



Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle

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Spring 2009

IN THIS ISSUE

- *The Luck of the Scots*—Carol Annett
 - *Doors Open and There is My Great-great-grandfather*—Irene Kellow Ip
 - *Simplified Publishing of Military Research*—Norma O'Toole
 - *Don't Believe All You Read*—John Sayers
 - *Secret Secretaries*—Ilana Reimer
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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 2009 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.

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Contents

COLUMNS:	i
★ Message from the President	
GREAT MOMENTS IN GENEALOGY	
<i>The Luck of the Scots</i> — Carol Annett	1
<i>Doors Open and There is My Great-great-grandfather</i> —Irene Ip.....	5
FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH	
<i>Simplified Publishing of Military Research for Distribution to the Family</i> —Norma O’Toole	9
<i>Don’t Believe All You Read</i> —John Sayers	10
<i>Secret Secretaries</i> —Alana Reimer	11
FAMILY HISTORY —TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES	
<i>The Bookworm</i> —Betty Warburton.....	13
BIFHSGO NEWS	
Minutes of 2008 Annual General Meeting	13
Notice of Annual General Meeting.....	15
<i>BIFHSGO President Speaks to City Council</i> —Mary Anne Sharpe.....	16
In Memoriam	17
BIFHSGO LISTINGS	18
★ Members’ Surname Search— <i>Elizabeth Kipp</i>	★ New Members— <i>Sharon Moor</i>
BIFHSGO CALENDAR OF EVENTS	Back Cover



Gravestone of Archibald McKinnon, Janet McGillis and Alex McKinnon in the cemetery beside the ruins of St. Raphael’s Church.

Carol Annett photo.

Message from the President, Mary Anne Sharpe

Here is BIFHSGO's Spring edition of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. It means that season is fast approaching, even though, as I write this, it is minus 20. Despite that, Spring brings thoughts of renewal on so many levels.

At a recent pre-BIFHSGO meeting I presented an ambitious agenda based on the idea that we would set the "PACE" for the future—Promote, Activate and involve, Celebrate and Educate. The Board has already started to implement some things to set our PACE: a Volunteer Table, job cards detailing positions and amount of time required, and a flyer on the benefits of volunteering; a Volunteer Survey (links on the website); more short-courses; and "Welcomers" and visitor name tags at every meeting. Members made some excellent points during a feedback session, including letting volunteers know what is involved and avoiding overloading them, tapping into student volunteers as both helpers and future members, and more actively encouraging publishing of family histories.

This year, 2009, BIFHSGO will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. This past year has been another successful one for the Society, with a well-attended conference on England and popular educational presentations and courses. Our membership is growing. We have won the "best overseas website" competition held by the Federation of Family History Societies. We are hoping *Anglo-Celtic Roots* will win its third first-place prize in the National Genealogical Society's newsletter competition. We have made contributions to a number of organizations, including the Friends of Library and Archives Canada, the Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives, the Friends of the Anglican Archives and the Family History Center. And very soon, we will move the BIFHSGO library into a new City of Ottawa Archives and library facility.

As we look forward to next 15 years, I have no doubt we would like to continue with the kind of achievements we have seen in the past, building on our strengths and previous successes. In order to do that, we need you. Everything we achieve is through the work of dedicated volunteers. We cannot do it without them—without you.

In June, BIFHSGO will hold its Annual General Meeting, when your Board reports to you on the Society's activities over the past year. We will also be electing four new Board members to join the existing ones. Please consider volunteering for the Board this year. There are eight director positions: Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Communications, Education, Publicity, Programs and Research/Projects. There is lots of opportunity for volunteers who wish to become Board members right away, or for those who may wish to shadow an existing director, in preparation for assuming full Board duties at next year's AGM. "Many hands make light work," and if we can have a full Board, as well as Associates or helpers, we will all be able to share the load.

Privacy Policy

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

GREAT MOMENTS IN GENEALOGY

The Luck of the Scots

This article is based on a presentation that Carol Annett gave to the meeting of 8 December 2007. Carol is an active member of the BIFHSGO Writing Group and contributed an article on Home Children to the Fall 2008 Issue.

BY CAROL ANNETT

What is a “great moment in genealogy?”

Sometimes, it can be a thrilling, goose bump-inducing “Aha!” instant when you find a key fact that has eluded you in your research. At such a moment, you may be observed shouting or dancing in celebration and you don’t care about the funny looks people give you. It’s a rush, the genealogist’s version of the “runner’s high.” Caution—you may become addicted to this feeling; it may compel you to keep searching.

Some discoveries are the result of hours, months or years of meticulous detective work. Other finds are serendipitous—they seem to just appear in your path. I made just such a fortunate find on the trail of my Scottish ancestors one summer. I’m attributing it to the luck of the Scots.

So that you can appreciate why this was a significant discovery, some information about my family research may be helpful. In the 1980s, my dad, Dick MacKinnon, started to explore his grandfather’s background. John Alexander (Jack) MacKinnon had said he was born in 1867 in Lancaster, Glengarry County, Ontario. He left home as a boy and made his way to Trail, British Columbia, via Michigan and Montana.¹ We knew Jack had married Jennie Moffatt in Butte, Montana.²

There was plenty of information about Jack’s life in Trail. He was a larger-than-life guy, passionately involved with local politics, community events and union activism. He was a champion of organized sport for youth. Proud of his Scottish heritage, he participated in the local highland games.³ But he was a man without a past. Jack had severed ties with his Glengarry family and with the Catholic Church. We later discovered he had even changed his name, using the “Mac” prefix instead of the “Mc” spelling used by



his relatives. He never talked to his children or grandchildren about his siblings, parents or grandparents. What few details we do know were told to Jack’s daughters by their mother, Jennie. With few clues and pre-Internet research methods, my father’s quest for our MacKinnons soon hit a brick wall and thereafter lay dormant.

Twenty years later, I took up the challenge, working with two key pieces of evidence my dad passed on to me. The first was a baptismal record for a John Alexander MacKinnon born in 1869 (not 1867) to Alexander MacKinnon and Ann McPherson in Lancaster, Ontario;⁴ the second was a photo of Jack’s brother Angus MacKinnon taken in Crookston, Minnesota.⁵ Starting with this meagre information, I set out to build the family tree.



Figure 1: Jack MacKinnon at the Scottish Games, Trail B.C. From the collection of R.G. MacKinnon

A marriage record for Jack’s parents revealed that his father, Alexander, was the son of Archibald and Ann MacKinnon.⁶ After this discovery, I too hit the brick wall, unable to find a link to earlier generations. Then I remembered that photo of Angus MacKinnon. Why was it taken in Crookston? As far as I knew, his brother Jack had never lived there. A search for MacKinnons in Crookston using Google and

ancestry.com turned up five McKinnon brothers who were prominent citizens of the town in the late nineteenth century. Like Jack's father, they were from Lancaster and their father's name was Archibald McKinnon. Alas, their mother was not Ann McKinnon but Janet McGillis. It looked like another dead end.^{7,8,9}

Still, the photo of Angus connected him to Crookston. One of the Crookston McKinnons, who was also named Alexander, had a son Angus with the same date of birth as Jack's brother Angus.^{10, 11, 12} Things were getting confusing! There were too many Archibalds, Anguses and Alexanders. Were the Crookston McKinnons related to Jack or not? I had a hunch they were connected. To prove it, I had to construct a hypothesis and then systematically compare it with the evidence.



Figure 2: Portrait of Angus McKinnon taken in Crookston, Minnesota. From the collection of R.G. MacKinnon

I concluded that the father of the Crookston McKinnons and the grandfather of Jack and Angus was the same Archibald McKinnon. This Archibald had two sons named Alexander. The first Alexander, known as Alex, was born in Scotland circa 1836 to Archibald and Ann.¹³ It appears that Ann died and, in 1848, Archibald married Janet Gillies (called McGillis in Ontario).^{14, 15} Soon after, the family emigrated to Canada, likely in 1853. A second Alexander, called Sandy, was born in Glengarry County to Archibald and Janet in 1854.^{16, 17, 18}

The first Alexander, Alex, married in 1867 and became the father of nine children, including Jack and Angus.^{19, 20, 21} Then around 1884, something

significant must have occurred in Jack's family, prompting him to leave home. About the same time, Jack's little brother Angus, age four, seems to have been adopted by the second Alexander, their recently married Uncle Sandy, and brought up in Crookston where Sandy had migrated.

The evidence I found supported this story, but many Scottish documents were unobtainable, such as a record of Archibald's marriage to Ann, her death record and Alex's birth record. If only I could find more concrete proof to further support my "one Archibald, two Alexanders, one Angus" theory—something written in stone, so to speak.

In the summer of 2007, my genealogy work changed focus. A family reunion was planned in Vancouver to celebrate the life of Jean MacKinnon, the last of Jack and Jennie MacKinnon's eight children. Jean's death signalled the end of a generation. I was invited to do a PowerPoint presentation about the ancestors. It was while preparing for this special event that my great moment occurred.

I wanted some original photos of Glengarry County for my presentation. On a sunny July day my husband, our son and I headed down Highway 401 past Cornwall; in less than an hour we were in Glengarry County. I prefer to go alone on research outings, but this was more of a sightseeing trip, so I welcomed the company of my family and our dog. Because we were under some time pressure to get our son to the bus station later that afternoon, I had made an itinerary to keep us (meaning me) on track. We passed through the town of Lancaster, where Jack MacKinnon was born and raised and where his father worked as a labourer. There was not much to see there. In the interest of time, we kept on driving.

Our first photo stop was Williamstown, nestled on the picturesque Raisin River and site of the historic Sir John Johnson House. Here also was St. Mary's Catholic Church, where Jack's parents were married and he and all his siblings were baptized.²² There was time to walk the dog before hurrying to our next destination, the St. Raphael's ruins.

Five of Archibald and Janet McKinnon's children were baptized in St. Raphael's Catholic Church.²³ The church burned down in 1970 and the ruins have been designated a national historic site. The curator on duty that day was Meghan McDonnell, a young Glengarry woman who answered questions and sold souvenirs at the entrance. I learned later that she even played the bagpipes for the visitors.

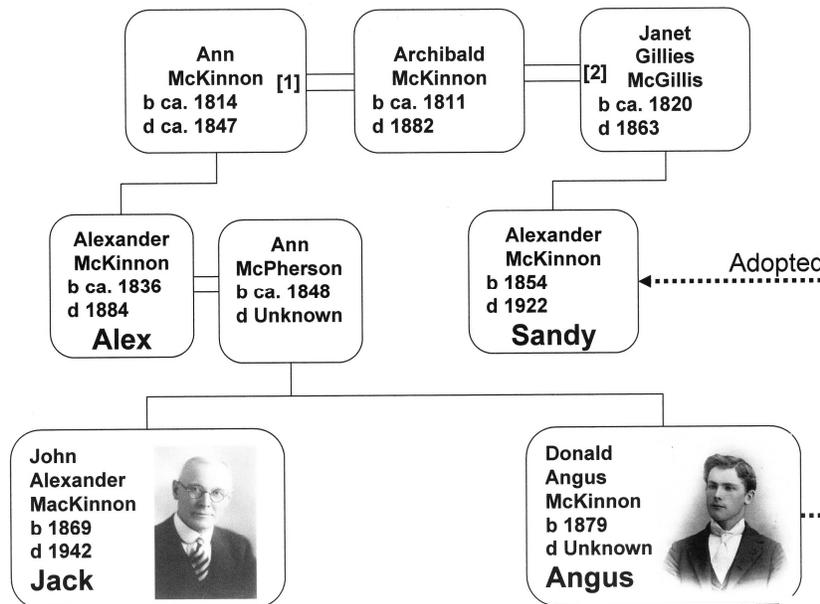


Figure 3: Chart illustrating the “one Archibald, two Alexanders, one Angus” hypothesis

The ruins were impressive. I got so carried away taking photos that I lost track of time. My husband and son were finished touring the site while I was still clicking away. After one final picture of the exterior, I planned to join them. I backed farther and farther down the slope of the cemetery to get the entire ruins in the shot. As I glanced behind to avoid tripping over the headstones, one monument caught my eye. It was a short, square column, very old, cracked and sitting askew on its base. I looked closer. The inscription was encrusted with lichen and difficult to make out, so I knelt on the grass to see it clearly. It read:

In Memory of Archibald McKinnon
 Died July 24th 1882
 Aged 71 Years
 Also his wife
 Janet McGillis
 Died April 15th 1864
 Aged 48 Years
 May their Souls Rest in Peace

Archibald McKinnon—my g g g grandfather. I was beyond goose bumps. I could almost *hear* the euphoria vibrating every fibre of my body. It sounded a lot like—bagpipes? It was bagpipes! Unwittingly, Meghan was piping in my great moment with a culturally appropriate soundtrack. No one was around to witness my excitement; my husband, son and dog were all sitting in the car, ready to leave. Before I

dragged them down to have a look, I carefully circled the stone. At that point, the appearance of Archibald’s ghost would not have surprised me. Two other sides were blank. But the fourth side held another treasure. It was a simple inscription:

Alex. McKinnon
 Died Mar 29, 1884
 Aged 46 Years
 RIP



Figure 4: Gravestone of Archibald McKinnon, Janet McGillis and Alex McKinnon in the cemetery beside the ruins of St. Raphael’s Church. Photo by the author.

There it was, written in stone. Alex McKinnon would have been Jack’s father, not Archibald’s other son Sandy, who was only 30 in 1884. Alex’s death was likely the event that caused Jack to leave home and led Angus to go and live with their Uncle Sandy. Moreover, this one stone monument linked Alex, son of Archibald and Ann, to Archibald and Janet.^{24, 25 26}

It was not absolute proof, but it added weight to my theory. I took photos of the gravestone and also carefully wrote down the inscriptions in case they were not legible in the pictures.

I can still scarcely believe my luck. Of all the monuments in that cemetery, I chose the one that held so much significance for my family history. My husband later told me he had examined the headstones while walking the dog through the cemetery ahead of me. But he missed this stone. Meghan said many of the stones were buried when the cemetery had been vandalized. Thankfully, this one was spared and 125 years after Archibald McKinnon's death, it was waiting to be found.

The outing to Glengarry County was more profitable than I could have imagined. After leaving St. Raphael's, we had time to take pictures of Archibald McKinnon's former farm land and still get my son to his bus on time. The presentation at the reunion was a success. The photos from Glengarry made the story of Archibald, Alex and Jack seem much more real to their descendants, including me.

There is no substitute for visiting the places where your ancestors lived. Even if you just intend to take photos, you never know when or how the luck of the Scots or (*insert your ethnic origin here*) will surprise you.

Endnotes

- ¹ "J.A. MacKinnon, Popular Pioneer Resident, Dies", *Trail Daily Times*, B.C., 21 January 1942, p.2.
- ² John A. McKinnon-Jennie I. Moffatt, *The State of Montana, County of Silver Bow, Marriage License 3548 (1895.)*
- ³ Trail History and Heritage Committee, *Trail of Memories--Trail, B.C. 1895-1945*, Trail, B.C., 1997, p. 420-421.
- ⁴ St. Mary's Parish (Williamstown, Ontario), extracted from baptismal records by Rev. Mr. G. Bryan, 26 May 1980.
- ⁵ P.E Lynne, Photographer. *Angus McKinnon*, Crookston, Minnesota, collection of R.G. MacKinnon.
- ⁶ MacDonald, Duncan (Darby), *St. Mary's Williamstown, Glengarry: The Parish Registers of Baptisms, Burials and Marriages, Part 1, October 1854-1879 December*, Brockville, Ontario: The MacDonald Research Centre, 1998, p.182.
- ⁷ *Compendium of History and Biography of Polk County, Minnesota*, Minneapolis: W.H. Bingham and Co., 1916;
- digital image, <http://www.ancestry.com>, entry for John R. McKinnon, p. 225a, 226.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, entry for Allan J. McKinnon, p. 210-11.
- ⁹ Hyde, C.W.G., *History of the Great Northwest and its Men of Progress*, Minneapolis: Minneapolis Journal, 1901, digital image, <http://www.ancestry.com>, entry for Alexander M'Kinnon, p. 441-442. States: Alexander and his wife have one adopted son, Angus D. McKinnon.
- ¹⁰ 1900 U.S. Census, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Ward 5, Minneapolis, Enumeration District 61, p. 19B, family 441, Alexander McKinna; digital image, <http://www.ancestry.com>, citing National Archives microfilm T623, roll 767, Line 94.
- ¹¹ Alexander McKinnon-Catherine McDonald, Ontario Marriage Registration 11587 (1883.)
- ¹² MacDonald, *St. Mary's Williamstown, Glengarry*, p.182
- ¹³ 1841 Census of Scotland, County Inverness, Parish of Glenelg, ED 97, enumerator's schedule 5, Village of Samadlan, p. 9, Archibald MacKinnon; digital image, <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>.
- ¹⁴ Malcolm Poole, curator, Mallaig Heritage Centre: "Parish records," 7 June 2006, personal email to the author citing record of marriage in North Morar of Archd. MacKinnon and Janet Gillies on 9 February 1848.
- ¹⁵ 1851 Census of Scotland, County Inverness, Parish of Glenelg, ED 97, enumerator's schedule 5, Village of Samadlan, p. 15, householder 44, Archy McKennon; digital image, <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>.
- ¹⁶ MacDonald,Duncan (Darby), *The Parish registers of births, marriages and converts of St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church in Glengarry, Ontario, Canada, Volume 5, 1854-1865*, Brockville, Ontario: The MacDonald Research Centre, 1990-1999, p. 74.
- ¹⁷ McKinnon, Judd, Grand Forks, North Dakota, personal correspondence with the author referring to Alexander's nickname, Sandy, 25 April 2005.
- ¹⁸ Arch'd McKinnon household, 1861 Census of Canada, Ontario, Glengarry (district 4 or 5), Lancaster Township, page 63, line 21-31; LAC microfilm C-1024.
- ¹⁹ Alexander McKinnon household, 1871 Census of Canada, Ontario, Glengarry (district 073), Lancaster (subdistrict B), page 42, family 151; LAC microfilm C-100009.
- ²⁰ 1881 Canadian Census, database, <http://www.familysearch.org>, Ontario, Lancaster, Glengarry, district 99, sub-district B, division 2, page 40, household number 165, Archy McKinnon, age 70; citing LAC microfilm C-13226.
- ²¹ 1881 Canadian Census, database, <http://www.familysearch.org>, Ontario, Lancaster, Glengarry, district 99, sub-district B, division 1, page 65,

- household number 279, Alexander McKinnan; citing LAC microfilm C-13226.
- ²² MacDonald, *St. Mary's Williamstown, Glengarry*, baptisms of children of Alexander McKinnon and Ann McPherson, p.182, 183 and Part 2, 1880-1904, p.116.
- ²³ Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747-1967 <http://www.ancestry.ca>, baptisms of children of Archibald McKinnon and Janet McGillis, citing St. Raphael's parish records [1841-1858]: Alexander (1854), Donald Allan (1856), Joseph Allan (1858); and citing St. Raphael's parish records [1859-1869]: Archibald, p. 79 (1861), and Janet, p.165 (1863.)
- ²⁴ Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747-1967 <http://www.ancestry.ca>, citing St. Raphael's parish records [1859-1869], p.165, Janet McGillis, wife of Archibald McKinnon, burial (d 14 April 1863.)
- ²⁵ Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747-1967 digital image, <http://www.ancestry.ca>, citing St. Raphael's parish records [1869-1890], p. 326, Arch McKinnon burial (d 24 July 1882.)
- ²⁶ Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747-1967 <http://www.ancestry.ca>, citing St. Raphael's parish records [1869-1890], p. 358, Alex McKinnon burial (d 29 March 1884.)

Doors Open and There is My Great-great-grandfather

BY IRENE IP

Irene Kellow Ip is a former Editor of Anglo-Celtic Roots, the demands of which limited her time for her own family history. Since retiring from that position, she has been able to pursue her research, and suggests that "This account of my blunders, missed clues and penny-pinching in tracing my ancestors should give hope to any discouraged family historians."

When I became serious about researching my family history, in the early 1980s, my father had been dead for a quarter of a century, and all I had to help me get started on his family tree was a meagre collection of family letters, papers and photos and what my mother or I could recall of my father's anecdotes, which did not amount to much. As I knew more about his mother's story than his father's, that is where I began—searching for my Mackin ancestors.



My father had been born in London to Irish Catholic immigrants, although his mother Annie Mackin had actually been born in Bermuda, around 1862. Her father was in the British Army and the family lived with the regiment, which had been stationed on the island for a few years. Although my parents had told me that the regiment had travelled to various parts of the Empire, they had never mentioned any other postings.

I knew that Annie had a brother, who had lived with his family in the same Southeast London district as his sister, but communication appeared to have been ruptured after Annie died in 1920. My father always

referred to this relative as "Uncle Mackin" and so I never learned his given name. Some of his descendants still lived in our neighbourhood while I was growing up and my mother had even pointed one out to us, but we never had any contact with them. My mother thought that my great-grandmother Mackin had brought these two children to England from Ireland after the death of her husband. She told me that this great-grandmother had eventually married her dead husband's best friend, a widower.

On my next visit to London, I took a closer look at the contents of the family archive. There were three items relating to the Mackin family:

- the commemoration of Annie Mackin's confirmation in Newry, Ireland, in 1867;
- the certificate of my great-grandmother's second marriage in 1888, which revealed that her maiden name had been Ann Brennan, and that she had been born in County Carlow, Ireland;
- the army discharge parchment of Ann Brennan's second husband, who had been in the 39th Regiment of Foot until 1874.

I did not find these items to be of much help and I certainly saw no value in the army connection of a step-great-grandfather.

At that time, I was aware of only one public genealogical source: the English vital records at St.

Catherine's House, London. I hoped to be able to get a copy of my Mackin grandmother's marriage certificate, which would give me the name and occupation of her father. As my father was born in 1890 and was the second child, I guessed that the marriage had taken place in the London area, in the late 1880s. In the summer of 1981, I found a likely 1887 match and ordered the certificate. When it arrived, it was exciting to find that my great-grandfather's full name had been Patrick Mackin and that he was already dead in November 1887. His occupation was given as "army pensioner."

Then I ran out of ideas and let the Mackin search lapse for two decades. No one else in my family was interested in digging up the past, and I did not have much spare time to learn more about doing family history; the idea of joining a family history society never crossed my mind.

Shortly after I retired in April 2001, I came across a brochure about a genealogy conference that was to be held in Ottawa the following fall that appeared to have been designed with me in mind: "English Genealogy." As the cost of attending was reduced for members of the sponsoring organization, BIFHSGO, I promptly joined, having no idea what I might get out of such a membership. The conference threw at me almost too much information to take in, but the ongoing involvement with the Society enabled me to discover the bounty of genealogical records available to help me with my family history. Still, experienced family historians might not be impressed with my progress in the Mackin story over the following seven years.

My first major discovery was that records of British censuses were available to the public, although only the 1881 Census was free, at *familysearch.org*. So that is where I started and immediately found an Annie Mackin living near London. I had no doubt that she was my great-grandmother, Annie Brennan, as her place of birth was given as Carlow, Ireland, and her estimated birth year was only a year off the one derived from the second marriage certificate. I was very surprised to find that she was listed as "married" not "widowed" and described as "pensioner's wife," although her husband Patrick Mackin was not listed as a member of the household. (In fact, I was unable to find him anywhere in that Census.) She was further shown as the mother of the head of the household, a Thomas Mackin, and here was an even greater surprise—his place of birth was Quebec, Canada, in 1858 or 1859. Living with them was Thomas's brother, Robert, who had been born in Durham, England, around 1872. My grandmother, the younger

Annie Mackin, was not listed, but I found her living in a nurses' residence in Surrey, and the entry confirmed that she had, indeed, been born in Bermuda. This census information suggested that both Mackin great-grandparents had come to England with their children, an important change to the story I had received.

I had no expectation of finding the records of the Quebec and Bermuda births, but Robert's English birth meant that I could probably get a certificate. In 2003 I found a likely entry and ordered the certificate. When it arrived, there was no doubt that it was for my Robert Mackin, and it gave me my first evidence that Patrick Mackin had lived in England after he had left the army. At the time of Robert's birth, in May 1871, both my Mackin great-grandparents were living in Hartlepool, Durham, where Patrick was working as a railway labourer.

Over the next few years, I gained access to the indexes of other years of English censuses on friends' CDs and, later, from *ancestry.com*, which was eventually made available free by the Ottawa Public Library. I also had access to other indexes from this site. The more I used the site, the more skilled I became in searching, allowing me to fill in many of the gaps in the Mackin family tree. An important advance for me was how to interpret the information from the various indexes, which were often contradictory. At one point, when I first searched the 1901 Census, I thought that I had found another brother for Annie, a Patrick J. Mackin born 1860 or 1861, but later, when I viewed the original entry, I discovered a transcription error; his name was Patrick T. Using this information, I found the record of the marriage of Patrick Thomas Mackin, confirming that Thomas and Patrick were the same person.



Figure 1: Royal Hospital Chelsea: a model of a pensioner's room in the 19th century. Photo by the author.

Simultaneously, I began to explore a very different source of information, which gave new significance to my family documents. In April 2002, Terry Findley had given a BIFHSGO presentation about an ancestor who had been in the British Army, which led me to realize that, as Patrick Mackin had been a pensioned soldier of the British Army, I might be able to find records of his service. I learned that British Army pensioners' records are held in the National Archives at Kew, Surrey. However, one needed to know the pensioner's regiment. It suddenly occurred to me that the army parchment of my step-great-grandfather, to which I had given short shrift, might provide a key. For long-service soldiers, the regiment often became their family and, if Patrick Mackin and my step-great-grandfather had been best friends, they had likely been in the same regiment. In this case, that regiment would have been the 39th Regiment of Foot.

I had three sets of dates and places that could be used to identify Patrick Mackin's regiment. The birth of a son in Quebec around 1860, the birth of my grandmother in Bermuda around 1862 and her confirmation in Newry in 1867. I asked Terry Findley how I could use this information to confirm that Patrick's regiment had been the 39th. He told me to check a book at the Ottawa reference library called *In Search of the Forlorn Hope*.¹ I was pleasantly surprised to find that the title was not indicative of my quest—Volume 2 contained most of the comings and goings of all the British regiments up to World War II and told me that the 39th Regiment of Foot had been in Canada, Bermuda and Ireland at the right times.

On my next visit to London in 2003, I persuaded my sister to join me in my first exploration of the resources at Kew. With a lot of help from the Archives' staff, we located the correct box of attestation papers as well as muster books. There are no words to describe our feelings as I opened the box and took out the actual parchment, four pages long, for Patrick Mackin. I had not realized how much information would be included: he had been attested at Kilmarnock, Armagh, February 1847, at the age of 20 and unmarried; he had been born in Newtownhamilton, Armagh; he had red hair and blue eyes and was five feet eight inches tall; he had left the military in 1869. It was so overwhelming that the date of attestation did not ring any bells. Only about five years later did it occur to me that Patrick may have joined the army to escape the effects of the Irish famine.

When I later examined the copies of the papers, I learned even more about him. There was a series of

notes made after his discharge; in 1876, Patrick had applied for "In-pension" status and, in 1883, had been admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where he died in January 1887. Now I had a possible explanation for his absence from the family home in the 1881 Census. He was likely in some other type of institution, which would explain why he was not included in the Census.



Figure 2: Royal Hospital Chelsea: The dining hall, designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Photo by the author.

I now wanted to know more about Patrick Mackin's army life. Since the regiment had spent over three years in Quebec, I wondered if there might be some official Canadian record of its activities during that time. I turned for help to Glenn Wright, a historian at Library and Archives Canada, whom I had got to know by editing his Great Moment presentation for *Anglo-Celtic Roots* in 2004. He found a record of the 39th's stay in Quebec and the dates that it was in Montreal and then Quebec City. He also told me that, when Christ Church Cathedral in Quebec burned in December 1856, men in the regiment had helped fight the fire. Finally, he found that the ship which took the regiment to Bermuda was the *Himalaya*.

Throughout all this searching I could not work out how Patrick Mackin had met his wife, Ann Brennan, or where they might have married. It seemed unlikely that they could have met in Ireland because, although the regiment had been in various parts of Ireland from 1850 to 1854, Ann would have been no older than 15. Furthermore, the 39th had never been near Carlow.

I also kept trying to find birth records for Annie and her brother Patrick. My sister and I drew blanks with both the records of regimental births at the Family Records Centre in London and the microfiches of

Army Chaplain Returns of births at Kew. How could these children have been so unimportant? A former colleague, who was from Bermuda, suggested that my grandmother's baptismal record could be at a Roman Catholic church near the regiment's barracks on the island, but I had no plans to Bermuda. Still, it seemed reasonable that Patrick Mackin and Ann Brennan might have had their Quebec-born son baptized in the Catholic church nearest to the regiment's barracks in Quebec City. Coincidentally, in March 2006, Gary Schroeder, president of the Quebec Family History Society, gave a presentation to BIFHSGO, and from him I learned that copies of Catholic records are available in the Hull branch of the Archives nationales du Québec, but I never got around to following this lead.



Figure 3: Royal Hospital Chelsea: Chapel, by Sir Christopher Wren. Photo by the author.

Another two years drifted past without any more advances in the search for the Mackins; what I had not realized was that, in that time, many additions had been made to *ancestry.com* that could have helped me, but I was oblivious to them. John Reid had even suggested that I could check the "Drouin Collection" but, as I had never heard of this source, it did not stay in my consciousness. Soon afterward, however, I became acquainted with it in an unexpected fashion.

I had started volunteering at the BIFHSGO library in the Ottawa Archives early in 2008, and one day BIFHSGO librarian, Betty Warburton, asked me if I would be free to help out at the Archives during the "Doors Open" event. So it happened that I was there on a Saturday afternoon in June, along with volunteers

from the other Archive partners. During a lull, I asked Suzanne Lebel-Martin, of the Société Franco-Ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie, about searching the Catholic baptismal records at the Hull branch of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. She said I did not need to go there as she had access to the Drouin Collection, which contained those records, at home and could search them for me. I scribbled Patrick Mackin's name and approximate birth year on a scrap of paper for her, and then put it out of my mind.

Imagine my surprise when, a couple of days later, I received an e-mail from Suzanne. The subject was "On the Mackin Soldier in Quebec." Embedded in the message was an image of a record of a Patrick Mackin's baptism at St. Patrick's Church, Quebec City, in 1858. His father was Patrick Mackin of the 39th Regiment of Foot and his mother's maiden name was Brennan. However, Suzanne had not been content to do that one search. She had also found the record of Patrick Mackin and Ann Brennan's marriage in November 1857, in the same church, which answered my question about how Patrick Mackin and Ann Brennan had met. Since Ann was described as a resident of Upper Quebec City, they must have met there soon after the regiment's arrival. As there was no fighting going on, the soldiers probably had a lot of time to fraternize with the locals, apart from fighting that fire. According to the marriage record, Ann's widowed mother, with an indecipherable name, was also described as a resident of Quebec City. As amazing as these revelations were, the most astonishing information was that Patrick's father, a widower, was also present at the wedding. What was he doing there? How long had he been there? I did not have the answers, but through "Doors Open," I had found a great-great-grandfather, Michael Mackin, not in Ireland, as I would have thought, but in Canada.

And I had thought that I was the first member of my family to come to Canada. But subsequent research suggests that I was the only one to stay.

Endnote

- ¹ Kitzmiller, John M. *In Search of Forlorn Hope: a Comprehensive Guide to Locating British Regiments and Their Records (1640 to World War I)*, three volumes, Salt Lake City: Kitzmiller Genealogical Services, Inc.

Simplified Publishing of Military Research for Distribution to the Family

BY NORMA O'TOOLE

Norma O'Toole is a BIFHSGO member who wrote a book entitled A Tribute to Norman Johnson, 405 (City of Vancouver) Pathfinder Squadron, in which she described her uncle's war service. The following article is reprinted from her book.

Many of us have in our possession irreplaceable artifacts, information, and stories of a loved one's military career. If these stories are to be preserved for future generations, it is important to share this information with family and military museums. Many people who have read this book have requested my guidance to help them publish their own military research in a convenient, easy-to-read format. Through trial and error, I found a method that worked for me and it may help others to produce their own family military history books.



I have written this book to honour my late uncle's service and sacrifice as a member of 405 Pathfinder Squadron in the Second World War. I produced the book using my word-processing software, Microsoft Word, although other word-processing software brands have similar features. My uncle's flying log book and copies of his military personnel file provided a great deal of information about his schooling, his family, military training, and operational assignments. The dates of events from these two sources were incorporated into a timeline in an MS Word table, which, when sorted by date, helped to put all of the details into perspective. The timeline also helped with additional research in military history books and with my research on the Internet, which led me to further information about his squadrons and the tasks for the operational sorties in which he took part.

In designing the layout of the book, I first decided which fonts, attributes and sizes I would use throughout the book for text and titles. I then used "section breaks" to set up separate chapters in the book with alternating headers and footers, etc. on odd and

even pages. If you are not familiar with advanced formatting of documents, it can be quickly learned with the assistance of the "help" menu in your word processing software.

There was a treasure in photographs and documents in my mother's and grandmother's photo albums. I fine-tuned the book by inserting scanned copies of military and family photographs, maps and any other documents that would be of interest to the reader. I inserted scanned copies of each page of the operational segment of his flying log book together with the portion of the timeline for that month of flying to make the information more readable. These were followed by excerpts from the Royal Air Force Bomber Command 60th Anniversary website that had contained Campaign Diary and Squadron Operations Record Books for each month to show the actual tasks and the results of each raid, plus the losses that were incurred. Although the war diaries are no longer on the website, they may be accessed by the link below.

If you are not comfortable with inserting text boxes, a simple way to add photographs, maps etc. is through the use of tables. At the point in the book where you would like to add a photograph and a caption, insert a table with two columns and one row. Place your cursor in one column and select "insert photograph". Select the photo from the scanned photos in your computer files. To adjust the size, click on the photo to select it and drag one of the corners until it fits the desired space on the page. Type the caption or background information in the other column. Larger documents may be placed in a one-column table with two rows so that the caption appears below the item. To remove the border of the table, select "format" "borders and shading" "borders" and choose "none".

Since this book is for restricted distribution and is not sold for profit, it was possible to include some copyright material. This material is properly referenced for sources. Details of living persons such as full date of birth should be removed for privacy if the book is to be donated to an archive, or museum.

Publishing Techniques

I am fortunate to have a good printer that produces excellent quality results at a fairly low price per page, so I printed the book at home on good quality “bright white” paper and had it bound with wireless binding at Staples. Other printing firms offer similar services.

If you are not able to self-publish, you may have your book printed professionally. You could save money by having the book printed in black and white on “bright white” paper. Grayscale photographs are reproduced

with amazing clarity. To add interest, you may wish to include at the back of the book a photo album with coloured pictures or maps etc. on high quality back-to-back photo paper.

The cost of the final full-sized book was approximately \$18.00 per copy, which I thought was reasonable.

I hope that these hints may help you in sharing your military research with your families.

Some Useful Web Addresses for Military Research

Internet Site Title	Internet Site Address
Canada Info Link	http://www.canadainfolink.ca/military.htm
Canadian Military History Gateway	http://www.cmhg.gc.ca/html/default-en.asp
Canadian War Museum	http://geoweb.civilization.ca:8001/
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	http://www.cwgc.org/
Cyndi's List – Canada – Military	http://www.cyndislist.com/milcan.htm
Juneau Beach Centre	http://www.junobeach.org/
Library and Archives Canada	http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-909-e.html
Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum	http://www.lancastermuseum.ca/
RAF Bomber Command – Squadron Operations Record Books	http://web.archive.org/web/20050417074741/http://www.raf.mod.uk/bombercommand/
United Kingdom National Archives	http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
Veterans Affairs Canada	http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem

Don't Believe All You Read

BY JOHN SAYERS

The *Montreal Gazette* dated Monday, 5 June 1922 carried a headline “Four Children Drowned at Grosse Isle” and under this “Polish boys scaled fence at Quarantine Station.” The article went on to say in part: “Small craft was blown into channel and capsized by waves.”



Quebec 4 June 1922 - Four young Polish boys aged between eight and twelve years were drowned in the St. Lawrence River off the Island of Grosse Isle, the Canadian quarantine station about 28 miles below this city. The children were members of a Polish family taken from one of the inbound steamers..... the boys scaled a high fence and made their way down to the beach where a rowboat was tied the boys

rowed about a bit then got into trouble when the west wind blew them into the channel where it was at the mercy of the waves. The bodies of the four children were found in the mud on the beach about a mile and a half east of the quarantine station.

The truth was that the boys were four English Home Children who had been brought to Canada by The Catholic Emigration Association. They were in a group of 89 children, 78 boys and 11 girls, on the *S.S. Montcalm* that left Liverpool on 19 May 1922 and arrived in Quebec on 27 May 1922.

For some reason the four boys had been left at the quarantine station while the rest of the party continued on to Quebec City and then to Ottawa. Quite often the children had measles or perceived eye problems that necessitated them staying at Grosse Isle until the

medical officer cleared them to rejoin the party. The boys were:

William Ellis, aged 13, from St. Edward's Home, Coleshill and the Birmingham Rescue Society.

William Mahon, aged 15, from St. Paul's Home, Coleshill and the Cheltenham (Gloucestershire) Guardians

John Brier, aged 14, from St. Paul's Home, Coleshill and the Dewsbury (Yorkshire) Guardians.

James Holland, aged 12, from St. Paul's Home, Coleshill and the West Bromwich (Staffordshire) Guardians.

They had each completed a 30A Landing Card that had their signature and the annotation "Accidentally drowned at Grosse Isle, June 4/22."

After their deaths were found to be accidental, the four boys were buried on Grosse Isle with Father H. Nicole officiating.

Secret Secretaries

BY ALANA REIMER

In 2008, Ilana Reimer, a 12-year-old home-schooled student, was awarded the annual BIFHSGO prize for her genealogical presentation.

I was honoured to receive the Genealogical Society Award for the project I submitted to the Ottawa Regional Historica Fair this year. Thank you for allowing me to share my presentation.



My Great-grandmother, Dorothy May Helm, was born in Toronto in 1921. When she was 23 she went to New York to work for the British Security Co-ordination, during World War II. A Canadian named William Stephenson ran the British Security Co-ordination, or BSC.

William Stephenson was a daring, ingenious, but modest man. He had served in the British Air Force in World War I, and when rumours of another war began, William Stephenson was ready to do all that was in his power to make it successful. Winston Churchill commissioned him to keep his eye on Hitler's doings. Whatever moves Hitler might make, Churchill wanted to be aware of it. Stephenson soon discovered that Hitler relied mainly on the Enigma as his communication system.

The Enigma was a machine designed with a complicated way of sending coded messages from one point to another. It had 17,576 code variations, which were changed frequently. Stephenson knew that to

possess an Enigma would be vital to his employer, Churchill, and he must procure one somehow, and set up some sort of office where he could work to decode it. To win success in such an enterprise would be very beneficial to the war, and the information the Enigma could provide would be invaluable.

William Stephenson hired a few brave men to go to Germany and steal the Enigma. He sent them with an older, non-functioning Enigma. Stephenson's plan was simple, clever, and effective. The men he had hired would remove the real Enigma, and put parts of the model Enigma around the room. When they left, an explosion, which they had set up, would go off, causing the Nazis to suspect that the Enigma had blown up. If they had discovered that the Enigma had been stolen Hitler would either alter the Enigma Code, or stop using the Enigma altogether! That would be a terrible blow for Stephenson. His newly acquired Enigma would have been useless!

Stephenson successfully smuggled the Enigma back to Britain, where reproductions were made. Winston Churchill told William Stephenson to set up the BSC in New York, and decode the Enigma there. Stephenson chose New York because the United States was neutral at the time, and Hitler was focusing on the countries involved in the war. He chose Canadians to work for him because they could mix in with a crowd of Americans better than other nations might. In all, 800 Canadian women left their homes for New York. One of them was my great-grandmother. Before they could work at the BSC the women had to sign the Secret Service Act, promising not to speak about their job for 20 years *after* the war! If they ever told someone of their work, they might unintentionally

pass information to a Nazi spy! William Stephenson was not going to take any chances. He watched the women closely to make sure they were trustworthy, and he was not disappointed or let down.



Figure 1: Enigma Machine. Source: Wikipedia

Can you imagine what it would be like to leave your family to work in a large, strange city in a different country, with nothing more than a vague idea of what sort of job you were accepting? It would take a lot of courage, and even more to be interviewed by a RCMP officer, finger-printed, and told to sign an official paper that kept you silent for 20 years! That is no small sacrifice. In spite of their fears, my great-grandmother and other women went through the trial and dangers of their jobs with delight, knowing that they were helping to weaken Hitler's power.

Life in New York was not just work. The women were linked together by secrecy and formed a camaraderie that did not cease when the war ended and they returned home. Instead, many kept in touch for the rest of their lives. My great-grandmother found a life-long friend in Grace Pollock, who had shared in her secrecy. These friends, along with the theatres, dances, and shopping expeditions that filled their free time made life enjoyable, despite the risks. It was the soberness of their job that reminded them that World War II still raged on. And this fired them with an eagerness to support the war effort.

For years the BSC worked on the code, and at last succeeded! This accomplishment was a terrible blow to Hitler, and although the war continued for some time after, the BSC played a significant role in ending it.

Without the women's steadfastness and loyalty, even William Stephenson's ingenuity and leadership could not have solved the mysterious Enigma Code. When the war ended in 1945 the women returned home, still

bound to secrecy. Stephenson wrote letters to each of the women, to thank them for devoting several years of their lives to him. My family still treasures Great Grandma's letter today.

My great-grandmother was engaged to Fredrick Rose before the war, but their families did not want them to marry until the war was over, because Fredrick had enlisted in the army. Before leaving New York she bought her wedding dress. She married my great-grandfather in Toronto, and they held their reception at the Royal York Hotel. They remained in Toronto to raise their children. My great-grandmother died in 2002, when I was only seven.

William Stephenson was knighted and presented with many honours to reward his many great deeds. But although he is remembered, the courageous women who worked for him are not recognized. I am proud to honour them through my project and this article.



Figure 2: Dorothy May Helm. Family photograph

I never had the chance to hear my great-grandmother talk of her life in New York, or to thank her for what she did, so I'm glad I had this opportunity to thank and to honour all of the women who supported the war effort and faithfully kept their secret for so long! They displayed courage, loyalty, and patriotism, and proved themselves trustworthy by committing themselves to their work. These character traits deserve to be honoured, and we ought to be proud of these Canadian heroes.

FAMILY HISTORY—TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

The Brian O'Regan Memorial Library has received several family histories and biographies of family members from BIFHSGO members. In addition, the library has manuals on how to write a family history as well as books on authorship. If you are contemplating creating your own family history, it might be worth your while to visit the library and examine these books for ideas on how to do it.



What really inspired me to discuss this subject was a donation by Norma O'Toole of her self-published biography of her uncle, Norman Johnson, who was one of the many casualties of World War II. In her tribute to her uncle, Norma has used many sources, ranging from personal documents and family photos to official government material. Norma has illustrated her book liberally with documents such as pages from

Norman's logbook, newspaper and magazine articles, and aircraft and crew photos.

The story of the pilgrimage of the aircrew's family members to the site of the crash of the Lancaster aircraft in France for a ceremony to commemorate a plaque that was placed by the local villagers in 2006 completes the book. Also included is an article Norma had written about the commemoration ceremony in France that was published originally in the 2006/2007 Winter issue of *Airforce Magazine*. As a bonus, Norma has included in the book an article titled: *Simplified Publishing of Military Research for Distribution to the Family* and has given *Anglo-Celtic Roots* permission to publish it.

If you are seeking inspiration to write your own family history, do look at Norma's book, *A Tribute to Norman Johnson, 405 (City of Vancouver) Pathfinder Squadron*.

BIFHSGO NEWS

Minutes of the BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting 14 June 2008

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) began at 9:30 a.m. on 14 June 2008 in the Library and Archives Canada auditorium at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. The notice of the meeting and its agenda were published in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Spring 2008 issue.

A quorum of at least 25 was declared, with attendance estimated at approximately 125. Roy Thomas was appointed as the Recording Secretary for the meeting.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

The President, Willis Burwell, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting:

The minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting were also published in the Spring 2008 *Anglo-Celtic*

Roots. No comments or corrections were received either prior to or at the AGM. Moved by Gerry Glavin and seconded by Caroline Herbert that the minutes as published be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Reports of the President and Directors:

The reports of the Directors were published in the Summer 2008 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. The President summarized a few of the highlights from these reports. Membership in the Society reached a record 535 at the end of 2007. Registration for the Fall Conference exceeded 300, also a record. As a result BIFHSGO was in a strong financial position over for the year. *Anglo-Celtic Roots* was chosen as the runner-up in an international competition run by the National Genealogical Society in the U.S.A. The BIFHSGO Website was given an honourable mention in an international competition run by the Federation of Family History Societies in the UK. The Society's two

Home Children projects continue to make good progress. The Middlemore project achieved a major milestone in December when the index for all the children brought to Canada from 1873 to 1932 was uploaded to the BIFHSGO website. Also in December the City of Ottawa approved a plan to construct a new City Archives in the Centrepoinette area at a projected cost of \$38 million. When the building is completed in 2010, our library will move along with the City Archives into this modern facility.

Moved by Betty Burrows and seconded by Bert Hayward that the reports of the Directors (except for the Treasurer's financial report) be accepted as published. MOTION CARRIED.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2007:

The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement of the Society for the fiscal year from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 were also inserted in the Summer 2008 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, available to members before the meeting. The Treasurer pointed out that the Society had a surplus of income over expenses of \$5,990.49 for the 2007 fiscal year. Under "Income," the Treasurer noted that the \$500 "Income from Other orgs" was the money given to BIFHSGO by the OGS from that organization's profits in hosting the Ontario OGS Seminar in 2007 in recognition of BIFHSGO members' support of this event. He also noted that in 2007 it was decided to write down the inventory of old *Anglo-Celtic Roots* and *Annals*, representing an expense of \$1,867.52.

The Treasurer enumerated the contributions to other organizations, also an item under expenses. He noted that as a charity since its inception, BIFHSGO was obligated by a Revenue Canada formula to give away a percentage of Society profits. BIFHSGO contributed \$500 to the Friends of LAC, \$1000 to the Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives, \$500 to the Friends of the Anglican Archives, \$250 to the Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa, and \$750 to the Family History Center in Ottawa. A prize of \$100 is also given by BIFHSGO to the winner of the best genealogy project at the annual Historica Fair for students.

The Treasurer spelled out the expenses for the monthly meetings, which not only included honoraria when applicable but also the LAC technician's pay for the meeting period. Turning his attention to the balance statement, the Treasurer used the example of the BIFHSGO Library books to explain how this item was both an asset and a liability due to its "in trust" nature.

Auditor's Report:

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 2007. Moved by Clifford Adams and seconded by Hugh Reekie that the financial reports be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditor:

There being no other nominations for auditor it was moved by Tom Rimmer and seconded by Margaret Burwell that Darrel Kennedy be nominated as the Society's auditor for the 2008 fiscal year. MOTION CARRIED.

Awards and Presentations:

The following presentations were made:

Alison Hare was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of her contributions to family history through outstanding service to genealogists. A certified genealogist, recognized as a consultant by Library and Archives Canada, Alison has inspired and entertained with her frequent presentations at BIFHSGO meetings. Her long-time commitment to genealogy is shown not only in her own research and writing but also in her participation in the BIFHSGO/OGS Ottawa Branch beginner courses, her five years as editor of the OGS Ottawa Branch Newsletter, her advocacy for release of the 1911 Census and her service to the Ontario Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Doug Hoddinott was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of his contributions to family history through outstanding service to the Society during the past thirteen years, including five years as Membership Director and Vice-President and as an active member of the Conference Planning Committee. He has assisted the Society and many of its members with his expertise in both computer hardware and software. At meetings, conferences and workshops he has provided leadership to ensure the availability of audio-visual facilities. He has made several presentations at Society meetings. His organizational skills and attention to detail have been a major factor contributing to the success of the Society.

Mary Anne Sharpe received the award for Best Presentation at the monthly BIFHSGO meetings, September 2007–June 2008, for her talk, "*In My Father's Footsteps to the Western Front*," delivered at the 10 November 2007 BIFHSGO meeting.

Robert J. Brown won the award for Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Article in 2007 for “*Baa Baa, Black Sheep: Thinking Outside the Fold,*” which appeared in the Winter 2007 issue.

Chris MacPhail received a Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding contributions to the work of the Society as Editor of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* from 2006 to 2008, during which time the journal placed second in the prestigious NGS Newsletter Competition in 2007 and, as reported at last year’s AGM, first in this same competition in 2006.

Andy Coates was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding contributions to the work of BIFHSO as our webmaster from 2006 to 2008, during which time the website received an honourable mention from the U.K. Federation of Family History Societies for best website in 2007, and for his work in development of the on-line registration system for the Fall Conference.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election:

John Reid, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the current President, Willis Burwell, would not be standing for re-election. The committee nominated Mary Anne Sharpe for this position. After three requests for further nominations from the floor

with none being received, Mary Anne Sharpe was declared elected President by acclamation.

John Reid then went on to state that four serving Directors whose terms lapsed at this time had agreed to stand again. These were Cliff Adams, Treasurer, Betty Burrows, Director of Communications, John Hay, Director of Programs, and Sharon Moor, Director of Memberships. Three times further nominations were requested from the floor. When none were received these four Directors were declared re-elected by acclamation. John Reid noted that as in 2007, the Director of Research position remained vacant, but that this situation could be put to good use by the new Board.

John Reid, as the departing immediate Past President, took this opportunity to thank Willis Burwell, the outgoing President, for his good work as President and also as Chair of two successive Fall Conferences.

Adjournment 9: 55 a.m.

There being no other business it was moved by Willis Burwell and seconded by Roy Thomas that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared by Roy Thomas, 9 January 2009

Notice of the 2008 BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting

9:30 a.m. Saturday, 13 June 2009

Take notice that the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa will take place on Saturday, 13 June 2009, at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, to receive and conduct business in accordance with articles 37–41 of the bylaws. Members are reminded that, in accordance with Article 40 of the bylaws, they may appoint a proxy to attend the meeting and act on their behalf. The proxy holder must also be a member.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order and opening remarks
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting
3. Summary of the Directors’ reports
4. Presentation of the financial statement for 2008
5. Report of the Auditor
6. Approval of the financial statement for 2008
7. Appointment of the Auditor for 2009
8. Amendments to the bylaws (if any are proposed)
9. Awards and presentations
10. Report of the Nominating Committee
11. Election of Directors
12. Any other business
13. Adjournment

The normal monthly meeting and “Great Moments in Genealogy” will follow after a short break.

BIFHSGO President Speaks to City Council

BY MARY ANNE SHARPE

Mary Anne made the following presentation to the City of Ottawa Council on 3 December 2008.

My name is Mary Anne Sharpe, and I am the president of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa.

Ours is a self-supporting, not-for-profit organization—we receive no funding from the City of Ottawa. We benefit from membership in the Council of Heritage Organizations and from City services.

Our purpose is to encourage and facilitate research and its publication by people with ancestry in the British Isles. Our scope is “Greater Ottawa,” recognizing that many of the area’s settlers had roots in the British Isles. The Society has over 500 members, the vast majority of whom reside within the City.

As family historians and genealogical researchers, we are particularly concerned about proposed cuts to the Museum Service Agreement and the elimination of new service expenditures relating to the Museum Sustainability Plan and funding for preventive maintenance and restoration services at the City of Ottawa Archives.

You may recall I sent you a 113-signature petition from our membership requesting that you review the deferral of these investments.

We not only use the City’s services, we invest in them.

- Among other things, our members volunteer about half a person-year at the City Archives. I should note that there are several similar organizations also doing this, so you could probably multiply our contribution by at least three.
- Through the Friends of the Archives, we annually donate equipment and purchase archival materials to augment the City Archives’ collection.
- We make freely available our own library collection of often limited-run publications to enrich the resources available to local citizens researching their past.

- We often engage in transcription and indexing projects that can help highlight important events in our City’s history.

We believe that without an understanding of where we have come from, it is difficult to understand why we are where we are now, and virtually impossible to chart a sensible and confident course for the future.

We are the ones digging around among mouldering maps, old letters and diaries, and even old City Council minutes. And I say “mouldering” with purpose. We are keepers of the stories, interpreters of history, on a personal level, and these materials are integral to our own, and our City’s, legacy to the future.

The need for a dedicated and properly designed facility for preserving and storing the City’s many archival materials has been recognized, and archival materials from all over the city will be consolidated there. But when we have this new facility, will the materials we put into it be worth saving? The proposed budget included the deferral of expenditures for restoration of archival materials that had suffered damage from improper storage in facilities not previously part of the City of Ottawa. There was also a concern that even properly stored City materials could be adversely affected.

This is where the planned new investments, that are proposed to be deferred, come in. It would be a *great shame* if the resources to protect and preserve the archival materials and artifacts that provide a window on our City’s past were inadequate. We need to be sure the new facility can do its job. This means adequate funding for sustainability and for the preservation of materials, even before they are moved into it.

I won’t belabour the point that the proposed cuts represent a significant blow to this community.

What I will ask, however, is this—“Can we afford *not* to preserve and understand our past?”

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.
AERS	Southern ENG	All	1224	EDGE	DOR SOM, UK	All	1224
HAUNTON	LND, UK	All	1224				

TABLE B (Members referred to in Table A)			
Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address
1224	M. Haunton, 310 Crichton Street, #406 Ottawa ON K1M 1W5 Marion.Haunton@dfo-mpo.gc.ca		

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

In Memoriam

John Patrick Wohler, CG (C), Saturday, 14 March 2009. BIFHSGO Member #1115, Pat was a genealogist and author of the weekly newspaper column "The Family Historian," and gave several presentations to BIFHSGO conferences and meetings.

Membership Report

BY SHARON MOOR

New BIFHSGO Members from 18 October 2008 – 31 March 2009

Mbr. #	Name	Address	Mbr. #	Name	Address
1230	Neil McEachern	Gatineau, QC	1259	Joan Darby	Richmond, ON
1248	Andrew and Judy Billingsley	Ottawa	1260	Maureen Amey	Ottawa
1249	Geraldine Fehr	Abbotsford, BC	1261	Allan Shelswell	Ottawa
1250	Dianne Peters-Woods and David Woods	Orleans	1262	Glen and Dale Scanlan	Nepean
1251	Robert Serre	Ottawa	1263	Tom and Joyce Moore	Ottawa
1252	Midwest Genealogy Center	Independence, MO	1264	Lynda Woodhouse	Ottawa
1253	Audrey Reekie	Ottawa	1265	Judy Brander	Riverview, NB
1254	Laurence Moran	Mississauga	1266	John Fisher	Arnprior
1255	Wayne Campbell	Toronto	1267	Carrie Cornelisse	Regina, SK
1256	Ross Bales	Ottawa	1268	Bert Bussey	Kanata
1257	Laura Griffin	Ottawa	1269	Lorraine Reoch	Vernon
1258	Harold McClemens	Ottawa	1270	Cynthia Timmons	Nepean

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members when you see them at a meeting.

Please check the label on your *ACR* to confirm that your membership is current and you will not be dropped from our active list.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, this is the last *ACR* you will receive.

Don't know - check the year on the label on this copy.

LOCAL RESEARCH FACILITIES**BIFHSGO Library**

The Brian O'Regan Memorial Library includes genealogical research materials and guides; political, social and local history texts; selected census indexes; British, Canadian, Australian and American family history society journals – and more.

Location: The City Archives, Bytown Pavilion, 1st floor, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 580-2424 ext. 13333

Website: www.bifhsgo.ca/library

Library and Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) collects and preserves Canada's documentary heritage, making it accessible to the public. LAC has a large collection of books on genealogy as well as microfilms of many Canadian newspapers, census records, ship passenger lists, directories and other materials relevant to genealogists. Reference specialists are available to assist with research, to help use the collections and to answer questions.

Location: 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 996-5115

Website: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

Family History Centre (LDS)

The Family History Centre provides access to the extensive genealogical collections and databases of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City using microfilm, microfiche, computers and volunteer advisors.

Location: 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 224-2231

Website: www.ottawastakefhc.on.ca

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) collects, preserves and provides public access to Québec's published, archival and film heritage, including civil and church registers. Archivists specialising in genealogy are available to assist users.

Location: 855, boulevard de la Gappe, Gatineau, QC

Tel: (819) 568-8798

Website: www.banq.qc.ca/portal

Hours

Readers are advised to contact the resource centres directly to confirm hours of operation.

Parking

Parking is available at each research facility. Phone or check the website for parking locations and costs, if applicable.

**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**

Free parking on the east side of the building only

9 May 2009	<p><i>London Ancestors Rest In Peace. But Where?</i>—John D. Reid Author, Lecturer and former BIFHSGO President</p> <p>With no single national burial register for England finding a grave is a challenge, especially in the cities. The talk describes his approach to finding the final resting places of seven of his London ancestors. How successful was the search?</p> <p>Workshop: <i>Searching For Your Welsh Ancestry</i>—Ridge Williams Learn how to trace your Welsh ancestry. A PowerPoint presentation detailing sources, methods, websites, and difficulties encountered by family historians and researchers living outside of Wales.</p>
13 June 2009	<p><i>Great Moments in Genealogy</i>—BIFHSGO Members The Annual General Meeting will precede the presentations at 9:30</p>
12 September 2009	<p><i>Circling the Wagons Around Jack Fraser?</i>—Brian Glenn describes the search for his maternal grandfather.</p>

Schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Workshops Check our website— www.bifhsgo.ca —for up-to-date information.
9:30 a.m.	Discovery Tables
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Meeting and Presentation
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Writing Group

For up-to-date information and news of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check the website www.bifhsgo.ca

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please contact: The Editor, acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for publication in the next issue is 18 April 2009.