



Anglo-Celtic Roots

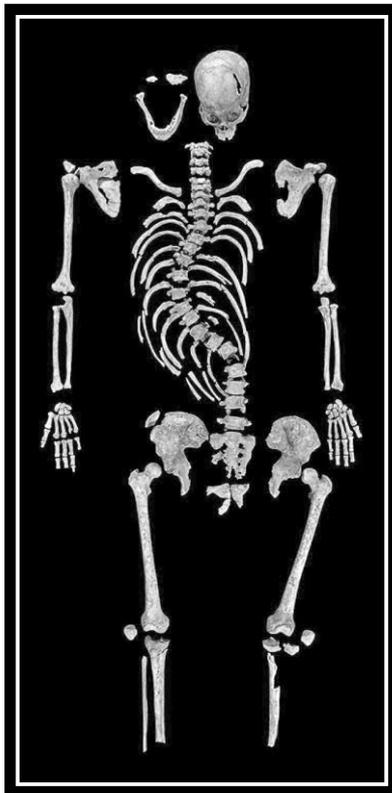
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*Gratuitous Treasure: Imperial War Service Gratuity
Records, 1919–1923, and Family History*

*Family Frauds: Researchers Should Beware of
Perpetuating Falsehoods from the Past*



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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

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Cover Illustration:

The remains of King Richard III

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From the Editor:

Volume 22 of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* begins with articles on two under-used ways to enhance your family history research.

First, John Reid expands on his October 2015 meeting presentation about identifying Richard III's skeleton. He offers some useful guidance on using the Genealogical Proof Standard to assess how much the information you have uncovered will help identify an ancestor.

Glenn Wright reveals a little-known source of background information on participants in the First World War and their families. Much more than name, rank and serial number may appear in these records.

We reprint a *Canada's History* article about good research techniques.

And in preparation for the BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting in June, we invite members to review the official minutes of the 2015 AGM.



Jean Kitchen

From the President



As I sit to write this, the snow has finally stopped. Over 50 cm has fallen on Ottawa today. Roads were messy, commutes long and people fraz-

zled; cars and buses were stuck everywhere; ploughs were failing miserably at trying to keep ahead of the storm.

Seeing the photos and hearing the tales of people's ordeals makes me wonder how our ancestors dealt with such weather events. Did they find it easier than us to do what needed doing when it was extremely cold or snowy? I sometimes wonder why any of them stayed here!

My farming ancestors would have had to make their way to the barn at least to care for livestock. My seafaring ancestors certainly suffered greatly during bad weather. And it was likely during a storm just like this that my great-grand-uncle was killed by a snowplough train while walking his railway section.

It's thoughts like these that inspire so many of us to start researching our family history. Being a BIFHSGO member is a wonderful way to meet others with similar interests and a great place to learn research methods and techniques.

Our first workshop in several years, Maps and Mapping for 21st Century Genealogists with James F.S. Thomson, is scheduled for 5 March. The organizers were gratified to see it sell out before our February monthly meeting. This demonstrates how keen our members are to learn new skills. The workshop promises to be informative and fun.

The Board of Directors has made a decision on the fate of our library. We were pleased that many members offered feedback on the library committee report and that most of those supported it. Board members have accepted the committee's recommendations to transfer the library to OGS Ottawa Branch and will be holding discussions with the Branch for the smooth transfer of our collection.

Board elections in June are fast approaching, and we are always looking for members who are interested in becoming more active in the running of the organization. Taking on a larger role within the society has many rewards and is not nearly as demanding as you might think. If you want to get involved, please speak to one of the Board members.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara J. Tose'.

Barbara J. Tose

Confidence and the Genealogical Proof Standard[®]

By JOHN D. REID

John is a past president of BIFHSGO who blogs at www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.ca/. This article is based in part on a presentation he gave at the Society's October 2015 monthly meeting.



The Genealogical Proof

Standard (GPS) offers a systematic approach to minimizing mistakes that may be made when drawing conclusions in family history.¹

It consists of five elements:

- a reasonably exhaustive search
- complete and accurate source citations
- analysis and correlation of the collected information
- resolution of any conflicting evidence, and
- a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

Sometimes it becomes evident that an earlier element of the GPS needs to be reconsidered. A genealogical conclusion that meets the standard can be considered proved, given the information and sources available. However, new evidence may upset the conclusion.

The near-instantaneous results given by web-based searches of massive online databases make it easy to get caught up in the thrill of the chase and quickly move on from one finding to the next without adequate evaluation. Are the individuals found the right ones? It may well be that they are; conversely, they could be others who happen to fit skimpy evidence.

In his book *Thinking Fast and Slow*, Nobel prize-winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman explains that two systems drive the way we think.² System 1 is fast, intuitive and emotional. System 2 is slower, more deliberate, and more logical. Over-reliance on System 1, which is essential when in danger or when dealing with routine matters of everyday life, is likely to lead us astray if we have to deal with more complex matters. The GPS is an example of System 2, involving a trade-off between greater confidence in the result and slower progress.

What the GPS does not reveal, however, is how much confidence there is in a conclusion based on the correlation of disparate information. In her book *Evidence Explained*, Elizabeth Shown Mills discusses levels of confidence.³ She concludes that there is no accepted terminology or professional standard. Different professionals may not mean the same thing by the same term.

Mills mentions one set of parameters that offers a logical hierarchy without going so far as to recommend it. Starting with “certainly,” where “the author has no reasonable doubt about the assertion, based upon sound research and good evidence,” it moves in decreasing degrees of confidence from “probably” through “possibly,” “likely,” and “apparently” down to “perhaps,” where “an idea is plausible, although it remains to be tested.”

Historical studies are starting to use a probabilistic approach to levels of confidence, common in forensic and medical fields. And there has been some movement to introduce a quantitative approach to estimating confidence in genealogical findings.⁴

One factor that may be motivating this move is the growing acceptance of DNA results, such as those from *Family Tree DNA* (www.ftdna.com), as genealogical evidence. Matches through FTDNA’s Y-chromosome tests are accompanied by probabilities of there being a common

paternal ancestor within a specified number of generations. In FTDNA’s autosomal test, Family Finder, results are accompanied by an estimate of relationship as well as information on the amount of DNA in common and the longest common DNA segment. Further relevant statistics are available on the “Autosomal DNA Statistics” page of the *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki*.⁵

The following sections will explore the likelihood ratio quantitative approach to assessing confidence for both historical and genealogical cases. It’s derived from Bayes’ Theorem for cases where the elements of evidence are independent.⁶

History: Richard III

Building on its use in forensics, probability was used in a historical context to identify a skeleton found under a car park in the English city of Leicester as “extremely probably” that of King Richard III.

The King was said to have been buried in the choir of the long-demolished Church of the Greyfriars.⁷ When an archaeological excavation at the Greyfriars site was proposed by the Richard III Society, there remained a number of uncertainties—about the original burial location, the possibility that the body had been disinterred or been destroyed during construction, and the likelihood of confusion with other burials at the site.

Archaeologists concluded that there was perhaps a 2.5 per cent probability of finding Richard III's skeleton there.⁸ This is termed the "prior probability" (or simply "prior") in statistical terminology.

After years of fundraising, securing the necessary archaeological expertise and seeking the required authorizations, a dig was undertaken in August 2012. Almost immediately human leg bones were discovered at a location soon determined to have been the church choir. The skeleton was exhumed, the bones taken for forensic examination and the results published in a December 2014 article in the journal *Nature Communications*.⁹

The Evidence

The skeleton had a marked spinal deformity termed scoliosis. According to contemporary reports, King Richard had one shoulder higher than the other, which is consistent with scoliosis.

Characteristics of the pelvis indicated that the skeleton was that of a male adult of slim build. His age range was estimated at 30 to 34 years. Richard III was aged 32 when he died.

Samples from the skeleton were carbon-14 dated by two independent laboratories, resulting in a range of death year from 1455 to 1540 with 95 per cent probability. King Richard was killed in 1485.

Of the total of 11 wounds made to the body at around the time of death, two to the skull were judged to have been fatal, one instantly so. This was consistent with reports that Richard died on the battlefield.

DNA samples from the skeleton were compared with two people who, documentary evidence suggested, should have mitochondrial DNA from the same ancestor as King Richard. One was an exact match and another differed at only one location, a closer match than any other known DNA sample.

However, Y-chromosome analysis of DNA samples showed no match between the skeleton and five people who, according to the paper trail, should have matched. The supposed genealogical relationship was not supported by DNA evidence, suggesting that there had been a non-paternal event somewhere in the family tree.

Experts from various fields were consulted to evaluate the likelihood that each of the above points was consistent with either hypothesis H0 (that the skeleton was that of Richard III) or a second hypothesis, H1 (that it was not). How much more or less likely is it that the evidence would be found if H0 were true rather than H1?

For hypothesis H0, given the contemporary description of Richard III's physical appearance, an estimated likelihood of 90 per cent of

observing scoliosis was reduced to allow for a 5 per cent possibility that the description was incorrect. For hypothesis H1 a likelihood of 0.4 per cent was used, reflecting the prevalence of scoliosis as severe as in the skeleton in the general population. The likelihood ratio, $0.9 \times 0.95/0.004$, is 212.

Evidence	Likelihood Ratio	Support
Scoliosis	212	Moderately strong
Age and sex	5.25	Limited
Radiocarbon date	1.84	Limited
Wounds	42	Moderate
mtDNA	478	Moderately strong
Y-DNA	0.16	Limited against

Similar expert likelihood evaluations were made for the other evidence elements. Likelihood ratios above 100, found for the scoliosis and mitochondrial DNA, are considered “moderately strong” support. With likelihood ratios between 10 and 100, the evidence lends “moderate” support, and when greater than 1 and less than 10, “limited” support. If the likelihood ratio is less than one, as with the Y-DNA evidence, it weighs against the skeleton being Richard’s.

Considering all the evidence together, the likelihood of the skeleton being that of King Richard is found by multiplying the likelihood ratios

together, which yields an “extremely strong” combined likelihood ratio of about 6.6 million. It is important to note that multiplying the likelihood ratios is only appropriate if the various evidence elements are independent.⁶ In this case, for example, it is no more likely that fatal wounds would be found on some-

body with scoliosis than on someone without that affliction. All the evidence elements in this case were judged to be independent.

To calculate the confidence that the skeleton is King Richard’s, one needs to take into account the archaeologists’ original skeptical probability of only 2.5 per cent that

Richard’s remains would be in that location. The technical background for this calculation is in the Technical Annex to this article. The computations of the team assessing Richard, as detailed in the *Nature Communications* article, yielded a probability of 99.9994 per cent that the skeleton is Richard’s. That is “extremely probable,” according to a canon of probabilities proposed by historian and philosopher Richard Carrier.¹⁰

Genealogy: John Marmon

The statistics needed for applying the likelihood ratio technique in genealogy are not yet well developed. The following case of John Marmon

is, however, an illustration of how the technique may be applied; the figures are the author's best estimates.

Numerous official records of birth and marriage, as well as census entries, exist between 1881 and 1911 for a John Marmon (JMC) and his family in Carmarthenshire, South Wales. The earliest is for the birth on 22 March 1878 in Llanelly of his unnamed son, who died as a newborn.¹¹ Four census records from Carmarthen give JMC's imputed birth year as being between 1837 and 1841 and his birthplace as Liverpool, except for the last census, 1911, which gives his birthplace as Killeel, County Down, Ireland. However, no relevant record contemporary with these birth dates and locations has yet been found.

In Denbighshire, North Wales, a John Marmon (JMD) appears in records of a marriage on 11 November 1867¹² to Catherine Durken and of the birth of a son,¹³ also named John, to Catherine Durkan (sic) the following year. These are the only entries that can be found for JMD. Neither John nor Catherine is to be found in the 1871 Census, although their son John is recorded as a visitor with his maternal grandparents. There are no further relevant official records of a John Marmon from the 10-year period between the last record of a John Marmon in Denbighshire (1868) and the first in Carmarthenshire (1878). Catherine



John Marmon

Source: Author's collection

Durken Marmon remarried under her maiden name in May 1874.¹⁴

Prior Probability

How confident can one be that the records in North and South Wales, 10 years apart, refer to the same John Marmon? The hypothesis H0 is that JMC in 1878 is the same person as JMD in 1867; the alternative hypothesis H1 is that they are not the same person.

John Marmon is a somewhat unusual name. No other likely candidates were found in the English or Welsh records. It is possible JMD may have (1) migrated or been transported outside England and Wales, (2) died an unrecorded death, (3) been recorded in an institution (prison, workhouse, Bedlam) with initials only, (4) avoided being recorded, or (5) changed his identity.

Male emigration from England and Wales is estimated as eight per cent for the decade.¹⁵ A male aged 35 had a nine per cent chance of dying in the subsequent decade¹⁶ and, although the vast majority of deaths would have been recorded, a death certificate was required for burial, and perhaps five per cent of deaths went unregistered. The other probabilities are judged to be small and, in round figures, there is perhaps a 10 per cent probability that JMC was not the same man recorded in North Wales a decade earlier.

To be conservative, and recognizing these are ballpark figures, I have doubled the probability to 20 per cent. The implied 80 per cent probability that it was the same person therefore constitutes the prior probability.

As with the Richard III case, estimates of the likelihood ratio are made in the following section, which deals with the various pieces of evidence.

The Evidence

Occupation

A July 1875 issue of the newspaper *The Welshman* mentions a John Marmon, a “general dealer” living in Llanelly, as the victim of a robbery. The same paper records John Marmon as a hawker in November 1878. The March 1878 registration of JMC’s son’s birth, where the father’s occupation is recorded as a jobbing bell hanger (an occupation unlikely to have provided a steady

Evidence	Likelihood Ratio	Support
Occupation	100	Moderately strong
Ancestor Peter	10	Moderate
Relative occupation	1	Neutral
Missing in census	20	Moderate

living), falls between the newspaper reports. Did JMC work between times as a hawker? His common-law wife for many years was a trader in the market at Carmarthen, the town where his occupations in censuses were given as locksmith, gunsmith and bell hanger.

Turning to the earlier records in Denbighshire, JMD was a machine maker when he married, working with metals, and a peddler on the birth of his son in 1868. The likelihood of JMC being a peddler/hawker/general dealer if he was the same person as JMD in North Wales is high; again, to be conservative, let’s use 50 per cent. If they were not the same person, the likelihood of JMC having that occupation is the same as in the general population, one in 200—or 0.5 per cent.¹⁷ The likelihood ratio is therefore $0.5/0.005 = 100$. No account is taken of his additional occupations related to working with metals.

Ancestor Peter

In Carmarthen JMC lived in close proximity to a family with the last name Child. The maiden name of the

wife in that family was Marmon. She died in 1903 shortly after giving birth to a daughter, Jennie, who is found in the 1911 Census as a visitor in the household of one of JMC's married daughters. A chain of documentary evidence shows that Jennie Child's great-grandfather was named Peter Marmon and his occupation was bell hanger. On JMD's 1867 marriage certificate his father is also identified as Peter Marmon with the occupation of smith. These two Peter Marmons would be of the same generation. Are they the same person?

According to death index registrations at www.freebmd.org.uk, between 1838 and 1860 Peter was the first name of about 0.5 per cent of the population in England and Wales.

What is the likelihood of JMC having a Marmon paper trail connection to a Peter Marmon if he was the same person as JMD, whose father was known to be Peter? While the connection is tenuous, it should not be completely ignored. So for the sake of argument, I have assigned a five per cent probability that they are the same Peter Marmon. If they were not the same person, the likelihood would be the same as in the general population, namely a 0.5 per cent probability. The likelihood ratio is therefore $0.05/0.005 = 10$.

Relative Occupation

On JMD's marriage certificate his father Peter's occupation was given as

a smith, which could mean he was a blacksmith, tinsmith, goldsmith, silversmith, locksmith, gunsmith, or a more unusual example such as anchorsmith or chainsmith, but all these jobs involving working with metals. The *Supplement to the Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in England* combines the occupations of locksmith and bell hanger in a single category. Bell hanger is also the occupation given for Jennie Child's great-grandfather. In this instance, I have assumed that the connection, while suggestive, is too tenuous; so the likelihoods for H0 and H1 are the same, giving a likelihood ratio of 1.

Missing in Census

No census records for 1841, 1851 or 1861 can be associated with JMC or JMD. Omissions from census records are known to exist either because people avoided the enumeration or because they were simply missed. In addition, some records were subsequently lost. But the chances of the records for two John Marmons not being found are less than if they are the same person. If five per cent of people are omitted in censuses, the likelihood ratio is $0.05/(0.05 \times 0.05) = 20$.

Analysis of Probability

Given all the evidence, calculating the confidence that JMC and JMD are the same person requires accounting for the prior probability of 80 per cent and the combined likeli-

hood ratio of $(100 \times 10 \times 1 \times 20) = 20,000$. Using the assumption that these strands of evidence are independent and applying the calculation procedure described in the Technical Annex yields a probability of 99.998 per cent that JMC and JMD are the same person. That is “extremely probable,” according to the Carrier canon of probabilities.¹⁰ The moderately strong occupational evidence alone leads to a 99.7 per cent probability, or “very probable.”

Some may disagree with the likelihoods used in this example; one virtue of the method is that it provides a basis for discussion for those with differing views. If there is other compelling evidence, such disagreement may not preclude a strong conclusion.

Conclusion

In most cases, as long as one adopts an analytical approach, following the Genealogical Proof Standard, the risk of jumping to an incorrect conclusion is limited. The likelihood ratio technique adds a means of drawing together the various strands of evidence in order to reach an overall conclusion with a quantitative estimate of confidence.

Additional data, however, always have the potential for surprises. More evidence, such as a DNA test result, can radically change the conclusion. One use for the likelihood technique is to evaluate the likely impact of additional evidence as a

means of deciding whether the cost of obtaining it is worth the benefit. Having found living descendants of JMD, and myself, a descendant of JMC, is it worth pursuing a DNA test?

Reference Notes

- ¹“The Genealogical Proof Standard,” Board for Certification of Genealogists (<http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html> : accessed 4 December 2015).
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- ⁵“Autosomal DNA Statistics.” (n.d.). In *International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki*. (http://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_statistics : accessed 4 December 2015).
- ⁶Balding, David J. *Weight of Evidence for Forensic DNA Profiles*. Chichester: Wiley, 2005.
- ⁷Langley, Philippa and Michael Jones. *The King's Grave*. New York: St Martin's Press, 2013.
- ⁸In everyday usage, probabilities are expressed as percentages, whereas in technical matters where calculation is required, the equivalent scale from 0,

no probability, to 1, perfect certainty, is used.

- ⁹ King, T. E. et al. "Identification of the remains of King Richard III." (December 2014). *Nature Communications* 5: 5631.
- ¹⁰ Carrier, Richard. *Proving History, Bayes's Theorem and the Quest for the Historical Jesus*. New York: Prometheus Books, 2012.
- ¹¹ General Register Office, England and Wales, birth certificate, March 1878, Llanelly, 11a, 740.
- ¹² General Register Office, England and Wales, marriage certificate, December 1867, Ruthin, 11b, 623.
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- ¹⁴ General Register Office, England and Wales, marriage certificate, June 1874, Wrexham, 11b, 559.
- ¹⁵ Whyte, Ian. "Migration and Settlement," in William, Chris (editor) *A Companion to 19th Century Britain*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.
- ¹⁶ Table 24, "Outline Life Tables of the Healthy Districts of England and Wales," in *Supplement to the Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in England*, London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1875. (Google books, accessed 4 December 2015.)
- ¹⁷ The source for occupation statistics is <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/census.html>.

Technical Annex

Bayes' Theorem provides a means whereby different kinds of information can be combined to come to a conclusion expressed as a probability.

Given some evidence (E) and two mutually exclusive alternative hypotheses (H0 and H1), what is the probability that each hypothesis is true?

Bayes' Theorem may be expressed as follows:

$$\frac{P(H0|E)}{P(H1|E)} = \frac{P(H0)}{P(H1)} \times \frac{P(E|H0)}{P(E|H1)}$$

P(H0) and P(H1) are the probabilities for each hypothesis before the evidence E is incorporated. P(E|H0) and P(E|H1) are the probabilities of the evidence E given you know H0 or H1, respectively, to be true. P(H0|E) and P(H1|E) are the probabilities of the respective hypothesis being true after taking account of the evidence E.

The term $\frac{P(H0)}{P(H1)}$ is called the "prior odds" and is the relative likelihood of the two hypotheses before incorporating the evidence E. The term $\frac{P(E|H0)}{P(E|H1)}$ is the "likelihood ratio" and represents the odds of the evidence E in favour of H0, relative to H1. The term $\frac{P(H0|E)}{P(H1|E)}$ is called the "posterior odds" updated to incorporate the evidence E.

When there are several pieces of evidence that are independent, a combined likelihood ratio is calculated by multiplying the likelihood ratios for each element of evidence.

The combined likelihood ratio is multiplied by the prior odds to obtain the combined posterior odds (CPO). As H_0 and H_1 are mutually exclusive,

$P(H_0) + P(H_1) = 1$ and $P(E|H_0) + P(E|H_1) = 1$ so that:

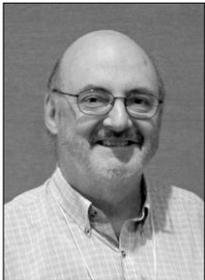
$$P(E|H_0) = CPO / (1 + CPO)$$

This explanation draws on a blog post by Rational Gareth (rational-gareth.com/) and on David J. Balding's book *Weight of Evidence for Forensic DNA Profiles* (Chichester: Wiley, 2005).

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Techniques and Resources

Gratuitous Treasure: Imperial War Service Gratuity Records, 1919–1923, and Family History



BY GLENN WRIGHT

BIFHSGO's Past President and a long-time Society volunteer, Glenn is a well-known military history author as well as a researcher for CBC and History Television programs.

Introduction

In 1919, it was estimated that over 50,000 Canadians

served with British military forces during the First World War. Researching these individuals is a challenge, since a large proportion of the British Army service records were destroyed by enemy bombing during the Second World War. There are extant records for those who served in the air services, such as the Royal Flying Corps, the Royal

Air Force and the Royal Naval Air Service, and for those in the Royal Navy. The original records are not easily accessible to researchers in Canada, although many of these records are now available on subscription websites such as *Ancestry* and *Findmypast*.¹

All is not lost. For almost half of the estimated number of men and women from Canada who served with the British forces, there are at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) records that may throw some light

on their service. These records are the Imperial War Service Gratuity (IWSG) case files.

Historical Background

At the time of discharge, members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) received a War Service Gratuity (WSG), a cash payment based on length of service, to facilitate their re-establishment into civilian life and to provide funds for the period between discharge and re-employment. On 21 December 1918, Cabinet approved an order in council authorizing the payment of a gratuity to all soldiers and sailors “according to their class of service” who were discharged on or after 11 November 1918 and who had served with “good conduct.”

Almost a year later, on 18 September 1919, the House of Commons appointed a Special Committee to examine a bill to amend the Act that created the Department of Soldiers’ Civil Re-establishment, the federal department then responsible for all matters affecting veterans.

The Committee issued its fourth and final report on 31 October 1919; one of its recommendations was that the Canadian gratuity rate be paid to those Canadians, men and women, who had served in any of His Majesty’s military or naval forces during the war, including the following: the Royal Flying Corps/Royal Air Force, Mechanical Transport, the Royal Navy (including the

Royal Naval Motor Boat Patrol), the British Army and other units, regardless of whether the service was the result of direct enlistment, transfer from the CEF or as reservists in those units.² Although it is not spelled out, Canadian nurses who served with the Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service and, in some cases, women who served with the Voluntary Aid Detachments were similarly eligible for the Canadian gratuity rate.

As a result, the Committee recommended to the government that the Canadian rate be paid to all those who had served in some capacity with the British forces if three conditions were met: the individual was residing in Canada on 4 August 1914, he or she returned to Canada after the war, and he or she was domiciled in Canada at the time of application.

It may be appropriate at this juncture to define who was “Canadian.” Naturally, it includes those who were born in Canada but who, for whatever reason, chose to serve with the British forces. It also refers to British-born residents of Canada, recent immigrants who may have been reservists with the British Army, or those who preferred to return to Britain to do “their bit” for the war effort.

Why the concern? At the end of the war, every member of the CEF with overseas service or with a minimum

of 12 months' service in Canada—including nursing sisters and anyone who served with the Royal Canadian Navy or the Royal Navy Canadian Volunteer Reserve—was eligible for a cash gratuity. Take the case of a nursing sister. In the CEF, she held the equivalent rank of lieutenant; with three years' service overseas, she would receive a six-month gratuity at \$88 per month, or a payment slightly in excess of about \$535, at that time a substantial amount of money by any measure.

The British government awarded a gratuity to discharged men and women at the end of the war, but the amounts were far lower than the payment scale adopted in Canada. As explained during the Committee's hearings by Thomas Cox, the Militia and Defence Department official responsible for pay services, the gratuity at the Canadian rate was not available to Canadians who had served in the Imperial Forces, although some men were under the misconception that when they joined the Imperial Motor Transport, for example, they were in fact serving as Canadians, subject to Canadian regulations. Depending on their service, they were eligible for a gratuity, but at the lower British rate. Cox also cited examples of men who were transferred from the CEF to the Imperial Forces "against their will," thus becoming ineligible for the Can-

adian rate of gratuity at the end of the war.³

Grant MacNeil, an official with the Great War Veterans' Association (the largest veterans' organization in Canada at the time), described four classes of individuals who were not receiving the Canadian gratuity: Imperial Forces reservists who were living in Canada when they were recalled in 1914; Canadian residents who voluntarily joined the British forces; CEF enlistees who requested a transfer to an Imperial Forces unit; and finally, those who were transferred from a Canadian to an Imperial Forces unit against their will.

In general, it appeared to most interested observers that Canadians who had served with the Imperial Forces were "debarred" from the same level of post-war benefits that Canadians in the CEF or the Navy enjoyed, and this discrepancy called out for redress.

Numbers are almost impossible to determine with precise accuracy. Major Percy F. Scharschmidt of Vancouver, representing the Imperial War Veterans in Canada Association, tabled figures before the 1919 Special Committee, figures that were accepted by committee members without question.

Scharschmidt described three distinct groupings. In the first group, he included 4,000 Imperial Forces reservists living in Canada at the

beginning of the war who were obligated to return to Britain to serve their country, 500 Imperial Forces pensioners resident in Canada who re-enlisted, and some 2,000 individuals who volunteered for service with the British forces—the total being 6,500. His second group included some 12,000 CEF enlistees who were either transferred to the Imperial Forces or who, upon discharge from the CEF, re-enlisted with the Imperial Forces. And in a third group, Scharschmidt identified some 32,000 Canadian residents who enlisted directly into an Imperial Forces unit. Here he included the Royal Flying Corps/Royal Air Force (20,000), Inland Water Transport (8,000), Naval Service (2,500) and the Motor Transport Section of the Royal Army Service Corps (1,500).

Overlooked completely but equally eligible for the increased gratuity rate were the hundreds of Canadian women who served as British nursing sisters, in Voluntary Aid Detachments and in other nursing capacities. In other words, more than 50,000 individuals may have been eligible for the IWSG.

The Committee's recommendations were accepted by the government and an order in council was passed on 1 December 1919 outlining the award of the IWSG to Canadian residents who had served in the British forces during the war.⁴

In veteran's magazines and in the popular press, men and women were invited to apply for the increased gratuity payment. Applicants were required to complete a four-page form, including information on their war service: dates, units, ranks, regimental number and so on. This information was then verified with the appropriate office in Britain, be it the Air Ministry, the Admiralty or the War Office.

If the veteran claimed a dependant during the war (his wife, a widowed mother or a disabled sibling) additional information was required before the gratuity payment could be determined.

Once service was verified by British authorities and accepted by officials in Ottawa, the difference between the British and Canadian gratuity was calculated and the veteran and his dependant were issued with a series of cheques over a period of six months. The actual financial calculations are documented on these files, except in cases where the applicant was denied the extra gratuity payment.

It was huge undertaking. The Pay Services Directorate of the Department of Militia and Defence assumed responsibility for the administration of the IWSG program and added staff to cope with the anticipated demand: doing the initial assessment of applications,

verifying the claimant's service with the Admiralty, the War Office or the Air Ministry, and calculating the award. To meet the demand, a temporary office was opened in London to facilitate contact with British officials.

The initial deadline for applications was 1 July 1920. Between 1 November 1919 and 31 March 1920, over 17,000 files were opened and the government paid out the equivalent of \$1,115,230.⁵ At the end of 1920 the deadline was extended to 31 March 1922, as applications continued to arrive at Militia and Defence headquarters. On 20 April 1922, Major-General Eugene Fiset, the deputy minister of the department, reported that 14,086 IWSG claims had been settled, amounting to a total payout of about \$3.2 million.⁶ The deadline for submitting a claim was soon extended again to the end of March 1923.

For all those Canadians who had served with the British forces, it was a financial godsend, a significant boost to personal income. Returning to civilian life, re-establishing oneself after years of war was, for many veterans, difficult, especially in the early 1920s when the Canadian economy was at best sluggish. The government's decision to pay out the extra gratuity to thousands who had served was one small way to ease the burden of transition from war to peace.

The Records

The IWSG records at LAC are found in Record Group 9, the records of the Department of Militia and Defence, in series IIF10 (new reference: R-180-104-6-E), volumes 1 to 371. The major part of this series, volumes 1 to 357, consists of individual case files arranged in alphabetical order; these are searchable by name in "Archives Search," the research tool available on the LAC website.

These same records, digitized and indexed by name, are now available on *ancestry.ca* and are described as "Canada, Imperial War Service Gratuities, 1919-1921" in its Canadian Military Collections section.

Researchers should also note that volumes 358 to 371 of the series are individual ledger sheets showing the calculations and payment schedule for the gratuity; these too are arranged in alphabetical order, but are not available on *Ancestry*. There are close to 17,000 case files of varying extent, consisting of applications, supporting documentation and related correspondence.

Case Files and Stories

The best way to show the research value of these records is by example, and the stories that follow are drawn exclusively from the relevant IWSG files; no additional research has been done on any individual.

Arthur Hibbs

The basic IWSG file is a slim affair: the completed application, perhaps some correspondence and related forms. Take the case of Arthur Hibbs.⁷ Arthur was a single man living in Calgary, Alberta, in 1914, when he decided that he would return to Britain to do his bit for the war effort. He travelled overseas in December 1914 and on 28 March 1916 he enlisted with the 1st Battalion of the 1st Monmouthshire Regiment (regimental number 4325). He subsequently transferred to the 6th Battalion, Southwest Borderers (regimental number 226825) and served until he was demobilized on 12 August 1919. While in Britain, he met a woman named Margaret Jane Harris and they married on 23 August 1917; from that date she received a small dependant's allowance until her husband was demobilized, at which time he received a British gratuity amounting to about \$94. In February 1920, the Hibbs's returned to Canada and settled in Calgary. Arthur applied for the IWSG and since he had claimed his wife as a dependant during the war, she was required to complete page 4 of the application, a statutory declaration providing the date of their marriage and her place of residence while her husband was in uniform. When all the calculations were done, Arthur and his wife received a total payment of just over \$500.

Alfred Hill

Imperial Forces veterans who claimed a dependant other than a spouse were required to file additional information with their applications, and some of these records are very interesting. Alfred Hill lived in Toronto before the war and he, like thousands of other British-born immigrants, chose to contribute to the war effort by returning home.⁸ He departed Montreal for Liverpool on 15 November 1914 on the SS *Scandinavian*.

About a year later, he volunteered for service with the Royal Garrison Artillery (regimental number 129813), but as he was not physically fit, his service did not commence until 12 December 1916; he joined as a gunner and served until 20 August 1918, when he was again deemed unfit for further service. A week later, however, he volunteered with the Royal Defence Corps as a private (regimental number 85824) and was finally demobilized on 8 May 1919, with a small gratuity from the British government amounting to a little more than \$38.

Alfred returned to Toronto and took up his former occupation—he was a tailor—and when he read about the IWSG, he applied. While Hill was single during the war, he did have a family dependant, his brother Tom who lived in Westbury, Wiltshire.
(continued on p. 20)

WAR SERVICE GRATUITY (IMPERIAL).

STATUTORY DECLARATION. File No.

Regimental Number 640608 Rank GunnerChristian Name George Surname WrightPresent home address 402 Inglewood St. St. James, Winnipeg

Declaration required of Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men who claim War Service Gratuity payable by the Canadian Government to such ex-members of His Majesty's Imperial Forces as are entitled thereto under the provision of P.C. 2389.

(NOTE: All questions are to be answered in full except that applicants born in Canada are not required to answer questions marked by asterisks.)

I George Wright of the City of Winnipegin the province of Manitoba

do solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the following answers and information are true and accurate.

1. Date and place of birth 9th August 1885, Sneinton, Nottingham.
- * 2. Date of leaving place of birth 1912
- * 3. Purpose of leaving place of birth To better myself.
- * 4. Places of residence since leaving place of birth 212 Queen Street, St. James, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- * 5. Date of first arrival in Canada Aug 1912 ✓
- * 6. Purpose of coming to Canada To permanently settle.
- * 7. State whether accompanied by wife, parents or other relatives Wife.
- * 8. (a) If married at date of coming to Canada and wife did not accompany you, did she subsequently join you in Canada? Not applicable.
- (b) If so, when? Not applicable
- * 9. Occupations between date of arrival in Canada and date of leaving C.P. Railway Co:
- * 10. Date of leaving Canada before joining for service April 1913 ✓
11. Exact purpose of leaving Canada to take a holiday
12. Occupation between date of leaving Canada and date of joining for service in a lace Factory.

M.F.W. 2646.
113-D.P.-5M-26.
H.Q. 1772-39-1464.

Approved
TRU

13. Place of residence on the 4th August 1914. Beeston Nottingham
14. State whether you maintained any home in Canada after date of leaving referred to in paragraph 10. No
15. What proof can you supply that at time of leaving you intended to return to Canada? Let all our belongings with my sister-in-law at 212 Queen St. St. James. Winnipeg
16. (a) If married, did your wife also leave Canada either with or before or after you? Left with me
- (b) And if so, did you set up residence out of Canada before joining for service? Had to set up a home owing to the birth of a son.
17. Have you owned any property or business in Canada, and since when? No
18. Present occupation C.P. Railway.
19. State whether you are living with wife, parents or other relatives. Wife and family
20. Further information We left my youngest sister-in-law (an orphan) aged 15 behind in Canada, and fully intended returning to Canada at an early date, but owing to the birth of my son, and then the commencement of the war, found it impossible to return until recently.

And I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

Signature of Applicant George Wright

Declared before me at Winnipeg
in the Province of Manitoba
this 5th day of August
A.D. 1922

W. C. [Signature]
A Notary Public in and for the
Province of Manitoba

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Notary Public, etc.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements made in the foregoing Declaration are true.

Signature M. A. Sigurdson Signatura H. [Signature]

Profession music Profession the 1263 Beverly

Address 439 ferry st Address Winnipeg St

Figure 1: Pages 5 and 6 of George Wright's application

Source: Library and Archives Canada

Tom was unable to serve in the armed forces because of a deformed hip, and during the war, his brother Alfred was kind enough to support him with a weekly payment of about 10 shillings.

Militia and Defence officials in Ottawa sent Tom an application in January 1920; aside from basic personal information, Tom also had to record the names of his parents and the dates of their deaths (to prove that he was not someone else's dependant) and to include medical certification for his disability. Tom completed the forms promptly and returned them to Ottawa by mid-February. The calculations were done; Alfred received \$306 and Tom (who had never lived in Canada or served in the military) received a cheque for \$150.

George Wright

Officials in Ottawa often took a very flexible view of the regulations. George Wright's experience with the Department of Militia and Defence is a case in point.⁹ Aside from the basic application for the extra gratuity payment, Wright was required to complete a statutory declaration and provide additional information about his emigration to Canada and the circumstances of his leaving the country prior to the war. Again, his story is based entirely on the two forms in his file.

George Wright was born on 9 August 1885 at Sneinton, Nottingham;

on 12 February 1912, he married Annie Hunt and together they emigrated to Canada in August 1912, in his own words, "to better myself." Upon arrival in Canada, they settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in a house on Queen Street, and George obtained employment with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Several months later, the Wrights decided to return to England in order to visit family. They left all of their belongings and household goods with a sister-in-law in Winnipeg and sailed from Saint John, New Brunswick, in April 1913 on the SS *Corsican* bound for Liverpool.

When war broke out 16 months later, the Wrights were still in England, residing at Beeston, Nottingham, where George was employed in a lace factory; as well, he and Annie now had a son who had been born after their arrival in England.

With a young son and a war underway, George believed that it was, again in his own words, "impossible to return to Canada," but he still felt compelled to do his duty and this he did. On 15 December 1915, he attested with the Royal Hussars, though he was not mobilized until 26 July 1916. George later transferred to the Royal Field Artillery; he served as a gunner until demobilized on 15 February 1919. During the war, Annie and their young son resided on Hope Street in Beeston.

The Wrights did not return to Canada at the end of the war; in fact, not until May 1922 did they leave Liverpool on the *SS Montcalm*, eventually resettling in Winnipeg, where George once again found employment with the CPR.

Although one of the stipulations for the IWSG was residence in Canada on 4 August 1914, the kindly bureaucrats in the Militia and Defence Department examined George's case carefully and accepted his story that he and Annie had returned to England in 1912 for a vacation and that they had every intention of returning to Canada to live when the war interrupted their plans.

To confirm this, affidavits were sought from friends of the family, including one from H.H. Harris, who was asked to complete a form indicating how long he had known the Wrights and supplying information on the reasons why they had left Canada in 1913. Harris dutifully recorded that George and Annie "went for a visit to the Old Country." Three additional testimonials to this effect are on file. George Wright received his gratuity payment.

May Helen Higginbottom

In other cases, the rules, it seems, were adhered to more rigidly. May Helen Higginbottom lived in Vancouver, B.C. and may have been a trained nurse or a nurse's aide.¹⁰ In March 1916, she travelled to New York, boarded the *SS Philadelphia*

and once settled in Manchester, she joined the British Red Cross. On 14 August 1916, she joined the staff of the 2nd Western Hospital at Manchester and remained there until 8 November 1918. Two days later, she transferred to No. 6 General Hospital at Rouen, France, where she remained until 28 June 1919; after a month at No. 57 General Hospital in Marseilles, she moved to No. 14 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne and stayed till 6 September 1919.

Demobilized at Folkestone the next day, May collected her British gratuity, about \$107, and returned to Canada on the *RMS Baltic* in October. She too applied for the IWSG, but her application was rejected on the grounds that she had served with the British Red Cross and not with His Majesty's forces.

Magnus Work

One final story: one that illustrates the real value of these files. Magnus Work was 34 years old when he joined the Royal Flying Corps in Canada as an air mechanic on 26 July 1917. He was assigned to 93 Squadron at Toronto, Ontario, and was demobilized on 16 December 1918—Magnus never served overseas. He received a small British gratuity amounting to less than \$30 and when the IWSG program was announced, he applied and received an additional \$39. On his application for the gratuity, Magnus stated (*continued on p. 23*)

20. State amount of Taxes and Insurance Premiums paid by you per annum on your real property.	NIL
21. State value of personal property belonging to you and your husband.	NIL
22. State total amount contributed in cash by soldier during the year prior to enlistment.	Six hundred Dollars
23. Was this amount contributed weekly or monthly?	Weekly
24. Did Soldier live with you during the year prior to enlistment?	Yes
25. State your son's trade or occupation prior to enlistment.	Clerk
26. State amount of his wages per week.	Twenty five Dollars
27. State name and address of his last employer.	Kern Trading Oil Company, Coalinga, Cal.
28. State amount of ASSIGNED PAY received by you from soldier monthly.	\$22.50
29. From what date did you receive ASSIGNED PAY?	1st Paymaster, Aug 1st 1917 R.A.F. until Apr. 1918
30. Actual amount contributed monthly by each child:	During year prior to enlistment. At present.
	NIL NIL
31. If not receiving support from unmarried children, state reason. (THIS QUESTION MUST BE ANSWERED IN DETAIL).	NIL
32. State name and date when any unmarried child away from home ceased to contribute.	NIL
33. With whom are you residing at present? State relationship, if any.	Son
34. From what date have you resided with above person?	Always
35. State amount of rent or board paid by you per month.	Rent \$25.00 per month
36. Have you made a previous claim for Separation Allowance? Give particulars.	No
37. Is Separation Allowance being paid on this Soldier's account to any other person?	No
38. Are you now, or have you been at any time in receipt of Separation Allowance from any source? If so, how much per month, and on whose account?	During period of sons enlistment. \$25.00 per month a/c M. Work.
39. Was Soldier a member of Permanent Force at time of attestation in C.E.F.? If so, give Regimental number, Rank and Unit.	No

Figure 2: Details required of Mrs. Work

Source: Library and Archives Canada

that during his service he sent \$25 per month to his widowed mother, Elizabeth Work, who lived in Vancouver, B.C. Before any extra gratuity could be paid out to Mrs. Work, however, Militia and Defence officials asked her to complete a four-page form, referred to as the “Mother” form. Not only was she required to confirm that Magnus had supported her during his absence in the RFC, she was also asked to demonstrate that he was her sole support. The personal and family information that she forwarded to Ottawa is extraordinary: it included the name of her deceased husband; where and when he died; the names of her surviving children, their ages, dates of marriage (if applicable) and place of residence; and information on Magnus’s pre-war occupation, his wages and the nature of his support for her at the time. When all the information had been received and digested, Elizabeth Work received what she was entitled to—a payment of \$30.¹¹ The amount of the gratuity is really not very important; far more valuable is the personal information that she and her son provided to the government.

Why are these records important?

Two major reasons:

The lack of and inaccessibility of British war service records effectively hinders our research on individuals who were resident in

Canada in 1914, but who served with the Imperial Forces during the war and returned to live in Canada at the conclusion of hostilities. Granted, the service information on these files is scant and is restricted, in most cases, to name, rank, regimental number, unit and place where served.

More important is the personal information—the form devised by the federal government required details such as name, address before and after the war, occupation, departure date from Canada, return date, and ship names. If dependants were involved, additional family information was provided, including names of parents, death dates, siblings, their ages, where they lived, and other personal information. In many files, one may also find related correspondence about an individual’s war service or life in Canada before and after the war.

In the great scheme of things, these files represent but a small proportion of the men and women who served with the Imperial Forces in the First World War. Yet they provide us fascinating details about some of the tens of thousands of British emigrants who came to Canada prior to 1914, as well as some documentation on the thousands who decided that their contribution to the war effort would be with the British forces.

Reference Notes

- ¹ For information on surviving British service records, see Simon Fowler and William Spencer, *Army Records for Family Historians*, 2nd edition (Richmond: Public Record Office, 1998) and William Spencer, *Army Service Records of the First World War*, 3rd edition (Richmond: Public Record Office, 2001).
- ² *Proceedings of the Special Committee appointed by Resolution of the House of Commons, on the 18th of September, 1919, and to whom was referred Bill No. 10, An Act to amend the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Act, together with certain Orders in Council relating to the work of the said Department, September 19 to October 31, 1919* (hereafter cited as 1919 Special Committee), p. 27.
- ³ *1919 Special Committee*, Testimony of Thomas O. Cox, pp. 259–60, 272–73.
- ⁴ Order in Council, PC 2389, 1 December 1919.
- ⁵ *Report of the Department of Militia and Defence, 1919–1920*, p. 25.
- ⁶ Fiset to V. Cloutier, Clerk, Committee on Pensions, Soldiers' Insurance and Re-establishment, 20 April 1922 as printed in the *Proceedings of the Special Committee of the House of Commons on Pensions, Soldiers' Insurance and Re-establishment, 1922*, pp. 404–405.
- ⁷ Library and Archives Canada (LAC), Records of the Department of Militia and Defence (Record Group 9), series IIF10, volume 132, file 8581-A-59.
- ⁸ RG 9, series IIF10, volume 132, file 08611-A-138.
- ⁹ RG 9, series IIF10, volume 282, file 19794-G-104.
- ¹⁰ RG 9, series IIF10, volume 132, file 8597-M-14.
- ¹¹ RG 9, series IIF10, volume 282, file 19767-M-11.

Note: Images of all the applications above are posted at bifhsgo.ca under *Anglo-Celtic Roots* in the *Members Only* section.

Family Frauds: Researchers Should Beware of Perpetuating Falsehoods from the Past

BY PAUL JONES

Paul Jones, a former publisher, is a writer, a consultant, and an avid genealogist. This article first appeared in Canada's History magazine, October–November, 2015.

On 12 December 1927, the *New York Times* published what may have been a first: a front-page feature story about a professional genealogist.

The article "Sells Family Trees at a Cut-Rate Price" detailed the business plans of Gustave Anjou, a "Staten Island Dealer" who was reportedly abandoning the sagging

market for patrician ancestries in favour of a more populist approach.

Regrettably, the *Times'* unprecedented attention to genealogy was misplaced. The unnamed reporter clearly perceived it as a story about changing consumer tastes, and it was—just not in the way imagined. Anjou was a huckster, a convicted forger in his native Europe, and he was shifting his con from artisanal fake pedigrees for the rich to a high-volume assembly line that would suck in the vast and less discerning middle class.

We now know that Anjou (real name Gustaf Ludvig Jungberg) authored at least three hundred "genealogical" works incorporating false information about as many as two thousand different surnames, possibly more. Some of these lineages—certainly the Church and Freeman families, and probably many others—included kin supposedly born or living in Canada.

These deceptive documents survive on library shelves, in manuscript collections, and no doubt among the cherished family papers of some readers of this magazine. In the past twenty years, unsuspecting family historians have given new life to these old lies by uploading them to the Internet.

Anjou was hardly the first or even the most prominent genealogist to embroider the truth. The Bible, after all, is notable for its suspect line-

ages. As for the lords temporal, the august *Burke's Peerage* published popular misinformation about the origins of the aristocracy throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth.

The mid-nineteenth century in particular was an era of what one commentator has termed "parvenu genealogy," characterized by specious claims of connections to wealth, nobility, and heraldic entitlement. Many con men of the day, and at least one woman, produced false family trees at a profit for a credulous public. Even the most respected genealogist of the era, Horatio Gates Somerby, whose works can still be purchased on Amazon, sometimes embellished his research to ensure happy outcomes for clients.

We may not be as socially ambitious today, but gullibility is always in fashion. As recently as the 1980s, the Irishman Brian Leese created hundreds of deeply flawed genealogical reports for clients as far away as South America.

Detecting a bogus family tree is not always easy. The noted genealogist and editor Gordon L. Remington has proposed several warning signals, although these are most recognizable in blatant cases. For example, he cautions against "suspicious, inadequate, or no citations."

Wise words to be sure, but Anjou was crafty. He would often inundate

his clients with references, almost all truthful and relevant. The dirty work, perhaps a link between a real and undistinguished forebear of the client and the equally real and undistinguished descendant of a fabled family, might be "proven" by an obscure document supposedly transcribed in a faraway European archive. Indeed, Anjou was not above inventing whole parishes to suit his purposes.

Remington also warned against results that were "too good to be true." However, the precaution may be easier to preach than to practise. Given enough genealogical elbow grease, virtually everyone of European descent can be linked to royalty. So, yes, the finding of royal or noble descent in a pedigree is a warning sign, but not necessarily proof of deception.

Remington's third stricture concerns reasoning that doesn't make sense. Are people being born, getting married, having children, and dying at times and in places that

seem right? If not, the researcher may be shoehorning individuals of the same or similar names into a single identity, thereby erroneously linking multiple lineages.

Oddly, we've come full circle. Time was that genealogical research for most people meant delving into compiled genealogies such as those prepared by Anjou.

Today many family history buffs are once again beguiled by the apparent simplicity of scavenging the work of others. Little more than name collectors, they scour the Internet in search of similar-sounding names in order to graft new lineages onto their Frankentrees. The upshot is that spot tests by one researcher have found that more than half of online family trees are incorrect.

Today the deceptions and the errors are self-imposed. Original records are available, but many prefer to delude themselves rather than to seek the facts. No need for Gustave Anjou in this brave new world.

The Cream of the Crop

Best items from recent posts on the Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections blog



BY JOHN D. REID

ScotlandsPeople

The 2016 annual BMD update to *ScotlandsPeople* (scotlandspeople.gov.uk/) consists of

114,181 live births in 1915, 53,522 marriages in 1940, and 62,868 deaths in 1965. The year 1940 is the first to include civil marriages by registrars.

Look for a newly-designed *ScotlandsPeople* website to come online in

September. The contract to provide the service, which provides 30 million images and 110 million index entries, has been awarded to the U.K. division of US-owned CACI. That company came under a shadow when it provided interrogators who worked at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq at the height of the prisoner abuse scandal.

Irish Roots . . . to be continued

The *Irish Times* has axed John Grenham's "Irish Roots" column, which has been a must-go-to resource for those wanting to keep up with developments in Irish genealogy. His last column was published on 8 February, seven years after it started. That's sad news from John, but the good news is that he will continue writing on his blog at <http://johngrenham.com/irishroots/>.

Isle of Man Records

BIFHSGO tries to be inclusive of all the British Isles, but inevitably some smaller areas don't get much profile. In January *Findmypast* added more Isle of Man records. The "Isle of Man, Births and Baptisms 1600–2010" collection now includes more than 540,000 transcript records, an increase of over 422,000 records.

"Isle of Man, Marriages 1598–1979" has added over 167,000 records and now has 252,127, while "Isle of Man, Deaths and Burials 1598–2011" has an additional 249,000 records for a total of 292,320.

This collection was just one of the regular Friday updates at *Findmypast*. Mostly, as with this one, these updates are for a limited geographic location, perhaps a county, or for a particular occupation. A good way to keep up is through the company blog at <https://blog.findmypast.com/>.

Don't forget the 50 per cent discount on a *Findmypast* subscription that is available with your BIFHSGO membership. Find details at www.bifhsgo.ca.

Subscribe Free to the Lost Cousins Newsletter

If you want to keep your ear close to the ground on English genealogy news, I know of no better way than by subscribing to Peter Calver's semi-monthly free *Lost Cousins* newsletter at lostcousins.com. Peter has connections across the British genealogy community, especially the English community.

The mid-January edition noted four items of particular interest: a free three-day opening of *Findmypast's* sites to non-subscribers; a four-day period of free access to the *Lost Cousins* database; free access to *Findmypast's* 1939 Register starting 16 February 2016 for 12-month Britain and World subscribers as part of their subscription; and a price increase for new *Findmypast* subscriptions.

By the time you read this, some opportunities will be long gone, but that would not be the case if you had had a free subscription to the *Lost Cousins* newsletter, or had read about it on the *Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections* blog!

Geodemography in the U.K.

You may well be familiar with Booth's Poverty Maps of Victorian London (<http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>), which classified areas in seven categories from "Upper-middle and Upper Classes" to "Lowest Class, Vicious, Semi-criminal."

If you are interested in current conditions in the area in the U.K. where you or an ancestor lived, check out the website of the Consumer Data Research Centre at <https://www.cdrc.ac.uk/>. There's a map with eight classifications: rural residents, cosmopolitans, ethnicity central, multicultural metropolitans, urbanites, suburbanites, constrained city dwellers, and hard-pressed living.

The map starts out over London, making it relatively easy to compare current conditions with the Booth maps. You can also pan and zoom your way across the U.K.

Home in on a street or small area of interest and mouse over, and a more detailed description appears such as "suburban achievers—ageing in suburbia." There's more to explore, including (for London) a map of the median construction decade of buildings.

Yale Center for British Art Public Domain Images

Looking to illustrate a family history book or website? The recent release of more than 22,000 additional high-resolution digital public domain images by the Yale Center for British Art makes it easier than ever to add an illustration.

A new release includes over 1,700 works by J. M. W. Turner, as well as masterpieces by William Blake, Thomas Rowlandson and others. One way to start your search at <http://britishart.yale.edu/collect> ions/search is to enter a location in the subject field.

Fire Insurance Plans

As a result of a crowdsourcing project, the British Library has a portal to thousands of historic maps in its collection that have been georeferenced to a modern map, including fire insurance maps. Explore them at <http://www.bl.uk/maps/georeferencingmap.html>.

Closer to home, Library and Archives Canada has placed 23 high-quality Goad fire insurance maps on *Flickr* for: Brandon, 1910; Winnipeg, 1906; Calgary, 1911; Lethbridge, 1910; Wakefield, 1897; Vancouver, 1897; Ottawa, 1895; Guelph, 1897; Montreal, 1881; Halifax, 1889; Winchester, 1900. Find them online at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lac-bac/sets/72157661459677291/>.

Newfoundland Ancestry

A new edition of the classic *Family Names of the Island of Newfoundland* by (the late) E.R. Seary, first published in 1977 and now corrected by his colleague William J. Kirwin, was officially published on 18 January by McGill-Queens University Press.

At 632 pages the book is "a study of the names and their origins and distribution [which] is in itself a study of the history and settlement of the province and of the relationships between the island and those parts of Europe from which the majority of settlers came."

A previous edition notes that many Newfoundland surnames have multiple origins. Of 3,000 surnames in Newfoundland, 2,130 or 71 per cent of the total are surnames of England and Wales, 1,200 or 40 per cent are of Ireland, 530 or 18 per cent are of Scotland, 300 or 10 per cent are of the Channel Islands and 260 or 8.7 per cent of France.

The three English counties contributing most names are Devon, Dorset and Somerset.

How much has changed from previous editions? Kirwin explains: "infrequent changes and additions, cannot be considered a wholesale revision."

LAC *Signatures* Magazine

After a hiatus of many years since the termination of *The Archivist*

magazine, LAC is once again publishing a magazine, this time called *Signatures*. It can be found at — <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/about-us/publications/signatures/Documents/Signatures-2015-English.pdf>.

As the LAC announcement notes, "*Signatures: The Magazine of Library and Archives Canada* seeks to make known and interpret the living cultural, civic, and historical record of Canada as reflected in its documentary heritage. Written and produced by the staff of Library and Archives Canada (LAC)—including librarians, archivists, conservators, curators, and many other specialists."

Signatures magazine provides a behind-the-scenes look at LAC's treasures and the technical expertise involved in acquiring, preserving and supporting access to our shared history. The magazine will be semi-annual, available in hard copy as well as online.

Bank Shareholders in Canadian Sessional Papers

Commercial genealogy companies LOVE name-rich sources. So do genealogists. It's surprising, then, that the listings of bank shareholders in Canadian Sessional Papers haven't attracted more attention. What's available?

For example, Sessional Papers 6, Vol XXVIII, No 3, 1914, found on

the open shelves at LAC, contains tables with column headings: name, description, post office address, number of shares and amount paid.

If you look down the names, you'll find the same surname entries grouped together—likely members of the same family. There are 12 pages of names for the Bank of Ottawa, one of the smaller institutions, with 60 names per page.

This volume has data for 26 banks with headquarters in Halifax, Hamilton, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec, Vancouver, Weyburn, and Winnipeg, with shareholder names listed on more than 600 pages. And that's just for 1914!

Glenn Wright pointed out in a comment posted on *Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections* that "Like federal government orders in council, sessional papers suffer from having a very un-sexy title—in both cases, however, there is much to be mined for all of us."

Another commenter, Diane, gave examples of those resources: "insurance shareholders, fires, postmasters, lighthouse keepers, canal and railway workers, NWMP reports, prisoners, prison workers' salaries, names of census takers in 1906 and 1911, immigration agents and customs agents, militia, accidental deaths and suicides."

Help from the Ottawa Public Library

OPL librarian/genealogist Romaine Honey pointed me to the collection of genealogical topic guides at https://ottawa.bibliocommons.com/lists/show/69401111_otplibgenealogy/. The complete list is:

"Newspapers on Microfilm, Genetic Genealogy, Scotland—Genealogy, Genealogy Guides for Beginners, Military Records, French Canadians, Palatines, Acadians, Aboriginal People, Loyalists, Tweedsmuir Histories, Family Histories, Local and County Histories, Historical Atlases and Gazetteers, Biographical Dictionaries, Immigration, Naturalization and Emigration, City and County Directories, Newsletters of Societies, Passenger Lists, Land Records and Settlement, Newspaper Indexes for Genealogy, Church Register Transcriptions, Cemetery Transcriptions, Civil Registration, Census Indexes, Genealogy Scrapbooking, Family Reunions, Photographs in Genealogy, Genealogy Software, Identifying Websites, Evaluating Evidence, Guides for Other Countries, Canadian Genealogy Guides, Recommended Genealogy Web Sites."

Alberta Homestead Records, 1870–1930

Was your ancestor one of the flood of settlers to Alberta? In February a new *Ancestry* database became available for those seeking infor-

mation on land patents. With 1,622,218 images and 206,457 records it gives basic biographical information on applicants such as name, age, place of birth, occupation, former place of residence, date of entry on the land and marital status.

There's a nice search engine with lots of fields, including section,

township, range and meridian. That gives you the ability to look at the demographics of settlement and perhaps the neighbours of your settler family.

If you're looking to pinpoint the settlement location on a map, try entering the legal land description at www.legallandconverter.com/.

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON



Recently, in this column, I have been describing books and other items you will find at the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library with

regard to the counties of England. This time it is the turn of Hampshire.

History

Morley, Geoffrey. *Smuggling in Hampshire & Dorset 1700–1850*. Countryside Books, 1994.

Raper, Anthony C. *Andover, the Civil War and the Interregnum*. Andover History and Archaeological Society, 1994.

Shore, T. W. *A History of Hampshire, Including the Isle of Wight*. EP Publishing, 1976.

Turner, Barbara Carpenter. *A History of Hampshire (Darwen County History Series)*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd., 1988.

Description and Travel

Mee, Arthur, editor. *Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (The King's England)*. Hodder and Stoughton, 1956.

Directories

J. Pigot & Co.'s National Commercial Directory: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire. Facsimile edition of the 1830 original. Michael Winton, 1994.

Finding Your Ancestors

Moens, William J. *Hampshire Allegations for Marriage Licences Granted by the Bishop of Winchester 1689 to 1837*. Harleian Society, 1893. In two volumes.

Spence, Margaret. *Hampshire and Australia: Crime and Transportation (Hampshire Papers)*. Hampshire County Council, 1992.

Willis, Arthur J., compiler. *Hampshire Marriage Licences 1607–1640 from Records in the Diocesan Registry, Winchester*. The author, 1960.

Davey, C.R., editor. *The Hampshire Lay Subsidy Rolls 1586: with the City of Winchester Assessment of a Fifteenth and Tenth, 1585* (Hampshire Record Office Series, Volume 4). Hampshire County Council, 1981.

Stagg, D.J., editor. *A Calendar of New Forest Documents, the Fifteenth to the Seventeenth Centuries* (Hampshire Record Office Series, Volume 5). Hampshire County Council, 1983.

Hughes, Elizabeth and Philippa White. editors. *The Hampshire*

Hearth Tax Assessment 1665: with the Southampton Assessments for 1662 and 1670 (Hampshire Record Office Series, Volume 11). Hampshire County Council, 1991.

Ward, W. R., editor. *Parson and Parish in Eighteenth Century Hampshire: Replies to Bishop's Visitations* (Hampshire Record Office Series, Volume 13). Hampshire County Council, 1995.

Chapman, John and Sylvia Seelinger. *A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700–1900* (Hampshire Record Office Series, Volume 15). Hampshire County Council, 1997.

Smith, Mark, editor. *Doing the Duty of the Parish: Surveys of the Church in Hampshire 1810* (Hampshire Record Office Series, Volume 17). Hampshire County Council, 2004.

Spring into Volunteering

Why not make a slightly late 2016 New Year's resolution to volunteer with BIFHSGO? There are several openings coming up soon, and volunteers to fill them are urgently needed.

Our very popular e-Newsletter requires a new editor as of April; you can help BIFHSGO keep its members up to date on events and activities by taking on that key function.

At the Annual General Meeting on 13 June, several new directors will need to be chosen, as incumbents are completing their terms. To learn more about the possibilities, just contact Glenn Wright at pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca. If you sign up before June, you can shadow the current director and get a feel for the role.

Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa 13 June 2015

The 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) began at 9:00 a.m. on 13 June 2015, at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointhe Drive, Ottawa, Ontario.

The notice of the meeting and the 2014 AGM Minutes had been published in the Spring 2015 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. These documents, along with the 2014 financial statements, were also sent to members by email or postal mail at least 21 days in advance of the meeting.

A quorum of at least 25 was declared, with attendance estimated at approximately 110. Anne Sterling was appointed the Recording Secretary.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

The President, Barbara Tose, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 AGM:

A minor correction to the 2014 AGM minutes was received at the 2015 meeting. Under the heading of

“Election of Directors,” in paragraph two, “Directors,” “re-elected by acclamation” was changed to “names submitted by the nominations committee.”

It was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Joanne Payne *that the minutes be approved as amended.*

MOTION CARRIED.

Reports of the President and Directors:

These reports were published on the BIFHSGO website and copies distributed at the meeting. The directors had worked diligently on behalf of the members during the year, as reflected in the reports.

The President stated that BIFHSGO has adjusted well to our move to Ben Franklin Place—a move necessitated by economics. The Society has a healthy membership, and active Special Interest Groups.

We have excellent programming at Saturday meetings, which includes a half-hour Before BIFHSGO education session, and a one-hour lecture presentation.

In addition, we held two very successful special speaker events during the 2014–2015 season.

Our research team continues to post new material to our online databases, and our communications team keeps members informed in many ways.

We conducted a major member survey to determine how we are doing and how we might improve.

We have also negotiated a deal that gives our members 50 per cent off a *Find mypast* World Membership.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014:

The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement of the Society for the fiscal year, being from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014, were available at the meeting for reference.

Financial Statements, Auditor's Report, Appointment of Public Accountant for 2015:

Treasurer:

Marnie McCall, the treasurer, presented the financial statements and informed members that the conversion of Financial Statements to the Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations completes BIFHSGO's transition to the requirements of the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*.

The statements are presented on an accrual, rather than a cash basis.

BIFHSGO ended the year with a surplus of just under \$16,000 and assets of just over \$91,000.

Appointment of Public Accountant:

It was moved by Marnie McCall and seconded by Darrel Kennedy *that the firm of McCay Duff be appointed as public accountant for the 2015 calendar year.* **MOTION CARRIED.**

Awards and Presentations:

Bill Arthurs was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of his contributions to family history through outstanding service to the Society and the advancement of BIFHSGO objectives.

Bill promoted genetic genealogy by chairing the DNA Special Interest Group from its inception and personally advising many people on the topic; he contributed globally to the field through his management of the "Titus" one-name study; and he contributed to BIFHSGO's activities over many years.

Barbara Tose was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for the *Best Anglo-Celtic Roots Article of 2014* for her article, entitled "The Travels With My Aunt: Adventures in Europe 1914," published in the Summer 2014 issue.

Patricia Roberts-Pichette was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for the *Best Presentation by a Member at the Monthly BIFHSGO Meeting* for the 2014–2015 season.

Her talk, entitled “The Queen’s Photographer, the Abyssinian Prince and My Great Grand Uncle,” was delivered at the January 2015 meeting.

Robert Lamoureux was awarded a Citation of Excellence. He has been the moving force behind the Scottish Interest Group for many years, sharing his time and passion for Scottish research.

Since 2004, monthly silent auctions for books have raised over \$1000.00 for the purchase of Scottish-related books for the BIFHSGO Library.

Election of Board of Directors for 2015–16:

Glenn Wright, Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, noted the following:

President:

Acclaimed at the 2014 AGM, Barbara Tose will continue as President; Glenn Wright will also continue as Past President.

Directors:

Four directors are continuing until the 2016 election: Marnie McCall (Treasurer), Susan Davis (Communications), Mary-Lou Simac

(Publicity), and Kathy Wallace (Membership), each of whom is a member of BIFHSGO in good standing.

Four director positions were vacant as terms expired. The Nominations Committee reported that Jane Down (Program) and David Cross (Research and Projects) were willing to stand for election again and Karin Keyes Endemann was willing to stand for the first time.

Further nominations were solicited three times from the floor for the four positions. There were no further nominations.

The two incumbents and one new nominee were declared elected by acclamation. The remaining vacant position can be filled by the Board until the next election.

Other Business:

No other business was raised at the meeting.

Adjournment: 9:50 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,
16 September 2015*

Notice of the 2016 BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 11 June 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Take notice that the Twenty-second Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa will take place on Saturday, 11 June 2016, at 101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa, to receive and conduct business in accordance with the bylaws. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the bylaws, they may appoint a proxy to attend the meeting and act on their behalf. The proxy holder must also be a member.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting
3. Summary of the Directors' reports
4. Presentation of the financial statements for 2015
5. Report of the Auditor
6. Approval of the financial statements for 2015
7. Appointment of the Public Accountant for 2016
8. Awards and presentations
9. Report of the Nominating Committee
10. Election of Directors
11. Any other business
12. Adjournment

The normal monthly meeting will follow after a short break.

Great Moments in Genealogy

11 June 2016

A preview of the stories to be told at the June BIFHSGO meeting —

Stories behind Glass Plate Photographs of the Great War

When **Brian Glenn** was helping create a photographic record of All Saints Sandy Hill church, he came across a small wooden box holding 60 glass plate photos taken during the First World War. Brian set about making a digitized copy of them and in doing so became interested in the stories behind some of the images—most of which were taken during and after the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Preachers and Politicians

Growing up in Prince Edward Island, **Leanne Cooper** knew about her Prowse ancestors, who had been prominent Island politicians. But when she started researching her great-grandparents, she discovered that her great-grandmother Minnie (Kirkland) Prowse had just as many interesting people and stories on her side of the family.

Who's Your Great-Great-Granddaddy?

When **Ian McKelvie's** father, Nelson McKelvie, passed away in 2007 he left stacks of genealogical paperwork and a mystery Ian thought would never be solved. His grandfather, John McKelvie, was born illegitimate at Girvan, Ayrshire. John's mother, Elizabeth, returned home with her newborn baby to live with her parents. To add to the mystery even more, the 1881 Census indicated she was now blind. By combining traditional research with DNA results, Ian believes he has learned who his great-great-grandfather is.

Blame It on My Husband

Janet Dowdall will speak on how she came to research her husband's family history. Janet's husband knew very little about his family history, and much of what he was told wasn't accurate, so Janet had an interesting time. She will be focusing on the resources she used to flesh out his family tree and how she came to discover his War of 1812 ancestor. Janet has also had a couple of new developments that give more information on this ancestor.

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 18 Nov 2015–19 February 2016		
Member No.	Name	Address
1595	Susan Butler	Calgary, AB
1767	David Harrison	Ottawa, ON
1767	Sandra Harrison	Ottawa, ON
1768	Elizabeth Russell	Shawville, QC
1769	Lesley Taylor	Ottawa, ON
1770	Joelene Heathcote	Victoria, BC
1771	Brian Grant	Nepean, ON
1771	Margaret Grant	Nepean, ON
1772	Patricia Greber	Grand Prairie, AB
1773	Sarah Preston	Vancouver, BC
1773	Daniel Morin	Vancouver, BC
1774	Pauline Eamer	Ottawa, ON
1775	Ina Griffith	Ottawa, ON
1776	Shirley Clarke	Summerland, BC
1777	Judy Battista	Ottawa, ON
1778	Sarah Rhamey	Ottawa, ON
1779	Nancy Stinson	Haliburton, ON
1780	Jane Dymont	Ottawa, ON
1781	Teressa Trollope	Ottawa, ON
1782	Robert Armstrong	Ottawa, ON
1783	Brian Foster	Nepean, ON
1783	Deborah Foster	Nepean, ON
1784	Judy Evgin	Ottawa, ON
1785	Brenda Holtz	Kanata, ON
1786	Alan Reed	Nepean, ON
1787	Arnold Campbell	Ottawa, ON
1788	Margaret Hideg	Ottawa, ON

Call for Indexing Volunteers

In 1995, when BIFHSGO was looking for a major project for the Society to adopt, it was decided that the cataloguing and indexing of Home Children records would fill a void that needed filling. An agreement was made with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) for them to host databases created by BIFHSGO volunteers and to display these databases on the LAC website.

Now 20 years later we, along with many non-BIFHSGO volunteers, have delivered numerous databases to LAC, but there is one last large set of records to be indexed: RG76 Central Registry Files, beginning in 1892 and continuing, in some cases, into the 1940s. These records have recently been digitized and can therefore now be accessed at home, anywhere in the world, and can be indexed by anyone with Excel.

If you are willing to help with this indexing project, please contact John Sayers at sayersji@sympatico.ca and he will assign you a block of records, and also provide an instruction sheet and an Excel spreadsheet with the first line completed for your assigned block. Below is a URL as an example: the film number is C-10427 and the image number is 1425.

http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c10427/1425?r=0&s=3

There are approximately 192 blocks, within files, that potentially contain Home Children names that need to be indexed, some with very few names and some with many. Anyone who is interested in Home Children will find this a most rewarding project.

The Society of Genealogists has published an interesting comparison between the definitions of genealogy and family history.

Genealogy is the “establishment of a pedigree by extracting evidence, from valid sources, of how one generation is connected to the next. (In essence, this means the discipline of the construction of a valid family tree.)”

It defines family history as “a biographical study of a genealogically proven family and of the community and country in which they lived. (In essence, this means the writing of a biography of a series of related ancestors of common genealogy. Family history incorporates genealogy.)”

Source: <http://www.sog.org.uk/learn/education-sub-page-for-testing-navigation/guide-ten/>



Celebrate Your Anglo-Celtic Roots!

22nd Annual BIFHSGO

Family History Conference

Featuring

☞ *Irish Family History*

☞ *DNA in Genealogy*



Expert Lecturers—Seminars
Research Room—Marketplace

Something for everyone!

9–11 September 2016

Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa

For registration information

www.bifhsgo.ca
conferenceregistrar@bifhsgo.ca
613-234-2520 (voicemail)

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2015–2016

President	Barbara Tose	613-729-1015
Recording Secretary	Gillian Leitch	819-777-8480
Treasurer	Marnie McCall	613-736-1101
Research & Projects	Dave 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	Karin Keyes Endemann	613-884-8446
Past President	Glenn Wright	613-521-2929

Associate Directors 2015–2016

<i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i> Editor	Jean Kitchen
E-newsletter Editor	Christine Woodcock
Web Manager	Gail Dever
Photographer	Dena Palamedes
Associate Treasurer	Cliff Adams
Publication Sales	Brian Chamberlain
Librarian	Vacant
Queries	Sheila Dohoo Faure
Voicemail	Ann Adams
Conference 2016	Willis Burwell, Brian Le Conte
Public Accountant	McCay Duff LLP

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 2016 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

- 9 April 2016** *The Search for Alban Leaf*—Using Mr. Leaf (1681–1756) of London as a case study, Toronto author and educator Jane MacNamara will explain the best search techniques and many English record types for exploring a period well before census and civil registration.
- 14 May 2016** *No Irish Country Doctor*—Roy Thomas' great-uncle Michael Laffan spent his medical career from 1902 to 1926 in the Royal Navy. Surgeon Captain Laffan served far beyond the Irish Seas, in the Chinese, Australian and South African stations, as well as the “Med” and waters closer to home.
- 11 June 2016** **Annual General Meeting and *Great Moments in Genealogy***—After the AGM (9:00) and a short break, BIFHSGO members will describe some exciting experiences in breaking down brick walls while researching their ancestors. For details go to page 37.

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
- 11:30–4:00 Writing Group

For information on meetings of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check www.bifhsgo.ca under “Meetings.”

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 Summer issue is 29 April 2016.