



# FAMILIES

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 63 | NUMBER 3 | AUGUST 2024



**The Rand-McNally New Commercial Atlas Map of Ontario, ca. 1915 (Courtesy of Toronto PL)**

Check out Art Taylor's article "How Can Atlases Help Your Family Research?"

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Removing the Rebels: The Story of Peter Robinson Settlers**

**Northbound to Canada: Eliza Beulah Howells**

**Centenarians**

**The Philanthropic Genealogist: Paying It Back and Paying It Forward**

**Miserable Childhood: Two Scottish Creighton Home Boys Exalted by World War I Sacrifice**

**That Was Fun! Reflections on OGS Conference 2024**

**The Ontario Genealogical Society Awards and Recognitions**

**Missionaries, Ministers and Other Protestant Preachers: A Popular Namesake Tradition**

**How Can Atlases Help Your Family Research?**

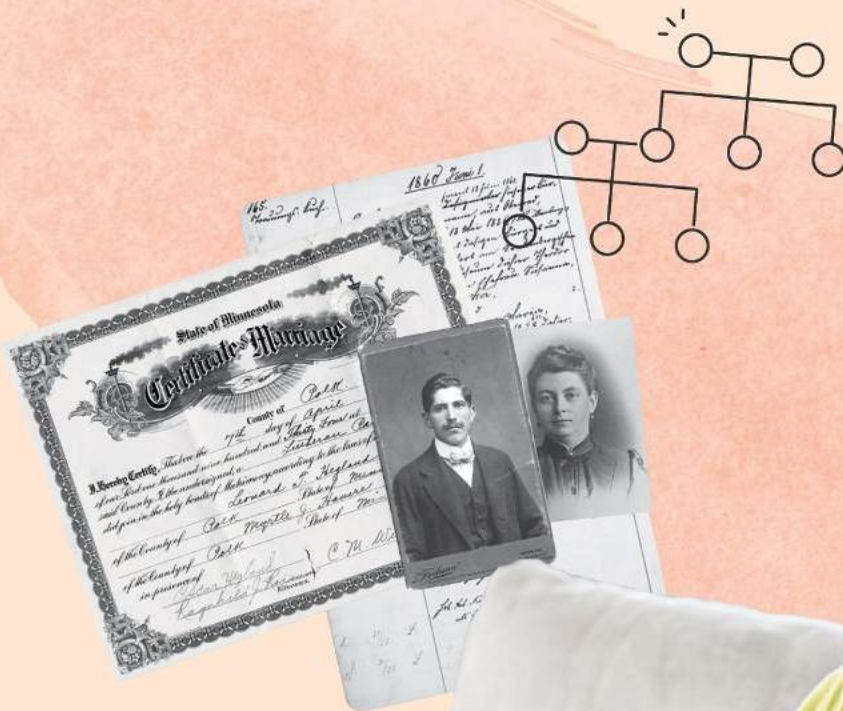
**Coral's Corner, Book Reviews, a Book Excerpt, and more!**

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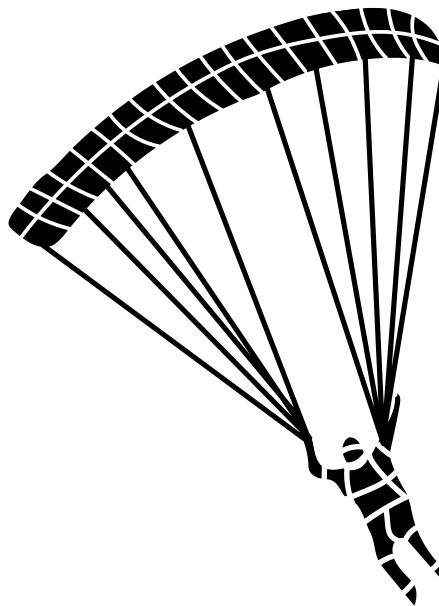
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# From the Editor



I went skydiving on Friday. It was a family skydive for my father-in-law that was a birthday gift from his two kids on the occasion of his 80th birthday at the end of February. He had been talking about his ‘bucket list’ for some time, and this was his number one item. The fact that he is 80 years old meant nothing – he wanted to feel the thrill of the jump, and to do it with family. The question was, which members of his family felt the same way and actually wanted to jump out of an airplane? My sister-in-law excitedly signed up but my husband just couldn’t bring himself to do it. So, without hesitation, I eagerly volunteered. As the extended family was surveyed, it dawned on me that from this small group, exactly half were willing to jump while the other half were not. I found this fascinating and it got me to thinking about whether or not “thrill seeking” is something that could be passed down through our DNA?

I decided to check out my ever-expanding list of traits on my Ancestry DNA test profile and found that for the trait indicating my level of “risk taking” – my DNA says that I am “likely to avoid taking risks”. Interesting. Perhaps choosing an adrenaline rush is not considered taking a risk? But, in looking over the list of traits that can be predicted by our DNA, I do find it fascinating that it includes not just physical aspects of our being, but also elements of our personality. While I don’t believe that my list of trait “tendencies” is by any means 100% accurate, it does cause me to pause and think about what of these tendencies has been passed down to me by my ancestors? And further, what were the personalities of each of my forebears? Were any of them risk-takers? Did they enjoy watching sports? Did they like to dance? Were they competitive? Were they introverted or extroverted? These are the things that I would like to know more about when I am doing my genealogy research and

writing about their lives, and what keeps me interested in learning all that I can about my family history. What about you – who in your family would take the jump?

This issue is once again full of interesting and diverse articles. We have two book reviews as well as an excerpt from a book about John A. Macdonald and some land in Peterborough. We have our regular features including Coral’s Corner and What’s in a Name from Robbie Gorr. George Neville has submitted a follow-up article about the Creighton family, Drew von Hasselbach tells us about centenarians, Christine Woodcock has written about the background behind the Peter Robinson settlers, Hank Howells has added a second chapter on his Howells family in Ontario and Robbie Gorr discusses philanthropy in genealogy. And, since Conference 2024 is now two months past, we have added a recap of the events for everyone to enjoy. As always, we are eager to hear your thoughts on this (and every) edition that we do. Constructive comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please email me at [Heather.Mctavish.Taylor@ogs.on.ca](mailto:Heather.Mctavish.Taylor@ogs.on.ca), anytime!

*Heather*

Heather

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## Table of Contents

Volume 63 | Number 3 | August 2024

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Removing the Rebels: The Story of Peter Robinson Settlers</i><br>Christine Woodcock.....                                       | 4  |
| <i>Northbound to Canada: Eliza Beulah Howells</i><br>Henry Coggeshall Howells IV.....   | 8  |
| Book Excerpt: <i>Macdonald and Mrs. Hall</i><br>Ken Brown.....  | 12 |
| Coral's Corner: <i>Adage, Jargon and Monikers - Part III</i><br>Coral Harkies.....  | 14 |
| <i>Centenarians</i><br>Drew von Hasselbach.....   | 16 |
| <i>The Philanthropic Genealogist: Paying It Back and Paying It Forward</i><br>Robbie Gorr.....                                    | 18 |
| <i>Miserable Childhood: Two Scottish Creighton Home Boys Exalted by World War I Sacrifice</i><br>George A. Neville.....           | 22 |
| <i>That Was Fun! Reflections on OGS Conference 2024</i><br>Ann Brown.....   | 29 |
| <i>The Ontario Genealogical Society Awards and Recognitions</i> .....   | 34 |
| Book Review: <i>A Simple Guide to Creating a Family History Book</i><br>Art Taylor.....   | 36 |
| Book Review: <i>Introducing Nonconformist Records</i><br>Heather Oakley.....  | 37 |
| <i>What's in a Name? Missionaries, Ministers and Other Protestant Preachers: A Popular Namesake Tradition</i><br>Robbie Gorr..... | 38 |
| <i>How Can Atlases Help Your Family Research?</i><br>Art Taylor.....  | 40 |
| <i>Errata: Families 63.2 (May 2024)</i> .....   | 44 |

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*Families* is indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI). Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the OGS, the *Families* editors, or The Society's officers.

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# Removing the Rebels: The Story of Peter Robinson Settlers

## Christine Woodcock

**Christine Woodcock** is the new President for the Ontario Genealogical Society and remains Co-Chair of the Scottish Special Interest Group. She is Program Secretary for the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society (GWFHS) and sits on the Council for the Lanarkshire Family History Society (LFHS). As an immigrant herself, Christine is always interested in the stories of other immigrants and helping them to find out more about their ancestors.

Ireland was in dire straits at the end of the 18th century and on several occasions was on the verge of civil war. Farmers were opposed to the unjust laws which condemned them to poverty and starvation. Farmland was used for cattle grazing because it was exempt from tithes (taxes). As more landlords and farmers switched to raising cattle, the other workers such as labourers and tenant farmers were being forced off the land. The labourers and tenant farmers saw this change from agriculture to cattle grazing, which put them out of work, as a means of forced oppression leading to starvation. This caused anger and rebellions. In particular, it led to Whiteboyism. The Whiteboys developed as a secret oath-bound society among the poor and oppressed farmers and labourers.

The Whiteboys were primarily in the counties of Waterford, Cork, Limerick, and Tipperary. Their anger and rebelliousness were not directed against the government, but rather against local landlords who were leaving them without a means to support their families. Another, and perhaps, better-known group of resisters were the United Irishmen. This group drew on the structure and ritual of freemasonry and their goal, essentially, was to create a republic free from English control. The United Irishmen recruited tradesmen and tenant farmers, in a bid to strengthen the ideal of gaining Catholic emancipation and parliamentary reform.

In order to quell these rebellions or “disturbances” the government imposed the Insurrection Act of 1786. This was then reimposed several times over the next quarter century in 1802, 1807, and 1814.

The Act is lengthy, but the preamble reads:

“Whereas traitorous insurrections have for some time past arisen in various parts of this kingdom, principally promoted and supported by persons associating under the pretended obligation of oaths unlawfully administered . . . be it enacted . . . that any person or persons who shall administer, or cause to be administered, or be present, aiding and assisting at the administering, or who shall by threats, promises, persuasions, or other undue means, cause, procure, or induce to be taken by any person or persons, upon a book, or otherwise any oath or engagement, importing to bind the person taking the same, to be of any association, brotherhood, society, or confederacy formed for seditious purposes, or to disturb the public peace, or to obey the orders or rules, or commands of any committee, or other body of men, not lawfully constituted, or the commands of any captain, leader, or commander (not appointed by his majesty, his heirs and successors) or to assemble at the desire or command of any such captain, leader, commander or committee, or of any person or persons not having lawful authority, or not to inform or given evidence against any brother, associate, confederate, or other person, or not to reveal or discover his having taken any illegal oath, or done any illegal act, or not to discover any illegal oath or engagement which may be tendered to him, or the import thereof, whether he shall take such oath, or enter into such engagement, or not, being by due course of law convicted thereof, shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and suffer death without benefit of clergy, and every person who shall take any such oath or engagement, not being thereto compelled by inevitable necessity, and being by due course of law thereof convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of felony and be transported for life. . .”

“And be it further enacted, that all persons who shall have arms in their possession at any time after the passing of this act, shall on or before the first day of May 1796, or immediately after they shall have possession of such arms, deliver to the acting clerk of the peace in the county, town, or city in which he resides . . . a written notification, signed by him or her, specifying therein . . . the place or places where the

same are usually kept, accompanied by an affidavit, sworn by the person signing such notification, that the notification is true, and that he believes he is by law entitled to keep arms.”

This particular section of the Act led to a number of nighttime raids by the government to try to obtain any arms that they felt were being held illegally. No fewer than 223 armed raids were recorded in County Cork alone between October 1821 and April 1822. This violation of homes was not taken too lightly and as a result, the undertone of the country was dire. In September 1821, one magistrate stated: “this insurrection will turn out more serious than which has occurred in the south of Ireland for some years past.”

Dublin Castle (the seat of parliament at the time) sent police in to try and quell the fray. The officers, in turn, told the government that the views of the rebel leaders now “far extended beyond the object for which they originally associated and that their entire objective was ‘the total upset of the established order of things’.” Farmers were deeply implicated. In northern County Cork, for instance, armed bands of men retreated to the hills and, by 1820, that part of the country was in a state bordering on “a miniature civil war.”

The government realized that something significant had to be done to restore order. In England, was Robert Wilmot-Horton who had served as Under Secretary of State for War and the Colonies from 1821-1827. He was a well-known supporter of both free trade and of Catholic emancipation. Wilmot-Horton began advocating that poor families from Ireland should be allowed to emigrate to the colonies.

The alarming state of Ireland in the early 1820s proved to be the catalyst which enabled Wilmot-Horton to combine previous Colonial Office experience in Upper Canada with his belief in the effectiveness of emigration as a form of pauper relief. He began advocating with Parliament for emigration of poor families from the south of Ireland to be able to emigrate, at government expense, to Canada.

Farmers had suffered a partial famine in 1822 thanks to a “wet crop” the previous year. This combined with the



Above: Portrait of Sir Robert Wilmot Horton (1784-1841) drawn by R.J. Lane from a sketch by J. Slater [Photo courtesy of the National Library of Australia].

continuing unrest made it easy for Wilmot-Horton to argue his case for significant relief in the south of Ireland. His contemporaries were primarily concerned with relieving the immediate situation and so voted to finance Wilmot-Horton's emigration schemes.

Wilmot-Horton was introduced to Peter Robinson who was to act as the superintendent for these settlers once they arrived in Canada. Robinson was the brother of John Beverley Robinson, who was the Attorney General of Upper Canada at the time. As part of the agreement for emigration, the “disturbed baronies” of North Cork were specifically targeted as the region where emigrants were to be recruited. This was an attempt to remove the “agitators” who were residing there.

Upon his arrival in Ireland, Robinson was introduced to the gentry of County Cork by both Lord Ennismore and William Wrixon Becher, two Irish Members of Parliament who had taken an early interest in Wilmot-Horton's plan. Wilmot-Horton insisted that the emigrants should not be able to pay their own way. He also suggested that it would be infinitely more desirable for the families to be Catholic. Heads of families were to be able-bodied, not over the age of 45 and not encumbered by large numbers of children.

Robinson spent the month of June 1823 selecting emigrants. He wanted to be able to have the emigrants settled in Upper Canada before winter. For the first two weeks of June, Robinson concentrated on selling the idea of assisted emigration to key members of the nobility and magistracy as well as to potential emigrants. Robinson targeted the counties of Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford and Kerry, for his emigration scheme. All of these counties were under the Insurrection Act in June of 1823. Fermoy, County Cork, was identified as being the most disturbed area and so Robinson set up his headquarters there. Robinson had no doubt that suitable candidates existed. He saw hundreds of men of a “good sort”, “bred to farming” and, “completely without work”.

By the end of June 1823, Robinson had chosen 600 candidates. However, only 460 responded to his messengers and came to Cork in time for his July 1 deadline. Robinson quickly made up the remaining numbers in time to sail on July 8 with a full complement of 568 emigrants. Those he took were probably rejected candidates who had followed him regardless. Robinson was paid £9687 for the conveyance of these passengers. As well, the passengers were given provisions, free of charge. These included: 50 lbs of flour, 20 lbs of meat, and 50 lbs of tea.

The 1823 settlement was not without difficulties. A number of the single men would get into scuffles in their idle time and one such incident very nearly ended the settlement scheme altogether. After investigation, however, it was determined that the issue wasn't so much the unmarried Irishmen fighting as it was a matter of the Scots, already in the area, taking umbrage with the Irish immigrants getting free provisions and farming tools when they were not given the same benefit. After this incident, Robinson decided to change the composition of future families and rather than having two adults and two children, he increased the children to three per family. He also decided not to allow any unattached males to emigrate unless they were clearly under the authority of a head of household. An example might be a nephew or brother-in-law.

The 1824 settlement was delayed in getting started, and so the decision was made by Wilmot-Horton that a double allotment of passengers would be taken in 1825. That year, another nine ships sailed from Cork, bringing a further 2024 emigrants into Upper Canada. Of these, 1314 were children. Robinson was given £25235 for the conveyance of this group of settlers. Again, settlers were given provisions, free of charge. These included: 2 blankets, 1 axe, 1 lb of nails, 1 iron pot, 1 hoe, 1 hammer, 1 bale hook, 1 gimlet, 1 saw and 1 file, 1 auger and 1 spade as farming tools. In addition, the settlers were given food in the form of 5 bushels of potatoes, and 6 lbs of corn. Settlers were also given an oxen to assist with ploughing and carting, a cow for milk and meat and a pair of moccasins to keep them warm in the Canadian weather.

Each head of household was given an embarkation certificate. A copy was kept by Robinson. The two documents were matched up when the family arrived at the ship for embarkation. The information on these certificates includes: location of residence in Ireland, names and ages of each member of the family, the name of the nobleman (landowner) who recommended the family for emigration and the occupation of the head of household. Each ship was supplied with a surgeon who stayed with the passengers until they arrived at their final point of settlement. The surgeons all kept records of their journey which detailed inoculations against small pox, fevers, births and deaths at sea.

Families were granted 100 acres of land. They were required to build a log cabin and cut a road in front of their land. In 1823, the settlers were granted 70 acres with the option of gaining another 30 acres upon reaching their settlement agreement. However, the 1825 settlers were given their 100 acres outright. Robinson worked to get work for as many men as possible in local mills or on road construction.

The 1825 groups were taken to Coburg and once roads were constructed, they were given land in and around what is now known as Peterborough (named in honour of Robinson) including the townships of Ennismore, Ottonabee, Emily, Marmora and Duoro.



If your ancestor was brought to Upper Canada as a settler with Peter Robinson's scheme, you might find the following resources of interest:

**Archives of Ontario** – The Archives holds the Peter Robinson fonds. This is an extensive collection, on microfilm. The holdings consist primarily of letters to his wife Mary, stating the issues he was facing. In addition, there are a number of letters between Robinson and Wilmot-Horton and others in England as well as with other politicians in Upper Canada. Not to be overlooked are the letters from several of the settlers. A listing of the correspondence can be found at the website link below, enter “Peter Robinson fonds” in the search bar: <https://aims.archives.gov.on.ca/>.

**FamilySearch** has a booklet on the settlement scheme: <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/264150-the-peter-robinson-settlement-of-1825-the-story-of-the-irish-immigration-to-the-city-and-county-of-peterborough-ontario?offset=>.

The **Peterborough Public Library** has manuscript materials: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/319763?availability=Family%20History%20Library>.

And the **Trent Valley Archives** has an online listing of the ships and their passengers: <https://trentvalleyarchives.com/peter-robinson-ships-list/>.

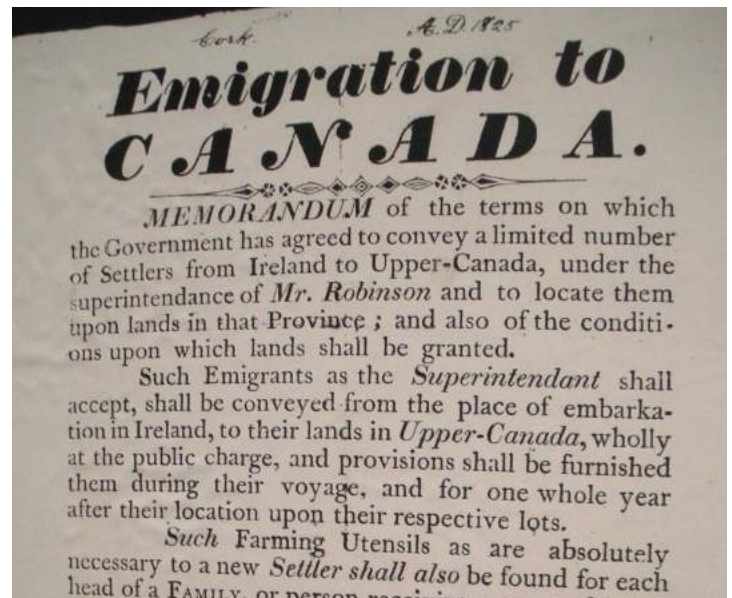
The List of Irish Immigrants with the Peter Robinson Scheme of 1825 is also available on **Internet Archive**: [https://archive.org/details/localhistory\\_2eg](https://archive.org/details/localhistory_2eg).

**Global Genealogy** has a book by Carol Bennett about the Peter Robinson Settlers. It can be purchased through this link: <https://globalgenealogy.com/countries/canada/ontario/general/resources/101251.htm>.



Above: A gelatin silver portrait of Peter Robinson (1785-1838) [Photo courtesy of the Toronto Public Library].

Below: Robinson Emigrant Scheme memorandum [Photo courtesy of VisitBallyhoura].



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# Northbound to Canada: Eliza Beulah Howells

## Henry Coggeshall Howells IV

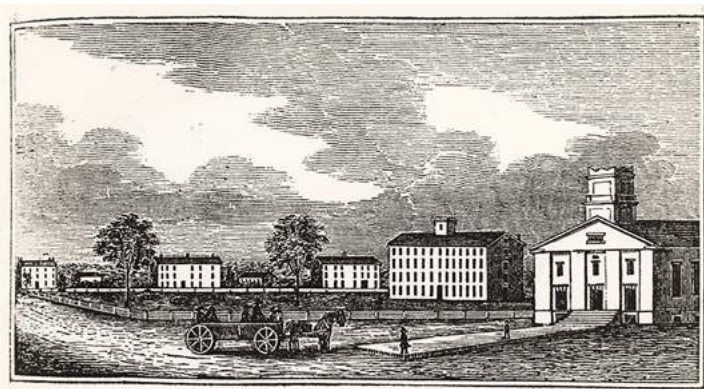
**Henry Howells**, a genealogical researcher and writer, has previously published articles in *Ohio History*, *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, and *Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly*. He is a sixth-generation descendant of Henry Charles and Mary (Best) Howells. Henry lives in Boca Raton, Florida and can be reached via email at [hcebh311@verizon.net](mailto:hcebh311@verizon.net).

*This article is the second in a series of four (see Families 63, no.2 (May 2024): 32-36) that explores the lives of four Howells siblings that immigrated to the province of Ontario, Canada during the early to mid-1800s. Its focus is on the brief life of Henry and Mary (Best) Howells's third daughter who lived to adulthood, Eliza Beulah Howells (1819–1849).*

Eliza was born in Bristol, England, in 1819.[1] She was the second daughter to be given the forenames Eliza Beulah, as the previous Eliza, born 24 April 1818, died later that same year.[2] Prior to arriving in America in 1831 at age twelve,[3] Eliza's niece wrote in *Memoirs* about her education at a Southampton Boarding school. [4] Eliza was later identified as a freshman member of the "Young Ladies, Junior" class at the Oberlin Collegiate Institute (now Oberlin College) in Ohio for the 1835–1836 term,[5] a progressive school that ultimately graduated the first women to receive A.B. (*artium baccalaureus*) degrees in 1841.[6] During this time, the Howells were living in Putnam, Ohio, and Henry was active in establishing the abolitionist movement in Ohio, and was a member of the Underground Railroad.[7] Sending Eliza to boarding school not only aligned with his belief in an egalitarian education for his children, but also put Eliza out of danger from the anti-abolitionist mobs that were active in the village.

Eliza met her future husband, Rev. Adam Elliot (1802–1878), while visiting her sister, Mary Best (Howells) Rogers, who had moved to Richmond, Ontario, Canada with her husband, Rev. Robert Rogers, in 1836. Family tradition holds that Rev. Elliot followed Eliza back to Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, and proposed by asking "How would you like to return to Canada with me?" When Eliza asked Adam his intent with the question, he responded, "If you think I am going to propose to you like a schoolboy of sixteen, you are greatly mistaken." [8] Despite this ungracious response, Eliza Howells and Adam Elliot were married in 1839 at Trinity Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania [9] near 'Rose Dale,' the Howells family home since moving from Ohio in 1836, and the site of her father's boarding school. [10]

Adam, a divinity student of Bishop John Strachan of Toronto, [11] was ordained a deacon, at St. James, York, in Upper Canada in November 1832, and seven months later became an Anglican minister. [12] In 1832, The Society for Converting & Civilizing the Indians, and Propagating the Gospel Among the Destitute Settlers in Upper Canada, appointed Mr. Elliot their travelling missionary for the Home District. [13] He was a saddlebag preacher who travelled to remote settlements, with his vestments and communion service in his bags, preaching, teaching the liturgy, and ministering to the small congregations of Upper Canada. [14] In 1836, the Society discontinued Adam's service as a travelling missionary for the Home District



Above: The Meeting House, Tappan Square and Oberlin Collegiate Institute Buildings by Henry Howe, 1848 [Photo courtesy of Oberlin College Archives].





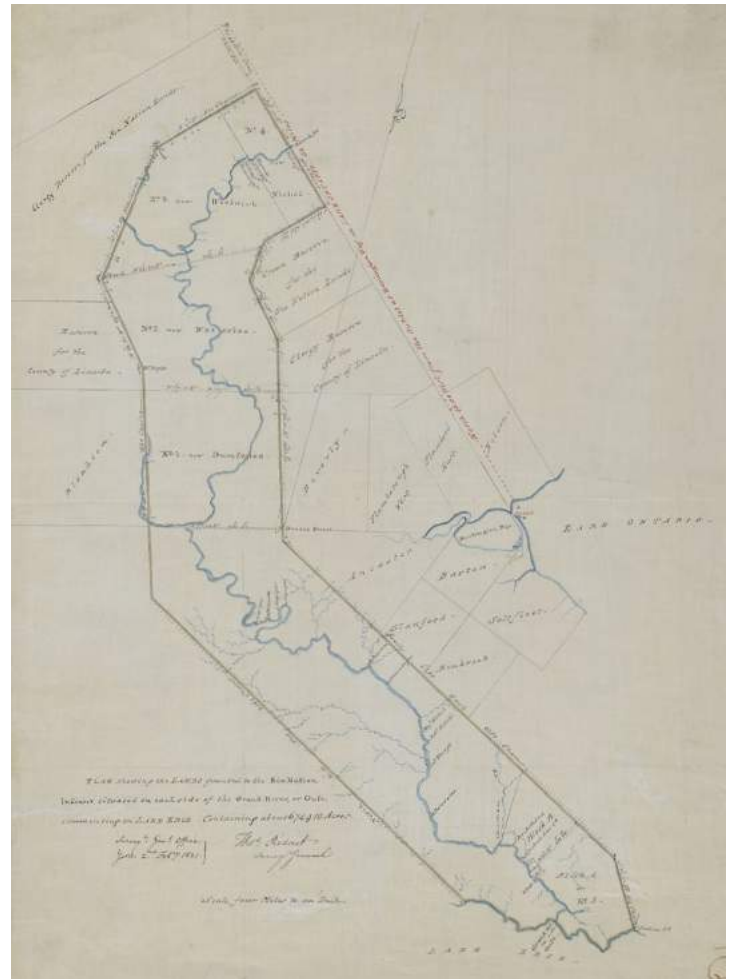
Left: Eliza Beulah (Howells) Elliot [Photo courtesy of Brant Historical Society, 1301-x977.537.1]; Right: Rev. Adam Elliot [Photo courtesy of Peel Art Gallery, Museum & Archives].

“though not without sincere regret for the loss of his valuable service in a field of duty which he has filled so entirely to their satisfaction,”[15] in order to appoint him Resident Missionary at the Great Manitoulin Island located in Lake Huron.

Subsequently, he became a minister and missionary to the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy in the Grand River Reserve. Resulting from the loss of lands during the American Revolution in 1784, Sir Frederick Haldimand, the Governor of the Province of Quebec, granted to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (comprised of the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora nations) six miles of land on each side of the Grand River from its head to Lake Erie.[16]

Rev. Adam Elliot took over at Tuscarora Mission Church for the New England Company when he “was appointed to succeed Mr. Nelles [who was appointed Chief Missionary] at Tuscarora, and his Agreement dated 1 December 1837, was that he would devote his time and his abilities to the service of the New England Company in preaching and in teaching...”[17] The New England Company, established in 1649 with a mission to propagate the Gospel in New England and the parts adjacent in America, was expanding westward with the development of Canada. Rev. Elliot had as his interpreter and assistant, George H. M. Johnson, a Mohawk who resided at the parsonage beginning in

1839–1840.[18] He would eventually become Emily Susannah Howells’s husband.[19]



Above: 1821 Map of Grand River Haudenosaunee Lands. Surveyor: Thomas Rideout [Photo courtesy of the Library and Archives Canada, 4129506].

Below: Original Mission House at Tuscarora (built 1829) and home to Rev. Abraham Nelles, Rev. Adam Elliot’s predecessor [Photo courtesy of Anglican Church of Canada, Provincial and Diocesan Synods collection].



In 1835, “the company built a parsonage in Tuscarora village for Mr. Nelles”, that was assumed by Adam with his 1837 appointment.[20] After Adam and



Eliza's marriage in 1839, the Elliots returned to the Tuscarora parsonage. Further, the New England Company records also show that a young Thomas Best Howells was a teacher at the Mohawk school in Tuscarora from about 1840 to at least 1843.[21] Perhaps he too, stayed with the Elliots. One visitor, Rev. James Beaven, arrived at Tuscarora, and after settling into conversation with Adam at the parsonage, noticed "the English appearance of the sitting room, the prints of home scenes on the walls, the little English knickknacks on the table" but expected "a ruder simplicity about the dwelling and furniture of the Indian Missionary and that all the ornaments should be Indian curiosities." [22]

The 1840s were tragic for the Elliot family. A little over ten years after her marriage, Eliza died of consumption (tuberculosis). Prior to her death, the Elliots had four children whose first names were those of Eliza's siblings. Unfortunately, by the time of Eliza's death,[23] she and Adam had already lost three of their children, likely to the typhus epidemic that peaked in 1847 and resulted from the influx of Irish immigrants due to the Great Potato Famine.[24] The fourth child, Mary (1840–1854), would die of consumption about four years later in 1854.[25]



Above: Eliza Beulah (Howells) Elliot and daughter, Mary, circa 1849 [Photo courtesy of Brant Historical Society, 1303-x977.539].

Rev. Elliot established schools and ministered to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on the Grand River Reserve until his resignation from the New England Company in 1875. However, after accepting Adam's resignation, the Company allowed him, with his second wife, to remain in the parsonage because, "while relieving Mr. Elliot of the labour and responsibility of the mission, the benefit of his long experience and sound judgement was secured until his death, which occurred on the 4th [sic] of June 1878." [26]

#### GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

ELIZA BEULAH HOWELLS (Henry Charles, Thomas, John, Thomas) was born in Bristol, England, 18 November 1819; [27] died Tuscarora, Canada West, 8 December 1849, buried there on 11 December 1849. [28] She married at Trinity Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 17 June 1839, ADAM ELLIOT. [29] He was baptized in Nicholforest, Cumberland, England, 19 December 1802, the son of Adam and Margaret (Little) Elliot. [30] He died in Brantford, Ontario, 3 June 1878. [31] He married, second, 1856, Charlotte Racey. [32]

Children of Eliza Beulah Howells and Adam Elliot all born and buried apparently at Tuscarora, Ontario:

- i. MARY MARGARET ELLIOT, born 10 December 1840 [33]; died 14 June 1854. [34]
- ii. HENRY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOT, baptized 10 September 1843; buried 3 November 1847. [35]
- iii. CHARLES O'RIELLY ELLIOT, born June 1845 [36]; buried 26 December 1847. [37]
- iv. EMILY CHARLOTTE ELIZA ELLIOT, born circa 1 July 1847 [38]; buried 14 August 1848. [39]

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# Book Excerpt

## Macdonald and Mrs. Hall

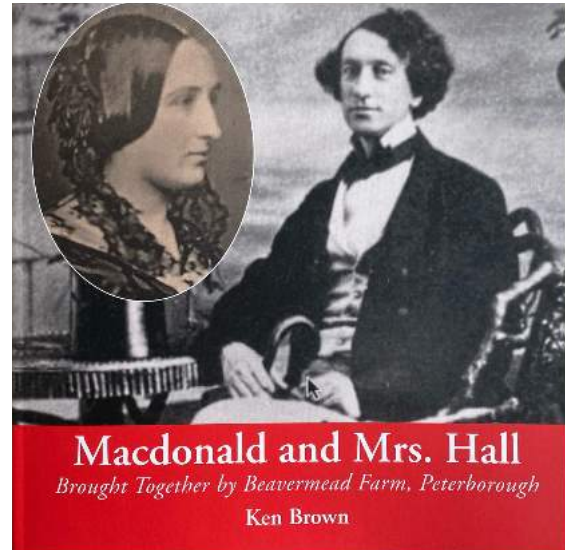
### Ken Brown

Ken Brown has been writing about Peterborough history since 2001. His published monographs include: *The Invention of the Board Canoe* (Canadian Canoe Museum, 2001), *The Peterborough Potteries* (Peterborough Historical Society, 2003), *The Canadian Canoe Company*, and the *Early Peterborough Canoe Factories* (Cover to Cover, 2011), *The Many Working Lives of Robert Romaine* (Peterborough Historical Society, 2022). Ken has also contributed to the Trent Valley Archives Gazette, including articles about Quaker Oats coming to Peterborough and about engineer Alexander McCallum.

The following text is an excerpt from Ken Brown's book entitled: *Macdonald and Mrs. Hall – Brought Together by Beavermead Farm, Peterborough*. Beginning on page 20, Mr. Brown wrote:

But the main real estate auction of the Beavermead Farm property was delayed again to December. Dennistoun wrote to Macdonald on 7 January 1861 confirming what "you will have learned from Mrs. Hall." He had arranged to have the auction postponed one more time, until 22 January 1861; and then came a postponement to 5 February.

How did all of these adjournments come about? Well, over time, it became clear that Macdonald was willing to come to the auction table and purchase the entire Beavermead property at an amount that would satisfy creditor claims in full. This was good news for all. There had been fears that the property might be "sacrificed" at a public auction. While Macdonald spent months getting his financial act together, the accommodating sheriff, James Hall (unrelated), kept granting postponements into the dead of winter, not a date when one would expect a competitive auction. Sheriff Hall and Macdonald knew each other well. James Hall, too, had served as a Peterborough representative in the legislative assembly with Macdonald. A Macdonald letter from 1856 stated, "We have appointed so many Tories lately that we must select some Reformers. For this reason James Hall, late MP has been named Sheriff of Peterboro." It was undoubtedly convenient for Macdonald that the sheriff



conducting the Beavermead lands auction had been a recent recipient of his patronage.

As 1860 wound down, financial pressures increased. In a 21 December 1860 letter to Macdonald, Dennistoun complained of "a further difficulty made by the trustees, who it appears have promised that before they abandoned their trusts, certain creditors should be paid or secured...the trustees also require a release from Mrs. Hall and an indemnity against future claims. The Judgement creditors are getting impatient."

In a 7 January 1861 letter, Dennistoun assured Macdonald that they did not expect opposition at the auction. Elizabeth Hall was then continually arriving at Dennistoun's office door raising various issues, prompting Dennistoun to ask Macdonald to please have Mrs. Hall write down what she wanted. Macdonald told Elizabeth to do that. She prepared a draft direction letter on 3 January and delivered it to Dennistoun four days later. She had personal misgivings about Dennistoun, having expressed concerns to Macdonald that Dennistoun had in the past been adviser to some of her creditors. But Dennistoun was Macdonald's local man, and he now became her agent as well.

Dennistoun had the scribbled draft letter transcribed, and Elizabeth Hall signed it.[1] When Dennistoun did purchase Beavermead for Macdonald at the 5 February auction, the deed was registered (Instrument #14,429); the \$4,000 mortgage at 8 per cent to the Trusts and Loan Company of Upper Canada was registered



(Instrument #14,431); and the contents of that letter were similarly registered on title as a trust instrument for all to see as a testament to Macdonald's loyalty to Elizabeth Hall (Instrument #14,434). It detailed a remarkably one-sided commitment. This was not a transactional quid pro quo "deal" with real consideration. There were no prospects of any tangible benefit for Macdonald. The trust deed acknowledged that he should buy the Beavermead property. He should in due course be reimbursed for his costs. It stated that Macdonald agreed to pay all the judgment creditors. He would "pay off those claims the said Trustees have promised should be paid off." He would pay off the loan to Elizabeth's sister-in-law. And also, "any further claims...that the said Elizabeth Maria Hall may direct to be paid." Elizabeth, widow of the county judge, daughter of the founder of the local English church, needed to be able to hold her head high on the streets of Peterborough. No debts would be left unsettled! Her man would see to it! If Macdonald did not succeed in selling the real estate for a surplus, it would be his own open-ended loss. If he did succeed, the surplus was directed to be invested in bank stock for the benefit of Elizabeth Hall and, subsequently, her children.

What exactly was in this arrangement for Macdonald? There was no fee contemplated. There was no profit participation. It appears that his upside was just the goodwill of one Elizabeth Maria Hall.

Not everyone thought that this was a smart thing for him to do.

On 10 January 1861, Dennistoun wrote to Macdonald laying out the financial status of the G.B. Hall estate: "The creditor claims amounted to £5864.2.11. The trustees have paid of this £2061.14.8." He then

cautioned Macdonald about the risk: "When the debts are paid, little will be left, even if the land sells well." But Macdonald had already made up his mind to go ahead. Earlier, on 17 November 1860, Dennistoun had applied to the Kingston-based Trust and Loan Company of Upper Canada for a mortgage that would allow Macdonald to buy Beavermead; the document stated that the property had been appraised at \$11,200 for land and \$3,600 for buildings. Could Macdonald get a mortgage from that company? Well, he had been its solicitor from incorporation in 1844. It was his largest legal client. He had not only sponsored legislation to revive its fortunes in 1850 but also raised £500,000 of capital for it in London that same year. Of course, he could get a mortgage.

[1] The draft letter is in the Peterborough Museum Archives.

### Editor's Note

In his book, Ken "tells the multi-year story...that connects the history of an important Peterborough property with a little-known and extraordinary personal relationship". In so doing, the author goes beyond collecting facts and exposes some of the intimate details of the lives of historical figures. It makes for a truly compelling read!

Ken Brown's book "Macdonald and Mrs. Hall" can be purchased and shipped through the Canoe Museum in Peterborough. The website link to order is: <https://www.canoemuseumstore.ca/collections/made-in-canada/macdonald>.

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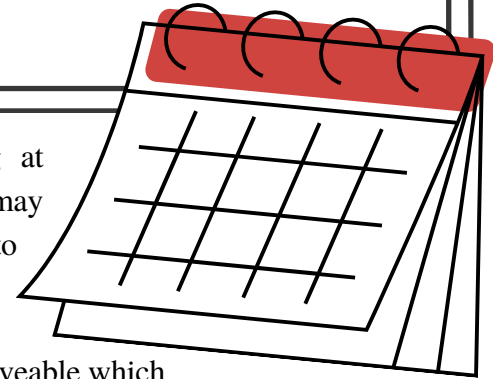
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# Coral's Corner

## Adage, Jargon and Monikers - Part III

### Coral Harkies



As family historians and genealogists, understanding the dates that events took place is critical for understanding how our ancestors fit into the world. It will help you determine if records are available, what their daily life would have been like, and, what world or local events would have had an influence on their lives.

Calendars not only count dates but they also provide a way to mark observances, organize annual cycles like planting and harvesting, and, dictate when specific festivals and other cultural events would take place. There are three main type of calendars - solar, lunar and lunisolar. The Gregorian Calendar is a solar calendar based on the earth's rotation around the sun in a year. The Islamic calendar is based on a lunar cycle which follows the phases of the moon, so it is a lunar calendar. The Jewish Calendar is as example of a lunisolar calendar. This calendar's months follow the phases of the moon but the year follows the earth's orbit of the sun. There are about 40 different calendars still used in the world today.

When reading documents, you may see dates written in different ways. England organizes their vital records by Quarter so Q1 would be from January to March. Regnal years are based on the years when a particular sovereign would have reigned. Some cultures used eras or dynasties to count time. The current Japanese emperor's era is called Reiwa. This was formally announced in April 2019. One example of a Regnal year from the United Kingdom would be the year 1839. It could be listed as the second year of the Reign of Queen Victoria as she ascended to the throne in 1837. Even today, Canada will write the date as year-month-day but in the United States they write it month-day-year. Not being aware of this difference can cause errors in interpretation, especially between months and days.

If you are looking at church records you may see dates related to saints and other observances. Many of these days are moveable which refers to the fact that the day may be different from year to year. For Christians, Christmas Day is fixed but Easter is moveable. If it was noted that someone was born on the Feast of St. Nicholas, then their birthday would have been December sixth.

Ages on documents can be recorded as 35 years 10 months and 3 days. In order to determine the possible birthday, you can use a perpetual calendar and count backwards or use an online calculator.

You may also see Latin terms in documents. Anno Domini refers to the years since the traditional birth year of Jesus. You might see the following abbreviations: "Inst." refers to instante mese meaning this month; "Prox." refers to proximo mese meaning next month; and "Utl." refers to ultimo mese meaning last month. Other words that could be found are Annus = year, Dies = day, Festum Christi = Christmas, Dies Adortus = Good Friday. You may also see dates written in Roman Numerals.

Understanding how calendars, dates and terms used in the language and culture you are researching in is crucial to understanding how our ancestors fit into the world. The language and the style used when referring to dates can give us clues as to the religion, language and ethnic groups into which our ancestors belonged. These clues can provide more context and therefore, a better understanding into their lives.

Here are some links that may help you understand dates

you could come across in your research:

- Time and Date Gregorian Calendar Reform: <https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/julian-gregorian-switch.html>
- Time and Date Create a Calendar: <https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/generate.html>
- Ian's English Calendar: <https://aulis.org/Calendar/Welcome.html>
- Regnal Years in England: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Regnal\\_Years\\_in\\_England](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Regnal_Years_in_England)
- Catholic Traditions Calendar of Feast Days: <http://www.catholictradition.org/Saints/feast-days.htm>
- Archival Skills: Historical Dates: <https://libguides.hull.ac.uk/archival-skills/historical-dates>

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# Centenarians

## Drew von Hasselbach

**Drew von Hasselbach**, LL.B., PLCGS, is a journalist and lawyer in Toronto, and the 2024 winner of the Ontario Ancestors' Keffer Essay Writing Competition. John D.R. Fowlie was his first cousin twice removed.

As a kid, I remember seeing TV ads for a yogurt company that claimed to show people from a former Soviet republic living well past 100, in part because they ate a lot of yogurt.[1]

I wouldn't look to 1970s advertising executives or Soviet-era public relations for guidance when it comes to the exactitudes of the Genealogical Proof Standard. As we all know, unproven genealogical facts are merely genealogical fiction.

Those ads remind us how careful we must be in regard to historical claims about relatives from previous generations who are believed to have lived for 100 years.

Reaching the age of 100 is quite a feat — only 0.03 per cent of the Canadian population makes the three-digit club, according to Statistics Canada — but that's still high enough that you probably know someone in your family who has pulled it off.[2] We live at a time when the government has a gazillion contemporary records that document when and where we were born, so when anyone turns 100 these days, there's likely no doubt about their age.

People born in the 19th century often lacked such records, so as with the supposedly centenarian yogurt fans, we must be careful before embracing family legends or believing newspaper articles that claim an ancestor reached 100 in the 20th century. If you come across such a family story, don't believe it to be true unless you can prove it.

Take the case of John Donaldson Rose Fowlie, a member of my family from Gore's Landing, Ontario. He is notable in my family tree for two reasons: he had

the quintessentially Canadian occupation of canoe manufacturer, and he lived a very long time. His grave marker says he was born in 1877 and died in 1977,[3] and his obituary was a front-page story: "100-year-old man dies in hospital." [4] A popular local history book, *Gore's Landing and the Rice Lake Plains*, says he "lived to be one hundred years of age." [5] Neither the obit nor the book mention anything about yogurt.

The question facing genealogists is whether the available documentary evidence bears out the claimed age. While John D. R. Fowlie was born within Ontario's civil registration era, his birth was not recorded, at least not that I've found.[6] Nor have I found a baptismal record[7] or a newspaper birth announcement.[8] His newspaper obituary says he was born in Gore's Landing on 1 August 1877, though this information is obviously not contemporary. The remaining sources are census records, and these place his birth in either 1877 or 1878, depending on the census year and how carefully the enumerator collected and recorded the information.

The 1901 census — everyone's favourite because it includes birthdates, but everyone's trap because those dates are often wrong — has direct evidence that he was born on 2 August 1877.[9] Then 1911 reminds us how precarious census information can be, as it offers direct evidence that he was born in August 1878.[10] We can look to the 1881 census to resolve the tie since that one was closest to his birth. It says he was four years old, which would point to 1877.[11] It could even suggest 1876 if we consider that he was indeed four on the April enumeration date, meaning he would have turned five on his August birthday that year.

Enter taxes to the rescue. Assessment rolls often

include the number of persons living in the household. In the spring of 1877, the rolls show six people in the family of John's father, William Fowlie, who lived in Gore's Landing, Hamilton Township, Northumberland County.[12] That number is a little low based on my own count of family members, but let's go with that.

In the spring of 1878, the family tally rises to seven, which means a new member had joined the household over the previous twelve months.[13] If John D. R. Fowlie was indeed born in August 1877, he would be the fresh arrival. And just to be sure, there was no addition to the William Fowlie household in the tax years of 1879 and 1880, confirming John was not born in August 1878 or August 1879.

The jury might be out on whether yogurt is a magical life preserver, but tax records can be a genealogical life saver.

John Donaldson Rose Fowlie died on 11 December 1977, so he passed away after his August birthday that

year.[14] As established above, the 1881 census record and the 1878 tax data confirms an 1877 birth. The local history book and the 1977 newspaper obituary are indeed correct. Welcome to the 100 club, John Fowlie.

Local history books and oral family legends are great resources, but they often lack the sourcing and the evidentiary assessment that underpins careful genealogy.

Research is never done, and the GPS standard allows for fresh evidence to revise conclusions. So maybe someday something will crop up that suggests John D. R. Fowlie actually died as a mere pup of 99. The uncertainty is what keeps genealogy fun.

I'm not sure whether he liked yogurt, but the available evidence shows John Fowlie made the triple-digit club. Evidence is the thing that moves the story from legend to history. I'm not sure we can say the same about the people from the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic who appeared in that 1970s yogurt ad.

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- [4] "100-year-old man dies in hospital," *Cobourg Daily-Star* (12 December 1977) at pp 1, 2.
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- [7] Visit to United Church of Canada Archives, Toronto, on 23 November 2023.
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# The Philanthropic Genealogist: Paying It Back and Paying It Forward

## Robbie Gorr

**Robbie Gorr** is an amateur genealogist and historian who continues to enjoy the thrill of the search, the exhilaration of discovery and, of course, writing about his research and experiences.

I can't even begin to recall the number of times over the past decades that I have received help with my genealogical research from others, many of them complete strangers. They have answered my queries, looked up information, sent me clippings and copies, shared photos and information, and worked together with me to solve some stubborn family puzzles. They have advised me in letters, guided me in libraries and shared their knowledge in museums and archives. And these helpful individuals did it all with little expectation except some reciprocal sharing, the satisfaction of helping and some grateful thanks. I wonder where my research would be today without all the support, assistance and the kindness of such generous people over the years.



Above: It always pays to thank someone for their help and assistance [Photo by nateOne on Creative Commons (CC)].

I can only hope, as I continue my research endeavors, that I have learned enough to be able to show my appreciation sufficiently to pay back the efforts of people like that so that they continue to help others, that they will feel their time was not wasted on an ungrateful sod. Looking to the future, I am inspired by such selfless assistance to try and pay that forward in some way and perhaps help someone else needing a little assistance and advice with their own research efforts. And I have discovered that there are many ways that I can do all those things.

### **Pay It Back**

Since most of the altruistic souls and genealogical angels who will answer your calls for assistance are volunteers, an offer to reimburse expenses, a token remuneration or a donation to their society or organization will always be appreciated if not accepted. And sometimes the offer alone is all that is necessary to convey your gratitude. But a polite refusal does not release you from insistence on making a monetary donation, even a nominal payment. You can also make an offer to return the assistance, if you can, or propose to send a copy of your research or provide an endowment of some other item to add to their collection at a later date.

Even a paid staff member at a library, museum or archives can be shown appreciation with a personal tip or a donation to the organization in their name. Remember that a tip isn't called a gratuity without a little gratitude. And thankful comments can always be added to the institute's website or social media page with a specific mention of any particularly helpful staff by way of sincere recognition and acknowledgement of their efforts.

But, after all is said and done, most of those who are providing assistance are looking for nothing more than a confirmation of appreciation for the work they have done. At the very least, an extensive thank you offered with a smile usually will be more than acceptable recompense for services rendered.

### **Pay It Forward**

At some point during our years of genealogical investigation and family history study we come to the



realization of how much assistance in that time we have received which has moved our research forward and we arrive at the point where we perceive that we could and should pay it forward. It is the recognition that we can do the same for someone else as was done for us, the golden rule of genealogical philanthropy.

Of course, the question arises as to what you could do and how you might help others. Before answering those questions, it would be beneficial to consider the genealogical research skills you have acquired through your years of experience. Is there a certain region with which you are familiar and where you have searched previously? Are you knowledgeable about any particular ethnic or religious group and their specific records? Do you speak another language? Are you familiar with the records kept at certain research locations? Do you have experience with online research and assistive computer programs? Do you have great people and communication skills? Are you a good writer?

Once you have assessed your experience and skill set you might want to factor in any special areas of interest that will bring you particular enjoyment and satisfaction while working or sharing your knowledge. Perhaps you have an interest in cemeteries and burial records or a passion for photography. Maybe you have a knack for manipulating search engines to locate misspelled or misfiled records or a desire to be social and meet people. Wherever your interests lie there will likely be a position that will allow you to serve and benefit others in a gratifying as well as satisfying way.

Finally, you must determine your availability in order to fulfill a commitment. Would you like to make a regularly scheduled obligation? Perhaps you would care to dedicate only part-time service or flexible hours. Or maybe you will just choose random projects spontaneously or as time allows. You should also consider whether you would care to be available in person or virtually, by correspondence only or some combination of all. Once you have assessed and considered all these factors then you will be ready to benefit others with the utmost extent of your skill set,

your experience and your areas of interest and expertise.

### **Random Acts of Genealogical Generosity**

Start small. That's always a good beginning. Find some random project that will allow you to complete it quickly and with a minimum of effort or expense. Maybe you could address one of the inquiries or requests from your own area message boards or the local genealogical society newsletters. It only takes a little time to do a quick look-up or some brief research to answer some of those queries. You also might reach out to someone you are aware is just beginning research on one of your own family lines and offer to help out with advice or by sharing your own resources, information and photos. If you see a faded family photograph or document that has been posted, maybe you have the computer software necessary to colorize or enhance it and send the improved version to the original poster.



Above: One way to pay it forward is to practice random acts of genealogical kindness [Photo by MarcieLew on CC].

You might want to add your name to the list of available volunteers at an organization like Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. This reincarnated version of the earlier successful organization maintains a list of regional volunteers who are able to help others, upon one-time request, to obtain copies of documents, take photographs in cemeteries or at memorials and cenotaphs, do look-ups in local libraries as well as other simple genealogical tasks that can more easily be done by someone residing in that locality for others who live far away. Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness Wiki is another replacement site for the original organization offering the same volunteer

services to assist others with their research. And Search Angels is yet another opportunity for volunteers to use their genealogical skills to connect others with their personal biological roots, although with more protracted commitment.

If there is a blog or two that you follow, perhaps adding an occasional comment or a tip would allow you to contribute your own useful experience or expertise to a conversation. Or if there is a social media group connected to your particular area of research you might do the same there or even begin a new thread by presenting a different topic or resource that you know about for others who may not. Facebook, in particular, with its range of interest groups has become another place to discover volunteer opportunities and services in the manner of Random Acts. One additional benefit is that Facebook is also open to everyone who may be interested in assisting others through shared interest while not necessarily being a genealogist.

Perhaps you might spend some occasional free time hours offering your services at a family history library or a genealogy workshop, fair or conference. Short-term or one-time volunteers are always in demand for a variety of roles from prepping, set up and clean up behind the scenes to meeting and greeting visitors and participants at the beginning of a meeting. And if you are interested, there are many larger and more dedicated projects that you might take on.

### **Set an Example**

There are some pay-it-forward commitments that may be more long-term projects but these may also set an example for others searching for ways that they can contribute and help others. Some of your activity choices may also promote genealogy and family history while at the same time giving back to the genealogy community at large.

Becoming a long-term or regular volunteer with your local genealogy group library or local archives is one way to provide assistance to other genealogists, many of whom might be visiting from out-of-town, the personal direction they require to locate their ancestors in your area. And when not helping others, maintaining

and organizing the collected resources is an effective use of your time. You might even consider offering your services as an officer or committee volunteer or even leader for your local genealogical society. These positions will provide you with opportunities to bring more prominence to the group and its services for other genealogists.

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Setting an example is not the  
main means of influencing  
another, it is the only means.

~ Albert Einstein

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Many genealogical societies, libraries and archives are involved in developing research resources that will allow records in their collection or accessibility to be used more conveniently and efficiently. You may become part of projects to handle and organize donations, research and label old photographs, transcribe or digitize records and documents or index existing books or collections. What may seem like peripheral or thankless tasks, in reality, are highly valuable and productive ways to contribute for the benefit of others and provide an example of the dedication of volunteer power, potential and productivity.

And, if you are an experienced and dedicated genealogist or family historian and have an aptitude to explain and present in a positive way, you might consider mentoring others or even teaching a class at a local adult education centre or community program. You don't have to be a professional but can still provide practical and appropriate direction and advice and offer best practices to beginners, intermediates or advanced learners based on your own familiarity, involvement and knowledge. It's a great way to serve and contribute to the genealogical community and set an example with your pay-it-forward efforts.

### **Leave a Legacy**

Perhaps your pay-it-forward event will not be

something specific or something that will be a supplement to genealogical research but, rather, something that will be a valuable resource to many people for many years. Perhaps you will contribute or create something that can be left, like a legacy, for the benefit and use of future genealogy and family history researchers.

You might consider making a donation of your research books, rare documents, photographs and other family memorabilia to a local archives, library or genealogical organization. If not a live donation, you might alternatively decide to make arrangements for the ultimate disposition of your research and family history collection in your last will and testament. Leaving your lifetime efforts in safe and protective custody is important as well as making sure that your work will be available to others to assist their own research.

There are also a number of internet sites where you could also make a major contribution. If you have an interest in photography, you might consider photographically recording memorial monuments in cemeteries and uploading your work at any of a number of volunteer-dependent organizations that will make your contributions available to all on their free website. You might also contemplate the value of sharing your research widely by posting it to one or more of the large genealogical websites, making your work available to many others.

Writing and publishing your written efforts in some format will definitely create a substantial legacy. You might choose to commemorate your genealogical adventures and experiences, allowing readers to benefit from what you have learned and from the mistakes you have made along the way. It also allows you to share and expound upon the knowledge that you have accumulated in your years of research. You might also consider recording the stories of your ancestors or local cultural, religious or social groups that will preserve those narratives for future generations to better understand their roots and heritage. Publishing your work is simply a matter of making it available to

someone else and that could be accomplished in blogs, newsletters, journals, magazines or books, either electronically or in hard copy publication.

There are many benefits to be received from the practice of giving back and paying it forward. Not only is it an opportunity to do the activities that you enjoy but there is also the pleasure, pride and satisfaction synonymous with helping others along their research journeys. But the contacts that you make also could help your own genealogy and family history as those you have met or assisted along the way may be the first to share any new information, discoveries or developments with you. It's a little like genealogical karma.



Above: Even the simplest and seemingly insignificant tasks can prove to be useful and productive to someone's research [Photo by Mount Ranier NPS on Creative Commons].

You may surprise yourself with what the rewards of a little genealogical philanthropy can be and how far the effects may reach and reverberate. You can be the inspiration, the encouragement, the motivation, even the solution for someone else. And they might, in turn, at some later time, try to pay that back to you or on to others through your example. That's how you can have a lasting impact on genealogy and family history and help move genealogical research forward for everyone.





# Miserable Childhood: Two Scottish Creighton Home Boys Exalted by World War I Sacrifice

George A. Neville

This fuller account of the early life of Robert Creighton and his siblings in Lanarkshire, Scotland; his export to Canada as a Quarrier Home boy and placement on a farm near Ottawa; his enlistment at age 18 less a few days with the Canadian Infantry; his subsequent military service overseas in France throughout most of WWI until killed by artillery fire just weeks before the November 11th Armistice, evolved from a much earlier presentation[1] and recently published article[2] on “Private Robert Creighton, From Home Boy Orphan to World War I Casualty, 1897–1918”. The additional familial information is by courtesy of Edna Marlowe in her privately published booklet[3] entitled, “*A Walk to the Cenotaph*” that was researched and compiled by a committee of the Goulbourn Historical Society (Carleton County) to commemorate those who served and died in action in World War I, World War II, and Afghanistan through the erection of a cenotaph in Stittsville on 11 November 2019.

## The Plight and Extent of the Creighton Family in Scotland

When I found and acquired the World War I coloured “Certificate of Service” for Private Robert Creighton, I learned from military service records details of himself and of his three sisters, Mary and Margaret, both in Scotland, and Jeanie who was in Winnipeg. From the location of the coloured Certificate in the red brick farmhouse of (the late) John A. Brown, father of the late Orville Brown and the late Gladys McLinton (née Brown) and the now also late Wilson Brown, who later resided in the Richmond Lodge, I had learned that Robert Creighton had arrived in Canada as a Home Boy and had been placed as a farm hand on the John Brown mixed dairy farm.

It was only later, in early 2019, that I learned from

Edna Marlowe of the findings of the Stittsville Cenotaph Committee. Robert Creighton was not an orphan, that he was the third youngest of the family, and that he had a younger brother, James, (the second youngest of the family) in addition to his sisters. Due to the father not being able (or unwilling) to provide for the family, the two boys were placed with the Quarrier Orphan Homes of Scotland, founded by William Quarrier, located in Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland. In their early teens, the boys were sent separately, and at different times to Canada, first to the Brockville Fairknowe House (owned by the Quarriers) located on the north-eastern edge of the town, and from there the Creighton boys were placed on farms in the Goulbourn and Huntley Townships of Carleton County.

## Background of the Creighton Family[4]

The Creighton family lived in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland. The parents were James Creighton and Janet White.

**James Creighton** (the father), b. 1866 at Lochmaben, Scotland. Last known information (1909); he tried to access his children in Quarriers, but was denied. Occupation – Patternmaker. Residence 1) 1901, 2 Westmuir St., Parkhead, Glasgow, Scotland; 2) 1905, 400 Westmuir St., Parkhead, Glasgow, Scotland. Marriage – **James Creighton** and **Janet White**, 16 July 1891, at Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

**Janet White** (the mother), b. 1868 in Scotland, daughter of James White and Mary Wotherspoon.

## Children of James Creighton and Janet White

i. Mary Wotherspoon Creighton, b. 1892 in Scotland, d. 1965 in Scotland.

ii. Jane (Jean) Smith Thomson Creighton, b. 9 December 1893, at Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland; d. December 1974, at Glenboro, Manitoba, m. James Mack in 1916, in Kenora, Ontario. James Mack d. 1971.

iii. Janet White Creighton, b. 5 January 1896; d. 1898, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

iv. Robert Thomson Creighton, b. 20 November 1897, Gardness Bldgs., Eglinton St., Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland; d. 1918 in France.

v. James White Creighton, b. 17 August 1900, Eglinton St., Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland; d. 1916 in France.

vi. Margaret (Peggy) White Creighton, b. 11 June 1902, 240 Westmuir St., Camlachie, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland; d. 23 March 1986, 799 Mosspar Drive, South Cardonald, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

#### **Circumstances of the Creighton Family**[5]

The mother, Janet Creighton (née White) died in 1905 from tuberculosis leaving the family to be looked after by their father, James Creighton. Not sure what happened, but perhaps he could not cope with the extra responsibilities. The White family was comfortable, but it did not help the Creighton family very much. Hence, some of the children were placed with the Quarriers at the Bridge of Weir.

Donald MacLeod of Australia, whose grandmother was Mary W. Creighton, tells the tale from notes sent by the Quarriers and from some research into the family that: the family fell on hard times (there was a strike in Glasgow at the time and possibly the father lost his job); the mother and the children moved in with their maternal grandmother; and, the husband wasn't allowed to stay with them as he was not a nice person apparently. When the mother died in 1905, three of the children remained with the grandmother; one was sent to stay with another relative, and the final one, Don's grandmother (Mary W. Creighton), had a live-in job as a maid.

When the grandmother died, she left a sum of money for the three children to be cared for at Quarriers Homes. They were in such poor health that they were initially sent to one of the Western Isles to recuperate; fresh air is what they apparently needed.

When the money ran out, the family would not provide any further funds. The youngest sister went to live with another relative and arrangements were made to send the boys to Canada. The sad thing is that the mother's side of the family was wealthy, but it didn't financially help any more.

Moving ahead to a later time, and after the two boys had enlisted at different times in the Canadian Forces and had reached England on their way to France, the boys met their sister Jean (Jane) Creighton in Glasgow in July 1916. After the meeting, she too sailed from Glasgow to Canada aboard the *Cassandra* bound for Quebec/Montreal, on 5 August 1916. After her arrival, she chose to marry of her own free will, James H. Mack on 19 August 1916 in Kenora, Ontario. Jean and James Mack took up residence in Winnipeg, and settled later in Glenboro, Manitoba. No children issued from this marriage. James Mack died in 1971, and Jean Creighton Mack died in 1974.

Robert Creighton (1897-1918) was born 20 November 1897 in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He emigrated to Canada with the Quarriers aboard the ship *Scotia* from Glasgow, landing in Halifax on 8 April 1912, age 14. The Immigration List was marked as going to the Quarriers Home in Brockville.

James White Creighton was born 17 August 1900 in Lanarkshire (Edna Marlowe has his birth details). He emigrated to Canada aboard the ship *Hesperian* from Glasgow; docked at Halifax on 14 April 1914 at age 13, and also headed for Quarriers in Brockville; and then, like his brother, was placed on a farm.

#### **Employment in Canada as Farm Hands**

Robert Creighton was placed on a farm owned by John A. Brown (11 May 1873-11 October 1958) and his wife Mary Ann Cox (11 February 1890-14 February 1946) located on the east side of the Huntley Road,

mid-way between Richmond and Stittsville from about 1912 until he enlisted on 8 November 1915. The brick home, rear drive sheds and log barns are still standing and in use – the property was visited and viewed by family members, George & Iris Neville on 9 October 2019, along with Edna Marlowe and Lorraine Satchell. Robert's stay at the Brown farm is uniquely documented thanks to a few pages of a notebook of John A. Brown's that Neville found in a trunk in the Brown home, when the farm contents were being prepared for auction sale following the death of their oldest son, T. W. Orville Brown (19 November 1911-8 September 1988). This pocket book contained several columns of expenditures related to Robert Creighton including payments for shirts, boots, cash, and even an accordion (\$3.00). This was a 'fortunate find' because it is unusual to find documentation which gives such an insight into the experience of a 'home child'.

The image shows five pages of a handwritten notebook with columns of text detailing annual expenditures and cash outlay for Robert Creighton from 1912 to May 1915. The entries include various items such as clothing, food, and other personal expenses, with amounts listed in dollars and cents.

Above: Details of annual expenditures and cash outlay to Robert Creighton by John A. Brown in columns by year from 1912 to 8 May 1915 [Photo courtesy of the author].

James Creighton may have been placed on the Cox farm because there was a familial connection to the William Cox family of Huntley Township (William Cox was the brother of Mary Ann Cox, wife of John A. Brown on the Huntley Road, north of Richmond). Also, in his original military Will, Robert left his monthly pay of \$15.00 to Mrs. (William) Rebecca Cox, and \$50 to the daughter and his friend Georgina Cox, and the rest to his three sisters. There are approximately 15 miles between the two farms, and with the Cox-Brown connection between the two families, there would be occasions for family gatherings. It is possible that Georgina Cox caught the eye of Robert Creighton...

## Enlistment of the Creighton Brothers

Robert began his enlistment process in Ottawa on 4 November 1915 with his Attestation Paper. On the medical portion of his Attestation, it is recorded that "the recruit had [a] partially deformed nail [on the] great toe right foot" and "one vaccination mark from childhood vaccination".

43rd. Regt. D. 1915  
**ATTESTATION PAPER.**  
 NOV No. 1453  
 Folio. 8  
**CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**  
**ORDERLY ROOM**

**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION (ANSWER)**

1. What is your name? Robert Creighton

2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Saint Bridge, Scotland

3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Mary Creighton (Wife)

4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? 6 St. Michaels, Paisley, Maybush, Scotland

5. What is the date of your birth? 20th Nov. 1897

6. What is your Trade or Calling? Farming

7. Are you married? No

8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes

9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No

10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No

11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes

12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes

Robert Creighton (Signature of Man.)  
 L. L. MacLean (Signature of Witness)

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, Robert Creighton, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Robert Creighton (Signature of Recruit)  
 Date November 4th 1915  
 Acting Adjutant, 43rd. Reg't. D. C. O. (Signature of Witness)

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, Robert Creighton, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Robert Creighton (Signature of Recruit)  
 Date November 4th 1915  
 Acting Adjutant, 43rd. Reg't. D. C. O. (Signature of Witness)

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.**

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
 The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.  
 I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Ottawa Ont. this 4th day of November 1915.

John A. Brown (Signature of Justice)  
 JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OTTAWA

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

L. L. MacLean (Signature of Approving Officer)  
 O. C. 77th. Overseas Battalion, C. E. F.

M. F. W. 23.  
 20 M-1-11.  
 E. G. 177-2-241.

**Description of Robert Creighton on Enlistment.**

Apparent Age 18 years ..... months.  
 (To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height 5 ft 3 ins.

Chest (Girth when fully expanded) 33 ins.  
 (Range of expansion) 33 ins.

Complexion Fair

Eyes Brown

Hair Light Brown

Church of England .....  
 Presbyterian X

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.  
 (Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, when the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to this effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Deformed toe, nail on great toe and to accident small scar above right knee cap. Small mole anterior axillary line

Above: Robert Creighton's Attestation Paper, including medical information [LAC RG 150 1992-93/166].



Before leaving for overseas, Robert left a large trunk in the home of John A. Brown. George Neville, connected to the Brown family through his wife, Iris McLinton, has a set of keys and a padlock with the date of 2 January 1892 imprinted upon it. Unfortunately, the trunk disappeared in the auction sale of household and farm effects. Before he departed, Georgina Cox gave Robert Creighton an embroidered handkerchief. It must have been an extremely sad time for the Creighton boys and the families that knew them.

James, at the age of 15, enlisted in Ottawa on 10 November 1915, just a week after his brother so they must have talked about their plans. Young James fibbed about his age as he was born 17 August 1900, but on his Attestation Paper, which he signed, he put 17 August 1895. He also switched his name to **James Creighton Whyte** so that the authorities would not relate him to brother Robert. He sent a poignant letter on 3 April 1916 to his sister Peggy (Margaret) from his (77th) Barracks in Ottawa.[6]

**ORIGINAL**  
**ATTESTATION PAPER**  
 77th OVERSEAS BATTALION C.E.F.  
 CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

No. 145394  
 Folio. 42

145394

**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**

1. What is your name? **James Creighton Whyte.**
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? **Cambridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland.**
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? **Jean Whyte (Sister).**
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? **Red House, Jehanstone, Renfrew, Scotland.**
5. What is the date of your birth? **August 17th, 1895.**
6. What is your Trade or Calling? **Farmer.**
7. Are you married? **No.**
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? **Inoculated. J.C.W. Yes.**
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? **No.**
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? **No.**
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? **Yes.**
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? **Yes.**

James C. Whyte (Signature of Man.)  
 J.C.W. (Signature of Witness)

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, **James Creighton Whyte**, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

James C. Whyte (Signature of Recruit)  
 J.C.W. (Signature of Witness)

Date: **November 10th, 1915.**

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, **James Creighton Whyte**, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

James C. Whyte (Signature of Recruit)  
 J.C.W. (Signature of Witness)

Date: **November 10th, 1915.**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.**

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at **Ottawa, Ont.** this **10th** day of **November**, 1915.

(Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

(Approving Officer)

After their enlistment, and within just a few months, they were on their way from Halifax to Liverpool, England. They embarked from Halifax on 20 June 1916 aboard the *S. S. Missanabie* on which the 77th and 87th Battalions, of the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force were aboard, and disembarked at Liverpool, England on 28 June 1916. They probably had a couple of days to visit their sisters Jane (Jean) and Mary before leaving for France. Photos were taken. The youngest sister Peggy (Margaret), still at the Quarriers in Scotland, wanted to visit her sisters and brothers at this time, but she was not allowed, possibly due to being under Quarriers care.[7]

### World War I Service Record of Robert Creighton

The British Service Record of Robert Creighton shows his Regimental No. 145343 assigned when he was first attached to the 77th Battalion as a single (male) born at Court Bridge (sp), Scotland who enlisted at Ottawa, Ontario on 8 November 1916. The name and address of his next-of-kin was given as Mary Creighton, his sister, at Cloekard Castle, Maybole, Scotland.

|                               |   |                                       |                         |  |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Rank                          | Name <b>CREIGHTON, Robert</b>   |                                       | Reg'l No.               | 145343                                 |
| Unit                          | 77TH. BN.   |                                       | Married or Single       | Single                                 |
| Place and Date of Enlistment  | Ottawa, Ont. 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1916   |                                       | Place of Birth          | Court Bridge, Scotland                 |
| Name and Address, Next-of-Kin | Mary Creighton<br>Cloekard Castle, Maybole, Scotland  |                                       | Relationship            | Sister                                 |
| Assigned Pay Monthly \$       | Payable to  | Relationship                          | Wife: Mrs. M. Creighton |  |
| Separation Allowance \$       | Payable to  | Relationship                          | Wife: Mrs. M. Creighton |  |
| Discharge, Date and Place     | Reason  | Character                             | Wife: Mrs. M. Creighton |  |
| Report                        | Reasons of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case. | Place.                                | Date.                   | REMARKS Taken from Official Documents. |
| 19-6-16                       | 77th Bn   | Arrived in England                    |                         |  |
| 5-7-16                        | 77th Bn   | Arrived in France with 77th Bn        | 28-6-16                 | P.I. 00128                             |
| 7-7-16                        | 77th Bn   | Trans to 87th Bn                      | 4-7-16                  | P.I. 0150                              |
| 7-7-16                        | 87th Bn   | T.O.S. from 77th Bn                   | 4-7-16                  | P.I. 00156                             |
| 10-8-16                       | 87th Bn   | Embarked for France                   | 10-8-16                 | P.I. 00190                             |
| 5-12-16                       |   | Responsible for rank and pay          | 4-7-16                  | P.I. 00264                             |
| 16-12-16                      | 87th Bn   | Transferred from 77th Bn              |                         |  |
| 18-8-17                       | 87th Bn   | Arrived in England                    | 14-7-16                 | P.I. 00101                             |
| 24-5-17                       |   | Adm. 12 <sup>th</sup> Gen. Hosp. Camp | 18-8-17                 | CL 02288                               |
| 18-9-17                       |   | Adm. 12 <sup>th</sup> Gen. Hosp. Camp | 18-8-17                 | CL 02288                               |
| 28-8-17                       | 87th Bn   | Royal War Dept. Work                  | 19-8-17                 | CL 02289                               |
| 7-9-17                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn  | Adm. 12 <sup>th</sup> Gen. Hosp. Camp | 5-9-17                  | CL 02285                               |
| 22-10-17                      |   | Disch. from above                     | 15-10-17                | CL 02285                               |
| 20-10-17                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn  | On command 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coy        | 15-10-17                | CL 02285                               |
| 7-11-17                       |   | Adm. 12 <sup>th</sup> Gen. Hosp. Camp | 15-10-17                | CL 02285                               |
| 5-11-17                       |   | S.O.S. to 87th Bn                     | 14-11-17                | CL 02285                               |
| 20-7-18                       | 87th Bn   | Quarried Gen. Conduct Bde             | 8-11-17                 | 61                                     |
| 10-10-18                      |   | Killed in action                      | 10-10-18                | 70298                                  |
| 16-10-18                      |   | Wounded in action                     | 30-9-18                 | DOB 102                                |
| 31-10-18                      |   | Wounded in action                     | 30-9-18                 | DOB 102                                |
| 20-7-19                       | 87th Bn   | Adm. 12 <sup>th</sup> Gen. Hosp. Camp | 20-7-19                 | CL 02285                               |

Above: Robert Creighton's Service Report with the 77th/87th Bn.

Left: James C. Whyte's Attestation Paper [LAC RG 150 1992-93/166].



The record shows Robert having arrived in Liverpool, England on 28 June 1916 on the S. S. Missanabie with the rank of Provisional Lance/Corporal with the 77th Battalion (Bn). On the 4 July 1916, he was transferred to the 87th Battalion at Bramshott, and Taken on Service (T.O.S) from the 77th Bn to the 87th Bn. on the same day. On 10 August 1916, he embarked for France from Bramshott, but before embarkation while in the field, for some reason his rank was reverted to that of Private on 4 July 1916. He disembarked at Le Havre, France on 12 August 1916.

One year after having arrived in France, on 10 August 1917 he was admitted from the field to the 12th Canadian Field Ambulance (no details given) and then moved five days later on August 15th to the Canadian General Hospital at Étapes. Four days later, he was moved again to the Royal Herbert Hospital at Woolwich (London, England) on August 19th. Sick since August 10th, here he was diagnosed with P.U.O. [Pyrexia of Unknown Origin] with a temperature of 105°F attributed to Trench Fever[8] with pains in the legs and a slight headache. By August 24th, he felt distinct improvement, and got up that day. He was still complaining of headaches on September 1st, but by the 4th, his headaches were much relieved. Fifteen days later, on September 5th, he was transferred to the Military Convalescent Hospital at Wede Park, Epsom (in Surrey, England) from which place he was discharged on October 15th.

Robert was taken back on service (T.O.S.) on 5 April 1918, but he was struck off service (S.O.S.) with the 87th Battalion on April 7th, followed by another S.O.S. to a Unit on 14 April 1918. On April 13th, he was placed under stoppage of pay to make good the value of articles of equipment lost, i.e., one cap comforter of value 1 pound, 2 shillings, and a half pence. On 8 November 1917, however, he had been granted a Good Conduct Badge in the Field.

Army Form B. 103. Regimental Number 145343

**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Rank Private Surname Creighton Christian Name Robert

Religion Protestant Age on Enlistment 19 years 243 months

Enlisted (a) 10-8-16 Terms of Service (a) 3 yrs Service reckons from (a) 10-8-16

Date of promotion to present rank 10-8-16 Date of appointment to lance rank 4-7-18

Extended 10-8-16 Re-engaged 4-7-18 Qualification (b) 1 Cap Comforter or Corps Trade and rate 1 Cap Comforter

Occupation Unit Signature of Officer [Signature]

| Report          |                    | Place of Casualty  | Date of Casualty | Remarks  |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Date            | From whom received |  |                  |  |
|                 |                    | Embarked   |                  |  |
|                 |                    | Disembarked  |                  |  |
| <u>5-11-16</u>  | <u>Woolwich</u>    | <u>1st of 87th Bn from Eng.</u>  | <u>5-11-16</u>   | <u>2nd Lt</u>                                    |
| <u>7-11-16</u>  | <u>Woolwich</u>    | <u>3rd</u>   | <u>7-11-16</u>   | <u>2nd Lt</u>                                    |
| <u>10-8-16</u>  | <u>Unit</u>        | <u>1st of 87th Bn</u>  | <u>10-8-16</u>   | <u>2nd Lt</u>                                    |
| <u>10-4-18</u>  | <u>CGHQ</u>        | Placed under stoppage of pay to make good the value of articles of equipment <u>1 Cap Comforter</u> value <u>1/2/6</u> |                  | <u>10-4-18</u> <u>B. O.S.</u> <u>Det. No. 54</u> |
| <u>30-11-17</u> | <u>Unit</u>        | <u>Joined Unit</u>   | <u>30-11-17</u>  | <u>2nd Lt</u>                                    |
| <u>4-7-18</u>   | <u>Unit</u>        | <u>Granted One Good Conduct Badge</u>  | <u>4-7-18</u>    | <u>DO No. 61-1918</u>                            |

10 In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or without leave (Section D, Army Reserve), particulars of such re-engagement and attachment will be inserted.  
11 Signature, Missing Death, &c.

| Report         |                    | Place of Casualty        | Date of Casualty | Remarks  |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| Date           | From whom received |                          |                  |  |
| <u>30-9-18</u> | <u>Unit</u>        | <u>Killed in Action</u>  | <u>30-9-18</u>   | <u>2nd Lt</u><br><u>Det. No. 54</u>  |
|                |                    |                          |                  | <u>Lieut. for Lt Col. A. G.</u><br><u>Canadian Section, G. H. Q. - 3rd, Ech.</u> |
| <u>24-7-19</u> | <u>87th Bn</u>     | <u>awarded Mil Medal</u> |                  | <u>14625313314/1459</u>  |

[Signature]  
Lieut.  
for 8 of 6

Above: Robert Creighton's Casualty Form - Active Service.

Forms 1. 1237 Army Form I. 1937.

13 4 SEP 1917 R. M. WOOLWICH  
**MEDICAL CASE SHEET.**

| No. in Admission and Discharge Book. | Regimental No.        | Rank.   | Surname.         | Christian Name. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|
|                                      | <u>145343</u>         | <u>Plt.</u>   | <u>Creighton</u> | <u>R.</u>       |
| Year                                 | Unit.                 | Age.  | Service.         |                 |
| <u>1917</u>                          | <u>87th Canadians</u> | <u>19</u>   | <u>243</u>       |                 |
| Station and Date.                    | Disease               |   |                  |                 |
| <u>embarked 12-8-16</u>              | <u>P.U.O.</u>         | <u>sent 1st of 87th Bn from Eng.</u>                            |                  |                 |
|                                      |                       | <u>reports sick 11 August temp 105° with trench fever</u>       |                  |                 |
|                                      |                       | <u>pl. pains in legs - slight headache -</u>                    |                  |                 |
| <u>24-8-17</u>                       |                       | <u>distinct improvement - got up today</u>                      |                  |                 |
| <u>1-9-17</u>                        |                       | <u>complain of headache</u>                                     |                  |                 |
| <u>3-9-17</u>                        |                       | <u>headache much relieved - slight rash - sent to Wede Park</u> |                  |                 |
| <u>4-9-17</u>                        |                       | <u>transferred to C.H.</u>                                      |                  |                 |
|                                      |                       | <u>Wagons</u>   |                  |                 |

Above: Robert Creighton's Medical Case Sheet.

Robert's record shows him "killed in action" on 30 September 1918; however, a notation dated October 16th, indicates that the record was corrected to read "missing, believed killed". It was not until 31 October 1918 that Private Robert Creighton's death was confirmed as "Killed in Action" on 30 September 1918, the exact place of casualty having been left unrecorded. How sad for the young, patriotic Robert Creighton to have been sent back to the front lines after slightly more than seven months of convalescence, only to lose his life barely a month and a half before the end of the War.

Ten months later on 24 July 1919, after the armistice and posthumously, Robert Creighton was awarded the Military Medal by the 87th Battalion in London, England.

(M.M.) CREIGHTON, R. Pte. 145343. 87th. Bn. 649.C. 29590  
 Medals & Dec.. (Sister) Mrs. Mary McDonald.  
 2 Unitas Bldg.,  
 Thornliebank,  
 Glasgow,  
 Scotland.  
 P & S. (Sister) Mrs. Mary McDonald,  
 Address as above.  
 Serial No 765807  
 Memorial Cross (Nil)  
 Scroll Desp JAN 4 1921 Reqn. No. 77625 2-951  
 Plaque Desp Reqn. No. P9664 -B-

Above: Robert Creighton's Citations: Medals & Decoration, P – Penny and S – Scroll.

When Robert Thomson Creighton died 30 September 1918 in France, he was just 20 years of age. According to the Canadian War Graves Commission, #145343, he was buried at the Canada Cemetery, Tilloy-lez-Cambrai, France just one and a half months before the War ended. Robert earned the British War Medal, Victory Medal, Scroll and Plaque. His sister, Mary, received these. We wonder if Robert knew that his brother had died before him.[9]

An Army Report stated: “While in charge of a Lewis gun section, near Blecourt village, (Robert) was wounded when leaving the “jumping off” position. His wounds were dressed, and it is presumed he was killed while being carried out, as [subsequent information indicated] that his body had been found and buried.” With the release of more information, we know that Robert was killed 30 September 1918 and was fighting in a village called Blecourt as part of the Battle of the Canal du Nord. This [Veterans Affairs Canada website](#) is quite impressive and has a summary of that Battle from the 29th and 30th of September in 1918.

By record of the Separation and Assignment Pay Branch, dated 1 July 1916, Robert Creighton annulled assignment of wages in the event of his death from Mrs. William Cox of R. R. #2 Carp, Ontario, to Miss Margaret Creighton, Netherwood Hill St., Shettleston,

Glasgow, Scotland. It is to be noted that his sister, Margaret, was paid only \$270, the amount of his monthly accumulated pay (\$15/month) from 1 July 1916 to 31 December 1917. No payment appears to have been made for his service during most of 1918! Margaret also received Robert's King's Penny and also his other citations.

DATE OF SEPARATION 4-11-18  
 ASSIGNED PAY MONTHLY \$ 15.00  
 DATE EFFECTIVE 1917  
 PAYABLE TO Mrs. Margaret Creighton  
 RELATIONSHIP Sister

Above: Robert Creighton's Separation and Assigned Pay Branch.



Right: Robert Creighton's King's Penny [Photo courtesy of Donald MacLeod, Australia].

One year after Robert was killed, Georgina Ellen Cox of Carp in Huntley Township, married Robert John Baylis at Carleton Place, Lanark County, on 25 August 1919. He was 38, a farmer, and she of age 21, a farmer's daughter. He was Methodist and she, an Anglican. They are buried at the United Church Cemetery, on Carp Road, in Huntley Township. [10]

### World War I Service Record of James Creighton Whyte

The Attestation of James Whyte shows his Regimental No. 145394, assigned when he was first attached to the 77th Battalion as a single (male) born at Court Bridge (sp), Lanarkshire, Scotland on 17 August 1895 who enlisted as a farmer at Ottawa, Ontario on 15 November 1916. The name and address of next-of-kin was given as Jean Whyte, his sister, at Red House, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His medical description at enlistment shows him of apparent age 20, with distinguishing marks of a scar on the anterior side of the left leg below the iliac, a mole on the lower left quadrant (L.L.Q.), and a vaccination mark 3x1 on the left arm. He gave his religion as 'Methodist' (likely to differentiate himself from the family's Presbyterianism and from his brother Robert).



Description of White on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 20 years 00 months  
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height 5 ft 3 1/2 ins.  
 Girth when fully expanded 38 1/2 ins.  
 Range of expansion 3 ins.

Complexion Fair  
 Eyes Greenish Gray  
 Hair Light Brown

Church of England  
 Presbyterian  
 Wesleyan Methodist   
 Baptist or Congregationalist  
 Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated)  
 Roman Catholic  
 Jewish

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.  
(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to this effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Scar Right leg anterior below Ilise  
Drum. Small mole L.H. "Pass. mark"  
3xl left arm.

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date Nov. 10 1916  
 Place Osman Hut Medical Officer. Ap.

\*Insert here "fit" or "unfit".  
 Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been enlisted, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

J. C. Whyte having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Year of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

D. H. Sturges (Signature of Officer)  
 O. C. 77th, Overseas Battalion, C. I. F.

Date Nov. 15 1915

Number 145394 Rank Pte

Surname WHYTE

Christian Name James Creighton

Units 87th Bn. C. I. F. Theatre of War France

Date of Service 11-8-16

Remarks

Latest Address Mrs Jean Mack (S)  
942 Ingersoll St,  
Winnipeg, Man.

Roll No. Page 20810

10m.-8-21.

Above: James Whyte's Card for Change of Name and Address for sister Jean Mack.

H.Q. 640-7-8991.

WHYTE, Pte. J. C., #145394, 87th Bn.

M. & D. (Sister) Mrs. Jean Mack, 942 Ingersoll St., Winnipeg, Man.

P. & S. Mrs. Mary W. Creighton, o/c Cronsaird Castle, Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Serial no. 771870.

Mem. C. Nil.

Scroll Despatch 24/1/21 Regn. No. 2-12341

Please Despatch FEB 22 1917 Regn. No. 830289

Not eligible for 14-15 Star

E. V.M.  
 E. B.W.M.

Above: James C. Whyte's Citations: M – Medal, D – Decoration, P – Penny, and S – Scroll.

Above: The second page of James C. Whyte's Attestation Paper with medical information.

On 11 August 1916, James changed the name and address of his beneficiary to his sister Mrs. Jean Mack, 942 Ingersoll, Winnipeg, Manitoba in view of her recent marriage and new location. James White Creighton died on 18 November 1916 in France, at just 16 years of age. On the Canadian War Graves Commission site, he is listed as WHYTE J. C., Private #145394. He is commemorated at Vimy, Pas Calais as J. C. Whyte. James earned the British War Medal, Victory Medal, Scroll and Plaque. His sister Jane (Jean) in Manitoba received the Medals; the Plaque and Scroll were received by his oldest sister, Mary W. Creighton.

### Acknowledgment

I am grateful to Arthur Beaubien of Ottawa for downloading Figure illustrations from the LAC site, for enhancing, sizing and stitching images for publication widths in *Families*.

### References:

- [1] "Home Boy" and World War One Soldier, Coloured certificate spurs research about life of Robert Creighton, *The Stittsville News*, June 26, 1996, p. 26.
- [2] Neville, George A., "Private Robert Creighton, From Home Boy Orphan to World War I Casualty, 1897 – 1918", *Families*, Vol. 63, No. 2, May 2024, pp. 14-17.
- [3] Edna Marlowe, *A Walk to the Cenotaph, Stittsville, Ontario* – 11 November 2019. In May 2019, a committee was formed by (the late) Valerie Wright, GTHS, to honour those people who gave their lives in World War I, World War II and Afghanistan. They wanted the citizens of Stittsville and area to be commemorated on a board to be placed near the Stittsville Cenotaph, Johnny Leroux Arena. Stittsville was the only village in Goulbourn, which did not have a plaque to honour these brave people. Other members of the Committee were Bob Halberstadt, Joan Darby, Edna Marlow, Frances McCarthy, and Judith Richardson. The Goulbourn Township Historical Society funded the project. A copy of the booklet is in the Stittsville Branch of the Ottawa Public Library.
- [4-8] Ibid
- [8] In 1918, two commissions identified that the disease, Trench fever, was louse-borne. The bacterium *Rickettsia quintana* was consistently found in the gut and faeces of lice that had fed on patients with trench fever and its causative role was accepted in the 1920s. (30 June 2016) <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=trench+fever> (Accessed 20 June 2024).
- [9] Ibid
- [10] Ibid. Additional information found at LDS.

# That Was Fun!

## Reflections on OGS Conference 2024

Ann Brown (Conference 2024 - Chair)

Conference 2024 has gone into the books as a rousing success -- from AI Day to Hands-on Workshops to Mags Gauden's "Seven Things You Can't Say in Genealogy" to Genealogy Jeopardy! to Diahan Southard's heartfelt closing talk.

Conference's "prequel" events started with a brilliant Artificial Intelligence (AI) Day talk by Steve Little and was followed up by star presenters Blaine Bettinger and MyHeritage's Daniel Horowitz. My thanks to Paul Jones for keeping a long day on track and on time. The program gave attendees a new level of enthusiasm for genealogy.



Above: Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy Day.

Another highlight of the first day was our "Great Moments in AI." Four speakers: Drew von Hasselbach, John Reid, Mark Thompson and Paul Jones, talked about how AI is enhancing their genealogy. The icing on the cake was our panel discussion moderated by Jonny Perl. One conference-goer mentioned this was the first time in a long time that she had something new to consider about her genealogy. And an exit survey respondent stated *"I said to the lady beside me at the end of the AI day - "Do you think we got our \$99 worth?" and she was speechless and said "I would have paid \$299 for this day!""*



Right: Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy Day Panel (l-r Mark Thompson, Blaine Bettinger and Daniel Horowitz).

Thursday wrapped up with a fun evening dedicated to all things Scottish as D. Bruce McCowan did an interactive presentation entitled "The First Burns Night Supper in Scarborough." There was singing and laughter as participants put on their best Scottish brogue and played the parts of the early Scarborough residents.



Above: A Burns Supper Toast.



Left: D. Bruce McCowan leading the interactive Burns Night Supper.





Above: Diahn Southard leading a YourDNA Guide workshop.

Friday was a day of hands-on workshops and tours. Several people thought the “Irish in Toronto” tour was one of the best parts of conference including one who told us “The Irish tour opened my eyes to the rich history of Toronto.” There were also tours to the Archives of Ontario and the Toronto Reference Library with a side trip to the nearby UELAC Library. The Archives of Ontario Tour was especially popular; it filled up within weeks of registration opening.

Friday night’s reception, barbeque, and opening ceremony, featuring a welcome from OGS Past-President Heather McTavish Taylor, was followed by Mags Gaulden’s keynote presentation entitled the “Seven Words You Can’t Say in Genealogy.” She was every bit as funny as George Carlin. And just when you thought you couldn’t laugh any harder, Genealogy



Left: Rory Sinclair and Paul Jones opening Marketplace by piping us in.

Jeopardy! took the stage. Michael Nettleton, Kim Barnsdale and Heather Sommers put on a terrific show. Contestants Mags Gaulden, Janice Nickerson, and Chris Paton battled it out to a hilarious finish.

There was a sad note to the evening. Putting on the show was partly done as a tribute to Ron Arons, a keynote speaker, who sadly passed away in January. Genealogy Jeopardy! was his idea and he worked with Michael on developing the evening before his passing. I want to thank Michael for stepping in and working tirelessly to make sure it was a success.



Left: Mags Gaulden tells us what “Seven words you cannot say in genealogy”.

Right: Michael Nettleton hosting Genealogy Jeopardy!



Host Bev MacCulloch got Saturday off to a great start, introducing Chris Paton's informative and entertaining talk on "Reimagining Genealogy" in which he talked about where genealogy might be heading in the future. The rest of the morning's sessions featured topics ranging from What's New and Exciting in English Genealogy to Legal Research for Family Historians. And at lunch, renowned Canadian actor, R. H. Thomson, had conference-goers riveted with his talk on "Ancestors' Stories: Traps or Guides?," based on his latest book, *By the Ghost Light*.



Above: R. H. Thomson presenting "Ancestors' Stories – Traps or Guides?".

After-lunch programs included 90-minute hands-on sessions and talks on diverse topics such as "Family Search for Beginners", "Photo Analysis" and "Eastern European Research". The extended sessions were a hit and one of the highlights was the DNA Panel Discussion moderated by James Thomson that included experts Diahna Southard, Blaine Bettinger, Jonny Perl, and Mags Gauden.

Once the day's learning opportunities were done, we gathered for the banquet hosted by Toronto Branch Chair Carol Ufford and Vice-Chair Dawn Kelly. Paul Jones took to the stage accompanied by The Rolling Stone's *Jumpin' Jack Flash* to deliver his talk entitled "Seeking Perfection One Mistake at a Time."



Above: Enjoying Banquet



Right: Paul Jones "Seeking perfection one mistake at a time".

Our conference marathon continued Sunday morning with well-received talks including "Taming the Digital Tiger" and "UK Second World War Research." After-lunch talks included "What's New & Exciting in Irish Research" (always a popular topic) and "Using the Caribbean Slave Registers and the East Indian Indentured Records" (which I hear was excellent!). The British Isles Panel was wonderful. Moderator Marian Press guided Chris Paton, John Reid, Dianne Brydon, and Paul Milner as they answered questions from the audience.



Above: British Isles Panel Discussion with (l-r) Marian Press, Chris Paton, Paul Milner (Dianne Brydon not shown).

Diahan Southard and her closing plenary entitled “The Power of Identity and Family History” provided a powerful and thought-provoking way to wrap up Conference 2024. OGS President Heidi Deschenes concluded with a wonderful round of thank you’s for all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly leading up to and including the conference weekend. She then introduced Ben Dawson and Sheila Johnston, Co-Chairs of the London Middlesex Branch to unveil plans for Seminar 2025, giving us a glimpse of what we can look forward to for next year!

The weekend included so many fascinating talks that it made many people wish that they could be in two rooms at once. Also featured was a series of workshops presented by Diahan Southard and her YourDNA Guide team.

I'm pleased to report Conference respondents gave the

speakers an excellent/good rating of 96 per cent and for good reason. Everyone spent months pouring heart and soul into making this an unforgettable weekend of learning and friendship.

My thanks to the organizing committee and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make Conference a reality. They were the rock stars of the event. I also want to thank the marvellous speakers, the hotel staff, and our key partners and supporters which included: Ancestry, MyHeritage, Vivid-Pix, The International Institute of Genealogical Studies, Association of Professional Genealogists, the Association of Professional Genealogists, Canada Chapter, and many OGS Branches and SIGs. And finally, I want to thank all you who attended.

I had fun and I hope you did too!



Above: Diahan Southard’s Closing Plenary – “The Power of Identity and Family History”.

Left: Marketplace Lynn Palermo with Family History Writing Studio.

Below: Genealogy Jeopardy Contestants Mags Gaulden, Janice Nickerson and Chris Paton.





# SAVE THE DATE

Ontario Genealogical Society - Seminar 2025



**Your Genealogical Legacy  
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31 May 2025 \* London

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[Seminar2025.ogs.on.ca](http://Seminar2025.ogs.on.ca)



# The Ontario Genealogical Society Awards and Recognitions



The Ontario Genealogical Society handed out their annual awards at the AGM on June 8, 2024. We would like to congratulate all of the recipients for their contributions and dedication to the Society.

## Website Awards

### **Best Bricks & Mortar Website**

Winner

Huron County Branch – webmaster Kim Cooke

Honourable Mentions

Wellington County Branch – webmaster Graham Burt

Kawartha Branch – webmaster Alvina Seawright

### **Best Virtual Website**

Winner

Eastern European SIG – webmasters Eva Kujawa and

Elaine Obreza

Honourable Mention

Waterloo Region Branch – webmaster Kim Barnsdale

## Dr. Don Brearley Newsletter Awards

### **Best Bricks & Mortar Newsletter**

Winner

London & Middlesex Branch – Editor Brenda Vouvalidis

Honourable Mentions

Sudbury District Branch – Editor Ellen Heale

Durham Region Branch – Editor “the branch”

## Best e-blast Newsletter

Winner

Essex County Branch – Editor Cindy Robichaud

Honourable Mention

Kent County Branch – Editor Cindy Robichaud

## Citation of Recognition

Stephen Wood – Durham Region Branch

Gary Peck – Sudbury District Branch

Rochelle True – Sudbury District Branch

Pauline Emond – Sudbury District Branch

David Gregory – Oxford Branch

Peter Johnson, UE – Quinte Branch

## Award of Merit

Essex Branch – for their adoption of the Franco-Ontarian Research Centre

## Robert “Bob” Crawford Community

### Service Award

Carol Small – London & Middlesex Branch

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The Ontario Genealogical Society also recognizes member milestones and Branch/SIG anniversaries each year. Following is a list of those that are recognized this year.

## **Celebrating 20 years of membership**

Phyllis CARNOCHAN

Rebecca CRUMLISH

Ron DICKEY

Gayle FISHER

Jan FREEMAN

Anastasia L. GODDARD

Gerard J. GOODWIN

David GREGORY

Maureen GUAY

Linda J. HAULEY

Elizabeth HENSON

Alice HOYLE

M. Hawley JOHNSTON

Vaughan KITSON

Kathryn MADORE

Mary MCMANMAN

Barbara M. MONK

Patti MORDASEWICZ

Herbert J. MURPHY

Fran OKIHIRO

Pierre A. PAQUETTE

Sandra PARRY

Marion PETERSON

Terry SCHWAN

Ronald J. SPRINGSTEEN

Shirley STURDEVANT

Connie L. SWEETMAN

Barbara TRIPLETT

Faye WEST

Marian WHITE

Heather G. WILSON

**Celebrating 30 years of membership**

Judy CHAMBERS  
Marilyn CROSS  
Marcia CUTHBERT  
Patricia FEDAK  
Susan J. RABICK  
Don RALPH  
Sheila M. SHEARER  
Bill THOMPSON

**Celebrating 40 years of membership**

T.F. BAXTER  
Ann M. BELL  
Ruth BURKHOLDER  
Paul M. GIBSON  
Brenda GLENDENNING  
Marilyn HOULDEN  
Sharon KETTLEWELL  
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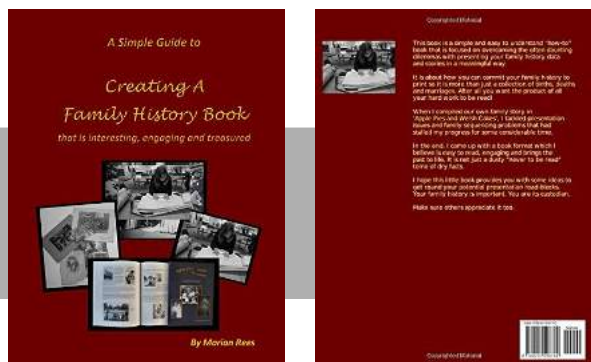


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# A Simple Guide to Creating a Family History Book That is Interesting, Engaging and Treasured

A Book Review by Art Taylor



Ms. Rees wrote her book “in the hope that I might help fellow family historians to commit their family stories to print”. She recommends collecting information, anecdotes, artifacts, and photos, as many as possible, from relatives since they bring ancestors to life.

In *Organizing Your Book*, she discusses sequencing your ancestors in a readable manner, using the sixteen surnames of great-great-grandparents as chapter titles. These enable readers to easily find the people of immediate interest. She could easily see how much writing was done and how many branches remained to be done. To preserve privacy, she chose not to focus on current generations. She included trees of only direct lines for herself and her husband, each going back to second great grandparents.

In *Formal Records and Other Recorded Evidence*, examples and descriptions are given of: birth, marriage, death certificates; census records; parish records; voters lists; and more.

*Useful Websites* gives a list of popular sites, and one lesser-known one, Gravestone Photos, <https://www.gravestonephotos.com>. She found this particularly useful in her work. *Family Tree Software Tools* focuses on only two older programs, none of the current options.

In *Visiting Ancestral Villages and Finding Graves*, Rees recommends visiting ancestral villages whenever possible. She advises having a printed copy of a map of the area being visited, including a list of important

**Author: Marian Rees**

**Publisher: Chalk Ridge Publications (2019)**

**ISBN: 978-0-9542-907-4-0**

addresses, such as homes, churches, cemeteries, schools, workplaces, and neighbouring villages. Make and follow an itinerary to maximize your research time. Use a list of the various people in one tree branch that you’re concentrating on, to jot down items of particular interest pertaining to those people. A digital camera or mobile phone with camera is essential.

In *Cemeteries and Churchyards*, she suggests “Wellies and stout gardening gloves are a really good idea” if your visit includes such places.

*Timelines and the Historical Context* help link ancestors with historical places and important dates. Timelines compiled and formatted by others should not be reproduced but you can use their information as guides.

MS Word is discussed for book layout in *Preparation for Printing*. Rees also gives a list of the typical parts of a family history book. *Printing Your Book* briefly covers several options for self-publishing. She concludes the 49-page book with an *Afterword* page, where she gives some final thoughts.

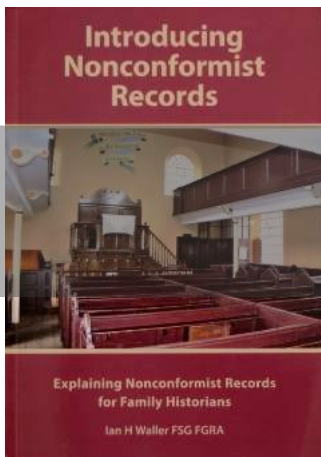
Photos and graphics are spread throughout the book. Unfortunately, some of the photos are reproduced with muddy mid-tones. Others are fine quality. Some typos are also found. Like many amateurs, Rees started her text on Page 1 unconventionally on a left-hand page.

This is a very simple, basic guide to writing and producing a family history book, good on subjects to include. It may suffice for those planning for book distribution only to family members, but lacks detailed publishing information needed to produce a professionally published book for commercial distribution and some repositories.



# Introducing Nonconformist Records: Explaining Nonconformist Records for Family Historians

A Book Review by Heather Oakley



**Author: Ian H. Waller FSG FGRA**

**Publisher: Family History Books**

**ISBN: 9781916599017**

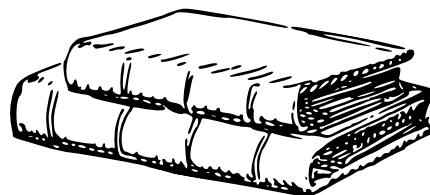
Do you have any nonconformists in your family tree? I mean people in England and Wales who were not Church of England? As this book explains: “*The basic definition of a nonconformist is someone who does not conform to the doctrine or discipline of the established Church – or more specifically, a member of a religious group other than the Church of England.*”[1] This book goes on to explain how, why and when different religious groups started in England, from the Huguenots in 1530 to the Seventh-Day Adventists in 1862, as well as many others throughout English history. Some of them I had heard of before (Bible Christians, Jehovah’s Witness, Latter-Day Saints) but many were new to me (Swedenborgians or New Jerusalem Church, The Sandemanian Church or Glasites). “*There were many nonconformist denominations – some large and some small – and so tracing a nonconformist ancestor is not easy. Denominations changed over time, some merged with others while other groups split into smaller groups, and some ceased to exist completely.*”[2] This book goes on to explain various pieces of legislation affecting Nonconformists starting with the first Act of Supremacy in 1534 to the University Test Act in 1871. The book also details how Jews, Quakers and Roman Catholics were treated differently than other Nonconformists.

One very interesting chapter explains what information you can find on some Nonconformists in Anglican (aka Church of England) records and why they would be in the records, as well as why you might not find your Nonconformist ancestors in any Anglican parish registers. There is detailed information on each religious group, where their congregations were from, what churches there were and which ones still exist, what records might still be available and information on their denominational archives (if there is one) or where those records have been stored. There is also a detailed bibliography and a list of websites where you might find more information.

This past April, I attended a webinar through Legacy Family Tree Webinars entitled “*The History of Non-Conformism in England and Wales*” by Jenny Joyce (focusing on Protestant churches). The webinar was very useful and I recommend that you find a way to view it, if you are interested in learning more about this topic.

## References:

- [1] Ian H. Waller FSG, FGRA, *Introducing Nonconformist Records: Explaining Nonconformist Records for Family Historians* (Sheringham, England: Family History Books (the publishing imprint of the Family History Federation), 2023), 1.
- [2] Waller, *Introducing Nonconformist Records*, 2.



# What's in a Name?

## Missionaries, Ministers and Other Protestant Preachers: A Popular Namesake Tradition

Robbie Gorr

Lorenzo Dow Young. Lorenzo Dow Brown. Lorenzo Dow Ballard. Lorenzo Dow McCoy. With my penchant for unique and unusual names, I frequently noticed males in the early nineteenth century bearing the name Lorenzo Dow with a multitude of surnames. Most of these families seemed to be unconnected by relation or proximity, scattered throughout Upper Canada and the United States. There was even one in my own family, a first cousin of my three-greats-grandmother named Lorenzo Dow Edmunds (1804-1848) of Wolford Township in Grenville County. And as it turned out, my Lorenzo Dow and all the others I had encountered were named in honour of the same person.

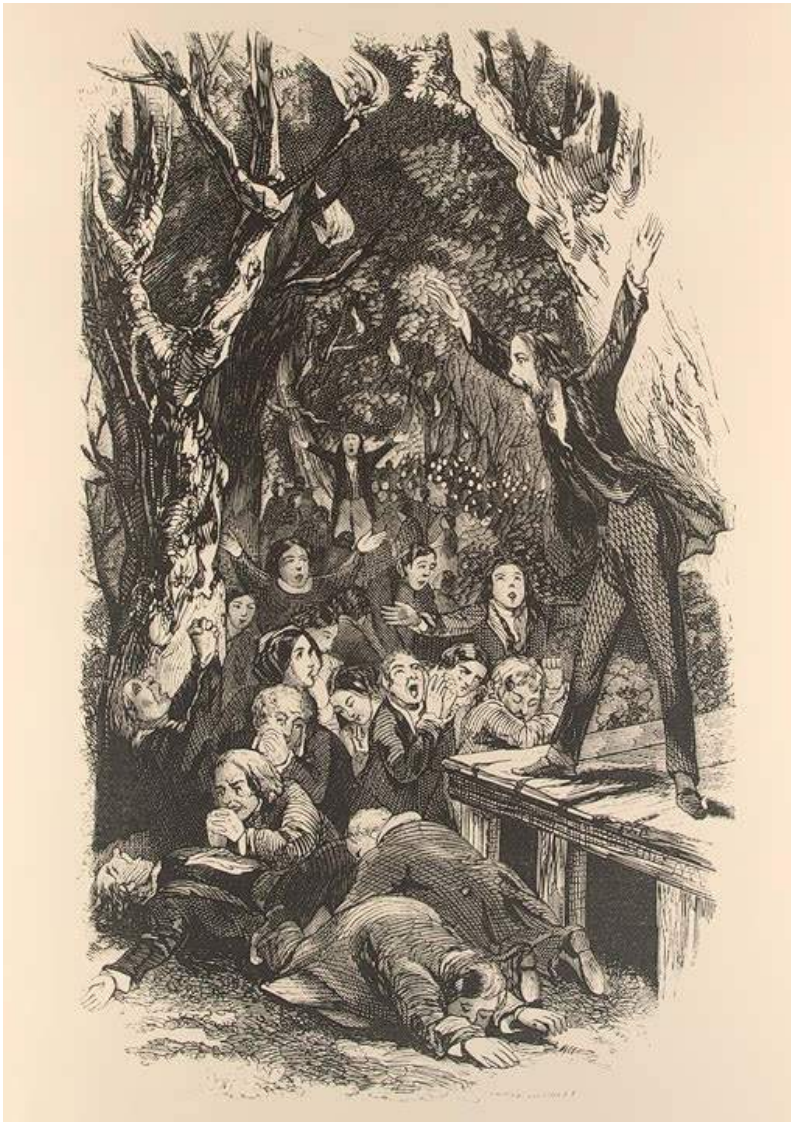
I was aware of the naming tradition where parents frequently bestowed upon their sons a name in honour and remembrance of some personal hero or celebrity of the times. There are many children named Washington or Lincoln after the former presidents, Lafayette or Robert Lee after well-known military heroes, and Alexander Hamilton or Jesse James after infamous newsmakers. But who was Lorenzo Dow? He was neither a president nor a war hero nor a headline maker, yet he had to be someone so renowned that children from Upper Canada to New England and throughout the American Midwest had been named after him. As it turned out, the original Lorenzo Dow, namesake of so many boys, had been a Methodist missionary and preacher.

Religious leaders and reformers, too, especially of the Protestant faith, were figures after whom parents would name their sons, like Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley or his brother Charles Wesley. Perhaps, like the Puritans, parents hoped that these children might

embody some of the Christian virtues of their namesakes. And apparently popular missionaries, ministers and preachers, like Lorenzo Dow, were also included on the list of local heroes after whom sons might be named. This trend was especially popular among Protestants in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Reverend Lorenzo Dow (1777-1834), a native of Connecticut, was a widely travelled and celebrated preacher, renowned for his eloquence and evangelism as well as for his eccentric manners and unkempt appearance. His nickname “Crazy Dow” did nothing to detract from his spellbinding fire-and-brimstone preaching that also earned him the sobriquets of a nineteenth century Elijah and a modern-day John the Baptist. He was widely travelled and it is reported that he preached to more people than any other missionary of his era. His writings were also very popular and his autobiography was, at one time, the second best-selling book in America after the Bible.

And, as a result of his inspirational preaching and his celebrity, many infant sons of Methodist parents were named after him. Family stories report that Rev. Dow had visited in Wolford Township in Grenville County, Ontario in 1803 and that among his inspired listeners must have been my relatives Solomon Edmunds (1781-1854) and his wife Elizabeth Haskins (1772-1850) whose eldest child Lorenzo Dow Edmunds was born the year following his visit. And among the namesake descendants of Lorenzo Dow Edmunds alone were six grandsons, three great-grandsons, two great-great-grandsons, and some nephews, all known variously as



Above: Lorenzo Dow Edmunds (1866-1955), known simply as Dow, one of seven Lorenzo Dow Edmunds in the author's family alive in 1900 [Photo courtesy of the author].

Left: Rev. Lorenzo Dow (1777-1834) preaching, as depicted in an engraving by Lossing-Barrett from *Recollections of a Lifetime* by Samuel Griswold Goodrich (Photo courtesy of Library of Congress).

Lorenzo or just Dow, as well as a scattering of Lawrences who might or might not have been modern interpretations of Lorenzo. And, at one point in time, about the turn of the last century, there were seven living members of the family all bearing the exact same name, Lorenzo Dow Edmunds. It is estimated that several thousand boys like Lorenzo Dow Edmunds and others over several generations, possibly numbering as many as ten thousand, had been named in honour of this famous preacher.

My Lorenzo Dow also had a number of cousins with unusual names not previously found in the family including Francis Asbury Rose (1825-1860) and Joseph Jewel Barber (ca1802-before 1840) and his brother Ninian Holmes Barber (1807-1890). These also turned

out to be sons named after early local ministers and, in the case of Francis Asbury Rose, the namesake of a well-known bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Local area histories and church histories are useful resources for uncovering information about early religious figures, usually containing details about the founding of the area or the church and the names of prominent men and women in its history. But often a simple internet search will identify the original owner of an unusual name. Should you find yourself with some names in your family tree that you do not recognize as family members, friends or neighbours or famous in some regard, perhaps some research will reveal that they, too, had been named in honour of some local missionary, minister or preacher.



# How Can Atlases Help Your Family Research?

Art Taylor

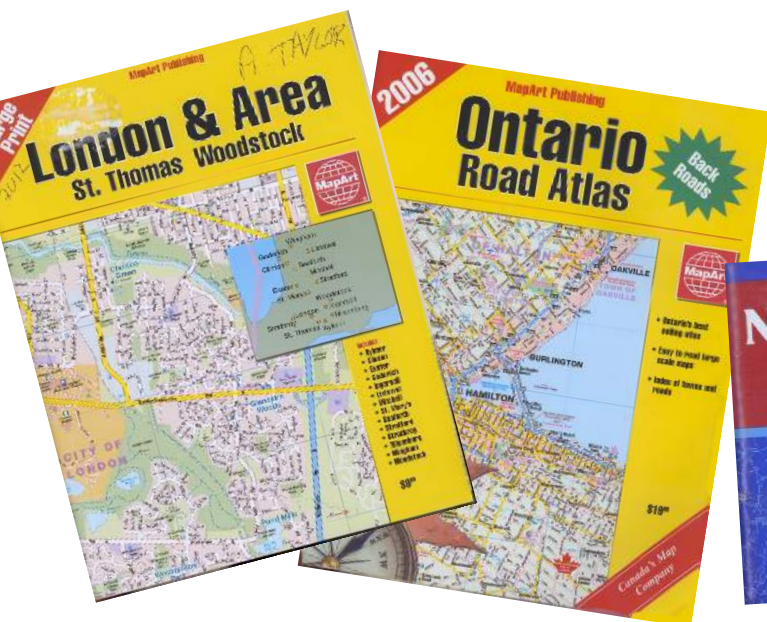
**Art Taylor** has been researching his family history for about forty years. He has a sizable personal library of genealogy reference books and reads extensively. Art is also involved with researching hundreds of his inherited family photos from at least three generations of Taylors.

When you're trying to learn more about an ancestor's life, you may find useful information in an atlas. An atlas can show you road maps; political jurisdictions; topography; population density and distribution; transportation routes; economic development; tourist attractions and landmarks; natural features and wildlife; and more.

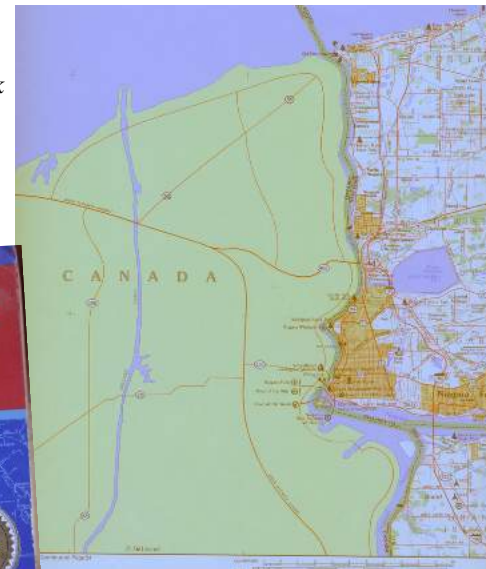
A provincial/state, regional, or municipal street can perhaps show the street an ancestor lived on. It's helpful to look at atlases for the same place, but published in different years, and possibly by different publishers. As communities grew, were absorbed into larger centres, or became ghost towns, streets may have been renamed, closed at one or more former intersections, or been eliminated completely when new structures required the space they formerly held. New streets were created as new residential areas grew. Forty years ago, there were several shorter streets that used to intersect with Toronto's Yonge Street, especially in the district south of Bloor Street. Over the years, many were closed to vehicular traffic at Yonge

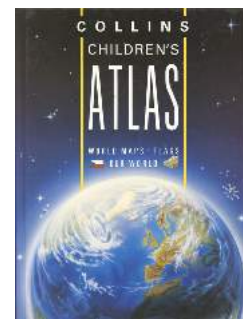
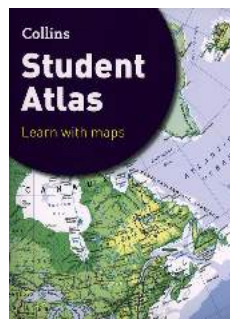
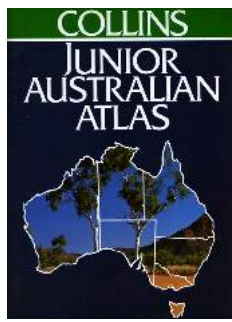
Street, leaving only pedestrian walkways. Other streets remain in place, but are now part of the campus of Metropolitan Toronto University, formerly Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. Older and newer streets may not be shown on a printed atlas, although newer streets will likely show on Google Maps.

The *New York State Atlas & Gazetteer* includes: key to maps; legend of map symbols; detailed road maps; index; information centres; wineries; gardens; amusements; parks/forests; unique natural features; wildlife; excursions/scenic drives; bicycle routes; historic sites/museums; art museums/science centres; and hunting attractions and facilities. If you're planning a visit to ancestral sites in New York State, or any other state with a similar atlas, you may benefit from researching the contents of this reference to find places of potential interest to include in your plans. Be aware that various businesses and sites available when the atlas went to press may no longer be in operation and new places may have become available since publication date.



Right: An example of the type of maps found in the *New York Atlas and Gazetteer*, showing various points of interest in their locations.

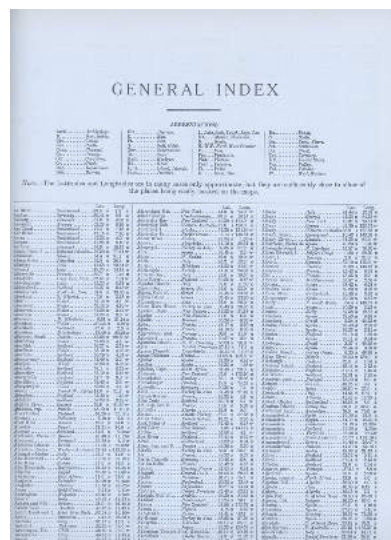
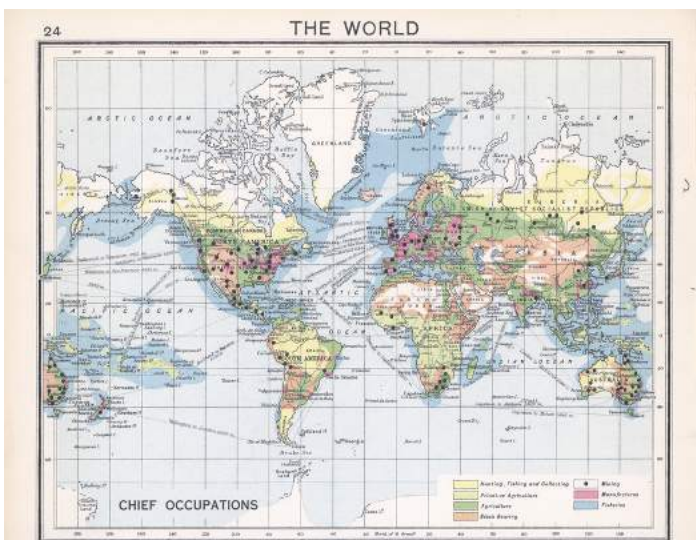




An atlas for a specific country, such as Australia, will concentrate on maps pertaining to that country, although there will likely be some maps of the rest of the world. *Collins Junior Australian Atlas* has: political maps of the country, showing states, cities, and towns; maps and diagrams of some of the early explorers; the development and growth of the individual states; relief and rivers; Aboriginal lands and people today; migration; food and farming; iron and steel industry; mining resources; transport; trade with the world; conservation and heritage; then similar maps for each individual state; assorted maps showing the entire world; a map dictionary; and an index.

Similar atlases are also available for some other countries, including Canada, America, and South Africa. *The Collins Student Atlas Learn with Maps* has an extensive section about the creation and uses of various maps. Of particular interest and value are the indexes of places in Canada and the World, showing the place name, the page number on which it is shown, it's grid reference in this atlas and its latitude and

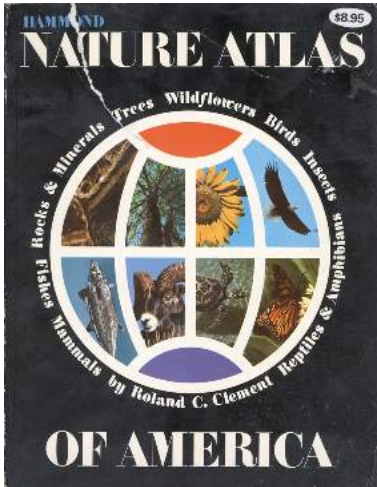
longitude. The latter feature is *not* commonly found in many atlases. Those coordinates can help you locate historical place names on modern maps. For example, Galt, Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada, became part of Cambridge, (along with Preston, Hespeler, and Blair) in January 1973 when the provincial government implemented regional government, re-naming Waterloo County as the Waterloo Regional Municipality. Some detailed maps since 1973 include the former names within Cambridge, but many show only Cambridge. Some older atlases, such as the *Fourth Edition, 1931 Revised, The Oxford Advanced Atlas*, from Bartholomew, also include latitude and longitude information. They also show political territories with names from the time of publication, with many names now unfamiliar to many people, but which may be found in older records and documents. Entering these latitude and longitude numbers in the search box on Google Earth will get you close enough to the location you're looking for to be able to find your target.



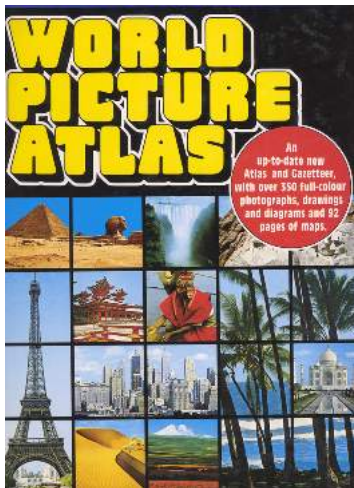
Left: *The Oxford Advanced Atlas – Chief Occupations World Map*, showing place names from the early 1930s, rather than today's place names. Middle and Right: *The Oxford Advanced Atlas index* pages 10 and 11. Note that while place names may change over time, the latitude and longitude values remain constant, so if they are entered into Google Earth or similar programs today, their current names will appear near their locations. 'Galt, Ontario' actually shows slightly west of Cambridge, Ontario on Google Earth, but is close enough to give a good idea of where ancestors lived prior to 1973.



## Special Purpose Atlases



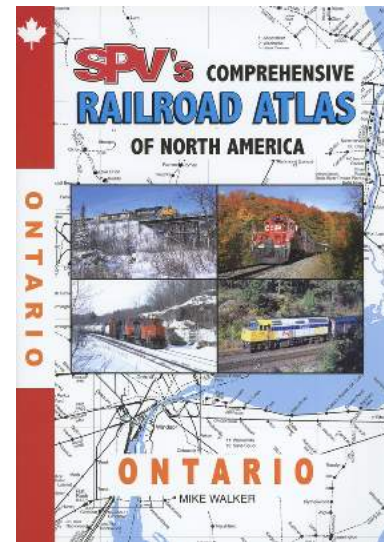
The *Hammond Nature Atlas of America* provides information about the general American land; its rocks and minerals; trees; wild flowers; mammals; birds; reptiles and amphibians; fishes; and insects. A glossary, list of suggested reading materials, and an index are provided. If you want to learn more about the natural world your ancestors in America encountered, this atlas may give you sufficient information, since maps show the distribution of each mineral and animal species.



The *World Picture Atlas* is a good reference for more general background information about Earth and its natural features. It provides information about cartography; volcanoes; earthquakes; caves and grottoes; the Earth's treasures; mountains; formation of mountain ranges; orogenesis from the collision of two plates; mountains of the world; glaciers; the great Quaternary ice ages; rivers; lakes; the oceans; man and the sea; waves; tides; coastlines; islands; atolls; atmospheric phenomena; wind; temperature; the

Arctic; the Antarctic; the tundra; the taiga; the temperate forests; the tropical forests; the grasslands; the deserts; the mountains; the seas and oceans; the inhabited world; the population problem; the many races; religions; languages; the city; the problems of urbanisation; agriculture; fishing; rearing livestock; energy and raw materials; a changing world; the works of nature; the works of man; world atlas (maps); and an index.

Knowing this kind of information can help us understand reasons for people living more commonly in some regions of the world than in others. We gain awareness of some of Nature's impacts on life on Earth throughout the centuries.



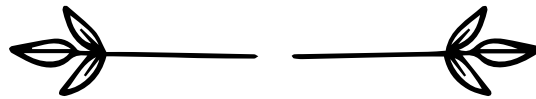
SPV's Comprehensive Railroad Atlas of North America - Ontario is one volume in a set covering railways across Canada and the United States. Each volume shows railway lines currently (at time of publication) in use for freight, passenger and commuter trains, as well as former lines, now abandoned. Railway "station" names are shown, even though some "stations" are merely named signs along the tracks, used as reference points by the train crews. At some points there still are, or formerly were, actual station buildings, many of which served multiple passenger trains for decades. In the early twentieth century and later nineteenth century, passenger trains provided the bulk of passenger travel across North America. If you're trying to find a particular place where an ancestor once lived, but don't see it on current maps, an



atlas such as this and railway route maps found in *The Official Guide to the Railways*, may be helpful. You may be able to find two place names that match today's maps, and by following one or more railways between those places on a railway route map, you may find the community name that you're searching for, even if it became a ghost town decades ago or was swallowed up by a larger community.

Google Earth and similar computer programs, including gazetteers in programs such as Family Tree Maker, Legacy Family Tree, and RootsMagic are useful for finding current place names. Atlases, such as those in this article, may be equally useful for finding historical place names. Many of my examples here are likely long out of print, but might be found in used book stores or online auction sites. If you're seeking a

particular atlas, check on Amazon to see if it's currently available. If not, try WorldCat to see if it's available in a library and available on interlibrary loan. You can also check Hathi Trust, Google Books, and Internet Archive to see if there's a digital version available online. Don't be afraid to look for atlases as useful reference books for your genealogy library. There are also various ads on social media sites like Facebook, where the University of Toronto Press recently promoted the latest edition of the Historical Atlas of Central Europe, which may be of value to anyone researching family in that part of the world. The Table of Contents for this atlas, is viewable at <https://utorontopress.com/9781487523312/historical-atlas-of-central-europe/>. There are other atlas tables of contents at the University of Toronto Press website, should you be interested in other parts of the world.



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# Errata

## Families 63.2 (May 2024)

In the May issue of Families, we printed an article by Mike Miles about his Disney family ties to Huron County, Ontario. There were several photos of the Disneys shown in the article, all of which are over 100 years old and in the public domain, but were incorrectly attributed to the author's collection. These photographs should be attributed to the Disney Family Foundation, as they are the holders of the original photos. We thank the author for pointing this out to us, and apologize for the error.

Also printed in the May edition of Families, was an article from D. Bruce McCowan about Scarborough's early curling families. In our editing process, we missed a comma and therefore put two names together as one. From page 49, at the end of the third paragraph in the right-hand column, it should read: "Amos was a member of the Four Brothers Curling Club, along with David, Smith, Richard, William, John and James Thomson." Our apologies for the error.



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