



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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The Future of BIFHSGO

Manchester Life as the Second World War Comes Calling

We Shall Remember Them

*Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed,
Something Blue—From the Library*

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting



—1994–2019—

Anglo-Celtic Roots

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Cover Illustration:

25th anniversary logo for the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa
Created by: Wanda Quinn

From the Editor:

In this, my first issue as interim editor, we begin our 25th year with a history of our Society. Sheila Dohoo Faure discovered some surprising facts, interesting statistics and amusing stories during her research. She reveals a Society that has grown and matured over the years.

Duncan Monkhouse reflects on the future of BIFHSGO and the plans that the Board members have developed following their facilitated strategic planning session in June 2018.

Charles Morton's reminiscences end with his move back home to Manchester and a school scholarship. Meanwhile, the Second World War begins to strike close to home.

Sheila Dohoo Faure's WW I soldier biography tells us of a man who died after the armistice, but not of the usual wounds.

Pam Cooper brings us news from the library, providing an eclectic look at some resources available to us there.

This issue also contains the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting in preparation for this year's meeting on June 8th. Be sure to mark the date in your calendar!



Barbara Tose

From the President



I would like to offer everyone a warm welcome to the new year, 2019. This is a landmark year for BIFHSGO, our 25th since the Society started in 1994.

These cold winter months, almost gone by the time you read this, are a great time to do genealogy, whether we are trapped inside by the cold weather or, for the lucky ones, enjoying warmer, southern climes with time on our hands.

This anniversary year is a time to reflect on how far the Society and genealogy have come in the last 25 years. During a recent trip to Salt Lake City, I was reminded just how much things have changed. While there, I spent time perusing the stacks in the Family History Library and reading microfilm. It is amazing how easy it is when the films are indexed or digitized and available at your fingertips. No waiting weeks for the film to come to Ottawa; no having to review record after record on a film that contains hundreds of images, looking for the one that is relevant to your family. And that's after you have deciphered the handwriting and old English, of course.

But my, how things have changed! Now we can search billions of records online for our family. We can get a photograph of a grave marker in Liverpool, taken by a volunteer, within a couple of days of our request. More and more records come online daily. We can now connect to hundreds of cousins via DNA without a clue as to how our document trails intersect. This, too, is changing with many new applications becoming available to help sift through all the cousin connections, allowing us to group them together into family clusters.

"Past, Present and Future" is the theme of our conference this year, as we take a break from the usual country theme. Watch the BIFHSGO website for further news on a slightly different conference program, which still boasts a lineup of excellent speakers and topics.

In closing, I would like to remind you that the Society runs thanks to our many volunteers. Without them, we cannot continue to produce the content that assists all our members and even genealogists worldwide. If you have a talent that could assist the Society, please do not hesitate. Volunteer now!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Duncan Monkhouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Duncan Monkhouse

Family History Research

Reflections on the History of BIFHSGO (By a Relative Newcomer)



BY SHEILA DOHOO FAURE

Sheila was asked by the Board to reflect on the first 25 years of BIFHSGO's history in a Before BIFHSGO presentation on 12 January 2019—the first meeting of the 25th anniversary year. This article is based on her presentation.

When I was first asked to do a presentation on BIFHSGO's history, my first thought was "why me"? I was a relative newcomer to the Society and not in a position to know the history. Then I realized that it was just like researching a family tree—I don't know my ancestors, but I know what questions to ask and where to look for answers. So that is what I did. I spoke to many current and former BIFHSGO members, reviewed online archived copies of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (ACR) and looked through lots of pictures of previous events. Like any family tree, I found surprises, family resemblances and a reflection of a maturing family.

Creation of BIFHSGO

I got my first surprise right at the beginning of the story. BIFHSGO was created as a result of dissatisfaction with the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS). In 1988,

the decision was made to require all local OGS branch members to belong, and pay a fee, to the provincial organization. There were two concerns for a number of Ottawa Branch OGS members. First, this decision left less autonomy for local branches, limiting (in the case of Ottawa) the branch's ability to cover British Isles research. Second, because it was an Ontario group, it did not encourage membership from British descendants living on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. A group of unhappy Ottawa branch members looked at an alternative group, tentatively called "Friends of Family Research in the National Capital."

In 1993, Don Whiteside wrote a proposal on behalf of the group of dissatisfied members, who were then coalescing as the "Terrible Ten," proposing free-standing branches and more autonomy. It did not get wide support within OGS

and was eventually defeated by the OGS Board. Sadly, Don Whiteside died in 1993, but leadership for the “Terrible Ten” continued to be provided by Jack Moody and Brian O’Regan.

In June 1994, there was a proposal to create the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO)—a name modelled on the British Isles Family History Society of Los Angeles, which had been created six years earlier. The name reflected the focus on British Isles research and included researchers on both sides of the Ottawa River. (Apparently, the tentative inclusion of “National Capital” in the name was rejected because it sounded too much like a federal government institution!)

After that, things moved very quickly. On 19 October 1994, a meeting was held to set up the structure and choose officers. The next meeting was on 9 November and, later that month, the application for federal incorporation of the Society was submitted. On 9 January 1995, the Board met to approve the bylaws. Less than a week later, on 14 January, the first monthly meeting was held. The Board had expected about 50 people to attend the first meeting, but apparently, when the meeting was called to order there were at least 150 people in the hall. The first issue of ACR was distributed to

those who signed up at that meeting and the first annual conference, focusing on Irish family research, was held in September of that year.

ACR awards

ACR won multiple awards in the National Genealogical Society “Newsletter Competition for Major Genealogical Societies” between 1998 and 2011, including a number of first prizes. Then BIFHSGO stopped submitting the journal to the competition and gave others a chance to win!

In many ways, the BIFHSGO of today looks a lot like the BIFHSGO of 1995—definitely a family resemblance! There are still 10 meetings a year, held on the second Saturday of the month. Meetings still include a speaker and Discovery Tables. There are still four issues of ACR each year. An annual conference has been held every fall, with the themes rotating among research topics for England/Wales, Scotland or Ireland.

A library has been a part of BIFHSGO since the beginning. In the early years, the “library” was boxes of books carted to each meeting. A formal library was first established in 1997 when BIFHSGO was still meeting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) Family History Centre. The library moved with BIFHSGO meetings to the Legion’s Montgomery Branch and, in 2000, the library was

dedicated as the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library. It benefited from major gifts from Jack Moody and the estate of Brian O'Regan. It moved to the City of Ottawa Archives in 2002 and followed the archives from Sussex Drive to Tallwood Avenue. In 2016, the BIFHSGO library was integrated into the library collection of the Ottawa Branch of OGS, but it is still at the City of Ottawa Archives on Tallwood Avenue.

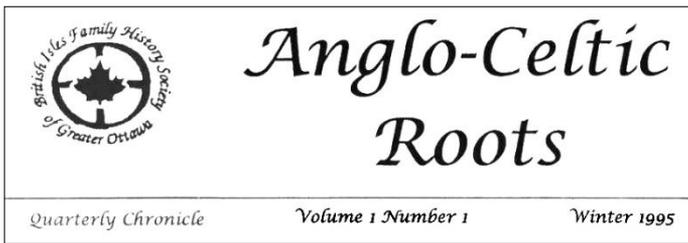


Figure 1: Logo and ACR banner 1994

Source: *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Winter 1995, cover

What Has Changed?

Although the core structure of BIFHSGO has remained the same for 25 years, there have been a lot of innovations.

In 1998, Bob Dawes wrote three articles for ACR about the use of computers in genealogy. In one article he said,

Most people are reluctant to use a personal computer to assist them with their genealogical or family history studies. The benefits a computer can provide to the genealogist in organizing and formatting information are tremendous. And, this doesn't just

apply to "state-of-the-art" computers, with the latest software, but just about any vintage computer will do. Obviously, you can do more with the most up to date models but the cost of these new models or the fear of technology shouldn't stop you from trying to use one.¹

That seems so strange to our ears now. Bob wrote another article for the Winter 2018 ACR in which he reflects on what has changed over the past 20 years and notes,

Today's internet has changed substantially with the online services, both paid and free, that are available. We used

to rely mostly on CDs for research, but now we can find an indexed name in seconds and then download a copy of the original document.²

BIFHSGO has had to adapt to increased computer use and the growth of online resources. It seems to me, based on a quick scan of past issues, that ACR articles have evolved. In the early years, they focused on data sources and the content of specific record sets. In later years, there are more stories based on research, with references to sources. We have seen the creation of a BIFHSGO website, the addition of many databases, an expansion of the "members only" section of our database and the creation of an e-newsletter.

The Society has become more mature. The logo and ACR banner are now more professional.

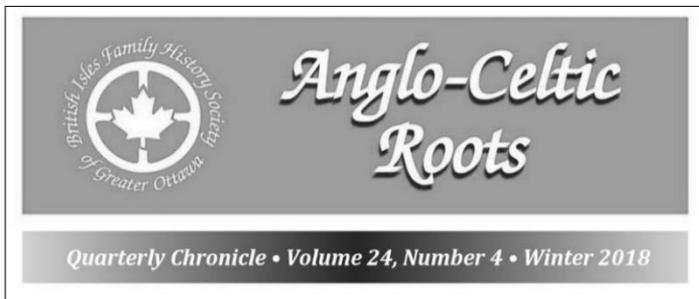


Figure 2: Logo and ACR banner first used Spring 2012 (editor Jean Kitchen)

Source: *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Winter, 2018, cover

New programs have been added to the BIFHSGO lineup:

- 1997: Great Moments were added as a regular feature—first in December and then, given the level of interest, in June.
- 1999: The Hall of Fame was set up to celebrate BIFHSGO's fifth anniversary. In the first year, five members were honoured for their significant contributions to genealogy and family history research. It now includes 34 members.
- About 2002: BIFHSGO began offering courses.
- 2007–08: The “Before BIFHSGO” presentations were added to monthly meetings.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs), evolved to help connect people with similar interests. The Irish and Scottish SIGs existed well before the

creation of BIFHSGO, but BIFHSGO members were invited to join. The Irish SIG remains affiliated with

OGS-Ottawa Branch but has members from both societies. The Scottish SIG began at OGS, probably in 1994, but became dormant for a while. It was

revived by a small group of interested individuals in about 2009–10 and, like most SIGs, is open to all. The Writing Group began in about 2002–03 and the DNA Group in about 2007. The latest addition to the SIGs lineup is the British Colonial America Group, started in the fall of 2018. These groups all provide valuable benefits to members of BIFHSGO and OGS, as well as the public.

There have also been changes that contributed to the social aspects of meetings, including name tags and, on occasion, coffee times.

The locations for our monthly meetings have changed over the years:

- 1994–1997: the LDS Family History Centre
- 1998–2005: the Legion's Montgomery Branch, Kent Street
- 2005–2015: Library and Archives Canada (LAC), where

conferences had already been held for several years

- Since 2015: Ben Franklin Place

Most of these moves were made because of the need for more space. From the approximately 150 people at the first meeting, membership grew in the first year to 269. Over the early years, the membership (including individuals, families and organizations) grew, and it has stabilized in the last seven years in the 500–550 range. A total of 1,971 individuals, families or organizations have been BIFHSGO members over the years—many have come and gone. But 16 of the first 100 members are still members, some still active.

founding board and the current board highlights a shifting gender balance.

BIFHSGO and the Timbit Heist

There is a story that confusion arose when BIFHSGO booked conference space with the National Library of Canada and another group had booked the same space through the National Archives of Canada. BIFHSGO was moved from the theatre to another room, but the break snacks were still served outside the theatre. Members of the other group apparently helped themselves to BIFHSGO's timbits. This "incident," which originated from a communication problem between the library and the archives, reportedly contributed to the awareness of the need for a merger of the two federal organizations.

Membership No. 1

When BIFHSGO was set up, members of the Board were given the first membership numbers. Fern Small, the only woman on the Board, got No. 1. The question is, did she get it through the drawing of lots or because the men on the Board agreed that, as the only woman on the Board, she should be given the first number?

Not only have the membership numbers changed, but so has the composition of the Board. The first female president of the Society, Mary Anne Sharpe, was elected in 2008–09. A comparison of the

As the Society has matured, it has gradually taken its place in the larger genealogical community. It has affiliations with other genealogy groups (e.g., the Federation of Family History Societies, the National Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the International Society of British Genealogy and Family History Societies) and local heritage and historical organizations (e.g., the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa and the Historical Society of Ottawa). Our partnership with LAC has been long-standing and very active. In recent years, strong partnerships have been formed with the Ottawa Public

Library and the City of Ottawa Archives.

transcribe information and make it available to the genealogy commu-

nity. There's a long list of available databases on our website. But by far the biggest research initiative has been our work on home child-ren, which began in the early years when Dave Lorente, who founded Home Children Canada

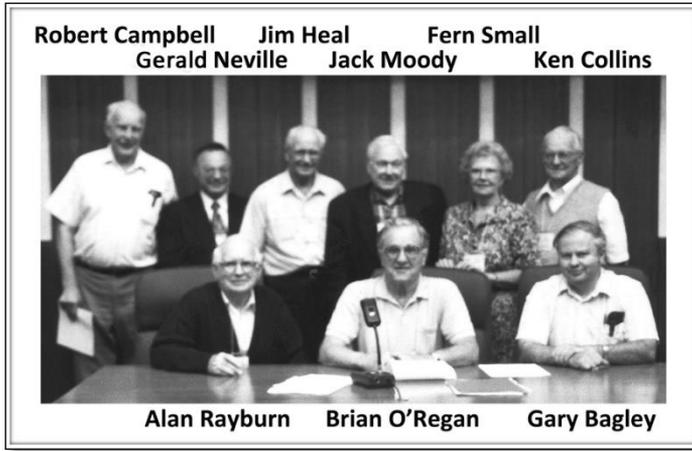


Figure 3: Board of Directors 1994–1995

Source: "Twenty Years of Faces 1994–2014," BIFHSGO 20 Year Retrospective

BIFHSGO Research

I cannot leave a discussion of BIFHSGO's history without talking about its major research accomplishments and how they have grown over the years. The society has always focussed on conducting research and sharing the results. These founding objectives of the Society are today included in our mission statement "to encourage family history research, and its dissemination, by people with ancestry throughout the British Isles. . ."³

Over the years, we have undertaken many research projects to

in 1991, spoke at a BIFHSGO conference and identified the need for a searchable home child database. BIFHSGO and OGS members took up the challenge. In 1995, volunteers began transcribing ships' passenger lists held at LAC. The following year, LAC agreed to host the home children databases, and BIFHSGO



Figure 4: Board of Directors 2018–2019

Source: Christine Jackson, BIFHSGO Conference, 30 September 2018

agreed to provide the volunteers to transcribe records. This agreement was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2006.

Since then, under the long-term and dedicated leadership of John Sayers and Patricia Roberts-Pichette, hundreds of BIFHSGO volunteers have indexed records from various sources. These have expanded from the original ships' passenger lists to include the Barnardo Homes' *Ups and Downs* magazines, as well as children who were brought to Canada by the Children's (Middlemore) Emigration Homes and the Fegan Homes, among others. The results are included in index databases on BIFHSGO's website. In December 2010, to mark the Year of the British Home Child, BIFHSGO launched a commemorative book *British Home Children: Their Stories*.

In 2003, an MOU was signed with Dave and Kay Lorente specifying that BIFHSGO would respond to queries requesting information about home children. As the person who triages email enquiries coming to the Society, I know just how many of these queries we get. And not all queries come through the Society's email address.

Conclusion

All this would not be possible without the dedication of a lot of volunteers. It began with the hard work, commitment to quality and

enthusiasm of the founding members. The tradition continues, not just with the work of current and past board members and other leaders, but also with the contributions of hundreds of volunteers who have helped with research projects, ACR, conferences, monthly meetings, and other jobs. BIFHSGO would not exist without them. They have allowed BIFHSGO to retain the best parts of the vision of the founding members, adapt to the changing environment and mature as a society. They have taken BIFHSGO from a fledgling, but strongly supported, organization to the vibrant society it is today.

I am grateful for the information I received from interviews with Gary Bagley, Terry Findley, Valerie Monkhouse, Paul Murray, John Reid, Patricia Roberts-Pichette, John Sayers, Mary Anne Sharpe, Gloria Tubman, and Betty Warburton. The information and pictures provided by Carol Annett, Pam Cooper, Doug Hoddinott, Jean Kitchen, Valerie Monkhouse, Dena Palamedes, Barbara Tose, Kathy Wallace and other BIFHSGO members were also very helpful.

Reference Notes

- ¹ Bob Dawes, "Using Computers for Genealogy," *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Fall 1998, p. 1.
- ² Bob Dawes, "Then and Now—Twenty Years of Genealogical Computing," *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Winter 2018, p. 38.
- ³ "About Us," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca; accessed 22 January 2019).

The Future of BIFHSGO



BY DUNCAN MONKHOUSE

Duncan is currently the president of BIFHSGO. He presented a look into the future of BIFHSGO at the February 2019 Before BIFHSGO meeting. This article is based on that presentation.

Background

As the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) approached its 25th anniversary year, the Board of Directors decided it would be an ideal opportunity to spend some time focusing on the future of the Society. The day to day operations of the Society have run smoothly for many years. BIFHSGO is known for its well-run conferences and meetings, its high caliber of speakers, its knowledgeable, friendly members and the many and varied activities which benefit members. Some have said that BIFHSGO runs like a well-oiled machine. All this is still true today.

However, despite the Society still functioning well, the Board members became aware of some issues and difficulties that were, perhaps, not visible to the general membership. Probably the biggest issue was the recruitment of new volunteers. Many of the organization's volunteers have been volunteering for many years; some wish to retire but finding replacements is proving a challenge.

Board members were also looking for ways to implement some of the

suggestions brought forward in the 2015 member survey. We wanted to provide more education to our members and find better ways to communicate with them using social media and other technological advances.

Strategic Planning Session

It was decided that the Board would undertake a Strategic Planning session to help us focus on the key issues and how to resolve them and move forward into our next quarter century. The Board of Directors and four invited members (who were active in the organization) met in June of 2018 with a facilitator from Volunteer Ottawa (VO). For those of you who are not familiar with VO, it is an organization that promotes and supports the non-profit sector through training and workshops and encouraging volunteerism.

The group's homework prior to the meeting was to list the things that BIFHSGO does and to state why we each give our volunteer time to the organization. We were all surprised by the number of things that BIFHSGO does—and does well. We were also, perhaps, a little surprised by the common themes

running through our reasons for volunteering for BIFHSGO.

There are fourteen activities listed in the box on this page; some are small, some large. Volunteers from the membership do all the work. Each is focused on assisting the membership with their research and providing members with information about genealogy and family history related to the British Isles.

Current BIFHSGO Activities

Website
Meeting Videos
Outreach/Special Events
Databases
Anglo-Celtic Roots Quarterly
eNews monthly newsletter
Social Media
Special Interest Groups
Conference
Workshops/Seminars
Surname database
Monthly meetings
Library contributions (Ottawa Public Library and Ontario Genealogical Society-Ottawa Branch library)

Following the initial exercise, we spent time doing a SWOT analysis of the Society. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The first two are internal to the Society; the last two are external.

Table 1 shows areas for each category. The group felt the Society

was in a very strong position with tremendous strengths including our consistent, steady membership, our excellent and well-attended program, varied resources and connections within our Society but also with other organizations. The Weaknesses relate to volunteer recruitment, volunteer “management,” assistance for an over-worked Board and our ability to connect members with members.

Opportunities for our Society were seen to include expansion of our partnerships with and outreach to other organizations and our members. Technology was also an area that could provide ways to better serve our members. Opportunities to increase volunteerism within the organization were also discussed. The main Threats included our aging demographic and online resource usage, both of which affect membership in local societies, including BIFHSGO. Of lesser concern, yet considered threats, were venue issues and the myriad other activities competing for the same leisure dollars.

Once these categories were completed, the team broke into sub-groups to discuss the intersections of the four areas, that is, Strengths and Opportunities, Strengths and Threats, Weaknesses and Opportunities, Weaknesses and Threats. Out of these discussions came a list of goals. These goals were then voted on to rank them in order of

importance. Following the meeting in June, two teams were formed. One was to write a Strategic Planning report, the other took on

the task of re-writing the BIFHSGO Board and volunteer positions' job descriptions.

Table 1: SWOT Analysis

		Opportunities	Threats
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Membership ➤ Program ➤ Resources ➤ Connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partnerships ➤ Outreach ➤ New technology ➤ Increase volunteerism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Online research ➤ Changing demographic ➤ Venue issues ➤ Competing activities
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Volunteer recruitment ➤ Volunteer "management" ➤ Support for Board ➤ Connecting members with members 		

Job Descriptions

Some people might wonder why a volunteer organization needs "job descriptions." In trying to recruit new volunteers, there are common questions that candidates ask. The most important ones are "what will I be doing?" and "how much time will it take?" Without a clear job description, it was difficult to answer these questions, particularly when the person answering those questions hadn't done the job themselves. Since volunteer recruitment was one of our major concerns, the group felt it was important to have up-to-date job descriptions. This had first come to light when we had new directors join the Board and they could not find a current description of their

roles and responsibilities. The task of writing job descriptions became a huge project, however, when we made the decision to include most of the volunteer positions as well. There is now a total of 31 job descriptions posted on our website so, if you are interested in volunteering, you can see what each position does and get an estimate of the time required.

BIFHSGO would like to thank Andrea Harding and Jean Kitchen, who worked long hours over the summer months to draft all the job descriptions and Lynda Gibson, who helped to finalize them.

Vision, Mission and Values

The first steps for the Strategic Planning report team were to

develop Vision, Mission and Values statements. These were shared with the membership via the December eNewsletter. The purpose of these “big picture” statements is to provide the Board and membership with a direction and explain the ideals of BIFHSGO. The primary focus in these statements is educating and sharing of information between the members.

Our Goals

The Strategic Planning team then focused on the goals for BIFHSGO. The goals were grouped into five broad areas: Capacity to Deliver, Connecting Members, Partnership and Outreach, Education and Website renewal.

Our Vision

To connect, educate, share and inspire

Our Mission

To encourage family history research and its dissemination, by people with ancestry throughout the British Isles

Our Values

Stewardship, Innovation, Excellence, Sharing, Integrity, Collaboration

Within these broad areas, the goals were prioritized based on their ranking in the vote that occurred in June. The box below lists some of the goals established for this year, 2018–2019. One goal has been

Goals 2018–2019

Capacity to Deliver

- ✓ Recruit volunteers for Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator positions
- ✓ Job descriptions for the Board and volunteer positions (done)
- ✓ Develop a Workshop team
- ✓ Create a Speakers Bureau

Connecting Members

- ✓ Helping members share areas of research
- ✓ Mentoring program
- ✓ Enhanced new member welcome

Partnership and Outreach

- ✓ Partnership with other Family History Societies
- ✓ Create a Speakers Bureau

Education

- ✓ Develop a Workshop team
- ✓ Mentoring program

Website renewal

- ✓ Website mobile friendly
- ✓ Website content up-to-date

completed; others are underway and present a variety of challenges along the way. If you would like to help your Society achieve any of these goals, please speak to a Board member.

The Future

So, what does the future look like for BIFHSGO? Well, the good news is that we are planning to continue with the things that our members like and support, things like our

monthly meetings, the ACR, our website and, as they present themselves, research projects. We hope to expand our educational programming and provide more opportunities for our members to connect with other members interested in the same research areas. We would like to find volunteers to fill the many positions that are so necessary to the smooth running of our Society and we hope that you might consider doing so. However, we are not averse to looking outside the organization, if needed, to fill some critical roles. We will be looking for partnerships and exchanges that will benefit our Society and members and we will attempt to keep up with all the changes that we know are coming. We want to make BIFHSGO a welcoming place where

family historians interested in research in the British Isles find a community of like-minded people who are willing to share their experiences and expertise.

The Board members hope that this article will help you understand some of the challenges facing the Board and the Society, and how you, as a member of BIFHSGO, can join with us to make BIFHSGO the best it can be.

Should you have any comments or questions about our strategic planning session or the goals we have set, please contact me, Duncan Monkhouse, by email at president@bifhsgo.ca or speak to one of the Board members at our meetings.

Manchester Life as the Second World War Comes Calling



BY CHARLES MORTON

This concludes the excerpts from Charles' memoirs published over the last two years; they have described his youth in Manchester, England, leading up to the 1940 Manchester Blitz of WW II, which drastically changed his family's future.

Home Again

Passing the scholarship exam to

Manchester Central High School for Boys (MCHSB), which was the reason for my return home, did not mean that my education would be entirely cost free; tuition fees and

textbooks were chargeable at a rate commensurate with family income, with the children of men serving in the armed forces being not only exempt of fees, but also entitled to free meals in the school dining room.

Reading for School

Dad at this time was steadily employed at Manchester Garages, but not very well paid, and the prospect of high fees was cause for concern. Shortly after my return to Manchester, while the Whitworth Street building stood empty during the school summer holidays, he took me to the school and met with Mr. Armstrong, the school registrar. Mr. Armstrong gently informed Dad that only school-authorized textbooks could be used, and that none of the small library that Dad had used in his own schooldays were of any current use.

(I was told by my mother that as a boy from a deprived family in which his own father, killed in an industrial accident when Dad was only a few months old, Dad had attended one of the famous “Bluecoat” schools in the area, although I have not been able to confirm this. Perhaps because of this, his educational standard was much higher than that of his contemporaries.)

It was finally agreed that in my circumstances, books would cost 9 shillings a term, while tuition fees would be 14 shillings. The school uniform consisted of a green blazer with the City of Manchester coat of arms crest on the breast pocket, grey flannel shorts, grey shirts (quantity two), a striped tie in school colours, grey socks with green bands around the top turn-down (quantity two pair) and a

black school cap, with green rings around it and a city coat of arms cloth badge at the front. Sportswear, consisting of black shorts with a green stripe, socks, a soccer shirt and rugby shirt as well as studded football boots and gym shoes, was also needed.

School uniforms and accessories were supplied from one of two official tailors: Hugh Marzland (on Whitworth Street itself) or Anderson’s (on Wilmslow Road in Rusholme, opposite the Rusholme Repertory Theatre). The school tailors were generally more expensive than the usual type of clothing store, but at this stage, before the imposition of clothing rationing created an easing of the requirements, the uniform was mandatory. With the books, tuition and uniform organized, all that remained now was to enjoy the balance of the holidays and await the opening of school at the beginning of September.

A Traumatic Start

The first day of high school was somewhat traumatic. In addition to the returning regular students, there was the fresh intake of new boys to be absorbed into “forms,” the British secondary school word for “grade.” In elementary schools, classes were referred to as “Standard” 1, 2, 3, etc.; but in secondary schools, in addition to changing the name to form, classes were renumbered from first form to sixth form

(the final year) and subdivided into alphabetic classifications A to F, each class consisting of between 30 and 35 boys.

Initially, each first-year form was graded according to age, the oldest going into Form 1A and the youngest into Form 1F, while in subsequent years, alphabetical designation was established by progress, A being the brightest, B being a little less bright, down to E, the least academically bright.

It was something of a shock to arrive at school and be ushered into the assembly hall where the headmaster, Doctor E. F. Chaney, led the entire school in morning prayers. (Catholic and Jewish students had the option to attend their own prayer areas elsewhere in the school.) Following prayers, second form and higher students departed to their home classrooms, while the new intake of close to 200 boys waited to be called to the various parts of the room where their particular class was being assembled. It was here that I experienced the first of the odd occurrences that seemed to follow me for years.

After all the names had been called and the crowd dispersed to its assigned places, one boy remained in the centre of the hall: me. It seems that my name had been omitted from the list, and long after the rest had been conducted to their home classrooms, I had to wait until the record of my admittance was

located and I was despatched to join the rest of Form 1E. This was a very unnerving experience at age 11!

Settling In

To a former student of a small church school like me, MCHSB was a revelation. A tour of the entire school introduced the new intake to a host of facilities: a fully mechanized and equipped woodworking room; art, geography and history rooms specifically furnished for their purposes; physics and chemistry rooms with tiered seats, full of Bunsen burners and glass retorts; a fully equipped gymnasium with showers; and individual desks with tops that served as lockers in each classroom.

The school covered five stories of classrooms, and a basement with a gym, massive cloakrooms (out of bounds during class hours), a huge dining room and even a school tuck shop, where in more peaceful times chocolate bars and other sweets could be bought. Even in wartime, with such items being rationed, the shop opened occasionally to dispense some scarce items.

Teaching began in subjects I had only vaguely heard of, including algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Languages were also included in the curriculum; two of them, Latin and German, were optional, while French was compulsory.

Each student was given a timetable listing the time and location of each

subject, and when the end-of-period bell sounded, the corridors were crowded with all those changing classrooms. The back of the timetable listed the more than 40 teaching staff, together with their academic qualifications: mostly masters' degrees, with the odd doctorate thrown in.

Attending school in the centre of town was a unique experience. At lunchtime, it was possible to get to the shops in Piccadilly and Market Street such as Woolworths, Wiles Toy Shop, Lewis' Department Store and Bassett and Lowke's, producers of wonderful train and ship models. For a small sum, thruppence a portion, an appetizing meal, much better than those at school, could be had in the Woolworths Cafeteria.

A short walk from the school, London Road (now Piccadilly) Station, the main terminus for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS), provided the opportunity to view the locomotives and, if funds permitted, work a coin-operated machine, the object of which was to try and pick up a toy with a grab crane.

At that time, many of the goods arriving on trains were transported to their final destinations by LMS flatbed horse-drawn carts, which had four iron-rimmed wheels. Because most of the streets around the school were cobbled, these carts created a terrific noise as they rattled by, resulting in the school

windows having to be kept shut so that lessons could be heard, even on very warm days.

Ever cost-conscious, I took the number 40 tram to school each day but got off at the corner of Grovesnor Street and Upper Brook Street where the tram turned left towards Oxford Road. By doing this I could save a halfpenny in fare by walking the rest of the way down Brook Street.

After a time, however, I was allowed to use my bike to Nin's [my grandmother's] on Sydney Street, leave the bike in her hall, and walk from there. This way cost nothing in tram fare, and there was the added daily advantage on my way home of being able to visit my grandmother's, where there was always a welcoming treat of a biscuit and cup of tea.

Our Teachers

In the manner of English school-boys, most teachers had nicknames bestowed on them that often fitted some particular characteristic of theirs or that might be their first names. Our Headmaster, Dr. F. Chaney, was known as "Fred"; his much-feared second-in-command, because of his narrow eyes and mean disposition, was "Piggy" Ogden. For unknown reasons, Mr. Lever, a sallow complexioned man, was known as "Fud," while a physical training teacher who had himself been a pupil a few years before was "Nipper."

One notable teacher was what was known as a “retread,” an elderly Anglican minister and former mathematics teacher brought in to help fill the gap in the teacher ranks. This was Dr. F. G. Chevassut (promptly named “Chevass” by the pupils). The doctor—very naïve in his knowledge of Manchester schoolboys—had, I heard, attended Eton as a boy and spoke in the accent of that establishment.

One of his favourite habits was to call a pupil who was misbehaving or failing to grasp a particular point a “silly ass,” which unlike today referred to a donkey, rather than part of the boy’s anatomy. Unfortunately, ass in an Eton accent comes out as “aaarse,” which was immediately seized upon by the class. It became common for a boy to raise his hand and say things like “I’ve been a complete arse, Sir,” when called to account for any reason. This generated much silent mirth.

After I left school, I heard that Dr. Chevassut performed wonderful service in his parish in Hulme, one of the poorer districts of Manchester, taking a barrel organ to the streets to raise money. (It was the same cumbersome instrument that the veterans used to earn their keep when I was a small boy.) I understand that the city named a street in his parish after him.

Early War Experiences

Up to October 1940, the war had

had little impact on our lives in Manchester, apart from becoming accustomed to the blackout and food shortages, which at that point only had a noticeable effect on the finer food products. In fact, now that food rationing was with us, all families made sure to obtain their food entitlement each week. The war had brought a great deal of employment, which provided families that had previously been unable to afford adequate food with the opportunity to feed their children properly. Illnesses such as rickets disappeared; indeed, it has since been established that the adequate and well-balanced diet, in limited amounts, created the healthiest generation that the country had ever known.

At school, apart from the occasional air raid drill, when the pupils had to hurry to designated “safe” areas of the building (my place was on the steps of the lower staircase, which did not seem to me to be particularly safe, especially since there were large windows at the top), things proceeded as though there were no war.

One factor that did have some impact was the departure of some of the younger teachers into the armed forces. Mr. Sinclair, a particularly good and well-liked geography teacher, left for the meteorological branch of the Royal Air Force, where he no doubt played a role in forecasting weather for operations.

Luckily, many teachers were veterans of the First World War and, being past military service age, remained with us. Professor O. C. de C. Ellis, for example, had served as a navigator with the French Navy.

To the boys, the other more important feature of the war was the closing of the school tuck shop, almost for the duration. At this stage, sweets were rationed, although even with sufficient ration points to be entitled to buy a limited amount, no candy was to be found anywhere. Rationing meant that a person could not buy more than his allotted share but did not guarantee that his share would necessarily be available to buy.

From the point of view of air attack, the distance of Manchester from the Continent made it unlikely, at least in the opinion of most Mancunians, that enemy aircraft would ever reach the city during daylight, especially having learned the lessons of such forays during the Battle of Britain from June to September 1940. The lack of proper shelter at school, therefore, did not bother anyone unduly.

There was also one misguided school of thought that enemy aircraft could not reach Manchester even at night, being unable to “cross the Pennines,” although in fact the route to Manchester did not include any need for this. There had been one or two alerts as early as July and August, when our sleep had

been disturbed by the wail of the warning sirens, but nothing exceptional occurred apart from the odd bomb and propaganda leaflets dropped by one or two aircraft, mostly over residential suburbs.

German aircraft could be easily identified by the deep-throated throb of their engines, much different from our own planes. I later heard that the Luftwaffe deliberately de-synchronized their engines to thwart ground sound detection equipment, although this may have just been another of the amateur theories that abounded at the time.

Occasionally, the distant explosions of bombs in these nights might be heard, but it was the anti-aircraft guns which provided the most noise. Jagged metal splinters from the anti-aircraft shells, incorrectly known as “shrapnel,” fell in the streets, generally burning hot. To those not under direct attack by the enemy, the danger of being hit by jagged pieces of hot metal, often several inches long, was far greater than being hit by a bomb. Shell splinters were greatly prized by schoolboys, and there was a brisk trade in barter of the “two of mine for that big piece of yours” kind.

War Comes Closer

The raids got closer to Chorlton-on-Medlock when, in a minor raid at the end of August, Paulden’s department store on Cavendish Street, close to All Saints Church, was hit.

Bomb damage in these early days excited sufficient curiosity for many people to journey the following day to the site of what the authorities called the “incident,” marvelling at the power of a bomb. Although casualties were light, everyone seemed to have heard of someone who had been killed or injured.

Rumours were rife, and in the absence of any official detailed information (presumably for security reasons), many stories that were not factual were common gossip. It was wrongly rumoured at one time, for example, that the Palace Theatre had been hit when a bomb fell on a building close by, giving rise to a story that many people watching a show had been killed. I had my own experiences involving rumours later.

In early October one of a stick of bombs fell on Wilmslow Road, across the street from the Rusholme Repertory Theatre, destroying Anderson’s Tailor Shop, one of the official suppliers of our school uniform. A direct hit was made on the nurse’s residence of Manchester Royal Infirmary, the beautiful building behind the wall in York Place where we had played so often, making a fine mess of the large recreation hall. This bomb, though of light calibre, was close enough to shake our house on Livingstone Street, rattling all the windows and shaking books from shelves.

In November, the great raid on

Coventry took place. In this raid, which claimed worldwide attention as an example of wanton destruction, Nin’s cousin, Andrew Jackson, lost his home to a bomb, barely escaping with his life. Uncle Andrew, as we called him, a jovial 74-year-old who played a concertina, was great fun. He was immediately invited by my grandmother to stay at her house on Sydney Street, and he proved a great companion who accompanied her everywhere, including her evening visits to the Medlock pub.

Precautions

When war first broke out, the government issued steel shelters. The Anderson was made of corrugated steel and dug a few feet into a garden and then covered with a heavy layer of soil. These could protect a family from all but a direct hit from a bomb. However, since the Anderson required a garden to be dug into, and the houses on Livingstone Street had only small paved backyards, we did not qualify for one. There was also an indoor shelter, the Morrison, which, like the Anderson, was named after a government minister. A large heavy steel box, it was usually placed in the kitchen and often used as a table. In this, a family would be expected to lie like a row of sardines until rescue arrived. While these were apparently in use from the outset of war, we had heard nothing about them and therefore never

received one. Safe or not, they reminded me of big steel coffins, and I had no desire to shelter in one.

As part of our own precautions, which included criss-crossing strips of gummed paper tape over our windows to prevent flying glass, my father obtained several stout lengths of wood, rather like pit props, and shored up the top and bottom of the cellar steps. The steps to the cellar were stone and ran parallel to and under the stairs leading to the upper bedrooms. Dad told us that in the Great War, when houses were demolished by shellfire, he noticed that the two most likely places to survive the building were the chimney and the staircase. The placement of strong props between the upper staircase and the cellar steps should make a shelter that could stand all but a direct hit.

As the days progressed, the shortages caused by the war were no more than irritants, as were the need to cover our windows nightly to meet the blackout requirements

and the officiousness of our local air raid warden, Mr. Tipping, and his calls to “Put that light out!” even if anyone lit a cigarette outdoors after dark. He ignored the fact that in the improbable event such a light might be spotted by an enemy aircraft, it would be impossible to use it to identify a target!

One problem was that night raids disturbed sleep and made school attendance and attention difficult. Later in the war, I remember yawning during a physics class after sitting up half the night in a shelter, something that irritated Mr. Bowcott, the teacher, and earned me three of the best across the seat of my trousers.

Our Lives Would Change Soon

This situation changed drastically on the night of December 20, 1940: the night of the Manchester Blitz, which I described in a story previously published in the Spring 2017 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*—Volume 23, Number 1.

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We Shall Remember Them

Sergeant Ernest Talmage Kindree©

Regimental number: 142250

Canadian Corps Survey Section, Canadian Expeditionary Force

BY SHEILA DOHOO FAURE

Sheila is the coordinator of the research project to document the lives of the soldiers who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in World War I. In this biography she documents a death after the Armistice that reflects another stress of war.

Sergeant Ernest Talmage Kindree was born on 9 June 1890 in Owen Sound, Ontario,¹ the son of William Asie and Abigail (known as Abbie) Kindree.² William (born in 1865 in Seaforth, Ontario)³ married the former Abigail Nelson (born in 1868 in Wellington County, Ontario)⁴ on 24 April 1889 at the Salvation Army Church in Owen Sound.⁵ Ernest was the eldest of their eight children: after his birth came Herbert John (born in 1893),⁶ William Harold (born in 1895),⁷ Earl (born in 1897),⁸ Victor (born in 1898),⁹ Almeda May (born in 1901),¹⁰ Victoria Katherine (born in 1904)¹¹ and Pearl (born in 1909).¹²

Ernest and his brothers Herbert and William were born in Grey County, but his next two siblings, Earl and Victor, were born in Chicago, Illinois. There is no evidence to indicate whether the family moved to Chicago, but it is assumed that both boys were the natural children of William and Abbie. The rest of the children were born in Grey County. From at least 1901¹³ until 1921, the

family lived at 497–5th Street East in Owen Sound, where Ernest's father was a boilermaker.¹⁴



Figure 1 Ernest Talmage Kindree in 76th Battalion

Source: Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Ernest enlisted in the 76th Overseas Battalion on 18 September 1915 at Niagara Camp,¹⁵ a Canadian army training camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.¹⁶ He was a photographer, 5' 5" tall, with a dark complexion and blue eyes. Even at the age of

28, his black hair was tinged with grey. He had previously served for three years with the 31st Grey Battalion.

He was still in Canada when he was hospitalized in November/December 1915 with morphia—a skin condition. He left Halifax on 23 April 1916 and arrived in Liverpool on 5 May. Shortly after arriving he was admitted to Moore Barracks Hospital at Shorncliffe, Kent, for two weeks, where he was diagnosed with German measles. In July he transferred to the 36th Battalion and then to the 1st Battalion before going overseas to France at the end of the month.

Ernest had been at the Front for three months when he was taken to No. 1 Canadian Field Ambulance, suffering from scabies. He was discharged to duty at the end of November and rejoined his unit on 28 December 1916. The next two years of his service were fairly uneventful. He transferred to the Canadian Corps Headquarters in August 1917 and then, in May 1918, to the Canadian Corps Survey Section. In October 1918, he had two weeks leave in Paris, probably leaving Paris just days before the Armistice.

But the war had taken a toll on Ernest. After the Armistice, his unit was part of the army of occupation and was stationed in Bonn, Germany, where it was engaged in

training activities.¹⁷ On the night of 15 January 1919, Ernest was billeted at the Rheineck Hotel. According to a fellow soldier, he spent that evening at the hotel with his comrades, then went to his room about 11:30 p.m. and told them that he would not be well in the morning. He requested that one bring him a cup of tea and asked them to “fix things up at the office.”¹⁸ The following morning, his roommate could not waken him and, by mid-morning, his heartbeat was weak and the doctor was called. Ernest was unconscious when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, where he died about 1:30 p.m. on 16 January 1919.

A post-mortem was conducted the following day and an investigation conducted. Cocaine was found in his room. In the inquiry, some of his comrades admitted that they knew he was taking drugs and said that they had tried, to no avail, to convince him to stop. As one soldier testified “. . . he informed me that he had taken drugs in civil life. The expression he used was that he had been a “snow bird.” On the afternoon of Jany 15th 1919 . . . [h]is appearance was unnatural. His eyes were glassy. I asked him what was the matter and he admitted having taken drugs and that he had some of the drug in his possession. He produced a plain yellow envelope containing a white powder. I

snatched it from him. He begged me to return it which I refused within a few minutes I emptied it into the sewer.”¹⁹

Another comrade had a different view of Ernest and testified that he had “. . . [k]nown that late Sgt Kendree for about 4 years, never knew of him taking drugs. Served with him in 1st Canadian Bttn also 125th Bn. Saw him about 1 o'clock of the morning of Jany 16th. He was going to the laboratory of the Rheineck Hotel, Bonn, where we were both billeted. He seemed in normal condition. We then had a conversation and arranged to have our photographs taken that day to send to Canada as we both came from the same town, Brantford, Ont. I noticed nothing strange about him. I did not see him again.”²⁰

However, the Court of Inquiry concluded that his death was caused by cocaine or a similar poisonous drug that he had administered himself the night before.

Ernest was buried on 19 January in Poppelsdorfer Cemetery (Grave 19, Plot 1, Row D) in Bonn with the Canadian chaplain A. D. Reid presiding.²¹ His mother was his next of kin and was notified of his death.²² At some later point, his remains were moved to the Brussels Town Cemetery (Grave Reference: X. 9. 15).²³ Brussels Town Cemetery is located in the northeast corner of Brussels, Belgium. Brussels was

occupied by the Germans from August 1914 to the end of the Great War. There are only 54 Commonwealth Great War graves, which include the graves of 50 prisoners of war whose bodies were brought back from Germany by the Canadian Corps in April 1919.²⁴ He is remembered on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial.²⁵



Figure 2: Sgt Kindree's gravestone in Brussels Town Cemetery

Source: Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Two of Ernest's brothers also served in the Great War, but Ernest was the only one to lose his life while still in service. His two brothers William and Victor

survived the war and returned to Canada, but William died young as a result of his war service.

William enlisted in the 147th Grey Overseas Battalion (Regimental number: 838796) on 8 February 1916 in Owen Sound.²⁶ He was working as a clerk at the time. He left for England in November and transferred to the 8th Reserve Battalion in January 1917. Then in February 1917, he transferred to the 15th Canadian Machine Gun Company. Later that year and again in early 1918, he suffered from bouts of “pyrexia of unknown origin,” a term used to refer to trench fever.²⁷ In March 1918, he was absorbed into the 3rd Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, when it was created. Just a few weeks before the Armistice, he was wounded and admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station—the same CCCS where his brother would die less than a year later. He had gunshot wounds to his face, a fracture of his lower jaw and a shrapnel wound to his right wrist. From No. 1 CCCS, he was sent to the 83rd General Hospital and then sent back to England to the Queen’s Hospital in Sidcup, a hospital that specialized in plastic surgery.²⁸

In June 1919, he was invalided back to Canada. In October 1919 he was sent to Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Military Hospital in Montreal and then, in December, to the Dominion Orthopedic Military Hospital in

Toronto. In May 1920, he was discharged as being medically unfit. He had facial disfigurement that might need remodelling at a future date. He also had acute articular rheumatism in both knees.

Immediately after the war, William was a student, and then he became a postal clerk. In 1926, he married Irene Laura Carless.²⁹ Less than seven years after his marriage (on 20 February 1933), he died of general cardiac failure. It was determined that his death was due to his military service.³⁰

Ernest’s brother Victor enlisted in the 147th Grey Overseas Battalion (Regimental number: 838903) on 28 February 1916 in Owen Sound.³¹ He was only 17 years 5 months old, but his enlistment was accepted. Just before leaving for Europe, he was hospitalized with pneumonia and pleurisy. He left Canada for England in November 1916. On 13 December, at the Canadian base in Shoreham, a medical board ruled that he was underage. He would not be 19 until the following summer. It is not clear what the impact of this finding was. He appears to have continued to serve.

In January 1917, Victor transferred to the 8th Reserve Battalion and then in April to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps. In November, he joined the 3rd Machine Gun Company, which would later become the 3rd Machine Gun Corps—the same

unit in which his brother William served. On the 17th of that month, he was wounded near Lens, France. He had sustained gunshot wounds to his back and was invalided to England. It is not clear if he ever returned to the Front. He had two bouts of influenza in June 1918 and March 1919. On 14 May 1919, he embarked for Canada and was discharged from the army on 27 May.

Immediately after the war, Victor was living with his parents and working as a bookkeeper.³² He later became an assistant postmaster. He died on 3 June 1964 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Owen Sound.³³

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Techniques and Resources

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue— News from the Library

BY PAM COOPER, LIBRARY VOLUNTEER

When Barbara asked me if I could put together something related to the library for the next issue of the journal, I considered what I might be able to do. Perhaps a book review, or a list of recent acquisitions? As I thought about the possibilities, I realized that I had “something old, something new, and something borrowed” to tell you about. When I came up with “something blue”, that determined the selection of items included here.

The Ottawa Branch OGS library, incorporating the former BIFHSGO collection, is a reference library which can be found at the City of Ottawa Archives, at 100 Tallwood Drive, in the third floor Reference Room. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, when the Reference Room of the City of Ottawa Archives is open to the public. Work, much of it behind the scenes, has been underway for the past two years to integrate the two family history library collections. The catalogue of the combined collection can be

found at: <http://ogsottawa.on.ca/libsearch/>

So, in no particular order other than that suggested by the expression we are all familiar with, here is:

Something old

The library recently acquired long runs of journals of two British Isles family history societies, which have been added to the collection and indexed by volunteers. The *Midland Ancestor* is the journal of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry. The society and its journal cover Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, along with Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. The library now has holdings for 1983 to 2000, with occasional gaps, as well as for 2013 to 2015. The library has also acquired another Midlands area journal, with a long run of the *Shropshire Family History Journal*, published by the Shropshire Family History Society. These holdings

include 1982 to 2004, again, with some gaps.

When considering journal donations such as these, several factors are taken into account. Does the journal have substantive articles which would be useful to family history researchers now and in the future? As researchers ourselves, we try to put ourselves in your shoes – could this be helpful? Are they well written and well documented, so that they could open doors to other sources of information? Do they provide information useful to researchers, such as family histories and local histories, rather than being mainly dated how-to articles and notices of upcoming events? Is the geographic area covered by the journal likely to be of interest to potential library users? Is it a significant long-run of the journal in question, even if there are some gaps? Has the journal been indexed in the *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)*, available on *Findmypast*, and for what time period? Are there other readily accessible, or nearby, sources for the journal?

The decision to accept or decline a potential donation is based on a combination of these factors, with the overall objective being adding value to the library's resources.

If you have ancestors in any of these counties, please stop by the library and have a browse through our

collection —you never know what you might find!

Something new

There are several new additions to the library which are likely to be of interest to some BIFHSGO members. I am highlighting just a few here:

- *A Swarm of Bees: Lanark Society Settlers 1800–1900, A Journey from Scotland to Upper Canada and Utah*, by Ron W. Shaw, published in 2018 by Global Heritage Press (Global Genealogy). It was recently donated to the library by Global Genealogy;
- *Tracing Your Roman Catholic Ancestors*, by Stuart A. Raymond, Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Family History, 2018;
- *Tracing Your Oxfordshire Ancestors: A Guide for Family and Local Historians*, by Nicola Lisle;
- *Criminal Children: Researching Juvenile Offenders 1820–1920*, by Emma Watkins and Barry Godfrey, Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Family History, 2018; and
- *Workhouses of the North*, by Peter Higginbotham, Stroud: The History Press, 2009.

Something borrowed

Since I started volunteering at the library in 2015, I've read the back issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (not all at once!), especially the articles and columns relating to the library. It has given me a better sense of the former BIFHSGO library collection,

its history, how it developed, and what its relative strengths and weaknesses were based on how it developed over time. BIFHSGO's long-time librarian, Betty Warburton, often used her book columns in ACR to highlight the collection's resources which related to one or another county in the British Isles, or specific topics, such as an occupation or military history.

I borrowed Betty's "place or topic" approach to her ACR columns to support the Discovery Tables at our January 2019 BIFHSGO meeting, by adapting it to prepare a resource list from the library's collection on County Down. I was very pleasantly surprised by the wealth of resources which we have on County Down in the collection, which includes a twenty-one-volume set of gravestone inscriptions for County Down, and four volumes in the series, *Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland*. Other relevant resources found in the library include a range of books on County Down, researching in Northern Ireland more generally, as well as guidebooks to key sources, a wide range of Ulster Historical Foundation publications, a genealogical atlas of Ireland and guides to the Townlands.

However, I was not as successful in putting together a book list for the other January Discovery Table topic—that of agricultural labourers, finding just two books on

the topic. However, Christine Jackson had already developed her own bibliography and resources lists, which included the two items I did find in our collection.

A selected list of resources in the library collection for Lancashire and Kent, the topics for the February Discovery Tables, was provided at the monthly meeting. Similar resource lists will be prepared for the topics of the Discovery Tables up to the summer break, which will include DNA, Edinburgh, beginner resources, photography and London/Middlesex. The volunteers' work to index the periodicals in the collection is also paying off, with relevant articles found via the catalogue to include in the resource lists for Lancashire and Edinburgh. The resource lists are not meant to be exhaustive, with a limit of two pages, but rather to give a sense of the depth and range of materials in the library for a given county or region. They will be available at the meetings and BIFHSGO is currently making arrangements to post them on their website in the near future.

It is hoped that the preparation of resource lists for the topics of the Discovery Tables will help those offering to do a Discovery Table, as well as providing a useful resource for all members researching that area or topic. We hope that this initiative will also serve to highlight the library's resources, encouraging

members to visit the library to use them.

Finally, the resource lists are also useful from the perspective of those managing the library, as they can identify where there are gaps in the collection, which we can work to fill over time.

Something blue

In the process of integrating the two library collections, we have been reminded time and again of the strong complementary nature of the two collections, with many British resources in the Ottawa Branch OGS collection, and many Ontario and Canadian resources in the former BIFHSGO collection.

An example of this is the *Marriage Registers of Upper Canada/Canada West*, commonly known as the *District Marriage Registers*. The separate library collections each had a handful of the marriage registers for various districts in Upper Canada/Canada West. However, once we had consolidated the two collections, we only possessed a little over half of the set of 24 volumes. The 24 volumes cover seventeen districts in Upper Canada/Canada West, (several districts extend over more than one volume). *The Marriage Registers of Upper Canada/Canada West* were originally transcribed and published over several years, starting in the 1990s, with a revised and enlarged set published by Global Heritage

Press from 2000 onwards. The time period covered varies by district, but it can start as early as 1786, with most of the district marriage registers ending around 1857–58 when the County system of administrative areas was established across Canada West.

Discovering that we had approximately half of the *District Marriages Registers* when the collections were combined, we were prompted to complete the set by obtaining the missing volumes. As the revised and enlarged reprint series from Global Heritage Press are bound in blue, they were a natural choice for the “something blue” of this book column. Brenda Dougall Merriman’s text, *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records, 8th Edition*, has a clear and complete description of the original records transcribed in the *District Marriage Registers* as well as their coverage.

All in all, I hope this “something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue” gives local or visiting family history researchers a better sense of the wide range and depth of the resources in our library. We look forward to seeing you there soon.

References:

Ron. W. Shaw, *A Swarm of Bees: Lanark Society Settlers 1800-1900, A Journey from Scotland to Upper Canada and Utah* (Carleton Place: Global Heritage Press, 2018).

Stuart A. Raymond, *Tracing Your Roman Catholic Ancestors* (Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Family History, 2018).

Nicola Lisle, *Tracing Your Oxfordshire Ancestors: A Guide for Family and Local Historians* (Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Family History, 2018).

Emma Watkins and Barry Godfrey, *Criminal Children: Researching Juvenile Offenders 1820–1920* (Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Family History, 2018).

Peter Higginbotham, *Workhouses of the North (Images of England)* (Stroud: The History Press, 2009).

Dan Walker, compiler, et. al., *The Marriage Registers of Upper Canada / Canada West*, (Milton, Ontario: Global Heritage Press, various years from 2000), Volume 1 to 17, with several parts to a number of volumes.

Brenda Dougall Merriman, *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records*, (Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2013, 8th Edition), pp. 96–100.

The Cream of the Crop

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



BY JOHN D. REID

How to Access Second World War Service Files

At the January meeting, a

BIFHSGO member asked me about accessing her father's Second World War British Army service file. In Britain, the files for all the services are still with the Ministry of Defence. Application is by snail mail. You can get a file for anyone who died 25 or more years ago, otherwise files are available only to the person and their next of kin. You need to know the full name, date of birth and/or service number (it is not clear whether both are needed or just one of the two) in order to fill out the forms, and pay a £30

application fee. It can take several months for an application to be processed.

Official information on who can apply and how, and the forms, are at www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records/apply-for-someone-elses-records/.

For those who served in Canadian forces during WW II, access depends on whether they died between 1939 and 1947—either in action, of injuries, accident or illness, or whether they survived. Find details on the conditions under which files can be released at www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/Pages/introduction.aspx/.

Canadiana is Now Free

As of 2 January 2019, 60 million pages of Canadian digital document-

tary heritage became available at no charge to users at canadiana.ca/. What's included? The *Early Canadiana Online* and *Canadiana Online* collections are comprised of Canadian monographs, periodicals, government publications, newspapers and annuals, amounting to over 19 million pages. The *Héritage* collection, developed in partnership with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network—a university partnership, includes 900 collections of 41 million pages of archival materials. It includes scans of microfilm taken from some of LAC's most sought-after archival collections.

Save on *Ancestry*

Many genealogists consider a subscription to *Ancestry*, at Ancestry.ca, to be an essential resource. For those of us who cut our genealogical teeth scrolling through unindexed microfilm, having a simple search produce pertinent records, or should it be *frequently* pertinent records, out of billions at our fingertips, is next to miraculous. But the subscription price is incompatible with parsimonious genes. Here are six tips to save on *Ancestry*, current as of the end of January:

Use public access. All branches of the Ottawa Public Library and many other public libraries, family history centres and even some genealogy society libraries have access on-site

to *Ancestry's* Library Edition. It's not as convenient as home access and you won't be able to build an online family tree. However, you may find that planning your searching so as to make best use of the trip to the library will mean you're less tempted to follow leads down time-consuming and ultimately unproductive rabbit holes. OPL offers help with learning to use *Ancestry Library* as well as access.

For some *Ancestry* databases, such as the 1921 Census of Canada, you don't need a paid subscription, as long as you're searching from within Canada. However, you do need to register for a free membership.

That free membership will mean receiving subscription solicitations and also notifications of special free access periods. Free access usually comes around holiday times and means access to subsets of the full database, such as Canadian records around Canada Day.

If you're not a subscriber, you can sign up for a 14-day free trial. Then you should have no problem getting a new six-month subscription at a substantial discount. Just be careful not to get locked into auto-renewing at the end of your trial period. Supposedly you can cancel subscriptions from your *Ancestry* account page using the "Cancel Subscription" link under "Subscription Options." However, some feel

it's better to cancel at least two days before your renewal date by calling 1-800-958-9073. If you do, ask for a confirmation number or a confirmation email.

If you have a subscription and it's near the expiration date, you may possibly receive a discount renewal offer, but don't count on it. Cancel your subscription as above and make sure you get a confirmation number. Then wait for the subscription to expire. Take a break. If you don't receive an offer after a few days, call them and ask for a deal. At some point you'll get an offer as though you are a new member—although they'll still use your old account and you won't lose any family trees you've created.

If you've taken an *AncestryDNA* test, check at the bottom of your results page at *Ancestry.ca*. You may find a bargain renewal offer. One Ottawa genealogist got a half-off deal recently.

Gene-O-Rama and More

The next family history conference to occur in Ottawa is the 34th (not quite annual) Gene-O-Rama,

5–6 April. This year the featured speaker for the Friday evening Pat Horan Memorial Lecture is BIFHSGO's Glenn Wright, and the topic—"Sex, Lies and Archives: True Stories of Love and Deception." It's an updated version of a banquet talk he gave at the OGS annual conference last time it was in Kingston—entertaining, informative and highly recommended. Glenn and BIFHSGO members Leanne Cooper and Ken McKinlay are also speaking on the Saturday. Look for details at <https://ottawa.ogs.on.ca/geneoram> a/

The OGS annual conference this year is in London, Ontario, 21–23 June. Glenn and I will be there giving a joint presentation. We pitched it to the organizers as J. Reid, G. Wright and A. Rithmatic—OGS didn't get the joke! Find out more on the OGS conference at <https://conference2019.ogs.on.ca/>.

After the 27–29 September BIFHSGO Conference, I'm planning on heading to London, England for the first *RootsTech London*, 24–26 October.



DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS
Genealogy & Local History Fair
Saturday, 27 April 2019 10 am to 3 pm
Ben Franklin Place, 101 CentrepoinTE Drive
Ottawa Public Library & BIFHSGO



BIFHSGO News

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa 9 June 2018

The 24th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) was held in The Chamber at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, on 9 June 2018.

The Notice of Meeting and the 2017 AGM Minutes had been published in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Spring 2018 issue. The meeting announcement, along with the 2017 financial statements and the directors' annual reports, were also sent to members by email or postal mail at least 21 days in advance of the meeting. All the documents were also posted on the BIFHSGO website under "Activities/AGM."

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by BIFHSGO President Barbara Tose, who welcomed attendees to the AGM.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM

Barbara asked if there were any questions or changes to the Minutes of the 2017 AGM. There being none,

she requested a motion to approve the Minutes as circulated. The motion was proposed by Darrel Kennedy and seconded by Ann Burns. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Summary of the Directors' Reports

The President made the following report based on the Annual Reports circulated to members and urged them to read all the reports to get a full understanding of what the directors have been working on for the past year.

She stated, "Although this year has been another successful one for BIFHSGO, it has not been without its challenges. Key positions on the Board remained vacant for several months, which caused an increased workload for the remaining board members or forced the postponement of important tasks until the position could be filled. New directors starting midway through the year had to familiarize themselves with their duties as well as deal with a backlog of issues. However, we now have a full slate of directors, all of whom, I am told, will be

continuing in their roles next year. The Board has also scheduled a strategic planning session for the end of June to ensure we are on track and unified in our goals.

Yet despite the difficulties of the past year, we have accomplished much. Our conference was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our second Ulster Historical Foundation Day sold out. Our event once again held the record for attendance in the UHF North American Tour and also had the highest book sales of all the venues.

The Ottawa Public Library showed how much they value their partnership with us by asking us to co-sponsor the first "Discover your Roots: Family and Local History Fair." This was deemed such a success that we are now planning for next year's event.

We were asked to provide introductory genealogy talks for a local group interested in learning about genealogy and I am pleased to say that we have recently been approached by another group for speakers, allowing us to reach out to the community beyond our Society.

We continue to have steady attendance at our monthly meetings and an interesting and varied program. Our special interest groups are strong, well supported by the volunteers who organize them, and the groups continue to grow.

Of course, there are challenges yet to be met. We can always use more volunteers, but we continue to be blessed with active members who are willing to participate in their Society to the benefit of us all."

Barbara went on to thank Glenn Wright for his eight years of service on the Board, his assistance and guidance to her during her terms as president and his dedicated work on behalf of the Society over the years. She noted that Glenn has agreed to act as the BIFHSGO archivist. Barbara also thanked all the volunteers that she has worked with over the past four years for their assistance, understanding, patience and hard work. She encouraged all members to volunteer in some capacity.

Barbara called on Marianne Rasmus, BIFHSGO Treasurer, to present the financial statements.

Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year 2017

Marianne Rasmus, Treasurer, spoke to her report (which was circulated to members prior to the meeting) and reviewed the Society's financial position.

2017 Revenue: Operating \$57,123;
Designated Donations: \$855; Total Revenue: \$57,978

2017 Expenses: Operating: \$59,314;
Donations to Outside Organizations: \$1,800; Library Fund Expenses:

\$2,115; Research Expenses: \$94;
Total Expenses: \$63,323

2017 resulted in a net loss of \$5,345; however, there were three extraordinary expenses:

- the pub night hosted by BIFHSGO during the 2017 OGS Conference
- a substantial donation to the Ottawa Public Library for the purchase of genealogical books and e-books
- the 2017 Conference, which resulted in a loss

The total of these expenditures was \$5,867.

Financial Position as at 31 December 2017

- Total Assets: \$109,634
- Total Liabilities: \$23,796
- Net Assets: \$85,838

In response to a question about the \$6800 in interest income, Marianne explained that the amount was from an investment that gave only one payout upon maturing instead of the usual accrual over several years. Another question related to the \$512 in amortization. Marianne indicated that this was the amortization over three years of BIFHSGO equipment, such as the Society's computers and the AV equipment purchased over the past few years. When asked if the membership needed to approve the financial statements, she explained that the Board approves the statements, which are then

presented to the membership at the AGM. However, the members do approve the appointment of the public accountant.

Appointment of Public Accountant for 2018

Marianne Rasmus moved that the firm of McCay Duff LLP be appointed as the BIFHSGO public accountant for 2018. The motion was seconded by Andrea Harding.
MOTION CARRIED.

Awards and Presentations

Awards were presented to the following individuals:

- A Certificate of Recognition went to *Cliff Adams* in appreciation of his ongoing and significant contributions to BIFHSGO as Conference Treasurer and his invaluable assistance to the Treasurer of the Society.
- A Certificate of Recognition was awarded to *Father Edward J.R. Jackman* in recognition of his life-long interest in, and encouragement of, family history and genealogy, and with special appreciation of his generous sponsorship and support of our Society and its activities. Father Jackman, unfortunately, was not present. His certificate will be sent to him.
- The Best "Before BIFHSGO" Talk by a Member award went to *Sheila Dohoo Faure* for her presentation on the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Unfortunately,

Sheila was not present. Her award will be presented to her in the fall.

- The Best BIFHSGO Talk by a Member—or members—award was presented to *Susan Davis, Darrel Kennedy, Brian Laurie-Beaumont* and *Marianne Rasmus* for their talk on Salem, “Where were you in 1692?”.
- The Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Article of 2017 award was presented to *Christine Jackson* for her article “The Queen’s Coachman: Our Only Claim to Fame!”.
- Jane Down was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation for her many services to the Society and genealogy in general. Jane was not present, so her award will be presented in the fall.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of Directors

Past President Glenn Wright, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented his report. He noted that several positions were at mid-term this year. These are: Secretary, Gillian Leitch; Research, Lynda Gibson; Director-at-Large, John McConkey.

There were five positions up for renewal: Publicity, Membership, Program, Treasurer, and Communications. The following directors agreed to serve for another term: Mary-Lou Simac (Publicity, final term allowed);

Kathy Wallace (Membership, final term allowed), Marianne Rasmus (Treasurer), and Andrea Harding (Programs).

In addition, Lynda Gibson joined the Board as Research Director in fall 2017 after Dave Cross resigned; that term ends in June 2019. John McConkey, whose term also ends in June 2019, replaced Lisa Dawn-Crawley. Susan Davis returned to the Board to replace Anne Moralejo, whose term ended in June 2018. Susan has agreed to serve a new full two-year term.

President Barbara Tose completed her term as President and moves to the role of Past President. Duncan Monkhouse agreed to stand for President. Further presidential nominations from the floor were solicited three times. As there were no nominations from the floor, Duncan was acclaimed as President.

Other Business

- Gloria Tubman, on behalf of the Pontiac Archives, thanked BIFHSGO for its donation to that organization.
- Duncan Monkhouse introduced himself and thanked Barbara for her service with a token of the Society’s appreciation.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the President adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

**Notice of BIFHSGO
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.**

Take notice that the Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2019, at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa, to receive and conduct business in accordance with the bylaws. Members are reminded that, in accordance with Article 11 of the Bylaws, they may appoint a proxy to attend the meeting and act on their behalf. The proxy holder must also be a member.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
3. Summary of the Directors' reports
4. Presentation of the financial statements for 2018
5. Appointment of the Public Accountant for 2019
6. Awards and presentations
7. Report of the Nominating Committee
8. Election of Directors
9. Other business
10. Adjournment

The normal monthly meeting will take place after a short break.

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 10 Nov 2018–Jan 2019

Member No.	Name	Address
1257	Laura Griffin	Ottawa, ON
1344	Tom McIlwraith	Carleton Place, ON
1533	Cliff Scott	Ottawa, ON
1786	Allan Reed	Nepean, ON
1969	Graham Muir	Ottawa, ON
1970	Karen Sinclair	Kanata, ON
1971	Michael Spooner	Ottawa, ON
1972	William Rolph	Ottawa, ON

1973	Kimberley Nesbitt	Gatineau, ON
1974	Rowena Darragh	Kanata, ON
1974	Owen Darragh	Kanata, ON
1975	Angela Clarkson	Ottawa, ON
1976	Gregory Bell	Ottawa, ON
1976	Diane Burrows	Ottawa, ON
1977	Ed Wilson	Almonte, ON

!! CALL FOR PAPERS !!

Have you got a family story to tell? A new research technique?
 What about that great new resource you've found?

Whether it's

Breakthroughs, Brick Walls, Bloodlines or Books,

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Wants to hear from You!

Please contact acreditor@bifhsgo.ca to contribute to our journal.



**25th Annual
 BIFHSGO Conference**

**FAMILY HISTORY:
 PAST ∞ PRESENT ∞ FUTURE**

Featuring these and other great presenters -

Blaine Bettinger, Audrey Collins, Cyndi Ingle

27-29 September 2019

at Ben Franklin Place, Ottawa

Program info coming soon at:

www.bifhsgo.ca



—1994-2019—

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2018–2019

President	Duncan Monkhouse	president@bifhsgo.ca
Recording Secretary	Gillian Leitch	secretary@bifhsgo.ca
Treasurer	Marianne Rasmus	treasurer@bifhsgo.ca
Research & Projects	Lynda Gibson	research@bifhsgo.ca
Membership	Kathy Wallace	membership@bifhsgo.ca
Communications	Susan Davis	communications@bifhsgo.ca
Publicity	Mary-Lou Simac	publicity@bifhsgo.ca
Director at Large	John McConkey	video@bifhsgo.ca
Programs/Education	Andrea Harding	programs@bifhsgo.ca
Past President	Barbara Tose	pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca

Communications

<i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i> Editor	Barbara Tose	accreditor@bifhsgo.ca
eNews Editor	Emily Rahme	newsletter@bifhsgo.ca
Webmaster	Vacant	
Queries	Sheila Dohoo Faure	queries@bifhsgo.ca
Photographer	Dena Palamedes	

Conference 2019

Jane Down, Duncan Monkhouse

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 Vision is to connect, educate, share and inspire. Our mission is to encourage family history research and its dissemination, by people with ancestry throughout the British Isles. We share the values of Stewardship, Innovation, Excellence, Sharing, Integrity and Collaboration.

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 2019 are \$50 for individuals, \$60 for families, and \$50 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 Centrepointhe Drive, Ottawa

- 13 April 2019** **All My Worldly Goods: Murder Mystery & a Personal Journey into the History of British Home Children—** Author Maggie Wheeler will talk about what she discovered about Home Children while researching her latest novel, the fifth in her best-selling *Lost Villages* historical mystery series. Her books showcase the social, cultural and psychological impact of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project on the Canadians it affected.
- 11 May 2019** **The Ragman's Children: A Story of 19th Century Economic Migration—**Christine Jackson's great-grandparents arrived in London from Amsterdam in August 1867 and settled in Whitechapel's Spitalfields. Later family stories, describing successful merchants with large houses, servants and a factory, seemed incongruous. Christine and her cousin Rod determined to unravel the family's story. She will tell us about their search and its results.
- 8 June 2019** **Annual General Meeting and Great Moments.** Four BIFHSGO members will describe the exciting experience of breaking down a brick wall while researching their ancestors.

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
11:30–16:00	Writing Group

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

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please email the Editor, at acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for submissions to the Summer issue is 25 April 2019.