

Anglo-Celtic Roots

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In This Issue

The Irish Wigelsworth Family
The Rambler—Exodus from Savary
The McGirrs of Castlederg



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Contents

COLUMN

From the President/2

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Irish Wigelsworth Family Bonnie Ostler/3

The Rambler—Exodus from Savary

Dena Palamedes/19

The McGirrs of Castlederg

Lynne Willoughby/27

TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

The Cream of the Crop

Ken McKinlay and John D. Reid/37

The Bookworm

Betty Warburton/41

BIFHSGO News

Membership Report Kathy Wallace/43

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Back cover

Cover Illustration:

"The Emigrants"

Source: Illustrated London News,

19 June 1852

From the Editor:

Bonnie Ostler used a wide variety of sources in her search for Irish ancestors, and she discovered an eighteenth-century army soldier whose postings gave him and his family an unusually wide look at the world. Her tale of these wanderers leads off this issue.

Next we offer two more stories by prizewinners in the BIFHSGO $20^{\rm th}$ anniversary writing contest.

Dena Palamedes takes us from Scotland to Prince Edward Island with her description of a mass exodus from Argyll by her ancestors and their neighbours during the Clearances. They settled in comfortably and became long-term Island residents.

Lynne Willoughby continues our Irish history theme; she won for her story of discovering a family of Irish ancestors in County Tyrone who gradually immigrated to Upper Canada during the Great Famine period and also settled comfortably into their new homes.

And on another note, I have been pleased to hear about people discovering ancestors by reading the previous ACR issues now available on our website. PDF versions of ACRs back to 1995 have been posted—check them out!

Jean Kitchen

Jean Kitchen

From the President



The end of my first year as president seems a good time to reflect on the past year, which was busy and filled with change. Our 20th Anniversary

conference proved to be our most successful; it also turned out to be our last at Library and Archives Canada. An ambitious three-stream program was so successful with attendees that it has set a new standard for our conferences. The 2015 Conference Committee will be offering three streams again this fall.

In November Dr. Jonathan Vance from Western University provided insight into the world of our First World War ancestors. We also cohosted, with Ottawa Branch OGS, a very successful two-lecture event with British genealogist Kirsty Gray.

Board members arrived for our first meeting at Centrepointe in January with some trepidation—we were not sure if the change in location would affect our attendance. However, our members did not let us down; the January audience rivalled our usual count at LAC.

In February we celebrated with Betty Warburton as she retired from our library after volunteering there for more than 17 years. The Board is now exploring options for the future of our library.

March brought two speakers from the Ulster Historical Foundation for a special one-day event. Gillian Hunt and Fintan Mullen presented five informative and entertaining lectures on researching Northern Irish roots. BIFHSGO was the only Canadian stop on their tour of North America; we were also the largest group they had ever lectured to—and we set a new meeting attendance record. I have heard nothing but positive feedback on this extraordinary day, and the Board hopes we can host more such events as opportunities present themselves.

And now—suddenly it seems—summer is upon us and with it all kinds of activities that may or may not involve family history. Whatever that may be, I wish you a happy and safe summer and look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Darband OSE

Barbara J. Tose

Family History Research

The Irish Wigelsworth Family[©]



BY BONNIE OSTLER

Bonnie's search for her Irish ancestors employed many genealogy research sources: Ancestry, FamilySearch and other websites, microfilm, Google Books, living relatives and professional help; her determined efforts produced very satisfying results.

A fter finding an ancestor's parish

of origin in England, Scotland or Wales, the next step is usually to search births, marriages, deaths and census records. Because of Ireland's history, most of those records no longer exist. One hopes to find ancestors in the countrywide Griffith's Valuation or Tithe Applotment records. The search often ends abruptly and unsuccessfully.

For my first sojourn into Irish genealogical research, I chose my father's Wigelsworth family, not realizing at the outset there was only one Wigelsworth family in Ireland for the time period in question. It was mine.

In September 1998 I started "surfing the Internet" on my brand new personal computer and immediately found a *RootsWeb* mailing list entitled WIGGS, hosted by Anne. She was collecting all references to the surname WIGGLESWORTH, including variant spellings, to do a

worldwide one-name study. Most messages on the mailing list were about Wigglesworth ancestors in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and London, England.

Luckily for me, Steve of Liverpool, England, and Joe of Georgia, U.S.A., both had Wigelsworth ancestors in Roscommon, Ireland. We exchanged data. Steve took the ferry to Ireland but was frustrated at the Dublin repositories. Nearly every record he sought no longer existed. Joe knew about a family house named Church Park in Co. Roscommon. Although the three of us were experienced genealogists with great enthusiasm, we soon ran out of new things to say and drifted away from the list. Each of us circled back occasionally but found nothing new.

Any genealogist who did research during the first decade of the twenty-first century knows what happened to genealogy on the Internet during that time. It mushroomed. In September 2008, using the base that Anne, Steve and Joe

had provided years earlier, I renewed my search for Wigelsworths in Ireland.



Church Park ca. 1860 Source: Collection of the author

John Grenham's Tracing Your Irish Ancestors (third edition) became my bedtime reading. Maps overlapped each other on my dining room table. Most mornings started with me surfing the Internet using a list of names, places, events in various combinations. The Google Books website grew almost daily. Some mornings I was driven from my bed early by the answer to a question that nagged me as I fell asleep the previous night. LDS microfilm is inexpensive to order, but I ordered so many Registry of Deeds films that it became a line entry in my budget.

For the first time I hired a professional genealogist. She looked up military records at The National Archives (Kew). Every document, every photo and every tiny bit of data was routinely scanned into my

"Irish Wigelsworth Family" tree on *Ancestry*.

Researching the Irish Wigelsworths was as much about international sources as it was about Ireland. Online I met Maggie in England, who introduced me to Horace in California. He provided a wonderful old photo, taken in the 1860s, of the house called Church

Park. Then I met Tom of Warwickshire, England, whose roots were in Yorkshire. For months I bounced my latest finds off Tom.

In the summer of 2010, when every Wigelsworth stone had been turned over, my husband and I visited Tom and his wife at his house in Stratford-upon-Avon. After ten years of communicating by email with Steve, we had dinner with him and his wife at a lovely old country inn in Yorkshire. The following winter we went to Dublin, where we walked the length of the Liffey River on St. Patrick's Day morning and drove out to Roscommon, where Albert Siggins, President of the Roscommon Historical Society, gave us a tour of all the places he knew I wanted to see. It was the perfect ending to my Wigelsworth research project.

Thirteen Wigglesworth men, including two with roots in Roscommon,



career soldier in the British Army. Gaps in Irish records led to a good deal of guesswork about relationships and questions about how many members of the family might be missing completely.

There are some very dark corners within this family history. Here is what I learned about the Irish Wigelsworth family. The earliest known record of a Wigelsworth in Ireland was the signature of a witness on a deed in County Roscommon.

Location of Roscommon Source: Google Maps

agreed to DNA testing. Tom was one of a team that interpreted the results. The two Irishmen were a perfect 43-point match with a Lincolnshire descendant; their first mutual ancestors lived at least 300 years ago. Others were one or two points off. Participants were particularly pleased to learn they are of Viking origin.

What began as an effort to learn about my ancestors in Ireland spread beyond Irish borders with the discovery that the central character in this family's history was a On 10 January 1718, Murtagh Hanly of Ballincorry, Roscommon, Gentleman, and his son William Hanly, again short of money, signed away another piece of their land to Sir Edward Crofton, 1st Baronet.¹ It was a perfect example of wealth and power being stripped bit by bit from the old Irish Catholic families by the Protestant minority. Because Hanly was in need, the deeds were surely signed at Crofton's estate, Mote Park, located just south of the town of Roscommon.

Four men witnessed the deed signing. John and Hugh Hanly acted for their kinsmen. John Kelly and John

Wigglesworth witnessed on behalf of Sir Edward Crofton. There was a Kelly family located at Ballymurray next to Mote Park. Presumably John Wigglesworth lived nearby as well. No further record has been found of him. The Croftons remained a primary landowner during the 200 years John Wigglesworth's descendants lived in Roscommon.

Career Soldier in the Family

The next record of an Irish Wigelsworth was not found in Ireland but in Jamaica, where he was serving in the British Army. By 1750, England's Industrial Revolution was being fed to a great extent by the flow of ships laden with produce from the highly profitable sugar-producing island of Jamaica. Early days of slavery in Jamaica were over. The Colonial government had signed treaties with the Maroons, descendants of escaped African slaves who hid for decades in the formidable terrain of Jamaica's mountains, causing the British significant problems. The Maroons had been woven back into Jamaican communities and as part of those treaties, they searched out runaway slaves. Initially landowners had allowed Maroons to use brutality with runaways. As slaves became increasingly valuable, Jamaican planters insisted they be returned in good health, but these same owners pushed their plantation overseers for higher production, which meant driving the slaves

harder. This increased the early mortality level. Rumours of a slave revolt frequently rippled through the white minority, although relatively few actually took place.

For England, the British military presence was costly but absolutely necessary to keep the peace and protect her investment in Jamaica. France and England were glaring at each other again. The Seven Years' War was on the horizon. Both countries had colonial assets to protect. Jamaica sat at the top of England's list.

The 49th Regiment of Foot was raised in Jamaica in 1743 from several local regiments. In 1756, at the insistence of the Governor of Jamaica, 450 men were drawn from other regiments to augment the 49th.² Some wives and children of married soldiers travelled on the ships with the regiment. They also lived in the army camps when regiments were deployed.

One of those men was Joseph Wigelsworth of Roscommon. It is unclear whether Joseph was married before he left Ireland or after he arrived in Jamaica, but his eldest proven child, Susannah, was born there in 1760.³ The 49th was stationed at Port Royal in April of that year when an uprising of black African slaves known as Tacky's War broke out. It lasted until July when Tacky, leader of the rebellion, was killed by a sharpshooter.⁴ Compa-

nies of the 49th were deployed to various areas of Jamaica in 1762, and later that year part of the regiment went to the Mosquito Coast and Honduras to remove stores. In March 1764, the Governor of Jamaica ordered the 49th to help customs stop smuggling.⁵

By that March, Joseph knew his regiment was leaving for Ireland. He was going home for the first time in eight years. A baptism in the Church of England parish register at St. Catherines, Jamaica, reads "8 April, 1764 Wigelsworth—Joseph, son of Joseph and Sarah, a Soldier's child born 23 Dec 1762." This is the only place Sarah's name is mentioned. Nothing else is known of her.

In a country where tropical diseases were a leading cause of death, the child was unbaptized at 15 months of age. Perhaps he was born when his father was deployed in a remote part of Jamaica or on mainland Central America. Maybe Joseph and Sarah, having been lax in their Christian duty, decided upon this baptism because of the upcoming perilous voyage.

Back to Ireland

An item in *The Manchester Mercury*, Tuesday, 18 September 1764, reads:

Corke, Sept 3. Friday last arrived his Majesty's Ship Cornwall, of 74 Guns, Captain McKenzy, from Jamaica and brought Home the 49th Regiment, commanded by Major Geo. Stanwix. This Regiment has been abroad upwards of twenty Years, and the Men

are in general sickly, owing to their late Service of hunting rebellious Negroes in the Woods: And Saturday, at Night, the Troops came up in Lighters from Cove, and were quartered here. They are new cloathed and recovering.⁶

From later events, we know that Joseph and his children Susannah and Joseph Jr. reached Ireland safely. No death or burial record has been found in Jamaica or Ireland for his wife Sarah. However, two years after the family's return to Ireland, on 4 June 1766 at St Munchins Church of Ireland, City of Limerick, Joseph Wigelsworth, Sergeant Major in the 49th Regiment of Foot, married Eleanor Flannigan.7 The bride's surname suggests she was a native Catholic Irish woman, Eleanor and Joseph had at least two children. Robert (b. ca. 1767) and Mary (b. ca. 1769).

Joseph had been educated. Not only could he read and write but the fact that he was Sergeant Major shows he was also motivated and had leadership skills. There was only one sergeant major in each regiment. As the most senior noncommissioned officer, the Regimental Sergeant Major was a god to the enlisted soldier. He carried a long pace stick, which he used liberally. Joseph would have been "selected as much for his literacy and numeracy as his bearing of skill at drill, for the post involved much of the administration later carried out by the adjutant or chief clerk."8

Although Joseph had reached an eminent non-commissioned rank, few enlisted men ever crossed the line to become an officer. For Joseph, fate would eventually intervene.

As with all British troops stationed in Ireland, the 49th was there to "hold down a hostile population." There were at least two British regiments in Ireland at all times. Companies from these regiments were deployed around the country. Although Joseph would have been moved from one location to another, he was posted in Ireland for 11 years, which allowed the Wigelsworth family to spend time with relatives and friends in Roscommon. During 1773, the entire regiment was deployed to Co. Galway.

Posted to America

The Wigelsworth family's lifestyle in Ireland was about to end. Joseph's regiment was being sent to deal with trouble in the 13 colonies. His family would travel with the troops.

From *The Newcastle Courant*, Saturday, 10 September 1774:

Dublin, Aug 31. The 49th regiment, now on this duty, have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to embark for Boston. The ministry seem to think recruits are necessary there, from the late desertion in America.¹⁰

On 9 February 1775, the 1st Division of the 49th Regiment, composed of five companies, started its

march from Dublin to Cork, a distance of about 160 miles (257 kilometres). The next day these soldiers were followed by the 2nd Division, also with five companies. The men rested two days each week, arriving at the City of Cork on 20 and 21 February, respectively. Soldiers were drilled and passed inspections. Then they waited: two other regiments were to embark ahead of them.

On 19 April, a fleet of 23 sailing ships loaded with soldiers, wives and children, military equipment, horses, food and other supplies weighed anchor at the Cove of Cork, but the wind changed direction and they were forced back into the harbour. This scene was repeated on the following days, until nine days later, on 28 April, favourable winds allowed the fleet to get under way.

After six weeks on the Atlantic, Joseph's regiment arrived outside of Boston harbour. However, because of unfavourable winds and the danger of being dashed against rocks at the entry to the harbour or of striking other ships, the fleet was unable to land for three days. Finally they did so on 16 June 1775, the day before the Battle of Bunker Hill took place. Joseph missed it. His regiment was busy disembarking at the wharf.¹¹

Joseph Wigelsworth could not afford to purchase a commission. He had waited for years for a non-

purchase promotion into the officer ranks. This type of promotion could be triggered by the death of an officer or during a period when existing units were being augmented. Both situations were more likely to happen in wartime.

The 49th Regiment's muster roll shows that on 8 August 1775, a Captain James Hepburn died. Promotions took place the following day. According to army rules, when an officer died, the senior officer of each rank stepped up until the void was filled. Following Captain Hepburn's death a Lieutenant Captain became a Captain, a Lieutenant became a Lieutenant Captain, and an Ensign became a Lieutenant.

Thus, Sergeant Major Joseph Wigelsworth became Ensign, without purchase. After 19 years of service, Ensign Joseph Wigelsworth crossed the line from enlisted man to officer. Between May 1776 and January 1777, he was appointed Adjutant, the commanding officer's personal staff officer, responsible for drill and discipline, before returning to the normal duties of an ensign.

Twice a week during their time in Boston, the baker gave every soldier two 4½-lb. loaves of bread. Once a week each man received 4 lb. of beef or pork, ½ lb. butter, 3 pt. of pease or oatmeal and ½ lb. of rice. Each woman had half a man's share, and every child quarter-rations.¹²

Wives washed clothes, cooked, and cared for husbands and children in camps, while experiencing very little privacy in barracks that families shared with up to 50 soldiers. Wives were the nurses tending the wounded and dying men in military "hospitals." Many preferred that existence to being left alone for years without their husbands, with no support from the army, and having to raise children on their own. At least they had a family life. 13

The 49th Regiment of Foot took its turn at guard duty in the garrison and participated in raids but saw no major battle action during its nine months in Boston.

Winter Break in Nova Scotia

Opposing armies in a long war did not fight on a continual basis in the eighteenth century, as modern armies might do. During the American Revolution, many American soldiers went home in the summer to harvest crops. During winter months, both sides took a break. In March 1776, most of the British Army and Navy who were fighting in the Western Hemisphere were ordered to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on a winter break. On 17 March, all British regiments stationed at Boston and Charleston were under arms at 4 a.m., and at 6 a.m. embarked on transport ships. Soldiers' families as well as all military equipment and stores were on board the ships because the rear

guard had orders to burn the barracks and blockhouse at Fort William to ashes. The fort was to be blown up as soon as the fleet got out of the harbour.

Upon leaving Boston for Halifax the fleet had a fair wind. After 30 hours the direction of the wind changed and the fleet was blown off course. With a fair wind blowing the next morning, they got back on course and at 3 p.m. they were within sight of the Halifax lighthouse. Five hours later they dropped anchor in Halifax Harbour. Over the next few days more ships arrived, including a regiment from the West Indies and several British naval ships.

According to Thomas Sullivan's *Journal*, 250 ships were in Halifax harbour.11 Some regiments had to stay on board their ships for lack of space in the town. Sullivan describes the harbour at Halifax as safe, commodious and the best on the American coast, "where 300 sail may lye at anchor and not be seen from the Harbour's mouth." The town was "an English mile long and in some places one-third of a mile broad." There were three small churches, military barracks and a few small houses. The Citadel, built by the British army, sat high with a command of the harbour. The town was divided into English, Irish and Dutch towns, as its primary occupants were from England, Ireland and Germany.14

After three months' rest, on 10 June 1776, the British army set sail aboard 150 ships from Halifax, moving out of the harbour at intervals to avoid collisions. After all the ships cleared the harbour, a salute was fired from the Admiral's ship, which was answered by all the warships in the fleet and also by the Citadel in Halifax. What a splendid way for my first ancestors in Canada to leave the country!

Back to the Revolution

Joseph Wigelsworth's regiment headed for New York. After engaging in several battles and smaller skirmishes, on 10 September 1777 the 49th was part of a major battle against Washington's 12,000-man army, at Chad's Ford. With Washington's army standing shoulder to shoulder in a line that extended for about two miles, the 49th was part of the force that attacked and broke through the centre of that line.16 The regiment also distinguished itself in a night attack at Brandywine Creek.¹⁷ The 49th moved on to Philadelphia. After wintering there, the American Revolution was over for Joseph and his regiment.

Return to the West Indies

When the French entered the war in 1778, a force including the 49th was sent to defend the West Indies. This new posting would be devastating for many of those lacking Ensign Wigelsworth's stamina. Tropical diseases such as malaria and yellow

fever took a huge toll, particularly on soldiers.¹⁸

On 9 October 1778, Joseph became Lieutenant by purchase. I have found no satisfactory answer as to the source of funding for that purchase. Two months later, on 13 December, by seizing the island of St. Lucia a few days before the French arrived, the 49th had a major role in defeating a French attack. 19 By October 1780, the Hampshire Chronicle reported that the 49th had been reduced to about 80 men. Four parties had gone to different parts of the kingdom to recruit replacements.

Early in 1781, Lieutenant Joseph Wigelsworth arrived back in Ireland with the few remaining men of his regiment and his family. His eldest daughter, Susannah, had married abroad in about 1775. Later records show that three teenage children, Ioseph Ir., Robert and Mary, returned with him. There is no record of his wife Eleanor's death. We know the lieutenant married again soon after the family arrived back in Ireland, because Sarah Wigelsworth, his daughter from this third marriage, was born in 1782. The marriage date and his third wife's name were lost along with so many of Ireland's historical documents in the Four Courts fire of 1922.

Retirement and a Legacy

Lieutenant Wigelsworth remained on the 49th muster rolls for four

years after returning to Ireland. Then on 31 December 1784, the following application was recorded:

Lieutenant Joseph Wigelsworth having served in the 49th Regt 28 yrs, fourteen of which in American & the West Indies being thereby rendered unfit for further service prays leave to dispose of his commission at the regulated price.

On the same page appears:

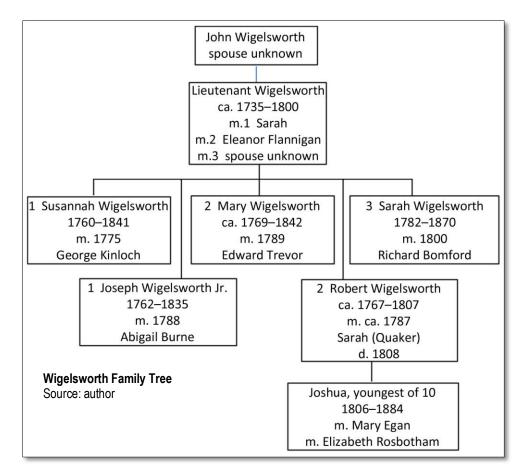
Eldest Ensign William Archer, to Be Lieutenant and Mr. Joseph Wigglesworth Junior to be Ensign, by purchase.

Upon becoming Ensign, Joseph Wigelsworth Jr. was immediately placed on Ensign's Half-pay. According to Junior's military records the reason was "ill health." Although no details of his condition are given, his regiment's recent return from St. Lucia makes some tropical disease possible.

The ill health did not prove fatal to Junior. In fact, he survived to the ripe old age of 73. Obviously, when Senior used part of the proceeds from the sale of his Lieutenant's commission to fund Junior's purchase, he could not know that decision would support his son for 50 years.²⁰

Canadian historian Ronald J. Dale wrote to me in a 2013 email

... he [Joseph Sr.] would have received a substantial amount by selling his rank ... if [it] sold for the regulated amount. However, there were often illegal bidding wars and



a Lieutenant's commission, worth £550 in the regulations, could be sold for a lot more.

A few months after retiring, Joseph Sr., together with his son Robert and Maurice Healy, all of Turville, a tiny hamlet near the town of Roscommon, purchased a set of leases for a big house known as Church Park.²¹ Presumably the old soldier lived here until his death in 1800.²² The house remained in the family until 1916.

Joseph Sr.'s Descendants

Susannah

Joseph and Sarah's daughter Susannah (1760–1841), who had been born in Jamaica, was 15 when her family left Ireland for Boston. About this time she married George Kinloch, 21 years her senior, a Scottishborn planter of Portland, Jamaica. Although no record has been found, I believe they married in Jamaica.

At some point the couple moved to Scotland and had already baptized four children at Edinburgh Parish when, on 20 February 1790, they were remarried in Edinburgh. They did this because cases had arisen in British courts where Jamaican marriages were not recognized. George was nearly 50 years old and had assets to protect.

Four more children were born between 1790 and George's death in 1802. Among other bequests in his will, he left his eldest daughter "four negro slaves worth the sum of eleven hundred and seven pounds sterling."²³

Susannah outlived George Kinloch by 40 years. She died 7 May 1841, age 81, and was buried with her husband at Fettercairn Churchyard, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, Scotland. Two of her children and several grandchildren emigrated to Montreal.

Joseph Jr.

Ensign Joseph Wigelsworth Jr. retired from the army in 1785. The index of marriage bonds for the diocese of Elphin, Roscommon, shows that he married Abigail Burne in 1788. Their daughter, Frances, was born in 1789. This family lived very near the upscale Phoenix Park in Dublin. When Joseph Jr. died in 1835,25 his estate of less than £600 went to his only surviving child, Frances.26 She never married.

Mary

Mary Wigelsworth, Joseph Sr. and Eleanor Flannigan's daughter, was born about 1769. As a child she

grew up in army camps. Her family returned to Ireland when she was about 11 years old. On 17 June 1789, Mary married Dr. Edward Trevor (1763–1837), who was infamous as the attending physician and inspector of Ireland's largest prison, Kilmainham Jail, in Dublin. He ran that prison for 20 years and was known by the prisoners as "the Devil's partner." The Trevors had five children. Mary inherited £12,000 upon her husband's death. She survived him by only five years.

In 1880, 43 years after Edward Trevor died, his descendants appealed to the Chancery Division Court in Dublin to sort out and finally settle a number of trusts that had been in limbo from the time of his death. It was a complex problem, but the court obliged. The *Freeman's Journal* of 29 January 1880 reported on the court case, including the names and relationships of all family members involved. For a genealogist, the account is a treasure trove, as Dr. Trevor's will no longer exists.

Robert

Joseph Sr. and Eleanor's son Robert was about 8 years old when his father marched from Dublin to Cork. His boyhood was full of adventure, crossing the Atlantic to Boston, wintering at Halifax, living in St. Lucia and returning to Ireland as a young teenager. A couple of years after the family took possession of Church Park, Robert married Sarah, from the Quaker community at Moate, Co.

Westmeath. The eldest of their 10 children was born about 1787.

Robert was a businessman who made numerous deals. The earliest deed to be registered was dated 1792. Robert accepted several land leases in payment of £450 due him. Another deed, dated 1798, shows that he held leases to Lisadorn Mills and the 27 acres attached to these mills. Robert was on his way to being a big landholder when he died prematurely in 1807.²⁷ The following year, on 11 November 1808, Robert's wife Sarah also died, leaving a large family of young children.

Robert may have had some forewarning of his impending death. Two leaders of the Quaker community were executors of his will.²⁸ An advantageous marriage settlement was signed for one of his younger daughters long before she was old enough to marry.

Although the Quakers stepped up to assist Robert's orphans,²⁹ the eldest son spent time in debtors' prison and both of the elder sons were dead before their 32nd birthdays. These two young men and their mother were all buried in Quaker cemeteries.³⁰ The eldest surviving son ended up with Church Park and Lisadorn Mills, although both of his boys left Ireland for the United States.

Half of Robert's surviving eight children came to Canada. One settled in Montreal. The other three, including

my great-great-great-grandfather, Joshua Wigelsworth (1806–1884), went to what was then London Township, Upper Canada.

As the youngest of Robert and Sarah's 10 children, Joshua would have had no memories of his parents and no money from them. We do not know who raised him. He was young when he married Mary Egan in Roscommon. They had two sons: John, b. 1824, and William, b. 1826, who died in childhood.

On 20 August 1827, at the age of 21, Joshua joined the 24th Regiment of Foot. He was a labourer at the time; perhaps he decided to follow in the Lieutenant's footsteps. Joshua was blue-eyed and 5 feet, 11 inches tall.³¹ In the 1820s he would have towered over most of the soldiers in his regiment. The Yorkshire Wigglesworths were tall people. Imagine how impressive his grandfather might have been if he was that tall, wearing his Regimental Sergeant Major uniform and carrying a long pace stick.

Googling "Joshua Wigglesworth" produced a surprise. In the fall of 1832 Joshua Wigglesworth of the 24th Regiment of Foot was a member of the Orange Lodge branch at the garrison in Quebec. Minutes from their October meeting show that he had been discharged from the army the previous month. Someone, with more money than Joshua, paid £20 to buy his way out

of the army, and Joshua went home to Ireland.^{32,33}

These Orange Order minutes are available today because the organization was being investigated by a Select Committee of the British House of Commons. The Commons was concerned about the Orange Lodge in garrisons of the British Army and about the effect of the Orange Lodge and similar organizations on Irish society. In 1836 the Commons voted to disband the Orange Order, although it was active in Canada well into the twentieth century. The 1858 attendance list of the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada includes the name J. Wigglesworth, Arva Lodge Numher 792.

The death of Mary Egan, Ioshua's first wife, might have been the reason for his leaving the army in 1832. With no burial records, that is only a guess. Joshua married Elizabeth Rosbotham in 1834.34 In 1843 Joshua and Elizabeth, with

their two young children and John Wigelsworth, Joshua's 18-year-old son from his first marriage, arrived in New York harbour aboard the ship *Oswego*. John Wigelsworth (1824–1874) was my great-greatgrandfather.

From New York they made their way north to London Township, where they settled on 100 acres of rented land near the village of Arva. In 1856, Elizabeth's relative James Rosbotham purchased this land from Alexander Gunn. Gunn took back a mortgage of £800. After James Rosbotham died in 1859 in New York City, Gunn sued the family for the £800 plus interest.35

Joshua remained on this farm as a tenant until his death in 1884, at 78



John Wigelsworth and his family in front of their log house, ca. 1872 Source: Collection of the author

years of age. On 28 February 1851, my great-great-grandparents, John Wigelsworth and Mary Fisher, purchased his farm, just over the township line from London Township, on Lot 23, Concession 3, West Nissouri Township.³⁶

Looking at the log house and vegetation behind John Wigelsworth and his family in the photo on p. 15, taken two years before his death from heart disease at 50, the house called Church Park and the man named Lieutenant Joseph Wigelsworth must have seemed as remote to his life as a fairy tale.

Reference Notes

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The Rambler—Exodus from Savary[©]



By Dena Palamedes

Dena is new to the joys of genealogy, a passion that draws on her skills acquired as an auditor. She loves to leverage the power of technology at work, in family history and through her photography.

Before I begin, I must thank Lucille

Campey for the path she laid out that made this story possible. I heard Ms. Campey, a leading historian on Scottish settlers in Canada, speak at the BIFHSGO September 2012 conference. Her talk on Lord Selkirk, together with her two books, served as a compass pointing us in the right direction. A Very Fine Class of Immigrants: Prince Edward Island's Scottish Pioneers 1770-18501 presented the history of Scottish immigration to the Island, while The Silver Chief: Lord Selkirk and the Scottish Pioneers of Belfast, Baldoon and Red River² provided detailed insights into the arrival of the 1803 Selkirk pioneers. Careful reading of these two books gave me the essential historical context to assess the documents I would later see, as well as offering suggestions on further references to explore. In *The Silver* Chief, she transcribed a letter from John McDougald to his brother Hugh, which would prove most fortuitous.3

David Charles MacInnis, my maternal grandfather, came from a line of proud Scots who were amongst the earliest pioneers to Prince Edward Island. His mother and her cousin Alice Fraser had researched her Aitken ancestors. The family tree was in a little red book called The Aitkens of Kings County.4 We knew John Aitken arrived on the ship The Lovely Nelly in 1755 and settled in Montague.5 Our MacInnis roots were not quite so clear. We had a typed family tree with annotations in my grandfather's hand as well as that of some other unknown person.6 At the top was "Charles McInnis emigrated from Scotland." That was it!

My grandfather passed away in 1992, after having lived a good life, working as a chartered accountant into his 80's and seeing the arrival of his first great-grandchild, my daughter. There were signs of our Scottish heritage throughout his home and in his life: books, paintings, music and the ever-present tartan. He often wore the MacInnes red dress tartan (never the dark blue and green), usually in the form of a tie or suit vest.

He made sure each of his grandchildren had pieces of this heritage—kilt pins and tartan books. Oddly, I don't recall him ever saying exactly where in Scotland his ancestors came from. As I began to research them, I started to wonder if he ever knew.

While many of the Catholic MacInneses came from the Isle of Skye, our ancestors came from the Protestant area of Morvern Parish, Argyllshire, where MacInneses were the keepers of Castle Kinlochaline for hundreds of years. They lived about three miles along the edge of the Sound of Mull to the west of Keil Church in Lochaline, along the bank of the Savary River.



Morvern countryside Source: author

There they had survived the burning of Morvern during the Jacobite rebellion and had rebuilt their lives. ¹⁰ They were small-tenant farmers in Savary, Morvern, an area owned by the Duke of Argyll. Unlike most of the other farmers, they were not subject to a tacksman

[a land-holder of intermediate legal and social status in Highland society], so they paid their rent directly to the Duke.¹¹

In 1779, when the Duke of Argyll completed his census, Donald "McInnish" and his two older sons, Angus and Archibald, were tenant farmers. They were three families amongst a total of 16 families in Savary, most of whom were likely relations. The McInnishes were 11 out of the 85 inhabitants of Savary.¹²

They lived about a mile up the hill from where the current road crosses the Savary River. They probably kept cattle and a few sheep, did a bit

of fishing, and grew oats.

Their homes were small stone cottages, which they likely shared with their animals. In the summer, they would move up the hill, about 2½ miles north, to the shielings [mountain pastures used for the grazing of cattle in summer] to follow the animals. 13

The shift to sheep farming came slowly to Morvern,¹⁴ and it probably was not very apparent when Angus and Archibald entered into their agreement with the Duke of Argyll to build dykes and enclosures in Barr and Rahoy.¹⁵ Barr and Rahoy were farms about four and six miles northwest of their cottages, adjacent to Loch Teacuis.

The contract was for £182. 10s.10d. It required them to complete hundreds of feet of stone dykes, in various locations. four feet high and three feet

McInnis Family Depart Tobermory
on Rambler
Tobermory

Soling or Muli

April 1806 Hugh McDougall receives letter
c/o Maxwell in Aros

Chargoure

Map of Morvern Area
In 1779, Angus' eldest

Map of Morvern Area
Source: Google Maps

son (also Donald) was 11 years old. He may have helped his father and uncle in the building of the dykes. Or Donald may have been the one assigned the responsibility for minding the cows and the sheep while the men went off to work, leaving him to enjoy the sweeping views.

By the turn of the century, the clearances in Morvern had begun. They were smaller, less dramatic than others in Scotland. While the Duke of Argyll did not evict tenants on his lands to make room for sheep, with his death on 24 May 1806 came a new order. His son George, the Sixth Duke, was known to be a "rake and a spendthrift," and he began to sell his properties to pay his debts. 19 No doubt Angus was

wide at the foundations, thirteen inches across at the top. They were required to build seven-foot-wide ditches and fale dykes [walls built of turfs] seven feet high.¹⁶ This they would all complete by the "first day of January next."¹⁷

It's likely they employed many of their relatives and local men to help in the building, as this was a large project and the money would have been very welcome in the community. Philip Gaskell, in his book *Morvern Transformed*, put a labourer's annual wage at £4–5, while a shepherd made "£7–10 plus, house maintenance and shoes." ¹⁸

The Duke advanced them an unspecified sum so they could begin work, while the brothers undertook to provide all the materials except the grass for their horses and the timber for their "sledes."

an astute man and he saw the winds of change on the horizon. It's unlikely that one event, like the death of a caring, well-respected landlord, would prompt the McInnises to emigrate, but it may have been that last nail in the coffin.

In a letter from the father of Angus' daughter-in-law Mary McDougal, wife to son Hector,²⁰ there is a clue that Angus was thinking about emigrating as early as 1804 when the McDougals left Tobermory for Baldoon, Ontario.²¹ This letter also confirmed our family lore that claimed the ancestor who immigrated was "a piper to the Duke of Argyll." While we have not confirmed that he was a piper to the Duke, this adds to our certainty that we have the right "Angus." The letter reads: ²²

Baldoon April 29th 1806

... You shall be at the trouble as to let them know at Morvern all about us, and especially to Angus McInnes piper and tell him that he would do a great deal better hear than where he is and if he does not come let do his best for to send my daughters.

I am so

Your most affectionate Brother John McDougald

[outside]

Mr Hugh McDougald Aros To the care of Mr Rob Maxwell Island of Mull Argyleshire - No Britain

On 20 June 1806, the Rambler,23

captained by Master Leith James Norris, left Tobermory, North Britain, on the Isle of Mull with 129 passengers aboard, at least 55 of whom were from Savary or were related to Angus McInnis.²⁴ Sixteen passengers were McInnises by blood or marriage. There were 13 people over age 50 who departed to a new life. Angus, John Cameron and Mary McArthur were all 60 years old.

On 16 July 1807, when Angus purchased his farm of 150 acres on Lot 33 in Queens County for £75,25 he was 61 years old. He and his son Donald purchased their respective properties for pounds sterling cash, unusual for the time, as most of the settlers bought with the Halifax dollar.26 It would seem that the McInnis family bought the necessary supplies, paid up to £100 to travel to Prince Edward Island and still had the cash to purchase a second property for Donald on Lot 58 for £110.27 A total of £285 between them meant they were not like the poor Selkirk settlers that had arrived just three years earlier.28

Some of the other *Rambler* passengers went on to settle near Donald on Lot 58, others on Lot 65; they spread across the Island. The McInnis family remained on the property for at least two more generations. By 1834, the property was jointly owned by Hector and Allan McInnis.²⁹ Angus had likely passed on, as he would have been 89 years old in

1834. There was a wharf at the McInnis shoreline that served the local community, with shipbuilding and farming on the property.³⁰

In Prince Edward Island, simple red Island sandstone markers, engraved with initials, mark many of the early settlers' graves. The sandstone is soft, so time and the elements have worn away clues as to who lies beneath.

The Portage Shore Old Pioneer Cemetery, true to its name, is close to the shore. Located on the property that used to belong to old Angus, it is now overgrown and hard to find. The first house was probably built close to the shore, because the land was covered in forest and travel was by boat.³¹

Access to the cemetery is on private property. The existing farmhouse on the property also originally belonged to the McInnis family and then was bought by their neighbours the Robinsons. Built about 1860, it was likely the second or third McInnis family home.³²

The path to the cemetery is through bush, tall fields of grain with thick swaths of mosquitoes. There are only a few stones left, but it's very likely that Angus and his family are buried here. With the exception of Angus' son Donald and his family, who are buried in the St. John's Presbyterian Church cemetery in Belfast [PEI], we have not confirmed where the rest of our ancestors who

came on The Rambler are buried.33

My cousin Stan, who grew up on the property, recalled that when he was young there were about 15–20 markers in the cemetery. ³⁴ He believed the last people buried there were people from Wheatly River. He told me that an older gentleman and his son would come every fall to clean up the property. There were many trees, and the blue herons would roost in them, which eventually killed off the trees.

As a child, with his father, my cousin would work the field around the cemetery. When they came across fieldstones, they piled them up against the edge of the cemetery.

His great-uncle, Cleve Robinson, who was born in 1882, had a story from when he was a teenager. A fellow from Charlottetown, who was to go to Boston to medical school, was obliged to take a skeleton for his studies. Presented with this challenge, he took a skeleton from the cemetery, cleaning the bones on the train as he travelled.

There were also rumours that some of the lost souls of the 1851 Yankee Gale were buried in the cemetery.³⁵ The Yankee Gale was a terrible storm in which many boats foundered against the north shore of Prince Edward Island. Bodies were found along the beach after the storm. They were taken to the barn of Angus' neighbour Collin McClure, where they were laid out for identi-



Portage Shore Pioneer Cemetery, shown at X Source: Meacham's 1880 map of PEI³⁶

fication. This is not improbable, as the cemetery is only 158 feet from the shore. Meacham's 1880 map of PEI shows the McClure's property right at the point, with the cemetery not far away.³⁶

Sometime in the 1960's the local Women's Institute members, looking for a useful project, decided they would clean up the cemetery.37 They hired two men who came in with bulldozers and cut out the stumps. They moved all the sandstone markers and the fieldstones, cleared the cemetery clean, and seeded grass. Once it was nice and clean, they returned the sandstone markers, and likely the fieldstones that had been along the fence. The stones were then lined up, in a nice neat east-west, north-south, square and diagonal arrangement. So we can no longer see the exact resting places.

After hearing these stories, I revisited the cemetery transcripts,³⁸ together with my list of "missing ancestors."³⁹

Looking at the Protestant family

names adjacent to the area, one can see there were many with the name Ross, Robinson, McKenzie and Matheson. None had the last name beginning with an "I." So, I suspected that the initials "M-I" stood for McInnis.

With this in mind, I matched up the transcripts of the following stones with our family names:

Row 1

IVOW I	
A-M-I	(Angus or Allan McInnis?)
F.M-I D.G70	(Flora McInnis & D.G.?)
J-M-M-I	(Janet or John or James McInnis?)
Row 2	
J-H-M-I	(Janet or John or James McInnis?)
ZADI – M-C-I-J	(Sadie a.k.a. Sarah

Row 6

J-M-I (Janet or John or James McInnis?)

McInnis?)

In the end, it does not matter, as this is where old Angus lies. It is special to walk where our ancestors first walked and where they were probably buried. Imagine what the land must have been like, covered in forest; it was our folks' hard work that cleared those fields. What it must have been like, in moments of peace, standing by the water. Did they miss the home they had left across the ocean? Or perhaps they were just too busy from dawn to dusk, surviving, to take in the stars on a clear night?

It is likely that after a few years in this new land, they would have been as happy as John McDougald was in his letter to Hugh.

Angus had the courage to leave his home and emigrate to Canada. He was probably a strong, smart man and a leader amongst his neighbours and relatives. My grandfather would have been proud of his greatgreat-grandfather Angus McInnis.

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The McGirrs of Castlederg[©]

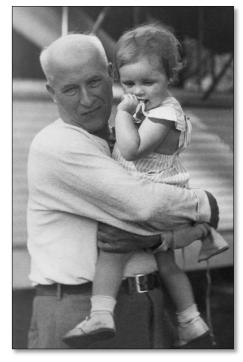


BY LYNNE WILLOUGHBY

Lynne first became interested in genealogy in 1975, and has enjoyed having more time to research and write about her Canadian, Irish and Welsh ancestors since retirement. This story won her an honourable mention award in the BIFHSGO 20th anniversary writing contest.

ntroduction My grandfather, William (Bill) James (John) Watson Willoughby, was a proud Canadian. His ancestral background was largely Irish Protestant, with a smattering of Scottish blood. He married the daughter of another Irish Protestant immigrant. I am sure the main reason he was accepted as a potential suitor for her hand was that his background was Irish. If he had been an Englishman it would have been a different story, despite the fact that his character was deemed acceptable.

However, he never considered his Irish background to be at all significant. Being Canadian was much more important. He always told me to be proud that I was a seventh-generation Canadian. When I began



Bill Willoughby with granddaughter Lynne Source: Collection of the author

my genealogical research, this was one fact I wanted to confirm. However, for a long time, I could only go back five generations to my greatgreat-grandfather, Thomas Willoughby.

Thomas emigrated from Ireland to Upper Canada in 1845, when he was 20 years old.¹ He settled in what became Bentinck Township of Grey County, Ontario, where he met and married Mary Bannister, also from Ireland. Mary had come to Upper Canada from County Wicklow with her parents and siblings in 1840. Therefore, her father and mother, Andrew and Elizabeth (Langril) Bannister, were my sixth-generation ancestors.

Until February of 2014, I had not managed to find any earlier Canadian connections.

Thomas and Mary Willoughby had seven children. John Willoughby, my great-grandfather, was their first male child. In the 1880s he settled in Strong Township of Muskoka and Parry Sound, becoming one of the first farmers in the area. He had met and married Margaret Wight in 1880, and they raised three sons and five daughters on their farm just outside Sundridge, Ontario. My grandfather William was their fourth child and second son.

John and Margaret met on the *Northern Belle*, a steamer that ferried travellers between Owen Sound and Parry Sound.

While John was travelling alone, Margaret was relocating from Grey County to Strong Township with her entire family. The area had just been opened for settlement.

Margaret's father, Alexander Wight, had emigrated from Scotland in 1857 at the age of 21. He settled in Osprey Township, Grey County, where he met and married Mary McGirr on 25 September 1860.

Mary McGirr had also emigrated to Canada. She was born in Ireland in about 1842 to James and Margaret (Fox) McGirr and came to Canada in 1847, when she was 5 years old. Mary's parents settled first in Vaughan Township, York County, and later moved to Grey County. Their final move was to the Sundridge area of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

I had long assumed that Mary's parents were the first generation of this family to arrive in Canada. Recently, while browsing on *Ancestry*, I made a new discovery. Not only had Mary's father James emigrated to Canada, but he came with a younger brother, and another followed shortly afterward. Then, just three years after the first of the McGirr brothers arrived in Canada, their parents, Thomas and Sarah, and their younger sister, Sarah, joined them.

Eureka! Now I had my seventh generation.

Here are other facts I discovered:

Castlederg

Thomas and Sarah McGirr were from Castlederg, County Tyrone. This town had always been their home, and it was there that they met and married in 1824.² They raised three sons, James, Andrew and Robert, and one daughter, Sarah, who was the youngest of their brood. In time, James married a local girl, Margaret Fox, and a new generation of McGirrs began.

The family lived in Castlederg until the mid-1840s, when everything changed. In 1845, a blight attacked the potato crop throughout Ireland. It returned in 1846 and 1847 when the crops failed again. Almost overnight, all of the potatoes, both in the fields and in storage, began to rot. Mass starvation throughout Ireland was the result.

This disaster, now known as "the Potato Famine" or "the Great Famine," affected everyone living in Ireland in one way or another. The blight spread from Europe to all of Great Britain, but it was devastating to Ireland. Here most families depended on the potato crop for their basic food supply. They grew crops such as wheat, oats and barley, but these were for export, and the money they generated paid the families' rent and taxes. Strange as it may seem, these crops were still exported throughout the famine.

Shortly after the first crop failure, the McGirr family realized that they needed to take action. In 1846, James and Andrew set off to find work and a new home for the family in North America. Robert remained at home with the family, as did James' wife Margaret and their two children. Their parents, Thomas and Sarah, remained in Ireland until James and Andrew sent word that they too could follow their sons to a new home in Canada.

James and Andrew arrived in Quebec City and travelled on to Upper Canada, where they found jobs farming in this new land. Robert joined them in the spring of 1847. James' wife and children were not far behind, and left for Canada just one month after Robert departed. By 1851, the entire family was settled in Vaughan Township of York County.

Passenger Lists

Exactly when Andrew and James emigrated is difficult to prove. Most of the McGirr family trees that I located on the Internet show Andrew and James arriving in Canada in 1846.³ However, in each case, when I looked closer at the sources quoted, the picture was not as clear. Passenger lists at that time were not generally retained or published; although I found three or four entries for a James McGirr/MaGirr/McGarr, I am not convinced that any of them are my ancestor.

One family tree entry for Andrew McGirr pointed to a record for Iames McGirr rather than to Andrew. I found at least three or four entries for a James McGirr. One entry shows a 45-year-old James McGirr travelling on the Superior. He died on Grosse Île in September 1847. Another contains a quote from a New Brunswick newspaper dated August 1847. A group of passengers from the ship *Envoy* complimented the ship's captain for his care of them during the crossing. One of those passengers was a "James McGirr."

More convincing is an entry for a Robert McGirr of Castlederg, which shows his name on the passenger list for the *Collingwood*, on its crossing from 29 March to 13 April 1847, destination Quebec City.

Another entry a few days after Robert's departure shows Margaret McGarr of Castlederg leaving Londonderry on the *Helen Thompson*. Margaret and her two children, Mary, age 5, and James, age 3, boarded the ship along with 53 others from Castlederg.⁴ There were a total of 277 passengers on this voyage; the ship must have been crowded when it left its Londonderry dock. The largest single group of over 100 people came from Newton-Stewart, a town just 12 miles from Castlederg.

Over one million people starved to death in Ireland while another mil-

lion left the country. Many went to England or Scotland, but others ended up in the United States, Canada and Australia. Emigration as a result of the famine began in 1845 and continued for nearly a decade.

Ports in North America were desired destinations.⁵ The cost of fares to the United States was higher than those to Canada: more rigorous regulation on U.S. shipping resulted in increases to fares, so many emigrants came to Canada instead.

The largest influx of Irish immigrants to Canada occurred in 1847. All ships from Londonderry were full, with record-breaking bookings. Many of those leaving Ireland were already starving. Thus, poor conditions on board ship and close quarters below decks almost guaranteed that illness would occur.

In early May 1847, officials opened a quarantine station at Grosse Île for all passengers entering Canada through the St. Lawrence River. In 1847 over 90,000 people were processed through this quarantine station. There were over 4.000 burials on the island that year alone. By the end of May 1947, when the Helen Thompson stopped at Grosse Île, the hospital was full, with over 650 patients, and "there were over forty ships forming a line two miles [3 kml long down the St. Lawrence River."6 The situation had reached crisis proportions.

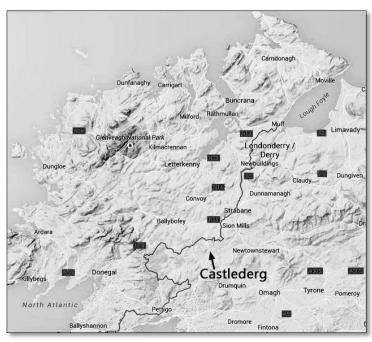
Margaret and her two children arrived in the midst of this. However, conditions on board their ship were better than most. The *Helen Thomp*-

son docked first in Philadelphia, where 100 passengers disembarked. Next. she sailed for Canada and arrived at Grosse Île on 22 May 1847. Four passengers died on the vovage and a fifth succumbed shortly after they arrived at the island. After just a three-day delay at the quarantine station, the ship was al-

lowed to travel on to Quebec City, arriving on 25 May 1847. Given the circumstances, the ship's brief stay at Grosse Île was nothing short of miraculous. Margaret and the other passengers were probably confined to the ship and thus did not witness firsthand the tragic situation unfolding on Grosse Île.

Meanwhile in Ireland

Castlederg sits in the valley of the River Derg in present-day Northern Ireland. It lies near the river and was a traveller's stop along the ancient pilgrimage route to Station Island on Lough Derg. It is close to the border between County Tyrone and County Donegal, which is now part of the Republic of Ireland.



Castlederg
Source: Google Maps

This area of Ireland had been part of the English plantation system from Elizabethan times. By 1837, Castlederg was a market and "post" town of less than 600 souls located on the road between Londonderry and Enniskillen. Two coaches passed through the town every day. The Samuel Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland says that Castlederg "... consisted of about one principal and two smaller streets, containing 105 houses,

many of which are larger and well built, and has much improved under the patronage of Sir R. A. Ferguson, Bart., its proprietor, who has lately built a very handsome inn."⁷ The town also boasted a Church of Ireland, which was erected in 1731 and significantly improved in 1828.

I do not know where the McGirrs lived or what their day-to-day life was like; hopefully in the future I will be able to uncover more facts about their lives. Castlederg would certainly be a stop in any research trip to Ireland. I have not found any reference to land owned or leased by the family and have not located other McGirrs still living in the village.

Thomas and Sarah remained in Castlederg until 1849. By that time, many of their neighbours had either died or departed. Conditions in the village had changed drastically for those who remained. The McGirr boys had been among the first to leave. Now it was time for the rest of the family to depart. Thomas, Sarah and daughter Sarah knew it was time to go. It was difficult to pack up their few belongings and leave behind all that was familiar.

The first step of their journey was to walk the 26 miles [47 kilometres] to the port of Londonderry. For the past four years their neighbours had been leaving the area, and that spring was no different. The McGirr family travelled to the city with folk

they knew. Others from nearby villages and farther afield crowded the roads as the exodus continued. Once the McGirrs reached Londonderry, Thomas obtained passage for them on the *Mary R. Campbell*. They boarded the ship on 27 March 1849 and five weeks later, on 30 April 1849, they stepped ashore in Quebec City.

It is interesting to note that all of the family I located in the shipping records travelled aboard ships owned by the J. & J. Cooke line. This shipping line operated out of Londonderry, where it was established in 1824, when timber merchant Joseph Young bought his first ship. The company grew to a fleet of 14 ships and was operated by his two nephews when he died in 1834. The J. & J. Cooke Company was one of the largest shipping lines run out of Londonderry and operated until 1895.

Although the company had been established for the timber trade to Great Britain, transportation of emigrants allowed it to profit on the return trip. Only meagre accommodations for passengers were available on these ships. Voyages across the North Atlantic varied from 23 days to about a month and a half, depending on conditions. Speed and cost were the most important factors in this trade. Fares charged for the trip were around £3.15 for adult passengers.

Children under 14 years of age counted as half fares.

As the numbers of emigrants increased, it became more and more difficult to manage the volume of passengers. The J. & J. Cooke line was responsible for about 41 per cent of emigrants leaving from Derry; it transported thousands of troubled travellers. During 1847 alone, the company completed 20 crossings of the Atlantic. Of those crossings, only four were on ships

owned by the company. Passenger trade was so brisk that they were forced to augment their own ships with chartered vessels from other Derry merchants. Ships from Liverpool, Greenock and Glasgow were leased as a result.⁸ Even then, the numbers wanting passage exceeded the capacity to respond. Similar arrangements continued to be

made until the numbers decreased in the mid-1850s.

The Mary R. Campbell

The Mary R. Campbell, a barque of 576 tons, was a smaller ship than the one Margaret McGirr had travelled on two years earlier. (A barque is a vessel with at least three masts. The front two masts are fully square-rigged while the stern mast is fore-and-aft rigged). She was built in Canada in 1842 and registered in Montreal. She was added to the J. &

J. Cooke fleet in 1846 once passenger travel increased as a result of the famine. In October 1889, she was lost in a storm off Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, while on a trip from New York City to Montreal.

On that April voyage in 1849, the ship was filled to capacity. The Thomas McGirr family were 3 of the 227 passengers she was carrying. Of those 227 souls, 30 were natives of Castlederg; they were the secondlargest group on the voyage.



The Emigrants
Source: Illustrated London News, 19 June 1852

The largest group on board was from Enniskillen, 57 miles from Castlederg. Another 23 passengers came from nearby Omagh, while 18 others came from just down the road in Strabane. Thirteen were from Limavady.

Adults received full rations, while children under 14 counted as half rations. On that voyage 85 of the

passengers were 13 or under. There were 121 men and 106 women. Five families in the group came from Castlederg, three of which included children—10 children in all. Seven single men and four unaccompanied women were also from Castlederg.

Conditions on board the Mary R. Campbell on that trip would have deteriorated from those experienced earlier in the decade. With the large numbers of people desperately wanting to leave Ireland, life on board ship was risky indeed. Ships were crowded and tales of sickness and shipwrecks were rife. As a book about the ship line notes,

Sleeping accommodation consisted of temporary wooden shelves in the 'tween-decks. This "cabin" area of the ship was partitioned into three parts—single men in the forward compartment, single women in the aft compartment and families in midships.¹⁰

People provided their own bedding and utensils. Food and water was allocated according to legislated rules and a fixed space was allotted for each individual. Rations provided were sometimes short, especially on longer journeys, and those who could do so brought additional supplies.

People anxious to leave recognized they had no alternatives to such spartan conditions, and the passengers made the best they could out of their situations. The McGirrs were no exception.¹¹

Reunited

In 1847, when James was reunited with his wife Margaret, their two children, Mary and James Junior, were just 5 and 3 years old. James Junior was an infant when his father left for North America. Just a year later, on 3 August 1848, Margaret gave birth to their second son, whom they named Andrew. He was the first of many McGirrs to be born Canadian. 12

In the 1851 Census of Upper Canada, the McGirr family is shown living more or less together in Vaughan Township. James McGirr, with a family of five, is located on page 243 of the census for York County, District No. 42, Sub-District Vaughan. 13 Thomas, Sarah and all their other children can all be found on page 291 of the same document. 14 Both James and Thomas are listed as farmers, while Andrew is listed as a carpenter and Robert as a labourer.

Andrew married Ontario-born Susannah Shore in 1856. Robert married somewhat later, in 1871. His wife, Eliza Harvey, was also from Ireland. Her name appears on the 1861 Census showing her working as a servant on the McGirr farm in Vaughan, where she lived with the family.

Thomas and Sarah's daughter Sarah married William Julian, a neighbour she met in Canada. William had emigrated from England and farmed nearby.

Both Andrew and Sarah went on to raise families in Ontario, but Robert and Eliza appear to have been childless.

By 1861, James and his family had moved to Osprey Township, Grey County, while the remaining members of the family continued to live in Vaughan Township, not far from the King town line. Later, Andrew and Robert relocated to Grev Countv. Thomas and Sarah were the proud grandparents of eight children, all but two of whom were born in Ontario. Thomas is listed on the 1861 Census as age 57 and still farming for a living. The rest of the family are still listed together. All the adult males list their occupations as farmers.

Sarah and Thomas are not found in the 1871 Census of Canada. Thomas was 77 years old when he died on 30 April 1871.¹⁵ His death certificate lists his rank or profession as "gentleman" and his cause of death as "old age after an illness of short duration." The 1871 Census began on April 2nd, which does not really explain why he is missing. Sarah just fades from sight; I have not been able to locate a death certificate for her

When Thomas died in 1871, he and Sarah had 16 grandchildren and another generation was on its way. Seven Canadian great-grandchildren had already put in an appearance.

Thomas, Sarah and their family survived the Irish potato famine and made it safely to Upper Canada, where they were able to establish themselves, become Canadians and make their home in their new country.

Did they miss their home in Ireland or did they, like many other new Canadians, never look back? Did my grandfather know his grandmother and great-grandfather? If so, why did he never mention them? How did the family pay for their passage to North America? Did James and Andrew travel on J. & J. Cooke ships as well? What was life like when they arrived in Canada? Were they poor or did they have savings? Did they own or lease their land? Did they abandon their land or sell it? What was their life like in Ireland? Were they related to the McGirrs who settled in Glenelg? Did Thomas and Sarah have any other children? When did they first purchase property in Canada? Why did they move from Vaughan to Osprey and then to Strong Township? And who were Thomas and Sarah's parents?

Many questions still need to be answered about this part of my family and how they lived. Nonetheless, the facts I have discovered so far are exciting for me. Finally I have solved a long-term mystery and have removed a couple of chinks from the Irish wall that is my family's past.

Reference Notes

- ¹"1901 Census of Canada," database, Ancestry (ancestry.ca), Ontario, District Grey (south/sud), District No. 66, Sub-District Durham (Town/Ville), Sub-District No. C-3, Page 3, Family 28, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilms T-6428 to T-6556.
- ² "1861 Census of Canada," database, Ancestry (ancestry.ca), Vaughan, York, Canada West, Page 133, Lines 18–19, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilms C-1089 to C-1090.
- ³ "1901 Census of Canada," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.ca), Muskoka & Parry Sound, Ontario, District No. 91, Sub-District Machar, Sub-District No. B(1), Division No. 2, Family 21, Page 2, Line 42, citing Library and Archives Canada Series RG31-C-1, Microfilm reel T-6483.
- ⁴"Port of Derry Ship List from J. & J. Cooke's Line (1847–1849)," database, Family Search (familysearch.org), extracted from Emigrants from Derry Port 1847–1849, Dessie Baker, editor, (Apollo, Pennsylvania: Closson Press, 1985) ISBN: 01126555.
- ⁵ Brian Mitchell, *Irish Passenger Lists*, 1847–1871: Lists of Passengers Sailing from Londonderry to America on ships of the J. & J. Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1988) ISBN: 0806312068.
- 6 "Grosse Île, Quebec," Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grosse _Isle,_Quebec#Timeline_of_the_1847_ crisis: accessed 21 April 2014).
- 7 "Castlederg," The Samuel Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837,

- *Genuki* (www.genuki.org: accessed 15 March 2014).
- ⁸ Brian Mitchell, *Irish Passenger Lists*, 1847–1871: Lists of Passengers Sailing from Londonderry to America on ships of the J. & J. Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1988), ISBN: 0806312068.
- 9 "Mary R. Campbell," Wreck Site (http://www.wrecksite.eu/), citing the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, posted 26/04/2008.
- "Port of Derry Ship List from J. & J. Cooke's Line (1847–1849)," database, Family Search (familysearch. org), extracted from Emigrants from Derry Port 1847–1849, Dessie Baker, editor, (Apollo, Pennsylvania: Closson Press, 1985) ISBN: 01126555.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- 12 "1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.ca), York County, Vaughan, Page 243, Line 42, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm reel C-11758.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14"1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.ca) York County, Vaughan, Page 291, Lines 19–24, citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm reel C-11758.
- ¹⁵ 1871 Ontario Deaths, "Ontario, Canada, Deaths, 1869–1938, and Deaths Overseas, 1939–1947," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.ca), Certificate No. 019470, citing Archives of Ontario Series MS935, Reel 3.

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Techniques and Resources

The Cream of the Crop

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





By Ken McKinlay and John D. Reid

People of the British Isles

A paper has appeared in the journal *Nature* detailing the results of this project, which analyzed DNA from over 2000 people whose four grandparents were born within the same U.K. county. There's a good non-technical summary at http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/PO BInewsletter06_March2015.pdf.

It's recommended reading. What's remarkable is that without forcing any geographic clustering they found distinct regional differences. Cornwall was different from Devon and North Wales was distinct from the South. There's a good colour map of the clusters, which doesn't reproduce well in grey-scale.

Two of the findings that struck me were:

- Danish Vikings, in spite of their major influence through the "Danelaw" and many place names of Danish origin, contributed little of their DNA to the English population.
- There was a previously not described substantial migration

across the Channel (from Northern France) after the original post-Ice-Age settlers but before Roman times. These migrants' DNA spread across England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, but had little, if any, impact on Wales.

The article also mentions that the initial findings of a related project on the genetics of facial feature variation are expected to be published this summer.

Forces War Records Magazine

This free 28-page British online magazine was launched in April by the folks at Forces War Records (www.forces-war-records.co.uk), a sister site of Forces Reunited. The first issue's cover story is a "Genealogical Boot Camp" for getting started on researching military ancestors. Solid straightforward advice.

The May issue's lead article discusses "The Anzacs in the Dardanelles." and each month there are several other historical features on military topics. A "Happening Now" section includes news on military genealogy, upcoming activities, and a recap of day-by-day happenings from the Great War.

Search Restored for Irish Civil **Registration Indexes**

It appears Irish authorities are now satisfied regarding privacy issues and civil registration indexes are

returned to IrishGenealogy.ie/. You now have to enter your, or at least a, name and check a box to affirm you'll abide by Section 61 of the Civil Registration Act, 2004 to reach the basic search form. An advanced search is available by choosing the "More" search options. But before vou see the results there's the annovance of a reCAPTCHA entry.

I was pleasantly surprised that a search with first and last name returned results where the first name specified was actually the middle name—useful when people choose to reverse the order in later life. Years available are 1864-1914 for births, 1845 or 1864 (depending on religion)-1939 for marriages, and 1864-1964 for deaths.

Canadian Unit Diaries for the Second World War

You may not be aware that there are extensive war diaries for every unit of the Canadian Forces during the Second World War. If your relative was on land, sea or air, even at one of the many Canadian bases of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, there should be a diary for his or her unit at Library and Archives Canada.

Start the search at http://www.baclac.gc.ca/eng/discover/militaryheritage/Pages/war-diaries-shiplogs-operations-records.aspx/. It may not mention your relative but will recount the unit experience.

Missing Canadian Census Records

Before you go insane looking for Canadian census records that may not exist, become familiar with what records have survived. You do that on the Library and Archives Canada website (you won't find it on *Ancestry* or *FamilySearch*) starting at the "About" pages for each census. Check out http://familytreeknots. blogspot.ca/2015/02/missing-subdistricts-in-cdn-censuses.html/ for full instructions

Canadian Headstones Index

Over one million entries in the *Canadian Headstones* database can now be searched from family search.org. You may find it easier to perform the initial search there, but the results are not linked to the headstone images. For those you'll have to go to http://canadianhead stones.com/and repeat the search using that information.

Newly Digitized Canadian City Directories

Library and Archives Canada now have available online (as PDFs) 152 directories for the Ontario cities of Hamilton (1853–1900), Kingston (1865–1906) and London (1856–1901) and for the counties of Southwestern Ontario (1864–1900). They are available at http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/ discover/directories-collection/Pages/directories-collection-available-editions.aspx/.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People

I've always found the alliteration fascinating. A blog post from the Wellcome Library reveals that these almost legendary pills were originally produced and patented by Dr. William Frederick Jackson, a physician in Ontario in 1866. The international success of the pills was due to the marketing skills of the Canadian politician, Senator George Taylor Fulford.

According to *Ancestry* William Frederick Jackson was born about 1853 in Brockville, Ontario, and died on 29 January 1935 in Leeds, Ontario. His father was William Hayes Jackson and his mother the delightfully named Polyanna Beach. His death notice in the *Ottawa Journal* of 30 January 1935 makes no mention of the pills. He is said to have been an associate of Alexander Graham Bell in the invention of the telephone.

A Wikipedia article on George Taylor Fulford, also Brockville-born, gives further details on his involvement with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People and reports he was the first Canadian fatal automobile accident victim.

Backup for Your Mental Health

Every month *Anglo-Celtic Connections* issues a reminder to make a backup of your hard drive. That way if your computer crashes near the end of the month you'll only lose that month's work. There are cloud

backup services, but some of us still like the security of having our files on our home computer and not trusted to a commercial enterprise. Backing up your computer to your own external hard drive may not be as safe, as a fire or other disaster in the home might destroy both, but if it survives it will be simpler and much quicker to restore your files. As with everything computer-related, costs are falling and capabilities increasing. Expect to pay significantly less than \$100 for a 1TB external drive.

Tony Bandy, in the April/May issue of *Internet Genealogy* magazine, reviews the major vendors for those who rely on cloud storage. With a Chromebook computer they may not even have a local hard drive. He mentions Apple's iCloud, Microsoft's OneDrive and Google Drive, plus Dropbox and services from Amazon. He also mentions genealogy companies with their cloud storage services for genealogy files, with accompanying images.

Scottish Chapbooks

While the newly released digitized collection of the Scottish chapbooks held by the University of Guelph won't help us add names and dates to our family trees, this collection helps us better understand what our Scottish ancestors may have been reading and what may have kept them interested and amused. The Scottish chapbooks were pamphlets of 8 to 24 pages

that featured popular stories of romance, travel, comedy, politics, fairy tales, religion, social customs, and history. These books were popular in Scotland because the songs, ballads, poems and short stories appealed to a population that was highly literate by European standards. The books are available at http://www.scottishchapbooks.org for your reading pleasure.

findmypast Yorkshire Collections

Those with ancestors from Yorkshire are once again in for a treat, as findmypast has released over 5 million parish records in the second phase of its partnership with the Yorkshire Digitisation Consortium. The second phase release includes baptism, banns and marriage records held by the North Yorkshire County Record Office, Doncaster Archives and Local Studies, East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service. Teesside Archives and Sheffield Archives and Local Studies. This phase also includes new bishop's transcripts of baptisms, marriages, banns and burials from the Borthwick Institute for Archives (University of York).

WW II German Occupation Registration Cards for Jersey

The Channel Islands were the only British soil occupied by German troops during the Second World War. At that time the German authorities made it compulsory for everyone to be registered under the Registration and Identification of Persons (Jersey) Order, 1940. The "German Occupation Registration Cards" collection is composed of the digitized images of the registration cards for the over 30,000 Islanders who lived in Jersey during the Occupation. If you have ancestors or relatives that lived on Jersey during the Second World War then check out the collection at http://catal ogue.jersey heritage.org/features/german-occupation-registration-cards/.

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON



Several years ago I started to review the holdings of the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library regarding the counties of England, starting with

Middlesex and then Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Essex. And then I got sidetracked. Inspired by the recent display about Sussex on the Discovery Tables, I have decided that it is now the turn of Sussex.

We are fortunate to have several histories of the county, as well as histories of its many towns and villages.

Armstrong, J. Roy. Richard Pailthorpe and Diana Zeuner, editors. *A History of Sussex*. Chichester, UK: Phillimore & Co. Ltd, 1995.

Darby, Ben. *View of Sussex.* London: Robert Hale Ltd, 1975.

Gregory, Albert H. *Mid-Sussex Through the Ages*. Haywards Heath, UK: Charles Clarke Ltd, 1938. Elliott, A. G. An Early Portrait of the Villages and Hamlets of Brighton and Hove. A.G. Elliott, 1984.

Hickman, M. M. *The History of Shipley: a Wealden Village*. M. M. Hickman, 1980.

Nicolson, Adam and Peter Morter. Prospects of England: Two Thousand Years Seen Through Twelve English Towns. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1989. Includes a chapter about the town of Chichester.

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Farrant, John H. *Sussex Depicted: Views and Descriptions 1600–1800.* Lewes, UK: Sussex Record Society, 2001. Mostly paintings and descriptions of the great houses of Sussex.

Grieves, Keith, editor. Sussex in the First World War. Lewes, UK: Sussex Record Society, 2004.

Stevenson, Janet E., editor. *The Dur-ford Cartulary*. Lewes, UK: Sussex Record Society, 2006. Calendar of

the cartulary (a register of charters, title deeds, etc.) of Durford Abbey, which was a house of Premonstratensian, or White, canons. The history of the order and of the abbey from its foundation in 1161 to its dissolution in 1534 is discussed in the introduction.

McCann, Timothy. Sussex Cricket in the Eighteenth Century. Lewes, UK: Sussex Record Society, 2004.

Davey, Roger, editor. *East Sussex Parliamentary Deposited Plans* 1799–1970: *Schemes for Railways, Canals, Harbours, Tramways, Piers and Public Utilities*. Lewes, UK: Sussex Record Society, 2003. If your ancestor was involved in building such public utilities, you may find items of interest to enhance your information about that person.

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton. The Museum, 1977. This collection of old English farm buildings, with descriptions of how they were built, may interest anyone with connections to farming in England.

Among the maps that the library has collected are two Ordnance Survey maps from the First Series:

Brighton and the Downs (sheet 198, published 1974) and

Chichester and the Downs (sheet 197, published 1980).

There are several aids for finding your ancestors, such as these papers prepared by Michael J. Burchall and published by the Sussex Family History Group in the years listed:

Eastern Sussex Workhouse Census, 1851. 1979.

Brighton Presbyterian Parish Registers 1700–1837. 1978.

Lewes Non-Conformist Registers. 1975.

Sussex Military Marriages, 1750–1812: Part I. 1975.

Index of East Sussex Parish Registers, 1275–1870. 1975.

A Catalogue of Sussex Quarter Session Settlement Orders and Cases. 1977. In three volumes covering the period from 1661 to 1749.

Eastern Sussex Settlement Certificates 1670–1832. Sussex Genealogical Centre, 1979.

Hunisett, R. F., editor. *East Sussex Coroners' Records, 1638–1838*. Lewes, UK: Sussex Record Society, 2005.

McCann, Alison, editor. *Emigrants* and *Transportees from West Sussex* 1778–1874. Chichester, UK: West Sussex Record Office, 1980.

Poole, Eric, compiler. Followers of John Cade's Rebellion in 1450 from Kent, Sussex, Essex and Surrey. Kent Family History Society. 1985.

BIFHSGO News

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 15 Feb 2015–1 May 2015				
Member No.	Name	Address		
721	Joan Foster-Jones	Ottawa, ON		
833	Eleanor Ryan	Ottawa, ON		
1163	Brooke Broadbent	Ottawa, ON		
1706	Maryanne Taylor	Stittsville, ON		
1707	Cheryl Wilcox	Nepean, ON		
1708	Rose Marie MacLennan	Ottawa, ON		
1708	Carol Pugsley	Ottawa, ON		
1709	Nancy Dunlop	Cornwall, ON		
1710	Colleen Murdoch	Ottawa, ON		
1711	Lynn Montague	Ottawa, ON		
1712	Anne Moralejo	Ottawa, ON		
1713	Mary Burns	Wolfe Island, ON		
1714	Patrick Brewer	Nepean, ON		
1715	Ruth Cooper	Ottawa, ON		
1715	John Cooper	Ottawa, ON		
1553	Michael Baird	Portland, ON		
1716	Thomas Adams	Nepean, ON		
1717	Tammy Whalen	Ottawa, ON		
1718	Barry Read	Kanata, ON		
1718	Jennifer Shaw-Read	Kanata, ON		

A family tree can wither if no one tends its roots.



Celebrate Your Anglo-Celtic Roots!

Family History Conference

18-20 September 2015

Ben Franklin Place 101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa

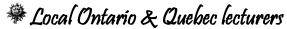
Featuring

Scottish Family History
Christine Woodcock & Chris Paton

Photographs in Genealogy

Maureen Taylor

Technology for Genealogy
Thomas MacEntee & Janet Few



Research Room & Research Room

Early-bird discount until 14 August

Register online at **www.bifhsgo.ca** whether you pay with PayPal, credit card or cheque

For details: www.bifhsgo.ca, the enclosed brochure, or 613-234-2520



Presented in partnership with the Ottawa Public Library and the City of Ottawa Archives



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The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally incorporated society and a registered charity (Reg. No. 89227 4044 RR0001). 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 2015 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

The Chamber, Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa

12 Sept 2015 The Life and Times of Nursing Sister Laura Gamble,

WW I—Brooke Broadbent explains his research efforts and findings about this nurse, done for a display at the Fairbairn House Museum in Wakefield and for a production at

Theatre Wakefield.

10 Oct 2015 Did DNA Prove the Skeleton under the Leicester Car Park

was Richard III?—John Reid reviews the forensic evidence examined by the research team, focuses on their use of likelihood ratios for non-genetic and genetic data for making the case, and draws out lessons for genealogists.

14 Nov 2015 The George Gallie Nasmith World War I Letters—Patty

McGregor discusses the adventure of reading and transcribing a box of letters bought at auction, researching the letter writers and the events and people mentioned, and

deciding how to share the information.

Schedule

9:00–9:30 Before BIFHSGO Educational Sessions: check 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 information on meetings of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check bifhsgo.ca.

Articles for Anglo-Celtic Roots

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please email the Editor, at acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for publication in the Fall issue is 24 July 2015.