



# British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa Newsletter

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## **BIFHSGO Is Now On YouTube!**

Thanks to the dedication of John Reid, BIFHSGO now has its own YouTube channel. The channel was launched with Lucille Campey's talk from Conference 2014. The talk, entitled "Ignored But Not Forgotten: Canada's English Immigrants" can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umfqyJR7A7w>

In addition, there are two other videos for your viewing pleasure and learning. The first is "A Soldier of the Great War" a presentation given by Ken McKinlay, which was given to the Ottawa Branch of the OGS. The presentation can be accessed here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3RVZo\\_qxic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3RVZo_qxic)

The third video is a compilation celebrating 20 years of BIFHSGO and can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFVPgumwOZ4>

### **Conference 2015 - Call for Speakers**

BIFHSGO is seeking proposals for presentations at our 21st Annual Conference, September 18 - 20, 2015, to be held at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa.

For more information about submitting proposals, please read our submission details: <http://bifhsgo.ca/cpage.php?pt=125>

Deadline for submission is January 31, 2015.

The conference will focus on three main topics:

- Scotland
- Photographs in Genealogy
- Technology

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday, December 13, 2014**

**9:00 am to 9:30 am**  
**BEFORE BIFHSGO**

**Kick Start #3 for PowerPoint Presentations**

In this third Before BIFHSGO on PowerPoint, Brian Glenn will review the key dos and don'ts for a good presentation and demonstrate a couple of features that will make your presentation really pop. Almost all our BIFHSGO talks are illustrated with PowerPoint presentations.

*About the Speaker*

Brian Glenn has been a BIFHSGO member for many years serving on the Board in the Education and Research portfolios and has made numerous presentations to the membership over the years. His own genealogy voyage has taken him to England and Scotland a few times and many more numerous times via the internet. His latest brickwall, one of many, is that he can't find his parents as young children in the 1921 Canada census.

**9:30—10:00**  
**DISCOVERY TABLES**

Guns and Powerpoint

Brenda Turner will be bringing two rifles which have been verified by the staff of the Canadian War Museum as being manufactured in England and traded by Hudson's Bay. Brian Glenn will be hosting a table after the Before BIFHSGO talk to further respond to questions about PowerPoint.

**10:00 am to 11:30**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**

*Great Moments in Genealogy with the Following Four Speakers:*

**Henry Shelverton: A Life in Hiding**

Because Shelverton is a very rare name, Sandra Adams expected it would be simple to find her ancestor Henry Shelverton in London census records for the 19th century. Instead, he was nowhere to be found. In fact, he proved to be so elusive that along the way she concluded in frustration that he must be hiding from her on purpose. As it turns out, Henry Shelverton really was living in hiding, but it wasn't a family historian from the 21st century that he was hiding from.

*About the Speaker*

Sandra Adams is a retired mother of two and grandmother of five who became interested in her family history about 15 years ago. As well as spending inordinate amounts of time learning about the lives of her ancestors (wherever they may be hiding), she is a volunteer at the Ottawa Family History Centre, and is carrying out a one-name study of the Shelverton surname.

## **Look Where You Step!**

Terry Findley's father-in-law, Edward Wickham (1912-1989), passed away about 10 years before Terry caught the family-history bug. So, when Terry started his genealogical journey, he did not have his father-in-law's memory to draw upon, only the stories that he told his daughter, Terry's wife. Edward Wickham was born in the jungle at Morawhanna, British Guiana (now Guyana), worked in Trinidad during the Second World War, and came to Canada in 1948. Researching in Guyana was challenging to say the least. Ed Wickham had a "stovepipe" ancestral chart that led back to Britain through the Reverend Horace Edward Wickham (1824-1899) and culminated with Mister Edward Wickham (1795-1879), London surgeon, born in Maidstone, Kent. Terry reckoned that he was as far back as he would get. In 2012, during a "walk-the-ground" photo-shoot in Maidstone, Terry and his wife had a "great moment" – one they wished they could have shared with Ed.

### *About the Speaker*

Terry Findley, BSc, MBA, a native of Ottawa, served in the Canadian military for over 36 years, retiring in 1998. A past BIFHSGO Director of Programs & Conference, he has written and lectured extensively on basic and advanced genealogy research, photo restoration and tracing Irish roots. In 2004, his presentation, "*An Irish Fling: Delightful Discoveries*," was voted the best talk by a BIFHSGO member and his Anglo-Celtic Roots' article bearing the same title was voted the best ACR article by a BIFHSGO member. Currently, he and his wife, Tad, are working on a true labour of love – a multi-issue magazine called "Many Families." Each issue will highlight two or three family lines, provide genealogical tips, and feature a great family story.

## **The Business About the Guns**

Find out why Brenda Turner wants to talk about GUNS. Brenda learned to shoot a 22 rifle in the basement of her parent's home in Westboro, back before it was trendy and expensive, the targets being pinned to a large tree stump which remained under the house built over it. The rifles were steadied between the metal vents of the coal-fired furnace. Brenda was about eight years old.

In digging out information about her family, many years later, Brenda discovered a copy of a document hand written years before by Beatrice Turner, a half second cousin once removed that Brenda had never heard of before, and who had died when Brenda was two. The single page described a rifle left to Beatrice's grandfather James Turner by his father, Archie Campbell Turner, who was also Brenda's 2X great grandfather.

### *About the Speaker*

Brenda Turner is a retired federal government HR manager who has been researching her family history more than enthusiastically for about 15 years, and full time for the last eight. Many of the skills Brenda used in her work in interviewing, researching, investigating, writing reports and explaining decisions, has helped her enormously in her family history research. Her knowledge of the machinery of government has also helped her to locate and utilize UK based resources such as Cabinet documents at TNA, to prove, or more often debunk family oral history. Brenda's first article on Canadian genealogy was sold to a British magazine in 2002, and her enthusiasm for her family's history, and that of others, takes her to the UK annually.

## **Arthur Edwin - A Lost Brother Rediscovered**

In 1985, Ian Brownness' father received a family history bundle from his nephew in Britain. Two decades later while sourcing the family tree it had contained, Ian discovered a new relative, great granduncle Arthur Edwin Brawn, born 1861, who had gone unmentioned. After determining Arthur had not died in infancy and knowing he was orphaned at age ten, a long search began. It would lead from Kensal New Town through the streets of London to workhouses and home child programs, a reformatory hulk moored on the Thames, near death from rotten food and H. M.'s infamous Gaol in Rockhampton, Queensland, to Arthur's final residence and burial near Brisbane. Only near the end of his own research did Ian discover that his great grandfather had also hunted for his lost brother, but sadly had never found him. The talk will discuss the use of "last resort" sources for jumping "brick walls".

### *About the Speaker*

Ian Brownness is a Carleton University graduate and a retired federal public servant who has been researching family and local history "in earnest" for about ten years. He was born in Eastview and has lived in Washington DC, various Ottawa communities, Vancouver BC and Torbay NL. He has co-authored a book on the life of James Coristine, a poor Irish immigrant who became a Montreal fur merchant, and is co-authoring a series of pamphlets for the Historical Society of Ottawa on Charles Thornton ("C. T.") and Sir Henry Newell Bate. His working class ancestors span the British Isles and Eire.



## **Conference Volunteers Needed**

The 2015 Conference Planning Committee is working towards a conference at Library and Archives Canada from 18-20 Sept 2015. Scotland will be featured as it is the next country in our rotation. Photographs in Genealogy will be second theme and Technology (hardware, software, apps, websites, databases, social media, DNA analysis tools...) will be a third theme.

Please consider volunteering to help the Conference Planning Committee. We need a Volunteer Coordinator, a Program Assistant and would appreciate someone to look after Catering as the previous volunteer is now taking on Co-Chair Administration.

Interested? Contact Jane Down Program Co-Chair, Program at: [down7777@gmail.com](mailto:down7777@gmail.com) or Brian Le Conte at [bleconte54@hotmail.com](mailto:bleconte54@hotmail.com) or see Kathy Wallace at the Membership Desk at the December BIFHSGO meeting.



OUR LIBRARY PICKS FOR THE MONTH  
DECEMBER  
GREAT MOMENTS  
READING SUGGESTIONS FROM THE BRIAN O'REGAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HENRY SHELVERTON: A LIFE IN HIDING

*Pre-1841 Censuses and Population listings in the British Isles.* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. rev. by Colin R. Chapman. c1994. CALL#304.6021 CHA.

*Eastern Sussex Workhouse Census 1851* by Michael J. Burchall. c1978. CALL#942.25 BUR 1851.

LOOK WHERE YOU STEP

*A History of Kent* by Frank W. Jessep. (Darwen County Historical Series). CALL#943.23 JES.

*Rambling Through Kent : 30 Rambles as published in "The Kentish Times"* by T.V.W. Morecroft. CALL#914.223 MOR.

THE BUSINESS ABOUT THE GUNS

*The Guns of August* by Barbara W. Tuchman. c1962. CALL#940.444 TUC.

A LOST BROTHER DISCOVERED

*London Middlesex and Surrey Workhouse Records : A Guide to Their Nature and Location* by Cliff Webb. c1998. CALL#929.3421 WEB.

*The Workhouse : a Social History* by Norman Longmate. 2003. CALL#362.942 LON

The Brian O'Regan Library is located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Reference Room,

City of Ottawa Archives, 100 Tallwood Drive, Ottawa.

Hours Tuesday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm.

BIFHSGO volunteers are on hand to assist your research.

Check out BIFHSGO Library Holdings and previous monthly Reading Suggestions at

[www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca)

***To access our databases, speaker interview  
podcasts, handouts, past issues of the  
newsletter and much, much more, visit our  
website at:***

***<http://www.bifhsgo.ca/>***

## NEW SOCIETY LAUNCHES

<http://surname-society.org>

The founding members are delighted to announce the launch of The Surname Society - the online society for individuals, groups and associations with an interest in surname studies, regardless of their location in the world, the surname they are studying, or their level of research expertise.

Focussing on single surname studies, the society meets the needs of researchers in the world of family history and genealogy as it evolves in the 21st century. The Surname Society's vision is to connect like-minded people by providing facilities which enable members to share knowledge, data and good practice with others. The society allows members to register both worldwide and limited studies and is entirely online. Collaboration is facilitated and encouraged as it is the core ethos of The Surname Society.

Surname researchers collect data relating to all name bearers, either on a global or restricted basis. The society does not mandate study methods and members are encouraged to develop their own approach to the investigation of their surname to advance their knowledge and expertise in areas such as etymology, DNA, name collection and family reconstruction. The Surname Society will help and advise in-experienced members on ways to conduct their study and how to avoid the pitfalls which can occur!

A truly global organisation from the outset, the committee members are located around the world from Australia to England, Spain and Canada and, in the first month since its announcement to those who completed the online questionnaire, the society has almost two hundred new and enthusiastic members. The cost of membership to The Surname Society is just £5 per annum with no hidden extras.

## ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE '15



*'Tracks through Time'*

Barrie, ON | May 29-31, 2015

## NATIONAL GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 17–19, 2015

At historic Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DAVE OBEE

One of Canada's most prominent authorities on Genealogy, Dave will provide excellent information and guidance for genealogists of all levels of experience.

Conference topics and activities will include:

- DNA testing in Genealogy
- History of immigration into Nova Scotia
- Recording family history through photography, digital filing and citing sources
- Best practices for beginner & intermediate genealogists
- Tour of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
- Visit to the Titanic Graveyard

Come be a part of this inaugural event!

Questions? Contact Heidi Wilker at [heidi.wilker@visiontravel.ca](mailto:heidi.wilker@visiontravel.ca)

*I am bound to them,  
though I cannot look  
Into their eyes  
or hear their voices.  
I honour their history.  
I cherish their lives.  
I will tell their story.  
I will remember them.  
~unknown*

## *New Genealogy Records Online*

The website Essex Ancestors run by the Essex Records Office has uploaded historic wills:  
<http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/EssexAncestors.aspx> This is a subscription-based site

A new website has gone online that is dedicated to World War I soldiers from Blaenau Gwent, a county in southern Wales. It is called Blaenau Gwent Remembers:  
<http://www.blaenaugwentremembers.com/>

FindMyPast has put online some 86,000 pages of Thom's Irish Street Directories:  
<http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-thoms-directory-1844-1900>  
These were formerly available on Origins.net

FindMyPast Friday has added maps and town-plans to the database's Griffith's Valuation collection:  
<http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/griffiths-survey-maps-and-plans-1847-1864>

Ancestry has registers kept by the Lunacy Commission, 1846 to 1913, of asylum patients in both public and private asylums: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9162>

UK, City and County Directories, 1766 - 1946 this is the ninth largest in the Ancestry collection:  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3145>

British Phone Books, 1880-1984 are also available on Ancestry:  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1025>

## **Special Interest Group Meetings**

### **Writers Group:**

The writers group meets after the monthly meetings from 11:45—2pm

### **Scottish SIG:**

The next Scottish SIG meeting is Saturday Jan 17th at 10 am at Ottawa City Archives

### **Irish SIG:**

The next meeting is Tuesday Jan 27th at 7:30 at McNabb Community Centre

### **DNA SIG:**

The next meeting is Jan 25th at 9:30 am at Ottawa City Archives

### **TMG Users Group:**

The next meeting is December 13 at 2 pm at Ottawa City Archives  
<http://ottawa-tmg-ug.ca/meetings.htm>