



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

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## **In This Issue**

*Surviving Passchendaele*

*The Family Wall*

*Manchester Life in the 1930s—Part V*

*We Shall Remember Them*

*Then and Now—Twenty Years of  
Genealogical Computing*



## *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

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*Australian gunners on a duckboard track in Château Wood near Hooge, 29 Oct 1917. Photo by Frank Hurley.*

*Source: Wikimedia Commons  
(<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chateauwood.jpg>)*

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

Once again, this *Anglo-Celtic Roots* issue offers a range of genealogy-focused articles.

Lynne Willoughby's story of her grandfather's experiences during WW I, especially at Passchendaele, eloquently commemorates that dreadful conflict as we mark the 1918 Armistice.

Ann Burns offers a good tip for highlighting your family tree instead of hiding ancestor photos in albums.

Charles Morton's reminiscences continue with a description of his life as a WW II evacuee, adapting to a new home, school and activities.

Heather Carmody's WW I soldier biography gives intriguing insight into the New Zealand Māoris who joined the British forces.

And Bob Dawes describes the many changes in technological support that genealogists have experienced in the last 20 years.



Jean Kitchen

## From the President



As another calendar year draws to a close, I am looking back on the things that have been accomplished: the stellar program, the

successful conference, the special projects and the strategic planning work.

I am also constantly amazed at the number and professionalism of our volunteers. To them, I would like to say a special “thank you” for all the hard work you have put in throughout the past year.

While as genealogists we are used to looking back at our history, this is also the time to look forward to the great things that the new year will bring. Specifically, next year is the 25th anniversary of BIFHSGO.

Twenty-five years ago, 10 intrepid genealogists started BIFHSGO via a flyer on a bulletin board, because of a desire to assist others with their research and to share their discoveries.

Now, 25 years later, we hope that they would be pleased with the results and growth of the little society they started. BIFHSGO has

grown from the 10 initial members to over 540 members, and from members living just in Ottawa to being spread around the globe. But the initial goals have been maintained, to assist others and share results.

As we head into the next 25 years we have a strategic plan to assist us in ensuring that BIFHSGO continues in the direction that was set those many years ago.

We have a number of special plans for the 25th year of BIFHSGO, including a special conference scheduled from September 27th to 29th. Next year will be a year of introspection, with Before BIFHSGO talks about our special interest groups, projects and get-togethers.

In closing I would like to wish one and all a Happy Holiday, and a great New Year filled with little brick pieces from your broken brick walls.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Duncan Monkhouse". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Duncan Monkhouse

## Family History Research

# Surviving Passchendaele— William James Watson Willoughby<sup>©</sup>



BY LYNNE WILLOUGHBY

*Lynne has been a member of BIFHSGO since 2005 and regularly attends the DNA Special Interest and Writers groups. She also volunteers with the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station biography team and the Conference Planning Committee.*

### Introduction

The Battle of

Passchendaele began on 31 July 1917, and, like many battles in the First World War, it lasted months rather than days, not ending until 10 November.<sup>1</sup> It was one of the most notorious of the battles in that war. Although the Passchendaele Ridge was captured by the Allies, it wasn't long until it was lost to the Germans once more.

The battle of Passchendaele was part of the Third Battle of Ypres in the Belgium Salient, where the allies were entrenched throughout the war. For the soldiers who fought at Passchendaele, it was known as the "Battle of the Mud." Few battles encapsulate the horrors of World War I better than the Battle of Passchendaele.<sup>2</sup>

There were over 325,000 Allied casualties of the battle and between 240,000 and 350,000 German soldiers were killed.

Over 4,000 Canadian soldiers were lost and almost 12,000 wounded in the course of that battle.<sup>3,4</sup> My grandfather, William James Watson Willoughby (25 September 1892–27 March 1974),<sup>5</sup> was one of those injured. It is my belief that his experiences there influenced the rest of his life. Now, on the 100th anniversary of the Great War, I want to tell his story.

Although this is *his* story, I cannot tell this tale from his point of view as he never discussed it with me. Talk of any kind related to war was avoided in my grandparents' home. My grandmother would become visibly upset with any mention of either WW I or WW II, so the subject was deliberately not talked about. My grandfather was his usual quiet self, saying little if anything on the subject.

Nonetheless, the same was not true for their children, and this

story comes from them and from the official records of the conflict.

Will was born and raised in the village of Sundridge, Ontario, which is situated in Muskoka, on the west side of Lake Bernard, east of Highway 11, about 70 kilometres south of North Bay.

Will's parents were John (b. 1858) and Margaret (b.1862) (Wight) Willoughby,<sup>6</sup> who were among the first European farmers to settle in the area in the late 1870s. Will was raised in a family of nine children, with two brothers and six sisters. Will was their fifth child and second son.<sup>7</sup>

### **162nd Parry Sound Battalion**

Shortly after his 23rd birthday, Will enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). Will was probably among the first of the local boys to enlist in the 162nd Battalion on 29 November 1915.<sup>8</sup> The bulk of the regiment's members did not enlist until 1916.

The 162nd Battalion was based in Parry Sound, Ontario, and its Lieutenant Colonel, J. M. Arthurs, began recruiting late in 1915. Training began on 22 May 1916 on the farm of John Paget near the north shore of Lake Bernard,<sup>9</sup> not far from where Will lived.

Will was 5 feet 6¾ inches tall, weighed 145 pounds, had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. His Attestation papers



**Figure 1: Pin given to 162nd Battalion**

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/162nd\\_\(Parry\\_Sound\)\\_Battalion,\\_CEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/162nd_(Parry_Sound)_Battalion,_CEF)

note that he was a Methodist and was working as a telegraph operator when he signed up. I believe he was employed on the railway before his enlistment.

He signed his name as William John Watson Willoughby on his form, which differs from his birth record. He appears to have been called Will at this point, both in Sundridge and in the military, although after his marriage he was always Bill. (His grandchildren called him Pop.)

He had no distinguishing marks and his medical exam indicated good physical development. He had been vaccinated for smallpox in 1914 and received anti-typhoid inoculations after enlistment. His pay in the army was to begin at \$20 per month.<sup>10</sup>

The five sisters who still lived at home must have been devastated

when he enlisted. Will's older brother Tom was married and lived nearby, but Will still lived at home. He was easier to get along with than Tom and was their favourite brother.

In addition, they had relied on him heavily during the previous year. Their mother Margaret and 14-year-old brother Joseph had both died a year earlier. In November 1914 Joseph was killed in an accident with a train in the village. After attending his funeral in the rain and cold, Margaret took a chill and died of pneumonia within a month of Joseph's burial.<sup>11</sup>

The 162nd Battalion recruited over 700 men and training began in the spring of 1916. There was great excitement in the community throughout that spring and summer as the soldiers trained. The soldiers brought activity and commerce to Sundridge and the surrounding area.

(It was during this time, we believe, that Will first met the Bingham Family of Powassan.<sup>12</sup> The Bingham family owned a lumber mill, a general store and a farm in Powassan. They were a prosperous family with three sons and five daughters. Will became friendly with two daughters, Margaret and Edna. He wrote to both throughout the war, but

quickly fixed his interest on Edna.)



**Figure 2: William Willoughby**

Source for family photos: Author's collection

In September 1916 the battalion deployed to Niagara-on-the-Lake where they continued to train. The Sundridge Women's Institute presented the battalion with its Colours prior to the departure from Muskoka.<sup>13</sup>

## England

On 31 October 1916 the battalion boarded the SS *Coronia* and sailed for Britain, arriving at Shorncliffe on 11 November.<sup>14</sup> On board with Will was his cousin Noble James McGirr.<sup>15</sup> On arrival there, Will was appointed acting lance corporal, a rank he maintained until 2 January 1917, when he requested that he revert to his former rank of private. His record indicates that his performance as a lance corporal was very good.<sup>16</sup>

This request was not uncommon for soldiers at the time. Non-commissioned officers like lance corporals were despised by the men in the ranks, and this type of promotion meant that the soldier would be engaged in helping to train other soldiers and be less likely to be deployed to the Front.

The battalion was broken up soon after arriving at Shorncliffe and incorporated into other units. They continued to train throughout this period. Will was assigned to the 35th Battalion on 9 December 1916 and then to the 4th Reserve Battalion on 4 January 1917. Much of his training occurred at the nearby West Sandling Camp.

On 9 January 1917, less than a week after being assigned to the 4th Reserve Battalion, Will was admitted to Moore Barracks Military Hospital at Shorncliffe with myalgia. His examination report notes that he suffered pain when walking that kept him awake at night. The pain was in his left leg, groin, and thigh as well as in the small of his back.

After remaining in hospital for the next three months, he was discharged on 28 March 1917. He was treated first in the Moore Barracks Military Hospital, then sent to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital at Woodcote Park, Epsom, and finally transferred to

the 2nd Canadian Convalescent Depot, Bramshott. He returned to full duty on 15 June 1917 with the 4th Reserve Battalion. He was deployed to the Front in France with the 1st Canadian Battalion on 9 September 1917.

### **The Third Battle of Ypres — the Battle of Passchendaele**

The campaign to capture the Ypres Salient, known as the Third Battle of Ypres, began at the end of July 1917. It was waged under the direction of Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander, to take the pressure off the French forces further to the south.

The region around Ypres was largely flat, low ground that was kept dry with the help of dikes and ditches. At the beginning of the war Belgium destroyed these systems to prevent them falling into German hands. The area had seen heavy fighting throughout the war, which further destroyed the drainage system. Millions of artillery shell holes pockmarked the landscape and churned up the ground, turning the area to sticky mud when wet.

In 1917, the autumn rains came early and turned the battlefield into a sea of muck, the likes of which still make the name Passchendaele synonymous with the horrific fighting conditions that many people picture when thinking of the First World War.<sup>17</sup>



Rain was constant throughout July, August, September and October, filling the shell holes with water. Only shattered trees were visible on the landscape. It was like fighting in a swamp.<sup>18</sup>

The Allies wanted to wear down the Germans, hopefully seize strategic German railways in Belgium and thus capture their submarine bases along the coast. British, Australian and New Zealand forces opened the attack with an artillery barrage. However, heavy rains came down the night the ground assault was launched, turning the battlefield into a nightmare for the forces. The Allied forces slowly gained much of the higher ground through August and September, but their main objectives remained out of reach.<sup>19</sup>

The Canadians were sent in early in October to relieve the ANZAC forces and take part in the final push to capture the Passchendaele Ridge. All four divisions of the Canadian Corps were part of the action, as at Vimy. When the Canadian Corps commander, Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie, saw the conditions on the battlefield, he did his best to avoid having his men fight there. The mud was ubiquitous, the terrain flat, the preparation time inadequate and the artillery support discouraging, thus ensuring that

casualties would be great. Currie was overruled by his superiors.

Veterans Affairs Canada's Historical Sheet on the battle notes that:

Currie took as much time as he could to carefully prepare and on October 26, the Canadian offensive began. Advancing through the mud and enemy fire was slow and there were heavy losses but our soldiers clawed their way forward. On an exposed battlefield like that one, success was often only made possible due to acts of great individual heroism to get past spots of particularly stiff enemy resistance. Despite the adversity, the Canadians reached the outskirts of Passchendaele by the end of a second attack on October 30 during a driving rainstorm.<sup>19</sup>

On 6 November, the Canadians and British launched the assault to capture the ruined village of Passchendaele itself. In heavy fighting, the attack went according to plan. The task of actually capturing the "infamous" village fell to the 27th (City of Winnipeg) Battalion and they took it that day.

After weathering fierce enemy counterattacks, the last phase of the battle saw the Canadians attack on 10 November to clear the Germans from the eastern edge of Passchendaele Ridge before the campaign finally ground to a halt.

Canadian soldiers had succeeded in the face of almost unbelievable challenges.<sup>20</sup>

Will survived the assault to capture the village on 6 November and was there through the heavy fighting of that day. I do not know exactly what his role was then, or what his part in the attack entailed. However, he must have been relieved to survive the day.

On 7 November, Will and his fellow soldiers were again in the field. They fought to take a pillbox as part of the mopping up of the area. Once they had captured the site and disposed of its defenders, they stopped to rest for a few minutes in that pillbox. Suddenly they were hit by a poison gas shell and Will was badly wounded.<sup>21</sup>

I don't know if his fellow soldiers survived and it is unlikely that Will knew either. One medical report on his file indicates that he was exposed to mustard gas for 12 hours, after which he was admitted to No. 6 Canadian Field Ambulance Depot on 8 November 1917.<sup>22</sup>

The file does not explain how Will got to the ambulance depot, but, given his injuries, it is unlikely that he could have made it there without help. As a result, I have concluded that he was discovered and rescued by his fellow soldiers or by a medical team.

Pillboxes are concrete dug-in guard posts, normally equipped with loopholes through which to fire weapons. The originally jocular name arose from their perceived similarity to the cylindrical and hexagonal boxes in which medical pills were once sold. They are "in effect a trench firing step hardened to protect against small-arms fire and grenades and raised to improve the field of fire."<sup>23</sup>

**Chemical Warfare in WW I**  
WW I saw the first large-scale use of chemical weapons to demoralize, injure and kill entrenched defenders. The types of weapons employed ranged from disabling chemicals such as tear gas to lethal agents like phosgene, chlorine and mustard gas.<sup>24</sup>

Tear gas was used in 1914 by both French and German forces and employed by the Germans against the Russians in January 1915. The first large-scale use of chlorine gas occurred at the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915.

Chlorine is a powerful irritant that inflicts damage to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. At high concentrations and with prolonged exposure it destroys lung tissue and can cause death by asphyxiation. It was not a particularly effective weapon, as the gas produced a visible greenish cloud and strong odour, making it easy to detect.

The gas was water soluble; thus a damp or urine-soaked cloth was somewhat effective at reducing the damage that would otherwise result from exposure to this gas. Although it was a continual source of dread for the infantry, chlorine gas required large concentrations to be fatal.

The next gas to be used was phosgene; it was more deadly than chlorine gas. It did not cause as much violent coughing as chlorine, but its main drawback was that it frequently required up to 48 hours after it had been inhaled to affect those afflicted. By the time the symptoms developed it had already embedded itself in the respiratory organs and little could be done to eradicate it.

In the summer of 1917, the Germans began using mustard gas. It was not a particularly effective killing agent and needed to be delivered in high enough doses before it would be fatal. It was used to harass and disable the enemy and pollute the battlefield.

Mustard gas was delivered in artillery shells and was heavier than air. As such it settled to the ground as an oily liquid resembling sherry. Once in the soil, mustard gas remained active for several days, weeks or even months, depending on the weather conditions. Injured

soldiers, or those sitting or lying down, were more likely to be affected by the gas.

This gas produced both internal and external blisters on its victims within hours of exposure. Their eyes became very sore and they began to vomit. It also caused internal and external bleeding and attacked the bronchial tubes, stripping off the mucous membrane.

It was extremely painful and fatally injured victims sometimes took four or five weeks to die from exposure to the gas. Many who did survive were blinded by the gas.<sup>25</sup>

Vera Brittain, a nurse who cared for mustard gas patients, reported:

I wish those people who talk about going on with this war whatever it costs could see the soldiers suffering from mustard gas poisoning. Great mustard-coloured blisters, blind eyes, all sticky and stuck together, always fighting for breath, with voices a mere whisper, saying that their throats are closing and they know they will choke.<sup>26</sup>

Over 1,250,000 soldiers were gas casualties in the First World War, but only 91,000 died as a result. This was less than 10 per cent of those affected. However, these figures do not account for the number of those who died from

poison gas related injuries after the end of the war or for those who survived but were so badly incapacitated that they could not hold down jobs once they were released from military service.<sup>27</sup>

## Recovery

Will spent the next nine months in hospital. During the course of his convalescence he was sent first to a field ambulance depot, then to a casualty clearing station before being moved to at least seven hospitals, in France, all over England and at home in Canada, by the time he was discharged as medically unfit in August 1918. The hospitals where he was a patient were as follows.

- No. 26 General Hospital in Étapes, France: 8–24 Nov 1917—first two weeks
- 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham: 25 Nov–21 Dec 1917
- Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Woodcote Park, Epsom: 22 Dec 1917–10 Jan 1918
- Kings Cross Road Canadian Red Cross Convalescent Hospital, Bushy Park, London: 11 Jan–30 Mar 1918
- No. 5 Canadian General Hospital, Kirkdale, Liverpool: 31 March–5 May 1918
- Spadina Military Hospital, Toronto: 16 May–June 1918
- Burlington Military Hospital: June–August 1918<sup>28</sup>

By the time Will returned to Canada, his sweetheart Edna Maud Bingham had moved with her family to Toronto, and Edna would have visited him in the Spadina Hospital.

One of the nurses during his stay in that hospital was Amelia Earhart, the future aviation pioneer.<sup>29</sup> Amelia went to Toronto to study nursing in 1917 and through to the end of the war she worked as a nurse's aide in the Spadina Military Hospital, where she cared for injured soldiers who were invalided home to Toronto.<sup>30</sup>

Will's file says that he had been shell gassed and as a result of exposure to mustard gas he was blind for 10 days and speechless for a month to five weeks. He suffered from pains in his chest and vomiting, a severe cough which continued for months, accompanied by general weakness, especially after exertion. Once his voice returned he continued to have some hoarseness for a period of time.

On 11 January 1918, he was diagnosed with nephritis, an inflammation of the kidneys. It was one of the new diseases that appeared during the First World War and was dubbed "trench nephritis." The condition appeared among soldiers in the spring of 1915 and was characterized by breathlessness,

swelling of the face or legs, headache, sore throat, and the presence of albumin and renal casts in urine. Experts at the time and later agreed that it was a new condition.<sup>31</sup> Whether Will's nephritis resulted from his exposure to mustard gas or to an infection he caught in hospital is not clear from the records, but his symptoms were typical of it.

Trench nephritis was a serious problem for the Allies, leading to 35,000 casualties in the British and 2,000 in the American forces. There were also hundreds of deaths. The condition was treated in line with pre-war regimens designed for acute nephritis. No significant preventative methods were implemented for trench nephritis, as there was no consensus regarding its causation. The medical response to trench nephritis was largely ineffective, with medical commentators recognizing that there had been a lack of medical progress.<sup>32</sup>

His weight was still normal at about 145 pounds, but the pain in his chest, weakness and severe cough persisted and his face was pale with puffiness under his eyes. With the diagnosis of nephritis he was put on a diet of fish and milk.

By February 1918 he was also diagnosed with dyspnoea (shortness of breath) and he continued to have pain in his back, hip, groin and thigh on exertion. The general weakness he suffered from was joined by daily headaches. His condition remained much the same through the spring of 1918. By the time he was invalided to Toronto he had also lost 10 pounds. When he was discharged, his general condition was listed as good, but he still had difficulty going up stairs and his nephritis added to his weakness. He was given a medical discharge as physically unfit for service.



**Figure 3: HM Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle**

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMHS\\_Llandovery\\_Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMHS_Llandovery_Castle)

The statement on his discharge papers indicated his current condition as:

Feels weak generally. Gets short of breath on moderate exertion. Has frequent headaches, especially in the morning and pain in back in damp weather. After walking or

standing around any considerable time he notices that his feet begin to swell. . . Probable duration of disability—6 months.<sup>33</sup>

### **HMHS *Llandoverly Castle***

Will boarded HMHS *Llandoverly Castle* when he was invalided to Canada on 6 May 1918. This was one of the final voyages for this ship. A little more than a month later, HMHS *Llandoverly Castle* went down on her way back from Halifax to Liverpool. She was making a return trip to England to pick up more casualties. Will's caregivers on his trip home were likely killed in that tragedy.

The ship was torpedoed off southern Ireland on 27 June 1918. Only 24 people, the occupants on a single life raft, survived. The remaining 234 doctors, nurses, members of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, soldiers and seamen died in the sinking and subsequent machine-gunning of lifeboats. The incident became infamous internationally as one of the war's worst atrocities. After the war, it was one of six British war crime cases presented at the Leipzig war trials.<sup>34</sup>

Will was given an honourable medical discharge from the CEF on 27 August 1918 with the rank of private.<sup>35</sup> He married his sweetheart, Edna Maude Bingham, the next day.<sup>36</sup>



**Figure 4: Edna Maud Bingham & William Willoughby wedding photo, 1918**

Will was a quiet, stoic, caring man who never lost his cool. He was hard-working and everyone in our family adored him. His wife said he was wonderful, and no one I know would have disagreed with her.

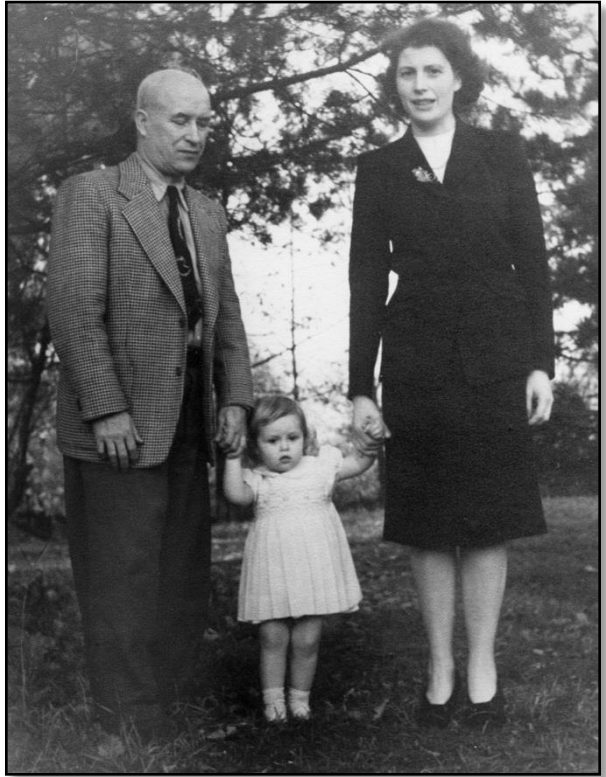
He lived for the rest of his life in the Parkdale area of Toronto, where he raised his family. He worked at the Post Office at Union Station until he reached retirement age. Then he got a job at the Ontario Registry Office for a few more years.

His injuries in France continued to dog his health down through the years; they affected his sight and physical strength and later perhaps even his heart. In the early 1930s, he visited the company doctor at the Post Office, who mentioned to him that, given his condition, he must be receiving a very good pension from the government. Will had not realized he was entitled to one, but with the doctor's assistance was able to obtain a good pension, backdated all the way to 1917. He was able to purchase a Model T Ford and a shorefront lot on Lake Simcoe.

The family cottage was built there in 1932 and the family has enjoyed spending their summers there ever since. During the Depression years Will also helped to house and support many of his extended family. He also provided funds to help his in-laws throughout their later years.<sup>37</sup>

Will was intelligent and well-read, hard-working and a reliable, gentle and loving man. He enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his family. He liked doing the food shopping, puttering around at his cottage, listening to Gordon

Sinclair on the radio, reciting Robert Service poems and teasing his grandchildren.



**Figure 5: Will with his granddaughter (the author) and daughter Margaret (the author's mother)**

He knew how to use an axe and I once saw him deliberately cut the head off a hornet. He was the only family fisherman who would go to the trouble of cleaning catfish for us to enjoy as a summer breakfast. He liked to cover his blueberries and peaches with Neilson's evaporated milk and he believed

that if you cut down one tree you should plant 10 to replace it.

He knew exactly the right thing to say to his wife when she was being difficult, and he could always make her laugh. I well remember him sitting on his swing at the cottage, either reading the newspaper or just spending time with the neighbour's troubled son. While everyone else was out swimming, Pop spent his time repairing the rocks in the wall at the water's edge.

I do not ever recall him driving his car, but my father once told me he was definitely not a good driver. During early days at the cottage, when the roads were not good, any trip to Lake Simcoe would result in them getting a flat tire, which Dad would have to fix. Pop was always happy as a passenger.

When Dad was thinking of enlisting in World War II, Pop said to him, "Whatever you do, don't enlist in a kilted regiment, because there is nothing colder than a corpse in a kilt."

Pop was 82 when he died. I believe that thoughts of Pop's war experiences were never far from his mind, although rarely, if ever, spoken of. He was grateful for all of the pleasures life had to offer and made conscious choices to focus on the important things of life. He always had a positive effect on others. He was a

contented man. I loved him dearly and am happy to have had him in my life. I have to agree with my grandmother—he was wonderful.

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# The Family Wall



BY ANN BURNS

*When she is not in Ireland researching her ancestors, Ann can enjoy the photo wall she describes below.*

I started digging into my family history in order to learn more about my forebears and to honour them by telling their stories. Over a decade after starting the journey I have accumulated a lot of material from family sources, from online databases and newspapers, digging in libraries in Canada and in Ireland. The most precious items are the family photographs.

Like everyone else, I have many photographs for which there is no information. But I am fortunate to have some lovely pictures of my parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and even one set of great-great-grandparents. I wanted to be able to enjoy them in a way other than knowing they were safely stored.

Leaving the pictures in boxes didn't seem right and yet I'd lost interest in compiling albums. At some point in my web surfing I came upon a large decal of a tree—a family tree—on whose branches one could mount pictures. It wasn't expensive to buy the decal, about \$20, so I placed my online order at [www.timberartbox.com/products](http://www.timberartbox.com/products) and the decal was quickly delivered.

Fast forward two years and I'd gotten tired of seeing the tube with the decal. My freshly painted hallway begged for decoration, and I was tired of seeing the travel photos that had previously graced that space. It was time to put up the tree and add the photos. Eventually, with help, the decal was put on the wall and there it sat for another several months.

I eventually decided that I would use individual photos of maternal and paternal grandparents. After another time lapse, the pictures were selected, as were the frames. When I eventually selected the pictures and had them printed in 4 × 6 format, I had to buy new frames. These replacements better filled the spaces and better showcased the images.

I put the paternal line on the left and the maternal on the right. A photo of my parents on their honeymoon started the tree at the bottom centre. Far to the left went a photo of my father with his parents and siblings and on the right, one of my mother with her mother and brother.

Actually hanging the pictures took a couple of hours and I now have my hall decoration complete. It is more appropriate than using my office, now referred to by the name borrowed from Barbara Tose—"the dead ancestors room." All my visitors can see this wall and if they don't seem to notice, I do make sure they do so before leaving.



# Manchester Life in the 1930s—Part V



BY CHARLES MORTON

*In this excerpt from his memoirs, Charles describes life as a child evacuee, escaping WW II by living in Wilmslow with his foster family, the Woods.*

**M**r. and Mrs. Wood seemed

determined that I would be looked after in the best possible way. Bedtime, which was part of a very loose timetable at home, was to be at 8:00 p.m. prompt, following a bath at 7:45. My diet was substantial and healthy, with a great deal of fruit and vegetables, some of which I had seldom seen before. I could have as much fresh milk, a scarce commodity in Chorlton-on-Medlock, as I wished to drink.

On the first Monday that I was in Wilmslow, Mrs. Wood, no doubt based on her memories of the First World War, sent me to a grocery store about a mile away to buy 5 pounds of brown sugar before it disappeared from the shelves or became rationed. The grocer, also of the previous war vintage, laughed as he told me to let her know that he had none left.

## Neighbourhood Relations

The Woods' move to Croft Road had brought with it a grander outlook on life that I suspect Mrs. Wood had enjoyed during Mr.

Wood's barbering days. One day, I was shown an area of rent-subsidized council houses and told that this was where the "poorer folk" lived! Despite a small park with swings and other amusements in the vicinity, this area was placed off limits to me should I ever find myself near it.

At the bottom of Croft Road, not far from No. 21 and next to the fence of Farmer Potts' field, was a bungalow occupied by a Mrs. Brown and her son, a boy of similar years to myself who had all the earmarks of being a potential playmate. Alas! Mrs. Wood told me in no uncertain terms that because Mrs. Brown was a divorced woman (I was not even sure what "divorced" meant, other than knowing that Mrs. Simpson, that American woman, was divorced and that had been bad for the country), I was not to associate with the boy. Indeed, while I lived in Wilmslow, the Brown boy and I never met, and Mrs. Brown, who I suspect was ostracized by most of the Croft Road homeowners, never appeared on the street.

Another incident that I recall was

when Mrs. Wood sent me to the Gravel Lane billet of my school friend Brian Jervis to offer him the cloth cap given to me by an aunt and packed with my belongings, a baggy sort of hat of the type known then as a “Jackie Coogan,” after a style made popular by that child actor in the movie “The Kid.”

Mrs. Wood was horrified that I should ever be seen wearing it. Instead of hiding it or throwing it away, though, she decided that Brian’s foster parents, being of a lesser class, would no doubt welcome it and Brian would wear it. However, Brian’s foster mother, a kindly working-class type, sent me back with both the cap and a flea in my ear to tell Mrs. Wood that she had no need of charity, thank you!

### **Household Rules**

None of this is to say that Mr. and Mrs. Wood were not basically kind people doing what they believed to be best for the war effort and my personal welfare. They took their responsibilities very seriously. One of the rules I remember was that I could not eat an orange immediately after lunch (as the noontime “dinner” of Manchester had now become) because the acid from the fruit might curdle the milk I had drunk with my meal and cause a stomachache. I had never been faced with a problem like this at

home, but then again, I had never been given a glass of milk, followed by a whole orange, after my dinner!

Bedtime, normally at 8:00 p.m., was eased on Sunday night, even though the next day was a school day, because the BBC broadcast a weekly instalment of “The Four Feathers” [a 1902 adventure novel by British writer A. E. W. Mason] between 8 and 9 o’clock, and I was allowed to stay up to listen.

### **Schooling**

After a few days of school inactivity, word was received that all the children from St. Chrysostom’s School would attend the local council school, sharing the premises on a half-day basis with the school’s regular pupils.

While the reduced hours made little difference to the evacuees (most of whom would not learn anything of value even if school hours were doubled), it had quite an effect on the locals and caused resentments and fights until a system for increasing the change-over period was introduced.

Other schools that had been evacuated to Wilmslow, notably from the Levenshulme area of Manchester, had been accommodated for their lessons in a large house in Fulshaw Park named “Ashcroft,” where the

St. Chrysostom's students would eventually also be co-located.

Until the move to the new premises occurred, however, the council school, being just outside the village, meant a long walk for me each day, and as winter progressed, I began to dread the walk every morning.

At the time, popular winter wear for children included "pixie" hats for girls, woollen hats that came to a point at the back and covered the ears, and "flying helmets" for boys, imitation leather hats of the type worn by airman, again with the benefit of ear coverings.

I dearly wanted one of these, but knew there was no chance of ever getting one, and I will always remember the pain as my ears, toes and fingertips thawed out when we allowed inside the schoolroom. Even after decades of Canadian winters, I cannot recall ever feeling as cold as I did on those winter mornings in Wilmslow.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood were not churchgoers, but they insisted initially that I attend a service at a church near to the village. Although I was a member of the Church of England (Anglican) I believe this church was a non-conformist type, and the first day that I attended, I found the building packed with evacuees, leading me to believe that our

attendance had been mandated by the evacuation authorities.

I soon learned, however, that because no attendance records were kept, and because Mr. and Mrs. Wood never attended the church themselves, it was an easy matter to skip the service and take the opportunity to play with some of my old schoolmates whom I only normally saw in class, keeping a careful eye on the time to make sure that my arrival home corresponded with the church service schedule.

Most of these classmates saw each other at play every afternoon and on weekends, being billeted with foster parents who were more like our own parents, and I completely envied them. Bernard, the boy billeted next door on Croft Road, returned home to Manchester after a few weeks and I lost the dubious pleasure of even his company.

### **A Very Different Life**

My lifestyle was a definite improvement to that at home, but was lacking in the pleasures of family life and the closeness of friends and neighbours. The Woods certainly did not suffer from any of the anticipated food shortages. Where Gravel Lane met the Knutsford Road, there was a small poultry holding that kept us supplied with eggs, and Mr. Wood grew sufficient vegetables for all

our needs, with the exception of onions and carrots. For some reason there was a shortage of these two items in our part of the country, and Mr. Wood explained to me that because carrots needed a sandy soil very different to that in the area, he never had any success in their production.

Although I had no particular fondness for either at the time, the shortage perhaps accounts for the fondness for both I have had ever since.

At home in Manchester, pea soup made with a ham bone and boiled potatoes formed an entire meal. In Wilmslow, a wide variety of soups were served *before* the main course at lunch, which was usually followed by a steamed fruit or rice pudding. I certainly didn't lack for food.

### **A Visit Home**

In November, Mr. Wood's brother somehow obtained petrol for his car and decided to drive Mrs. Wood into Manchester to do some big city shopping. After much consideration, Mrs. Wood decided that it might be a good thing if I went with them to pay a quick visit to my home on the way.

When the car drew into areas that were familiar, I became quite homesick as the clean air of Cheshire gradually transitioned into the Manchester November

mist that I knew so well (and which today would be classed as pure smog). The feeling was heightened as we passed a number 40 tram on its way from East Didsbury to town.

Here I saw one of the first signs of the war, a huge barrage balloon, which floated low over a park that we passed; as the war went on, these balloons would become so common as to arouse no interest.

(Barrage balloons were large hydrogen-filled balloons that were tethered to a winch and floated over cities at various heights to force enemy aircraft to fly higher and to guard against dive bombing attacks. Initially, the balloon sites were manned by male members of the Royal Air Force, but as the war went on, the men were gradually replaced by women of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (W.A.A.F)).

I immediately sensed that Mrs. Wood approved of neither my old neighbourhood nor of its inhabitants. To me that didn't matter; it was home.

### **Visits from My Family**

Close to Christmas 1939, matters took a turn for the better when my parents bought me a new bicycle; as well as being one of my heart's desires, it was probably an indication of the increased prosperity that the war had brought.



Things also improved when our school was later transferred from the Wilmslow schoolroom to Ashcroft House.

From the second week that I arrived in Wilmslow, I received day visits from members of my family every weekend, usually a Sunday. Initially, both my parents came together, but as the weeks went by, they came individually, probably to save on the bus fare and also allow themselves some weekend time from work. (At that time, most people still worked a 5½ day week).

When it was my mother's turn, Mrs. Wood would serve afternoon tea, and we had only a couple of hours before it was time to start the walk back to Bank Square in Wilmslow to catch the North Western bus to Manchester.

My father, sometimes accompanied by Mr. Wood, would go for a walk around Wilmslow and usually took the opportunity of stopping in at the Kings Arms for a quick pint before walking me home to Croft Road.

On the way back at the end of his first Sunday visit, Dad invited Mr. Wood to join him. Mr. Wood declined, saying that he drank very little and never went in the King's Arms, but Dad persuaded him, and in they went.

Dad, who detested a "holier than thou" person, was delighted to tell

us later that when they went into the pub, everyone greeted Mr. Wood as though he were a regular patron, which he probably was not, much to his embarrassment.

Belle, the youngest of my sisters, paid me a visit one weekend, wearing her ATS uniform and looking very smart. At the outbreak of war, she had been posted to an army signals unit stationed at the Hazeldene Hotel in Prestwich, close to home, but too far to permit home visits every night. It was there that she met her future husband, Joe Armstrong, who was serving in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Doris, my elder sister, also visited me but most of the visits were fleeting; by the time the North Western arrived around noon, time passed very quickly before it was time for her to catch the return.

### **Other Pastimes**

When no family visits were scheduled, I was taken on long walks by Mr. Wood to see all kinds of interesting things, such as how peat was dug and how a small farm worked. We walked one day as far as Ringway Airport, where camouflaged Fairey Battle light bombers were lined up near the fence, guarded by an armed sentry.

Another time, in the dead of winter, we walked a long way to

see the River Bollin frozen for the first time in living memory. Many people had the same idea and quite a crowd came and went.

The river Bollin was a narrow fast-flowing stream that indeed contained a great deal of ice, but having since lived for years beside the mighty St. Lawrence River in Montreal with its several-mile width covered by ice, I sometimes think back and marvel at our wonderment of that little stream.

### **Lost Enjoyments**

One of the things I sorely missed was my Saturday afternoon matinee at the pictures with my friends. In Wilmslow, there were two cinemas within easy walking distance of each other.

One, whose name I can't recall, had a much cheaper admittance charge than the other, which was called the "Rex." It also had special movies for children on Saturday afternoons, shades of the old Rivoli matinées.

The Rex, however, a large elegant-looking structure with a white tile frontage which stood well back from the roadway, was generally seen as the Wilmslow equivalent of the downtown cinemas in Manchester; the films shown there were of a higher calibre than its lower-priced counterpart.

The Rex met with the approval of Mrs. Wood; its rival didn't.

Due to the lower entrance cost and the fact that other foster parents did not share the same type of social awareness as the Woods, the Rex's competitor was well patronized by my school-mates each weekend, and I recall my envy at their being able to watch "Robin Hood," starring Errol Flynn, while I was not allowed to attend.

What made it worse on the Saturday when "Robin Hood" was showing was seeing many of my friends in the queue outside the Rex having a good time with each other even before the theatre opened, just like the good old Rivoli days.

Not only did I miss a great entertainment for someone my age, I was also somewhat out of the action when Robin Hood became the main theme of the games played after school.

Even to visit the Rex, an adult companion was required, so apart from one occasion when my sister Doris took me to see "Nurse Cavell" starring Anna Neagle, the story of the First World War heroine executed by the Germans, I was completely severed from one of my favourite pastimes and lost my exposure to the cultural aspects of the Wild West and the Northwest Frontier of India.

## **New Experiences**

A week or so before Christmas, my dad wrote to say he would be paying us a visit on the following Saturday and that he was coming by train instead of the usual bus. The change of day and mode of transport was puzzling until he arrived and produced from the guard's van a brand new Hercules bicycle!

What joy that machine brought over the next few months! It became my Spitfire, my Donald Campbell's Bluebird world speed record setting car, and my Norton motorbike for carrying despatches through enemy lines, as well as getting me to school much faster than usual. I will always remember that memorable Christmas!

It was also around this time that I made my first foray into high finance, when the Post Office announced plans to raise the price of postage by adding, if I recall correctly, a halfpenny to the cost of mailing a standard letter. It occurred to me that if I bought the stamps in advance, investing my total savings of one shilling, I would be able to avoid paying the extra amount on my mail home for quite some time.

It never occurred to me that a stamp of the correct value would be required to post a letter; I assumed that we would just be

required to pay more for the stamps of the original denomination. At least I was able to write home more often.

## **Ashcroft School**

While I attended school at Ashcroft, I met a new group of friends and enjoyed my time there.

I was exposed for the first time to a woodworking class under a teacher named Mr. Grimes, who reminded me of the actor Alistair Sim, not only in his looks but also in his abstracted manner. The woodworking, known as Manual class, was held one afternoon per week and was located some distance from Ashcroft in another school, close to Alderley, a neighbouring village.

To get to the class required a long walk across the golf links, which also meant getting home late. At one point in the lesson, Mr. Grimes' attention would be successfully diverted while one boy stood on a chair and advanced the large wall clock by 30 minutes. Mr. Grimes either never caught on, or else he was aware of the game and glad himself to wind up the class half an hour earlier.

The same teacher held a weekly botany class in Ashcroft's spacious gardens, during which pupils regularly slipped worms or other garden creatures into his jacket pockets; they all must have been

noticed, but he never commented upon them. I think that Mr. Grimes was our best-liked teacher . . .

Recently, I came across a history of the school during those years that I attended, and was greatly impressed by the list of old boys: Robert Donat, an internationally known actor and film star who won an Oscar; Sir James Chadwick, discoverer of the particle “Neutron” and assistant to Ernest Rutherford of atom fame; Sir Arthur Whitton-Brown, who, together with Sir John Alcock, made the first nonstop transatlantic flight; Lord Uvedale of medical distinction, and a whole list of distinguished men in all walks of life.

At Ashcroft, the school aspect showed many other improvements. First, we were now mixed with the more regular type of elementary schoolchildren, which really showed us how inferior our education had been, compared with that of a large school. In all subjects, we were behind those of our Levenshulme counterparts.

However, a good deal of attention on the part of the teachers and a lot of my own effort brought me to a stage where I was able to win a scholarship to Manchester Central High School for Boys (MCHSB), considered by most to be the best school in Manchester.

Passing the examination to MCHSB was a source of great pride, not only to me, but to my father, mother and, not least of all, my grandmother.

Unfortunately, passing the scholarship exam meant that some hard decisions had to be made. MCHSB pupils had, on the outbreak of war, been evacuated to Blackpool which, as a seaside resort, made it the most desirable evacuation destination in the eyes of a city boy.

While MCHSB students were able to continue their education in Blackpool, many evacuees from all of Manchester’s schools were trickling home due to the non-materialization of the air raids we had been warned to expect immediately after war was declared. This was true of MCHSB, and the school was operating to its peacetime level.

As another alternative, I was told that arrangements could be made for me to attend Macclesfield Grammar School; being in a country town close to Wilmslow, it had not been part of the national evacuation scheme. This would mean that I would continue living with Mr. and Mrs. Wood, a situation with which they expressed complete satisfaction.

## **Macclesfield, Blackpool or Manchester?**

At this stage of the war, in May 1940, the overall situation had worsened drastically: Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway had all been invaded and France itself overrun.

The main body of the British Expeditionary Force, more than 300,000 men, had been lifted from the beaches of Dunkirk by the royal and merchant navies, assisted by a host of volunteer civilians in pleasure yachts, fishing boats and ferries.

I can recall the great feeling of pride expressed by everyone in the achievements of our soldiers, sailors and airmen and the feeling that although we and the Empire now stood alone against the Germans, we were free of our allies and we could not lose. There was a strange atmosphere of exultation and confidence despite the desperate situation we were in.

In the city, signs of the war were everywhere about; brick and concrete public air raid shelters had sprung on many streets. One such shelter was erected on April Street but, to my knowledge, never used by its residents, who preferred instead the dubious safety of their own homes.

In addition to the barrage balloons in the city parks, all open spaces were blocked by a variety

of obstacles to frustrate the glider landings that would be part of any German invasion. These ranged from metal stakes driven into the ground, piles of stones, and even old cars scattered about the open areas at intervals that would cause collisions to any glider attempting to land.

Uniformed men were to be seen everywhere, and soldiers, even those on leave, were now obliged to carry their rifles at all times.

So far, though, the city had felt no particular effects of the war, apart from food rationing. Before war broke out, there had been many theories about the devastation that aircraft would probably wreak on our cities and the huge number of civilian deaths that could be expected.

The facts that thousands of air raid shelters, both public and private, had been prepared and that every citizen had to carry a gas mask everywhere were evidence of the fears of the government in this regard.

However, while we had all seen newsreels from the Spanish Civil War and the havoc brought to their cities by the air forces of Germany and Italy [both supporters of the fascist forces of General Franco], and despite having seen Warsaw and Rotterdam severely bombed during the present conflict, the forecasted massive

raids on Britain had not materialized. Even if they did, we thought that Manchester would be beyond the effective range of German aircraft, and we had full confidence that the pilots of the

Royal Air Force would defend us. Even so, when my parents made the decision to bring me back to Manchester, it must have been a very hard choice.

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## We Shall Remember Them

### **Private George Huriwaka<sup>©</sup> Regimental number: 16/1238 New Zealand Pioneer Battalion**

BY HEATHER CARMODY

*Heather, who is one of the volunteers researching soldiers who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, has found some interesting information about Māori recruits from New Zealand.*

During the Great War, 98,950 New Zealanders served in New Zealand forces overseas.<sup>1</sup> Private George Huriwaka was one of 2227 who served in Māori units and one of the 336 Māoris who died in that conflict.<sup>2</sup>

George was born on 24 August 1894 in Matatā, a small community on the Bay of Plenty, North Island, New Zealand.<sup>3</sup> The son of Pene Huriwaka, he was a member of the Te Arawa iwi (iwi = tribe), Ngāti-Rangitihī hapū (hapū = a named tribal division).<sup>4</sup> His mother was most likely TeKoki TeHira.<sup>5</sup>

The couple married in the late 1880s and raised 16 children. George (whose Māori name was Kīni Hori) was their fourth son.<sup>6</sup> He was baptized into the Roman

Catholic faith and probably attended school in Matatā, achieving the Fourth Educational Standard or higher.

Perhaps for economic reasons, by 1915 he was living in Ohinemutu, about 82 km from Matatā. His aunt Kate King lived in nearby Rotorua, where George worked as a farm labourer.<sup>6</sup>

Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August 1914, but on the other side of the world in New Zealand, it was 5 August 1914.

The Governor, Arthur William de Brito Savile Foljambe, Earl of Liverpool, announced the news at 3 p.m. from the steps of Parliament in Wellington to a crowd of over 12,000, stating that New Zealand was prepared to make

any sacrifice to maintain her heritage and birthright.<sup>7</sup>

At the outbreak of the war, imperial policy did not allow indigenous peoples to fight in a war against Europeans. Permission was granted on 14 September 1914 for a Māori contingent to form part of New Zealand's war effort.

The four Māori members of Parliament and Sir James Carroll, who, although a Māori, represented the Gisborne electorate, formed the Native Contingent Committee<sup>8</sup> to recruit and coordinate the formation of a Native Contingent.<sup>9</sup>

While some Māori rushed to enlist (about 5.3% of the Māori population of 51,997 enlisted during the war),<sup>10</sup> others refused to fight for the British Crown. (This opposition intensified when conscription, which had been introduced in 1916, was extended to the Māori people on 26 June 1917.)<sup>11</sup>

The first Native Contingent of 500 men was organized and trained near Auckland, departing for Egypt with other New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) units on 14 February 1915.<sup>12</sup>

In May the Imperial Government suggested that the contingent see active service in Gallipoli, which met with the approval of the New

Zealand Government and the Māori leaders.<sup>13</sup>

On 3 July 1915 the Native Contingent joined the NZEF at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, where it fought with distinction, particularly at Sari Bair (from 6–21 August 1915). Māori losses were 17 men killed, 89 wounded and 2 missing.<sup>14</sup>

Major General Alexander Godley, who commanded the NZEF,<sup>15</sup> expressed concern regarding some of the Native Contingent's commanders; he sent three officers back to New Zealand for disciplinary reasons and broke up the Native Contingent, assigning its companies to various NZEF infantry brigades.<sup>16</sup> Māori leaders and the Native Contingent Committee demanded that the officers be reinstated and that the Māori soldiers be reunited as one unit.

With the formation of a New Zealand Division in the British Expeditionary Force in January 1916, Godley was able to accept the Native Contingent Committee's terms.<sup>17</sup>

The officers were reinstated and on 20 February 1916, New Zealand Divisional Orders authorized the formation of the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion, which contained Māori and Pākehā (New Zealanders of

European descent). It amalgamated the remnants of the first Native Contingent, the second Māori Contingent (which had arrived in Egypt on 19 January 1916), and the depleted regiments, the Otago Mounted Rifles and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles.<sup>18</sup>

The decision to include Pākehā reflected the realization that the Native Contingent at its present strength (roughly 500) was not large enough to form an infantry battalion and never would be, given the uncertainty of further recruitment to replace casualties.<sup>19</sup>

Pioneers were armed, trained in infantry tactics and employed in combat roles when not performing engineering tasks, such as installing communication wire, digging trenches and erecting defensive obstacles.

Major George Augustus King (from the Auckland Mounted Rifles) was promoted to Colonel and assigned command of the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion. Captain Peter H. Buck (aka Te Rangi Hīroa), former Member of Parliament (Northern Māori), was promoted to Major and named second in command.

The battalion consisted of four companies led by Pākehā and Māori officers. Each company had

four platoons, two of which were made up of Māori and two of Pākehā soldiers. The iwi distribution was adhered to, as in the first Native Contingent.<sup>20</sup>

In New Zealand, recruitment continued among the male Māori population between the ages of 21 and 40 years<sup>21</sup> with a maximum weight restriction of 13.5 stone (189 pounds; 85.7 kg)<sup>22</sup> to form a third Māori contingent.

On 28 June 1915, George Huriwaka passed the medical examination. Almost 21 years old, he was 5 ft. 6¼ in. (168 cm) tall, weighing 140 lb. (64 kg) with brown eyes, black hair, a dark complexion, and scars on his left hand and knee.

He enlisted at Takapuna on 26 October 1915 and signed his attestation form on 27 October at Narrow Neck Military Camp overlooking Rangitoto Channel, near Auckland. There, he and 111 Māoris were joined by 203 men who, although classified as 148 Niue Islanders and 55 Rarotongan,<sup>23</sup> actually came from various Pacific Islands.<sup>24</sup>

Māui Pōmare, Member of Parliament (Western Māori) and a member of the Native Contingent Committee, had actively recruited these men. The eight officers began training the recruits immediately in platoon and



company drills, marching, musketry, bayonet and assault techniques and trench digging.<sup>25</sup> By the end of January, they were deemed ready.

On 4 February 1916, Private George Huriwaka, Company A,<sup>26</sup> with soldierly bearing and fixed bayonet, marched with the third Māori Contingent, together with soldiers of the 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade and two sections of No. 2 Field Ambulance, through the streets of Auckland to Queen's Wharf.

Although there was heavy rain, thousands lined the streets to cheer the troops. Speeches were given by a number of dignitaries. Prime Minister William Massey said that it was a splendid thing to see members of "the Native race coming forward with other soldiers of the Empire under the grand old flag."<sup>27</sup>

George Huriwaka and the third Māori Contingent, along with "C" Company of the 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade and No. 2 Field Ambulance, boarded the *Navua* (Transport No. 44) to sail to Egypt at 1 a.m. on 5 February 1916.<sup>28</sup>

The voyage from New Zealand to Egypt took over a month with stops at Albany, West Australia, and Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).<sup>29</sup> The *Navua* arrived at

Port Suez, Egypt, on 15 March 1916.

Because there was an outbreak of measles during the voyage, 15 Niue Islanders were sent to hospital, and the rest of the contingent went by train to Ismailia. From there they marched over the pontoon bridge at Ferry Post to the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion's camp east of the Suez Canal, arriving on 16 March 1916.

The remaining members of the third Māori Contingent<sup>30</sup> were put into a measles quarantine camp about 365 m west of the main camp.

At the time, the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion's main task was to maintain the trenches 10 km east of the camp.

On 20 March, orders were received for the battalion to return to Moascar Camp, Ismailia. Before it departed on 21 March, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and other military officials inspected the battalion and were entertained by a rousing haka.

When the battalion arrived at Moascar Camp, George Huriwaka and the rest of the third Māori Contingent were released from quarantine and assigned to the battalion's companies, where they underwent more solid infantry training.

Given the concern that the South Pacific Islanders would not cope well with the European climate, a number of them were reassigned to regiments staying in Egypt.

On 3 April, the whole New Zealand Division paraded for General Sir Archibald Murray. The next day, he inspected the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion and expressed his satisfaction of the Battalion's appearance and bearing. Perhaps George Huriwaka was part of the Ngati-Poru and Te Arawa groups that performed a song and dance of greeting.

On 7 April, George and his fellow soldiers had a last swim in Lake Timsah. The battalion then boarded trains for Port Said. On the morning of 9 April, its 28 officers and 948 other ranks sailed for Europe on board HMCS *Canada*, arriving in Marseilles, France, on 14 April 1916.

From there, the battalion travelled 850 km by train to Steenbecque, France, where they detrained and marched 3 km to dirty billets in Morbecque. The weather was wet and cold; most of the remaining men from the Pacific Islands collapsed and had to be assisted. (Because of illness, the remaining Niue soldiers were sent back to New Zealand via England on 30 May 1916.)

The battalion would relocate again to Cercus on April 17 and then to Estaires on 1 May 1916. By 15 May, it had moved to billets in a cotton factory just north of Armentières on the river Lys.<sup>31</sup>

The battalion worked primarily in a combat support role (clearing trees, digging trenches, building roads and other logistical tasks) with the occasional raiding party.<sup>32</sup>

There were also some social activities, such as a wood chopping competition between Canadian, Australian and New Zealand soldiers on 21 May 1916.<sup>33</sup> The New Zealanders (all Māori) won two of the four contests and were second in the other two. Nonetheless, the overall situation was stressful. Heavy shelling was a day-and-night experience that produced casualties.

Given the stress, crowded unsanitary living conditions and poor diet, illnesses developed. It was estimated that one-third of the deaths in World War I (WW I) were caused by disease.<sup>34</sup> During the period from 15 May 1916 to 14 August 1916, 5 men in the Māori Contingent (aka New Zealand Pioneer Battalion) were killed in action, 7 died from wounds received earlier and 16 died from diseases.<sup>35</sup>

On 26 May 1916, an ill George Huriwaka was taken to No. 2 New Zealand Field Ambulance; the next day he was transferred to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCS), Bailleul, France, suffering from pneumonia. He died at 3:30 a.m. on 6 June 1916.<sup>36</sup>

Private George Huriwaka was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Grave/Memorial Reference II. B. 149.<sup>37</sup>

Bailleul, close to the Belgian border, was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian CCS, were quartered there.

The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

Private George Huriwaka was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).

As next of kin, his father, Pene Huriwaka, received his medals, an Overseas War Gratuity, a parchment scroll and a memorial plaque.

New Zealand has over 500 memorials honouring its WW I dead. George Huriwaka's name is listed on a number of them. However, there was a problem with the spelling of George's last name. The newspapers on 10 June 1916 and the New Zealand Army Casualty Lists spelled his name as Kuriwaka, although his regimental number 16/1238 was correct.<sup>38</sup>

At the unveiling of the Te Arawa War Memorial, Rotorua, on 28 February 1927 to honour the Te Arawa men who fought and died in WW I, Hori Huriwaka (aka George Huriwaka) was listed on the event's program,<sup>39</sup> but his name was spelled as Huriwhaka, G. PTE on the war memorial.

In his home town of Matatā, funds for a memorial were collected in 1922 and eventually the Memorial Gates were erected. George Huriwaka's name (spelled correctly) is on the 1914 gate.<sup>40</sup> His name is also on such online sites as the *Auckland War Museum Online Cenotaph*<sup>41</sup> and the *28th Māori Battalion Roll*.<sup>42</sup>

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## Reference Notes

- <sup>1</sup> “First World War by the numbers,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/first-world-war-by-numbers>: accessed 11 February 2018).
- <sup>2</sup> “Māori Units of the NZEF,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/maori-units-nzef>: accessed 6 February 2018). Note: Other sources, such as Timothy Winegard, *Indigenous Peoples of the British Dominions and the First World War* (Cambridge: University Press 2012), page 264, list the total number of Māori who served in WW I at around 2,700.
- <sup>3</sup> “Huriwaka, George—WW1 16/1238—Army,” *Archives New Zealand*. (<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=18051548&digital=yes>: accessed 17 February 2018), entry for George Huriwaka, Military personnel files: AABK 18805 W5541/38, Record no.: 0058298. Note: Unless otherwise noted, all information about George Huriwaka comes from this source. On the attestation form, George gives his birth date as 24 August 1894. He may have been underage; “International Genealogical Index (IGI),” *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/2:1:9VPY-HKS>: accessed 2 March 2018), entry for Kini Hori or George Huriwaka records his birth date as 1896. No documentation was provided to verify this information. Official recording of Māori marriages started in 1911 and births and deaths in 1913. Church records have some of this information but were not accessible.
- <sup>4</sup> “New Zealand, Maori Voter and Electoral Rolls, 1908 and 1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 27 February 2018), entry for Pene Huriwaka, Electoral year: 1908, Electoral district: Eastern Maori. Note: The hapū for Pene Huriwaka (most likely his father) was listed as Ngāti-Rangitihi and Ngati-Mahi; the hapū for TeKoki TeHira Huriwaka (most likely his mother) was listed as Ngāti-Rangitihi. In the records for electoral year 1919, the hapū for Manuera Huriwaka and Kingi Huriwaka (most likely his brothers), was recorded as Ngāti-Rangitihi.
- <sup>5</sup> “International Genealogical Index,” *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/2:1:9VPY-HKS>: accessed 2 March 2018), entry for Kini Hori or George Huriwaka. Note: This source indicated that TeKoki TeHira was George’s mother. Although no documentation was provided, this information might be correct. There was a TeKoki Huriwaka living in Matatā; “New Zealand, Maori Voter and Electoral Rolls, 1908 and 1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 9 March 2018), entry for TeKoki Huriwaka, Electoral year: 1908, Electoral district: Eastern Maori, p. 43, Electoral year: 1919, Electoral district: Eastern Maori, p. 38.
- <sup>6</sup> “International Genealogical Index,” *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/2:1:9VPY-HKS>: accessed 2 March 2018), entry for Kini Hori or George Huriwaka.

- <sup>7</sup> “First World War - Overview,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/first-world-war-overview/origins>: accessed 18 January 2018).
- <sup>8</sup> “Māori Units of the NZEF,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/maori-in-first-world-war/native-contingent>: accessed 17 April 2018).
- <sup>9</sup> James Cowan, *The Maoris in the Great War: A History of The New Zealand Native Contingent and Pioneer Battalion: Gallipoli, 1915, France and Flanders, 1916–1918*, (Auckland: Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd. 1926), *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection* (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-CowMaor.html>: accessed 16 February 2018), p. 11.
- <sup>10</sup> Timothy Winegard, op. cit., p. 264.
- <sup>11</sup> “Māori and the First World War,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/maori-in-first-world-war/overview>: accessed 16 February 2018).
- <sup>12</sup> James Cowan, op. cit., p. 16.
- <sup>13</sup> Marcus F. Marks, *New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Its Provision and Maintenance*, (Wellington: Government Printer, 1919), *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/files/documents/ww1-stats/provision-and-maintenance.pdf>: accessed 19 February 2018), p. 10.
- <sup>14</sup> Timothy Winegard, op. cit., p. 104.
- <sup>15</sup> “Alexander Godley,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/ajgodley>: accessed 22 March 2018).
- <sup>16</sup> James Cowan, op. cit., p. 59.
- <sup>17</sup> Timothy Winegard, op. cit., p. 107.
- <sup>18</sup> James Cowan, op. cit., p. 70.
- <sup>19</sup> Timothy Winegard, op. cit., p. 103.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> James Cowan, op. cit., p. 10.
- <sup>22</sup> Timothy Winegard, op. cit., p. 104.
- <sup>23</sup> Marcus F. Marks, op. cit., p. 43; “Pacific Islanders in the NZEF,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/pacific-islanders-nzef/niueans>: accessed 19 February 2018). Note: The actual number varies from source to source.
- <sup>24</sup> Timothy Winegard, op. cit., p. 108.
- <sup>25</sup> James Cowan, op. cit., p. 14.
- <sup>26</sup> “New Zealand Army WW1 Nominal Rolls, 1914–1918,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 5 March 2018), entry for George Huriwahe [sic].
- <sup>27</sup> “Parade at Auckland,” *Ashburton Guardian*, 5 February 1916, *Papers Past, National Library of New Zealand* (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>: accessed 7 February 2018), p. 6.
- <sup>28</sup> W. S. Austin, *Official History of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade* (Wellington: L.T. Watkins Ltd., 1924), *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection* (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH1-NZRI.html>: accessed January 2018), p. 61. Other sources gave the date as 6 February, which might have been when the fleet left New Zealand waters.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid., p. 62.
- <sup>30</sup> James Cowan, op. cit., p. 72.

- <sup>31</sup> James Cowan, op. cit., pp. 72–78.
- <sup>32</sup> “Famous New Zealanders—No.27 —Dr. Peter H. Buck (Te Rangihiroa), D.S.O.: Doctor, Soldier and Ethnologists,” *The New Zealand Railways Magazine*, 10, no. 3 (1 June 1935), p. 22, *New Zealand Electronic Text Collection* ([http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Gov10\\_03Rail-t1-body-d8.html](http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Gov10_03Rail-t1-body-d8.html): accessed 4 February 2018).
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- <sup>34</sup> “How Many People Died in World War 1,” *History on the Net* (<https://www.historyonthenet.com/how-many-people-died-in-ww1/>: accessed 29 March 2018).
- <sup>35</sup> “New Zealand, Army WW1 Casualty Lists, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 9 March 2018), entry for George Kuriwaha [sic]. Note: George Huriwaka’s last name was misspelled; the regimental number was correct.
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- <sup>37</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 26 June 2017), entry for George Huriwaka.
- <sup>38</sup> “Fallen New Zealanders,” *New Zealand Times*, 20 June 1916, *Papers Past, National Library of New Zealand* ([www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers](http://www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers): accessed 9 March 2018), p. 5.
- <sup>39</sup> “Arawa War Memorial, Rotorua,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/arawa-war-memorial-rotorua>: accessed 10 March 2018).
- <sup>40</sup> “Matatā War Memorial,” *New Zealand History* (<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/matata-war-memorial>: accessed 29 March 2018).
- <sup>41</sup> “Online-Cenotaph,” *Auckland War Memorial Museum* (<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph/record/C64072?n=George%20Huriwaka&ordinal=0&from=%2Fwar-memorial%2Fonline-cenotaph%2Fsearch>: accessed 29 Mar 2018) entry for George Huriwaka.
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## Techniques and Resources

# Then and Now— Twenty Years of Genealogical Computing



BY BOB DAWES

*Bob is a retired tech industry executive with a passion for merging genealogy with technology. He and his wife Barbara have tracked their ancestors through the UK, Canada and the USA. Bob is a regular speaker and writer for genealogical and historical societies in the Quinte area.*

Starting with the Summer 1998 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, I submitted three articles on technology, titled “Communicating with your Computer”, “Using Computers for Genealogy” and “Publishing Your Family History” (Vol. 4, Nos. 3 and 4, and Vol. 5, No. 1). Having just rejoined BIFHSGO after several years, I thought it might be interesting to revisit these articles 20 years on to see what’s changed.

Before starting, I have to congratulate BIFHSGO on the outstanding quality of the current *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. After reading the issues from 1998 and 1999, containing my articles, it has come a long way. My compliments go to the succession of editors who have made this possible. My wife and I belong to many societies and there are a number whose jour-

nals still look the same as they did 20 years ago. So kudos again!

The title of my first 1998 article, “Communicating with your Computer,” meant using it as a communications tool to access the world; however, this usually meant yelling at my computer as it refused to do what I expected. How naïve I was back then!

### The Internet

Most of my first article centered on getting connected using a *dial-up modem* to access the available services. The World Wide Web was in its infancy, and most communications online were done through portals like CompuServe, America Online and Sympatico or local bulletin board services.

The highest modem speed was 28,800 bits per second (bps), which is paltry compared to

today's cable, DSL and fibre speeds in the 75 M/bps range (that's 75 million bps).

Routers were only used in business environments, whereas we all have one today.

*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* was available in text format by email, as was *RootsWeb*. However, compare that to what's available today via blogs, Facebook, Pinterest, etc. And I'm not even going to compare the myriad of devices that can access these services in addition to a personal computer.

*Cyndi's List* should also get a mention for staying power, although her original URL was [www.oz.net/~cindihow.wy.htm](http://www.oz.net/~cindihow.wy.htm), compared with today's [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com). Don't ask me how the "i" changed to a "y" but I'll bet an internet troll had registered the URL before her, expecting to profit from it. C[y]ndi got the last laugh!

Today's internet has changed substantially with the online services, both paid and free, that are available. We used to rely mostly on CDs for research, but now we can find an indexed name in seconds and then download a copy of the original document.

Obtaining copies used to require making a trip to the archives and spending time on a microfilm

reader; now interactive websites are collecting tombstone images directly from smartphones and linking their Global Positioning System coordinates.

I barely touched on search engines in my 1998 articles, although I did mention AltaVista, which predated Google and was later purchased by Yahoo. Today's search engines are intelligent and you can set up alerts to constantly monitor the Web for your search criteria.

Getting to where we are today took a lot of work by both volunteers and commercial companies. When the U.K. 1921 Census is released in January 2022 it won't take long to get the images scanned and online, followed by the full indexing in a year or so. Hopefully, artificial intelligence (AI) will speed up the transcribing of handwritten text, so we won't have to rely on the Third World residents or the prisoners who did earlier versions.

## Hardware

Moving on to using computers for genealogy, what has changed? In 1998, we referred to our PCs as 386 and 486 processors. Windows 95 had just morphed into Windows 98 and we were all worried about the Y2K crisis at the end of the century, when



everything run by a computer was supposed to stop. (Windows 95 is now available as an app you can run on both PC and Apple computers. If you feel nostalgic, download it from <https://github.com/felixrieseberg/windows95/releases>.)

Most of us were still running DOS or Windows 3.1, because we didn't tend to upgrade our operating systems as often as we do today; we waited until we needed a new computer.

Our biggest advantage was our CD-ROM drive. Forget a burner; we just needed to read all those genealogy CDs that were being produced by Broderbund, Global Genealogy, Archive CD Books and the LDS Family History Centre.

My current PC has more RAM memory than my original hard drive. Barbara's new HP-PC has 16GB RAM, a 3-terabyte hard drive, a 256-gigabyte solid state drive to run Windows 10 exclusively, and it cost less than the 486 Dell we bought in the mid-nineties. Plus it has built-in Bluetooth and WiFi, both of which were unheard-of 20 years ago.

CD-ROM and DVD-RW drives are disappearing in favour of USB ports and flash drives. Serial ports (used to connect a modem) are gone, as are parallel ports (used for printers and scanners).

USB 1.0 has been replaced by 3.0, and their speeds have increased from 1.5 Mb/s to 5.0 Gb/s. That's a "G" for giga! You can now charge and run your laptop using the USB port, provided it's a type C.

In the past some of you might have had a SCSI (Small Computer System Interchange) adapter with its thick cable for your scanner, which has also been replaced by the USB technology.

What were the advantages of moving to Windows 95 and up?

- 1) We got rid of the DOS 8.3 (FILENAME.EXT) file naming convention and could use long names for our files.
- 2) Windows applied our mouse, keyboard, monitor and peripherals to every program without needing separate drivers for each one. Remember WordPerfect 5.1 or Lotus 1-2-3?
- 3) Windows came with built-in features like Notepad, Calculator, Paintbrush and Cardfile.
- 4) Windows was Plug'n'Play, meaning it installed the right drivers to work with your hardware configuration, allowing seamless hardware upgrades.
- 5) You could run multiple apps at the same time and copy and paste or drag and drop between them.

I'm sure there are many more, but it was such a long time ago . . .

The standard monitor 20 years ago was a 14" cathode ray tube, which was heavy and consumed a lot of electricity. Fast forward to 2018 and we now use wide-screen light-emitting diode flat panels in almost any dimension that we want or that our work space will support.

We also have the option for two or more monitors with our desktop spread across them; some even have touchscreen technology, which allows you to use your finger instead of the mouse.

Speaking of which, almost no one today has a wired mouse or keyboard; they have all become wireless. The USB wasn't even a twinkle in Bill Gates' eye 20 years ago.

No self-respecting genealogist can function without a scanner and printer nowadays. Multifunction or all-in-one machines were unheard-of 20 years ago. Laser printers were very expensive, so we made do with dot-matrix printers with a ribbon, or pin printers and their unique sound.

Today you can buy a name brand laser printer with duplex printing and WiFi for under \$150. Colour inkjet printers cost even less and are good enough to print documents that mirror the original image.

Scanners have advanced in the same way and now include features that allow you to scan negatives and colour slides as well as normal photos and documents.

Portable scanners have also arrived that you can take with you to copy text in books or Aunt Sarah's family photograph that she won't let out of her house.

We found a baptismal binder at the Buchan Family History Society in Peterhead, Scotland, and I was able to copy 200 pages in about an hour with my wand scanner running on batteries. Smart-phones work almost as well!

## **Software**

Software for genealogy has exploded in the same time. In 1998, we had the choice of a few DOS programs; they were mostly shareware that you downloaded, installed and then paid for if you kept using it.

Alternatively, you bought a diskette at a show for a couple of dollars. Quite often they came attached to family history magazines, which is another resource that has almost disappeared.

My memory isn't great, but the Windows software that I remember was Family Tree Maker, Brother's Keeper and Ultimate Family Tree. Until 64-bit computing came along, DOS

programs would work under Windows, so there was no urgency to switch up to the Windows version.

In the early days of computer genealogy, we tended to use a basket of programs to meet our needs. In addition to a genealogy program, we also used databases such as dBase or Paradox, word processors like Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect, spreadsheets like Quattro Pro and Lotus 123 and many specialty utility programs, which specialized in charting, reporting, analysis and fixing errors in our files.

Today's genealogy programs do pretty much everything, from searching the Web for your records and images to printing them in a coffee table book for you.

(Personally, I use an older version of Family Tree Maker and GEDCOM my file into RootsMagic and Legacy so I can take advantage of the record hints.)

Modern genealogy programs will produce register reports that are geared to today's word processors, enabling you to add images and create an index and table of contents.

I still use Progeny's Charting Companion, as I prefer their charts and reports, especially with their new DNA-based charts. In

some cases, specialty software is still better.

## **Publishing**

My final article covered how to publish a family history. In our case, we had just published *The Descendants of Nehemiah Hubble and Lucretia Welton*, a 1,001-page hard-covered book for a family association. It contained over 22,000 individuals from the 1700s to current times. (Note: we couldn't do that today under the current privacy legislation without everyone's explicit permission.)

Publishing is the one area that hasn't changed much over 20 years. You can now output a family history directly from a genealogy program with photos, a table of contents and an index, but if the program uses a template you lose control over the publication once you press "print."

By purchasing a genealogy program that allows you to output to word processing for final editing, you can do everything pretty much the same as 20 years ago.

And the office suite apps available today are also pretty much the same as they were back then. They may look different, but the functionality is the same, which is why I still use Office 2003.

There are also many free options available today, such as Open Office, LibreOffice and Free Office, that weren't around back then. And the genealogy programs that couldn't output Word index codes back then, like Family Tree Maker, still can't today.

This is why it is important to keep an old copy of Personal Ancestral File around, as you can load a GEDCOM, export an RTF document and produce a table of contents and index in your word processor. You can also add photos, charts and captions with total creative control.

### **What's Been Achieved**

So what kind of progress has 20 years brought us? Our computers are faster and have tons of storage. Monitors are bigger and can be used in multiples or even projected on walls. The floppy disk has been replaced by a succession of products, from the ZIP disk to the CD-ROM and DVD-RW to the USB flash drive, which can now hold more than the original computers. Printing is in colour, which is fast, cheap, wireless and quiet.

Software has changed in its appearance but not its functionality and is moving to a subscription model to maintain the revenue stream. Operating systems are pretty much the same, except that we now have

Android, which has the largest market share, thanks to smartphones and tablets.

This foretells the rise of the Chromebook, which can run Android apps and (like Android) is free, keeping the overall cost down.

The biggest change in 20 years has been the migration from 32-bit to 64-bit computing, which limits the use of older programs unless you use DOSBOX or a virtual computer like VirtualBox or VMware.

I still use some old DOS and early Windows (16-bit) programs that run in VirtualBox. In fact, the standalone version of Windows 95 I mentioned earlier will run these old programs without needing a Windows licence.

The biggest improvement in our digital lives has come from the internet, over which we can now watch TV, listen to music, video call our relatives, balance our bank accounts, read ebooks and file our tax returns in addition to email.

From a genealogical perspective we can access original records and transcripts in an instant. We can share our ancestors on collaborative trees, all of which was unimagined 20 years ago; at best, we could find an index and then had to travel or hire a local

researcher to obtain a copy of the original.

AI agents or APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) are now reading our trees and scouring the online databases for record hints to help us fill in the blanks.

That's what has changed, not the hardware and software so much, but the connectivity and intelligence in the network.

### What's Next

Twenty years ago, the computer was everything. We purchased components and excitedly put them together. We installed software for each function and all of this we constantly upgraded, piece by piece and program by program, to improve functionality and speed.

Fast forward to today and the computer chip is ubiquitous: it's in everything we use.

The network and how we use it is the future, with fibre optic cable, 5G networks and LEO (low earth orbit) satellites bringing us unsurpassed connectivity.

Soon, embedded processors will be in every device (making them smart), edge computing will consolidate processing (providing low latency remote computing at your ISP or possibly in your router), storage will be in the cloud (bringing unlimited capacity) and with software intelligent enough to find the records and ancestors you need while you sleep or shop. What a time to be a genealogist!

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## The Cream of the Crop

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



BY JOHN D. REID

The graves and memorials for 3899 First World War Canadian Expeditionary Force soldiers may be found in

872 locations within 90 counties and nine islands across the British Isles. Many were in remote churchyards and far-flung tiny cemeteries.

With the centenary of the Armistice of the First World War just past, there's timely recognition for Kent residents Diana Beaupré and Adrian Watkinson, who since 2007 have been pursuing a personal project to visit and record each of the First World War CEF graves in the British Isles.

Their work has been recognized by the award of the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division).

The MSM is awarded for achievements over a limited time that have brought benefit or honour to Canada. They hope to receive the award in Ottawa from the Governor General early in 2019.

Find out more about the project at [www.canadianukgravesww1.co.uk/](http://www.canadianukgravesww1.co.uk/), which acknowledges "The Directors and Members of British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa Canada" as Gold Sponsors.

### **Victoria Cross Archive**

BIFHSGO member and chair of OGS Quinte Branch Terry Buttler emailed to let me know about the Victoria Cross Archive: The Facts Behind the Men Behind the Medals (<https://seventhtownresearch.com/research-resources/victoria-cross-library/>).

Compiled by U.K. historian Tom Johnson, it contains 1356 books, "some very small and others very large." The only location in the world where this collection exists is in Canada, at the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre and the Seventh Town Historical Society in Ameliasburgh, Prince Edward County.

### **Armistice Babies**

A blog post from the (U.K.) National Archives by Jessamy Carlson (<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/armistice-babies/>) takes a look at some of the names occurring in English and Welsh birth records.

Some first names that became more popular after 11 November 1918 were Victor, Victoria, Peace, Irene (derived from the Greek word for peace), Versailles, Poppy and Armistice. None of these challenged John and Mary for popularity but they did see an increase. Did the same thing happen in Canada?

Privacy restrictions means provincial birth registrations for the period are not yet public. The 1921 Census is, however. Except for the name Poppy there is a similar trend to that seen in England and Wales.

Military leaders were honoured by new parents. Kitchener, after Field Marshal Horatio Herbert Kitchener, had a fleeting burst of popularity as a first name from 1914 in Canada and the U.K. but faded after his death in June 1916. Surviving generals Haig and Currie had their maximum occurrence for births in 1919, according to the Canadian census.

### **Check Back**

Records are continually becoming available online. For instance, since September the *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick* site has added a 5514-item "Index to New Brunswick Marriages" for 1967; 5122 digitized images of original marriage records for 1965; 929 digitized images to "Late Registration of Births" for 1921, and 4983 digitized images to the death certificates for 1967.

Also in September, the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan made its entire collection of 182 back issues of *Saskatchewan History* magazine (1948–2017) available as free PDF downloads.

It's easy to overlook the various U.K. county archives websites that often host blogs, some updated more frequently than others.

*My Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections* blog recently featured blog posts from Essex ([www.essexrecordoffice.blog.co.uk/](http://www.essexrecordoffice.blog.co.uk/)) and Derbyshire (<https://recordoffice.wordpress.com/>), both of which are frequently updated.

Stay aware of news by subscribing to institutional blogs and news feeds for communities of interest, or by making it a habit to check back at their websites.

## County Boundaries on Google Maps

Current county boundaries on Google Maps anywhere in the U.S., U.K., Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Switzerland may be found at <https://www.randymajors.com/p/countygmap.html/>.

## Irish Newspapers Online

The *British Newspaper Archive* (BNA) [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/) has been placing emphasis on adding digitized Irish papers to its collection in recent months, including pre-famine years.

While most of the content is for the last half of the nineteenth century, then the first of the twentieth, there is also some for earlier years.

As of early November the papers with the most pre-famine content are for Northern Ireland: *Northern Whig* (1832–1919, 1921–1957); *Belfast News-Letter* (1828–1951, 1954–1956); *Londonderry Sentinel* (1829–1848, 1851–1852, 1854, 1856–1958); *Derry Journal* (1825, 1835–1885, 1891–1924, 1926–1942, 1950–1955); *Belfast Commercial Chronicle* (1805–1813, 1816–1817, 1819–1822, 1825–1829, 1831–1847, 1853–1855); *Newry Telegraph* (1829–1871); *Enniskillen Chronicle and Erne Packet* (1813, 1824–1880, 1882, 1884–1893).

There are a few for the Republic of Ireland: *Freeman's Journal* (1820–1821, 1830–1833, 1837–1924); *Saunders's News-Letter* (1773–1787, 1789, 1792–1797, 1799, 1802–1811, 1813–1815, 1817–1830, 1832, 1835–1837, 1839, 1843–1844, 1846, 1853–1871); *Dublin Evening Mail* (1824, 1826–1828, 1831, 1833, 1838, 1840–1871, 1876–1907); *Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier* (1823, 1825–1870); *Drogheda Journal*; or *Meath and Louth Advertiser* (1823–1840).

There are several others with scattered pre-famine issues, too many to list.

Another source, covering many of the same publications, is the *Irish Newspaper Archives* at [www.irishnewsarchive.com/](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com/). For those who fled the famine to Liverpool the BNA has the *Liverpool Mail* (1836–1837, 1839–1858, 1860–1868, 1870–1874, 1877, 1880) and *Liverpool Mercury* (1811–1835, 1837–1871, 1873–1897, 1899–1900).

### **Back Issues Can Enlighten**

In *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, Vol. 1, No. 1, President Brian O'Regan started the inaugural President's column with "You are now in the world of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, a full-fledged federally-incorporated entity."

As we enter the Society's 25th year there's much legacy material from BIFHSGO's world available in back issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

Doing a bit of catching up I came upon an article called "A Tale of Two Families" by Glenn Wright in ACR Winter 2008.

I had no recollection that Glenn had delved into Ottawa's Northwood family, which had the same Wolverhampton roots as mine. Reading it I found out things I didn't know, or perhaps knew once and had forgotten. Back issues can be enlightening.

I've wished there was a way to search the whole ACR collection at once. At present there's a search issue by issue. Now library

volunteers have indexed our ACR collection and their index is being added to the Ottawa Branch OGS library catalogue in the descriptions for the journal, issue by issue.

Volunteers have also indexed a number of the other periodicals in the collection, and these are being added to the main catalogue (<http://ogsottawa.on.ca/libsearch/>).

### **Family Tree Live**

Best bet for a genealogy event in England this spring is Family Tree Live, 26-27 April at London's Alexandra Palace. Each day features three streams of general family history with nine slots in each, and a DNA stream. The emphasis on UK speakers and topics makes the event a worthy successor to WDTYTA Live. And our own Christine Jackson will present her BIFHSGO-award-winning presentation on the Queen's coachman in her family tree. See more at <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live>.

### **Thanks to Jean Kitchen**

In closing, I'm grateful to have been able to prepare these columns with Jean as editor of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* for so many years. What I know is that Jean has made the rough material I provided, usually transgressing author guidelines, polished. Now you know it too and know why I especially will miss her as editor. Thank you, Jean.



# BIFHSGO News

## Membership Report

BY KATHY WALLACE

New BIFHSGO Members 1 Aug 2018–10 Nov 2018		
Member No.	Name	Address
1563	Barbara Lee	Ottawa, ON
1591	Marian Eagen	Ottawa, ON
1694	Gloria Beek	Merrickville, ON
1792	Helen McGuire Hogan	Ottawa, ON
1792	Ed Hogan	Ottawa, ON
1942	Dianne Tremblay	Gatineau, QC
1943	Donald Beckett	Nepean, ON
1944	Larry Richardson	Nepean, ON
1945	Beverley Stevenson	Carstairs, AB
1946	Joseph Culligan	Orleans, ON
1947	Susan Nutbrown	Plantagenet, ON
1948	Jillian Glover	Winnipeg, MB
1949	Kit Flynn	Ottawa, ON
1950	Elaine Dunn	London, ON
1951	Murray Cameron	Ottawa, ON
1951	Susan Cameron	Ottawa, ON
1952	Linda Shesko	Pointe-Claire, QC
1953	Lynda Healey-Radley	Ottawa, ON
1954	Donna Killeen	Ottawa, ON
1955	Ontario East British Home Child Family	Long Sault, ON
1956	Bruce McLennan	Ottawa, ON
1957	Nancy Fraser	Ottawa, ON
1958	Pierce Reid	Toronto, ON
1959	Gloria McNabb	Winnipeg, MB
1960	Helen Macdonald	Ottawa, ON

1961	Mary Campbell	McNab/Braeside, ON
1694	Gloria Beek	Merrickville, ON
1962	Rob Copeland	Ottawa, ON
1963	Irish Radio Canada	Ottawa, ON
1964	Lise Fournier Ausman	Ottawa, ON
1965	Ruth Gray	Ottawa, ON
1965	John Gray	Ottawa, ON
1966	Patricia Wood	Lexington, VA
1967	Anne Robertson Pfau	Corvallis, OR
1968	Helen Bednarek-Van Eyk	Nepean, ON
1968	Gerard Van Eyk	Nepean, ON

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Volunteer Coordinator Wanted**

Would you like to use your strong people and organizational skills to develop and implement BIFHSGO's volunteer program, recruit volunteers, arrange for training opportunities, and oversee volunteer appreciation?

Contact [president@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:president@bifhsgo.ca)

### **Anglo-Celtic Roots Editor Wanted**

Do you have editing/writing skills and publication management experience?

Would you enjoy upholding BIFHSGO's professional image?

You can make a difference! Contact [communications@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:communications@bifhsgo.ca)

### **Assistant Treasurer Wanted**

Are you good with numbers and budgets? Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved with BIFHSGO?

Contact [treasurer@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:treasurer@bifhsgo.ca)

## **2019 Membership Fee Increase**

Membership fees are increasing by \$5.00 to help meet the rising costs of operating our society. Starting 1 January 2019 Individual and Institutional memberships will rise to \$50.00 and family memberships to \$60.00. Renew before 31 December 2018 at the current rates. Your membership fees support the many activities and services provided by BIFHSGO, including this journal.

## **BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2018–2019**

President	Duncan Monkhouse	president@bifhsgo.ca
Recording Secretary	Gillian Leitch	secretary@bifhsgo.ca
Treasurer	Marianne Rasmus	treasurer@bifhsgo.ca
Research & Projects	Lynda Gibson	research@bifhsgo.ca
Membership	Kathy Wallace	membership@bifhsgo.ca
Communications	Susan Davis	communications@bifhsgo.ca
Publicity	Mary-Lou Simac	publicity@bifhsgo.ca
Director at Large	John McConkey	video@bifhsgo.ca
Programs/Education	Andrea Harding	programs@bifhsgo.ca
Past President	Barbara Tose	pastpresident@bifhsgo.ca

### **Communications**

<i>Anglo-Celtic Roots</i> Editor	Jean Kitchen	accreditor@bifhsgo.ca
<i>eNews</i> Editor	Wanda Quinn	newsletter@bifhsgo.ca
Webmaster	Vacant	
Queries	Sheila Dohoo Faure	queries@bifhsgo.ca
Photographer	Dena Palamedes	

### **Conference 2019**

Jane Down, Duncan Monkhouse

### **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, and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership dues for 2019 are \$50 for individuals, \$60 for families, and \$50 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 Centrepointhe Drive, Ottawa

- 12 Jan 2019**    **The Cowkeeper's Wish: Transforming Family History into a Great Story**—While it's satisfying to fill in a family's vital records, what's more fascinating is exploring who these people were and how they fit into their settings. Kristen den Hartog and Tracy Kasaboski will discuss how to create a wonderful story, drawing on official documents and personal treasures.
- 9 Feb 2019**    **Lord Bathurst's Settlers to Murray Township 1815-1817**—Many people are aware of the military settlements Lord Bathurst established in Perth and Richmond, but not of a smaller settlement created on the Bay of Quinte. Brian Tackaberry will talk about this settlement, which was established by disbanded soldiers and English immigrants.
- 9 Mar 2019**    **Expanding That Empty Branch on the Genetic Family Tree**—Isobel (Ella) Moreland was born in Edinburgh, adopted, and then emigrated to Canada as a war bride. Marianne Rasmus will share Ella's story and reveal how the family came together to search for Ella's birth family.

### 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
- 11:30–16:00    Writing Group

For information on meetings of the 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 submissions to the Spring issue is 25 January 2019.