



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

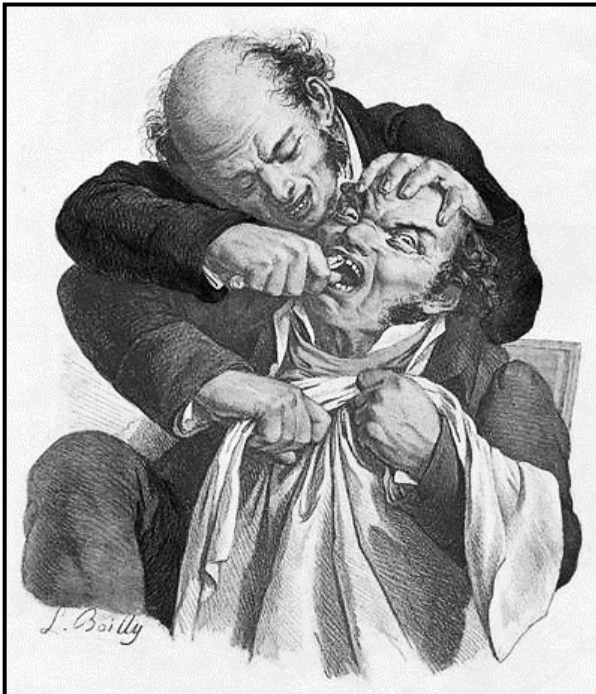
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An Intriguing Family History***

***We Shall Remember Them: Captain Lancelot Raimes***

***Scottish Genealogists' Essential Books:  
Where Can We Find Them?***



## *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

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**Cover Illustration:**

**Dentist, 1827**

Source: British Dental Museum

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

Our issue begins with the second part of the story Christine Jackson discovered when she researched the paternal grandparents of her schoolfriend, Chrissie. Knowing little more than where the family lived and the general area they came from, Christine uncovered a number of interesting stories—and maybe a skeleton or two.

Heather Carmody brings us the story of Captain Lancelot Raimes, a scholar, Anglican priest and soldier, in our soldier's biography. Captain Raimes chose to serve as a priest combatant, against the policy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and paid the ultimate price.

Pam Cooper brings us another exploration of the Ottawa Branch OGS library and beyond, in search of those essential books that professional Scottish genealogists want in their collections. Those planning on attending the BIFHSGO Conference in October might want to get a head start on their research by reading this column and checking out the gems Pam has uncovered.



Barbara Tose

## From the President

A couple of months ago, BIFHSGO member Pam Cooper showed me around the Reference Room at the Ottawa City Archives. The shelves house six separate collections: those of the City of Ottawa Archives and the Historical Society of Ottawa, both managed by the Archives; and the collections of four partner organizations, who each manage their own. One of those partners is the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OBOGS), in whose library Pam volunteers under the direction of Librarian Grace Lewis, and to which BIFHSGO donates a small amount each year for book purchases. As we walked up and down the rows, I had the urge to stop every few steps whenever a book title caught my eye.

Since that tour I have returned several times to explore: I have found historical information about the Baptist faith and records which helps explain why I often cannot find birth, marriage and death records for my Baptist ancestors; I located a description and photos of furniture made by my Mennonite ancestors in the Niagara region; and I have discovered that one of my Loyalist ancestors in Prince Edward Island was a former arms maker in New York. In short, the collections offer information on a wide variety of topics and geographic areas. I like to browse the shelves, but I can also

check the catalogue for subjects, titles and authors; on the BIFHSGO website I found helpful guidance in Pam's tips for searching the OBOGS library, located under "Resources/Library and Book Lists."

Whenever I travel for family history research, I always search out the local library, no matter how small; I visit on Saturdays and evenings—when archives are closed. Inevitably they have a local history section, sometimes with resources unique to the area. I might not always find information specific to my ancestors, but I can discover what it was like to live in a certain place and time. Sometimes, I do find a gem, such as a reference to the difficult topography on my 2x great-grandfather's farm near Galt, Ontario—no wonder his children left for the flat prairie in Manitoba!

As we break for the summer, I wish you all good health and success hunting down your own family history clues. I'll be back at the City Archives' Reference Room, beside those lovely large windows, searching for traces of my Nova Scotian Fraser ancestors in the local United Empire Loyalists' collection. Perhaps I'll see you there?



Dianne Brydon

## Family History Research

# Dentures, Watches, Prison—and Bigamy? An Intriguing Family History<sup>©</sup>



BY CHRISTINE JACKSON

*Christine has been conducting research on her own family and those of her cousins and friends for over 40 years. She is a long-time BIFHSGO member who has produced articles and presentations over the years for various family history publications and societies. This is the second of a two-part account of how she revealed the very different family histories of her school friend's paternal grandparents.*

### The Starting Point

Part 1 of this story appeared in the June 2022 issue of this journal; it resolved the mystery surrounding the identity and origins of my school friend Christine's paternal grandfather, about whom she and her late father knew nothing. As a result of my research, Christine, or Chrissie as I've always called her, now knows that her father's paternal roots started growing on the European Continent as well as in an unfamiliar corner of England, that her paternal ancestors were early 19th century transatlantic travellers, and that some of them earned a living from their musical and photographic skills.

Although Chrissie never knew either of her paternal grandparents, who both died before she was born, she did know family members of her paternal grandmother. For several generations this family had lived in or near Brighton, on the English south coast, after moving in from the countryside some 200 years ago. At that time the small fishing village was beginning to develop and grow into a popular and sizable resort town.

I was curious to know if Chrissie's paternal grandmother's line had been another case of agricultural labourers looking to improve their lot by migrating to one of the few existing Sussex towns at the time—like most of my own family. So I asked Chrissie if I might also research her late father's *maternal* family and she readily accepted my offer. We had no idea of the surprises that were in store for us.

Once again, I had little to go on as I started looking at this family. Chrissie's paternal grandmother had never married but had given birth to two

children by different fathers. Her name was Annie Stoner, born in 1887<sup>1</sup> in Brighton (Fig. 1); her second child, Charles Janeck Stoner, born in 1910,<sup>2</sup> was Chrissie's late father (Fig. 2).

### 1911 Census of England and Wales

Lacking any family documentation, I knew the censuses would give me the best start tracing back the Stoner family. Having been born in 1910, Chrissie's father Charles would most likely have been enumerated with his mother Annie and perhaps some of her family the following year in the 1911 England and Wales Census.

This was indeed the case. Only one Charles Stoner born in 1910 was enumerated in the 1911 Census in the whole of England and Wales, so there was little doubt I had the right family! He and his mother Annie were listed in the household of Annie's father, George Stoner, who was born circa (b. ca.) 1845, a widower and boot repairer, residing at 13 John Street, Brighton.<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 1: Annie Stoner, ca. 1905**

Source: Family collection



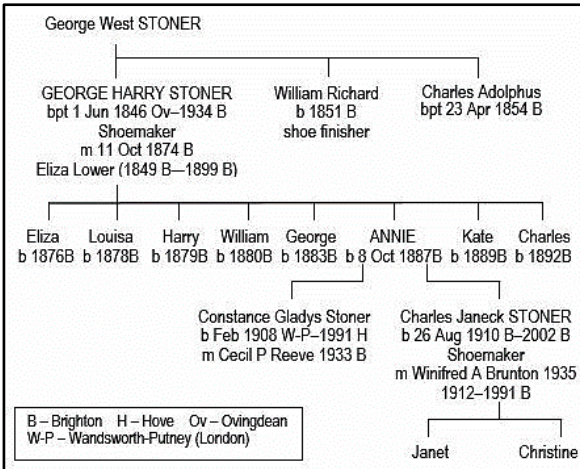
**Figure 2: Annie Stoner, 1923, with Charles Janeck (b 1910) and Constance Gladys (b 1908)**

Source: Family collection

George was living with two daughters, the aforesaid Annie (b. ca. 1888) and Kate (b. ca. 1890), his own son Charles (b. ca. 1892), and grandchildren Constance Gladys (b. ca. 1908) and the previously mentioned Charles, aged 7 months, both grandchildren being Annie's children (Fig. 3). The family of four adults and two children lived in four rooms, of which one was the kitchen. We noted that the later occupation of Chrissie's father, Charles Janeck Stoner, perhaps not surprisingly since he knew nothing of his birth father, was the same as that of his maternal grandfather, George Stoner.

One opportune thing about the 1911 Census is that, as often happened, George had accidentally entered the number of years he had been married and the number of children he and his wife had had (eight) and how many were still living. I say "accidentally" because that information was supposed to be entered on

the wife's line of the form, but George's wife Eliza had died by then. Nevertheless it was helpful information to have, even if struck through by the census enumerator.

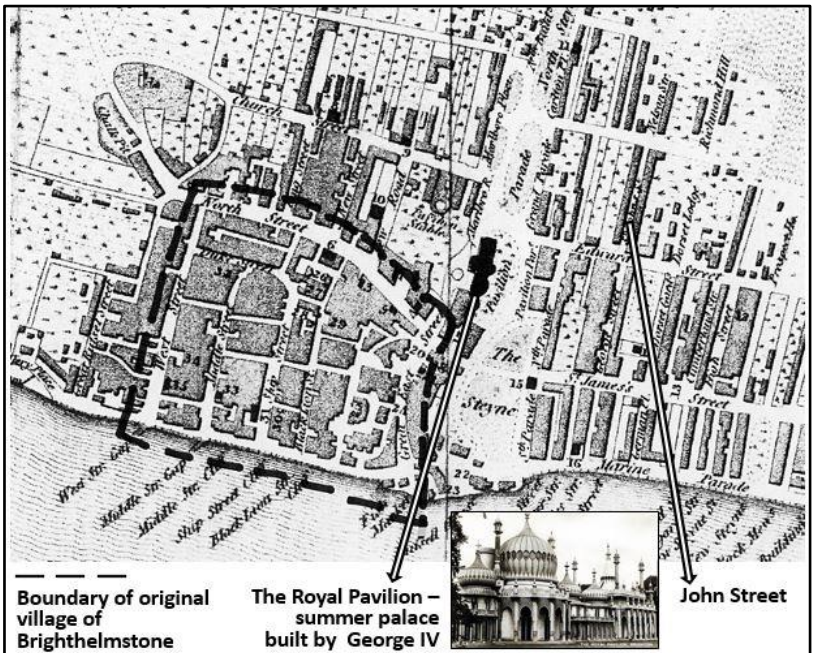


**Figure 3: George H. Stoner and daughter Annie's family**  
Source: the author

### 13 John Street, Brighton

George's family residence on John Street was in the Albion Hill area of central Brighton, just a stone's throw from the iconic Royal Pavilion<sup>4</sup> and the seafront (Fig. 4). Stoners had lived on John Street since at least 1881; they were still there in 1921<sup>5</sup> and when George died in 1934. Photos taken about 1912<sup>6</sup> indicate that at least some of the terraced Georgian houses on the street were even then in very poor condition.

**Figure 4:**  
**Central Brighthelmstone, 1815,**  
**by John Marchant**  
Source:  
*Sicklemore's Epitome of Brighton*





Albion Hill in Brighthelmston(e)—Brighton’s official name until 1810—had been developed with dense, poor quality housing in the first 30 years of the 19th century. Much of the district gradually degenerated into slums and, starting in the 1930s, the town’s corporation embarked on a large scale redevelopment scheme (Figs. 5 and 6).<sup>7</sup> John Street still exists today but none of its original housing remains.



Figure 5: Old flint (beach pebble)-faced houses on John Street in 1912 (later renovated)



Figure 6: Old houses on John Street awaiting demolition, 1939

Source: James Gray Collection, Regency Society

### 1901 and 1891 UK Censuses

The last census taken before Chrissie’s father’s birth was the 1901 Census; I thought it might include information on George’s older children and perhaps his wife. Sure enough, it listed three older children, one of whom, his eldest daughter, was already widowed at age 24. It meant that in 1901 six of his eight children were living at home in John Street; George himself was listed as a widower and a shoemaker.<sup>8</sup> I later discovered that his wife, Eliza, had died at only 50 in 1899.

Going back another 10 years, I found George, a shoemaker, and his wife living at 13 John Street with all seven of their children born by 1891. The census helpfully provides all of their names, as well as the initial of George’s middle name—H. This confirmed that I had identified the correct George, as I now knew that there were several other George Stoners in town. The original census sheet indicates that the whole family was born in Brighton.<sup>9</sup>

Before leaving the 1891 Census, I looked for George H. Stoner’s mother, Martha (b. 1818), who I knew from previous research had had a second marriage. She was still living—enumerated as Martha Portsmouth and residing with her second husband, John Portsmouth, in nearby Carlton Street.<sup>10</sup> The occupation of John Portsmouth was *shoemaker*! Thus, once again, we see that the wife’s child from her first marriage followed the occupation of his *step*father rather than that of his birth father and, in this case, also passed it on to his grandson, Chrissie’s father, Charles. Martha’s



birthplace was given as Rottingdean, a small coastal village with a rural hinterland, three miles to the east of Brighton.

### Birth of Annie Stoner, 1887

Chrissie’s grandmother, Annie, was the sixth of the eight children of George H. and Eliza Stoner, b. 8 October 1887 at 13 John Street, Brighton. When I subsequently obtained Annie’s birth certificate (Fig. 7), it confirmed the names of her parents and provided George’s middle name in full: Harry. Likewise, it gave us Eliza’s full name: Eliza Cornford Lower.<sup>11</sup>

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Brighton</i>										
Registrar's Sub-District <i>St. Peter</i>										
1887. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of <i>St. Peter Brighton</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i>										
Columns—										
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
514	<i>13 John Street Brighton</i>	<i>Annie Est. Stoner</i>		<i>George Harry Stoner</i>	<i>Eliza Cornford Lower</i>	<i>Stonemason</i>	<i>G.H. Stoner 13 John Street Brighton</i>	<i>10/10/87</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	

Figure 7: Copy of pdf birth certificate of Annie Stoner, 1887

Source: General Register Office (UK)

### 1881 UK Census

In 1881 George Harry and Eliza Stoner were living on John Street, but at number 62, with their first three children (Eliza, Louisa and Charles).<sup>12</sup> Since their last child, born in 1892, was also named Charles, further investigation was required and revealed that this first Charles, born in 1879, was actually registered as Harry.

The next step was to find George and Eliza’s marriage, as their marriage certificate would give me the names and occupations of their fathers—needed for tracing the family back.

According to the 1881 Census, George and Eliza’s eldest child was Eliza, born about 1876 in Brighton. Eliza’s birth year therefore suggested that her parents might have married in about 1874/5—and this proved to be the case. Because of the name *George Harry*, I was quite sure that a marriage registered in the December quarter of 1874 in Brighton Registration District (RD) was the one I was looking for.<sup>13</sup> When I later found bride Eliza’s full name—Eliza Cornford Lower—on her daughter Annie’s birth certificate, it was clear that, among the marriages at *FreeBMD*, taken from the marriage index of the General Register Office (GRO), Eliza Lower rather than Emma Sorby was George Harry’s bride (Fig. 8).

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page
<b>Marriages Dec 1874</b> (>99%)				
Lower	Eliza Cornford	Brighton	2b	360
SORBY	Emma	Worthing	2b	360
Stoner	George Harry	Brighton	2b	360

**Figure 8: Marriage registration entry for George Harry Stoner and Eliza Cornford Lower, 1874**

Source: Free BMD

George and Eliza’s marriage certificate from 1874 subsequently told me a lot—not only that the groom, George Harry, was a 28-year-old shoemaker, but that the occupation of his *birth* father, also named George, was *watchmaker*, which turned out to be another family occupation.<sup>14</sup>

### 1871 and 1861 UK Censuses

The previous census, taken in 1871, revealed the unmarried George Harry

Stoner and his younger brother William living with their mother Martha and her second husband, John Portsmouth, on Guildford Terrace (now Carlton Street) in the Albion Hill area.<sup>15</sup> The young men were listed as a shoemaker and shoe finisher respectively.

I wondered what had happened to Martha’s first husband—George West Stoner, father of her children. Had he died?—or deserted his family? I figured that, if I found Martha’s marriage to John Portsmouth, this would at least give me a clue to the approximate year of her first husband George’s presumed death or disappearance. So the Portsmouth marriage I found registered in the GRO index in the December quarter of 1862<sup>16</sup> and Martha’s use of her married name of Stoner led me to believe that George Stoner might have died by then—*or had he?*

The 1861 Census was taken on 7 April, at which time Martha, a laundress, and her two sons were living at 30 George Street Gardens, with two lodgers—her future second husband and another man, both “cordwainers” (shoemakers).<sup>17</sup> Martha had had a third son with husband George in 1854—Charles Adolphus, probably named for his paternal uncle Adolphus, George West Stoner’s youngest brother. But Charles Adolphus does not appear in the 1861 Census and was probably one of the two Charles Stoners whose deaths were registered in 1856 and 1859 in Brighton.

Similarly, in 1861 there was no sign of Martha’s first husband George West Stoner. I checked the deaths of all the George Stoners in Brighton and the rest of the country and could not find one registered for him. And then I discovered something really interesting—a marriage for a George Stoner and Eliza Amelia Christopher in 1875, *by licence*, in Clerkenwell, London, George being described as a widowed dentist and his father George as a jeweller.<sup>18</sup> These occupational details suggested he was very likely the missing George West Stoner, as the making of watches, clocks, jewellery and, surprisingly,

dentistry were all closely linked occupations (more to come on that). George's bride Eliza Amelia was described as a spinster from Redwick, Monmouthshire, daughter of a farmer (Fig. 9).

1875. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Parish Church</i> in the Parish of <i>St James</i> <i>Redwick</i> in the County of <i>Wiltshire</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
350	<i>June 2nd</i> 1875	<i>George Stoner</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>Dentist</i>	<i>69 Spencer Street</i>	<i>George Stoner</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
		<i>Eliza Amelia Christopher</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	—	<i>Redwick, Monmouthshire</i>	<i>John Christopher</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>George</i> or after _____ by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>George Stoner</i> and <i>Eliza Amelia Christopher</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>John Bippin</i> and <i>Jane Bippin</i>			<i>Charles Page</i>		

12

**Figure 9: Copy of pdf marriage certificate for George (West) Stoner and Eliza Amelia Christopher, 1875**

Source: General Registers Office (UK)

## George and Eliza Amelia in the 1881 Census

Looking for George and Eliza Amelia in the census that followed their marriage brought a big surprise! George was recorded as a clock and watchmaker, aged 55—8 years younger than he actually was—and his wife as aged 38. Being in reality 25 years her senior, he must have been able to successfully disguise his real age and marital status. The couple was listed as visitors in another household in Newport, Monmouthshire.<sup>19</sup>

While George had declared he was a widower when he married Eliza Amelia in 1875, in fact his first wife Martha was still living in Brighton and had already remarried—in 1862,<sup>16</sup> the requisite seven years after the birth of her last child with George and his apparent desertion of her. While Martha's second marriage was therefore legal, it appears that George's marriage to Eliza Amelia Christopher was bigamous,<sup>20</sup> divorce likely being financially out of the question. From what I could tell, George had just disappeared without trace in the mid-1850s. I learned later that, around this time, he had actually been in a lot of trouble that could easily explain his wish to disappear from public view in Sussex.

Returning to the 1861 Census, I found that it was the last census to include both parents of the previously mentioned George West Stoner—George and Elizabeth (née West)<sup>21</sup>—although Elizabeth lived to be enumerated in the 1871 Census.<sup>22</sup> Their home at 49 Mighell Street was just a couple of streets away from John Street in the Albion Hill area of Brighton, and George Sr. was listed as a dental spring maker, having been described as a watchmaker and

jeweller in the two previous censuses. Both George Sr. and his son George West Stoner are included in E. J. Tyler's book *The Clockmakers of Sussex*.<sup>23</sup>



The 1861 Census helpfully recorded the birth of George Stoner Sr. in about 1800 in Cowfold, Sussex, a country parish about 17 miles inland from Brighton (Fig. 10), and in the 19th century, a hotbed of Stoners! His wife Elizabeth's birthplace was given as Shoreham, then a largely rural parish with a busy coastal port just six miles west of Brighton.

**Figure 10: Hinterland of Brighton, Sussex, showing rural locations mentioned in text**

Source: Google Maps, Author

## 1851 UK Census

The earlier census of 1851 provides information about both George West Stoner and his wife Martha, as well as his parents George Sr. and Elizabeth.

### George West and Martha Stoner

In 1851 George West Stoner was living on Eastern Road, Brighton, with his wife, Martha, and their young son, George Harry.<sup>24</sup>

George W. Stoner was described as a watchmaker, born in Shoreham. His birthplace perplexed me for a long time because I could find no trace of a baptism for him anywhere. But then I realized Shoreham was the birthplace of his mother Elizabeth (née West) Stoner, who must either have returned to her parents' home in Shoreham to give birth to her first child about 1817, or must have been living there with her husband, George Stoner, whom she had

married in 1816 in Brighton.<sup>25</sup> But I did wonder whether or not George West Stoner had actually been baptized.

## **Birth of George**

George Harry's first name is a pretty clear sign that he was the first son, and possibly the first child, of his father, George West Stoner, and that, from his age at the 1851 Census, he was born about 1845–1846. The GRO birth index has four possible births for a George Stoner around that time in the Brighton area, but only one that also includes the second name of Harry—in the June quarter of 1846 in the registration district (RD) of Lewes, which took in some parishes adjacent to Brighton.<sup>26</sup>

George Harry's birth certificate confirms his father's name as George West Stoner and his mother's as Martha, formerly Copper.<sup>27</sup> The father's occupation was given, curiously I thought at the time, as “jeweller and dentist,” with his birthplace being Ovingdean, a rural coastal parish immediately west of Rottingdean, both parishes being in Lewes RD. This was lots of food for thought!

The birth certificate was also confirmation that the father, George West Stoner, had been given his maternal family name of West as his middle name, thus linking the birth of his son George Harry to the marriage of his parents George Stoner and Elizabeth West. It also meant that George Harry's mother Martha, the daughter of agricultural labourer William Copper and his wife Lucy,<sup>28</sup> was a member of what became in the 20th century the famous folk singing Copper family of Rottingdean.

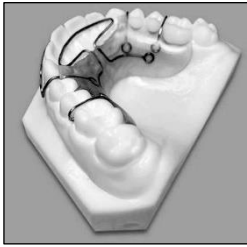
George West Stoner and Martha Copper were married in May 1845 in Brighton's parish church of St. Nicholas.<sup>29</sup> George's name was clearly written in the parish marriage register as George *West* Stoner, his father's name as George, and both of their occupations as “watchmaker.”

## **Was there a connection between 19th century jewellers, watchmakers—and dentists?**

The occupations of watchmaker, jeweller, dentist and dental spring maker seemed to run in the family. In the 1871 Census, George Harry's uncle Adolphus Stoner was also described as “jeweller and dental spring maker,” although he also had several other occupations over the years, including fishing tackle maker (Brighton was a fishing village) and tobacconist.<sup>30</sup> I was intrigued—it seemed such a curious combination of professions/trades—so I went down one of those research rabbit holes on a mission and soon discovered why.

Over many centuries the solution to most dental pain was to extract the offending tooth. Early physicians sometimes performed this procedure, but so did barbers and blacksmiths. False teeth, however, were luxury items actually fashioned by jewellers and other skilled craftsmen. Glasgow University says that many of the earliest 19th-century graduates in dentistry had in fact been jewellers or goldsmiths, or were the sons of jewellers, and were highly skilled in the manipulation of the precious metals used in the construction of prosthetic and orthodontic appliances.<sup>31</sup>

Dental (or orthodontic) springs were and still are used in making things like retainers or braces. Videos on *YouTube*<sup>32</sup> and the image in Fig. 11 illustrate the very detailed work with wires that is required to make the springs in these appliances for the mouth. Jewellers would have had to work with tiny wires to make, for example, the surround for a brooch to hold a precious stone, so they had the necessary skills in metalwork to make orthodontic appliances. Hence the connection between the professions.



**Figure 11: Example of modern orthodontic spring retainer for the mouth**

Source: Excel Orthodontics Inc.

Only Harry West Stoner (George West Stoner's younger brother), who in 1859 was described as a *surgeon dentist*,<sup>33</sup> would have actually extracted teeth.

Probably the others, described as dental spring makers, jewellers and watchmakers,

acted more like a modern-day specialist orthodontist who fitted and manufactured if not the actual dentures, then the retainers or braces used, for example, to straighten teeth.

At this point I think it best to introduce another family tree (Fig. 12) to clarify which George is which! We know a little of the life of George Harry, Annie Stoner's father the shoemaker, but there is far more to know about the two Georges who preceded him—his birth father, George West Stoner and grandfather, George Senior, both of whom were watchmakers, jewellers and dentists.

We have already seen how George West Stoner left his wife and children sometime in the 1850s and married again, some 20 years later, probably bigamously, to a much younger woman and went to live out his life in Wales. Now let's look at his early life.

## George West Stoner's Early Life

As already mentioned, George West Stoner was the first child of another George Stoner, whom I refer to as George Stoner Sr., and his wife, Elizabeth

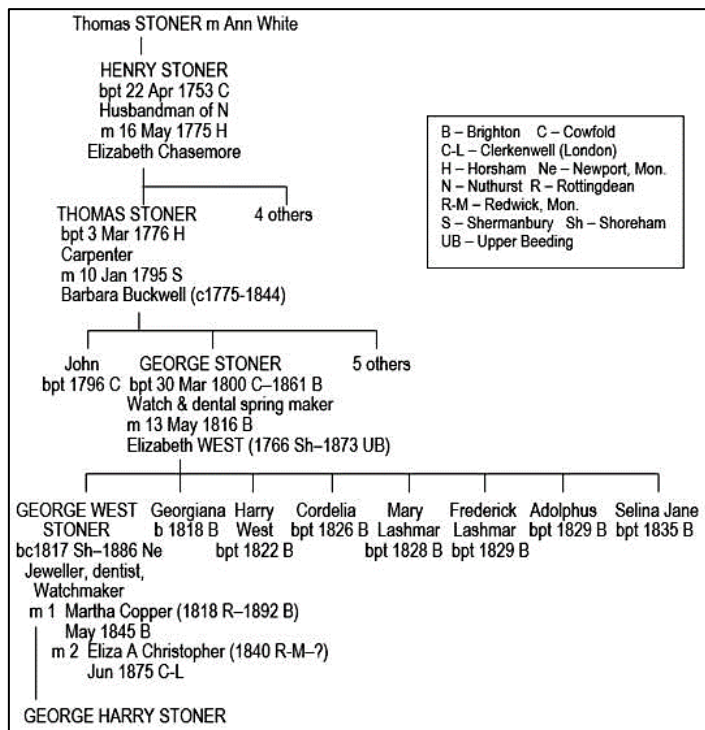


Figure 12: Ancestors of George Harry back to Henry and Elizabeth Stoner, married 1775

Source: the author

Similarly, their second child, Georgiana, born in 1818, was baptized in 1822 at the same time as their third child, Harry West Stoner.<sup>34</sup> Perhaps multiple baptisms were cost-saving measures?

I found a number of newspaper articles referring to “George Stoner” between the 1830s and the 1850s, always with reference to court cases. While it’s possible that some of the articles could have referred to George Sr., considering George West Stoner’s start in life, I think that only one case, from 1835, involved George Sr. The censuses indicated that George West Stoner was about 28 when he married in 1845—fairly late for that period. So what had he been doing in his younger years?

West. According to the censuses, George West Stoner was born about 1817/18 in Shoreham, although I was unable to find a baptism for him *around that time* anywhere in Sussex.

That’s because he was actually baptized at the age of 10 in 1828 in Brighton—at the same time as his sister Mary Lashmar Stoner, the fifth of the eight children of George and Elizabeth.



First, I had to see if he was enumerated in the 1841 Census. Yes, indeed he was, but—in the General Penitentiary in Westminster, London, as a military prisoner!<sup>35</sup> His age was recorded as 20, giving a birth year of 1821, which is not correct—this is partly because enumerators in 1841 were instructed to round people’s ages up or down to the closest five years. From what we know from the later censuses, George was actually aged about 23 or 24 when in prison in 1841.

### **Millbank Prison—the General Penitentiary**

A little online digging about the “General Penitentiary” revealed that it was known as the Millbank Prison, built in London between 1813 and 1823 on unhealthy marshland, between Westminster Abbey and the River Thames (Fig. 13)—now the site of the Tate Britain Art Gallery.



**Figure 13: Millbank Prison, Westminster, ca. 1829, by Thos. Shepherd. Engraved by J. Tingle**  
Source: Science Photo Library

It was a horrific place housing both military and civil prisoners—men and women. Prisoners had to work under the “silent system” in the workshop, prohibited from talking to each other under any circumstances for the first three months of their sentence; this was intended to prevent the passing on of criminal tendencies! The Governors’ Report of 1842, issued around the time George West Stoner was there, describes the appalling conditions in the prison at that time.<sup>36</sup>

### **What led to George’s incarceration as a *military* prisoner?**

In my search for any information about George, I had already checked the lists of convicts transported to Australia, just in case, but there was no sign of him there. It wasn’t a reasonable possibility anyway because he was in England for his marriage in 1845.

So I did a general search of military records and at *Findmypast* I found “Army Deserters 1828–1840”—an index prepared by the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society (MLFHS), undoubtedly from original records held at the National Archives at Kew. Listed there I found a George

Stoner, born in Shoreham, Sussex, with approximately the correct birth year, 1818. Unfortunately the records have not been digitized and therefore a personal visit to Kew is necessary to check for any further information regarding George that might be in the original document.

In the meantime, however, the aforementioned entry from the index comprises a tantalizing one-line summary of George's details as follows: "1st Bat. Cold. Gds; 20, Shoreham; Sussex; Watchmaker; 22 Aug 1838." Although short, this gave me several vital details: namely, that George was in the Coldstream Guards, that his age and place of birth matched what I already knew, and, after checking with the MLFHS, that his listed occupation as watchmaker was his *former* occupation on enlistment. This clinched it for me—I had the right man! He must have started out as an apprentice watchmaker, probably to his watchmaker father, then for some reason (perhaps bad behaviour) he left for London and enlisted in the army—and subsequently deserted in 1838.

For the time being I don't know the reason for George's desertion, but it happened twice; the second time, shortly after the first. The summary of his second offence was "1st Bt. Coldst.; 20, Shoreham; Sussex; Watchmak; 1 Nov 1839."<sup>37</sup>

Furthermore, between his two desertions, in May of 1839 George had appeared in criminal court, where he received a two-month sentence for larceny.<sup>38</sup> At this time his age was about 21.

Figuring that George must have been court martialled and sentenced for his desertions, I found *UK, Naval and Military Courts Martial Registers, 1806–1930* at *Ancestry/Fold3*. This collection includes two records concerning George Stoner and confirms that in 1841 he was court martialled twice for desertion and sentenced to six months imprisonment followed by another nine months—hence his time in the General Penitentiary/Millbank Prison when the 1841 Census was taken.<sup>39</sup>

In the column headed "Nature of charge" in the courts martial registers, the word "Desertion" is entered, followed by two abbreviations which to date I've had no luck deciphering (Fig. 14)—anyone?



**Figure 14: The nature of the court martial charge against George (West) Stoner**  
Source: Ancestry/Fold3

The last military record I found concerning this George Stoner was the “British Army Worldwide Index 1841” at *Findmypast*, which lists British army and Honourable East India Company men stationed around the world. George was included, even though he was likely in jail at the time the list was compiled. It appears he had indeed enlisted in London, so perhaps he had left home on the south coast to go up to the big city to make his mark. He was recorded as being a private in the 2nd Regiment of Foot Guards, otherwise known as the Coldstream Guards, as previously indicated.<sup>40</sup>

### **George West Stoner—After Marriage in 1845**

I don’t know what happened to George after he completed his jail time. He presumably left the army—or more likely was dishonorably discharged—and went home to Brighton. In any event, within a few short years George married Martha Copper in 1845 in Brighton,<sup>29</sup> at which time his occupation was given as watchmaker and his residence as 25 Market Street in the old village sector of town, now a charming area known as “The Lanes.” This address was actually his jeweller father’s shop, so he was probably working for his father, having reverted to the skills he had acquired before enlistment.

### **George West Stoner in the News!**

However, only two years after his marriage to Martha and one year after the birth of his first child, George Harry, George West Stoner was in trouble—once again over theft.

*The Sussex Advertiser* of 19 October 1847 reported at length on his appearance on 16 October at the Horsham Petty Sessions.<sup>41</sup> Described as a “working jeweller, &c.” with a shop in West Street, Brighton, in 1847 he visited a number of houses in the Horsham area, inland from Brighton, taking valuable watches from people and promising to repair them but never returning them. He was charged with pawning several watches entrusted to him for repairs and told the court he was “in difficulties” and had no other means of raising money but by doing as he had done.

The *Brighton Gazette* of 21 October 1847 reported that George was actually convicted in seven of those cases and “was fined in penalties amounting to £28, or imprisonment” in the notorious Petworth House of Correction for 15 months.<sup>42</sup> In those years, £28 was equivalent to about £2,325 today; under the circumstances I suspect George had no choice but to go to jail. If these had been criminal charges, he would surely have been transported to Australia. His time in jail would have taken him up to the end of 1848.

Then on 29 April 1852 the *Brighton Gazette* reported that George had been up before the county court at Brighton.<sup>43</sup> He had been residing for about six months in Henfield, just north of Brighton (with or without his family, I wonder?) and had taken a watch to repair from another resident but never given it back. There were two similar cases, both from nearby Steyning (see Fig. 10). The judge immediately ordered George to pay for the watches, observing that “he was no better than a swindler” and that there had been several previous cases against him.

A lawyer friend of mine deciphered the newspaper report for me. First, this would have been a *civil* case. The use of the Latin phrase *non est inventus* meant that George could not be found to be served with papers and was not in court to face the case against him. Since he had absconded with several watches, was not present, and presumably his whereabouts were unknown to the plaintiffs and the court, consideration was given to turning the civil case for damages and/or restitution into a criminal case of embezzlement. For this the civil judge would have to seek a warrant for George’s arrest from a magistrate.

While the person who raised this last possibility in the court said he intended to follow up by making a criminal case for embezzlement, no further newspaper report comes up in this respect—although the collection of old newspapers online may not be complete, so the case may in fact have gone ahead. However, it also does not come up in the criminal records at *Ancestry*, so perhaps this time George avoided a criminal conviction and more jail time.

The following year, in August 1853, the *Brighton Gazette* reported that George Stoner, watchmaker, was fined 2s. 6d. and costs for verbally abusing William Barnes (using “certain offensive epithets”) and assaulting him by striking him on the shoulder.<sup>44</sup> Mr. William Barnes charged George with assault, saying he had been subject to great annoyances from the plaintiff for a long time and for what reason he could never divine. George claimed that Barnes had

... once sold a friend of mine a sofa which he recommended as being stuffed with horse-hair, but on examination it was found as being stuffed with what is called French hair—nothing but hay. (Laughter in the court.) My friend twitted him about it in my presence; and since that, Mr. Barnes has always turned up his nose at me whenever I meet him. (A laugh.)

After this, the Sussex newspapers are silent about George West Stoner. He seems to have disappeared from public view for more than 20 years until his

second marriage in 1875 in London—where it is easier to “disappear.” He lived for another 11 years, at least part of that time in Wales, dying in 1886 in Llangattock, Monmouthshire (Newport RD), his second wife’s birth county.<sup>45</sup>

### **George and Elizabeth Stoner (Sr.) and the 1841 Census**

I have already briefly mentioned George Stoner and Elizabeth West Stoner, the parents of George West Stoner, who was imprisoned at the time the 1841 Census was taken. But where were George and Elizabeth in 1841?

While the 1841 Census is useful, it doesn’t tell us the relationships between the people listed at each address, so we have to assume parent–child relationships. Also, the adult ages are often inaccurate—rounded up or down by five years—plus a person’s place of birth is not stated, only whether they had been born in the county (y) or not (n).

In 1841 George Stoner Sr., jeweller, watchmaker and dental spring maker, was enumerated on Cavendish Street in Brighton’s Albion Hill area. Considering the ages of the residents in the same household, it is evident that George and Elizabeth were the husband and wife, and the other five were their children; the two eldest, George West and Georgiana, had already left home.<sup>46</sup>

George Stoner and Elizabeth West had married on 13 May 1816 in the parish church of Brighthelmston (Brighton).<sup>25</sup> Although Elizabeth’s place of birth was Shoreham, she and George were both living in Brighton at the time. George was very young, only 16 (b.1800), and Elizabeth four years older. There is no record of the marriage being conducted with parental consent—just by banns. However, in her book *Marriage Law for Genealogists* (2012), Rebecca Probert makes it clear that, at this time, parental consent was not necessary, as long as no challenges were made to the proposed marriage during the reading of the banns in church over the preceding three weeks.

As seen in the 1841 Census, George and Elizabeth selected some rather refined and uncommon names for some of their children (Georgiana, Cordelia, Adolphus, Selina), and also gave them second names—when that practice was usual only amongst the upper classes. The second given name of two of their children was Lashmar, which I found was also the surname of another watchmaker, Richard Marchant Lashmar, born in Steyning, who lived and worked in Brighton until sometime in the 1830s, then set up as a watchmaker in Henfield, the birthplace of his second wife.<sup>47</sup>

Richard Marchant (or Merchant) Lashmar was 20 years older than George Stoner. I suspect that George may have apprenticed with him as a watchmaker in Brighton and developed a respect for him, leading George to name two of his children after Lashmar—that is, Mary Lashmar and Frederick Lashmar Stoner, baptized in 1828 and 1829 respectively.<sup>48</sup>

George Sr. does not strike me as the sort of person who would get into trouble. I say that mostly because of the way he named his children! Is that a sign perhaps that the couple was somewhat pretentious? George Sr. seems to have been a proud person who would have been keen to protect his reputation, so he must have been quite distraught when his firstborn son, George West Stoner, went off the rails in his youth!

I found only one newspaper article featuring George Sr., and he was a witness rather than the defendant in the case concerned. The *Brighton Gazette* of 3 December 1835 ran a long account about the theft of a silver spoon from the Thurlow Arms on Edward Street in the Albion Hill area.<sup>49</sup> (A quick scan of newspaper reports indicates that this was a common form of theft at this time; the thief would immediately erase any identifying marks from the stolen spoon and then sell or pawn it for cash.)

This case had been up before the magistrates on 26 November 1835. The defendant was a “mechanical dentist” known to George Stoner. Besides being a jeweller, George himself was also a dental spring maker, so they had a common occupation. The newspaper referred to George Stoner as a watchmaker and jeweller of 47 William Street, which is one street west of John Street.

George Stoner Sr. died in 1861 at age 61 of “disease of the stomach and liver exhaustion”<sup>30</sup> and his wife Elizabeth died in 1873, aged 78.<sup>50</sup>

## **Stoner Origins Before 1841**

As no censuses exist before 1841, I could find little information about the lives of Chrissie’s Stoner ancestors prior to about 1800. The parish registers recorded just the bare facts of baptisms, marriages and burials— names and places—and not even the occupation of a bridegroom, unless the couple was married by licence. And sometimes even the mother’s name was omitted when a child was baptized, something that is particularly unhelpful, especially when so many of the fathers had common male given names like John and Thomas!

With one exception of which I’m aware, this family of Stoners did not feature in parish settlement records. They did not appear to have been paupers or in

special need of parish relief; neither were they taken to court or had their names in the newspapers. I think they must have been carpenters and generally law-abiding country folk.

Birthplace information from the 1861 Census had led me to George Stoner Sr.'s baptism on 30 March 1800 in Cowfold, Sussex<sup>51</sup> (see Fig. 10), a small village in an area of woodland pasture with a past history of ironworking, a few miles from the market town of Horsham. George Sr. was the second son (and child) of Thomas Stoner, a carpenter, and his wife Barbara (née Buckwell), both originally from Horsham.<sup>52</sup>



**Figure 15: May Day at Cowfold, 1911**

Source: *Henfield Then & Now* (with permission)

My subsequent research indicated that during the 1700s Chrissie's Stoner family were found to be living in a small group of adjoining parishes located mostly south and east of the market town of Horsham in mid-Sussex (Fig 10). They moved around between Shermanbury, Horsham, Nuthurst, Cowfold, West Hoathly, and Woodmancote, where I finally lost track of them with a marriage there in 1684 between Robert Stoner and Elizabeth Beedle.<sup>53</sup>

However, during the 1700s I did come across two interesting and out-of-the-ordinary situations. One case involved George Sr.'s grandfather Henry, baptized in Horsham and a husbandman (tenant farmer) of neighbouring Nuthurst parish when he married Elizabeth Chasemore in 1775 in Horsham.<sup>54</sup> While their first three children were baptized in Horsham, by 1786 the family was living in Cowfold. Hard times probably saw them applying for parish relief, because Cowfold parish officers issued a settle-



ment order that year for Henry, Elizabeth and their five children to be removed to Nuthurst, Henry's parish of settlement.<sup>55</sup>

The other interesting case involved the same George's great-grandfather Thomas, who was described in the Cowfold marriage register as a "sojourner."<sup>56</sup> While some people consider the term as occupational, meaning "traveller, travelling merchant," or even "vagrant," others believe it describes someone without legal settlement in the parish concerned.<sup>57</sup> I tend to view the latter as the most likely meaning in this particular case.

Robert and Elizabeth's marriage in 1684 in Woodmancote is as far back as I can take Chrissie's Stoner family with any reasonable degree of certainty—no Stoners, only Beedles, were recorded in Woodmancote prior to Robert and Elizabeth's marriage, and Robert Stoner presumably came from elsewhere.

### **So Where Did the Stoners Originate?**

While the surname Stoner has long been found primarily in Sussex, Robert was a rare given name amongst Sussex Stoner families in the 1500s, the earliest days of parish registration. In fact, while searching for the baptism of Robert in the *Sussex Family History Group's* Baptism Index<sup>58</sup> and the *Family Search* databases, I found only three baptisms of a Robert Stoner in the whole of Sussex between the start of parish registration in the 1500s and Robert and Elizabeth's marriage in 1684—and not one of them could have been *that* Robert.

My Stoner research, however, was not helped by the fact that some of those early parish registers were not maintained consistently, meaning there are massive gaps in registration. For example, no baptisms in *any* name were recorded in the parish of Broadwater from 1581 to 1600, and only five marriages were registered there between 1558 and 1600. (The earliest of the three aforementioned Roberts was one baptized in 1566, son of another Robert Stoner<sup>59</sup> in Broadwater—a parish that came to be one of interest to me.)

During my research, I noticed that many of the earliest Stoner baptisms in Sussex came from just a few parishes on the West Sussex coastal plain, whose registers began between 1557 and 1559.<sup>60</sup> There the very earliest of baptisms are sometimes in Latin or do not include even the father's name (let alone the mother's), so are actually not very helpful for family history other than to establish the presence of Stoner families in the area.

The surname Stoner was first documented in England in the early 12th century, when common people first began to adopt family names. It comes from the Middle English word “stan” meaning stone, one interpretation of the name being “occupational,” describing someone who worked with stone, such as a mason or stone cutter.<sup>61</sup>

Flint was and still is a frequently used building material in Sussex. In fact, overlooking the northern edge of Broadwater parish is a 600-foot high hill named Cissbury Ring after its prehistoric hillfort that has a history of human interaction dating back over 5,000 years.<sup>62</sup> It is peppered with over 200 underground flint mines from the Neolithic period when flint was *the* essential material for toolmaking of every type. However, it’s too much of a stretch to claim that Chrissie’s medieval Stoner ancestors worked flints on the West Sussex coastal plain before migrating inland to make a living off the land as farm labourers and carpenters—but it’s a tempting scenario.

Another possible explanation is that people took their surnames from their places of origin. There are several places in Britain by the name of “Stonor,” one being Stonor House (and Manor), in Oxfordshire, where the Stonor family have lived for 850 years and which has a prehistoric stone circle in its grounds—quite probably the origin of that family’s name.<sup>63</sup> What intrigues me about the Stonor family of Oxfordshire is that, in the 13th century, they were awarded the Barony of Camoys, which came to include estates accumulated across eight English counties—amongst which was the manor of Broadwater in Sussex. It is therefore easy to speculate that one or more tenants or serfs from Stonor in Oxfordshire (named “de [or from] Stonor”) were sent the 95 miles to Broadwater to work on the manor there, and that their family name evolved over time into “Stoner.”

## Concluding Remarks

Regarding the possible origins of my friend’s Stoner family, several factors seem to point toward the ancient parish of Broadwater. Situated on the coastal plain of West Sussex between the English Channel and the hills of the South Downs to the north, and mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book, its long history has seen it engulfed since Victorian times by the coastal resort town of Worthing. A lack of documentation, however, makes it unlikely that we can establish an early relationship between the Stoners and Broadwater.

Wherever Chrissie’s Stoner ancestors came from before they began to be recorded in Sussex is anyone’s guess. The Sussex coast has suffered through numerous invasions in its history—by prehistoric continental peoples, Romans, Saxons, Vikings and Norman French—so those of us whose roots

are now firmly planted in the Sussex soil are all very likely to be real mongrels. That may even account for the otherwise inexplicable nine percent of Danish and Swedish ethnicity that *Ancestry* says I have in my own largely Sussex DNA—Viking or Viking-Norman, perhaps?!

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## Reference Notes

In order to save space and repetition, the urls for the genealogical companies referred to in the references below are as follows:

*Ancestry*: [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

*FamilySearch*: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

*Findmypast*: [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

*FreeBMD*: [freebmd.org.uk](http://freebmd.org.uk)

- 1 GRO birth certificate for Annie Stoner, born 8 October 1887, Brighton, Sussex.
- 2 GRO birth certificate for Charles Janeck Stoner, born 26 August 1910, Brighton.
- 3 “1911 England and Wales Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner, boot repairer and family, at 13 John Street, Brighton.
- 4 The Royal Pavilion was built in Brighton as a summer pleasure palace by George, Prince of Wales, later the Prince Regent and King George IV. It was remodelled at great expense between 1815 and 1822 by famous architect John Nash using Mughal Indian and Chinese designs. In 1850 Queen Victoria handed it over to the town of Brighton (<https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/visit/royal-pavilion-garden/our-history/>, and [www.britannica.com/biography/George-IV#ref996450](http://www.britannica.com/biography/George-IV#ref996450)).
- 5 Evidence of Stoners living on John Street is from: “1881 UK Census,” and “1921 England Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner, shoemaker and family, and George Stoner, boot repairer and family respectively, both at 13 John Street; “England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1910–1932,” *Findmypast*, entries in Brighton Constituency, Pier Ward (West) register for 1931 for George, Annie and Constance Gladys Stoner, at 69 John Street; GRO marriage certificate 30 September 1933 for Cecil Percival Reeve and Constance Gladys Stoner gives her residence as 69 John Street; GRO Index (deaths) in Mar qtr 1934, Brighton RD, vol 2b, p. 363, entry for death of George H. Stoner (*FreeBMD*).
- 6 Photographs of slum dwellings from 1912 are in the James Gray Collection, now the photographic archive of the Regency Society of Brighton and Hove (<http://regency-society-jamesgray.com/>).
- 7 Collis, Rose. *The New Encyclopædia of Brighton* (Brighton: Brighton & Hove Libraries, 2010), 4–7.
- 8 “1901 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner, shoemaker and family, at 13 John Street, Brighton.
- 9 “1891 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George H. Stoner, shoemaker and family at 13 John Street, Brighton.

- 10 “1891 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for Martha Portsmouth and John Portsmouth, shoemaker, at 43 Carlton Street, Brighton.
- 11 See Note 1.
- 12 “1881 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner, shoemaker and family, at 62 John Street, Brighton.
- 13 GRO Index (marriages), entry for George Harry Stoner and Eliza Cornford Lower, in Dec qtr 1874, Brighton RD, vol 2b, p. 360 (*FreeBMD*).
- 14 GRO marriage certificate for George Harry Stoner and Eliza Cornford Lower, married 11 October 1874 at St. Nicholas Parish Church, Brighton.
- 15 “1871 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner, shoemaker and William Stoner, shoe finisher, in household of Martha Portsmouth and John Portsmouth, shoemaker, at 42 Guildford Terrace (later Carlton Street), Brighton.
- 16 GRO Index (marriages) for Martha Stoner and John Portsmouth, in Dec qtr 1862, Brighton RD, vol 2b, p. 400 (*FreeBMD*).
- 17 “1861 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for Martha (head of household), laundress, George and William Stoner, and lodgers John Portsmouth and Henry Brown, both cordwainers [shoemakers], all residing at 30 George Street Gardens (the next street to John Street), Brighton.
- 18 “London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938,” *Ancestry*, entry in Clerkenwell Parish Marriage Register for George Stoner and Eliza Amelia Christopher, married by licence, 3 June 1875, St. James Church, Clerkenwell, London.
- 19 “1881 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner and Elizabeth Stoner, visitors in household of Thomas John Morgan, hay dealer and trusser, at 1 Dumfries Place, Newport, Mon.
- 20 Probert, Rebecca. *Marriage Law for Genealogists: The Definitive Guide* (Kenilworth: Takeaway Publishing, 2012), 52–56.
- 21 “1861 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner, dental spring maker’s assistant and Elizabeth Stoner, at 49 Mighell Street, Brighton.
- 22 “1871 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entry for Elizabeth Stoner in household of Frank Ekers, 43 Windsor Street, Brighton.
- 23 Tyler, E. J. *The Clockmakers of Sussex* (Ashford: The Watch and Clock Book Society Ltd, 1986), unpaginated; entries for 1) George Stoner on William Street (1826), George Street (1829), Cavendish Street later, then 25 Market Street by 1845; 2) George [West] Stoner at 11 Eastern Road (1850s).
- 24 “1851 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entry for George, Martha and son George Stoner at 11 Eastern Road, Brighton.
- 25 “England Marriages, 1538–1973,” *FamilySearch*, entry in Brighthelmston [Brighton] Parish Marriage Register for George Stone[r] and Elizabeth West, married on 13 May 1816.

- 26 GRO Index (births), entry for George Harry Stoner in Jun qtr 1846, Lewes RD, vol 7, p. 441 (*FreeBMD*).
- 27 GRO birth certificate for George Harry Stoner, born 22 May 1846 at Ovingdean, Sussex, son of George West Stoner, jeweller and dentist, and Martha Stoner, formerly Copper.
- 28 “England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975,” *FamilySearch*, entry in the Rottingdean Parish Baptism Register for Martha Copper, 13 September 1818, daughter of William and Lucy Copper.
- The Copper Family today are singers of traditional, unaccompanied English folk song whose ancestors have lived in Rottingdean, Sussex, since the 16th century. Working as farm bailiffs, publicans and policemen, they were “discovered” by folklorists in the late 19th century (*Wikipedia*). See [www.thecopperfamily.com](http://www.thecopperfamily.com); some of their songs can be heard on *YouTube*.
- 29 “England Marriages, 1538–1973,” *FamilySearch*, entry in Brighton Parish Marriage Register for George West Stoner and Martha Copper, 25 May 1845.
- 30 “1871 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entry for Adolphus Stoner, jeweller and dental spring maker, and family at 29 West Hill Street, Brighton; “UK, City and County Directories, 1766–1946,” *Ancestry*, entry in *Post Office Directory of Sussex 1866* for Adolphus Stoner, tobacconist at 10 North Street quadrant; and entry in *Post Office Directory of Sussex 1874* for Adolphus Stoner, fishing tackle maker, 64 Queen’s Road, both in Brighton.
- 31 “The Birth of a Profession: Dentistry in the Nineteenth Century” at [Encyclopedia.com](http://Encyclopedia.com); and “History,” University of Glasgow, School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing, [www.gla.ac.uk/schools/medicine/dental/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/medicine/dental/) (accessed 4 Nov 2018, but no longer on the site).
- 32 “Double cantilever spring, or Z spring,” from Dental Technology, Cardiff Metropolitan University, at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-za\\_nBUieA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-za_nBUieA).
- 33 “UK, City and County Directories, 1766–1946,” *Ancestry*, entry in 1859 Post Office Sussex Directory for Harry Stoner, surgeon dentist, at 162 Western Road, Brighton.
- 34 “England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975,” *FamilySearch*: 1) entries in Brighthelmston [Brighton] Parish Baptism Register for George West and Mary Lashmar Stoner, children of George and Elizabeth Stoner, both baptized 17 February 1828; 2) entries in bishop’s transcripts for St. Nicholas’ Church, Brighton for Georgiana and Harry West Stoner, children of George and Elizabeth Stoner, both baptized 8 September 1822.
- 35 “1841 UK Census,” *Findmypast*, entry for George Stoner, military prisoner in the General Penitentiary, Westminster, London, Middlesex.
- 36 Extracts from the Millbank Prison Governors’ Report for 1842 and from a report in *The Morning Chronicle* are in Greg Roberts’ “Wicked William” Regency blog at [www.wickedwilliam.com/tag/millbank-prison/](http://www.wickedwilliam.com/tag/millbank-prison/).

- 37 "Army Deserters 1828–1840," *Findmypast*, entries for George Stoner, 1838 and 1839. This index of army deserters, compiled by the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, includes more than 17,000 individuals born in England, Wales or overseas, over 5,000 born in Scotland, and over 12,000 born in Ireland.
- 38 "England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770–1935," *Findmypast*, entry for George Stoner in "Institutions & organisations - Prison Registers," session date: 27 May 1839.
- 39 "All UK, Naval and Military Courts Martial Registers, 1806–1930," *Ancestry/Fold3* ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com)), entries of court dates in "Military Disciplinary Actions" for Geo. Stoner on 11 Feb 1841 and 10 Dec 1841.
- 40 "British Army, Worldwide Index 1841," *Findmypast*, entry for George Stoner, service no. 2169, private in 1st Battalion, 2nd Foot Guards [Coldstream Guards].
- 41 "HORSHAM, PETTY SESSIONS, October 16," *The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette, & West Kent Courier*, 19 October 1847, p. 7.
- 42 "HORSHAM, BENCH OF MAGISTRATES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16," *Brighton Gazette*, 21 October 1847, p. 7. The notorious Petworth House of Correction in West Sussex and its horrors are described at the network of websites found on *Gravelroots* ([www.gravelroots.net/petworth/prison.html](http://www.gravelroots.net/petworth/prison.html)).
- 43 "COUNTY COURT, TOWN HALL, BRIGHTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 23," *Brighton Gazette*, 29 April 1852, p. 6. See CHARLES GREEN v. GEORGE STONER.
- 44 "BENCH OF MAGISTRATES, TOWN HALL, BRIGHTON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18," *Brighton Gazette*, 25 August 1853, p. 6. See BARNES v. STONER.
- 45 "Monmouthshire, Wales, Anglican Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1551–1994," *Ancestry*, entry in Llangattock-Caerleon Parish Burial Register for George West Stoner of Llangattock, buried 20 March 1886.
- 46 "1841 UK Census," *Findmypast*, entry for George Stoner, jeweller and family on Cavendish Street, Brighton.
- 47 "Baptisms," *Sussex Family History Group Data Archive* (<https://sfhg.uk>), entry for Richard Merchant Lashmar, 8 September 1779 in Steyning, Sussex. Lashmar's residence is taken from: "UK, City and County Directories, 1766–1946," *Ancestry*, entry in Pigot & Co.'s Sussex Directory 1832–34 for Rd Marchant [sic] Lashmar, watch and clock maker, 6 Market Street, Brighton; and entry in Pigot & Co.'s Sussex Directory 1839 for Richard Lashmar, watchmaker, in Henfield. "1861 UK Census," *Findmypast*, entry for Richard Lashmar, widower, retired watchmaker, High Street, Henfield.
- 48 Lashmar is an unusual English medieval surname originally given to someone who lived at or near Lashmars Hall in Henfield, Sussex. ([www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Lashmar](http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Lashmar)). With one exception, in 1841 the Lashmar surname was found exclusively in Sussex. Search <https://your-family-history.com/surname/> for the frequency of surnames by county and census (1841–1911) in England and Wales. Lashmars Hall is a Grade II listed medieval "hall house"; its earliest recorded occupant was in 1296.

The place name Lashmar derives from the Saxon pre-7th century words “laecc,” meaning a stream and “mearc,” a boundary—Lashmars Hall is located very close to the River Adur on the west side of Henfield ([www.henfieldthenandnow.net/lashmars-hall.html](http://www.henfieldthenandnow.net/lashmars-hall.html)).

- 49 “BENCH OF MAGISTRATES, Thursday, Nov 26,” *Brighton Gazette*, 3 Dec 1835, p. 4.
- 50 *Sussex Family History Group Data Archive* (<https://sfhg.uk>), entry in “Burials” for Elizabeth Stoner, buried 8 June 1873 at Upper Beeding, Sussex.
- 51 West Sussex, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1812,” *Ancestry*, entry in Cowfold Parish Baptism Register for George, 30 March 1800, son of Thomas and Barbara Stoner. See Note 30 re George’s death.
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- 61 The meaning of the name "Stoner" is taken from the *SurnameDB* site ([www.surnamedb.com/Surname/](http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/)) and *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com/name-origin](http://www.ancestry.com/name-origin)).
- 62 Cissbury Ring is the second largest hill fort in England and one of the largest in Europe, at some 60 acres (24 hectares). The earthen fortifications were possibly built around 250 BC but abandoned about 50 BC–50 AD. It is a protected conservation area, owned by the National Trust ([www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol6/pt1/pp66-81](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol6/pt1/pp66-81); and [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cissbury-ring/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cissbury-ring/)).
- 63 Stonor Park is in the beautiful Chiltern Hills, near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire; part of the house dates from the late 12th century. The first mention of the place Stonor is "Stanora Lege" or "stony hill," appearing in AD 774, with the first recorded family member, Robert De Stanora, living there during the late 12th century (<https://www.stonor.com/>).

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*Our readers may remember a series of articles written by BIFHSGO member Charles Morton and published in ACR from the Spring 2017 through the Spring 2019 issues. I recently received a letter from Charles informing me that several of his stories were accepted by the Imperial War Museum (IWM) London, UK into their collection. Below is a portion of the letter Charles received from Simon Offord, the IWM archivist. The acceptance of these stories acknowledges the importance of stories from our own lives. If you have memories of the war years, perhaps the IWM would be interested in your reminiscences. I know ACR would be. Congratulations, Charles!*

*BJ Tose, Editor*

Dear Mr. Morton,

Thank you very much for taking the trouble to send me the accounts you wrote about your experiences during the Second World War.

Having had the opportunity to read through the accounts in greater detail, I can confirm that they form exactly the kind of original war record that we are most keen to look after in this Museum. The accounts of your evacuation, and then the terrible events of December 1940, and the aftermath, provide an incredibly poignant record of the effects of war on a family. I am certain that your account will be of great use to our researchers and for interpretation in IWM North, our branch in Salford.

I should therefore be delighted to accept this collection as a donation to the Museum's archive, where they will be catalogued under the name of C S T Morton, Documents.27535, and made available for study.

# We Shall Remember Them

BY HEATHER CARMODY

*Heather is one of the volunteers researching soldiers who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCS). She has been a member of BIFHSGO since 2015 and began writing biographies the following year. She has also been a member of Ontario Ancestors (OGS) since 2010, researching her Irish and Scottish ancestors. In this biography, she describes the life and death of a scholar, Anglican minister and soldier.*

## Captain Lancelot Raimes<sup>©</sup>

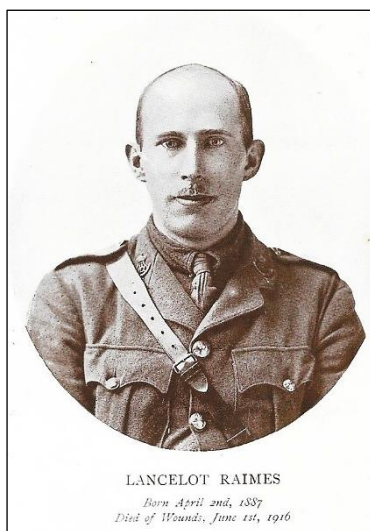
### 5th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry (Territorial Force)

**born: 2 April 1887–died: 1 June 1916**

Lancelot Raimes was a scholar, an Anglican minister and a soldier. Born 2 April 1887 at 2 Westborn Street, Stockton-on-Tees,<sup>1</sup> Durham, northeast England, he was the third child of Frederick Raimes (1851<sup>2</sup>–1913<sup>3</sup>) and Maria Dresser (1853<sup>4</sup>–1936<sup>5</sup>), who married on 28 August 1879 in York St. Maurice Parish, York.<sup>6</sup> Their first child, Elsie, was born in 1881,<sup>7</sup> followed by Alywn Leslie in 1885,<sup>8</sup> Lancelot, Frederick Donald in 1890<sup>9</sup> (he sadly died in 1891<sup>10</sup>) and finally Marjorie in 1895.<sup>11</sup>

Lancelot's father, a general merchant,<sup>12</sup> prospered. In 1891, he recorded his occupation as an oil merchant.<sup>13</sup> By 1911, he was living at Hartburn Lodge, Stockton-on-Tees,<sup>14</sup> a large house with a cottage that he probably acquired in 1903.<sup>15</sup> Although he listed his occupation as "independent means" and "employer" in the 1911 Census,<sup>16</sup> Frederick Raimes was by then actually chairman of Raimes &

Company (Limited), manufacturers, Stockton-on-Tees and a prominent member of the Methodist Church.<sup>17</sup>



**Figure 1: Captain Lancelot Raimes**  
Source: Jerry Rendell, copied from Six Soldier Sermons.

In 1901 both Lancelot<sup>18</sup> and his brother Alywn<sup>19</sup> were students at the Leys School in Cambridge (about 320 km from Stockton-on-Tees) which had been founded in

1875 for the sons of lay members of the Methodist Church.<sup>20</sup> At the time, 148 students attended the school under the care of the Reverend Dr. Barber.<sup>21</sup> Lancelot studied there from age 13 to age 18 and did well, becoming a prefect, a cadet, then a sergeant and winning first colours in football.<sup>22</sup>

After Leys, Lancelot was admitted to the University of Cambridge, Caius College, on 1 October 1906. He seemed to be following in his big brother's footsteps; Alywn earned a BA at King's College of the University of Cambridge in 1907.<sup>23</sup> While at Cambridge, Lancelot had a minor incident with the town officials. He was fined 8 March 1908 for riding his bicycle on the Ferry footpath.<sup>24</sup>

In 1909 he earned a BA in Medieval and Modern Languages Tripos<sup>25</sup> and was "runner up" for the Winchester reading prize.<sup>26</sup> After a year in business, he enrolled at Ripon College and was ordained as a deacon of the Church of England in 1911.<sup>27</sup> He was assigned the curacy at the parish church, Chipping Barnet,<sup>28</sup> located in the London Borough of Barnet.

At Chipping Barnet Lancelot maintained his interest in poetry and was an original member of the Poetry Society, London.<sup>29</sup> He was active in his community, performing clerical duties as well as teaching scripture to the students at Barnet

School on Wood Street.<sup>30</sup> He appeared to be part of the modernization movement in the Church of England, writing an article entitled "Church and Stage" for the first volume of the journal *Modern Churchman* in 1911<sup>31</sup> and editing, with the Rev. J. H. Ward, a parish magazine entitled *Yesterday, To-Day, and For Ever* (1914).<sup>32</sup>

Then war was declared on 4 August 1914. Earlier in his life, Lancelot Raimes had obtained a commission in the 5th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry (DLI) (Territorial Force), which was staffed by part-time volunteers. On 4 January 1910 he was appointed a 2nd lieutenant. He resigned his commission on 5 August 1911,<sup>33</sup> probably because he was to be ordained. His brother Alwyn also had a commission in the same battalion and was promoted to captain in 1912.<sup>34</sup>

On 3 October 1914,<sup>35</sup> Rev. Lancelot Raimes rejoined his old unit as a priest combatant, against the policy of the Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>36</sup>

Before the First World War began, the DLI consisted of nine prewar battalions: two were in the regular army (1st and 2nd), two were Special Reserve (3rd and 4th) and five were Territorial (5th to 9th). By the end of the war in November 1918, the DLI had grown to 43 battalions, 22 of which were sent overseas.<sup>37</sup> Of the approximately 120,000–132,000 DLI troops

engaged in combat, 12,557 were killed and another 54,000–70,000 were wounded.<sup>38</sup>

The 5th Battalion DLI (formed in 1908 from the old 1st Volunteer Battalion DLI) was a Territorial Force battalion with headquarters in Stockton. When war was declared, the battalion's volunteer part-time soldiers formed into four companies and trained for nine months at Ravensworth and Gateshead.

On 18 April 1915, the 1st/5th DLI, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert Spence, landed in Boulogne, France. Within days, it was fighting at the Second Battle of Ypres, from 22 April to 25 May. The battalion became part of the 150th Brigade of the 50th (Northumbrian) Division on 14 May.

Lancelot Raimés did not go with the 5th Battalion to the Front on 18 April 1915, although Alwyn, now a major, did so.<sup>39</sup> Because of the large number of new recruits, there was a great demand for trainers. As a lieutenant and then (as of 1 January 1915) a temporary captain,<sup>40</sup> Lancelot trained new recruits for 20 months,<sup>41</sup> which must have been frustrating, because arms, clothing and equipment remained in short supply.<sup>42</sup> When no chaplain was available at the religious service, he filled in, keeping his sermon brief because of the inclement conditions.<sup>43</sup>

Lancelot requested reassignment to the Front in 1916, and it was granted, though it appears that his temporary promotion to captain was relinquished on this “alternation in posting.” (The order was issued on 14 May 1916 but not published until 24 June 1916.)<sup>44</sup>

By 11 May 1916, he was with the 5th Battalion DLI at Kimmel, Belgium. Lieutenant Colonel Spence recorded in the regiment's war diary that “on the night of 31st [May] Captain L. Raimés who had only been with us a fortnight was wounded in the head while with a working party at Kimmel and died at the C.C.S. [Casualty Clearing Station] Bailleul the following morning.”<sup>45</sup> The 1st Canadian CCS admitted 134 patients on 31 May 1916;<sup>46</sup> Lancelot was one of them. He and two other soldiers died the following day.<sup>47</sup>

Captain Lancelot Raimés was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference ii. D. 52).<sup>48</sup> Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgium border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including 1st Canadian CCS, were quartered there for considerable periods.

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.

Lancelot Raimes was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>49</sup>

His brother Major Alwyn Raimes was more fortunate. He survived in spite of being injured at least three times. He was wounded in January 1916<sup>50</sup> and again in April 1916<sup>51</sup> when his regiment was holding the "Glory Hole" at the junction of "Suicide Road" and "V.C. Road."<sup>52</sup> He fought with the 5th Battalion until the end of the war, earning a Distinguished Service Order award in 1918 for conspicuous gallantry. Although wounded by a rifle bullet in the thigh, he "organized and led a counter-attack holding the enemy up for some hours."<sup>53</sup> The family reported that in 1931 he wrote the definitive history of the battalion, *Fifth Battalion, the Durham Light Infantry, 1914–1918*.

Captain Lancelot Raimes has not been forgotten. There are recent tributes to him on the *North East War Memorials Project—Every Name a Story*<sup>54</sup> and at the Leys School.<sup>55</sup> He is listed on honour rolls and on a number of memorials. One at Holy Trinity Church, Ancaster

Malbis, North Yorkshire, where his parents are buried in the church's cemetery,<sup>56</sup> is personal and touching:

"To the dear memory of Lancelot Raimes . . . He was born in 1887 and after an unselfish life was mortally wounded whilst serving in Flanders and died at Ballieul on Ascension Day 1916."<sup>57</sup>

After his death, his family collected some of Lancelot's sermons and published a book entitled *Six Soldier Sermons; Dedicated to the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the 5th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry (1916)* "as a tribute to his memory and to serve as a memento to his friends and comrades."<sup>58</sup>

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# Scottish Genealogists' Essential Books: Where Can We Find Them?

BY PAM COOPER

*Pam is a BIFHSGO member and volunteer with the Ottawa Branch OGS (Ontario Ancestors) Library,<sup>1</sup> which incorporates BIFHSGO's former library collection. In anticipation of BIFHSGO's 2023 annual virtual conference being held 28 to 29 October 2023 on a Scottish theme, she reviews here important Scottish family history holdings that are available to researchers in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada.*

Have you ever wondered which books Scottish genealogists would choose to keep handy as they work? And have you ever considered where and how you might access those books for your own research?

This article will address both questions. It is inspired by something asked during one of the Q&A sessions at the November 2022 *Scottish Indexes* online conference. Since April 2020, Emma and Graham Maxwell of *Scottish Indexes*<sup>2</sup> have organized and hosted 20 free online conferences for anyone interested in Scottish family history research. These have proven to be immensely popular and a great boon to people researching their Scottish ancestors. When the panel of genealogists was asked “*What is your go-to book for Scottish research?*,” their answers flew fast and furious and were compiled in a booklist that was later included in the conference handout.<sup>3</sup>

That booklist is an absolute gem. As a family history researcher interested mainly in Scotland, I was able to find in it potentially useful resources of which I had not previously been aware. As a curated list of suggestions by working Scottish genealogists, albeit created on the fly, it is especially good for the more specialized books. Furthermore, it challenged me to see how the Ottawa Branch OGS (OBOGS) library's Scottish collection measures up—and to investigate where researchers from Ottawa may find the books that the OBOGS library does *not* have. I was very pleased to discover that not only are quite a few of the books already in the OBOGS collection, but that others may be found in other libraries and collections right here in Ottawa.

Using the order in which books appear in the *Scottish Indexes* handout, this article works through the booklist, starting with those that are in the OBOGS collection.

## Resources in the OBOGS Collection

These range from research guides and how-to manuals, volumes on Scottish history, resources for reading and understanding early legal records, and an extraordinarily long run of *The Scottish Genealogist*.<sup>4</sup>

The first items on the booklist are the books of Chris Paton published by Pen & Sword Books. The library has several of these including:

- ***Tracing your Scottish Family History on the Internet: A Guide for Family Historians*** (2020)
- ***Tracing your Scottish Ancestry through Church and State Records: A Guide for Family Historians***, (2019)
- other Pen & Sword books by Chris dealing with Irish family history research, sharing family histories online, and
- earlier booklets published in the Unlock the Past series

Other resources on the booklist that are in the library include:

- ***The Scottish Family Tree Detective: Tracing your Ancestors in Scotland***, by Rosemary Bigwood (Manchester University Press, 2006)
- ***In Search of Scottish Ancestry, 2nd edition***, by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards (Phillimore, 1983)
- ***Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: A Guide to Ancestry Research in the National Records of Scotland and ScotlandsPeople, 7th edition***, by the National Records of Scotland (National Records of Scotland and Birlinn Limited, 2020)

This is a later edition than that mentioned in the booklist. Both editions of this book provide a detailed yet accessible introduction to and catalogue of the records held by the National Records of Scotland, outlining not only what is available online via the *ScotlandsPeople* website but also the actual record sets held in Edinburgh.

- ***Scottish Genealogy, 4th edition*** (fully revised and updated), by Bruce Durie (The History Press, 2017)

Although not mentioned in the booklist, I would also recommend Durie's ***Understanding Documents for Genealogy and Local History*** (The History Press, 2016), which provides a guide to the tools needed to read and understand older documents. It includes transcription skills, palaeography, Latin, dates and calendars, money coinage, weights and measures, inscriptions and gravestones, heraldic documents and artefacts, and Gaelic and Scots

glossaries to assist in understanding texts. The core legal texts with genealogical value for both Scotland and for England and Wales, which have distinct legal systems, are described and well explained.

Continuing with books from the booklist that are in the OBOGS library:

- ***A History of the Scottish People: 1560-1830***, by T.C. Smout (Fontana, 1998)
- ***A Century of the Scottish People: 1830-1950***, by T. C. Smout (Fontana, 1987)
- ***Finding your Scottish Ancestors: Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems***, by Kirsty F. Wilkinson (Robert Hale for the Crowood Press, 2020)  
This book is particularly helpful, as it takes a problem-solving approach with many different kinds of research problems illustrated, providing tips for how to resolve them.
- ***Scottish Handwriting 1150-1650: An Introduction to the Reading of Documents***, by Grant G. Simpson (John Donald Publishers Limited, 2009, originally published 1973)
- ***Researching Presbyterian Ancestors in Ireland***, by William J. Roulston (Ulster Historical Foundation, 2020)
- ***The Scottish Genealogist***, the Journal of the Scottish Genealogy Society, (1954–current)  
The OBOGS library has over 250 issues of this journal, ranging from 1954 to 2023, with some gaps; the library also has two printed indexes, covering 1990 to 1997. The website of the Scottish Genealogy Society has several free downloadable indexes for its journal, covering issues from volume 1 (1954) to volume 67 (2020).<sup>5</sup> The issues that we do not have can be purchased and downloaded from the online shop of the Scottish Genealogy Society.

These books and other Scottish resources in the OBOGS collection comprise a substantial “Scottish genealogists’ bookshelf” for researchers. Note that two of the above-mentioned authors, Chris Paton and Kirsty Wilkinson, will be speakers at BIFHSGO’s upcoming conference, “Leaving Their Scottish Homes: What Were They Thinking?”<sup>6</sup> in October.

### **Which Books Does the Library Not Have, and Where Can They Be Found?**

Eight books on the *Scottish Indexes* booklist, on quite specific topics, are *not* in the OBOGS library. These include two texts on reading and understanding legal documents, two on Scotland’s agriculture and rural life, and histories of medicine, of executions, and of the role of religion in Scottish society since 1707.

The following section identifies if and where each is available in Ottawa, or where else they may be found, and the options for accessing them. In a few cases, alternative materials in the OBOGS library or online are suggested.

The *Scottish Indexes* booklist very helpfully provides a link to each book in the online catalogue of the National Library of Scotland (NLS).<sup>7</sup> This is particularly useful since the NLS catalogue entries in turn provide further links to other sources, including *WorldCat*,<sup>8</sup> thus making it possible to locate libraries that have the books in their collections. Those of us in Ottawa benefit not only from the collection of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and other federal institutions and museums, but also from the collections of the University of Ottawa and Carleton University (Ottawa). Note that the SmartLibrary card, available through the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), allows researchers to access a number of these other libraries in Ottawa, even to borrow from some of them.<sup>9</sup>

In searching for the following books, I used both *WorldCat* and the websites of the above-noted local libraries before searching farther afield, first in Ottawa and then in other locations, mainly in Canadian university collections.

If a book is available locally, you may visit that library to consult or possibly borrow the book.<sup>10</sup> However, books not available in Ottawa may often be borrowed using the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service offered by the OPL for a modest fee.<sup>11</sup> The OPL will search public and university libraries across the country and elsewhere for books that are not in their own collection.

- Steel, Donald John., Steel, A. E. F., and Society of Genealogists. ***National Index of Parish Registers. Vol. 12, Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History*** (London: Phillimore for the Society of Genealogists, 1970)  
This book is in the LAC collection

Some alternatives in the OBOGS collection and online may also provide what you need: the OBOGS library has a copy of ***Key to the Parochial Registers of Scotland from earliest times through 1854***, by V. Ben Bloxham (Brigham Young University. 1970) That volume appears to be drawn from the 1872 volume, ***The Detailed List of the Old Parochial Registers of Scotland*** (Murray and Gibb, 1872), published by the Registrar-General and providing a detailed list, by parish, of the old parish registers (up to 1854) that had been transmitted to the Registrar-General and those still in the custody of local registrars. The 1872 Murray and Gibb volume is also available online at the National Records of Scotland at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//research/list-of-oprs/detailed-list-of-old-parochial-registers-of-scotland.pdf>.

- Gouldesbrough, Peter; Gordon, Donaldson, and Stair Society. ***Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents*** (Edinburgh: Stair Society, 1985). Print. Publications Stair Society v. 36  
I was not able to find ***The Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents*** in Ottawa, but copies are available in the libraries of McGill University (Montreal), the University of Guelph and York University (Toronto). Requesting it on ILL would be an option.
- O'Rourke, Stephen R. and Andrew Dewar Gibb. ***Glossary of Legal Terms. Sixth ed. 2014.*** Print. LawBasics  
The ***Glossary of Legal Terms*** is available in the McGill University library.  
Some alternative resources are available in the OBOGS Library. Both books by Bruce Durie mentioned in the first section above include extensive resources for understanding both the terminology and meaning of documents related to the Scottish legal system.
- Young, Alex F. ***The Encyclopaedia of Scottish Executions, 1750 to 1963*** (Orpington: Eric Dobby, 1998)  
This was the only book for which I did not find a source in Canada. However, there are copies in several university libraries in the U.S., in the New York Public Library system and in the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Allen County Public Library has one of the major collections in the U.S. devoted to family history, with a large genealogy department; it may already be on your bucket list of research destinations.<sup>12</sup>
- Hamilton, David. ***The Healers; a History of Medicine in Scotland*** (Edinburgh: Mercatpress, 2003)  
This book is in the library catalogue of the University of Ottawa, which indicates it is loanable but in off-site storage and so, would have to be requested in advance.  
Copies are also available at McMaster University (Hamilton), Queen's University (Kingston), and the University of Guelph, among others.
- Fenton, Alexander. ***Scottish Country Life.*** New Rev. ed. (East Linton: Tuckwell, 1999)  
The revised edition (1999) of ***Scottish Country Life*** is not easily found in Canada. However, the first edition (1976) is listed in the joint catalogue of the Canadian Museum of History and the Canadian War Museum as being available in the Canadian Museum of History. It is also available in several university libraries including Carleton University. The 1989 edition is available in the library of Western University (London, Ontario).

- Carter, Ian. *Farm Life in Northeast Scotland 1840-1914: The Poor Man's Country* (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1997)  
This was originally published in the late 1970s. The 1997 print of this book is available on the Internet Archive as an e-book, which can be digitally “borrowed” for an hour at a time. A reference copy is available at LAC and five Ontario universities have copies of the book, the closest being Queen’s University (Kingston).
- Brown, Callum G. *Religion and Society in Scotland since 1707*. Rev. and Updated New Ed. (Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 1997)  
A reference copy of this book is available at LAC. Ottawa’s Carleton University also has a copy, as does the Toronto Reference Library, which has a superb genealogy collection. Several other Ontario universities also have copies including, not surprisingly, Knox College at the University of Toronto.

## Conclusion

The value of a bibliography compiled by people working in a specific field should not be underestimated, as their recommendations stem from their own experience; besides which they may introduce you to previously unheard-of resources. In exploring this booklist, I found it satisfying to see the number of Scottish family history resources that are in the OBOGS library and available for consultation by visitors to the library. It was also eye-opening to see how many of the books that are *not* in the OBOGS library can be found in the National Capital Region, either as reference copies for in-house consultation or potentially loanable to those with a SmartLibrary card.

Researchers in this area are very fortunate to have nearby not only LAC but also the libraries of several universities and colleges and those of national museums with collections open to public researchers. For books otherwise unavailable here, the OPL’s ILL system is a feasible option, through which copies can be made available from many university and public library collections at minimal charge. A research road trip may also be a possibility for some, combining a trip to the Archives of Ontario on the campus of York University in Toronto with research in the Toronto Reference Library and academic libraries, or a visit to the major Scottish collection held at the University of Guelph.

We look forward to seeing you in the OBOGS Library in the City of Ottawa Archives Reference Room, particularly as we get ready for the Scotland-themed BIFHSGO conference in October.<sup>6</sup> For questions or assistance, please contact the OBOGS librarian at [ottawalibrary@ogs.on.ca](mailto:ottawalibrary@ogs.on.ca).

## Reference Notes

<sup>1</sup> The Ottawa Branch OGS Library is a family history reference library housed in the Reference Room of the City of Ottawa Archives at 100 Tallwood Drive. The library



catalogue can be found at: <https://ottawa.ogs.on.ca/researching/indexes/library-catalog/>. The Reference Room is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and most Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointment is needed as the Archives have fully reopened since the pandemic.

- 2 *Scottish Indexes*—explore their website at <https://www.scottishindexes.com/>.
- 3 <https://www.scottishindexes.com/pastconferences.aspx#c18>. Download the Conference Handout; the booklist compiled from the Q&A session is on pp. 10–11. Used with permission for this article.
- 4 While current issues of *The Scottish Genealogist* are received by the library thanks to a BIFHSGO journal exchange arrangement, there have been significant donations of back issues, most notably, a donation of a decades-long run from the family of the late James Coutts in 2022.
- 5 <https://www.scotsgenealogy.com/downloads/general-downloads>.
- 6 For information and to register for the BIFHSGO conference in October 2023, see <https://www.bifhsgo.ca/2023-conference>.
- 7 The NLS library catalogue can be found at [https://search.nls.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=44NLS\\_VU1&sortby=rank](https://search.nls.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=44NLS_VU1&sortby=rank). However, the fastest way to find these books is to use the embedded links included on pages 10–11 of the *Scottish Indexes* Conferences XVIII 26 November 2022 handout, as this will go directly to the NLS entry for the book, which includes a link to the relevant *WorldCat* entry.
- 8 <https://www.worldcat.org/>. In conducting a search, you can set your own location to find the libraries closest to you which hold the book. Since not every institution has added its holdings to the *WorldCat* database, I also searched the websites of local government and academic libraries directly.
- 9 <https://smartlib-bibliogen.ca/>. The SmartLibrary card provides access to 14 libraries in the National Capital region with participating institutions in both Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec: two municipal libraries (Ottawa and Gatineau), six university or college libraries, and six federal museum libraries, including The Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History. Holders of a public library card can request a SmartLibrary card from their local public library branch.
- 10 Some of the SmartLibrary participating libraries are “reference only” libraries, while municipal and academic libraries may offer borrowing privileges.
- 11 <https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/interlibrary-loans-ill>. I recently requested two volumes published by the Scottish Record Society; one volume came from the University of Guelph and the other was from McMaster University. Each was available for a three-week, non-renewable loan.
- 12 The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department produces the Periodical Source Index, indexing thousands of family history journals and regularly presenting useful webinars for family historians (<https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>).

# The Cream of the Crop

Select items from recent posts on the Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections blog at [www.anglocelticconnections.ca](http://www.anglocelticconnections.ca)



BY JOHN D. REID

## Canada

Library and Archives Canada should have released the 1931 Census of Canada

by the time you read this, initially with a metadata structure to enable online access by geographic district and sub-district. As mentioned last quarter, *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch International* will create an OCR nominal index starting as soon as public access is available, following the same process used for releasing and indexing the 1950 US Census in 2022.

## *Ancestry News*

Parish records for the English counties of Hampshire and Sussex are now available with transcriptions linked to images of the original. The imaging phase of a project to make available Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire parish records is now complete; indexing is underway. A similar project has now started for Suffolk. "UK and Ireland, Medical Registers, 1859–1943" are available digitized from original documents at the archives of the Royal College of Physicians of

Ireland in Dublin, lacking 1882, 1915 and 1940. The records comprise the date of registration, name, residence and qualifications.

For Canada, indexed records are now available for "Canada, Royal Canadian Air Force Crash Cards," which summarize each of 35,063 records of WW II RCAF aircraft crashes, many related to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. As explained on my blog, they can lead you to the relevant accident investigation report containing detailed information not found in service files, sometimes rather gruesome. "Red Books of Scotland" are now available on *Ancestry*, containing compiled genealogical records between the years 1600 and 1939 about many Scottish families that are of importance nationally and locally.

## *Findmypast News*

Some 90,809 new records have been opened in the latest update to the "1939 Register for England and Wales." Records are opened when a person's death is reported or they pass their 100th birthday. You can normally find an ancestor's name, date of birth, address, occupation and marital status, plus extra details

such as civilian role and other family members. *Findmypast* (FMP) has the most up-to-date version of the Register online.

A further 46,567 burials from the Worthing local authority area for 1850–2012 have been added to FMP’s existing “Sussex Burials” collection, now comprising more than 507,000 records.

### **MyHeritage News**

A hugely overlooked collection is *MyHeritage*’s “Historical Books—Index of Authors and People Mentioned, 1811–2003.” It names persons mentioned in various English-language public domain books as well as the names of the authors of these publications. It has 494,147,034 entries from over three million digitized books.

Included in the 2,803,687 records in “France, Paris Census, 1926,” which became available on *MyHeritage* on 26 March, are 749 people born in Canada, 599 from Ireland (Irlande, or Eire), and 14,022 from the UK (Royaume-Uni). The 2,666,857 records in the “France, Paris Census, 1936” include 514 born in Canada, 424 from Ireland, and 8,003 from the UK.

“England, Middlesex and Westminster Sessions of the Peace” is a free collection of 82,679 records containing lists of prisoners tried between the years 1836 and 1889. Records typically include the name of the individual, the age, and the

date when the trial took place. Records may also include information about occupation, previous convictions, nature of the offence, verdict, and sentence.

Based on *Scottish Indexes* and the original records at the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh (MC7 series) entitled “General Register of Lunatics in Asylums,” each of the 127,746 records in “Scotland, Mental Health Records” may contain the full name of the patient, the birth date, the admission date, the location within Scotland, and the date of death in cases where a patient died in an asylum. See [www.scottishindexes.com/](http://www.scottishindexes.com/) for further information.

### **Canadian Pacific Ships History**

The book *Canadian Pacific Afloat, 1883-1968: A short history and fleet list*, by George Musk (1969) will be of possible interest if your family history includes someone who voyaged on one of the company’s ships. It is online as part of the Chung Collection at The University of British Columbia (<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/chung>).

### **Ancestors in the Dust**

Imagine taking an ancestor’s dusty old album, stored away for decades, and finding the dust could be analyzed to reveal the creator’s DNA profile. It might be possible to trace their ancestry and physical characteristics based on their SNPs. An article describes a study that

took samples of dust from five locations in a house and compared them with buccal samples. They found that 93 per cent of known occupants were detected in at least one dust sample. Technical challenges remain, such as the degradation, contamination and complexity of the DNA mixtures in the dust samples, as well as ethical and legal issues.

### **Artificial Intelligence Genealogy**

If you've tried one or more of the many AI developments in recent months, you'll likely have been amazed at the capabilities and at their tendency to hallucinate (lie). They won't research your family history—yet! Now there's a new blog—*AI Genealogy Insights*—that explores how artificial intelligence can assist genealogists and family history researchers. It focusses particularly on discovering the advantages and limitations of AI, and how genealogists can apply this knowledge (<https://aigenealogyinsights.com/>).

If you'd like to play around to see the capabilities and limitations, try the simple procedure posted by Denys Allen "*Using ChatGPT to Write The First Draft of Your Family History in Less Than 5 Minutes*" at [https://twitter.com/denys\\_allen/status/1650513345051521028/](https://twitter.com/denys_allen/status/1650513345051521028/). It turned my cigar maker ancestor into a merchant entrepreneur!

### **Allied Air Force Research—Virtual Webinar Series**

Museum curators, authors, project coordinators and squadron associations are all presenting webinars this year. On 28 June at 2 p.m., James Jefferies will speak on "Bomber Command's Battle of Britain." Registration is free. See the complete program at <https://www.alliedairforceresearch.com/webinars/>.

### **Railway Work, Life & Death Project (UK)**

Did you have a railway worker in your family tree in Britain or Ireland who was involved in an accident from the late 1880s to 1939? About 25,000 new entries have been added to a spreadsheet database containing details of 20,963 railway worker accidents investigated by the state for 1900–15 and 1921–1939. It's accessible through [railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk](http://railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk).

### **Mayors and Sheriffs of London**

Find out more about the mayors and sheriffs of London by searching a database from the University of Toronto by surname at <https://masl.library.utoronto.ca/search>. It includes their names, years of office and companies or occupations from 1190 to the present. A person may have filled both mayor and sheriff roles at different times. For more recent entries, click on the name for further sources.

## **Cemetery and Burial Records**

Highgate Cemetery, one of London's "Magnificent Seven," can now be searched for burials as part of the Church of England's National Burial Grounds Survey. While not yet complete, burials can be found directly on the map or by name, age or burial date using the search tool. Find it, and a user guide, through AG Intl Ltd at <https://agintl.org/>.

Two cemeteries in Reading, Berkshire—Reading Old and Hemdean Road cemeteries—are now available to view on [www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com), with records dating from 1843; records for other sites and maps are coming soon. Reading Old Cemetery has 75,725 records from 1843 to 2017 and contains the war graves of 205 Commonwealth service personnel of World War I (15 Canadian and one Serbian serviceman) and 41

from World War II. Hemdean Road Cemetery, originally opened as Caversham Cemetery (following the closure to new burials at St Peter's Churchyard in Caversham), has 7,311 records from 1877 to 2016. Records for Henley Road Cemetery and Reading Crematorium are on their way.

The people behind *Scottish Monumental Inscriptions* photograph and transcribe burial grounds around Scotland in an attempt to make up for the lack of pre-1885 information available on deaths in Scotland. Now 619,169 records can be searched in the *Ancestry* collection "Scotland, Burial Monument Inscriptions, 1507-2019." The information available comprises name, death age, birth date, death date, cemetery, burial place and notes.

## **Back to Basics**

**With**

**Ken McKinlay**

**Join us for a new feature in the Fall88  
Education Talks at 9:00 a.m. on meeting dates  
September—England and Wales  
October—Ireland  
November—Military Service**

# *Leaving Their Scottish Homes: What Were They Thinking?*



**BIFHSGO's Virtual Annual  
Conference  
Saturday/Sunday  
28–29 October 2023**

*Five fabulous speakers:*

*Marjory Harper, Chris Fleet, Michelle Leonard,  
Kirsty F. Wilkinson and Chris Paton*

*Social Time*

*Conference Connect with Scottish Regional Experts*

**For more details and to register go to:  
<https://www.bifhsgo.ca/2023-conference>**

**Don't miss the AGM!**

**In person/9:00 a.m., 10 June 2023/on Zoom**

Directors' reports, Financial report, Elections  
Awards: BIFHSGO Hall of Fame, Certificate of Recognition  
Best Member Talks (Feature and Education)  
Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* Article by a Member  
In Memoriam  
Your Questions

## **BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2022–2023**

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Photographer	Dena Palamedes	
<b>Conference 2023</b>	Dianne Brydon	Conference_program@bifhsgo.ca
<b>Public Accountant</b>	McCay Duff LLP	

## **The Society**

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

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

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

Each year members enjoy four issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots (ACR)* and ten family history meetings, plus members-only information on bifhsgo.ca, friendly advice from other members, and participation in special interest groups. Membership dues for 2023 (individuals or institutions) are \$50 (with electronic ACR) or \$60 (with printed ACR).

# BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

## Saturday Morning Meetings

**In-person**—Geneva Hall, Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar St., Ottawa

**Online**—on Zoom, **registration required**†

**9 September 2023**

**9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.**

Back to Basics

**10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**

**Locations and Occupations: Using Census Analysis to Explore Family Dispersion**

(10:00–11:30 a.m.)

**Paul Cripwell** has been researching his ancestry and documenting the Cripwell surname for four years, while also gathering information for a one-name study. In this presentation Paul will share the results of his study and discuss the dispersion of the Cripwell families around England.

**14 October 2023**

**9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.**

Back to Basics

**10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**

**From Derry to Pontiac: The Dales of Clarendon** (10:00–11:30 a.m.)

**Nancy Dale Conroy** will recount her Dale family's experiences after leaving Ulster in the 17th century and adapting to the wilderness of Pontiac County's Clarendon Township, while contributing significantly to the founding of the village of Shawville, Quebec.

**18 November 2023**

**9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.**

Back to Basics

**10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**

**Note the change of date due to Remembrance Day!**

**"We will remember them"** (10:00–11:30 a.m.)

This meeting will offer us a chance to reflect as we hear stories from members whose ancestors served, suffered, and perhaps died in military action.

***We are looking for your stories.*** Do you have a story you would like to share? It can be 5 to 10 minutes long, with or without PowerPoint slides, or simply a photograph and an oral account. If so, please send an email to Marianne Rasmus at [programs@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:programs@bifhsgo.ca). You can present either in person, or on-line.

† **Check our website at [www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca)** for up-to-date information on our monthly meetings, education talks, details of special interest group meetings and to register for meetings.

### 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 Fall issue is 15 July 2023.