



Anglo-Celtic Roots

Quarterly Chronicle

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The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally-incorporated society, and a Registered Charity (Reg. No. 89227 4044 RR0001). The purpose of BIFHSGO is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into and publication of family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles.

The objectives of the Society are: to preserve, research and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family and social history for the benefit of current and future generations; and to promote genealogical research through a program of public education that teaches people how to do research and how to preserve their findings in a readily accessible form.

The activities of the Society are to: publish and disseminate genealogical research findings, as well as information on research resources and techniques; hold public meetings on family history; maintain readily accessible reference facilities; encourage volunteer participation in family history and genealogical research activities; and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership in the Society shall be available to persons interested in furthering the objects of the Society and shall consist of anyone who submits an application for admission as a member accompanied by payment of the applicable fees or dues. The 2008 calendar year fees for Membership are: \$35 Individual; \$45 Family; \$30 Institutional. Membership benefits include: the year's four Issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; ten family history programs, each of two hours' duration; up to six free queries a year; friendly advice from other members; participation in a special interest group that may be formed.

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We invite readers to share family history articles, illustrations, letters, queries and similar items of interest by submitting them to *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Manuscripts should be written in the style of story-telling or letter-writing, leaving it to the editor to adjust. Preferably, articles should be submitted on both paper and MS-Windows compatible diskette, and addressed to: The Editor, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 3Y7.

Contributors of articles are asked to include a brief biographical sketch of up to 10 lines, and a passport type and size photograph. They will be invited to certify that permission to reproduce any previously copyrighted material has been acquired. Authors are encouraged to provide permission for non-profit reproduction of their articles.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BIFHSGO or its Officers. The Editor reserves the right to select material to meet the interest of readers, and to edit for length and content. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish a reply or return of material or, for out-of-country contributors, equivalent International Reply Coupons if you wish a reply or return of material.

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The President's Corner

As you read this, we are approaching the end of another very successful year for our Society. Membership continues to climb and our financial position remains strong. You will read the notice of our Annual General Meeting in this issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. In order to continue our success, we need strong leadership in the Society, as well as a large number of members who are willing to volunteer. I encourage all of you to consider how you can help your Society, either as a member of the Board, a member of the conference planning committee or a volunteer.

Many of you will recall Gordon Watts of Vancouver, who spearheaded the campaign to get the 1911 Canadian Census released. He is now floating the idea of creating a Canada-wide genealogical organization. This would not be a governing body with branches, but rather an advocacy society with existing Genealogical Societies as members. This organization could then speak on behalf of its members on Canada-wide concerns of genealogists and family historians.

One current concern is the government's decision that, starting with the 2006 Census, the information collected will only be released after 92 years if the individual checked "YES" to the release question on the census form. If nothing was checked it is taken as a "NO." Little publicity was given to this at the time of the 2006 Census, and most of that publicity emphasized the privacy issue and not the impact on future family historians. People living in some hospitals or nursing homes or who were incarcerated had the forms filled out by enumerators and were never asked about their consent choice. As a result, less than 56 per cent of the 2006 census data will be made available to researchers in 2098. This is a concern that a Canada-wide genealogical organization could address and organize a lobby campaign to get changes made.

As a result I have sent an e-mail to Gordon, on behalf of BIFHSGO, supporting his initiative.

Willis Burwell

Notes From the Editor's Desk

From the 2007 Fall Conference, Karin Keyes Endemann has provided an article on copyright law for genealogists, one that should be kept as a valuable reference on this important subject. Perhaps a copy should be clipped and posted above the computer monitor. On a more historical note, Willis Burwell describes the conditions that many of our ancestors may have experienced when crossing the Atlantic in the age of sail.

Mary Anne Sharpe has contributed an account of tracing her father's experiences in World War I, made all the more meaningful by the chance discovery of his wartime diaries. The use of modern science, in the form of DNA testing, to enhance traditional genealogy search methods is explored by Bryan Cook in his attempt to solve the enigma of his great-grandfather Cuthbert Baker.

Continuing the series of articles on the Beechwood Cemetery, Glenn Wright explores one of the lesser-known but nevertheless important citizens who emigrated from Britain to make a significant contribution to the cultural life of the young capital city.

Chris MacPhail

CONFERENCE 2007

Genealogy and Copyright Law ©

BY KARIN KEYES ENDEMANN

Karin Keyes Endemann is an expert in international relations, intellectual property and knowledge transfer, as well as an avid genealogist. This paper is based on her presentation at the 2007 Fall Conference.

For genealogists, copyright law is an ongoing challenge, as it affects both the research and the publication of any genealogy, whether it is a narrative family history or a simple pedigree family line. However, it can also be a useful and important tool. This article will attempt to provide an overview of copyright law and share with you how it can be safely applied in genealogical research.



Overall, intellectual property protection is about stimulating social and economic growth. Copyright protection is one type of intellectual property protection offered by governments worldwide. It is a legal system designed to promote the creation of and access to four main types of innovative works: artistic, literary, musical and dramatic. Copyright protection is offered to creators of these works in order to ensure the effective dissemination of these new works throughout society. It is hoped that such protection will, in turn, encourage further innovation and development.

In the simplest terms, copyright means the right to copy. A copyright arises when a work is fixed in a tangible medium of expression. Copyright protection comes into being automatically as soon as the work is recorded in any fashion (i.e., when it is written down). Copyright gives the author “*the sole right to produce, reproduce, perform and publish a work (or any substantial part thereof) in any material form.*” It means that only the owner of the copyright—usually the creator of the piece—is allowed to produce or reproduce the work or to permit anyone else to do so. In return, for allowing others access to his or her work, the author is given a) some opportunity to obtain compensation, b) some control over what is done with the work and c) some protection of the integrity of the work, for a limited time period.

The copyright law in Canada (and around the world) offers protection to works that are the *expression* of someone’s creative endeavours (a poem, a play, a painting etc.) and that meet at least the following three criteria:

Three Criteria for Protection

- Originality
- Fixation
- Nationality

1. **Originality:** Only works that are your creation can be protected. You cannot obtain copyright protection for the work of anyone else. While there is no official definition of the word “originality,” in practice, the work must, at minimum:
 - originate from the author;
 - not be a copy of another work;
 - involve independent creative effort;
 - demonstrate skill, knowledge, ability, judgement, imagination, experience and creativity.
2. **Fixation:** Fixation means that the work must be expressed in some material (tangible) form that makes it identifiable (note: there are a few exceptions).
3. **Nationality:** Finally, to be eligible for copyright protection, the author must be a national of a country that is signatory to one or more of the international copyright treaties (the Berne Convention or the WTO). Canada is a member of both.

The duration of copyright protection varies from country to country, but it always follows the same general rule: life of the author plus a predetermined number of years. In Canada copyright protection lasts for the life of the author plus 50 years, while in the USA and the EU it is life plus 70 years. This means that copyright continues long after the author is dead.

So now let’s look at what cannot be copyrighted. Copyright does not protect ideas and it does not cover

works that are in the public domain, for example, Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D* or Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. This means that even though you may have a brilliant idea for a mystery plot, until the script is actually written down or the motion picture produced, you do not have any copyright protection.

Copyright protects:	Copyright does NOT protect:
▪ a song	▪ the title for the song
▪ a novel	▪ the idea for the plot for the book
▪ a play	▪ the method of staging the play
▪ a magazine article	▪ the facts in the magazine article
▪ a computer program	▪ the name of the program (although this could be protected through trademark)

Furthermore—and this is the exciting part for genealogists—**Facts are free!** The basic facts about someone's life (name, birthdate and place, marriage partner, date and place, and death date and place) cannot receive copyright protection, no matter what their source, as these are just facts. Whether these facts came from a church, a county courthouse, a microfilm, your neighbour or a commercial CD-Rom, the basic facts of a person's life may be freely copied by anyone, as they are in the public domain.

This is because facts are not considered to be original expression under copyright law. No one can claim originality in a fact, because it just exists. Even though a person may discover a fact and document it, he or she has only reported and did not create it. As a result there is no originality involved and hence no copyright. For example, census takers do not create the data of their work, they simply write down the facts that they discover. Census data, therefore, cannot be copyrighted because they are not original.

The important distinction to remember is between creation and discovery: the first person to find and report a particular fact has not created the fact; he or she has merely discovered its existence. You wouldn't dream (I hope) of trying to claim copyright of the fact that $3 + 3 = 6$. The same logic and law applies to the fact that Aunt Minnie Keyes was born on 29 Jan 1866 or that Great Uncle Joseph was buried in Vinton, Quebec. No matter how much time, money and effort anyone expends in compiling them, facts remain in the public domain.

Creation vs. Discovery

Facts are in the public domain and are *free* for the taking even if the author was the first to discover the facts.

Since facts cannot be original expression, the copyright of any work does not extend to the facts contained within it. This is a very important and fundamental concept for genealogists, since genealogy so very much involves the pursuit, discovery and collection of facts. This means that anyone may extract and use any facts from a website, CD or database. For example the facts (names, dates, places) presented in a standard format, such as a pedigree chart or GEDCOM file, are in the public domain. This is because there is no originality of selection or arrangement of the facts. However, once the author has added some originality or narration to the basic facts, copyright protection applies, but only to the creative portion of the work. In general, the more narrative, the stronger the copyright protection.

While copyright law in Canada (and around the world) does not protect the facts, it does protect a unique presentation of the facts. Therefore, once any facts are presented in a unique format, such as a narrative, the presentation of the material is eligible for copyright protection. If I were to extrapolate on the facts in my family history and write "*Aunt Minnie Keyes was born on a cold and snowy night at the end of January 1866, in the heart of one of the worst winters the residents of the Vinton logging community could remember,*" this would be considered an original work, as it was created by expanding on the facts with a description. As a result, this document would be copyright protected. Once again, it is the words used to describe the facts that are copyrighted, not the underlying facts.

What is also helpful for genealogists to know is that blank forms, plain calendars and lists or tables that are taken from public documents or other common sources cannot be copyrighted either as there was no originality in their creation.

This same general rule also applies to large, original compilations of facts such as genealogical data CDs. As a result, you can copy the facts from a CD into your database with no violation of the creator's rights but you cannot legally reproduce the entire CD. These types of works are called compilations, as they are an arrangement or selection of information or works. A compilation can be a collection of just about anything but in genealogy compilations are usually a collection of facts or factual material—for example, a list of people in a cemetery or a book of photos. In copyright

law, a compilation is defined as:

- a collection or assembly of pre-existing material (facts or data),
- that was selected, coordinated or arranged (i.e., the whole is not included)
- by one or more authors and
- shows original work of authorship.

You should note that only works that meet *all* of these criteria are eligible for copyright protection.

In general, the author of a compilation is the person who selects, arranges and brings together the works or data that make up the compilation (e.g., an encyclopaedia). The originality involved in compiling (selecting, arranging, and explaining) the compilation qualifies it for its own copyright. However, remember that originality is only one foundation for copyright protection and not all compilations will meet the criteria. For example, Canada's Federal Court of Appeal has found that there is no copyright in the Yellow Pages (a compilation), as no originality was involved in the creation. This means that even though people spent a lot of time, effort and resources creating a compilation, they will not obtain copyright protection, unless they can demonstrate that it involved significant originality. This is good news for genealogists and other users, including libraries, researchers and those who depend on databases of essentially factual information, such as the list of all headstones in a particular cemetery.

When dealing with compilations you should remember that while a compilation, as a whole, will have its own copyright, the individual works, which make up the compilation, still retain their own separate copyrights. It means that the authors of a compilation must obtain permission from each individual contributor with a copyright before they can use the works in the compilation. Further, you as a potential user of the work must interpret both the global copyright on the magazine and the individual protection on each article.

In summary, if I were to write an article that included factual information, the expression of the information would be protected but not the facts. However, once the article was written, my original analysis and presentation of the data and my new treatment of it would be protected by copyright (the form of expression). In addition, if a magazine editor wanted to include it in his or her publication (a compilation), he or she would need to seek my permission before they could use it. Finally, once the magazine was compiled and published, that work—the magazine—

would receive copyright protection itself (whether or not the works within it were copyrighted) and the articles included in the magazine would still retain their own separate copyright protection (if applicable).

Needless to say, there are always exceptions to any rule and copyright rules are no exception! In Canada (as in most countries) there is a doctrine called “Fair Dealing” that offers an exemption from copyright liability, in a few specific cases: for criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship and/or research. It means that, as a genealogist, you can copy a sentence or two of any document or make a copy of a document for research and study with impunity. However, as soon as you want to use or publish a substantial portion of the work, you will need to seek permission from the author (and/or heirs) in writing. Therefore, you should not assume that you have free use of the copy of a story that Auntie Mabel left you in her will.

So let's now look at what this all means when you want to create and publish your family history. Your work is likely to consist of quotations and/or rewordings of short extracts from a number of different documents, combined with a substantial amount of your own text. If this is the case, then you can publish it without infringing copyright and without obtaining permission from anyone. However, if you were to write a family story or history based on one particular source document, with substantial quotations from it or containing its photographs, you would have to take steps to ensure that you did not violate someone else's copyright. In the box below you will find some questions you should ask yourself before using material.

Ask yourself

- Is any of the work still protected? i.e. photos
- What conditions were made when you obtained your copy?
- Is your quotation considered fair dealing?

Remember that, as soon as you write down your family history (the expression of the idea), your work (the compilation) is automatically protected by copyright in over 163 countries (the signatories to the Berne Convention). However, since any family history naturally consists of pre-existing material, the bulk of your family history may not be copyrighted by you. The important question you will need to resolve is who owns copyright and in what—and this can be quite difficult.

You can start with the assurance that family stories, descriptions, explanations and conclusions that you

have written yourself and expressed in an original way are copyrighted by you as soon as you have written them down on paper or saved them to your computer. Further, any quotations from works by other authors, whether a county history published 80 years ago, or a family history you received yesterday from your cousin, are copyrighted by the original author or publisher (and/or heirs). This means that you will need to obtain permission from the owners of the copyright. It will also be imperative to remember that if the copyright on a work has expired and has passed into the public domain, including it in your family tree or website will not give you new copyright protection on the pre-existing material.

Photographs are an integral part of any family history, as they make the facts come alive. However, photographs are also covered by copyright laws and need special attention. In general, the ownership of copyright in photographs belongs to the person who commissioned the photo or, if it were not commissioned, then it belongs to the person owning the film or negative.

There are basically two classes of photographic copyright protection levels, covering photos taken before 1 January 1999 and those taken after. The following table outlines the different copyright terms for photographs.

Category of Photographs	Copyright Term
Photos taken <i>before</i> 1 January 1999	50 years from date of negative
Photos taken <i>after</i> 1 January 1999	Life of original owner of negative plus 50 years
Photos already in public domain as of 1 January 1999	Remain in public domain (i.e., any photos taken before 31 December 1948)
If the owner of the photo is a corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When the author is a majority stock holder: life of the author plus 50 years ▪ Otherwise: 50 years from the date of the making of the negative

In general, this means that you should be able to publish copies of almost all family photographs and portraits executed before 31 December 1948 without permission from the family. However, if you want to publish newspaper photographs that are less than 50 (or 70) years old, you need to get permission from the publisher of the newspaper, as the copyright in these is not tied to the life of the creator.

Another major source of information for genealogists

is the Internet. While it is a wonderful treasure trove of valuable information, it can also be a *bête noire* when it comes to intellectual property protection. Copyright infringement and piracy of proprietary material are rampant on the Internet, largely because people assume that anything on the Web is freely available. It is not—except for the facts, of course. Let me assure you that documents you unearth on the Web are not in the public domain and that they are all covered by copyright law and international treaties. Secondly, you should know that as soon as information is created and saved to a hard drive, it is automatically protected (as it is original and fixed in a tangible form). So your best bet is to assume that all documentation (except the facts) found on the Web is covered by copyright protection—including graphics, text and multimedia.

Copyright protection also applies to the genealogical databases on the Web, which we all use. Genealogists are sharers—we are very generous people. We share files, data, information and photos, sometimes just for the sheer joy of sharing and sometimes in exchange for other information. This voluntary sharing is the grease that keeps the wheels of online genealogy lubricated and provides numerous opportunities to (I hope) locate those elusive ancestors. However, this sharing can also create quite a few problems. One such problem occurs when genealogists submit computerized family trees to Internet compilations, such as Ancestry, GenSource, the World Family Tree Project, or to a GenWeb site. As you know, when you submit your information, you are implicitly agreeing to allow your information to be published online. This would not be a problem, unless you have “accidentally” included someone else’s proprietary information with your data. In this case, both you and the compiler of the information could be liable for infringement of copyright law. In addition, I think it is important to also realize that such involuntary sharing will not, in the long term, encourage a more open exchange of genealogical information. In fact, it will more likely result in fewer, rather than more, postings on the Web. So remember that only through respect for the information of others will we be able to ensure our continued access to vital data.

As genealogists we must strive to be ethical with the information that is entrusted to us. We must take the time to determine whether or not the intended use of information could potentially infringe on someone else’s protected work and if so, to contact the owner to obtain permission to use the work. This is really not an onerous task; simply write to the owner and ask. I have found that owners are generally more than pleased (and often tickled pink) to give permission. If that is

not possible, then contact the publisher of the work. You can also check the registers at the Canadian Copyright Office to see if the owner has registered the copyright. Failing that, contact the appropriate collective society that may administer the rights for the owner. During your search, don't forget that copyright lives on long after the author is dead. This means that even if you determine that the copyright owner is dead, you will still have to seek permission from the author/owner's heirs. There really are no excuses for not making the effort.

At the end of the day, the best option of all is always the simplest one—just write the story yourself. There is nothing to prevent you from copying facts from myriad sources and then creating a new story in your own words. Quite frankly, this is usually the quickest, safest and most interesting solution. But remember to always acknowledge your sources. This is not just good ethics; it also will allow others to trace (and confirm) what you have done. One caveat, however—acknowledging your sources does not preclude the need to seek permission from the copyright owners.

One other copyright concept, which is important for genealogists, is that of moral rights. These rights protect the reputation of the author and the integrity of the work. This is a unique feature in law and quite an interesting one. Under moral rights, the author of a work always retains some authority over his or her literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work. Moral rights fall into three main categories.

Moral Right	Explanation
Integrity	No one, including the person who owns the copyright, is allowed to distort, mutilate or otherwise modify the work in a way that would be prejudicial to the author's honour or reputation.
Attribution	The author of the work has the right to always have his/her name associated with the work as its author or to remain anonymous.
Association	The author can always prevent the use of a work in association with a product, service, cause or institution in a way that is prejudicial to the honour or reputation of the author.

Moral rights are unique in that an author cannot sell or transfer his or her moral rights to anyone else, ever. However, these rights can be waived (in whole or in part) when the work is sold or transferred. Finally, moral rights exist for the same length of time as the copyright; that is, for the lifetime of the author plus 50 years (or more) and they pass to the heirs of the

author, even if they have not inherited the ownership of the copyright itself.

So how can you navigate this copyright maze? There are several simple and logical questions you can ask to help assess the situation and determine whether or not you are in risk of violating any copyright. I have developed the Keystone Copyright Decision Tree[®] (Figure 1) to guide you through the process.

To assess your copyright question, start at the top of the tree:

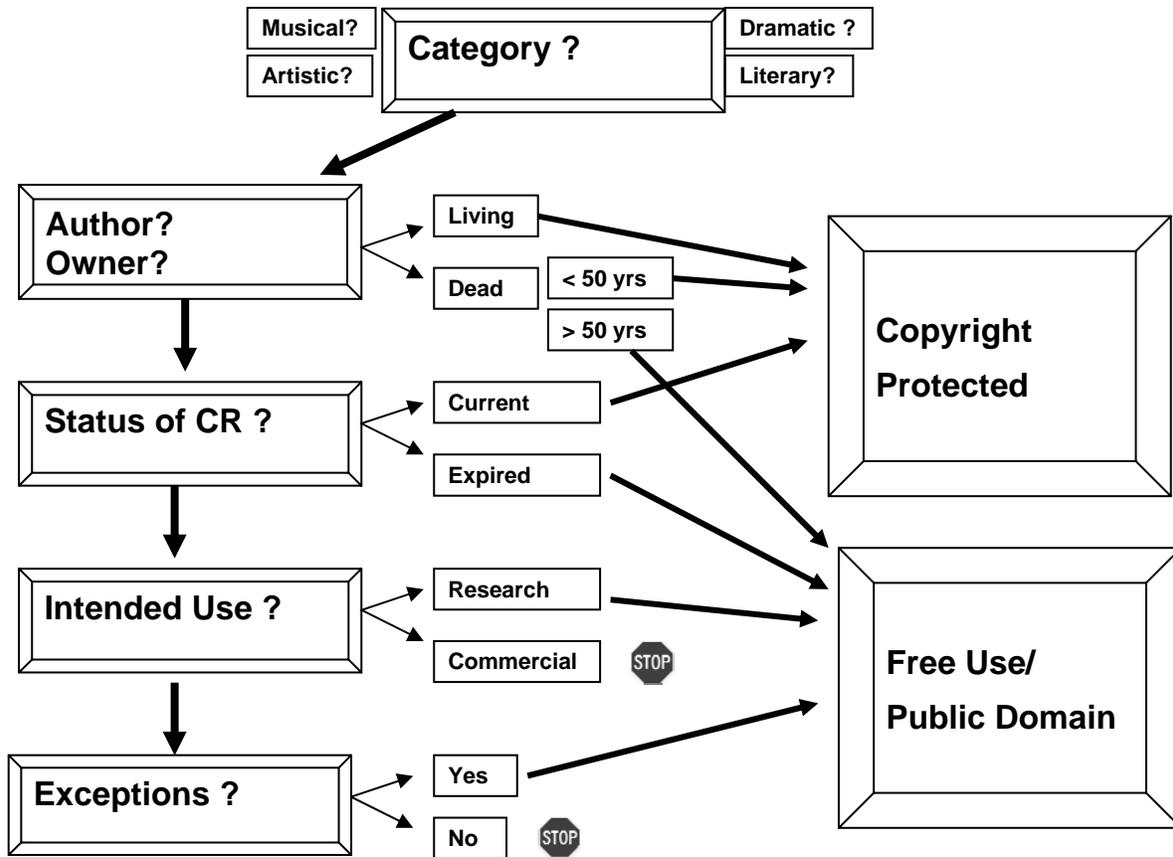
1. Determine into which of the four copyright categories the work falls.
2. Assess whether this work qualifies for a copyright.
3. If yes, then next assess who owns the copyright—is there an author? or an owner? are they one and the same?
4. Consider the status of the work...is it still covered by copyright or might the copyright term have expired (i.e., something before 1880)?
5. Consider the use that you are going to make of the work (research ? study? publishing?).
6. Consider whether or not there are any exceptions you could employ (e.g., the fair dealing doctrine).

Once you have used the Keystone Copyright Decision Tree[®] to assess the information, you should be able to determine whether or not you have any clarifications to seek, issues to resolve or owners to locate to obtain permission.

Please note that the Keystone Copyright Decision Tree[®] is *neither exhaustive nor complete*; it is meant solely as a guide to help you clarify the copyright situation you are confronting. In the case of complex copyright situations, always obtain professional advice.

Now that we have reviewed how you can use the information of others, let's look at how you can protect your own creations. If you intend to publish your genealogical research you will want to take steps to protect it from use by others. Remember this guiding principle: your protection lies in the extras that you have created. With respect to the Internet, if you intend to display your information in GEDCOM or pedigree chart format, be sure to include plenty of personal commentary in the form of notes, as this will increase your copyright status. Or consider displaying your family information in a story format complete with photos. This won't, of course, prevent people from using the facts that you have gathered, but it will

Keystone Copyright Decision Tree



© Karin Keyes Endemann 2007

Figure 1: Keystone Copyright Decision Tree

make it difficult for them to legally import your entire family tree (or story) into their database. When publishing your family history, you will need to take the appropriate steps to ensure that your rights are fully recognized and respected and, of course, are not violated. Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind.

- Protect Your Creations**
- Use the copyright symbol © and don't forget to include the year of first publication as well as the name of the copyright owner (e.g., ©2002, Elizabeth Weyburn).
 - Register your work with the copyright office. While this is not essential, it is prudent, especially for major works.
 - Include your contact details on your documents so that others can contact you to obtain permission if they want to use them.
 - Negotiate copyright clauses as part of your business agreements. This will ensure that you will have the right to use whatever you create.
 - Be vigilant and follow up on any infringement, otherwise, you might just find your work being freely offered to everyone!

In summary, these two boxes outline your copyright options.

- Your original work: you**
- Own the "global" copyright
 - Can give/withhold permission to copy or use the work
 - Can license/ assign copyright to others
 - Always retain the moral rights

- Works of others:**
- Without permission you can:
- Make one copy of a document, or book extract, for your own research
 - Publish small extracts from a work (quote the author & title of the work)
 - Use, copy, publish and sell all or part of a work, out of copyright or in the public domain
- With permission, you can:
- Copy and use a protected work

Remember that even though copyright law appears to be daunting and complex, the parts that apply to genealogy are really pretty basic. There are really just a few fundamental rules to follow, which I have attempted to outline in this article. I also hope that I have provided you with a better understanding of how,

as genealogists, we can safely and legally access, gather, use and profit from those precious and crucial bits of information. Happy hunting!

© Karin Keyes Endemann, January 2008

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Crossing the Atlantic During the Great Age of Sail

BY WILLIS BURWELL

Currently President of BIFHSGO, Willis presented this description of the experiences of early immigrants to Canada at the Fall Conference 2007.

Many of us have ancestors who crossed the Atlantic during the first half of the 19th century. Unfortunately, there are very few passenger lists and other records of the crossing. Often we don't even know the name of the ship or the precise dates when our ancestors came to Canada. The purpose of this article is to describe the conditions that our ancestors probably experienced during the journey.



During the 17th and 18th centuries sailing ships improved significantly. Hull design was improved, the hull was clad with copper sheet to reduce the friction of the water, and sail design was improved so that the ship could sail closer to an oncoming wind. As a result, Atlantic crossing time shrank from approximately six months to six weeks. However, the use of sailing ships for trans-Atlantic travel quickly declined after about 1860. The invention of the ship's screw made the use of steam engines more efficient and the use of iron hulls allowed much larger ships to be constructed. It became possible for ships to cross the Atlantic entirely under steam power in seven or eight days.

As a result, I call the fifty years following the Napoleonic War, the 'Great Age of Sail.' It is important to realize that, during this period none of the famous passenger lines—Cunard, White Star, Allan Line—existed. In fact, few ships were designed and built to carry passengers. Instead, cargo ships that brought timber or furs from North America were temporarily fitted out to carry passengers on the return trip to Canada. Typical of these ships is the barque

Jeannie Johnston which was built in Quebec in 1847 to carry timber to Ireland. This ship carried 2,500 Irish emigrants on 16 voyages to North America. Figure 1 is a photograph of a replica ship built in Ireland in 2003 as a sail-training vessel and as an on-board museum when in port.

The *Jeannie Johnston* had a length of 123 feet, a beam of 26 feet and a displacement of 510 tons. On one of its voyages she carried 256 passengers in addition to the crew. Regulations passed in 1835 allowed ships to carry three passengers for each five tons of displacement. In order to carry passengers, a temporary sub-deck would be installed with two tiers of bunks along each side of the ship. Regulations passed in 1842 set the minimum height between decks at six feet. Figure 2 is an artist's rendition of the passenger area in a typical sailing ship.



Figure 1: The *Jeannie Johnston* Replica
Courtesy the website www.jeanniejohnston.ie

The bunks would be six feet square and would hold four adults. Children under the age of six were counted as one-half an adult. Passengers had to bring their own bedding. There would be no portholes. Toilet facilities would be a number of buckets. Open hatches with a bit of sailcloth rigged to deflect the breeze down the hatch area provided the only ventilation. In good weather the passengers would be allowed to go up on the main deck as long as they did not interfere with the operation of the ship.



Figure 2: Passenger area of a typical sailing ship
Courtesy the website www.bytown.net

The area below the sub-deck provided storage for the passengers' baggage. Each adult was allowed to bring 10 cubic feet of baggage. That is about the size of a suitcase that we would take on a short vacation. Passengers did not have access to this baggage during the voyage. Figure 3 shows the layout of a typical sailing ship.

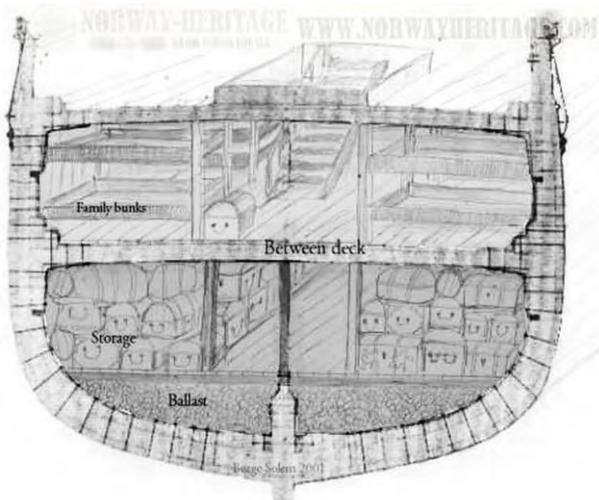


Figure 3: Below decks layout of a typical sailing ship
Courtesy the website www.norwayheritage.com

In most cases the cost charged for the passage included the provision of food and water by the ship's captain. A hearth for cooking the food would also be provided. Passengers were required to bring their own utensils for cooking, eating and drinking. Passengers had to cook their own meals, as the ship's cook only looked after the crew. However, with upwards of 40 families on board, each family probably only got one hot meal a day and in bad weather they might go for days without a cooked meal. Figure 4 shows the weekly provisions that the ship's captain was required to provide for each adult passenger in accordance with the Passenger Act of 1849. Again, children under the age of six were counted as one-half an adult. Regulations also required that the ship carry adequate provisions for a voyage of 10 weeks.

Water	21 quarts
Bread or biscuit	2 ½ pounds
Flour	1 pound
Oatmeal	5 pounds
Rice	2 pounds
Tea	2 ounces
Sugar	½ pound
Molasses	½ pound

Figure 4: Weekly provisions per adult
Courtesy the website www.theshipslist.com

Not surprisingly, the major complaint of the passengers was about the food and water. As the passengers had no way to measure what was provided, some captains would short the rations and sell the surplus when they arrived in Quebec. As there was no refrigeration or proper storage containers, spoilage would start to occur after a few days in the heat and humidity. After a week or so, the water that was stored in barrels would start to become smelly and foul tasting. Some passengers who anticipated this problem would bring vinegar to add to the water to cover up the bad taste. In addition, the water ration was barely enough for drinking and cooking. There were no water or facilities for bathing or washing clothes. The odour after six weeks would be oppressive.

Most of our ancestors would never have been on a boat before, or certainly not a small ship on the ocean. Therefore, most would have experienced seasickness for the first few days after departure. If people got sick in the passenger area in the hold there were few means of cleaning up the mess. The stench would make even

more people sick. Eventually the passengers would get their 'sea legs.' However, the North Atlantic is well known for its violent storms; even tropical hurricanes can come up the coast of North America and into the North Atlantic. If a ship were unfortunate enough to encounter one of these storms, life on board would be extremely miserable for everyone. To prevent water from flooding the hold, the hatches would be 'battened down.' There would be no light or ventilation in the passenger area. These small ships would bob around like a cork. It might even be difficult for people to stay in the bunks, much less move around. Many passengers would be seasick again, adding to their discomfort and the stench in the hold. Children and even some adults would be crying or screaming with the noise and fear of what might happen.

Another major complaint was the overcrowding. Government regulations were established so that the cost of passage could be kept in the £2 to £3 per adult range. The problem was that the regulations were seldom enforced. As a result, many ships arrived at Quebec City with many more passengers than were allowed by law. Because of the overcrowding, passengers had no privacy. Men, women, teenagers and children had to live in close proximity to each other, even sharing the same bunk. Infestations, such as head lice, would quickly spread throughout the ship. Even more deadly would be the spread of infectious diseases. Very few ships carried a doctor. If just one person brought typhus, cholera or smallpox on board, the disease would spread quickly and many passengers would die. Ships where this happened were called 'coffin ships.' This problem was severe enough that Grosse Isle was established in 1832 as a quarantine station, to screen all ships arriving at Quebec City for infectious diseases before the ships were allowed to dock.

Boredom would also be a major problem during the six-week crossing. There was nothing to see or do. A couple of passengers might have brought along a fiddle or bagpipes to provide some music. Singsongs and dances might have been organized. Others might have brought a family bible to read. Card games and possibly even gambling might have taken place. Once

the ship entered the Gulf of Saint Lawrence there would at least have been some scenery to observe.

Montreal was the main entry point for passengers wishing to settle in Upper Canada. However, the ship could not sail from Quebec City to Montreal because the river was too narrow. If the sailing ship were to pick up its cargo in Quebec City, the passengers would have to disembark, get their baggage and take a steamboat to Montreal. Regular daily service was provided during this period. If, however, the sailing ship was proceeding to Montreal to pick up its cargo, the passengers could stay on board and the steamboat would tow the sailing ship.

This article may have painted an overly pessimistic picture of the typical crossing of the Atlantic in this period. While there was a number of very bad crossings, it is likely that many were relatively pleasant. Certainly conditions did not deter our ancestors from making the trip. While many people died during the crossings, there were also many ships that arrived without any loss of life. The *Jeannie Johnston*, for example, never lost a passenger during its 16 voyages, in part due to the fact that she carried a ship's doctor.

Additional reading:

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Campey, Lucille. *Fast Sailing and Copper-Bottomed*. Natural Heritage Books, 2002.

Parr Trail, Catherine. *The Backwoods of Canada*. McClelland and Stewart, 1989.

MacKay, Donald. *Flight from Famine*. McClelland and Stewart, 1990.

Websites with additional information:

www.theshipslist.com

www.bytown.net

www.jeaniejohnston.ie

www.ist.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/thevoyage.html

<http://members.allstream.net/~max-com/Ships.html>

BIFHSGO SATURDAY MEETING REPORTS

In My Father's Footsteps to the Western Front

BY MARY ANNE SHARPE

Since retiring from the federal public service where she was involved in environmental issues in Alberta and Ontario, Mary Anne has been able to devote time to genealogical research and the study of Canada's social history in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This article is adapted from a presentation to the 10 November 2007 meeting of BIFHSGO.

On 9 April 2007, I attended the ceremony marking both the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and the rededication of the recently renovated Canadian monument to the fallen of World War I (WWI). I was also able to visit many of the locations my father, Lieutenant Norman Edgar Sharpe, MC, 26th Battalion (New Brunswick), had seen during his three years (1916–1919) with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at the Western Front.



I started preparing for the trip by reviewing the treasures my father had left me, including a number of old photographs that he had taken, both during his training and while he was overseas. I consulted Library and Archives Canada (LAC) sources, first obtaining his attestation papers and service file, then reading the 26th Battalion War Diaries online. I also read McGowan's battalion history¹ and a variety of books on WWI. I further consulted the Canadian War Museum's resources, and found a tour operator who would guide me on the Western Front battlefields. I also joined the CEF Study Group Internet Forum, where I asked a number of "beginner" questions, and learned a great deal about WWI, the CEF and the 26th Battalion.

There, I also learned that someone had found my father's diaries in a flea market in Ottawa and published them. Happily, I was able to add this valuable personal resource to those I had accumulated. It would make the difference for me by allowing me to follow in his footsteps as much as I could. As I had been growing up, it had been clear to me that WWI had been a huge influence in my father's life, as in the lives of many others, and being able to read his own words gave me a greater appreciation for what he had experienced.

I organized a binder to take with me, so that I could review highlights of my father's diaries, the battalion's movements, and other battle accounts. I took copies of my father's photographs. I had already forwarded to our tour operator a list of assembled place names, so that he could couple what I had discovered with his own on-the-ground knowledge, and prepare a truly custom trip.

I reviewed Canadian Operations in the Western Front up to the point that my father arrived there, as well as his own history to that point. The Canadian Corps, which had already established a reputation as tenacious fighters, was by 1916 largely a "citizens' army," under Sir Julian Byng's command (he was heard to remark something like "*Why me?! I don't even know any Canadians!*"). Byng expected every man to be prepared, and encouraged his officers to discuss proposed plans; both suited the Canadians' somewhat independent way. The "fighting 26th" New Brunswick Battalion had, by 1916, a year's experience in the field; it had also suffered the loss of more than a third of its men.

From my father's service file, I learned of his enlistment in the CEF in Ottawa, 22 April 1915, age 19, with the rank of lieutenant. After three months' training at Valcartier, he moved with the 4th Division Train to Picton, Montreal and Halifax; in June 1916, he travelled to England on the *S.S. Olympic*. The crossing was not particularly eventful, apart from endless boat drill. As he recorded in his diary:

My place in case of an alarm is down below...to clear out all cabins and send the men up...In case of an alarm I have just about as much chance as a snowball in hell." [And]: Rumour has New York betting 4 to 1 the Germans will get the *Olympic* this trip. [They didn't, but] Two or three men taken off as suspects. The Adjutant of the 104th taken off and the C.S.M. of No. 3 Coy.

Dad subsequently wrote that the adjutant had been shot in Canada for having his trunk half-full of explosives, but this too was rumour; the German-Canadian died in BC in the 1970s, an old man. After

another three months' training at Shorncliffe Camp in bucolic Kent, Dad embarked again, this time for Le Havre; the day he left, he recorded his weight as 147 pounds.

Battle for Regina Trench (28 September–1 October 1916)

The 26th Battalion's diary for 23 September 1916 records that, along with 47 other ranks, Lieutenant N. E. Sharpe arrived as a reinforcement. Dad writes:

Arrived at Hérisart to find that the 5th Brigade had just come out of the trenches after taking Courcelette and on way back to line for second attack [this was to be at Regina Trench]. First meal was rather a success here, chicken etc. My first taste of rum. Must have made an awful face. Sleep in loft of a French billet. Some place. I'm sure I heard a rat or two slip away as I approached.



Figure 1: Lieutenant Norman Edgar Sharpe, MC

As I read his diary, I realized he was learning how the Army worked. You wouldn't necessarily be "in the thick of things," for there were other jobs to do. Indeed, although the attack on Regina Trench resulted in the 26th Battalion partially taking it, Dad noted:

Got orders to take all the 5th Cdn Infantry Bde mules up to Bécourt Wood to form part of a Cdn Corps Pack Coy. Reached destination at about 4 p.m. with 30 mules...The idea is to supply transport for the Bdes which happen to be in the line. At 5 p.m. leave on a special convoy of 40 mules...I had to take the

convoy to 4th Bde HQ about 1 hours' march from camp...a few shells burst near us, but no casualties...I carelessly lit a cig and a few seconds later a bullet whizzed by...

For another few weeks, he remained on "mule duty," sleeping until mid-afternoon and moving around during the night; thus began his experiences as a member of what he called the "horseline Hussars."

Stuck in for Winter (1916–17)

In mid-October, the battalion began moving north to the Angres Sector, north of Lens, where it would be stuck in for the winter of 1916–1917.

Dad's diary has a laconic tone during this period, as he describes doing a stint as acting Quartermaster and later as acting Transport Officer.

...Quartermaster job looks good. Not much work if I don't look for it...Was sent up to Hersin to take over Transport from Major Arnold who was fired. OC inspected Transport and raised the deuce. Returned 3 men to the trenches." And further: "No excitement at all...When we were coming out of Bully Alley a Hun plane approached, apparently seeing us. We remained still and after...a bit it flew back to the Hun lines. It was quite an experience because the plane was near and in range and could have wiped us out at any moment with its machine gun.

Seeing the wide flat, featureless plain as it is today, the battalion's vulnerable position is easy to appreciate.

He and some mates spent Christmas at Béthune:

Christmas Day in France. Not in the trenches but might as well be. Too much to think of here...Had Christmas dinner at the hotel and ate what was called Plum Pudding...probably made of old bread and cheese.

Battle of Vimy Ridge (9–12 April 1917)

Perhaps the best-known Canadian Corps battle took place at Vimy Ridge, a dominant geographical feature held by the Germans since 1915. The steep whaleback, running roughly northwest to southeast, has its highest point at Hill 145, about 270 feet above the Douai Plain and the city of Lens, with its double slag heaps, to the northeast.

The battle started on Easter Monday, 9 April 1917. Training had begun a full month before the planned attack; men were issued maps and drilled over a taped course representing the various trench systems and objectives. The Canadian Corps would attack with the four Divisions lined up roughly south to north. The 2nd Division was to attack in front of Neuville St. Vaast, their jumping-off trenches reached by

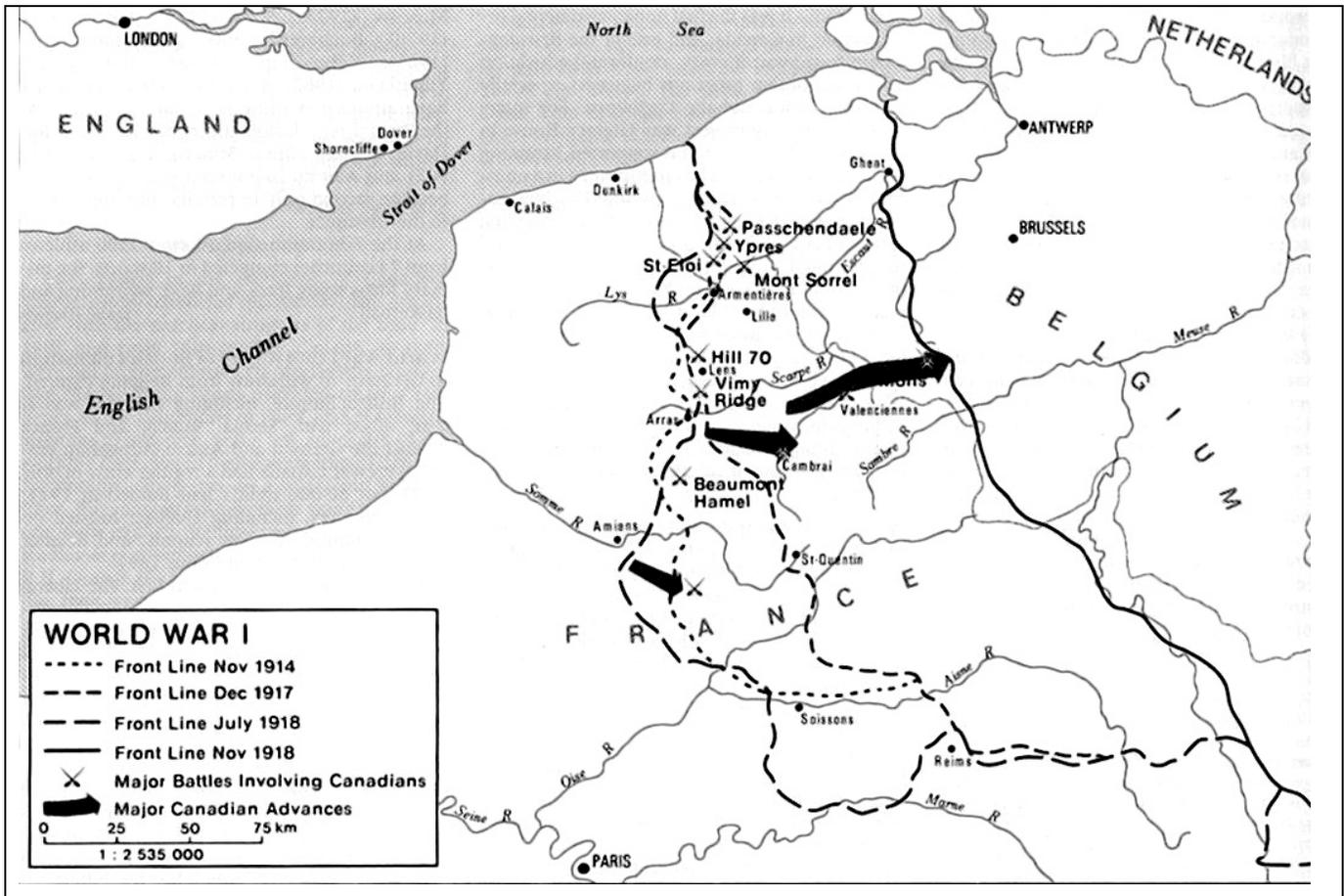


Figure 2: Map of Major Canadian Action

Source: Canadian Encyclopaedia Vol. 4

underground subway/tunnel system in front of the ruins of the town.

The 26th Battalion had to move forward about 800 yards and consolidate; they had achieved their objective early, by 6:02 a.m. The line of their objective is today marked by a row of trees, up a gentle slope from their jumping-off point at Litchfield Crater, itself about 1 km east of Neuville St. Vaast. At the objective line, Thélus Cemetery has two rows of 26th Battalion dead. My father writes:

...only for our maps, we would never have known that a ridge existed...We had a 2 hour trip into our jumping off trench...just in front of the front line, but unfortunately it took us 3 hours and...I began to get peeved at the working and carrying parties we passed in the narrow Communication Trench...

$\frac{3}{4}$ of a minute to go—a chance to look around and see what things looked like...we could almost see the Hun trenches opposite...I thought of the calm before the storm...then a rush of air overhead, the whine of shells—a flash of fire the whole length of the front as far as one could see—a deafening roar and the show had begun...over I went, the platoon formed up at my heels....

I could only see the line of men in front at first and the bursting shells beyond...We were supposed to cross a couple of trenches but I never saw them, they must have been entirely obliterated. It was just a mass of torn up ground, shell holes, large and small, bits of shells & casings every ten or twelve feet...

At our objective which by now was just a ditch, I met one of the other officers...we shook hands very pleased to see each other, then I wandered off to see that my platoon was consolidating the trench...About 8 o'clock in the morning I began to feel a bit hungry so I went to HQ to see if there was anything to eat...only some Hun bread...it was bitter & I promptly went outside the dugout to spit it out. Then I realized that I had a lot of equipment on that was not necessary...I returned to the dugout and started to take it off. I suddenly remembered I had 2 boiled eggs in a sock...went up to the trench & told the Major breakfast was ready. One of the orderlies had made some tea & we sat down to breakfast that Easter Monday, consisting of eggs, biscuits and tea. Believe me, we enjoyed it.

Lt. Norman Edgar Sharpe was awarded a Military Cross for his role in capturing a machine gun at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The citation reads in part: "He

led his platoon with great courage and determination. ..throughout set a splendid example of coolness under heavy fire.” He had just turned 21. In his own account, he wrote:

...[I got mixed up with] a machine gun...at our first objective. I got near it from a funk and for a moment there was a scrap between bombs and a revolver, but the revolver won. There were 2 Huns who had stayed with the gun thinking to use it after our barrage had passed over, but I happened to be right under our barrage at the time.

His medal was awarded at Buckingham Palace, by King George V in January 1918, and after the ceremony:

I proceeded to enact the most important part of the ceremony, according to Canadians, which was to stand on the top step of the entrance to the Palace, light a Players cigarette after first lighting the match on the doorpost.

Consolidating gains and resting behind the lines (April–June 1917)

During Spring, 1917, the battalion “rested” behind the lines near Villers-au-Bois, near Byng's HQ and the Château de la Haie, the Canadian Corps' training school and Sarah Bernhardt's former house. My father was among a group of officers that organized a sports day, including a bareback mule race, horseback wrestling, and baseball.

In this area I experienced a second spot of serendipity. I had promised a 98-year-old friend to take a photo of her uncle's grave. We missed the turn to the cemetery, and continued on up the road towards a village where I saw the steeple of the village church. It, and a group of buildings across the street looked familiar. When I got out the copy of my Dad's photo of the farm billet that I had brought, the steeple and the farm buildings were obviously those in the photograph. We were able to find the owner's phone number, and I phoned: yes, the farm had been used as a billet at some time during the First World War; in fact, many soldiers had scratched their names into the walls. When could I come to see it? “Well, I am here,” I said.

It was Easter Sunday; the young parents were hunting Easter eggs with their kids. They showed us the farm, and I was able to take my own photo from the same place where my Dad had taken his, 90 years before. The town, I now know, is called Estrée Cauchy; the Canadians used to call it “Extra Cushy.”

And, yes, I did take photos of my friend's uncle's grave at the Quatre Vents Cemetery, where the row of

cypress trees is said to resemble the pattern of dirt thrown up by shells. Earl Hembroff had signed up in Winnipeg and was serving in the 12th Field Ambulance when he was killed on 9 April 1917, Easter Monday, the day of the Canadians' attack on Vimy Ridge. He was killed here, about 16 km behind the lines, waiting for the wounded to come to the dressing stations; his death is mentioned in the Internet-published diary of a soldier from the same unit.

Canadian Corps recruitment camp (26 September 1917–13 April 1918)

According to Dad's service file, for six months he was assigned as instructor to the Canadian Corps' recruitment and training camp at Lillers. Meanwhile, the 26th Battalion rested again at Villers-au-Bois before taking part in the muddy battle of Passchendaele, where it acquitted itself well, but at high cost: of 562 members of all ranks who moved into the front line, 286 were killed or wounded. Dad's two friends, Lts. Gunn and McKnight, were both awarded MCs, and later all three went to London for their presentation by the King.

While I don't have a full account of this period, since Dad's diaries don't cover 1917, what I have indicates life at the school was relatively soft. He must have done well, because when the battalion wanted him back:

Commandant made me wiring instructor today as an excuse to keep me...he sent for me and the following conversation ensued...‘do you know anything about wiring Sharpe?’ ‘No Sir.’ ‘Well you're wiring instructor from now on, better get out and learn all about it’...got busy at once and worked so hard I learnt all about wiring in the morning and...was free in the afternoon to write letters.

The confidence of a 21-year-old.

By late March, he was preparing to take 50 Russians to Bordeaux, since their country was out of the war:

Sweet visions of sunny France and a stop over in Paris on the way back.

This was not to be, however, because by now the Germans were advancing, and:

I am leaving my bombproof job where I've had quite a rest and all comforts...I can't help wondering if I'll be able to do the comeback stunt and stand up under shell fire...no use wondering now, I'll find out soon enough.

Holding the Lens sector (April–July 1918)

The Germans' spring and summer offensives of 1918 enabled them to take back lost territories; they hoped to force a negotiated settlement from the British and French. During this period, the 26th Battalion was alternating between turns in the line holding the Lens sector, and training and resting near Brigade HQ.

Dad was second-in-command of a company and responsible for working parties and a couple of raids. Of one, he wrote:

Our position is about 200–300 yds behind the front line and in reality a strong-post...The raid is to take place...against a nest of enemy posts which have bothered us somewhat...Milner has no revolver so mine once more goes over the top. Whether I shall see it again remains to be seen...the barrage...appeared pretty rotten to me...the 2 machine guns and crews were knocked out...7 casualties from A Coy; Milner...wounded. One of my Coy was shell-shocked...some case...we had to tie him to a stretcher at the MO's he tried to climb out of the dugout.

The battalion baseball team was closing in on Corps championship and the Haldane Cup. Dad's company was in the line at the time, but:

some kind hearted person kept us in touch...sending a report of the game over the wire...I wonder what Fritz would have thought if he could hear the cheer that went up when the 26th won...he would have got about half my company if he had sent over a shell.

And the officers had their photo taken at Hauteville, of which Dad wrote:

I like this town I think we'll have a good time here. All officers in a long Nissen hut with canvas partitions.

The only other person I can identify in the photograph is Captain Shand, whom Dad mentions in his diary. A third bit of serendipity led me to his daughter, who lives here in Ottawa and had donated some of his photos to the Canadian War Museum.

Lead-up to the 100 Days

By the end of July, the Canadian Corps was ready to play its strongest role yet as “shock army of the Empire” in what is known as “Canada's 100 Days.” The Battle of Amiens was the first in the series during which the Corps got the German Army on the run, with a plan to attack on the salient that the Germans had won back during the spring and summer offensives.

The 26th Battalion, along with rest of the Corps, was secretly moved south 100 miles by train and bus to

achieve maximum surprise. Paybooks had the posted warning “KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT” but this was in some ways unnecessary, as my Dad's diary entries reveal:

July 29—A move is scheduled but where? First orders indicate a move north, later orders to move south—the whole Corps is expected to move...rumour has it that we're going somewhere near Amiens...July 31—Early this morning...de-bused about ½ mile from Briquemesnil. I was in command of the coy so went to the CO for orders & got none...we formed up in a large field, piled rifles & lay down for a sleep. I stuck my cane in the ground, put my tin hat on top, pinned a photo of Mary Pickford on my cane, sat down, then rolled over & fell asleep...finally rec'd orders to move at 9:30 p.m.,

but they would not receive details of the “show” until August 7.

Worked all day going over the details of the show with the NCOs. Tanks are cooperating...Australians on our left...main object is to free the Amiens–Paris railroad...plus [gain] about 8000 yds of enemy territory...I will not be going in...I don't fancy staying out but orders are orders...

Dad was obviously disappointed to not see the tanks in action—he always loved new technology and gadgets! But, as we shall see, he did end up “going in” after all.

Battle of Amiens (8–11 August 1918)

On 8 August, known to the Germans as *Der Schwarze Tag* (The Black Day), the Canadian Corps led and centred the Allied attack east of Amiens. By the 11th, the Corps had advanced some 11 miles and established a new front line almost where the original 1916 front had been. Already low, German morale broke with this battle.

The 26th Battalion attacked over a rolling plateau largely covered by grain crops, on a line south of Wiencourt, east towards Guillancourt, where they ran into fairly heavy fighting because the accompanying Whippet tanks couldn't deal effectively with the Germans' scattered machine gun nests. The battalion advanced eight miles.

In this engagement, although he started in the rear, Dad soon moved up to “staff,” at least temporarily away from the horselines. He wrote:

Aug 8—The advance has been entirely successful...Adjutant arrived...having rec'd orders to bring up officer reinforcements...The HQ staff officers had been wiped out with the exception of the Colonel so I was detailed to remain and ‘keep him

company' with the duties of Adj., Scout officer, Miss Secretary etcetera...Aug 9—26th in reserve...We were in a good position to observe...the field artillery [which] aided materially also a few loose tanks...[and] we were able to see the cavalry in a couple of mad dashes at the enemy...About 5 p.m. we arrived at Meharicourt, just in the rear [of the front line]. [And by 11 August]: ...Bn all settled at Vrély early this morning...bath parade to the Luce River. The Germans had built a good bath house there—Very kind of them to let us use it.

But after that it was back to the horse lines, something my Dad did not care for, preferring the rough-and-tumble of the forward areas:

nothing to do with the horseline Hussars except grouse and that's just what I did all day.

Battle of Arras (26 August–3 September 1918)

With only a few days' rest, the Canadian Corps beat it back north to the Arras Sector, the plan being to build on their success at Amiens, with all four Divisions to spearhead the attack east of Arras. The objective was the Drocourt-Quéant Line, which represented one of the by-now demoralized Germans' last strongholds on the Western front. And the quick follow-up attack was designed to wear out the enemy, for as Haig pointed out: *"If we allow the enemy a period of quiet, he will recover; the 'wearing out' process must be recommended."* But there would be no quiet for the Canadians either.

On 24 August, Lt. Sharpe is appointed Acting Captain—meaning there will be no more horselines for him—he will lead "A" Company into the line. The battle began for the 26th Battalion on 26 August with Dad writing:

The advance started and we followed closely...I led the way through the maze of wire...the long line of men behind me resembled a snake winding in and out amongst a bunch of boulders...every curve seemed to protect it from the shells that fell sometimes to the right, sometimes to the left and in front as well as behind...luck was with us only one casualty.

This took them as far east and north as Wancourt, where they moved into the line and awaited further orders.

Three days later, the battalion was ordered to kick off from Crow Trench (approached today through a farmer's field), travelling southeasterly and down into the Sensée River valley, toward the town of Fontaineles-Croisilles, and then turning left, up a slope. In his report appended to the War Diaries, my Dad wrote:

When we reached the Sensée River I found that we were too far over to the [right]. The Imperials were mixed up with us. I found 2 of their officers and started them on their right direction again...Just past Luna Lane we were held up by heavy Machine Gun fire from the right flank where the Imperials were held up. I saw that it was impossible to go forward and establish a line south of Sun Quarry, connected up with B Coy on left and got them to establish a line in continuance with ours...rec'd orders to take over from the Royal Scots to the edge of the village of Fontaine-les-Croisilles rear of the road from Fontaine-les-Croisilles to Sun Quarry.

The next day, 28 August, the 26th Battalion suffered devastating casualties in its attempt to move forward to Cagnicourt; battalion commander Lt.-Col. Mackenzie was killed with many others. My Dad's report continues:

our first objective [was] Ulster Trench...barrage was not as good as on first day...and we were under harassing Machine Gun fire...I decided to push on and try to outflank the M.G.s...I got together the remnants of 2 platoons...we found very heavy wire in front of Ulster Trench & only managed to get through with greatest difficulty. I finally reached a point just east of Ulster Trench & decided that it was impossible to get further as there was no one on our right or left as far as I could see. By this time I had only 15 men left. We withdrew...to Ulster Trench where we established a couple of posts...we could see the enemy issuing from the woods on our left front...we remained quiet in order to save ammunition.

The battalion was soon relieved and although my father was recommended for a bar to his MC for his actions that day, it was never awarded. Some of the dead of his company are buried at Sun Quarry Cemetery; in all, 35 men of the battalion are buried there. The men of the 2nd Division were physically and mentally exhausted, having been going since the beginning of the month with little rest; they were relieved on 29 August by the 1st Division. The 1st and 4th Divisions made the final push on the Drocourt-Quéant Line on 2 September. Although suffering 5,500 casualties, they were able to take some 6,000 German prisoners and had pushed the Canadian Corps advance well beyond the German lines.

Cambrai (8–11 October 1918)

The 2nd Division then had a chance for a few weeks' rest and resupply before moving on again. On 8 October, they moved to the north of Cambrai to seize the Canal de L'Escaut's bridgeheads and proceed to high ground to the northeast, where they would meet

up with the Third Army who were attacking south of Cambrai. My father again commanded a company.

By 10 October, the battalion had crossed the Canal de L'Escaut as planned, without experiencing much resistance, although they encountered some gas and machine guns. The Germans had either been captured or had withdrawn. Again the battalion rested; the men were obviously in good spirits, as on 16 October the War Diary records:

The Prince of Wales visited Bn HQ ...and passed the remark that he thought it needed more in the comfort line. We could see nothing wrong beyond the fact that it was windowless and roofless, and a bit of rain assisted the officers materially in bathing. 'Doc' & Barry had a bath.

The 26th Battalion's last battle, Belgium (8-9 November 1918)

By late October, the British Army was moving inexorably eastward, and toward the end of the war, with the Canadian Corps still playing a major role.

The 2nd Division and the 26th Battalion, pushing toward Belgium, carried out their final attack at Boussu and Wasmes, on the western outskirts of Mons, on the 8th and 9th of November. Today, these towns look much as they did: nondescript and drab. Dad wrote:

We arrived at our objective at 9 am in front of Boussu. Sent scouts ahead...the civvies welcomed us with jugs of beer and lots of coffee. They claim us as their deliverers...pushed on and put outposts in Wasmes.

The battalion's War Diary notes:

Afterward it was learned that this [delay] was caused not so much by the enemy's resistance, as by the barrage of kisses, coffee & cognac put up by the good inhabitants of the village, where it became the custom for all ranks to stop the war occasionally while they retired to enjoy a repetition of the aforementioned tokens of appreciation.

On 10 November, Dad reports:

Am in Wasmes today. Dancing going on, flags out & lots to drink & eat. Am billeted with Madame and Mlle Mangereux. They sure are nice people." And then on the 11th: "Orders for a move, but cancelled as at 11 a.m. Armistice started. Great joy everywhere— it does not seem possible and one really imagines oneself to be dreaming.

March to the Rhine (November–December 1918)

The Canadian Corps' 1st and 2nd Divisions were chosen to represent Canada as part of the Second

British Army's victory advance into Germany. It would mean a 250-mile march in about 30 days; my father wrote:

I think we are to be of the army of occupation. Some job. Have been looking at some views of Germany [And later]: We are getting ready to move into Germany. It sure is a long way and we have to walk.

The Canadians assembled in Mons for thanksgiving and special church services, and then went east on 18 November, marching through a succession of small Belgian villages where they were given a heroes' welcome. The march was long and hard, however, for they were outstripping their supplies and the local population had little to offer.

On 5 December, they crossed into Germany at Krombach, and noticed a distinct difference; there were no welcoming crowds or flowers and the area seemed very poor and dirty. Dad writes:

Very few people to see us pass. Most of them appear to be afraid of us.

On 13 December, the Canadians marched across the Rhine from Bonn to Menden, taking the salute from Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie in the middle of the bridge. Dad says:

Coy looked jolly fine wearing steel hats. March past was very good but it rained all day.

Of the 13 December march-past, Maj. Maxwell, of the 26th, wrote home:

The men had polished their buttons till they hurt your eyes to look at them...the horses had been groomed till their sides shone like satin...Just outside the city we halted...the order was given [to fix bayonets]...a thousand bayonets flashed & were fixed to the rifles. They sloped arms & marched through the city of Bonn...In succession as... [we] reached the first flag...we gave the command 'Eyes right.' Every head snapped around [&] every man looked the General square in the eye...

The 26th Battalion wasn't to leave Germany until 23 January 1919. It went back into Belgium for a time, then to England for "the formalities" of demobilization. It did not arrive in Halifax until 16 May 1919, where it was greeted victorious, as shown in another postcard from Capt. Shand's collection.

Battle of Vimy Ridge 90th Anniversary, 9 April 2007

In the 1920s, the Canadian government held a national design competition for a memorial, and the Canadian Monument at Vimy Ridge was finally dedicated by King Edward VIII in 1936. It commemorates the

60,000 Canadians who died in the First World War and for some 11,000, it represents their only known grave. The macquets used in its design and construction are on permanent display in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

On Easter Monday, 9 April 2007, the 90th anniversary of the Battle was commemorated and Queen Elizabeth II rededicated the monument, which had received extensive renovations. Some 25,000 people attended, with over 3,000 Canadian students representing those who had died in the battle; I was fortunate to be one of the many pilgrims from Canada.

It was part of my trip of a lifetime. Through my research, I found out where my father and his battalion had been, and a bit of what he must have experienced; a couple of serendipitous, not to say spooky, things happened. Most of all I learned some things about what had shaped my father as the man I later knew.

Endnotes

- ¹ McGowan, S. Douglas, Harry (Mac) Heckbert, MM, Byron E. O'Leary. *New Brunswick's 'Fighting 26th': A History of the 26th New Brunswick Battalion, C.E.F., 1914-1919*. St. John, New Brunswick: Neptune Publishing Company Limited, 1994.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

John Edgar Birch: The Music Man

BY GLENN WRIGHT

In the continuing series on the Beechwood Cemetery, Glenn Wright describes the contribution of John Birch to the cultural life of the young Ottawa community.

A cemetery such as Beechwood did not achieve heritage status some years ago solely because of its longevity, or the fact that it is the final resting place of some of the most important men and women in the history of Ottawa and the surrounding area. As those who have taken part in the historical walking tours will know, a stroll through its grounds allows one to experience the diverse history represented by the men, women and children, from all walks of life, who are remembered and commemorated at Beechwood.



When Sir John A. Macdonald and the Fathers of Confederation created the new nation in 1867, it was and remained for many years very British in character, even in parts of Quebec. A distinct Canadian culture—as defined in art, literature, and music—was almost non-existent. It would take time and effort for the creativity of Canadians to produce an indigenous culture, a process that continues to this day. But for several decades following Confederation, the fact that British influence

dominated church, or sacred, music and more broadly, classical music, is a case in point.

One of the most widely known and respected church organists in Ottawa was John Edgar Birch. He was born in Caversham, Oxfordshire, England in 1862, the son of William Henry Birch and Elizabeth Ingram. English census records suggest that the family was steeped in music—William H. Birch is described as a “Professor of Music,” as are daughters Elizabeth and Charlotte in 1871, and in 1881, Charlotte and John.¹ As a young lad with an excellent voice, he spent several years as a chorister at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor. On at least one occasion, his fine singing was recognized by Queen Victoria. But it was as organist, choir master, teacher and composer that Birch made his mark in the world of music.²

He emigrated to Canada in 1891 at the invitation of Trinity College School at Port Hope, Ontario, where he served as organist and music master for one or perhaps two years before relocating to Montreal. There he was appointed choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral, the youngest person to hold such a position in any cathedral in the British Empire.³ In 1895, Birch, now married, moved to Ottawa as principal of the Canadian College of Music. He quickly realized that there was a great demand for classical music in the capital. In December 1896, he organized a choir of 150 voices for a performance of Handel’s “Messiah” at the Grand Opera

House (located on Albert Street, between Metcalfe and O'Connor streets).⁴ It was a huge success. The following year, 1897, he founded the Ottawa Choral Society, which would delight Ottawa audiences until its demise in 1914. One of many highlights in the history of the Society was the first North American performance in March 1901 of "The Song of Hiawatha," set to music by S. Coleridge-Taylor. Birch also organized choirs for performances at Rideau Hall and in 1901, he mustered a choir of some 250 voices that, along with the bands of the Governor General's Foot Guards and the 43rd Regiment, welcomed home volunteers from the South African War.⁵

As if teaching and choral work were not enough, he became the organist and choirmaster at Knox Presbyterian Church in 1896 before moving to a similar position at All Saints Anglican Church, Sandy Hill, in 1904. During his tenure at All Saints, he arranged to have one of the famous Casavant Frères organs installed, and he resumed his friendship with the Rev. George P. Woollcombe (1867–1951), whom he had known in Port Hope.⁶ Woollcombe was also the founder and first Headmaster of Ashbury College, and Birch would enjoy a long association with the school for the remainder of his life.



Figure 1: Headstone for John Edgar Birch.
Ken Wood photo

In the summer of 1910, Birch was lured away from All Saints by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. He commenced his duties in September and soon

expanded the fine Casavant Frères organ that had originally been installed in 1874. Over the next two decades, John Birch served as organist and master of the one of the most respected church choirs in Ottawa. In 1927, he remarked to the Church Secretary that it was his earnest wish "to make the music of the Church devotional, rather than showy."⁷ John Birch was also a composer and his papers, now in the custody of Library and Archives Canada, contain several examples of his work.⁸

In September 1931, John Birch took sick; St. Andrew's granted him extended leave, but he passed away at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on October 23. The minutes of the Kirk Session for November 25 capture the sense of loss felt by the choir and all members of the Church. He gave "unstintingly of his great talents," the minutes record, "and contributed in no small measure to the religious services of the Church. His ability as a Musician and as a Teacher, together with his genial personality, won for him the loyal devotion of the members of the Choir, and the genuine affection of the Congregation as a whole."⁹ In spite of the years that he devoted to church music, John Edgar Birch's funeral took place at his residence in Rockcliffe, officiated by his old and dear friend, the Rev. George Woollcombe (1867–1951), followed by burial in Section 40, Plot 27, of Beechwood Cemetery. A bronze tablet to recognize his contribution was placed on the church organ and on the 10th anniversary of his death in October 1941, a special Sunday service was devoted to his memory.¹⁰

His personal life was not without tragedy. On 14 June 1894, he married Emily Louise Fourdrinier (9 July 1870–26 August 1896), daughter of Francis and Jane Fourdrinier, at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal.¹¹ They had two children, Marjory Ingram Birch, born 1 June 1895, and John Fourdrinier Birch, born 10 August 1896. Emily Birch died two weeks after the birth of her son.¹² In 1897 or early 1898 (no record has been located), John Birch married Marion Smith Churchill (1868–8 March 1919), a recent English immigrant to Canada. At the time, she was a widow with a young daughter.¹³ John and Marion had another daughter, Hilda, born in October 1898.¹⁴

John Edgar Birch was a talented young English immigrant when he arrived in Canada in 1891 and his passion was music. He was described as a man with a "kindly disposition"; it is clear that following a long family tradition as teacher and mentor to children and adults alike, he inspired others to develop their musical abilities. For almost four decades, John E. Birch made a significant contribution to church and culture in Canada's capital and in doing so, he provided

congregations and audiences in Ottawa with some of the finest music this side of Heaven.

Endnotes

- ¹ Census of England, 1861, Amersham, Bucks (RG 9, Piece 847, Folio 20, page 6); 1871, St. Giles Parish, Reading (RG 10, Piece 1282, Folio 8, page 9); and 1881, St Peter's Parish, Caversham (RG 11, Piece 1489, Folio 103, page 53). Census records accessed on Ancestry.com. The entries for John E. Birch in H.J. Morgan (ed) *Canadian Men and Women of the Time* (1912) and in the *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada* incorrectly state that he was born in 1854.
- ² Ottawa *Citizen*, October 24, 1931, page 6; Library and Archives Canada (LAC) John Edgar Birch fonds, MG 30, D159, "Testimonials of Mr. John Edgar Birch"; Little, C.H. *All Saints (Sandy Hill), A Short History, 1898–1975* (1975), page 52.
- ³ Ottawa *Citizen*, October 24, 1931, page 6; Census of Canada, 1891, Port Hope, Ontario, Division 1, page 43 on reel T-6332.
- ⁴ LAC, Birch fonds, "History of the Ottawa Choral Society," mss., n.d.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Little, C.H. *All Saints (Sandy Hill), A Short History, 1898–1975* (1975), pages 53 and 56. For confirmation that John E. Birch was organist at Knox Presbyterian Church, I acknowledge the assistance of Alison Hare.
- ⁷ LAC, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church fonds, MG 9, D7-35, volume 68, John E. Birch to F. H. Chrysler, Secretary, July 11, 1927; Moir, John S. *Unto the Hills Around: A History of St. Andrew's Church*, Ottawa (2003), page 140.
- ⁸ LAC, Birch fonds.
- ⁹ LAC, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church fonds, MG 9, D7-35, volume 142, on reel M-5485, Minutes of the Kirk Session, November 25, 1931, p. 225. John E. Birch, Ontario Death Registration 11778/1931; accessed on Ancestry.com, although his surname is misspelled "Brich."
- ¹⁰ O. Mary Hill, *Fifty Years at St. Andrew's, 1928–1978* (1978), page 13; the program for the 10th anniversary service in October 1941 is with the Birch fonds.
- ¹¹ Robert Dunn (ed), *Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, Quebec, Canada: Marriages, 1766–1899* (Quebec Family History Society, 2005), page 14; Ottawa Branch OGS, Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa, Ontario: Monumental Inscriptions and Interment Registers (publication 00-07).
- ¹² Marjory I. Birch, Ontario Birth Registration 6644/1895. No registration was found for John F. Birch, but his date of birth is recorded in the 1901 census, Montreal, Saint Antoine Ward, District 175, Division A-49, page 17 on reel T-6534. At the time of the census, he was with his maternal grandmother, Jane Fourdrinier. On Emily Birch's death, Ontario Death Registration 3982/1896 and Ottawa Branch OGS, *Beechwood Cemetery* as cited in note 11. The Death Registration incorrectly records her age as 96 and not 26 as it should be.
- ¹³ No record has been located for the marriage of John E. Birch and Marion Churchill (nee Smith). The date of Marion's immigration to Canada is recorded in the 1901 Census, Ontario, Ottawa, Wellington Ward, G-6, page 22 on reel T-6488. The 1891 English census suggests that she was married to Edward Churchill and they had one daughter, Winifred (Census of England, 1891, Aylesbury, RG 12, Piece 1145, Folio 75, page 22). Winifred Churchill was born on March 27, 1891 and died in Ottawa on July 17, 1942; she is buried in the Birch family plot at Beechwood Cemetery, Section 40, Plot 27.
- ¹⁴ Hilda Birch's birth registration was not located; information is from the 1901 Census. Marion Birch died on March 8, 1919, Ontario Death Registration 260/1919.

YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday 28 June 2008 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

YORK RACECOURSE (KNAVESMIRE EXHIBITION CENTRE)

Further details from: Mr. A. Sampson, 1 Oxgang Close, Redcar,

Cleveland, TS10 4ND, England Tel/Fax (01642) 486615

The Great-grandfather Cuthbert Enigma

A Symbiosis of Classical and Genetic Genealogy

BY BRYAN COOK

In this paper, Bryan Cook seeks to illustrate the important symbiotic relationship between classical genealogical research and DNA analysis. It marks the start of his personal exploration of the world of near and deep ancestry facilitated by genetic science.

Our family genealogists have long been confronted with the enigma of our maternal great-grandfather Cuthbert Baker. From inconsistent census records and from family lore, he may have been born at sea and shipwrecked as a child, or he may have been of illegitimate birth and brought up initially on the European Continent in a religious sanctuary under the benefaction of a wealthy lady from the British Midlands! We have not been able find a birth certificate for Cuthbert. There was also the possibility that he was the result of a relationship between our g g grandfather Joseph Baker and his housekeeper Emma Taylor. Increased accessibility to DNA analysis offered the hope of a tool to tackle this mystery, which had been clouded by time. But, a note of caution—be prepared for skepticism and do not expect miraculous solutions.



How would DNA testing help?

Cuthbert and Joseph are, of course, deceased and exhumation is out of the question. However, and without going into the detailed genetics at this stage, if living direct male descendents of Cuthbert and Joseph or their biological brothers could be identified, their DNA “signatures” for their Y-chromosome markers should be identical if Cuthbert is descended from Joseph. If not, then Cuthbert may be the son of the housekeeper Emma Taylor and her husband William, subject to further proof through classical and genetic genealogy. These conclusions would presume no adoptions or “affairs” in the lines of descent down to the individuals being tested. Our research could identify none.

Classical research provided the genealogical facts

Classical genealogical research was required to establish the known lineages of great-grandfather Cuthbert Baker (1859–1936 of Hastings¹), g g

grandfather Joseph Baker (1828–1887 of Ore, Hastings and St. Leonards) and his ancestral male line back to John Baker (1664–? of Brede). From death certificates and parish records,² Joseph was proven to be a direct descendant of the male line of John (Figure 1).

We double-checked the family assumption that Joseph Baker (born 3 February 1828, Ore, Sussex to Moses Baker and Sophia Jones) is our g g grandfather against two other candidates in the parish records: Joseph Baker born 28 July 1828, Ewhurst, Sussex to John and Sarah Baker, and Joseph Baker born 6 October 1832, Ewhurst, Sussex.

Joseph Baker born 28 July 1828, Ewhurst, Sussex to John and Sarah Baker, and Joseph Baker born 6 October 1832, Ewhurst, Sussex.

The first was found as a spinner of twines in the 1851 census, still single and living at home in Cacklebury, Hailsham while Joseph of Ore was already a married journeyman carpenter. The second, in addition to being consistently older, raised a family in the Ewhurst neighbourhood as an agricultural labourer with no children called Cuthbert (or other names of Joseph of Ore’s known children). Joseph of Ore is consistently identified as a carpenter joiner throughout censuses and on familial death, birth and marriage records. Joseph’s son, and our great-grandfather Cuthbert Baker lists his father as Joseph Baker, carpenter and cabinet maker (deceased), in his certificates of marriage to Agnes Wall in 1880 and to Therese Louise Webb in 1933 respectively. These certificates therefore tie Cuthbert Baker to Joseph of Ore through a form of father-son relationship, though whether biological or surrogate is not defined.

Extensive census records show that Joseph Baker of Ore separated from his first wife Amelia upon the infant death of their daughter, and lived in common law with his former housekeeper Emma Taylor (née Burton). Emma brought with her three children (Joseph James, Moses and Charles Herbert) to the Baker household from her marriage to William Taylor. More children resulted from the relationship between Joseph and Emma: Emily Ann, Agnes Emma, Thomas John and Mary Elizabeth (Figure 1).

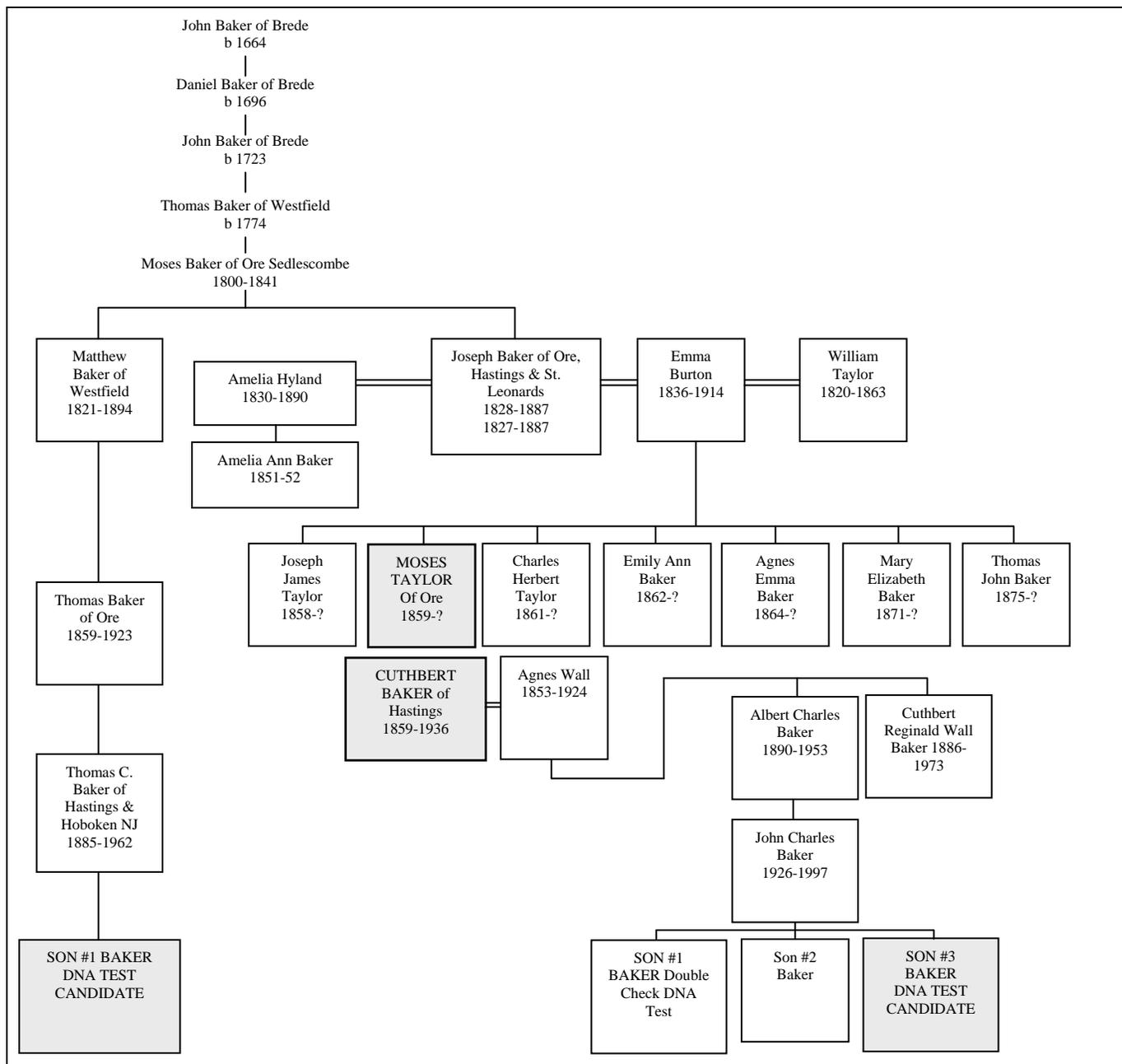


Figure 1: Baker/Taylor Family Tree selected for DNA comparative testing purposes

Of special interest is Moses Taylor’s birth certificate, which records him as born in Ore, 1 January 1859, the son of William Taylor and Emma Taylor. No records have been found to date of Moses’ marriage or death. Moses does not appear in the 1881 or subsequent censuses.

However, a Cuthbert Baker (aged 22) does appear, recorded as a grocer, born in Hastings and married to Agnes Wall (Figure 2). Joseph Baker, carpenter, is recorded as the father of Cuthbert Baker (aged 21) on their marriage certificate of 1880, and again on

the certificate of Cuthbert’s second marriage in 1933 when aged 75. So, mathematically, both certificates make Cuthbert the same age in years as Moses and imply the same father and, perhaps, a change of identity!

Cuthbert’s census enumerations show many inconsistencies. He is born in Hastings (1881), Eastbourne (1891), and “on own account born on the sea” (1901). He is called Cuthbert (1881), Charles (1891), and Cuthbert (1901).

Cuthbert is, however, consistently a grocer and married to Agnes Wall, by whom he had four children: Cuthbert

Reginald Wall, Maud Therese, Albert Charles and Lillian Gertrude. Albert Charles Baker (1890–1953) sired one son, John Charles Baker (1926–1997) who, by his first marriage, produced three living grandsons to Cuthbert. The proven direct male descendents from Cuthbert are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 2: Cuthbert Baker and his wife Agnes, née Wall, circa 1900

For purposes of DNA comparative testing, another living male direct descendent of g g grandfather Joseph Baker had to be found. Birth and death certificates and parish records² were used to identify a g g grandson of Joseph's brother Matthew (1821–1894 of Westfield, Brede, Ore, Hastings & Bexhill of the line of John (1664–? of Brede) (Figure 1).

So we had our two candidates for Y-DNA testing and comparison:

1. A great-grandson of Cuthbert Baker was the best candidate for a living male descendent of Joseph Baker (1828–1887) in the John Baker (1664–? of Brede) lineage. One of his brothers could be also tested as a partial double check for "paternity error."

2. A g g grandson of Joseph's brother Matthew was the best candidate to verify whether the extended Baker family, descended from Cuthbert Baker and represented in a Y-DNA comparison by the great-grandson of Cuthbert Baker, descends from Joseph Baker (1828–1887) or his near ancestors in the lineage to John Baker (1664–? of Brede).

We also had evidence, albeit circumstantial, in the form of matching birth certificate and birth date estimates from census enumeration of ages and, in one instance, place of birth, that Cuthbert Baker (by his marriage certificate statements, reputed son of Joseph Baker) and Moses Taylor (second son of Emma Taylor and William Taylor according to a birth certificate) could be the same person.

The DNA test and result

It took a full presentation of the classical research findings and supporting evidence, along with the following explanation of the DNA test itself to assure participation of both candidates. They both joined the Baker Surname Project (www.bakerdna.net) of Family Tree DNA (www.familytreedna.com) and both took a cheek swab, male 67 DNA Y test (group price US\$269 each).

A 67 Y-chromosomal nucleic marker DNA test for a Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) with all markers matching positively gives a 50 percent probability of a shared MCRA within two generations, 90 percent within four generations, and 95 percent within six generations.³ All are well within our genealogical record and the timeframe of the Cuthbert Enigma.

I did not want to be pessimistic, but we had to go into this recognizing that fewer matches would reduce exponentially the probabilities of shared MCRA's. I proposed a 67 Y-marker test because the MCRA probability of 90 percent would coincide with the Moses/Cuthbert generation, allowing us to test whether or not there is a reasonable probability that Joseph could have sired Moses (despite William Taylor being listed as father on the birth certificate).

All we would know is whether there is a Baker bloodline lineage down to Cuthbert's great-grandson (and hence, to all Bakers deriving from Cuthbert). Another test involving a direct male Taylor descendant might be needed if that Baker bloodline lineage was not proven. DNA tests might also provide a comparison, depending on "haplogroup and cladal" classification.

Based on a series of "markers" on a string of DNA (alleles) associated with, in the case of males, the Y

chromosome and the pattern of mutations of those markers, classification of the DNA “signatures” (or haplotypes) of individuals into groups (haplogroups) and subgroups (clades) with similar markers and mutations is becoming possible. The mutations don’t yet mean anything in terms of traits such as health, sanity, ability, or physical appearance because the DNA is in a zone known as “junk DNA” to which, so far, no linkage to such things has been made in man. The mutations have occurred at different rates, which can be estimated statistically to start from one common African ancestor of Anatomically Modern Man (*Homo sapiens*). As a data base of these signatures is built up, the migrations of men out of Africa and around the world can be traced, with shifts to and fro to accommodate environmental “forces majeures” such as Ice Ages. Different haplogroups and clades of man evolved and are still evolving; these are being followed by tracking mutations and their occurrences, which can be caused by accident (nature does not have a perfect copying machine), Darwinian selection, and chemical/radiological doses, to name but a few. And then a mutation has to survive the winnowing process of several generations of reproduction. A similar analysis is being applied to females using a different suite of DNA associated with archaic bacterial mitochondria, which live symbiotically within our nucleic cells to provide us with energy and assist in the production of proteins.

As it turned out, we need not have gone to the expense of full 67 Y-marker tests, as even 12 marker tests would have shown that the g g grandson of Joseph Baker’s brother Matthew is classified in Haplogroup I (I1a) and the great-grandson of Cuthbert Baker in Haplogroup J (J2). This was confirmed by his brother testing as Haplogroup J (J2).

So there is no possible near-term biological ancestral relationship between the two candidates. The maternal “Baker” line from great-grandfather Cuthbert cannot stem from g g grandfather Joseph Baker.

Now back to classical genealogy!

So what are my great-grandfather Cuthbert’s origins and where do we go to from here?

I think that it is entirely in character that my g g grandfather Joseph knew that baby Moses was the son of William Taylor. He could well have agreed with his soon-to-be common-law wife Emma that he informally adopt Moses and leave him the choice of

taking the family name (Baker) and a new given name (Cuthbert—I believe after a school mentor) as he came of age and married into higher society. The necessity of having to explain to the census enumerator each decade was awkward and led to some inconsistent stories. We can never be certain.

The birth certificate and birth dates calculated from census enumeration of ages can only suggest that Cuthbert may be Moses Taylor, the son of Joseph’s housekeeper Emma Taylor and her soon-to-be-estranged husband, William.

However, classical genealogical research is now required to trace the male lineages directly related to William Taylor down to a present-day male willing to provide a DNA test for comparison with the two existing candidates. A strong match with the great-grandson of Cuthbert would make it a very high probability that Cuthbert is Moses and my maternal line are biological Taylors and not Bakers. So far the hunt for modern-day Taylor candidates has met nothing but brick walls.

We also need to continue to comb the records for the fate of Moses—a single record establishing his existence after Cuthbert’s appearance between 1871 and 1881 would demolish the “same person or identity adoption” theory.

Keeping an open mind is an important tenet of good genealogical research, of course. An alternative theory has been suggested that Cuthbert was indeed the illegitimate son of a mysterious lady from the Midlands who, after sponsoring his education in a seminary, financed his entry into the grocery business in Hastings.

The evidence is again circumstantial but comes from someone who, when a child, knew him personally. His gentle nature was not the sort to have ignored a living mother and siblings in the Hastings region; he claimed to have no relatives and not know his parents; none of his relatives were ever known to the extended Baker family at that time.

He apparently told his mother that he lacked the faith to continue with the novitiate. He then apprenticed to the grocery trade as a 16-year-old at the Clock House, Queens Road, Hastings and lodged with the Walls at their Douai House residence, later marrying the daughter, Agnes Wall. Agnes’ father, John Wall, worked for the firm that supplied wines to the Clock House. A few years later, Cuthbert bought the Clock House business and a substantial house called Rossmore which, from later will endorsements, was worth about five times the average house cost in Hastings. He failed in business but lived comfortably on rental income from three flats in Rossmore apart from his own residence.

Did all the money for these purchases come as an inheritance from the mysterious lady, rather than from a poor carpenter or some other source? Although the dates of birth coincide in years between Moses and Cuthbert, we have no record except a recollection of my grandmother, Ethel Baker, that Cuthbert was born on January 1—also a convenient date to choose when hiding illegitimacy.

So classical genealogical research is now needed to find a registration in a French seminary, to track apprenticeship records, if any exist, and to trace the mysterious lady from the Midlands—including her will and the means and instruments by which the Clock House business and perhaps Rossmore were bought. Is there some place where a large inheritance would be recorded? In counter argument, could we prove that the Walls fronted the money for the Clock House? Assuming that Baker is Cuthbert's true surname taken from his illegitimate father, we could also be searching the Y chromosome DNA data banks for a Baker lineage from the UK (maybe Midlands if we are lucky) within a J2 haplotype. If Baker is his mother's maiden name, DNA searches will not help.

The eternally optimistic genealogist in me hopes that new evidence will emerge soon to enable the writing of sequel resolving the Cuthbert Enigma. And I trust that this paper has served to illustrate that genetic science is not a mystery but can provide near-term probabilistic evidence to support symbiotically, but not replace, sound classical genealogical research.

Epilogue

This saga has led me to test my own Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA and enticed me to the exciting new field of deep ancestry. The details of the 67 Y-marker tests on my relatives have done the same for them. But that's another story!

Acknowledgements

I dedicate this paper to the memory of my uncle John Charles Baker (1926–1997), the first genealogist of our family and the one who initially identified the Cuthbert Enigma. This paper draws on the extensive research, analysis and assistance particularly of my cousins Tom Baker, Adrian Tayler and Jennifer Moon Labelle. I am also very grateful to my living relatives for their willingness to participate in DNA testing and for sharing their memories and historical reflections. I welcome notification of any errors for which I take full responsibility; as well, I hope that someone, somewhere, someday will find either a test-willing Taylor or a mysterious lady from the Midlands!

Endnotes

- ¹ All places cited are in Sussex, England unless otherwise indicated. Living people have not been named in order to maintain their privacy; references being the exception.
- ² Family Tree “Descendents of John Baker” compiled by T. Baker, Florida
- ³ FamilyTreeDNA website www.familytreedna.com MRCA /marker information page.

**Ottawa Branch
Ontario Genealogical Society
and the
Ottawa Public Library**

Present the 25th

GENE-O-RAMA

March 28 to 29, 2008

Ben Franklin Place
101 Centrepointe Drive
Ottawa, Ontario

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<http://ogsottawa.on.ca/geneorama/>

FAMILY HISTORY—TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

With the small library that our society maintains, we cannot hope to emulate the amount of information found at the LDS Family History Library and its centres. Therefore, when purchasing books we have tried to concentrate on guides to research, histories and whatever appears useful in furthering members' research or enhancing our knowledge of the lives and times of our ancestors in the British Isles. However, the library does include a few large indexes, such as the National Burial Index, the British Isles 1881 Census and National Index and British Isles Vital Records, which may give details about particular ancestors.



look at the original entry in the parish register to confirm it is correct and obtain more information.

For input, FFHS depends on member societies. Whenever a new edition is produced, we plan to add it to our library collection.

The *1881 Census* and the *Vital Records* were both produced on CD by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). Most of the information on these CDs is available online through the website www.familysearch.org; in "Advanced Search," click on "Census" and "International Genealogical Index." Although the 1881 Census of Scotland is not available at that website, it can be searched on the CDs at the library.

Thanks to generous donors, we have acquired a few items, such as transcripts of parish registers or indexes of censuses, that may provide or point the way to useful information about events in our ancestors' lives. To see what the library has I would suggest that the researcher visit the library catalogue on the Society's website www.bifhsgo.ca. Enter the name of the county of interest under "Subject Search." Type "Middlesex," for instance, and you will find there are over 100 items available, including census indexes, parish records, directories and local histories, ranging from Acton to London to Yiewsley.

The *National Burial Index* was produced on CD by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). It is a transcribed index of 13 million burials in England and Wales. We must remember, however, that it covers four and a half centuries from 1558 to 2003 and not be too disappointed when we cannot find our ancestors' names or parishes in the index. Its best coverage is of the period from 1812 to 1837, probably because the parish records were the easiest to transcribe. Once a burial has been located in the index it is a good idea to

The Printed Page

BY GORDON D. TAYLOR

Two developing stories are high-lighted in this issue's column.

The first of these concerns the release of the 1911 Census of the United Kingdom. A short item in the October 2007 Cleveland *FHS Journal* headed "1911 Census—You Have Been Warned" notes:



1. The 1911 census will not be released early—period.
2. When it is released, there will be problems, HUGE problems.

The interest of BIFHSGO in the 1911 Census is obvious. We should keep a critical eye on the situation as it unfolds.

The second concerns the pending release of the 1916 Canadian Census of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Under the 92-year release provision, this census material should be turned over to Library and Archives Canada this year. I have seen no mention of the pending release of the data. BIFHSGO should watch the development of this important addition to vital historic data and work to ensure the speedy release of data in a useable format

BIFHSGO NEWS**Notice of the 2008 BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting****9:30 a.m. Saturday, 14 June 2008**

Take notice that the Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) will take place on Saturday, 14 June 2008, at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa to receive and conduct business in accordance with Articles 37–41 of the By-laws.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order and opening remarks
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting
3. Reports of the Directors
4. Presentation of the financial statement for 2007
5. Report of the auditor
6. Appointment of the auditor for the next year
7. Amendments to the By-laws (if any are proposed)
8. Awards and presentations
9. Report of the nominating committee
10. Election of Directors
11. Any other business
12. Adjournment

The normal monthly meeting and “Great Moments in Genealogy” will follow after a short break.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with Article 40 of the By-laws, they may appoint a proxy to attend the meeting and act on their behalf. The proxy holder must also be a member of the Society.

NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee seeks suggestions for members to serve on the BIFHSGO Board of Directors. Directors serve two-year terms, with limited renewal; half the Board is elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting in June. This year the Society will also elect a new President. Suggestions may be sent to the chair of the nominating committee at: *pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca*. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor at the AGM.

Minutes of the BIFHSGO Annual General Meeting

9 June 2007

The Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) began at 9:35 a.m. June 9, 2007 in the Library and Archives Canada auditorium at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. The notice of the meeting was published in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Spring 2007 issue and on the Society website.

Approximately 110 members of the Society were in attendance and a quorum was declared. Roy Thomas was appointed as the Recording Secretary for the meeting.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

The President, Willis Burwell, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting:

The minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting were distributed to members in advance of the meeting. No comments or corrections were received. Moved by Terry Findley and seconded by Gerry Glavin that the minutes as published be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Reports of the President and Directors:

These were published in the Summer 2007 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* as a yellow coloured insert that was available to members prior to the meeting. The President summarized some of the highlights in these reports. He noted that at the last Annual General Meeting five new Directors had been elected. In addition three of the previous Board members moved to new positions. The Fall Conference 2006, held September 22, 23, and 24 at Library and Archives Canada had focused on Scotland and the featured speaker was David Webster, an internationally known researcher, author and speaker specializing in Scottish genealogy and related records of Scottish emigrants. Eleven other speakers joined David to provide an interesting and varied program for 230 people who registered for all or part of the Conference. He extended a special thanks to Brian Glenn and John Hay for co-chairing the Conference Planning Committee and to all the volunteers who supported them. For the second time, the Society's quarterly journal, *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, had been awarded first prize in the National Genealogical Society's Newsletter Competition. The President thanked the

Editors and the many volunteers who assisted in producing this journal as well as a special thanks to contributors. It was noted that again financially the Society had had a successful year and not only was able to purchase several items of capital equipment but also make donations to assist other like-minded organizations. Moved by Ruth Kirk and seconded by Bert Hayward that the reports of the Directors (except for the Treasurer's financial report) be accepted as published. MOTION CARRIED.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2006:

The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement of the Society for the fiscal year from January 1st, 2006 to December 31st, 2006 were also inserted in the Summer 2007 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, available to members before the meeting. The Treasurer pointed out that the Society had a surplus of income over expenses of \$11,589.59 for the 2006 fiscal year.

Auditor's Report:

The auditor, Darrel E. Kennedy, examined the Society's financial records and reported that he found these to be a good representation of the Society's situation at the end of 2006. He also advised that action on his recommendations, which included the amendment to the By-law below, was being undertaken by the BIFHSGO Board. Moved by Clifford Adams and seconded by Terry Findley that the financial reports be accepted. CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditor:

It was moved by Robert Watt and seconded by Don Treble that Darrel Kennedy be nominated as the Society's auditor for the 2007 fiscal year. There being no other nominations from the floor, Darrel Kennedy was appointed to the position of auditor.

Amendments to the By-Laws:

The following amendments to By-laws 11 and 13 were moved by Darrel Kennedy and seconded by John Reid. CARRIED.

Amendment to paragraph 11:

The property and business of the Society shall be managed by a Board of Directors *consisting of ex-officio members as outlined in the By-laws and nine (9) Directors in number, being the President, who is automatically a Director by virtue of being elected or*

appointed to the position, and eight other Directors. The Directors must be individuals 18 years of age or older, with power of law to contract. ***A Director must be a Member in good standing of the Society. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be five (5) of the nine (9) Directors.***

Amendment to paragraph 13:

The eight Directors who are not the President shall be elected by the Members at an Annual General Meeting for a term of two years each, with four being elected each year. Such Directors shall not serve more than four consecutive terms.

Hall of Fame Appointments:

The President announced the following Hall of Fame appointments for 2006.

Elected to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in 2007 was Patricia Roberts-Pichette in appreciation of her contributions as Director Research and Projects for four years including two years as First Vice-president, in organizing and leading the Middlemore Home Children project, in taking information about this project and the Society to Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Home Children Reunions, in preparing a series of 11 articles about the Middlemore Home Children for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; as co-chairperson for the 2005 Annual Conference; as presenter at Annual Conferences and monthly meetings; and as co-ordinator of the BIFHSGO Writing Group.

Elected to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in 2007 was Gerry Glavin in appreciation of his contributions during seven years on the Board of Directors: three years as Director of Programs and Conferences, two years as President and two years as Past President. He also chaired the Organizing Committee for the BIFHSGO Fall Conferences in 2000, 2001 and 2002. He has authored articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots* and has spoken at monthly meetings. His organizational skills and attention to detail have been major factors contributing to the success of the Society during this period of time.

Awards and Presentations:

The following presentations were made:

Alison Hare received the award for Best Presentation at the monthly BIFHSGO meetings, September 2006–June 2007, for her talk, "John Green: Whose Father Was He?" made at the April 2007 BIFHSGO meeting.

Robert Watt received the award for Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* article in 2006 for "Watts and Related Families of Dunfermline," which appeared in the Fall 2006 issue.

Bert Hayward received a Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding contributions to the work of the Society as BIFHSGO Photographer from 2003 to 2007.

Irene Ip received a Certificate of Excellence for her outstanding contributions to the work of BIFHSGO as the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* editor from 2003 to 2006, during which time it was awarded first place in the prestigious NGS Newsletter Competition twice, including 2006.

Chris MacPhail, the present *Anglo-Celtic Roots* editor, received a copy of the first place award for the Society's journal in the National Genealogical Society's newsletter competition.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election:

John Reid, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that three current Directors would not be standing for re-election. These were Lesley Anderson, Director of Education, Christine Jackson, Director of Publicity, and Glenn Wright, Director of Research and Queries. In addition the By-law required that four Directors be elected each successive year. Roy Thomas agreed to stand for re-election in 2007, although elected in 2006, to bring the yearly terms of Directors in line with the By-law. Only two nominations for Directors were received by the nominating committee; there being no other nominees from the floor, these three Directors were elected by acclamation, Roy Thomas to continue as Recording Secretary, Margaret Gervais as Director of Publicity and Brian Glenn as Director of Education. Remaining vacant is the Director of Research board position.

The President of the BIFHSGO Board, and chair of the AGM, Willis Burwell, thanked the outgoing Directors, Christine Jackson, Lesley Anderson and Glenn Wright, for their contribution to the Society. He also thanked the Associate Directors for their work.

Adjournment 10:10 a.m.:

There being no other business it was moved by Willis Burwell and seconded by Roy Thomas that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION CARRIED.

Prepared by Roy Thomas, 11 September 2007

BIFHSGO LISTINGS**Members' Surname Search**

BY ELIZABETH KIPP

These tables enable BIFHSGO members to share in common research. If you locate one or more of the names you are researching in Table A, note the membership number (Mbr. No.). Contact the member

listed in Table B (match Mbr. No.). Each member may be searching several names (please be specific when communicating with them). Good luck.

TABLE A (Names being searched)							
Name Searched	Location (Chapman Code)	Year	Mbr No.	Name Searched	Location (Chapman Code)	Year	Mbr No.
Acheson	IRE	1700+	1174	Turner, Ellen	CANADA	1910+	1178
Buchanan	IRE	1700+	1174	Turner, Francis (Frank) Victor	Southwark SRY LDN ENG	1904+	1178
Deakin, Mary Ann	Handsworth STF ENG	1865	1088	Turner, Francis (Frank) Victor	CANADA	1920+	1178
Needle, Thomas	Birmingham WAR ENG	1861	1088	Whitney	NB,NS	Pre 1837	1174
Turner, Ellen	Southwark SRY LDN ENG	1898+	1178				

TABLE B (Members referred to in Table A)			
Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address
1088	Rowena Needle Box 372 Stanley NB E6B 2K5	1174	Virginia MacLatchy 3 Ancona Crescent Nepean ON K2G 0N7 Email: vmaclatchy@rogers.com
1178	David Turner Email: david.turner10@homecall.co.uk		

ERRATA (ACR Research Interests—2007–2008)			
Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address
1299	K. Wilson, 95 Equestrian Dr Kanata ON K2M 1H7 Email: kwilson.is@rogers.com		

Occasionally, due to a lack of space, names published in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* may be restricted to six per individual. If this should occur, the remaining names of interest will be published in a future edition. If the members have Internet access and they give permission, all of their names of interest are published on the BIFHSGO web site at www.bifhsgo.ca.

Many BIFHSGO members belong to genealogy societies that cover the areas detailed in this Members' Surname Search list. If you would like to loan your quarterly journals or other pertinent documents to members with an interest in the same geographical area that you are researching, please contact them directly and arrange to exchange information at the monthly meetings.

Membership Report

BY SHARON MOOR

New BIFHSGO Members from 19 October 2007 to 20 January 2008

Mbr. #	Name	Address	Mbr. #	Name	Address
1179	Rob Duncan	Ottawa, Ont.	1184	Jessie Tait	Los Angeles, California
1180	Susan Martin	Pickering, Ont.	1185	Sherry Lamb	Ottawa, Ont.
1181	Janet Rasmussen	Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.	1186	James Lumsden	Ottawa, Ont.
1182	Katherine & Kirsten Davidson	Dunrobin, Ont.	1187	Margaret Ritchie	Ottawa, Ont.
1183	Robert Copeland	Ottawa, Ont.			

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members if you see them at a meeting.

Everyone should have paid their 2008 membership fees by now and received their new membership card. You need to be a paid-up member to continue receiving these publications.

Coming in the next issues ...

- The Davidson-McCabe Family—*Katherine Davidson*
- Keyes Family Reunion—*Karin Keyes Endemann*
- Finding my Leitrim Roots—*Betty Burrows*
- Irish Deeds—*Heather Boucher*
- DNA and Genealogy—*Jack Scrimgeour*
- Gross Ile—*Israel Gamache*
- Deep Ancestry DNA—*Bryan Cook*

Local Research Facilities

BIFHSGO Library

The Brian O'Regan Memorial Library includes genealogical research guidance material, political, social and local history, selected census indexes, British, Canadian, Australian and U.S. family history society journals—and more.

Location: The City Archives, Bytown Pavilion, 1st floor, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 580-2424 ext. 13333

Website: <http://www.bifhsgo.ca/library.htm>

Library and Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) collects and preserves Canada's documentary heritage, making it accessible to the public. LAC has a large collection of books on genealogy and microfilms of many Canadian newspapers, census records, ship passenger lists, and other sources of original material. Reference specialists are available to assist with research, using the collections, and answering questions.

Location: 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 996-5115

Website: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>

Family History Centre (LDS)

The Family History Center provides access to most of the microfilms and microfiche amassed in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to assist in genealogical research.

Location: 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, ON

Tel: (613) 224-2231

Website: <http://www.ottawastakefhc.on.ca>

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) acquires, preserves, and provides public access to Quebec's published, archival, and film heritage.

Location: 855, boulevard de la Gappe, Gatineau, QC

Tel: (819) 568-8798

Website: <http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal>

Parking

Parking is available at each of the research facilities. Phone or check the website for parking locations and costs, if applicable.

Hours

Readers are advised to contact the resource centres directly to confirm the hours of operation.

**BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
OF GREATER OTTAWA
Calendar of Events**

Saturday Morning Meetings

at

**Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa
Contact: 613-234-2520**

5 April 2008

The Diary of John Marsh, Seaman—*John Hay, Director of Programs, describes the diaries of his great-grandfather, who served in the Royal Navy and marine service from 1861 to 1874.*

10 May 2008

An Unstoppable Force: The Scottish Exodus to Canada—*Lucille H. Campey, researcher and author, presents the latest in her series of books on Scottish emigration to Canada.*

14 June 2008

Annual General Meeting, followed by Great Moments in Genealogy—*presented by BIFHSGO members*

Free parking on the east side of the building only

Before BIFHSGO Workshops

5 April 2008

Demonstration of presentation software—*Brian Glenn, Director of Education.*

10 May 2008

Effective searching for ancestors and archival info at Library and Archives Canada—*Sylvie Tremblay is a project officer for the Canadian Genealogy Centre at Library and Archives Canada.*

Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Workshops
Check our website—www.bifhsgo.ca—for up-to-date information.

9:30 a.m. Discovery Tables

10:00–11:30 a.m. Meeting and Presentation

12:00–1:00 p.m. Writing Group

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles, illustrations, etc., for publication in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* are welcome. Please contact: The Editor, acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for publication in the next issue is Saturday, 19 April 2008.