



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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In This Issue

Henry James Cromie: A Life of New Beginnings

Overcoming Adversity: the Billingsleys

Traumatic Start to Ottawa War Bride Voyage

Edwin Salway: From Somerset to Stayner

We Shall Remember Them



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Cover Illustration:

H.J. Cromie in Scotstown, Quebec,
ca. 1905

From the Editor:

Each family history in this issue is a story of struggle and perseverance.

Wendy Croome's ancestor, Henry James Cromie, reinvented himself through several countries and occupations, coping with different hardships and tackling some adventures along the way.

Several of Andrew Billingsley's paternal ancestors prevailed over adversity—including war, untimely deaths, gales at sea—to become prosperous and respected Quebec residents.

John Reid recounts the story of a group of war brides who made their way to Canada exactly 70 years ago, despite a near-disaster on departure; some of their children are BIFHSGO members.

Mary-Lou Simac's paternal great-grandfather, Edwin Salway, also suffered: he lost his wife shortly after they arrived in Canada, leaving him with four young children and no support. How his family survived in the coming decades is another example of pioneer fortitude in early Canada.

And Sheila Dohoo Faure contributes another biography of a soldier who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station: Lance Corporal Clarence Fletcher.



Jean Kitchen

From the President



As usual, summer has flown by and we have again arrived at the beginning of a new BIFHSGO season. I hope you all had time to relax and work on a genealogical project or two. Perhaps you have a new story to tell at a monthly meeting or in *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; I know both Jane Down and Jean Kitchen would love to hear from you if you do.

Our Conference Planning Committee members have been busy over the summer finalizing another fantastic event for you. By the time you read this, it will be part of our history and I trust all who attended had an enjoyable and educational weekend.

Our new Directors, Marianne Rasmus (Treasurer), Anne Moralejo (Communications), and Andrea Harding (Education) have been becoming familiar with their portfolios and getting to know their fellow volunteers. We are fortunate to have former directors who willingly help their replacements settle in to their new roles.

Doug Hoddinott has informed me that, after 22 years of being our A/V expert, he intends to step down

after the conference. Although he is willing to help anyone with an interest in this area become familiar with the equipment and procedures we use, he would like to sit in the audience and enjoy the lectures for a change. Doug has contributed so much to BIFHSGO, so willingly, I think he is entitled to a well-earned rest from this role. We therefore will need someone to handle A/V for the October meeting, so if you have an interest in learning the ins and outs of our A/V needs and equipment, please contact Anne Moralejo (communications @bifhsgo.ca) immediately.

As I begin my second term as your president, I am pleased with the progress we have made over the past two years; yet I know there is so much more to do. And we can't do it without you. Please consider volunteering in some capacity over the coming year. BIFHSGO is a work in progress, responding to changing times and members' suggestions. That and our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers are what keep our Society the vital organization it is.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Barbara J. Tose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Barbara J. Tose

Family History Research

Henry James Cromie: A Life of New Beginnings[©]



BY WENDY CROOME

Wendy, who has been researching her family history for over 40 years, has written about them in the Spring 2006 and Summer 2009 issues of ACR. Here she relates the adventures of her spirited great-grandfather "HJ" and his family.

In its broad outline, the life of my great-grandfather, Henry James Cromie, was like that of many immigrants. He was born in Ireland in 1847 and died in Canada in 1916. In between, however, his life took a few twists and turns. Henry James is one of my few ancestors about whom family stories have survived, stories in which he is usually referred to as "HJ." I decided to investigate HJ, to find out whether and how his documented life matched the stories.

I am fortunate to have HJ's family Bible, which he presented to S.E.L.F. on 1 January 1873. In it, he wrote that he was born on 22 March 1847 in Tamniarin Townland, Dungiven Parish, Londonderry, Ireland. Parish registers show that on 25 April 1847, he was baptized in the Church of Ireland in Dungiven.¹ He was the oldest of nine or ten children of

Alexander Cromie, a farmer in Tamniarin, and his wife, Eliza Jane Scott.

We know little about HJ's early life, but according to one family document, he was brought up by the wife of his uncle, James Scott, Eliza Jane's brother. Another document states that "it was Robert [another Scott uncle] who, returning from Australia on a visit, invited Henry James Cromie there, and it was to his home that the latter went."

I have not found HJ's date of immigration, but by 1869 he had been in Australia long enough to be recognized as an upstanding member of the community. The website *Trove: National Library of Australia* (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>), which has digitized newspapers and much more, has been helpful. A report from *The Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper of 20 February 1869 states that Henry James Cromie was one of a group of men

who had been appointed members of the Public Schools Board in Moama, New South Wales. It sounds like a promising beginning for a young man of 21.

According to the family Bible and to Australian marriage records, HJ married Sarah Ann Guy, daughter of George Attack Guy and Sarah Jarvis, on 25 July 1872, in the Wesleyan Parsonage, Echuca, Victoria,² just across the Murray River from Moama. The marriage certificate lists HJ's occupation as storekeeper. A later report in *The Australasian* newspaper of 12 December 1874 stated that the "store" was a large drapery business. This confirms another family story, which states that

Sarah Ann married Henry James Cromie who set [up] a business in Echuca, Victoria, Australia. . . . After [the business] failed, they moved to Ireland and lived with Henry's father, Alexander Cromie, for a while.

I recently discovered newspaper reports on *Trove* that shed light on why HJ appeared to be making another new beginning so soon. In the Melbourne newspaper, *The Argus*, of 14 January 1873, a notice in the Court of Insolvency refers to the Liquidation by Arrangement of the affairs of Henry James Cromie, and the appointment of David Beath of Melbourne, warehouseman, as the Trustee.

As he was bankrupt, I wondered where HJ found the money for his

passage. This is explained in an 1874 article in *The Australasian*, which states "Mr. Beath, who knows his family, had advanced £100 to send him home . . ." The choice of wording is interesting, and suggests that the return to Ireland wasn't entirely HJ's decision.

Whatever the exact reason for the return, HJ and Sarah Ann embarked on the ship *Loch Lomond*, which left Melbourne for London on 17 January 1873.³ I hope that Sarah Ann was a good sailor. A typical voyage from Melbourne to the United Kingdom in a sailing ship took about 100 days at that time, and she must have spent the entire voyage pregnant. The couple's twin daughters, Anna Bella and Beatrice Maude, were born in Dungiven, Ireland, on 9 October 1873.

HJ was obviously eager to get back to Australia, either to resume his life or to make yet another new beginning. The SS *Great Britain* was scheduled to sail for Australia from Liverpool on 25 October 1873. When she actually departed two days later, two of the passengers were Henry J. Cromie and his sister Sarah.⁴ His wife, 18-year-old Sarah Ann, and their 3-week-old twins were left in Ireland with HJ's parents. There are conflicting family stories about HJ's intentions at this time. One version says that he was planning to stay in Australia, and another that he was working in

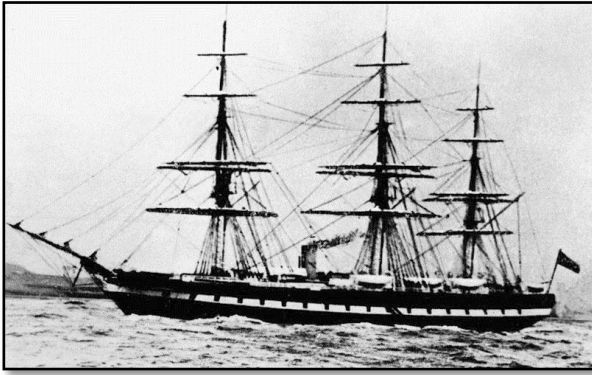


Figure 1: **The SS Great Britain**

Source: State Library of Queensland

Australia to earn money to send to Ireland to buy a farm there. Perhaps family stories are intentionally vague, as a newspaper report from *The Australasian* of 12 December 1874 gives us a view of HJ quite different from the sanitized one recorded in family stories. I quote it here in its entirety:

At the Kew Police Court on Wednesday, Henry James Cromie, who was at one time in a large business as a draper at Echuca, and who had some years ago been a candidate for the constituency of Rodney, was brought up, charged with obtaining goods by false pretences. He was further charged with having no visible lawful means of support. It was shown that he had gone to nine or ten different publicans at Kew and got drink, food, cigars, and lodgings. He stated that he had just been dining with his old friend Sir John O'Shanassy, and wished to stay some time in the neighbourhood. He asked one of the confiding public-

ans, Mr. Carney, who keeps the Harp of Erin Hotel, to supply him with a buggy, as he thought a drive would do him good. Finding Kew getting too hot for him, he went to Lillydale, and there tried the same game, when he was at length arrested by Senior-constable M'Grath, of Kew. He had been drinking a good deal of late, and was

"suffering a recovery." A letter was produced which he had written to Mr. David Beath, of the firm of Beath and Co., Melbourne, asking him to borrow £2,000 for him, to buy land in the north of Ireland. It appeared that Mr. Beath, who knows his family, had advanced £100 to send him home, but he had come out here again. He was an incorrigible drunkard. The Bench sent him to gaol for a month as a vagrant.

After this news item, we lose sight of HJ for several years, both in family stories and in official records. I don't know how long he continued his life of drinking and vagrancy or whether he ever returned to Ireland. I also don't know how he and Sarah Ann got together again, but they did reunite, and the next record of them is in Scotstown, Quebec, Canada. According to the 1901 and 1916 censuses, HJ immigrated in 1881, and Sarah Ann the following year. The twins were not with them, as Anna Bella had died in 1874 and Beatrice Maude had been left to be raised by the family in Ireland.

According to Leonard Cromie, their grandson, HJ and Sarah Ann ended up in Canada almost by accident, as they were returning to Australia via Canada. In a 7 June 1977 letter to me, Leonard wrote,

En route, at Scotstown, Quebec, Annie, then pregnant with my father, called a halt. So my father, George Alexander, was born in Scotstown, and the other issue followed.

I take this story with a large grain of salt. For one thing, the logical route from Ireland to Australia does not pass through the Eastern Townships of Quebec. For another, the dates do not fit. If Sarah Ann immigrated in 1882, as reported on the censuses, she could not have been pregnant with George, because George was not born until December 1883. The place is correct, as George was born in Scotstown, as were the “other issue”: Albert Edward in 1885 (died 1886), Robert James in 1887, Frances Ridley Havergal (my grandmother) in 1889, Samuel Osborne in 1891, and Florence Olive (Flossie) in 1895.⁵

Quoting Leonard again:

Henry James, apart from his reproductive functions, settled down to a relatively quiet and probably hen-pecked life in Scotstown as a sawmill hand, laced, it is said, with frequent tots of whisky.

I was told by my mother that the couple engaged in frequent fiery arguments, and this would not be

surprising. Sarah Ann was reported-ly a very strong-willed woman, as well as a strict teetotaler who taught her children to sing a temperance song titled “Cold Water Pure.” As for his occupation, HJ could well have been a sawmill hand, because a major employer in Scotstown was Glasgow & Canada Land Co. (later Guelph Patent Cask & Veneer Co.). However, the 1891 Census gives his occupation as labourer, and the 1901 Census reports him as a general businessman. This was the longest settled period in HJ’s life, as he and his family lived in Scotstown for 25 years.



Figure 2: HJ Cromie in Scotstown, ca. 1905

Source: Author’s collection

Leonard’s account continues,

Eventually, the entire family was brought to western Canada by my father [George], who had made his

way there in early youth and acquired a homestead in Saskatchewan.

Homestead papers⁶ show that George arrived on his land, near the town of Asquith, just west of Saskatoon, in August 1904. HJ, Sarah Ann and their younger children, Sam and Flossie, joined George on 15 July 1906. By this time, their other son, Robert, was living in Vancouver and beginning his career as a newspaperman, and their older daughter, Frances, was at Normal School (teacher's college) in Regina.

At the age of 59, HJ was making yet another new beginning, this time in the rigorous environment of a Saskatchewan homestead. I wondered why HJ and Sarah Ann would pack up and move across the country in their 50s, but according to George's homestead application, he and his brother Bob were supporting the family by this time. Bringing them to Saskatchewan probably seemed like the practical thing to do. For one year, 1906, George's 14-foot by 22-foot frame house was bursting at the seams, as it housed five Cromies, ranging from HJ down to 11-year-old Flossie.

In 1907, HJ and his youngest son, Sam, each acquired a homestead near the town of Biggar, about 60 kilometres west of Asquith.⁷ From 1907 until 1912, HJ and Sam spent the summer months working and improving their adjoining home-

steads and the winter months on George's homestead. During most of those years, Sarah Ann must have been running George's farm on her own in the summers, because in 1908 George had moved to the USA, to attend the Yale School of Forestry,⁸ and about the same time Flossie had joined her sister Frances in Regina. In the Census of 1911, Sarah Ann was alone on George's homestead, apparently without even a live-in hired hand.

In the same census, I had a hard time finding HJ. I don't know whether the information was given by a neighbour or whether HJ was stretching the truth, but I finally found him listed as John Cromie, Scottish origin, aged 40, born in Ontario. Despite the inaccuracies, I am certain that this was HJ, because "John Cromie" was enumerated in the township where HJ's homestead was located, he was surrounded by neighbours who had signed HJ's homestead papers, and with him was his son Samuel, aged 19. It was a good lesson about not relying on any one record to establish facts.

Reporting on this period of HJ's life, Leonard states that he was "a modest farmer and a respected rural Justice of the Peace." HJ and Sam must have worked hard on their homesteads from 1907 to 1912. On 13 April 1912, at the age of 65, HJ was granted a land grant. I have been unable to confirm whether the

Justice of the Peace story is accurate, but I like to think that HJ had earned this badge of respectability.

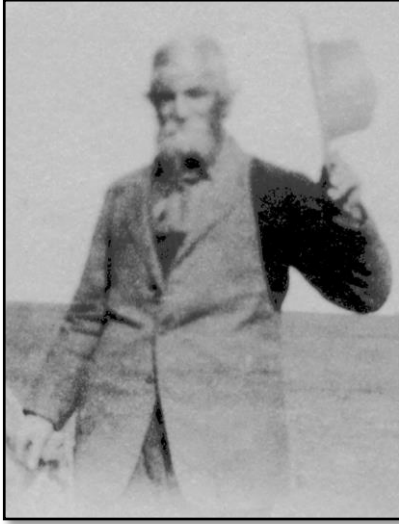


Figure 3: HJ Cromie in Asquith, Saskatchewan, ca. 1910

Source: Author's collection

In 1911, HJ and his family had been joined by his sister Maggie Heaney, from Ireland. That same year, George, Bob, and Frances had all married, all far from the farm at Asquith.

In 1915, HJ and Sarah Ann's youngest son, Sam, joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was sent to fight in France.⁹

By the time of the 1916 Census, the household on George's homestead consisted of HJ, Sarah Ann, and Maggie, all in their 60s. On 28 September 1916, they received a

telegram that Sam, who was by that time an officer in the British Army,¹⁰ was admitted to hospital with a "gunshot wound left leg severe." Sam recovered from that wound and was sent back to the front.

On 17 November, his family received a telegram notifying them that 2nd Lieutenant S. O. Cromie was dangerously ill at No. 34 RAMC Casualty Clearing Station. The next day they were notified that Sam had died on 17 November 1916.

HJ Cromie survived his son Sam by only one month. He died on 17 December 1916 in Asquith, Saskatchewan, Canada, aged 69.¹¹

Reference Notes

- ¹ Parish Register, Dungiven Church of Ireland, searched at the church by George Cromie in 1936.
- ² *Births Deaths Marriages Victoria* (www.bdm.vic.gov.au), entry for George Attack Guy and Sarah Jarvis.
- ³ "Index to Outward Passengers to Interstate, UK, NZ and Foreign Ports 1852–1923," Public Record Office Victoria (<http://prov.vic.gov.au/research/ships-and-shipping>).
- ⁴ Adrian Ball, *Is Yours an SS Great Britain Family?* (Kenneth Mason Publications Ltd., Emsworth, Hampshire, 1988).
- ⁵ Cromie family Bible in possession of the author.
- ⁶ Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, Homestead File No. 902953.
- ⁷ *Ibid*, Files No. 1223156 and No. 1325193.

⁸ "George Cromie Dies: First City Tree Director," *New Haven Register*, March 1956.

⁹ "Soldiers of the First World War – Canadian Expeditionary Force," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx)

[expeditionary-force.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx)) RG150, Acc 1992-93/166,box 2153-2.

¹⁰ "WW I British Army Officers' Service Records": *The National Archives*, WO 339/54963.

¹¹ *eHealth Saskatchewan* (http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx).

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Overcoming Adversity: the Billingsleys



BY ANDREW BILLINGSLEY

Andrew's previous ACR article about his uncle Alex Rowat ("An Officer and a Gentleman," Summer 2014) struck a chord with a BIFHSGO member who had family links to Cobalt, Ontario, where Alex was living on enlistment. The member had a photo of the Cobalt war memorial listing war dead, including T.A. Rowat, of whom he knew nothing, and a memorial of which Andrew knew nothing. ACR serendipity!

What follows is an attempt to follow the lives of certain of my family members through five generations covering 150 years in North America. It begins in 1771, when a great-great-great-grandfather left London, England, for the Thirteen Colonies, and ends in 1921, when my paternal grandfather began using his mother's maiden name.

Over those years, my ancestors had more than their share of setbacks, particularly the death of a father of a very young family; nonetheless, all managed to eventually thrive.

Master Mariner John Christopher Billingsley was a great-great-grandfather of mine. Born in 1802,

John had grown up on the north shore of the Bay of Chaleur of the Atlantic Ocean on the Gaspé Peninsula. The location, now known as New Carlisle, Quebec, was chosen mainly to accommodate the growing number of refugees from the Thirteen Colonies loyal to Britain during the American Revolution.

John's parents were Richard Billingsley and Elizabeth Pearson. They were among the 315 passengers, including 132 children, who had sailed in two brigs, a snow,¹ a hoy² and four whale boats from the port of Quebec on 9 June 1784. Two years later, the two were married.

On arrival in early July, the incoming families were each provided

with rations for at least three months, as well as “an axe, hammer, saw, hoe, spade, seeds, nails, and a pair of hinges. . . . Each group of five families received a whipsaw for making planks, and a gun for hunting.”³ A draw for lots followed on 3 August 1784.

Three weeks later, it was reported that

the refugees there were cheerfully occupied in building their homes, and were becoming more and more pleased with their lands . . . it is the best country for a poor man that he had ever seen, on account of the great quantities of fish, game, and timber, and the fertility of the soil. Even small plots produce exceedingly good wheat, peas, potatoes, flax etc.⁴

John’s father, Richard, had been a British private in the Grenadier Company of the 31st Regiment of Foot, as a locksmith. He first appeared on its muster rolls at Pointe aux Trembles, near Montreal, in December 1782, age 24, with three years of military service. Our assumption is that Richard was among reinforcements sent from Britain in 1780 after the capitulation of the British forces at Saratoga, New York, in 1777. Richard is listed among those discharged British soldiers and Loyalist refugees who left Quebec in June 1784.

Richard’s birth on 1 April 1757 and baptism the following year were

recorded in the Anglican church records in Codsall, Shropshire, in England. Richard was the eldest son of William and Mary Billingsley and had five brothers, one of whom was William. (The famous British flower painter, William Billingsley, the inspiration for the Billingsley Rose tableware from Spode, was also baptized in 1758, but in Derby, 40 miles away. His parents were also William and Mary.)⁵

John’s mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Christopher Pearson, a Loyalist breeches-maker. He, with his wife and children, had left London, England, for Philadelphia in 1771. Elizabeth would have been 4 years old at that time and 17 on arrival in New Carlisle. In the intervening years, the family had lost a daughter and their mother, and had been driven off their land near the Mohawk River in New York State. In one account, Christopher “painted his children to resemble Indians”⁶ to escape the rebels, and in 1777, joined Butler’s Rangers. The family fled to Niagara, then to a Loyalist refugee camp near present-day Trois Rivieres, Quebec. There, Christopher married again, to a Loyalist widow with seven children.

Plentiful fish, especially cod, had long generated interest in the Bay of Chaleur, and by 1766, fishermen from as far away as the island of Jersey had established themselves there. In the 10 years before 1796,

176 sailing vessels had been registered in New Carlisle alone, as required by the British government.

From as early as 1790, a number of New Carlisle Loyalists and their descendants were ship owners, ship builders, and masters, of a substantial number of schooners, brigantines, and brigs.⁷

As there were no sawmills on the coast at that time, the ships were made of wood felled with a broad-axe and then sawed into lumber by hand. They transported cargoes of cod and other local products to Quebec, Halifax and St. John's, and even sailed to far-off markets: England, Spain, Italy, and the Caribbean.

The Billingsley name was among those of the eight most prominent builders. Richard Billingsley, 12 years older than John, built himself a schooner, the *Venus*, in 1818, of which he was registered as "master." His two younger brothers, John and Benjamin, equally owned another schooner and a brigantine. This schooner, launched in 1828 with John as "master," was called the *Prudent*. It was 54 feet long, with one deck and two masts, and a capacity of 65 tons.

A good example of John's seafaring life was recorded by a New Carlisle notary in an Act of Protest, which is summarized below.⁸ An Act of Protest is a statement of fact to explain the circumstances behind a failure to fulfill a contract. This particular

operation took place in 1832, John being just 30 years old. It concerned a trans-Atlantic voyage that was not able to reach its destination at the port of Quebec on time.

The schooner in question was the *Prudent*, and the story begins on 25 August 1832 in Limerick, Ireland. The ship is described as then being

tight, staunch, and strong, well and sufficiently provided, equipped, and furnished with all things needful and necessary for a voyage at sea, and kept hatches well and sufficiently caulked and covered.

The crew was made up of a mate, John's brother-in-law James Popley, and a seaman.

Carrying a cargo of biscuits, butter, and limestone, the *Prudent* set sail for its first port of call, St. John's, Newfoundland. Crossing the Atlantic was uneventful; St. John's was reached about a month later, on 23 September 1832. Then, three weeks later, Sunday, 14 October 1832, having discharged its cargo, and taking on another of codfish and six cases of cigars, the *Prudent* began the next stage of its voyage to Quebec.

Early the next day, the winds "increased to a small gale," splitting the top sail, with the sea "running very high, and making a clean breach of the vessel." The main mast was only prevented from going by the board by the "remitting labour and exertion" of the crew. The north wind

picked up again that evening off Cape Race at the tip of Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula, splitting the standing jib and breaking the jib boom.

By the following Saturday, despite continuing heavy seas, and losing the jib stay, the crew was able to make repairs to the rigging, sails, and spars, and the *Prudent* found itself near the island of St. Pierre, the French possession close to Newfoundland. It was agreed to find a new mast there, which took some time, and the replacement was not in place until another week had gone by.

A week later, now in early November, the *Prudent* was just off the tip of Cape Breton Island. Heavy seas were "almost sweeping the deck, and stove in parts of the bulwark," and a gale "carried away a great portion of the sails." Snow, heavy at times, had begun to fall. After consulting with the crew, and seeing no prospect of reaching the port of Quebec that season, John set the course for Gaspé harbour, where the schooner spent the winter. The weather had prevented him from meeting his contractual obligations.

John is also always described as a farmer in notarial documents. On his 100-acre lot immediately to the west of New Carlisle, he had a house, barn, and stable, with four oxen used for plowing, and two horses. It is perhaps where Billings-

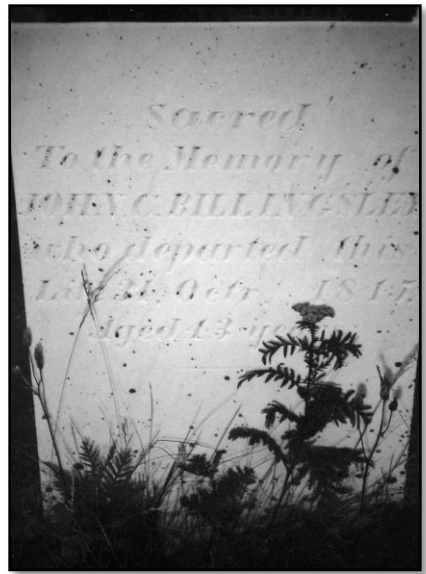


Figure 1: John Christopher Billingsley's headstone, St. Andrews Anglican Church, New Carlisle, Que.

Source: Author

ley Street is in 2016. John appears to have lived with his parents until they had both died, his mother's death being on 29 January 1839. That year, John leased his property in return for half the produce.

The next June, John married Mary Ann Thomson, from a family of one son and two daughters who had all emigrated to Quebec from Plymouth, England. They were married in the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in that city. Three children followed, all born in New Carlisle: Frederick Charles Bernard Thomson in 1841, (named after Mary Ann's brother), Elizabeth in 1843, and Charlotte in 1845.

Less than a month after Charlotte's birth, John was found dead "from a wound received from the accidental discharge of his fowling piece."⁹ John was 43 years old, and Mary Ann just 28. John was buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle. Mary Ann and her children, the eldest only 5 years old, moved back to Quebec to reside with her unmarried brother. The *Prudent* was sold in 1846 for 155 British pounds, Mary Ann's share being half.



Figure 2: Engagement portrait, Frederick Billingsley and Anne Longmuir

Source: Image 1-21035.1, Notman collection, McCord Museum, Montreal, Que.

Mary Ann's son Frederick was educated in Quebec, and at age 13 he joined the firm of H. & E. Burstall, "important exporters of forest

products" to England, as "a junior clerk." The Burstalls were brothers from Hull, England. In 1862, a Burstall nephew, John, who had apprenticed with the firm, formed his own company in partnership

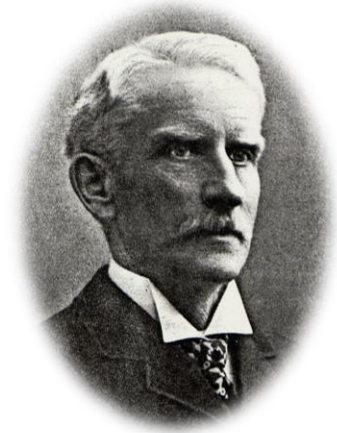


Figure 3: Frederick Billingsley

Source: *Men of Canada*, (J.A. Cooper, ed., The Canadian Historical Company, Montreal and Toronto, 1901–2)

with a partner in Liverpool, England. Frederick Billingsley was hired as his accountant.

John and Frederick also became shareholders in the Quebec Warehouse Company, with the latter as secretary, eventually becoming president. In 1866, Frederick married Anne Longmuir. By the beginning of the 1870s, John Burstall and Company "was in excellent financial shape. . . . At Quebec, it owned a steamship, two barges, nine small boats, and a lumber cove."¹⁰ Three more Liverpool partners were

admitted in 1875, and in 1877, Frederick was one of two others admitted as partners.

Before the development of the steam carrying trade, for a long period of years, the firm exported annually to Great Britain from 120 to 200 cargos of timber and deals.¹¹

Beginning in 1886, the partners began to withdraw, and four years later only Frederick and John remained. However, the firm was valued at between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in 1895, just before John's death in early 1896. Frederick remained a partner until his death in 1904 at age 63.

Frederick's mother never remarried; she is buried in the Thomson plot at Mount Hermon Cemetery in Quebec. Her daughter, Charlotte, one of my great-grandmothers, married Emil Poliwka, and adopted his Czech family name.

During the First World War, German-sounding names became a handicap in Canada. In February 1921, by Assembly Bill 114 in the Quebec Parliament, three of Charlotte's sons took their mother's maiden name.¹² Her son Frederick, named after his uncle, was my grandfather.

Frederick's other sister, Elizabeth, married Jean-Baptiste Amyot, whose family dates back to 1608 in Quebec. Mr. Amyot graduated in law from Laval University, and was



Figure 3: Charlotte Billingsley

Source: author

aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec for a number of years. Their eldest daughter was called Charlotte, named after her aunt.

In the 90-plus years since the surname change, my grandfather's descendants have led relatively quiet lives, many concentrating on raising happy families. There are now four new generations helping keep family history alive.

Reference Notes

¹ A snow, snaw or snauw is a square-rigged vessel with two masts, complemented by a snow- or trysail-mast stepped immediately abaft (behind) the main mast. *Wikipedia* (Wikipedia.org) entry for "Snow(ship)."

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about 60 tons. *Wikipedia* (Wikipedia.org) entry for “Hoy(boat).”

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Traumatic Start to Ottawa War Bride Voyage



BY JOHN D. REID

John posts the Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections blog, contributes "The Cream of the Crop" column to ACR, speaks at genealogy meetings and conferences, and even finds time to uncover information like that cited below.

There were half a million Canadians in Britain and elsewhere in Europe during the Second World War. Along with hatred for Hitler and all he represented they carried with them a capability for love, and you know what that can lead to.

Seventy years ago Canada was coming toward the end of bringing over 43,454 war brides and 20,997 of their children, which likely does not include another 600 who went to Newfoundland, not then part of Canada.

Some of the war bride children, including John McConkey and Lynne Willoughby, are BIFHSGO members.

On 20 November 1946, 900 wives and 300 children of Canadian servicemen bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, left Liverpool on the *Empire Brent*, which made several such voyages.

They didn't get far. Their ship, 13,959 tons, collided in the foggy dawn light with the freighter *Stormont*, 1,031 tons, mid-river in the Mersey.

Most of the 210 head of cattle and horses on the *Stormont*, many thrown into the water, did not survive. Fortunately, because the hour was early, most of the women and children did not witness the scene.

The *Empire Brent* returned for repairs; the Canada-bound women and children disembarked at Birkenhead and set off by train to transient accommodation in London, and some for an unanticipated visit back to their parental homes.

Two weeks later they returned to the *Empire Brent*, which carried most of the same passengers to Halifax, arriving on lucky Friday 13 December.

Some first-hand accounts by war brides on that voyage are at www.pier21.ca/wp-content/uploads/files/research_war_brides.pdf.

A group from that voyage (31 war brides and 17 children) was destined for Ottawa, one of the largest war bride groups to come to the Ottawa Valley.

Most were British, a few Dutch and one Belgian. They arrived late Sunday afternoon, 15 December.

Some of the names mentioned in *The Ottawa Citizen* were Bailey, Bush, Butler, Corke, Cox, Goode-nough, Leblanc, McConnell, MacDonald, Penman, Potvin, Roberts, Ross, Stevenson, and Wyand.

If you know about any of their stories, please let us know at acreditor@bifhsgo.ca!

Edwin Salway: From Somerset to Stayner[©]



BY MARY-LOU SIMAC

Mary-Lou, the BIFHSGO Publicity Director, has been researching her family history for about six years. She is a retired federal public servant who worked for Canadian Heritage and Industry Canada. She has completed several online family history courses from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and is a graduate of Boston University's online Genealogical Research certificate program.

What does a young husband with a wife and small children hope for when he immigrates to another country? A better life for himself and his family would likely be at the top of many a "wish list." Whatever my paternal great-grandfather Edwin Salway dreamed of, one can only hope that he achieved some of his goals, but untimely deaths (including his own) surely prevented the full realization of all his dreams.

His birthplace, Somerset County, is largely rural and is located in the southwest of England, bordered by the counties of Wiltshire to the east, Gloucestershire and the city of Bristol to the north, Devon to the southwest, and Dorset to the southeast. It is also partly bounded to the north by the Bristol Channel and the estuary of the River Severn. Somerset County featured prominently in British news stories during the winter of 2013–14, as flooding on the Somerset Levels (160,000 acres of low-lying land) was a serious problem that caused the evacuation of

people from their homes and extensive damage.¹

Edwin Salway was born in Othery, a small village of about 600 people on the River Parrett, one of the main rivers on the Somerset Levels. Othery is located about 10 km southeast of Bridgwater.

Edwin was born in 1850,² to Job Solway and Charlotte Keirle. The Salways, whose family name was sometimes spelled Solway, had lived in Somerset from at least the mid-1700s.³ Edwin's father, Job, was variously a butcher⁴ and a "farmer of 20 acres."⁵ Job was the son of William Salway and Sarah Talbot Salway (1785–1875), the latter living to age 90—unusual in a time when the average life expectancy was much less. The lady was obviously very durable!

Edwin (age 23) married Virginia Sparks (age 21) of neighbouring Westonzoyland in 1873.⁶ The young couple had at least four children,⁷ and likely immigrated to Canada in late 1880 or early 1881. Did the periodic disastrous flooding episodes

have anything to do with their decision?

The villages of Othery and Weston-zoyland are located between the River Parrett and the King's Sedgmoor Drain, in an area bisected by rhynes (drainage ditches), and right at the heart of the area affected by the 2014 flooding. The Somerset Levels has suffered periodic severe inundations, notably in 1607, in which over 2,000 people were reportedly killed. In 1872, sea walls were breached and over 7,000 acres became flooded with salt water. Were the Salways running out of patience?

The Edwin Salway family is mentioned for the first time in the Canadian Census of 1881,⁸ living in Stayner (near Collingwood), Simcoe County, Ontario. The census was

taken beginning on 4 April 1881. At the time, Edwin and Virginia were the parents of four young children, all born in England: Ernest Edwin, born 4 November 1874, age 5; Albert Edmond, born October 1876, age 4; Philip, born 26 May 1878, age 2; and Agnes Ellen Sophia, born September 1880, age 7 months. Edwin's occupation was listed as labourer.

By the time of the next Canadian Census in 1891, dramatic changes had occurred: Virginia was dead, the family had broken up, and the children were scattered. Virginia had died in November 1881 at age 28 of unknown causes.⁹ Edwin must have had difficulty maintaining a household for his children—10 years after her death, two of the three boys (Albert and Philip)¹⁰ were living with other families in

the area, their occupations listed as “Dom.,” i.e. domestics. The term normally refers to servants, cooks or house-keepers. The whereabouts of Ernest in 1891 are not



Figure 1: Somerset County, England
Source: Google Maps

confirmed.

Edwin's options were likely quite limited; it does not appear that any

of his or Virginia's siblings immigrated to Canada, so there were no members of the immediate family to fall back on. Placement of the boys with farm families in Simcoe County may well have been the best course of action.

Neither Edwin nor his daughter Agnes appears in the 1891 Canada, England or U.S. censuses. Their whereabouts remain a mystery; however, it seems likely that Edwin remained in the area, as he remarried in 1888,¹¹ seven years after the death of his first wife, to my great-grandmother, Margaret McKeckran/McEachern of Stayner, age 24, a spinster who was 13 years his junior. Margaret was born in Scotland, and came to Canada at age 3 with her parents.¹² Edwin's occupation was listed as porter (likely for the railway) at the time of his marriage to Margaret.

The town of Stayner, originally known as Not-tawa-saga Station, had its origin with the opening of the Northern Railway in 1854.¹³ The line ran from Toronto to Collingwood, on Georgian Bay. Edwin and Margaret lived in Stayner, which was incorporated as a town in 1888, and their family started to grow; six children were born.

Just before Christmas 1896, tragedy struck again, when Edwin died at age 54. The longevity of Edwin's grandmother was not to be his destiny. There is no epitaph—the barely legible inscription is a footnote on first wife Virginia (Sparks) Salway's stone.¹⁴ After her husband's death from pneumonia in 1896,¹⁵ the widowed Margaret Salway/Solway relocated to Toronto with her six children sometime between 1901,¹⁶ when she lived in Simcoe County, and 1911,¹⁷ when she and her children are shown living in West Toronto.

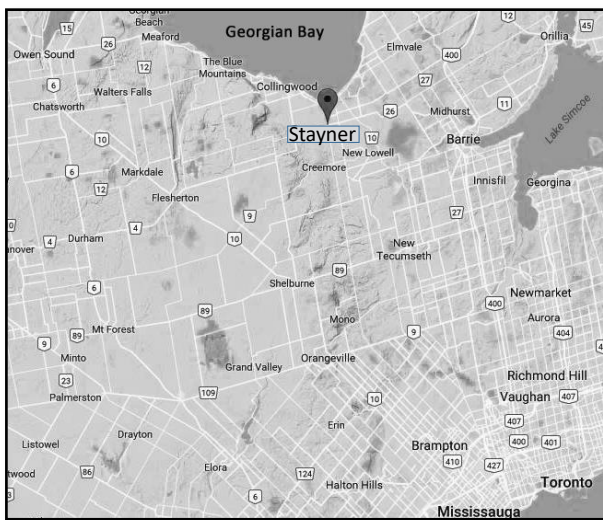


Figure 2: Stayner, Ontario
Source: Google Maps

The reason for the move is unclear. She was able to keep her family

together, raising the children in Toronto on her own. All except one outlived her. The remaining five children were all able to establish themselves successfully. Margaret never remarried.

What happened to the four children in Edwin's first family? Edwin does not seem to have reunited with them after his second marriage, and perhaps it is no surprise, as the children were now older and out on their own, whether by force or by choice. Parental absence for much of their childhoods did not seem to hold the children back, however.

Ernest married and initially established himself in Simcoe County, then relocated to Hilliard Township, near Earlton, where he farmed.¹⁸ He is buried in Englehart, Ontario, having lived to the age of 90.¹⁹ Albert, a miner who worked at Copper Cliff, Ontario, was not quite so lucky, dying in 1899 at age 22.²⁰ Philip emigrated to the U.S. in 1897, and died in Michigan²¹ at the age of 98.²² Agnes seems to have married and lived in northern Ontario, where she died at the age of 81.²³

If children are the messengers one sends into the future, together Edwin Salway and his two wives sent quite a few: at least 10 in all. In spite of having to endure abrupt life changes that many people would find unsettling, Edwin's children not only survived, but thrived, some to an advanced age. My father, who

never met his grandfather Edwin, is aged 94 and still going strong. Happily, he seems to be continuing the trend to longevity. I can only hope that this descendant of Edwin's should be so lucky!

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- ⁷ Some researchers believe that Edwin and Virginia had a daughter named Florence in England in September 1873, whom they did not bring to Canada. Her 1897 marriage certificate has been ordered, in hopes of learning the parents' names.
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We Shall Remember Them[©]

BY SHEILA DOHOO FAURE

This is the second in ACR's sampling of the WW I biographies of soldiers who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station that appear in the station's database on www.bifhsgo.ca. The biographies are researched by several BIFHSGO volunteers.

Lance Corporal Clarence Ellyn Fletcher Regimental Number: 484359 18th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force

Clarence Ellyn Fletcher was born on 13 March, probably in 1898; however, the year of his

birth is not certain.¹ He was the son of Clarence and Mary Fletcher. His father was born in Ontario² in 1864

and his mother, Mary (née Maxwell), was probably born in about 1877 in the United States.³ At some point, his father apparently went to the United States.

Finding information about Clarence's early life was greatly aided by finding a biography of his younger brother, Gordon Ellwyn, who had a long career in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.⁴ There was much variation in the surnames used by the family or appearing in the official records—Fletcher, Ellyn, Ellwyn and Ott. "For some unknown reason, Gordon's father changed the original family name from Fletcher to Ellyn after immigrating to Canada from Pittsburg Pennsylvania."⁵ Clarence retained the name Fletcher for his military service, but appears in other records with the surnames Ellyn or Ott.



Figure 1: Ellyn family—Clarence, Mary, Douglas & Gordon

Source: Barrie Ellwyn

Clarence had three younger full siblings: Gordon Carlyle (born in 1900),⁶ Margret (born in 1901, but died in 1902)⁷ and William Douglas (known as Douglas) (born in 1902).⁸

In 1901, Clarence's father was a coal miner in Fernie, British Columbia.⁹ The family's time in British Columbia was marred first by the death, on 29 April 1902, of his sister Margret. Then less than a month later his father was killed in a mining accident at Cold Creek, British Columbia.¹⁰ On the night of 22 May, there was a massive explosion at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. at Coal Creek near Fernie, resulting in the death of 150–175 miners.¹¹ Clarence's father was one of them. He was raising horses and/or mules (a "Driver Boss") and was reportedly delivering a load of horses or mules

at the time of the accident.¹² His body was not found for quite some months. In spite of reports that the "company will pay all funeral expenses, relieve against immediate want and suffering and provide permanently against destitution,"¹³ family reports suggest that no compensation was paid to the widows. It was a difficult time for Clarence and his family. The strain on the family would have increased with the birth, only a few months later, on 25 December

1902, of Clarence's brother Douglas.¹⁴

However, more stability came to the family in the next few years.

By 1906, Mary Ellyn had moved back to Lethbridge and married William Albert Ott, who was 12 years her senior. William Ott was a well established and affluent businessman in Lethbridge Alberta. He had been married previously and brought five of his children into this new blended marriage. Together William and Mary had three children: Ralph, Glen and Albert. . . . To avoid further confusion, the three girls and two original Ott boys kept the surname of OTT."¹⁵

Gordon and Douglas did not like being teased for having a name that sounded like the girl's name "Ellen," so they changed the name to Ellwyn.¹⁶ Later, the original Ellyn boys and the last three Ott boys (Ralph,

Glen & Albert) would all use the surname of Ellwyn.

On 21 January 1915, Clarence enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), joining the 50th Battalion, claiming to be 19 years old.¹⁷ He indicated that he was born on 13 March 1895 in Lethbridge, Alberta. However, his brother's profile indicates that he lied about his age by three years in order to enlist. With the outbreak of World War I, both Clarence Ellyn-Fletcher and Gordon Ellwyn were anxious to join the Canadian Expeditionary Forces and contribute to the fighting in Europe. Clarence was, therefore, only 16 years old when he enlisted. He was 5' 10" tall, with a fair complexion, grey eyes and black hair.¹⁸

After his basic training, he was shipped off to Europe and was attached to the 18th Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment).¹⁹

It is not clear when Clarence left Canada for England but, in September 1915, he was with the 23rd Canadian Reserve Battalion while attending a Colt Machine Gun course, probably in Shorncliffe, England.²⁰ In January 1916, he was transferred from the 23rd to the 18th Battalion. On 20 January 1916, he was at the Canadian Base Depot in Le Havre, and he joined his battalion in the field about a week later.

Eight months afterward, Clarence began the first of a number of hospitalizations—this time for an injury



Figure 2:
Clarence
Source:
Barrie Ellwyn

sustained on the Front. On 19 September 1916, he was wounded by shrapnel that perforated the front of his left thigh and injured his foot. He was taken to the 1st Australian General Hospital and was transferred two days later to England. He was hospitalized in Queen Mary's Military Hospital in Whalley, Lancashire. By early November, the wound had almost healed, but the flexibility in his knee was limited to a right angle and he was still experiencing pain in the front of his thigh. In November he was sent to the Military Convalescent Hospital in Woodcote Park, Epsom.

He was discharged from Woodcote Park on 3 January 1917, but just a few weeks later he was admitted to a specialized military hospital at the Chisledon Camp in Wiltshire for treatment of gonorrhoea. The 1,100-bed hospital was focused on the treatment of venereal disease.²¹ He appears to have been there until late April. He was probably sent to the Canadian Convalescent Depot in Bramshott sometime in the spring of 1917.

Clarence's third hospitalization occurred just months later. In late July 1917, he scratched his right thumb and the scratch became infected. He was treated for about a week at the Bramshott Hospital. While he was in hospital in August, he signed a will leaving everything to his mother.

In February 1918, he was hospitalized for a fourth time, this time at Bramshott Hospital, where he spent two months being treated for dermatitis. He had had scabies in January, which resulted in a red rash over most of his body. In April he transferred to the 4th Reserve Battalion. On 1 September, he was appointed a Lance Corporal and later that month he was transferred to the 18th Battalion.

In November 1918 Clarence was hospitalized for the fifth and final



Figure 3:
Clarence
in uniform
Source:
Barrie Ellwyn

time. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 24 November.²² The day he was admitted, the 18th Canadian Battalion had left Chapelle-lez-Herlaimont in Belgium in the morning for a full-

day march to Fleurus, just over 20 kilometres to the east.²³ The battalion had begun its journey to Germany as an army of occupation on 18 November 1918. Every day since the march began, one or more other ranks (non-officers) had been admitted to hospital, and the war diary entry for 24 November notes that “15 O.R.s [other ranks] admitted to hospital.” Clarence may have been one of these.

Clarence died at No 1 CCCS just over a week later (2 December) of influenza. He was buried the same day in Gosselies Communal Cemetery (Grave 254), with Chaplain W. O’Neill Fisher presiding. The chaplain also notified his mother, Mrs W. A. Ott, of his death. She was living at 320 7th Avenue, South Lethbridge, Alberta.



Figure 5: Lance Corporal Fletcher’s gravestone, Gosselies Communal Cemetery

Source: author

Influenza accounted for most deaths at the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station after the Armistice.²⁴ In

spite of the horrific number of soldiers killed in World War I, the influenza pandemic, which affected the whole world and scourged Europe in 1918–1919, killed more people than the war itself.²⁵

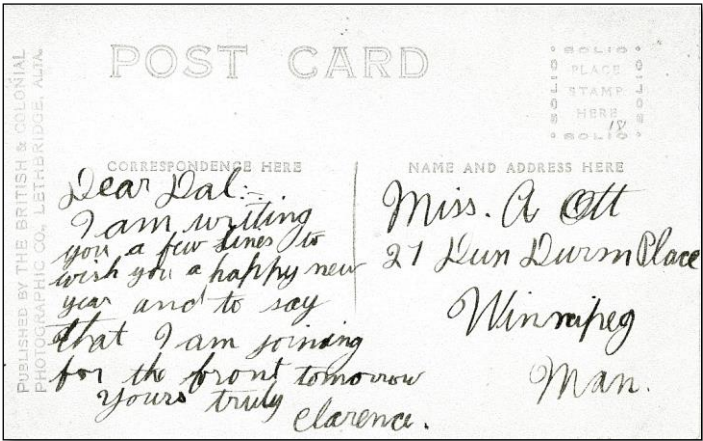


Figure 4: Unsent postcard to Clarence’s sister Alice circa Jan. 1915

Source: Barrie Ellwyn

It is unlikely that Clarence saw any of the celebrations of the Canadian soldiers that took

place along their march route. On 19 November, "A Dance was given by the villagers at night in the Town Hall to the members of the battalion. The Regtl. Band provided the music."²⁶

On 25 November, "Shortly after the arrival of the Battalion, a civilian Brass Band and Bugle Band played through the streets."

Clarence was probably awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁷ He missed qualifying for the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915) by less than month, since he only joined the Western Front in late January 1916.

His brother Gordon wanted to follow in his brother's footsteps; he applied to join the CEF but was rejected because he was too young. However, in April 1918, he applied and was accepted for the Cavalry Draft for the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP).²⁸

New RNWMP recruits were also being taken into the CEF, and Gordon signed an attestation on 3 May

1918. He was not supposed to serve at the Front until he was 19 on 30 May 1919. In June 1918 Gordon sailed to England, where he was sent to Camp Shorncliffe in Kent for training. He was just about to be shipped to the Western Front when the Armistice was signed.

Gordon returned to Canada in May 1919. He then joined the Saskatchewan Provincial Police and, when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) took over policing in Saskatchewan, he joined the Manitoba Provincial Police. When the RCMP took over policing in that province, Gordon joined the RCMP, where he served until his retirement in 1950. He died on 17 June 1961 in Powell River, British Columbia.



Figure 6: Graves of WWI Soldiers, Gosselies Communal Cemetery
Source: author

After the war, Clarence's parents, William and Mary, were living in Vancouver with six of their children.²⁹ Gordon and his wife, Ada, were living in Lethbridge. On the

day of the 1921 Census, 1 June, Clarence's youngest brother, Douglas, a taxi driver, was with Gordon and Ada.³⁰ Douglas later married Beryl.³¹ He moved to the United States—first to Seattle and then to Kansas City.³² Both Douglas and Beryl died in Kansas City.

Gordon and Ada did not have any children, but Douglas had two.³³ The family names Fletcher and Clarence were worked into the names of his two children: Donald Fletcher Ellwyn and Barrie Clare(nce) Ellwyn.

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Special thanks are extended to Barrie Ellwyn, Clarence's nephew, for his assistance with this biography.

Reference Notes

¹ Clarence gave his birth year as 1895 in his attestation for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. However, a biography written of his brother Gordon suggests that he was actually born on 13 March 1898. Census records give dates of 1897, 1898 and 1898. No birth record has been found.

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- 13 "Fernie's Horror," *The Cranbrook Herald*, May 29 1902 (<http://www.crowsnest.bc.ca/fernief01.html>: accessed 28 April 2015).
- 14 "Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895–1956," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 April 2015), entry for William Douglas Ellwyn.
- 15 "S/Sgt. Gordon Ellwyn," *The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association* (<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/ssgt-gordon-ellwyn/>: accessed 9 April 2015).
- 16 Information from Barrie Ellwyn, April 2015.
- 17 "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 – CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>: accessed 14 December 2015), entry for Clarence E. Fletcher, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3144–35. Unless otherwise noted, all information about his military career comes from this record.
- 18 "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 April 2015), entry for Clarence Ellyce Fletcher.
- 19 "S/Sgt. Gordon Ellwyn," *The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association* (<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/ssgt-gordon-ellwyn/>: accessed 9 April 2015).
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- 21 "Chiseldon Camp," *Guide to Swindon* (<http://www.swindonweb.com/?m=8&s=116&ss=763&c=2501&t=Chiseldon+Camp>: accessed 31 December 2015).
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- 23 "War diaries - 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion," War Diaries of the First World War (http://data4.collectionscanada.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=18th+infantry+battalion&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=4&f=G: accessed 8 April 2015)
- 24 "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FIN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014).
- 25 "The Influenza Pandemic of 1918," (<https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>: accessed 3 February 2015).
- 26 "War diaries - 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion."

²⁷ "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 – CEF," entry for Clarence E. Fletcher.

²⁸ "S/Sgt. Gordon Ellwyn," *The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association* (<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/ssgt-gordon-ellwyn/>; accessed 9 April 2015).

²⁹ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 23 April 2015), entry for B. Alice Ott, Province or Territory: British Columbia, District: Vancouver, District number: 13, Sub-district: Ward 6,

Sub-district number: 12, City, town or village: Vancouver.

³⁰ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 23 April 2015), entry for Gordon Ellison

³¹ "Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895–1956," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 11 April 2015), entry for William Douglas Ellwyn.

³² Information from Barrie Ellwyn, April 2015.

³³ Ibid.

Techniques and Resources

The Cream of the Crop

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



BY JOHN D. REID

Soldiers of the First World War: 1914–1918 database

Every month, at mid-month, Library and Archives Canada

reports on its progress with digitizing service files from the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The 15 July 2016 report shows 307,588 of 640,000 files available online, an increase from 171,771 a year earlier. At that rate it will take until the end of 2018 to complete the task. The latest box digitized is number 5218 and the surname is Knaggs.

Carleton University: Shannon Lectures

Thanks to a major anonymous donation, each fall the History Department at Carleton University mounts a themed lecture series. While some topics are of more interest to family historians than others, all have lectures of broader interest than academic history.

For 2016 the series examines the social, intellectual and cultural history of health, sickness, disease and medicine. The lectures will consider cultural perceptions of the body, health and illness and will tease out the shifting patterns of treatment.

The first lecture this year is on Friday, 30 September. Read about it and the other lectures in the series at <https://carleton.ca/history/news/shannon-lecture/>.

Perth Military Settlement Map and Database

If you have an interest in the Perth Military Settlement, or in what can be achieved by way of mapping technology by a group of volunteers motivated by a community anniversary, in this case a 200th, take a look at <http://goo.gl/MUi1bF>. The website describes the project as "taking mapping to a whole new—or old—level."

Land Registry (Office) abstract indexes from as early as 1816, with information on the original land patent holder, are combined with information from location tickets of civilian settlers and mapped. The interest for the genealogist with ancestry in the area is evident.

For the historian it's instructive to see where grants were awarded in relation to one another—where the UE (United Empire Loyalists), DUE (daughters of UE) and SUE (sons of UE) or where settlers who arrived on a particular ship received grants.

We Profit from Crime

At the end of July the commercial site *Findmypast* added more than 2.5 million records, for a total of 5,514,003, to the database "England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punish-

ment, 1770–1935." Drawing from records of 22 collections from The (UK) National Archives in the ADM, CRIM, HO, MEPO, PCOM and T record groups, these are indexes and images of the original record.

Beyond these official records newspapers will often provide more information on your ancestors as perpetrators or victims of crime.

More than 12 million new records were added to the *Ancestry* database "Gloucestershire, England, Prison Records, 1728–1914" in June. Included are calendars of prisoners in county jails and houses of correction and a variety of registers. Many of these contain considerable personal detail, and photographs, as well as descriptions of the crime and sentence.

Somerset Records

Seven new databases, for the English county of Somerset, are available on *Ancestry*. Sourced from the Somerset Archives & Local Studies, South West Heritage Trust, in Taunton, each links to an image of the original record. The database names and their holdings are

- "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531–1812," 3,342,867 records;
- "Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1914," 2,257,704 records;

- “Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754–1914,” 1,206,406 records;
- “Somerset, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1914,” 445,809 records;
- “Somerset, England, Gaol Registers, 1807–1879,” 101,284 records;
- “Somerset, England, School Registers, 1860–1914,” 47,047 records; and
- “Somerset, England, Church of England Confirmations, 1843–1913,” 1,104 records.

***Ancestry* Updates “England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800–2014”**

I was surprised to find that the most visited item on my *Canada’s Anglo-Celtic Connections* blog since May was about 592,318 records in this updated cemetery register collection, originally at *Ancestry* in August 2014. Unlike most of *Ancestry*’s “Select . . .” collections these are linked to images of the original record.

In England there are entries for

- Hampshire—Magdalen Hill Cemetery (1916–2013);
- Kent—Brenzett (1879–2014), Cheriton Road (1856–2014), Hawkinge (1939–2014), Lydd (1949–2014), New Romney (1924–1980), Spring Lane Horn Street (1914–2014);
- Middlesex—Abney Park and Greenford Park (1901–1939), Acton (1895–2010), Ealing and

Old Brentford (Register of Graves A–J), Havelock Norwood (1883–2009), Hortus (1984–2010), South Ealing (1984–2010); and

- West Sussex—Arundel (1918–2014), Bognor Regis (1888–1971), Chalcraft Lane (1988–2014), Findon (1938–2014), Littlehampton (1973–2014).

For Scotland there is a long list of cemeteries in Dumfries-shire, Kincardineshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire.

Non-OPR Scottish Records

ScotlandsPeople (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) is often thought of as having a monopoly on Scottish records, particularly civil registration and the old parochial (parish) registers (OPRs). A reminder that it’s not quite true came when three index databases appeared on *Ancestry* as part of the WebSearch program. Again the database names and record numbers are

- “Web: Scotland, Non-OPR Births and Baptisms Index, 1666–1874,” 7,325 records;
- “Web: Scotland, Non-OPR Banns and Marriages Index, 1656–1875,” 2,985 records; and
- “Web: Scotland, Non-OPR Deaths and Burials Index, 1673–1855,” 2,584 records.

These are indexes from Kirk Session material of the Church of Scotland, other Presbyterian churches, and

also the registers of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). They are taken from Maxwell Ancestry's Scottish Indexes site at www.scottishindexes.co.uk/, where you will find a variety of other Scottish record sets on a free to search, pay to view a full transcript basis.

FamilySearch also has a collection of Scottish parish register transcripts.

John Grenham

Earlier this year John Grenham, author of the highly rated book *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide* ended his relationship with *The Irish Times*. His weekly "Irish Roots" column in the paper has evolved into a blog post at www.johngrenham.com/.

Recently he explained the significance of funerals in Ireland as an important mutual obligation and mentioned <https://rip.ie/> as a country-wide database of funerals where obits for most recent six months are available without charge. Grenham has also recorded six lectures on Irish genealogy for Legacy Family Tree Webinars.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Go to a conference and you can expect to pay around about \$10 for each presentation you attend. If there are multiple streams you may pay more for the privilege of choice.

If the conference is large you may pay less but find yourself sitting in a huge crowd with no likelihood of interaction with the speaker. You hear the presentation once—no opportunity to go back and review that crucial bit of information that went by too quickly.

For that same \$10 (US) you can subscribe to a one-month-long access to presentations by top-rate speakers at *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*.

A total of 382 presentations, and growing, are available by nearly 100 different presenters, including Lisa Louise Cooke, Maurice Gleeson, Kirsty Grey, John Grenham, Tom Jones, Thomas MacEntee, Judy Russell and Megan Smolenyak. They are available to view day and night.

True, you don't get the one-on-one interaction. You do get, for many presentations, a syllabus handout. You can try a few of the presentations for free, and for those streamed live, recordings are usually available free for the following week. Browse around at <http://familytreewebinars.com/>.

Late-breaking news as of the end of July is that *Legacy Family Tree Webinars* will host, produce, and publish future monthly webinars for the (US) Board for Certification of Genealogists.

Genealogy Date and Calendar Calculators

Doing calculations on dates is more challenging than doing so with the old pounds, shillings and pence British monetary system: at least they didn't change on leap years! There's help for dates in a collection of date and calendar utilities at www.searchforancestors.com/utility/ and at the better-known site www.timeanddate.com.

At both you can calculate the difference between any two dates, find a birth date from information found on a tombstone or death certificate, and find the day of the week for any date.

As they are US-based sites you will have to wrestle with the perverse month, day, and year order. *Time and Date* has a wider variety of additional information, like sun and moon rise and set times back to 1996. *Search for Ancestors* has some other helpful genealogy tools.

DNA Presentations

A big thank you to all BIFHSGO members who voted for my presentation, "Did DNA Prove the Skeleton under the Leicester Car Park Was Richard III?" as best for 2015-2016. A shorter version was presented at WDYTIA? Live in Birmingham last April, but without the interaction. There's a rerecording at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZirr0FpsW0.

Maurice Gleeson, who organized the event in Birmingham, will be at the BIFHSGO fall conference (9–11 September) and is not to be missed. There will also be a DNA panel session at the conference with shorter presentations by Leanne Cooper, Rick Moody and myself.

I'm also scheduled to repeat a talk given last January on Saturday 24 September for the Ottawa Public Library, and give a similar talk at Algonquin College Pembroke campus on the evening of Tuesday 4 October.

New Books

Lucille Campey, a regular speaker at BIFHSGO conferences, is honouring BIFHSGO with the Ottawa launch to her new book, on 11 September at the conference. *Atlantic Canada's Irish Immigrants: A Fish and Timber Story* is the first in her Irish in Canada series. It follows her books on Scottish and English immigration to Canada, all of which focus on the period prior to Canadian Confederation.

The heart of the book is chapters on each of the Atlantic Provinces, and one on emigration during the 1840s Great Famine. There was major Irish immigration before the famine, including of Loyalists of Irish origin. The book looks at origins in Ireland, the voyage and where they settled.

Being no expert in the topic I was surprised at the variation of their

circumstances in Canada. Experts in the field are likely well aware of that already.

As with her other books, Lucille has included extensive reference material. It includes 100 pages of listings of voyages that brought the immigrants from Ireland mostly for the first half of the 19th century, a mine of information for the family historian.

For nigh on 15 years Patricia Roberts-Pichette, with the assistance of BIFHSGO and society members, has been preoccupied with British Home Children, and especially those who came with the Birmingham-based Children's Emigration Homes.

Her book, entitled *Great Canadian Expectations: The Middlemore Experience*, explores the history of the juvenile immigration agency founded in 1872 by John T. Middlemore, which settled more than 5000 children in Canada between 1873 and 1933. It draws on the Middlemore experience to tackle head-on the view that young British immigrants were exploited for economic gain and relief of the British public purse.

Patricia's research explores government policy and reveals the influence of eugenicists in helping end juvenile immigration programs in Canada. She finds that Middlemore's motivations were altruistic

and in accord with best contemporary social practice, which is not that of today.

The book, published by *Global Genealogy.com*, is expected to be ready for launch in November.

Blaine T. Bettinger's much-anticipated book *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* is slated for release on 13 October 2016. The publisher says:

Discover the answers to your family history mysteries using the most-cutting edge tool available. This plain-English guide is a one-stop resource for how to use DNA testing for genealogy. Inside, you'll find guidance on what DNA tests are available, plus the methodologies and pros and cons of the three major testing companies and advice on choosing the right test to answer your specific genealogy questions.

And once you've taken a DNA test, this guide will demystify the often-overwhelming subject and explain how to interpret DNA test results, including how to understand ethnicity estimates and haplogroup designations, navigate suggested cousin matches, and use third-party tools like GEDmatch to further analyze your data.

I'm told the Ottawa Public Library has copies on order and *Global Genealogy.com* will have copies available for sale as soon as they can get them in stock. It will be another addition to my collection.

BIFHSGO News

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 18 May 2016–13 Aug 2016

Member No.	Name	Address
1455	Joan Living	Ottawa, ON
1804	David Bowie	Ottawa, ON
1805	Crystal McCollom	Sudbury, ON
1806	Catherine Pacey	Guelph, ON
1807	Connie Blyth Martin	Aylmer, Que
1808	Brian Wilson	Nepean, ON
1808	Mary Ann Green	Nepean, ON
1695	Francine Belanger	Ottawa, ON
1809	Annette Arnott	Nepean, ON
1810	Shirley Farrar	Mississauga, ON
1811	Phillip Haggart	Calgary, AB
1811	Judy Hawley	Calgary, AB
1812	Kevin Cassidy	Omaha, NE, USA
1813	Mags Gauden	Ottawa, ON
1814	Jane Veinot	Ottawa, ON
1815	Mark Steinert	Ottawa, ON
1815	Doreen Steinert	Ottawa, ON
1816	Malcolm Thurgur	Ottawa, ON
1817	Donald Firth	Ottawa, ON
1818	Dorothy Empringham	Stittsville, ON
1819	Jane Capell	Ottawa, ON
1820	Ina Mae Burk	Ottawa, ON
1821	Merrybeth Morphet	Ottawa, ON
1822	Shelley Lunney	Markham, ON

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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, 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

- 8 Oct 2016** *Did Lucy and Isaac Actually Marry? And the Importance of Dying in the Right Sequence*—After Henry Wimburn Sudell Sweetapple Horlock died in 2010, his widow wanted to find a relative to inherit family portraits spanning 350 years. In steps the genealogist, Brian Laurie-Beaumont, who tells us what happened next.
- 12 Nov 2016** *First In, Last Out: But What Came between 1914 and 1919?*—After years of being unable to uncover details of her father's wartime service, Irene Ip struck gold when she Googled "The Fifth Division" and was able to piece together his story.
- 10 Dec 2016** *Great Moments in Genealogy*—BIFHSGO members will describe some exciting experiences in breaking down brick walls while researching their ancestors. For details go to www.bifhsgo.ca under "Meetings."

Schedule

- 9:00–9:30 Before BIFHSGO Educational Sessions: see www.bifhsgo.ca under "Meetings" 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 Winter issue is 28 October 2016.