



British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

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Welcome to the June 2025 BIFHSGO Newsletter

June's hybrid meeting will be packed full of information – our Annual General Meeting, the announcement of the theme and speakers of the fall virtual conference about Welsh/English Family History and the popular Great Moments Talks. This will be our last meeting before the summer break. We return in September. Be sure to join us online or in-person in Geneva Hall at Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar St., on the corner of Elgin St. Use the garden entrance off Elgin St.

If you missed May's monthly meeting go to the "Members Area" of the website, under "Meeting Videos and Handouts". There you will find a video and handouts for Marnie McCall's talk about "Copyright for the Family Historian" and Kristen den Hertog's fascinating and moving presentation "Rebuilding the Body After the First World War."

You're invited:

Saturday, 14 June 2025

9:00 – 9:30 am EDT:

BIFHSGO's Annual General Meeting and wrap up our 30th anniversary year.

Documents for the AGM, including the Agenda, the minutes from the 2024 AGM, the Annual Report for 2024-2025, the 2024 Financial Statements, a motion to dispense with the public accountant, and biographies of incoming directors are posted on the BIFHSGO website [HERE](#).

Elections for the Board of Directors will be held at the meeting. Nominations for directors to the board are welcome from the floor at the AGM. We are seeking one or two more directors-at-large, one of whom could take on the role of coordinating Programs, Communication with Members or community Outreach.

BIFHSGO Awards will be given out as part of the AGM.

10:00 am – 11:30 am EDT: Great Moments in Genealogy

Included in this month's talks are:

- **From Penrhynedraeth to Peterborough: Digging Deeper into My Welsh Ancestry-** Presented by Laurie Dougherty
- **A Cautionary Tale: How I Built a Brick wall with DNA** – Presented by Barbara Tose
- **A Genealogical Revelation: From an Only Child to a Family of Nine** – Presented by Andy Desjardins

Registration for the June meeting is available [HERE](#).

Book Grab

A reminder that there will be a book grab at our June monthly meeting, before the meeting and over the break at 9:30. Tables will be set up with extra books that have been donated that need to find a home. You never know when you will find a treasure and it is free, although we would appreciate a token donation.

Books have been donated by Patricia McGregor and by the family of former member John Hay. The Ottawa Branch – Ontario Genealogical Society (OBOGS) has selected some for their library to benefit all researchers, and the remainder have come to us for Saturday's meeting.

A few members asked if they could contribute to the book grab, as well, and because of this interest we will hold another one in September. The OBOGS library will again have first choice to expand their collection. Please contact Library volunteer Pam Cooper at librarian@bifhsgo.ca to arrange a pick-up or to arrange a drop off. Over the summer books will be reviewed against the library's holdings, and any extras returned to BIFHSGO for the September meeting.

Check the Events section of BIFHSGO's website [HERE](#), for details of upcoming meetings and any updates.

Coming in September!

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. EDT: Using Google Lens for Genealogy

Presenter – Carol Annett

Carol Annett will give a step-by-step demonstration of how she uses Google Lens as a tool for genealogy research and finding information for family stories. The focus of the talk will be using Google Lens to search for matching images of objects such as family heirlooms and mementos.

10.00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EDT: "Small Moments in Genealogy"

BIFHSGO members are invited to share small moments in their genealogical research – a small but delightful discovery, told in a five to ten-minute story of 1,000 words or less, about an interesting finding, event, person or object from a person's ancestry. Blended with anecdotes, photos, historical context, a map or family tree, a small moment is like a personal Heritage Minute. You could call it a family history vignette. We already know we will hear about "Gaspé Time," a grandfather's pocket watch and clock, and the identification of a mystery heirloom. There will be time for more, should attendees online or in-person on the day be

inspired to share their own small moment.

2025 Annual Conference

Save the date for BIFHSGO's virtual annual conference that will feature England and Wales! The conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 October 2025. More will be revealed at the June monthly meeting so stay tuned.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

BIFHSGO depends on many members to make the society a success. We really do appreciate all that you do!

Calling For Members to Serve in Key Volunteer Position at BIFHSGO

Starting with the September meeting BIFHSGO will need volunteers to step up and host our monthly meetings. Andy Desjardins is stepping away from the microphone and we thank him for his service to the society. This position involves introducing speakers and making announcements while ensuring a smooth flow to the monthly meeting.

Contact president@bifhsgo.ca if you are interested in helping out.

Seeking speakers for 2025-2026!

A big thank you to all who provided ideas for our future program. There are many great suggestions and volunteers to speak. Your input is already adding to what we hope will be a rich 2025-2026 program year.

We still have a few openings:

- Great Moment for December 2025
- Feature talk for February 2026
- Education talk for April and May 2026
- Great Moments (3) for June 2026

Contact programs@bifhsgo.ca if you have something you would like to present.

Summer issue of the Anglo-Celtic Roots (ACR)

The new issue will be mailed to paper copy subscribers this week and the online version is posted on the website in the members area.

You have until 22 July 2025 to submit articles for the fall issue. The deadline for the winter issue is 22 October 2025. If you think you have an interesting article for *Anglo-Celtic Roots* contact the editor, at acreditor@bifhsgo.ca

BIFHSGO Facebook discussion group

Did you know that we have a members-only forum on Facebook? Members can share

interesting finds such as a useful book or resource. The society has many skilled and experienced genealogists who might be able to point you in the right direction if you have a question about your research. From your Facebook account, search for BIFHSGO Discussion Group, and request to join. We'll verify that you are a BIFHSGO member and admit you to the group. Give it a try!

June social time

Join us at the White Pine Café on Thursday, 19 June 2025 between 9:00 and 11:30 am to chat over a coffee and a sweet treat with some BIFHSGO friends. The White Pine Café is located in the lobby of Arlington Woods Church at 225 McClellan Rd, off Greenbank Rd in Ottawa. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. This will be the last drop-in before breaking for the summer.

Upcoming Special Interest Group Meetings:

- Writing Group / Friday 20 June / 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- British Colonial America SIG / Wednesday 23 July / 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- London SIG / Wednesday, Wednesday 10 September/2:00 – 4:00 pm
- DNA SIG / Saturday 4 October/ 9:30 – 11:30 am

For those of us with Irish or Scottish Roots:

- There is an Irish Research Special Interest Group run by the Ottawa Branch of Ontario Ancestors. The group is taking a break over the summer and will reconvene in September.
- The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) hosts an Ireland Special Interest Group which meets once per month and provides links, resource information and timely articles. More information is on their website: <https://ireland.ogs.on.ca/>.
- The OGS also hosts a Scottish Special Interest Group, which organizes webinars once or twice per month. You can find more information on their website: <https://scottishsig.ogs.on.ca/>

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