



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

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Quarterly Chronicle

Volume 14, Number 2

Summer 2008

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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.

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### ***The President's Corner***

When you read this I expect that my term as President of BIFHSGO will be coming to an end. It has been a pleasure to serve the Society and of course I intend to continue to be an active member for some time to come. I wish all the best to my successor.

I was looking back through my old issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* and noted that it was 12 years ago that my wife, Marg, started up the BIFHSGO Internet User's Group. A year later she set up the first BIFHSGO website. Initially it provided brief information on the Society and its activities. Later the Member's Interest data was added as the first database. Now the website contains an index of Middlemore Home Children that is being used by researchers around the world. Our website continues to grow in size and usefulness. This year we can register for the fall conference on the website and pay by credit card. I would like to congratulate our current Webmaster, Andy Coates, for his hard work and contribution.

The number of genealogy databases on the Internet has grown exponentially during the past ten years. Free sites like [www.collectionscanada.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.ca), [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) have become extremely important tools for our research. Commercial sites have also grown in importance. Sites like [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.irish-roots.ie](http://www.irish-roots.ie) come to mind. However, you must remember that databases on the Internet are not primary sources. They are a great aid in identifying sources where there may be information about your ancestors, but you must check the original source before you can be positive that the information is correct.

Other new uses for the Internet are emerging all the time. One that I use is at [www.gravemarkers.ca](http://www.gravemarkers.ca). This website started off posting photos of grave markers for cemeteries in Renfrew County but has now spread across Canada. A formidable idea but someday it may contain all Canadian grave markers! Finally I might mention newsgroups and blogs. If you haven't checked it out yet, you should visit a blog being run by our Past President, John Reid, at <http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/>.

I wonder what new services will be available ten years from now.

**Willis Burwell**

### ***Notes From the Editor's Desk***

Ireland was the focus of the 2007 Fall Conference and in this issue we feature articles based on two of the presentations: the history of Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial Historic Site by Israël Gamache of Parks Canada, and an account by Betty Burrows of her research and experiences in tracing fact and fiction in Ireland.

Family histories may include facts that some may find unpleasant. Garfield Clack provides a sensitive treatment of the discovery of lunatics in his family, based on a Great Moments presentation.

BIFHSGO has provided an award at the annual Ottawa Regional Historica Fair for the best display on a genealogical subject by students from local schools. Katherine Davidson won the award in 2007 for her Davidson-McCabe Family, and we are pleased to be able to publish her article, based on the display, in this issue.

Finally, we are honoured again by receiving an award from the National Genealogical Society for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*—this time as runner-up in the 2007 Newsletter Competition for major genealogical societies. Thank you to all the volunteers and authors who have contributed to this achievement.

**Chris MacPhail**

## CONFERENCE 2007

## Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial Historic Site<sup>©</sup>

BY ISRAËL GAMACHE

*This article is based on a presentation to the 2007 Fall Conference by Myriam Lavallée, and has been prepared by Israël Gamache, a Parks Canada guide-interpreter at the Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada.*

North America represented a major attraction for thousands of people around the world. Canada thus became a country of immigrants. From the Asian hunters who followed herds here during the last two glaciations to the European settlers who dreamed of freedom and prosperity hundreds of years later, the people who came to our land have all helped build the country we know today.



Immigrating to Canada has never been a small feat. The rugged climate, conditions on the transatlantic passage, and adapting to a new society are all elements that made—and continue to make—immigration an heroic journey.

The early 19th century was characterized by a European conflict that reverberated across the Atlantic: the Napoleonic wars. During the conflict, Napoleon blocked the British from the Baltic region, to cut off their traditional supply of wood. A dominant naval force, Great Britain had no choice but to turn to its North American colony, Canada, to build its ships. Canada thus became the principal supplier of wood for the British shipbuilding industry. Quebec City enjoyed an unprecedented economic boom up to the mid-19th century. Ships built in Quebec City were loaded with wood and sent to the United Kingdom. They then returned to Canada filled with emigrants. At first, at the dawn of the 19th century, the new arrivals to Canada were few in number and consisted mainly of merchants and demobilized soldiers, coming largely from the British Isles: England, Scotland and especially Ireland.

The failed revolt of 1798 made Ireland a British colony. Thereafter, the Irish considered emigration as a solution to their economic problems. Close to two decades later, the conflict with Napoleon worsened:

overpopulated England began suffering from an economic, social and agricultural crisis characterized by a general drop in wages and increase in unemployment. An unprecedented level of destitution swept across the Kingdom, and thousands of people began boarding the transatlantic ships in the hope of finding a better life in North America.

The conditions on those transatlantic voyages were pitiful, encouraging the growth of severe contagious disease. With people and supplies crammed into filthy holds, water and food spoiled and vanished rapidly. Prior to 1803, the shipment of emigrants was not controlled or subject to regulation. After 1803, the laws that were passed successively from year to year improved the plight of emigrants only mildly, until the 1855 *Passengers Act*. Emigrants therefore arrived at the Port of Quebec weak and often very ill; unintentionally, their diseases were carried into the local population. Each summer came with a new outbreak of contagious disease, such as smallpox, dysentery, typhus, scarlet fever and measles. The lack of medical knowledge, ignorance about the causes and transmission of disease, the absence of hygiene and public health, crowding, large gatherings and migratory movements all fostered the growth of disease.

### **A difficult start: the major epidemics**

On February 15, 1832, the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada adopted a law creating a quarantine station at Grosse Île, in the Île aux Grues archipelago 48 kilometres downstream from Quebec City. The station was placed under British military jurisdiction, and temporary wooden buildings were constructed rapidly to house immigrants showing symptoms of disease and those being kept under observation.

The bell soon tolled in Quebec City: cholera first appeared that same year, in 1832. The disease had traveled rapidly from India to Europe, caused especially by contaminated water and produce. Its symptoms included spasms, vomiting and diarrhea that often led to fatal dehydration and the stoppage of

blood flow, characterized by bluish skin and fingernails. The scourge entered North America through its ports, mainly in Quebec City, New York and Philadelphia.

The western sector of the Grosse Île quarantine station immediately became the site of the first facilities. Beginning in May, the land along Hospital Bay accommodated buildings designed for immigrants: a hospital with room for 48 patients, a shelter for healthy immigrants, and several annexes. Other facilities were built in the central sector to house the island's military and civil personnel. Among these facilities were wooden barracks for soldiers and a battery of cannons to convince ship captains to abide by the quarantine act. Soon after these constructions were complete, a boatload of clerks, military personnel and doctors was sent to Grosse Île.

Early on, the quarantine station was hampered by precipitation, trial and error, and ignorance. The newspaper reports of growing contagion in Europe were worrying. Canada was doing the best it could, and other countries were no more successful at curbing disease. Attempts to control the cholera epidemic were ineffective due to the lack of care by ship captains in response to the passenger acts and mandatory quarantines. In June 1832, the *Carricks* from Dublin was disinfected at Grosse Île after its captain declared 39 deaths on board during the transatlantic voyage. Since they did not know contamination spread through the drinking water and food supplies, the bacteria was not stopped, and the disease attacked North America. (It was not until 1883 that the cause and transmission mode of cholera became known.) That summer of 1832, cholera took five victims at Grosse Île, 3,000 in Quebec City, 4,000 in Montreal, and a total of 12,000 across Lower Canada.

### **Tragic summer of 1847**

Nothing in the history of the Grosse Île quarantine station would compare to the tragedy that hit in 1847. The news of a typhus epidemic in Europe and a large number of emigrants boarding ships for North America forced Doctor George Mellis Douglas, medical superintendent of the station from 1836 to 1864, to reorganize Grosse Île. Most new arrivals were Irish, fleeing poverty, oppression and the Irish Potato Famine.

Despite all the efforts of the station's personnel, typhus hit hard. It was the largest typhus epidemic in Quebec, and the cities of Quebec, Montreal and Kingston were most seriously affected. Typhus caused violent fevers and also became known as jail fever and

ship fever because it usually developed in unhealthy environments. The human body louse, which would hide in the seams of clothing, transmitted the disease; however, this would not be learned until the early 20th century. The thousands of immigrants packed into the holds of sailing vessels were easy prey for the lice. The often long crossing time, the poor conditions on board, and the presence of typhus in the European ports of departure contributed to the growth of the disease. The infested ships would stop at Grosse Île, but the quarantine time established by law wasn't always respected. The lack of knowledge about the cause and how to stop the disease was also an important factor.



**Figure 1: Grosse Île**  
Parks Canada photograph

Typhus spread through Quebec City and Montreal. Authorities at the quarantine station were soon overwhelmed. Beginning at the end of May 1847, more than 30 ships were anchored off the quarantine station waiting to disembark their more than 10,000 passengers. Tents and marquees were raised around the 1832 hospital. Most of the sick were disembarked, but with a lack of places to accommodate people on land, many healthy individuals were kept in the ship holds amongst the litter and vermin until space became available in the hospitals or tents. Dozens of doctors and priests, themselves unable to ward off the disease, were hurried to the station to replace exhausted and overwhelmed staff. Forty-four members of the staff died that summer: priests, clerks, domestics, nurses and constables. Doctor Douglas, when questioned by a special investigative committee on the administration of the station, named by the City of Montreal's Bureau of Health, reported:

The sick were crowded in the old sheds at first, and disorder and want of cleanliness existed; the filth was no doubt allowed to accumulate in the chamber vessels; members of families, chiefly children, or husband and wife, frequently occupied the same bed, but this arose from the impossibility of finding room, and the anxiety to get them out of the ships. Corpses are invariably removed to the dead house as soon as discovered; such are my strict orders.

Of the 441 vessels registered at the Port of Quebec, 398 were inspected at Grosse Île; 77 of these carried more than 400 passengers. The ships included 73 from Liverpool, 50 from Limerick, 33 from Cork, 29 from Glasgow, 27 from Dublin, 26 from Sligo, 24 from Bremen in Germany, and 21 from Belfast. While the average Atlantic crossing time was 45 days, 26 vessels took more than 60 days to reach Quebec. Through the summer, many buildings such as the chapels served as infirmaries. Hundreds of coffins were piled into deep rectangular pits in the western cemetery due to lack of space. Despite this uncommon method of burying the dead, the interments were carried out with the utmost respect by Catholic and Protestant clergy.

At the end of the summer, 12 large shelters 200 feet long, which were prefabricated in Quebec City, were raised in the eastern sector to at last house convalescents more comfortably. The last of these 12 shelters, which was fully restored by Parks Canada in 1999–2000 and opened to visitors, remains the final witness to the Irish tragedy and is distinguished by its sheer size.

The devotion of the Grosse Île staff was evident in the collective memory. But the outcome of the summer of 1847 was dismal. More than 5,424 burials were registered on the island and 5,000 at sea. Thousands of deaths added to the toll through the summer in Quebec City, Montreal and Kingston. Hundreds of orphans were adopted by Canadian families, which was a testimony to the solidarity of citizens in the face of the calamities suffered by new immigrants. A stone monument overlooking the western cemetery at Grosse Île was erected not long after the tragedy to commemorate the devotion of the medical staff and pay homage to the victims.

### **A modern, efficient quarantine station**

Following these events, operations at Grosse Île were reviewed beginning in 1848. The sick were henceforth kept in the eastern sector, while those who appeared healthy were kept under observation in the western sector. Patients who died were from then on buried in a cemetery at the eastern end of the island.

In 1857, responsibility for administration of the island shifted from the Imperial government to the Canadian government. Admissions to the hospitals of Grosse Île were not what they had been in 1847, but smallpox and fever were still present on many ships.

In 1867, the Conservative Party of John Alexander Macdonald officially administered the newly confederated Canada. It considered immigration to be one of the main concerns that should guide the new government. The Conservatives wished to attract immigrants through a dynamic immigration policy to populate western Canada. The movement would not peak until several decades later, but the face of Canadian immigration began changing immediately. Scandinavian and German emigrants diminished somewhat, but still made up a fair share of the new arrivals. Russians, French, Belgians, Swiss, Italians, Austrians, Romanians and Hungarians quickly began settling in Canada. Thus began the ethnic diversity that would characterize Canadian immigration.

Despite all the efforts to attract foreign populations to Canada, immigration slowed from 1873 to 1880. The invention of the steamship, a faster and more comfortable mode of passage, nevertheless encouraged people to make the transatlantic crossing, beginning in the mid-19th century. Better travelling conditions, a mandatory smallpox vaccination, and stricter application of quarantine regulations improved the health record of major ships and their passengers. A lessening of quarantinable disease in Europe was also a determining factor in the health condition of immigrants to Canada.

The new superintendent at Grosse Île, Doctor Frédéric Montizambert, reorganized the quarantine station upon taking office in 1869. Several new buildings improved the living conditions of employees in the central administrative sector: a new house for the superintendent, a housing unit for employees, new Catholic and Protestant chapels, a bakery, a wharf for disembarking passengers, and a sanitarium.

Several major scientific discoveries added to the knowledge of contagious disease. Researchers such as Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch made revolutionary findings in vaccination and bacteriology, which was henceforth considered a science. The bacteriological era definitively changed our vision of contagious disease in the latter half of the 19th century.

In the 1880s, immigration took on very real and constant dimensions, thanks to new economic growth and especially the efforts of John Alexander Macdonald, who was re-elected in 1878. The new

railway, constructed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, which linked Canada from the Atlantic to Pacific coasts and included Quebec City in 1885, facilitated access to the Great Plains, the Rockies and the Pacific Ocean. Settlers still came mostly from Great Britain, as well as Scandinavian countries, other western and eastern countries, and the Middle East. The large majority were farmers settling in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

To respond to all these changes, Frédéric Montizambert, who was still superintendent of the Grosse Île quarantine station, gave new life to the idea of public health in the context of immigration. He was a professional who kept abreast of medical knowledge by attending public health meetings in the United States as a representative of Canada and by reading medical reviews and brochures. He was particularly interested in new scientific methods of disinfecting immigrants and their baggage. His hope was to make Grosse Île a leading quarantine station in terms of scientific knowledge and technology.

Montizambert's fight against disease reached a new level in 1881 with the construction of a modern and spacious brick hospital, which could accommodate more than 100 patients. The imposing Grosse Île Marine Hospital offered all services related to the treatment of the ill: specific treatment rooms, a dispensary, kitchen, operating room, waiting room, pharmacy, nurse's room, and a dayroom lounge. Large rooms were available for immigrants as well as private rooms for first-class passengers.

The superintendent also modernized the station's disinfection system. Since superheated steam was the most effective disinfection method for destroying disease germs in fabric, he proposed the construction of a disinfection building, which was completed in 1893. The building, which is accessible to visitors today, has a main body, an annex with coal-fired boilers, pumps for supplying water to the western sector, a cistern and a condenser for drinking water. Within the main body of the building are three iron disinfection chambers, a pump, a water reservoir, and a reservoir for mercury chloride. Twelve showers, also called needle baths, were installed to disinfect passengers themselves. A tour of the disinfection building today is a moving experience for the modern visitor, following the footsteps of so many thousands of immigrants.

### **Expanding immigration brought to an abrupt halt**

At the dawn of the 20th century, comfort on board transatlantic vessels had greatly improved. Progressively, three classes of travellers replaced the old categories of deck and cabin. The changes led authorities at Grosse Île to improve their passenger reception and detention structures to reflect the conditions offered to passengers on board large ships. In February 1893, a contract was awarded for the construction of a first-class hotel, a large two-storey wooden building that would accommodate 152 passengers. At the time, the central area consisted of a dining room, bar, dayroom lounge, rooms for male and female staff and a kitchen in the rear annex. Each of the rooms in the wings included a bed, sink, mirror, bath and water reservoir. Two more hotels were added to the architectural landscape in the following decades, to accommodate second- and third-class passengers.

In 1899, Doctor Montizambert was transferred to Ottawa to become the executive director of public health and government advisor in matters of public hygiene. His reputation and devotion in these areas brought his name to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2001.

Doctor Georges-Élie Martineau next accepted the position of medical superintendent of the Grosse Île quarantine station, serving from 1899 to 1929. He ensured that the station's modernization, started years earlier under Montizambert, was perfected. At the time, immigration had increased significantly; this trend lasted until World War I. On average, 92,000 immigrants arrived at the Port of Quebec each year. They arrived from Great Britain, Scandinavian and Western European countries, as well as the Middle East, Australia, Africa, the Far East, Russia, France, Holland, Belgium, and the West Indies. Despite the existence of several other Canadian ports, including Halifax, Saint John, Victoria, Vancouver, Montreal and Hamilton, the Port of Quebec was the most popular landing point, receiving 48% of arrivals to Canada. Quebec City has welcomed immigrants through its immigration centre in the Louise Basin since 1886-87.

In this context of affluence, the hospitals at Grosse Île were increasingly occupied. But knowledge from recent years in bacteriology nevertheless allowed the menace of disease to be kept at bay. Major diseases such as cholera and typhus tended to disappear. Some cases of measles, chickenpox, influenza, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid, and dysentery were admitted. Smallpox remained a common disease. The most



prominent case at Grosse Île occurred in 1899 with a group of 2,275 Russian peasants, known as Doukhobors, who arrived in Canada on the *Lake Huron*. During the ship's inspection, a case of smallpox was detected. During the quarantine, 18 people were hospitalized. The passengers and crew left the quarantine station after spending more than 20 days under observation, then went on to settle as a community, mainly in the Prince Albert region of Saskatchewan.

In 1909, an event took place that will long be remembered, particularly by the descendants of the Irish who survived the great migration of 1847: the erection of a monument commemorating the typhus victims buried in the western cemetery, considered today the largest cemetery of the Great Famine outside Ireland. In 1897, a group of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish organization dating back to the Middle Ages, visited Grosse Île to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the typhus epidemic. Seeing that maintenance of the cemetery had been neglected, they decided to take matters into their own hands. Jeremiah Gallagher, regional president of the Order, Section Number 1, in Quebec City, proposed that the monument be a Celtic cross, and members of the organization were asked to contribute the funds necessary to accomplish this project.

The effort was not in vain. On August 15, 1909, the Celtic cross was inaugurated—a monument standing more than 14 metres tall. Several thousand people attended the event, making the pilgrimage from the major cities of Canada and New England. Most were descendants of Irish immigrants, but some were the Irish themselves who had come to North America at the time of the Great Famine. The four sides of the cross feature commemorative messages, including one in Gaelic.

The cross was raised on the western tip of the island, known as Telegraph Hill. After that memorable year, the Ancient Order of Hibernians organized many pilgrimages to Grosse Île to remind new generations of the importance of the site. In 2009, the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of this impressive monument will be celebrated.

In 1914 and 1919, the number of immigrants decreased constantly. The start of the world war in 1914 put transport in disarray, reducing the number of people coming to Canada. After World War I, immigration picked up little by little. Those years were marked by an influenza epidemic, also called the Spanish flu. Influenza was not a quarantinable disease,

and it was only soldiers returning from the front that disembarked at Grosse Île. Between 25 and 50 million people around the world were killed by the disease.

In the early 1920s, immigration to Canada was not as significant as at the start of the century. Quarantine was no longer mandatory for patients suffering from minor disease, since they were treated at the hospital for immigrants at Quebec City's Parc Savard. For several years, a pilot station had been established at Pointe-au-Père near Rimouski. It took away one of Grosse Île's major remaining functions: the inspection of ships sailing up the Saint Lawrence. Cases of major disease and the people who had contact with the ill were brought to the quarantine station. The personnel required for emergencies were kept on site, and if needed additional doctors and nurses would travel from hospitals in Quebec City. Despite the new situation, the disinfection equipment was nonetheless used frequently.



**Figure 2: Celtic Cross Memorial**  
Parks Canada photograph

The last operations in the 1930s involved disinfecting shipments of rags and clothing imported to Canada. Apart from these activities, the station was increasingly idle, given the disappearance of serious contagious disease on ships. At the end of the 1937 season, medical equipment was transferred to the hospital at Parc Savard, and the Grosse Île quarantine station officially closed.

Today, Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada are visited by thousands of people each year. The site commemorates the importance of immigration to Canada, especially via Quebec City, from the start of the 19th century to World War I; the tragic events suffered by Irish immigrants at the site, particularly during the 1847 typhus epidemic; and the role played by Grosse Île from 1832 to 1937 as a quarantine station for the Port of Quebec, which was long the main point of entry for immigrants to Canada. The site also recognizes Doctor Frédérick Montizambert as a person of national historic importance.

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## Finding My Leitrim Roots

BY BETTY BURROWS

*Currently BIFHSGO Director of Communications, Betty presented this description of the search for her Leitrim family roots to the Fall Conference 2007.*

While researching my mother's Irish ancestors in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, I completed a large descendant tree for Arthur Payton and his wife Jane (Johnston) Payton. They were the first Payton family members to settle in Canada but I was stumped about their origins. They had come from County Leitrim, Ireland, I had been told, but there was no information. I was prepared for a long grind, as I knew that many Irish records had been burned in the 1922 Dublin fire.

### The search

Fortunately, the search for my Payton and Johnston ancestors in County Leitrim was filled with incredible Irish luck. Not only did I find snippets of information in unlikely places but I also found connections to the social history of Leitrim in mythology, music and fairy tales.



Leitrim is located in the northern part of the Republic of Ireland and is almost entirely an inland county. The River Shannon and Lough Allen separate the county into North and South Leitrim. My family, I was to learn, came from the rocky hills of central Leitrim, adjacent to Lough Allen, on the western boundary of the county.

I knew my maternal g g grandparents, Arthur Payton, his wife Jane (Johnston) Payton, and their five children had left Leitrim about 1840. They had settled in the Eastern Townships, close to the village of Waterloo, just before the 1842 Census was taken. I have assumed this because that Census records that they had produced no farm crops in the previous year.

The Paytons were Protestant. A family's religion is very important to know when searching for Irish ancestors, as the church is where the records were once kept.

Before I began my long search in Leitrim, the following information was all that I had gleaned from family stories, notes, Canadian census records, baptism, marriage and burial records here in Canada. (The Peyton surname was changed to Payton when they arrived in Canada).

ARTHUR PAYTON 1796 in Ireland–29 Mar 1881 in Waterloo, Quebec

+ JANE JOHNSTON 1801 in Ireland–16 Nov 1898 in Waterloo, Quebec

- i Isabella Payton 1829–1912  
+ Seth Whitehead 1821–1901
- ii Mary Ann Payton 1830–1920  
+ Albert Temple 1835–1877
- iii Renny (Reynolds?) Payton 1835–1886
- iv Robert Payton 1837–1890  
+ Catherine Booth 1846–1896
- v James Payton 1839–1903

After collecting all the data above, I advertised, in my traditional Christmas letter to relatives, that I was looking for more information about family ancestors who once lived in the Eastern Townships. One Christmas letter, to an elderly great-aunt in Granby, Quebec, led to a contact with a distant cousin living in Vernon, B.C. She had an old Bible, but it was not the traditional family Bible with births, marriages and deaths all dutifully recorded. The Hibernian Bible Society, a large and influential agency of Ireland's Protestants, distributed this Bible. It would turn out to be the key that finally told me which Leitrim townland the family came from. Everything else flowed from this essential bit of family memorabilia. There, on the first page, was a single faded inscription, very difficult to read, with these glorious words:

*The Free Gift of the Hibernian Bible Society*

*To Arthur Peyton*

*Aughakilbrach*

*Easter day 1832*

“Aughakilbrach,” “Aughakilhack” or “Aghakilbrack,” depending upon the person or the handwriting, was a name I immediately recognized, as I had practically memorized all the old Leitrim townland names. Immediately I rushed to the Family History Centre, looked up Aughakilbrach townland in the 1833 Tithe Applotment Lists and five minutes later I found him. Arthur Peyton was listed in the Diocese of Ardagh, Parish of Kiltubbrid in the townland of Aughakilbrach.

What did I learn from this record? In 1833, the Arthur Peyton family lived in the townland of Aughakilbrach near the top of Sliabh an Iarann (“Iron Mountain”) with 26 other families. One of the close neighbours was Edward Johnston, probably the father of Jane

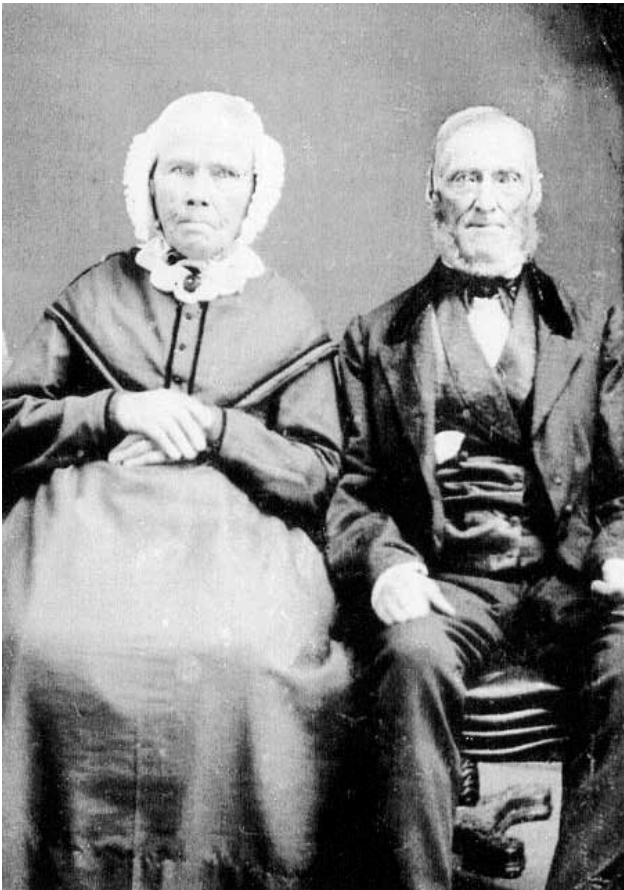


**Figure 1: Leitrim County map**  
*www.lookaroundireland.com*

Johnston, Arthur Peyton's wife. Together, Arthur Peyton, Edward Johnston and 25 other families worked 235 acres of meadow, moor and mountain and jointly they owed 72 Irish pounds in taxes to the Church of Ireland (Protestant). The farms had been grouped together, in this record, as it was virtually impossible to identify individual lots. The last survey had been done 50 years earlier and much of the arable land had been reclaimed from mountain and moor.

One day, shortly after my elderly aunt in Quebec passed away, I received a phone call from her granddaughter. The family had found two very old Victorian photograph albums that had been tucked away for some 40 years in a dresser drawer at their summer cottage. As the granddaughter knew I was working on our family tree, she graciously gave me these two albums to assist with my research. Among the few tintypes and many photographs, dating from the late 1870s to the early 1900s, were several identified Payton photographs. One of them was a tintype of Arthur and Jane Payton. The photograph was probably taken about 1880 as Arthur died in 1881, shortly after that Census was taken.

With advice from both the BIFHSGO Irish Discovery Table volunteers and from the Irish Research Group, I searched for a will and learned that one once existed for an Arthur Peyton in County Leitrim. I found the reference mentioned in the Index to Ardagh Wills, 1813, but we suspected that the will itself no longer existed. A letter to the Irish National Archives confirmed that the will did not survive the Custom



**Figure 1: Arthur Payton and Jane (Johnston) Payton  
ca 1880 Waterloo, Quebec**

House fire in 1922, where all the old wills were stored. Was this older Arthur Peyton my g g grandfather?

This Arthur Peyton was living close to the 1833 home of my g g grandfather in the adjacent area, Keshcarrigan Townland, Kiltubbrid Parish, Leitrim, when the will was drawn up in 1813. He was probably Arthur's father, I reasoned, and maybe Arthur Junior, who was only 15 or 16 at the time, was living there with his parents. I thought it unlikely that I would learn more about this older Arthur Peyton, but I was wrong!

In January 2006, I was learning to use a Christmas present from my husband, a subscription to Ancestry.com World Edition. While searching for Arthur Peyton, I spotted an amazing entry that flashed onto my computer screen.

Irish Records Index, 1500–1920

Record about Arthur (Aughakilhack Burial)  
PEYTON

Last Name: PEYTON

Given Name and Status: Arthur

(Aughakilhack Bur)

Date: 25 July 1829

Location: Kiltubbrid (Ardagh)

Film #: 596418

T, Box & Order #: 4203

Item Order: 254 of 978

Immediately I ordered the church film from the Family History Centre. When I finally saw that page on the film—Parish of Kiltubbrid Records 1796–1868, Laheen (Peyton) Townland—I was puzzled. Every surname on that page was a Peyton. Perhaps they were the only Church of Ireland members attending the church in the Laheen (Peyton) Townland. The single page entry is transcribed below. I have retained the original spelling and grammar.

### **Baptisms**

For Walter Peyton of Driney & his wife Alice, one male infant Cunningham July 30th 1797

For William Peyton of Castlecarrigan (probably Keshcarrigan) & his wife Doratha one female infant named Margret Aug 9th 1797

For Arthur Peyton & his wife Susan, one female infant named Jane Sept 22nd 1798

For William Peyton of Keshcarrigan & Dorathea his wife, one male infant named George Reynolds Oct 11th 1800.

For Lieut. Col John Peyton of Laheen & his wife Mary one male infant named John Reynolds June 30th 1803.

For Colonel John Peyton of Laheen & Mary his wife one female infant named Jane Feb 16th 1806

For Tobias Peyton of Letterfyan & his wife Ann Connolly one female named Jane Nov 3rd 1811

James of Arthur & Jane Peyton Aughakilhack, farmer Feb 12th 1838

Walter Peyton signed as churchwarden in 1810

### **Burials**

Arthur Peyton Aughakilhack 25th July 1829

From this exciting single page of information, I deduced some relationships described below that have yet to be proven and perhaps may never be confirmed.

Baptism - For Arthur Peyton & his wife Susan, one female infant named Jane Sept 22nd 1798: This couple was probably my Arthur Peyton's

father and mother, making Jane a sister to my Arthur Peyton. Arthur Peyton, Sr. and his wife Susan are almost certainly my g g g grandparents.

Burial - Arthur Peyton Aughakilhack 25th July 1829: Finally I knew when and where our Arthur's probable father died, even without the will written in 1813. In his will Arthur Peyton, Sr. must have given his share of land in Aughakilbach to his son Arthur, probably the oldest or only surviving son. Arthur Jr., would have been about 27 years old when his father died.

Baptism - James of Arthur & Jane Peyton Aughakilhack, farmer Feb 12th 1838: I learned the occupation of Arthur Peyton, Jr. and that his son, James Peyton, was born in Ireland, not in Canada, as family members once thought. Therefore his baptism on 12 February 1838 tells us the family came to Canada after that date. We knew that they were just getting settled on their new farm in Quebec when the 1842 Census was taken.

I was now able to add another older generation to my family tree. But I also wanted to discover more about the other Peyton names that appeared on the single-page record of Laheen (Peyton) Townland. Perhaps I could learn where they came from and what they were doing there in this tiny Protestant community in the middle of a Catholic country. I hoped that this information would give me clues about Arthur Peyton's ancestry as well.

I wrote to the Leitrim Genealogy Centre in Ballinamore, Leitrim, where volunteers sent me photocopies of the Peyton pages from Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland, 1899 and 1912 editions. Landed gentry were minor aristocrats of English and Scottish descent who owned or leased enough Irish land to live off the rent collected from the Irish farm tenants. The landed gentry often hired a steward or bailiff to run the operation while the "gentry" led more comfortable lives either on their Irish estate or back in Scotland and England. Of course this was not a fair distribution of land, wealth or labour, and toward the end of the eighteenth century, attacks on the landed gentry and their servants, including one of the Peyton servants, were on the increase.

The Peyton family genealogy is listed in great detail in Burke's but it does not usually include second or third sons. As my Arthur Peyton lived in the immediate area of this extended family, I assume that he was a close relative but did not have any claims to an inheritance, except for some Aughakilhack land that was left to him, perhaps by his father.

However I did learn that the Peyton family originated in Suffolk in the twelfth century, the family motto is *Patior Potior* "Through suffering I prevail," the Peyton crest is topped with a griffin and most, if not all, of the Leitrim Peytons were descended from an English clergyman, Rev. Thomas Peyton, who was Dean of Tuam, County Galway in 1625.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, Leitrim farmers suffered from several crop failures that caused small famines. But in 1845 and again in 1846, blight ruined the potato crop, causing the Great Famine that devastated the country. Without a crop to harvest, farmers were unable to pay rent; without the rents, the landed gentry could not survive and callously evicted the starving tenant farmers. Vast numbers of the Irish poor starved to death. Eventually most of the landed gentry were driven out of Leitrim, either by fear for their lives or just by the economics of the situation. Many of the farm tenants, who survived the Great Famine, eventually found their way to Britain, Australia and North America.

An invaluable tool, when I was searching for my Leitrim roots, was a clear old map of my area of interest, the parish of Kiltubbird, Leitrim. As property boundaries had to be identified when collecting the tithes, maps were made to assist Tithe Applotment enumerators. I was able to obtain copies of an 1836 map of Aughakilbrach Townland from the Library and Archives Canada map room. One has to know exactly where to search on these huge maps, but eventually I was able to home in on the exact area I needed. This involved a couple of hours of searching the microfilm, back and forth over the landscape, trying to locate some recognizable landmarks. The final selected maps were so clear that I could enlarge them to see each individual 1836 cottage. This map of Aughakilbach Townland was made while our Arthur Peyton family was still living there and one of those cottages was theirs.

Although my Peyton family had left Ireland by 1841, before the Great Famine, I know other researchers may wish to know about the Griffith's Valuation 1848–1864 with its Survey Map and Books. All the farmland of Ireland was surveyed for the purpose of establishing the level of taxes to be paid by each landholder or leaseholder for the Griffith's Valuation. The maps accompanying this survey are very detailed and could prove useful and interesting to Irish genealogists.

Researchers may now access both the Index to Griffith's Valuation, 1848–1864 records and the Tithe

Applotment Books, 1824–1837, online through the *Ancestry.com* site, 24/7 Family History Circle<sup>1</sup>.

When travelling to find your roots in Ireland, you will require a recent Ordnance Survey of Ireland map of the locality you plan to visit. Here again, in Ottawa, I was able to order just what I needed at the House of Maps, located at the corner of Holland and Wellington. I chose a 1:50 000 scale map and it did the job beautifully, but there was one problem. Because Leitrim was such a poor, under-populated county with few tourists, there is not a single OS map of Leitrim available. One must purchase a set of three and overlap them (Discovery Series 26, 33 and 35)<sup>2</sup>.

### **The visit**

In April 2006, my husband Vern and I joined about 75 other genealogy buffs from around the world to seek out our roots in Leitrim at the first Leitrim Roots Festival, organized by the Leitrim Genealogy Centre in Ballinamore, Leitrim. The invitation list was taken from the names of people who had contacted the Leitrim Genealogy Centre in an attempt to trace their ancestors. This festival was a wonderful experience, for we had informative, stimulating lectures by experts from Leitrim. There was time to spend at the Genealogy Centre and the neighbouring library where we chased down new leads. Trips throughout the county were organized to visit locations where our ancestors had once lived and worked. A Céilí was organized for our group so we could see how our ancestors once sang and danced. We visited the dreadful coalmines and the famine graveyards, the glorious lakes and mountains, the monuments, the great houses and a Poor House, the lively taverns, a castle and a sweathouse, museums and a Cultural Centre. We even learned to play a simple tune on the tin whistle.

We travelled by bus, boat, and narrow gauge railway and saw all the landmarks that our ancestors would have been familiar with. It was just the thing we needed to put flesh on our ancestors' bones. The participants exchanged genealogy stories, leads to new sources, where to find an authentic Irish meal or a particular reference book or a good map, as well as Irish jokes and e-mail addresses.

The best part, however, was the day my husband and I hired a taxi and driver, Declan Moran, to take us slowly through the countryside of my Peyton family ancestors. We left Carrick-on-Shannon and drove northeast to Kiltubrid Parish, passing Sheebeg and Sheemore mountains along the way.

We stopped to visit the remains of Driney House on Lough Scur, once the home of the Rev. Walter Peyton of Driney (mentioned in the 1797 baptism above), and met Mrs. Flynn, who lives there now. A strong stonewall in her backyard was all that now remains of Rev. Walter Peyton's Driney House, which was burned during "The Troubles."

The next stop was the Kiltubrid Parish Church of Ireland. This was my Peyton and Johnston ancestors' church where the baptisms and burials, found on that single page, took place. The church was built in 1785 and there is currently a fund-raising campaign to repair and restore the building for use as a Community Centre. My Peyton family members once walked the four miles down the mountain to church each Sunday, and then trudged the four miles back up to their home. We wandered through the adjacent graveyard looking for familiar names, but although there are relatives buried there, we found no recognizable names on the markers or stones.

The nearby old Famine Graveyard was our next stop and it was a very moving experience to wander through this poorly tended spot with its sad crumbling stones wasting away in the damp cold grass. At one time there was a small church here but there is no trace now. My Peyton family left for Canada before the Famine, so we did not expect to find any relatives there.

Following a winding, climbing route, we then drove north, slowly up Sliabh an Iarann first to Aughacashel where the Johnston family lived before their descendant, Jane Johnston, married Arthur Peyton. A Protestant Johnston family, probably belonging to the landed gentry, once lived in Aughacashel House but was forced to auction off the property after the Famine, as they had lost their only source of income—the rents. Then we turned west and headed toward Aughakilbrach townland, the home of my Peyton and Johnston ancestors, overlooking central and southern Leitrim below.

On the way, we passed the isolated Mountain Tavern where "hill walkers" stop to refresh themselves before, during or after an organized hike on Sliabh an Iarann. We were on our way to meet with a local gentleman, Patrick Early, our Irish "leprechaun," who knew just where to search. He remembered the Johnston family and their descendants, the last one being Babby Johnston, who is buried next to her father, without markers, in the churchyard we had visited just an hour earlier.

Patrick was able to direct our guide, Declan, to the exact location of my Peyton and Johnston's farms back in the 1830s. Here was where we made good use of the old Tithe Applotment map, the old Griffith's map, a one-page list from the Griffith book and the new Ordnance Survey maps. We knew that my Arthur Peyton family lived very close to the Edward Johnston family in Auhakilbrach in 1833, for we had the Tithe Applotment List in addition to the maps to guide us.

Once we found the hillside location of my ancestors' property we wandered about taking pictures, after obtaining permission from the present tenant, a reclusive English writer. You can imagine the joy we felt when we were finally walking on the land that my ancestor had attempted to cultivate in the 1830s. Not much remains of the 1832 cottages, but the stone outbuildings on the property may have been part of the original Peyton and Johnston homes.

The original farmland is high on the mountainside, rocky with scrub and brush, very similar to the Gatineau Hills north of Ottawa. Much of the mountain has now been reforested with conifers, as a commercial venture, but we could see no other source of income on that mountain. The iron mine has long been closed. Below in the valley, many small lakes filled with fish support a tourist industry, and boating on the Shannon-Erne Waterway (a canal similar to Ottawa's Rideau Canal) is a very big tourist draw.

After leaving Sliabh an Iarann we drove down to the market town of Drumshanbo, where my Peyton family would have attended regular Fair Days. The town, nestled beside Lough Allen, is laid out much as it was 170 years ago—with the same waist-high stone walls along the curbs, to keep the herded cattle off the sidewalks and out of the shops, on their way to the Fair Green. While in Drumshanbo we stopped by the Visitors' Centre to study the displays and purchase local history books and postcards of wild flowers. We also visited St. John Church of Ireland cemetery searching and finding Peyton gravestones, before passing by the Cattle Mart that has replaced the old Fair Green of my ancestors' time.

In 1833, Drumshanbo, a very small village, also had a strong British presence in the form of two police installations—the Police Barracks and the Revenue Police Barracks. One was to keep the rebels under control and the other was to combat the widespread practice of illicit distillation.

### Mythology and social history

Mythology leaves us little doubt as to the importance of Sliabh an Iarann during the time of Tuatha de Danann.

They were reputedly a race of small dark people who fled into the more inaccessible regions of the country before the bigger, stronger invaders. All the stories of fairies and leprechauns found down through the years in Irish myth and legend have emanated from these shy little people. Sliabh an Iarann was their headquarters!<sup>3</sup>

My Peyton family would have been immersed in the fairy tales and legends, the witch and ghost stories, all from ancient Irish times, as my family lived in the middle of their territory. The nights were long, damp and dark up on that mountainside, so I can imagine the family members huddled together listening to one old story followed by another. The poor children would be afraid to poke their heads out of their covers on such evenings. In fact, the stories led to many odd customs around the house and all were done so as not to upset the fairies.

Col. John Peyton of Laheen, mentioned twice in the church records above, had a most interesting genealogy; he was descended from an oldest Peyton son, who had married into the Reynolds family. Squire George Reynolds of Lough Scur, House of Laheen, Leitrim, was a harper and a poet. He was the gentleman who encouraged young Turlough O'Carolan, a famous blind harpist, to take him under his wing and related to him the story of the Fairy Queens' battle.

According to the myth, two rival fairy queens had fought it out with the battle lines shifting back and forth over the hills and marshland for hours, but eventually both fairy queens were killed. They were buried in their individual tombs close to Lough Scur. These tombs became the mountains, Si Bheag and Si Mhor and inspired Turlough O'Carolan's very first composition, which he named "The Fairy Queens" but is often known as Sheebeg and Sheemore.<sup>4</sup>

I recommend four books and one journal article about the social history of Ireland, particularly during that time and place in Leitrim where my Peyton family lived. The information found there let me peek into their day-to-day activities, culture, celebrations and concerns during and shortly after my Arthur Peyton family lived there.

Cronin, Mike. *Irish History for Dummies*. John Wiles & Sons, Ltd. England, 2006

Duncan, Leland L., Barney Whelan, Anne Whelan, Michael Lynch, Edward McVittie. *Folklore*, Vol. 7, No. 2. (Jun., 1895) pp.161–183 "Fairy Beliefs and other Folklore Notes from County Leitrim". Drumkeeran 1895

Kelly, Liam. *The Face of Time: Photographs of County Leitrim by Leland Lewis Duncan*. Four Courts Press, 1995

Kelly, Liam. *A Flame Now Quenched: Rebels and Frenchmen in Leitrim 1793–1798*. The Lilliput Press, Dublin, 1998

Kelly, Liam. *Kiltubrid, County Leitrim: Snapshots of a rural parish in the 1890s*. Four Courts Press, 2005

Leland Duncan was a British civil servant who spent a few summers in the 1880s and 1890s visiting his sister who lived in Annadale, a “big house,” in Leitrim. While there he travelled about, lugging his huge camera and all the necessary accessories, spending time with and photographing the landed gentry families, their servants and tenants, their homes and their daily activities. At the same time he chatted with them and listened to their stories and fairytales, which he recorded in notebooks just as he recorded their images on film. The article, “Fairy Beliefs and other Folklore Notes from County Leitrim” was published in 1895 and is only one of several he had published about that time. Each tale has the name of the narrator printed below the title. In the book, *The Face of Time: Photographs of County Leitrim by Leland Lewis Duncan*, one can see the photographs of each storyteller.

Over a hundred years later, Liam Kelly wrote three books about Leitrim history and living conditions in the 19th century, making good use of Leland Duncan’s photographs. Today Liam Kelly, a captivating speaker, author and Catholic priest, has a very real connection to Laheen House, formerly owned by the Peyton Protestant landed gentry. His parents lived there and Laheen House is now available to tourists as a Bed and Breakfast.

I enjoyed reading about the lives of the landed gentry and their tenants; about the holidays they celebrated; their music, fairy tales and the archaeological sites in the immediate area of Lough Scur at the base of Sliabh an Iarann; but I did not learn any new details about my

specific family. When people are searching for their roots, however, far more than names, dates and places are needed to capture the spirit and culture of the families and their community. These articles made my ancestors come to life, as I knew exactly what they were worried about—the neighbouring rebels, the unfair taxes, the disease and ever-present poverty, the damp and the cold; and what gave them comfort—their surviving children, their church activities, the warmth of the peat fire, the sweathouse to ease their aching bones, a hot cup of tea or a hearty shot of spirits, the dancing, the singing and especially the folk tales in the evenings, usually in the company of family and friends.

### Conclusion

Leitrim is now doing very well, economically. The Irish seem to have good jobs, and newly arrived immigrants are filling the low-salaried positions that the Irish don’t want or need. We were very impressed with the tidy but expensive homes recently built in the area. In the countryside, most of the new homes have attached semi-circular conservatories surrounded by acres of property.

The Leitrim of my ancestors, while still the same geographically, has prospered beyond their wildest dreams. Many of their American descendants, whom we met at the reunion, have taken out dual citizenship in order to retire in Ireland. Our Leitrim ancestors could not have anticipated this change in social conditions—their North American descendants returning to Ireland, not just to visit, but to settle there.

### References

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2. Publisher: Ordnance Survey of Ireland [www.mapsworldwide.com/ordnance\\_survey\\_of\\_ireland\\_263pub0.htm](http://www.mapsworldwide.com/ordnance_survey_of_ireland_263pub0.htm)
3. Early History of Lough Allen Region [www.dbo.ie/loughallen/index.htm](http://www.dbo.ie/loughallen/index.htm)
4. A History of Irish Music [www.libraryireland.com/IrishMusic/XXI.php](http://www.libraryireland.com/IrishMusic/XXI.php)

### Coming in the next issues ...

- Home Children:
  - some happy stories
  - the BIFHSGO home child project
- Keyes Family Reunion—*Karin Keyes Endemann*
- Deep Ancestry DNA—*Bryan Cook*



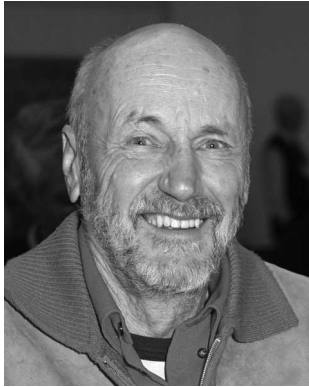
## BIFHSGO SATURDAY MEETING REPORTS

## Lunatics in the Family

BY GARFIELD CLACK

*From a career in social sciences research in Africa, England and Canada, Garfield Clack has, since his retirement from the Public Service, devoted his energies to researching his family history. This article is based on his presentation to the June 2007 Great Moments meeting.*

Lunatics in my family have provided me with some interesting reflections, but more particularly with one of the “great moments” in my family history researches. As of now I have found three lunatics in all: two who were distant Clack relatives, and one in the direct line of ancestry of my mother. It was this latter ancestor who provided the circumstances of the “great moment”—in the lunatic asylum itself, no less. But first a word about lunacy in general.



### Lunacy

Lunatics are everywhere, lots of them. Think of those outrageously foolish speedsters on the freeways, and the eccentric attributes imputed to some of our political representatives, or the frantic insistence on a wristwatch during retirement years. Some of us are also prone to moments of madness, as when we might leave our library books on the bus, fail to remember an important anniversary, or make dubious commitments on the spur of the moment. All of the above situations are covered by the OED definition of lunacy: “insane, mad, outrageously foolish, frantic, eccentric,” or by the thirty or so other synonyms in any thesaurus.

Certifiable lunacy is another matter and is treated as a medical condition, for which the politically correct term today is mental illness. These illnesses require difficult diagnoses, as the symptoms have no finite boundaries. All three of the lunatics in my family that I mention were in the certified category.

### Distant relatives

The two distant relatives can be dealt with briefly here.

James Clack was born in 1864 in East London, Cape Colony, in southern Africa. He had been a railway wagon repairer, was married, and had fathered 10

children. James died in 1932, age 68, in a mental hospital in Queenstown, South Africa, where he had been since at least 1930. I have no other information on his illness or period of confinement other than that his wife had applied to court in 1930 to have him declared incompetent to handle his affairs. This application had been granted.

John James Clack was born in 1878 in Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony. He had been a baker, and then a trooper with Rimington’s Guides in the Anglo-Boer War of 1899–1902. His discharge from Rimington’s Guides at the end of 1900 was because he was “Medically unfit. Insane.” He must have died shortly after his release from the Valkenburg Asylum in Cape Town in December 1901. He had spent about a year in the asylum, suffering from “mania,” i.e., extreme uncontrollable excitability.

### Direct line ancestor

James Menzies was one of my mother’s great-grandparents. Like the relatives above, he was a 19th century man, born in Johnshaven, Scotland, in 1804. He died in a lunatic asylum in Sunnyside, near Montrose, Scotland, in 1892. He married in 1841 and fathered five children. He was the teacher in a church school in Montrose for 30 years, also fulfilling multiple church functions during these years—parish clerk, precentor, elder, synod delegate, deacon; in fact, all but the moderator’s position. He was retired in 1888 at age 84. The reference to “lunatic asylum” in the death certificate at the Scottish National Archives led me to the asylum, and later, to the acquisition of the certification documents themselves.

Early in 1891 his church moderator, who seems to have been approached by a woman taking care of James, obtained certificates from two doctors which, together, stated that James “was of unsound mind, mental faculties very much impaired, great restlessness and irritability. Very unmanageable - often violent. Impatient of control”. A sheriff’s certificate authorized James’s transfer to the asylum, where the admissions doctor examining him reported that he was of

“unsound mind.”

James then spent about 14 months in the Sunnyside establishment.

During a visit to Montrose in 1999, I went to the asylum to find out what I could about James; his burial place, who his visitors had been, whether he left a will, and so on. I was duly admitted and spoke with the Social Director. He heard my story, likely decided I was a serious researcher, and suggested I come back the following day. I did so.



**Figure 1: Sunnyside Royal Hospital**  
Photo courtesy Tayside NHS, Dundee

That is when the “great moment” occurred. I was handed a dusty volume of archival records of the asylum for 1892, and read through several detailed pages of James’s case history from the time of his admission to the time he died. I will quote some extracts below. The Social Director had already made photocopies of these pages, which he gave to me after we had discussed the highlights. He also gave me a laminated photograph of the institution as it was in the early twentieth century. He then produced another great bonus for me.

The director told me that he had himself attended the school where James had taught many years earlier, but which had been demolished in the 1970s. At that time, his wife had gone to the school and chipped off a piece of the foundation stone for him. And now he had chipped off a piece of his piece for me. The thought “no greater love...” came easily to me!

### Highlights quoted from the medical records

*February 1891*

Widower. 1st attack. Not epileptic. Not suicidal. Protestant. Cause – old age. Not dangerous.

Present Mental Condition. Is just a cantankerous querulous old man, resenting anything in the nature of control, uniformly uncivil and if crossed becomes

threatening. He is loud in his complaints at having been taken out of his house by violence etc. and defies anyone to say that he is insane.

A swollen right knee had kept him in bed, but mended rapidly. This may have been an injury sustained during forced removal from his house.

Is now getting up daily and is quite contented. Betrays no sign of delusion, excitement or other form of mental disturbance except extreme irritability.

*April*

Is now keeping to his bed altogether, and is very feeble. At times memory and intelligence are extremely good at others confused and unreliable.

*September*

Today he had an apoplectic seizure of a mild character...coma for a short time... [when] he rallied it was found that the left side of his face was paralyzed and that his speech was very confused.

*October*

Mr Menzies is very much changed lately. His intellectual faculties are sluggish... His speech is blurred and indistinct.

*November*

Very much feebler both mentally and physically and has almost died from cardiac failure once or twice lately.

*January 1892*

Mr Menzies intelligence is now very much impaired, the only signs he displays being that he constantly desires to smoke and swears violently as far as his speech will allow if he does not get his pipe.

*March 22nd*

Mr Menzies became gradually feebler day by day and today DIED.

### Summing up

There were obituaries in both of the Montrose newspapers shortly after James died. They provide one kind of summing up of a person’s life. Both were grandiloquent, both were informative, and both contained errors: e.g., that Mr. Menzies had been admitted to the asylum at his own request. Both referred to him as an excellent teacher. Both referred explicitly to James as a strict disciplinarian. I think that this quality helps to account for his characteristics as a patient, as those who administer authority are often very reluctant to personally accept such authority, especially as they grow older.

Circumstances had not been kind to James in his later years. His eldest daughter left home at age 21 to go to a distant and dangerous frontier colony to marry. One of his twin sons seems to have died young, while the

other had emigrated to America. His youngest daughter gave birth at home to an illegitimate son in 1871. She died in the process, leaving James and his wife to care for this grandson. His wife died in 1884, about six years before James, which then left him alone in his home.

James Menzies had been a conscientious teacher and a tireless church worker—also uniformly uncivil,

querulous, cantankerous, obstinate, self-willed, quite unmanageable, resenting anything in the nature of control, correctly defying anyone to say he was insane. In short, just a grand old curmudgeon of character—one to whom, even at this remove, I can relate almost completely.

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

### The Davidson-McCabe Family: A Winning Historica Project

BY KATHERINE DAVIDSON

*Katie Davidson is a 14 year-old student at All Saints Catholic High School in Kanata. Her entry in the 2007 Ottawa Regional Historica Fair received the BIFHSGO award for genealogical research. This article, in English, is based on her project, which, as she notes, was presented in French.*

Last spring, my Grade 7 teacher presented my class with an opportunity I found myself very excited to accept. It was the annual Historica Fair. The concept of the Historica project was simple—choose from a list of topics, and create a project and poster from it. I chose the genealogy project. The catch for most of us was that it had to be in French, and for someone who mainly speaks English, like me, coming from a school that had just started the immersion program, it wasn't easy. It was our first month-long French project! I am very thankful to BIFHSGO for recognising how hard I worked. I created a display that included a family tree (literally), family photos, a biography of my great grandfather Maxwell, a map showing where my family roots are in the British Isles and family clan pins, crests and tartans. This article is a summary of the work I presented at Historica. Learning about where I come from has been an enlightening activity and one that I enjoyed doing with my mother. While I realize there is still much to learn about the family, I feel as though I have had a pretty good start in this genealogical endeavour!



For the project, we had to write a report on the subject we chose, answer specific questions according to the subject, and create a poster to display with the

information. On my poster, I included a family tree, which was decorated very nicely to look like an actual tree. The trunk represented my siblings (my brother Iain and my sister Grace) and me, Katie. Where the trunk diverges are my parents, Kirstin and Jim. Their branches separate to show my grandparents: Alexander Grant and Mary Barbara, and Alfred and Jo-Ann. Finally, as I am about to run out of space on the board, are my great-grandparents: Alexander and Nina, Thomas and Margaret, Nicholas and Mary, and David and Pearl.

#### Family Genealogy

*My great-grandparents* (direct line has \*)

1. Alexander Neill Davidson (born 4 December 1878, died 18 September 1969)
  - He married Nina May West (born 12 April 1888, died 16 October 1969) in 1924 in Moncton, New Brunswick.

#### *Their children*

- i) Donald West (born 1925)
- ii) Alexander Grant (born 23 September 1927)\*

2. Thomas Paterson Maxwell (born 12 June 1874, died 15 January 1951)

- He married Ethel Lawson (spouse 1) (birth date unknown, died 1923) in 1903.

#### *Their child*

- i) Meldrum Lawson (born 3 February 1906, died 22 October 2002)

– He married Margaret Agnes Milligan (spouse 2) (born 2 September 1894, died November 1971) in 1925 in Brinston, Ontario.

*Their children*

- i) Thomas Paterson (born 28 May 1927, died 1980)
- ii) Mary Barbara (born 5 November 1928)\*
- iii) Margaret Ann (born 4 June 1931)

- 3. Nicholas Vincent McCabe (born 9 February 1888, died 3 March 1978)

– He married Mary Dorinda Walsh (born 17 February 1901, died 3 October 1988).

*Their children*

- i) Martin Earle (born 3 February 1931)
- ii) Edmund Joseph (born 24 August 1932)
- iii) Alfred James (born 5 June 1936)\*
- iv) Mary Florence (born 18 August 1938, died 22 December 1962)

- 4. David Robertson (born 7 September 1907, died 10 August 2000)

– He married Pearl Arvilla Carleton (born 8 October 1908, died 12 June 2000) on 16 August 1930 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

*Their children*

- i) Jo-Ann Elizabeth (born 23 June 1938)\*
- ii) Heather Carolyn (born 1942)
- iii) Robert Ian Carleton (born 1946)

***My grandparents***

- 1. Alexander Grant Davidson

– He married Mary Barbara Maxwell in Ottawa, Ontario.

*Their children*

- i) Thomas Maxwell Davidson (born 12 September 1956)
- ii) James Alexander Davidson (born 20 October 1960)\*

- 2. Alfred James McCabe

– He married Jo-Ann Elizabeth Robertson on 26 August 1961 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

*Their children*

- i) Gregg Lewis McCabe (born 1 July 1962)
- ii) Kirstin Leigh McCabe (born 21 March 1965)\*

***My parents***

- 1. James Alexander Davidson

– He married Kirstin Leigh McCabe on 11 August 1989 in Dunrobin, Ontario.

*Their children*

- i) Katherine Sarah Davidson (born 10 June 1994)\*
- ii) Iain Robert Davidson (born 1 August 1996)
- iii) Grace Anne Davidson (born 31 March 1998)

As decoration for my display, the clan pin and crest of the Davidson and McCabe clans can be found on the bottom, along with the Latin, English, and French translations of the Davidson Motto (Wisely if sincerely), and the McCabe Motto (Either conquer or die).



**Figure 1: Davidson clan crest** [www.scotclans.com/clans/Davidson/history.html](http://www.scotclans.com/clans/Davidson/history.html): 2006



**Figure 2: McCabe clan crest** [www.knowledscan.org/mccabe.htm](http://www.knowledscan.org/mccabe.htm): 2006

The wings of my poster were decorated with various pictures, including the four tartans of McCabe, Davidson, Maxwell and Robertson. The top left side held a picture of a Davidson clan warrior, with a summary of where the family names came from.

The bottom of that wing had a biography of my great grandfather, Thomas Paterson Maxwell. In 1874, a child named Thomas Paterson Maxwell was born in Glasgow, Scotland. After his birth he was placed in an orphanage where he learned to read and write. After 12 years in the orphanage, he came to Canada with the Bernardo Immigrant Children. He began to work for a farmer who was cruel and did not treat him well. Thomas left his work and began working in a wooden mill. He also began school in Sydenham in the

province of Ontario. When he graduated secondary school he studied at Queen’s University and in 1921, he became the principal of Victoria Public School in Kingston, Ontario. For many years he remained in this field of work up until his retirement in 1944. Many teachers, principals and important people in the public school board went to his retirement banquet. The message he told them was, “People who teach have the best jobs in the world. They give their students help spiritually, intellectually and physically, preparing them for the obstacles in life.” Thomas Paterson Maxwell died January 15, 1951, but for all time he will be remembered as a remarkable man. Thomas Paterson Maxwell—educator, helper and survivor.



**Figure 4: Thomas Paterson Maxwell (1874-1951):** Davidson family collection



**Figure 3: Davidson clansman**  
McKerracher, Archie. *The Davidsons*

The right wing of my project started with the origins of my family in the British Isles. The Davidsons came from Dundee, Scotland, the Robertsons from Tillicoultry, Scotland, the McCabes from Cork, Ireland, and the Maxwells from Glasgow, Scotland. To go along with all that information were some detailed maps of Scotland and Ireland, as well as a map of Canada.

This project not only got me an A, but it made me realize how much of my family history I do and do not know. I think that this project sparked in me a greater interest in genealogy that will hopefully lead to further discoveries about who I am and where I came from. I

want to thank my mother for all of her invaluable input. We had a lot of fun working together and spent many times laughing about family stories. There is a great one about a gal named “Floating Bitty,” but I’ll leave that for another time!



**Figure 5: Migration Map**

**References:**

McKerracher, Archie. *The Davidsons*. Lang Syne Publishers Ltd., Glasgow: 2004. pp. 1-32.

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## BIFHSGO NEWS

### New Reproduction of an Old Dictionary

BY PATRICIA ROBERTS-PICHETTE

**D**o you like dictionaries? You do? Are you interested in Birmingham, England? You are? Well have I have a little treat for you!

I am interested in Birmingham. Most of the children who were settled in Canada by Middlemore between 1873 and 1932 came from Birmingham or from the surrounding area. As I continue with my research on Middlemore and his activities, I find I need to understand more about the city, its history, its culture and its attitudes to the unfortunate.

Just before Christmas 2007, I was exploring the Web. I decided instead of Googling “Middlemore,” I would try “Birmingham” to help me prepare for a research trip in February 2008. Much of what came up I had seen before, but there was something new—*Showell's Dictionary of Birmingham* by Thomas T. Harman and Walter Showell. The date of original publication is not given but internal evidence suggests it was 1885. The Internet version is a Project Gutenberg EBook [Ebook #14472] released on 26 December 2004 ([www.gutenberg.org/](http://www.gutenberg.org/)). A quick search revealed that it could answer some of my questions—two will suffice to illustrate.

According to his daughter Emily Christabel, John T. Middlemore had attended the Edgbaston Propriety School. Although I knew the name of the headmaster, something of his career and by implication, that the school had closed in the early 1880s, I could not find anything about the school on the Internet or through a list query. The Dictionary answered the question with this entry:

The Birmingham and Edgbaston Propriety School, Hagley Road, was the property of a company constituted by deed of settlement, dated February 28, 1839. The cost of the land chosen to build upon and the handsome edifice erected was £10,500, the school was opened in 1841....[I]n August, 1881, it was bought over by the governors of the Free Grammar School.



The Free Grammar School was the oldest public school in Birmingham.

Several children settled in Canada by Middlemore in the early 1880s were from the Bloomsbury Institution. Again, an Internet query about the institution remained unanswered, but the Dictionary has saved the day with:

Bloomsbury Institution—Commencing in 1860 with a small school, Mr David Smith has gradually founded at Bloomsbury an institution which combines educational, evangelistic, and missionary agencies of great value to the locality. The premises include a mission hall, lecture room, class rooms, etc., in addition to Cottage Homes for orphan and destitute children, who are taught and trained in a manner suited to the future intended for them in Canada.

These two findings were sufficient for me to explore it further. I found entries under fires, hospitals, sewage and sanitary works, musical associations, places of worship, but nothing on poverty or slums, which would suggest that the dictionary was a public relations document. Nevertheless, there is a separate entry under each of Dungeon, Gaols and Prisons. Under the heading Philanthropic and Benevolent Institutions are found entries on not only Industrial and Reformatory Schools but also Friendless Girls, Magdalen Asylum (where the labour of the 35 to 40 inmates “provides for the great part of the yearly expenditure”), Deaf and Dumb Institution and the Children’s Emigration Homes (Middlemore’s institution for children expected to be brought to Canada). Other entries include Domesday, libraries, trades, theatres, history, eminent people (members of the Middlemore family not included), elections (civic and national), places of worship, denominations, taverns, sports and manufacturers.

It is full of funny and strange details. For example:

**Leasing wives**, generally by widowers. One man leased his deceased wife’s sister “for twenty years and upwards.”

**Ancient History** "Birmingham can hardly be said to exist. Its rise and progress is essentially modern..."

**Anti-one-thing-or-t'other:** "True to their motto, Birmingham people are always ready to oppose the wrong and forward the right, but what is right and what is wrong is only to be ascertained by public discussion" including

"An Anti-giving-up-Fugitive-Slave meeting Jan 1, 1876, when a certain Admiralty Circular was condemned."

"An anti-Turkish Atrocity meeting, Sept 7 1876; followed by one on Oct. 2nd, properly settling the Eastern question."

**Accidents and Accidental Deaths** "Feb.28, 1875, must be noted as the 'slippery day,' no less than forty persons (twelve with broken limbs), being taken to hospitals through falling in the icy streets."

**Atlantic Cables ...**"For the cable laid in 1865, 16,000 miles of copper wire, weighing 308 tons, were turned out by Messrs Bolton and Sons and Messrs Wilkes and Sons. The cable itself was 2,300 (nautical) miles in length."

The **Beer** entry describes how taxing the brewers in 1784 to reduce consumption had the effect of increasing the consumption of spirits. In 1830, the Brewers' taxes were cut in the hope of reducing the consumption of spirits. By 1884, beer consumption had risen to three quarters of what it had been in 1784, but apparently there was little effect on reducing the consumption of spirits from the 1830 level.

I have found a treasure trove of often esoteric facts about Birmingham that are clues to a better understanding of the city in which so many disadvantaged children settled in Canada were born. Yes, I like dictionaries; there is no telling what one will find. Yes, I am interested in Birmingham and this dictionary is a valuable addition to my library.

## FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES

### The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

**A** *Guide to Military History on the Internet: a Comprehensive Introduction for Genealogists and Military Historians*, by Simon Fowler (a recent purchase at the Brian O'Regan Memorial Library), was very helpful in my search for background information about my father's service in the British Army during World War I. I recommend it to anyone researching ancestors in the British Armed Forces. The book also reviews military websites in other countries.



Other recent purchases are three county histories:

Alston, David. *Ross and Cromarty: a Historical Guide*

O'Farrell, Padraic. *A History of County Kildare*

Rook, Tony. *A History of Hertfordshire*

The Society has been fortunate to acquire, among the many donations to the library, the seven-volume *A History of England in the Eighteenth Century*, by

William Edward Hartpole Lecky, published in 1878 and 1890.

It is considered a classic history of Georgian England. In this chief work of his life, Lecky's aim was "to disengage from the great mass of facts those that relate to the permanent forces of the nation, or which indicate some of the more enduring features of national life." The section of this work dealing with the history of Ireland was separated and published at a later date under the title of *A History of Ireland in the Eighteenth Century*.

Members searching for ancestors in Scotland will appreciate the donation of 12 microfilms of the Old Parochial Registers of Scotland. They deal with births and marriages and some deaths from approximately the beginning of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth century in the parishes of Coupar Angus in Forfarshire, and of Balquhider, Blair Atholl & Strowan, Crieff, Dull, Fortingall, Kenmore, Killin, Logierait, Tulliallan and Weem in Perthshire.

## The Printed Page

BY GORDON D. TAYLOR

Three notices about a new online database have caught my eye in the past four weeks.

They were:

1. The Global Gazette, March 13, 2008
2. BIFHSGO E News, April 5, 2008
3. Taylor Research, April 15, 2008.



All three proclaimed the same message:

### British Nineteenth Century Newspapers Now Online.

The printed page is becoming more and more useable by more people in many places; over one million pages have been made accessible in digital format. Projects such as the one featured in the headline open up great sources of historical information, including many family history events as they happened. In this format they do not have to be consulted in far-off libraries but are available to the researcher on a personal computer.

A brief free trial period was available from Gale Digital Collection Library Trial. The announcement in Taylor Research gave a different link for a free trial period, [www.accessmylibrary.com/libraryweek](http://www.accessmylibrary.com/libraryweek). The free trial offers are for a limited time; a different system will be announced in the near future. The next system may include access through libraries as in the case of other databases.

The material is searchable by keyword; information can be checked for the whole 100 years or for a specified part of it. Results from searches are available very quickly and each result is headlined with a short descriptive title. Each result gives the name and date

of the paper and responses are categorized into five categories:

- Classified ads
- News
- Arts and entertainment
- Business
- Birth, deaths and marriage notices

The keyword is highlighted on the page that includes the story.

My experience with the trial offer has been excellent. A few examples will illustrate the type of information that is available.

1. Announcements of the academic appointments of James Boyer at Christ's Hospital and a classified ad signed by Hames Boyer within a day or two of the announcement, thanking the institution for the appointment.
2. The newspaper accounts of the marriages of two great-great-grandfathers made a dull statistic become alive.
3. The marriage of my great-grandparents, James Taylor and Frances Helen Davis, was reported in the London Times.
4. A report of the will of the Bishop of Winchester (1827) and a bequest to a great-great-grandmother, sister of the bishop.
5. A report of a wedding that took place on June 10, 1858, that names one great-great-great-grandfather, two great-great-grandfathers and two great-grandparents.

I could cite further examples but I am sure that the many references to ancestors will reward the use of this new data source.

### *In Memoriam*

John Wentworth MOODY, 16 May 2008. BIFHSGO Life Member and member of the Hall of Fame.

Jack Moody was a founding member (#8) of the Society and our first Director of Education and Queries. He organized the first Beginner's Course and persuaded Norm Crowder to be the course director. Jack's continued support includes a donation of 11 boxes of books and journals to our library.



**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.
Allen	ANT IRL	Pre-1922	1190	Major	DEV, DOR ENG; JSY	Pre-1870	1193
Armstrong	ENG	Pre-1865	1187	McAlpin	KEN, MDX, LND ENG	1865+	158
Armstrong	QC Canada	1865+	1187	McDermott	SCT	Pre-1840	1193
Baglow	CON, DEV ENG	Pre-1900	1187	McDiarmid	SCT	Pre-1840	1193
Barwell	STS ENG	Pre-1915	892	McMillan	Isley ARL SCT	Pre-1900	1193
Bassett	Sevenoaks KEN ENG		158	Morgan	Cardiff WAL	1800–1900	1196
Davis	WAR ENG	Pre-1809	1190	Mullins	IRL	Pre-1836	892
Delbridge/ Andrew	ON, MB Canada; MI USA	1840+	1184	Nicholson	ON, MB Canada	1855+	1184
Delbridge/ Andrew	DEV ENG	Pre-1840	1184	Nicholson	YKS ENG	Pre-1855	1184
Devlin	LKS ENG		158	Pearson	ON, MB Canada	1855+	1184
Dobbins	IRL, WI, QC Canada	Pre-1850	892	Pearson	YKS ENG	Pre-1855	1184
Dunnen	Sidbury DOR, DEV ENG	Pre-1830	1193	Pettigrew	LKS ENG		158
Duthie	ABD SCT		158	Scott	Pitsligo & Tyrie ABD SCT	1775+	158
Hall	Felixstowe SFK ENG	Pre-1920	892	Snell	DOR, DEV ENG; ON Canada	Pre-1950	1193
Harris	HRT ENG	1800s	892	Storrer	KEN ENG	1869+	158
Heathcote	DBY ENG	Pre-1920	892	Sutcliffe	Halifax WRY ENG	Pre-1789	892
Hennessey	Dungarvan WAT IRL	Pre-1900	1193	Tait	SK, NS Canada	1900+	1184
Keily/Kiely	Dungarven WAT IRL	Pre-1900	1193	Tait	MLN SCT	Pre-1900	1184
Low	ABD SCT		158	Troy	Ring WAT IRL	Pre-1900	1193
Mahon	Ring WAT IRL	Pre-1900	1193				

TABLE B (Members referred to in Table A)			
Mr No.	Member's Name and Address	Mr No.	Member's Name and Address
1190	H Gillis 140 Buckingham Dr. Sydney, NS B1S 1X3 davishomechildren@ns.sympatico.ca	1193	C Snell 4740 Dunning Rd Navan ON K4B 1J1 cliffsnell@msn.com
158	L M Gloss 79 Westpark Dr. Gloucester ON K1B 3G4 globili@sympatico.ca	1193	J Snell 4740 Dunning Rd. Navan ON K4B 1J1 jennifersnell2000@yahoo.ca
1187	M Ritchie 1837 Juno Ave. Ottawa ON K1H 6S6 margritchie@rogers.com	892	K A Sutcliffe 501-25 Woodridge Cres. Nepean ON K2B 7T4 kasutcliffe@hotmail.com
1196	I F Skuce 2407 Drury Lane Ottawa ON K2C 1G4	1184	J A Tait 6426 West 87th Place Los Angeles CA 90045 USA jatait@worldnet.att.net

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 their names of interest are published on the BIFHSGO website at [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca).

Many BIFHSGO members belong to genealogical 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 13 January 2008 to 28 April 2008

Mr. No.	Name	Address	Mr. No.	Name	Address
1188	Lidstone, Myrla Ruth	Nepean, Ont.	1198	O'Connor, Elizabeth	Ottawa, Ont.
1189	Kearns, Mayreen	Kanata, Ont.	1199	White, Linda	Ottawa, Ont.
1190	Gillis, Heather	Sydney, N.S.	1200	Johnstone, Marion	Ottawa, Ont.
1191	Krzywicki, Carolyn	Ottawa, Ont.	1201	McLaughlin, Jack and Ruth	Ottawa, Ont.
1192	Blaker, Rod	Ottawa, Ont.	1202	Hutchison, John	Stittsville, Ont.
1193	Snell, Clifford	Navan, Ont.	1203	de St. Croix, Michael	Ottawa, Ont.
1194	Young, James	Ottawa, Ont.	1204	Owen, Arthur	Ottawa, Ont.
1195	Burton, Laura	Ottawa, Ont.	1205	Westell, Ian	Ottawa, Ont.
1196	Skuce, Iona	Ottawa, Ont.	1206	Mayer, Anne P.	Ottawa, Ont.
1197	Tose, Barbara	Ottawa, Ont.	1207	Secord, Bryan	Ottawa, Ont.

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

## Celebrate Your Anglo-Celtic Roots!



# Annual BIFHSGO Family History Conference 19 - 21 September 2008

### Something for Everyone - Special Focus on England

✿ Keynote Speaker - **Sherry Irvine, CG, FSA Scot** ✿  
Past President, US Association of Professional Genealogists,  
author and specialist in English, Irish and Scottish family history.



- ✿ Over twelve expert lecturers in family history research and genealogy
- ✿ Pre-Conference course - workshop - tour
- ✿ Consultations with experienced researchers
- ✿ Research room with free access to CD and online genealogy databases
- ✿ Marketplace of family history and genealogy related products and services

**Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa.**

For registration information -  
[www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca) / [conference@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:conference@bifhsgo.ca) / 613-234-2520

**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**

*Free parking on the east side of the building only*

13 September 2008	<b>Mount Hermon Cemetery, Quebec</b> — <i>Gordon Morley</i> <i>Located in Sillery, Quebec, the cemetery contains the graves of many prominent British settlers.</i>
11 October 2008	<b>Why History is Important</b> — <i>George Laidlaw, President of the Ottawa Independent Writers Group. By making history dynamic, he encourages us to see our ancestors and gives us a feeling of who we are.</i>
15 November 2008	<b>Jennie's Journey: Reconstructing a Life from Letters &amp; Diaries</b> — <i>Margaret Burwell</i> <i>Recently discovered letters and diaries reveal information on a little-known ancestor.</i>

**Schedule:**

9:00 a.m.	Workshops
	Check our website— <a href="http://www.bifhsgo.ca">www.bifhsgo.ca</a> —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](mailto:acreditor@bifhsgo.ca). The deadline for publication in the next issue is Saturday, 19 July 2008.