



The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is honoured to present the inaugural event in an international lecture series to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS).

On **Saturday 28 March at 2 p.m. Ottawa time** (6:00 p.m. in Ireland - note only 4 hours difference on this date), **David A. Wilson**, Professor of History and Celtic Studies at the University of Toronto and General Editor of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, will present **“Focusing on the Migrants: How Genealogy has Transformed our Understanding of the Irish in Canada”**. He will discuss how genealogical research has played a key role in opening new perspectives on the Irish in Canada. After a general overview of Irish Canadian history, he will present three case studies that highlight the contribution of genealogy to historical research.

This lecture is free of charge, with donations gratefully accepted at the event or [online](#). A discussion period will follow, and light refreshments will be served. Various local historical and genealogical groups will be in attendance. It will be held at **Knox Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, at 120 Lisgar St. (corner of Elgin Street)**. The lecture is available to watch online by registering [here](#). Doors will open at 1:30 p.m.

The worldwide programme of events across 2026 reflects the IGRS’s international membership and deep connections with the Irish diaspora. This [lecture series](#) will recognise the Irish heritage of people throughout the world, embracing all traditions that contribute to Irish identity.

Events are scheduled across Australia, Canada, the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland. Venues include prominent archives, libraries and genealogical institutions, with local Irish communities and diaspora partners playing a central role. The speakers include a wide range of experts foremost in their field and many with long years of experience.

For more information about the Ottawa lecture, and BIFHSGO in general, please visit www.bifhsgo.ca

For more information about the 2026 international lecture series, and IGRS in general, please visit <https://www.irishancestors.ie/>

For more information about David A. Wilson, please visit <https://www.history.utoronto.ca/people/directories/all-faculty/david-wilson>

Questions? Please contact queries@bifhsgo.ca