



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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In This Issue

... and a Brother Who Went to Australia?

By the Skin of My Teeth ...

John Price and the "Perthshire Grey Breeks"



Celebrating
our ancestry for **20** years

Anglo-Celtic Roots

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Please include a brief biographical sketch and a passport-type photograph.

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Wreck of the Loch Ard, sister ship of the Loch Sloy

Source: Illustrated Sydney News, 13 July 1878

From the Editor

This issue begins with the story of Chris MacPhail's dogged pursuit of the truth behind a vague hint that a great-uncle might have wended his way from Scotland to Australia.

For those who missed the December 2013 Great Moments presentations, Leighann Neilson reveals how she managed to discover why her father rarely spoke of the Fitzgerald branch of his family.

Betty Warburton tells the intriguing tale of her ancestor John Price's military service in the West Indies, North America and Europe during the many campaigns of the early 1800s.

John Reid teams up with fellow blogger Ken McKinlay in this edition of "The Cream of the Crop."

And in preparation for BIFHSGO's June 2014 Annual General Meeting, we publish the draft minutes of the AGMs held over the past year, so members can assess whether any changes will be required to their content.

Jean Kitchen

From the President



Spring is in the air, and after the winter that we have experienced, milder temperatures and longer days are undoubtedly welcomed by all of us. Our BIFHSGO season is slipping by very quickly, but we have been blessed with a great program of presentations and even greater attendance.

We are well into our 20th anniversary celebration and celebrate we should. Our Society continues to grow in numbers and our monthly meetings are the envy of the Canadian family history and genealogical community. Whatever we are doing, it resonates with our membership. It was for this reason that we decided to celebrate our members in our anniversary commemorations. Improvements to our website, new and expanded databases and much more will salute those who have made our Society as vibrant as it is.

If you have yet to do so, I would encourage your participation in our writing contest. This is an excellent opportunity to bring together your research, discoveries and ideas about your family and then to share them with others. Ever since BIFHSGO was established, we have promoted the writing of family history, so it is fitting to celebrate our anniversary this way.

A few months ago, I had an opportunity to speak with David Mason, one of Canada's foremost antiquarian book dealers, about genealogy. He recognized the attraction of family history research, but noted regretfully (and correctly) that the results are rarely written down in a form that allows them to be shared publicly with future generations, within the family or otherwise. It is time to demonstrate what can be done with our research, which often reaches far beyond our own families, to tell us something about our shared history and our Anglo-Celtic origins.

On another matter, I feel it necessary to call your attention to the fact that the Society will need a new President as of June. Our bylaws restrict my tenure to four years, and while it has been a ride to remember, it is time to step aside and let another member direct the future course of the Society. Please give this "call" your earnest consideration, your Society needs you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Wright." The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Glenn Wright

Family History Research

... and a Brother Who Went to Australia? ©



BY CHRIS MACPHAIL

Chris is a retired consulting engineer whose career involved writing and reading a good many construction-industry contracts. His interest in genealogy began with his wife's family, and expanded with the discovery that his grandfather had been a Home Child. Chris has served on the BIFHSGO Board and as editor of ACR, and is a member of the Hall of Fame.

My maternal grandfather was Robert Spence Mitchell—a kind, jovial man who was well loved by his large family in and around Sudbury, Ontario. I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing him from my earliest years. But I never heard him say anything about his parents or siblings, except for his brother Matthew.

I knew that he had an older brother Matthew who lived in Pennsylvania and who, with his wife Grace, visited with Grandpa and his family at their summer camp on Ramsey Lake, now part of Greater Sudbury. Matthew died in Pennsylvania in 1954 at the age of 85, without any descendants.

It was only after my grandfather's death that my mother said "Well, you know that they were Barnardo

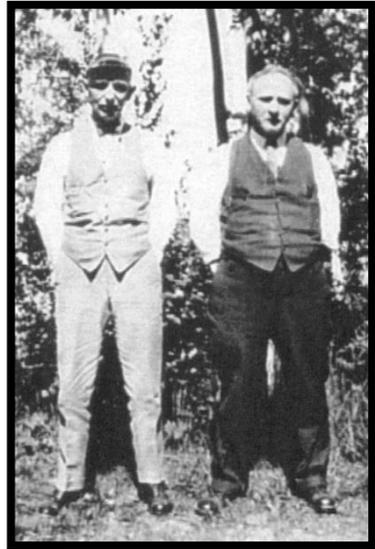


Figure 1: Matthew and Robert

Source: family collection

Boys." Well no, I didn't know, and what were Barnardo Boys anyway? When I became interested in the family history in more recent years, I was introduced to BIFHSGO and its work on Home Children, thanks

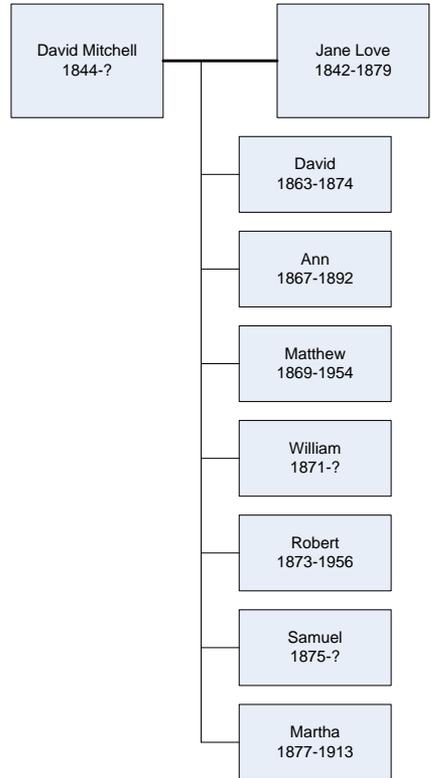
to Dave Lorente, John Sayers and others. I began to piece together the history of my grandfather and his Glasgow family. Much of this has been published in 2010 in the BIFHSGO book *“British Home Children: Their Stories.”*

As far as I was aware, these two boys were the extent of my grandfather’s family—except that not long before her death, my mother mentioned in an off-hand comment that “. . . there might have been another brother who went to Australia.” However, she couldn’t explain or elaborate, and the moment passed. It was only some time later that I began to wonder whether the comment was based on fact or fiction.

I was able to trace my grandfather’s family in Scotland, largely through the pay-per-view *ScotlandsPeople* website, where my contributions helped to sustain the Scottish economy. I found that he was one of seven children born to David Mitchell and his wife Jane Love. The birth records for the children indicate that David was an itinerant labourer who moved regularly from one rented room to another.

Jane died in a parochial asylum at the age of 39 of “maniacal exhaustion,” two years after giving birth to her seventh child. David was described as a drunkard, and

eventually abandoned his children to whatever benevolent agency would take them.



David, 18, and Jane, 20, had been married in 1862. Their first child, also named David, was born in 1863 and died at the age of 11 after suffering from tuberculosis for nine months.

Ann, born in 1867, left or was sent out of the house at about 12 years of age. At 22 she married and had a daughter a year later; she died of blood poisoning, and her daughter of bronchitis, within a month of each other in 1892. Ann was 25.

Matthew, born in 1869, was taken in by the Quarriers and immigrated to Canada in 1882 at the age of 12. After a somewhat unhappy experience with the Canadian farmer with whom he was placed, he made his way to the United States, where he became a bookkeeper with a manufacturing company in Pennsylvania.

William was born in 1871 and in about 1880 was placed in a children's home in Stevenston, Ayrshire, run by the Glasgow United Evangelistic Association. Unfortunately, the records of that agency have not survived, except for a few annual reports that are not in enough detail to be of help. I then found him in the 1891 Census, living with his sister Ann and her husband, along with younger sister Martha. But I had been unable to find anything beyond 1891.

Robert was next, born in 1873. He too was taken in by the Quarriers and was sent out to Canada in 1881, when he was immediately placed with the Spence family in Owen Sound. His was a happy story, much of which was published in *British Home Children: Their Stories*. He led a happy life, although his first wife died in childbirth. He remarried and raised six children; he was active in church, lodge and civic life, and died in 1956 at the age of 83.

Samuel was the sixth child, born in 1875. He was placed with his brother William in the home in Stevenston, but he had disappeared from Scottish records after the 1881 Census.

Finally, Martha, the second daughter, was born in 1877. Her mother died in 1879, and Martha was taken in by her older sister Ann. After Ann's death Martha moved to Dundee, where she worked in a jute mill. She married a co-worker at the age of 20 and had two daughters. By 1901 she was back in Glasgow living with her husband and daughters, his parents and siblings—12 people in two rooms. Martha died in 1913 at the age of 36.

All the siblings had been accounted for, except for William and Samuel. Could one of these be a "brother who went to Australia"?

William

I decided to start with a search for William, being the older of the two. I had only the information already mentioned: the certificate of his birth in Glasgow in 1871, his residence in a children's home in 1881 and his occupation as a sailor in the 1891 Census. My searches of the usual sources failed to reveal any other information, and a professional genealogist in Scotland was unable to add anything else.

I recalled an article in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* based on a talk at a BIFHSGO meeting by Robert J. Brown titled “Baa Baa Black Sheep: Thinking outside the Fold.” He had referred to a website (www.blacksheepindex.co.uk) that listed the names of individuals, along with locations and dates, who had been involved in some newsworthy event. He had found a lot of information about his grandfather, a railway locomotive engineer, who had been involved in an accident that was reported in the press of the day. (That website seems to have been shut down, possibly due to the influence of Google.)



Figure 2: the *Loch Sloy*

Source: Wikimedia Commons

The names on the website were organized under several categories, one of which was Masters and Mariners. Thinking of the 1891 Census description of William as a sailor, I logged on and entered “William Mitchell.” Sure enough, a Mitchell, William appeared along with the date: 1899, the location: Glasgow, and the name of a ship:

the *Loch Sloy*. This much was free—to learn more, I would have to send money. Before taking that step, however, I resorted to Google and found a wealth of information about the *Loch Sloy* in 1899.

Wikipedia provided a brief description of a shipwreck involving the *Loch Sloy*, with a citation that gave the source: a 1972 book titled *Kangaroo Island Shipwrecks* by G. D. Chapman.¹ I used the *WorldCat* website to locate a copy, the nearest being in the Metro Toronto Reference Library.

My son Andrew lived across the street from the library at that time, and I volunteered him to obtain a copy of the text, which he dutifully did. Other accounts were obtained later from newspapers from Australia, New Zealand, the U.S. and Scotland that are available online.²

The *Loch Sloy* was one of a fleet of some 25 steel-hulled sailing ships owned and operated by Aitken, Lilburn & Co. of Glasgow, and also known as the Glasgow Shipping Company. They were all named after Scottish lakes, and the fleet became known as the Loch Line—or as we will see, the “Unlucky Loch Line.” Over the span of 30 years, nearly half of the ships were lost.³

The ships carried general cargo and a few passengers from the U.K. to Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia, and returned with grain. Each outbound voyage took about three months, with another three months for unloading and reloading in the Australian ports. The return voyage took a further three months, so with time to unload and reload again, a round trip occupied the best part of a year. In spite of the growing reliance on steam, the company based its fortunes on wind power, and continued to operate its sailing vessels until it finally wound up its activities in 1912.

The typical outbound route would take them southward down the Atlantic, to round the tip of Africa at the Cape of Good Hope at roughly 35° south latitude. However, they were subject to the vagaries of the wind and weather, and at least one passenger on a sister ship recorded in her diary having sighted the coast of Brazil.

From there, the captains could steer a course nearly straight east to Australia. However, the winds were much stronger further south in what was referred to as “the Roaring Forties”—the area between 40° and 50° south latitude—where the ships could make much better time. The disadvantage was that this put them into an area where they

might encounter icebergs floating up from Antarctica. In spite of the added risks, mariners of the day tended to choose the faster route.



Figure 3: Kangaroo Island

Source: www.acacia-apartments.com.au

In January 1899, the *Loch Sloy* left Glasgow, down the River Clyde, bound for Adelaide. She carried general cargo, six passengers and a crew of 30. The ship’s provisions included ample supplies of canned and preserved foods, but without refrigeration, they also had live chickens, goats and pigs for eggs, milk and fresh meat. The ship was under the command of Captain Peter Nicol. It was his first voyage in command of the *Loch Sloy*, but he was considered to be an experienced officer and had made the voyage before in the role of first mate.⁴

One of the crew was William Mitchell, an able-bodied seaman.

On the night of 24 April 1899, after 109 days at sea without sighting land and navigating by sextant and



Figure 4: Route of the *Loch Sloy*

Source: Google maps

chronometer, the *Loch Sloy* was crossing south of Australia, approaching the harbour at Adelaide. The captain may have been following a southerly course and would have had to veer northward to approach the final leg into Adelaide harbour.

The port city of Adelaide is protected from the Southern Ocean by Kangaroo Island, a rather sparsely treed, windswept island some 140 km long by 50 km wide. He would have to follow a course through the channel between Kangaroo Island and the mainland and would have been guided by the lighthouse at Cape Borda, on the western edge of the island.

The weather conditions had deteriorated during the night with heavy rain and low-lying clouds obscuring the horizon. Also compounding the situation was an eastward current that tended to

drive the ship closer to the island. They overran their course and lost sight of the lighthouse.

The wind and tide began to sweep the ship onto the rocks, and when it was obvious that attempts to bring the big ship around had failed, the captain ordered everyone aloft into the rigging to avoid the seas

that were by now breaking over the decks.

Too little, too late. The crashing waves soon carried the masts, sails, passengers and crew into the surf, with the loss of all those on board—except for one passenger, David Kilpatrick, an apprentice, William Simpson and crewmen Duncan McMillan and William Mitchell. The crewmen managed to scale the cliffs and drag Kilpatrick, who had been severely injured, to a sheltered spot where they made him as comfortable as was possible under those conditions. The men also managed to retrieve some material from the wreckage, including a case of whiskey and a few tins of herring.

Over the next three days, the crewmen found some fresh water and fashioned a shelter for Kilpatrick. They then decided that McMillan should go in search of help while Mitchell and Simpson



The Times of London and the *New York Times*, among others, it was a major event in the young colony. Details of the wreck, the investigations that followed and the activities of the survivors were reported almost daily.

Figure 5: Wreck of the *Loch Ard*, sister ship of the *Loch Sloy*

Source: *Illustrated Sydney News*, 13 July 1878
La Trobe Picture Collection. State Library of Victoria

tended to Kilpatrick. However, when McMillan hadn't reappeared after two days, Mitchell and Simpson decided to go as well, leaving their supplies with Kilpatrick. On 8 May, 15 days after the wreck, McMillan managed to find the lighthouse and help—he returned with a couple of men on horseback, only to find that Kilpatrick had died of his injuries and exposure. They buried the body, and in later years a plaque was placed at the site.

Meanwhile, Mitchell and Simpson wandered for days before being rescued. They were found on 10 May, and William Mitchell, delirious and in rags, had a dead penguin around his neck on which he fed from time to time.

While the tragedy warranted mention in *The Glasgow Herald*,

Through *Trove*, the New South Wales website and *Papers Past* from New Zealand, I found extensive articles in these papers.²

The crewmen were taken to a hospice for sailors in Port Adelaide, where they recovered and later appeared before a Board of Enquiry.

The proceedings from the enquiry were published in newspapers in both Australia and New Zealand, and while the crewmen were commended for their actions, no fault was found with the captain or his actions. It was deemed an unfortunate accident.

As an indication of the celebrity status of the survivors, they were presented to Governor-General Hallam Tennyson and his wife at a luncheon held in their honour. Tennyson was the son of Alfred Lord Tennyson, the famous poet.

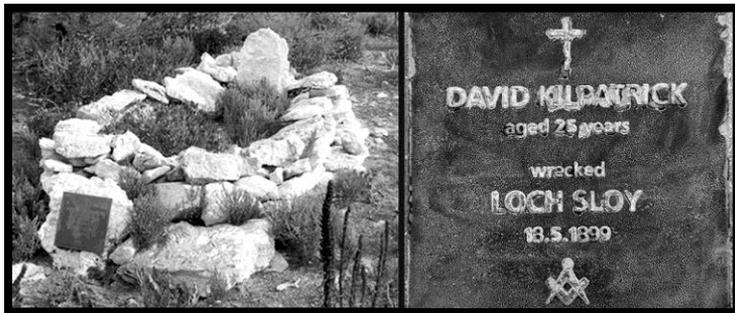


Figure 6: Kilpatrick grave and monument

Source: Graeme McGregor,
<http://www.abc.net.au/news>

The men were scheduled to return to Scotland on board the *Loch Rannoch*, a sister ship, but at the last moment, McMillan and Mitchell elected to stay on in Australia. While McMillan was reported to have eventually returned to sea, William Mitchell, who said that he had survived two previous shipwrecks, decided that he had had enough. It was the custom among British seafaring nations to offer employment on land to sailors who had survived a shipwreck and did not wish to go back to sea. The reports suggest that Mitchell asked for such employment, but no further record of his fate has been found to date, although the search continues.

While she was in Scotland on her honeymoon, I persuaded my daughter Heather to check a few details at the Mitchell Library and the Strathclyde University in Glasgow. She found that the

records of the shipping company had not survived, but did learn that the ship's manifest that would have described the crew

members in detail had been on the ship when it was lost.

There was a glimmer of hope that appeared by chance. I had posted my family tree on *Ancestry*, and it prompted an email from a woman in Western Australia. As a child, she had emigrated with her parents from Scotland to Australia after the Second World War.

Her parents were happy to cut the ties and leave Scotland behind, and were uninterested in family history. However, she wanted to learn more about her roots, and found the link from my tree to Martha, my grandfather's younger sister. She claimed to be a direct descendant of Martha.

She was enthusiastic about wanting to help search for William and contacted an elderly man living on Kangaroo Island. He said that he had been a prisoner-of-war in France during the First World War, and that another prisoner, on learning that he was Australian and from Kangaroo Island, had told him

that he was a survivor of the wreck of the *Loch Sloy*—but he couldn't remember the man's name.

Just to show that one should keep looking, I recently came across a blog by a PhD student at Flinders University in Adelaide, who is writing her thesis on the *Loch Sloy* disaster and those who perished. She quotes from several of the sources that I had found, but has added details about the victims and two of the survivors. Unfortunately, she has been unable to offer any new information about William Mitchell.⁴ This led to yet another recently posted reference to the ill-fated *Loch Sloy* that listed the passengers and crew in more detail, albeit without citing the source.

To my disappointment, William Mitchell is listed as an able-bodied seaman, age 47, from Caldewgate, Carlisle, in England. Time has not permitted further research, and I have to acknowledge that the William Mitchell in this story was probably not my grandfather's brother.

Although William's trail has run cold, I still had another brother, Samuel, to research.

Samuel

The youngest brother in the family was Samuel, born in 1875. He was two weeks past his fourth birthday when his mother died, and only 6

when placed in the home in Stevenston. His whereabouts were a mystery after that—the usual Scottish sources failed to turn up any sign of him.

I had received copies of the annual inspectors' reports for both my grandfather and his brother Matthew from Barnardo's Aftercare in England. (The boys had been sent by Quarriers to the Marchmont Home in Belleville, operated by Annie McPherson Homes. The Marchmont records were turned over to Barnardo's for safekeeping in 1925.)

A clue emerged from the reports on visits to my grandfather during his stay with the Spence family of Owen Sound. In one of them, dated 14 May 1886, my grandfather asked "... if Samuel would be coming out," suggesting that he knew that Samuel had been in a home in a situation similar to his own, and that perhaps he would be sent to Canada as well. This led me to a detailed re-examination of Home Children files at Library and Archives Canada and BIFHSGO, to no avail. Neither were there death records from Scotland that would indicate an early demise, like that of some of his siblings.

And so, in my idle moments, I submitted random entries for Samuel Mitchell in *FamilySearch* and *Ancestry*, and they produced a

vast array of results. It's astonishing to see the number of Samuel Mitchells born into this world. But narrowing the search down by birthdate and place generated one significant find.

The U.K. 1891 Census, found on *Ancestry*, revealed a Samuel Mitchell, born Glasgow, age 15, as an Assistant Steward aboard the SS *Martaban* lying at the Wapping Dock on the Mersey River in Liverpool. This had to be a lucky coincidence—to have the crew enumerated on the day when that ship was in that harbour.

The *Martaban* was owned by the British and Burmese Steam Navigation Company and plied the route from Glasgow and Liverpool to Rangoon, Burma. Thinking that Burma was in the general vicinity of Australia, I decided that this was a lead worth pursuing.

Thanks to the extensive records of crew lists for arriving vessels provided by *Ancestry*, it was possible to trace his career through the first half of the twentieth century through shipping and immigration records. Samuel literally travelled the world over the course of some 60 years.

But how to prove that this Samuel was the correct one? I had made several contacts among genealogists in Australia and New Zealand in my search for William, and I now

went back to them for help in tracing Samuel. Several offered suggestions, but one—bless her—was able to locate a reference in New South Wales marriages; of course, there was fee to be paid for a copy. Having come this far, I figured “in for a penny, in for a pound.” I sent the appropriate fee and requested a copy of the certificate. It arrived a few weeks later, and offered the following proof.

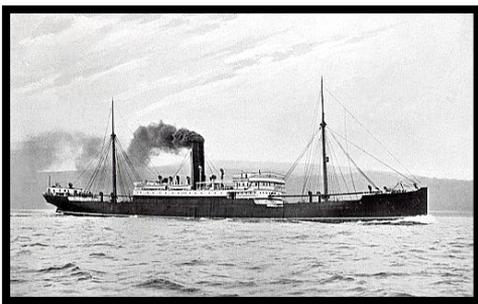


Figure 7: SS *Martaban*

Source: www.clydeside.co.uk

It is the marriage certificate for Samuel Mitchell and Agnes Kenniff. Samuel is recorded as a bachelor, age 26, born in Glasgow, and his occupation was a steward. His father was David Mitchell, a “shipwright.”

Well, David had worked on the Glasgow docks, perhaps related to ship-building—Matthew had told his wife and her family that his father David had been a “ship’s captain” to explain his long absences from home. We do try to put the best face on things.

Samuel's mother was stated as Martha Love (deceased). His mother's name was actually Jane, but her mother's name was Martha. Since Jane died when Samuel was only 4, and his younger sister Martha was but 2, and given the family's circumstances, his grandmother was likely involved in the children's care after Jane died; I think that it was an easy mistake.

I decided that—as someone said about parallel parking—“it's close enough” and I accepted this as sufficient proof that he was my grandfather's brother.

So I had an answer to my question. But having an answer always generates more questions—and I continued to track Samuel's story.

Samuel continued to ply the oceans of the world, but was at home sufficiently often to father two sons: Ernest Patrick in 1903 and Sidney Frank in 1911.

In the meantime, records indicate that he first arrived in the United States in 1903, via Victoria, B.C. He must have liked what he had seen, for the family emigrated to the U.S. in 1912 and settled in Seattle, where a third son, Samuel Jr., was born in 1915.⁵ They became naturalized citizens in 1921.

In the 1930 U.S. Census, Samuel and Agnes with their two younger sons were living in Orange County,

California, a suburb of Los Angeles. The eldest, Ernest, had married and remained in Seattle.

Back in Seattle in 1940, Samuel and Agnes were living in an apartment and Samuel was employed as a janitor in the Marine Cooks and Stewards Association union hall. It may have been a stop-gap measure, as he later went back to sea. Samuel continued to serve on board ships as a waiter and attendant. The records of crew lists also indicated that he was of slight build, 5' 3" tall and averaging about 130 pounds, with a tattoo on his left forearm. He sailed on both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on ships of a number of steamship companies, including those commandeered by the U.S. Government as troop ships in the Pacific during World War II.

The Seattle City Directory for 1940 lists Samuel and Agnes, and their occupations and residence. However, Agnes was missing in the 1942 edition, and later I found the record of her death in Australia in 1948.⁶

In searching for Samuel's death record, again there were multiple choices. But narrowing down the options, I sent a request to the Orange County, California, Vital Statistics Branch, and in due course received a copy of the death certificate. Again, I was lucky, for

the *Ancestry* website listed his birthplace as South Carolina, rather than Scotland.

Samuel died on 15 March 1960 in Garden Grove, Orange County, California, at 84 years of age. He had been living with his son Samuel for some 3½ years. His death certificate indicates that he had been living in California for 18 years, so he may have gone to live with his son after Agnes' death. His last employment was as a cook for the Far East Coast Line, a merchant marine shipping company. The certificate states that he had been employed in that occupation for 71 years.

Having come this far, I decided to find out what I could of his descendants. Searches for the families of Samuel's sons Sidney Frank and Samuel Jr. have been unsuccessful to date. However, I recently discovered a family tree on *Ancestry* that included Ernest Patrick, Samuel's eldest son. I am now corresponding with the author, who is a granddaughter of Ernest, and is living outside Seattle. We have established that we are second cousins!

In conclusion, I could now tell my mother that there was indeed a brother who went to Australia, although for a time it appeared that perhaps there might have been two.

Reference Notes

- ¹ Gifford Desmond Chapman, *Kangaroo Island Shipwrecks* (Roebuck Society, 1973), 37–41.
- ² Otago *Witness*, Wanganui *Herald*, 1899, digital images, *Papers Past* (www.natlib.govt.nz/); Melbourne *Argus*, Port Philip *Herald*, Adelaide *Advertiser*, 1899, digital images, *Trove* (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>).
- ³ (<http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/lines/loch.shtml>).
- ⁴ For a video describing Kangaroo Island and the story of the *Loch Sloy*, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps6SFa0AWUo> (accessed October 2013).
- ⁵ 1920 U.S. Census, Seattle, King, Washington, Roll T625_1931, p 25A, Enumeration District 331, Image 255, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com).
- ⁶ Certificate no. 3181/1948, digital image, *New South Wales Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths* (<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>).

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There is a fine line between a packrat
and a serious family historian.

By the Skin of My Teeth . . . ©



BY LEIGHANN C. NEILSON

As well as conducting a survey on genealogists, Leighann has been studying her own family history. This article reprises her recent "Great Moments" description of how she unravelled a family mystery.

I've learned a lot from attending BIFHSGO meetings—tips and tricks—all of which helped to shine some light on a shadowy corner of my family history.

When my father talks about his youth, his stories include lots of people from the local community, including many members of his maternal grandfather's family—the Scharfs—but strangely not so many about his maternal grandmother's people—the Fitzgeralds. I wondered why that was. I guess it was this information gap that made me curious.

We know a fair bit about my great-grandfather's side of the family, the Scharfs, but mostly because of what immigration historians like Professor Bruce Elliott have been able to tell us. Many of my ancestors were illiterate and so left very little residue. My three times great-grandfather Beacham Scharf (1805–1862) came to Canada with his parents, James and Ann, who are buried in the Scharf family cemetery in Hazeldean. Beacham's

son Nathaniel (1838–1910) was the first of my direct line born in Canada. Nathaniel married Sussannah Burroughs (1835–1897) around 1863, and in 1870, my great-grandfather, Ebenezar, was born. Ebenezar married a local girl, Mary Fitzgerald, in 1907.

We've had some talks at BIFHSGO recently about the usefulness of maps in family history research. Using the Belden Atlas of Carleton County from 1879, I was able to place the two families in close proximity to each other. The Scharfs had their farm on Concession 3, Lot 3 in March Township, and the Fitzgeralds were fairly close by, on the north half of Concession 2, Lot 1, Ottawa front, Nepean Township. For me, being able to visualize this was important because just reading their "locations" from census records doesn't tell you much when they are in different townships.

My father really didn't know much about his maternal grandmother except that she was a Fitzgerald and he thought her name was Mary. So I started with the usual

birth, marriage and death documents and was able to add a few names to the family tree, working collateral lines.

I learned that Mary Helena (1879–1942) was the oldest of seven children born to John Fitzgerald (1851–1920) and Annie Burns/Byrne (1858–1920). A sister, Hannah, followed in August 1882 and then another sister, Agnes, in September, 1885. On Christmas Day in 1885 tragedy struck the young family: Hannah died from diphtheria. Seven days later, on New Year's Day, 1886, diphtheria claimed her little sister Agnes as well.

Diphtheria is a contagious bacterial infection that is spread through direct contact or by breathing the airborne secretions of infected individuals. The poison caused by the bacteria can produce a thick coating in the nose, throat, or airway leading to breathing problems and difficulty in swallowing. If left untreated, it has a mortality rate of 40 to 50 per cent. Today, most children in North America and Europe are vaccinated against diphtheria at an early age, with the DPT (diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus) vaccine, and death from diphtheria in Canada is almost unknown.

We can well imagine that John must have had mixed feelings when, on 20 September 1886, he

reported the births of his son William and daughter Agnes to the County registrar, only to also report the deaths of Agnes and Hannah. The birth of William was followed by those of his brother John in 1889, then sisters Christina in 1891 and Ann Margaret in 1893.

But it was a tip that I picked up at my very first Great Moments meeting that really got things going with my research. At that meeting, a member was talking about his trip to a cemetery in the U.K. He took pictures of a gravestone that had fallen over but didn't think he'd found anything about the ancestor he was researching. If I remember the story correctly, when he returned home, he turned the photo upside down and there was the information he needed. So the lesson I took from that was to have a good look around, whether researching in cemeteries in person, or in archival records online.

As a result, I noticed that the deaths of siblings John and Christina Fitzgerald were recorded right beside each other in the death register. Then I found the death registrations of two more family members recorded on another page; all four had died in 1920. Information on individual family members had been transcribed by Ancestry.ca and I could have just recorded the basic data in my own records. But clicking the link to see

the original record and then having a look around is what gave me my first real clue as to why the Fitzgerald family did not figure prominently in my father's stories.

Although my family was not famous (they were just farm folk like so many others) I thought that four deaths in one family might merit some kind of mention in the newspaper. By 1920, in spite of continuing newsprint shortages following the end of World War I, the *Ottawa Evening Citizen* was publishing on a regular schedule, so I ordered up the microfilms. In the edition of 26 February 1920, I found the first two death notices: "Fitzgerald, at family residence Nepean, February 20, 1920 John Fitzgerald, in his 64th year," and immediately below, "Fitzgerald, at family residence Nepean, February 22, 1920, John Fitzgerald, son of the late John Fitzgerald, in his 27th year."

A short article in the same issue explained:

The late John Fitzgerald Sr. was found dead in his room last Friday evening by his daughter, Mrs. J. Daley, and on Sunday afternoon shortly after the other members of the family had returned from his funeral, his son John Fitzgerald, Jr. passed away. Mr. Fitzgerald, Sr. had just finished his supper and retired to his room. His wife sent her

daughter, Mrs. Daley, into the room later and she found him dead.

The Carleton County death register for Nepean Township indicates that John Sr. died from double pneumonia, complicated by pernicious anemia. His son John died from double pneumonia complicated by influenza. Christina, the Mrs. J. Daley, died a few days after her brother, on 26 February, from pneumonia complicated by influenza. Her sister Ann Margaret died the next day from peritonitis and pneumonia, complicated by influenza. The duty of reporting their deaths fell to the only surviving male member of the family, William.

The *Ottawa Evening Citizen* contained this article:

Four Deaths in One Family in a Week

A double funeral took place Saturday morning from the home of the late John Fitzgerald at Hazeldean. A fourth member of the family, Miss Annie Fitzgerald, died Friday night. Saturday morning her remains, along with those of the late Mrs. J. Daley, her sister, who passed away Thursday night, were interred in Fallowfield cemetery, following a funeral mass at St. Patrick's church, Fallowfield.

Of the Fitzgerald family, four members died during the week ending Friday. Mr. John Fitzgerald, Sr. was found dead on the evening of Friday, February 20. A short time

after his funeral, the following Sunday, his son, John, passed away. Thursday his daughter, Mrs. J. Daley, died and on Friday his youngest daughter, Annie, passed away. She was 23 years of age and was born at Hazeldean, and lived there all her life.

Besides her mother, she is survived by one sister, Mrs. E. Scharf, of Hazeldean, and one brother, William, at home.

Mrs. E. Scharf was my great-grandmother, Mary Fitzgerald, by birth.

The death records listed the cause of death as pneumonia or peritonitis and pneumonia. Influenza was listed as a contributing factor. But not being a medical doctor, that didn't really tell me much. This is where knowing an Ottawa historian came in really handy. Professor John Taylor, partner of BIFHSGO member Ruth Kirk, told me that these medical conditions were often written as the cause of death during the Spanish Influenza epidemic. Then he provided the key piece of information: the influenza epidemic came in waves, with minor outbreaks occurring in various places throughout the Ottawa Valley through the early 1920s.

Jadranka Bacic's (1999) research on the influenza epidemic in Ottawa, published by the Ottawa Historical Society, was quite

helpful.¹ Bacic relates that Spanish Influenza killed between 30,000 and 50,000 people in Canada during a four- to five-month period in the winter of 1918. This compares with approximately 60,000 Canadians killed in World War I. The disease first appeared in Ottawa in the last week of September 1918. By the end of October, over 440 people were dead. In total over 500 Ottawans died during the last four months of 1918.

The influenza virus was an airborne pathogen that infected the respiratory tract through close contact. The disease was often accompanied by respiratory ailments such as pneumonia and pleurisy. The Spanish flu was unusual in that it killed young adults, between 18 and 35 years, at a time when respiratory ailments like pneumonia tended to affect infants and seniors. It killed men and women equally. A second wave of infections appeared in the early months of 1919, and minor outbreaks occurred through 1920.

The Carleton County death register revealed several other deaths from pneumonia or the combination of pneumonia and influenza during the same period of 1920 during which my family members passed away. However, a search of the newspaper for the surrounding time period failed to turn up any

discussion of an influenza outbreak.

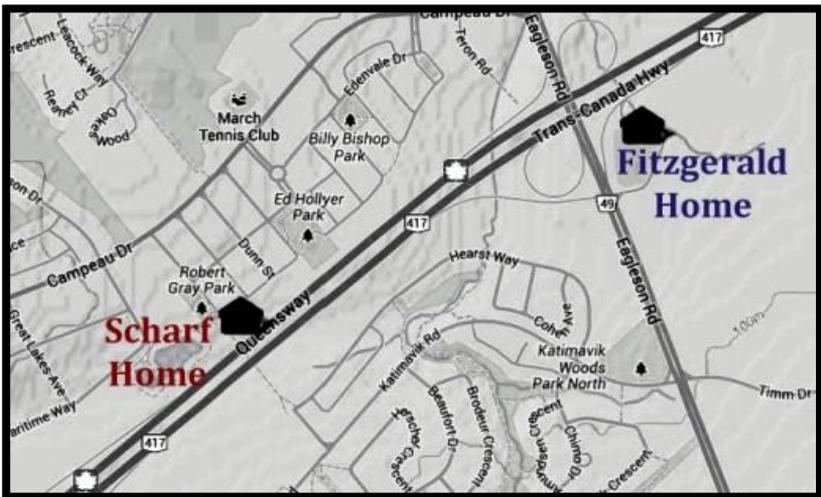
I was struck by the idea that it seemed everyone who came into the house died, except Mary's mother Annie. I wondered how Mary and her brother William had escaped the same fate.

William was fairly easy to figure out. Although the newspaper said William was living at home, it seems unlikely. I think it's more likely that the death registry is correct when it lists his residence as Britannia Bay. And in the recently released 1921 Census I found a William Fitzgerald, of the correct age, living with cousins in the village of Bell's Corners and working as a labourer. I still have to confirm that this is the William I'm looking for, but it seems likely. So whatever it was that killed four

family members, William escaped because he probably wasn't there.

Figuring out how my great-grandmother Mary escaped took a bit more detective work. The map below shows you where the two families lived, based on family tradition. The Fitzgerald farm was located where the Park and Ride is now found on Eagleson Road at the Queensway. The Scharf homestead was a little farther down the Queensway, close to where the pedestrian overpass now exists. Both the 1911 and 1921 censuses show the Scharf family living in March Township, in a census sub-district that includes this area.

Mary had already given birth to Sussannah Helena (my grandmother, known as Lena), Vivian, Herman, and Russell. She was pregnant with her last child, Billy,



when the flu virus infected her family. We don't know if Mary attended her father's funeral or visited the family home. It seems unlikely, given the advanced state of her pregnancy and the distance she would have had to travel between what is now Kanata and the church at Fallowfield village. There has also been the suggestion that family ties may have been weakened by her decision to marry a Protestant.

A birth notice in the *Ottawa Evening Citizen* holds the key to the mystery. It records the birth, on 25 February 1920, of a son to a Mr. and Mrs. E. Scharf. It appears that Billy had the good sense, if we might call it that, to be born in-between the deaths of his grandfather and uncle and the deaths of his two aunts. But as so often happens with family history, this information helped to solve one mystery while creating another: the address provided in the birth announcement posed a problem.

No one in the family today could remember the Scharf family ever living in Ottawa, much less at 73 Willow Street. The Ottawa City Directories for 1909, 1915 and 1919 show the family of Emerson Budroe, a printer, living there.

However, the birth announcement also said that the birth occurred at the Ottawa Maternity Hospital,

which was located on Rideau Street near Wurtemberg, in Ottawa. Given that the hospital operated until 1924, it seems likely that this part of the birth announcement supports my reasoning that Mary wasn't home; she was in the hospital in Ottawa. And my grandmother Lena, as the oldest daughter, was likely needed at home.

So was the Budroe family somehow related to the Scharfs? Did Mary lodge with them as the birth of her child neared? Well, isn't that the best part of doing family history? Now I have another mystery to explore!

In any case, if Mary Helena had been exposed to the virus, there is a strong possibility that she too would have died, and Lena's life would have been radically altered. And if Mary had sent her 12-year-old daughter (my grandmother Lena) in her place, many of us may never have been born. By the skin of my teeth . . .

Epilogue

Mary's mother, Annie Fitzgerald, died four months later, in June 1920, from a cerebral haemorrhage, having lapsed into a coma. Christina's daughter, Anna Agnes, died in hospital in July 1920, from acute enteritis (inflammation of the small bowel). She was only 1

year old. The family is buried at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Fallowfield, Ontario.



Figure 1: Mary Fitzgerald Scharf

Source: family collection

In 2011, at my Aunt Mary's funeral, one of her daughters mentioned having found a box of family

photographs. While not wanting to seem uncaring or rude, two of my cousins (also family historians) and I seized the opportunity and offered to scan the photographs, so that they would not be lost to the larger family. In that box we found a photograph of our Great-Uncle Billy as a boy, and several images of our great-grandparents, Ebenezer Scharf and Mary Fitzgerald. These were the first images we had seen and the only images of his grandparents that my father has today.

Reference Notes

¹ Jadranka Bacic, *The Plague of the Spanish Flu: the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 in Ottawa* (Ottawa: Ottawa Historical Society, 1999).

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In Memoriam

Gerry Neville, 10 January 2014; a founding member of BIFHSGO, he was its first Vice-President (Publishing). A knowledgeable and generous genealogist, he was also the author of numerous genealogical publications.

Bernice Severson, 31 January 2014; member no. 81 in 1994, she took on the positions of Director of Communications, Education, and Education & Queries during the 1990s.

John Price and the "Perthshire Grey Breeks"



BY BETTY WARBURTON

Along with serving as the BIFHSGO Librarian, Betty has found time to uncover the military history of some interesting ancestors. Here she reveals a 200-year-old tale of service in a Scottish regiment.

Nineteenth-century census records told me that my four times great-uncle John Price was a Chelsea pensioner. Thus I knew that, at some time in the early 1800s, he had served in the British Army and had been discharged for medical reasons. For some time, I contented myself with dreaming of him participating in the Battle of Waterloo or serving with Wellington in Spain. Late in 2011, I invested in a subscription to the database *findmypast* and found John Price's discharge papers from the 90th Regiment of Foot (Perthshire Light Infantry), where he had served in various foreign campaigns.

This account is based mainly on that single-sheet discharge paper and on two e-books, cited in the bibliography below. For fuller accounts of the campaigns in Martinique and Guadeloupe please refer to these books.

The 90th Regiment of Foot

After the British terminated the Treaty of Amiens in May 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte began to assemble thousands of men and flat-bottomed barges on the shores of northern France in preparation for an invasion of England. The threatened invasion ended when Admiral Nelson defeated the French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar on 21 October 1805. Between 1803 and 1805 there was a desperate need for soldiers to defend Britain.

On 10 April 1805, in Lewes, Sussex, 19-year-old John Price enlisted in the 90th Regiment of Foot (or Perthshire Volunteers) for unlimited service. What was he doing so far from his family and birthplace in Herefordshire? John, the eldest son of Joseph Price (or Pryce) and Elizabeth Saunders, had been baptized 11 April 1785 in Bromyard, Herefordshire. On that occasion the parish priest wrote in the register, "no duty paid. The parents receiving Parish Pay at the time."¹

The son of poor parents and himself a poor labourer, had John drifted southeast in his search for work or had a sense of adventure moved him to look for greener pastures? Had that same adventurous spirit suggested that the life of a soldier offered more opportunity than that of a labourer? Had John enlisted because he was unable to find work? Or even drifted into enlisting, dazzled by the fine red coats of the recruiting party, or just liking the idea of having one whole shilling in his pocket?²² For whatever reason, John Price made his mark on the document offered him by the recruiting party and became a private in the 90th Regiment of Foot.

Thomas Graham, the wealthy Scottish Laird of Balgowan, had raised this Perthshire regiment in 1794. Some of the original recruits had been serving time in prison when they enlisted, and it is thought that the regiment may have earned its nickname of the “Perthshire Grey Breeks” because many of these recruits were wearing their grey prison clothing when they enlisted.

Colonel Graham was an advocate of rigorous training. The Battle of Mandora (Egypt, 1801), earned the regiment the commendation from General Abercromby that its

“meritorious conduct commands admiration.”³ After the campaign in Egypt ended, the regiment was posted to Malta, England, Scotland and Ireland, before embarking for the West Indies in January 1805. There the regiment acted as garrison for the island of St. Vincent.

In the meantime, a second battalion was raised in Scotland in 1804, moved south by way of Ireland and Wales, arriving in Portsmouth in June 1805, where the new recruit John Price probably joined them.

Along with the other recruits, John would have been marched off to nearby barracks with reminders from the sergeant to “Pick up those feet” and “Straighten up. Pull those shoulders back. You’re soldiers of the King now, m’lads.”

The new recruits were issued fine red woolen coats and tall black shakos as well as sturdy boots, trousers, a knapsack and other accoutrements.⁴ As a private in the British Army, John would be fed, clothed and paid regularly. But it would be a rough life. The lower ranks of the regiment, the privates, lance-corporals, corporals and sergeants, were usually poor, illiterate labourers, like John; they included Englishmen (speaking many different dialects), Scotsmen and Irishmen, some of whom spoke no English and some with criminal



Figure 1: British soldiers

Source: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Officer_and_a_private_1812_40th.jpg
#filelinks

records. They swore, drank, gambled and whored.

Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, once called most of them “the scum of the earth,” but admitted they could be made into fine soldiers.⁵ They could be flogged for the smallest infraction of discipline—even for a dirty button. In peacetime, “spit and polish” was important and countless hours were spent polishing brass buttons, blacking shoes and cleaning equipment.

Through endless drills on the parade ground, young John and the other recruits learned the skills of

an infantryman—to stand at attention and to present arms, as well as the use and firing of a musket and the use of the bayonet. Veterans would have introduced John and the others to the traditions of the regiment and recounted with pride the story of the Battle of Mandora. Soon the regiment must have become John’s second family.

John’s officers, on the other hand, were usually drawn from the ruling classes—the sons of landed gentry, of civil servants, of politicians or of other officers; that is, from families with the wealth to buy a commission in Britain’s army and maintain the lifestyle expected of an officer, who was required to purchase expensive uniforms and much of his equipment. Often the pay an officer received was not enough to even pay his mess bill. He was expected to act like a gentleman, have very good manners and some education, but generally he was more interested in sporting activities than arts and science. As well, he was expected to be brave, obedient and loyal to his regiment and to the reigning sovereign.

In peacetime, officers’ duties were not onerous and there was plenty of time to play polo and other sports, to attend dances and to socialize. Discipline, drill and the feeding and well-being of the

troops were the responsibility of the commanding officer, the adjutant and the quartermaster. On campaign, however, most officers led their men bravely and well.

Service in the West Indies

John Price's discharge paper records that he "was at the Capture of Martinique in 1809 and Guadeloupe in 1810 and Served in the Campaign of the Americas in 1814 and 1815" and that, out of his total 15 years and 107 days of army service, he served 8 years and 48 days in the West Indies.⁶ There was no separate calculation for the time he served in Canada or in Europe.

In the spring of 1806, John sailed from Portsmouth for St. Vincent to join the regiment's First Battalion as a replacement for soldiers who had died of disease. In 1806 alone, the regiment reported 150 deaths from fever. It was policy that the regiments in the West Indies remain at full strength in case, at any moment, they were called upon to act either in defence or attack.

During the next two-and-a-half years, as he patrolled with other soldiers of his regiment, John would have become well-acquainted with the 150 square miles of tiny St. Vincent: from the capital Kingstown in the south to Baleine Bay in the north and from its black sand beaches to its

mountainous central spine. John likely made the trek at least once to the lip of the crater of the 4000-foot-high volcano Soufrière and, trying not to breathe its sulphurous fumes, gazed with awe at the bubbling lava below. And always there were the endless drills: presenting arms, standing at attention, loading and firing muskets and using the bayonet.

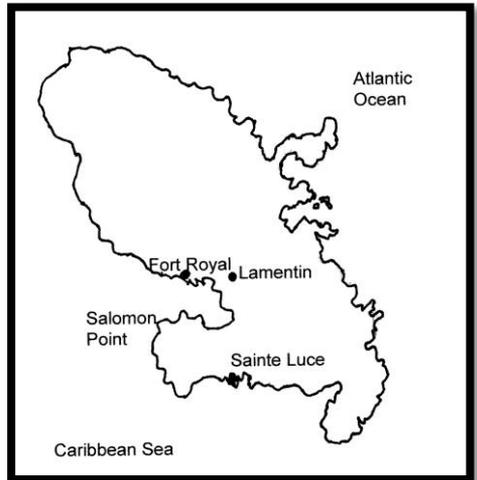


Figure 2: Martinique in 1809

Source: author

The monotony ended on 30 January 1809, when two British divisions under the command of Sir George Beckwith, Commander-in-Chief of British forces in the Windward and Leeward Islands, invaded the French island of Martinique. John Price was among the soldiers of the 90th Regiment selected to participate. At last, I'm sure John and his comrades

thought, they could prove themselves as soldiers.

The 90th Regiment, within the Second Division under General Maitland, landed on the southwest coast of the island between Point Salomon and the town of Sainte-Luce. In spite of incessant rain, the invading forces moved quickly north towards the capital, Fort-Royal.⁷ At Lamentin, the division met the main body of the French militia, who surrendered and were easily persuaded to return to their plantations. After 300 men of the 90th Regiment seized the French hospitals in Fort-Royal, the town surrendered on 10 February.

Now only Fort-Desaix, built on a hill overlooking the town, offered resistance. The British besieged the fort as they moved cannon, mortars and howitzers into place. The unrelenting bombardment that began on 19 February probably hurt John's ears and made his head ache. Never would he have heard such a noise. The bombardment disabled most of the French guns and exploded a powder magazine. On 24 February, the French capitulated.

The 90th Regiment remained on the island as a garrison and, during their stay, dismantled Fort-Desaix. John and his comrades may have grumbled, as they worked, about being nothing but "navvies."

In November 1809, Sir George Beckwith received orders to attack the island of Guadeloupe, which was still in the possession of the French, who had recently received reinforcements and strengthened the fortifications on the island. Sir George immediately concentrated his forces in the island of Dominica. He formed his army into two divisions and a reserve. The 90th Regiment, along with John Price, was recalled from Martinique to become part of the First Division.

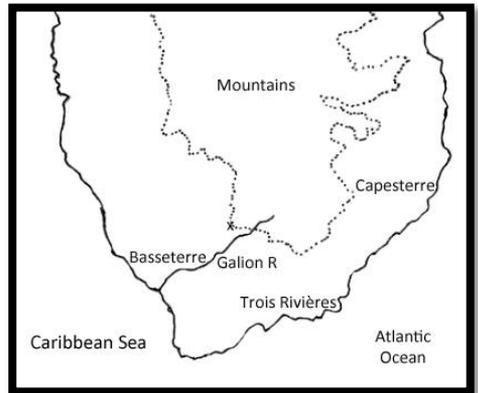


Figure 3: Guadeloupe in 1810

Source: author

The First Division and the reserve sailed from Dominica on 27 January 1810 for Guadeloupe. Early the next morning the troops landed without opposition on the mountainous island of Basseterre (the western half of Guadeloupe) near the town of Capesterre. Sweating in their red woollen jackets because of the excessive heat, the troops marched south, hugging the coast and avoiding the mountainous

spine of the island. Even so, the country was rugged, especially through the pass known as Troue-Chien.

To add to their misery, there was heavy rain during the night. As they approached the town of Trois-Rivières on the morning of 30 January, they began to meet small detachments of the enemy. In the evening, to the surprise of the British, the French abandoned their posts on the heights near the town, leaving their field artillery behind. After obtaining more provisions from the fleet, on 2 February the British troops began to move north towards the Galion River.

The French, under General Ernouf, had selected a defensive position on high ground behind the Noire River. John and his comrades may have looked with dismay at the steep rugged slope across the river; it was bushy and full of rocks. As well, the French had reinforced their line, which extended into the mountainous spine of the island, at every accessible point with abatis⁸ and redoubts.⁹ Assault would be difficult.

Meanwhile, on 30 January, the Second Division had landed north of the town of Basseterre, the capital of Guadeloupe, and then moved south to join the First Division and cut communication between Basseterre and the forces

of General Ernouf. The First Division, soon after dawn on 3 February, crossed the Galion River under heavy fire from a French battery at the bridge of Vozière. That night, the 90th Regiment occupied the buildings and estate of a M. Pelletier. Perhaps John Price, now an experienced soldier, enjoyed a good night's sleep in one of the barns of the estate.

The next day, the British reserve division crossed the river and successfully assaulted the left flank of the enemy. The French, apparently believing that the difficult mountainous terrain offered good protection and not expecting an assault on that flank, instantly hoisted white flags in surrender. The next morning, 5 February, the terms of capitulation were signed. The French marched out with military honours and became prisoners of war. The French losses were 600 killed and 2000 prisoners; the British lost 52 officers and men killed, 250 wounded, and 7 missing.

At some time in 1810, the 90th Regiment returned to St. Vincent.

With the capture of Guadeloupe, France lost its last possession in the Americas. In 1803, Napoleon had sold Louisiana to the United States and the British had occupied the tiny islands of St. Pierre and

Miquelon in the Gulf of St. Lawrence early in the conflict.

While not much was happening in the Caribbean, important events were happening elsewhere. During 1811, the British, under General Arthur Wellesley (recently appointed Viscount Wellington of Talavera), had driven the French forces out of Portugal. In 1812, the British seized the great Spanish fortresses of Badajoz and Ciudad Roderigo and entered Madrid. In June, the American Congress declared war on Great Britain and threatened Canada.

The same year, Napoleon's invasion of Russia had ended in an ignominious retreat. The following year, victorious British forces crossed the Pyrenees into France and, in October, the combined armies of Prussia, Austria, Russia and Sweden defeated the French at Leipzig in Prussia.

The officers and men of the 90th Regiment must have chafed to see others winning honour and glory, while they lingered in what had become a Caribbean backwater. Even their colonel, Sir Thomas Graham, was making a name for himself. When the regiment went to the West Indies in 1805, Sir Thomas had remained in Europe to serve as aide-de-camp to Sir John Moore, and, after Moore's death at Corunna in 1808, to Sir Arthur

Wellesley during his campaign in Portugal and Spain. For his service, Sir Thomas had been made a peer and had taken the title of Lord Lynedoch.

John Price would remember well the day in 1812 that the earth shook and Soufrière erupted. The event was described in a letter sent from the island, dated 17 May 1812:

On the 28th, 29th, and 30th of April, the island was visited by an earthquake, and at the same time one of the mountains vomited forth large quantities of lava. Strong detachments of the 90th Regiment stationed at Olivia, and close to the mountain whence the fluid first issued, had a most miraculous escape. The barracks in which they were quartered were completely demolished by stones falling on them, the arms and clothing totally destroyed, but most fortunately not a European perished. Upwards of twenty negroes who did not desert their huts fell victims to the awful visitation. The 90th (upwards of 1,000) are in good spirits, and the island is considered healthy.¹⁰

John and the regiment were occupied for some time after the catastrophe in helping the inhabitants repair the damage that the earthquake had caused.

Canada and Another War

There must have been cheers and celebration in late 1813, when the news arrived that the regiment was

being posted to Canada. In North America, battles were still being fought along the border between Canada and the United States.

Before the regiment departed, there were several formal presentations with addresses expressing regret at the loss of important members of the community, appreciation of the good relationship established during the regiment's stay of almost nine years, and best wishes for the future.

No doubt eagerly anticipating action in Canada, the regiment bade farewell to Kingstown and tiny St. Vincent with its palm trees, black sand beaches and volcano, and, on 5 May 1814, boarded troopships bound for Quebec and Kingston in Upper Canada. The regiment arrived on 20 June to find Quebec

buzzing with the news that Napoleon had abdicated in April and the war in Europe was likely at an end, but that Britain was still at war with the United States.

In Canada, at that time,

waterways were the usual means of transportation, for roads were few. The 90th Regiment would have loaded men, supplies and equipment into barges for the journey up the St. Lawrence River to Kingston. It was a slow journey, especially between Montreal and Kingston, because of rapids. At each set of rapids, passengers disembarked to walk around the portage; all able-bodied men would be expected to help handle the ropes as the boats were towed through the rough waters. It was 8 July before John Price and his regiment arrived at Kingston.

The junction of the Cataraqui and St. Lawrence Rivers at the head of Lake Ontario had long been regarded as a strategic military site. In 1673, the French had built a fort and trading post there, only to have them destroyed by the British

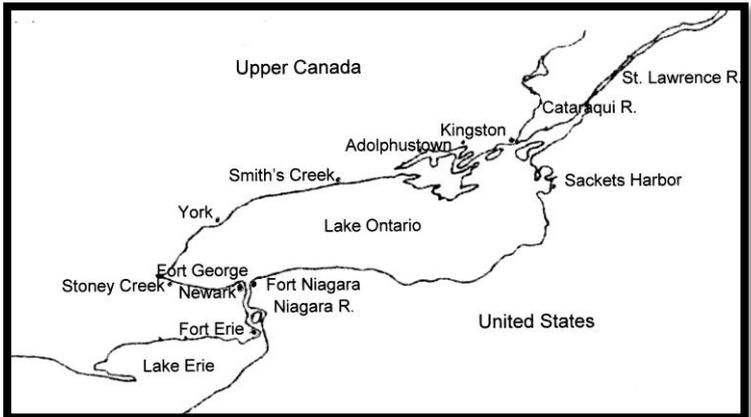


Figure 4: War of 1812 locations

Source: author

during the Seven Years' War. Refugees fleeing the American Revolution in 1784 settled on the west bank of the Cataraqui River and established the town of Kingston. In 1789, the Royal Naval Dockyard was built on Point Frederick, east of the town.¹¹ When hostilities with the United States began in 1812, a wooden fort was built on the high ground of Point Henry to protect the dockyard.

The duties of the 90th Regiment were to protect the dockyard and assist in monitoring the maritime traffic on the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, as loss of this vital shipping route would have cut off supplies to Kingston and the rest of Upper Canada.

For the next three months, John and his regiment patrolled the north banks of the St. Lawrence River and the shores of Lake Ontario around Kingston, ever watchful for any unusual activity on the American side of the river. That summer there was little activity at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, except for the unsuccessful British attack on the American naval dockyard at Sackets Harbor at the end of May.

When John's regiment arrived in Kingston, this event was likely still a lively topic of conversation among the inhabitants of Kingston, as they voiced their concern that

the Americans now had naval supremacy on Lake Ontario.

From local gossip, the new regiment would also learn about other events of the war. There was the Americans' raid on nearby Gananoque and other skirmishes along the St. Lawrence River during the previous summer, all of which ended when the British garrison at Prescott captured the U.S. town of Ogdensburg. Americans also burned Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) on the Niagara River the previous December, leaving its inhabitants with no shelter in bitter winter weather. These events, as well as the looting of York (now Toronto) and the burning of its parliament building in April 1813, would have elicited bitter denunciations from the Loyalist population of Kingston. Therefore the news that the British Navy had attacked Washington and burned the White House in August 1814 would be considered just retribution for these atrocities.

During the summer of 1814, several hundred miles to the west along the Niagara River, bloody battles were being fought. There was a particularly bloody engagement at Lundy's Lane on 25 July, while the siege of Fort Erie lasted most of the summer and fall, from its seizure by the Americans on 3 July until their withdrawal on 14 November.

All summer long, John Price and the 90th Regiment patrolled the banks of the St. Lawrence River and the north shore of Lake Ontario. September brought the usual magnificent display of autumn colours to the forests of Upper Canada—a phenomenon many of the soldiers had not seen since leaving Britain many years before. And the 90th Regiment began packing in preparation for their move to Fort Niagara on the American side of the Niagara River. They set out on 13 October for Fort George, the headquarters for the Centre Division of the British Army. The regiment marched over the corduroy roads on the north shore of Lake Ontario, past the small farms cleared in the forests by settlers and through the small Loyalist settlements: Adolphus-town (now part of Napanee), Smith's Creek (now Port Hope), York (still scarred from the American attack the previous year), Stoney Creek (the site of a British victory the previous year) and past the ashes of Newark.

There were probably snowflakes in the air when they crossed the Niagara River to Fort Niagara, which they occupied during the winter of 1814/15. It was likely, as the weather grew colder, that John Price experienced the first twinges of the rheumatism that would lead to his discharge five years later.

Perhaps during his patrols around Fort Niagara, John had the opportunity to see the great thundering waters of Niagara Falls.

Spring brought news of the Treaty of Ghent, signed in December 1814, which ended the war between the United States and Great Britain. Fort Niagara was returned to the Americans on 22 May 1815 and the 90th Regiment crossed the river to Fort George. Ten days later they set out on the long journey back to Britain.

Europe, Then a Return Home

The voyage home was uneventful. Everyone was likely looking forward to seeing familiar places and faces, when, on 3 August 1815, they sighted Spithead. There, despatches were waiting, ordering the regiment to join the army of occupation in France.

The messenger probably brought the first news of Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo, as well as the welcome news that "the Prince Regent had been pleased in the name and behalf of His Majesty, to approve of the 90th Regiment, or Perthshire Volunteers, being formed into a Light Infantry corps."¹² The regiment could now look forward to replacing their muskets with rifles and learning new drills to fight independently as skirmishers.

The regiment finally returned to English shores in June 1816 after spending the winter in the small commune of Garches, about 10 miles west of Paris. The following two years were spent in Plymouth, followed by short stays in Chatham, Brighton and Hulsea Barracks at Portsmouth. Ongoing protests in the Manchester area by handloom cotton weavers seeking better wages had culminated in a bloody riot, 16 August 1819, popularly known as the Peterloo Massacre. In October 1819, to help keep law and order in the area, the 90th Regiment was posted to nearby Macclesfield and Stockport in Cheshire.

During the previous five years, John Price's rheumatism had continued to cripple him. When it became known in 1820 that the regiment would likely be sent overseas, John was discharged "in consequence of Rheumatismus Chronicus contracted in N. America in 1814."¹² Acknowledging that he had received all just demands of pay, clothing, etc., on 25 July 1820 John made his mark on the discharge paper. This paper also described John as being 35 years old, five feet, seven inches tall, with light hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion; his trade was labourer.

As he painfully made his way home to his family in Bromyard, John

may have wondered what changes had occurred during his long absence. Because neither John nor other members of his family could read or write, it was unlikely they had exchanged letters, unless they persuaded or paid someone to write letters for them.

Except for a racecourse built in 1815 by returning veterans of the recent wars, there were actually few changes in Bromyard. But there were many changes in his family. His mother was still living, but his father had died in 1808. His brother William, a shoemaker, was living in Norton Township (just east of the town). He had married Jane Price in 1815 and had two children—5-year-old James and 4-month-old Elizabeth.

John never married. Census records tell us that John lived with relatives until his death: with his brother William and his family in 1841; in 1851, blind as well as crippled with rheumatism, with his widowed nephew James and his young family; and in 1861, with his niece Elizabeth and her husband Benjamin Basey.

His stories of volcanoes and earthquakes, of war and of life in faraway lands, as well as his contributions to the household budget from his government pension, although small, would have made him a welcome addition

to most households. John Price died at the age of 79 and was buried on 1 May 1864 in Bromyard churchyard.

John Price, along with the officers and men who had participated in the successful campaigns in Martinique and Guadeloupe and whose names appear on the Peninsula Medal Roll, was eligible to apply for the Military General Service Medal. It was approved 1 June 1847 as a retrospective award for various military actions from 1793 to 1814 and was awarded only to surviving claimants who applied for it. Because of his illiteracy and his failing eyesight, it is doubtful that John did so. If he had applied, John's medal would have had two clasps—one for Martinique and one for Guadeloupe.

Reference Notes

- ¹ From 1783 to 1793, the clergy was ordered to collect a tax on register entries of baptisms and burials unless the person was a pauper. This extra work was resented and anyone not paying Land Tax might be offered the 'P' (meaning pauper) designation.
- ² Formerly, in Britain, a shilling handed to a new recruit on his joining military service was considered as binding as a contract.
- ³ Alexander M. Delavoie, *Records of the 90th Regiment* (London: Richardson & Co., 1880), p. 36.

- ⁴ This was the standard uniform adopted by the British Army between 1800 and 1808. Prior to 1800 each regiment had its own uniform, although most adopted red coats.
- ⁵ Wikipedia contributors, "Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington," entry, *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia* (Wikipedia.org: accessed 4 February 2014).
- ⁶ In World War II, my husband's service overseas with the RCAF was calculated from the day he left Canada for Great Britain until the day his ship left Liverpool to return him to Canada. I have used the same formula to calculate John Price's service in the West Indies. If, however, John's service overseas included the time he spent in Canada and in Europe, his arrival in St Vincent would be two years later.
- ⁷ Now known as Fort de France.
- ⁸ An obstacle of trees with sharpened branches directed toward the enemy.
- ⁹ An independent earthwork built within a permanent fortification.
- ¹⁰ Delavoie, pp. 76–77.
- ¹¹ Now the site of the Royal Military College.
- ¹² Delavoie, p. 80.
- ¹³ "Discharge document of John Price. WO97/994/27. Chelsea Pensioners and Militia. British Army Service Records 1760–1915," digital images, findmypast, (www.findmypast.co.uk, accessed 14 Jan 2012).

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Great Moments in Genealogy 14 June 2014

Grandma Ruth's New Fur Jacket—Susan Davis' grandmother, Ruth Robinson, received a mink jacket in 1956 that she mentioned in her diaries. Susan is now the grateful caretaker of both the teddy bears made from this jacket and Ruth's diaries from the period.

A Tale of Illegitimacy, Music, Mistresses and the Windham-Guises—Gillian Leitch follows up on her Fall 2013 article in *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, which described her surprise at uncovering wealthy and well-known ancestors, with new information on her illustrious English forebears.

John Armstrong Fielder: Is This All There Is to Him?—Judy Thamas thought that she had gathered all the facts available about her grandfather, but a sudden Google inspiration led to some adventures and a surprising result.

Finding My Great-Great-Grandmother in London, England—Brian Chamberlain used a variety of techniques and sources to track down where his ancestor, Maria Matilda Snooks, came from in England and what she did after her arrival in Canada.



Celebrating
our ancestry for **20** years

Family History Writing Competitions

Write and share the story of your family

COMPETITION A

*(Entrants need not be BIFHSGO members,
but must be under 22 years of age at the competition closing date)*

Write about any aspect of your family history

COMPETITION B

(Entrants must be BIFHSGO members)

Write about your family with British Isles roots

*The entry deadline is midnight,
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Prizes for each competition are

1st Prize—\$300

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-

For competition queries:
competition@bifhsgo.ca or 613-729-8021

Techniques and Resources

The Cream of the Crop

Top items from recent posts on the Anglo-Celtic Connections and Family Tree Knots blogs



BY JOHN D. REID AND KEN MCKINLAY

Notice anything different? Two heads being better than one, we've doubled up on the number of authors.

Library and Archives Canada

Around the time you receive this it will be the tenth anniversary of Library and Archives Canada, the institution established to combine Canada's previous National Library and National Archives entities. The Act that governs its operation received Royal Assent by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson on 22 March 2004. The *Library and Archives of Canada Act* makes no mention of genealogy, the closest it comes being four mentions of materials of "historical or archival value."

LAC failed to live up to this promising start. As about two-thirds of LAC's direct clients are family historians, and most BIFHSGO members take advantage of our ready access to LAC facilities, we felt the decline especially keenly.



In 2013 the Librarian and Archivist left under a cloud. We'd hoped to be able to report on the new Librarian and Archivist of Canada by now, as it is over six months that the duties have been performed on an interim basis. It appears that at least the decline has been halted.

According to a press release from LAC, Public Works and Government Services Canada is undertaking the digitization of about 640,000 Canadian Expeditionary Force service files, to be made available on its "Soldiers of the First World War" database for free. The files will be converted alphabetically, in order of the CEF members' last names, beginning in March; files for letters A to D, for example, will be inaccessible until this summer. Throughout the process, 75 per cent of the collection will still be accessible, however.

Each file contains, on average, 49 images, for a total of over 32,000,000 images or almost 617 terabytes of scanned information. They will be searchable by various keywords. The original files will be stored at the LAC facilities in Gatineau.

In the meantime we await the overdue appointment of a new Librarian and Archivist, hopefully someone with a client focus, to pull the organization back to meeting its national leadership role.

***FamilySearch* Plans and Progress**

Digitization is a challenge. According to *FamilySearch* CEO Dennis Brimhall, speaking at RootsTech in February:

For the top countries with the highest online research demand, using our existing resources and volunteers, it will take up to 300 years to index the 5.3 billion records that we already have. That means you and me and the next 10 generations of our posterity would not live to personally benefit from them. And there are another 60 billion records that still need to be digitally preserved. We can do significantly better by working together with other organizations and as a community.

FamilySearch will collaborate on digitization projects with *Ancestry*, *Archives*, *findmypast*, *Fold3*, and *MyHeritage*.

The companies are also increasing and broadening access to the records that *FamilySearch* has already published online. In January *Ancestry* added tens of millions of such records to their collections for 27 countries, where they're available to add to your family tree.

Recently *FamilySearch* added 4,490,808 entries in "England, Norfolk Register of Electors, 1844–1952" and 1,161,877 entries for "Norfolk Bishop's Transcripts, 1685–1941," the largest collections digitized recently. Also of potential interest are parish registers: 720,830 records from Bristol, 537,556 from Essex, 447,092 from Dorset and 204,049 for non-conformists of Cheshire.

London Cemeteries

On Boxing Day *Deceased Online* started adding records from London's Kensal Green Cemetery to its collection. Full digital scans of all original burial reference books and records indicating those buried in each grave are now available. Also online are digital images of the original cremation registers up to 1993, with computerized records thereafter, and all records for West London Crematorium, 1939–2010, located at the same site.

This is the second of the London "Magnificent Seven" cemeteries available through *Deceased Online*. Brompton was the first. Which

others will be added: Highgate, Tower Hamlets, Nunhead, or West Norwood?

Another London cemetery is coming online soon, but through an initiative of BIFHSGO member Derek Hopkins, not through *Deceased Online*, is Abney Park Cemetery. Details will follow when available.

Scotland—Another Year of Civil Registration

A reminder that *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) came out promptly (as the clock struck midnight for the New Year) with indexed images from statutory registers of births for 1913, marriages for 1938 and deaths for 1963.

Ancestry Adds Wills

The first big genealogy database, more than a million records, added to *Ancestry* in 2014 came in early January. “England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury [PCC] Wills, 1384–1858” has 1,012,964 records. The PCC was the senior court dealing with English and Welsh probate prior to the start of the civil probate process in January 1858.

The records, which include many people who lived elsewhere but died with assets in England and Wales, have long been available through The National Archives

(TNA) on a pay-per-view basis. Now we can search and view the manuscript originals through ancestry.co.uk, and with *Ancestry* worldwide subscriptions.

The *Ancestry* index is not a copy of that at TNA. Usually a search at TNA will include a few more entries than found by the *Ancestry* exact search and fewer than from *Ancestry*'s default search. For *Ancestry* subscribers the best advice is to use both indexes, then see if you can find the original image for any entries not found by *Ancestry* using the reference information given from the TNA search.

British Library British India Records Online

In January *findmypast* published over 2.5 million records detailing the lives of the British in India from 1698 to 1947. The collection, released in partnership with the British Library, includes “British India Office Birth and Baptism Records 1698–1947”; “British India Office Deaths and Burials 1749–1947”; “Indian Office Wills and Probate Records 1749–1957”; “Indian Office East India Company and Civil Service Pensions 1749–1947”; “East India Company Cadet Papers” and “Applications for the Civil Service.”

The collection, name indexed with links to original images, is a good place to look for the elusive stray

who disappears from British records.

Churches of East Anglia

Often when you visit a community where your ancestors lived the only physical connection you'll find is the church they attended, where they were baptized, married and buried. If you're fortunate there may be a tombstone.

Those with connections to Essex, Norfolk or Suffolk can visit many of the counties' churches virtually via the *Churches of East Anglia* site, or more accurately sites, the work of Simon Knott of Ipswich. The "Churches of Norfolk" subset covers some 880 churches with photographs of significant features and a detailed description, reminiscent of a modern-day version of Arthur Mee's *The King's England* county guidebooks.

"Churches of Suffolk" is the original site, gradually being revised, with 693 churches. "Churches of Essex" is a Flickr collection with over 240 churches, including between one and 76 photos from each. You can access them all and more from www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/.

Welsh Newspapers at the National Library of Wales

Newspapers are one of the lesser-used resources when doing research. It is even more difficult when you are researching from a distance. The Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru or National Library of Wales has been digitizing, indexing and placing online the various newspapers of Wales. The site (<http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>), still in beta, has over 4.5 million articles and 420,000 pages freely available, and is growing, although not as rapidly as originally planned.

Recruits Wanted

The Summer issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* will focus on the First World War. If your family history includes an interesting story from that period, now is the time to share it with your fellow BIFHSGO members!

The submission deadline for the issue is 24 April; it's time to enlist—

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON



Because the Channel Islands lie in the English Channel close to the British Isles, I tend to think of

them as part of the United Kingdom. They are not. This small archipelago of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Herm, Sark and several other smaller islands is instead a British Crown Dependency, separated into the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, with its own laws and parliament.

Therefore the records you need to search for ancestors in the islands will be different from those found in the British Isles. Fortunately, the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library has books to help you.

Records needed in your ancestral research are all located in the Channel Islands. At present, few are digitized and available online. Marie-Louise Backhurst points out that, while the records are similar to those of the United Kingdom, there are notable differences. Her book, *Tracing Your Channel Island Ancestors: a Guide for Family Historians*, is an essential guide to your research.

The library has several books about the history of Jersey. For an overview of its history, I would suggest *A Short History of Jersey*, by Joan Stevens. *Eye on the Past . . . Yearbook 1992: Episodes in Jersey's History from the columns of Island Eye* and its companion *Another Eye on the Past . . . Yearbook 1993* by Alex Glendinning are collections of brief historical accounts that appeared in the newspaper *Island Eye*. *The parish pump: a guide to discovering the real Jersey*, published by Jersey Channel Television Publications, is similar in style.

You may find information about ancestors in Alex Glendinning's *Did your ancestors sign the Jersey Oath of Association Roll of 1696? a history of the roll and many of the people who signed it*; as well as in *Old Jersey Houses and Those Who Lived in Them From 1700 Onwards*, by Joan and Charles Stevens.

Dealing with more recent history are Howard Baker's *German Occupation of Jersey 1940/1945: Reference Maps with Supporting Text and Comprehensive History* and Francis Le Sueur's *Shadow of the Swastika: Could It All Happen Again?* The latter is an account of personal experiences in the life of a young Jerseyman during the Nazi occupation of the island.

Was your ancestor involved a murder? You may find information on him (or her) in *Murder in the Islands: the most fascinating murder cases in Channel Island history*, by Sue Simons and Chris Lihou.

What was it like to live in a small isolated community like Jersey? David Le Feuvre in *Jersey: Not Quite British: the Rural History of a Singular People* and John D. Kelleher in *The Triumph of the Country: the Rural Community in Nineteenth-century Jersey* discuss the social history of the rural community. *A Jersey Childhood* by Doris Carter tells what it was like to grow up in Jersey. Beth Lloyd describes the island of Jersey with photographs and brief descriptions in her book

Explore Jersey: Its Coast, Countryside and Heritage.

The library has two family histories: *The De Gruchys Of Jersey: Including Their History From Norman Times and Comprehensive Trees From the Fourteenth Century to 1881* (plus *The De Gruchys Of Jersey: Amendments & Additions*) and *The Gallienne Letters, 1835-1895*, edited by May Morley.

Until 2008, the island of Sark was one of the last bastions of feudalism. Ken Hawkes, in his book *Sark*, describes this curious little island and its history. Readers will also enjoy the autobiography of the 21st head of Sark, *The Dame of Sark*, by Sibyl Hathaway.

BIFHSGO *Be a Volunteer - It's good for you!*

Your Society needs help
with the conference, monthly meetings, and the Board of Executives.
Make a contribution and you will benefit, too:

Inspire others
Meet congenial people
Savour shared passions
Get research help

Gain new skills
Share your stories
Relish an accomplishment
Bolster self-confidence

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

8 June 2013

The 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) began at 9:00 a.m. on 8 June 2013, in the Library and Archives Canada auditorium at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario. The notice of the meeting and the 2012 AGM minutes had been published in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Spring 2013 issue.

A quorum of at least 25 was declared, with attendance estimated at approximately 180. Anne Sterling was appointed the Recording Secretary.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

The President, Glenn Wright, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda of the 2013 AGM:

The Agenda was given to members at the meeting. It was moved by Ann Burns and seconded by Jane Down *that the revised Agenda be approved.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of the Minutes of the 2012 AGM:

No comments or corrections were received either prior to, or at, the 2013 AGM. It was moved by John D. Reid and seconded by Jane Down *that the minutes as published be approved.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Reports of the President and Directors:

These reports were published and distributed as a yellow booklet handed out to members as they arrived at the meeting.

The directors had worked diligently on behalf of the members during the year, as reflected in the reports. The major issue during the year was the relationship with Public Works Canada, which operates the ground floor facility at 395 Wellington. As charges for use of equipment have now been waived the Society is in a position to continue to meet in the auditorium for the coming year i.e. the 2013–2014 season. LAC still best meets our needs.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2012:

The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement of the Society for the fiscal year, being from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, were handed out at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, Marnie McCall, drew attention to an omission in the Statement of Profit and Loss for the year. The Total Expenses for the year were \$50,366 and not \$0,366 as printed. The statement this year includes comparable amounts for the previous year and from the budget, as recommended by the Auditor. These accounts show a surplus for the year of about \$4,300 compared to a budgeted small deficit, largely due to the surplus from the annual conference and donations to the Library Fund in memory of former Treasurer Tom Rimmer. As a result of a decision not to distribute *Anglo-Celtic Roots* at meetings there was an increased cost related to mailing expenses.

As regards the Balance Sheet, an addition error means that Total Assets, and Liabilities and Equity, are not \$90,374 as printed, but \$91,362. With an increase in liquid assets of about \$10,000 for the year the Society remains financially healthy and will continue to operate on an approximately break-even budget policy.

There were no questions about the report.

Auditor's Report:

The Auditor, Darrel Kennedy, noted that this was his final report, owing to requirements of the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*. Greater efficiency in administrative procedures, especially the appointment of a bookkeeper, Cliff Adams, meant the audit was completed in two days, half the time estimated.

Bank errors from the previous year remain outstanding. There is one additional bank error this year. The Auditor is informed they will be addressed by the end of June 2013. Other errors were noted, which were addressed by the Treasurer.

In summary, the Auditor stated he was given thorough access to the financial records. From the records provided the funds expected to be available were found to be available. The financial statements for the year 2012 prepared by the Treasurer represent a fair statement of the financial status of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa.

The Treasurer noted that the omission of a 5 in the total expenses for the year (as mentioned earlier) also applied to the budget figure. A discrepancy in revenue amounts was accounted for by the transfer of funds to the Research and Library Funds at the end of the year.

The Treasurer acknowledged the assistance of the Auditor, Darrel Kennedy, and bookkeeper, Cliff Adams, during the year.

It was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Mary Anne Sharpe that *the financial statements be accepted.*

MOTION CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditor:

The Treasurer noted that during the coming year the Society will be making changes required by the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*. There will be a special general meeting in the fall to approve the new bylaws and at that time a new auditor who qualifies under the terms of the Act will be appointed. In response to questions, the Treasurer explained that the exact requirements of an organization under the Act, especially if it qualifies as a non-soliciting organization, are not clear. In the interim, Craig O'Blenis has agreed to assume the duties of Auditor.

It was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Bob Lamoureux that *Craig O'Blenis be appointed as the Society's Auditor for 2013.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Awards and Presentations:

Carolyn Emblem was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for the *Best Anglo-Celtic Roots Article of 2012* for her article, entitled "Eleanor, Ellen and Frances," published in the Spring 2012 issue.

Margaret Singleton was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for the *Best Presentation by a Member at the Monthly BIFHSGO Meeting* for the 2012–2013 season. Her talk, entitled "The Box in the Closet," was delivered at the 9 February 2013 meeting.

Jeanette Arthurs was presented with a *Citation of Excellence*. In addition to serving a term as Communications Director, assisting at annual conferences and in the library, Jeanette has for many years managed the Society's incoming correspondence. Her conscientious recording and distribution of mail has enabled the smooth operation of the Society.

Mark Lloyd was presented with a *Citation of Excellence* in recognition of his work for the Society as database manager from 2004 to 2012. With his extensive knowledge of the software he contributed his expert talents to maintain comprehensive membership records. At monthly meetings, Mark regularly staffed the membership table.

Darrel Kennedy received a *Citation of Excellence* for his service as Auditor of the Society from 2006 until the present. Darrel's diligent examination of Society finances assured members that Society accounts were properly maintained while his opinion on the annual financial statements accurately

reflected the true situation. He has also informed and educated members with his presentations and articles. He lives the spirit of his heraldic motto, "Thoughtful Speech or Silence."

Joan and Ivor Banks received a *Citation of Excellence* immediately following the AGM. (They were busy with their duties during the AGM.) Their citation read, "BIFHSGO members enjoy the convivial atmosphere of its meetings. Joan and Ivor have made a major contribution for the past two years by assuming responsibility for refreshments at monthly meetings."

Report of the

Nominating Committee:

Mary Anne Sharpe, Vice-President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, noted that some Board members' two-year terms were at an end. Coming up for renewal in 2013 were: Marnie McCall

(Treasurer), Susan Davis (Communications), Margaret Gervais (Publicity), and Tara Grant (Membership). The President noted that all four directors had indicated their willingness to remain in their positions for two more years.

Further nominations were solicited three times from the floor for the four positions. There were no further nominations. All four incumbents were therefore declared elected by acclamation.

Other Business:

No other business was raised at the meeting.

Adjournment: 9:40 a.m.

There being no further business it was moved by Glenn Wright and seconded by Jane Down *that the meeting be adjourned.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Prepared by Anne Sterling, Secretary,
21 June 2013*

People are hungry for stories.
It's part of our very being.
Storytelling is a form of history, of immortality too.
It goes from one generation to another.

Studs Terkel

Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

14 December 2013

The Special General Meeting began at 9:00 a.m. on 14 December 2013, in the Library and Archives Canada auditorium at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario. The notice of the meeting and the proposed bylaws had been sent by email to members online. Those members without use of a computer were sent the document by Canada Post, regular mail.

A quorum of at least 25 was declared, with attendance estimated at approximately 150.

Anne Sterling was appointed the Recording Secretary.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

The President, Glenn Wright, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Treasurer Marnie McCall chaired the meeting, which had been called to ask the membership to approve our transition to the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*.

The Treasurer explained that all not-for-profit organizations were required to transition from the *Canada Business Corporations Act, Part 2* to the *Canada Not-for-Profit*

Corporations Act in 2013. The Act sets out requirements that apply to all non-profit organizations, meaning the bylaws only have to address those elements which can be tailored to the needs of the organization.

It was moved by Mary Anne Sharpe and seconded by Gloria Tubman that the bylaws as presented be approved.

It was moved by Darrel Kennedy and seconded by Marnie McCall that the bylaws be amended to change the quorum requirement in section 20 from “10% of voting members” to “10% or 25 voting members, whichever is less.” **MOTION CARRIED.**

It was moved by Susan Davis and seconded by David Cross that the bylaws as amended be approved. **MOTION CARRIED.**

It was moved by Judy Thamas and seconded by Barbara Tose that the Articles of Continuance be approved. **MOTION CARRIED.**

It was moved by Darrel Kennedy and seconded by Willis Burwell that the resolution directing the Board of

Directors to apply for continuation under the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* be approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:25.

Note: The new bylaws, the articles of incorporation and the resolution will be posted on the BIFHSGO website.

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 11 Nov 2013—8 Feb 2014

Member No.	Name	Address
282	Royden Long	Ottawa, ON
1634	Robert Mallet	Kanata, ON
1635	Mary Plawutsky	Beaconsfield, QC
1636	Helene Higgins	St Rémi, QC
1637	Robert Corrigan	Barry's Bay, ON
1638	Iris Stinson	Ottawa, ON
1639	Norma Lavallee	Calgary, AB
1640	Janice Graves	Bishop's Mills, ON
1641	Brian Castledine	Ottawa, ON
1642	Carol Landgraff	Stittsville, ON
1643	Norman Fines	Ottawa, ON
1644	Andrea Harding	Orleans, ON
1644	Matthew Harding	Orleans, ON
1645	Pamela Clark	Nepean, ON
1646	Brian Laurie-Beaumont	Manotick, ON
1647	Michael McNorman	Orleans, ON
1648	Sheila Kulka	Ottawa, ON
1648	Ed Kulka	Ottawa, ON
1649	Ian Barker	Guelph, ON
1650	Susan Courage	Ottawa, ON



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BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2013–2014

President	Glenn Wright	613-521-2929
Recording Secretary	Anne Sterling	613-596-2955
Treasurer	Marnie McCall	613-736-1101
Research & Projects	David Cross	613-258-3934
Membership	Kathy Wallace	613-746-6796
Communications	Susan Davis	819-568-0081
Publicity	Mary-Lou Simac	613-837-8256
Programs	Jane Down	613-741-1463
Education	Mary Donnelly	613-445-3432
Past President	Mary Anne Sharpe	613-562-4570

Associate Directors 2013–2014

Editor <i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i>	Jean Kitchen
E-newsletter Editor	Christine Woodcock
Web Managers	Gail Dever, Mary Plawutsky
Photographer	Shirley Monkhouse
Associate Treasurer	Cliff Adams
Publication Sales	Brian Chamberlain
Librarian	Betty Warburton
Queries	Mary Anne Sharpe
Voicemail	Ann Adams
Conference 2014	John Reid, Gloria Tubman
Auditor (interim)	Craig O'Blenis

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). Our purpose is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into, and publication of, family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles.

We have two objectives: to research, preserve, and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family and social history, and to promote genealogical research through a program of public education, showing how to conduct this research and preserve the findings in a readily accessible form.

We publish genealogical research findings and information on research resources and techniques, hold public meetings on family history, maintain a reference library, and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership dues for 2014 are \$40 for individuals, \$50 for families, and \$40 for institutions. Members enjoy four issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, ten family history meetings, members-only information on bifhsgo.ca, friendly advice from other members, and participation in special interest groups.

BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

Saturday Morning Meetings

Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

- 12 Apr 2014** **From Aberdeen to Albany: How Our Scott Family Ancestors Became United Empire Loyalists in Canada**—Ken Harley will explore both *how* his wife's ancestor William Scott followed his dream and *why* our ancestors would emigrate to what was essentially an unsettled wilderness.
- 10 May 2014** **What Really Happened? A Genetic Genealogy Success Story**—Elizabeth Kaegi and James Thomson used both traditional and genetic genealogy techniques to solve a six-decade-old mystery and have the findings conclusively confirmed, giving Elizabeth seven new family members.
- 14 June 2014** **Great Moments in Genealogy**—Four BIFHSGO members will describe some exciting moments in their family history searches, explaining how they achieved the breakthroughs and what the discoveries meant to them. For details see page 34.

Schedule

- 9:00–9:30 Before BIFHSGO Educational Sessions: check www.bifhsgo.ca for up-to-date information.
- 9:30 Discovery Tables
- 10:00–11:30 Meeting and Presentation
- 12:00–1:00 Writing Group

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

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please email the Editor, acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for publication in the next issue is 25 April 2014.