



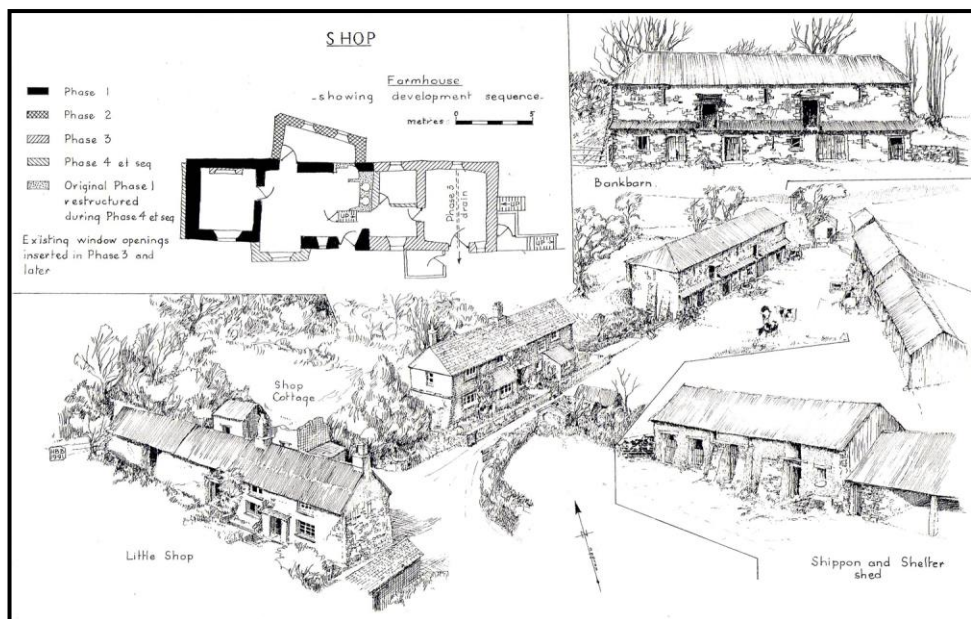
Anglo-Celtic Roots

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In This Issue

The Down Family of Ontario and Devon—Part 2

My Ancestors Were All Ag Labs—Or Were They?



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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Cover Illustration:

The Shop farm layout.

*Source: Artist Brian Blakeway
(deceased). Reproduced with
permission.*

From the Editor:

The twenty-first volume of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* wraps up with two tales of family history discoveries that clearly thrilled their authors.

Jane Down, our hard-working Program Director, was able to walk on her ancestors' ancient village lands, though the location of their farm, along with much neighbouring property, had been covered by a reservoir. She concludes the story begun in the Fall 2015 issue.

Christine Jackson has been able to trace her roots, with the caveat that it is "circumstantial evidence," right back to the 1500s and the emigration from the Pays de Bray of ironworkers who may have been sought out to serve British needs. Her discoveries were first reported at the April 2015 monthly meeting.

And Dena Palamedes, the BIFHSGO photographer who recorded our 21st Annual Conference for our archives, has prepared a description of this very successful event.



Jean Kitchen

From the President



The winds of change seem to be sweeping our country following October's election. Whether you see it as positive or negative, and what it

may mean for genealogists, one thing is certain—we can help shape the change by participating in our various communities.

One change most genealogists are happy to see is the reinstatement of the mandatory long-form census. Our census information will once again be available for future researchers! Now we only need to change the personal information release mechanism from opt-in to opt-out.

Change has also come to BIFHSGO. It is now possible to join or renew your membership online, as many members have desired. We are pleased that we can now offer this service to members, and from what I've heard many of you have already used this option. If you haven't done so yet, you too can renew by going to www.bifhsgo.ca and choosing Membership. Don't forget to log into "Members Only" to have all your information automatically filled in.

The Board has set up a subcommittee to investigate new ways to connect with our members. This will mostly be through electronic means, such as live-streaming of monthly meetings or podcasts of certain lectures. As this initiative is mostly for our members at a distance, it would be helpful to have those members involved in its implementation. Have your voice heard and get involved with your society's community by contacting me at president@bifhsgo.ca.

We are implementing a new policy to deal with bad weather on meeting days. Should the weather require us to cancel a meeting, you will receive an email from us no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. So, if the weather looks nasty, check your email before you leave the house.

And finally, something that never changes: the need for volunteers. I'd like to encourage each and every one of you to participate in your genealogical society. Help shape the changes at BIFHSGO and make this community the better for your involvement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Barbara J. Tose". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara J. Tose

The Down Family of Ontario and Devon— Part 2



BY JANE L. DOWN

Jane, BIFHSGO's Program Director, documented how she began searching for information about her father's forebears in the Fall 2015 issue of Anglo-Celtic Roots. Here she continues with a description of her travels to England, where she learned much more about her ancestors.

Introduction

Previously, in Part 1, the immigration of my great-great-grandparents, Robert Down (baptized 1794—Robert 1) and Susannah (Woolridge), his wife, and Robert's nephew, Robert Down (b. 1807—Robert 2), and his wife Ann, a sister to Susannah, was described. These Robert Down families emigrated from the Shop farm in Broadwoodwidge (BWW), Devon, England, to the Huron Tract near Exeter, Ontario, in the latter half of the 1840s.

Also in Part 1, I described my reconnection with Bob Down, the great-great-grandson of Robert 2. Bob is still farming the same property in Exeter that Robert 2 settled in the mid-nineteenth century.

In this installment, my travels to BWW to see the Shop farm and the parishes where my Down and

Woolridge ancestors were baptized, married and buried are documented. The results were unexpected, but in the end very memorable.

My First Trip to Heaven— Whoops, I Mean Devon!

I was still searching records on the Down family wherever possible, and Laura McLauchlin's eyewitness account of the Shop farm (see Part 1) in her brief handwritten history of the Down family¹ made me really want to go to BWW and see it for myself. As luck would have it, in September 1999, I was able to travel to Devon, research the records at the Devon Record Office (DRO), and visit the parishes where my ancestors were born (i.e. BWW and Germansweek for the Down family and North Lew (NL) for the Woolridge family). I was going to London to give a paper at a conference for work. Two friends were also going to be in England at the same time.

The plan was that I would go to Exeter in Devon and spend two days searching the records at the DRO. We would then meet up, drive around the various parishes and then head back to London for the conference.

The DRO Visit

I had great success in my two days at the DRO. It was fabulous having the records that I had longed to search right at my fingertips. If I could not find an entry in the parish register, the Bishops' Transcripts were right there and easily checkable. At one point, it appeared that a few pages from a particular register had failed to be microfiched. When I asked the clerk about the missing pages, she went off and got the original register, and sure enough, I was able to see those missing pages.

It was wonderful being able to touch the original register. The book started in the 1500s, was made of parchment, and was so much easier to read than the microfiched copy. I treasured every moment searching that document.

I first wanted to find nephew Robert 2's parents' marriage and siblings—this I had promised to Bob Down. John Down (1778), Robert 2's father, was the only brother of my Robert 1. This John Down married Frances Bickle in BWB in 1806.² I also found seven baptisms of their children in BWB: Robert (1807), Mary (1809), John (1811), Rebecca

(1813), Richard (1817), James (1819) and Martha (1821).³

Next, I concentrated on tracing the Down line backwards. I started with the last entry that the researcher I had previously hired at the DRO had given me for a John Down baptized 1744 in Germansweek. His parents were John and Mary. I was able to find a marriage record for John Down and Mary Sleeman in the Bishops' Transcripts for BWB for "9ber, 6th, 1743."⁴

This entry intrigued me. My first reaction was "9ber" meant September. However, this did not fall chronologically with the other entries. I then noticed that the year started in March and then it came to me—it was pre-1750 when the years began in March—"9ber" meant November.

Tracing this John Down (Mary Sleeman's husband) back, I was able to find an entry for a John Down baptized in 1724 in BWB, son of John and Florence Down.⁵ I could not find a marriage for John and Florence although I searched in 11 parishes and in the Bishops' Transcripts for 3 parishes.

I also worked on my Woolridge and a few other Devon lines, but those are stories for another time.

I was very pleased with my two days at the DRO; I came away with over 35 photocopies of records. I wanted to wrap up the DRO and bring it home with me.

Broadwoodwidger

The day we spent touring the parishes was fabulous. Our first stop was, of course, BWW. The village is on the side of a hill. You can see it from a distance as you approach. It is very picturesque—surrounded by lush green rolling fields. It consists of a few houses and the church. We went immediately to the church and started to look around.

We noticed a man coming out of the church who turned out to be the churchwarden, Arthur. He was very friendly; when I told him my ancestors had once lived in BWW and immigrated to Canada from there, he wanted to help me even more. He said they were having a wedding there in a few hours, but we should come back later in the day and he could spend some time with us.

I asked him if he had ever heard of the Shop farm. He looked at me sheepishly and told me that it was on the flood plain and that they had completely flooded it seven years ago when they built the Roadford Reservoir. It was totally under water. I found this unbelievable. How could they have flooded my farm! I had not seen it yet. I was seven years too late!

Arthur took us back to his house in Grinacombe Moor to give us a transcription of the BWW church graveyard, which he said we could copy if we could find a photocopier on our way. He also gave us a better map to

use and showed us how to get to the Shop farm (or what was left of it). He said that there were still two oak trees left by the edge of the water. When we saw the trees, it would be the beginning of the old Shop farm.

We found our way to these two oak trees. They were probably little saplings when Robert 1 and Susannah walked up that laneway for the last time in 1846. We stood by them looking out onto a huge man-made lake. Shop farm was somewhere out there below the water—never to be seen again. We strolled along the beach for a while contemplating the unfairness of the situation, then sadly made our way back to the car.

North Lew

Our next stop was NL, where the Woolridges lived for so many years. NL has a huge village square. The church was beautiful with a lovely lych gate. We made the rounds of the churchyard and the town square and then were on our way.

Devon Scenery

The scenery in north Devon is spectacular. It is lush green rolling hills. This part of Devon is very agricultural. The hay had just been done and was rolled in mounds in every field. The roads were mere lane-ways with huge hedgerows on either side. Every now and then there was a break in the hedgerow and you got a glimpse of this spectacular beauty. It was like a painting wherever you looked.

Some of the hedgerows were so overgrown they blended in with the trees. My friend called these “vegetation tunnels” and that is exactly what they looked like—a huge tunnel cut out of lush green vegetation. Driving from one village to another was fantastic.

My friends kept thanking me for having ancestors from this place, so that they had an excuse to see this wonderful beauty. They did not seem to get bored at all. They spent much time wandering around the churches and graveyards making note of the fourteenth-century architecture or the artistry of carvers of the gravestones, along with taking notes on my various relatives.

Germansweek

Germansweek was having a fair day in the parish hall when we arrived and we were invited to have some tea. I asked one of the ladies about the church and she ran off to get the key for me. It was huge (the key,

that is!). I made the circuit round the graveyard and enjoyed the wonderful Norman interior of the church. But time was short; we had to get back to meet Arthur in BWW.

Back to Broadwoodwiger

Arthur was waiting for us and first took us on a tour of the BWW church—St Nicholas. He then settled down to tell me about the Shop farm, for he had been inside many times. He said it was built on the side of the hill and would have been two rooms originally, with people in one and animals in the other.

The Moyses lived there more recently for at least 100 years. Arthur said it was two stories with a big attic. It had a huge inglenook fireplace with a bread oven on one side and a salt oven on the other. There were about five bedrooms in the place, and he thought it dated from the 1500s. The farm had about 100 acres associated with it.

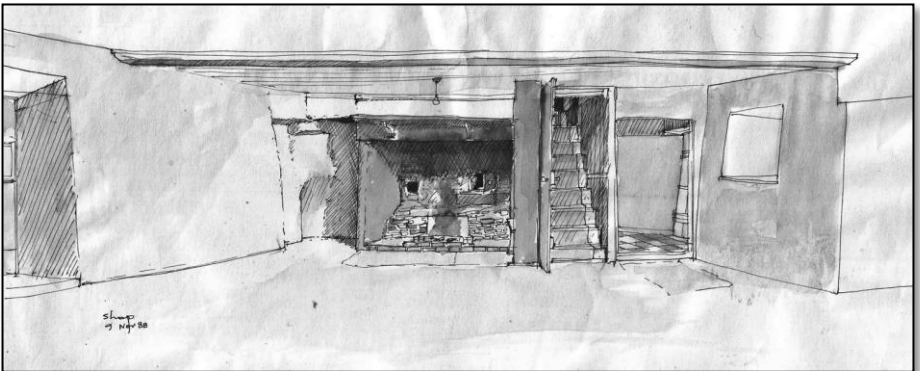


Figure 1: Shop's inglenook fireplace

Source: Artist Brian Blakeway (deceased). Reproduced with permission

We had been unable to find a photocopier for the graveyard transcription, so Arthur, dear soul, offered to make a copy and send it to me. We settled up costs and addresses and then walked to the graveyard. As we continued chatting, the next-door neighbour, Hugh, joined us. Hugh and his wife, Sally, had done the transcribing and knew the churchyard well. My friends struck up a lively conversation with Hugh while I toured the yard and took pictures of every Down grave I could find.

A Wonderful Discovery

The best discovery was Elizabeth Down's gravestone. Elizabeth Down (nee Woolridge) was Robert 1's first wife and a sister to Susannah and Ann. The gravestones in England are larger and thinner than ours—large enough for beautiful poems such as the one on Elizabeth's stone.

Let me first set the scene. It was a glorious day, warm and sunny. We all sat in front of her gravestone on the lush grass. If we looked to our right, we could see down into the valley towards Dartmoor. It was beautiful. Behind us was the church nestled into the hillside. One of my friends read off the inscription while I wrote it down.

This stone records the memory of Elizabeth the wife of Robert Down of this parish who departed this life the 1st day of Sept 1827 age 25 years. Husband and children weep not for me, I'm gone but where you soon will be, Death call'd me hence

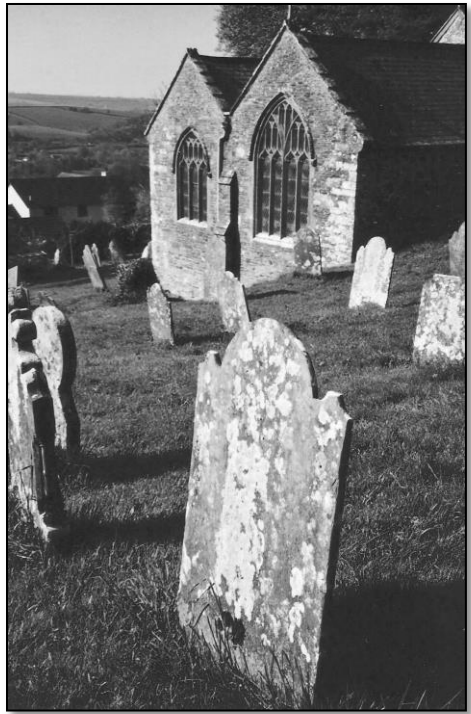


Figure 2: Elizabeth Down's gravestone in BWW churchyard

Source: author

now in my prime, and left my husband dear behind. Therefore improve each moment well, That so your souls with Christ may dwell. Then shall we meet on that blest shore, Where time and death shall part us more.

It was particularly moving since wife and husband/children ended up being buried on different "shores"—she in England and they in Canada. I hoped they were all together now.

By this time Sally had invited us for tea. We sat in their backyard overlooking the valley towards Dart-

moor with the church steeple right next door and drank our tea. These people of BWW, for that matter of Devon, had been very good to us—so incredibly friendly and helpful.

Leaving Broadwoodwider

As we were leaving BWW, I thought about Robert 1 and Susannah. They probably woke early on the day they left the Shop farm, loaded their possessions onto a cart, set off up that lane, past the two oak trees, and down the road. At Grinnacombe Moor, they likely stopped at Susannah's parents' house and hugged them both goodbye, then went onwards down the Grinnacombe Moor road and past the BWW church.

Perhaps they stopped in the graveyard to bid farewell to Elizabeth—sister, wife, mother—and then went off down the hill towards Dartmoor, then Plymouth and the waiting ship that would take them to Canada. It might have been 150 years since anyone had visited Elizabeth's grave, so before we left BWW and also travelled over beautiful Dartmoor, I ran back to kiss her stone.

Searching for Shop

There is an epilogue to this trip. While in London at the conference, I spoke to a colleague who was interested to know if I would be touring around while in England. I told him what we had been doing before the conference and I mentioned my Shop farm underwater. He told me

that they had done a full archaeological study of the area before the flooding and that the report should be obtainable. Also, he mentioned that they had done a three-part TV series on the valley prior to the flooding. After I got home, I spent the next two years writing to everyone trying to obtain that archaeological report, that TV series and some pictures of Shop farm.

The Devon County Council told me that Exeter Archaeology was responsible for the Roadford Reservoir Project. I wrote to them and they sent me a documentary history of Shop farm, which mentioned my Down ancestors as follows.⁶

... In 1749 and 1751 John Down appears for Blacklands in the Church Rate (PW1 Account Book, Extracts). The name Down reappears in 1788 when John (son of the above?) leased the overland from John Luxmoore for 15 years at a yearly rental of £10 (314M/L3/5/1).

... On 1st March 1783 John Luxmoore leased Shop, along with other properties in Thrushelton, to John Down, yeoman of Germansweek. This tallies with the information given in the Land Tax Assessments, although the tithe accounts do not show Down as tenant until 1785. The term was for 21 years at an annual rent of £40.

... John Down continued in possession of Shop his lease being renewed for a further 21 years at a yearly rent of £57 in 1803 by Thomas

Bridgeman Luxmoore, who had inherited c. 1797.

... By 1844, and probably earlier, Shop and Blacklands were considered as one tenement, held by Robert Down since 1824, and still owned by the Luxmoore family.

I wrote to South West Water and they sent me several pamphlets on the project, which said that the reservoir was designed to bring fresh water to the southwest of England. I put a notice in the *Devon Family Historian* newsletter and many people wrote and sent pictures of the reservoir, but still I had not seen a picture of Shop. Finally, Rosemary Roper sent a tape of the TV series.⁷ I eagerly watched for any sign of Shop, but it mainly featured the lost village of Hennard Mills—interesting, especially since my John and Mary Down lived there in the 1750s, but there was nothing on Shop.

Finally, in September 2001, two years to the day when I stood on that beach contemplating my Shop farm under water, Simon Timms, the Devon County Archaeologist, sent me 21 fabulous pictures of Shop. I was absolutely thrilled.

From information that people sent, I learned much about the reservoir project. South West Water had originally considered several sites before deciding on the Wolf Valley, where the Shop farm was located. During the years of indecision, the value of farmland in the valley

plummeted and the farmers stopped making improvements to their farms.^{8,9}

South West Water decided to construct the reservoir in the Wolf Valley for many reasons, but one that speared my heart was that it was supposedly in the middle of nowhere and nothing of historic value would be lost.¹⁰ However, they did realize that they had a wonderful opportunity to study the archaeology of a truly ordinary rural area. After, they said that it was the best researched valley in Devon.

They flooded a huge area of the valley. Many farms besides Shop were lost—Hennard Mills, Roadford, West Wortha and, regrettably, Combepark, a rare early eighteenth-century house, “the most grievous loss.”¹¹ They removed all buildings, trees and vegetation in the valley so that water contamination would be minimal and no obstruction would interfere with boating.⁹ They estimated that they cut down over 36,000 trees. Removal work was phased to ensure that natural habitats of animals and birds were affected at the least disruptive times.¹⁰ Wildflowers and grasses of importance were transplanted and saved.¹² One end of the reservoir was made into a conservation area where no boating is allowed.

In one pamphlet, they mentioned flint tools discovered at Shop farm, suggesting that the origins of settle-

ment in the valley went back to prehistoric times.¹⁰ I had to wonder if my Down ancestors had farmed the valley since those ancient times. During the demolition of Shop, they found an old school writing slate.¹³ Could this have been one that my Down ancestors used?

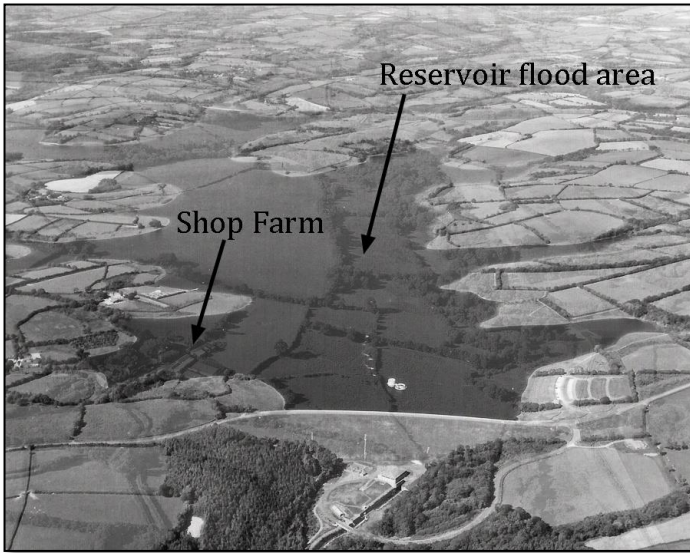


Figure 3: Layered photographs showing location of Shop farm and flooded area in the Wolf Valley

Source: Devon County Council and South West Water

Also of interest was a deed dated 1280, discovered at the Seccombe farm just north of Shop, which referred to field boundaries of the medieval village of Hennard Mill.¹⁰ It mentioned a hedge that in 1280 had “always lain there.” Imagine how old that hedge is! Luckily that hedge was saved from the flooding. During Robert 1’s day, Hennard Mill had been a thriving hamlet, but at the time of the flooding, it was a

vast decay of ruins under a farmer’s field.¹⁴

I often think of what would have happened if they had not chosen the Wolf Valley for the reservoir and Shop had not been destroyed. When I visited in 1999, I would have done what everyone does on a genealogy

tour of an ancestor’s home: jump out of the car, take some pictures, talk to the owners for a while, get a tour, get back into the car, and drive away. I would never have learned that the family kept pigeons or that the walls of Shop were made of cob or that it had been badly burned in the early 1800s or so many

other interesting things! Instead, although it is true that I shall never see Shop with my own eyes, I have the most fascinating pictures and sketches, and I am rich with the documentary history and archaeology of the place where my Down family lived.

My Second Trip to Devon

In 2001, Simon Timms wrote and said he wanted to arrange a tour of

the reservoir some 12 years after the flooding and to arrange it when I would be in England next. I was giving a workshop at the Victoria and Albert Museum in May 2002, so the tour was arranged for then. My friends, who travelled with me in 1999, wanted to come too.

Many people who had worked on the archaeological project were on the tour. I was thrilled to be able to hear their experiences of the dig. We saw many fascinating things on that tour, but the most interesting for me was the visit to the Shop lane with the two oak trees. Before we went down to the water's edge,

Simon spoke about the history and archaeology of Shop. He had me pull an eighteenth-century roof tile out of the hedgerow to illustrate some of the things that were found in the hedges during excavation. I was madly trying to think how I could get that tile into my suitcase to take home when Simon told me that he had planted it there earlier for my benefit. We all had a good laugh.

Finally, Simon told us to go down the Shop lane to the water's edge. We were not to talk, but absorb the atmosphere and think about Shop farm and all the people who had lived there over the centuries.



Figure 4: Shop farmhouse during demolition. Notice the pigeon holes between the middle two windows on the second floor . . .

Source: Devon County Council

I thought of the two Roberts, the three Woolridge sisters, Elizabeth, Susannah, and Ann, all their children, and all of the Down ancestors. I could picture the Shop farmhouse and all the barns just down the lane on the left beyond the orchard. I could almost see Robert 1 and Susannah coming out of the thatched Shop farmhouse with masses of children on their tails. Across the lane, Robert 2 and Ann were emerging from their farmhouse. It was so vivid to me.

This was where I came from—here from this spot! My ancestors had lived on this land and around this valley since ancient times. I felt such an affinity and connection to that place. I felt that I had got as close to my Down ancestors, the Woolridge sisters, Shop farm, and BWW as I could possibly get. I was completely and utterly satisfied.

After returning home, I did some final research into Shop after Robert 1 emigrated. I discovered that the farm switched hands several times until 1910, when the Moyses family acquired it.^{15,16} Shop remained in their hands until the flooding.¹⁷

Simon told me that the Moyses were reluctant to leave Shop, so it was one of the last farms to be excavated and flooded. I felt a huge empathy for the Moyses family.

Devon Parish Records Online, Fall 2014

Since this last trip to Devon, I have written a biography of Robert Down 1, which I submitted to a biography contest in 2007 held by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies and won a “Highly Commended” pronouncement from the judges.¹⁸ Besides that, I have not done much on my Down line until the fall of 2014 when the Devon parish records went online on *Findmypast*.

I spent weeks on the site, rechecking earlier searches and extending them wherever possible. This turned up a glaring error in tracing my Down line backwards. I had accepted a baptism in BWW in 1724 for a John Down, son of John and Florence Down, who I thought had married Mary Sleeman in 1743. On *Findmypast*, when I checked burials, I was sad to see that this John Down died in 1725 at just a few months old—so is not my ancestor.¹⁹

I then did a search for other John Downs in the BWW area baptized around 1720 and came up with at least 14 possibilities! I tried to narrow these down further by eliminating those too far away from BWW, those too young to be married in 1743, and those who died before 1743 in the same parish. This still left four strong possibilities.

Right now, I favour the John Down baptized in Thrushelton in 1709, son of Robert and Mary Down.²⁰ My reasons—the documentary history of the Shop farm mentioned that John Down leased Shop and tenements in Thrushelton, so there is a link there, plus his father’s name was Robert and, of course, we have lots of Roberts in our history. The only negative is that this John would have been 34 years of age when he married Mary Sleeman in 1743—a bit old. Taking the family back further will obviously require more research.

Final Thoughts

Searching for my Down ancestors in Ontario and Devon has been the most interesting family history research of my life. Finding the two Roberts, uncle and nephew, and connecting with Bob Down still farming the same land 150 years later was truly fabulous. My travels to Devon, the DRO searches, the search for the Shop farm, and the history I uncovered about it and its demise will stay with me forever.

Hail, thou my native soil! Thou blessed plot, Whose equal all the world affordeth not!²¹

Reference Notes

- ¹ Laura McLauchlin (nee Down), Notes on the Down, Greenaway and Honey Families (handwritten, c. 1970). Original in possession of Jane Down.
- ² John Down–Francis Bickle, BWW Devon parish register marriage (9 September 1806, by Banns) DRO, Exeter.

³ Robert (17 May 1807), Mary (29 October 1809), John (25 December 1811), Rebecca (10 July 1813), Richard (26 January 1817), James (17 January 1819) and Martha (24 June 1821) Down, the children of John and Francis Down of Roadford, BWW parish register baptisms (1807–1821) DRO, Exeter.

⁴ John Down–Mary Sleeman, BWW Devon parish register (Bishops’ Transcript) marriage (6 November 1743) DRO, Exeter.

⁵ John Down, son of John and Florence Down, BWW Devon parish register baptism (15 April 1724) DRO, Exeter.

⁶ S.D. Turton and P.J. Weddell, *Roadford Reservoir Project Documentary History of Broadwoodwidge Manor and the Tenements of Goatacre and Shop* (Exeter: Exeter Museum Archaeological Field Unit, Report No. 88.11, December 1988) 1.

⁷ *Time Signs*, four part series by Tim Taylor (series producer of *Time Team*) and Mick Aston, for Channel 4, 1991.

⁸ Letter from Lenore Hicks, Tavistock, Devon to Jane Down, March 5, 2001.

⁹ “How Old is Devon?” *Devon Origins: A Review of Recent Discoveries in History and Archaeology*, Issue 2, Summer 1988, 14.

¹⁰ Simon Timms, “Flooding Red Spider Country: The Making of the Roadford Reservoir,” *Rep. Trans. Devon. Ass. Advmt Sci.*, 122, December 1990, 159–178.

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¹³ Roadford Reservoir Archaeology Project, Highlights in 1989.

¹⁴ "Roadford's Lost Village," *Discovering Devon's Past*, Issue 3, 1989, 5.

¹⁵ 1851 British Census, database, ancestry.com, entry for Broadwoodwider, Devon for Shop farm, Augustus Raymond in residence, citing Class: HO107; Piece: 1896; Folio 342, p. 8; GSU roll: 221047.

¹⁶ 1881 British Census, database, ancestry.com, entry for Broadwoodwider, Devon for Shop farm, Richard Brimacombe in residence, citing Class: RG11; Piece: 2276; Folio: 51; p. 7; GSU roll: 1341546.

¹⁷ Letter from Richard Moyse, London, to Jane Down, March 17, 2001.

¹⁸ Jane L. Down, Immigrant Farmer Pioneer, Robert Down of Broadwood-

wider (Ottawa: 2007, updated 2009). Biography submitted for Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies Biography Competition 2007, not published.

¹⁹ John Down, son of John and Florence Down, BWW Devon burial (9 January 1725), database, findmypast.co.uk : accessed 26 December 2014) citing Archive Reference 3421A/PR/1/2.

²⁰ John Downe, son of Roboart and Mary Downe, Thrushelton Devon baptism (20 March 1709), database, findmypast.co.uk : accessed 28 December 2014) citing Plymouth Baptism Register.

²¹ Thomas Campbell, *Specimens of British Poets* (Philadelphia: Henry Carey Baird, 1854) v. 2, p. 245, (www.books.google.ca: accessed 9 April 2015). "Thou my Native Soil" poem by William Brown of Tavistock, Devon (1588–1643).

My Ancestors Were All Ag Labs— Or Were They?©

BY CHRISTINE JACKSON



This article is based on Christine's presentation to BIFHSGO on 11 April 2015. Much of the foregoing material was also included in the third place award-winning article she submitted in 2013 to the 40th Anniversary Writing Competition of the U.K.-based Sussex Family History Group.

Researching my maternal grandmother's family in West Sussex nearly 40 years ago, I had to use conventional tools on-site in England. I found a long but unexceptional line of agricultural labourers back to 1675. Determined

to trace the family further back and eventually aided by the Internet, I uncovered lesser-known resources and accumulated what I call "circumstantial evidence" about some earlier Durrants. Were these skilled blast furnace workers who migrated from France in the sixteenth century to develop a new iron industry in

Sussex and Kent the forebears of my known seventeenth-century ancestors?

When I first started researching my family tree, I soon realized that not only had three of my grandparents been born in the English county of Sussex, but also their ancestral lines ran very deep in its rural areas.

Figure 1: Mabel Dudman, 1912 (age 21)

Source: Family collection



By the time I was born in late 1945, however, only one family was still living in the countryside—that of my maternal grandmother, Mabel Dudman, who was born and raised in rural West Sussex. It is her family history that is the subject of this story, along with its twists and turns, brick walls, and yes—even a non-paternal event!

Mabel moved to Hove on the south coast of England in the first decade

of the 1900s to work and marry. By then Hove had been swallowed up by the adjoining town of Brighton, which had been booming for decades.

Brighton was originally a fishing village, known for at least 800 years as Brighthelmston, before it began to attract the attention of the medical community (for its sea bathing), of royalty (as a site for a summer palace) and of migrants from the surrounding countryside and elsewhere looking to improve their lives. Once the railways arrived in the 1840s, it became a popular day-trip and holiday destination, much as it is known today.

Frederick Dudman and Family

Most of Mabel's siblings and their families remained in West Sussex—none of them far from the family patriarch, Mabel's father Frederick Dudman, who, at the end of his life in 1949 was still living in the same small five-roomed cottage in Churchwood, in the parish of Fittleworth, that he had occupied for at least 45 years.

In 1911 Fred, a journeyman hay trusser, and his wife, Eliza Strudwick, were living with seven of their nine surviving children—five boys and two girls, all under the age of 16.¹ The cottage had just three bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen.

Only the two eldest children, Mabel and Edith, had left home, both to work as domestic servants in Hove. Perhaps they were attracted by the bright lights and potential for finding husbands in larger communities like Brighton and Hove, or perhaps it was just the increased work opportunities that existed there for two relatively uneducated young women from a poor rural family. Whatever the reasons, within a few years both women had married and started families of their own.

In 1917 Mabel married my grandfather, John (Jack) Robert Wright, whom I knew slightly as a child. (The previous year he had been rejected for war service, possibly because he was too short.) My late mother, Winifred May, was the eldest of Mabel and Jack's three children. She was born in 1920, and her two sisters followed in 1924 and 1929, all born after they moved to Brighton, my own home town.

My mother reached her teens during the Great Depression; times were tough. When there was money enough for the bus or train fare, Mabel and the girls sought respite with their family in Fittleworth. I think the happiest times of my mother's youth were spent at Fred and Eliza's home there. She took great delight in the company of

some of her 37 first cousins and in helping with haymaking, although I'm sure the high-heeled shoes must have been frowned on! (See below).



Figure 2: Haymaking at Fittleworth, 1938

Source: Family collection

Frederick Dudman was a lifelong agricultural labourer (or ag lab) and a born-again Christian, having been converted by a travelling missionary as a young adult in the 1890s. I am told he had very strict rules about language and behaviour, which he applied to his entire family. By all accounts, Fred was a larger-than-life character, even today vividly remembered by his surviving grandchildren. He outlived his wife Eliza by six years, dying at the age of 79, sadly just before I could form any memories of him.

The Durrant Connection and Henry's Paternity

Fred once told my father that there had previously been a "Miss Durrant" in the family. He mentioned it because my father's family name was Durrant, although my father's own ancestors, at least back to the mid-1700s, were from East Sussex and not, as far as we knew, related. As I started tracing Fred's family back I was able to see where his story about a Durrant originated, although by the time I heard it the tale had become a little distorted, as often happens with family stories.

Fred's father, Henry Dudman, had used several ways to identify himself. The censuses and various official documents referred to him in three ways—as Henry Dudman, Henry D. Dudman, or Henry Durrant Dudman. So there must have been a Durrant somewhere in my maternal grandmother's family.

Back in the 1980s I enlisted the help of my mother's Dudman cousin David, who is known today throughout West Sussex as "Dave the Grave" because of his lifelong occupation as a gravedigger. David in turn consulted a local genealogist, and we learned that Henry's mother, Ann Brooker, had married a James Durrant in 1839 in Lurgashall, north-west Sussex. Between 1840 and 1846 they had apparently produced three sons, the second being our ancestor Henry.

But it seemed that James and Ann may have had a rather rocky relationship. Only two years after their marriage, they were enumerated separately in the 1841 Census: James with his parents in Wisborough Green, and Ann, accompanied by their first son, William, in Northchapel with her widowed mother. Did this mean they had separated? And, if so, was it temporary or permanent? This was important, as it could determine my direct ancestry, Henry having been conceived in early 1842!

By the 1851 Census things were different again. I found Ann Brooker Durrant living with a George Dudman in Northchapel—enumerated as George's wife, together with two young children of their own, plus Ann's three sons apparently with James Durrant (William, Henry and Alfred), who were all listed as "wife's sons." But I could find no sign of Ann's husband, James Durrant, anywhere in the 1851 Census.

According to his birth certificate, Henry Durrant Dudman was the son of James Durrant and Ann Brooker, born in September 1842. However, Henry's younger brother, known as Alfred Durrant Dudman, was almost certainly the son of George Dudman, even though his 1846 birth certificate says that his father was James Durrant (who had probably been dead for four years by then—

more is coming on that). Alfred's baptismal record in the Northchapel parish register clearly states he was baseborn (illegitimate) and records no father's name.

Of course, I would like to be certain about whether I am descended from James Durrant or George Dudman. And, because I cannot be absolutely sure who was Henry's father, I am now wondering if DNA testing could help. Since I have been unable to find any descendants of James and Ann's firstborn, William Durrant, I am hoping that DNA tests from male descendants of his brothers (or half-brothers) Henry and Alfred could clarify at least whether or not those two shared the same father.

This past spring I found that Alfred figures in an *Ancestry* family tree which seems to suggest that he has living male descendants. So far, however, my attempted follow-up with the tree owner about that approach has not produced any feedback.

Henry's Adventure

After his marriage in 1870 to Ellen Richardson in Pulborough, Henry lived the rest of his life there, working as an ag lab, while Ellen became a certified midwife. I wondered, though, what might Henry have done as a young man? He did not marry until the age of 27 and he is nowhere to be found in the 1861

U.K. Census, at which time he was 19 years old.

So, on a whim, I tried searching the online "1861 Worldwide Army Index" at findmypast.co.uk. A reference there to a Henry Dudman took me to the U.K.'s National Archives (TNA) website, where I found that the source documents—muster books and pay lists for 1861 and 1862—cannot be viewed online.²

I have not yet been able to check them to see if they contain personal information such as his place of birth. But if the Henry Dudman listed there is indeed "my" Henry, it explains why he was not included in the 1861 Census: at that time his unit was stationed in Subathoo, East Indies! Subathoo is in Northern India, in the foothills of the Himalayas. It was a hill depot created by the British Army in the mid-nineteenth century as an escape from the unhealthy hot weather in the plains.

This was a couple of years after the Indian Mutiny, so Henry probably did not see any action. In fact, a history of the famous Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) in which he served states that, during the time that he was in India, its Second Battalion was undertaking a lot of long-distance marching, taking musketry instruction and doing target practice—presumably making their presence felt in the region.³

Nevertheless, it must have been an amazing adventure for an obviously uneducated young lad from deep in the Sussex Weald, who came from a poor rural home and spent the rest of his life working as an ag lab.

I am not aware of any family stories about the life of Henry, and I know of only one photograph of him. Taken with his wife Ellen, wearing her midwife's uniform, probably on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary in 1910, it clearly shows the enormous ears that he passed on to his descendants (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Henry and Ellen Dudman

Source: Family collection

Searching for James Durrant— and Mystery Solved?

So what happened to Henry's alleged father, the mysterious and disappearing James Durrant? I was

not able to find him in any U.K. censuses after 1841; nor could I find a U.K. death record for him. I have checked around the time his marriage would have broken down in case James was convicted of a crime and thrown into jail, but found nothing, and have also checked the lists of convicts transported to Australasia. He could have gone into the army and served abroad, of course, but the military records I have found for several James Durrants contain insufficient information to identify one of them as "my" James.

One might say I had "negative search results."

In her helpful 2012 book *Genealogy: Essential Research Methods*, professional genealogist Helen Osborn suggests: "If a search in England and Wales has proved negative across all possible time spans and you still do not find them, then the likelihood is that they are not there to be found, *because they are elsewhere.*"⁴ (Emphasis is mine.)

Although I had not read Helen Osborne's book then, I widened my search anyway for James Durrant, thinking that he may have died overseas. While browsing the A-Z of record collections at findmypast.co.uk, I came across an entry for a James Durrant, born in the right year (1816), who was buried on 20 October 1842 at Fort

William (Calcutta) in Bengal, India. Unfortunately the burial register did not record the individual's place of birth, but it did note the "Quality, Trade or Profession;" James being described as "Seaman of the Ship *Bucephalus*." ⁵

Investigation revealed that this *Bucephalus* (there have been many ships of that name) was built and registered in 1840 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and that it was sailing on the London–Calcutta run during this period. ⁶

As it took approximately six months to sail from England around the Cape of Good Hope to India, ⁷ I calculated that James would probably have signed up as a crew member on the *Bucephalus* early in 1842. That would be just about the same time as his wife Ann became pregnant with my two times great-grandfather Henry. I wondered whether his wife's pregnancy—whether by James himself or by George Dudman—was enough to send James off to sea.

The ship would not have returned to England until 1843, at which time the master should have submitted the crew list to the authorities. Having already had some experience with merchant seamen records, I checked the TNA website searching for crew lists, but they are not online. So I paid a researcher to go to TNA at Kew to look for a surviv-

ing crew list that would have been filed after the *Bucephalus* returned to England. Here again the result was negative—the only surviving *Bucephalus* crew list for that period was from 1843 but did not include a James Durrant. I also checked unsuccessfully for James in the merchant navy list of the time; possibly he does not appear therein because he died before he could be listed.

As for the circumstances of James' death, in 2014 I had an encouraging contact with a Dudman cousin in Australia, who wrote "My father used to say that his father said that a relative perished at sea on the clippers used on the Australian run." ⁸ As the *Bucephalus* did go on to sail the London–Australia run later in the 1840s, this family story does seem to support my theory that our James Durrant was in fact the same seaman who was buried in India in October 1842.

From Labourer to Seaman?

The explanation for James' disappearance and where he went to made sense to me; I wondered, though, how would an ag lab from deep in rural Sussex have developed an interest in sailing the high seas?

Well, I found that a 17-year-old James Durrant had been convicted in Petworth at the 1834 Sussex Easter Session (Western Division) of "larceny from a vessel" and was sentenced to three months of hard

labour in jail.⁹ Since there was another James Durrant from East Sussex and of a similar age in the merchant navy at the same time, James' age when he committed the theft in January 1834 leads me to conclude that he is indeed "my" James.

I assumed the vessel from which he stole to have been a ship of some sort and speculated as to where James would have had access to a ship, which might also have spurred his interest in going to sea some years later. I realized that, although inland, James' birth village of Loxwood is located on the long defunct Wey–Arun Canal, along which sailing barges used to transport commercial goods like timber, coal and market produce.

In 1834, before the railways reached Sussex, that canal was handling its peak amount of trade and providing a cheap transportation route between London on the River Thames and the south coast, by linking the northward-flowing River Wey with the southward-flowing River Arun.¹⁰

It turned out, however, that at this time James was a labourer living close to Shoreham Harbour, just west of Brighton and Hove, and that he stole a pair of sea boots valued at six shillings. I think he was fortunate not to have been transported to Australia for such a theft.

David Durrant and the Tithe Map

James Durrant, originally an ag lab, had been born in 1816 in Loxwood in the parish of Wisborough Green.

His father—and my four times great-grandfather, David Durrant, yet another ag lab—was born in 1783 in neighbouring Kirdford, an ancient settlement of the Sussex Weald with a very large eighteenth- and nineteenth-century population of Durrants. In 1804, David Durrant married Mary Tickner there, and, although their first child was baptized in Kirdford, subsequent children, including James, were all baptized in the parish of Wisborough Green, where David and Mary lived the rest of their lives.

As ag labs usually lived their lives out of the limelight, I was keen to know if history recorded anything noteworthy in David Durrant's background. So I did a "person search" in the Sussex Family History Group's online Data Archive. There I found a reference to him in the "Sussex People Index."¹¹ It was an entry from an 1842 tithe apportionment document describing David as the occupant of one of four cottages called Barreck's in the village of Wisborough Green; it gave the number of the property on the associated tithe map as 1334.¹²

With this information in hand, I determined to see if I could find where

David and Mary were living in 1841–42, noting that, at the same time, a George Durrent (sic) occupied a cottage in nearby Loxwood.

On my next trip to Sussex, I found that the tithe maps for Sussex have all been digitized and can be viewed on computer without charge at the West Sussex Record Office (WSRO) in Chichester. I quickly found David Durrant's residence on the tithe map and printed an extract from it. Of course, then I was keen to know if the building is still there. So I checked the 2009 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map for the area that I had with me—and there it was, or so I believed—the two map extracts show virtually the same road and field patterns, with a building in much the same location in both.

Unable to personally visit the house on that trip, however, once back in Canada I studied the building on Google Street View, along with information from the 1901 and 1911 censuses and photographs I obtained from the helpful Wisborough Green History Group. All this led me to conclude that a new structure had been built just after the turn of the twentieth century with a similar footprint as the preceding one.

While I found that the existing building is not the one in which David and Mary Durrant lived after all, the exercise was nevertheless worthwhile and one that introduced

me to what the tithe maps have to offer.

Before we leave this generation, however, a quick note about the George Durrent who also lived in Wisborough Green in 1842. He was in fact my ancestor David's first cousin, and, in the 1851 Census, had quite the most interesting occupation I had found so far in my family tree—he was a *mole catcher*!¹³

Anthony—and the Brick Wall

When I did the research all those years ago in the pre-Internet era, I was helped by the fact that my direct ancestors for four generations before David were all named Anthony Durrant. And thanks to the Kirdford parish register, I knew that at least the two most recent of those Anthonys were also ag labs. Copied for me from microfiche by the Sussex Family History Group (SFHG), the printout from the International Genealogical Index (IGI) contained all the Durrant baptism and marriage entries for Sussex and revealed very few Anthony Durrant entries: in fact, just 12 in the whole of the county.¹⁴

It happened that all but two of the Anthonys in the IGI list could be accounted for by my own direct ancestors. The dates of baptisms and marriages plus the names of spouses were listed, along with the parishes where the events had been registered.

I found that studying the printouts was a really good way to see at one glance the distribution of the family name throughout the county. I did not, however, rely solely on the IGI; rather, I used it to tell me in which parish to start my research in the original sources at the WSRO: parish registers (PRs) and, where necessary, bishop's transcripts (BTs) in lieu of PRs.

Trying to take my family of ag labs further back, I encountered the dreaded brick wall after finding the baptism in 1675 of an Anthony Durrant "son of Anthony and Ann" in Northchapel, the parish next to Kirdford. I estimated that Anthony and Ann would likely have married in about 1674 and that the groom/father, Anthony, would have been born about 1650. I knew this might be a particularly difficult period to research, because it was the Commonwealth period when church records were not always kept.

Then I found that the only available data for Northchapel before 1700 are sporadic BTs starting from 1592. I have never been able to find a marriage for Anthony Durrant and Ann, nor a baptism for Anthony.

Besides the usual sources, one logical place to look was the Petworth PR, because the parish of Northchapel had formerly been a northern chapelry of Petworth parish, without its own PR until 1716. But, aside from being virtually illegible, the Petworth PR was of no help. In other words, this is a real brick wall!

I visited the Northchapel area in 2013 to see where my early ancestors came from. Figure 4 indicates where Northchapel is in relation to the other Durrant places of residence mentioned so far. The parish is beautiful—still relatively remote and very rural, adjacent to the West Surrey border and containing the highest point in Sussex at 918 feet.

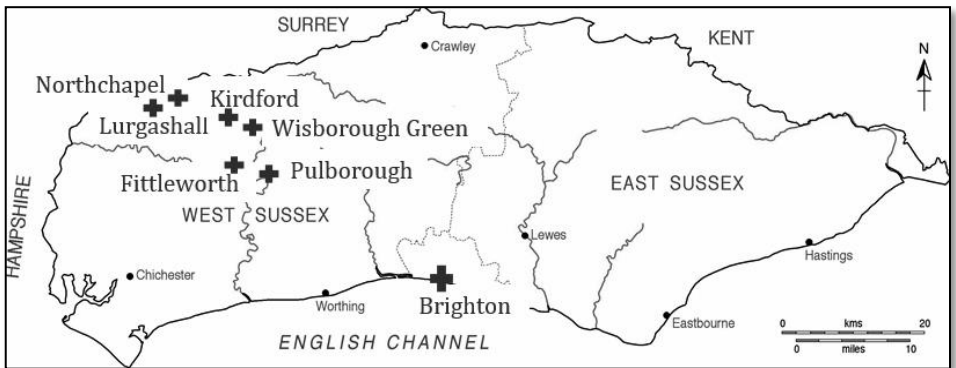


Figure 4: Ancestral Durrant and Dudman locations, 1675–1900s

Source: Susan Rowland and author

The coastal Saxon settlers some 1,500 years ago had used this part of the Low Weald for timber and summer grazing, while later settlers pushed back the forest to create the pattern of small fields and farms that we still see there today. While it is difficult to imagine now, North-chapel and Kirdford parishes have both been the scene of industrial activity in the past, including iron-working, which was to become a major focus of interest as I tried to reconstruct my early family.

Wills and “Pottfounders”

Having run out of PRs and BTs to check, I decided on a fishing expedition—this time looking for seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Durrant wills in West Sussex, from both the Archdeaconry of Chichester at the WSRO and online amongst the wills of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) held by TNA. I hoped that I might recognize my family names in some of them, to back up and add some flesh to the bones of the family tree I had constructed so far. Considering my ancestors’ occupational history as ag labs and their probable lack of assets, however, I was not at all surprised by my subsequent lack of success.

Nevertheless, amongst the PCC wills were two early ones that intrigued me, from 1612 and 1617, although I had no way of knowing then if they were made by *my* ancestors. They

particularly caught my attention because both testators described themselves as “pottfounders” and I didn’t know what that meant, plus they had unusual given names for Durrants in that period in Sussex—Anthony and Humfrey.¹⁵ I already had a series of Anthony Durrants in my own family and I knew that this given name was quite rare amongst Sussex Durrants; in fact my brick wall involved two of them. In this case, I wondered, could there possibly be a connection between the pot founders and my own family? And could there also be a French connection, as both given names and the family name have French origins?

It turned out that there was indeed a connection between the two pot founders. Anthony’s 1612 will describes Humfrey as his natural son and executor, and makes bequests to his other seven children—whom Humfrey then names as his siblings in his own will made in 1617—a genealogist’s delight! I therefore have no doubt that these two were father and son.

But I was still intrigued by the occupation of pot founder and wanted to know more. Googling turned up the Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG).¹⁶ A subsequent email exchange explained much more than just pot founding—which was the work of skilled artisans in the early iron industry who used closed moulds to cast objects (often pots).

I also discovered the locations of the many former furnace and forge sites throughout Sussex¹⁷ and the French ironworker immigrants from Normandy and Picardy. They came mostly from the Pays de Bray in the hinterland of Dieppe, where the underlying geology is a continuation of that found in the Weald.¹⁸ These were men whose expertise in blast furnace technology helped transform the English Wealden iron industry of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries into a war machine producing much-needed cannon and other weaponry. Many of them can be found in the sixteenth-century English denization rolls, which list foreign workers, their origins and even who they worked for.¹⁹

The WIRG's detailed database of these early ironworkers contains a furnace man by the name of Renney Durante (I'll call him Renny Durrant), who was assessed for poll tax in Rotherfield, Sussex, in the subsidy rolls (taxpayer lists) of 1572 and 1576, and who was described sometimes as an "alyen" and sometimes as a "Frenchman."²⁰ Was he, I wondered, an ancestor of the pot founders Anthony and Humfrey Durrant? After searching in Rotherfield records for Renny and any family members, I found a marriage for him in 1574 (his second, actually), together with the baptisms of several of his children.

Renny's will, made in 1591 just over the Sussex boundary in Horsmonden, Kent, where there was an important furnace and gun foundry, revealed that Renny was another iron pot founder and that he had conveniently enumerated his surviving children.²¹ There was definitely a link between all the pot founders. Renny's eldest son was the Anthony who made the 1612 will I mentioned earlier, and he had named his first son Renny, obviously after his own father. (The child did not survive infancy.)

The Ironworker Durrants

The sixteenth-century parish baptism registers in this part of Sussex are sometimes woefully inadequate, not even naming a child's father, let alone its mother. This was the case in the parish of East Grinstead, where the earliest of the Anthonys lived. But I was nevertheless able to put together four generations of early Durrants—all involving the name Anthony—for the period of approximately 1560 to 1650, using what I could find from the incomplete parish records, wills and subsidy rolls.

I called these generations the "Ironworker Durrants." They moved westwards from Rotherfield in East Sussex, where I first found Renny living, to East Grinstead, and subsequently to Stedham in West Sussex, and then possibly to Northchapel. All those places are known to have

been sites of blast furnaces and forges, where the Wealden geology, the woodland and the numerous small streams together yielded everything needed for iron production: the iron ore, the stone and brick, the charcoal fuel and the water power.^{16, 17} I strongly suspect that, given their occupations, the Durrant family members I have identified worked at the furnaces and that availability of work accounted for their moves around the Weald of Sussex and Kent.

Were They Related to My Durrants?

By now I had traced my own family, with a fair degree of confidence, back in time through 10 generations to 1675, and then I had leapfrogged even further back and reconstructed the descendants of a very early Durrant (Renny)—only to find that evidence joining the two was nowhere to be found! (Figure 5)

In order to prove whether or not these were two parts of the same family, I would need documentary evidence of a missing generation in the mid-1600s—rarely an easy period to research.

So, in the absence of an early PR and only spotty BTs for Northchapel, I tried every other source I could think of and managed to turn up some tantalizing details:

1) An Umfry (sic) Durrant was buried in 1581 in Petworth.²² He could have been a relative after whom

Humfrey the pot founder who died in 1617 was named—there are no early Humfrey or Umfry Durrants in the whole *FamilySearch* database for England.

2) An Anthonie Durrante, a founder, of Stedham was named in a court deposition in 1635, which said he was 40 years old and born in East Grinstead.²³ This made him the son of the Anthony with the 1612 will. He had four children baptized at Stedham, of whom I can find no further trace; one was called Thomas.

3) A Thomas Durrant signed the Protestation Oath in 1641/42²⁴ in Northchapel; he could be the aforementioned Thomas. This would indicate a family move to Northchapel where I know my ancestors lived in the late 1600s.

4) An Anthony Durrant was married in 1645 in Linchmere to Mary Betsal from Woolbeding.²⁵ At that time the groom was from Chiddingfold, just over the county boundary in Surrey. He was probably the son of Anthonie 2) above, the latter probably being the Anthony who was buried in Chiddingfold in 1662. The protestation oath records for the County of Surrey, which would amount to a mini-census, have unfortunately not survived.

5) A Mary Durrant married George Marden in 1666 in Northchapel.²⁶ Probably born about 1645 and in Northchapel—I cannot find her baptism—she could well have been

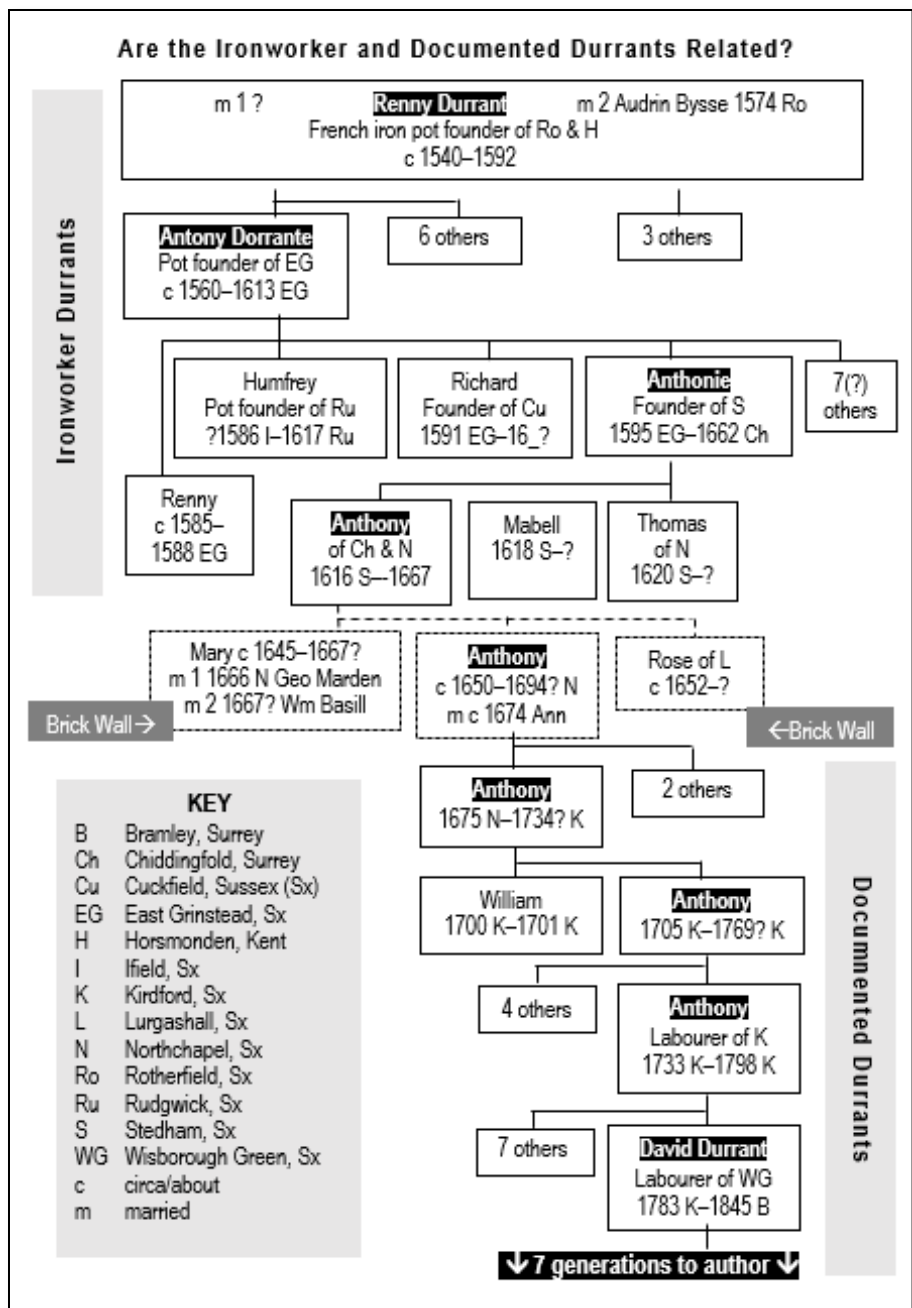


Figure 5: Early Durrant family tree

the daughter and first child of Anthony 4) and his wife Mary.

6) An inventory of goods (but no will) exists for an Anthony Durrant of Northchapel (probably the same Anthony as Anthony 4)) the administration of which was granted in 1667 to “William Basill, husband of Mary Basill, alias Durrant, natural and legitimate daughter of the said deceased.”²⁷

7) A possible problem here is that Anthony’s presumed daughter Mary had married George Marden in 1666 (5), although a George Marden was buried 2 May 1667—eight days before probate was granted to Mary’s “husband” William Basill. But I cannot find a marriage for Mary with a William Basill, so is this the same Mary? Did she marry him only a few days after her late Marden husband was buried? Was she the Mary who also died in 1667? (See 9) below.)

8) A Rose Durrant of neighbouring Lurgashall was, in 1669, apprenticed in housewifery after the death of her father Anthony Durrant, probably Anthony 4) who had died in 1667.²⁸

9) A Mary Durante in 1664/65 became a manorial tenant in the Honor (Manor) of Petworth.²⁹ (Petworth Manor included Northchapel and surrounding area.) Was she Mary 5) above?

10) An Anthony Durante in October 1667 became a manorial tenant in

the Honor of Petworth upon the death of Mary Marden.²⁹ He was possibly the brother of Mary and could have been “my” Anthony who married Ann and had a son, Anthony, baptized in 1675 in Northchapel.

I call the foregoing tidbits “circumstantial evidence”—or individual facts that, when considered together, seem to lead to a reasonable conclusion. I have a strong sense that the Ironworker Durrants were the forebears of my documented Durrants and I have some authoritative support, although I didn’t know it until after I had completed my research.

The late Brian Awty, a meticulous researcher with the WIRG, compiled a database and assembled detailed genealogical data about the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Wealden ironworkers. He independently reached the same conclusion about my Durrant forebears:

The continued residence of these men in ironworking parishes and the continued use of the same baptismal name suggests that a connection with iron founding may have continued and that all were members of the family descended from Renny/Rémi Durrant of Rothelfield.³⁰

My Conclusion

The name Anthony Durrant was so uncommon in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Sussex that I feel confident linking these two families

together. If indeed I am correct, I am left with the knowledge that my ancestors were not all agricultural labourers after all. Rather, starting with the Frenchman Renny Durrant who brought his expertise in the iron industry to his new country from the Continent, they were, for several generations, skilled artisans working in the foundries of the Weald of Sussex and Kent.

Why Renny chose to migrate to England is another question, which I cannot hope to answer. Born about 1540, presumably in France, he may have been escaping religious persecution in the first wave of Huguenot migration, he may have simply been an economic migrant attracted by work opportunities or he may even have been solicited to work in the new English iron industry in the Weald.

What's Next?

So now I'm left with three challenges:

- ◆ One is to resolve my doubts about Henry Durrant Dudman's paternity, which could possibly be clarified through DNA analysis—assuming no non-paternal event in the succeeding generations since 1842.
- ◆ The second is to keep searching for further source documents that could reliably determine if the Ironworker Durrants were indeed the ancestors of my family of Durrant-Dudman ag labs.

◆ The third is to see whether there is a link between my West Sussex Durrants and my father's East Sussex family of the same name—which I've only been able to trace back to 1745.

The last might involve starting a one-name study and that would keep me occupied well into my dot-age!

Reference Notes

¹ 1911 Census details for Frederick Dudman and family at Churchwood, Fittleworth. The National Archives (TNA) ref. RG14PN5298 RG78PN236 RD82 SD2 ED7 SN72, piece no. 5298 at findmypast.co.uk.

² *Commissary General of Musters Office and successors: General Muster Books and Pay Lists*, 1 January 1861 to 31 December 1862, TNA ref. WO12/10151.

³ Sir William Henry Cope (1811–1892), *The History of the Rifle Brigade (the Prince Consort's Own) formerly the 95th* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1877). Available online at the *Internet Archive*.

⁴ Helen Osborn, *Genealogy: Essential Research Methods* (London: Robert Hale, 2012).

⁵ *Burials at Calcutta Fort William, Bengal, 1842*, in Parish Register Transcripts from the Presidency of Bengal, 1713–1948, British India Office Ecclesiastical Returns at findmypast.co.uk.

⁶ Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping. From 1st JULY 1841 to the 30th JUNE 1842. (London: J.L. Cox & Sons), available as a free Google e-book.

⁷ The Suez Canal opened to traffic only in 1869, reducing the distance between

Britain and India by 4,500 miles and the average voyage time from six months to two.

⁸ Email communication received 17 April 2014 from Donald Dudman of Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia.

⁹ Case and conviction recorded in “England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791–1892,” TNA Series HO 27, Piece 48, p. 299, at ancestry.co.uk. Case details from *Sussex Criminals and Victims 1826–1850* published on CD-ROM by the Parish Register Transcription Society, available from the Sussex Family History Group (SCV9). The original records are at East Sussex Record Office, with microfilm copies at West Sussex Record Office.

¹⁰ From *The Wey & Arun Canal: London's Lost Route to the Sea*, at www.weyandarun.co.uk, accessed 28 August 2015.

¹¹ The *Sussex People Index* is part of the Sussex Family History Group's online Data Archive at <http://sfhg.frontis.co/bin/index.php>. Note: Free searches can be made of the database, but full search results require SFHG membership and log-in.

¹² The term “tithing map” is usually applied to a map of an English or Welsh parish or township, prepared following the *Tithing Commutation Act 1836*. This act allowed tithes to be paid in cash rather than goods. The map and its accompanying schedule (apportionment) gave the names of all owners and occupiers of land in the parish (*Wikipedia*, accessed 10 September 2015). For the history of tithes, see TNA research guide *Tithes* at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/tithes/.

¹³ Learn about molecatching and find a modern-day molecatcher in the U.K. in the *British Traditional Molecatchers Register* at www.britishmolecatchers.co.uk.

¹⁴ The genealogical database known as the *International Genealogical Index*, or IGI, was compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is now part of the *FamilySearch* website.

¹⁵ Will of Anthony Durrant of East Grinstead, Sussex, pot founder, 20 January 1612, TNA ref. PROB11/121; will of Humfrey Durrant of Rudgwick, Sussex, pot founder, 19 July 1617, TNA ref. PROB11/130. Both are in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) series PROB 11 of wills made between 1384 and 12 January 1858.

¹⁶ Wealden Iron Research Group at www.wealdeniron.org.uk. Contact: Jeremy Hodgkinson, past chairman. Note: The Weald is an area in South East England situated between the parallel chalk escarpments of the North and the South Downs. It crosses the counties of Sussex, Hampshire, Kent and Surrey and was once covered with a vast forest. Its name, Old English in origin, signifies *woodland*. From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weald>, accessed 01 July 2015.

¹⁷ Ernest Straker, *Wealden Iron*, (London: G. Bell, 1931) is a gazetteer of Wealden ironworkings.

¹⁸ Brian Awty, “The Continental Origins of Wealden Ironworkers, 1451–1544”, *Economic History Review*, New Series, vol. 34, no. 4, Nov. 1981.

¹⁹ Denization was the granting of Crown protection to an alien living in the kingdom, by which the person gained some of the rights of a natural-born citizen. It

was made by letters patent, was less expensive than naturalization and something like today's permanent resident status.

²⁰ Entry for Renney Durante in "Wealden Iron Research Group Database" at www.wirgdata.org. Poll tax data for Renney Durante taken from: Brian G. Awty, "Aliens in the ironworking areas of the Weald: the Subsidy Rolls, 1524–1603," *Wealden Iron*, Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group, Second series, no. 4 (1984), p. 47. Original subsidy roll data from TNA, E179—Medieval tax records database.

²¹ Will of Renney Durante of Horsmonden, Kent, iron pot founder, dated 9 April 1591, TNA ref. PROB11/79. (PCC series PROB11—wills made between 1384 and 12 January 1858.)

²² From the online "West Sussex Burial Index" of the Sussex Record Society at www.sussexrecordsociety.org. Original burial entry for Umfry Durrant on 22 Mar 1580/81 personally verified by Marion Woolgar, 11 July 2015 in Petworth Parish Register, ref: PAR 149/1/1/1, West Sussex Record Office.

²³ *Chichester Archdeaconry Court Deposition Books 1556–1694*. Entry for Anthony Durrant of Stedham. Date of Deposition: 1635.06.05. Reference: 15/248, West Sussex Record Office.

²⁴ R. Garraway Rice, editor, *West Sussex Protestation Returns, 1641–42*, Sussex Record Society, Vol. 5, 1905.

Note: Sensing that the Reformation might be unravelling, in May 1641 Parliament ordered every member of the House of Commons to make a protestation—a declaration of loyalty to the Protestant religion and the Crown—and to uphold the powers and privileg-

es of Parliament. Then each MP had to ensure that all males over the age of 18 years in his constituency took the oath. The names of men who refused the oath were noted and used to indicate who was likely to be Roman Catholic and therefore Royalist.

²⁵ Entry in the *Sussex Marriage Index* for the marriage of Anthony Durrant of Chiddingfold and Mary Betsal of Wo . . . ing (sic—probably Woolbeding) on 16 May 1645 at Linchmere, Sussex, published on CD by the Sussex Family History Group, 2005.

²⁶ Entry in the *Sussex Marriage Index* for the marriage of George Marden and Mary Durrant on 28 August 1666 at Northchapel, Sussex (from bishop's transcript), published on CD by the Sussex Family History Group, 2005.

²⁷ Inventory of the goods of Anthony Durrant of Northchapel, 1667, ref. EP I/29/142/42, West Sussex Record Office.

²⁸ Entry in *Apprentice List* for Rose Durrant, Lurgashall Parish, 5 Oct 1669, apprenticed in housewifery, father Anthony Durrant (deceased), in *Database of Poor Law records for West Sussex*, Sussex Record Society, online at www.sussexrecordsociety.org.

²⁹ Index to Court Books, 1659–1716, 1 volume 1725, MF 1277, Honor (Manor) of Petworth, Petworth House Archives ref. PHA 860.

³⁰ From "*Notes on immigrant French ironworker Durrants*" by the late Brian G. Awty. Copy provided to the author by Jeremy Hodgkinson, WIRG, editor of Mr. Awty's forthcoming posthumous book, *Adventure in Iron*.

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Techniques and Resources

The Cream of the Crop

Top items from recent posts on the *Anglo-Celtic-Connections* blog



BY JOHN D. REID

1939 National Registration

The 29 September 1939 National Registration for England and Wales was

made available online by pay-per-view on 2 November by *Findmypast*. It helps fill a 30-year gap in censuses for England and Wales between that of 1921, due to be released in 2022, and that of 1951, to be released in 2052. The 1941 Census was never taken due to the war. Fire destroyed the 1931 Census in 1942.

There's a good explanation of the contents and capabilities at <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/1939-register/>. Be aware that those younger than age 100 have their entries redacted unless it's proved they have died. Screening redacts information for many people that should be open, such as for my uncle who died in WW II.

Expect to find lots of errors in the transcriptions, so check the image of the original.

Especially if you're a frugal genealogist, take advantage of the free advanced search. My search for Oswald G. Reid born in 1886 found the Reid household in Wanstead and Woodford, Essex, England with "2 more people on the record" and with TNA reference RG101/1158D/019/37.

Using the advanced search for Reid in Wanstead and Woodford gave 34 results. Entering the Piece Number 1158D and Item Number 019 reduced it to just two Reid hits. Without specifying Reid but with the TNA reference, there were 38 hits and the possibility of recognizing a Reid relative's name as the third in the household.

Online Guides to TNA Records

The U.K. National Archives now has over 5% of its records digitized, with more coming. With an ever-growing collection it's easy to overlook things. Avoid that problem by using <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?research-category=online>, which has 65 guides to records available online at the site or through partners.

It's worth browsing the list, it's only 65 items. Find a description, learn whether all records are viewable online, and see which partner (*Ancestry*, *Findmypast* or *BMD Registers*) is supplying online access.

The online records selection is just one of the categories available. Explore further by choosing another category from the drop-down menu inside the "Refine results for" box. You'll find 205 guides available for "Family History," for example.

English Directories

There's a delight to finding an ancestor's name in a publication, as opposed to an official record. Directories (recently added by *Findmypast*) along with newspapers are major sources for family historians.

The 122 volumes in this collection, sourced from Anguline Research Archives, Gould Genealogy, Yorkshire Ancestors and Eneclann cover a lot of territory. They include trade directories, county guides, almanacs and general directories ranging in date from 1772 to 1939.

Yorkshire has the best coverage, over 50 volumes spanning a Sheffield directory from 1787 to a 1937 *Kelly's Directory* for the North & East Ridings. The adjacent counties are also included, whereas southern English counties are scarce: Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Sussex, and Middlesex (there are two London Post Office Directories). Wales is

lacking, and there are just three volumes for Scotland.

Even if your county of interest is missing you may find helpful coverage in national and specialist directories. Examples are:

Colonial Office List, 1863 and 1870,
Debrett's Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage & Companionship, 1923,
Dod's Peerage, Baronetage & Knightage of Great Britain & Ireland, 1902,

National Telephone Company Directory, Northern Section, 1904

Newspaper Press Directory, 1913 and 1927

The Cotton Year Book, 1920

Thom's Official Directory of Great Britain & Ireland, 1894

Thom's Official Directory of Great Britain & Ireland, 1914

United Kingdom, Europe & Australasia, Crane's Directory & Buyer's Guide, 1899–1900

Don't overlook the University of Leicester collection of directories online at <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4/>.

National School Admission Registers

With the addition of 2.7 million records in September the *Findmypast* "National School Admission Registers 1870–1914" database now holds nearly 7.3 million records

from Anglesey, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Breconshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Caernarvonshire, Cardiganshire, Cheshire, Denbighshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Durham, Flintshire, Glamorganshire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Pembrokeshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire. The site notes,

Details contained within the log-books from the period leading up to World War One include attendance records, reasons for absence, visitors to the school and the daily activities of school life. The admission registers provide many useful details for family historians, including your ancestor's birth date, admission year and the school they attended. You may also be able to discover their parents' names, father's occupation, exam results and any illnesses that led to absence from school.

Also added is a new collection, Ireland National School Registers, with over 142,000 school register records from 1860 to 1920.

Children's Homes in Britain

Peter Higginbotham, well known for his workhouse website, gives brief histories of children's homes, along with general information on the

type of conditions, at <http://childrenshomes.org.uk/>. In addition to homes in England there's information on those in the Isle of Man, the Channel Isles, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia and Jamaica. A recently updated section is on Certified Industrial Schools with background information at <http://childrenshomes.org.uk/IS/>.

Lloyd's Register of Ships

If your ancestors travelled by ship there's a good chance that information on it is online through digitized copies of *Lloyd's Register of Ships*. The period from 1930 to 1945 is the easiest to search through the Plimsoll Ship Data Project by the Southampton City Libraries and Archives Services. A single search covers the date range.

Registers for about 85 annual registers from 1764 to 1899 are searchable individually. For links to these and further information check www.lr.org/en/research-and-innovation/historical-information/lloyds-register-of-ships-online/.

Lloyd's Register Foundation is now in the pilot project stage of an initiative to digitize ship annals, which include ship surveys, machinery surveys, correspondences, ship and boiler plans and more. There are an estimated 65,500 ships in the collection. Read more at www.lr.org/en/research-and-innovation/historicalinformation/digitisation_project/.

Welsh Parish Records at *FamilySearch*

More than four million records of baptisms, marriages, and burials from Welsh parishes of the then Established Church are now available free from *FamilySearch* through their cooperation agreement with *Findmypast*.

Soldiers of the First World War: 1914–1918 Database

Updating on Library and Archives Canada's progress on digitizing service files from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, in October the rate of progress dropped. It looked as if the project would not be completed until 2021. However, Librarian and Archivist of Canada Guy Berthiaume has committed to having all 640,000 files digitized by the end of 2018 by adding a second digitization shift if necessary.

Ontario Burials Databases

Finding a burial may put an end to your search, and Ontario is well served with databases for burials. As of early November *Canadian Headstones* at <http://canadianheadstones.com/> has over 702,600 headstone photo records from across Ontario, and more than 1.2 million from across Canada. The "Canadian Gravemarker Gallery" at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~can

gmg/ has over 1,535 completely photographed cemeteries and about 947,200 gravemarker photographs online, with the best coverage being for Ontario.

The Ontario Genealogical Society's Ontario Cemetery Ancestor Index has recently been incorporated into The Ontario Name Index (TONI) at www.ogs.on.ca/toni.php, with over 3 million records of all types. The older "Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid" found at <http://ocfa.islandnet.com/> also has more than 3 million records.

A recent find, *CemSearch*, at cemsearch.ca, is described as "a comprehensive compilation of thousands of burial plots in hundreds of cemeteries from an area stretching as far north as Haliburton, east to Napanee, and West to Bowmanville." With 381,895 cemetery transcriptions there's a good chance of finding a person of interest buried in this 10-county area.

Changes at the Top

Perhaps you noticed that Ken McKinlay is not cited as a co-author on this column. Ken has re-evaluated present priorities and has decided to put his *Family Tree Knots* blog, and thus this column, "on hold" for now. Thanks to Ken for his past contributions.

The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON



The Brian O'Regan Memorial Library has much information about the county of Devon,

beginning with the two-volume *Domesday Book: Devon*, edited by John Morris, Frank and Caroline Thorn.

Other books covering the medieval period are:

Early Charters of Devon and Cornwall, by H.P.R. Finberg. It also covers the Anglo-Saxon period.

Charters of the Redvers Family and the Earldom of Devon 1090–1237, edited with an introduction by Robert Bearman.

Crown Pleas of the Devon Eyre of 1238, edited with an introduction by Henry Summerson.

Devonshire Lay Subsidy of 1332, edited with an introduction by Audrey M. Erskine.

Local Customs Accounts of the Port of Exeter 1266–1321, edited and translated with an introduction by Maryanne Kowalski.

The Receivers Accounts of the City of Exeter 1304–1353, edited and translated with an introduction by Margery M. Rowe and John M. Draisey.

History

Devon, by W.G. Hoskins.

Devon: commemorative edition, by W.G. Hoskins.

Devon and Its People, by W.G. Hoskins.

A History of Devon: 2nd edition, by Robin Stanes.

Lost Devon: Creation, Change and Destruction Over 500 Years, by Todd Gray.

Treasures of Ancient Devon, by John Allen and Simon Timms.

The Victoria History of the County of Devon: Volume 1, edited by William Page.

West Country Studies. by H.P.R. Finberg.

Surveys

Chorographical Description or Survey of the County of Devon Printed From a Genuine Copy of the Manuscript with Considerable Additions, by Tristram Risdon.

Review of Part of Risdon's Survey of Devon Containing General Description of That County, by William Chapple.

Marshall's Rural Economy of the West of England (1796): a Reprint of The Rural Economy of the West of England Including Devonshire and Parts of Somersetshire, Dorsetshire

and Cornwall, by William Marshall.
(In two volumes)

Local Histories

Exeter Churches: Notes on the History, Fabrics and Features of Interest in the Churches of the Deanery of Christianity Devon, by W.G. Hoskins.

Exeter Past, by Hazel Mary Harvey.

Two Thousand Years in Exeter, by W.G. Hoskins.

Holsworthy (Parochial Histories of Devonshire Series), by W.I. Leeson Day.

The Story of the Holsworthy Branch of the Bude Canal 1819–1891, by S.P. Dymond.

There are also transcripts of baptisms, marriages and burials in the parishes of Holsworthy and Bude by members of the Devon Family History Society.

Maps

Printed Maps of Devon: County Maps 1575–1837, by Kit Batten and Francis Bennett.

Old Map of Devonshire 1610: an Antiqued Parchment Replica, by John Speede.

Several maps by the Ordnance Survey, including *Two Maps of Devon in a Folder: North Devon and South Devon* (dated 1931 and showing the hundreds and the parishes).

Barnstaple and Lundy Island (Old Series).

Bude and Clovelly (Old Series).

Clovelly and Hartland; Bude and Bradworthy (Explorer Series).

Okehampton and North Dartmoor (Landranger Series).

Torbay and South Dartmoor (Landranger Series).

Exeter AZ: Street Plan with Index.

Descriptions

Devon: Its Moorlands, Streams, & Coasts, by Rosalind Northcote.

Devon One Hundred Years Ago, compiled by Frank Graham.

North Devon (Devon Town Trails), compiled by Peter Hunt and Marilyn Wills.

Weird and Wonderful Dartmoor, by Sally and Chips Barber.

Sources

Devon Contiguous Parishes, by C.E. Allen and R.J. Thompson.

Guide to the Parish and Non-parochial Registers of Devon and Cornwall 1538–1837, by Hugh Peskett.

Putting Flesh on the Bones of Your Devon and Cornwall Ancestors: a Source Book for Family Researchers, by Sherrell Branton Leetooze.

South West Family Histories: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, by Stuart A. Raymond.

Miscellaneous

Devon & Cornwall: a Postal Survey 1500–1791, by David B. Cornelius.

Devon (Buildings of Britain), by Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevener.

Devon Hearth Tax Return, Lady Day 1674, edited and published by T.L. Stoate.

Devon Household Accounts 1627–59, by Todd Gray.

Devon Subsidy Rolls 1543–5, edited and published by T.L. Stoate.

Devon Union Workhouses and Their Records, by Barbara Bolt.

The Place-names of Devon, by J.E.B. Gover, A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton

BIFHSGO News

The 21st Annual BIFHSGO Fall Conference



BY DENA PALAMEDES

On 18–20 September 2015, BIFHSGO hosted its 21st annual conference. This was the first time the conference was held at

our new location, Ben Franklin Place. Conference registrants explored the themes of Scottish family history, photographs in genealogy, and technology for genealogists. By all accounts both the new location and the conference presentations were a success.

Pre-conference seminars continued as an established conference feature allowing for more in-depth coverage than during a regular presentation. This year they attracted 142 registrations.

Friday morning saw two concurrent seminars. One was by Maureen Taylor, who delivered “Photo Detecting 101.” Maureen taught 10 easy steps to help identify family photographs, along with ways photographs can tell us about our family.



Maureen Taylor

All Photos: Dena Palamedes

The second session was delivered by Christine Woodcock. Attendees learned basic Scottish research strategies using the *ScotlandsPeople* website, Scottish naming patterns and other search essentials.

After lunch our own Brian Glenn provided a hands-on session on using Microsoft Office tools. Attendees used their own family histories to create and present a timeline of their family stories. Meanwhile, in a concurrent session, Christine Woodcock provided practical advice and examples of how to get the best results out of *ScotlandsPeople* searches.

Society president Barbara Tose chaired the official opening on Friday evening, which included greetings from the Ottawa Public Library and the City of Ottawa Archives.

Don Whiteside Memorial Lecture speaker Maureen Taylor officially began the full conference with one of the three main themes, photography. Her lecture, “Selfies, Mug-



“What was she thinking?”



Thomas MacEntee

shots and Instant Pictures: Early Photography and Your Family,” took attendees on a humorous tour of family photo history that had us laughing and wondering what our ancestors were thinking. A dessert and coffee reception that followed the presentation was an opportunity for socializing.

Saturday morning began with Thomas MacEntee’s plenary session on another one of our main themes for the conference—technology in genealogy. We learned about how to seek out new technologies and determine what works and doesn’t work for our own genealogical research.

There were Scottish-themed presentations throughout the conference. Sher Leetooze, Dena Palamedes, Chris Paton, Gloria Tubman, and Christine Woodcock

delivered strategies and information on researching your Scottish ancestors. Subjects included “Tips for Tracking Your Scots Emigrant Ancestor,” “Searching the Lowlands by County and Parish,” “William Quarrier Children,” “Using Scottish Land Records,” “Scottish Inheritance Records,” “Planning Your Scottish Family History Adventure,” and “Lesser-Known Databases for Scottish Genealogy Research,” making it difficult to choose which sessions to attend.



Clockwise from top left: Sher Leetooze, Dena Palemedes, Gloria Tubman, Christine Woodcock

New to BIFHSGO this year, Maureen Taylor delivered a series of lectures that covered multiple dimensions of photography as it relates to our family history. She provided advice on preserving our family photographs, finding family photographs

through search techniques, identifying mystery photographs through an appreciation of not only photographic history but fashion history, and sharing recent family images, as well as ensuring they are moved into a family archive.

Attendees who were eager to learn the latest about technology were not disappointed. Thomas MacEntee brought to his lectures energy and enthusiasm about using Evernote, self-publishing, and managing genealogy data. Janet Few, who lives in England, stopped in Ottawa on a cross-country adventure; she discussed how to encourage young people to take an interest in family history and also how to build up the history of a locality and provide a context for reconstructing our ancestors’ lives.



Janet Few

BIFHSGO website manager Gail Dever was back again this year to explain how to use social media,

find the best resources, maximize time, manage privacy, and connect with genealogists around the world.



Shirley-Ann Pyefinch

Shirley-Ann Pyefinch demonstrated the features of the new Family Search Tree and FamilySearch Memories mobile software applications. Sher Leetooze provided ideas and inspiration for finding visuals to support your family history where photos or paintings do not exist.

The conference concluded with a plenary featuring the unique



Susan Davis and Chris Paton



Gail Dever

humour of Chris Paton and his exploration of the various Scots methods of marriage and the law surrounding the engagement in marital bliss, from marriages by declaration and Kirk-sponsored ceremonies to modern civil and humanist ceremonies.

Some of our speakers have made their handouts available on their own websites and/or in the “Members Only” area of the Society website at www.bifhsgo.ca.

Ken McKinlay, who again hosted the Research Room, found that the usage of the room has changed. Attendees tend to be focused on seeking assistance in solving research problems, where in prior years they would conduct new research.

Those who registered for the conference were mainly from Greater Ottawa. The balance of our participants came from other parts of Ontario and Quebec, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.



Out-of-town attendees

We also had three people from outside of Canada: two from Iowa and one from Yorkshire. The total registration for the conference was 243.

Credit for organizing a successful conference must go to the co-chairs, Jane Down and Brian Le Conte, 15 other members of the conference planning committee (too numerous

to name), and all those who volunteered time during the conference. We will be fortunate to have many of them returning to offer their services for the Society's 22nd Annual Conference, tentatively scheduled to take place on the weekend of 9–11 September 2016.



Conference 2015 Planning Committee



Clockwise from top left: Ottawa Public Library (Romaine Honey, Patricia Barlosky & Jennifer Armstrong), British Home Child International (Sandra Joyce & Glenna Smith-Walkden), Verna Preston (OPL), Bonnie Dodge & Heidi Hartke (The Iowa Gals), Saturday evening dinner, Lynne Willoughby & Marianne Rasmus, Celebrate Their Journey (Ken Hahn & Ian Cameron)

Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 14 August 2015–4 November 2015		
Member No.	Name	Address
436	June Coxon	Ottawa, ON
798	Sharon Moor	Ottawa, ON
1635	Mary Plawutsky	Beaconsfield, QC
1742	Patricia DeRoche	Ottawa, ON
1743	Roxanne Thomas	Ottawa, ON
1744	Denis Bourque	Kanata, ON
1745	Faye Porter	Ottawa, ON
1746	Marilyn Best	Ottawa, ON
1747	Laurie Wheeler	Haliburton, ON
1748	Romaine Honey	Ottawa, ON
1749	Brian Beaven	Ottawa, ON
1750	George Meldrum	Orleans, ON
1751	Arthur Taylor	Hanmer, ON
1752	Anthony McDermott	Toronto, ON
1753	John MacDonald	Toronto, ON
1346	Joanne Barton	Ottawa, ON
1754	Stephen Barton	York, UK
1755	Mervin Quast	Nepean, ON
1755	Caro Quast	Nepean, ON
1756	Joy Phillips-Johansen	Ottawa, ON
1757	Michael Woods	Ottawa, ON
1758	Cara Macdonald	Halifax, NS
1759	Graham Segger	Mississauga, ON
1760	Jane Walker	Ottawa, ON
1761	Dale Simmons	Ottawa, ON
1762	Rick Roberts	Carleton Place, ON
1762	Sandra Roberts	Carleton Place, ON
1763	Sheila Havey	Arnprior, ON
1764	Marianne Mullan	Carleton Place, ON
1765	Donna Nagy	Scarborough, ON
1766	Stephen Zimmerman	Ottawa, ON

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2015–2016

President	Barbara Tose	613-729-1015
Recording Secretary	Gillian Leitch	819-777-8480
Treasurer	Marnie McCall	613-736-1101
Research & Projects	Dave Cross	613-258-3934
Membership	Kathy Wallace	613-746-6796
Communications	Susan Davis	819-568-0081
Publicity	Mary-Lou Simac	613-837-8256
Programs	Jane Down	613-741-1463
Education	Karin Keyes Endemann	613-884-8446
Past President	Glenn Wright	613-521-2929

Associate Directors 2015–2016

Editor <i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i>	Jean Kitchen
E-newsletter Editor	Christine Woodcock
Web Manager	Gail Dever
Photographer	Dena Palamedes
Associate Treasurer	Cliff Adams
Publication Sales	Brian Chamberlain
Librarian	Vacant
Queries	Sheila Dohoo Faure
Voicemail	Ann Adams
Conference 2016	Willis Burwell, Brian Le Conte
Public Accountant	McCay Duff LLP

The Society

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

We have two objectives: to research, preserve, and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family and social history, and to promote genealogical research through a program of public education, showing how to conduct this research and preserve the findings in a readily accessible form.

We publish genealogical research findings and information on research resources and techniques, hold public meetings on family history, maintain a reference library, and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership dues for 2015 are \$40 for individuals, \$50 for families, and \$40 for institutions. Members enjoy four issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, ten family history meetings, members-only information on bifhsgo.ca, friendly advice from other members, and participation in special interest groups.

BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

Saturday Morning Meetings

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

- 9 Jan 2016** *They Got Their Man*—Dave Cross, a descendant of the Kingston-area Malone family, will describe the adventures of William Haynes Malone—mayor of a Chicago suburb, Chairman of the Illinois State Tax Commission, candidate for Governor of Illinois and a resident in a federal prison.
- 13 Feb 2016** *A Scandal in Battersea* —Gail Roger will tell the sad tale of her great-grandfather Alexander, who, by the time he was 41, had lost every one of his five siblings, and whose woes included a scandal in Battersea.
- 12 Mar 2016** *Research Trips to Northern Ireland*—John McConkey took two genealogy trips to Ireland with his sister, researching their great-great-grandfather's family; despite long hours checking records, their most exciting find was the result of a last-minute cemetery visit.

Schedule

- 9:00–9:30 Before BIFHSGO Educational Sessions: check www.bifhsgo.ca for up-to-date information.
- 9:30 Discovery Tables
- 10:00–11:30 Meeting and Presentation
- 12:00–4:00 Writing Group, 100 Tallwood Dr., Room 228

For information on meetings of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check www.bifhsgo.ca.

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please email the Editor, at acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for publication in the Spring issue is 29 January 2016.