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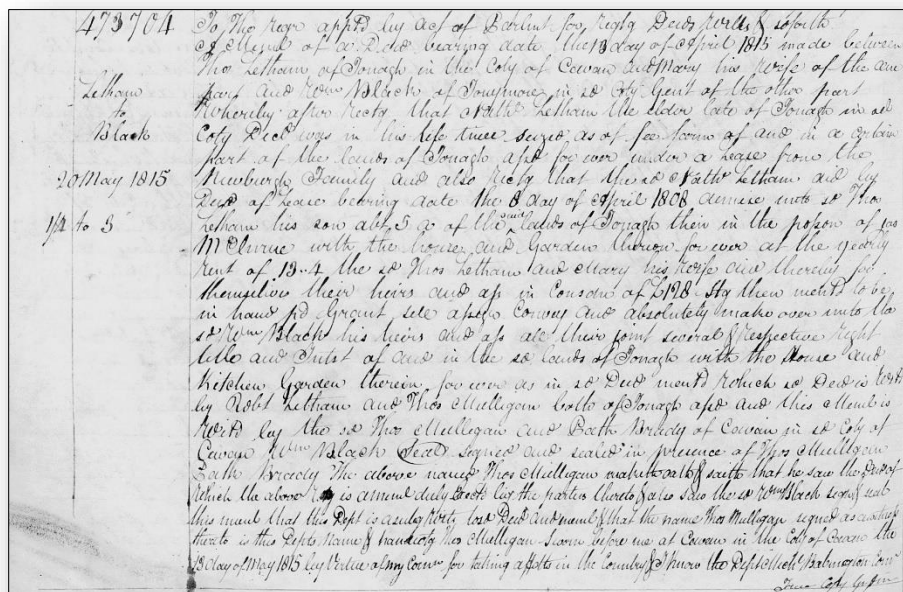
The Leathems: From County Cavan, Ireland To Huntley Township, Carleton County

A Matter of Faith

From There to Here—My Journey

We Shall Remember Them

Private Stanley Theodore Hunter



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.

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*Deed 473704 dated 13 April 1815, registered 20 May 1815, between Thomas Leathem and Mary his wife of Tonagh Townland, County Cavan and William Black, Gent., of Tonymore, County Cavan.
Source: Irish Registry of Deeds, Vol. 689, page 366*

From the Editor:

This is our second edition since the Covid-19 pandemic began and we are lucky to be able to continue publishing *Anglo-Celtic Roots* despite the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in. Our members seem to be using their extra time well, writing stories of their research and ancestors' hard times.

In this issue Heather Ashe takes us through the difficulties and complexities of Irish deeds and follows her ancestors from Ireland to Canada.

Wendy Croome tells us the tale of how she managed to trace her female line back to her 8th-great-grandmother based on Faith and determined research.

Private Stanley Theodore Hunter spent much of his time overseas working with the dentists of the Canadian Army Dental Corps. He was at the front for less than a month before being wounded.

During these changing times, please keep up to date with everything BIFHSGO on our website www.bifhsgo.ca.

Barbara Tose

From the President



September—the summer is winding down and we are starting another year of BIFHSGO meetings. But this year is REALLY different. The impact of COVID-19

continues to change how we live and how BIFHSGO operates. Gone are the days of large gatherings and physical interactions, replaced by Zoom meetings and Skype calls. Video calls and meetings have become the wave of the future as we attempt to isolate in our “COVID bubbles.”

BIFHSGO has adapted to the new reality with Zoom meetings, Throwback Thursdays, and Zoom Socials. The Board is continuing to look for new ways to engage the membership and assist them in doing family history and genealogical research. Zoom meetings will be the norm this fall, with the “Before BIFHSGO” talks (recently renamed “Education Talks”) being dropped for the time being.

For the first time in 26 years, we are not holding a conference this fall—a direct result of the COVID-19 virus. However, we hope to reboot this year’s program next fall when the conference will focus on our female lines and Ireland as the country of interest. This is, of course, dependent

on our location, Ben Franklin Place, being open and the restrictions on the number of people at inside meetings being lifted. Stay tuned for further updates following the reconvening of the Conference Committee later this fall.

The Board has had one change since June with the departure of Maureen Amey, Education Director. I would like to thank Maureen for her efforts to obtain the interesting “Education Talks” speakers we had before COVID-19 changed how meetings are run. Ann Burns has agreed to stand for Membership Director so this means there are three vacant positions on the Board: Outreach, Education and President. If you can help your society by volunteering in one of these roles, please contact Barbara Tose at pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca or step forward at the virtual AGM on September 12th.

I look forward to welcoming you to one of our Zoom meetings or chatting at one of BIFHSGO’s virtual Socials. And I fervently hope that we will soon be able to meet once again in person. Until then, be well.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Duncan Monkhouse".

Duncan Monkhouse

Family History Research

The Leathems: From County Cavan, Ireland to Huntley Township, Carleton County



BY HEATHER ASHE

Heather has been a genealogist for 50 years focusing on her paternal Irish line. She is the librarian of the Lambton County branch of Ontario Ancestors. An avid gardener, she authored a comprehensive history of the Sarnia Horticultural Society which was published earlier this year for its 100th Anniversary.

I knew very little of my great-great-grandparents Dorothy Leathem and Thomas Mulligan and have seen little information beyond a few paragraphs in a 1991 publication by The Huntley Township Historical Society, *Pioneer Families and Early Settlers of Huntley Township, Volume Four*.¹ Dorothy and Thomas were born, raised and married in Castleterra Parish, County Cavan, Ireland; they emigrated to Canada, then lived and died in Huntley Township, Carleton County. Their daughter Elizabeth married my great-grandfather John Boucher in Ottawa on 12 August 1842.

I was able to rectify my lack of knowledge when the opportunity arose to visit Salt Lake City, Utah, in February 2019, with the RootsTech 2019 tour organized by the Ontario Genealogical Society (now Ontario

Ancestors). It offered me the chance to visit the Family History Library there as well as attend the RootsTech Conference. As it happened, I spent all my time at the Library, where I searched through deeds dating from 1708 in the records of the Irish Registry of Deeds.²

These records were microfilmed by *FamilySearch* in 1951 from huge books in Dublin. Both the books and microfilms are a challenge to search because there are so many records. If you're lucky, you may find just one deed of interest amongst the 2,686 microfilms. So, ordering films into my local Family History Library was very frustrating and costly.

In contrast, the digitized records are easy to search, but are only accessible in Salt Lake City. This

restriction applies to several types of records for which *FamilySearch* was not given permission by the granting office to distribute digitized records.

Before going into the details, I have to say that I was extremely lucky. The Leathem family must have been relatively comfortable financially, either due to a 1767 marriage settlement or before that, to their time in Yorkshire, England. It is very unusual to find as many useful deeds as I did. As well, the name “Leathem,” which is definitely not Irish, is relatively unusual in the Irish land records, although this can’t be said of the name Mulligan, another name for which I was searching.

Before going to Salt Lake City, I did my best to familiarize myself with Leathem–Mulligan information. The 1821 Irish Census of Tonagh Townland in Castleterra Parish still exists; there were 13 families living in the 163-acre townland, of which three were of interest to me:³

Family 1: Robert (50) and Sarah (45) Leathem with children including son Abraham (26), a niece Sarah Nale and a nephew John Armstrong

Family 2: Thomas Mulligan (50) and wife Dorah (40) with their children listed

Family 3: Nathaniel Leathem (35) and wife Mary (30) with their children listed.

No. 24		Townland of <i>Tonagh</i> in the Parish of <i>Castleterra</i>		N. B.—In Columns where Place-lands or other denominations are in use, the word “Town”	
1	2	Column 3 NAMES OF INHABITANTS.	Column 4 AGE.	Column 5 OCCUPATION.	
1	1	Robert Leathem	50	farmer	
		Sarah Leathem wife	45		
		Abraham Leathem son	26		
		Mary Leathem Daughter	22		
		Mary Leathem Daughter	20		
		Sarah Leathem Do	18		
		Susan Leathem Daughter	14		
		Sarah Nale niece	14		
		Nath Leathem son	10	Pupil	
		John Leathem son	8	Do	
		John Armstrong & John	10		
		James Leathem son	6	Pupil	
2	1	Thomas Mulligan	50	farmer	
		Dorah Mulligan wife	40		
		John Mulligan son	20		
		Phoebe Mulligan Daughter	18		
		Elijah Mulligan Do	16		
		Sarah Mulligan Do	14		
		Thomas Mulligan	12		
		James Mulligan son	8		
		Nathaniel Mulligan	5		

Figure 1: 1821 Census Tonagh Townland, Castleterra Parish
Source: findmypast.com

Family 2 is, most likely, that of my great-great-grandparents Thomas and Dorothy (Leathem) Mulligan. They were living next to one Leathem family and near a second. The names and ages of their children match those given in *The Huntley Historical Society book* and in the 1851 Huntley Census.⁴ There was also a Ralph Leathem, servant, listed in Drumliff Townland in the same parish.³ Drumliff was the second townland mentioned in the 1767 marriage settlement described below. Other Leathems lived in other parts of County Cavan, in County Down and else-

where. The 1826 Tithe Applotment of the parish does not list anyone with the surname Leathem.⁵ So, the Leathem families were in Tonagh Townland for the 28 May 1821 Census and were gone before 1826.

In the Tonagh Census, Dorothy's age was reported as 40 years, making her birth year about 1781, while Thomas was listed as ten years older. This is of interest because other records give significantly earlier birth years for Dorothy: 1771 in the Huntley Township 1851 Census and 1763 in the Huntley Historical Society book and a *FamilySearch* family tree, which made her eight years older than Thomas. (See Table 1)

I believe the 1821 Tonagh Census information to be accurate, since it was likely that either Dorothy or Thomas supplied the information. Furthermore, it makes Dorothy 20 years old when her son John was born and 37 years old when Nathaniel was born. In addition, it is more likely that it was not she who gave her age to the Canadian

census taker in 1851 and that the age provided was simply a guess by someone else. I don't know where the year 1763 came from.

The Leathem Family Website⁶

There is a Leathem Family Website that gives a general description of families of that name. It invites Leathem descendants to submit their own family stories and pedigrees. Of particular interest to me was the pedigree of Henry Leathem of Yorkshire, England. Henry was said to have settled in Tonagh Townland, Castleterra Parish, County Cavan in the mid-1700s. He is shown to have had a son, Robert, who married a Frances Ferguson, who in turn had a son Robert who married a Sarah Moore. No details were provided. Their son Abraham emigrated to Canada and settled south of Montreal. No references are given.

The website also mentions Leathem families living in Australia and New Zealand and a search on *AncestryDNA* shows several Leathem matches in Australia.

Reported Years of Birth				
	1821 Census, Tonagh	1851 Census, Huntley	Huntley Historical Society booklet	Family Search
Dorothy	1781	1771	1763	1763
Thomas	1771	Deceased	1771	1771
Their youngest and oldest children:				
Nathaniel	1818	1816	1813	Not included
John	1801	1801	1801	1795

Table 1: Year of birth from four sources for key Leathem family members

Deeds from The Irish Registry of Deeds

Searching for family information in the Irish land records can be a very frustrating experience. First, Roman Catholics weren't allowed to own land. Second, many land transactions took place that were not registered. A person needed a particular reason to register their deed as it would have cost money to do so. My great-great-grandfather George Bouchier of Mountshannon, County Galway (now Clare⁷), obtained a deed for land in 1745 but didn't register it until 1769 when his landlord was going bankrupt.⁸ George wanted to make sure his deed was secure.

I thought I would be happy to find one informative deed in Salt Lake City but instead I found the following six very useful deeds for the Leathem family of County Cavan!

Deed 167626⁹ Dated 18 July 1767, registered 24 October 1767. This is a marriage settlement between Henry Leathem of "Tonnragh" Townland, County Cavan on behalf of his son Robert, of the first part, and Robert Ferguson of "Aughadruman" on behalf of his daughter Frances, of the second part. Robert Ferguson gave one half of his holding in Drumliff Townland and one fourth part of his holding in Tonnragh Townland, both in Castleterra Parish. This must be the Henry Leathem and his son Robert

mentioned on the Leathem Website but the deed provides details: the name of Frances' father, the lands involved and the date.

Deed 452535¹⁰ Dated 22 October 1807, registered 16 February 1813 at 12:00 p.m. A deed of lease between Robert Leathem the elder of Tonagh, County Cavan, Gent., and Andrew Hall of Tonagh. Robert leased to Andrew that part of the lands of Droughill otherwise Tonagh, containing about 12½ acres then in the immediate tenure and occupation of the said Andrew Hall. "To have and to hold the said premise with its incidentals unto the said Andrew Hall, his heirs and assigns forever, in consideration of Love and Affection as son-in-law and of the yearly rent of 1 pound 6 shillings and 8 pence with other covenants as in said deed."

Deed 473703¹¹ Dated 13 April 1815 and registered 20 May 1815. A deed between Nathaniel Leathem the younger and his wife Mary of Tonagh, County Cavan, and William Black, Gent., of Tonymore, County Cavan. It states that "Nathaniel Leathem the elder, deceased, was at his death served in fee farm of and in a certain part of the said lands of Tonagh by virtue of a lease forever from the Newburg family." And also that Nathaniel the elder received about five acres as part of a marriage article with his wife Mary. The land was conveyed to

Nathaniel the younger and his heirs forever at the yearly rent of 13 shillings 4 pence and was sold to William Black for £120 sterling. Witnessed by Thomas Mulligan and Robert Leathem, both of Tonagh Townland, County Cavan.

The fact that Thomas Mulligan witnessed this deed supports the assumption that he was a close relative of Nathaniel Leathem the younger.

Deed 473704¹² Dated 13 April 1815 and registered 20 May 1815 between Thomas Leathem and Mary his wife of Tonagh Townland, County Cavan and William Black, Gent., of Tonymore, County Cavan. (See front cover) Reciting that Nathaniel Leathem the elder, deceased, held a fee farm in part of Tonagh under a lease from the Newburg family. Also that Nathaniel the elder held a lease dated 8 April 1808 granting about five acres of Tonagh to his son Thomas then in the possession of James McClure with the house and garden forever at the yearly rent of 13 shillings 4 pence. The land was granted to William Black forever for £128 sterling. Witnessed by Thomas Mulligan and Robert Leathem, both of Tonagh, County Cavan.

Again, the fact that Thomas Mulligan witnessed this deed supports the assumption that he

was a close relative of Nathaniel Leathem the younger.

Deed 473705¹³ Dated 13 April 1815 and registered 20 May 1815 between Henry Leathem and Martha his wife of Tonagh, County Cavan and William Black, Gent., of Tonymore, County Cavan. Henry Leathem, the eldest son and heir of Nathaniel Leathem, deceased, held a fee farm of about five acres at the yearly rent of 13 shillings 4 pence as granted by the Newburg family. In consideration of £128 sterling, five acres of Tonagh were sold to William Black. Witnessed by Thomas Mulligan and Robert Leathem, both of Tonagh, County Cavan.

Deed 520669¹⁴ Dated 15 November 1821 and registered 21 December 1821 between Robert Leathem of Tonagh Townland, County Cavan, and his wife Sarah otherwise Moore of the first part and Abraham Leathem, eldest son and heir of the said Robert Leathem of the second part and William Black of County Cavan of the third part. Robert Leathem held an estate forever in Tonagh Townland late in the possession of his father Robert Leathem, senior, containing 25 acres. In consideration of £375 sterling paid to Robert Leathem and five shillings to each of Sarah Leathem and Abraham Leathem, the land was sold to William Black.

Witnessed by Samuel Swanzy and William Black, junior of County Cavan.

In the 1826 Castleterra Parish Tithe Applotment record, the total townland area was reported to be 147A/2R/0P where A=acres, R=rood and P=perch. So the Leathems possessed about a quarter of the townland as stated in the marriage settlement. The total tithe for Tonagh Townland was £6 and 10 shillings 10½ pence sterling. Griffith's 1857 Valuation of Castleterra Parish lists a William M. Black as a lessor of four properties: one of 27A/19P; one 15A/3R/31P; one 16A/34P; and one 13A/2R.¹⁵ The total townland area was reported to be 163A/1R/17P with a total tithe of £106 and 10 shillings sterling.

In summary, a Henry Leathem of Tonagh Townland had first a son Robert (senior) who married Frances Ferguson. This Robert in turn had a son Robert (junior) born about 1770 who would be the Robert listed in the 1821 Census, age 50. Robert senior also had a daughter married to an Andrew Hall. The deeds suggest that Henry also had a son Nathaniel who in turn had sons Henry, Thomas and Nathaniel. Neither this younger Henry nor his wife Martha appear in the Tonagh 1821 Census, so perhaps they had already left. It is not possible to know for sure

whether Dorothy Leathem was a daughter of Robert or Nathaniel (senior), but she did name one of her sons Nathaniel. And, all of the deeds of Henry, Thomas and Nathaniel (junior) were witnessed by Thomas Mulligan, who was probably their brother-in-law or a cousin by marriage. Perhaps Robert (senior) also had a daughter who married a man named Armstrong, but she may have been related through Sarah Moore. The niece Sarah "Nale" mentioned in the 1821 Census was probably a daughter of Isaac Neale and Eliza Leathem, whose marriage is mentioned below.

The last four deeds (references notes 11 to 14) suggest that the Leathem families were anticipating leaving Ireland and were cashing out their holdings. The Leathem Website would appear to be based on the land records cited above and another that indicates that Henry, and possibly Robert senior, were from Yorkshire, England. I have not researched Yorkshire but there were Leathems living there.

County Cavan Parish Records

I was also fortunate to visit the Library of the Representative Church Body (RCB) of the Church of Ireland in Dublin to research the parish records of County Cavan. It is commonly believed that all Church of Ireland (Anglican) parish records were destroyed in the fire

at the Public Record Office in 1922. Not so! Although they were asked to send their records to Dublin, many parishes did not do so and some hold them to this day. The RCB Library/Archive receives original parish record books on an ongoing basis and they maintain a website that lists their holdings, those that are still in local custody, and those that were destroyed in 1922. The webpage is <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf>. This listing is updated only periodically, so it is best to email the Library for the latest information if you plan to visit. The RCB Library plans to digitize the records themselves and preparations are ongoing. They estimate the job will take from five to ten years, so a visit there is the only way to research unless you employ a local researcher.

I looked at the original parish book for Castleterra Parish that contains baptisms (1800–1877), marriages (1785–1910) and burials (1820–1877). It recorded the baptisms of William (in 1801) and James (in 1813), two of the sons of Thomas and “Dolly” Mulligan. Other Leatham parents were Nathaniel and Mary (daughters Elizabeth in 1815 and Ann in 1820) and Robert and Sarah Leatham (sons John in 1813 and James in 1815). Marriages were recorded for Isaac

Woods to Phoebe Leatham in 1798 and Isaac Neale to Eliza Leatham in 1808. Marriage banns were recorded for George Kenedy and Frances Leatham in 1822, while a burial was recorded for a Nathaniel Leatham, age 63, of Farnham in 1849. This was probably the Nathaniel enumerated in the 1821 Census at age 35 and likely Dorothy Leatham’s brother.

Canadian Records

In 1829, Abraham and Robert “Latham” signed their names on a petition to the Department of Crown Lands regarding land in Sherrington Township, Huntingdon County, Quebec. The petition states that they had arrived there about seven years before, that is, about 1822.¹⁶ The 1831 Census of Sherrington Township lists Robert Latham as a farmer and head of a family of six,¹⁷ and Abraham Latham (unmarried) living on his own.¹⁸ The 1851 Census of Saint-Patrice-de-Sherrington, Quebec includes Abraham Latham (age 54) with wife Elizabeth (age 40) and seven children.¹⁹ The Leatham Website states that several of his family members relocated to Spokane, Washington State, U.S.A. The information on the Leatham web page did not mention that Robert had emigrated to Canada with Abraham.

Dorothy (Leatham) and Thomas Mulligan arrived in Eardley,

Quebec on the Quebec–Ontario border about 1822 and later moved to Huntley Township, Carleton County, Ontario. In 1828, they obtained a land grant for Lot 6 of Concession 2 on the Carp Road.²⁰ It is reasonable to assume that the Mulligan and Leathem families left County Cavan, Ireland at the same time.

I was very fortunate to be able to travel and carry out this research. It has been a busy year! But I am still thrilled with what I found. This family history won't be forgotten.

Reference Notes:

¹ *Pioneer Families and Early Settlers of Huntley Township, Volume Four*, Publication no. 91-05, The Huntley Township Historical Society, 1991.

² I use the “County Index” rather than the “Surname Index.” The latter is an index for all of Ireland—all persons who happened to have the same surname who were grantors. However, the County Index, or Land Index, is organized by townlands or corporate towns and gives the deeds that were associated with it. It is not easy to search but it’s more to the point.

³ 1821 Census, Tonagh Townland, Castleterra Parish, County Cavan, *findmypast.com*.

⁴ 1851 Census Canada West, Carleton County, Huntley Township, Enumeration District 6, page 49, Library and Archives Canada.

⁵ 1826 Tithe Applotment, Tonagh Townland, Castleterra Parish,

County Cavan, The National Archives of Ireland at http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/reels/tab//004587416/004587416_00106.pdf.

⁶ Leathem Family Website, www.leathem.org.

⁷ The County Clare–Galway boundary was moved in 1898 as stated on the website <https://www.swilson.info/wp/?p=1738>.

⁸ Irish Registry of Deeds, George Bouchier deed, vol. 274/page 336/deed no. 178774 dated Jan. 31, 1745, registered Dec. 15, 1769.

⁹ Ibid., vol. 266/page 49/ deed number 167626.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 655/page 515/deed number 452535.

¹¹ Ibid., vol. 689/page 365/deed number 473703.

¹² Ibid., vol. 689/page 366/deed number 473704.

¹³ Ibid., vol. 689/page 367/deed number 473705.

¹⁴ Ibid., vol. 767/page 534/deed number 520669.

¹⁵ Griffiths Valuation (1857) of Castleterra Parish, at <http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/z/zoo/mifyDynamicViewer.php?file=028269&path=../pix/028/&rs=&showpage=1&mysession=2717512669986&width=&height=>.

¹⁶ RG 1 L3L item 49686, page 59452, reel C-2539, Sherrington petition, Library and Archives Canada.

¹⁷ 1831 Census of Lower Canada, L’Acadie, Babyville, East Sherrington, St. James, Thwaite, West Sherrington, p. 11. Library and Archives Canada.

- 18 1831 Census of Lower Canada
L'Acadie, St. Normand, p. 13,
Library and Archives Canada.
- 19 1851 Census Canada East (Quebec),
Huntington County, Sherrington

district, p. 24, Library and Archives
Canada.

- 20 Thomas Mulligan, Crown land reel
C-2739, petition 70, 1828 vol. 421,
ref. RG 1 L3, Library and Archives
Canada.

A Matter of Faith[©]



BY WENDY CROOME

Wendy Croome has been researching her family history for many years. She has published several articles in Anglo-Celtic Roots since she joined BIFHSGO in 2005. This one demonstrates how she was able to trace one line of female ancestors by using a combination of DNA and documentary evidence.

This is the story of my many ancestors who were named Faith, a story that was begun by my grandmother, Gertrude (Holdcroft) Birch. Grandma would not have called herself a genealogist, but she had an amazing memory for names, dates, and relationships of people in the family.

Grandma told me that her sister, Faith Holdcroft, known as Cis, was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1894. Cis was named after their mother, Faith (Westwood) Holdcroft, known as Meg. Grandma said that her grandmother's name had also been Faith—Faith Ward who married Robert Westwood—and that Faith Ward's mother, too, was named Faith. I was impressed by how much Grandma remembered, and not too surprised that she didn't

know the birth surname of the earliest Faith, who was Grandma's great-grandmother and my great-great-great-grandmother.

When I started researching my family history, I ordered certificates by mail from England and laboriously scrolled through censuses on microfilm at the LDS Family History Center. This research confirmed much of the information that Grandma had given me. By the 1841 Census, the Faith whose last name I didn't know was married to John Ward and living in Lichfield, Staffordshire. Although this meant that I was not able to find her at home with her parents, I found her in every census from 1841 to 1901. In all of them, Faith's birthplace was reported as Yoxall, Staffordshire, about eight miles from Lichfield, and her reported age put her birth between 1811 and 1816.

When I received the birth certificate for her daughter, Faith Ward, I was pleased to see that it confirmed the mother's name as Faith, and also gave me her maiden surname—Slater. Now I had a name as well as a date and place of birth, and could begin to research my 3rd-great-grandmother, Faith (Slater) Ward.

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) and later *FamilySearch* led me to Faith Slater, baptized in Yoxall, Staffordshire, on 17 November 1811, to parents William and Mary Slater.¹

Slater, in surrounding parishes, between 1799 and 1825. One couple had a son John, baptized in Tamworth, Staffordshire, 15 miles from Yoxall, three years before Faith was baptized. However, I didn't find an Emma Slater with parents William and Mary. Next, I hypothesized that the witnesses to Faith's marriage could be her brother John and his wife Emma, but a search did not uncover a marriage between a John Slater and an Emma.

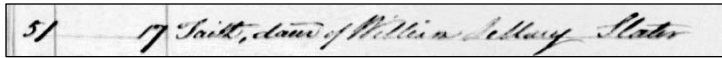


Figure 1: Baptismal entry for Faith Slater, 17 November 1811

Source: *FamilySearch*

Once parish records became available on the Internet, I found Faith Slater's marriage by licence to John Ward, in Mavesyn Ridware, Staffordshire,² six miles from Lichfield and six miles from Yoxall. The witnesses to the marriage were Emma Slater and John Slater, so I had two probable family members for Faith—Emma and John. I found a copy of the marriage licence on *Findmypast*, but it added no information.³

I started to look for siblings for Faith, and particularly for ones named Emma and John, but discovered that Faith's was the only baptism in Yoxall to William and Mary Slater. I found other baptisms to couples named William and Mary

My next step was to search the parish records in Yoxall, where Faith was baptized. In the years before and after her baptism, several Slater couples were having children. I was excited to find that one couple was named William and Faith Slater, and that their children included a John and an Emma. Was the name of the mother in this family a coincidence or had I finally found my Faith Slater's family, and her mother's name "Mary" was an error by the vicar at her baptism?

This obviously required more research, and I started to trace all the children born to William and Faith Slater for clues that would allow me to confirm or refute the hypothesis that Faith Slater belong-

ed in this family. The children baptized with parents William and Faith Slater were William (1809), John (1814), Emma (1816), Thomas (1819), Caroline (1822), Hannah (1824), George (1827), and Eliza (1829). This left a perfect slot open for Faith, who was baptized in 1811. I was becoming more and more convinced that I had found her family.

In the 1841, 1851, and 1861 censuses, Faith (Slater) Ward was living in Lichfield, Staffordshire with her husband John Ward, but John died in the summer of 1861.⁴ In the 1871 Census, I found Faith Ward living with Charles Brown, a widower, at Radmore Wood, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. Faith was described as "sister-in-law, housekeeper, widow, born Staffords Yoxall."⁵

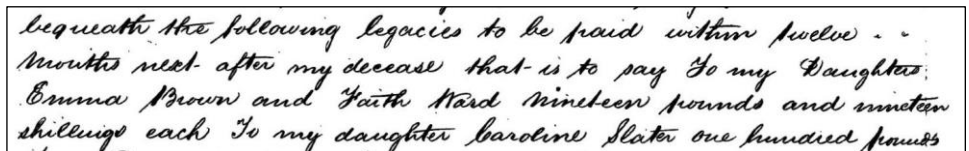
Further research revealed that Charles Brown had been married to Emma Slater, the daughter of William and Faith Slater,⁶ and that Emma had died in the summer of 1861.⁷ This was the same summer that Faith's husband, John Ward, had died. It looked as if, sometime between 1861 and 1871, Faith had moved in with her sister's widowed

husband to keep house and take care of Charles and Emma's children, three of whom were still living at home when their mother died. This seemed to be very good confirmation that Faith Slater was the daughter of William and Faith Slater. I didn't know if I would ever get any more proof than this, and I left the research on this family line for several years.

When I returned to the Slaters, in September 2019, I discovered that William Slater, my hypothetical father of Faith Slater, had left a will when he died in 1858. I ordered a copy of the will⁸ and was pleased to discover that it included this bequest: "I bequeath the following legacies ... To my daughters Emma Brown and Faith Ward nineteen pounds and nineteen shillings each"

This provided the final piece of evidence that the parents of my 3rd-great-grandmother, Faith Slater, were William and Faith Slater of Yoxall, Staffordshire.

Once I had confirmed that my line of ancestors named Faith extended another generation to my 4th-great-grandmother, I wanted to see what



bequeath the following legacies to be paid within twelve months next after my decease that is to say To my Daughters Emma Brown and Faith Ward nineteen pounds and nineteen shillings each To my daughter Caroline Slater one hundred pounds

Figure 2: Extract from Will of William Slater

Source: *Find a Will: Wills and Probate 1858–1996*

more information I could find about this Faith. Faith Slater, wife of William, died in 1855, therefore she appeared in earlier censuses. In both the 1841 and 1851 censuses, she was reported to have been born in 1785. In the 1851 Census, which gives birthplaces, hers was given as Tamworth, Staffordshire.⁹

I quickly discovered that in the town of Tamworth, and within a radius of 20 miles, there was only one baby named Faith baptized at the right time. She was Faith Richardson, baptized 16 May 1784 to John and Faith Richardson, at St. Editha Church, Tamworth.¹⁰

In a search of all the available on-line databases, I could find no marriage for a William Slater to a Faith, anywhere in the country, between 1795 and 1815. For Faith Richardson, the marriage in 1805 was the only marriage I could find.

It seemed to me that the minister had made a mistake and written "John" for "William", but I couldn't base my conclusions on an assumption. I had already determined that Faith Slater's mother's name had been wrongly recorded at Faith's baptism; therefore, I was hesitant to accept that I had found a second mistake in the very next link in the

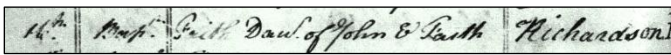


Figure 3: Baptismal entry for Faith Richardson, 16 May 1784

Source: *Findmypast*

Now I needed to find evidence that this Faith Richardson was the same Faith who married William Slater and was the mother of Faith Slater.

The obvious next step was to find evidence of the marriage of Faith Richardson and William Slater, probably sometime before 1809, the year their first child was baptized. It was easy enough to find a marriage for Faith Richardson. It took place in the same church where she was baptized, St. Editha, Tamworth, but there was a twist. On 26 August 1805, Faith Richardson married a Slater, but the groom's given name was recorded as John, not William.¹¹

chain—the marriage record of Faith Slater's parents. I began to search for evidence to determine the given name of Faith Richardson's groom.

When I took a closer look at the marriage register entry, I noted that both the bride and the groom made their marks, instead of signing their names. They may not have been able to read and would not have known if the wrong name had been recorded. One of the witnesses to the marriage was Thomas Slater. My 4th-great-grandfather, William Slater, had a brother named Thomas. On the other hand, Thomas Slater had signed, not marked the register. I would have thought that

he would notice if his brother's name was recorded as John when it was really William, but perhaps he was only able to sign his name and was not really literate.

Richardson in 1805. In Yoxall, where the Slater family lived, there were two men named John Slater. One was the brother of William Slater and was born in 1772, the

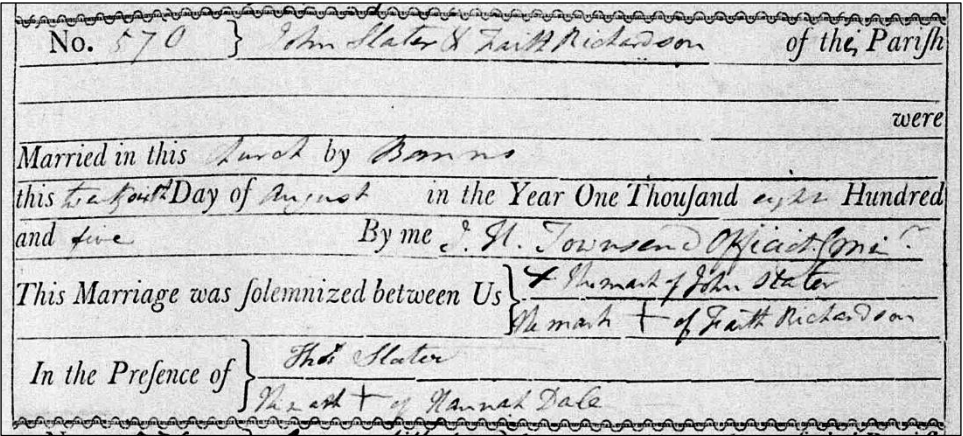


Figure 4: Marriage record for Faith Richardson and John Slater

Source: Findmypast

I looked for children born to John and Faith Slater in the 20 years after 1805 and found none in the Tamworth parish register or in any of the online indexes. I also looked for children born to William and Faith Slater and found only the family that I knew about, the siblings of Faith Slater.

In my research on this branch of my family, I have found several unconventional marriages or non-marriages, even an instance of an uncle and niece living as husband and wife. This made me wonder if Faith Richardson had married John Slater but lived as the wife of his brother William, so I investigated whether William had a brother John who was available to marry Faith

other was born in 1774. One John married in 1792 and the other in 1795. I have yet to determine which John married which wife, but by 1805 both of them were thoroughly married and not available to marry Faith Richardson.

Although I had not found any documentary proof that Faith Richardson was the wife of my 4th-great-grandfather, William Slater, I was reasonably certain that she was, and that she is my 4th-great-grandmother.

In 2016, I had my DNA analyzed by AncestryDNA and created a basic family tree on Ancestry.com. In February 2019, Ancestry introduced

a new feature called ThruLines™. The *Ancestry.com* website explains:

Using the public or private searchable tree linked to your AncestryDNA test, we search for people who appear in both your tree or other Ancestry member trees that are marked as public or private searchable. ThruLines™ uses this information to illustrate how you and your DNA matches might be related through common ancestors. ... ThruLines™ may also suggest potential ancestors. They will appear with a dashed outline around their names. These are people who are not in your family tree, but appear in the trees of other Ancestry members who may share a common ancestor with you.

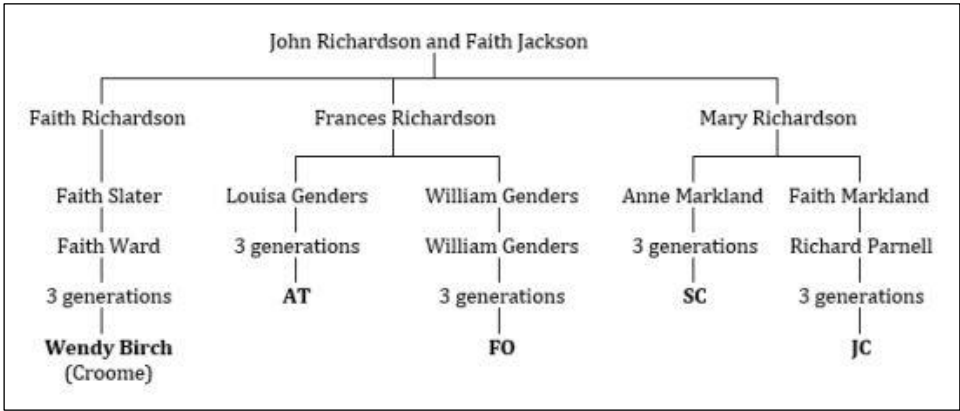
My family tree on *Ancestry.com* included William Slater and his wife Faith (surname unknown). Recently, as I was looking at ThruLines™, I discovered that the website was suggesting Richardson as the surname for Faith and further

suggesting John Richardson and Faith Jackson as her parents. I was intrigued and excited to see that it showed that I had DNA matches with four people who appeared to be descendants of two of Faith Richardson's sisters, Frances and Mary. These DNA matches were identified as my potential fifth cousins once removed and sixth cousins.

I am always sceptical about other people's trees, and especially on *Ancestry*, but this was definitely worth investigating. I already knew that Faith Richardson had sisters named Frances and Mary, and I had done a little research on their descendants. By using the hints on *Ancestry.com* and continuing my own research on that website and on other databases, I confirmed the suggested lines of descent for all four of my DNA matches—one of whom lives in Wales, one in Australia and two in New Zealand.

Figure 5: Richardson Family Tree

Source: Author



As can be seen in the accompanying chart, none of the four people is closely related to any of the others.

This makes me quite certain that our common ancestors are John Richardson and Faith Jackson. By combining traditional documentary research with the evidence from DNA matches, I am now convinced that my 4th-great-grandmother is indeed Faith Richardson.

Having confirmed that Faith Richardson's mother was another Faith, I began to investigate how far back in my family I could trace the name. Fortunately, the name Faith is not a common one, and the family did not move far. I was delighted to discover that I was able to find several more generations:

Faith Richardson (1784–1855) → Faith Jackson (1762–1844) → Faith Reynoldson (1736–1815) → Boaz Reynoldson (1703–1778) and my 8th-great-grandmother, Faith Goodchild (1667–1742).

It was all a matter of Faith.

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From There to Here—My Journey



BY KATHY MCCONKEY

Born and raised in Aberdeen, Scotland, Kathy graduated from university in 1966. After working for five years in London and Berkshire, she and her husband, John, moved to Montreal and then Ottawa. She became interested in family history and joined BIFHSGO in 2004. Her entry to our 25th Anniversary Writing Competition reminds us all of the importance of recording our own story.

I was born in 1944 in the City of Aberdeen, on the east coast of Scotland. We lived on the second floor of a three-storey, six-family building, not too far from the beach. Across the street were a granite yard, city playing fields, a cinder-covered empty lot, and an old bomb shelter. Our building was attached to three others of the same design. The street lighting was gas, and the lamp lighter would go from lamp to lamp, lighting them with a flame at the end of a long pole. I don't remember ever seeing the lamps being turned off.

Our flat consisted of one small bedroom for my younger sister and me, a “front” or formal room,



Figure 1: The flat on Linksfield, Aberdeen
Source: Google Maps, Street View

and a combined living room and kitchen with an alcove for my parents' bed. Each room had a fire-place for heat and, in the kitchen area, initially an oven and cooking stove built into the fireplace and, later, a stand-alone stove, a sink and a "geyser" for hot water (a tankless system which produced hot water "on demand" by heating it as it flowed through a heat exchange coil.) There were two cupboards, one in the kitchen and one in the entry hallway, where gas masks hung on a hook behind the door. The stairs leading to our flat were lit by gas lamps that the tenants had to light each night. Similarly, the entry hallway to the building and the stairs were cleaned by the tenants on a strict schedule.

At the rear of the house were six coal sheds—one per tenant, three toilets—one per floor, a "wash house" with a boiler and a mangle (a hand-turned wringer which removed excess water from the clothes), wooden sinks, running cold water and buckets, a raised square grassy area we called "the Green," and a very small concrete area (about 8ft x 24ft). Families were assigned specific days on which they were allowed to use the wash house and the green. The boiler had to be filled with buckets of cold water, and very early in the morning a fire had to be lit under it to heat the water for washing the laundry. The clothes were pegged

out on washing lines tied between concrete posts and hoisted up into the breeze with wooden clothes poles—each family having their own poles. Neighbours were friends and it made for a very cooperative way of living. Coal, the main form of heating fuel, would be delivered regularly into the coal shed by coal men, and then brought to the flats in buckets by the families. Bathing the children took place in the kitchen sink. I never saw my parents bathe, but presume it happened after we children were in bed.

Of my paternal grandparents, I grew up only knowing my grandfather,



Figure 2: Mother, Father, me and younger sister in backyard of Linksfield, circa 1953

Source: Author

his wife having died before I was born, and we were not very close. My maternal grandfather also died before I was born, leaving my grandmother to bring up six children on her own. To make ends meet she cleaned trains at the local train station. During WW II she and her family were bombed out of their house, which we often walked past while out shopping. It took the city quite some time to remove the rubble that the war left behind. My grandmother remarried after the war and in 1947 she emigrated to B.C., Canada with her two youngest children, the others being married by then.

I have happy memories of living in our flat until I was nine years old. We walked to school, played outside till it got dark, were allowed to walk, on our own, to the corner "sweetie shop" for our weekly treat, and take the tram on our own to go to Brownies and to church. I guess we all felt pretty safe in those days. During these trips on the tram to downtown, I was aware of older children wearing school uniforms. I particularly liked the green and navy uniform, and at this young age decided I wanted to go to that particular school. This would influence me when I was a little older. We often walked to visit an aunt who lived nearby, passing the low wall where my parents had to seek shelter during a German bombing

raid. We heard that story many times.

Dad was a brass and iron moulder and he cycled to work, coming home for lunch every day. I loved to visit the foundry and still remember its smells. Dad worked Monday to Saturday and Wednesday evening, finishing at lunchtime on the Saturday. Paid on Fridays, in cash, he always handed his pay packet to Mum as soon as he got home. She took care of dividing it up for the various expenses, including my Dad's pocket money. Some of that he used to bring home treats on Fridays from our nearby Italian ice cream shop. Being careful with money was very important.

Although the war was over, we were still using ration books due to shortages caused by the war. Dad did not have a war pension since he had not been allowed to join the forces because of being in a reserved occupation: the company he worked for had to make parts for planes and ships as part of the war effort and the workers' expertise was needed.

Mum was a good money manager. She paid into a clothing fund at a small local shop so that my sister and I could each have a nice new dress at Christmas. She bought her groceries at the store where she could accumulate the equivalent of today's points, which she then used to purchase new wallpaper or paint or required furniture. When she

shopped, she brought her own containers (to be filled with syrup or jam from bulk containers in the store) and shopping bags with her. Then, she either walked home or took the tram if the bags were heavy—pretty environmentally responsible!

Around the time I turned nine, the local council was trying to improve the living conditions of folks like us. New housing estates were being built and families could apply to move to one of them, which my folks did. We moved in late summer to a two-bedroom, living room, kitchen and *bathroom*, two-storey attached home. It had its own front yard, and a shared back “green” for two families and space for our own vegetable garden. We had moved to heaven! One drawback was finding field mice in the house, because construction had taken place on former farmland. Nevertheless, our quality of life improved dramati-

cally. We still walked to and from school, three miles each way, four times a day. We now had buses instead of trams in the city. While we still didn't have a car or a phone, our food was no longer rationed and we enjoyed gardening and growing vegetables. We still played outside till dark and felt safe, and we received Christmas parcels from my grandmother in Canada, containing “siren” suits (one-piece garments for the whole body which were made of heavy fabric for warmth, easily put on or taken off, and originally designed for use in air-raid shelters) for our snowy winters and introducing us to Juicy Fruit gum.

Grandma visited us every few years, and my parents visited B.C. to see her and Ontario to see my aunt and to meet other family members who had settled there. They always returned home raving about how clean Canada was and how friendly and helpful people were in the



Figure 3: Faulds Wynd, the house I moved to at 9 years old

Source: Google Maps, Street View

stores. Perhaps a seed was sown? The family almost emigrated to Canada when my Dad was offered a job in Hamilton, Ontario, but after much thought they decided not to go.

At age 12, things began to change for me. I had studied hard for the “11-plus” exams, which we all had to sit, and I made it into that senior secondary school with the green and navy uniform. If I worked even harder this path would enable me to go on to college or university. Playing outside until dark changed to sitting indoors doing three hours of homework every night. Dad now had a moped and we all still came home for lunch, our main meal of the day. Sometimes Dad would take me back to school on the moped; sometimes I’d bike back and forth. I must have been pretty fit, because we lived at the top of a hill.

Throughout my whole school life, I had been part of the competitive athletic group, track and field, field hockey and netball. However, as it became more probable that I might be the first in our family to go to university, it also became more obvious I’d have to concentrate on studies and start contributing financially to the family.

So I gave up my sports and got a Saturday job in a bakery. I was with the company for many years, also working during the school holidays, and my confidence was boosted by

the increased responsibility I was regularly given. I made it to Aberdeen University and completed a three-year Arts degree in 1966. Before and after university, some friends and I began to do a bit of travelling. Being so close to Continental Europe, we took advantage of our summer holidays to visit France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. One of the trips was an organized bus tour—the kind that people joke about—*if it's Thursday, this must be Belgium!* However, it was fun and a great way to



Figure 4: Graduation Day, 1966
Source: Author

experience different countries. One of our other trips involved a two-week stay in an apartment in Rome, where we lived like the locals. It was such a great adventure and the reason why I've loved Rome ever since.

Not knowing what I wanted to do now that I was “grown-up” and had my degree, I took some career counselling and was advised that I should consider computer work or social work. I am a pretty emotional person so I figured I would be crying with, rather than helping, people—so I chose the computer route. At that time, companies

actually visited the universities scouting for new staff and I was hired by ICL, based in London, England. This totally changed my life. For 12 weeks, I received training in the Berkshire countryside and was then posted to a job in Putney, a district in southwest London. I met my future husband, got married and worked in Berkshire again when the company opened an office there.

My husband and I also took advantage of our proximity to the Continent and had many camping holidays there. It was sometimes quite frightening, driving on



Figure 5: Kathy (seated in the middle with her grandmother) with some of her Vancouver relatives

Source: Author

mountainous roads in our British, right-hand drive car. As I was usually the passenger, I had to become an expert at watching oncoming traffic and telling my husband when it was safe for him to overtake.

Since we both had family in Canada and had worked for five years for ICL, we decided to take our travels to new levels and spend a couple of years exploring North America and getting to know our relatives better. Arriving in Montreal without jobs at a time when computer programmers were in demand, both of us soon had jobs in our field. The company we worked for sold equipment throughout the world and, since our jobs took us to many customer sites, we certainly got to see a lot of North America and places farther afield. Our two years here got extended since we enjoyed

our jobs, had made good friends and had bonded with our Canadian relatives. We embraced the harsh winters by learning to ski, although driving in the Laurentians brought tears to my eyes because it reminded me of Scotland. We continued our camping holidays and visited several provinces and many American states.

Our families back home were disappointed we had decided to stay in Canada permanently but understood our decision. We have visited my family out west and there have been many trips back and forth between Canada and the U.K.—our families coming here and us going home to visit them. However, whenever I arrive in my hometown of Aberdeen now, I take a deep breath and know that I am really home. My heart is still there.

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We Shall Remember Them

BY LYNDA GIBSON

Lynda Gibson has been researching and writing biographies for the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station project since 2017. In this article, she tells the story of a young man who spent much of his time overseas working in the Canadian Army Dental Corps but later saw action on Hill 70.

Private Stanley Theodore Hunter®

Regimental Number: 343

2nd Canadian Battalion (Eastern Ontario Regiment)

born: 28 September 1896–died: 2 April 1918

Private Stanley Theodore Hunter spent most of his wartime service in relative safety, assisting dentists in the Canadian Army Dental Corps in Britain. He was at the Front for just three weeks before incurring his fatal injury.

Stanley was born on 28 September 1896 in Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario, to John Charles Hunter and Ida Delia Smith.¹ John had been born on 6 September 1871 in Smiths Falls, Lanark County, Ontario, and had a number of occupations during his life, from butcher² to carter³ to assistant plumber (during a short interval in Watertown, New York)⁴ to transfer agent⁵ and teamster.⁶ Ida had been born in July 1875 in Kingston.⁷ They married on 1 November 1893 in Frontenac⁸ and had four children, all but one born in Kingston: Stanley; Charles Hilton, born on 23 September 1898 in Kingston;⁹ Gladys May, born in April 1901 in Adams, New York, USA;¹⁰ and Ida

Myrtle, born on 29 May 1903 in Kingston.¹¹

Although the family was living in New York State when Gladys was born in early 1901, it was for a short time only, as the July 1898 to July 1899 Kingston Directory shows the family living at 321 Brock Street, and the 1900–01 Kingston Directory shows the family living at 155 Bagot Street.¹² In 1911 the family was living in Kingston and John was a teamster.¹³

Stanley enlisted with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 1 June 1916 at the age of 19. He was then single and working as a salesman. Stanley arrived in England in December 1917 and the first 14 months of his time there was spent with the Canadian Army Dental Corps stationed in Bramshott, a Canadian training base in Hampshire; in London; and finally at another Canadian training base, at Seaford, in Sussex.¹⁴

The Canadian Army Dental Corps was established in May 1915 under the administrative control of the director of medical services. It included dental officers, NCOs and privates. They served in hospitals in the UK as well as at or near the front lines in France, Greece, Italy and Belgium. Each dental surgeon had a batman and an orderly to assist him. The functions of this corps included dental inspections on arrival in

gious infection of the gums featuring bleeding gums and ulceration of the gums between teeth. Many soldiers developed the disease during this war, probably due to the poor conditions and extreme psychological stress.¹⁶

On 7 February 1918 Stanley was drafted to the 2nd Canadian Battalion at Seaford. Shortly thereafter, he arrived in France at the Canadian Corps Reinforcement

Centre, where troops were held before being sent to reinforce existing units, and he joined the 2nd Canadian Battalion on 1 March.

Stanley was immediately sent to the Front, where his battalion was supporting other troops. They performed trench maintenance at night, sometimes during violent bombardments. On 5 March 1918 his battalion was relieved and moved to billets in Les Brebis. There, Stanley would have enjoyed

having a bath, receiving his pay, and perhaps attending church services and the Battalion Concert Party at the Brebis YMCA Cinema. Of course, daily training was occurring as well.¹⁷



Figure 1: Patient in chair, Canadian Army Dental Corps

Source: Topley Studio, Library and Archives Canada, PA-012794

England and prior to departure for home, normal preventative care, special reconstructive surgery in dedicated clinics, and treatment of wounds and trench mouth.¹⁵ Trench mouth was a common, non-conta-

On 20 March the battalion moved from its billets and proceeded to the forward area in the left subsection of Hill 70. At 5:30 a.m. on 21 March, under cover of an intense bombardment and heavy smoke, the enemy raided and successfully entered the trenches where Stanley's regiment was located. Although the enemy was forced to retreat after suffering heavy casualties, one Canadian officer and 29 soldiers were injured while 10 soldiers were killed.¹⁸ Sadly, Stanley was seriously wounded during this raid, suffering

several shrapnel wounds to his legs and a compound fracture of his left foot and right ankle.¹⁹

Stanley was triaged at No. 2 Canadian Field Ambulance then taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. A casualty clearing station (CCS) is a military medical facility behind the front lines that is used to treat wounded soldiers. A CCS would usually be located just beyond the range of enemy artillery and often near transportation facilities (e.g., a railway). The CCS receives battlefield casualties from regimental aid posts located in the combat zone. Casualties that cannot be adequately treated in the CCS are stabilized there before being transported to a field hospital or military hospital.²⁰

In trying to save Stanley's life, doctors amputated part of one leg, but the effort was unsuccessful. Stanley died of complications from his wounds on 2 April 1918 and was buried the same day at Houchin British Cemetery (Row F, Grave 3).^{21, 22} Houchin Cemetery was opened in March 1918 when No. 6 British CCS came to Houchin. From April to September the German advance made Houchin unsafe for hospitals, and the cemetery was used by the 55th (West Lancashire) Division. In September 1918, No. 6 British CCS returned to Houchin and was joined by No. 15 British CCS in October.²³



Figure 2: Gravestone of Private Stanley Theodore Hunter
Source: Find a Grave

Stanley received posthumously the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal for his service at the Front during those several weeks in March 1918. The British War Medal was issued to men of the British and Imperial Forces who entered a theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. It was a silver medal, the front of which depicts the head of George V. The recipient's service number, rank, name and unit were impressed on the rim. The Allied Victory Medal is bronze, depicting a winged classical figure representing victory. It was similarly inscribed on the rim with the recipient's service number, rank, name and unit.²⁴

Tragically for this family, Stanley lost both his sister and his mother to tuberculosis while he was away serving his country. Sister Gladys died on 24 January 1917 at the age of 16 after suffering from the disease for two years,²⁵ and his mother Ida died on 18 June 1917, after suffering for three years.²⁶ However, the Memorial Cross (commonly known as the Silver Cross) for her son's sacrifice was still sent to his mother. This medal was awarded to the mother or widow of Canadian soldiers who died on active duty.²⁷

Stanley's father John remarried on 4 September 1919 to Margaret Gilmour.²⁸ He passed away on 25 April 1931 in Kingston, Ontario, of pneumonia and cardiac dropsy.²⁹

Sadly, Stanley's last sister Myrtle also died young of tuberculosis at the age of 18, on 28 January 1922.³⁰

Stanley's brother Hilton married Ethel Harnbrook on 8 September 1919.³¹ He does not appear to have served in the war. In 1921 Hilton and Ethel were living with her parents and their infant daughter Audry in Kingston.³² Hilton continued to live with Ethel in Kingston until at least 1949, but no further records were confirmed for him.³³

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SPEAKERS WANTED

Great Moments and
Full presentations

A willingness to
present via Zoom
an asset

Contact Dianne Brydon at
programs@bifhsgo.ca



Photo by Matt Botsford on Unsplash

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

The latest *Canadian Issues*, a biannual publication of the Association for Canadian Studies, takes a broad look at

genealogy. It's free online at <https://acs-aec.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CITC-2020-Spring-Summer.pdf> and includes my article "The Development and Transformation of Canadian Genealogy."

War Brides

This year is the 75th anniversary of the arrival in Canada of British and other WW II brides of Canadian servicemen. BIFHSGO is remembering this with a project led by John McConkey, Director, Research and Projects and son of a war bride. John's ultimate goal is to compile a list of all 47,783 war brides and their 21,950 children who came to Canada, together with details on ocean crossings and maybe other pertinent information. In the meantime, he's collecting stories. *Anglo-Celtic Roots* will join the celebration with a theme issue next spring. If

you have a war bride story, short or long (within reason), contact John or ACR's editor at the addresses on the inside back cover of this issue.

Online Genealogy Presentations and Socials

Have you gone online with Zoom during the pandemic, perhaps with family or friends? BIFHSGO's Barbara Tose has been hosting Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon socials for BIFHSGO members every second week during the summer. Some of the BIFHSGO special interest groups are also meeting online, sometimes with presentations, sometimes for a social chat. Ontario Ancestors' Ottawa Branch (OGS) has a weekly session on Tuesday afternoons, picking up from the fortnightly informal group sessions previously held at the CentrepoinTE Ottawa Public Library Branch.

Each Tuesday during the pandemic shutdown, I've been posting a list of webinars, mostly accessible free of charge, to be given live over the following few days. Look for offerings from *Findmypast*, *MyHeritage*, *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch*, Legacy Family Tree Webinars, various

family history societies, the Allen County Public Library, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Air Force Records

Findmypast has published an index from The (UK) National Archives (TNA) for the British Royal Air Force (RAF), Operations Record Books (ORBs) 1939–1945. The index will help you identify the actual records, though these are not available at *Findmypast* and must be ordered from TNA. To mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Britain (10 July 1940–31 October 1940), *TheGenealogist* has released over two million new RAF records at thegenealogist.co.uk/ bringing the total number of RAF records to 3.7 million. These records cover the critical fight for Britain's survival at the start of WW II and, for many squadrons, encompass the duration of the war. They are fully searchable by name, aircraft, location and many other fields. You might well find someone from Canada who enlisted with the RCAF serving with the RAF.

Similar ORBs are available for RCAF squadrons for WW II, digitized and online on 278 digital microfilm reels at http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_mikan_135766/. For research on an individual in the RCAF, the ORBs are essential and more informative than a service record if you can find the relevant reel! It's a bit complex; here's the

procedure. Go to the Library and Archives Canada website and under Search the Collection select *Archives search*, then *Advanced*. Use the drop-down menu to select *Finding aid number* and enter 24-104a. Add any other Keyword—it could be squadron number or a location—then search. Look over the results to find something promising. Take the associated microfilm number, go back to <http://heritage.canadiana.ca> and search for that microfilm number—putting it in quotation marks may help bring up the document.

England

A post from The Iron Room, the blog site of *Archives and Collections @ the Library of Birmingham* (UK), entitled “Tracing Family and Friends online,” suggests resources for ways to reconnect with those in the UK you may have lost touch with or not seen in a while. The resources are divided into five categories: Telephone Directories; Marriage, Death & Burial Indexes; Electoral registers; Message Posting services; and Tracing services. You can find the blog post at <https://theironroom.wordpress.com/2020/06/22/tracing-family-and-friends-online/>.

Also, check out the Birmingham Library's list of useful websites for archives in the West Midlands at <https://theironroom.wordpress.com/useful-websites-in-the-west-midlands/>.

Adjacent Staffordshire sees the completion of a project to digitize and index tithe maps and records for the 1840s at <http://www.staffspasttrack.org.uk/>. All 271 of Staffordshire's tithe maps, covering about 70 percent of the county, are now available online for the first time.

Meanwhile, the Derbyshire Record Office blog has a series of recent articles about genealogical sources that are relevant not just in that county at <https://recordoffice.wordpress.com/>.

You can now browse or search a collection of 4.4 million baptism, marriage and burial records for the City of Westminster on *Ancestry*, previously available exclusively on *Findmypast*. There's good advice on researching family history at the City of Westminster Archives Centre at www.westminster.gov.uk/family-history/. It's an upper-income bracket area, so expect to find prominent people. Glenn Wright found Sir John A. Macdonald's marriage there.

Scotland

You don't always have to pay *ScotlandsPeople* for access to Scottish records. In June, *Findmypast* augmented its collection of Scottish Catholic records to 923,358 baptisms, 432,059 marriages, 324,571 burials and 511,708 congregational records. This year, *FamilySearch* has also updated their

collection of Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950 to include 8,151,224 records, Scotland Marriages, 1561–1910 to 2,007,372 records, and Scotland Church Records and Kirk Session Records, 1658–1919 to 302,862 records.

Ireland

Complementing the surname maps made available by John Grenham at <https://www.johngrenham.com/surnames/>, Barry Griffin has made available maps based on the 1901 and 1911 censuses of Ireland for those with occupation as farmers, and for different religious affiliations. See <https://barrygriffin.com/surname-maps/>.

You can now find tithe applotment books for 1823–1837 for each Northern Ireland parish at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland website. Chris Paton has a description of the process for using them at <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/2020/03/pronis-digitised-northern-irish-tithe.html>.

If you're of a literary turn of mind, you'll find articles of interest in the Irish history section, and likely elsewhere, at the Dublin Review of Books at <https://www.drb.ie/>.

Wales

Published from 1961 to 1985, *The Carmarthenshire Historian* was "an attempt to stimulate interest in Local History." There's an outline index at <http://carmarthenshirehis>

torian.org/cgi-bin/twiki/view/His
torian/WebTopicList/. Click the link
and wait for the Internet Archive
version and click again. No links to
the images remain; they are in the
pdfs.

Ancestry now has 282,099 records
in the collection Wales, Wills and
Probate, 1513–1858 including
images of the original documents.
These are also available directly
from the National Library of Wales.

Keeping Up to Date

Here are the major genealogy news
blogs to follow for your UK and
Ireland family history interests. For
England and Wales, Peter Calver
posts his Lost Cousins newsletter
twice a month at [https://lostcou
sins.com/](https://lostcousins.com/). For Scotland, it's Chris
Paton's Scottish GENES at [http://
scottishgenes.blogspot.com/](http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/). For

Ireland, Claire Santry frequently
posts at Irish Genealogy News at
[https://www.irishgenealogynews.c
om/](https://www.irishgenealogynews.com/), while John Grenham is occa-
sionally posting at [https://www.
johngrenham.com/blog/](https://www.johngrenham.com/blog/).

Another Photo Enhancement Tool from *MyHeritage*

Following on their colourization
tool mentioned in last issue's
column, *MyHeritage* has added
Photo Enhancer. It "takes a blurry
low-resolution or low-quality photo
and brings it into sharp focus." Your
results may vary, but put it to a real
test with a fuzzy photo or a
document image that's difficult to
read. Try the *MyHeritage* Photo
Enhancer at [https://www.myheri
tage.com/photo-enhancer/](https://www.myheritage.com/photo-enhancer/). You can
also colourize the resulting image.



BIFHSGO News

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 20 May 2020–10 August 2020		
Member No.	Name	Address
2033	Kathy Sullivan	Saugus, MA, USA
2034	Kelly Haggart	Ottawa, ON
2035	Linda Fitzgibbon	Ottawa, ON
2036	Betty Denny	Stoney Creek, ON

BIFHSGO PRESENTS

International speaker

Dr. Penny Walters

Saturday, 26 September 2020

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Half-day webinar via Zoom

Two lectures

The Psychology of Searching

&

Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy

Online registration required; Cost: \$20

Registrants will receive a detailed handout for each lecture.

See our website for details and registration.

www.bifhsgo.ca

**BIFHSGO's Annual General Meeting
will be held at 9:00 a.m. on 12 September 2020 via Zoom**

**Elections to the following directorships
will take place during the meeting**

Communications—Susan Davis was first elected as communications director to the BIFHSGO Board in 2010 and served three terms in that role before stepping down in 2016. She returned to the Board in the same capacity in 2018 and has agreed to stand for another two-year term. Susan leads a team of web and social media advisors for Environment and Climate Change Canada

Treasurer—Marianne Rasmus became a member of BIFHSGO in 2014 after moving to Ottawa from Vancouver, BC. She has served on the BIFHSGO Board as Treasurer since 2016 and has agreed to let her name stand for another two-year term. Marianne leads BIFHSGO's British Colonial America special interest group. She brings experience as a bookkeeper specializing in non-profit and charitable organizations to her position as Treasurer.

Membership—Ann Burns began working on her family history in 2003 and joined BIFHSGO in 2006. She has diligently researched her Irish roots both sides of the Atlantic since. In 2018, Ann gave a Great Moment talk and had two articles published in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* about those Irish ancestors. She has come forward this year to stand for the BIFHSGO board of directors, taking over the role of membership from Kathy Wallace.

President—Duncan Monkhouse followed in his mother's footsteps and joined BIFHSGO in 2008. Duncan became active on the BIFHSGO Conference Committee as co-chair of program in 2017 and has served in that capacity until this year. Duncan's experience as an officer for the High Tech Crime Investigation Association has served him well as President of BIFHSGO since his election to that position in 2018. He is currently looking for a replacement to step forward prior to the elections at the AGM.

Outreach—vacant with no nominees to promote BIFHSGO activities

Education—vacant with no nominees to organize and coordinate Education Talks

**Nominations will be accepted from the floor for all positions.
If you are interested in standing for a position
please contact Barbara Tose at pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca**

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2019–2020

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
Education	Vacant	education@bifhsgo.ca
Program	Dianne Brydon	programs@bifhsgo.ca
Past President	Barbara Tose	pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca

Communications

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

Conference 2020

Postponed to 2021

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 2021 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

10:00-11:30 a.m.*

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

- 9 Jan 2021** **Researching British Home Children**—Gloria Tubman will offer an overview of British home children and the various resources available to research this topic. She will relate stories of individuals using the information discovered in Canada and Britain. You may look at your own family research differently.
- 13 Feb 2021** **The Ragman's Children: A Story of 19th-Century Economic Migration**—Christine Jackson's great-grandparents arrived in London's East End from Amsterdam in 1867. Eighty years later their descendants described them as successful, prosperous tobacco and diamond merchants. In 2003, Christine and her cousin Rod set about to discover not only their family's place in Victorian and pre-War London but also their humble beginnings in the Netherlands.
- 13 Mar 2021** **Canada's Irish Pioneers: Their Story**—Canada's Irish immigrants are often depicted as sad and helpless exiles, but the facts would indicate otherwise. Lucille Campey will debunk this negative imagery by revealing the truths underlying their immigration saga.

***Please Note: The schedule and all programming are subject to change depending on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check our website at www.bifhsgo.ca for up-to-date information.** Meetings will occur via Zoom if attendance is not permitted at Ben Franklin Place (BFP). Education Talks will resume when we return to BFP. For information on special interest groups 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 25 October 2020.