



Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle • Volume 25, Number 3 • Fall 2019

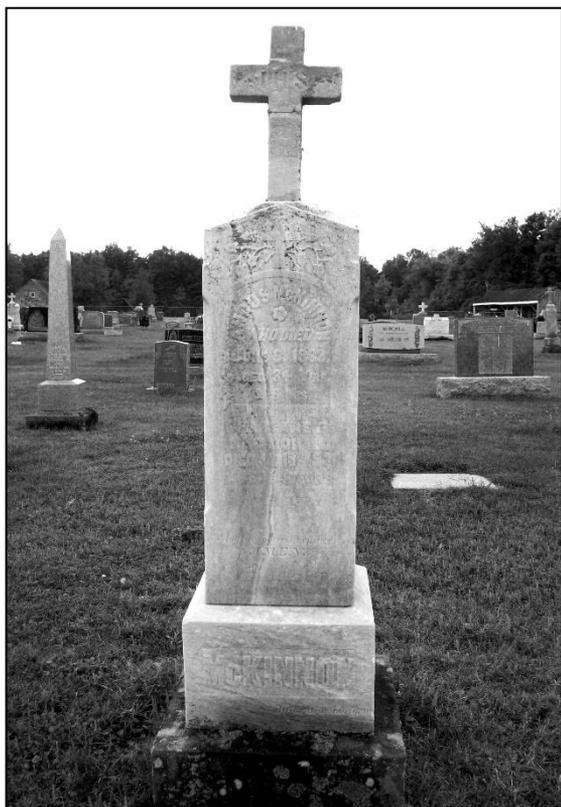
In This Issue

The Story on the Stone—Part II: Secrets of the Grave

Postcards from Around the World—Part IV

We Shall Remember Them

Private Henry George Chamberlain



25
years

—1994–2019—

Anglo-Celtic Roots

This journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa and sent free to members.

Unless otherwise stated, permission to reprint for non-profit use is granted to organizations and individuals provided the source is credited.

Articles accompanied by the copyright symbol (©) may not be reprinted or copied without the written permission of the author.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO or its officers, nor are commercial interests endorsed.

BIFHSGO members are invited to submit family history stories, illustrations, letters, queries and similar items of interest in electronic format using MSWord-compatible software, to acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. Please include a brief biographical sketch and a passport-type photograph.

Authors are asked to certify that permission to reproduce any previously copyrighted material has been acquired and are encouraged to provide permission for non-profit reproduction of their articles. The Editor reserves the right to select material that meets the interest of readers and to edit for length and content.

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement No. 40015222
Indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)

Editor: Barbara Tose

Editors Emeritus: Jean Kitchen, Chris MacPhail

Layout Designer: Barbara Tose

Proofreaders: Christine Jackson, Sheila Dohoo Faure

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

Founded and incorporated in 1994

Charitable Registration No. 89227 4044RR0001

Contact BIFHSGO at

- PO Box 38026
Ottawa ON K2C 3Y7
- 613-234-2520
- queries@bifhsgo.ca
- www.bifhsgo.ca

Contents

COLUMN

From the President/2

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Story on the Stone:

Part II—Secrets of the Grave

Carol Annett/3

Postcards from Around the World:

Part IV

Barbara Tose/21

We Shall Remember Them

Lynda Gibson/29

TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

The Cream of the Crop

John D. Reid/36

BIFHSGO NEWS

Membership Report

Kathy Wallace/40

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Back cover

Cover Illustration:

Angus McKinnon stone in the cemetery of St Margaret of Scotland Church, Glen Nevis, Ontario

Source: Carol Annett

From the Editor:

In this issue, Carol Annett provides us with a sequel to her *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Fall 2010 article. Carol stepped away from the computer and into the cemetery to discover just who was buried with her great-great-great-half-uncle, Angus McKinnon. There were some surprises and more than one mystery to solve.

Barbara Tose concludes the story of her grandfather's courtship by postcard of his soon-to-be wife. The last leg of Tom's final voyage on the *Gloriana* took him to Denmark, whence he sent numerous postcards to his fiancée. After his discharge in Antwerp, he made his way to Canada to marry his sweetheart.

In *We Shall Remember Them*, Lynda Gibson has written about the life and tragic death of Henry George Chamberlain at the No.1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Henry had a difficult start in life but earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his initiative and gallant conduct on the muddy battlefields of Passchendaele.



Barbara Tose

From the President



September, the summer is winding down and we are starting another year of BIFHSGO meetings and, of course, the conference. I hope you had time to relax, enjoy the nice warm weather and maybe, just maybe, do some family history research. I know that I did.

What an exciting year it is going to be! The end of the 25th anniversary year with a great slate of fall speakers and educational Before BIFHSGO talks.

The Board had some changes at the June Annual General Meeting. Two directors, Andrea Harding and Lynda Gibson, have decided to pursue other genealogical interests. A big thank you to them both for their time on the Board. Replacing them are two new members: Dianne Brydon (Program) and Allan Cutler (Education). Welcome Dianne and Allan! John McConkey, who held the director-at-large position, has moved to the Research and Projects portfolio, replacing Lynda, and the director-at-large position has been retired.

This fall we hold our 25th annual conference. As usual, the Conference Planning Committee has been busy through the summer to put together another fantastic experience for you. This year, we have departed from our usual country theme, going instead

with *Family History; Past, Present and Future*. We have an international slate of top ranked speakers. Cyndi Ingle of Cyndi's List is coming from Washington State to talk about searching the Internet effectively, research planning and timelines. Blaine Bettinger, from northern New York, will talk about all things DNA. Audrey Collins, from London, England will discuss the British records at The National Archives and Nancy Loe (*Sassy Jane Genealogy*) is coming from California to talk about organizing your records, thinking like an archivist and skills every genealogist should develop. This will be THE event of our year! The program is available on the BIFHSGO website. Registration has been enthusiastic and, for the first time in our conference history, we have had to restrict registration for some sessions. Please see our website for details.

Winners of our 25th anniversary writing competition will be announced at the conference Friday evening session and you can look for the first of the winning articles in the next ACR.

And if we haven't met yet, please come and introduce yourself to me at a monthly meeting. I look forward to meeting old and new friends over the coming year.


Duncan Monkhouse

Family History Research

The Story on the Stone: Part II—Secrets of the Grave[©]



BY CAROL ANNETT

Since she joined the BIFHSGO Writing Group, Carol has been published in the magazine British Columbia History and Anglo-Celtic Roots. One article became a chapter in the BIFHSGO's British Home Children: Their Stories. This story, a sequel to a 2010 ACR article, resulted from the discovery of new information found by stepping away from the computer and connecting with people in Glengarry County, Ontario, where her McKinnon ancestors lived.

Angus 'Bridge End' McKinnon

The nickname was unfamiliar, but I knew that "Angus 'Bridge End' McKinnon" was my relative. Angus, who was my great-great-great-half-uncle, had been dubbed 'Bridge End' by the authors of a book I came across by chance at the Glengarry County Archives in Alexandria, Ontario.¹ *The MacKINNONS/McKINNONS of Glengarry & Prescott* is a self-published compilation of MacKinnon genealogies. The authors devoted separate chapters to numerous well-documented families. However, families such as Angus's, for whom they found no research done, warranted less space. On Angus's sparse page, there is no mention of his father, Archibald McKinnon, who was my great-great-great-grandfather, or of

Angus's seven surviving siblings—one of whom was my great-great-grandfather, Alex McKinnon—although they were also Glengarry McKinnons. When the book was published in 2012, Angus was the only member of his family listed.

Angus's page includes a map, a photo, a few lines of text and a family tree. The map shows the location of his farm near the village of Bridge End, hence the nickname.² The photo shows St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church in Glen Nevis, where the authors knew Angus's widow, Margaret, was buried in 1931. From her death notice, their sole source for the text, the authors had gleaned that her son, D. A., was living on the family farm; another son, Archie, lived in Hogansburg, New York; and

Archie's son, Kenneth, lived in Syracuse, N.Y.³ A family tree on Angus's page is made up of these five people—Angus, Margaret, D. A., Archie and Kenneth. "This represents not only the beginning but also the end of this family line," concluded the authors, relegating Angus to a chapter with other MacKinnons who had "faded into obscurity."⁴ Angus might have had his own chapter if the authors had read my article in the Fall 2010 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*: "The Story on the Stone: Remembering Angus McKinnon."⁵ Now, there is even more to add to the story.

The Story on the Stone: Part II

The 'stone' in the title of my 2010 article refers to a headstone in the cemetery of the Church of St. Margaret of Scotland in Glen Nevis, Ontario (see front cover). Except for an infant son buried at nearby St. Raphael's Church in 1879 and an adult son, Archie, who was buried in Hogsburg, NY, in 1945, all the members of Angus

McKinnon's immediate family were buried at Glen Nevis.⁶⁻¹² Six names are recorded on three sides of the tall column: Angus McKinnon; his wife, Margaret McDonald; three

of their sons—engraved as A. J., A. A. and DONALD Al—and Donald Alex's wife, Jane Frances MacGillis. As far as I knew, the people named on the stone were the only ones buried in the ground. I found out that I was mistaken.

Who was buried in Angus McKinnon's plot? Three years after writing "The Story on the Stone," I learned, thanks to some helpful Glengarry County residents, that a whopping total of eleven people were buried in the same grave site. The story on the stone does not match the secrets of the grave. This called for a sequel. In "The Story on the Stone, Part 2: Secrets of the Grave," the eleven people who share this plot are rescued from obscurity.



Figure 1: The former McKinnon farmhouse at Lot 12, Concession 6, Lancaster Township
Source: Author

A visit to Angus's farmhouse

In August 2013, my husband and I planned a two-day stay in Glengarry

County. The purpose of the trip was to visit the former McKinnon farmhouse (Figure 1), a few miles down the road from the church where Angus McKinnon was buried. Of seven brothers, Angus was the only one who owned a farm in Glengarry County. Men from three generations of my McKinnon family—my great-great-grandfather, Archibald, his son, Angus, and grandson, Donald Alex—had lived in the house on the east half of Lot 12, Concession 6, Lancaster Township not far from the village of Bridge End. Though Angus’s father first purchased the property in 1873, Angus bought the farm from him in 1874 and so it is Angus McKinnon’s

name that appears on the map in the Belden Historical Atlas of 1879 (Figure 2).^{13,14} The farm remained in the same McKinnon family for over 90 years, until the death of Donald Alex’s widow in 1965.

I had been in touch with the present owners of the farmhouse and had sent

them a copy of “The Story on the Stone.” Inez Franklin and her husband Mallory invited me and my husband to come by the house one evening during our stay. Inez warned me that there wasn’t much to see. The logs of the original house are hidden under siding. She said she knew little about the history of the house or its former residents. That was fine with me. I knew the history. I just wanted to see the place, which is the closest my family has to an old homestead.

We arrived at the farm after supper. Inez and Mallory welcomed us warmly. They showed us the exterior of the house and took us

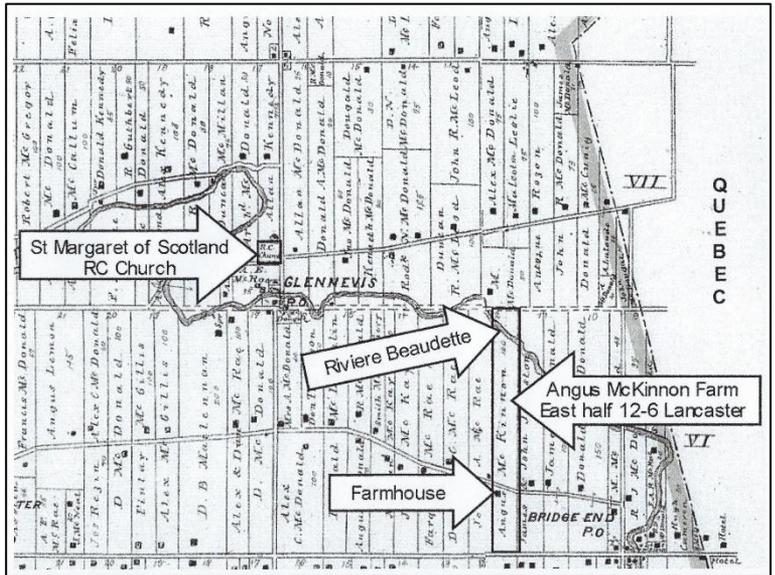


Figure 2: Map showing the location of the McKinnon farm in Lancaster Township, Glengarry County
 Source: Adapted from Belden and Company Historical Atlas of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Counties, 1879

inside the lofty square-timber barn, which dates from the early 20th century, when Donald Alex McKinnon owned the farm. They knew that the 19th century log house had initially been situated north of the present location, where the Rivière Beaudette cuts through the north end of the narrow lot (Figure 2). Presumably the river served as a transportation route at that time. Later, when Concession Road 6 was serviceable, the house was moved close to the new thoroughfare. Mallory said that the logs were likely dismantled and reassembled in the new location.

By the time the McKinnons bought the property in 1873, the little log house was in the same place where the present house stands. Nowadays, however, the log structure is covered with siding and sandwiched between two modern additions that more than double the interior living space.

We talked outside until it was dark and then continued our visit inside, around the kitchen table. Over a glass of lemonade, I told Inez and Mallory that six people who had lived in their house were buried in the cemetery of St. Margaret's Church up the road. I casually mentioned that two other relatives, who had not lived at the farm, were also buried in the cemetery at St. Margaret's. The burials of Angus McKinnon's brother, Alexander

McKinnon, and his wife Catherine McDonald are recorded in St. Margaret's parish record.¹⁵ But I couldn't find their gravestone in the cemetery.

On hearing of my missing headstone, Inez picked up the telephone and called her brother, who happens to be the cemetery custodian at St. Margaret's. Minutes later, Leighton McDonnell was sitting beside me chatting about the many stones lost from the cemetery over the years. He described how dowsing rods are sometimes used to locate graves with no headstones. "Is there an actual record of who was buried in which plot?" I asked. "Yes," said Leighton, and he invited me to meet him the next day at the rectory. Soon, we thanked our gracious hosts and said goodnight. We retired to our room at the B&B beside St. Margaret of Scotland Church totally unaware of the surprises in store for us the following day.

Secrets of Plot 70

The next morning, I strolled next door to meet Leighton. He led the way into the rectory office. There, he unlocked a large, antique-looking fire safe, pulled out some books and placed them on the desk. Within seconds, he located the only McKinnon in the alphabetical index of the cemetery record: Angus McKinnon, 12-6, Plot 70. Leighton opened the book to page 24 where

the names of those interred in Plot 70 were listed. Both of us stared at the page, dumbfounded. There were so many names in Plot 70 that the entry overflowed into the margin (Figure 3). Were all these people buried in the same plot?

at the stone marking this crowded plot. There is ample space around the McKinnon stone to accommodate an extra-large plot (see front cover). We discussed the engraving on the stone at some length. The wording of the

inscriptions suggests that this is a grave marker, not merely a memorial stone. We concluded that the eleven people named in the ledger are interred in the same plot. I thanked Leighton for his help. Then I went home to re-search the people sharing this oversized grave. I discovered that Plot 70 was not only crowded with people—it was chockfull of history.

24					
Angus McKinnon 12-6					
70					
MARGARET MCDONALD (MRS ANGUS MCKINNON) JAN 17, 1931	ANGUS MCKINNON MAY 1 1894	JAMES KENNETH MCKINNON NOV 16 1903	JANE CUTHBERT (MRS. A. MCKINNON) FEB 12 1907	JAMES ALLAN MCKINNON CHILD MAY 1 1855	ANGUS JOSEPH MCKINNON BABY APRIL 6 1883
CATHERINE MCDONALD (MRS ALEX MCKINNON) MAY 9, 1930	ALEXANDER MCKINNON MAY 14 1922	DONALD ALEX MCKINNON SEPT 6 1938	MRS. D. ALEX MCKINNON OCT 8, 1965		

Figure 3: Entry for Plot 70 from the St. Margaret of Scotland Church cemetery record book

Source: Photo taken by author

“Angus McKinnon 12-6” was the designated owner of plot 70. Leighton found a ledger in which it was noted that “perpetual care” was paid for plot 70, belonging to Angus McKinnon of 12-6 Lancaster. The name of the person who paid the bill and the amount paid were not listed. Leighton wasn’t sure how much it would have cost. “About \$5.00 at that time,” he guessed. For eleven people, that works out to less than \$0.50 per person.

After I took photos of the list of people in Plot 70, Leighton and I walked out to the cemetery to look

Analysing Plot 70

To understand the entries in Plot 70, I created a table (Figure 4) listing the eleven people in the order of their year of death. The first column lists the names engraved on the stone; the second column lists the corresponding names recorded in the plot book. The last three columns include details about each person as well as where they were living when they died, the year of death and their age at death. As I added data to the

table, I observed the following: one child's name was unfamiliar; one person had no death date; the names of six people were engraved on the stone; and the names of five others were not. Of the five 'extra' people, two were known to me and three of them were a mystery.

A misnamed child

The names engraved on the stone have a matching entry in the ledger—except for one. The child named “AA” on the stone is missing in the book. Instead, a child called James Allan is recorded with exactly the same death date as “AA” on the stone. I am sure that James Allan is Alexander Allan, who is correctly named in his baptismal record and in his father's will.^{16, 17} When I wrote my 2010 *ACR* article, I had not

found the cause of his death. Now I know, from closer reading of the civil registration, that Alexander Allan was one of nine local children who died during a diphtheria outbreak in 1885.¹⁸ Perhaps someone other than his parents reported his death and recorded the child's name incorrectly. There was another notable error in the plot book.

A missing death date

Angus McKinnon's date of death is missing from the plot book. A copy of his probated will states that he was dead by 21 June 1883, but an entry for his death was not found in parish or civil records.¹⁹ Luckily, the date that Angus died was engraved in metal and in stone. Inez Franklin, current owner of the former

NAMES ENGRAVED ON THE CEMETERY STONE	NAME LISTED IN PLOT 70	DETAILS	WHERE LIVING AT TIME OF DEATH	YEAR OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
AJ	Angus Joseph McKinnon, baby	Son of Angus 'Bridge End' & Margaret	12-6 Lancaster	1883	8 months
Angus McKinnon	Angus McKinnon 12-6	Angus 'Bridge End' McKinnon Husband of Margaret McDonald	12-6 Lancaster	1883	35 years
AA	James Allan McKinnon, child	Alexander Allan in Angus's will Son of Angus 'Bridge End' & Margaret	12-6 Lancaster	1885	5 years
	Angus McKinnon	Angus McKinnon #2 Husband of Jane Cuthbert	3 Lancaster	1894	83 years
	James Kenneth McKinnon	Son of Angus #2 & Jane Cuthbert	4 Lancaster	1903	43 years
	Jane Cuthbert (Mrs. A. McKinnon)	Wife of Angus McKinnon #2	26-4 Lancaster	1907	88 years
	Alexander McKinnon	Brother of Angus 'Bridge End' McKinnon Husband of Catherine McDonald One of five McKinnon brothers of Crookston MN	Ottawa	1922	68 years
	Catherine McDonald (Mrs. Alexander McKinnon)	Wife of Alexander McKinnon	Ottawa	1930	77 years
Margaret McDonald	Margaret McDonald (Mrs. Angus McKinnon)	Wife of Angus 'Bridge End' McKinnon	12-6 Lancaster	1931	84 years
Donald A. McKinnon	Donald Alex McKinnon	Son of Angus 'Bridge End' & Margaret	12-6 Lancaster	1938	60 years
Jane Frances MacGillis	Mrs. D. Alex McKinnon	Wife of Donald Alex McKinnon	12-6 Lancaster	1965	86 years

Figure 4: Table of people buried in Plot 70, cemetery of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Glen Nevis, Ontario

McKinnon farmhouse, found the death date engraved on a metal object stored in the attic. The artefact is a cross-shaped plaque etched with the words “Angus McKinnon, Died June 9th, 1883, Aged 34 Years” (Figure 5).²⁰ I was thrilled when she offered to let me keep this heirloom, though neither one of us knew what it was.

Allan J. MacDonald, the archivist at the Glengarry County Archives, identified the item immediately. “It’s a coffin plate,” he told me.

An article about this uncommon genealogy resource states that coffin plates were popular for a while in the 19th century in North America. The family of the deceased would hire a blacksmith to create a name plate which was attached to the coffin. Sometimes the plate remained in place when the coffin was buried; in other cases, it was removed before burial and given to the family as a memento.²¹ Angus’s coffin plate appears to have been hand-engraved on tin or possibly pewter. Angus’s brothers from Crookston, Minnesota, were trained blacksmiths—did one of them make the plate? The date of death on Angus’s coffin plate matches the date on his cemetery stone. The wording on the grave-stone does not say “In memory of”—which might suggest that he was buried

elsewhere. Surely Angus McKinnon was buried in his own plot.

Two relatives found

Of the five people buried in the plot whose names are not engraved on the stone, two were my relatives—Alexander McKinnon and Catherine McDonald—whose headstone I had been unable to find in the cemetery.



Figure 5: Coffin plate for Angus McKinnon

Source: Author

Leighton did not have to resort to using a dowsing rod to locate their burial site. Angus’s brother and his wife were buried in the family plot.

Alexander, who was born in Glengarry County in 1854, six months after his family arrived in Canada from Scotland, had left

home at the age of fourteen.²² He and four brothers became successful businessmen in Crookston, Minnesota.²³ Alexander went back to Glengarry County and married Catherine on 22 April 1883.²⁴ One month after the wedding, his brother, Angus, died on the farm near Bridge End. Alexander and Catherine spent the next 20 years in Minnesota, returning to Canada around 1905.²⁵ Though they both died in Ottawa, they were buried in the cemetery of St. Margaret of Scotland in Glen Nevis, the church where they were wed. Their nephew, Angus's son Donald Alex, would have arranged for his uncle

and aunt to be buried in the family plot. Who gave permission for three unfamiliar McKinnons to be buried in Angus McKinnon's plot?

The story of three mystery McKinnons

The three mystery McKinnons were identified as a *second* Angus McKinnon; his wife, Jane Cuthbert McKinnon; and their youngest son, James Kenneth McKinnon. The lineage of Angus #2 was found in *MacKinnons/McKinnons of Glengarry & Prescott*. He was one of many descendants of Lachlan MacKinnon.²⁶

Although Angus #2 was born in Glengarry County, his father and grandfather came from Eigg, Scotland. The Isle of Eigg, one of the small isles off the coast of the Western Highlands, measures 5 miles long by 3 miles wide (8 km by 5 km) (Figure 6).²⁷ In 1790, Lachlan McKinnon and his family, including a son named John, were among 30 residents who voluntarily left their farms at Cleadale on Eigg.^{28,29} When the Eigg emigrants reached

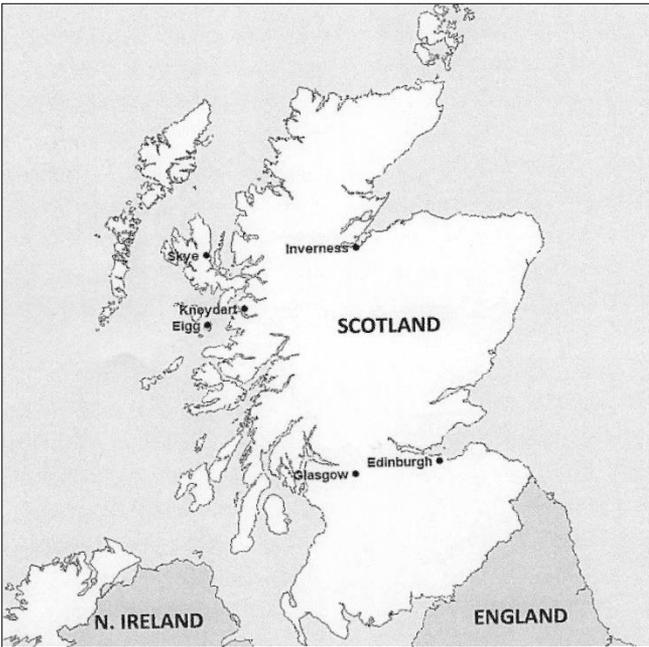


Figure 6: Map showing the location of the Isle of Eigg and the Knoydart peninsula in Scotland

Source: Author

Arisaig on the mainland, they boarded the *British Queen* with 57

other Roman Catholic Highlanders from adjacent districts.³⁰

Details of this migration, including a passenger list, are well-documented.³¹ Emigration leader Miles McDonell, who was the son of a legendary Highlander named Spanish John, organized the crossing. The passengers were poor, but they paid their own passage to Quebec and arrived in mid-October. Miles McDonell petitioned the colonial government and Montreal merchants to provide assistance for the journey further upriver to Glengarry County where their clansmen helped them settle in before winter. There is still a road in Glengarry called the Eigg Road after these 1790 emigrants.³²

In 1805, Lachlan McKinnon's son, John, married Catherine Ann McLaughlin at St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church.³³ Their son, who would be the second Angus buried in Plot 70 over 80 years later, was born in 1811.^{34,35} In 1842, Angus #2 married Jane Cuthbert, and they had seven children including James Kenneth.^{36,37,38,39} Angus #2 would have been in his early 40s when my Angus McKinnon, who was then five-years-old, arrived from Scotland in 1853. Angus #2 was the same age as Archibald, young Angus's father. Were their families related? A Gaelic speaker, like the newcomers, perhaps Angus #2 was one of those who assisted Archibald

and his family to settle into life in Glengarry County when they arrived in September.

The story of Angus McKinnon of Bridge End

Archibald McKinnon's son, Angus, the future owner of the farm at Lot 12 Concession 6 Lancaster Township near Bridge End, was born in Knoydart, Scotland, which was the last landholding of the estate of the McDonells of Glengarry.⁴⁰ Archibald was a crofter, or tenant farmer, who tilled a small plot of land. Archibald's first wife, Ann, died and he remarried in 1848.⁴¹ The first child born to Archibald and his second wife, Janet MacGillis, was Angus.

Like Eigg, Knoydart was a Roman Catholic enclave in predominantly Protestant Scotland.⁴² The Knoydart peninsula lies on the mainland of the Western Highlands about 15 miles (24 km) by boat from the Isle of Eigg. When he was older, Angus would have learned to identify the distinctive silhouette of Eigg from the shore of Knoydart. From a distance, the island appears flat except where its highest peak, An Sgurr, rises sharply from one end (Figure 7).⁴³ However, Angus did not stay long enough on Knoydart to learn the local geography. When he was still a young child, his family was evicted from their home by the landlord who replaced several hundred poor tenants with a few sheep farmers. The Knoydart

evictions are recorded in history books as one of the last of the Highland Clearances.^{44,45}

Though no passenger list survived, my research supports the conclusion that in August 1853, Angus and his family boarded the *Sillery* and sailed to Quebec with over 325 relatives and neighbours, all Roman

Catholics.⁴⁶ Their voyage to Canada was subsidized by a government grant obtained by the owner of the Glengarry Estate.

Many *Sillery* passengers settled in Glengarry County, Canada West, which had been founded by Roman Catholic Highlanders.⁴⁷ Author Marianne McLean writes

“Between 1773 and 1853, close to 3,500 people emigrated to Glengarry County from a few districts in the [western] Scottish Highlands” including Knoydart. An area in Glengarry County, Canada West, came to be called ‘Little Knoydart’ for some of the immigrants who settled there in 1853.⁴⁸

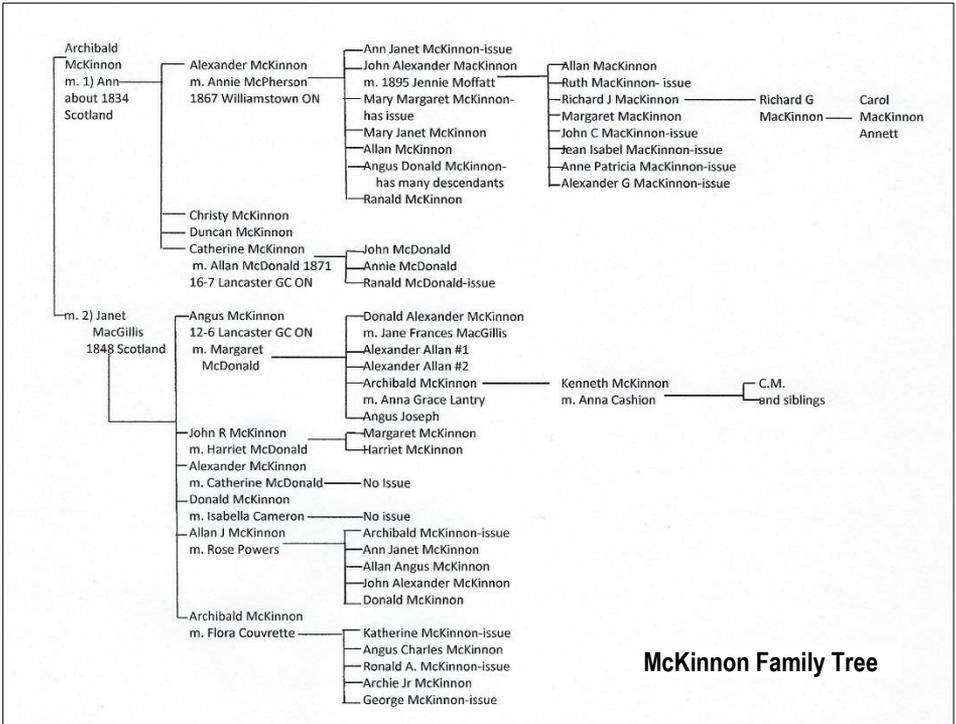
There were no land grants left when Angus McKinnon’s family arrived in Glengarry County in 1853. It wasn’t until twenty years after arriving in Canada, that Angus’s father, Archibald, was able to buy the farm at 12-6 Lancaster.⁴⁹ The following year, Angus returned from Michigan,

where he had been earning money lumbering, and purchased his father’s farm. In 1876, Angus married Margaret McDonald.⁵⁰ Three years later, their infant son, Alexander Allan, was buried in the cemetery at St. Raphael’s Church.⁵¹ Their next baby was also given the name Alexander Allan.



Figure 7: The flat profile of the Isle of Eigg visible on the horizon from Doune, Knoydart, 15 miles (24 km) away
Source: Author

No gravestone marks the burial site of the first Alexander Allan, but there is a memorial stone in that burial ground engraved with the names of Angus’s parents, Archibald McKinnon and Janet MacGillis, and his older half-brother Alex McKinnon, my great-great-grandfather.⁵² In 1882, the Church of St. Margaret of Scotland at Glen Nevis was opened.⁵³ Angus and his family left St. Raphael’s Church and joined the new parish closer to their farm near Bridge End.



McKinnon Family Tree

Who was buried in Angus McKinnon's plot?

In April 1883, Angus and Margaret lost a second infant son, Angus Joseph, who was the first to be buried in Plot 70.⁵⁴ By June, the baby's 34-year-old father, Angus McKinnon, had died and was buried in his own plot. In 1885, his widow, Margaret, buried a third child, the second Alexander Allan, who died from diphtheria at 5-years of age.⁵⁵ Margaret's two surviving sons, Donald Alex and Archie, were teenagers when the next burial took place.

In 1894, Angus McKinnon #2 was buried in Plot 70.⁵⁶ What was his

connection to Angus of Bridge End? Were their forebears from Eigg and Knoydart related? DNA testing has matched me with a granddaughter of Angus and Margaret's son Archie, from Hogansburg, but not yet with descendants of Angus and Margaret's son Archie, aged 43, was buried in Plot 70.⁵⁸ In 1903, Angus #2's unmarried son, James, aged 43, was buried in Plot 70.⁵⁸ In 1907, the widow of Angus #2, Jane Cuthbert, was the first woman interred in the plot, having survived her husband by 13 years.⁵⁹ The names of Angus #2, James and Jane Cuthbert were not inscribed on the headstone.

Alexander McKinnon and his wife, Catherine, were not named on the

stone either. Alexander and four other younger brothers of Angus of Bridge End became successful businessmen in Crookston, Minnesota. They are noted in Royce MacGillivray's *Dictionary of Glengarry Biography*.⁶⁰ Perhaps Alexander and his prosperous brothers paid for the stained glass window at St. Margaret's Church that is dedicated to Angus McKinnon.⁶¹ I suspect they also honoured their family back in Glengarry by funding the cemetery stone at St. Raphael's and the stone and perpetual care of Plot 70 at St. Margaret's. Alexander returned to Canada permanently around 1904. He died in Ottawa in 1922 but was buried in the family plot in Glen Nevis. His widow, Catherine McDonald, died in 1930.⁶² The following year, their sister-in-law, Margaret, also died.⁶³

"Mrs. Margaret McKinnon," her obituary stated, "was married to Angus McKinnon of Bridge End, who predeceased her 47 years ago."⁶⁴ Her name, Margaret McDonald, was engraved under his on the headstone. In 1938, their eldest son, Donald Alex McKinnon, was the last of the five McKinnon men to be buried in Plot 70.⁶⁵ His obituary described him as "very fond of his friends and much interested in public welfare, especially in his home community where he will be greatly missed."⁶⁶ His only brother, Archie, came from

Hogansburg, New York, for the funeral. Donald Alex left no children to inherit the family property near Bridge End. His widow, Jane Frances MacGillis, lived there for the next 27 years. In 1965, hers was the final name added to the stone in the cemetery of St. Margaret of Scotland Church.⁶⁷

This stone stands in memory of eleven members of two McKinnon families buried in the same grave in Glen Nevis, Ontario, over a span of eight decades. Both families are linked to historic emigrations from adjacent small regions in the Highlands of Scotland to Glengarry, Ontario. Each individual has a poignant personal story. To save them from obscurity, I have posted photos of Angus's cemetery stone and coffin plate on the *Find A Grave* website, linked to my public family tree on *Ancestry*.⁶⁸ I will continue to visit Glengarry County, a welcoming place where folks take family history seriously. If more secrets are revealed about Angus McKinnon's gravesite, another sequel could follow.

Reference Notes:

- 1 Alan Douglas MacKinnon and James A. MacKinnon, *The MacKINNONS/McKINNONS of Glengarry & Prescott 1st Ed* (Kamphaengphet, Thailand: Alan D. Mackinnon, 2012), 370.
- 2 Map of Glengarry County and Lancaster Township, from *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of*

- Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Ont.* (Toronto: H. Belden & Co.: 1879), CD and posters purchased April 2004 from Digital Collection Program, McGill University Libraries <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/>.
- 3 "Obituary: Mrs. Margaret McKinnon," *The Glengarry News*, 30 January 1931, online archives http://www.glengarrycountyarchives.ca/Glengarry_pdf/The-Glengarry-News/1931-1940/1931/Jan/01-30-1931.pdf: accessed 19 March 2019, page eight, col 3.
 - 4 MacKinnon, *The MacKINNONS/McKINNONS of Glengarry & Prescott 1st Ed*, 369.
 - 5 Carol Annett, "The Story on the Stone: Remembering Angus McKinnon." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Vol 16 No 3 (Fall 2010): 50-56.
 - 6 "Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747–1967," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.ca>: accessed 19 March 2019), citing St. Raphael's parish records [1869–1890], p. 236, Alexander Allan McKinnon, burial (d. 4 January 1879, age 4 days).
 - 7 *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 March 2019), memorial page for Archibald "Archie" McKinnon (1 Sep 1881–21 Nov 1945), Find A Grave Memorial no. 111600128, citing Saint Patrick Cemetery, Hogansburg, Franklin County, New York, USA; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8).
 - 8 "Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1747–1967," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.ca>), citing Glend Nevis [sic] parish records [1881–1899], p. 43, Angus Joseph McKinnon burial 6 April 1883.
 - 9 Glen Nevis, Ontario, St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Headstone inscription, "Angus McKinnon, Died 9 June 1883." No civil or parish record found.
 - 10 "Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747–1967," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.ca>), citing Glend Nevis [sic] parish records [1881–1899], p. 102, James [sic] Allan McKinnon burial 1 May 1885, age five years and four months. The child is not James Allan but Alexander Allan McKinnon (the second child of that name).
 - 11 "Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747–1967," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.ca>), citing Glend Nevis [sic] parish records [1899–1944], p. 176, Mrs. Margaret McKinnon burial (d. 15 January 1931); p. 230, Donald Alexander McKinnon burial (d. 3 September 1938).
 - 12 Glen Nevis, Ontario, cemetery of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Angus McKinnon stone inscription, "Jane Frances MacGillis, 1878–1965."
 - 13 Glengarry County, Ontario, Abstract Index of land records for the township of Lancaster Lot 12, Concession 6, page 27; Registration Number 1888, Instrument type, Deed: McDonald, R & wife, east half of 12-6 Lancaster to McKinnon, Archibald, 20 November 1873; Registration number 1993, Deed: McKinnon, Archibald, east half of 12-

- 6 Lancaster to McKinnon, Angus, 19 September 1874; Repository: Glengarry Archives at the Manor House, Williamstown, Ontario. Accessed June 2008.
- 14 Map of Lancaster Township, Glengarry County, from *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Ont.* (Toronto: H. Belden & Co.: 1879).
- 15 "Ontario, Canada Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection)," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 26 Feb 2019), citing Glend Nevis [sic], 1899–1944, entry for Alexander McKinnon husband of Catherine McDonald, died 12 May 1922 in Ottawa; and entry for Catherine McKinnon née McDonald (Capt.), relict of Alexander McKinnon, died 6 May 1930 in Ottawa.
- 16 "Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1747–1967," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.ca>), citing St. Raphael's parish records [1869–1890], p.259, Alexander Allan McKinnon, baptism (b. 16 December 1879.) This was the second child named Alexander Allan.
- 17 Glengarry County, Ontario, Abstract Index of land records for the Township of Lancaster Lot 12, Concession 6, page 27; Registration Number 3744, Instrument type, will; Angus McKinnon, a witnessed copy was registered on 22 June 1883 after the death of Angus McKinnon; Repository: Glengarry Archives at the Manor House, Williamstown, Ontario. Accessed June 2008. When the will was recorded on 9 January 1883, Angus named his four sons as Donald Alex, Alexander Allan, Archibald and Angus [Joseph].
- 18 "Ontario, Canada, Deaths and Deaths Overseas. 1869–1946," *Ancestry*, citing Archives of Ontario, Series MS935, Reel 42, Glengarry County, Lancaster, April 1885 to July 1885, p. 432: James Allan [sic] McKinnon, age 4 years; Robert Johnston, age 12 years; p. 433: William Gagne, age 2 years; John P Gagne age 6 years; Hortense Gagne, age six months; Martin Oliver Gagne, age 4 years; Ursula Valade, age 6 years; Oseline Valade, age 3 years; p. 434: Rosena Valade, age one year. Cause of death for all children was diphtheria. On p. 433, the registrar wrote comments about diphtheria. All the children were buried at St. Margaret of Scotland Church cemetery, Glen Nevis.
- 19 Glengarry County, Ontario, Abstract Index of land records for the township of Lancaster Lot 12, Concession 6, page 27; Registration Number 3744, Instrument type, will; Angus McKinnon.
- 20 Coffin plate for Angus McKinnon who died 9 June 1883. Privately held by Carol Annett, courtesy of Inez Franklin.
- 21 Lorine McGinnis Schulze, "Coffin Plates: An Overlooked Genealogy Resource," *Legacy News*, *Legacy Family Tree* (https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2015/10/coffin-plates-genealogy-resource.html: accessed 03 April 2019).
- 22 "Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1802–1967," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca),

- citing St. Raphels [sic] parish records, entry for Alexander McKinnon, son of Archibald McKinnon and Janet McGillis, born 5 March 1854.
- 23 “History of the great Northwest and its men of progress,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 April 2019), citing *History of the great Northwest and its men of progress: a select list of biographical sketches and portraits of the leaders in business, professional and official life*. Minneapolis: Minneapolis Journal, 1901, entry for Alexander McKinnon, p. 441-2. Left home in his fourteenth year.
- 24 “Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747–1967,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca), citing Glend Nevis [sic] parish records [1881–1899], p. 46, marriage of Alex McKinnon and Catherine McDonald, 22 April 1883.
- 25 “Angus Donald McKinnon,” *History of North Dakota Volume II*, Lewis F. Crawford (Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1931), p. 315. Mentions that Alexander McKinnon, father of Angus Donald McKinnon, returned to Canada in 1904.
- 26 MacKinnon, *The MacKINNONS/ McKINNONS of Glengarry & Prescott 1st Ed*, 57–59, Lachlan McKinnon; 37–3 Lochiel Township, Glengarry County.
- 27 Alan Murphy, *Footprint Scotland 3rd Edition* (Bath, UK: Footprint, 2003), p. 451. “The Small Isles, Eigg.”
- 28 “U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s–1900s”, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 December 2018), citing WHYTE, DONALD. *A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada before Confederation*, (Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society: 1986), Volume 1, p. 443. Family of Lachlan McKinnon, wife Catherine, children: John, Janet, Neil, Mary, Sarah, William, Donald, Charles, Flora and Christina, arrival year, 1790.
- 29 “Canadian Immigrant Records, Part Two,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 December 2018), National Archives of Canada (Ottawa): RGA1, vol. 48; reel C-3006, page 15874. List of passengers onboard the *British Queen* to Quebec; sailed from Arisaig August 16, 1790. Entry for Lachlan McKinnon, tenant from Cleadale; passage amount £15.9s.
- 30 Marianne McLean, *The People of Glengarry: Highlanders in Transition, 1745–1820* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1991), Emigration from Eigg 1790, p. 116-121; p. 182, “Eigg Road.”
- 31 J.M. Bumstead, *The People’s Clearance: Highland Emigration to British North America 1770–1815* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press and The University of Manitoba Press, 1882), p. 74, p. 242, Appendix B. Passenger List VII, *The British Queen*, 1790.
- 32 McLean, *The People of Glengarry*, p. 182, “Eigg Road.”
- 33 “St. Raphael’s Baptisms/Marriages/Deaths 1804–1835,” (Courtenay, B.C.: Alex W. Fraser and Rhoda P. Ross; ISBN 978092130778), John Macinin [sic] son of Lachlin McKinnon and

- Anne MacLachlan, daughter of Angus MacLachlan, were married at St. Raphael's, Glengarry County on February 18, 1805.
- 34 Duncan Darby MacDonald, *St. Raphael's 1804–1854* (Milton, Ontario, MacDonald Research/ Genealogy.com Inc.: 2010), Birth of Angus McKinnon 26 Feb 1811.
- 35 Duncan Darby MacDonald *Diary of Deaths* (Milton, Ontario, MacDonald Research/ Genealogy.com Inc.: 2010), MacKinnon, John son of Laclin [sic], 12 May 1845.
- 36 "Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1802–1967," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 18 February 2019), entry for Angus McKinnon, son of John McKinnon and deceased McLauchlin and Jane Cuthbert, daughter of James Cuthbert and deceased McDonald, who were married 6 September 1842 at Alexandria, Ontario.
- 37 "Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 25 August 2013), Alexandria, Ontario, entry for Kenneth James McKinnon, born 7 June 1860 to Angus McKinnon and Jane Cuthbert, 4–4 Kenyon (refers to Lot 4 Concession 4 Kenyon Township).
- 38 Sue Daniel McKinnon, *Our McKinnons, The Isle of Eigg and Canada, 1987* (Glengarry County Archives, Alexandria, Ontario; Alex W. Fraser fonds, Reference code F 174-0-0-52, "McKinnon Family of Lochiel": accessed 06 March 2019). Angus McKinnon, born 1811 to John McKinnon (son of Lachlan McKinnon and Catherine MacDonald) and Catherine Anne MacLachlan.
- 39 Paul Luscombe, *McKinnon Family History, descendant list Lachlan/ Lauchlan McKinnon (McInnis)*, sent to Carol Annett by email 04 May 2004. Angus McKinnon, born 1811 to John McKinnon (son of Lachlan McKinnon and Catherine MacDonald) and Catherine Anne MacLauchlan.
- 40 Scotland, "1851 Census Returns," *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk: accessed 04 February 2018), County Inverness, Parish of Glenelg, citing MCKENNON, ANGUS (Census 097/ 6/ 15), age 2.
- 41 "Church Registers: Catholic Banns and Marriages," *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk: accessed 29 April 2019), (1848 MCKINNON, ARCHD - GILLIES, JANNET DONALD (Catholic Registers Banns and Marriages MP 93 1 1 1 24, Morar, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour). Jannet (known as Janet) was Archibald's second wife.
- 42 Dom Odo Blundell, *The Catholic Highlands of Scotland: Volume 1: The Central Highlands, and Volume 2: The Western Highlands and Islands* (Edinburgh: Sands & Co., v.1, 1909; v.2, 1917), v.1, map insert of Catholic Highlands of Scotland; and v.2, Knoydart, pages 62-85. Accessed on *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org/details/catholichighland02/blnuoft0>).
- 43 Alan Murphy, *Footprint Scotland 3rd Edition* (Bath, UK: Footprint, 2003), p. 451, "Eigg."

- 44 Eric Richards, *The Highland Clearances* (Edinburgh: Birlinn Limited, 2002), 259. The Knoydart clearances, 1853.
- 45 Denis Rixson, *Knoydart: A History* (Edinburgh: Birlinn Books, 1999), p. 133. The 1853 Clearance, Knoydart.
- 46 Carol Annett, "Picturing Knoydart Then and Now." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Vol 20 No 3 (Fall 2014): 25-34. The story of the family of Archibald McKinnon.
- 47 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Ontario* (1972 Offset Edition), Introduction mentions "Roman Catholic Highlanders were allotted to Glengarry, adjacent to their French co-religionists in Quebec."
- 48 Marianne McLean, *The People of Glengarry*, p. 165, 250. Crofters from Knoydart to Glengarry in 1850s; "Area called 'Little Knoydart'".
- 49 Glengarry County, Ontario, Abstract Index of land records for the Township of Lancaster Lot 12, Concession 6, page 27: see note 13.
- 50 "Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1802–1967," Ancestry (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 June 2019), citing St. Coloman Catholic Church, Cornwall, Ontario; entry for marriage of Angus McKinnon and Margaret McDonald, married 25 July 1876.
- 51 Burial of Alexander Allan #1 in 1979: see note 6.
- 52 Carol Annett, "The Luck of the Scots," *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Vol 15 No 1 Spring 2009, 1-5. Discovering the McKinnon cemetery stone at St. Raphael's cemetery.
- 53 "Excerpts from a booklet prepared for the 100th anniversary of our parish," St. Margaret of Scotland, Glen Nevis, Ontario, webpage (www.catholic-church.org/stmargaret/history/glennevis-centennial.htm: accessed 21 March 2019), the parish was founded 13 June 1882.
- 54 Burial of Angus Joseph McKinnon 1883: see note 8.
- 55 Burial of Alexander Allan #2 in 1885: see notes 10 and 18.
- 56 "Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection)," Ancestry (www.ancestry.com: accessed 18 August 2013), citing Glend Nevis [sic], entry for Angus McKinnon, buried 24 May 1894 at St. Margaret's cemetery, Glen Nevis.
- 57 "AncestryDNA results for cannett59 (Carol Annett)," database report, AncestryDNA (http://ancestry.ca/dna/matches: accessed 07 May 2018, predicting 4th cousin genetic match with user C.M. at very high confidence level sharing 47 cM across 2 segments. According to her family tree, C.M. is a daughter of Kenneth McKinnon, the son of Archibald McKinnon, the son of Angus McKinnon. C.M.'s nearest common ancestor with Carol Annett is Carol's great-great-great-grandfather, also named Archibald McKinnon, who was the father of Angus 'Bridge End' McKinnon. The proven relationship between Carol

- Annett and C.M. is 3rd half-cousin once removed.
- 58 "Browse The Glengarry News," database, *Glengarry County Archives* (www.glengarrycountyarchives.ca: accessed 27 February 2019), citing *The News*, Alexandria, Ontario, Vol XII, no 43, Friday, November 20, 1903, page 1; Obituary for James K. McKinnon.
- 59 "Ontario French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1747–1967," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.ca>: accessed 25 August 2013), citing Glend Nevis [sic] parish records [1899–1944], p. 34, entry for Mrs. Angus McKinnon née Cuthbert, relict of the late Angus McKinnon, who died 9 February 1907, Lot No 26, 4th Con. of Lancaster aged about 88 years.
- 60 Royce MacGillivray, *Dictionary of Glengarry Biography* (Alexandria, Ontario: Glengarry Historical Society: 2010), p. 472-473. Five brothers named McKinnon active in Crookston, Minnesota.
- 61 Telephone conversation in February 2019 between Leighton McDonell and Carol Annett. Leighton mentioned that there is an anonymously donated stained glass window in St. Margaret of Scotland Church dedicated to Angus McKinnon.
- 62 Burials of Alexander McKinnon and Catherine McKinnon: see note 15.
- 63 Burial of Margaret McDonald: see note 11.
- 64 Obituary of Margaret McDonald: see note 3.
- 65 Burial of Donald A. McKinnon: see note 11.
- 66 "Browse The Glengarry News," database, *Glengarry County Archives*, online archives (http://www.glengarrycountyarchives.ca/Glengarry_pdf/The-Glengarry-News/1931-1940/1938/Sep/09-16-1938.pdf: accessed 12 June 2019), "Mr. Donald A. McKinnon Paid Final Tribute," 16 September 1938, page 5, col 4.
- 67 Death of Jane Frances MacGillis: see note 12.
- 68 *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 24 March 2019), memorial page for Angus McKinnon (1848–9 Jun 1883), Find A Grave Memorial no. 197500408, citing Glen Nevis Cemetery, Glen Nevis, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry United Counties, Ontario, Canada; Maintained by Carol Annett (contributor 49469655).

Acknowledgments:

The author acknowledges the generous assistance of Glengarry County residents Inez Franklin, Mallory Franklin and Leighton McDonell. Thanks are also due to Allan J. MacDonald, archivist at the Glengarry County Archives, who provided research material at the Archives and identified the coffin plate. All names appear with permission.

© 2019 Carol Annett

Postcards from Around the World: Part IV[©]



BY BARBARA TOSE

*Barbara has written about the postcards her grandfather, Tom Tose, sent his sweetheart, Olive Burdick Trott, while travelling worldwide on a merchant ship, in the Summer 2018, Fall 2018 and Summer 2019 issues of ACR. Part IV concludes his journeys on the *Gloriana* and the postcards he sent prior to his marriage to Olive.*

In the last issue, we left the *Gloriana* in Philadelphia. It was a quick turnaround, not long enough for Tom to get to Canada and visit his sweetheart.

Before returning the crew agreement papers to the ship's master, the Vice Consul, Hugh Alex Ford, notes that the "average rate of exchange during this Vessel's stay at this port for bills on England at three days sight was \$4.86 to the £ Sterling."¹

Just where they went next was a mystery which I needed to solve. Above the next clear entry for Aarhus, Denmark is another consular stamp (Figure 1). Unfortunately, the stamp's place name, unlike the others, is not at all visible. However, the date the stamps were applied is quite clear, written by hand over the image which I presume represents King George V: 31/1/13. A clue was given in what remains of the Vice Consul's written words. Starting in mid-sentence it

Figure 1: British Consular stamp dated 31/1/13

Source: BT 99 Crew Agreement, *Gloriana*, 16 August 1912–15 March 1913



stated, "he has signed the same in my presence" (Figure 2). Puzzling over this problem, it suddenly hit me that someone had signed on to the agreement at this port!

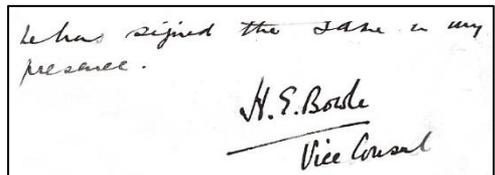


Figure 2: Consul's note: "who signed the same in my presence"

Source: BT 99 Crew Agreement, *Gloriana*, 16 August 1912–15 March 1913

I quickly shuffled my papers to look at the particulars of engagement, in which each man signs on and off the agreement as he joins and leaves the ship. There, at the very bottom

of page six, was James W. Coffman, age 22, from Harrisburg, Pa., formerly of the *Holland*, who signed onto the *Gloriana* 31/1/13 in Baltimore! (Figure 3)

Before realizing the above, I attempted to find the 1913 Vice Consul, H.G. Bowle online. Unfortunately, I didn't locate him, but I did find a useful resource for any-

89	James W. Coffman	22	Holland	(1)	Harrisburg, Pa	1913	American	31/1/13	Baltimore
40				(2)					
				(3)					
				(4)					

Figure 3: Engagement details for James W Coffman, 31/1/13

Source: Source: BT 99 Crew Agreement, *Gloriana*, 16 August 1912–15 March 1913

For some unknown reason, the top half of the last page of this agreement is missing. What would have appeared in that half are the details of the stop in Baltimore and, on the other side of the page, possibly another port after Kolding, Denmark and some of the details of their final stop in Antwerp. However, thanks to James Coffman, I know that they stopped in Baltimore before they headed back to Europe.

one looking for British Consulate personnel. *A Directory of British Diplomats*,² compiled by Colin Machie, is available for free, online at https://issuu.com/fcohistorians/docs/bdd_part_1_with_covers/84. Part 1 is arranged alphabetically by the surnames of the diplomats.

The journey back to Europe took slightly longer than their fall 1912 voyage west from Fowey to Philadelphia. The *Gloriana* departed Baltimore on the 31 January and

arrived in Aarhus, Denmark on the 27 February 1913. Aarhus is located on the east coast of the Jutland Peninsula and boasts a natural harbour which has made it a centre for seaborne trade for centuries.³

The *Gloriana* was only in port for a few days but Tom took the opportunity to send a couple of postcards to Olive. One of



Figure 4: Greetings from Denmark, Danish Coat of Arms

Source: All postcards are from the author's collection

two with “Hilsen fra Danmark” (Greetings from Denmark) on the front, shows the flag and coat of arms of Denmark (Figure 4). On the back, Tom jokes “This is the Adelaide coat of Arms. [Adelaide, Ontario is where Olive was living at the time.] Don’t suppose there is any (eh). Whitby is three headless snakes on shield.”

more time on his hands for he sent quite a few cards to Olive from this city. Teasing Olive is a common occurrence in Tom’s cards. There are two overviews of the city from the Tivoli amusement park. On the back of one he writes “View of Kolding. Something like Strathroy in the distance. Be good I mean you not me Miss Trott.” On the back of

the second view (Figure 6), he comments on the weather—“Should say, quite nice around here in the Summer, but now its [sic] too cold to get around even if my girlie was here Sweet Repose.”

He also chose a couple of different postcards to send to his fiancée.

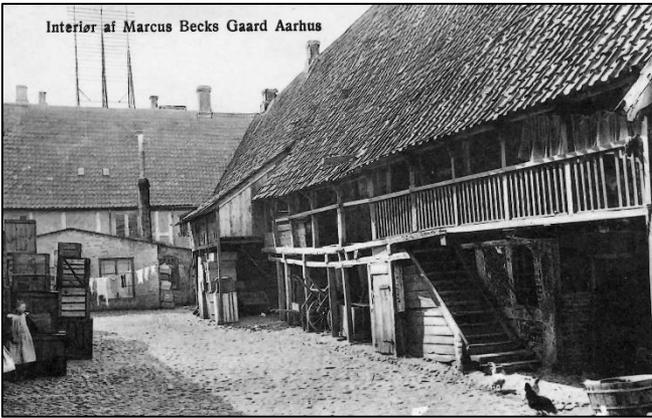


Figure 5: Marcus Beck’s farm, Aarhus, Denmark

On the reverse of a fine view of the interior of Marcus Beck’s farm (Figure 5), now a Danish cultural heritage site, Tom again jokes, “Olives [sic] bungalow, Whitby, quite a nice place on balcony to sling your hammock. forget [sic] now if there are any houses in A—[Adelaide] similar. Oh, that tease.”



Figure 6: Udsigt fra Tivoli, Kolding, Denmark

After just two days they moved down the coast to Kolding, arriving on 27 February. Tom must have had

One is titled “Spillekortssprog” and sports a couple kissing within a

heart in the centre surrounded by playing cards (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Spillekortssprog

On the back Tom has written “Spillekortssprog means language of cards” and gives the meanings of each (Figure 8), noting along one side that “Our super cargo a dane [sic] of course just translated the lot. Gee Whiz.” (I don’t know if I’ve noted this before, but Tom was not big on proper punctuation!)

A second card has a photograph of some castle ruins surrounded by an array of colourful Danish stamps (Figure 9). On the back Tom has written “All the Danish stamps quite an assortment (eh) There is 100 ores in 1

shilling and 3 half pennys [sic] or 24 cents.”

The final one from Kolding shows a train with a painting of what I believe is a train station on the front of the engine with the words “Rejsehilsen fra Kolding” (Greetings from Kolding) underneath it (Figure 10). There are three bands (red, white and red) around the smokestack, a brass “plate” in front of that and what looks like brass trim around the windows and parts of the engine. Tom explains “All the trains are owned by the government & they carry the red band round Smokestack.”

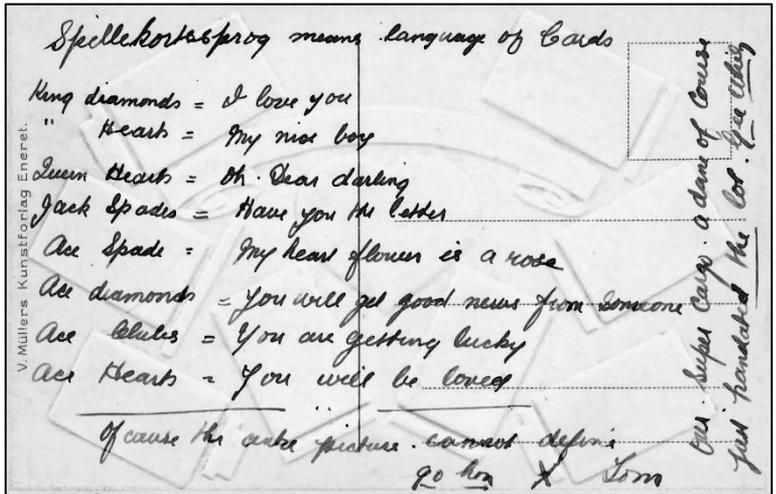


Figure 8: The language of cards

None of the cards Tom sent Olive seem overly romantic, nor is what Tom wrote anything but lighthearted teasing or interesting tidbits of information about the places he visited. Perhaps he saved the more

serious things for longer letters which did not survive. Still, these cards must have meant a great deal to Olive for her to keep them all those years.

WRECKSITE,⁵ a website providing information on ships' histories, states that the *Gloriana* was sold in 1913 to a Belgian company and that she worked out of Antwerp after the



Figure 9: Danish stamps, Kolding, Denmark

From Kolding the *Gloriana* may have stopped at Nakskov, another Danish port nearby. I have post-cards from there, but with no indication of dates on the cards and no crew agreement entries to prove it, I cannot say with any certainty that they stopped at Nakskov.

What I do know is that the *Gloriana* left Kolding on 3 March and ended up in Antwerp, Belgium sometime before the 15th of that month. It was in Antwerp on 15 March that the whole crew was discharged.

The Crew Agreement Index⁴ at the Maritime History Archives in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador indicates no further crew agreements for the *Gloriana* (ship number 119869) until 1923. The

she would have been foreign-owned at that point, there might not have been crew agreements filed under the British system. She may have been used during the war as a transport vessel for either men or munitions. Or the records for those years might simply reside

elsewhere, such as at The National Archives (Kew) or the National Maritime Museum (Greenwich), but I have yet to find records for voyages during that ten-year gap.

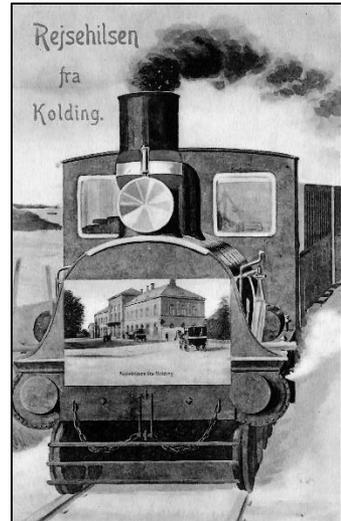


Figure 10: Rejsehilsen fra Kolding

What happened to the crew? They were paid off, receiving the balance of their wages due, their discharge papers and possibly letters of recommendation. It was obvious that Tom was saving for something big. He was being paid £10 per month; the second mate received £8. 10s per month. Yet Tom received £52 5s 6½d in accumulated pay, while his fellow officer received only £15 14s 1d for the same period worked.

Once discharged, the crew would have to find work on another vessel or pay their own way home, as per the agreement they had signed the year before. British sailors could sometimes find a cheap ride home on another ship, but most just found another ship requiring crew and signed on until they reached home or until the termination of the crew agreement.

Tom must have made his way home to England one way or the other, then traveled onward to Canada. According to information my grandmother passed on to my mother,⁶ Tom arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on the *Rappahannock*, another ship owned by the Furness Withy & Co. Ltd. for whom Tom had been working. He may have worked his way to Canada, which would explain why I haven't found him on any passenger lists. He must have arrived earlier than the June he spoke of in his earlier postcards, for Tom and Olive

were married from her uncle's home in Adelaide village on 6 May 1913.⁷ Following their marriage, they visited friends and relatives and did some travelling. At the end of June, they left Halifax, landing in London 10 days later. They visited Tom's sisters in Stockton-on-Tees and Whitby, North Yorkshire, and cousins in Newcastle. They rented a house for 1 September in his hometown of Whitby. Tom later dubbed this house "Adelaide Villa," just as he had referred to Olive's Adelaide home as "Whitby Villa."

On 30 December 1913, Tom was in Leith, Scotland, where he signed on board the *Pennine Range* for a voyage of three year's duration.⁸ He gave his home address as 20 Esk Terrace in Whitby. For the first time in his career, Tom had his own home to list as his address, rather than his mother's or sister's.

If the First World War hadn't come along, my life might have been very different. On 15 and 16 December 1914 the Germans shelled Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby, all on the northeast coast of Britain. Fifty shells were fired at Whitby's signal station and the town.⁹ The raid started just after 9 a.m. on the 16th and lasted 10 minutes. Only three people in Whitby were killed but the two-day raid killed 137 people in total and injured another 592. Houses along Esk Terrace sustained damage though Olive was

lucky—only the windows were shaken out of number 20.

Tom was concerned for Olive's safety. He had been put on a regular munitions run between London and Philadelphia and Olive had a half-brother in Ontario who was dying from tuberculosis. And so it was decided that Olive would return to Canada. She left on the *Grampian* in April 1915. She lived with relatives and friends in Adelaide and traveled to Philadelphia every six weeks to see Tom.

On 8 March 1917, Tom's ship, the *East Point*¹⁰ was torpedoed and sunk about nine miles from the Eddystone Lighthouse, while carrying a general cargo from London to Philadelphia. The crew took to the lifeboats; no *East Point* casualties were reported.

At this point, Tom decided to wait for another ship from Canada. In October 1917, he and Olive moved to the farm she had inherited from her half-brother near Camlachie in Plympton Township. There Tom tried his hand at farming but apparently wasn't much of a farmer, although he was an active member of the community for around 10 years. My father was born in 1926 and a brother, Kenneth William, was stillborn in 1927.

According to Olive, Tom eventually returned to work on lakers, then he piloted on the *St. Lawrence*. Finally,

he returned to ocean-going vessels but this time only as an able-bodied seaman, not as first mate. I discovered him on his last working voyage when his ship, the *Tremorvah*, stopped in New York City on its way to Buenos Aires.¹¹ By the time he got to Buenos Aires, he was too ill to carry on working and was left in hospital there. A month or more later, he returned to England on board the *Arlanza*¹² as a "Disabled British Seaman" (D.B.S.). Upon his return, he was admitted to the Greenwich Seaman's Hospital, where he died 10 March 1936.¹³ Olive was informed of his death by the local minister but could not go to England nor afford to bring his body to Canada. He was buried in the plot his brother-in-law had purchased for his wife, Tom's sister Adelaide, and himself. Neither Olive nor my father ever saw Tom's grave, but at my Dad's request, we scattered some of his ashes on his father's grave.

Whether Tom continued to send postcards to Olive as he traveled the globe and Olive just didn't preserve them, or whether he stopped writing to her once he had won and married her, I will never know. But I'm thankful to my grandmother and mother for preserving these glimpses into Tom's and Olive's lives and the views of the past they provide.

Reference Notes:

¹ BT 99 Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Agreements and Crew Lists, Series II, *Gloriana*, Ship No. 119869, 16 August 1912–15 March 1913. Maritime History Archives, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. All references to movements of the ship and crew come from this Agreement and Crew List.

² Colin Mackie (compiler), *Directory of British Diplomats* (London, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, 2013, updated 3 February 2014), available online at https://issuu.com/fcohistorians/docs/bdd_part_1_with_covers/84 accessed 6 August 2019.

³ *Wikipedia*, Aarhus; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aarhus>, accessed 12 August 2019.

⁴ Crew List Index (ship number 119869), Maritime History Archives, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland. https://www.mun.ca/mha/holdings/viewcombinedcrews.php?Official_No=119869; accessed 16 August 2019.

⁵ WRECKSITE, <https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?141390>, accessed 10 August 2019; *Gloriana*, Ship number 119869: 1913 Antwerpsche Zeevaart Mij. - D' Haene J. & Co., based in Antwerp, purchased the *Gloriana* from Furness Withy & Co., West Hartlepool and renamed her *Remier*. This may explain why there are no crew agreements listed in the Crew List Index for ship number 119869 (although her name changed, her official number did not) from 1913 to 1923 and why Tom had to find another

way home. However, the Maritime Crew List Index does not include all agreements and crew lists held by many institutions elsewhere, including The National Archives or The National Maritime Museum. I have not yet been able to check these locations for possible agreements for the *Gloriana*. Read more about the *Gloriana's* history and fate at WRECKSITE at <https://www.wrecksite.eu/ownerBuilderView.aspx?3372>.

⁶ Notes in the author's possession taken by Norma Tose of conversations with Olive (Burdick) Tose 1950–1961. What is known of Tom and Olive's movements following their marriage comes from these notes.

⁷ Ontario marriage certificate in the author's possession.

⁸ BT 99 Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Agreements and Crew Lists, Series II, *Pennine Range*, Ship No. 114656, commencing 30 December 1913. Maritime History Archives, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

⁹ History of War website, "Whitby Raid," 16 December 1914; http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/raid_whitby1914.html; accessed 16 August 2019.

¹⁰ Great War Forum, reply to Falloden query by Lancashire Fusilier, 17 May 2014. <https://www.greatwarforum.org/topic/211646-sinking-of-ss-east-point-and-death-of-u-48-captain/>; accessed 16 August 2019.

¹¹ *Ancestry*, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820–1957, *Tremorvah*,

arrival 22 September 1935; accessed 5 September 2010.

¹² *Ancestry*, U.K. Incoming Passenger Lists 1878–1960, *Arlanza*, arrival 14 January 1936, Southampton; accessed 5 September 2010.

¹³ Death certificate in the author's possession, issued by the General Register Office (GRO) for England and Wales. TOSE, Thomas William, GRO ref.: 1936 Mar qtr, Greenwich, Vol. 01D, Pg. 1112.

© 2019 Barbara Tose

We Shall Remember Them

Private Henry George Chamberlain[©]

Regimental Number: 20655

2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

born: 1878 – died: 20 April 1918

BY LYNDA GIBSON

Lynda is a former Director of Research and Projects on the BIFHSGO Board of Directors and one of the volunteers researching soldiers who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. In this biography, Lynda tells of a young man who became a hero despite a life of loss and trouble with the law.

Henry Chamberlain likely had a difficult childhood, having been born to an unwed mother who died when he was about 17 and having run “a-fowl” of the constabulary shortly before he signed up for the War. Nevertheless, he became a dedicated and valiant soldier, earning a Distinguished Conduct Medal just months before his untimely death. Much of the personal information in this biography may be found in *Herts at War, Great War Commemoration*.¹

Henry had been born in 1878 to Rose Chamberlain in Pirton, Hertfordshire, England; he was christened on Christmas Day.² Rose was one

of seven children of Thomas Chamberlain and Dinah Odell, who had married on 7 June 1843 at Hitchin, a town close to Pirton.³ Rose's youngest sister, Elizabeth, who was born in 1866, about a decade after Rose,⁴ became an important person in Henry's life, particularly after the death of his mother Rose.

It appears that Rose had two other children, also out of wedlock: Albert Thomas, who had been born on 11 June 1879 in Pirton⁵ but did not appear on any future census with his mother; and Ellen, who was born in 1888⁶ in Hitchin but died early in 1890.⁷

In 1881, toddler Henry was living with his grandparents, mother, uncle Hezekiah and aunt Elizabeth. Grandfather Thomas was then a retired agricultural labourer and Hezekiah was an agricultural labourer, but all of the women were straw plaiters.⁸ Straw plaiting, the making of hats and bonnets from wheat straw, had been quite important to the Hertfordshire economy from at least the early 17th century. Being close to London was likely an important factor, but it may also have been that the wheat straw grown on chalky soil was of better quality for this purpose. The heyday of straw plaiting was during the Napoleonic wars, when blockades and high import duties excluded foreign plait. Wives plaiting straw could make appreciably more income than their farmer husbands. However, by the beginning of the 20th century the industry had sharply declined and by the end of the First World War, the local Hertfordshire plaiting industry was ending.⁹

In 1891, Henry was living with his mother, aunt Elizabeth and grandmother Dinah in Pirton. The women continued to work as straw plaiters.¹⁰ Thomas, who was 72, is not shown on the 1891 Census, but he passed away early in 1894,¹¹ when Henry was about 15. A year later Rose also died at the age of 38.¹² The death of his grandmother Dinah early in 1900 at the age of



Figure 1: Photo of Henry George Chamberlain, DCM

Source: "Pirton," *Herts at War*

82¹³ left Henry relying on his aunt Elizabeth and her husband, Fred Gazeley.

In 1901, Henry was living with Elizabeth, his two-year-old niece Mary Rose and his infant nephew Frederick.¹⁴ Although Elizabeth is noted as married, not widowed, Fred is not shown in the census. Henry was an agricultural labourer. By 1911, Elizabeth was a 44-year-old widow with two young children, and Henry, her 32-year-old nephew, was still living with her. He remained a farm labourer.¹⁵

In early October 1914, the *Hitchin Express* described a "fowl" incident for which Henry was found guilty. He had apparently been in the local public house, perhaps having

consumed a few too many pints. There had been a number of fowl robberies in the town recently and the police were paying special attention to the “fowl-runs,” which are small enclosures for poultry. Just before 10 o’clock one evening, two special constables, wearing arm bands identifying them as such, entered the establishment and were immediately threatened with violence should they be caught around one defendant’s fowl-runs that evening. The article appears to imply that this gentleman may have been suspected as being a fowl thief. He, with Henry and another fellow, followed the constables outside where the constables were accosted. Henry pleaded guilty to striking one constable in the face and the other on the shoulder, and to using obscene language. He was fined £2 7s 6d or one month in jail (this was a very large sum of money for an agricultural labourer.)

In addition, later that night in another part of town, Henry was charged with assaulting a Mrs. Hubbard. She had been awakened by police whistles and shouts of “police,” “murder,” and “help.” She went out to the back lane and saw three men, including Henry, who were threatening her husband. Mrs. Hubbard spoke up against Henry hitting her husband and Henry “sprang at her and grasped her

shoulder. Then he struck at her, but her husband stepped in front and received the blow on his eye.” For his rashness, Henry was fined an additional £1 or 14 days in jail.¹⁶ The article did not say whether Henry paid the fines or spent six weeks in jail.

It seems that a few months after this incident, Henry joined the war effort at Hitchin. Regrettably, only about 30 percent of UK service records still exist due to a fire caused by a 1940 air raid on the Army Records Office in Walworth, London;¹⁷ it appears that Henry’s records were not saved. As a result, it was impossible to obtain certain specifics of Henry’s military experience. Henry initially enlisted with the 12th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and eventually was transferred to the 2nd Battalion.¹⁸

The *North Herts Mail* dated 1 July 1916 and the *Pirton Parish Magazine* of September 1915 both state that Henry joined one of the Suffolk Bantam Brigades. This indicates that Henry was of small stature (likely less than 5 feet 3 inches), as men of such stature were not accepted for service at the outbreak of the war.¹⁹ Indeed, the 12th Battalion was raised in July 1915 as a bantam battalion. It proceeded to France on 6 June 1916, landing at Le Havre.²⁰

Early in 1917, Henry was badly injured and was returned to England to convalesce, but he was returned to France in July of that year.²¹

20655 Pte. H.G. CHAMBERLAIN (Hitchin)
For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During operations an enemy aeroplane flew low over our lines and fired a white light, which was answered by a hostile sniper near by. Entirely on his own initiative he went in search of the sniper, found three in a shell-hole, killed them all, and returned with Very lights and a trench lamp. He afterwards accounted for three more snipers lying out for hours in No Man's Land, and stalking them when they declared themselves. (6.2.18)

Citation of Distinguished Conduct Medal

Source: *Ancestry*

Henry received a Distinguished Conduct Medal²² (commonly referred to as the DCM), the next highest award to the Victoria Cross, for his gallant conduct at Zonnebeke, a municipality in the Belgian province of West Flanders. This would have occurred during the Third Battle of Ypres or the Battle of Passchendaele in late 1917. The Suffolk Regiment Museum has an account written by Colonel C. C. R. Murphy identifying the likely date of the event as 27 September 1917, for the 2nd Suffolks had captured Zonnebeke on the 26th.²³ The Allied forces were fighting to fend off advancing German forces during one of the bloodiest battles of the Great War. The fighting was particularly bad in the Zonnebeke area. At the height of

the battle, more than 35,000 soldiers were surviving underground in the Ypres area. This battle lasted 100 days, claimed half a million casualties for the sake of a

five-mile advance. *The Telegraph* recently reported, "Thunderous rain turned the battlefield into a quagmire of mud that drowned tanks, horses and men as they tried to reclaim the high ground at Passchendaele and push the Germans back from the coast, in order to

destroy their submarine bases that threatened Britain's supply lines and the American reinforcements arriving by ship."²⁴

Henry's receipt of the DCM was unusual in that he was but a private. His actions were described in a number of newspaper articles and the award citation was published in *The London Gazette* on 23 November 1917.²⁵

Other local newspapers expanded upon Henry's bravery: "He was further instrumental in the capture of a 'pill-box' containing twelve Huns, who had been overlooked by the front line troops. He also bayoneted several Germans who feigned death."²⁶ (A pill-box was a concrete guard post with loopholes [slits] through which to fire

weapons. They were often part of a trench system, camouflaged to conceal their location.²⁷ One can only imagine Henry's fortitude after being injured and fighting, constantly under fire by the enemy for several years in horrendous situations and conditions, especially the months in torrential downpours, surviving in mud-laden trenches, and with so many of his comrades killed and injured while fighting next to him.



Figure 2: Grave marker of Private Henry George Chamberlain, DCM

Source: *Find A Grave*

Sadly, Henry was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 20 April 1918 with shrapnel wounds and a fracture of his head. He died later that day.²⁸ The war diary for the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment reported a quiet day on 20 April, while still identifying two other ranks (non-officers) killed and six injured.²⁹ Henry was buried at Pernes British Cemetery on 21 April in Plot 1, Row C, Grave 2 with Chaplain G. d'Easum presiding.³⁰ His grave marker contains the additional quote selected by his aunt Elizabeth: God is Love, In Paradise.³¹ Pernes British Cemetery was not opened until April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations pulled back to Pernes, driven back by the German advance in Flanders. There are 1,098 First World War burials in Pernes.³²

Reference Notes

We extend many thanks to Jonty Wild, co-author of *The Pride of Pirton*, for providing copies of newspaper clippings, excerpts from the book, and other supporting documents and photographs.

- 1 "Pirton," *Herts at War* (<http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk>: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Henry George Chamberlain DCM.
- 2 "England & Wales, Christening Index, 1530-1980," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Henry George Chamberlain.

- ³ “England & Wales Marriages, 1538–1988,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Thomas Chamberlain, Marriage Place: Pirton, Hertfordshire, England.
- ⁴ “1881 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Elizabeth Chamberlain, Registration district: Hitchin, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 28, Piece: 1421, Folio: 97, Page: 30.
- ⁵ “England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Albert Thomas Chamberlain, FHL film number: 1040655. Albert’s death could not be found in GRO, but there is an interesting hint on *Ancestry* for an Albert Thomas Chamberlain in the 1911 England Census, born about 1879 in Pirton. GRO shows only one such Albert Thomas Chamberlain being born in 1879. Could Albert have been raised by his father or another relative?
- ⁶ “GRO online index,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 December 2017) entry for Chamberlain, Ellen, Volume 03A, Page 499.
- ⁷ “GRO online index,” *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 27 December 2017) entry for Chamberlain, Ellen, Volume 03A, Page 329.
- ⁸ See endnote 4.
- ⁹ “Occupations, The History of Straw Plait in Hertfordshire,” *Genealogy in Hertfordshire* (<http://www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk/data/occupations/straw-plait.htm>: accessed 27 December 2017).
- ¹⁰ “1891 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Henry Chamberlain, Registration district: Hitchin, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 27, Piece: 1108, Folio: 208.
- ¹¹ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Thomas Chamberlain, Registration district: Hitchin, Inferred county: Hertfordshire, Volume: 3a, Page: 338.
- ¹² “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Rose Chamberlain, Registration district: Hitchin, Inferred county: Hertfordshire, Volume: 3a, Page: 272.
- ¹³ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Dinah Chamberlain, Registration district: Hitchin, Inferred county: Hertfordshire, Volume: 3a, Page: 330.
- ¹⁴ “1901 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Elizabeth Gazeley, Registration district: Hitchin, Sub-registration district: Hitchin, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 25, Household schedule number: 124, Piece: 1300, Folio: 189, Page: 22.
- ¹⁵ “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 27 December 2017), entry for Elizabeth Gazeley, Registration district:

- Hitchin, Registration district number: 136, Sub-registration district: Hitchin, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 21, Household schedule number: 35, Piece: 7610.
- ¹⁶ See endnote 1. Excerpts from an article entitled “War Against Special Constables” published by the *Hitchin Express* in October 1914 is found in the book *The Pride of Pirton* by Tony French, Chris Ryan and Jonty Wild. Excerpts were kindly provided by Jonty Wild.
- ¹⁷ “How to research a soldier,” *The Long, Long Trail, The British Army in the Great War of 1914–1918* (<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/>: accessed 30 May 2017).
- ¹⁸ “UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 28 December 2017), entry for Henry George Chamberlain.
- ¹⁹ See endnote 1. Excerpts from *The Pride of Pirton*.
- ²⁰ “12th (East Anglia) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment during the Great War,” *The Wartime Memories Project* (<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion.php?pid=7311>: accessed 27 December 2017).
- ²¹ See endnote 1. Newspaper article dated 4 May 1918 entitled *Pirton D.C.M. Hero Killed*.
- ²² “UK, Citations of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 28 December 2017), entry for H.G. Chamberlain.
- ²³ *Ibid.* Excerpts from *The Pride of Pirton*.
- ²⁴ “Battle of Passchendaele: horror, heroism and a hidden underground city,” *The Telegraph*, by Emma Thomson, 31 July 2017 (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/tours/passchendaele-how-to-visit-battlefield-tour/>: accessed 28 December 2017).
- ²⁵ See endnote 1. Excerpts from *The Pride of Pirton*.
- ²⁶ See endnote 1. Clip of a newspaper article from an unnamed publication dated 18 February 1918 entitled *Pirton Man’s Exploit*.
- ²⁷ “Pillbox (military),” *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillbox_\(military\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillbox_(military)): accessed 28 December 2017).
- ²⁸ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 28 December 2017), entry for Chamberlain Pte. H.
- ²⁹ “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 28 December 2017), entry for 2nd Battn. The Suffolk Regiment.
- ³⁰ See endnote 28.
- ³¹ *Find A Grave* (www.findagrave.com: accessed 28 December 2017) entry for Private Henry George Chamberlain, D.C.M.
- ³² *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 6 October 2017), entry for Chamberlain, H. G., Service No: 20655.

© 2017 BIFHSGO

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

DNA

Blaine Bettinger is coming to the Society's 25th Anniversary Conference in good time to sign

copies of the updated 2nd edition of his acclaimed book *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*. Expanded to 272 pages from the 240-page 1st edition, Global Genealogy will have copies for sale. They'll also have copies of another 2019 publication to which Blaine contributed—*Advanced Genetic Genealogy*, intended for those who are truly at, or who aspire to be at, an advanced level.

Another new DNA book, this one by a group of UK authors, is *Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide for Family Historians*. Chris Paton at British GENES and Peter Calver in his *Lost Cousins* newsletter both give it a thumbs-up. I agree. As with all rapidly developing fields, there is some dated material—for instance, *AncestryDNA* no longer provides *DNA Circles*.

BIFHSGO member Mags Gauden from Grandma's Genes recently announced a new website—*mitoYDNA.org*, intended to replace sites removed by *FamilyTreeDNA* over privacy concerns. Check it out via grandmasgenes.com/mitoydna-the-new-y-dna-and-mtdna-database/.

AncestryDNA has introduced an updated utility called *ThruLines™* which uses *Ancestry* trees to suggest how you may be related to your autosomal DNA matches through common ancestors. It replaces and expands on its *DNA Circles*.

Growing fast as it aggressively markets its autosomal DNA test internationally, *MyHeritageDNA* introduced the *Theory of Family Relativity™* last February at RootsTech. It uses genealogical information from their collections of nearly 10 billion historical records and family tree profiles to offer theories on how you and your DNA matches might be related. Sadly, like more than half their customers, the *Theory* provides no hints for me. Both *ThruLines™* and the *Theory of Family Relativity™*

provide hints which may or may not stand up to scrutiny.

Ottawa Directories and Newspapers Online

Thanks in part to a grant from the Ottawa Branch of Ontario Ancestors (OGS), Ottawa city directories for the years 1926–27, 1920–24, 1917–18, 1910, 1903–08, 1870–80, and 1863–67 are newly digitized and searchable free online through the Ottawa Public Library website.

These complement the Library and Archives Canada online collection by filling the gaps (mostly) at www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/directories-collection/Pages/directories-collection-available-editions.aspx/.

The same OPL project has made available online *The Ottawa Times* for 1865–1877 and *Courrier d'Ottawa* for 1861–1864. The *Ottawa Citizen* and *Ottawa Journal* are available through the subscription site newspapers.com/. The OPL has online copies of several more recent Ottawa newspapers at bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/digital-ottawa/ which is where the directories and OPL digitized newspaper will likely be linked. In the meantime, find them by searching in the OPL catalogue.

Further up the Ottawa Valley, 657 issues of the *Arnprior Chronicle*, 1885–1937 with gaps, were recently made available through the Arnprior and McNab/Braeside Archives at www.adarchives.org/.

England

I was amazed at a reduction in price, from £10 to £1.50 for online copies of post-1857 wills for England and Wales implemented in July. Check it out at www.gov.uk/search-will-probate/.

Lancashire is of interest to many Society members. *Findmypast (FMP)* made available over 2.2 million Church of England parish baptisms, marriages, burials and congregational records covering 157 parishes across Liverpool and vicinity for the years 1653 to 1991. *FMP* has also been working on Liverpool Catholic records, for the first time releasing online over 1.4 million baptisms, marriages, burials and congregational records covering 47 Liverpool Roman Catholic parishes. Spanning the years 1754 to 1988, they include images of the original documents. It's part of a broader *FMP* Catholic records project.

Finally for Liverpool, *FMP* added well over two million admission and discharge registers, classification lists, registers of the sick, and other documents from seven different institutions including: Fazakerley Cottage Homes, Kirkdale Industrial Schools, West Derby Union Workhouse, Olive Mount Children's Home, Sefton General Hospital, Toxteth Park Workhouse, Walton Workhouse, and West Derby Union.

Both *Ancestry* and *FMP* recently added Essex records. At *FMP* the Essex Baptism Index 1538–1920 covers more than 2.3 million entries from 532 parishes; Essex Marriages and Banns 1537–1935 with more than 1.4 million transcripts; and Essex Burial Index 1530–1994, includes over 1.5 million records. *Ancestry* added Essex Church of England transcripts—for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1812, 4,389,173 records; Births and Baptisms, 1813–1918, 3,937,941 records; Marriages, 1754–1935, 1,968,439 records; and Deaths and Burials, 1813–1994, 730,118 records. Access to original record images for *Ancestry* users is a click-through from the index to Essex Archives Online. Images are emailed out automatically on payment; each one costs £2.99.

In May *Ancestry* added a Staffordshire birth, marriage and death index collection with 4,944,006 entries, based on original data from Staffordshire County Council. There are no original images. These records would appear to derive from the same registration data as used for the General Register Office (GRO) index. I usually try *FreeBMD* (freebmd.org.uk) first for BMD records before the 1980s and go to the GRO site (gro.gov.uk) to find any available extra birth and death index information.

Ireland

The 5th edition of John Grenham's *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* is now published. There are new sections of text about genetic genealogy, the National Library of Ireland's Roman Catholic Registers online, an overview of the major online sites, and tips and techniques to overcome the inconsistencies of some of the search engines. Most of the extra 110 pages expand Chapter 8 on Emigration and the Irish Abroad.

Scotland

The May newsletter from *ScotlandsPeople* announced the addition of more than 2.8 million new indexed names and addresses for owners, tenants and occupiers of properties throughout Scotland for 1940 in 60,000 new digital images.

The *Statistical Accounts of Scotland Online* website is now being hosted by the University of Edinburgh Library for two years as of 1 August 2019. Scans, transcripts, map-based searching and related resources are available free of charge to all users; you no longer need a subscription or a user account to use the website.

Overnight on the 23–24 July, rain penetrated a dome at National Records of Scotland (NRS) which for many years had been identified by staff as needing repair work. *The Scotsman* reported that “a number of records have been soaked to such an extent they may not be able to be salvaged,” whereas an NRS

spokesperson said that a small number of marriage, death, and stillbirth records were slightly affected by water.

Wales

Ancestry now has Welsh wills, 99,955 of them, from 1513 to the start of civil probate in 1858. Sourced from the National Library of Wales, coverage is from the dioceses of Bangor, Chester, Llandaff, St. Asaph and St. David's, the Archdeaconry of Brecon and the Peculiar of Hawarden.

Facebook Resources

Are you subscribed to BIFHSGO's members-only discussion Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BIFHSGO/> and the open site at www.facebook.com/BIFHSGO/? Find out about other Facebook genealogy resources in Katherine R. Willson's 380-page PDF file containing more than 14,500 links at moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/genealogy-on-facebook-may-2019.pdf/. For Canadian genealogy, there's a more manageable 38-page list by Gail Dever at genealogyalacarte.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Facebook-for-Canadian-Genealogy-May-2019.pdf/.

Shannon Lectures 2019

The intriguing theme for this year's Carleton University Shannon lectures is "Rebooting Biography."

"Historical biographies have always been a popular avenue into the past, but with the facts about the famous and not-so-famous available at the tap of a keyboard, today's historians and biographers are reshaping the genre.

The conventional steady hike through the chronology of a life is giving way to group biographies, previously unheard voice, and micro-histories which turn a spotlight onto a limited period of an individual's life. Writers continue to use biography as a vehicle for wider social and cultural histories, assessing the past in ways that resonate with contemporary audiences.

Increasingly, authors who want to take life-writing outside the cradle-to-grave frame are embracing the freedom offered by digital publishing.

Lecturers will speak about the subjects of their recent biographies, and also about the choices they made in presenting their material."

This year's series is organized by Charlotte Gray, who will give the first lecture, "New Vehicles for Old Stories," on Friday, 4 October 2019, at 1:00 pm, in room 2017, Dunton Tower.

BIFHSGO News

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 14 May 2019 – 20 Aug 2019		
Member No.	Name	Address
1472	Dianne Hall	Niagara-on-the Lake, ON
1836	Ann Brown	Brampton, ON
1902	Kathy Thompson	Kanata, ON
1991	Shelley Ann Martin	Ottawa, ON
1991	Betty Martin	Ottawa, ON
1992	Jennifer Hill	Ottawa, ON
1993	Suzanne Beaulieu	Ottawa, ON
1994	Mary Kerfoot	Brockville, ON
1995	Anne Coulter	Ottawa, ON
1996	Brad Boisselle	Winnipeg, MB
1997	Eric Cappell	Nepean, ON
1997	Carole Cappell	Nepean, ON
1998	Wilfred Tarbet	Ottawa, ON
1999	Janice Davis	Vancouver, BC
2000	Anne Lacelle Busing	Ottawa, ON
2001	Katherine Gilmore	Ottawa, ON
2002	Robert Bullock	Kanata, ON
2003	Amanda Hancox	Toronto, ON
2004	Ken Bickley	Ottawa, ON
2004	Juli Watt	Ottawa, ON
2005	Mary Watson	St. John's, NL

**Winners of the BIFHSGO 25th Anniversary Writing Contest
will be announced at the Opening Ceremonies of the Conference
27 September 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

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	John McConkey	research@bifhsgo.ca
Membership	Kathy Wallace	membership@bifhsgo.ca
Communications	Susan Davis	communications@bifhsgo.ca
Publicity	Mary-Lou Simac	publicity@bifhsgo.ca
Programs	Dianne Brydon	programs@bifhsgo.ca
Education	Allan Cutler	education@bifhsgo.ca
Past President	Barbara Tose	pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca

Communications

<i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i> Editor	Barbara Tose	accreditor@bifhsgo.ca
<i>eNews</i> Editor	Vacant	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 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 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

- 14 Sept 2019** **25 Years of Storytelling**—When Wayne Walker hit a brick wall, a voice in his head told him what to do. He listened and made an amazing find. Susan Davis will share Wayne's and other members' memorable stories from 25 years of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.
- 12 Oct 2019** **Quakers in the Family: My Dickinson Ancestors of England and Jamaica**—Sandra Adams will reveal the rich details she found for her Dickinson ancestors when she discovered they were early Quakers. Sandra will illustrate her talk with images from documents held by the Somerset Archives.
- 9 Nov 2019** **The Commonwealth War Graves Commission: In Perpetuity**—The Commission marks and maintains the graves of Commonwealth soldiers who died in the two world wars. Dominique Boulais will talk about the Commission's history, fundamental principles, mandate and worldwide responsibilities as well as its responsibilities within the Americas with an emphasis on its work in genealogy.

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, British Colonial America, DNA, The Master Genealogist (TMG) 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 Winter issue is 26 October 2019.