eastern Warwickshire. Therefore, even if I had been searching for ancestors in one of the surrounding counties, the Lichfield Record Office might have been the repository for the records that I was seeking.

Once you have determined which Record Office you will visit, you will usually find that its website gives comprehensive information about practical items such as opening times, location, parking, bus routes, what identification you need for registration, whether you can take a laptop or a digital camera, and even whether you are allowed to take your own pencil. One important piece of information to look for on the website is whether you need to reserve a place or a microfiche reader. I discovered that at Lichfield I needed to book two places and two readers, so I sent an email, to which I received a very pleasant and positive reply.

Now that I had secured our places for research that day, I turned to the Record Office's on-line catalogue to determine which source would be most likely to answer each of my questions and whether any records needed to be ordered in advance. In some record offices, material is not stored on-site, so the staff needs to be given time to retrieve the records. If you have only one day for research, as we did, it would be very disappointing to find that the material you are hoping to search is not available for you on that day. Each record office has its own way of organizing its catalogue, and I discovered that it took some time to find my way around the Lichfield on-line catalogue and determine the sources that were of interest.

Although I thought I was prepared, in hindsight I realize that I could have made better use of the resources if I had spent more time searching the on-line catalogue before I left home. As I was preparing this article, Betty Warburton, a fellow member of the

BIFHSGO Writers' Group, referred me to an article that she had written. The article "Searching for Poor Ancestors" (*Anglo-Celtic Roots* vol. 7, no.2), is available on-line at:

http://www.bifhsgo.ca/classics/classics_bwarburton.htm. In that article Betty emphasizes the importance of looking for biographical and local indexes and tells of her successes in finding ancestors through them. It will be a good reminder for me in future to ask the Record Office staff, when I get there, whether they have resources in addition to those listed in their on-line catalogue.

On the day of our visit to the Record Office, it was exciting to have drawers of microfiche readily available in the research room, as well as to have the opportunity to handle original Bishops' Transcripts and letters. Even with two of us working all day, at the

end of the day I was rapidly skimming original letters about a disputed will, and wishing that I had more time.

My husband, who was reading the Parish Registers, asked for a magnifying glass. We rejoiced as he read a note attached to the baptismal record of 11 February 1829 for "Sarah, daughter of William and Hannah Birch". This note, written in extremely tiny letters, stated "this should be Rosanna". We were even more excited when he read the baptismal record of 12 June 1831 for "Sarah, daughter of William and Roseanna Birch". In the child's name column of that record was another note, written in the same tiny hand, "this should be Mary, as daughter Sarah see 11 Feby 1829". My questions were answered, and the visit was definitely worth the preparation!

FAMILY HISTORY—TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

Recent Purchases by the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library

Campey, Lucille. *With Axe and Blade: the Scottish Pioneers of New Brunswick, 1784–1874*. Natural Heritage Books, 2007.

Fowler, Simon. *Tracing Your Army Ancestors*. Pen & Sword, 2006.

Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestor, 3rd ed.* Genealogical Publishing, 2006.

Hanna, Charles A. *The Scotch-Irish: or the Scot in North Britain, North Ireland and North America; Volumes 1 and 2*. Global Heritage Press, 2006. A facsimile edition of the original published by Putnam, New York in 1902. This edition contains both volumes in one binding.

Lamond, Robert. *A Narrative of the Rise and Progress of Emigration from the Counties of Lanark and Renfrew to the New Settlements in Upper Canada on Government Grant*. Canadian Heritage Publications, 1970. Facsimile edition originally published by Chalmers and Collins in 1821.



Magnussen, Anna. *The Quarriers Story: One Man's Vision That Gave 7000 Children a New Life in Canada*. Dundurn Press, 2006.

O'Connor, John. *The Workhouses of Ireland: the Fate of Ireland's Poor*. Anvil Books, 1995.

Pappalardo, Bruno. *Tracing Your Naval Ancestors*. Public Record Office, 2002.

Spencer, William. *Army Service Records of the First World War: 3rd ed.* Public Record Office, 2001.

New books received from the Federation of Family History Societies

Chater, Kathie and Simon Fowler. *Finding Out About Your Family History*.

Gregson, Keith. *Nelson's Navy 1793–1815. (Military History Sources for Family Historians)*.

Ratcliffe, Richard. *Quarter Sessions Records (Basic Facts About...)*.

Raymond, Stuart A. *Introducing Family History*.

Tomaselli, Phil. *The Second World War 1939–1945. (Military History Sources for Family Historians)*.

The Printed Page

BY GORDON D. TAYLOR

I want to take a quick look at several forms of the printed page in this column. First of all I will examine a few of the traditional forms of print material—the journals issued by organizations on a regular basis. There are many of these in genealogy and I have chosen the journals of the four western Canadian Provinces. The provincial Genealogical Societies constitute valuable sources of information for their members and for family historians in general. The four journals are:



1. *The British Columbia Genealogist*

Published March, June, September, and December,
Year 2007: Volume 36,

2. *Chinook*

Published by the Alberta Family History Society,
Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall,
Year 2007: Volume 27

3. *Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin*

Published March, June, September and December,
Year 2007: Volume 38

4. *Generations*

Published by Manitoba Genealogical society,
March, June, September, December,
Year 2007: Volume 32.

An example from the most recent edition of each of these journals will give an idea of the variety of information that they provide.

The March 2007 issue of *The British Columbia Genealogist* listed new acquisitions at the Walter Draycott Library on four pages. The spring issue of *Chinook* listed the Alberta cemeteries transcribed and published by the AFHS. The listings are available in seven published books with two more under way. The March Bulletin devotes four pages to a surname index: *Lloydminster Times* Vital Statistics, 1904 – 1945. *Generations*, March 2007, contains a progress report on a society project to transcribe the 1891 Census in index form.

A quote from the editor of the *Bulletin* in the March 2007 issue summarizes the position of these journals:

When I sat down to review the contributions to this issue of the *Bulletin* I was again amazed by the variety of articles. One of the elements that became quite clear was the resourcefulness of individuals who uncover those resources that are not immediately obvious, as well as the persistence and dedication of those individuals and groups who work to obtain access to these resources. In my own experience it has been those ‘not so obvious or available’ resources that have most often given me the best hints and directions toward the information I need to continue my research (Linda Dunsmore-Potter, Page 2.)

On a personal note, work being done by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society on homestead records led me to a completely unknown chapter in the life of my grandfather Taylor. He homesteaded 160 acres of land near the town of Craven in 1883 and he was there four years. The material available on his file shows the progress he made each year in the development of the land. A note in August 1885 indicated that he had spent six weeks in Quebec and had returned with a wife—another brickwall about to come down. I had searched records in England, Ontario and B.C. looking for his marriage but could not find one. This note on his homesteading file may provide the lead I have been seeking.

A recent announcement from Australia may prove of interest to any of you who had relatives in the Australian Army in World War II. Search for “World War II, Nominal Roll, Australia” on the Internet. A name search will yield important genealogical information for individuals with the end product a certificate of service. I found two names out of the one million available that were part of my ancestral family. A similar nominal roll is also available for the Korean War.

The London Gazette as well as the Belfast and Edinburgh ones are being digitized and put online. *The London Gazette* is the official paper of the UK government and the years 1752 to 1998 are now searchable. One class of information available covers the official life of army officers. Rank, appointments, retirement, death are recorded. I have been able to trace the record of two family members from cadet to general.

Do not overlook two regular newsletters that appear in the inbox nearly every morning:

Surname Search Daily from Yahoogroups and *Rootsweb Review*. Both are worth a quick scan each day—most days I find something of interest and value.

The nature of the printed page is changing and the amount of information available on all forms of the

page is increasing. All forms from the daily newspaper to the most sophisticated digitized format are potential sources of information that will facilitate your genealogical research.

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.
Cooper	MB SK, CAN	1880-	993	Malcolm	MB ON, CAN	1850-	993
Dalton	E ON, CAN	1800-	1118	Montgomery	SCT; MB, ON	1850-	1118
Delmage	ON, CAN	1820-1900	993	Perrin	E ON, CAN; USA	1750-	1118
Dennison	MB SK, CAN	1890-	993	Shannon	CAN, USA	1829-	1118
Dolmage	LIM, IRL; ON QC, CAN	1700-1800	993	Shannon	MOG FER, IRL	Up to 1829	1118
Dudley	New England, USA; Leeds/Grenville ON, CAN	1635-	1118	Webster	LEI WAR NTH, ENG	1600-	1121
Emond	MB MN, CAN	1890-	993	Wright	E USA; ON, CAN	1750-	1118

TABLE B (Members referred to in Table A)

Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address
993	Carol Ann Emond 7355 Mitch Owens Rd, Ottawa ON K1G 3N4 <i>cncemond@magma.ca</i>	1121	Allan Webster 45 Cherrywood Dr, Nepean ON K2H 6H1 <i>ahwebster@rogers.com</i>
1118	Ronald Dudley Shannon RR#1-D2, Prescott, ON K0E 1T0 <i>Ron.shannon@sympatico.ca</i>		

ERRATA (ACR Research Interests – 2007)			
Mr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mr No.	Member's Name and Address
1108	Ann B Harris #222, 318 Lorry Greenberg St., Ottawa ON K1T 2R5 harra215@aol.com		

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.

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 April 26 to July 19, 2007

Mbr. #	Name	Address	Mbr. #	Name	Address
1115	Pat & Judy Wohler	Carp, ON	1125	Lorraine Andrews	Kemptville, ON
1120	Harry Needham	Kanata, ON	1126	Marianne O'Gallagher	Quebec City, QC
1121	Allan Webster	Nepean, ON	1127	Gérard Boyer	Killaloe, ON
1122	Marjorie Stuart	Toronto, ON	1128	Carrol Lanau	Ottawa, ON
1123	Nancy Traquair	Ottawa, ON	1129	Ken Wilson	Kanata, ON
1124	Graeme & Norma Hail	Scarborough, ON	1130	Joanne Schmidt	Sundridge, ON

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members if you see them at a meeting. Current membership is 489.

Coming in the next issues ...

- Copyright Law for Genealogists—*Karin Keyes Endemann*
- In My Father's Footsteps at the Western Front—*Mary Anne Sharpe*
- Ottawa's Beechwood Cemetery—*Glenn Wright*

**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***

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>
8 December 2007, 10:00–11:30 a.m.	Ottawa Through the Years— <i>David Roger</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. Saturday 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. (except holiday weekends)

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
(except statutory holidays) 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 & Thursday: 9:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.– 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m.– 3:30 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.– 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. The deadline for publication in the next issue is Saturday, 20 October 2007.