



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

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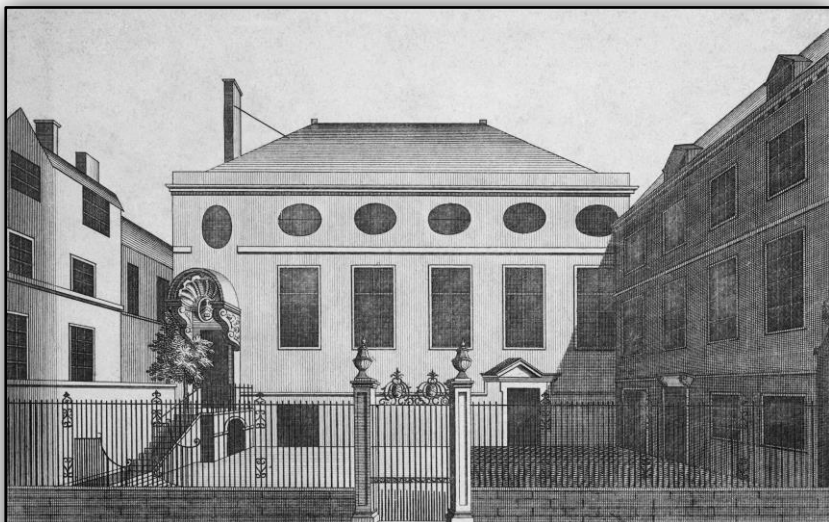
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*Battle of the Booksellers*

*First In, Last Out: Part Two*

*The Story of the Aquitania*

*We Shall Remember Them*



*Stationers' Hall, near Paternoster Row.*

## *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

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*Stationers' Hall, near Paternoster Row, 1750*

*Source: ©Trustees of the British Museum*

## ***From the Editor:***

This issue offers a wide-ranging mix of article topics, ranging over centuries and continents.

Terry Findley brings us another story of his wife Tad's ancestors; an eighteenth-century publisher and bookseller who became caught up in an epic battle over copyright—or more precisely, book profits.

Irene Kellow Ip concludes her description of the war experiences her father, Tom Kellow, survived as he spent the whole length of World War I immersed in the struggle.

In Lynne Willoughby's description of the RMS *Aquitania's* long service, we learn of its many incarnations and its personal connection to her family.

And Sheila Dohoo Faure introduces us to another casualty of the Great War, who changed regiments to "get into the action" and paid with his life.



Jean Kitchen

## From the President



Another June. Another season arrives. It seems incredible to me that this June concludes my third year as BIFHSGO president; in only one more

year someone else must take the helm.

As usual it has been a successful year of well-attended monthly meetings, interesting presentations, a profitable conference, new databases online, stories and news shared in print and electronically. The Board has been supported by numerous volunteers who help keep this well-oiled machine running smoothly, and I have been supported by a hard-working and experienced Board of Directors.

This year we again lose two long-serving directors. The past four years, Dave Cross has been Research Director, working with volunteers and our website team to oversee and maintain the 10 website databases, man our Discovery computer and co-ordinate the monthly Discovery Tables. Dave, in my experience, has also provided a practical approach when the Board is considering some new proposal or expenditure. His contributions have been appreciated and he will be missed.

Jane Down has been our Program Director since the elections of 2009, serving the full eight-year term as a director possible under our bylaws. Year in and year out, she has done a stellar job of encouraging members to make presentations—both full and Great Moments talks—about their research and their families' histories. She has found excellent guest speakers and has worked tirelessly to make our meetings as interesting and stimulating as they are. It is mostly due to her efforts that we attract well over 150 attendees each month. Her shoes will be hard to fill, though she has, in fact, left her successor with nearly a full slate of speakers for the coming year! I am grateful for her significant contributions over the years.

I'd like to thank Dave and Jane, all the other Board members and our many, many volunteers for their service to you, our members. Without them, there would be no BIFHSGO.

And once again, I would encourage you to get involved, volunteer and become a more active member of BIFHSGO. There are so many rewards awaiting you.

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

Barbara J. Tose

## Family History Research

# Battle of the Booksellers



BY TERRY FINDLEY

*This is the story of the third great-grandfather of Tad Findley, Terry's wife. Terry has spent the last 20 years researching 32 branches of his and Tad's families. The couple has embarked on a project to produce a magazine, Many Families; each issue discusses two or three branches and includes stories and genealogy research information. For more information, the Findleys can be reached at [manyfamilies@rogers.com](mailto:manyfamilies@rogers.com).*

### Introduction

If you were expecting a story about some long-ago military battle somewhere in England, you would be wrong. This is the tale of a high-stakes struggle that took place more than 240 years ago over who owned the copyright of books in England.

The battle was between the London booksellers on one side and principally the Scottish booksellers on the other. The conflict's final phase—dubbed “battle of the booksellers”—raged, according to historians, from 1743 to 1773. The outcome of this protracted battle set the course for today's copyright laws.

Among the leading established London booksellers back then was one of my wife's ancestors, Thomas Durham, her third great-grandfather. He was a well-known London bookseller and publisher who met or worked with some of

the most powerful and influential men in the book business, who held shares in most of the important publications of the period, and who definitely lived in “interesting times.”

Readers should note that the descriptive term “London” booksellers actually encompasses those from two geographic areas: the City of London (defined by the seven gates to the City, which were torn down in the 1760s) and Westminster (the settlement around Westminster Abbey, the royal palace, and Parliament, which was part of the County of Middlesex and separate from the City of London).

Let me preface this narrative by saying who our Thomas Durham was not. Some people say he was born in Scotland on 5 March 1727, the son of Thomas Durham the elder and Sarah Sandilands.

Regrettably, no connection—with proof—can be made between the 1727 Thomas Durham and the subject of our narrative. What can be said with certainty is that my wife’s third great-grandfather, Thomas Durham, did come from Scotland.

## **The Literary Setting of the Eighteenth Century**

To set the scene: England’s population at the beginning of the eighteenth century was about 5.1 million and by the end was around 8.7 million. During this interval, the population of the City of London increased from about 600,000 to 950,000; when Westminster and Southwark are included, the population of “London” was about 1.1 million.

Who were the readers in England back then? Literacy rates by the mid-1700s show that at least 40 per cent of women and 60 per cent of men could read and write to some degree. With such a large proportion of literate people, and the absolute numbers increasing, those who considered themselves readers (apart from members of the upper class, clergy, and intelligentsia) included professionals, merchants, tradesmen, and skilled artisans.

What did these people read? A review of eighteenth-century book titles published in England reveals that fewer than 2,000 titles were produced in 1700 and more than 6,000 in 1800, with the hub for

book production being in London. Of particular note, London’s book market in 1700 reveals something that may be a surprise to today’s readers—52 per cent of the book topics were divinity in nature, thus showing the religious foundation of the developing book trade.

The London book trade was concentrated most notably in and around St. Paul’s Churchyard and Paternoster Row, close by. Other locations included along the Strand in Westminster—the street running about three-quarters of a mile northeast from Charing Cross to Temple Bar, where it transitions to Fleet Street. The Strand had notable mansions and churches, such as Somerset House and Northumberland House, as well as St. Mary Le Strand and St. Clement Danes churches.

## **Life as a London Bookseller, 1750–1774**

To commence working in the eighteenth-century London bookselling business, an aspirant usually began by learning the printing side of book publishing as an apprentice printer. The next step in the journey was to gain employment as a journeyman printer, working for an experienced printer involved in book publishing and bookselling.

Alternatively, one could also learn the bookselling business with careful tutelage from a seasoned printer–publisher or bookseller, or



**Figure 1: The Strand, London, 1746**

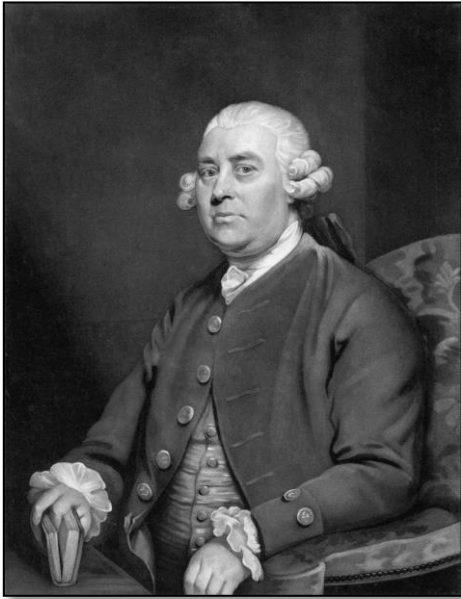
Source: "John Roque's Map of London," *Wikimedia Commons*  
 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Roque%27s\\_Map\\_of\\_London\\_1746](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Roque%27s_Map_of_London_1746))

from someone who was a combination of both. Although some booksellers were only in the retail side of the trade, the truly successful ones were also book publishers.

The reality around 1750, about when Thomas Durham entered the business, was that little professional training was actually necessary to participate and succeed in the increasingly complex, competitive, and risky business of publishing and bookselling.

The keys to prosperity? Whom you knew and with whom you forged business associations were essential ingredients to profit-making in the London book trade. "How" Thomas Durham gained entry into the bookselling business, or "when," is not known with certainty. We do know, however, that William Strahan—a prominent London printer and publisher and later one of the top five London book traders—brought Thomas Durham to London from Scotland, so he may have

apprenticed, in some form or other, to Strahan.



**Figure 2: William Strahan Esquire, print made by John Jones, after Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1792**

Source: ©Trustees of the British Museum

## **Durham's Publishing Partnerships**

By 1753, Durham had gone into partnership with David Wilson, a fellow Scotsman, and they had a bookshop called "Plato's Head" near Round Court, in the Strand. The firm was known as "David Wilson & Co." and Plato's Head was located on the north side of the Strand nearly opposite Buckingham Street (about one-fifth of a mile northeast of Charing Cross).

Wilson and Durham were more than retail booksellers; they pub-

lished a variety of learned and popular titles. The first known imprint (found on the book's title page) bearing Durham's name is on *The Works of Christina Queen of Sweden: Containing Maxims and Sentences, in Twelve Centuries, and Reflections on the Life and Actions of Alexander the Great*, published on 11 January 1753. Of note, the title page says, "Printed for D. Wilson and T. Durham at Plato's Head in the Strand." The use of "printed for" denotes that Wilson and Durham are the book's publishers.

The second known imprint bearing Durham's name is the second edition of *Observations on the Diseases of the Army in Camp and Garrison: In Three Parts* by John Pringle, published on 19 January 1753. The title page says, "Printed for A. Millar, D. Wilson and T. Durham in the Strand."

Millar, Wilson, and Durham likely banded together to form a "conger" (a coalition of trading booksellers, like a bookselling firm) to buy the copyright of this new work and so spread the publishing risk. The subject matter of this book was typical for the medical niche market that Wilson and Durham had chosen to feature in their stable of books for retail sale. Holding a copyright-share in the Pringle book was lucrative to say the least—the book went into a seventh edition that was published on 6 June 1775.



During the 1750s and early 1760s, Thomas Durham was part of the colonial transatlantic wholesale book supply business to Philadelphia, thanks to his business relationship with William Strahan. Here's how that arrangement came about.

In early 1743, Strahan secured employment for David Hall, a Scottish friend, as a journeyman printer to none other than Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia. After his arrival there, Hall quickly earned Franklin's trust and was appointed to manage Franklin's printing office. Not surprisingly, Hall employed his friend William as his chief London agent, who then provided a dependable pipeline of British publications.

By 1760, Strahan was regarded as one of the most powerful and influential members of the London book trade. A significant factor in Strahan's business success with the colonies came about because of his close association with Thomas Cadell and his partnership with Thomas Durham—regarded as two of London's more successful booksellers and publishers, who had access to vast stocks of books with a wide range of titles.

### **Durham's Life Alters**

Durham was still working with Wilson at Plato's Head in May 1760; however, by January 1761, Durham had struck out on his own and

opened a bookshop called "Golden Globe" located near Norfolk Street in the Strand (about one-half mile northeast of Charing Cross). Was there a falling out between Wilson and Durham? Not likely. Read on.

As William Strahan's printing business prospered, he expanded his commercial interests and before long had developed a grandiose succession plan for the future whereby each of his three sons would enter different branches of the book trade. Strahan's second son, George, was earmarked for a bookselling career, so Strahan trained him from 1758 to 1761 and then sent him to Thomas Durham to complete his apprenticeship. Once his period of indenture was fulfilled, George was to assume his father's share in the Durham partnership.

If William Strahan's vision for the future had come to fruition, his firm might have become a vertically integrated family business with a different son heading the printing, bookselling, and stationery components. Strahan's dream was not to be. The first part of his plan unravelled in 1763, when George decided he no longer wanted to continue his apprenticeship with Durham.

George went back to school and set out to become a clerk in holy orders in the Church of England. By so doing, George had dramatically changed the future for Thomas Durham.

In 1762, Durham's name is found in an imprint of *An Account of the Spanish Settlements in America: In Four Parts*. Several aspects of this book are especially noteworthy. First, with the Seven Years' War raging in North America and the Caribbean, interest in the Spanish settlements was high among the reading public, especially with the last-minute inclusion of an "Account of the Siege and Surrender of the Havannah." Second, the book was published in Edinburgh, Scotland, and was a direct challenge to the London book trade. Third, the title page says "Printed by A. Donaldson and J. Reid. For the Author, and A. Donaldson. Sold by A. Millar, J. Dodsley, J. Richardson, E. Dilly, and T. Durham, London. Mess. Ewings, Dublin."

This clearly indicates that the book was printed for the author (John Campbell) and Alexander Donaldson (printer and publisher) and that it was sold by five booksellers in London (including Thomas Durham) and one seller in Dublin.

It is an early example of a book published in Scotland where the author and his Edinburgh printer-publisher assumed most of the financial risk; however, the precise nature of the contractual arrangements cannot be ascertained from the imprint alone. The London booksellers obviously believed that the demand for the book would be

high and that there was money to be made from its sale.

The book is especially significant because of Alexander Donaldson's involvement in its production and distribution. The London book-sellers—those ardent believers in perpetual copyright protection—viewed Donaldson with distain; yet the Scottish booksellers saw him as a champion of the Scottish Enlightenment.

Some London booksellers, like Thomas Durham, had a foot in each camp. But that was about to change. In 1763, Durham's relationship with Donaldson transformed when the latter opened his first bookshop in London in close proximity to Durham's Golden Globe. Donaldson's shop sold cheap books—about 30 to 50 per cent below the normal London prices—and was two doors east of Norfolk Street in the Strand.

Not only was Donaldson's bookshop an affront to the great London bookseller consortia, which had generally been ignoring him and other Scots, it was a direct threat to Durham's bookshop business. The cat was now among the pigeons. Durham had to decide which side he was on. For him, the issue was *nolo contendere* (no contest): he had too much at stake to forsake his prominent position among the leading London booksellers.

## The Battle Begins

In response to Donaldson's establishing a bookshop in the Strand, the famed essayist and literary historian Samuel Johnson decried Donaldson, saying that it had always been understood in the book trade that "whoever buys the copyright of a book from an author obtains a perpetual property." And so, the fight was on. What followed next was a barrage of harassing lawsuits against Alexander Donaldson.

Anticipating the London booksellers' onslaught, Donaldson retaliated in 1764 by writing and publishing in London *Some Thoughts on the State of Literary Property, Humbly Submitted to the Consideration of the Public*. Therein, he threatened to sue for damages caused, in his view, by "the unlawful combination of the London booksellers" that were conspiring to suppress all opposition and to prevent the sale of every book reprinted elsewhere in the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

According to literary historians, the "battle of the booksellers" was all about the emerging Scottish book trade's right to reprint works falling outside the protection of the *Statute of Anne* (1710), the first copyright statute. That battle began in 1743 and lasted for the next 30 years, with a steady stream of cases being fought in the courts. Most notable

were the five cases involving Donaldson from 1765 to 1774.

Sometime around August 1766, Durham relocated his bookshop to No. 6 Cockspur Street, near Charing Cross (west of today's Trafalgar Square), where he was to work and live for the next quarter century. His bookselling business continued to thrive in spite of the fierce competition from low-priced books printed elsewhere. As he was always on the lookout for ways to keep his business "in the black," Durham's shop became a principal point-of-sale for several popular consumer products, such as Doctor Johnson's gold pills and boot-blackening cakes (boot polish). Both items were widely promoted in the London newspapers and the advertisements are well worth a read.

The battle of the booksellers lurched along in the courts until finally, on 4 February 1774, Great Britain's House of Lords—as the United Kingdom's court of final appeal—sat to hear the arguments in the landmark case of Donaldson v. Becket.

The great showdown over literary property was going to be resolved once and for all. The principle in question was whether literary property was a statutory right, a limited creation of the state, or a common-law right, and therefore absolute and perpetual.

On 22 February 1774, the House of Lords voted in favour of Donaldson and the principle that copyright should be limited in time. What did this mean? Once a copyright term had expired according to the *Statute of Anne*, the book entered the public domain. Thus, the book market was opened to cheap book reprints from classic authors such as Shakespeare, Milton, and Chaucer.

From 1710 to 1774, the great London booksellers had used limited authorial copyright to enjoy what was in practice perpetual copyright for publishers. The House of Lords' ruling brought this practice to a sudden halt, and the London booksellers instantly lost a fortune in owned copyrights.

On 1 March 1774, page 4 of *The Leeds Intelligencer* newspaper carried a paragraph that also appeared in most papers throughout the country. That paragraph succinctly captured the essence and magnitude of the booksellers' financial losses:

By the above decision of the important question respecting copy-right [*sic*] in books, *near £200,000 worth of what was honestly purchased at public sale, and which was yesterday thought property, is now reduced to nothing* [italics mine]. The booksellers of London and Westminster, many of whom sold estates and houses to purchase copy-right [*sic*],

are in a manner ruined; and those who after many years industry thought they had acquired a competency to provide for their families; now find themselves without a shilling to devise to their successors.

Treating £200,000 from the year 1774 as a commodity, the real price of that commodity in the year 2014 would have been a staggering sum: about £22.5 billion or CAD\$41.9 billion.

Tuesday, 22 February 1774 was indeed a grim day for these booksellers, but they did not go down without one last desperate plea to the House of Lords, wherein 87 persons, presumably all London and Westminster booksellers, petitioned for relief from their desperate financial situation.

The document—"Considerations in Behalf of the Booksellers of London and Westminster, Petitioning the Legislature for Relief"—was effectively thrown out by the House of Lords on 2 June 1774.

So ended the battle. Not only did many members of the London bookselling fraternity face bankruptcy, those who stayed in the business had to contend with a rising tide of increased competition. The number of London booksellers and publishers increased from about 110 to 310 in the 30-year period from 1772 to 1802.

## Durham's Life after the Battle, 1775–1794

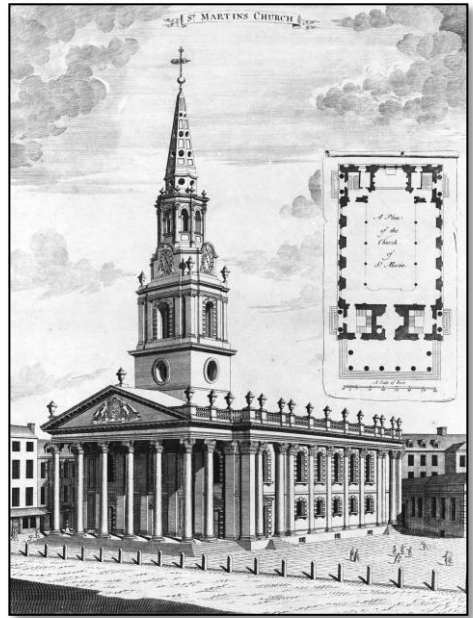
Thomas Durham's personal life also changed in 1774; we know that he married Lilly Gilchrist in the Parish Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster, County of Middlesex, on 24 July 1774, and that he was a widower and she a spinster. No evidence could be found as to who his first wife was or who Lilly's parents were.

Thomas and Lilly Durham had four children: William Alexander Campbell (b. 24 December 1775); Robert Keith Archibald (b. 9 February 1777); James George (b. 15 December 1778); and Sarah Winifred (b. 10 March 1782). Sarah Winifred presumably died as an infant or toddler.

Following the ruling on copyright ownership and the rejection of the London booksellers' petition for relief, Thomas Durham's world was turned upside down—his accumulated wealth in the form of copyright-shares had become worthless paper. The extent of his financial loss is unknown but was undoubtedly significant.

In the years following, Durham made adjustments to how he ran his business; nevertheless, he faced a formidable challenge to stay profitable.

Finally, in late 1778, Thomas Durham declared bankruptcy.



**Figure 3: St. Martin's Church, 1754**

Source: ©Trustees of the British Museum

Bankruptcy was not a crime back then, but it became one if the bankrupt person broke the law by failing to surrender to the Commissioners in the Commission of Bankrupt at the Guildhall, City of London, and make a full disclosure of his estate and effects. A bankrupt person also broke the law if he concealed possessions or account books or both from the commissioners.

As was the custom, details of Durham's bankruptcy proceedings were published on page 3 in London's *The Gazette* (the official public record) of 4 August 1778.

Two items are worthy of additional comment. First, Thomas Durham

was identified as a “Bookseller, Dealer and Chapman.” The intriguing part of this is “chapman”—a travelling salesman or hawker who sold the immensely popular, inexpensive chapbooks.

These were typically small, paper-covered booklets, printed on a single sheet folded into 8, 12, 16, or 24 pages. Subject matter included almanacs, folk tales, poetry, and nursery rhymes.

Second, Thomas’s solicitor was “Mr. Spottiswoode, Austin-friars, London,” who was none other than John Spottiswoode, husband-to-be of Margaret Penelope Strahan, the daughter of William Strahan.

After enduring the bankruptcy proceedings and dealing with his creditors, Durham returned to his bookselling business, only to go bankrupt twice more—in 1784 and in 1791.

When Durham emerged from bankruptcy for the third time—aided again by Spottiswoode—his business had transformed once more: his occupation became bookseller and stationer (a seller of paper and writing implements) and remained so until at least 1794.

Twenty years had elapsed since the end of the battle of the booksellers and Thomas Durham was still regarded as an “eminent” trader in the cities of London and Westminster and the Borough of Southwark.

Kent's Directory for 1794 listed Durham among its 113 London booksellers and as one of its 23 booksellers and stationers.

## Conclusion

Through hard work and perseverance, Durham had managed to make his family’s future financially secure until that fateful day on 22 February 1774 when the House of Lords ruled in favour of the principle that copyright should be limited in time. Durham, being on the losing side of the battle of the booksellers, lost a sizeable fortune in owned copyright-shares.

Despite being thrown into bankruptcy three times thereafter, he managed to survive as a bookseller for more than 20 years—albeit a business much different from when he started—and to raise a family of three boys whom he sent to St. Paul’s School to get a good start in life.

Thomas passed away at his home on Cockspur Street and his remains were interred in the St. Martin-in-the-Fields churchyard on 28 April 1798. His wife Lilly also died at home and was buried in the same churchyard on 19 November 1800.

*Note: references are too numerous to be included; for details contact the Findleys via [manyfamilies@rogers.com](mailto:manyfamilies@rogers.com).*

# First In, Last Out: But What Came In Between? Part Two



BY IRENE KELLOW IP

*A long-time BIFHSGO member and former ACR editor, Irene here concludes her description of the part her father played in the First World War, in which he served from beginning to end. Part One appeared in the Spring 2017 issue of ACR.*

## Introduction

My early efforts to document my father Tom Kellow's World War I experience enabled me to follow his 1914 activities, which I discussed in my Part One article, but provided very little information about what Tom had gone through in the following years, until his discharge in May 1919. Two big surprises did surface: Tom had fought at Vimy Ridge in April 1917 and had spent some time on the Italian Front in the winter of 1917–18. However, apart from concluding that he had been home on leave three times between Christmas 1915 and July 1918, and that he had spent some time in Belgium after the Armistice, I knew nothing more.

I began to resign myself to writing a bare outline of those years, consisting of short summaries of the major battles in which his 5th Division had participated. With the massive expansion of the British Expeditionary Force after December 1914, I had little hope of finding any men-

tion of Tom's XXVII Royal Field Artillery (RFA) Brigade (one of three in the division) and none at all of his 120th Battery that, with the 119th and 121st, made up the brigade. Thus, I kept returning to the search for information about the 5th Division and, in early 2011, came across a book called *The Fifth Division in the Great War* (hereafter *The Fifth Division*), on the *Internet Archive*.<sup>1</sup> Although the book was published shortly after the war ended and was republished in 2006, I hadn't previously found any printed or online references to it. The Robarts Library of the University of Toronto contributed it to the archive and it was uploaded in November 2010.

The authors were Brigadier-General A. H. Hussey and Major D. S. Inman of the 5th Division. I found no information about Inman but discovered that Arthur Hussey had been the Commander, Royal Artillery of the 5th Division from October 1915 to May 1919. I had struck gold: besides being a familiar

figure to Tom, Hussey would have covered virtually the same ground during that period.

Hussey's family home, Scotney Castle in Kent, now belongs to the National Trust. Recently, volunteers found a trunk in the attic that contained 11 diaries, photographs and battle plans, along with 70 letters (most written to his sister), covering the period from when he was ordered to Belgium in October 1914 to the end of the war. "Arthur had written something for pretty much every day of the war."<sup>2</sup>

Hussey and Inman (hereafter Hussey) were commissioned to write the account on 26 June 1920, and it was published in March 1921. The authors mention that, although they had used many sources, they had made extensive use of "their own personal recollections" for the post-1914 years, no doubt enhanced by Hussey's detailed written records. It is fortunate that the authors wasted little time, as two years later Hussey was dead at age 58.

I was now able to write a fairly comprehensive account of the years after 1914, relying heavily on *The Fifth Division*, because much of the book was the testimony of eyewitnesses.

So vivid are the descriptions that I used many of them without editing. Some of those excerpts appear below.

## **Adding Details to Tom's Early War Service**

*The Fifth Division* also contributed some unexpected precision to my knowledge of the early months of the war. Figure 1 shows the area of the Western Front in which the division served.

### ***The Journey to the Front***

Hussey describes the arrangements for mobilizing the 5th Division on 5 August 1914 and its embarkation for France on 10 August, the day Tom wrote to his mother that he was on the English Channel.

The troops left Dublin and Belfast amid patriotic cheering and waving of handkerchiefs, and after an uneventful passage arrived at Le Havre in the course of the next two days.

Some surviving accounts by various soldiers who made this crossing describe the unpleasant, cramped conditions on these boats and the suffocating smell from the crowded horses. Knowing that the trip took two days makes it easier to imagine the unpleasantness of the crossing, when Tom would have had to look after two of those frightened horses.

There are similar details about the journey to the Belgian frontier:

The weather on the 21st [August] was fine; the country through which the Division passed looked very smiling with its clean and tidy cottages and farms, fields ripe for harvest, and orchards laden with fruit; and the country people were

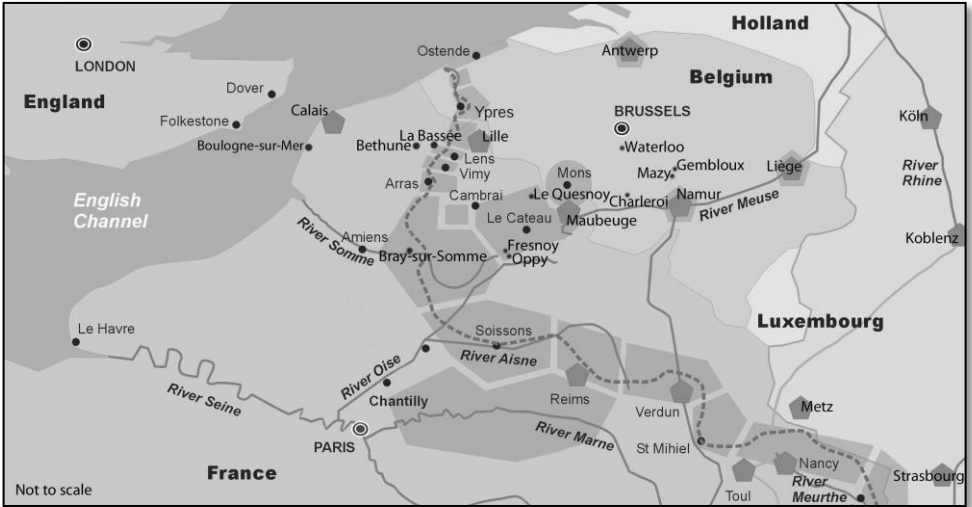


most attentive in offering drink and fruit to the thirsty men.

This pastoral scene was not to last, but at the time of my 1999 visit to northeast France the countryside was very like this description.

the withdrawal in the evening one gun had to be abandoned.

This mention of the death of Major Charles Stewart Holland, Tom's commanding officer, was the first that I had found. As Tom had given



**Figure 1: Map of Europe**

Source: Adapted from map by Joanna Legg, [www.greatwar.co.uk](http://www.greatwar.co.uk); used with permission

### ***The Battle of Mons (23 August 1914)***

Hussey's account of the 5th Division's part in the first battle of the war, at Mons, provided me with enough detail to pinpoint where Tom was fighting.

Early in the morning four guns of the 120th Battery had been brought into action on the Canal bank near St. Ghislain, but they had had to withdraw owing to shell and rifle fire; later another section of the same Battery was brought up; they suffered many casualties, the CO, Major Holland, being killed, and in

me his eyewitness account of the Major's death, I now knew that Tom had been part of the section of the 120th Battery brought up onto the Canal bank "later." Confirming Tom's account was momentous.

### ***The Battle of Le Cateau (26 August 1914)***

Although Hussey's account of the Battle of Le Cateau is very similar to the one in *Riding the Retreat* by Richard Holmes (cited in Part One), it contains more details of the batteries of the 27th Brigade RFA, including Tom's. When I walked

along the Roman road outside Le Cateau in 1999, I thought that Tom had been positioned quite close to the road; I now knew that the XXVII Brigade had been further west, where “the ground offered greater facilities for concealment” than where the other two brigades were. As Hussey notes, their positions “were never accurately located; casualties were, therefore, comparatively light.” Here was a random event that increased Tom’s chances of survival when the casualties were even greater than at the Battle of Mons. I also learned that Tom’s battery had been dug in to the rear of his brother Bill’s Dorset regiment.

### ***Fighting on La Bassée Front (12–30 October 1914)***

Hussey gives the only account I have found of why Bill’s regiment suffered so many casualties in this battle. There were also enough details for me to realize that Tom’s battery would have been near enough for him to see what had happened.

An act of treachery on the part of the Germans was responsible for many men being killed; a party of some twenty of the enemy advanced holding up their hands, and, as the Dorsets advanced to take their surrender, these twenty suddenly fell flat down, and a fusillade was opened on our men from a flank. The Battalion retired slowly in admirable order to Pont Fixe, which they still held, though much shaken

and pitifully thinned; they had lost some four hundred casualties.

The date was 13 October, but my grandmother was not notified until 18 November that Bill was missing after that battle and, much later, that he was a POW. So right through First Ypres, Tom may have thought that his brother had been killed. Thanks to Hussey, I now knew that, until Bill was taken prisoner, the two brothers were never far apart and may have had the occasional smoke together.

### **Extending Tom’s Story to 1919**

*The Fifth Division* enabled me to continue writing the story of Tom’s war years beyond the First Battle of Ypres.

### ***Ypres Front (March to July 1915)***

In March 1915, the 5th Division moved from southwest of Ypres to the Ypres Salient and was engaged in the battle for Hill 60 from 17 April to 6 May. Since Tom had spoken a great deal about Ypres, I was pleased to learn that he would have had a chance to see the city before its final destruction at the end of Second Ypres in May. Tom had told me a story about escaping from a German sniper when he was away from his battery and I think that it likely occurred at this time.

Since the conclusion of the first battle of Ypres in 1914 the town had been left in comparative peace, and had been little shelled. On our arrival there in March 1915 many of the

houses were in good repair, and the town presented the usual aspect of civilian life in the battle zone. Many shops were still open, the tobacconist, and the grocer who did business in the "Grande Place" being particularly enterprising in catering for the Army's needs. Other places which remain in the memory are the excellent American Bar in the "rue

racks, and the Prison, could the original be recognised.

Hussey notes that it was not until the 5th Division withdrew from the Ypres area in July 1915 that the men had their first rest since leaving Ireland. I could not imagine how exhausted Tom must have been after almost a year of active warfare.



**Figure 2: Ruins in the destroyed town of Ypres, April 1915**

Source: © IWM (Q 61651) (<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205309050>)

de la Gare," the tea-shop in the "rue de Lille," [and] the barber's shop in the same street, where the proprietor continued shaving though shrapnel was bursting on his roof.

After Second Ypres, which lasted from 22 April to 25 May, the city of Ypres

... was reduced to a mass of smouldering ruins. Houses had disappeared, and only in the case of a few of the stronger buildings, such as the Cathedral, the Cloth Hall, the Bar-

### ***Arras Front (March to July 1916)***

The 5th Division defended the Bray Front (the Somme) from August 1915 to 24 February 1916, when they were ordered to move north to the Arras Front, where they were to relieve the French, who were needed at Verdun. The book gives a vivid

description of the difficulties encountered on this journey.

... the Division commenced to march into the teeth of a North-East blizzard. The roads were covered with ice and snow, on which men or horses could get little foothold; progress was very slow; every hill meant a halt for the Transport, as horses had to be unhooked from other wagons to pull each vehicle up; in some cases it was a question of hours before they could get to the top; horses were continually stumbling, and whole wagons slid off the

road. To add to the difficulties, other British Divisions, marching towards Arras, and French troops with long columns of lorries, marching South, were using the same roads. . . . This march was always subsequently referred to as "The Retreat from Moscow."

Hussey describes the four months that the division spent on the Arras Front as the happiest months of the war.

The Divisional Artillery took up positions among the houses and in the gardens of Arras, or the suburbs, and were thus enabled to obtain cover from observation, and protection in the house cellars. . . . Many of the gardens and orchards continued to bring forth fruit and flowers; in some of the Battery positions strawberries, and asparagus even, grew among the gun wheels. . . . The Divisional Canteen, also, opened a large establishment, so that all the advantages of civilisation were available.

For a few months, it seems, Tom had a chance to get back to something that approached civilized life.

### ***Battle of the Somme (July to October 1916)***

Tom had often mentioned the Somme when talking about the war, but I do not recall any context. So I did not know if he had experienced the Battle of the Somme until I read in Hussey's book that the 5th Division arrived at the Somme on 16 July 1916 and moved up to the front three days later. Tom was not

there for the terrible slaughter of July 1.

The division's infantry was withdrawn after two weeks, but the artillery was left in place for 2½ months, during which time they had to support the infantry of at least five divisions. Tom had now been at the front for two years and, in that time, he appears to have been on leave only once. Although the men would have been given regular breaks from active fighting, it appears that the artillery got the short end of the stick. Hussey describes some of the hardships the drivers faced during that time:

A vast quantity of ammunition had to be brought up to the Batteries each night, as, even when no attacks were in progress, there were daily barrages to be fired, night-harassing fire to be carried out, and frequent "S.O.S." calls to be answered. The Drivers bringing up the wagons in the dark had a very bad time, running the gauntlet of bursting shells, and threading their way through the ever-shifting maze of shell-craters; many were killed or wounded; and at the guns too there were many casualties.

On 10 October, the artillery set off to join the rest of the division on the Bethune Front, where they were to remain for the next six months. I had visited this part of northeast France in 1999, and my memories of those towns and villages now added colour to what I read in *The*

*Fifth Division.* The 5th Division's stay on this part of the Front was relatively quiet, which may explain why Tom appears to have had a second leave at Christmas 1916. This photo of Tom and his brother Len may have been taken for their mother at this time.



**Figure 3: Tom (standing) and Len Kellow on leave (Christmas 1916?)**

Source: the author

### ***The capture of Vimy Ridge (9 April 1917)***

The 5th Division moved south on 20 March 1917 to join the 2nd Canadian Division for an attack on Vimy Ridge. Hussey's account of the 5th Division's role includes details about how the divisional artillery supported the 2nd Canadian Divi-

sion. I was so glad that I had visited Vimy Memorial Park in 1999 because, as I read the account, I could visualize what the authors were describing.

The Head-Quarters of the 2nd Canadian Division, the 5th Division Artillery, and the Heavy Artillery were in a vast cave . . . near Neuville-St.-Vast . . . The preparations for the attack had been most carefully elaborated by the Canadian Corps; every little detail had been thought of; the barrage map, timing the Artillery tasks for eight hours and dovetailing in with that of the Third Army, was a work of art . . . The valiant Canadian Infantry jumped off to the second under the barrage, and took the Red Line exactly on scheduled time, meeting with little opposition. It was here, at the Red Line, that the 13th Brigade and 5th Division Artillery, whose positions were so close up that they could not with safety fire before, took up the battle.

The division spent the following four months in the Arras area, on the Oppy-Fresnoy Front and, after a three-week rest, six weeks on the Ypres Front.

### ***The Italian Front (27 November 1917 to 1 April 1918)***

My earlier research had revealed that Tom's division was deployed to northern Italy in the winter of 1917, following Third Ypres, and that they stayed there until the spring, but I had no idea how the troops travelled, where exactly they were stationed or what life was like.

Hussey gives a very lively and colourful account of this episode, which must have been a welcome break from the misery of the Western Front for Tom and his mates.

The 5th Division was ordered to entrain for Italy on 27 November 1917. The Artillery set off first, in 25 trains, the men and horses packed into trucks labelled "8 chevaux 40 hommes" and the officers in coaches.

Hussey gives a sometimes hilarious account of the five-day journey down the Rhone Valley to Marseilles and along the Riviera. The railway carriage carrying the artillery's headquarters became uncoupled at one point, forcing the officers, perhaps including Brigadier General Hussey, to travel in a horse truck for part of the journey.

Further highjinks took place among the soldiers with animal responsibilities, including Tom, as they grappled with an engine driver who appeared to have had his own ideas about timing stops.

The train crawled along in a leisurely fashion, paying no heed to the scheduled halts where one was supposed to water the horses, make tea, etc.; on the other hand, there were plenty of unauthorised halts, sometimes for hours at a time. . . . The men had to take these opportunities for performing their ablutions and watering the horses; and the engine-driver seemed to take a malicious pleasure in suddenly starting the

train off without any notice, leaving Officers and men to sprint after it. Sometimes they caught it up, and sometimes they didn't, in which case they boarded the next train that was following.

. . . All along the Riviera the weather was glorious, and by night the Mediterranean with the soft moonbeams scintillating on its placid waters presented a picture of indescribable beauty; the scenery, the palms, the flowers, and the bright sunshine delighted every one. When the frontier was crossed the people all along the line were wild with delight, and at the halts the ladies, a good proportion of whom were British, plied the troops with chocolate, apples, and flowers.

The divisional artillery was positioned in Levado, in the foothills of the mountains near Padua. The three-month stay in Italy was "dormant," with only an occasional exchange of fire with the Austrians. The men were able to travel to Venice, Rome and Padua and enjoy a bountiful Christmas. I wondered if it was here that Tom acquired a taste for gorgonzola cheese and olive oil.

Then developments on the Western Front caused the 5th Division to be summoned back to the mud of northeast France on 1 April 1918 for the final push against the enemy. On 4 November, the division reached the area near Maubeuge, where they had first assembled at the start of the war.

### ***After the Armistice***

Hussey's account does not end with the Armistice. The authors say that the news was received by the division with apathy and that there was no cheering. I could see that Tom might feel that way after spending the maximum time possible under enemy fire.

When compared with the hysterical excitement and joy which characterised the receipt of the news at home, the callous manner with which it was greeted by those most closely concerned may appear strange. The lifting of the ever present cloud of death, which had been before them for four and a half years, was not at first apparent to the muddy, rain-soaked, and exhausted troops, and, though the dramatic events of the past few days had prepared us for it, it took some time before its tremendous import could be fully realised. Our thoughts naturally turned to the immediate future. What would happen? . . . For the present . . . the orders were for the Division to be cantoned round Le Quesnoy, and . . . on the 12th [November] the Division was withdrawn West of the Forest [of Mormal].

That was the forest that Tom had skirted with Corps II when they began their Retreat from Mons towards Le Cateau over four years earlier. The division stayed in this area (around Le Quesnoy, north of Le Cateau) for a month and, during that time, King George V paid them a visit. Tom then spent the following

four-plus months in Wallonia, near Namur.

On 13th December the Division commenced a pleasant march to Belgium, and were cantoned in villages midway between Namur and Wavre. Mention must be made of a trooping of the Colours of the Bedfords and K.O.S.B., [King's Own Scottish Borderers] which took place in Namur on the 28th of January 1919, to celebrate the part these Battalions had taken in the relief of the town in 1695. The ceremony was performed in the main square, and caused much local interest.

The 1695 event had taken place during the Nine Years War of the Grand Alliance (1688–97), when England, the United Provinces of the Netherlands and the Austrian Habsburgs were at war with France.

Much of that conflict took place on the same soil that the 5th Division had just been fighting on, but in the earlier conflict France was the enemy. Much like WW I, it was one of attrition and stalemate and unjustifiable human losses. I wonder if Tom was aware of these ironies.

The Hussey account of the post-Armistice period helped to explain four of Tom's mementos:

- A postcard of the village of Mazy with a note scribbled on the back, "enjoyable stable hours here." Mazy is one of the villages that lie between Wavre and Namur.

- The postcard of the town of Gembloux, about 9 km north of Mazy. It had been mailed on the same day as the Trooping of the Colours in Namur.
- A photograph of a family, which had been taken by a Namur photographer.



**Figure 4: Mazy, Belgium family with whom Tom was likely billeted**

Source: the author

I gathered that Tom must have been billeted at Mazy with the family in Figure 4 from mid-December 1918 to early May 1919. While Tom was staying in Mazy, he seems to have explored the surrounding area.

He certainly visited Gembloux, as he bought a postcard there, but I am quite sure that he also visited Quatre Bras and Waterloo, as I recall his animated accounts of the battles British had fought there against Napoleon in June 1815.

No doubt Tom also knew that the 5th Division had served there, under Wellington. He talked a lot about how different the Walloons were from the Flemings and how he used his knowledge of French there, perhaps with the family in the photo.

The only item that did not fit was the telegram Tom sent to his mother from Boulogne on 11 January 1919. Perhaps he had gone there on leave. Boulogne is only about 250 km west of Namur and he could have gone by train.

Although I now had an idea of some of Tom's activities between the Armistice and his demobilization, I was saddened by my failure to ask him about this period of his service and what these souvenirs had meant to him.

### ***Demobilization of the 5th Division***

The 5th Division began to be demobilized in February 1919 and, by the beginning of April, it had dwindled down to a skeleton (cadre) establishment. By 10 May the last troops had left Charleroi and embarked at Antwerp for home.



Since Tom was not discharged until 8 May 1919, I must assume that he was included in the cadre establishment and that he really was one of the last out.

How different from the outward journey on 10 August 1914 that return journey must have been. Tom probably had no horses to care for. (Of the million horses sent to France during the war only 62,000 made it back.)

No doubt Tom was looking forward to seeing his brother Bill again, wondering how Bill had survived more than four years as a POW, but he must also have been mulling over the uncertain future that awaited him as a civilian.

### **Tom's Later Life**

Arriving at Woolwich to be transferred to the Army Reserve, Tom does not appear to have given a second thought to the option of signing on for another term in the army. Bill made that choice, enabling him to qualify as a master tailor when back in the British Isles.

Unfortunately, Tom's grooming and riding skills were of no use in finding a regular job in London in the post-war years; it was five years before he got a permanent job at the General Post Office.

In the meantime, more sadness was in store: on 28 November 1920, his mother died unexpectedly at age 56; a month later, Bill was accidentally gassed in his barracks at Plymouth, the day before his regiment was to be shipped out to Egypt.

However, Tom had a change in fortune in 1926 when he met his future wife. They married in 1929 and had four daughters. With a family of his own at last, he considered himself to be the luckiest man alive.

I remember him as a man who did not appear to be afraid of anything and who was always able to see the funny side of life, even during the trials of living and working in London during WW II. So, perhaps his sense of humour had helped him to deal with the horrors of WW I.

### **Reference Notes**

<sup>1</sup>Hussey, A. H. & D.S. Inman, *The Fifth Division in the Great War* (London: Nisbet, 1921) accessed at <https://archive.org/details/fifthdivisionsioning00huss>. The 2011 paperback is now featured on many WW I websites. Note that except for reference 2, all quotes come from this source.

<sup>2</sup>*Just Go Places* (<http://www.justgoplacesblog.com/scotney-castle-remembers-world-war-i/>)

# The Story of the *Aquitania*



BY LYNNE WILLOUGHBY

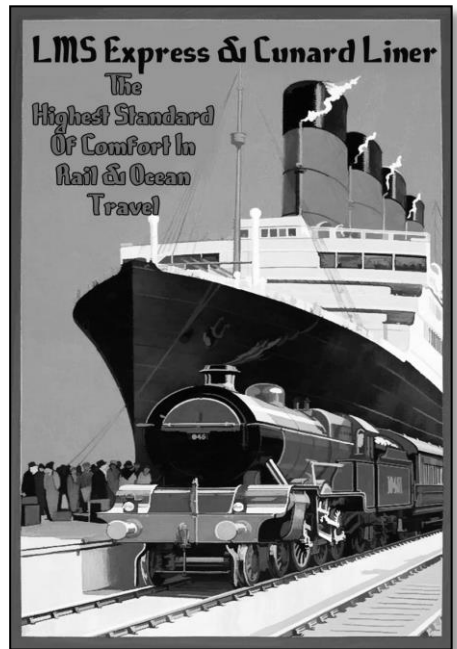
*Lynne has been a member of BIFHSGO since 2005 and regularly attends the DNA Special Interest and Writers groups. She was inspired to write this article after hearing Gail Roger's great April 2017 BIFHSGO talk "Mostly at Sea: Captain Harry Grattidge."*

**O**n 23 June 1946, my Mum and I boarded the Cunard liner

RMS *Aquitania* in Southampton, bound for Canada. I was too young to remember that trip, but I know it was a major event for my mother: one she wouldn't forget. She made two lifelong friends on that trip, with whom she maintained contact over the years. Both these gals also initially lived nearby in the Parkdale neighbourhood of Toronto, which probably helped to solidify their relationships. Mum didn't have any photos of her trip and never talked much about it, but from other stories I read, they left Southampton on a beautiful warm summer evening with an American warship anchored nearby playing tune after tune in farewell.

What an experience that must have been! A boatload of women and children, on their way to a new life in an unknown land, with husbands they had not seen for many months. Not only that, they were aboard one of the most legendary ships of the Cunard Line.

On board were 1,051 other war brides accompanied by their 175 children. Women with children were given sleeping quarters together, while those without chil-



**Figure 1: A famous *Aquitania* poster**

Source: Wikimedia Commons (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>)

dren were billeted below in hammocks hung row on row. Although the crossing was not particularly rough, many of the women suffered from bouts of seasickness;

## Specifications:

Length: 901 feet (275.2 m)

Beam: 97 feet (29.6 m)

Decks: 10

Tonnage: 45,647 gross tons

Engines: Steam turbines  
powering four propellers

Service speed: 23 knots

Passengers: 3,230 people

Mum would likely have been one of those who succumbed. As rationing continued in Britain well after the end of the war, the oranges, fresh fruit and very white bread that were provided on board ship would have seemed wonderful luxuries. Still, they must have been more surprised by the ship herself.

## A Luxury Ship

The *Aquitania* formed part of Cunard's luxury fleet, along with RMS *Lusitania* and RMS *Mauretania*. The *Aquitania* was bigger and two knots slower than the others but made up for this with her size, style and luxury. She was Cunard's largest liner until the arrival of RMS *Queen Mary*. The word *Aquitania* means "Land of the Day" and, like many of Cunard's ships, she was named after a Roman Empire province.

She quickly became the favourite liner for movie stars, royalty, aristocrats and politicians and was unaffordable for most of the world's population.

She did not accommodate tourist and third class passengers until after a spell in a New York drydock, where she was refitted in October 1931. She was one of the most profitable passenger ships in history and the longest-serving express liner of the twentieth century. Her record was only surpassed by RMS *Queen Elizabeth II* in 2004.

The *Aquitania* became known as "The Ship Beautiful." Her nickname was not the result of her exterior, as she had a boxy, clumsy look about her that was made even worse after a refit in 1920. Her funnels were painted black and scarlet. She was



Figure 2: The first class dining room

Source: Wikimedia Commons  
(<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>)

the last of the four-funnel liners to be built before WW I and was most famous for her fantastic interiors.

She was decorated in the contemporary style of the prewar era and was intended to cosset her first class passengers. Her spaciousness and exquisite interiors were previously unknown on Cunard liners. She had luxurious passenger areas, extravagant living accommodations, and inspiring dimensions.

There was a columned Palladian lounge that rose through two decks, as well as a Louis XVI-style first class dining lounge. There were large smoking rooms whose appearance was copied from the Royal Naval College of London. She was truly a "floating palace" and had many loyal customers who regularly travelled on her.

The Cunard Line intended its first class passengers to experience a seamless journey from their country homes to their destinations and arranged their accommodations in premium hotels and right onto the ship itself. Service on board would have been impeccable.

In 1964, our family returned to Canada from a sojourn in Scotland on Cunard's *Carinthia*. On that voyage, we were not first class passengers, but we were on the Captain's VIP list and were always accorded extra-special treatment. I remember eating caviar for the first time and

drinking Mumm's Champagne at the Captain's cocktail party; enjoying the warm blankets staff provided us when we lounged on our deck chairs and the elaborate service in the dining room. For an 18-year-old girl who had just graduated from high school, it made quite an impression. I can only imagine what the first class treatment on the *Aquitania* must have been like.

As flight was in its infancy early in the twentieth century, travel across the Atlantic was done on board ship. The White Star and Cunard lines competed to gain the bulk of the business from the rich and famous who could afford expensive trips between North America and Europe. Repeat clientele was the desired effect, and the *Aquitania* was Cunard's logical response to the White Star Line's best ships, RMS *Olympia* and RMS *Titanic*.

### **Lucky as Well**

The *Aquitania* was a lucky ship, although her beginnings might not have seemed to augur well for her. She was under construction in 1912 when the *Titanic* sank. Just as the *Aquitania* was to leave on her maiden voyage on 29 May 1914, all celebrations planned for that event were abruptly cancelled. News had come that a Canadian Pacific ship, the RMS *Empress of Ireland*, had been sunk the day before with the loss of 1012 souls and festivities would have been inappropriate.

Despite these inauspicious signs, the *Aquitania* went on to sail the world's oceans for the next 36 years and survived both the first and second world wars, as well as several collisions.

Her maiden voyage in May 1914 was from Liverpool to New York. She sailed primarily from Southampton and occasionally from Liverpool. She was to complete only four return voyages to North America before the beginning of WW I. Once war was declared in August 1914 the *Aquitania* was requisitioned by the British government.

### Service in World War I

The original intention of the government was to use this type of vessel as an armed merchant liner to patrol the seas, and the *Aquitania* was given the war paint for that role. However, they quickly realized that the ship was too large to be effective as a cruiser and also would

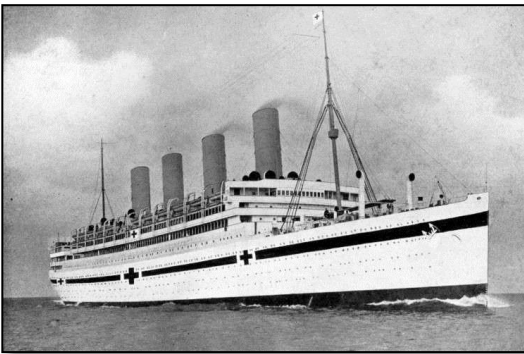
use too much of Britain's scarce coal supplies. By 1915, she was converted to a troop carrier.

She served briefly in this role and was then transformed into a hospital ship and sent to the Mediterranean during the Gallipoli campaign. She transported over 2,400 wounded soldiers from the Dardanelles before she resumed her role as a troop carrier for most of WW I. In November and December 1918, she was part of Cunard's cruising service between Southampton, New York and Halifax to bring American and Canadian troops home from Europe.

### A "Floating Palace" Again

With the war over, the liners were returned to Cunard's control, and in December 1919 the *Aquitania* was refitted back to passenger service. Her boilers were also modernized and converted from coal to oil. During WW I, the Cunard Line had lost

22 vessels, including the *Lusitania* in 1915. It was time for Cunard to rebuild its brand and they replaced the lost *Lusitania* with the *Berengaria*, providing the line with a new "Big Three" set of luxury liners—the *Aquitania*, the *Mauretania* and the *Berengaria*. The *Aquitania* continued to be a transatlantic floating palace, sailing mostly between Southampton and New York.



**Figure 3: HMHS *Aquitania* in WW I service**

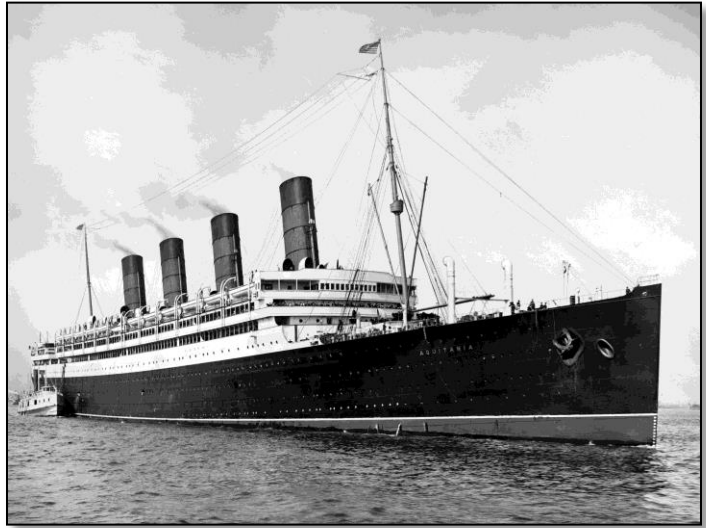
Source: Wikimedia Commons  
(<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>)

She did suffer several close calls with disaster over the years. The first was in 1914, when she collided in heavy fog with the Leyland steamship *Canadian* off Ireland and had to return to Liverpool for repairs. Another encounter occurred in October 1918, when she collided with the USS *Shaw* 40 miles south of Portland, England. The *Shaw's* steering gear be-

came jammed, causing her to cross the bow of the *Aquitania*, and 16 men were killed, though both ships limped to port under their own steam.

A third incident occurred in July 1920, when a stop valve on one of the boilers blew off, injuring a fireman, James Curran, and killing the Sixth Engineer, Scot Seymour Bannerman Barkway. In the winter of 1927 she was damaged in a storm while entering the English Channel, destroying three lifeboats and blowing out 16 portholes in the aft dining room. Finally, in April 1934, she went hard aground off Southampton. She remained stuck for the next 26 hours and it took 10 or 11 tug boats to free her on the next

high tide. Again no serious damage resulted and she was back at sea within a few days.

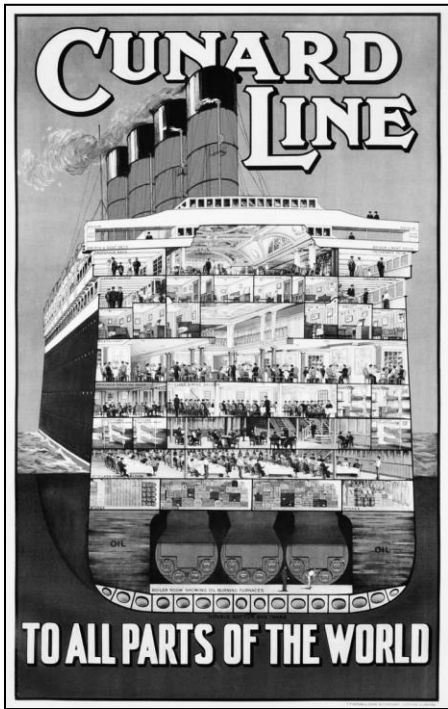


**Figure 4: The floating palace circa 1920**

Source: Wikipedia ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

She remained the world's "wonderful ship" during the decade of the 1920s and 1930s. After the stock market crash in 1929 and the subsequent Depression, business for luxury liners across the Atlantic began to decline and Cunard expanded its service to cruising the Mediterranean and the South Atlantic to South Africa and South America. The *Aquitania* was first used in this way in 1932.

She continued her transatlantic crossings to New York but now included "Booze Cruises" as well. She even made one voyage decked out as a floating art gallery.



**Figure 5: Cutaway view of the ship, 1923**  
 Source: Wikipedia ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

In the 1930s the Cunard Line merged with the White Star line and by mid-decade the *Aquitania* began to show her age. She was refitted again in 1936, after her mishap in going aground at Southampton, but was back at sea by 1936. She participated in the Spithead Coronation Review in 1937 for King George VI.

### **More Wartime Contributions**

The *Aquitania* was scheduled to be retired and replaced by the new RMS *Queen Elizabeth* in 1940; however, fate had other plans when WW II intervened. She went on to be the only ocean liner to see service in

both world wars, requisitioned by the Admiralty for use as a troop ship and refitted in New York to take 7,000 passengers—over double her peacetime capacity.

She was first used to transport Canadian troops from Halifax to England and was later moved to Sydney, Australia, to transport troops from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa to England. She returned with wounded soldiers and transported Axis prisoners of war to detention far from Europe.

In November 1941 she rescued 26 German sailors in a rubber raft in the Indian Ocean east of Australia. The men were the only survivors of an encounter between the German ship *Hilfskreuzer Kormoran* and the HMAS *Sydney* in which both ships were sunk. When operating out of the southern hemisphere, she served out of Sydney, Australia, Wellington, New Zealand and Cape Town, South Africa.

Once the United States entered the war, the *Aquitania* made troop-carrying voyages from San Francisco to Honolulu. In the spring of 1942, she sailed to New York, where she was drydocked and refitted before travelling to Gourock, Scotland, for further repairs.

For the rest of the war she returned to the U.S. for troop-carrying duties in preparation for the invasion of Europe.

At the end of WW II the *Aquitania* began repatriating troops from Europe to the U.S. and Canada. She brought British child evacuees home to Britain and transported emigrants and Holocaust survivors to new lives in North America, as well as returning prisoners of war to Europe.

Over the course of her career, the *Aquitania* had at least 31 different captains. The first captain was William Thomas Turner, who in 1915 was the captain of the *Lusitania* when she was sunk off the coast of Ireland. Sir James Charles, the Commodore of the Cunard Line, was the *Aquitania's* affable captain for most of the 1920s. In July 1928 he collapsed shortly after the ship arrived at Cherbourg; despite being taken across the English Channel for treatment, he never regained consciousness. In 1946, when Mum and I boarded ship in Southampton that sunny June day in 1946, the captain was Angus R. MacDonald. The ship's last captain was Harry Grattidge, who had been aboard the *Titanic* when she sank in 1912.

Once most of the troops had been sent home, the *Aquitania* transported war brides between Southampton and Pier 21 in Halifax. Over 50,000 war brides and 22,000 children arrived at Pier 21 during and after WW II. It is thought that at least a dozen of these children were born on the journey to Canada.

## The Final Years

In March 1948 the *Aquitania* was returned to Cunard completely. By that time, she was showing her age and Cunard gave her a bare minimum of restoration, as she would soon need to retire. Much of the palatial furnishings that had been removed during WW II were never returned. In May 1948, the Canadian government chartered her to continue to transport immigrants from Southampton to Halifax. She made 25 more voyages before she was withdrawn from service at the end of 1949.

In drydock at Southampton it was assessed that she was too old to be brought up to the current standards for ocean liners. There was heavy corrosion in her funnels and some of her bulkheads had nearly rusted through. In late 1948 a ceiling gave way and a piano nearly crashed through to the deck below. Sadly, her fittings were put up for auction and the ship herself was sold to the British Iron & Steel Corporation Ltd. for £125,000.

The *Aquitania* began her final journey from Southampton to Faslane, Scotland, to be broken up for scrap, on 19 February 1950. When she arrived in Scotland on 21 February crowds gathered to line the river banks for the last couple of miles to her final berth. Children from local schools were released from school early that day so they could witness



this event. As they waved her a final farewell, the ship's whistles blew continuously as she sailed across the Gare Loch.

In the course of her career, the *Aquitania* carried 1.2 million passengers on 450 voyages. She travelled over 3 million miles and charmed all who boarded her.

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## We Shall Remember Them<sup>©</sup>

BY SHEILA DOHOO FAURE

*Continuing our series on WW I soldiers who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, Sheila, a volunteer biography researcher, tells of a soldier who survived years of battle only to die near the war's conclusion.*

### Lieutenant George Frederick Jervaulx Jarvis

**Regimental number:** —

**9th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment**

Lieutenant George Frederick Jervaulx Jarvis (known as Joe) was born on 18 June 1884 in Hackney, London (England),<sup>1</sup> the son of Matthew and Eliza Jarvis.<sup>2</sup> His father

was born on 30 September 1847<sup>3</sup> in Norton Folgate, London,<sup>4</sup> and his mother, the former Eliza Emms, in 1851<sup>5</sup> at St Luke's, London.<sup>6</sup> Eliza and Matthew eloped<sup>7</sup> and were

married at Saint John's The Evangelist church in Lambeth, Surrey, on 25 July 1870.<sup>8</sup> They had eight children: the five who survived to 1911 were Matthew Jervoise (known to his family as MJJ) (born in 1871), Alfred James (born in 1874), Edith Kate (known as Ede) (born in 1878), George F. J. (Joe) and Elizabeth Maud (known as Maud) (born in 1886).<sup>9</sup> Three children died in childhood: Herbert Emms (who was born in 1872 but died at the age of 7) and twin girls born in 1880—Elise Emma (who died a few months later) and Martha Maythorn (who died at the age of 4).<sup>10</sup>

In 1881, the family was living at 44 Cazenove Road in Hackney, where Joe's father Matthew was a wholesale upholsterer.<sup>11</sup> In 1870,



**Figure 1: Treasured family photo of Joe**

Source: Family photo

Matthew had been admitted to the Freedom of the City, by patrimony, in the Company of Feltmakers. Matthew's father, William, had been admitted in 1846, the year before Matthew was born.<sup>12</sup> Consequently his son was entitled by birth to admission to the Company. In 1881, Eliza's mother, Martha Emms, a widow, was living with the family. Somebody in the home was probably an invalid, because there were two invalid attendants also living in the house. This may have been Joe's grandmother, or his twin sisters who died in childhood.

In 1891, the family was at the same address and Matthew was a wholesale cabinetmaker.<sup>13</sup> Matthew spent a lot of his time in America as a representative of a furniture firm and it was a difficult time for his wife Eliza, whose mother died in 1893.<sup>14</sup> In the late 1890s, Eliza and the children moved to "The Cedars"—a house with three acres of land on Wargrave Road, Twyford, a village near Reading, Berkshire. Here she was able to indulge in her passion for animals, keeping a cow, pigs, hens, turkeys, pheasants, dogs, cats and ponies for the children, who became skilled riders.<sup>15</sup>

By 1901, the family was still living at "The Cedars" but Joe's father was not living with them,<sup>16</sup> as his parents had separated by then. Lilian Rose was with the family and, although described as a visitor,

she had been the governess for the children and had stayed as a companion to Eliza.<sup>17</sup> Matthew died in Twyford on 4 August 1901, leaving an estate of £1,457 10s 9d.<sup>18</sup>

In 1911, Eliza was living at “The Cedars” with her son Alfred and her daughter Ede.<sup>19</sup> Ede had married Charles Arthur O. Tuckey (known as Dick), a farmer<sup>20</sup> near Reading in 1899<sup>21</sup> and by 1911 they had three children who were also living with their grandmother.

By 1911, Ede’s husband Dick had left for Canada.<sup>22</sup> Ede and the children joined him shortly thereafter, sailing from London on 2 May 1912 on the SS *Corinthian* and landing in Montreal.<sup>23</sup>

Before the Great War, Joe was working in the solicitor’s office of his brother Matthew in Finsbury Square, London, and training to be a solicitor. Although he apparently did not like it very much, he passed his solicitors’ qualifying exams.<sup>24</sup>

Joe was described by his family as being an agreeable man—never prone to anger.<sup>25</sup> He enjoyed spending time with his niece, Muriel Waring Jarvis, the only child of his brother Matthew. He enjoyed taking her out riding, reading to her or taking her to a London music hall. She missed him when Joe and Matthew were called up to serve in the war.

When the war broke out, Joe was a corporal in the Honourable Artillery

Company of the Royal Field Artillery.<sup>26</sup> He had enlisted on 2 December 1901 and was 5’ 7½” tall. Proposed for the HAC by Matthew,<sup>27</sup> he was posted to its A Battery. The HAC is the oldest surviving regiment in the British Army, and the second most senior in the Army Reserve.<sup>28</sup> It was normally made up of men working in London.<sup>29</sup> Joe was probably eligible because he was working with Matthew’s firm.

Joe joined the Front in the Middle East on 8 April 1915<sup>30</sup> as a sergeant with the rest of the A Battery.<sup>31</sup> He thought that service in Egypt, while it was safe, did not offer much action,<sup>32</sup> so he returned to England to attend the Cavalry School in Netheravon, Wiltshire, passing first in his class.<sup>33</sup> He was commissioned on 27 November 1916 as a lieutenant with the 5th Reserve Cavalry Regiment of the Yorkshire Hussars.<sup>34</sup>

In early 1917, when he was home on leave,<sup>35</sup> Joe married Ellen Elizabeth Kearsy (known as Nell)<sup>36</sup> near Maidenhead, Berkshire.<sup>37</sup> Ellen was born in about 1887 in Whitechapel, London,<sup>38</sup> the daughter of Robert Alfred and Kate Elizabeth Kearsy.<sup>39</sup> His niece remembered his last day of leave:

On the day he was due to return he stood at the dining room window looking out to “The Cedars” garden. It was a riot of bloom, lilac, laburnum, the beautiful tall horse chestnut trees; I had a feeling he was wondering if he would ever see

them again. I felt like bursting into tears, but I knew I must keep a "stiff upper lip"; I was growing up.<sup>40</sup>

By 1917, so many men had died on the Western Front that there was a shortage of good officers and Joe was sent to France,<sup>41</sup> fairly early in the year.<sup>42</sup> He was subsequently attached to the 9th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment.<sup>43</sup>

In late September 1918, the battalion was stationed near Artois en Vis in northern France and was preparing an attack.<sup>44</sup> On 27 September, the battalion moved forward, but progress was slow because of an enemy machine gun nest that was holding up the crossing of the canal. The attack was delayed but moved forward later in the day. The Battalion HQ reached its objective by 8 p.m. that evening. However, the following day:

In the early morning the Transport Officer Lieut G. F. J. Jarvis returning from delivering rations (which was accomplished under extreme difficulties) was severely wounded by a bomb dropped from enemy aircraft, he later died from his wounds. 2 mules, 1 horse & 2 drivers were also hit by this bomb and died & 2 OR [other ranks] were also wounded.<sup>45</sup>

Indeed, on 28 September 1918, Joe was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, reportedly with gunshot wounds to his right arm and a fracture of his right thigh.<sup>46</sup> He died that day and was buried the following day in Duisans

British Military Cemetery (Grave 55, Plot 7, Row A), with the Canadian chaplain W. Fisher presiding.

The notification of Joe's death came when his mother Eliza and his niece Muriel were in the garden of "The Cedars." His niece remembered:

Then in September 1918 occurred one of those coincidences, which no novelist would dare introduce in fiction. We (Grandma Jarvis and myself), were picking the red summer apples from a tree we always called "Uncle Joe's tree" because they were his favourites. As I picked up a basketful to carry to the apple room I said "These aren't good keepers, I hope Uncle Joe comes on leave soon". It was then we saw the telegraph boy walking up the drive. (This was something everyone dreaded because whenever a man was killed in action the nearest relative was notified in this way.) The telegram he handed to Gran announced the death in action of George Frederick Jervoise Jarvis . . .<sup>47</sup>

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials there took place in March 1917.<sup>48</sup> No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months that autumn.<sup>49</sup> In September 1918, 75 patients died at No. 1 CCCS.

Joe was awarded the Military Cross.<sup>50</sup> He was also awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the

Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>51</sup> Nell applied to the army for her late husband's medals on 27 June 1919. Joe is also remembered on the Tywford war memorial.<sup>52</sup>



**Figure 2: Lieutenant Jarvis' gravestone, Duisans British Military Cemetery**

Source: Family photo

Probate for Joe's estate, which came to £1,600 14s 3d, was awarded to his wife Nell.<sup>53</sup>

Over two decades after Joe's death, Nell remarried at age 42. She wed William Henry King, a bachelor and business manager, at St Michael's Church in Yorkton, Surrey, on 10 October 1931.<sup>54</sup>

Joe's brother Matthew also served in the military. Although he lived in Twyford,<sup>55</sup> Matthew had set up his solicitor's practice in London. Like his father, he was admitted to the Freedom of the City by patrimony in the Company of Feltmakers.<sup>56</sup>

He volunteered in the London Rifle Brigade (1889–1898) and then served with the HAC (1898–1908). In July 1898, he married Winifred Maude Gainsborough Waring<sup>57</sup> and Muriel was born in July 1899.<sup>58</sup>

Until 1907, they lived at "The Hawthorns," a small house just a few hundred yards from "The Cedars."<sup>59</sup> Afterwards, they moved to a larger house on ample grounds, further up Wargrave Road.

In 1908, Matthew enlisted in the 1st City of London Horse Artillery (regimental no. 624002) and attended various camps for several weeks at a time.<sup>60</sup> He re-engaged for another year in 1912; at the outbreak of WW I he was mobilized and at the age of 43 was appointed Battery Quartermaster Sergeant on 26 September 1914. He did not serve overseas and was discharged in March 1917.

He was awarded the Volunteer Long Service Medal. His wife Winifred died in January 1916 of tuberculosis<sup>61</sup> and on 16 August 1919 he married Eva Stuckey, a war widow with a son, Derek,<sup>62</sup> at St Luke's Church, Islington, London.<sup>63</sup> Matthew died of appendicitis<sup>64</sup> in 1945.<sup>65</sup>

Joe's other brother, Alfred James, was a cabinetmaker and married Amy Laurie Ellis in December 1899 at St Luke's Chelsea.<sup>66</sup> At the time of the 1911 census, Alfred was living with his mother in Twyford and his wife was living in Battersea, where she was working as a dance teacher.<sup>67</sup> They had not had any children. He died sometime during the war; probably not in military service, but perhaps of tuberculosis.<sup>68</sup>

Ede Jarvis married Dick Tuckey and by 1911 they had three children. The family later immigrated to Canada. Ede died near Barrie, Ontario, in 1955 and is buried in the Sixth Line Cemetery in Innisfil.<sup>69</sup>

Joe's sister Maud married Arthur Bury Thompson (known as Artie), a horse dealer, at All Saints Church in Paddington in February 1906.<sup>70</sup> Soon afterward, Artie became the stable manager at the Royal Military College in Sandhurst—a post that he held for the rest of his life.<sup>71</sup>



**Figure 3: Left to right: Joe, Nat Thompson (elder son of Maude T. née Jarvis), Maude Thompson, Matthew Jervoise Jarvis. Probably taken near the end of the war**

Source: Family photo

In 1911, they had one son, Nathan Jervaulx Thompson.<sup>72</sup>

Joe's mother Eliza died in 1928 in Wokingham.<sup>73</sup>

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Special thanks are extended to Winifred Blay, Joe's great-niece, for her contributions to this biography—some drawn from an autobiography, "Canterbury Tales," written by her mother, Muriel Waring Caesar, daughter of Matthew Jervoise Jarvis.

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## Techniques and Resources

# The Cream of the Crop

Top items from recent posts on the Canada's Anglo-Celtic-Connections blog



BY JOHN D. REID

### Burial Records New Online

The last issue mentioned that *Deceased Online* had added records of 160,000

burials from 1839 to 2010 for London's Highgate Cemetery. Another of the Magnificent Seven cemeteries, City of London and Tower Hamlets, is now online from *Ancestry*. Comprising daybooks, registers of burials and of private graves from 1841 to 1966, there are 764,378 indexed entries, including the same person found in different documents.

Also from *Ancestry*, an updated collection "England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800–2016," recently updated to 1,851,245 items. The collection has entries, in some cases with links to images of the original register, for English cemeteries in West Sussex (Arun Region), Hampshire (Winchester), Oxfordshire, Norfolk, London (including Abney Park cemetery), Manchester, and Kent. For Scotland

there are numerous cemeteries in Dumfriesshire, Kincardineshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Wigtownshire.

### Catholic Records

British, Irish, U.S., and Canadian diocesan records are being added to *Findmypast's* Roman Catholic Heritage Archive this year.

For Scotland there are 492,616 baptisms, 197,926 marriages and 324,670 burials, plus 268,286 congregational records dating back to 1730 in the dioceses of St Andrews & Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Argyll & the Isles, Dunkeld, Galloway, Glasgow, Motherwell, and Paisley: 115 parishes. The records date back to 1730.

The Roman Catholic Birmingham Archdiocesan Archives and Westminster Archdiocesan Archives have made available sacramental records older than 110 years, 488,505 baptisms, 94,717 marriages, 49,880 burials, and 160,393 congregational records.

- Baptismal records may include birth date, baptism date, church,

parish, and names of father, mother, godparents, and priest.

- Marriages list marriage date, church, parish, spouse's name, spouse's parish, father's name, spouse's father's name, witnesses' names, and priest's name.
- Burials give age, death date, burial date, and church.
- Congregational documents include anniversary books, confirmation lists, congregational lists, lists of benefactors and converts, parish diaries, and more. Most records will list the individual's name, the date or year of the event, and will contain additional remarks related to the event.

### **The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide**

Claire Santry, blogger at *Irish Genealogy News* and compiler of the *Irish Genealogy Toolkit*, has just published *The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Ancestors in Ireland*. Written for the Irish-American diaspora, the 240-page paperback features:

- tips and techniques for identifying your Irish immigrant ancestor and tracing him back to Europe
- crash-course guides to Irish naming conventions, history and geography
- maps of administrative divisions to help you identify the civil and

military records your ancestors would have created

- case studies that apply concepts to real-life research problems
- lists of resources for further research, including Irish archives, heritage centers and genealogy websites

Read more about Claire's book at [www.shopfamilytree.com/the-family-tree-irish-genealogy-guide/](http://www.shopfamilytree.com/the-family-tree-irish-genealogy-guide/).

### **Canada Online Historical Newspaper Links**

Unlike Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S., Canada has no national program for historic newspaper digitization. In those countries it's the national library that has taken the lead. For us not only does Library and Archives Canada have no newspaper digitization program, for the past several years there hasn't even been a dedicated newspaper librarian. Shameful neglect.

Filling the digitization gap somewhat is a patchwork of initiatives. To find out if maybe one or more newspapers cover the area in Canada of your interest, try a section of *The Ancestor Hunt* ([www.theancestortorhunt.com/blog/canada-online-historical-newspaper-links#WQnPiOXyvIV/](http://www.theancestortorhunt.com/blog/canada-online-historical-newspaper-links#WQnPiOXyvIV/)). There's a link for each province, and one for the territories combined, all compiled by Kenneth R. Marks.

## DNA Testing

Further evidence that DNA tests are now a central part of genealogy came when *Ancestry's* AncestryDNA subsidiary announced in late April that four million people had tested with them. Other companies, *Family Tree DNA*, *Living DNA* and *MyHeritage* (all exhibiting at the OGS conference in June) although with smaller databases, have distinctive strengths.

*Ancestry's* Genetic Communities, made available in April, identifies AncestryDNA clients who share origins in a population of common ancestors. Many test having seen a TV ad and knowing little about their ancestry. A Genetic Community may be their first indication of a particular ancestry. The experienced genealogist will likely find known ancestry confirmed, benefitting from a detailed community profile and links to others in the community.

*Family Tree DNA* offers the widest range of tests, including those for the Y-chromosome, mitochondrial DNA and in-depth targeted tests and analysis tools.

*Living DNA*, new to genetic genealogy but with a substantial record of DNA testing for legal purposes in Europe, uses the latest DNA chip. The test probes the Y-chromosome (for men), mitochondrial DNA, and autosomal DNA with results for admixture for 21 regions in the British Isles.

The company does not yet provide DNA matches with other clients or have a facility for transferring results to other parties.

*MyHeritage*, which is less U.S. focused than AncestryDNA or *Family Tree DNA*, offers an autosomal test with free uploading of data from other company tests to identify matches with other clients.

The company *23andMe*, with ancestry and health service, is not exhibiting at the OGS conference.

## Alberta Civil Registration

A long-standing burr in the saddle for Alberta family history research has been accessing civil registration records. Recently the Provincial Archives of Alberta eased if not eliminated the pain with digitized microfilm, images of the original indexes divided by year, or name, depending on the system at the time. The organization takes a while to understand.

Indexes free to search are now available online for births (1870–1897), marriages (1870–1942), and deaths (1870–1967). Start at <http://provincial.archives.alberta.ca/how-to/find-birth-marriage-death-records/Default.aspx/>. If you'd prefer to wait, I'm told an organization is name-indexing these indexes.

## Canada 150

Are you celebrating? I hope so. I hope you will take, or have taken,

advantage of the Ontario Genealogical Society conference at Algonquin College, June 16–18, with its theme *Our Canada, Your Family: Building a Nation*. I hope you find some time to celebrate your Anglo-Celtic roots and the contributions to Canada from Canadians with British Isles

origins and other homelands. As part of the celebration, pause to reflect, along with Ottawa author Charlotte Gray, herself an immigrant from Sheffield, on Canada's 150 years of achievements and challenges, which she documents in her book *The Promise of Canada*.

## BIFHSGO News

# Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

### New BIFHSGO Members 12 Feb 2017–15 May 2017

Member No.	Name	Address
1861	Wanda Quinn	Gatineau, QC
1862	Wendy Liddle	Paisley, ON
1863	Susan Gibson	Greely, ON
1864	Rhoda Burton-Levent	Ottawa, ON
1865	Ontario Genealogical Society	Concord, ON
1866	Glenn Rivard	Ottawa, ON
1867	Denise Harper	Ottawa, ON
1868	Brian White	Scotland, ON
1869	David McDonald	Victoria, BC
1870	Kenneth Garrett	Kemptville, ON



*Explore Your Anglo-Celtic Roots!*

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**23rd Annual BIFHSGO**

# Family History Conference



*Featuring*  
*Family History in*  
**England & Wales**  
**& Research Methodology**

Expert Lecturers—Seminars  
Research Room—Marketplace

**Something for everyone!**

**29 September–1 October 2017**

Ben Franklin Place, 101 CentrepoinTE Drive, Ottawa

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**Information: [conference.bifhsgo.ca](http://conference.bifhsgo.ca)**  
[conference@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:conference@bifhsgo.ca)  
613-226-8096

*Online registration available May 1st*

## **BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2016–2017**

President	Barbara Tose	613-729-1015
Recording Secretary	Gillian Leitch	819-777-8480
Treasurer	Marianne Rasmus	613-834-9694
Research & Projects	Dave Cross	613-915-1464
Membership	Kathy Wallace	613-746-6796
Communications	Anne Moralejo	819-837-8627
Publicity	Mary-Lou Simac	613-837-8256
Programs	Jane Down	613-741-1463
Education	Andrea Harding	613-857-0719
Past President	Glenn Wright	613-521-2929

## **Associate Directors 2016–2017**

<i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i> Editor	Jean Kitchen
E-newsletter Editor	Lisa-Dawn Crawley
Web Manager	Gail Dever
Photographer	Dena Palamedes
Publication Sales	Brian Chamberlain
Queries	Sheila Dohoo Faure
Voicemail	Ann Adams
Conference 2017	Duncan Monkhouse, Brian Le Conte
<b>Public Accountant</b>	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, and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership dues for 2017 are \$45 for individuals, \$55 for families, and \$45 for institutions. Members enjoy four issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, ten family history meetings, members-only information on [bifhsgo.ca](http://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 CentrepoinTE Drive, Ottawa

- 9 Sept 2017**     *The Sinking of the SS Portsdown*—Hitler’s navy sank many British ships in WW II, but no one thought an inland ferry would be at risk. They were wrong. John McConkey tells of a sad event that had devastating effects on some Isle of Wight families.
- 14 Oct 2017**     *Untangling a Parish to Find Family*—In 1852, the Quebec parish of St-Sylvestre included about 4,000 residents of French, Irish and British heritage, who mostly got along. Susan Davis delves into her ancestors’ lives in this setting.
- 18 Nov 2017**     *Not so Quiet on the Western Front: The Grants of Formby in the Great War*—Tara Grant’s grandfather and his three brothers all served with the British army during WW I. Enlisting in the Territorial Army, the brothers served in different regiments and battalions and fought at many of the major battles.

## Schedule

- 9:00–9:30     Before BIFHSGO Educational Sessions: check [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca) for up-to-date information.
- 9:30     Discovery Tables
- 10:00–11:30     Meeting and Presentation
- 11:30–4:00     Writing Group

For information on meetings of other special interest groups (Scottish, Irish, DNA, Master Genealogist Users), check [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://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](mailto:acreditor@bifhsgo.ca). The deadline for publication in the Fall issue is 28 July 2017.